

## Thief 611

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#### Chapter 611: The Cruel Tower Trial (3)

After annexing all the memories, Ace had a gloomy look while he thought about the information he got from this elf named Elliot.

It turned out that the Sixth Continent of Wise Elves, the Elven Continent, was hiding a terrifying secret. It was none other than a secret realm that was actually the first floor of the Regal Fiend Tower.

However, the Elves called it Holy Saint Secret Realm and the tower spirit the Holy Saint. Every three years, a passage will open deep within the Sacred Holy Land of the Elven Kingdom, which leads directly to the tower's first floor.

This space passage appeared over two thousand years ago, and the elves instantly close any related news about it because if other races know, they will go to any length to secure this place, and the elves won't be able to protect it.

The fiery hell realm was the prime example of it.

Like Ace, the tower spirit told everyone about the inheritance after clearing the ten floors when they all entered the first floor and granted them 'Holy Marks,' which were none other than the tower tattoo.

Anyone who was below the age of 500 years and Soul Real Realm could enter and compete for the inheritance.

However, the crux of the matter was the conditions to enter higher floors.

Although the tower spirit told Ace to find the entrance toward the second floor, it didn't tell Ace that whoever tried to cross the entrance of a floor will have to face ten 'Trial Puppets.'

Furthermore, with every higher floor, the Trial Puppets will be a level higher than the challenger's cultivation realm before they were granted the passage toward the higher floor.

For example, the first trial floor's trial puppets will be a level higher than the challenger's cultivation, and the second floor will be two levels higher, all the way up to the tenth floor.

Not only that, but failure meant certain death in these trials!

Moreover, if someone wanted to leave this place, they had to reach at least the 4th floor, or they will remain inside.

Still, these elves sent thousands of participants every three years to this place because the rewards outmatched the fatalities.

Because everyone time a participant crosses a trial floor, they will get a star which could grant them the ability to cultivate faster and strengthen their physique as they collect more stars. Likewise, if someone could collect five stars, they can even forcibly increase the level of their cultivation without any backlash for a small period of time!

And the most astonishing ability 6-star and 7-star tattoo grant is they can freely leave and come back to the tower to challenge the trial anytime, from anywhere. All the age and cultivation restrictions will be gone.

To this day, only three persons have managed to acquire a 7-star tower tattoo, and one of them was the Wise Elven Queen, the ruler of Wise Elves.

Ace also got a grave piece of information; the title 'Contender' was only given to those on the first three floors. From floors four to six, the 'Contestant' was called 'Seed Contender,' and from the seventh floor, they were known as 'Inner Contender.'

As for floors 8th, 9th, and 10th, no one knows about those floors since they were still unexplored and no one had ever reached there. It was just too risky.

Anyhow, this revelation also made it pretty clear that there were far more people in this tower, and many even lived inside because the cultivation environment of the higher floors was extremely heavenly.

There was no danger inside; on the contrary, many rare herbs existed on each floor, and these participants fought over them.

This place was a treasure trove for elves, and they had been secretly strengthening themselves all these years with Regal Fiend Tower while everyone thought they were harmless.

The real danger was actually the contenders themselves, as they could kill others to plunder their resources, and no one would ever know about it.

Furthermore, if someone kills a participant with a tower tattoo, especially a tattoo with a star, they will get a boost in their cultivation.

That's why whoever came into this place was prepared to die, and they will kill anyone as long as they get the chance, even if the other party is noble. As long as they won't expose their identity, they are golden!

Especially with the rule of not being able to leave the tower before reaching the fourth floor. Not all of them had such talent, and only those elves from First-Rate Family or Noble Family could do it.

Lastly, once you leave a floor, there is no coming back, so many choices to live here to strengthen their cultivation for years before they head to higher floors.

The only restriction was the contenders, and seed contenders can only live for 100 years on each floor before they had to take the higher trial test, or leave the tower, or die in case they had not reached the fourth floor.

Ace never expected there would be such an effect from this tower tattoo. If he hadn't known about the true nature of this so-called 'holy mark,' he would've been covetous.

But he knew they were just being used without even knowing how, but it was probably something to do with the tattoo.

Nevertheless, since he got the information, he didn't need these two anymore, and his eyes turned cold. He saved Elliot's face in his mask before using two soul-piercing bullets to instant kill them.

They were both only Golden Qi River Core Cultivators, so Ace's soul attack was not something they could take.

The System's notification rang at this moment which made his eyes narrow,

[System detects the Dormant Soul Segment within Fake True Soul wanted to absorb Soul Vitality of Two Elves killed by the host!]

[Warning: If the host allowed it to absorb the Soul Vitality, there will be no EXP or SP rewarded!]

[Do you want to let it process or Block it?]

Realization dawned on Ace as he quickly asked, "So, that's the secret of their fast cultivation speed after they killed some. It seemed this tattoo could also turn others into this Soul Vitality, such as SP and EXP like the System.

"But unlike the System, it should only work on the ones with the tattoo, and they thought they were being strong because of it.

"They might be the catalyst to strengthen the soul segment within their consciousness while absorbing another soul segment cultivated by someone else. This way, they could turn into soul vessels faster. Right, System?"

"[Yes.]"

Ace then suddenly thought of a terrifying possibility, "Are you the same System?"

Now that he thought about it, the System was doing the same in a sense. If it was true, then was he also nurtured into someone else's soul vessel for some terrifying being?

Ace felt his heart waver at his moment.

But the System replied with a hint of disdain in its voice.

"[No.]"

It was a plain and straightforward answer, but it made Ace visibly relieved and regain his composure. He will take System's words for it even if they turn out to be lies, but he still believes it.

Because he knew the System was something that even Eternal Provenance Treasures were helpless against if it wanted to subdue it. So, he was too weak even to struggle.

That's why such a thought would only make him waver, and since the System even bothered to say 'no,' he knew he was overthinking things.

So, he didn't dwell on this topic and asked, "Will it alert the existence behind the soul segment if I block its access to the Soul Vitality?"

"[Yes. The Soul Vitality of a Soul Segment Host will completely incorporate, so the moment that Soul Segment vanishes, the practitioner will notice it, or in the case of dormant soul segment, the medium such as a treasure!]"

"Will it affect me in any case if I let it become stronger?" Ace sternly questioned.

"[No.]"

Ace then didn't care about it anymore as he commanded, "Then as long as I had this soul segment, don't block it access to this soul vitality. It's not like giving away 100 or so EXP or SP will put any dent in my current EXP or SP Bar, right?"

Ace sighed as he knew killing a weaker opponent would only grant him this amount of EXP or SP or even less, so he didn't care about this little EXP or SP.

The storage rings, on the other hand, were quite useful since they were filled with grade-1 to grade-3 herbs and these guys killed many contestants to accumulate such wealth, and now it was all Ace.

The moment system stopped blocking the absorbing process, Ace suddenly felt a chillness on the back of his hand right where the tower tattoo was. But it was only momentary before it went dormant.

"Alright, you can burn their bodies."

Ace then allows Cyrus to have fun while getting rid of the evidence of their existence and changing into attire like Elliot and his face.

Cyrus happily complied and burned them into ashes with terrifying ecstasy in its tiny eyes.

Ace then headed south again because he now knew where the entrance toward the next floor was!

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### **Chapter 612: Trial Puppets**

In Elliot's guise, Ace hid a mile away while looking at the tall buildings ahead. These buildings were built by the elves around the entrance of every Floor, and these buildings were controlled by Noble Clans.

Killing wasn't allowed around in this area, and those in charge would hunt down anyone who broke this rule.

But not anyone could enter those buildings, they had to pay steep amounts of Qi stones or materials to rest for a signal day, and they sold pills, weapons, tools, and even skills.

However, only nobles of the First-Rate Families were allowed to set up shops and live freely in these buildings. The Second Rate and Third-Rate Families had to keep their heads low unless they wanted to die.

This place was absolutely lawless. It would be game over for you if you offend someone with a terrifying background.

As for the upper floor, the First-Rate Families guarded the entrance, and they only let others enter if you handed over 50% of your storage ring contents.

Ace didn't sense anything threatening ahead, 'The first three floors were overseen by the servants of these First-Rate Families since the actual members were busy cultivating on the higher floors. So, they are all weak. It shouldn't be a problem for me to get rid of them.'

If Ace didn't have Alina in his mind, he might've theft the entire place to increase his thieveries count. But now, all he wanted was to leave this place and rescue Alina. He can always come back to wreak havoc in this place and subdue this tower in the future.

