

## Thief 511

### [Eternal Thief](#)

#### Chapter 511: Who?!

"Where are you guys? I'm currently in disguise as a Life Master and walking straight from the arena entrance." Ace expressed in his mind!

"Oh, you managed to infiltrate that deep and even got a Life Master's face. It seemed we still have much to learn from you, huh, Grand Leader?" Freya's giggling voice rang in Ace's mind.

Ace chuckled smugly, "As long as you know."

"Tsk, here I thought you would be a little bit humble." Freya scoffed and didn't say anything meaningless again. "We can see you. Just head toward that big white tent where no one can see you."

Ace looked at the white tent as his lips curled upward. "I'll be there."

Ace suddenly used his stealth and vanished behind an enormous boulder and then quickly headed toward that white tent.

Thereupon, Ace soon appeared behind that camp without alerting anyone. However, no one was there, but he merely snickered as he looked at the tent shadow and said, "You're not powerful enough to hide from me right now."

Soon, three capped figures appeared from that exact spot like ghosts.

"Just what realm are you in?"

Winter sounded frustrated because she never felt Ace using any soul sense or martial sense, nor they can really tell what realm he was in because he always had a different aura whenever they saw him.

Ace merely chuckled as he approached them. "We'll talk about it after you go back. By the way, you guys did well."

He moved his hand toward them.

Without any question, they all took it, and the very next moment, they vanished from their spots into the thief's house space.

Ace finally had a massive sigh of relief after he retrieved the three, and just as he came here, he headed back.

Inside the thief's house, the main hall.

The three capped figures finally revealed their appearance and sat down around the table.

"I hate to admit it, but I like this place much more than the outside." Freya couldn't help but smile with a complex emotion in his bewitching eyes.

Noa merely nodded while only her elated pitch-black eyes were visible behind the mask.

Winter smirked, as she also agreed with them.

"This is after all your house, so feeling as such is quite natural." Ace's voice rang.

"Well, everything is wonderful except this guy who can spy on us at any time he wanted." Winter's little cut face was filled with vigilance.

Ace retorted, "Do you have anything worth spying on?" He won't let this fox sully his prestige.

"Scoundrel!" Winter gritted her teeth since she felt annoyed whenever Ace said these things.

Freya also giggled as she pointed toward her big chest. "What about me, and sister Noa? Do we have anything worth spying on?" Her eyes were filled with mischievousness.

A peculiar glint flashed fast in Noa's cold eyes when she heard this question.

"Noa knew I would never do something like that. As for you, hmm... truth be told, I've seen quite a lot of you already, and I'm already bored." Ace unabashedly replied.

Ace knew the more he showed deficiency, the more Freya would harass him, so he didn't mind giving her the taste of her own medicine.

When it comes to change in personality, acting skills, and lying without even blinking, he had already mastered this art, and so many memories he had annexed had helped him a lot.

Now no one can tell when he was honest and when he's not, and this kind of person is most dangerous.

Winter smirked when she saw Freya's playful expression darken when Ace called her unattractive and say he was already bored as if she was his plaything.

'Hmph, that now you'll know just how shameless that guy is!' She gloated.

Noa, on the hand, had an icy expression, as if she didn't hear anything.

"You really didn't know how to treat a lady, do you?" Freya coldly expressed.

"Yes, and what can you do about it, little Freya?" Ace was completely casual.

Freya threw a sharp glance at smirking Winter but kept her mouth shut, she finally understood Ace simply didn't care about his face nor did he give any face to a beauty like her. So, it would be wise to not use this method to tease him anymore.

"Now that we get past our little joyful reunion. Can I have my grave-5 formations back? Only two days remain before the end of the auction, and I'm still stuck on the nineteenth floor." Ace's voice was stern.

"How confident are you?" Noa finally spoke with a hint of worry.

She knew the life demon auction was filled with deadly experts, and if Ace messed up, he would be signing his death warrant.

Freya also showed a complicated expression as she said, "You don't have to do this, you know. I don't need it anymore, and we can always get it back once we get strong. In my opinion, we should leave the demon continent now."

Winter also chimed in, "She's right. After what we have done in the Black River City, the royal zone will definitely launch a manhunt, and this time, they might use their full strength.

"I don't know if you know it or, but the top races are always in contact with each other and had many spies hidden in each continent.

"Once the other races learned about how some thieves are wreaking havoc between demons, they might even mock demons. Once those in the royal zone took it personally, we might not even find a place to hide.

"Especially if they asked for Devil Race, those guys are extremely proficient in locating people, even in other continents. That's why we should not test the Demon Race bottom line and leave while we can."

Ace could relate to why they were suggesting leaving the demon continent, and if he didn't have this chain mission, he might really leave.

Although abandoning this mission will not result in any punishment, and he still had fifteen years, he decided to take the risk for two crucial reasons.

First, the enticing reward which he'll get on every condition completion, and second, the golden black compass point was pointing toward the direction of the royal zone.

It made him want to enter the royal zone even more.

"I know what I'm doing, and I'm pretty sure if I try to cross eight borders right now, I'll be in even more danger. Besides, I won't act unless it's safe, and you guys won't even know what my plan is for this auction." Ace chuckled.

Everyone frowned because they only knew little details about what Ace was planning on doing in this auction, but he won't tell them what exactly he was planning.

"You guys should be exhausted, and I know you earn big time on this mission, so focus on growing strong. Leave this matter to me." Assured Ace.

Then, he took away the two grade five formations he lent them and excused them as they left toward their personal rooms, still wondering what Ace was going to do.

Just like Ace left, he returned to Ville's room without any hitch.

'Now that I got the ghost lurking formation, I can move around freely in this entire arena since only a grade-6 formation will be able to detect this formation.' Ace smiled contently.

'Knock... knock...'

Ace was startled by this abrupt knocking and frowned because he suddenly noticed his soul sense didn't pick up anyone.

'A Demon King?'

Ace's heart palpitated when he thought this because only a demon king can escape his soul sense detection. He quickly used the fate mapping to see the fate map just to make sure.

However, he was startled when he saw it was a Light Silver Fate Point with a white color circle, which mean this person was a neutral party. But more importantly, there wasn't any black circle, which also implies this person didn't pose an absolute danger to Ace as well.

'Someone who could escape my soul sense without being a soul manifestation realm and a black fate point? The light silver color also implied there's something useful on this person for me?'

Confused, Ace decided to see who this person was first. "It's open."

The door slowly opened, but Ace's curious expression suddenly collapsed when he saw the white color around this person suddenly turn crimson!

'Why?' Ace knew this means this was an enemy, but this change was too abrupt and happened so fast as if this person didn't consider Ville his enemy until he opened the door and then showed his true color.

However, Ace didn't even have time to think when the entire room suddenly turned dark as a strange pressure descent that wanted to infiltrate Ace's body. Not only that, but he can't feel his surroundings anymore!

"Who?!"

Ace was alarmed because he could tell this was a work of an extremely powerful formation, and he was now trapped!

### [Eternal Thief](#)

#### **Chapter 512: The Attacker's Identity**

Ace can't believe someone was daring enough to use a formation to trap a life master in the middle of the Life Demon Auction except himself. That's why he was caught off guard like the real Ville!

Either this person was extremely foolish or extremely confident in his ability to get away unnoticed. And Ace knew it was the latter when a sudden chillness approached his neck from behind.

When he sensed the danger, he instantly used his heavenly sense. Which finally revealed the position of the attacker.

A green shield appeared in his hand, and he put it right between his neck and the sharp dagger to block the incoming strike.

'Clang...'

Piercing voice of metal clinging together rang.

Although Ace managed to block the life-threatening strike, the impact still sent him flying, but he managed to maneuver in midair and stand straight.

This time Ace directly looked at the attack, who was clad in black, as only his dark purple eyes were exposed which were now filled with disbelief. He clearly didn't expect his deadly strike to be blocked by Ville.

Ace coldly said, "You dare to take action in the middle of Life Demon Auction? Who are you!"

Ace pretended to enrage, but he was extremely vigilant because this person had an extremely strong physique. He still can't diverge his cultivation realm even with his heavenly sense, which made him even more shocked.

Because this person wasn't a manifestation realm expert, or Ace won't be standing here right now, nor did a manifestation realm need to set this trapping formation to deal with Ville.

Furthermore, this formation had completely cut off his senses as if he was in another space altogether, which made him quite warier.

"You can see me?" The demon's overlapping voice sounded with a hint of surprise.

'First, he blocked my fatal strike, and now he can even see me despite the dark dimension bead activation? He can't be just a random rune crafter with no experience of fighting. But this time I won't hold back either.' Killing intent flashed past his eyes.

But he still didn't take Ville seriously, as if everything was still under his control.

"I have no enmity with you. Why are you doing this?!" Ville bellowed in rage.

Meanwhile, Ace had secretly taken out a golden formation in the shade of his shield, which go completely unnoticed by the other party's detection.

"There's indeed no enmity between us, but you possess something you shouldn't have, and I happened to require a face of your position. So, now you die in peace!" without wasting more time, he bolted, leaving behind an afterimage.

