

Thief 561

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Chapter 561: Shadow Walk

The moment Ace crossed the final corridor, the sight of a grade hall greeted him and three masked demons sitting around an array mirror.

They were currently looking at him with their impassive eyes, especially the demon with pitch-black eyeballs in the center, who gave off the feeling of invisibility between the other two.

Not only that but their auras were completely hidden, and not even Ace's soul sense could pick up their traces as if they didn't exist in this space.

Suddenly, powerful pressure, many times stronger than the Piercing Maze, descended above him.

Ace pretended to be exhausted, fell on his knees, and looked like he was struggling to just breathe.

"He's indeed exhausted his soul strength because if he doesn't, I don't know how would I react." The pressure vanished with this jolly voice.

"Here, eat this, and you'll be fine." Clouse suddenly spoke, and a crystal green pill suddenly come hovering toward Archie.

Ace could feel the medicinal potency of this pill when it reached him, 'A Low-Grade-6 Soul Pill!'

Even Archie's family didn't have many of these pills in their treasury, which could only mean this person was either extremely wasteful or didn't care about a grade-6 soul pill at all.

Nevertheless, he still ate it for the sake of it and gain 50,000 SP as well as his depleted heavenly soul Qi also recovered. His SP cap still wasn't full, and he left it like that deliberately as well.

He was saving all those system's EXP and SP for when he breaks into a new realm because the extra EXP or SP is no longer saved by the system after he created the heavenly Qi sea and they will be wasted if he tries to add them.

So, he keeps them safe for the future.

Unless he wanted just heavenly Qi out of desperation, he won't use them.

Archie finally stood up and bowed toward the three. "Thank you, instructors, for your guidance."

"You're not half bad yourself." The demon on the left answered with a chuckle. He was quite satisfied with Archie, and if not for Clouse, he might try to poach him, even from his third sister on the right.

"As I announced before if you could reach here, I'll guide you. As you have already guessed, my name is Clause Nightmare. This is my second brother, Olaf Poison Wood, and third sister, Londyn Nightmare.

"They both will be teaching you with me in five-day intervals each while I'll be last and teach you until you leave for the gathering. As for how much you could learn and be able to grasp, it depends on your own.

"If you didn't want to die in the upcoming gathering, then I would suggest you use your true potential, or this might be the last time we all ever met." Clouse didn't waste any time on idle chit-chat and directly stated the purpose of Archie's summon.

Ace was astonished when he heard this. He was only under the impression that he was called here to accept as a personal student, but not to train by these three instead.

Furthermore, he still had the meeting with that Jefferson in a week, and if they kept him here for an entire month, he'll miss that meeting, and all his plans would go down the drain.

But he couldn't reject them, or they might take it the wrong way.

Clouse did not know what Archie was thinking, and neither did he care, so he said, "Your first lesson will be with my third sister, and after five days, you'll be given a day off for rest. Now let's start."

He then looked at Londyn and nodded. "He's all yours."

Ace didn't even give the chance to breathe or comprehend what just happened, and the next thing he remembered was Londyn appearing in front of him and putting her hand on his shoulder.

The next moment, everything turned into a blur, and when he regained his vision, he was standing in a huge empty white space.

Back in the main hall, Olaf was speechless as he commented in a wry tone, "Um, I think you're a little too hasty, First Brother. You should've given him a chance at least to catch his breath."

"Time is short. I need to teach him the essentials of Dark Dagger Secret Art. Without your two skills, it's impossible to learn. So, I gave you both five days with him..." Before Clouse could end his explanation, Olaf cut him short.

"Wait, wait?! Dark Dagger Secret Art? Did Master agree to it?" He quickly asked in disbelief.

"Yes." Clouse merely nodded as if it was a trifling matter.

"Then this means he's a core student of master?" Olaf questioned again.

Because he knew only Bodach's personal students could learn the Dark Dagger Secret Art and they were all forbidden to teach anyone else without his confirmation.

Every Royal House of the Royal Demon Institute had a secret art only unique to their respective houses, and it was depending on the Housemaster to who they taught these secret arts.

This Dark Dagger Secret Art was unique to the Soul Assassin House.

That was why Olaf was shocked when he heard Clouse was going to teach Archie this art, and even more absurd, he was planning to teach him the essence of it in less than a month.

Which was akin to mastering it at the initial level, which was almost impossible unless Archie was a monster.

He even wondered if Clouse had gone insane by gaining a student because he sure sounded insane to Olaf.

"Not a core student, but as my student, it'll be fine. Just teach him Darkles Stealth well. The third sister also agreed." Clouse stated before vanishing from his place.

"And when did that happen? Weren't I here all the time?" Olaf was standing alone, dumbfoundedly. He even felt like he was the only sane person between those two.

Ace looked at the masked demoness with a hint of confusion, as he still didn't understand why they were teaching him and wasting their time. But one thing was clear now that Archie had drawn some unexpected attention.

He mused that it had to be something to do with that Piercing Maze, but it was too late to regret now.

Furthermore, since he would be given a day off on the exact day he was going to join the secret alliance, he was finally at ease. He even thought it was done purposely, but he had no proof to make sense of it.

Londyn finally spoke at this moment, "I know you might be confused since it is too sudden, but this is for your own good and also proof that First Brother treated you like his own people. So, you better not disappoint him and learn properly, or I'll never forgive you."

Ace suddenly felt a cold killing intent for a moment, making his heart palpitate because this demoness was a manifestation realm expert. He finally sensed her aura for a moment!

But it all vanished the next moment as if it was an illusion.

However, Ace knew better than to think of it as a mere illusion and was fully on guard to not mess up.

'So, this is a special grade instructor, huh?' Ace thought.

"I understand." Archie timidly replied.

"Good then. On to the main business, then." Londyn revealed, "I'm going to teach you an Upper Sky Grade skill called the Shadow Walk. A simple name for an upper sky grade skill, right?"

Ace didn't comment, but thought little about the name.

Londyn continues, "If you have gone to the central library, you'll only access and learn this skill if you're a core student, so you should cherish this opportunity well. If even in five days you don't grasp the basics, then I'm afraid you'll never be able to learn from First Brother."

Ace didn't know what these three were planning, but he could guess that it wasn't simple at all.

"Shadow Walk follows the basic principle of any agility type skill, but what makes it unique and an upper sky-grade skill is its growth potential. There are three levels, and only soul geniuses could learn the first level at the river core realm.

"Or not even the soul realm could gasp it without entering the advance stage. As for its prowess, I just used it to take you to this training hall. Let me tell you we just covered 10 miles in less than a second, and it was me using it to only 1st level, or we could've covered 100 miles with one step with my level-2 mastery!"

Ace was shocked when he heard this because it was simply too exaggerated since it was akin to teleportation, but he just experienced it, and she didn't have any need to lie which could only mean that it was true.

Even though it was the case, the problem was how he was going to learn it. Because this wasn't a heavenly skill so he could only do nothing but to prepared for the worse.

Nevertheless, he was still going to learn the essentials of it and try to break into the next level of his own movement art or create a new skill!

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Chapter 562: Deal Finalized

When Ace thought Londyn was done with her explanation on Shadow Walk, he soon found out he was dead wrong about it.

Londyn spoke in a teasing tone, "This was just the speed aspect of Shadow Walk, but not what its actual use. If this was a skill only used for escaping, then it won't be an upper sky-grade skin.

"Let me tell you a brief history of the Shadow Walk. This skill was discovered in ruin over a thousand years ago by the royal demon institute's principal. But according to Lord Principal, this skill was just a superficial version of a Law Skill called Shadow Teleportation.

"One could only imagine just how powerful this so-called Law Skill might be since just this superficial version of it was a sky-grade level.

"Nevertheless, just the Shadow Walk alone had earned its place in the core area of the central library. Because the Shadow Walk Skill is made for flawless assassination.

"With Shadow Walk, one could appear on a shadow from miles away as long as there is a shadow and one could see it. They could appear right on it, just like what I did with you!"

Ace was astonished when he heard this. After all, he knew what a Law Skill represents more than Londyn because he got even techniques that required law comprehension.

Furthermore, this Shadow Teleportation seemed to be related to the ability to teleport, which only exists in legends.

When he thought deeply about how Londyn appeared right in front of them without even him noticing a thing, he understood just how scary the Shadow Walk was if one could appear right in another person's shadow from miles away.

It was akin to teleportation, even!

Londyn liked Archie's awed expression, and she said, "You might be thinking that it is like the teleportation of legends, right? But sadly, it's not, because at night when there is no shadow but darkness, the Shadow Walk lost this aspect.

"For some reason, one could only use Shadow Walk when a shadow generates from light but not in dark places where's no light. But just this much is enough to make it a perfect skill for assassination.

"Let's start our lessons. I want you to appear in a shadow ten meters away at the end of our season. First, remember this skill and its aspects, and don't pass it on to someone else if you don't want to get detained by the institute, that is."

Londyn took out a thick gray book and tossed it toward Archie without waiting for his reply as if it doesn't matter.

Ace caught the book, and just as he thought it was the Shadow Walk skill so he started to memorize it as he was told. He was also quite curious about this astonishing skill which originated from a law skill.

Furthermore, he had comprehended [Shadow] law even though it was just over 2%, it was still something that even a manifestation realm expert might not have.

So, he was quite hopeful about making it work.

Afterward, Londyn took out an array plate and activated it. As a result, the white room suddenly started to change as an illusion began to manifest.