So, without hesitation, Ace moved toward the buildings, which were called the 'Life Zone' by the elves.

Many elves were walking around the shop area, and a plaza and no one noticed Ace, who was wearing a concealment cloak.

From Elliot's memories, Ace knew these elves in the first three floors wouldn't have any treasures to detect him if he used high-grade-5 treasures.

Elliot was only able to find him because he was careless and got picked up by the movement detection formation. So, he didn't make that mistake again while coming here and didn't encounter any of those scavengers.

Ace headed to the central area, which was blocked by a 200-hundred-meter-tall wall, and the only way in was a closed gate that was guarded by four elves.

This was the entrance toward the next Floor, and if someone wanted to cross this place, they had to hand over 50% of their total valuables.

Because if someone took the trial, it would either pass or die; in the latter case, their wealth would go completely wasted.

Furthermore, there was also a 100-year living limit of a floor, so many waited while accumulating their prowess before challenging a trial. Some even waited the entire 99 years before going into the trial.

The cultivation environment of the first three floors was far better than the Elven Continent inside despite it was still inferior to the Demon Continent's eight provinces.

This was also the difference between continent ranks, the Qi density!

Only on the fourth and fifth floors could the cultivation environment would match the eight provinces of the demon continent.

Ace didn't take the gate since he didn't want to draw attention to himself, and when he reached a remote area of the wall.

He used the soul cord to reach the top of the wall and turn it into a hanger before he started climbing it while only stepping into grade-3 formation flaws, which were clear as day because of Thief's Vision.

This type of formation was no longer enough to stop Ace, and he easily reached the other side of the wall.

There was an open field, and in the center of this field was a glowing white doorway just like the one he took to enter the tower.

There was also a high-grade-3 alarming and trapping formation laid out in the field just in case anyone bypassed the main gate while there was no guard inside.

Ace merely scoffed before start walking toward the glowing doorway. He stepped into the flaws of the formation avoiding the traps or alarms.

Ace stopped a meter away from the entrance before using the fate map to see if the indicator was pointing at this gate.

When he saw the indicator had now become an arrow while it was pointing right where he was standing, his lips curled up as he closed the map. He got the answer he was looking for, and it was in his favor.

Putting Cyrus back into the thief's space, he then walked right into the gate, vanishing from the First Floor.

This time Ace didn't appear afloat in a white space as he walked into a spacious hall that looked like a fighting ring before the white gate behind him vanished.

At this moment, the Tower Spirit's impassive voice rang, "Contender No.10,203, congratulation on finding the entrance toward Second Floor.

"But you only need to prove yourself worthy to enter the Second Floor!

"Defeat 10 Trial Puppets a level higher than your current cultivation realm before you grant the passage toward the second Floor!

"Remember, this is a fight between warriors; a warrior will always fight with their lives at stake and not retreat no matter what!

"Your Current Cultivation is...Bronze Soul River Core Cultivation. Your opponent will be Silver Soul River Core Cultivators Trial Puppets.

"Good Luck. The Trial shall commence!"

Ace couldn't help but smile deviously, 'It appeared it could only see through my disguise, or it is the case because of this tattoo, but it cannot see past my cultivation realm. So, it considered my fake cultivation realm real!'

Because of his Qi Sea, Ace knew his cultivation was quite unique, and others no longer sensed his actual cultivation as long as he won't reveal his true strength. Even then, they would still be confused by his true cultivation realm.

This tower spirit was also the same and even damaged, so it was even more unlikely that it could see through his cultivation realm.

The next moment, ten streaks of crimson light suddenly descend a few meters ahead of him, revealing ten crimson mannequins holding ten different types of weapons, swords, daggers, halberds, spears, whips, shields, gauntlets.

However, Ace was completely unfazed even after those ten weaponized mannequins lunged toward him while brandishing their weapons in different types of soul Qi.

They were too weak, but it didn't mean he would showcase his true prowess. A sheathed long sword appeared in his hand, and he held its hilt tightly, and with emotionless eyes, he drew his sword!

Only a faint voice of wind whistle in the hall before Ace had already sheathed his sword.

The next moment including their weapons, those crimson mannequins were cut in half, landing on the Floor.

Ace had only used a fraction of his soul sword intent, which was more than enough to eliminate anyone below the soul realm.

A moment later, the tower spirit's voice rang again, "Contender No.10,203, congratulation on passing the first Floor valiantly!

"You are granted a Floor Star and passage to the second floor!"

The next moment those ten halve mannequins turned into crimson lights before shooting toward Ace's glabella, which startled him.

Ace quietly observed that the crimson streak directly entered the fake crimson true soul, and he suddenly noticed a black mist emerging on the crimson true soul.

Afterward, Ace felt the back of his hand burning, and he saw a crimson star emerging on the first empty block of the tower tattoo.

Thereafter, another light door manifested in front of him: the gate toward the Second Floor, and he walked right into it, pretending to be excited.

After Ace vanished, the tower spirit's eerie mumbling rang in the dormant trial floor, "How could someone with sword intent be a Bronze Soul River Core? Strange."

Ace walked out from the white door and found himself in another maroon grassland, but this time he could feel the Qi was slightly better, so he knew he had appeared on the second Floor.

However, before he could activate his stealth, a cold voice rang, "If it isn't a newcomer!"

Ace frowned and finally spotted a group of eight people heading his way without hiding their presence. They all wore at least grade-4 armor and were holding grade-5 weapons.

One of them, in particular, was wearing low-grade-5 armor and a high-grade-5 long spear. Furthermore, there was a small bronze marking of an Arrow on his glabella.

Ace instantly guessed this guy's identity because of the bronze arrow marking, 'Someone from a 2nd Rate Family? Aren't they supposed to be on the 4th Floor?'

From Elliot's memories, a third-rate family title was given to those with a peak-stage diamond soul realm cultivator overseeing them.

The second-rate family is those who had a peak Platinum Soul Realm Cultivator and over a hundred soul realm cultivators, and they bear the mark of a Bronze Arrow on their glabella!

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#### **Chapter 613: You cannot leave...**

Seeing the young elf from a second-rate family, Ace was somewhat surprised but not worried. This group of eight was within the river core realm, and the strongest among them was the bronze arrow mark elf at the diamond Qi river core realm.

'They should probably be attracted here by the gate appearance.' Ace mused as he looked at the group surrounding him with a hint of superiority and disdain.

He coldly said, "What do you want?"

"Why aren't you kneeling in front of Lord Clayton and speaking presumptuously?" A gorgeous elf woman in crimson armor berated.

"I don't have time to waste on you clowns." Ace coldly stated.

Everyone in the group was startled, and Clayton's haughty expression turned nasty since it was the first time that a third-rate family's trash had talked to him that way. Or they won't even dare to even breathe loudly in his presence, much less call him a clown.

However, before they could react, Ace entered stealth and vanished from their view, shocking them.

Although Ace could've killed them, he didn't want to since there were no benefits in doing so, and it would only benefit the tower tattoo on his hand.

After he received the first star, he felt a sinister energy that wanted to contaminate his soul Qi, but because of the system, this Qi was completely suppressed, but it still made him feel noxious.

As for thieving his way out of here, he decided against it since it would only reveal his presence, and he didn't want anyone to know where he was right now. Not unless he measured the situation with Alina and it was necessary. He only steals if he can get rid of any evidence afterward or if it is essential.

Furthermore, the tower spirit might become suspicious if he left thief symbols here and there, which won't be a good thing.

So, he was planning on getting out of this tower. At least outside, there won't be a spirit to monitor his every movement.

"Where did he go?!" Clayton was first snapped out of his stupor as he spread his martial sense to stop Ace, but to his dismay, he found nothing, as if the man was just a ghost.

The others also used their senses, and all reached the same conclusion

"H-he... could he be from a first-rate family and hiding his abilities?" A burly elf fearfully whispered close to Clayton.

Clayton and others felt their heart churning thinking about the other party's disdainful attitude toward them and then his terrifying ability to escape their perception as if it was child's play to him.



They shuddered, just thinking that if he wanted to kill them, they would've been lying on the ground right now.

Clayton spoke with a grim expression, "Don't tell anyone about it, and if you see that person again, pretend if we never see him. It is our fortune that we didn't speak about robbing him or...."

Everyone felt chill in their spines.

Clayton's expression was grim as they thought with uncertainty, 'Could it be someone had leaked our second-rate families' plans of ripping off all the third-rate families, this time to the first-rate family?'

'No, they would disdain even to stop us, or could it be this guy was hiding his ability and not from a first-rate family?'