Even Ace felt this guy's speed was on par with his own, or even faster.

One had to know he had already raised the levels of his Misperception Sky Steps Art in the last year to the limit of this cultivation realm.

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**-Misperception Sky Steps (Art):**

**Camouflage Steps: Middle**

**Lightning Steps: Middle**

**Misperception Steps: Middle**

**Sky Steps: NONE**

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With his cultivation realm boost, he can go toe to toe with an intermediate stage soul realm cultivator, but this guy was probably much stronger than an intermediate stage soul realm cultivator.

Without any time to waste, Ace quickly activated the Demonic Sword Killing Formation!

The moment the formation's rune lit, Ace had a massive sigh of relief when it got activated without any interference or this strange formation, which means it was likely to be at the same level as the Demonic Sword Killing Formation.

"You had a grade-5 killing formation?! Who are you?" This time, the demon's voice was filled with fear when he saw the dark place suddenly lit in golden light.

He never expected a life master to have a grade-5 killing formation at his disposal because only the association president or runic life grandmasters can come in contact with them.

He wasn't prepared for this, and the moment Ace activated the formation and his movement were staggered and before he could use his trump card to escape this restriction, the life master who was supposed to be restricted moved!

The demon's heart palpitated because this wasn't possible at all for a soul embryo realm cultivator to move or even achieve such speed, and this guy clearly wasn't a soul embryo manifestation realm cultivator.

He finally understood this was a huge miscalculation on his part because this might not be the actual Life Master but an imposter!

When this realization struck him, he instantly wanted to take out something from his storage ring to escape.

But to his horror, his storage ring didn't repose, and when he glanced at it, he almost fainted because it wasn't on his finger!

"Looking for something?"

His heart lunged when the icy voice sounded from behind, and the next moment, an extremely powerful palm filled with lightning struck his head!

His brain was jolted by lightning before he felt a strange glumness and lost consciousness.

Ace didn't delay for long and put this guy into prison in his thief's space.

After his body vanished, the surrounding darkness also vanished, and he can finally sense his surroundings again.

'Thud...'

The sound of something falling on the floor drew Ace's attention, and when he looked, he saw a small black bead filled with gray symbols.

'So, this is the medium of that strange formation.' Ace was intrigued as he picked the bead and carefully examined it.

But it didn't look like a formation to him, it was more like a...

'A limit talisman!'

Ace was even more astonished when he saw a familiar symbol on this bead which looks exactly like the limit talisman he won on the second day.

'Just who is this guy?' Ace was now even more alarmed by this attacker's mysterious background.

Without wasting any time, he used a soul probe on the assassin, and shockingly, he felt some kind of barrier preventing his soul probe from entering the knowledge sea.

Suddenly, Ace felt this barrier wasn't internal but external. It was right on this demon's head.

With narrowed eyes, Ace removed the cap and then the dark veil from his face.

'It's the veil?' Ace could feel the strong fluctuations from his dark veil. It could even block his senses.

However, when he saw the face of this demon, his eyes contracted because it was a just purple demon which was one of the bottle feeders tribes of the demon race.

Furthermore, he still couldn't sense his cultivation, which means this face wasn't real, and he suddenly remembered this demon said he wanted Ville's face.

He knew it was probably a disguise mask and, without any hesitation; he tried to remove the mask.

With some force, he managed to remove the disguise, but it wasn't a mask, but faceless skin!

Right at this moment, Ace could finally sense the hidden cultivation of this demon when this skin was removed.

'So, he's a Platinum Soul Embryo Realm of 7th advance stage. No wonder he was so powerful, and his body was probably the result of a body refinement technique. This skin mask is on par with my own or even more power; if it can block my soul probe!'

Ace's eyes shone with ecstasy as he looked at the skin mask and the demon's actual appearance.

It was a handsome demon with emerald skin and black antelope horns.

Without wasting more time, Ace again used the soul probe, and this time, it worked!

Fragments of memories flooded into Ace's head, and when he started processing them, he was astonished at first, before he was utterly shocked at the end after he gained every memory of this demon.

He discarded nothing this time because the identity of this demon was dreadful!

But soon, the shock in Ace's eyes turned into ecstasy, and he nearly laughed out loud with sheer happiness!

'Hahaha... so, that's why this guy was a silver fate point. He simply solved everything by delivering himself to me, and now I don't need to wait at all!' He hadn't experienced this excitement after getting someone's memories in a while now.

Right at this moment, the demon in the cage suddenly groan, he was awake!

When he noticed the dark place and then sense the cape and mask on his face were removed, he was horrified and bellowed, "Lowly thrall you dare to rob me of my treasures? Do you know who I am?! If you released me and returned my belongings, I'll not persuade this matter or your entire association will suffer because of your ignorance!"

Now that he had failed to achieve this motive and got captured instead, he had no choice but to reveal his identity to scare the other party into submission.

He was extremely confident that the other party would not dare to harm him, and release him once he revealed his origin.

However, when he heard Ace's icy words, he was gobsmeared with terror and even forgot to breathe.

"Paul Poison Wood, the First Son of Poison Wood Grand Demon Duke of Poison Wood Demon Duchy of Royal Demon Nation. Am I right or Am I right!"

### Eternal Thief

#### **Chapter 513: A Lovesick Guy**

"Paul Poison Wood, the First Son of Poison Wood Grand Demon Duke of Poison Wood Demon Duchy of Royal Demon Nation. Am I right, or Am I right!"

Paul was appalled when his identity was exposed by his captor and he seemed completely nonchalant about it as if he didn't fear his background at all!

"W-who are you!?"

His eyes kept darting around to find the owner of this voice, but there was nothing but darkness.

Ace had created this small prison cell with a special grade-4 ore called Dark Steel Gem, which can completely cut off the senses and trap any cultivators below the manifestation realm.

Because this was the Thief's Space, his cultivation was completely suppressed, and he didn't feel any kind of restriction placed on him or he simply wasn't strong enough to find them. This realization gave him even more fright.

'Did she sell me out?!' When this thought surfaced in his mind, the light in his eyes visibly decreased as icy chills gripped his heart.

Ace's snickering voice rang. "Who I am? Weren't you guys searching for me all along?"

Paul's lips contorted as he coldly replied, "There's no need to play dumb anymore. Just use me as you see fit. Just tell her this, I will love her..."

"Wait, wait!" Ace quickly cut the guy's passionate speech. He was completely speechless since Paul took him for someone else.

Paul pursed his lips and coldly rebuked, "What? Didn't you apprehend me because of 'her' order, so you could take me back and then use my act of sneaking into the outer continent as a bargaining chip to force my father to choose a side?"



"Oh, you're quite sure about it, huh? Then why did you even bother sneaking out if you knew this a treason for Royal Demons to enter the outer continent without permission?" Ace sounded amused.

A painful glint flashed past Paul's eyes as he felt thousands of blades stab in his heart. He gritted his teeth menacingly.

"You lowly thrall dared to question me! Do you think just because you're working for Leona, this will give you the right to look down on the Royal Demon?"

"If she hadn't given you that grade-5 killing formation and set this trap for me, even your ancestor won't be able to touch my hair, much less capture me!"

"Heh, you're giving yourself too much credit. How about you take a look at your hand and then try saying the same thing again!" Ace coldly retorted.

This guy was simply delusional and thought too highly of himself just because he's a high-born.

"What do me..." Paul's fierce words instantly caught in his throat when he glanced at the back of his hand, and his eyes almost popped out from his sockets with appalling.

Because there's an imposing owl imprint with 'Want to Kill Me? Watch me Steal!' words written on its wings.

A chill ran down his spine as a name appeared in his mind like a raging thunder.

"S-S-Sky... Sky... Sky Stealer!" He stuttered just by calling this name and understood what Ace meant by his previous words.

Aghast realization dawned on him at this moment.

"Y-you... you were here all along!"

When he thought about how much security the life demon association put in this auction just to make sure nothing goes wrong. But the person they had put so much effort into had already infiltrated deep within their ranks!

As for all those forces searching for Ace out there, they were simply looking for a ghost. They didn't even have a chance to see his shadow, much less capture him.

Furthermore, no one had thought of this point, but with all the stolen formations in his possession, only a Demon King can restrain him. The others don't stand a chance, and he learned it in a painful way!

"What, does cat got your arrogant tongue now?" Ace scoffed.

Paul's eyes were filled with appalling and disbelief, as a sigh filled with sorrow and relief escaped his mouth all of a sudden as he muttered in resignation, "At least she didn't betray me."

"You're really lovesick, aren't you?" Ace couldn't help but sneer.

Paul's expression turned resolute as he coldly sneered, "I don't have anything to say to you, thief. I don't know how you know my identity, but do your worse! Eventually, you'll be judged for your crimes, and if

you think you can handle the repercussion of my sudden disappearance, then you don't know the power of the royal zone at all!"

Now that he knew he wasn't betrayed. He was completely relaxed because he knew no matter how astute the Sky Stealer was, he can't hide his disappearance.

The reason being he was completely sure once his 'lover' contacted him about the result of his assignment. She would instantly know it wasn't him.