Thereupon, Ace found himself standing in the middle of a grass field, and the center of this grass field was a straw hut with no door.

Londyn said, "You have five days to appear in the shadow of this hut and don't use any movement skill, I'll know if you did!" She narrowed her eyes, "Lastly, you can ask me any question related to Shadow Walk, and you have five chances to make me demonstrate it to you. Even if I give you more chances, you'll never be able to understand if you don't understand the first five-time!"

Done explaining, she took out a comfortable chair and sat on it without speaking anything else.

Ace was also happy since he didn't want Londyn to watch his every move or nag him. So, he sat down and started studying the skill book closely to understand the fundamentals behind it.

Londyn silently watched Archie mulling over the skill book and said nothing. She had gone out of her way to give Archie five days of her time, which would be impossible for any ordinary core student to get just for the sake of Clouse.

It was also only possible because there was still time before the official classes would commence, as well as the names for the Ancient Alliance Gathering will be announced.

Meanwhile, inside another Royal Tower,

The Soul Combat Royal Tower was just as lavish and facilitated as the Soul Assassin Royal Tower, but with slightly different training facilities.

On the 99th floor,

A handsome life soul demon with a cold demeanor was impassively looking at another life soul demon who was kneeling in front of him.

This Life Soul Demon with a cold demeanor was none other than Daniel Life Soul, as well as the current youngest student of Housemaster Ampersand.

While the demon kneeling was another core-grade student but he was clearly his henchman.

Daniel's status in the Life Soul Grade Demon Tribe was undeniably grand because of his talent, just like Clouse Nightmare of Nightmare Grand Demon Tribe.

They both had no contenders in their generation and were considered the future lords of their clans.

However, because of Archie's unexpected appearance, Daniel might have had a competitor if he got the same status as him.

Unless Daniel was the Grand Demon Duke himself, he couldn't do anything about it officially because it was a rule of the demon race that anyone could fight for higher positions and titles as long as it was fair.

That's why Daniel now felt threatened by Archie's sudden appearance, so he wanted to make sure he was a threat to him.

"Where is he?" Daniel coldly questioned.

The other demon replied timidly, "I don't know, but he's not responding to our invitations sent to his quarters."

A cold glint flashed past Daniel's eyes. "Just because he entered the special class, he thinks he can ignore me as he wishes?" His voice was laced with killing intent.

"Heh, he's not in the mansion to answer your invitation." An aged voice sounded at this moment, startling both Daniel and the other demon.

However, Daniel quickly recognized this voice as his expression went somewhat paled, and quickly blurted, "Greeting, Master."

Thereupon, Ampersand walked in with a mild smile on his face while his hands were behind his back.

"Leave." He merely commanded without even looking at the kneeling demon who was about to greet him.

The demon fluttered slightly before he quickly fled, didn't dare to say a word.

"Master, let me explain..." Daniel wanted to say something before Ampersand cut him short.

"How does your annual assessment go?" He asked smilingly.

Daniel calmed himself down and quickly replied, "I have cleared it in one-week master, I didn't disappoint you."

Ampersand nodded, "I expect nothing less. But why I'm seeing chaos in your eyes? Didn't I teach you to never lose your calm, or just a simple wave was enough to shake you?"

Daniel knew he had messed up and kept his head low. "I indeed let you down."

Ampersand chuckled, "No, it's not about letting me down, but you let yourself down by feeling apprehension from a cold gust of wind. Your mind still hadn't reached the state of soul tranquility. Spend two weeks in the level 5 soul ice piercing maze to cover this flaw."

"I'll do it right away." Daniel instantly agreed.

"As for Archie, you didn't need to bother yourself with him. Consider him a storm who will soon die down. Just focus on your cultivation or the secret cultivation art will have a backlash on you with these kinds of emotions." Finishing saying his ambiguous words, Ampersand vanished before dumbfounded Daniel's eyes.

Daniel remained stunned for a while before his eyes gleamed with elation. 'So, Master had already taken care of that pest Archie before I even have to lift a finger?'

A wintry smile broke out on his lips. 'You should only blame yourself for getting in my way!'

The Forbidden Plains of Mighty Demon Tamer Province,

The new build auction arena by the Life Demon Association was completely empty at this moment.

In the underground passage, where the auction treasury was, four figures emerged in front of a wall where a large owl symbol was imprinted with words in its wings.

"I have to say, it's quite the sight." One of the devil envoys said jeeringly, at this moment while closely looking at the thief symbol.

This group was none other than the two devil envoys who came to lend a hand and two elder demons of the Imperial Council.

In the end, the deal between the Devils and Demons was finalized, with Demons accepting the Devil's terms.

So, now they were here to find traces of the elusive thief that demons failed to find.

But these two devils were sure they will be able to do it!

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Chapter 563: Blood Aura Trace

"I have to say, it's quite the sight." One of the devil envoys said jeeringly, while closely looking at the thief symbol.

His name was Raul and beside him was his elder brother, Ralph, who was much calmer and more reserved than Raul.

Accompany, these two were none other than the Sixth Demon Elder and Fourth Demon Elder of the Imperial Demon Council.

After these two Elder Demons divulged the information they received to the Imperial Demon Council, the council agreed to Devil's demands since it was the most sensible thing to do.

Afterward, these two devil envoys demand to take them to the site of thievery, where the thief last appeared. So, this site was naturally the Life Demon Auction Arena.

After the auction items were stolen and Princess Leona's plot surfaces in front of everyone, the auction naturally doesn't end well as it was supposed to.

Not only were many demons who already paid for the auction item tickets furious, but they couldn't point their fingers at the Imperial Princess because no matter what, they won't be able to handle the consequences.

On top of that, the Life Demon Association, which became the target of the public afterward, also shun all responsibility and gave back only half of the Qi stones in refunds that they took.

This naturally turned into public outrage, but because of the association's status, those tribes also couldn't do a thing. Even some demon king-level tribes could only keep the resentment to their heart. Especially those who handed over their items for auction.

However, this didn't end there because afterward those demons who come here to take part in the Demon Gate Trails started to hesitate since they all thought that even the royal zone wasn't enough to take care of the elusive thief.

So why they were risking their lives if the royal zone was amount only for this much?

As a result, many small and medium size tribes left without even registering for the entrance test.

One could even say this last thievery had affected the royal zone's plan as a whole, and if not for their quick action, the demon gate trial would be a complete disaster.

That was why the elusive Sky Stealer reached at top of the royal zone's extermination list, and they poured almost all resources to search for clues about him.

But to this day, they still hadn't managed to get anything out of it, even the Fiery Grand Demon Duke who suffered the direct backlash because the thief performed this thievery right under his nose wasn't able to find him.

To this day, the Fiery Grand Demon Duke and the most proficient trackers of the demon race were still on the hunt for the thief, but over two years had passed, and their search still did not bore any result.

Many think that the thief had fled the continent to escape the demon race's wrath since it was the most logical thing for him to do after he accumulated so much wealth.

After all, the demons have scanned through every neck of the woods of the continent as well as scanned each demon or any living being they could find with a massive search formation but found nothing.

Furthermore, Demons were also using Devils to just confirmed their conjecture about the thief fleeing the continent so they would stop their search.

Still, the demons were on complete guard if any mishap ever happened, and before the confirmation, they won't stop searching. Their entire race's reputation depends on it now.

One good thing that happened out of all this was that no one dared to commit a crime anymore because everyone was on high alert.

Hearing Raul's jeering remarked Sixth Demon Elder grunted coldly, "Is that so? Let's see if you could still say this after you try deciphering this freaking owl hex!"

Sixth Demon Elder was stating the fact because almost every high-grade rune crafter had tried to break this 'owl hex' but failed.

They were even more shocked when even a seventh realm expert like Fiery Grand Demon Duke couldn't destroy this symbol, which was completely out of everyone's comprehension.

The strangest thing was they could destroy the unaffected area around it, but not the symbol itself.

That was why the demons were so alert about this thief and worried about his whereabouts because if he had this kind of power, then why was he stealing or even bothering to run, for fun?

Definitely not!

They all thought that the thief had some deeper purpose since his 'race' was killed by them and many more such conclusions were made, but none of them made any sense.

So, they were all hoping for these devils to make some breakthroughs.

Raul was arrogant and always looked down on every other race because of the devil race's prowess and abilities, so he was easily provoked by Sixth Demon Elder's comment.

"Heh, I also wanted to see if this little bird hex is as unbreakable as you guys making it to be." Raul sneered coldly before he placed his hand on the owl symbol.

Ralph didn't stop him either, nor the Fourth Demon Elder said anything and observed.

Raul's claw-like hand suddenly shimmered in crimson hue as his crimson eyes also emitted a sinister aura.

A crimson mist suddenly started to expand from his hand and started to cover the owl symbol. Soon, the entire owl symbol was covered in crimson.

"Blood Aura Trace!" the crimson mist suddenly shimmered in ghastly light as its color become deeper and deeper.

The Blood Aura Trace was one of the few astonishing bloodline abilities of the Blood Devil Clan. With this skill, they could find traces of the beings as long as they left something behind, even footprints.

The more traces the target left, the more success rate this skill would have, and as long as the target didn't have higher cultivation than the Skill Caster, then it was almost impossible to fail.

Raul was a Quasi-Soul-Law-Awareness Realm expert, so if that thief wasn't in a higher realm or in the same realm as him, then this skill shouldn't fail.

But they all didn't know the Thief Symbol was made by the system, not Ace so...

'Creck...'

