

Thief 81

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 81: A Free Thief!

Ace stated softly, "Very Good! Now I'm leaving take care of yourself and your sisters." Ace chortles jokingly, "Don't get caught again or I save you all in vain."

Emmie's eyes begin to tear up hearing Ace was about to leave and threw herself in his arms, "B-big brother will...will we be able to meet again?" She asks while holding her tears, she didn't want Ace to see her cry. She wanted to be brave just like him.

Ace didn't dodge her hug since he considers her as a sister and strokes her head, "Who knows maybe we will or not. But be strong and brave, you have to protect your sisters! Don't let me down. All right?" He looks into Emmie's eyes and said earnestly with a smile.

Emmie nodded and promise honestly.

"Don't alert your sisters, they'll make a fuss. Take care of yourself. Farewell!" Ace deeply looked at Emmie one last time and place the mask on his face. He turns around while becoming the young man again.

Tears begin to drop from Emmie's face as she watches Ace walking in the dark corridor, "A-at least tell me w...where to look for you if I want?" She calls while sobbing.

Ace didn't turn around and only his chuckling voice sounded in the dark passage while he vanished, "Heh, heh, I'm just a free thief!"

Emmie mumble in a trance, "A Thief?!"

Ace didn't know; many years from now he'll see this group of brats again and at that time he would vomit blood!

Ace exit the building as the young man.

He was wearing his own robes since the young man lavishing robes were drench in blood. He only takes his storage bag and inside was only his Identity Crystal Card and ruby coins nothing else. He at least found out the name of this young man was, Javier Weston.

'These Identity Crystal Card are quite handy.' Ace was quite amazed.

As for clothes Ace thought of making a random excuse but after coming out he discovered it was irreverent. Because those two peak qi gate realm guards seem to know why Javier was here and they even disdain him. They didn't care about his sudden change of clothes. They were only here to protect him because of his father's status.

'It seems this guy is loathed by many, he deserved it though.' Ace sneer, it was only making things easy for him.

Just like Javier, Ace enters the carriage casually with arrogance. Inside were quite capacious and two beautiful maids were waiting for him. He felt deep fear from their soul for Javier.

'Just how rotten were, You?' Ace becomes even more assured that killing the real Javier was the right thing to do.

After Ace or Javier enter the carriage it begins to head towards the prince manor.

Meanwhile, after the carriage vanished, the building that was famous for being a torture house was set aflame and no one knows who did this good deed. The city guards only found charred headless bodies in the burned ashen rubble.

No one knows the identities of these charred corpses and it became a mystery.

But some knowledgeable fellow knows, all these corpses belong to the nobles of big families because only those sick rich bastards came here to torchers young girls.

This building was also under the protection of a noble household before so no one dares to mess with them however now someone has killed everyone. Everyone thought that person really has mountain-like guts and has to be quite powerful to kill peak qi gate realm shop's keeper.

In the end, no one spoke, even that noble household who protect this building all these years. Since this shady business has already come to light, they didn't dare to investigate the matter or their prestige would go down to the gutter. Therefore, everyone decided to abandon those corpses and left the matter as it is.

After all, everyone wants to maintain their status.

Besides, no one notices a group of young girls sneak into the commoner district of the Luminous City that night!

Inside the lavishing carriage, Ace was looking at the two frightened maids. One of them was even shivering a little. He sighed lightly and said, "Tell me what's my status in the prince manor?"

Since the real owner of this face was already dead he can only ask his servants. He only knows about Javier's name, birth, and his background from the identity crystal card nothing else.

Those two maids become even more afraid because this psycho has many weird fetishes and always likes to torment others included them. He didn't even have a sliver of compassion in him and treated everyone like toys that he can break anytime he wanted.

They thought it was his new fetish and one of them promptly answer, "Y-young Master, you're the son of the prince manor Head Butler, Braxton Weston."

'Head Butler, huh, seem like this cuckoo was not of a lower status.' Ace becomes pleased and said, "What did I call my father and mother, and how's our relationship?" He has to understand some basic information about Javier or they might suspect him.

One of the maids instantly replies, "You call your father 'Old Man' and mother 'Old Woman'. You're relation with both of them..." She looks at Ace with fearful eyes. She was afraid of not playing his 'game' correctly and getting beating afterward.

"Speak!" Ace raised his voice.

"Y-yes. You didn't get along with them well because of your elder brother." She quickly spills the beans and begins to shiver.

Ace raised his eyebrow after hearing this. This psychopath didn't even get along with his family, it was no wonder he has this kind of mindset and like tormenting others.

'Did I chose the wrong face?' Ace knit his brows after thinking; this idiot has just too many misgivings.

If he didn't play his part well someone might become specious of him and has to escape before he could find the treasury of the price manor. He has become Javier because he wanted to rob the prince manor, not to clean this scum mess.

Those two maids saw Ace or rather Javier frowning face and instantly got on their knee and begin to undress while shaking like dry leaves in the wind.

"What are you two doing?!" Ace was alarmed and snapped out his thoughts by this sudden development.

Those two maids were bewitched by this and one of them timidly spoke, "We are preparing to receive our punishment just like young master teach us."