Even if Ace impersonated him, he would never know how to repose, and once that happened, she would quickly sense something amiss and search for him.

At that time, Ace would be a trapped mouse, and he'll also get his freedom.

'Even if he abandoned whatever he's doing here and decides to flee, he can't take me with him unless he wanted to draw unwanted attention. As for killing me or using soul search, I want to see if he has guts!' Paul inwardly derided.

"Heh, you're overthinking things. I don't want anything from you. Because I had already gotten everything." Ace jeered before he cut off the connection.

He simply sneered when he saw how Paul had a huge misunderstanding about his situation.

Ace had Paul's entire memories, and he knew everything about him, even his stubborn personality. But when he thought about how Paul was dancing on someone else's palm despite knowing it, he didn't know if he was an idiot or simply didn't care.

Nevertheless, Paul's appearance had given him a massive boon, and with Paul's memories and appearance, his motive for coming here was 90% complete!

In these two months, with Freya's help, he had already got the news that the invigilators from three demon institutes were already in the Demon Tamer Domain, and they weren't alone but bring some youths with them.

The real reason for Ace to attend this auction was he wanted to see if he could grab the weakest person from the group and annex his memories of the royal zone before he moved out on his own while the demons were busy with their trails.

However, to do this he had to first approach room no.0, which was almost impossible, but he had a plan for that as well, and he was about to start it when Paul came knocking on his door and solved everything!

Furthermore, Paul's identity was far nobler than those of institute members because he was the genius of a Grand Demon Duke Clan.

Although Paul was a genius and regarded highly by his clan, he had a major flaw which was his blind love for the one and only Imperial Princess Leona, who held the title of the most beautiful demoness of the demon race and the Wise Demon Lady.

He had accidentally seen her appearance once and instantly fell head over heels for her on spot and just like many other Grand Demon Duke heirs, he devoted himself to court her with every sliver of his being.

But the strange thing was; Leona answered Paul's persuasion, and in a brief time at that.

However, Leona strictly prohibited Paul to tell anyone about their relationship and instills it in Paul's head with her honey-coated words.

From that day forth, she would sometimes talk with Paul on the communication cube, which can only be used by her to make the contact while Paul always waits eagerly.

But soon, Leona started to have peculiar requests for Paul, like his clan's secret poison techniques, precious herbs, pills, and even assassination, and he does with his eyes closed because Leona always says it was for their future together.

This time wasn't any different. Leona used the same honey-coated words and even the promise of intimacy to drag Paul here because he had a supernatural ability that will allow him to hide from even Demon Kings, and he was an excellent assassin.

His task was simple; to find Ace and capture him before the Grand Demon Duke could who was currently present in this auction.

Even Ace felt his heart turn cold when he absorbed this memory because he did not know someone like a Grand Demon Duke was here, and waiting for him to make a mistake and felt extremely glad he didn't go through with his original plan!

This guy was simply a lunatic, who wanted to undermine the Grand Demon Duke just because of a few words.

As for why Paul appeared here, it was for three reasons.

First, they wanted to destroy Leona's brother's plan which was also to capture him, and he had a very high chance with his 'bait'.

Second, Leona wanted to acquire the ticket of the mysterious book Ace won against her on the first-day bid, and Paul was naturally the one insured with this task since she didn't want her dear brother to find it.

Lastly, Paul required a face to complete the first mission, and after he found from Peterson that a life master took the receipt, he decided to target Ville for that face as well since his profile matched his requirement.

But in the end...

Ace's lips curled upward into a cold yet mischievous smile!

### [Eternal Thief](#)

#### **Chapter 514: Side Mission: 3**

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is the last item for the eighth-day auction... behold!"

Lilly announced with a radiant smile before the platform rose and when everyone saw what was on it, they were astonished because it was a golden cage with a small beast inside!

She quickly introduces, "This is an Amber Light Bear's cub. A very rare Light Element species with Soul Realm growth potential and extremely powerful physique. This is an excellent battle mount and meat shield. The startling bid is 1 Million Peak-Grade-2 Qi stones, and every bid minimum raise limit is 1,000 Qi stones. The bid is open!"

Ace looked at the small bear cub with little interest since he had seen many beasts like this sold in these past few days and he knew they were all put on the auction by the Demon Tamer Tribe.

Furthermore, he already had a beast egg of a creature that wasn't from the first heaven, and it would hatch in a little over two years, so these beasts would naturally not enter his eyes.

Right now, his entire focus was on Paul's first task, and he knew if he vanished without completing it, he might have to suffer repercussions from the Imperial Princess Leona.

Moreover, Paul's mission just happened to be matched with his second purpose, which was optional and depended on the situation!

But after learning there was a Grand Demon Duke laying in wait, he started to hesitate and start considering his option.

Although he now knew how to cross the forbidden plains, he didn't want to discard the connection with Leona yet because he could use her to his own advantage.

He wasn't Paul who would do everything without asking anything in return, but Leona didn't know this, and it was something worth considering.

Especially after he got the entire structure of the royal zone and just how astute Leona was and her connections. Paul never even thought of using them to look noble in his 'lover's' eyes, but Ace didn't care about any feeling, and it was a tremendous boon for him.

That was why he didn't discard any memory of Paul because he wanted to fool that astute demoness. He had to mirror Paul's personality perfectly and wait patiently before winning it all!

Soon the bidding for the Amber Light Bear closed at 22.8 Million, and it also marked the end of the eighth day of the Life Demon Auction.

Thereupon, Ace suddenly felt something before his lips curled up, and a communication cube appeared in his hand, which was glowing brightly.

'Here we go.' Ace quickly changed his appearance to Paul to mask his voice and activate the cube.

A melodious voice sounded thereafter. "Do you get it?"

"What do you think?" Ace's impassively said in Paul's voice.

"Heh, silly me, this wasn't even a challenge for you. Just hold on to it for me." Leona giggled before she changed the topic. "What about our true purpose?"

Paul said with a hint of arrogance, "I can roam this place freely with my ability, so it wasn't hard to kill one of these thralls and take over their place. I'm ready and now waiting on you."

"Good. We had to act before the ninth-day auction started, and I have already arranged everything for you. You just need to reach..." Leona describes her plan quickly, "... and then you'll leave this place as quickly as possible."

Ace's eyes shone with astonishment because this plan was foolproof, and he wondered if this demoness was also a thief in disguise.

"Alright, this should be a piece of cake. But are you sure the Grand Demon Duke won't get alert and that thief will come? What if we took all this risk for nothing?" He pretended to be worried, which he actually was.

"As long as you used the formation I gave you, everything will be fine. The old guys here will never notice a thing. As for whether that thief comes or not, it's another question. He can't be caught by anyone else, but we or everything will be for nothing." She sounded extremely stern.

'Here she goes again...' Ace tutted inwardly.

But he pretended to be the idiot Paul and assured her gently, "Don't worry, I would never let this happen. But do you have any plan for that thief after we succeeded? it is probably our only chance to capture him as well?"

Ace wanted to probe more information out of Leona, especially if she had some kind of trap ready for him, just in case.

"Heh, I indeed have a way, which is related to your successes here. We'll discuss it after the auction. Now, I have to go, or that brother of mine might suspect something." Finished saying, she cut off the connection.

Ace frowned slightly as he stowed away Paul's communication cube.

'She sounds quite confident. But she had already lost the moment she sent this idiot after me.' Ace's lips curled up and stopped thinking about this anymore.

Right at this moment,

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**[A side mission has been issued]**

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"Are you serious?" Ace cursed when he heard the abrupt notification and opened it with trepidation.

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**[Side Mission]**

**[Rating Mission: In Rating Mission, each complete requirement will result in a different percentage allocation, and the last rewards will depend on the final percentage!]**

**-Mission Introduction: In the past few months someone continues to sully Host's honorable reputation. The host also discovered a lot of schemes against himself in this auction, and it's time to tell the world schemes are nothing against an Honorable Thief!**

**-Requirement (1): Steal the entire auction treasury!**

**-Requirement (2): Leave Paul Poison Wood in that empty treasury!**

**-Requirement (3): Expose Imperial Princess Leona's scheme to the world and damaged her reputation!**

**-Requirement (4): Condemn the Royal Demon Council and Life Demon Association for their deceitful acts in front of the world!**

**-Requirement (5): Leave the Outer Province before anyone finds out!**

**-Time: 49H:40M:43S**

**-Reward(s):**

**10% Success Rating: 10 Million TP, 1 Million EXP, 1 Million SP**

**30% Success Rating: A Heavenly Talisman**

**50% Success Rating: Intermediate-Grade Insight Pills**

**75% Success Rating: Thievish Soul Cord (Soul Weapon)**

**90% Success Rating: A Secret Thief Skill**

**95% Success Rating: An Elemental Orb's Location**

**-Punishment (If cannot meet the minimum rating of 10%): -100 Million TP**

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Ace's heart jumped when he saw the Rating Mission and its requirements and when he was about to fly into a frenzy, his mouth instantly shut after seeing the lavish rewards below.