Suddenly, cracks suddenly started to appear in the crimson mist like a mirror before it shattered with a small boom spreading red mist into the area!

'Cough...'

Raul instantly caught violently as his eyes widened in disbelief. It was the backlash of failing!

Ralph's eyes narrowed. "What do you see?"

He clearly knows just how pernicious this innate skill of their clan was, and even if it failed, the user could still find a few clues about the target.

Fourth and Sixth Demon Elders were also solemnly looking without passing any comments as if they had already expected this much.

Their side had also tested many things with this symbol, but it never succeeded, and they all guess this owl symbol was some kind of deadly hex.

Raul stopped coughing but his eyes still had a hint of fear in them as he answered, "I-I saw... nothing."

Ralph's eyes shone with uncertainty since he could tell his younger brother wasn't lying, and with his arrogant nature, he won't admit something like this in front of another race.

"Alright, let me try." Ralph move forward as he also placed his hand on the owl symbol, and just like before, the crimson mist with an even darker shade started to spread.

Ralph was a de facto Soul Law Awareness Realm Blood Devil and held a very high position in the devil race, so his using the Blood Aura Trace differed completely from Raul's.

He was sent here because of this exact reason as well because Ralph was the devil's race number tracking expert. He also had experience hunting down another thief, so he was perfect for this job, and the thief shouldn't have any chance against him.

However, when the cracks started to appear in his crimson mist as well, and when an enormous explosion sounded, which made the space close to everyone tremble, blood trickled down from Ralph's mask as his eyes widened in horror.

Everyone present knew that the thief was far, far more difficult to deal with than they had thought!

"This shouldn't be right, how could even Elder Brother's tracking skill face?!" Raul was the most shocked before the three because he knew just how scary Ralph was with his cultivation but even he failed and suffered even greater backlash than him.

He looked at the still find imposing owl symbol with trepidation and disbelief. There was also a hint of fear in his eyes.

Ralph quickly suppressed the injury he got from the backlash as his eyes also shone with fear as he looked at the symbol.

He then inhaled deeply, "T-this... symbol, you said there... there were more of such symbols... on other sites as well as they could also appear on the body as well, right?"

Fourth Demon Elder grimly replied, "Indeed, there are some victims in our custody." He almost lost hope after seeing them fail.

Ralph solemnly stated, "Please take us to those victims. If I don't get a trace of this thief's blood aura, I'm afraid performing Blood Ritual won't be possible!"

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Chapter 564: Treasure Trove of Special District!

On the 99th floor of Soul Assassin Royal Tower,

Today was the fifth and last day of Archie's learning lesson with Londyn.

In these past four days, Ace had done nothing but try to imitate the shadow walk as best as he could, but he had no result.

This skill was just too complex to imitate in five days.

Although after seeing Londyn using it five times, he had some advancement but creating a new skin that was equivalent to an Upper-Sky-Grade rank was not a joke.

One needed an extremely high understanding of that field to create something out of it, and Ace never paid much attention to the movement department because he didn't need to.

With a movement art like Misperception Sky Step, which covers every aspect of movement skill, he didn't need to worry about his movement skills.

However, now that he tried, he found out that he shouldn't just always rely on the system skills and should also increase his knowledge about all the aspects instead of focusing on one.

He had tons of knowledge about skills, techniques, arts, and even secret skills, but he never tried to utilize it for anything except his sword path, which was essential or he might not pay attention to it as well.

Yet, Ace also understands that it wasn't his fault because his cultivation years were too short in comparison to a normal cultivator, and most of the time he was on either missions or busing hiding so he didn't get much chance to mull over his flaws.

Nevertheless, he was still happy about what he had achieved until now and if one saw his progress as just a river realm cultivator, then Ace was probably without any match out there and he was at that point where he was probably bonded by his realm.

He could feel that no matter what he does, the Misperception Sky Steps were stuck like in the past when he reached a bottleneck for a skill. But as long as he could enter the higher realm, he would break into a higher level much easier and quicker.

That makes him, even more, determined to acquire that Elemental Orb.

On the other hand, Londyn who was overseeing Archie's progress was shocked inwardly because unlike Ace she knew just how difficult it was to even understand the fundamental of shadow walk.

But Archie had done it in three days and was very close to performing the lowest-level shadow walk.

She never intended to have him learn the shadow walk in five days because it was night impossible, and just wanted to give him some motivation to understand the skill structure and how it works.

But Archie moved at a tremendous pace, and he had already completed his assigned mission and gone beyond that, but she didn't tell him and just watch without telling him.

She wanted to see if he could really perform a shadow walk before the end of five days because if he did, even her master might change his decision to give Archie as a student to Clouse, despite giving his words and losing face.

However, when the fifth day ended, she had a massive sigh of relief because Archie still didn't perform the shadow walk.

She looked at the dejected Archie, who was still thinking he had failed with a hint of annoyance. She said coldly, "Alright, you can go now, returned the next day to start the training again." She then disappeared without saying anything, and the illusion also vanished.

Ace was baffled by the demoness because he didn't achieve the aim he was given but didn't get scolded and was even told to come back instead of being thrown out.

Nevertheless, he had already gained so much, and if he wasn't holding back on his shadow law, he might've performed a superficial shadow walk but it would be much different, so he didn't dare to try it even though he wanted to.

Furthermore, he didn't want to come back here, but it seemed he had to now. But it wasn't too bad since he learned something, and this might not be as bad as he thought.

So, he left from the opening inside the white training space.

He was astonished when he appeared right outside where the lifting platform was and the same fiery demon seemed to be waiting for him with an impassive look on his face.

He then turned back and saw he was outside the Special Instructor Quarters No.03, 'This formation might with a high sixth-grade formation,' He mused.

"Senior, how are you?" He then greeted the deacon, who was still expressionless.

"Fine, let's go. We shouldn't linger." He impassively uttered just like last time. He had no interest in chit-chat.

Ace didn't mind and stood on the triangular platform, and it started to descend at high speed like the last time.

'Now that I have to find that, Jefferson, he said he'll pick me up. I have to go back or he might think I had changed my mind when he got no response.' Ace thought.

Thereupon, Archie's figure soon left the gates of the royal tower and headed back toward his mansion.

However, Ace made a stop on his way back to the Treasure Trove of Special District, which was a grand golden building.

When he entered, he was greeted by a masked demon on the counter. There wasn't anything else in the interior except it was spacious. He wondered if he was in the right place.

"What do you need from the Treasure Trove of Special District? Show your student badge, and I'll give you a list of items you could buy with your Royal Points. Or if you're here to claim some reward, it's the same process." The masked demon coldly uttered.

When Ace heard this, he knew he was in the right place, so he handed over his student badge to the demon, and he scanned it into an array formation.

He nodded. "You can select a grade-4 attacking array and a grade-4 soul treasure for free, and you have 5,000 Royal Points. This is the list of everything you could buy, and select any grade-4 attacking array and a grade-4 soul treasure from this list as well."

Ace saw a projection of the list appear on the glass counter.

But he wasn't interested in any treasures and asked, "Senior, do you have Grade-5 Storage Space Treasures, and what is their price?"

The masked demon impassively replied, "A Low-Grade-5 Storage Right will cost 100 Royal Points, an intermediate one 500 RP, and a high one 1000 RP."

Ace's eyes shimmered with ecstasy when he heard they have Grade-5 storage rings.

He ordered, "Senior, I want 41 low-grade-5 storage rings."

The masked demon was somewhat startled by this unusual demand for so many storage rings. "Are you sure? It will cost you 4100 RP?"

Although he knew how precious these grade-5 rings were, even the Life Demon Association only sold a limited amount of them every year since they were too difficult to make, and their material was also quite precious.

But for the Royal Demon Institute, they weren't difficult to acquire.

Yet he was still baffled by Archie's demand of 41 rings together because each ring will have 2500 cubic meters of space. It was a lot.

Ace nodded, "I'm sure senior, and I would like to exchange those two rewards for RP. I heard it was possible?"

Ace naturally had his reason to buy so many storage rings as for those two rewards he didn't need them.

This time, the masked demon didn't look shocked and nodded, "You can exchange them for 1000 RP each."

"Alright, convert them into RP, and then convert all my remaining RP into Peak-Grade-4 Soul Crystal." Ace said without hesitation.

"41 Low-Grade-5 Storage Rings, which will cost 4100. It will leave you with 900 RP. But you convert your reward for 2000 RP, so you'll get 5800 Peak Grade-4 Soul Crystal for 2900 RP. The exchange rate is 1 RP for 2 peak Grade-4 soul crystals. Do you confirm this purchase?" He asked coldly.

"Yes." Ace nodded without hesitation.

Then the masked demon put Archie's student badge in the array formation again and confirmed his purchase.

He then left toward the back door to fetch Archie's purchases and have him wait.

Ace deeply looked at the wall behind the counter, which was clearly an illusion door.

'The main treasury might be behind that door, but the system's blueprint notification didn't ring, which could only mean the treasury was far away from this place. If this demon's cultivation were apparent and weaker than me, I could've easily stolen the entire treasury.' Ace thought thievishly but didn't dare to react.

He knew if he even showed a hint of suspicion here, then all he could do was run. So, he remained standing while secretly examining the place.

After ten minutes, the demon came back and handed over a storage ring. "You can check your items."

Ace checked, and after confirming everything was there, he thanked the man and left the building.

A hint of excitement flashed in Ace's eyes. 'It's time to upgrade the thief's space again!'