Ace didn't know about Clayton's thoughts as he won't care even if he knew. He was making his way toward the second-floor entrance, which was also in the south, and the fate map was also pointing him in the same direction.

He encountered some hunting groups, and one of them was even busy killing each other, but he paid no heed to him and circled his way around them.

After three hours, he finally appeared at the following entrance location, which was almost the same as the first floor, and it was blocked by a wall and guarded.

Ace swiftly crossed every hurdle and entered the next entrance gate.

This time he had to face ten golden soul river core puppets, which also fell under his sword draw, but someone thing unexpected happened.

After Ace used the sword draw to get rid of those puppets, the high-grade-5 was shattered because of the potency of his heavenly Qi, which surprised Ace.

Although he knew his heavenly Qi couldn't be used along with treasure that wasn't meant for it, it was still surprising that a high-grade-5 sword would be broken after he used it two times and only for draws at that.

This made him somewhat depressed because this way, he would have to pay a heavy price for using his sword intent. He didn't want to show his ability to use sword intent without using the sword either.

So, he decided to use a bow and arrows next time until he was he the tower unless it was extremely necessary. This way, he would also appear to be struggling.

However, he had thoroughly underestimated himself because on the third-floor entrance test, using Elliot's silver bow and arrows, a low-grade-5 treasure set, he destroyed those diamond soul river core puppets with a single arrow attack while ending up destroying the arrow as well!

He never thought his heavenly Qi would become so potent after he reached the eighth stage of the dark sea core realm.

A moment later, the tower spirit's impassive voice rang, "Contender No.10,203, congratulation on passing the Third Floor valiantly!"

"Your title Contender No.10,203 has been voided and changed into 'Seed Contender No.21,913!

"You are now ranked last at the Seed Contender Ranking Board, and as long as you kill a higher-ranking contender, you can take their positions!

"If you managed to enter the top 100 within the Seed Contender Ranking, you'd be granted a privilege to cultivate in a sacred site for 1 hour every month and 2 hours if you managed to rank within the top 20 and 3 hours within the top 10 and 5 hours within top 3 and ten hours if you managed to take 1st Position!

"You are granted a Floor Star and passage to the Fourth Floor!"

Ace looked at the condensing third crimson start while he noticed the dark marking on the crimson true soul was becoming more apparent.

He asked at this moment without entering the fourth passage ahead of him, "Senior, can I now leave this place since I'm already on the fourth floor?"

This was, after all, his true objective all along to leave this tower and then find a way out of the elven continent toward Alina. He wasn't interested in playing with this treasure right now.

Once free of his worries, he'll return and claim this treasure.

However, the tower spirit's following words made Ace's heart sink, "No. You can't leave even though you are already on the fourth floor."

"But why isn't this a rule?" Ace couldn't help but feel rage.

"It is a rule for those who entered from the elven race and the main entrance. But Seed Contender No.21,913, not only are you a human, but you also entered from another entrance. So, this rule naturally won't apply to you." The Tower Spirit replied matter-of-factly.

Ace's face fell, but he didn't lose his composure and asked, "Then how I can leave? Senior, it's not like I didn't want to continue, but I have a very important matter to deal with outside. Once they are out of the way, I'll definitely come back!"

Ace thought that the tower spirit didn't want him to leave because he thought he would never come back, and with his potential, it was only natural for it to want that.

However, he didn't want to stay here any longer than he needed to, and he will also come back.

"It's not like I'm holding you here, but this is really out of my power. If you have entered through the main entrance, you would be able to leave like the others; if you leave, you will only end up in the same place again.

"That's why I can not help you with that. Of course, unless you clear all the trials, you will have the power of the entire tower, and you could easily enter the place where the main entrance is." The Tower Spirit stated impassively.

Ace fell into silence after hearing this since it might really be true. He had indeed entered the tower through that strange dark realm, not from the golden sky world.

But he had no way of knowing if the tower spirit was telling the truth or simply lying to keep him here. Whichever the case was, he had no choice but to remain calm.

Ace then suddenly thought of something, 'It is clear that the whole sham of these trials is to complete this tattoo to condense the Soul Vessel fully. But it might not be the entire truth.

'Since this tower is giving away so many rewards and trying its best to make others stay within and kill each other to have them absorb each other soul segments and cultivate to higher realms, then there is more to this than meet the eye....'

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#### **Chapter 614: Fourth Floor**

'Since this tower is giving away so many rewards and trying its best to make others stay within and kill each other to have them absorb each other soul segments and cultivate to higher realms, then there is more to this than meets the eye.

'But no one was able to do it to this day because they were stopped at some level to cultivate, making the trial even more difficult for themselves.

'After all, nobody would be able to go beyond ten levels higher than themselves to fight with ten puppets unless they are peak geniuses. Especially if someone is already in the soul manifestation realm, the level difference from that realm to the Law-Awareness is a massive leap.

'The key is to clear all these trials while remaining in the boundary of the river realm to the soul realm. But then it was also a matter of conviction whether someone is willing to put their lives on the line while ignoring all the benefits.

'Lastly, it would come to the tower spirit whether it would let anyone with such a potential achieve this feat or if the killing is necessary to make a Soul Vessel, then it will bend the rules...' Ace thought while his eyes were filled with sharpness.

But he didn't reveal his inner thoughts and walked toward the light gate. He knew it would be even harder for him to leave this tower within the side mission time limit.

Furthermore, he was still not confident that he would be able to subdue this tower or the existence behind it. But he knew there was no other way but to move forward.

It was the first time Ace was put into such a passive position where he had no other option and couldn't control the flow of the situation. He was also sure that he was being monitored.

This feeling was not good; it was like dancing on someone else's palm.

That's also why he no longer summoned Cyrus because if the tower spirit was able to guess Cyrus's fire's true nature, then it might try to take him away or get rid of him if it felt threatened.

Ace's only trump card was he could destroy the fake true soul any time, and if he used it wisely, then he might be able to leave this place.

But he needed to clear all the trials first to get that opportunity!

The moment Ace walked onto the fourth floor, he was surprised because there was no more grassland, but he was in the middle of a forest with trees that were probably over 100 meters tall.

Elliot had limited information on floor four because of the statue of his family. So, Ace only knew there was a city somewhere in this place.

Because the elves could leave this place and return when the entrance appeared in three years again, they will appear in the same place they left.

So, they built this city where they could appear once they returned, and this forest was also dangerous. There are beasts in this place ranked from river core to soul realm.

That's why only those who are confident in their ability will dare to come here since they will appear in a random place, and then they had to find the city, which was the only safe area without getting eaten by the beasts first.

More importantly, these beasts could also provide a boost in cultivation as long as they were killed, just like any contender. That's why elves formed hunting squads here to hunt those beasts, and there seemed no end to them.

The scion of families also formed alliances of their own and recruit members with the promise of lavish rewards.

However, Ace didn't have to worry about any of this because the fate map could lead him right toward the entrance. He also wasn't interested in hunting those beasts or meddling in anyone's business.

So, Ace activated the fate map and saw the indicator was pointing in the northeast direction, so he moved there without hesitation.

This floor was still not enough to make him slow down or threaten his life.

After half a day, Ace found the city surrounded by tall walls as long as the surrounding trees, and there was only one huge entrance.

Speaking of which, this place also didn't have the concept of night and day as it was always gloomy sky above. Without Qi, this place would not be better than a grim graveyard.

Ace didn't go through the gate since he didn't need to. He merely scanned the walls, which were only protected by high-grade-3 formation. So, he easily skipped the wall.

The city was over twenty square miles in size, and it was filled with tall buildings with different names, and all of them had one word in common, 'Alliance.'

These buildings were all controlled by first-rate families' scions who could create their Alliances while paying a hefty price to the Royal Family.

The Royal Elf Family was the ruler of the Elven Continent, and the Elf Queen was the matriarch.

The elves didn't follow the typical noble system and didn't have complex titles like a duke, marquise, and so on. All the families were divided into Royal, First Rate, Second Rate, and Third Rate.

There was only one Royal Family that had a Law Awareness overseer.

While the First-Rate Families were like nobles with titles, and they had Soul Manifestation Realm Cultivators. In comparison, the Second-Rate Families were like normal nobles.

As for the Third-Rate Families, they were like commoners.

There were no strict rules about who could be the first or third-rate family. It was a matter of power backing they had.

If all the soul manifestation realm cultivators of a first-rate family die, then they will be demoted to second-rate. Or if a second-rate family managed to produce a soul manifestation realm cultivator, they can reevaluate their status into First Rate Families.