Especially the reward at the 950% rating, which made his heart race instantly!

If anything, that can force him into taking a dangerous task in this world; it was the Elemental Orbs!

Furthermore, he was already at the peak of his current realm and had to start looking for an elemental orb soon. And this just happened to be the only reward that could make him throw away his chance of using Paul's identity and utilize an Imperial Princess!

"System, you magnificent conspirator. You just can't see me riding the tide, do you? And wanted me to swim in the opposite direction!" Ace tutted with a resigned expression before his eyes turned resolute.

"Fine, you win! Let's just throw the entire demon race's face into the mud. Besides, I'll be long gone on the other side when they were going crazing over this side!"

Ace left Ville's room at this moment before he headed toward the lower levels.

However, this time, he didn't stop on the first level but moved deep into the first level toward the prohibited area.

Soon, he reached a specific location with a powerful demon sitting, eyes closed, in front of a gate.

The demon suddenly opened his crimson eyes, coldly looked at Ville, and said with killing intent, "What are you doing here?"

He was one of the most powerful Life Demon Guards of the Life Demon Association, and he can even block a few casual attacks of a demon king, and his status wasn't any lower than a Life Grandmaster!

However, Ace didn't panic and took out a black token with a red symbol on it and said meaningfully, "I'm here to Stroll."

The Life Demon Guard startled for a moment before his stony expression turned highly respectful. He instantly opened the door and bowed. "You have 30 minutes, my lord."

"I understand." Ville entered the dark passage.

As he walked in the passage, he saw more Life Demon Guards, but when they saw the token in Ville's hand, they pretended as if they saw nothing.

Ace couldn't help but marvel at this sight. 'She was telling the truth when she said she bought every Life Demon Guard just for the sake of this task. It's a shame I have to expose Leona now, or with her connections, I could've theft far better place than this auction!'

He lamented and ground his teeth when he thought about how the system has destroyed this opportunity with a freaking enticing mission!

Soon, he reached the end of the passage, where he spotted a charming demoness in a tight red dress, who was none other than Lilly!

### [Eternal Thief](#)

#### **Chapter 515: Auction Treasury Vault**

Lilly glanced at Ville's face before her eyes jumped to the token in his hand.

Her eyes shimmered with reverence as she bowed, showing her deep cleavage, and spoke, "Your excellency, it's an honor to be in your presence!"

Ace knew why these demons were so submissive and respectful toward 'Ville' because Leona had told them her personal aid will be here, which meant someone with a superior status from the royal zone!

Although these demons had sold their loyalty to Leona, they did it because of her lofty status, or even if a demon king pay them lavishly, they would never dare to allow anyone to enter this place no matter what.

"Don't waste my time. Open the vault!" Ville coldly ordered.

Lilly didn't mind his indifferent tone and quickly responded, "Your excellency, as you know because of the impending threat of the thief name Sky Stealer, this treasury vault was built with peak-grade-5 materials, arrays, and formations.

"Beside me, only the Association President can enter this treasury vault without triggering anything. But I can't take or touch anything and can only use a display formation to show treasures on the main stage, and then they will be returned to their respective places and locked down within a formation.

"Only at the end of the auction can these treasures be retrieved and given to the buyers. Before that, if anyone even touches them, the President would instantly know."

She looked meaningfully at Ville and spoke gently, "I'm not questioning your capabilities. or anything. But if the alarm were triggered between your 'switch', this entire place will be locked!

"Furthermore, there's a monitoring array and someone is always watching this vault, so you have to be mindful of showing yourself. You also have 20 minutes at maximum to do your mission, before the President will check this place through a monitoring array here. This is all I have to say. Please be careful!"

'They really put a lot of effort into making sure if I come, I would never leave this place. Well, I wouldn't have if this wasn't 'arranged' and so well planned. I'm going to eat the fruit of their labor and even going to expose them.' Ace couldn't help but pull an ecstatic smirk on his face.

"Alright." Ville coldly nodded without saying anything excessive.

Lilly knew time was essence as she quickly took out a formation plate before she activated it and a huge metal gate appeared behind her. She controlled the formation, and a small slit appeared.

She quickly said, "I can't enter there between breaks. So, I can only open this small gap or you to sneak in, or they will notice it."

Ace nodded before he vanished before Lilly.

She was startled. 'So, this is the supernatural ability that gave them the confidence to pull this sham. Even I can't sense his presence anymore. Well, this also means this task is as good as complete, and I will be able to enter the royal zone after this auction!'

Ecstasy filled Lilly's face when she thought about the promised reward for taking part in this conspiracy.

Before, she was afraid and had doubts, but she had no choice since the person who 'asked' her wasn't someone she would offend, so she complied. But now that she had seen Ville's ability, she felt like it was all worth it!

However, she had no idea it was Ace's heartless stealth, which was inferior to Paul's innate ability, but to fool someone like her, his skill was enough. Only a manifestation realm cultivator could tell the difference.

Ace didn't enter the vault after going into stealth because his stealth wasn't ethereal like Paul, who could walk past even grade-6 runes without being detected. This ability made even Ace jealous.

That was why Leona selected Paul and made him enter the outer continent to silently use his ability and achieve her aim without anyone finding out about it.

'This guy is extremely suitable to be a thief with this rare ability. Sigh... if only I could steal this ability, who could stop me then?' Ace thought bitterly.



Nevertheless, he knew this wasn't the time to be envious of someone else's ability. He had a mission to complete.

Ace took out a grade five, which was the ghost lurking formation. It was valuable in this scenario. With this formation, he won't trigger any traps on the floor as long as they didn't exceed the formation's runes by an entire grade. It was the same as Paul's ability.

After attaching the active formation with his belt, he finally entered the vault through the gap.

He knew he had to proceed with caution and arrange everything meticulously if he wanted to complete the 3rd and 4th requirements, which included him to expose Leona and the upper echelon of the demons' schemes to the world.

He had a rough idea of how he can do this!

Furthermore, he had to fool those who were monitoring this place so he could first steal everything. He can't fiddle with those monitoring arrays either, or he was done for!

Although Leona had already handed Paul an illusion talisman that can fool those monitoring arrays for thirty minutes by making it look like everything was the same.

However, their goal wasn't to steal anything from the treasury vault like him, but to replace an item with a fake one!

If the side mission hadn't appeared, Ace would do what Paul intended to do from the start because the item they wanted to switch was the Myriad Hex Manual!

The Myriad Hex Manual was actually a Grade-9 Ancestral Grimoire left behind by Freya's race, and their entire legacy about hex magic was stored in it.

Ace had two purposes for coming to this auction: first was to find a face and memories of the demons from the royal zone, and second, was to get this grimoire. The former was a must and had a very high chance of success, while the latter was optional in his mind and quite hard to achieve.

Because he knew for some time that this grimoire will be going to appear in this auction since everyone still believed he was a Hex Demon or Witch.

So, the Imperial Prince who came here before her sister Leona had bought this Grimoire just in case, to use as bait to entrap the hex demon if he failed to capture or refine him using normal means and this was his backup plan.

The Imperial Prince had never thought he would end up using this book in the end because the thief was just too deceitful and astute, and in these past years, the Sky Stealer would grow to such a height!

Even Grand Demon Duke was sent here to capture him, so he knew he can't have the thief's secrets and his 'blood' to himself. So, he had no choice but to let Grand Demon Duke in his scheme and raise some goodwill with him.

He was also wary and worried about his crafty sister, who seemed to have the same goal, and she was much stronger than him and more influential.

That gave him even more reason to share this plan with Grand Demon Duke.

Leona also got the wind of this from her spies in the association, and she also thought the chance of Sky Stealer taking this bait was really high. So, she can't sit still and let his brother claim the credit.

That was when she decided to use Paul's ability, bribery, and enticing rewards to win over every demon who was going to guard this place, just so she could take the book and exterminate any chance of Sky Stealer getting captured here.

Then she would've used this grimoire to lure him out, as for how only she knew.

Although this plan was flawless and could be completed without any hitch. But then Ace bought something that caught Leona's interest, and she sent Paul to retrieve it.

In the end, she bought it upon herself and also sent Ace an enormous windfall!

If Ace hadn't received this enticing side mission, he was also planning to switch the original grimoire for another fake and gave it to Leona. She would not know if it was real or fake unless she tried to destroy it.

But now the goal has changed, he also had to change his method.

The vault was extremely large, probably over five hundred square meters in diameter.

Furthermore, each item was aptly placed over a formation. In the center was a platform that led to the stage in the arena, and every item's formation was connected to this platform.

'This is going to be troublesome. I have little time, or that demoness outside might suspect something.' Ace's expression turned grave when he saw the security measures.

This treasury vault is specially constructed.

Even if Ace somehow managed to break past every security measure and enter this place. He would not have had an easy time taking the treasures and might make some lapses!

### [Eternal Thief](#)

#### **Chapter 516: Space Distortion Triangle**

After scrutinizing the entire vault, Ace finally had some insight into how he could empty this place while also completing the side mission.

'I only have two of these formations, but the rewards of this mission are worth using them.'