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 565: Living Thief's Space Expansion 2

'It's time to upgrade the thief's space again!'

Ace has been planning for this upgrade for a while now and collecting all the grade-5 storage rings needed.

But a grade-5 storage ring wasn't made in the outer provinces, and he only came in contact with them when he robbed Archie of his identity.

However, even then, he only got just 3. Even after requesting specifically for these rings from Harvey, he only got 56 because they were all in stock then.

Harvey could even take that many outs was all because of his status, or no matter what, this many grade-5 storage rings were almost impossible to acquire unless you're a student of a Royal Demon Institute, of course.

So, Ace wasn't too worried about not getting the remaining rings in here, and as he thought, the institute had them. This also proves the fact that their treasury won't be easily theft.

Furthermore, he wanted more humanoid spaces, so this upgrade was just what he needed, and he quickly ordered the system to open the upgrade scheme of the living thief's space.

Thereby, a panel appeared in front of Ace,

[Living Thief's Space Update Scheme]

1. 500 Cubic-Meter Space + 2 Humanoid Storage Capacity

Condition(s): 100 Grade-5 Storage Space treasures + 20 Million Thief Points

2. 1,000 Cubic-Meter Space + 5 Humanoid Storage Capacity

Condition(s): 100 Grade-8 Storage Space treasures + 50 Million Thief Points

3. 3X-Time Acceleration Function

Condition(s): 1 Grade-9 Storage Space Treasure + 1 Grade-9 Time Treasure + 100 Million Thief Points

[The conditions for the 500 Cubic-Meter Space + 2 Humanoid Storage Capacity update scheme have been met!]

[Do you want to update the Living Thief's Space?]

[Proceed/Not Now]

Ace proceeded without hesitation, and the next moment, all the grade-5 storage rings turned into ashes.

The thief's space started to expand slowly, which startled little Cyrus, who had been sleeping on Page 09 from the day he found it. Now it had become its nest.

It looked around with its tiny head in confusion before it went back to sleep since there wasn't any intruder or danger, as if nothing had happened.

But this expansion wasn't just happening to the living thief's space.

Inside the thief's house space, the personal spaces of the three house thieves also started to expand, startling all the members.

Ace was also astounded when he noticed this, 'So, the thief's house space size is directly connected with the size of my living thief's space,' He mused.

The expansion soon stopped with a system notification.

[Living Thief's Space has been updated!]

[Thief Point(s): 116,820,500]

[Living Thief's Space States]

-Storage Space Capacity: 500 Cubic-Meter Living Space

-Living Space Capacity:

1. 4 Humanoids (Humans, Demons, Hunters, etc.)
2. 50,000 None-Humanoid (Beasts, Herbs, Plants, Natural Treasures, etc.)

Ace nodded in satisfaction before closing the panel.

However, his action of expansion made the house members gather in the main hall.

Noa was still wearing the mask, but she was entirely exempt from any kind of aura, and her body was covered entirely in exquisite tight crystal black tight body armor with dark blue ruin outlines, showing her hourglass figure. It was the Grade-8 Thief Assassin Armor Set!

Her current status was,

[Thief House Member Status]

[House Member: Noa Night (Female)]

[Race: Demon]

[Bloodline: Night Demon (Grade-6 Bloodline) (Upgradeable)]

[Thief Genre: Thief Assassin (Trainee)]

[House Rank: Excellent Member (Upgradeable)]

[Next Rank [Expert Member]: 2,193/100,000 Thieveries]

[Soul Cultivation: Soul River Core Realm (Platinum Soul River Core)]

-Innate Soul Ability(s): 3

1. No Kill

[Description: Completely hide Thief Assassin's Killing Intent and Life Aura]

2. Assassin Mark

[Description: Lock on a target soul will result in a 100% (Attack) connect rate. (Attack) Connect Rate range is equivalent to Thief Assassin Sense.]

3. Thief Assassin Sense

[Description: ???]

[Talent: Average-low (Upgradeable)]

[Technique & Skills: 9]

-Cultivation Technique(s):

1. Thief Assassin Principles: Fourth Realm

-Body Refinement Technique(s):

1. Night Demon Body Transformation: 9-Star Night Demon Body

-Cultivation Art(s):

1. Endless Shadow Daggers Rainfall:

Shadow Rain Dance: Perfection

Stormy Shadow Rain: Middle

Endless Shadow Rainfall: None

2. Thief Assassin Invisible Cloaking:

Invisible Stealth: High

Soul Cloaking: None

Invisible Cloaking: None

-Skill(s):

1. Thief Assassin's Soul Steps: Middle
2. Thief Assassin's Soul View: Middle
3. Thief's Charity (Inverse & Reverse): Perfection
4. Soul Threats: Perfection

Secret Skill & Arts(s):

1. Shadow Escape (Skill): None

-Treasure(s):

1. Endless Night Daggers Set [32 Pin-Daggers]: Grade-4
2. Runic Windless Blowgun: Grade-4
3. Thief Assassin Armor Set: Grade-8
4. Life Escape Coin: 3

[House Point(s): 12,200]

[House Mission(s): 0]

[House Leader Mission(s): 0]

[House Punishment(s): 0]

[House Shop: Thief Assassin]

Freya looked even more bewitching than two years ago, and she was also wearing the Grade-8 Evil Thief Armor Set, which had a dark blue mantle on her shoulders. But the most significant change in Freya was her golden tri-pupils were no longer three but somehow turned into one, and she looked just like an ordinary human except for her otherworldly beauty.

As for her status,

[House Member: Freya Witch (Female)]

[Race: Evil Witch]

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

[Thief Genre: Evil Thief (Trainee)]

[House Rank: Excellent Member (Upgradeable)]

[Next Rank [Expert Member]: 21/100,000 Thieveries]

[Soul Cultivation: Platinum Soul Embryo Realm (Minor: Stage-2)]

-Innate Soul Ability(s): 4

1. Evil Rule

[Description: Complete Control over someone's mind as long as they had a weaker soul than the Evil Thief.]

[Warning: Stop using this ability, or if the victim exit the Evil Thief's range will cause Victim's Death.]

[Current Range: 5 Miles Radius]

[Controllable Victims: 5]

2. Evil Seed

[Description: ???]

3. Evil Thief Sense

[Description: ???]

4. ???

[Description: ???]

[Talent: Average-High (Upgradeable)]

[Technique & Skills: 9]

-Cultivation Technique(s):

1. Evil Thief Scripture (1st Vol): Fifth Realm

-Connate Ability(s):

1. Illusionary Dark Pupil

Connate Skill: Illusionary Dark Pupil Awakening (Tier-4 Intermediate Control)

(Total Control Tiers: 12)

-Cultivation Art(s):

1. Traceless Mind Evasion;

Traceless Sense Expansion: Middle

Mind Probing: None

Mind Evasion: None

2. Dark Elemental Shadow: Soul Cultivation Stealth Art

Deep Dark Stealth: Perfection

Deep Shadow Stealth: Low

Dark Elemental Stealth: None

Dark Elemental Shadow: None

-Skill(s):

1. Shadow Illusion Escape: High
2. Evil Eye: Perfection
3. Thief's Charity (Inverse & Reverse): Perfection
4. Soul Threats: Perfection

Secret Skill & Arts(s):

1. Empty Sleep (Skill): Low

-Treasure(s):

1. Dark Grimoire: Grade-9 (Upgradeable)
2. Soul Manipulation Chain: Grade-5
3. Evil Thief Armor Set: Grade-8
4. Life Escape Coin: 3

[House Point(s): 90]

[House Mission(s): 0]

[House Leader Mission(s): 0]

[House Punishment(s): 0]

[House Shop: Evil Thief]

Last but not least, Winter has also undergone a tremendous change. Her childish body was gone; she was taller and had a teenager's body, and her face was more mature and beautiful. She wore black and dark blue Faceless Thief Robes.

Her status also goes without saying,

[House Member: Winter Fox (Female)]

[Race: Magic Beast]

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

[Thief Genre: Faceless Thief (Trainee)]

[House Rank: Excellent Member (Upgradeable)]

[Next Rank [Expert Member]: 44/100,000 Thieveries]

[Marital Cultivation: Platinum Qi Soul Realm (Advance: Stage-8)]

-Innate Soul Ability(s): 4

1. Faceless Aura

[Description: It can make anyone forget the Faceless Thief's existence.]

[Limitation: The Faceless Aura will not affect someone with two whole cultivations above the Faceless Thief.]

2. Faceless Reality

[Description: ???]

3. Faceless Thief Sense

[Description: ???]

4. ???

[Description: ???]

[Talent: Below Average (Upgradeable)]

[Technique & Skills: 9]

-Cultivation Technique(s):

1. Faceless Thief Secrets (1st Vol): Fifth Realm

-Body Refinement Technique(s):

1. Myriad Beast Body Transformation Technique: Hundred Transformations

-Cultivation Art(s):

1. Faceless Art (Vol 1):

Total Tiers: 12

Current Tier Mastery: Tier-3 Mastery

2. Foxy Illusionary Charm:

-Four Stages with three levels (Early, Intermediate, Advance)

-Current Stage: Second Stage (Intermediate)

3. One with World:

-Five Stages with three levels (Early, Intermediate, Advance)

-Current Stage: Third Stage (Early)

-Skill(s):

1. Cold Steps: Perfection

2. Thief's Charity (Inverse & Reverse): Perfection

3. Martial Threats: Perfection

Secret Skill & Arts(s):

1. Flawless Aura Disguise (Skill): Middle

-Treasure(s):

1. Faceless Thief Mask: Grade-9 (Upgradeable)

2. Soul Shattering Gauntlets: Grade-6

3. Faceless Thief Robes: Grade-8

4. Life Escape Coin: 3

[House Point(s): 300]

[House Mission(s): 0]

[House Leader Mission(s): 0]

[House Punishment(s): 0]

[House Shop: Faceless Thief]

Compared to two years ago, these three were completely different, and they had all bought the treasures and techniques in their corresponding thief shops and were busy mastering them.