Ace curse that sick bastard and quickly stop them, "You don't need to do this anymore, just act normally."

Those two maids become even more startled and thought, 'You're the one who not acting normal.' But since it was the order of young master how could they not obey? They thought he was playing some new kind of game again. Nonetheless, since he wasn't beating them it was good news for them.

Ace saw how much happy they become after listening about no punishment and lamented again. 'Just which hellhole did I throw myself into.'

Ace continued asking some basic things about Javier and those maids answer happily. They like this new game very much with no punishment.

After half an hour the carriage finally enters the tightly secure prince manor.

Ace scan the spacious surrounding and couldn't help but marvel. There were really two early-stage qi foundation realm experts in security.

The carriage slowly stopped outside a villa and those two guards open the door for Ace. He acts nonchalantly like Javier and exits the carriage with those two happy maids.

Those guards were shocked after seeing the happy faces of those two girls and strangely glance at Ace, 'Did he turn over new leaf?'

Ace pretends to not notice those two weird stairs and enters the villa. From those girls, he knew it was the villa of Weston Family and Javier's home.

Weston Family only has four people included Javier, other than this family only servants live in this big lavishing villa.

Ace just enter the villa when a jeering voice sounded, "Oh if it isn't my little cuckoo brother. How many did you torture today?"

Ace turn around saw a young man quite resembling Javier with a smirk on his face, 'He should be this scoundrel brother Keith Weston.' He swiftly identifies this young man.

This Keith was quite talented and the apple of his father's eye, while Javier was sourness of his eye. Ace heard from those maids that Javier always wanted to stomp on his brother's face and after seeing his jeering smile he know why. This guy was too damn arrogant!

Ace coolly replies, "What it has anything to do with you?"

Keith didn't even blink at Ace's response because Javier never respects him. "Just don't get caught or father might disown you." He snorted and knew Javier's fetishes very well so he leaves after mocking him like always.

'One idiot down.' Ace has a sigh of relief.. He was afraid; this family might suspect him so he was ready for anything.

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 82: Searching For Treasury

Ace reached Javier's room without encountering any Weston. He dismissed those maids who become even happier and leave, well it was more like they escape.

Ace was speechless by this and could only smile wryly. He looks at the luxurious room and was amazed by this Silkpants lavishing lifestyle. He quickly changes his clothes with Javier's and looks in the big mirror in the room.

Ace was taller and leaner than Javier but this two-face mask has created perfect illusion and even his height was hidden under the illusion, no one can see his true appearance if they're not River Core Cultivators.

Ace or Javier's dinner was delivered to his room by a servant who also seems quite terrified of him. 'It seems this family didn't like this guy at all, they didn't even eat with him. Heh, good for me though.' He enjoys the meal with good wine.

At midnight, the prince manor was extremely silent, only guards were wide awake and protecting the manor with their hearts. But little did they know a thief was already wandering around the territory of prince manor like it was his own backyard.

Ace was amazed by just how big his prince manor territory was. He was wandering around for an hour now and still didn't find the end of it. Suddenly, he felt the presence of a late-stage qi foundation expert and become alert.

This was his first time sensing this powerful expert here, he decided to go towards him since his stealth was impenetrable below Qi River Realm after, he built the perfect heavenly foundation!

Ace saw a huge manor in the distance and the Qi wave of that powerful expert was coming from exactly there. 'This is Prince Manor. That late foundation expert is hidden somewhere between the gate and manor.'

After his soul core was reform by elemental orb remains, he could feel his soul cultivation at the juncture of breakthrough and he was just missing something very crucial before forming the next color soul core. It was just a pity he didn't know what it was.

However, his Heavenly and Soul Senses reached a whole new level. Now with the flow of wind, he can sense the change of Qi fluctuation in the air from two hundred meters away. Although, the actual range of his senses was still fifty meters.

At this moment Ace's irises turn golden because he uses True & False Eyes.

With the eye skill operating the ordinary-looking gate turns extraordinary. There were many runes symbols around the prince manor and Ace instantly knew they were trapping arrays.

'Why is there so much security in his damn place!' Ace was really frustrated and decided to retreat for the night. He already finds the position of the manor and it would not be a wise move to try infiltrating it without knowing where the treasury was hidden.

Ace once thought that since this guy was from a kingdom, he definitely has a storage ring so why did he need any treasury to store his treasure? But then he suddenly remembered something and concluded;

It has become a custom or habit of every race's powerhouses; having a big treasury to show off their wealth, power, and status to the masses. By doing so, they let the others watch helplessly first, and when they finally invoke everyone's ambition to possess the same kind of wealth and power. Just by granting them what they want they can easily control the masses with their greed and desire!

After all, why would everyone want status for? Of course, for control over power and wealth. Because if they only want power why the hell they needed these statuses for? When they can just cultivate peacefully in solitude.

After that time, Ace never become afraid or anxious about the future. There will always be treasuries until one abandons its greed to control others and most importantly avarice for wealth!

The more one becomes powerful the more they wanted to control others and the best way for doing it was also Wealth!

Ace returns to Javier's room and though while lying on the comfortable bedding, 'Should I use Weston Family status and go in the manor tomorrow? Nah, if were them I would never let this rotten egg roaming around my house.' He was still pondering how to find that darn treasury!