Two green color formation plates appeared in his hand, filled with yellow runes.

Carefully, he activated one of the formations, and an invincible wave suddenly brushed past the entire vault.

Everything was the same, but the formation in Ace's hand turned into a bright ball of light as it slowly suspended in the air, and the strange thing was no alarm was triggered.

At this time, Ace used the second formation, and another invisible wave brushed past the entire vault, and the formation plate was also suspended in the air and hovered beside the first one.

A dark current flashed past Ace's eyes before those two bright formations disappeared, one after another as if they were absorbed in the surroundings.

However, he knew that wasn't the actual because these formations were called Optical Mirage Formations. A Low-Grade-5 formation he got from the treasure pagoda's top floor.

This Optical Mirage Formation can create a mirror mirage of anything they scan and maintain it as long as the Qi stones last or a grade higher formation breaks the mirage. Or only the owner can see through the mirage.

Ace controlled the first formation to create the mirage of the treasury vault to fool the monitoring arrays planted on the walls. While he used the second one to put another layer to make it even more convincing for the second part of his plan.

Now that he was done dealing with the monitoring arrays, he moved toward the items. They were also protected by a grade-five formation and locked in with another formation in their places.

It was extremely difficult to pull these items from their positions because the moment he touched or removed an item, the alarm and other traps would be active.

So, he has to remove and place another item in their place at the same time.

Leona had acquired the complete structure of this place and every trap's function and given them to Paul just to switch the grimoire.

But now all this information was helping Ace with this theft, and that's why he was so confident in completing this mission.

This time, a palm size white triangle appeared in his hand. This triangle was the very thing that was going to make this theft even easier, and it was also the same tool Leona had lent Paul for this exact mission, and it was extremely precious.

'Space Distortion Triangle, a high-grade-6 space runic treasure. Just this tool is worth far more than this entire treasury vault. Imperial Princess is indeed kind to deliver it to me.' Ace grinned thievishly as he activated the Space Distortion Triangle right about the small doomed made with formation.

The white Space Distortion Triangle suddenly released a dark sheen before the surrounding space trembled slightly, but the most affected by it was the defensive doom above the item.

Ace's eyes glow in ecstasy when he sees a small crack appear above the doom without triggering anything. Although he can make this crack wider as long as he released more power, he wasn't Paul, just this crack was enough to make his soul threads completely secure.

The moment Ace saw the chance, 'Thief's Charity (Inverse and Reverse)!'!

The pill bottle instantly vanished before a pentagon coin took its place at the same moment!

When Ace felt nothing happened, the item had appeared in his thief's space. He was relieved and ecstatic.

Now that he knew his plan worked, he quickly did the same on the other dooms.

Item after item, Ace used the Space Distortion Triangle and took the treasures while leaving behind his 'Identity Coins' in their place.

After ten minutes, if anyone saw the vault right now, it looked exactly the same. But the movement, Optical Mirage Formation lost its effect, there would be rows of shining pentagon coins with the thief symbol lying instead of treasures.

'The last ten items which were supposed to be auctioned at the finale of the last day.'

With anticipation, Ace moved to the end of the vault, where ten items were placed on ten white pillars.

The first item was a four-inch cylindrical shape white jade. There were small words were carved on it in ancient demon language.

'Sky Sword Manual?' Ace read the letters and was astounded when he remembered a certain item inside a history book in blade demon castle's royal library. 'This is a Jade Scroll!'

He was thrilled because he read these Jade Scrolls were extremely rare, and only a few of them existed in this world.

'Just which idiot put this on the auction?' Ace couldn't help but wonder before his lips curled up, 'Since you didn't want it, I'll gladly accept it. I really struck it rich this time.'

In a great mood, he quickly used the Space Distortion Triangle, stole the Sky Sword Manual, and switched it with his identity coin.

Grinning widely, he moved to the next item. This time it was a manual called, 'Spiritual Fortress', and it was an upper-earth-grade soul skill. Ace quickly swept it.

The next item was a glass vial filled with sparkling blue liquid. Although he didn't know what it was, he still swept it away and decided to examine it after leaving.

The fourth item was a crimson chest armor, and Ace took it without caring about its grade.

The fifth item was a formation plate which was high-grade-4 rank, this interest him even less.

The fifth item was a crystal blue pill, the sixth was a talisman, and the seventh was a formation manual.

The eighth item was something unique. It was a black cloak with a white tiger imprint on the back.

The ninth item was a violet color egg with black markings.

The final and tenth item was what Ace was looking for and also his primary goal.

It was a dark gray book with a sinister cover that looked like a demonic face. For some reason, Ace suddenly felt an extremely sinister aura from this book.

He decided to study it first before returning it to Freya.

Ace quickly switch the grimoire as well and released a massive sigh of relief.

'Finally done with the stealing. At least now I won't lose a hundred million TP even if the mission failed!'

Without wasting any time, he approached the center platform that directly leads to the main stage.

With a devious grin, he sent his consciousness into the thief's space and used the soul-piercing bullet on defenseless Paul, who was still waiting for someone to rescue him and know him unconscious!

The next moment, Paul appeared on the platform, and Ace used the Optical Mirage Formation to disappear Paul, and now no one could tell Paul was lying unconscious on this platform.

He also placed something as a final touch and also the key to his success, and then left the vault after making sure everything was working fine and in 'order'.

The moment Ace left, his Thief Symbol also surfaced on the vault's wall!

Lilly was still waiting outside with a somewhat anxious look on her charming face.

Although she didn't know why it was taking 'Ville' so long to switch an item, she didn't dare to approach the vault, afraid she might trigger the alarm herself.

But she had already decided that the moment the time ran out, she would temporarily lock the door and only open it when the auction was about to start.

Although this space was only monitored by the president, they had fiddled with it and only buy themselves 30 minutes until it returned to normal. That's why they only give Ville a thirty minutes deadline, or things would go south.

However, Ville suddenly emerged at this moment, making Lilly feel massive relief.

"You did well today. I'll signify this achievement to the Imperial Princess. Now, I don't have much time. Farewell." Ville coolly stated before he vanished again without waiting for Lilly's reply.

Lilly was somewhat baffled by this abrupt departure, but when she thought about how the time was running out, she quickly felt closed the door and returned to her room. Her expression was filled with ecstasy and exhilaration at this moment.

'I'm going to leave everyone in the dust!' Her eyes turn dreamy.

The Life Demon Guards stayed still without any expression on their faces, but their eyes were filled with euphoria.

When Ace finally left the exit, he appeared in front of the gate guard and nodded. "Close it."

The guard didn't delay and closed the door with an expression of relief, and when he turned around, Ace had already vanished. He only smiled wryly and returned to his post as if nothing happened.

However, Ace didn't leave and stopped just a hundred meters away from the secret passage. He stopped because the moment he crossed a 2-mile radius from those active Optical Mirage Formations, they would stop functioning!

## [Eternal Thief](#)

### **Chapter 517: My Name is Sky Stealer...**

The auction area was as lively as ever.

Everyone was waiting for the second last day of the Life Demon Auction to begin.

Many demon clans had acquired item tickets in the last eight days and those who were still empty-handed were anxious because they knew it was their last chance to win something or the grand finale was the stage for VVIPs.

It was already announced that in the Grand Finale of the Life Demon Auction, only a hundred items will be auctioned, and the last ten items going to be extremely precious.

Inside the Room NO.0,

Everyone looked at the final item list they were given by Ewan just now with somewhat bored expressions on their faces.

For demons like them, this auction didn't have any allure, and there were waiting for it to end soon so they could start their own business and get it over with.

In these past eight days, there wasn't anything that drew any instructor interest or the interest of imperials on the side. Only those youths bid here and there when something caught their fancy.

However, at this moment, Instructor Kain's calm expression crumbled as he looked at a particular item with disbelief and questioned President Ewan, "Is there really a Jade Scroll between the final ten items?"

The others also seemed to read the same thing and looked at Ewan with sharp eyes. They all wanted the answer to this question.

Even the Grand Demon Duke's eyelids trembled slightly at this moment, but he still didn't open his eyes.

Ewan liked everyone's reaction. He was simply tired of watching their arrogant and indifferent looks when they looked at the auction he had arranged with so much effort.

He pulled a humble smile and nodded in affirmation, "Lord Instructor has good eyes. It is indeed a real Jade Scroll called the Sky Sword Manual."

"Who put it in the auction?" Instructor Axton questioned in disbelief.

He thought the person was simply a fool, and if it were him, he would never even share this information of possessing a Jade Scroll, much less auctioning it.

They all knew just how precious these Jade Scrolls were to any race, and every knowledge recorded in them held astronomical value.

Furthermore, they doubted this item, even more, when they thought about how Ewan agreed to put it on the auction and didn't take it for himself.

Ewan knew what they were thinking, so he told the truth, "Truth be told, this Jade Scroll was put into action by the Blade Demon King. The reason being, this Jade Scroll had an extremely difficult requirement to unlock the knowledge."

"Oh? What kind of requirement?" Imperial Princess Leona asked with great interest.