Lastly, if a Law Awareness Realm Cultivator appeared among a first-rate family, they had to merge with the Royal Family, whether they liked it or not, and become their branch family.

As for why it matters to have a higher family status, it was because the more powerful a family, the ample resources and land they will be granted, and most importantly, the quota of 'Holy Tower' entrance every three years.

Every three years, the tower spirit would only let 10,000 New contenders enter, no more or less.

But for elves, even this number was relatively high since they needed a workforce on the main continent, and not just anyone could reach the fourth floor, so the royal family allocated quota to families according to their rank. Then these families held competitions to distribute the given seats among themselves.

The Holy Tower was both the land of opportunity and death, so only those with ambition or motives stepped inside.

But once they reached the fourth floor, they were like fish in the sea as they could exit and come back anytime within a hundred years. No one will stop them, and their contender-ship won't be voided as long as they take the entrance test before their hundred years are exhausted.

All the elves spent almost 100 years in this place and cultivated diligently while fighting life-and-death battles with each other.

The once peaceful and nature-loving race had now become a warmonger and bloodthirsty race. As long as they were in the tower, they were like beasts who had escaped their cage!

Ace appeared in the city's center just outside a large building with a doom. Outside this building a tall black stone filled with golden names and numbers.

It was the Ranking Board for Seed Contenders!

A hundred golden names were engraved on it, and all these contenders were on the sixth floor, which was the limit of Seed Contenders.

This ranking seldom changed since these hundred contenders were all from the old generation, and all were either high elders or heads of first-rate families and the upper echelon of the wise elf race.

Because the limit restriction was removed after acquiring a 6-star tattoo, they can freely leave and come back to the tower to challenge the trial anytime, from anywhere, if they want to.

So, these old fogies won't challenge the higher-level floor anymore because it was simply too dangerous, and they weren't willing to put their lives on the line and abandon their positions.

That was why only those who were not afraid of death would take the risk after coming that far, but only three have ever succeeded to this day.

Ace gave that board an uninterested fleeting glance before he moved on toward the closed door of the next floor's entrance!

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#### **Chapter 615: Tricking the Treasure Spirit**

Ace looked at the closed door, which was locked from the inside with a low-grade-5 array lock. It would only open if someone first reported their wish to take the fifth-floor entrance test to the City Lord Mansion.

However, locks were the last thing Ace was worried about, and without wasting time, he used the lock eraser king technique to erase the lock.

Ace was already a Lock Eraser Grandmaster who could erase any lock under grade-7 and was a step away from becoming the Lock Eraser King!

The door slowly parted after the lock was removed, and it drew some passerby's attention as they looked at the open door with a hint of befuddlement because no one was standing there.

Furthermore, it was grandeur whenever this door was open as many came here to see who would try entering the 5th floor since it was a massive leap, and mostly those young lords of first-rate families would do it.

But right now, there was no one there, and the gate was opened and unprotected, which should've never happened.

However, despite the open door, no one dared to enter because they knew it would spell certain death if they failed.

Soon, this anomaly reached the City Lord Mansion!

After crossing the light gate, Ace appeared in the fighting hall, two times larger than the last three floors.

The tower spirit's impassive voice rang, but this time it didn't immediately start the trial, "Seed Contender No.21,913, why didn't you enjoy the benefits granted to you and strengthen your cultivation base? You have cleared four trials in 3 days which is a record, but you might really die if you act recklessly."

Ace didn't show any emotion as he said respectfully, "Senior, don't worry about me, I know what I'm doing, and besides, the stronger I am, the stronger my enemies will be, right? So, I will cultivate peacefully after I become the inheritor!"

"So, to speak, you want to clear all the ten trials with your current strength and didn't want to cultivate to a higher rank until you complete them?" The Tower Spirit impassively asked.

"Yes," Ace replied.

He was sneering inwardly; he knew this might happen because if the killing was part of the whole scheme, and since he wasn't killing, this meant he was not moving the way the tower spirit wanted him to.

Ace wanted to see its bottom line and just how many floors it let him clear before it spouted some bullshit to make him do what was necessary.

"There were people like you who also had the same resolve and aspiration, but they were all dead in the end. I won't stop you from walking on that path, but you have talent, so consider it a piece of elderly advice.

"Now, Seed Contender No.21,913, defeat 10 Trial Puppets four levels higher than your current cultivation realm before you grant the passage toward the Fifth Floor!

"Remember, this is a fight between warriors; a warrior will always fight with their lives at stake and not retreat no matter what!"

"Thank you for your advice." Ace pretended to be grateful.

Ten puppets with Platinum Soul River Core Cultivation appeared the next moment with weapons and armor.

However, Ace suddenly asked, "Senior, I'm only a Bronze River Core Cultivator. In the previous trial, I couldn't help but notice that my opponent should be a Golden Soul Embryo Realm of 1st Minor Stage according to my cultivation path.

"But why I'm facing Diamond Soul River Core and now Platinum River Core puppets? No, disrespect, but will the next realm cultivator be Platinum Soul Embryo Realm of 1st Minor Stage or Golden Soul Embryo Realm?

"Because we all know that the difference between a golden soul and a platinum soul realm is worlds apart. Please appease my plight, senior!"

Ace knew he was stating the fact, and this was also the chance to see if the tower spirit would go by the rules or bend them.

'If you think I'm a fool who will not notice this, then think again. I didn't point it out in the last trial because I want to see how you react when I point it out later since it will appear you made a mistake twice.

'Since you won't let me leave, then I will push you and see if you can show your face or not. The moment you did...' Coldness surfaced in the depth of Ace's eyes.

He knew what he was doing was risky, but he was willing to take his chances on the base that it won't dare to kill him if he showed talent or because of the soul segment.

There might be some kind of limitation on the tower spirit, and it might not be able to affect the contenders with the soul segment.

Ace hadn't forgotten that it was a mere treasure spirit that was also damaged, so it could only do what its master told it to, and there would be very limited action it could take independently.

If it was really an ownerless treasure, then Ace might've been wary because an independent treasure without a master would be extremely dangerous, just like he first met with Moira.

Without the system, she could've killed him thousands of times before he could even touch the real treasure, much less think of subduing it.

Besides, this treasure was not even in the same league as his Eternal Thief Fate Compass despite its incomplete state.

Just as Ace thought after he stated the fact, the puppets didn't attack him.

The Tower Spirit spoke at this moment, "River Core Realm has six types of river cores, namely, Iron, Bronze, Silver, Golden, Diamond, and Platinum. As long as they appeared in the same realm, then this made them the level of the same realm...."

But before the tower spirit could continue its reason, Ace quickly spoke, "Then this means that in the soul realm, I will also face Iron Soul Realm Cultivators first. Because in accordance with the river core, one broke into the Soul Realm also has six types of states.

"Senior is really an embodiment of fairness. Please continue the trial. I understand that I will face 'every stage' that exists in the realm first, from lower to high. I shouldn't have even asked."

Ace pretended to be in awe, but he laughed deviously inside, 'Heh, although it is impossible to form an iron, bronze, or even silver soul. But since you said yourself, let's see how you refute your own words.'

Another long silence descent in the hall as the tower spirit didn't speak for a long time. It was clear that it couldn't find Ace's words refutable since it said that those levels exist in the same realm.

But it had never thought that Ace would bring up the soul realm state in the mix the very next moment it said those words. Now, if it made Ace face platinum soul realm puppets in the next round, it would be slapping its own face.

However, suppose it made the puppets' cultivation really iron soul realm to continue putting up the sham. In that case, Ace will slaughter them like chickens because even platinum soul realm cultivators weren't his match, much less soul realm cultivators with such a shallow foundation.

If it were any elves, they would've never dared to speak out since they consider Holy Spirit omnipotent and never questioned it. But, alas, it was Ace who knew the true face of this Holy Spirit.

At this moment, a light suddenly descent on the puppets before their cultivation started to change from platinum soul river core to Golden Soul Embryo Realm 2nd Minor Stage!

"The trial shall commence!" The Tower Spirit's impassive voice rang again as if the previous conversation had never happened, and neither it gave any explanation on the topic.



Ace's lips curled up as he also pretended he didn't say or see anything. He knew his limit and when to stop. It was already considered a win when he dissuaded the Tower Spirit into changing the cultivation according to a bronze river core realm cultivator's path.

It also proved his hypothesis that this tower spirit was not so intelligent and could be tricked as long as he gave valid facts. Lastly, the master of the tower spirit didn't interfere.

This could only mean two things: it either didn't care or didn't have the capability, and Ace was more inclined toward the latter. The Tower Spirit was probably taking independent actions!