Meanwhile, inside the Jade Pavilion Grand Hall.

Zelda was gracefully sitting in a chair while calmly watching a grey-haired old man with a peculiar look in her eyes.

This old man has the air of an old scholar around him. The most astonishing thing was this old man was wearing an Azure Robe with Flame Pill Mark just like Zelda!

He was Vance Golden an Azure Grade Alchemist and also the Grand Prince of Golden Hammered Kingdom. Furthermore, he was the one who discovered The Blood Rose a hundred years ago!

Hundred years ago, Vance was a young man full of vigor and very talented in alchemy. He became a Blue Alchemist at the age of twenty-four and hail as the most talented alchemist in the lands of kingdoms.

However, the splendor didn't last long because even after ten years he can't break into the ranks of Azure Grade Alchemists. Thus, he decided to roam around the lands to find his chance for a breakthrough.

After traveling around for years, he finally found an old rune of the devil clan and got some benefits from it, and manage to break through into Qi River Realm as well as into the Azure Grade!

Additionally, in that rune, he found the record about the Blood Rose and even found the legendary herb. He was so excited at that time; he even laughs in his sleep.

But there was still time for the herb to mature so he simply decided to tell his brother about it since their relationship was quite great. After, they easily control the whole red mountain city and secret within.

Moreover, if he got promoted his family would also reap the benefits so there were almost zero chances of his brother backstabbing him since he wasn't an alchemist. Furthermore, even if the king kills Vance, he simply can't bear the wrath of the Pill Flame Organization because they have a method to finding out who killed their people even if someone used assassination.

That's what makes the organization so dreadful and no one dares to pick on its people anymore. They have eradicated an entire empire once just because a prince dares to assassinate a Blue Alchemist to make it clearer; a sect-made organization wasn't one to trifle with.

As for hundred years period, for Qi River Realm Cultivators, hundred years were half of their life span because cultivators of Qi River Realm can prolong their life span for hundred years!

That's why Vance waited for hundred years so he could get his hands on the legendary herb and exchange it with a method for entering into the higher realm. If he were to succeed their kingdom might have a chance to become an empire and he could easily enter the purple grade alchemist with the help of Flam Pill Organization. Most importantly, his life span would go up to five hundred years!

But alas, all his dreams were destroyed by a little thief!

First, he wanted to come personally but the time was chaotic, and decided to go with his big brother the King plan to send Dulce here. He was very confident and proud of his talented niece so he wasn't worried much.

However, when Vance heard the news of the Blood Rose robbery, he vomits a large amount of blood and fainted on the spot.

That's why he comes here full of fury and beat Dulce black and blue without holding back anything. But he can't kill her since she was still his brother's daughter and he himself care much for her. Therefore, after beating her, he drags her back himself and comes back to find that rascal thief!

Yet, even after a whole year, he can't find anything and that makes him extremely vex and he almost starts genocide in the lands of cities just like Dulce. But he forced himself back because he knew a legend and that even made him tremble in fear.

In the end, with gritting teeth Vance decided to accept Zelda's help and share the blood rose with her after finding it.

It made him hate that thief to bone marrow. How could he not? If not for him, all of this would never even happen in the first place!

Zelda saw Vance's face that was as dark as charcoal and wanted to laugh at this old guy's misfortune but for sake of accruing that thief's portrait held herself back.

But how could Vance an old fox who lives for more than a hundred years didn't see the ridicule in Zelda's eyes? This made him, even more, vex and his face fell.

'Hmph! Still wet behind her ears, If not for that scoundrel of a thief I would never even speak with this girl!' Vance grinds his teeth in hatred.

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 83: A Thief Has Thousands Faces!

Zelda saw Vance's face color switch between blue and black and know she unknowingly hit a bloody nerve so she quickly said, "Master Golden, please control your anger. You have to be clear-headed if you want to find that villainous thief."

She wasn't afraid of offending him but he was a huge help to her since her Aunt Layla can't show her face in public. Moreover, if those other powers find out that she was in this place where even birds didn't shit, they would immediately send their investigators.

Vance take a deep breath and finally suppressed his raging temper. He knew she was right if he loses his composure how could he find that despicable thief?

"It was indeed this old man's fault for showing such a repulsive sight to Miss Green Flame. Please forgive old me." Vance was indeed furious but even he didn't dare to scold this 'Green Flame'.

The reason was very simple, she pop out of nowhere five years ago and become one of the youngest Azure Alchemists of the Pill Flame Organization. No one knows her real name, background or ever see her real face before and only called her 'Green Flame'.

Even if she was young, her background was absolutely scary because whoever, Alchemists or other high-level officers alike, tries provoking her almost everyone disappeared without any trace. The scariest part was, even the Pill Flame Organization didn't investigate this peculiar phenomenon.

That's why every alchemist of the organization was now afraid of this dark star and stay as far away as possible from her.

Vance was also one of those who didn't want to mingle with this woman but he was at his wit's end and finally resign to his fate.

"You don't need to be this curtsied with me. I know what you been going through."