She didn't pay attention to any other item in the auction except the Myriad Hex Manual. She also looked down at the items in this place. But a jade scroll was another story.

'If I knew, I would've told that fool to replace it with another fake as well.' She thought with regret, 'Well, I have to win it in the normal way then. These guys won't dare to cross me, and the only problem is my annoying brother.'

Ewan promptly replied, "To acquire the knowledge of Sky Sword Manual, which is a secret cultivation art, one is required to have Element Sword Intent. That's why the Blade Demon King decided to auction it for another powerful sword art."

Realization dawned on everyone when they heard it, and those instructors looked meaningfully at Ewan and had the same thought.

'No wonder he didn't pocket it.'

Instructor Alden sighed in regret. "What a sham. With this requirement in place, it might self-destruct the moment we try to forcibly open the seal."

The others all nodded with a hint of pity in their eyes because even among the genius of the royal zone, there wasn't a single demon with an element sword intent. There were some demons with complete sword intent, but that was the limit.

However, the Imperials had different thoughts than the others in the room.

Leona and her brother both simultaneously looked at the Grand Demon Duke, and when they saw the corner of his lips rose ever so slightly. They silently looked away as if they saw nothing.

'It's not like there isn't anyone with Element Sword Intent exists. It's just that she exists on another continent and only beings with our status know about it. Once this news got out that we have a secret sword art for element sword intent. They will pay any price to acquire it, even that...' Leona thought as her heart raced.

The Imperial Prince had different thoughts from Leona, 'If I can get my hand on this secret sword art, I can use it as a dowry to arrange my marriage with her, and then no one will be able to stop my ascension to the throne!'

Right at this moment, Lilly appeared and walked on the stage gracefully with a charming smile on her face. Everyone stopped whatever they were doing and attentively looked at the stage.

They knew the ninth day of the life demon auction was about to start.

Lilly was now completely relaxed since everything went smoothly, and she also didn't find anything wrong with the treasury vault when she entered the stage.

She radiantly announced, "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome back to the second last day of the life demon auction. I won't waste anyone's time. Let's start the auction of the first item. Behold!"

Just like usual, the platform in the middle of the auction started to rise slowly while everyone looked eagerly, waiting for the item to emerge.

However, to everyone's astonishment, the 'item' on the platform was an unconscious, naked demon, and on his head was a glowing cube, which was none other than a communication cube, and it was also active.

Lilly was nonplussed when she saw the naked demon, who was emitting a powerful aura despite being unconscious.

Furthermore, the demon race had banned the slavery of their own kind long ago, so she knew he wasn't a slave for sale either.

Inside room no.0, when Leona saw the naked demon, she abruptly stood from her seat as if someone had stepped on her tail.

Not only her but the Imperial Prince and the three instructors who knew about him and were familiar with the famous Paul Poison Wood of the Poison Wood Demon Clan were also stunned.

At this moment, an eerie overlapping voice rang in the entire arena, which came from the active communication cube.

"Everyone, My Name is Sky Stealer, and this man is the son of Poison Wood Grand Demon Duke. He was sent here to rob the auction vault on Imperial Princess Leona's order so they could frame an 'Honorable Thief' like me.

"They had been doing this kind of thing for months and sully my honorable name, but don't worry folks, the hammer of justice is invisible, and it can strike at any moment, just like now.

"Leona, you, scheming little crone, I'm returning your plaything to you. But there won't be the next time. Oh, and thanks for the help with the treasury vault.

"Everyone, please don't believe any rumors spread by these people about me. I'm an honorable thief who only theft but not kill wantonly..."

**"Presumptuous Thief!"**

Before Ace could continue any further, a thunderous roar filled with indignation reverberated in the entire arena.

The next moment, a tall demon emitting a ghastly aura appeared in the center of the stage and waved his sleeve.

The very next moment, a glass-like formation barrier appeared right above Paul shattered, and the communication cube also incinerated with it.

The demon didn't stay, and after picking Paul with an invisible grip, he disappeared. Just like he appeared.

The entire arena was deadly silent as everyone dumbfoundedly looked at the empty stage in perplexity as if this was a dream.

Aliya, who also witnessed the whole thing, almost fainted with palpitation when she realized just what happened. She was appalled.

Thomas almost fell from his position when the mysterious person claimed himself to be Sky Stealer, and in the end, he had this inexplicable expression on his face.



It took a while before everyone realized what just happened wasn't a dream, and the Life Demon Auction had become another stepping stone for Sky Stealer's fame!

Ace crushed the dormant communication cube in his hand the moment when the connection was broken.

He was already a few miles away from the arena. He left the moment the auction was about to start when he heard Lilly's voice through the cube. Furthermore, he knew this was his chance.

So, keeping his side mission requirements in mind, he chose what kind of words he should use, and Ace knew he had little time before someone will destroy the cube, despite being protected by the formation barrier he left.

'Well, this much is enough to ruin the Imperial Princess's reputation, and even if it doesn't, I was only indicated to expose her to the world, not to ruin her reputation. I just hope she won't take it personally!'

### Eternal Thief

#### **Chapter 518: Rewards & Orb's Location**

Ace moved at full speed, deep within the forbidden planes.

First, it was for the side mission. Second, even if he didn't get this requirement, he would still choose to head in this direction.

Because after this theft, he knew Paul would reveal this powerful disguising ability, and then the Grand Demon Duke would definitely lock down the entire arena and make sure he wasn't hiding there.

Although he could've simply killed Paul and left him there, however, by doing this, he would only be doing Leona a favor. From the moment Paul died there would be no proof left against her.

Even though the chances of Paul turning against Leona were almost null because of his insane love, it was enough to give her massive pressure from the Imperial Prince and the Grand Demon Duke as well the furious Life Demon Association.

The Association President would definitely conduct a massive search outside the area, especially in those demon camps.

No one will predict the wily thief has escaped toward the forbidden plains because it was akin to courting death.

They still didn't know about his soul probe ability that can help him acquire complete memories of someone else, so in their mind, the secret of the forbidden plains was still secure, and Paul would bear witness to this.

While everyone busies themselves in a wild goose chase, he would be in the royal zone planning his next thievery.

As long as he didn't make any move in the royal zone, no one would know he was there, and it would be already too late by then.

As for Aliya and the Spica Syndicate, he was planning to make them his eyes and ears in the outer continent. While he would have Freya create a new information network in the royal zone for him.

With that in mind, he wasn't planning on stopping unless someone decided to come after him in this direction.

With his current strength, he can continue this speed while activating the heartless stealth active for a full month.

Two days later,

Ace received a notification that he has been waiting for all this time,

=====

**[The Rating Mission has been ended. Please open the mission panel to see the last result!]**

=====

Ace opened the mission panel without hesitation in anticipation.

=====

**[Side Mission: Rating Mission]**

**-Introduction: In the past few months...!**

**-Requirement (1): Steal the entire auction treasury! (Complete)**

**-Requirement (2): Leave Paul Poison Wood in that empty treasury! (Complete)**

**-Requirement (3): Expose Imperial Princess Leona's scheme to the world and damaged her reputation! (Complete)**

**-Requirement (4): Condemn the Royal Demon Council and Life Demon Association for their deceitful acts in front of the world! (Complete)**

**-Requirement (5): Leave the Outer Province before anyone finds out! (Complete)**

**-Mission Status: Complete**

**-Final Rating: 95%**

**-Reward(s):**

**1. 10 Million TP, 1 Million EXP, 1 Million SP**

**[Claim/Later]**

**2. A Heavenly Talisman**

**[Claim/Later]**

**3. Intermediate-Grade Insight Pills**

[Claim/Later]

**4. Thievish Soul Cord (Soul Weapon)**

[Claim/Later]

**5. A Secret Thief Skill**

[Claim/Later]

**6. An Elemental Orb's Location**

[Claim/Later]

-Extra Reward(s):

**1. 50 Million Thief Points (For Stealing the Auction Treasury)**

[Claim/Later]

**2. Thief Title has been unlocked**

-Thief Title: **Famously Infamous (Initial Stage)**

**Famously Infamous (Initial Stage): Infamous between over 500 Million lifeforms.**

**Title Effect: Everyone is afraid of your name (Thief Name) and your deeds reverberated like thunder in every corner of this land. Your real name (Thief Name) will inflict [5% Fear] in others' hearts as long as they know about your name (Thief Name) and deeds.**

**(Note: This title is ineffectual against House Members & unhostile lifeforms)**

**[Thief Point(s): 188,050,980]**

=====

Ace's eyes instantly shone like the sun when he saw the last extra rewards. He never thought he could gain a title out of this as well, and this title also seemed to be upgradeable.

"System, is this title upgradeable, and what's this fear effect?" Ace quickly questioned the system with expectation.

His first title [Disciple of Darkness] effect was quite easy to understand, but this new title was quite strange.

**"[Host has to explore this on his own.]"**

Ace's eyes instantly narrowed. It's been a long since the system had given him an ambiguous reply like this.

However, he didn't make a fuss since it would be akin to wasting his breath and decided to test this title's effects on his own when he got the chance.