This was more than enough for Ace to be confident and hope to get out of here in a little over a year before the side mission's time limit was up.

Afterward, Ace easily slaughtered the Golden Soul Embryo Realm 2nd Minor Stage, they were slightly weaker than a platinum river core cultivator, and their soul attacks were even more ineffective on Ace.

Afterward, the tower spirit declared while the gate to the fifth floor manifested,

"Seed Contender No.21,913, congratulation on passing the Fourth Floor valiantly!

"Your rank on the Seed Contender Ranking Board has changed from Rank-121,913 to Rank-49,216

"State your name!"

### [Eternal Thief](#)

#### **Chapter 616: Winter's Call**

"My name?" Ace was astonished since the Tower Spirit had never asked him about his name before and only called him by his contender number.

"After a Seed Contender steps into the ranks of the top 50,000, they will have the privilege to call by their names!" The Tower Spirit impassively stated.

Ace thought for a moment before he said, "The name is Black Ghost!"

Ace suddenly thought about the very first name people ever called him after his first thievery in the river flower city. So, he decided to use it with a hint of melancholia.

Of late, Ace had been thinking about his starting point. It somehow let him remain calm and gave him a reminder of who he was, and he should never forget that no matter what he became in the future.

"Seed Contender No.21,913, your name, 'Black Ghost,' has been registered!

"Black Ghost, you can now earn Scared Site Time by killing the demonic beast on the fifth floor. For every five demonic beasts you slay, you will earn 1 Minute of Scared Site.

"You can also earn more Scared Site Time by killing contenders of higher rank than you. The higher the rank of a contender you slay, the more sacred site time you'll get!

"The Scared Site is specially made for cultivation faster and to hone your skills. So, I suggest you use it and become stronger.

"You may now proceed to the next floor!"

'You wish...' Ace merely sneered inwardly.

He 'thanked' the Tower Spirit and walked into the light door with only one purpose; to find the next entrance!

However, the moment Ace left the fighting hall and the gate vanished, a projection suddenly appeared showing a city built within a forest, and many elves wearing armor could be seen on the screen.

At this moment, the Tower Spirit's cold voice rang,

"Attention, Seed Contenders of Fifth Floor!"

All those elves in the projection were startled as Tower Spirit's voice rang within their heads, even those elves hunting in the wildness heard the tower spirit's voice, and they stopped doing whatever they were doing. Some of them even kneeed with reverence and mirth.

Tower Spirit's cold voice rang again within every elf's mind, "This is a Special Event Announcement for all Fifth Floor Seed Contenders, which will start in an hour!

"A Unique life form will be released on the fifth floor, and its purpose is to enter the sixth-floor entrance. Your task is to stop or hunt it down before it succeeds!

"The winner will get 100 Hours in Sacred Site and a free lifeline.

"A Free Lifeline can be used to escape death once in the Floor Entrance Trial and retake the entrance test again.

"The Unique life form's position will be exposed every 1 hour for 1 minute with a Holy Indicator.

"Furthermore, the realm gate will be opened only for those contenders who have left the realm from the fifth floor!

"The event will last until the life form is either dead or managed to pass the fifth floor. All the best, Seed Contenders!"

After the surprise announcement, the elves remained silent for a while before mirth flashed past their eyes.

Because it was the first time such an 'event' happened from the moment the tower had appeared. Just the reward of Free Lifeline was enough to make these elves go crazy.

They were already on the fifth floor and quite strong, but they were also timed because of it and seldom took the sixth-floor trial. But if they acquired this lifeline, they would have an extra chance even if they failed.

Furthermore, some shrewd elves noticed another thing, the Tower Spirit didn't say the lifeline was only limited to the sixth-floor trial, which meant they could even use it on the higher floor!

Just this reason was enough to make them risk everything to hunt this 'life form' at all costs.

The elves here were mostly from first-rate families, and even royal family members were present here. The fifth floor was a huge milestone for them, and it had even denser Qi than their central region.

So, these elves would stay here and cultivate while killing beasts or each other to earn sacred site time, and the hunting alliances here were on the whole another level than the fourth floor.

Lastly, some powerful contenders could no longer benefit from the fifth floor and were about to complete their 100 years limit. They were outside because they either didn't want to die or they were preparing.

However, since the tower spirit had opened the 'realm gate' for those contenders, they will definitely not miss this opportunity to earn this lifeline and fight tooth and nail for it.

Many elves instantly started to exit the fifth floor to report this huge event to their families and call the backup. The hunting alliances also started to call their members back as they prepared for the event about to begin in an hour.

The entire city was bustling with a killing aura!

A light gate appeared in the middle of a swamp, and Ace walked out in stealth without knowing about this 'special event.'

Ace observed the surrounding with thief sense and found some beasts lurking in a 3-mile radius, and they were all at least platinum river core realm!

Ace didn't pay much attention to them since they were not in his way. He coolly opened the fate map, found the entrance's direction, and headed there without any intention of stopping.

However, over half an hour passed when Ace abruptly stopped as a small panel popped up in the corner of his eyes, and a hint of ecstasy flashed on his cold face.

[Incoming House Call!]

-Caller: Winter Fox (Faceless Thief)

-Accept/Ignore/Reject

'Could it be she had found out about Alina?' Ace accepted the call without hesitation with a hopeful expression.

It had already been months since he had issued Winter the mission to investigate Alina's situation. But he never expected it to be done so quickly since only 4 or 5 months had passed since he had appeared in this realm.

Winter's cold yet melodious voice sounded no longer childish, "You owe me 10 House Points for this call!"

Ace's face fell as he coldly said, "Do you think I'm in the mood for shenanigans?"

"Oh, here I thought you never get angry. I guess you're only human, after all. Hehe." Winter giggled with a hint of happiness as if she had got one over Ace.

"Will you believe it if I say I can cancel the mission right now and give you a new one with a punishment like you can't earn house points for ten years?" Ace regained his calm as he coolly stated with a devious smile.

He knew Winter and Freya wouldn't speak straight until he showed them their place. He even felt they both were some kind of masochists who enjoyed this type of feeling and resent peaceful language.

Freya seemed to have come to terms with it after discovering the terrifying difference between her and Ace since she went completely dormant after that day.

On the other hand, Winter had no idea about it, so she was as ambitious as ever. However, now that Ace brought up his trump card, she had no choice but to obey!

"Hmph! How petty, you can do anything, but I can't!" Her voice was filled with umbrage, but she didn't dare to test Ace's bottom line anymore.

She knew Ace was always happy-go-lucky, but he had become quite serene and stern after Alina got involved.

So, she jumped back to the main topic, "I have found information on the girl name Alina. I have to say, she was quite something even before she became more famous because of you."

Ace's heart churned when he heard this and sternly questioned, "What did you find?"

"First, Alina Silver is not some random member of the Silver Ice Clan of Ancient Hunters, but she is the Silver Ice Clan's only successor and princess.

"She is also known among the other races with her title as the sword genius Ice Sword Fairy who had comprehended Ice Element Sword Intent when she was only in the Qi River Realm!" Winter revealed with a hint of awe in her tone.

Even she had never expected this family of Ace she had been tasked to look into would be so talented, but she knew since that girl was a pure-blooded hunter, she wasn't really Ace's family since he was human.

Still, she never expected Ace to have a connection with such a peerless genius. If she hadn't known about the 'goddess' behind Ace, she would've even felt that Ace didn't have even right to speak her name, much less have any connection.

But she knew that even she could surpass such geniuses with the 'goddess' help, not to mention Ace, who was even more monstrous than anyone out there.

Ace was astonished when he heard about Alina's true background and how talented she was. A gentle smile surfaced on his stony face...

## **[Eternal Thief](#)**

### **Chapter 617: Condition Mission**

However, Ace didn't get too distracted as he frowned gloomily, 'If she's had such a status and backing, then how the hell she fell into this mess?'

"What else?" Ace asked Winter with a grave expression.

Winter divulged, "Although I don't know the entire detail yet, for some reason, she was captured on the human continent by their Ancestor. The strangest thing is the Silver Ice Lord had made an announcement himself that his daughter had been caught because she's related to you.

"Not only that, but a month prior, before you contacted me, the Ice Lord even announced that if you didn't appear on the human continent in 5 years and surrender, Alina will be executed publicly!"

Ace's eyes instantly turned ruthless when he heard it, as a sharp, murderous aura suddenly gushed out from his person like a raging tide wave.

"Who captured her?" His voice was exempt from emotions.