Zelda didn't remain on this and directly ask, "Master Golden, I was wondering why can't you find that thief until now? Is it possible that he was not from low-level lands?"

Vance sighs helplessly, "I also don't know, but from our source, it is confirmed. That thief was originally from a 2-Star City that my foolish niece destroyed after finding out about him."

This source of his was of course remnants of River flower city, the Kelby father and son, included Rylan Grant!

Since Ace has taken away Dulce's storage ring, the three poisoned kin didn't last long without the antidote. But before their death, Dulce extracted all kinds of information out of them about Ace that they know.

Dulce was indeed a bitch but she in no way an idiot. She knew, her father and uncle won't forgive her. Especially her uncle and that's why she collects all the information she can on Ace to escape grave punishment. And she succeeded in the end.

"But let me tell you this." Vance didn't let Zelda speak and proceeded gravely, "That little thief was only 13 or 14 when Dulce encounter him and he managed to escape after stealing the formation plate from her. It is clear that he knows about rune symbols!"

Zelda finally narrowed her beautiful eyes because a Rune Crafter was even rarer than alchemists. The reason for that was because only a soul cultivator or someone with the Light Element Qi can become a rune crafter!

"You must be jesting with me, Master Golden. Even you know that rune crafters are like phoenix feathers in the whole Azure-Wind Continent. And even if your conjecture is true; don't it ever occur to you that a rune crafter didn't need to become a thief? He just has to show his talent to Pill Flame Organization and they would train him with every resource they have." Zelda said with full of contempt.

'This old guy really lost his mind after losing the blood rose. If a soul cultivator or even light cultivation techniques really begin to emerge in this barren place then we won't be able to sleep in peace.' Zelda leer at Vance.

"You have a point Miss Green Flame. I apologized for my ignorance." Vance was completely agreed with her on this, "Now let's discuss business, shall we?" He didn't beat around the bush.

Zelda's eyes flashed with brilliance hearing those words.

The very next morning,

Ace opened his drowsy eyes, he was feeling refreshed and full of energy.

After few moments those two maids came to serve him but he refused outright since he wasn't used to this kind of treatment.

Now those two maids really begin to wonder that this was really that psycho who always abused them from the moment he opens his eyes every day. But since it was in their favor they completely overlooked it.

Ace eat breakfast in the room and was again amazed by this lavishing way of living. If it wasn't for his goals and the longing to become powerful he would definitely live like this.

'What should I do about the problem of the treasury?' He grimaced, just thinking about this riddle gave him a huge headache.

This Javier was a rotten egg and he was sure of it that he was quite famous in the prince manor as well. But now he was Javier and this kind of fame was a very big problem for Ace.

'Sigh...'

He sighed helplessly, 'I should meet with this idiot father and see if I can get inside the manor.'

Ace outlined what he should do to reach his goal for a while and head outside.

Ace enter the hall of the villa and spotted a middle-aged man with a chubby build and short beard, who was reading something while tightly knit his brows.

'Braxton Weston!' He rapidly identified who this middle-aged man was, he was the head butler of prince manor and Javier's father Braxton Weston.

Ace didn't dare to be careless in front of Braxton and act like Javier as good as he could and enter the hall haughtily.

Braxton heard footsteps and look in the direction and saw Javier was coming towards him with a face full of vanity. His eyes turn cold and released the pressure of Early Foundation Realm to shot Javier down a peg.

After all, he was his father, and Javier displaying arrogance in his presence was clearly displeased him but alas he always does this so he was somewhat used to this routine.

Ace felt the pressure, 'Too weak.' He mocked in his heart but show an awful face as he scream, "Old Man do you want to murder your own son?!"

'A thief has a thousand faces. Is this what it meant?' Ace lament in his heart, he never speaks with someone like this before but to pretend to be like Javier he could only become like him. This is also a kind of learning for him.

"You, unfilial son! Is this how you speak with your father??" Braxton bellow furiously.

Those servants around them didn't seem new to this kind of scene, it was clear this is a daily thing for them to witness.

"Fine, Father! Can you please stop showing off now? I'm almost crushed here!" Ace sarcastically retorted.

Braxton sighed helplessly and retrieve his pressure. No matter how much rotten Javier was a tiger would never eat his cubs even if that cub appeared to be a dog.

Ace has a sigh of relief secretly, 'He didn't suspect anything.'

Braxton coldly said before Ace could, "You better not go in that shady building anymore since it turns into ash and I don't want anyone to find out that you were one of their regulars!"

How could Braxton didn't know what his own son was doing in all these years but what can he do? Javier's character was rotten to the core, he was doing all this outside of the prince manor was already a blessing so he let him be.

But now that everything has come to light how could he let his bastard sully his reputation?

Ace knew what Braxton mean by this and was inwardly pleased about it, 'It's seemed they escape without any hitch.'

But how could he show his satisfaction in front of Braxton, Javier smug face instantly turn ugly, and said, "I don't know what you're talking about!"

He exits the villa in anger just like how real Javier would've reacted after hearing this news.

Braxton grunted, "At least he knows how to read the mood." He began to read again. "Someone stolen from a top ten kingdom? This person's guts if high as heaven. But these rewards are really to lavishing even this old me is temper by them." He mumbles softly.