But the space expansion startled them, and they came out to inquire about what happened.

"Did your space expand as well?" Freya inquired with a faint smile on her crimson-red lips.

"Yes." Noa plainly replied in her indifferent tone.

"It's probably that scoundrel doing. Where is he?" Winter spoke annoyingly in her crisp tone, which was no longer childish.

"Do you have a problem with more space?" Ace's exasperated voice rang at this moment. He was happy to see all three of them in their priceless treasures but also envious since he was still stuck with low-grade items and cursed the system inwardly.

He could clearly see their statuses as well, and he knew more than anyone just how much they had progressed in these two to three years!

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Chapter 566: Law Source

"Do you have a problem with more space?"

This simple question rendered Winter speechless, and she could not find words to retort.

Freya, on the other hand, smiled charmingly as she spoke, "I think what Faceless wanted to ask was how do you do it and why now?"

Ace looked at the witch, who now looked completely human but otherworldly, and answered, "You could say that the conditions for expansion had been met and I upgraded it as soon as they met. But it seemed I disturb your seclusion."

"No worries, I know you did it for 'us'." Freya chuckled meaningfully, "Anyway, I was just getting bored by staying indoors, and my house points are also completely spent. Do you have anything for me out there?"

A hint of anticipation flashed in Noa's eyes since she had the identical thought. She was already at the peak of the soul river core realm and was facing the realm wall. She wasn't like those two who had experience with the soul realm.

She had never reached the soul realm before, so she needed insight, despite that, her cultivation was quite fast.

While Winter was the fastest of the three because she had broken into the Manifestation Realm before and had more experience than two with that realm.

Ace didn't hide the current situation and told them about where he was and what kind of situation he was facing.

Winter remained calm since she had already heard about this when Ace contacted her a few days ago and laid out all his plans about what he wanted to do and what her part was in all this.

She felt it was absurd, but when she thought about who she was and her current set of skills and abilities, she was completely at ease. Besides, he was giving her HP, so it wasn't like she was working for free.

Freya's expression turned serious when she heard Ace was currently in the Royal Demon Institute, one of the most guarded places in the entire royal zone.

"Why didn't you just leave the continent when you had the chance? Is this some kind of mission by the goddess?" She couldn't help but question.

She knew Ace wasn't someone who liked to play with fire, so the only explanation was he had no choice in this matter since she had experienced herself what kind of punishment the goddess could give with a mission.

So she didn't question his sanity.

On the contrary, Freya and others were feeling quite a pressure because while they were utterly safe here with no worry, Ace was constantly working out there and putting his life on the line.

Which also showed just how large the gap was between him and their statuses in Thief House.

"Indeed, this is a mission, but also something I have to do. Furthermore, I need to enter the imperial domain soon, but it's just too dangerous, so I already asked Winter for her assistance.

"If everything goes according to my plan, then I would be going to need your skills as well if mine weren't enough." Ace candidly told, hiding nothing.

He had complete trust in his house members and they were there to help him in the first place.

"Heh, although your plan is daring, if you pulled it through, then I don't think anyone could stop your step into the Imperial Domain. Just imagining those hateful demons' expressions made me ecstatic." Freya giggled with rapture.

Winter also nodded in agreement with a stiff smile on her pink lips. She also felt that once Ace did this, the demons would have no face left to show anyone.

Noa, on the other hand, wasn't concerned with these issues. "What about me? Do you need my help?"

Ace looked at Noa in her crystal black armor and mask, he replied, "Not for now, you should focus on breaking into Soul Realm, if I headed in the Fiery Hell Secret Realm direction after this then I'll need your strength to snatch that Fire Spirit from the allied races."

Noa's eyes narrowed when she heard this. She was already at the Nine-Star Night Demon Body, but for further progress, she needed a fire spirit. She couldn't even practice the secret skill she got from the system because of it.

Now that she heard about the upcoming Ancient Alliance Gathering and the Fire Spirit was their primary aim, she naturally wanted to take part in it.

But she also knew she might get caught under all those experts present, so she could only remain silent.

Now that Ace informed her about his intention of going there, his gesture naturally moved her since she knew he was doing this for her because Ace had no reason to put his life in danger just to acquire that Fire Spirit.

"Fire Spirit?" Winter exclaimed with a hint of consternation at this moment.

Freya also heard about the rumors going around the outer provinces a hundred years ago, so she knew this was something important to the demon race. But she wasn't able to find any clues when she tried searching for them.

Now that she heard this name again, she was naturally intrigued since this Fire Spirit had made the three races so restless, and from Ace's subtle words and Noa's reaction; she felt it was something Noa needed for some reason.

"What, you know something about Fire Spirit?" Ace inquired.

Winter thought for a moment before she revealed, "I don't know much, but I once heard my clan leader talk about it casually with some elders. I only heard these words, 'Fire Spirit is a law source of the fire.' I didn't know what they meant by those words at that time, so I never paid much attention to it."

"Law Source?" It was also Ace's first time hearing this word.

"Hey, system, what is a Law Source?" Curious, he questioned the system. He didn't have high expectations for an answer, though.

"[Law Sources are naturally formed entities which had at least 10% law comprehension in them. Every Law Source has a grade.]

"[But in Mortal Sky Heaven there are only three grades, Initial (At least 10% Law Comprehension), Incomplete (At least 30% Law Comprehension), and Complete (At least 70% Law Comprehension.)

"[The Elemental Orbs also fell into the Complete Law Sources category and rarest among the law sources found in the first heaven, with at least 80% law comprehension in them. While a Fire Spirit could be of any grade, it depends on its age mostly.]"

Ace was astounded by this revelation. "So, they're like law fragments?"

"[Yes, and No. One could only use a corresponding law source of their innate element, and they're overbearing by nature. If someone tried to absorb a law source without having any understanding of that law, they would suffer a severe backlash or even death.]

"[While the Law Fragments are already refined by the system and only the host could use them, and they're far more precious than a law source.]

"[However, the Law Source also had another function which is to help break the realm wall between Seventh and Eighth Realm!]"

Ace's eyes widened when he heard the last part, and his heart turned cold. Realization dawned on him at this moment.

'So, that's why everyone is going crazy over the fire spirit and doing everything to acquire it!' Ace felt like he had stumbled upon an enormous secret without even realizing it.

If he hadn't heard of Law Source from Winter and hadn't asked the system, he would still be in the dark about all this. Furthermore, now that he knew about the real aim of every race, he also guessed the severity of the situation.

In the face of acquiring a fabled eighth realm powerhouse, would those races care about the collateral damage like those who were going on this expedition?

Even a fool could tell that they won't, and this information might be a top secret of every race, and only those Law Awareness Realm Cultivators might know about it.

At that time, it would be an absolute bloodbath if someone brought out that fire spirit!

Ace took a deep breath to calm himself down. His mansion was already around the corner, and he needed to be absolutely calm to make his plan work.

Nevertheless, this information was still shocking, and he could also guess that if anyone raised the chance of bringing that fire spirit out, those races wouldn't let it go, and Archie was such a person.

'This might not be a training gathering but a suicide mission for all I know.' Ace grimaced, but his decision to go to the Imperial Domain still didn't change in the slightest.

There were still some years, and if Ace found himself in a complex situation, he would escape without thinking twice.

"All right, you guys should chat but remain on standby, especially Winter. You have to be ready. Failure means exposure." Ace's stern voice rang in the main hall before he returned to being tranquil.

Just when Ace turned around on the street where his mansion was located, he was astonished because a demon was waiting outside the mansion's gate.

It was none other than Jefferson!

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Chapter 567: Meeting with Fifth Imperial Prince

Jefferson, who was Clouse in disguise, was wearing his special student robes which a cold expression on his face.

When Jefferson saw Archie coming in his way, a peculiar glint flashed past his emotionless eyes, 'Third Sister enunciated, he had already grasped the fundamental of Shadow Walk. He's more talented than me back then if it wasn't for this hateful gathering selection....'

A hint of coldness flashed past his eyes, but he didn't let the emotion get the better of him.

Ace wasn't much surprised seeing Jefferson there since it was around the time of their meeting.

Jefferson nodded in greeting before he impassively uttered, "Let's go. We shouldn't let my backer wait."

"Please, lead the way." Archie nodded in agreement, and he started following Jefferson.

Ace wondered just where they were meeting since this whole place was almost empty and what kind of person they were meeting with.

All he knows is that this was a member of the imperial family, and from his knowledge, only two members were present in the Soul Assassin House.

The Fourth Prince, Cassius, and the Fifth Prince, Ronan, were both third-grade core students.

Any member of the Imperial Demon Family was directly enrolled as a core grade student in the Royal Demon Institute without any entrance test. This was a privilege for only the members of the Imperial Demon Family.

Imperial Princess Leona was also Fifth Grade Core Student of Soul Combatant House, and Paul was in the same grade but at a different level.

Ace's plan was quite simple. Since he could subdue a core-grade student like Paul with a surprise attack, he also had a higher chance of suppressing a third-grade core student.