Even Winter, on the other side, felt shuddered when she heard Ace's voice; she quickly answered, "It is the top expert of the Human Race, Dream Shatter Ancestor!"

Shock surfaced in his cold eyes when he heard this familiar name, "Dream Shatter? Are you sure?"

"Yes. Dream Shatter had announced this himself after the Ice Lord's statement, and his declaration is similar to Ice Lord." Winter's voice was grim, "You have to think it through because anyone with the 'Ancestor title' is the strongest person in our world.

"Furthermore, to be called an Ancestor means you are only half a step from reaching the fabled eighth realm. To this day, there are only five known Ancestors, and all of them belong to the top five races.

"Lastly, the Devil, Demon, and Blood Ancestors are the most mysterious, and they're known as the oldest ancestors in our world; no one knows if they are alive or not to this day, but no one dares to find out. As for Dream Shatter, he is the youngest.

"But from my family head, I heard that Dream Shatter is as dangerous as the top three ancestors if they are alive. I had never thought he was still alive since he last appeared thousands of years ago!"

Ace felt his heart turn cold when he heard this, 'I have never done anything to offend him? Could it be he's after me because of my involvement with Empty Dream, and he somehow found out about our deal? It's quite possible if he's as strong as Winter describe him to me.'

The more Ace thought about it, the more he felt it was the case.

Ace took a deep breath to calm his chaotic emotions and coldly asked, "Why aren't hunters doing anything and letting him step on their faces like this?"

"Even if that Ice Lord is ruthless to his own flesh and blood, but by letting Dream Shatter capture a Hunter Princess then announcing it himself, isn't this a blunt act of bowing his head to a race lower status than themselves?"

"What are other hunters doing, are they gone idiots to let others step over their dignity without any consequences?"

Ace felt rage when he thought about how Ice Lord, who should be Alina's father, was ruthless and had no backbone. He suddenly thought about how Alina had been living in the forest on low-level lands with her grandpa and spent her entire childhood there.

Although she never told him about the details, she always put on a sad expression whenever he asked her about it, so he stopped prying.

Now, he felt there should be another reason for her to be present in the low-level lands and living so miserably and almost dying because of her parent's negligence when she was awakening.

He took the risk to steal from Billy's store all for her sake, and if her so-called grandpa hadn't shown up that day, the situation might've been much different. Or if he hadn't acquired the System, she could've died.

The more he thinks about it, the angrier he becomes. But he also knew that if he hadn't offended everyone around, she might've never fallen into this mess, and he was still living in that city like a mortal.

Since Alina came back for him, they could've been united if he hadn't walked on this path.

Still, he would never regret his past choices. His own parents had abandoned him, and he wouldn't be able to find out about it if he had remained what he was back then.

"I told you this is the strangest part of all this. As for the other four major Hunter Families' stances, they're completely on board with this.

"You might not realize it, but you are a walking treasure trove right now. Not because you stole treasures but because of how you have done it. If I hadn't joined you, even I might've been tempted to get my hands on you.

"So, if I'm not wrong when the deadline arrives, there will not be just human experts who were laying in wait for you, but other races will definitely want to take part in to get your secret. Especially the demon race; they had already started to move, and I'm sure Demon Emperor would personally make his way there.

"That's why I'm advising you not to go there. It is a death trap. All of our lives are on the line here, not just yours! But if Goddess can help you, then I'm not worried."

Ace fell into silence, even though he knew it was a death trap, but he was unwilling to abandon Alina, or he knew he would never be the same if something happened to her because of him.

As for the help of the 'goddess,' he knew better than anyone that it was even more impossible since there was no goddess at all. The System was not something he could command freely; it was the exact opposite!

'If I could just become strong enough!' Ace felt extremely helpless like never before. He knew in the grand picture of the Golden Sky World he was still insignificant.

"Alright, I'll think about it. Keep an eye on the situation for me until I return. If possible, I hope you can go to the Azure Wind Continent and infiltrate their ranks. But if you don't want to, then I completely understand." Ace sighed in the end.

He was already quite grateful that Winter had acquired so much crucial information in a short span of time despite the looming danger of the demons.

But he knew Winter was perfect for this job.

Winter sorted in exasperation, "Fine, but the reward better be good!"

Ace felt warmth when Winter agreed, "Alright, I'll try to join you as soon as possible."

"You better!" Winter scoffed before ending the house call.

Ace then released Winter's reward and then issued another mission.

Inside a luxurious room,

A demoness wearing the royal demon army's uniform was sitting on a comfortable futon.

Suddenly a knock rang on the closed door.

The demoness pursed her lips, "What is it?"

A respectful voice sounded, "Pardon my intrusion, Fleet Captain; the ships are ready for the voyage to Azure Wind Continent. The 1st Royal Fleet Admiral had summoned all the Fleet Captains for the briefing!"

The demoness' eyes shone with a hint of happiness, "Alright, wait for a moment. I'll be there!"

At this moment, a dark projection suddenly appeared in front of her eyes.

[Scouting Mission: Find information on Alina Silver has been completed!]

-Reward: 500,000 House Points

[Winter Fox House Point(s): 509,220

[Thief House Leader (Ace White) has issued a Condition Mission]

[Condition Mission: With every complete condition, the corresponding reward of the condition will be released!]

-Mission Introduction: Infiltration!

- Condition (1): Infiltrate the Azure Wind Continent!

- Condition (2): Infiltrate Dream Shatter's Organization!

- Condition (3): Find Alina's whereabouts!

- Condition (4): Map the target area and the threats!

- Condition (5): Infiltrate the place where Alina's being held, hostage!

- Condition (6): Escape with Alina!

-Time: 5 years

-Reward(s):

-Condition (1): 25,000 House Points

- Condition (2): 50,000 House Points
- Condition (3): 100,000 House Points
- Condition (4): 250,000 House Points
- Condition (5): 500,000 House Points
- Condition (6): 5,000,000 House Points

-Punishment (If not able to complete the first two conditions minimum): Call House Leader Ace: My King for 100 Years!

Winter's elated face instantly contorted when she saw the punishment and couldn't help but ground her teeth, 'How?! Did he guess that I had predicted he would give me this type of mission next, and now he's making things difficult for me!'

The more she thought about it, the more she felt it was the case, and her fear of Ace increased.

'I'll die before calling you My King, you scoundrel!' She thought with indignation.

She even wanted to call Ace back to berate him, but she held back as she imagined Ace's smug face. He will definitely tease her for being seen through so easily. So, she can only stomp her feet in vexation.

However, what she didn't know was that to set up this condition mission with six conditions, Ace had to put up a punishment with the minimum requirement of 2 complete conditions, and the rewards were also at the limit set by the System for this mission.

So, in the end, he made this punishment out of whim since he didn't want to make it a severe punishment. He had no idea that Winter had already predicted this type of mission coming.

It was all but a misunderstanding!

### [Eternal Thief](#)

#### **Chapter 618: Beacon of Death (1)**

After issuing the missing to Winter, Ace closed the system interface with a stern look in his eyes and looked toward the gray, gloomy sky as if he wanted to peer right through it.

'I must leave this place as soon as possible and reach the Azure Wind Continent. I never thought I would still end up encountering Dream Shatter despite keeping my nose out of Empty Dream's matter.

'If I hadn't known Empty Dream and his current state, I might've underestimated Dream Shatter. According to him, the guy planned a coup d'état for his soul cultivation technique with Devil's race...' Ace thought in a gloomy mood.

He remembered everything Empty Dream had told him to seek his help with the Dream Shatter. He had already predicted that Dream Shatter wasn't someone he could mess with the very day Empty Dream revealed about his past.

That guy was an astute fellow who even backstabbed his father like master and Ace; of all people knew, this type of person didn't have a bottom line, and they could do anything to achieve their objective.



In a sense, Ace was also the same, but he still wasn't cold enough to abandon someone he cared about deeply.

That's why Dream Shatter had an absolute advantage over him.

'Well, he still didn't know whether I would come, and this is someone I could exploit. I just need to exit this damn tower!' Ace's eyes shimmered with indignation before he stood up and headed toward the next entrance at full speed.

He knew the biggest obstacle in his way was actually the Regal Fiend Tower, and the most infuriating thing was he knew even if he used the instant flash teleportation, he would end up in the dark realm where the tower's actual body lies.

This tower was his only gateway toward the Golden Sky World!

However, after over twenty minutes, Ace's steps came to an abrupt halt as his expression changed because all of a sudden, the crimson true soul shone dark ghostly light giving off a sinister feeling.