In Braxton's hand was a portrait of a young man between the age of 12 and 13 and he was extremely handsome and below was a slogan.

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"This thief has stolen something very important from the Golden Hammered Kingdom. Anyone who can find him or give accurate information on this thief will be rewarded with; Hundred Million Ruby Coin and a Warrior Grade Skill."

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This wanted poster was released just this early morning and by now this thief's face was presumably seen by every person in the western lands!

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 84: Young Prince!

Ace exited the Weston Villa and decided to stroll around the prince manor territory since he wasn't able to scout it completely last night. Furthermore, he was in a good mood after fooling Braxton.

'The weather is quite good for a stroll.' He coolly walks while enjoying the beautiful scenery and cozy weather.

Ace suddenly spotted two young men with a pile of papers seemingly in a hurry. They were coming from the manor's direction and he couldn't help but wonder about those papers. Just a while ago he also saw the same size of paper in Braxton's hands.

'Just what is in this paper about?' His interest was piqued.

"You two fellow brothers please wait." Ace shouted at those two young men.

Those young men were in a hurry because their mission was to post these wanted posters throughout the city. But when they spotted Javier was walking towards them cold sweat broke out and their complexion turn horrible.

They clearly know this young master 'fame' and are afraid of offending him so they stop and pray that he could let them walk away without any ominous demands.

Ace saw those two ashen complexions and sigh inwardly. He has somewhat used it now and asks, "What are these papers?" Since those papers were upside down he can't see what was on them.

Those two didn't delay and quickly give a wanted poster to Ace and said one of them before escaping, "Young Master, this a wanted poster of a thief and the order came right from the Grand Prince, to post them all around the city. So, we have to leave, Please forgive our rudeness, farewell."

Ace didn't stop them and turn the wanted poster curiously to see just who this thief was that even Grand Prince was taking note and even posting these posters around. After all, he was also a thief, and encountering another one made Ace's a little bit enthusiastic.

But when Ace saw the picture on the wanted poster all the colors on his face drain because it was him three years ago!

Although, he was now mature and change from all those years ago, however, it was no doubts him!

Ace's breath becomes a little rough but he still controls his emotions and reads the entire slogan below his picture. Ever since he built the foundation of darkness Ace had better control over his sentiment and was quite calm and collective. But his complexion turns quite ugly after reading the rewards.

He mutters gravely, "It's that bitch fault! But why is this Grand Prince is involving himself into this?"

Ace easily trace it back to Dulce since she was the only one who saw his face that night and her kingdom name was in it that confirmed his guess.

'I should've killed her there and then at all cost!'

But alas, he wasn't powerful enough to do so and the time was also not in his favor on that day.

Ace takes a deep breath to soothe his nerve and chase after those two young men. He has to find out just how many people know about this and this Grand Prince's role in all this.

"Hey, you two stop right there!" Ace wasn't in good mood anymore and right now he was somewhat using the harsh tone just like Javier.

Those two flutters a bit as they swiftly stop in their tracks, 'We're dead!'

"Javier! You Sick Pervert who hell do you think you are? Stopping someone from doing the important mission, are you revolting against the prince manor!?" An enraged roar sounded at this moment.

'This voice?' Ace was jolt stop by this voice and quickly turn around to see the owner of it and when he was who it was disbelief filled his eyes and almost felt this world was mocking him.

"Why are you here?" Ace yelp abruptly.

There was standing a normal-looking young man with black eyes and hair. There was a fingernail size mole on his nose tip. How could Ace forget about this fellow this was Bill that he meets and dine with just two days ago!

Bill was confused by this idiotic question of Javier and snorted, "What do mean why I'm here? This Prince lives here! This is my fucking house. You two go don't listen to this sick fuck anymore."

Ace was bewildered by this and suddenly understand everything by Bill litter comment, 'This guy is the young prince!??'

It was even bigger news than him being wanted!

Because Ace knew the Grand Prince live here with a Young Prince that was supposed to be his successor but he didn't dream that this happy-go-lucky guy was the prince of a kingdom like Luminous!

Ace quickly control himself and again become like Javier but there was still clear shock in his eyes.

Those two young men have long been escaping after receiving confirmation from the young prince and even this sick guy can't do anything to them now.

"Y-You're a prince?" Ace couldn't help but ask again for confirmation.

Bill frown, "Did you head kick by a donkey? You didn't even recognize this Prince and not even greet me?"

"Oh, my apologies Prince." Ace was still not clear-headed after receiving so many shocks and finally slip!

Bill's eyes widened, "Yo... you really apologies??"

Ace instantly know his mistake and cursed his stupidity. He quickly makes an arrogant face and said sarcastically, "Do you really believe that I would say that to a shorty brat like you??" He insults Bill with whatever came to his mind first and felt a little sorry about it.

Bill begins to tremble after hearing 'Shorty Brat' this is his biggest taboo and no one dares to scold him like this and all the doubt about Javier vanish and turns into fierceness. He even forget about what he was going to do.

"JAVIER! Say it again if you dare!"

Ace knew he has somewhat offended this guy and felt even more sorry about it but he can't expose himself, "What will you do kill me? The son of Head Butler?" Now he could only use the status of Braxton to make Bill back down.