But the problem was he was dealing with the imperial family, which was quite mysterious. Even Paul didn't know what kind of element they had despite having a 'relationship' with Leona.

Very few people knew about what kind of tribe the imperial family was, and this was a core secret only a handful of people knew, and no one dared to reveal this information.

The Imperial Demon Family members were also forbidden to publicly showcase their element as long as it wasn't life-threatening.

In the Mighty Demon Continent, who dares to attack a member of the imperial demon family? So, it was even more impossible to know their secret.

Furthermore, members of the imperial family weren't allowed to show their faces to anyone under any circumstances as well.

But Leona showed her face to Paul, but that memory was quite hazy, so Ace guessed that it might be some illusion she created to fool Paul, and that idiot never even questioned why he couldn't remember her face at all, despite seeing it.

Robbing the identity of an Imperial Demon Family member was simply a darned decision even for Ace. But Ace didn't have any other method to enter the Imperial Domain without arousing any suspicion.

But it wasn't his only option. It was more convenient and could get him to his target more quickly.

That was why Ace decided only to act if he found it doable, or he would give up and use another option he had saved if this not goes according to plan.

As they moved into the special district, Ace wondered if they were returning to the royal tower again, which would be strange since he had just gotten out of there.

But soon, he discovered that it wasn't the case at all. Instead, they were moving toward another famous special district building, the Special Royal Diner.

This Diner was a specialty of the Royal Demon Institute, and they sold cuisine like no other places in the demon continent well, except for the Imperial Domain.

Furthermore, the currency they accepted was Royal Points which made it for those ordinary-grade students to think twice before going there.

The moment Archie and Jefferson entered the lavish fifty-story building of Royal Diner, Jefferson directly led Archie toward the upper floors, and strangely those staff members didn't stop them.

Whoever saw Jefferson's face would only bow respectfully and let them pass without saying anything.

This made Ace suspicious about Jefferson's unusual influence, or it was all because of his backer.

When they reached the 11th floor, there were only three private dining rooms, and unlike the lower floors, Ace finally saw two demons in core student robes standing outside a private room without any emotions on their faces.

Jefferson led Archie toward them without showing any hint of worry. On the contrary, when they saw Jefferson coming their way, they didn't dare to make eye contact with him which Ace naturally noticed.

'Is this guy really a special grade student? Why they seemed apprehensive of him?' Ace wondered in suspicion.

But he didn't have the time to mull over it because Jefferson had already knocked on the closed doors while those two demons remained motionless.

"Enter." A mild voice filled with authority rang.

Jefferson then pushed open the door and entered while Archie followed suit.

The room was spacious and made with jade wood while a pleasant scent filled the air. There was a table in the middle, a masked demon was sitting on the main chair, and no one else was inside.

The table was also filled with all kinds of dishes and different wine bottles, but nothing was touched as if the demon wasn't interested in anything on that table.

When Ace saw this masked demon, he couldn't help but frown because he felt nothing from him, as if he was completely invisible in his soul sense, and the feeling he was giving off was quite strange, as if he wasn't real.

Jefferson introduced at this moment, "Archie, this Fifth Imperial Prince, His Highness Ronan."

He looked at Ronan meaningfully and respectfully, stating, "Your Highness, this is Archie Soul Life you wanted to recruit."

"Your Highness!" Archie performed a royal salute.

Since he was from a grand demon tribe, he didn't require kneeling as long as he wasn't facing Demon Emperor, Empress, or Crown Prince.

"Sir. Jefferson, if you don't mind, I would like to chat with my future 'follower' alone." Ronan impassively stated.

Jefferson frowned ever so slightly but didn't show any emotions before he bowed slightly, "I'll be 'right outside,' Your Highness." He left before throwing a meaningful glance at Ronan.

When the door was closed, only standing Archie and sitting Ronan left the room.

Ace didn't know why this prince wanted to talk with him alone, but he just made himself an easy target for Ace. Yet, he didn't act because he wasn't sure if someone else was in this room protecting the prince.

He had no way of knowing if someone was secretly protecting Ronan because his soul sense wasn't strong enough to detect hidden experts anymore. So, all he could do was activate the fate map and hope it would show him something.

"Come sit, Archie Soul Life," Ronan spoke again.

"Thank you for this grace, and Archie is just fine, Your Highness." Archie respectfully replied and calmly walked toward the seat a few feet away from Ronan.

The fate map had already been activated, and when Ace saw a black fate point with a green circle around it right outside the door and two white fate points, he was astonished because that green circle around this black fate meant it was on friendly terms with him.

Then he thought of Jefferson, but it also didn't make sense since that guy shouldn't be a black fate point which meant absolute danger for him if he dared to fight with it.

Yet, he didn't let it cloud his main objective.

He was again startled when he noticed Crimson Fate Point, which was none other than Fifth Imperial Prince Ronan.

'Just what the heck is going on?' Ace was confused now but also extremely vigilant, 'Since he's not a black mark, then this means he's not a fatal danger, and there's no one in the room either.'

"You seemed to be in a daze?" Ronan's voice rang.

"Please forgive my rudeness, Your Highness. I was just baffled by the fact that I was personally meeting with a noble prince. I never thought I would get this chance to join you of the things." Archie's face lit with reverence and excitement.

"Is that so? Then it would make it even easier for both of us." Ronan coolly stated before he spoke again, "I want you to sign a soul contract with me right now, which will be a contract of your absolute allegiance to me. But you could never reveal this fact to Jefferson."

Ronan's voice turned icy all of a sudden as he menacingly uttered, "Oh, and you can't refuse, or I'll make sure to turn your life into a living hell as well as destroy your house and any family member you hold dear!"

Ace was shocked for a moment before his lips curled up because this was unexpectedly going in the way he wanted!

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Chapter 568: Cyrus Caught Intruders!

Archie's eyes widened with disbelief as he uttered with a hint of fear, "Y-your Highness, please don't jest. I was told I have to join your alliance, and I naturally will work for you diligently but signing an exclusive contract that robs me of my free will was never divulged to me."

Ronan coldly stated without hiding his disdain, "Do you really think a peasant like you, who wasn't even a core grade student or a primary family member, could enter my alliance? Don't make this prince laugh!"

"Now, choose either you refuse and be destroyed by me, or you can become my slave as you should be!"

Ace finally understood why this guy was a crimson fate point. He was planning to enslave Archie from the start, and for some reason, he hid it from Jefferson.

All Ace could guess was that Jefferson wasn't what he seemed and was someone who could intimidate an Imperial Prince like Ronan.

Furthermore, from Ronan's tone, he had absolute confidence that Archie would yield to his unreasonable demands because the difference in their status was just too vast.

However, Ace didn't understand why he didn't wait until Archie joined his alliance and then corner him like this.

Either Ronan was an arrogant, idiotic prince who was used to having his way, or there was something profound that Ace wasn't aware of.

Nevertheless, since there wasn't anyone else in the room beside them, Ace didn't have to worry as long as he was quick with his action.

He instantly sent his stern voice into the hall of Thief's House, "Freya and Winter, I'm going to let you out just right behind an imperial prince. Make him unconscious or lose his resistance for a second, don't kill him!"

"So, he's really going to abduct an imperial demon price, huh? And here I thought he was making it an option." Freya clicked her tongue in wonder.

But she quickly stood up and covered her head with a long black hood attached to her armor, and a thick pitch-black book appeared in her hand.

"Heh, he's just desperate, so he wanted our help." Winter scoffed as she wore the hood before her face started to change!

Noa only watched from the sideline with narrowed eyes since Ace didn't summon her.

But she was surprised when he said, "Noa, remain on standby in my personal space. If he resisted my suppression there, I might need your help to pulverize this guy."

Noa suddenly felt a familiar strong suction force, but she didn't resist and vanished while she was moving her hand toward her own long hood.

"Where did she go?" Winter was astounded when she saw Noa vanish before them.

Freya answered ambiguously, "It seemed Leader didn't give you a tour of his own space, huh?"

"What?!" Winter's voice turned cold.

While Ronan was calmly watching, Ace was still pretending to be in pensive shock. Not even twenty seconds passed.

When Ace saw everything was ready, he suddenly looked at Ronan, as Archie's face turned utterly emotionless, "Your Highness, I reckon this place is soundproof, and you might have activated a formation so no one could hear what you were saying, right?"

Ronan suddenly felt strange when he saw this change in Archie's demeanor, as if he had turned into another person!

Before he could react or understand, Archie spoke again with a devious grin, "So, tell me, Your Highness, if someone attacks you, will they protect you?"

"Presumptuous! Do you think you can att..."

But before Ronan could finish his refutation, his voice abruptly stopped as his heart palpitated when alarm bells rang in his mind because strange two presences appeared right behind him!

Alas, it was already too late. In that split second, his storage ring vanished, and two soul attacks shamble his mind; despite the soul-protective treasures he was wearing, these soul attacks were too strange.

The next moment after that, Ronan felt another soul attack, and then something gripped him before a suction force started to cover his body.

He wanted to resist, but those two soul attacks suddenly amplified, and at that moment, he felt like his body was suddenly wrapped by a ghastly force as all senses vanished.

But his senses quickly came back, and those soul oppressions also vanished.

However, when he regained his focus and was ready to counter, he felt like a strong force suppressing him and saw he wasn't in the bright room but in a dark place!

"W-what... what just h-happened?!" He was gobsmacked, and he felt like he was dreaming.