As for his primary rewards, he left the first reward for later since he didn't require any EXP or SP right now, so he decided to save them for the future.

He quickly claimed the heavenly talisman.

=====

**[Heavenly Talisman: Soul Shamble (Grade-6)]**

**[Use: One Time]**

**[Effect: Shamble true soul within 5 miles radius for 30 minutes. Only effective against Manifestation Realm or lower.]**

=====

'Splendid stuff,' Ace commented and quickly claimed the next reward.

=====

**[Intermediate-Grade Insight Pills: 3]**

**[Description: Instantly Raised any skill proficiency to perfection. Raised any Cultivation Art at any stage proficiency to perfection. Raised any Secret Skill or Secret Cultivation Art proficiency by a single stage!]**

**(Note: It won't work on low base skills and cultivation techniques.)**

=====

Ace's eyes shimmered with ecstasy when he saw the description of the Intermediate-Grade Insight Pill. He still had five low-grade-insight pills. He knew just how precious these pills were.

"System, can I use the Intermediate-Grade Insight Pills on the same skills and cultivation arts I used the Low-Grade Insight Pills before?"

Ace quickly inquired because he had already used low-grade insight pills on his key skills, so he was a little worried if it had any effect on the intermediate-grade pills.

**"[No, it does not affect any skills or art raised with the Low-Grade Insight Pill. But the Intermediate-Grade Insight Pill still follows the same principle as the Low-Grade Insight Pills, one pill per skill or cultivation art.]"**

"Well, I can live with that." Ace chuckled contently.

He then claimed the fourth reward, which was the second weapon he was getting from the system, and it was a soul weapon as well.

=====

**[Thievish Soul Cord: Grade-6 Soul Weapon]**

**(Note: A Secret Skill Required to Control this Soul Weapon & Heavenly Soul Qi)**

=====

'What?' Ace was startled before he thought of his fifth reward, which happened to be a secret skill, and quickly claimed it.

=====

**[Secret Thief Skill: Thievish Soul Cord Control (Soul Skill)]**

**[Requirements to learn: Thievish Soul Cord & Heavenly Soul Qi]**

=====

'So, these two were a pair? Didn't this mean if I had failed to acquire this skill, I would've suffered a tremendous loss?'

Right at this moment, a huge amount of information suddenly released in his mind, and he quickly absorbed it. This kind of information exchange was no longer a bother to him.

After a full minute, the information was finally absorbed, and Ace's eyes shimmered in astonishment.

A translucent cord appeared in Ace's hand at this moment. This was the Thievish Soul Cord!

When Ace released his orange soul Qi, the Thievish Soul Cord suddenly came alive as it absorbed his heavenly soul Qi and its translucent color started to turn into an orange.

However, when it had its fill of Ace's heavenly soul Qi, it suddenly started to shrink until it was the size of Ace's wrist, and it wrapped itself around his wrist like an orange wristband.

Ace's lips curled as if he had already expected this. Orange soul Qi suddenly flashed on his wrist before the eye-catching orange wristband faded away.

It didn't vanish into thin air, but it was still on Ace's wrist. Ace just used its color-changing function to change its color like his skin. He also used the thousand-face mask to hide it under the disguise.

From the Thievish Soul Cord Control, he got the full information about this Thievish Soul Cord and its various functions and how to control it.

Not only that, but this Thievish Soul Cord was really a treasure for a thief like him, and when he mastered the Thievish Soul Cord Control at the perfection level. He will truly be unhindered!

Suppressing his excitement, Ace quickly claimed his last reward, which was what he wanted the most among these six rewards.

The moment he claimed the reward, an interface opened in front of him, which baffled him because this was the fate map!

Suddenly, the map started to zoom out at an extremely fast pace as Ace watched dumbfoundedly as the area of the map became wider and wider.

Thereupon, Ace's eyes suddenly contracted when he saw the golden black compass pointer's actual location, and the map also stopped shrinking when this location appeared.

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**[Lightning Elemental Orb's Location has been locked on the Live Fate Map.]**

**[From now on, the host will be able to see this location by spending 1 Million TP at any time.]**

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The live fate map vanished at this moment, snapping Ace out of his stunned state.

He suddenly trembled when he comprehended what had happened just now.

"So, all this time, this golden black compass point was pointing me in the Lightning Orb's direction?!"

### Eternal Thief

#### **Chapter 519: An Old Acquaintance**

"So, this golden black compass point was pointing me in the Lightning Orb's direction?!" Ace exclaimed before he quickly opened the live fate map, and to his surprise, it was returned to normal.

But the Golden Black Compass Point no longer pointed in the same direction anymore, but it had changed its direction now, which made Ace's heart race!

'Could it be it's another elemental orb?' Ace's imagination runs wide.

"Moir, what just happened now, and why is this point changed? Is this pointing in a new direction or the old one?" Ace quickly questioned Moira, since she was more reliable than the system and the Eternal Thief Fate Compass was her body.

"I-I... I don't know, but for a moment I went blank because a sudden power surged out of nowhere, and then I suddenly regain my sense back. But it seemed the Live Fate Map Indicator has somehow changed from its previous position." She sounded completely exhausted and panicked. She clearly had no clue about what had happened.

Ace frowned and mused, 'So, the system can control the live fate map and show the Live Fate Map's Indicator's exact position. And it seemed once I knew what was on the other side of this indicator, a new indicator will appear. But now the question is; is there also an elemental orb on this fate indicator's end as well?

'According to Moira, this Live Fate Map can indicate the best direction where I should go to find a fortunate opportunity that will most suitable for me, or it could also be a thing I require or desire the most or something that can help me in future in some peril.

'So, there's a notable change of another Elemental Orb being on the side, since I desired them the most. Well, since I now know about the true function of this indicator, I don't have to worry about finding fortuitous opportunities in the future.

'As for the lightning orb, it is in the royal zone!' Ace's eyes shimmered with a thievish glint as he vividly remembered what the map system showed him.

Furthermore, the system has already locked the position, and he can see the location at any time now after spending thief points.

'The risks I took on the side mission were really worth it!' Ace was extremely content with the system's rewards this time.

"Alright, Moira, you don't have to worry about it. You also sounded tired. Just rest. You did a good job." Ace gently soothes the poor thing, who was probably just sucked dry by the system.

"A-alright." She sounded bewildered, but she was really exhausted and required rest, so she fell silent.

If it were any other time, he would've already immersed himself in learning the secret skill and using the insight pills.

But he was still in the middle of the forbidden plains, and his journey was nowhere near complete. So, he suppressed the distracting thoughts and kept moving.

Like that a week passed, and no one came after him, which means those demons were really searching in the wrong direction.

In this past week, Ace didn't see any forest or mountain, and all he could see was these grassy plains as far as his eyes could see.

However, at this moment, Ace suddenly stopped when he saw the green grass plain ahead now turned into a gray wasteland, and far ahead, he saw thick fog, nothing else.

'I guess this is the forbidden boundary. If I stepped into it, I would enter into an unending illusionary maze formation. According to Paul's memories, as long as someone stepped into this formation, their Qi would be suppressed, turning them into a mortal, and they couldn't even access your storage treasures.

'The end result is the same. The intruder would die of hunger and thirst without Qi. What a vicious formation. Only the Law Awareness Realm Experts can cross this place without being suppressed, but this is also limited to the demons. If another race's Law Awareness Realm stepped in this place, the demons on the other side would instantly know.' Ace deeply looked at the wasteland ahead.

He couldn't help but think of the border formations set on the Azure Wind Continent.

'Could it be the person who placed all these formations is the same?' This thought surfaced suddenly in his mind.

But then he shook his head since this had nothing to do with him, even if these massive formations were created by the same person.

At this moment, a metallic black ring appeared in Ace's hand. From its ordinary look, anyone would think it was just a normal ring. There weren't any runes on the ring either.

If Ace didn't have Paul's memories, he would also completely overlook this ring.

But he knew this ring was like the entry pass that could help its wearer cross these forbidden lands without being afraid of the Qi suppression or any hallucinations.

Paul had stolen this ring from his clan's treasury just so he could sneak into the outer continent. He also would've never known about this ordinary-looking ring's function unless a certain someone told him.

Although the Grand Demon Duke Clans have these rings, they can't use them without permission from the Emperor Domain, or they will be punished harshly.

But Paul had completely ignored everything and still dared to use it to show his 'love' and taken a colossal risk, and now he'll be going to suffer big time since he even lost this ring to Sky Stealer.

However, those demons still thought Ace didn't know how to use this ring, so it was useless in his hand. If they knew, the Grand Demon Duke would be long run here without even thinking twice.

Ace wore the ring, and nothing happened. But he still took a step forward, entered the wasteland, and vanished from plain sight!

However, right when he entered the wasteland thereafter, the dark ring suddenly shimmered in a dark sheen before a small arrow projection appeared right above the ring and pointed in a particular direction.

Ace's lips curled up as he followed the arrow's direction without any hesitation. Furthermore, he didn't feel any restriction from this formation, and he knew it wasn't because of this ring.

He had yet to find a place that could completely suppress his heavenly Qi, and this time it wasn't any different as well.