Just as he expected Bill instantly pacifies a bit hearing about Head Butler. Although he was a prince, his status was not equal to one and he can't even punish a mere butler's son openly.

"Fine, You Win!" Bill has learned when to back down and know he can't get even with Javier inside the prince manor.

Ace didn't want to talk with Bill like this since he didn't want to clash with him and wanted to go somewhere where he could get more information about this wanted poster.

But suddenly Ace has a strange thought when he looked at Bill's stiff face and senses Bill's gloomy mood. 'Forgive me.' He has to confirm something!

Ace asked haughtily while waving his own poster at Bill, "Do you know where this poster came from. The rewards are quite to my liking." He licks his lip passionately to show he was very interested in the rewards, not the person.

When Bill saw the poster, Ace felt Bill's soul become chaotic and anxiety fill his face. Ace was quite astonished by it.

"I-I don't know shit about a petty thief." Bill was clearly a little panicked first but still said, "And you want the rewards? Just don't die first now fuck off! This prince has other matter."

Bill didn't wait for Javier's answer, he was not in the good mood from the moment he saw this wanted poster.

Because he knew who the young man was from the moment he laid his eyes on the portrait, especially those dark blue sky-like eyes. This was his new rich friend that he made just two days ago, Asher!

Bill was very shocked by this and thought this was some other person but when he looked carefully this was really his new mysterious friend. He thought this was some kind of joke destiny is played on him and nearly has a stroke. He didn't talk much with Ace before but clearly knew he wasn't a bad person either.

Bill truly felt that this guy is different from others and that's why he was going outside to find Asher before anyone else and even help him escape the city safely. After all, he calls him a friend and Bill takes this quite seriously but just so happened he encountered Javier in his way.

Ace didn't stop Bill anymore and let him leave. He wanted to confirm exactly this! Because he knew if anyone who could recognize him would be Bill!

Because Bill was the only one who interacted with him for the longest and knew Ace was in the Luminous City at this moment. He wanted to see if this guy would open his mouth and sell his friend for wealth.

But Ace clearly felt Bill was anxious after seeing his wanted poster. This made Ace feel some warmth in his heart and his impression of Bill became quite better.

But now was not the time to dwell on it, he has to find out the gravity of this situation and lay low for time being.

It was also a blessing that he already changed his face or someone might've really recognized him!

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 85: Famous Throughout The Land Of Cities!

Meanwhile in the Jade Pavilion Grad Hall,

Five people were sitting around the jade table.

They were Zelda, Vance, Dion, Wes, and of course Colton.

"How's the distribution of wanted posters going?" Vance asked agitatedly.

Dion answers coolly, "Don't worry Master Golden, right about now every city in the western lands has the poster of that littler thief. As for the eastern lands, it will take some time."

Zelda chimes in at this moment, "Eastern lands have already received the wanted poster. Therefore, you guys just focus on western lands."

Everyone take a deep breath and looked at her shockingly. This women's background is really scary.

One has to know that it will take almost three months to travel between western and eastern lands at the top speed of a carriage pulled by demonic beasts. But she has somehow done it in a single night, how could they not be wary of her?

The most astonished of them all were Wes and Colten. This was their first time sitting between all these esteemed figures.

Vance speaks firmly at this moment, "I appreciate everyone's help, especially Grand Prince. But I think we're underestimating that thief even now. Do you think he can't change his appearance?"

"I know what Master Golden is thinking but he can't escape from our grasps with me here, I can assure you." Zelda guarantees with full of confidence.

Actually, Zelda has not told the entire truth, the power behind her has already covered the entire lands of cities and the moment that thief appeared, he would fell into an inescapable trap! Even if he changed his appearance they had treasures that can see through any disguise below Qi River Realm.

In their eyes, that thief was only a Qi Gates Cultivator, and even if he disguise it won't be at the level of a Qi River because it was almost impossible to this kind of disguise treasure appearing here of all places.

Hence, Zelda was not worried at all. Every city was currently being browsed with that treasure and that power was confident in finding that thief in ten days.

And when that happened before anyone notices; that thief would have already vanished with Zelda in tow.

Vance didn't speak anymore, because he knew, now he was at the mercy of this mysterious Green Flame. But he was not a pushover either and watching her every single move.

The moment Vance finds this girl was deceiving him he would use his full power to take her hostage and threaten that mysterious power. He got nothing to lose now since he was at the end of his life. If he can't live anymore what is the point of being extremely cautious?

As for the Golden Hammered Kingdom, he didn't bother anymore.

Living is more important for him than anything else even if he has to sacrifice everything that he once holds dear!

This is also how most humans react when they saw death awaiting, even those hot-blooded ones would waver in the face of absolute death!

In the evening Ace finally, return to Javier's room in dismal.

Ace has investigated what he could do the whole day and find out that his wanted posters have spread around the whole western lands.

Everyone is talking about him and wanted to hunt him down because the alluring warrior-grade skill is unrestrainable!

Because the warrior grade skills are almost impossible to find in the land of cities and whoever has it would turn into history!