While Ronan was still in a stupor, Ace looked toward Winter's hooded figure. She looked just like a sneaky thief.

However, what shocked Ace and gave him goosebumps was when he tried to see under that hood and found... nothing!

Yes, her face wasn't present, and there was nothing but darkness as she was headless.

"Hehe, surprised, aren't we? This is my Faceless Thief Mask, and I'm completely merged with it. As long as I activate it, no one can see my appearance. And, I would appear headless." Winter's smug voice rang within the hood.

"So, that was why you told me I can't borrow it." Realization dawned upon him.

A few days ago, he contacted Winter not to seek her help but to borrow this faceless thief mask which was a grade-9 treasure.

But she refused to give it to him by saying he couldn't use it and she couldn't take it off. At that time, he didn't understand entirely and thought it was some restriction put by the system, so he asked for help instead.

Now that he actually saw it himself, he understood why she couldn't take it off, and even he couldn't detect this mask's presence when she was wearing it in plain sight and looked normal.

But he didn't have the time to inquire about how this mask worked since he needed to take care of an Imperial Demon Prince he had just abducted.

"Quickly turn into me. I mean this demon I'm currently impersonating." Ace quickly told Winter.

It was the next part of their plan.

"Hey, why can't I turn into that prince?" Winter sounded dissatisfied, but still, her body suddenly started to twist, which made Ace take a small step back in shock.

He was flabbergasted when Winter's hooded figure turned into Archie, and even their clothes were the same.

"How is it?" Winter spoke in Archie's voice smugly.

Ace's real eyes shone with envy when he saw just with a glance, she had turned into Archie and even speaking in his voice, and she didn't need to feed her mask or scan anything.

However, in reality, the Faceless Thief Mask does need scanning, but because it was a grade-9 treasure, all it needed was its master's senses like sight, hearing, and such to change the Faceless Thief into the same person!

As for the cultivation realm, it was an even more trifle because it could even emit a peak Law Awareness Realm's Aura as long as Winter wished for.

Ace would be even more envious if he knew that as well.

"Alright, alright, don't act arrogantly. You have to play Archie from now on since your disguise is flawless under this heaven, and no one will be able to suspect you. Just don't get caught on me." Ace stated with vexation.

Winter sneered before a cold light flashed past her demon eyes, "First, tell me, what is this space of yours? It seemed you gave everyone a visit except me!"

"I'll give you a visit next time. Now let me focus. We don't have much time before someone notice or come in." Ace sternly warned.

Winter was dissatisfied, but she obediently sat down, and when she saw all those dishes on the table, she started eating without caring about Ace, who was depressed by this Fox's antics.

Nevertheless, he still has to focus.

But he nearly screamed when he saw Noa and Freya were blocked by a tiny black chick.

Furthermore, they both were utterly suppressed and having difficulty moving under Cyrus's aura alone, which shocked Ace because even that black book hovering in front of Freya, a Grade-9 Dark Grimoire, seemed to be quashed!

"Intruders, you dare to infiltrate my master nest. I'll turn you all into ashes once master gives the command." Cyrus menacingly uttered in its sweet childish voice, but his language was different, which both Noa nor Freya didn't understand.

In their eyes, this tiny chick was chirping and jumping while wiggling its undeveloped wings.

But they were shocked nevertheless because they were completely caught off guard by this tiny black chick when it suddenly appeared in front of them and blocked their way.

Before they could react, or even if they could respond, they were entirely suppressed by its quirky, ghastly aura.

If they weren't in Ace's space, they would've started using their most decisive attacks to struggle, but since they were in Ace's space, they knew this chick belonged to Ace, and without his approval, it couldn't enter here.

"Master look here, Cyrus caught these pests sneaking here, and there's one more in that strange box!" Cyrus happily called its master to showcase his achievement.

Ace didn't know whether to laugh or cry!

Eternal Thief

Chapter 569: Soul Probing Failed!

"Alright, you did good work. Let them go now. They're not intruders and my friends." Ace transmitted his thoughts to Cyrus.

It was his fault since he didn't give the little guy a heads-up and forgot about him completely.

Nevertheless, Cyrus's capability still astounded him greatly, and it appeared he didn't need Noa or Winter's help to subdue Ronan.

Cyrus's chirps abruptly stopped when he heard it and asked confusedly, "Not intruders? And what are friends?"

For a Nether Paradise Bird, the concept of friendship and relationships were too vague because, in their entire life, they lived in chaos. Even their own kind of was nothing but another prey from them.

Ace felt a light headache since he didn't have time to educate Cyrus right now.

"Friends are people we couldn't attack or kill no matter what. I'll tell you more about friends soon since I have to deal with that person in that strange box." Ace suddenly thought of something and quickly said, "Go and suppress him!"

Since Cyrus could suppress Winter and Noa without much difficulty, he should also be able to suppress Ronan.

"OH? Alright, I'll burn that intruder then." Cyrus's bird eyes instantly lit up as he quickly let Noa and Freya go before flashing toward the prison where Ronan was struggling with all his might.

"No. Don't burn him. Just make sure he won't cause trouble." Ace quickly corrected Cyrus since he needed Ronan alive for now.

Because if Ronan died, it would be an absolute upheave outside.

On the other hand, Noa and Freya felt like they could finally breathe when that strange oppression vanished, and the tiny chick again vanished from their eyes.

"Who was it?" Freya couldn't help but question out loud in curiosity and lingering fear in her eyes.

Noa also wanted to know the answer to this same question since she had never seen this chick when she came here previously, so it had clearly recently appeared here when she was in seclusion.

"He's my pet, Cyrus. Keep other questions to yourself; for now, time is precious." Ace's stern voice rang and focused on the Ronan.

Ronan was utterly aghast by this strange dark space because his Qi was suppressed, and he could hear a strange commotion.

"Where did you send this Prince?! Slave, release me, or I'll skin you alive when I get out of here...ehhh." Ronan's threatening roar suddenly stopped when a ghastly pressure suddenly descended on him, and a strange bird chirp rang from outside.

'B-bloodline suppression?! But how could it be... no... I must be dreaming. How could someone have an even stronger bloodline than me and know how to use Bloodline suppression, or was it a conspiracy by that wily bitch Leona?!' Ronan's mind trembled because he knew far more than others, and fear surfaced in his eyes.

He wanted to take out a lifesaving treasure from his storage ring when he finally noticed that his storage ring wasn't even there!

And when he looked behind his palm, his heart nearly stopped when he saw the owl symbol with 'Sky Stealer' on its wings!

"Oh, it seemed your highness found out who I am." Ace's jeering voice rang at this moment, startling Ronan.

"Y-you... no... how could it be you thief?! How did you appear here?!" Ronan was completely appalled just by thinking who had abducted him. He felt like he was in a nightmare.

"I'll define it later, Your Highness, but I would like to borrow your identity right now. As long as you cooperate, I promise you'll live or hehe just like Archie you'll be...." Ace coldly hinted.

Ronan's heart trembled as realization dawned upon him, and he started to get the picture of how the infamous thief appeared this deep within their scared territory.

The next moment, Ronan felt a suction force on his face, but alas, he couldn't resist because of Cyrus's suppression, and the fully dark mask on his face vanished, revealing a handsome face that startled Ace.

Because Ronan's face was pale white with a pitch-black eyeball, but he had both white irises and black pupils that were completely strange for a demon to possess because a demon only had a single-color eyeball. Well, it was written in books, at least.

His actual long hair color wasn't black either, it was also white, and there were long pitch-black antelope horns. All of this was hidden because of that mask he was wearing.

"You bastard, you won't get away with this!" Ronan knew he had unknowingly fallen into a terrible trap, and this thief was even more terrifying than the rumors told him to be.

"It's yet to be seen, your highness, but I think this mask of yours will protect me for a while, right?" Ace questioned with a hint of happiness and mockery.

At this time, a light suddenly flashed over Ronan, which completely startled him, but nothing happened.

It was Ace who just scanned Ronan's face in his thousand-face mask and quickly took his appearance while he took off his Demonic Eater Mask, which had Archie's appearance.

Since he had that black mask of Ronan, he didn't need this one anymore, and who would dare to use their sense on an Imperial Prince to scan his face?

Furthermore, the mask he got from Ronan was quite strange since it was made solely for concealment. The moment Ace wore it, just like Ronan, the horns, hair color, and every racial trait of Ronan changed, and no one would ever know it was Ronan even if Ace didn't wear Ronan's appearance underneath.

Winter was also astonished when she saw Ace look just like that Prince and didn't have any aura.

Nevertheless, she could now turn into Ronan since she had already seen his appearance when Ace changed it. Moreover, this was what she was most proficient in.

Afterward, Ace's robes start to change, and now he looks just like Ronan and has a sigh of relief since everything goes smoothly.

Only five minutes passed in reality, but who could imagine that the Fifth Imperial Prince had been changed in this small window?

"Alright, you need to keep your House Call active all the time whenever you're with someone else. You don't have Archie's memories, so don't get exposed on me." Ace calmly sat down in Ronan's position and uttered in his voice.

"What do you take me for? If it was the real boy, then I could've easily annexed his memories with my fourth ability, humph. Now, it couldn't be helped." Winter lamented in a resigned manner as if she was getting the short end of the stick.

An ability name flashed past Ace's mind when Winter said those words, 'I forget about that thing. Well, she'll be fine.' He thought but didn't reveal that he knew about her ability.

Then he moved on to the last part, annexing Ronan's memories.