But Ace didn't feel anything life-threatening and thought with uncertainty, 'Did the tower spirit spy on me or something else?'

He soon got his answer, albeit a dreadful one.

Suddenly, a pillar of blinding white light descended on him, reaching all way up to the sky, and it was five meters thick.

Ace's first reaction was to block, as he thought it was an attack. But he didn't find any oppressive power from it, and despite him dodging it, the light seemed to mark him as it landed right on him.

His entire stealthy figure flashed in white light like a beacon in the darkness.

Ace tried to escape the light pillar, but to his astonishment and horror, the light pillar moved with him like it was completely attached to him. No matter how much faster he moves or uses treasures, he can't get rid of the mobile light pillar.

Although the light pillar was not physically harmful, it was even more appalling because Ace was completely exposed, and there was nothing more dangerous than this to him.

'Don't tell me; it's that tower scheme to get back at me and stop me from crossing into the next floor!' Ace's expression was nasty as he knew there was no room for doubt here.

The shimmering crimson true soul was evidence of it, and he knew the pillar of light was probably connected to the crimson true soul. He could easily destroy it and get rid of this light pillar, but he knew it wasn't the time or place.

So, he gnashed his teeth and endured, but he knew this pillar of light was absolute bad news because he wasn't alone there. Those elves might take the pillar as some kind of treasure, and they will try to investigate it.

The only relief was that he was still far from the elves' settlement.

However, when a minute passed, the light pillar suddenly started to fade as the crimson true soul also went dormant.

Ace felt massive relief when he saw this, but his expression was not too good. He grimly thought, 'It only lasted for a minute? What in the world did that shit stirrer try to achieve by this? It's quite clear it didn't want to kill me, or it could've marked me permanently; I know it can....'

The more Ace thought about it, the more uneasy he felt.

So, he didn't dare to move toward the elven settlement anymore, not before finding out if the light pillar was just a malfunction or trap. He was inclined toward the former.

Because it was a trap then, if it got activated close to the elven city, he knew thousands of elves would be hunting him down.

The moment he thought of this point, Ace's eyes widened as it finally dawned upon him, 'Don't tell me it's forcing me into killing others?'

Ace knew there was a high chance that it was the actual reason; even if it weren't, he'd find out soon.

He quickly headed in another direction. He was distancing himself from the next-floor entrance. Likewise, he wanted to test his theory about the light pillar first before making another move.

After an hour, the crimson true soul suddenly stirred, and Ace's expression was not good because the very next moment thereafter, a tick pillar of light descended upon him, just like before.

'This bastard is really up to no good!' Ace cursed with killing intent in his eyes as he looked at the light surrounding him. He started to wait with an awful expression.

However, Ace's heart went cold because, after forty seconds, his thief sense suddenly picked up something or things!

Without hesitation, Ace opened the fate map and nearly cursed out loud because many red fate points were appearing around him like fireflies.

'He's really pushing me to kill!'

Ace knew his conjecture was most probably correct, or this many enemies won't be able to appear in this part of the fifth floor unless they were looking for him!

## [Eternal Thief](#)

### **Chapter 619: Beacon of Death (2)**

A team of elves solely formed with ten women was moving toward the light pillar at high speed; all of them were wearing elegant tight body armor of high grades.

A petite elf pursed her lips as she coldly uttered, "Young Miss, we're not alone!"

At the very front, a tall, graceful elf with an oval face and glossy white skin arched her brows slightly as she replied, "It appeared our scout wasn't the only one who had spotted the 'unique beast' an hour ago. No worries, it won't be so easy to get the prize.

"Since the prize of this event is so enticing, then the unique beast will also be difficult to deal with. If I'm not wrong, whoever delivered the final blow will decide the final winner, just like the other beasts or contenders.

"So, we don't need to stay on the frontline. Let those idiot men do the heavy work for me." The Young Miss' eyes went cold as she declared.

The other elven women also pull cold smiles.

However, at this moment,

"Ahhhhhh..."

"NOOOO..."

"Stopppp!..."

"What is happeni...ahhhhh...."

High pitch, blood-curdling screams started to reverberate in the vicinity. All of them were coming from the light pillar position.

The group of women abruptly stopped with a hint of astonishment in their eyes as they no longer moved ahead. More and more screams were ringing in the area as powerful Qi fluctuations filled the air.

"What is happening there?" A muscular elf woman mumbled with a hint of fear.

"Slaughter!" The young miss replied with a grave tone, "We had underestimated the unique beast. Let's hide our auras and approach the battlefield. Don't make any move unless I give the command."

The others nodded as they all slowly moved toward the light pillar.

However, they were only halfway there when the light pillar faded away...

Ace coldly looked at the cleaved corpses of elves surrounding him as the light faded away.

He then coolly looked at those remaining elves surrounding him with ugly expressions. They had all come like mad dogs toward Ace, but soon they realized that he wasn't a prey they could hunt with numbers.

Within a few seconds, almost fifty elves were dead, and the appalling thing was they didn't even know how they were killed.

It all happened in a flash as all those elves lunging at Ace suddenly cut into pieces like an invisible meat grinder around him.

The even more frustrating thing was they couldn't escape because one of the team leaders had activated a high grade-5 barrier talisman, so Ace can't escape, but it seemed they were the ones who were truly caged.

Now, only twenty-one elves remained, and all of them were using protective formations on themselves while keeping their distance as they looked at the hooded 'monster' with appalled expressions.

"Just what kind of monster is this?! How can he survive all of our combined attacks?" One of the elves in white armor grimly exclaimed in elvish language.

"This is not the horrified thing; don't you see he hadn't even moved an inch from his spot? Damn, that Black Poll Leader had screwed us all by using this talisman, and now he's dead, and we're stuck with this monster. I should've never joined hands with you morons!" A burly elf holding a spear cursed in a fury.

"The barrier will only last for five minutes. He only activated it because he was afraid that others might try to snatch the last hit, but we had made a terrible mistake in overestimating this abomination!

"Now, those who were still standing on the sidelines will profit from our losses. We can still make a comeback as long as we escape with our reaming men. Let them exhaust this thing!" A beautiful elf weakly stated.

They were all leaders of large hunting alliances, prominent figures of their families, and one of the few who were still present in the tower when the announcement was made.

They thought they could finish this event and claim the rewards before those powerful alums joined the fray. However, things were now looking grim for all of them, and they knew they had made a mistake by going after this guy without ample preparation.

At this moment, Ace couldn't help but chuckle, alarming the others before his icy voice sounded, "Do you idiots think I can't understand your lousy language, so you're making your plans right in front of me?"

The others were appalled when they heard the 'monster' talking in their sacred language, which was actually only taught to first-rate families for some reason.

"You can speak elvish?" The burly elf was instantly alarmed with a pale expression.

The others were also horrified by this revelation.

Ace coolly said, "I can even speak what your ancestor can't so don't look alarmed. Now, I would like to know if you guys know what is going on with this light pillar."

The others looked at each other with a hint of terror as they started to get why this was called a 'Unique Life Form' by the 'Holy Spirit.'

However, no one replied as they tingly held their weapons and were ready to defend until the talisman effect was exhausted and they could flee this place.

But they didn't know Ace was almost done with his soul probe on the skinny elf leader, and that's why he hadn't finished them off and was only standing there.

Ace knew these elves were here with a purpose, and it was connected with the light pillar, so he didn't show them mercy and killed those who were utterly blinded by greed and charging at him like lunatics.

The reaming ones sober up on their own when they realize the strength difference.

However, Ace never took them seriously since he knew the tower spirit was behind all this and when he annexed all the memories, he sneered with killing intent in his eyes.

'A unique life from, huh? What a freaking good idea.' Ace wanted to laugh out loud in anger when he got the entire memory set of this so-called event which was to kill him or get killed by him.

'I never thought it would take a drastic measure to make me kill others. Now, all the elves will do anything to kill me just to acquire this lifeline thing, and this is just the beginning. Those powerful elves outside the tower will surely join in.

'They're all stuck on the fifth floor because of the fear of death, and now that they had a chance to advance, I don't think they will miss it....' Ace grimaced as he thought about how those death elves were charging at him hysterically before he put them out of their misery.

He could sense their madness and bloodlust as if they were possessed by something and only snapped out of it when their life was threatened.

"I don't want to kill anyone, so I will spare your lives. In return, I want you to deliver my message to your leaders. Tell them that as long as they don't get in my way and the entrance, I will peacefully leave you guys alone or...." Ace suddenly released his murderous aura.

Those elves were stunned and shuddered when they felt the thick killing intent; they were in disbelief!