Yet, now a kingdom itself is giving it how could those families not be excited? Even those high and mighty families begin to search for him wholeheartedly like Ace was a precious treasure!

Furthermore, Ace also assumed that two of the top ten kingdoms were looking for him right now and form an alliance. That's could only mean one thing; the Luminous Kingdom also knows about the Blood Rose!

However, Ace didn't know even more terrifying power was searching for him because his scope of reasoning was still low.

Yet all this pressure gave him a thrill from the bottom of his heart for some reason. he does not know why but he was excited at this moment. His mentality has long been undergone an immense change from the moment he experience the power of Heaven himself.

Now all these worldly trials were just stepping stones for him to become more powerful! He didn't want to be helpless like last time in face of heavenly punishment anymore, he wanted to fight against it and show he was not an ant!

Ace looked at the stars in the sky and lament, "Life of a thief is not easy. But I like it! Even heaven is my enemy what this bunch of mortals are? Do you all want to find me because of a mere first-grade herb? How about I steal from this place and give you all a pleasant surprise?"

A sudden dark current flashed past Ace's eyes.

"A thief should also have a heart and soul of a thief. I'm the darkness and darkness is me, even heaven steal so what if I steal? A Thief's Soul is key and heart is the door..."

Ace fell into a trance, he suddenly begins to whisper Heaven Stealer Technique, Black Wind Soul scripture.

Ace was enlightened at this moment! He finally comprehends the last part of Black Wind Soul that was stopping him from entering the next realm.

Inside his true soul, the yellow wind soul core begins to revolve at high speed and shine brighter like the sun.

After a moment its yellow hue begins to change and slowly it starts turning darker! This was the sign of a new soul core appearing!

Ace felt a huge surge of Soul Qi inside his true soul and that qi form a vortex right above the soul core that has begun its transformation. That vortex sucked a huge amount of Heavenly Soul Qi and pour it into the soul core.

After five hours, the transforming of the soul core was finally complete and the yellow soul core was now bright orange.

He has finally formed the Orange Wind Soul Core and it is equant to the Qi River Realm of martial cultivation!

However, the transformation wasn't complete yet, his true soul begins to expand and so did his other senses. After expanding for two hundred and fifty meters this transformation was also completed.

Now the Orange Soul Core was rotating slowly inside Ace's true soul and emitting an ocherous haze.

Ace opened his eyes and felt the world has become clearer and more colorful. He could feel his senses now expanded to 250 meters and his heavenly soul qi was now orange in color.

[Congratulation Host!]

[You have formed the Orange Wind Soul Core!]

[Due to Host martial cultivation is too low, the Host can not use the Element Soul Qi of any Kind!]

[Your soul cultivation status has been updated]"

Ace frown seeing this notification and asked, "What do you mean I can't use any Element Qi, did I have more than one element qi?"

"[Yes, the host has more than one element soul qi. However, the host is currently in the early stage of the Heavenly Foundation, and using Heavenly Soul Qi of Element is harmful to the host body that is why it is sealed.]

Ace was amazed because he didn't know if someone can have two types of elements qi but he never heard of it. Since he can't use it, he didn't mind it that much and focus on the other thing.

Every time he broke through to a new soul cultivation realm he got some kind of innate ability. The first time, he got Soul Sense and Heavenly Sense. The second time he got the Soul Signature ability.

Now he breakthrough for the third time and it was time for the new ability but before he could figure it out,

"[Soul Probing is also sealed because of Host insufficient cultivation!]"

It was as if someone has poured a bucket of cold water on him and he roar in his mind, "Then why the hell I break through for?! If I can't even use it???"

"[Host can now cross stages by using only EXP!]" A jaunty voice rang inside his mind.

Ace immediately remembered the benefits of having higher soul cultivation!

However, he said suddenly, "Who are you? You're not the system, right?" He finally gets a chance to talk with this mysterious voice that would come abruptly and disappear after!

Before Ace didn't have the skill to tell the difference between the system voice but now he was a soul cultivator equal to a Qi River Martial Cultivator.

Moreover, he knew just how heaven-defying the system truly was and this voice clearly wanted him to find its existence or with his meager cultivation how could he discovered it. Whoever was inside the system, it has to be some terrifying existence!

Some moments passed but no reply come from the system. Ace knew he has no control over the system and could only give up the idea of talking with this mysterious voice. But he wasn't discouraged by it in the least bit.

'One day I'll find out just who you really are and what's your goal is!' Ace sworn!

Eternal Thief

Chapter 86: New Ability: Soul Probing!

After cultivating for five hours, Ace didn't feel any exhaustion.

He felt full of energy but he has noticed something very serious, whenever he tried to use his soul qi he felt a little discomfort in his true soul!

'Is this why the system sealed my soul cultivation? It seems having a big gap between my body and soul is really not a good thing.' Ace thought.

He didn't feel like this before because the Qi River Realm was a major turning point for any cultivator; at this realm, one reveal their element and that almost decided what path a cultivator would take in the future.

But Ace still didn't know what his element was but has some idea what it be.

'Since the is the issue of the gap in cultivation why not just shorten it down?' Ace smirked and transmitted, "System how many experience points would I get after converting all the Pills and Medicinal Herbs inside my thief's space?"