As he moved deeper and deeper, the arrow would also change direction, and Ace would also change his position without hesitation.

Fifteen days have passed since Ace started to follow the ring's direction and wandered into this fog.

He had to admit, if he didn't have Paul's memories, he might've thought he was lost despite this ring directions.

However, he knew this journey would take over a month to complete, and he was probably halfway through now.

Right at this moment, a husky voice drifted in this silence of this fog, "Y-you... know... me?"

Ace was appalled when this sudden voice sounded out of nowhere, but for some reason, he felt this voice was quite familiar.

"Who are you?" He released his heavenly sense.

No matter what, he was completely on guard and was ready to use the heavenly talisman to escape anytime if the opponent was a soul manifestation realm expert.

"You... know... me... you... I... can... feel... soul... contract... between... you... and... me." The old voice spoke with intervals as if it had been years since it spoke.

Ace's eyes narrowed when he heard this, and he could also feel this voice was really familiar.

'Soul contract? I only have one fake soul contract that I sign with...' Ace's eyes went wide when an old memory of a few years ago surfaced in his mind, and he blurted the name,

"Patriarch Empty Dream?!"



"You know... me!" The old husky voice boomed when it heard this old forgotten name.

It was none other than Patriarch Empty Dream, which Ace once encountered when he was entrapped in the low sky-changing border in the lowlands of the azure wind continent.

Ace was baffled because he never thought he would meet the Patriarch Empty Dream soul piece on the demon continent. He clearly remembered that Patriarch Empty Dream's soul was torn into five pieces.

They then established a soul contract that required Ace to find those five pieces one by one and then obtain their soul wisps.

But the truth was, because of the system's fake unconscious function, Ace wasn't bounded by the soul contract. Patriarch Empty Dream even tried to see his memories. So, he didn't have any good feelings toward this old ghost.

He almost forgets about this soul contract and the deal with Patriarch Empty Dream after he teleported to the demon continent.

But who would've thought he would encounter Patriarch Empty Dream's soul piece on the demon continent, of all places?

Furthermore, it would seem the soul piece of Patriarch Empty Dream could sense the soul contract in his true soul, and it might be the reason for its sudden awakening!

### Eternal Thief

#### **Chapter 520: Empty Dream's True Goal?**

When Ace thought to this point, a peculiar glint flashed past his eyes. 'Meeting him might not be a bad thing for me this time. I'm not that naïve little brat from that day anymore!'

He replied respectfully, "Senior Empty Dream, I indeed know your other soul piece, and I was even searching for you!" He lied through his teeth.

"My other soul... piece?" Patriarch Empty Dream's voice seemed confused, "Forgive me child... but my memories are not complete, and I just regain consciousness after I sense soul contract on you. Can... you tell me... more?"

Ace's eyes squinted when he heard this. 'He might be telling the truth, or demons would not let this happen. Besides, if I want to take advantage of this old ghost, this is the chance.'

A thievish smile flashed on Ace's face before he spoke, "Don't worry senior, I'll tell you everything about the outside world. We, after all, are partners. So, here's the thing, I encountered a soul piece like you in the Azure Wind Continent who told me..."

Ace didn't hide any information about the Azure Wind Continent, and he even added the information he was given by the Patriarch Empty Dream's other soul piece that day to make sure this soul piece will believe him completely. He even added some lies within the truth.

"... right now, I'm on the Demon Continent, and I was hunted down by the Demon Race because I was investigating your whereabouts and searching high and low for clues about your fourth soul pieces.

"But who would've thought I would find you in this awful place, of all places? Those hateful, abominable demons had made you into their defensive formation that will guard their front gates like a guard dog.

"As a human, my heart hurts when I think about how a pillar of our humanity was betrayed and now made someone else door guard..."

Ace lamented in a sad tone and almost shed some crocodile tears while he continued fanning the flame. He wanted to appear righteous and a loyal follower of Patriarch Empty Dream, who had come to the demon continent to rescue him and will do anything to ensure his resurrection.

"Good, very good. Devil Race, Demon Race, and that traitorous snake. Very good!" Patriarch Empty Dream's voice was filled with boundless rage and hatred as he seemed to remember some pieces of his past and completely believed Ace.

Ace's lips rose ever so slightly, but he didn't dare to be careless because Patriarch Empty Dream's soul pieces never even asked if he was a demon or human, which indicates he could see through his disguise.

He was playing with fire right now. If this old monster sensed he was lying and making things up, things might go awry.

If not for his years of experience in hiding his genuine emotions, he might not take any risk in fabricating lies in front of Empty Dream.

But now it seemed all those experiences had paid off.

However, he also had a clear understanding of Patriarch Empty Dream's soul pieces now as well.

'This guy was probably at the doorstep of that realm when he was attacked. Even these soul pieces can see through my disguise,' Ace mused.

Patriarch Empty Dream's furious voice rang again, "They went too far after not being able to acquire my clan's cultivation technique. They scattered my soul pieces around the world and used them as formation cores like an infinite power source!

"Child, don't worry. I can tell you have suffered so much just for the greater good of our human race. You are far better than that traitorous snake ever was. Once you completely revive me, I will definitely not mistreat you!"

Ace quickly bowed and humbly replied, "Senior, there's no need. I'm doing it for the greater good of humanity. The Dream Shatter King might have already handed the command of our race to devils in secret, which is not good news for us. Only you can change our fate."

This time Ace told a half-truth and half of his own assumption. He had heard from Winter that the Azure Wind Continent was at Devil Race's beck and call for thousands of years now.

He also found some historic records of this and suspected that humanity might have become the vessel of the Devil Race. But their relationship was still ambiguous since they never revealed its true nature.

However, Ace didn't care. He didn't have any attachments with the human race except for his mysterious parents and his grudge against Gordon's real body.

Ace had long decided that once he accumulated enough power, he will return to settle all this!

"Those bastards had shamed the heroes of the past who sacrificed themselves for freedom. Especially the Humane Sage Clavus!" Patriarch Empty Dream was completely exasperated.

For him, the azure wind continent was like his empire, which his ancestors built with blood and tears, and it was his birthright to rule that empire. But someone had backstabbed him, taken over this birthright, and even given it to the enemy on a silver platter.

How could he not resent and hate them?

"You're saying you had already gathered three of my soul wisps and searching for the fourth which is me?" Patriarch Empty Dream suddenly questioned.

Ace replied without any hesitation, "Indeed. I got clues about the involvement of Demon Race in the attack against you from your third soul wisp and came here for investigation. But demons are nothing like humans. They discovered me halfway through my search, and from then on, there are searching for me high and low.

"If I hadn't encountered a scion of the royal zone and acquired this information and ring, I might never dare to enter this place at all. But it seemed it was all paid out since you're here."

Ace pretended to be excited.

Patriarch Empty Dream could help but praise, "You're so young and daring. Not only do you care about our race's future, you even embarked on this path of no return valiantly. No wonder my other soul pieces entrusted you with this dangerous task. Don't take my words wrong, but where are my other soul wisps right now?"

'Hehe, he's still suspicious of me despite the soul contract. Or could it be that this soul contract was only valid between me and the first soul piece, and the other had nothing to do with it? Like Freya tried to trick me that day?

'This might really be the case. This old fox tricked me into signing that unfair contract, which might be because the other soul pieces can sense its presence on me and easily approach me like the soul brand.

'Once he revived, he can simply decide to go back on his words, and I would be completely helpless against this old monster. Now he wanted to make sure I'm telling the truth despite my performance, which mean he was extremely causation about these soul wisps of his. They might be some kind of indispensable keys for his revival.

'Or even worse, he might want to take over my body for this resurrection!'

If Ace hadn't experienced all those tricks himself, he would never even think of all this. But the more he thought, the more he found it possible and the more he became vigilant of Patriarch Empty Dream.

Although he knew the system would never let someone else take over its host, he didn't want to deliberately reach that point and put himself in danger just because he can.

After reaching this conclusion, Ace was now completely calm.

He replied to Patriarch Empty Dream's question or what he wanted to hear, "Senior, your soul wisps can't be stored in storage rings. So, I hid them somewhere in the Endless Sea when I was traveling here. To make sure I won't lose them while traveling."

Patriarch Empty Dream's voice paused for a moment before he rang again, "Very Good, you handle this well. Now, I'm more assured and believe you can complete this task. Here took my soul wisp as well and leave this place.

"Since I'm awake now, I can slightly influence this formation and send you to a safe location on the other side and also make those demons' lives miserable."

Before Ace could react, a translucent marble filled with milky smoke drifted toward Ace.

He knew what it was since he had one just like this laying in his thief's space for years.

It was another soul wisp of Patriarch Empty Dream soul piece, and now he had collected two of them despite not desiring them.

Still, he accepted it and put it in his pocket.

If the Patriarch was really planning to possess by using these soul wisps, he didn't mind holding on to them and even destroying them if necessary!

'Now's the chance.'

Ace bowed and said, "Senior, I'm now ready to inherit your soul search technique, which required imbuing a wisp of soul sense to infiltrate someone's knowledge sea!"