The next moment, Ace's figure suddenly vanished, and before they could come to their sense, a terrifying explosion reverberated behind them, and the barrier surrounding them shattered like glass.

Everyone felt their heart tremble since they knew only someone with a peak platinum realm cultivator could shatter the barrier.

Those who were lying in wait were also flabbergasted by the sudden turn of events. Some of them madly started to search for the escaped monster.

"What should we do?" The elf woman asked with an appalled face.

"What can we do? Let's go and join hands with the Golden Royal Alliance. They will happily accept us for our information and experience with the beast." A hint of madness flashed past the burly elf as he coldly uttered.

A crimson haze suddenly flashed past every elf's sober eyes before the other elves seemed to have lost their short live rationality.

They all pulled cold smiles and agreed to the burly elf's suggestion.

Ace easily escaped those elves' encirclement, and this time he didn't go anywhere but headed straight toward the elven city.

Because he knew those elves would not be going to give up if this soul segment influenced their mind, and the more he waited here, the more of those strong elves joined the hunt.

Another hour passed before the light pillar got activated again. A large group of elves again attacked him, and they came at him like hungry wolves.

However, Ace didn't kill any of them this time, as he simply dodged all of their attacks while moving at full speed. Unfortunately, those elves can't keep up with his top speed.

Ace stood a mile away from the elven city and thought coldly, 'Since you wanted me to kill, I will kill everyone to put you at ease. This will be my most atrocious act!'

### Eternal Thief

#### **Chapter 620: Beacon of Death (3)**

The Elven City on the fifth floor, the City Lord's mansion.

Elves with powerful auras were gathered within a spacious hall as they all wore gloomy expressions while looking at the six elves with somewhat pale expressions.

A handsome elf with fierce looks coldly spoke, "I don't know if you six are exaggerating or it's just that you are no longer worthy of the first-rate family statue. Not only did you guys fail to exhaust the 'monster' three times in a row, but you can't even gauge his accurate strength. What a bunch of trashes!"

The six elves trembled when they heard the berating of the elf, but they didn't dare to retort because this elf was from the Royal Family's branch, Louie Wisemen. Not only that, but he was one of the oldest elves on the fifth floor, and his 100-year time limit will expire in over one year.

Not only Louie but half of the elves sitting in this hall were in the same situation as Louie, and all of them were afraid of dying so they didn't take the next floor's test.

However, now that they got another chance, they naturally won't miss it and are here to fight for it. They arrived as fast as they could since they knew if someone else got the prize, they will regret it for life.

But, when they finally arrived in high spirits, they found that the 'Monster' was completely out of their imagination. Not only could he escape any formation traps, but even while trapped, he couldn't be hurt as no attack hit their mark.

No suppression or attacking talisman was working, and all the elves who were madly going after him could do nothing but gnash their teeth and haplessly come back after exhausting all their resources.

That's why this meeting was called by the 'Senior Elves' to collect all the information on the monster and create an ultimate alliance by combining every First-Rate Alliance together.

The six elves being berated were the leaders of the six largest First-Rate Alliances in the fifth-floor elven city. The oval face elven beauty was also present who had suffered terribly at Ace's hands, and she had no choice but to join this ultimate alliance.

However, these 'Senior Elves' were all sly foxes as they didn't dare to take action themselves and only sent them as scouting parties to exhaust the monster and measure his strength and abilities.

Yet, they failed every time despite trying every single method they could think of, and even the treasures given to them by these Senior Elves failed to hold back the Monster.

If the Monster weren't interested in killing them, they would've died hundreds of times already, but for some reason, he didn't attack and only dodged, which made everyone curious about why he was like this.

A middle-aged elf with an amiable smile said, "Lord Louie, there's no need to get angry at the youngsters. They had tried their best. It's just that the Monster is quite strong and far more rigors than we gave him credit for."

This elf was an Elf Elder of one of the royal family branches, Ernest Wisemen.

"Then what do you suggest, Elder? With every passing hour, the Monster is getting closer to the city." Another Elf Elder sighed with pursed lips.

"We'll wait," Ernest said meaningfully.

A beautiful young elf girl with a cold expression spoke, "Are you suggesting we should wait for him to come into the city and then kill him in one fell swoop?"

"Indeed, Lady Caylee." Ernest nodded, "We all know his final destination, which means we had an advantage, and if we used it wisely, there is no way that monster could get out of here alive, no matter how strong or careful he is.

"Besides, it is far better than exhausting our forces in hunting him. It will be wise to gather them in the city and have them defend the outer area while forming a defensive line."

"Heh, it is indeed feasible, but what if someone else delivers the killing blow and takes the reward in the end? Furthermore, who among us will take the final reward?" A tall elf sneered at this moment.

"The reward naturally belonged to whoever had the ability. But first, we need to stop that monster's advancement, and if we still fight against each other, it will be too late to regret later." Ernest coolly stated.

"Hmph, let me see who dares to snatch the last hit from the royal family. They will not have their lives to enjoy those rewards if they dare to meddle in the royal family's business." Louie coldly declared as he looked at some elves in the hall, and all of them lowered their head with indignation in their eyes.

But they didn't dare to speak since they all knew that the competition belonged to the royal family now, and they were now pawns. Alas, they were helpless even to resist since the royal family's forces were not something that first-rate alliances like theirs could challenge.

Now that the Royal Family were working together and all of their powerful members were gathered here, they had even less chance to resist.

"Where is the Monster right now? How much time do we have to set up the defensive line?" Caylee coldly inquired.

"According to our reports..." An elf was about to reply when the closed door was banged open, and a panic-stricken elf entered, disturbing the meeting.

A burly elf with a scar on his square chin frowned as he coldly asked, "What is it?" He was the city lord of the fifth-floor elven city, Vaughn Wisemen.

Every Royal Elf Family member had 'Wisemen' as their last name.

The elf blurted with panic, "Lord Vaughn, the Holy Mark, appeared within the city just ten seconds ago!"

"What?! Didn't I order you to block the gates and activate all the formations and heavily guard the gates? Then how the hell did that monster enter the city?!" Vaughn lost his cool as he roared in panic.

Everyone's eyes went wide when they heard this.

"We'll deal with this later. Now we need to take action quickly!" Ernest stood up with someone ugly expression.

Louie furiously roared, "Go, you fools, and summon everyone and tell them to stop him at all cost or they won't live to see another day if they dare to hold back!"

Ace looked at the hundreds of elves surrounding him while he was enveloped in the light pillar. Despite knowing the consequences of entering the elven city, he still entered.

As for the protective formations and closed gates, they couldn't stop him no matter what. If he wanted, he could've easily headed directly toward the next entrance and overpowered the elves guarding that place before the light pillar got activated.

But Ace didn't do it because he wanted to make sure the tower spirit won't pull such a stunt on the higher floors since there might be soul manifestation realm cultivators on the sixth floor or seventh floor.

To do that, he needed to kill these elves until the tower spirit believed that Ace was already under the influence of the soul segment like those elves and won't think of him as an anomaly.

As for these elves, he made them all believe that he wasn't attacking them by avoiding their ambushes and only dodging upon attack. Lastly, he wanted to achieve another thing by killing all the elves in the elven city, which was fear!

He wanted those elves who were still not in the city to tell those high-ranking elves what happened here, and even if the tower spirit pulled another trick, they would think twice before acting against him.

But it still remains to see if this method will work or not since there were soul segments in play here.

At this moment, those elves suddenly used long-range skills on Ace, and many arches shot Qi arrows. He was quickly enveloped in a torrent of oppressive Qis.

"Hmph!" Ace sneered at this moment before two swords appeared in his hand, and the very next moment, a sharp aura suddenly gushed out from his person.

Something unimaginable happened at this moment, which left these elves dumbfounded in horror.

The tsunami of Qi suddenly froze in its place before a powerful sword aura enveloped it, and the next moment, the frozen Qi suddenly burst into particles, creating terrifying shock waves which pushed those elves back a few meters.

However, it didn't end with just their attack being failed; when they regained their footing and looked toward Ace, their eyes widened in horror because there were hundreds of white sword lights above Ace's head, and there were still more sword lights manifesting.



They all sense terrifying sword intent from those light swords, and their murderous expressions turn into fear.

"Run, you fools!" An alliance leader roared in a horrified tone.

'Too late.' Ace's eyes turned ruthless, 'Eternal Thief's Swords; Thousand Soul Swords Wave!'

Thereby, all the manifest swords swished at a terrifying speed toward those elves like an unavoidable menace!