However, when he tried to perform a soul probe on Ronan, a strange force stopped his probing like a thick wall!

'Another soul protection treasure?' Ace mused, and the next moment he stripped Ronan naked, making the arrogant Prince almost cough the blood in humiliation and curse even more.

He was also getting infuriated by that strange bird chirp which rang every now and then as if it was mocking him.

As long as Ronan was in his thief's space and could be suppressed by his thief's space, he was part of his thief's space, and he could take off anything with a thought.

From Ronan's body, Ace found skin-tight white armor that looked just like a piece of silk, a white triangular pendant, and two black arm guards hidden underneath his soft body armor.

When Ace sensed the Qi fluctuations on those treasures, except that body armor, everything was a soul treasure, and they were probably high grade-6 if not grade-7, and then there was still his storage ring which Ace didn't get the chance to see its content yet!

Ace then tried again with his soul probe, but he was again blocked by some invisible wall which made him frown.

"Your Highness, it seemed you guys had more secrets than I thought. So tell me, will soul search work on you?" Ace probed ambiguously.

"Soul Search? Hahahahaha... now I understand." Ronan suddenly laughs like a maniac at this moment, "Try it, you lowly thief. I dare you to try using soul search on me!"

'Could it be some kind of skill of blocking my soul probing? But he's just a Minor Stage Platinum Soul Embryo Realm. How could he block my soul probe? He clearly didn't have any idea that I had already tried it.' Ace grimaced since it would make it difficult for him.

"Since that's the case, I'll let someone else try." Ace's cold voice rang before a capped figure appeared in the dark space, startling Ronan, who was still naked. He thought it was Ace, but...

"There's some kind of barrier in his soul stopping me from entering his knowledge sea. Can you make it disappear... Evil?"

Eternal Thief

Chapter 570: Evil Seed

Freya's eyes shimmered with a peculiar glint when she heard this and looked at Ronan, who had this appalling expression.

"So, you had other helpers!" Ronan exclaimed in trepidation as if he had stumbled upon a huge secret.

Because everyone still thought that the elusive Sky Stealer worked alone and he didn't have any backing or helper. But it didn't seem to be the case at all.

Freya ignored Ronan as if he was air and questioned Ace instead, "Leader, can you really enter his Knowledge Sea?"

She was well aware of the fable knowledge sea, and even she couldn't enter it with her current skill set. But Ace sounded like it was a piece of cake for him as long as that restriction was removed.

Ace's abilities were still well hidden from all of the house members, and only Noa knew that Ace was both Soul and Martial Cultivator, and he had a unique soul search that was as sneaky as him, but that was the extent of her knowledge about Ace's abilities.

"Who do you think I am?" Ace's snorted, "Just do as I ask, and I'll give you Psyche Invasion, which would explain what I was talking about."

Ace was already planning to give the Psyche Invasion to Freya and Noa. They were both soul cultivators, and that secret art will do wonders in the hands of Freya. But it was just too long, so writing it down was a hassle, and he didn't have time.

Nevertheless, he didn't mind revealing it to her now that Freya questioned.

Freya's eyes lit up, and her coquettish voice rang, "You're so bad, keeping all the good stuff to yourself."

"Stop playing around and do your thing. We're still not out of the woods yet!" Ace's perplexed voice rang.

"Die!" Out of the blue, black lightning suddenly flashed in Ronan's bloodshot eyes, and the next moment, a dark lightning streak shot toward Freya's hooded head.

Since Freya was ignoring and underestimating him, he decided to muster every bit of soul Qi and launched this barely acceptable soul attack despite that suppression.

He wanted to maim this thievish bastard in front of him.

However, the moment lightning appeared in the thief's space, and it instantly vanished before it could even reach halfway toward Freya.

His soul Qi wasn't strong enough to break past Thief's Space's restriction and Cyrus's suppression.

"Lightening?" Ace's astonishing voice rang at this moment, "So, the secret element of your imperial family is Soul Lightening?"

Freya also chuckled with a hint of killing intent, "It seemed he's still not given up."

"You lowly thief, even if you took my appearance, you could never replicate our clan's Black Soul Lighting Element, which is supreme in this world!" Ronan yelled arrogantly while coldly staring at Freya.

He still didn't believe they could penetrate his mind, and he knew they wouldn't dare to kill him since it would only alert the imperial domain. However, if he didn't cherish his life and wanted to live, he might consider committing suicide.

But he knew these thieves would soon find out just how delusional they were to try impersonating an Imperial Family Member, and someone would save him soon. He wanted to see them caught and then torture them to release his grievance!

"Supreme in this world?" Freya suddenly laughs coldly, "You have no idea what you're dealing with, little prince. Let's if you still remain supreme after being enslaved by my evil seed."

The next moment, she suddenly removed the hood on her head, revealing her charming face, which stunned Ronan entirely because he had never seen someone so beautiful in his life!

Freya's crimson lips curled up when she saw daze Ronan, "Tell me, little prince, am I pretty?"

Suddenly a strange dark mist surfaced in Freya's eyes, dying her eyes black.

At this moment, Ronan, who was staring at Freya, also experienced something unexpected, the same dark mist suddenly surfaced in his eyes, just like Freya, and they also turned completely black!

'Evil Seed!' A dark gleam flashed past Freya's eyes as a strange dark blue symbol suddenly surfaced within her eyes.

Ronan's eyes also shone with that symbol before it disappeared within them, and his eyes returned to normal as if nothing had happened.

Freya's eyes also returned to normal, and she smiled charmingly before wearing her hood again.

A notification rang in her head at this moment which stunned her for a moment,

[Evil Seed creation had succeeded!]

2. Evil Seed

[Description: Enslavement Ability of Evil Thief, which could turn anyone into an Evil Seed!]

[Limitation(s): Not work on anyone with Stronger Soul than Evil Thief. The Evil Seed could be broken if the victim's soul became stronger than the Evil thief! In both cases, the Evil Thief will suffer soul backlash!]

[Current Evil Seeds No: 1/5]

'So, I could also be informed if the ability has succeeded or not?' She marveled since it was her first time using Evil Seed on someone.

"Is it done?" Ace's voice rang in anticipation. He knew about all of Freya and others' abilities since he could see their statuses.

That was why he let Freya handle it in the first place because he knew as long as Freya's Evil Seed succeeded, Ronan's resistance would vanish. This evil seed was like a Soul Brand, but it was far more potent because of Freya's fourth ability!

Freya giggled at Ace's question mischievously but didn't reply. Instead, she looked at Ronan, who was still staring into the void, and commanded, "Bark like a dog!"

If Ronan were himself, he would've already started cussing Freya for her insolence but now...

"Woof... Woof..." He instantly started barking like an idiot. Even a soul brand won't be able to make someone go against their ego because it won't only make other loyal, not conscious puppets!

"Alright, that's enough. Now have him break that restriction or whatever it was stopping my invasion." Ace's exasperated voice rang. He didn't know why all of them had the time to fool around while he was the only one who knew the severity of the situation.

"Knock.... Knock..."

At this moment, the sounds of knocking rang on the closed door of the private dining room, and Ace knew he was out of time.

Archie and Ronan were already alone for about ten minutes now, and Jefferson naturally would suspect something.

Ace looked at Winter, who also became high alert when she heard the knocking.

"I'm going to let them in and just answer according to my instruction through House Call..." Ace quickly instructed Winter about some essential habits of Archie, which were enough to fool anyone in the Royal Demon Institute.

He then quickly wore that triangular pendant and arm guards, and then he closed the array that Ronan had activated. Its control was right on the table position where Ronan was sitting.

He then called in Ronan's impassive voice, "Enter."

The door opened, and Jefferson again entered the room with a cold expression because he thought Ronan had done something to Archie.

However, Jefferson was startled when he saw all those empty dishes and empty wine bottles, which Winter finished without carrying about anything.

Ronan spoke again, at this moment, "Please excuse my manor, Sir. Jefferson, I had an interesting talk with Sir. Archie here, so I forget about the time. But, nevertheless, you two may leave. I'll handle everything."

Ace tried to sound as ambiguous as possible because Jefferson was clearly not what he seemed, and Ronan was even apprehensive of him. So, he just wanted this guy out of here and then took his time extracting memories from Ronan.

Jefferson looked deeply at the masked prince and felt this strange feeling, but he couldn't interrogate Ronan even if he wanted to and didn't want to reveal who he was in front of Archie yet.

So, he had no choice but to keep his question for Archie and behave like a good henchman.

He bowed slightly in agreement and respectfully said, "As my prince command. Let's go, Sir. Archie."

Archie stood up before he bowed to Ronan, "Thank you for accepting me under your wing, Your Highness. I'm grateful."

Ronan merely nodded in acknowledgment before Archie and Jefferson left.

Ace had an internal sigh of relief when he saw Jefferson leave without suspecting anything, and now all left was Winter to perform well. He had already handed Archie's student badge to her so she won't face any problem.

Even if she did, she could easily ask him through the house call.

At this moment, the door opened again and the two demons standing outside entered as their faces lit with vexation.

"Your Highness..." But before they could say anything, Ronan coldly uttered, "Who allowed you two to enter and talk? Scram for this prince!"

They were both startled because they were both Ronan's left and right-hand men in Royal Demon Institute, and he never reprimanded them like this.

But still, they just thought Ronan was also in a bad mood because of Jefferson's audacity and didn't want to be disturbed. So they quickly bowed and asked for his forgiveness and quickly stood outside again.

Ace finally had the chance to pay attention to Ronan again!