Before he can't cross stages without understanding the realm but now that he was already equal to a Qi River Soul Cultivator, the bottleneck didn't exist for him anymore.

He was going to use everything he had to shorten the gap between his soul and martial cultivation.

"[System is calculating...]"

[All the herbs and pills in thief's space can be converted into 950,000 EXP]

[Did you want to proceed with the conversion?]

'I can only breakthrough into mid-stage with this much EXP. Well, it better than nothing.' Ace said without any hesitation, "Convert them all."

"[Conversion Complete!]"

[950,000 EXP has been added to Host status]

[Congratulation host on reaching the Middle Stage of Heavenly Foundation Building]

[Host status has been updated]"

Swiftly, Ace felt a huge amount of Heavenly Qi pouring inside his body but not from the outside but the Dark Void!

He was shocked by this because whenever he used EXP, Ace knew the Qi came from the system but now Dark Void was providing it. He didn't anticipate such a change would transpire after he built the Heavenly Foundation.

He didn't have time to dwell on it because the huge amount of Heavenly Qi begins to circulate in his meridians.

After nine cycles the Qi retune in the dark void where it converts into the HD-Qi.

The tidal wave of inky Qi directly enters the nine dark foundation slates surrounding the dark void. Those dark slates begin to expand rapidly.

When every bit of Qi was absorbed by those slates they have expanded by fifty percent! If those nine slates were fifty square meters before, now they were a hundred square meters.

This is the end of Ace's smooth breakthrough into the Middle Heavenly Foundation Stage. It was also Ace's first time witnessing the dark void in action and it's important to him! It has become his martial cultivation core.

Ace finally opened his eyes and a deep current flashed past them as he breathe out turbulent air.

'I can now kill those Peak Qi Foundation Experts within ten moves and one hit if I sneak attack them.'
Ace thought and even he was stunned just how overbearing his prowess was.

But when he remembered about the elemental orbs and the heavenly punishment he frowned and thought it was extremely normal to possess such power when there was this kind of huge price to pay. He wasn't a naïve kid anymore.

"Status!"

[Status Panel]

[Host: Ace White]

[Race: Human [No Bloodline]]

[Heaven: 1st Mortal Sky Heaven]

[Martial Cultivation: Heavenly Foundation Building [Middle-Stage]]

[EXP: 450,000/1,000,000]

[Soul Cultivation: Orange Wind Soul Core]

[SP: 1030/100,000]

[Skills: 5]

[Stealth Basic: [Perfection]]

Silent Steps Basic: [Perfection]

True & False Eyes Basic: [Perfection]

Pick Pocket: [Perfection]

Treasure Opening Hands [Basic Art]: [5th Form]]

[Cultivation Technique: 2]

[[Heaven Stealer Technique Volume 1], [Dual Shadow Swords]]

[Thief Points (TP): 1095]

[Mission(s): 1]

[Job Mission: Host has to do honorable thievery at a city lord's mansion of the No.1 City in the Low-Level Lands. (Lands of cities)]

[Rewards]

[Thief Panel will be unlocked]

[Shop will be updated]

[Other rewards based on Host Performance]

[Time: 10 months left.]

[Punishment on failing: System will stop working for 50 years]

Every time Ace saw his growing status he would always feel content but this time he felt gloomy instead.

The first reason was the growing EXP especially SP that jump from thousand to one hundred thousand in one go! He clearly knew just how hard it was to find SP because he only encounters the Blood Rose that give him the option of 10,000 SP and that was also a grade one herb!

The second reason was of course the time left for the job mission.

'I have to take risks now.' Ace sighed when he heard the system's voice again.

"[Soul Probing 10% Power has been unsealed!]"

"Isn't this the ability name that I obtained after forming the Orange Soul Core and was sealed by the system?" Ace knit his brows while mumbling, "Is it open because I reached the middle stage? Doesn't this mean I can unlock more if I reached the higher stages!"

Ace instantly grabs the crux of the matter and becomes eristic.

"System what is this soul probing exactly?" Ace directly asked because he didn't have any time to waste on finding out about it right now.

"[50 TP]"

"Why don't you rob me directly??" Ace was rendered speechless seeing the system returning to its old ways and become even more ruthless.

"[System only asked for the compensation according to host question importance.]" System justified itself with an emotionless voice.

"Fine, you win! Take them and tell me." Ace knew he can't win this fight.

[Thief Points: 1045]

After receiving the TP system voice rang in Ace mind,

"[Soul Probing: The ability to Prob someone's memories randomly without them even knowing. Only work on someone with a weaker soul than the host.]

[Warning: If the host use soul probing on someone with a whole realm higher or stronger soul, the host will experience a terrible backlash.]

[Currently, the Host can use only 10% of soul probing prowess that means the host can only Prob someone's soul at Qi Gate Realm for an hour. Any more and the host will experience a huge backlash and true soul would take direct damage since the host is not in Heavenly River Realm.]"

Ace was truly alarmed by this new ability and stunned after hearing the grave warning of the system in the end.

"I...Isn't it too overpowered if I can read someone's memories even at random?" Ace mutters as his eyes sparkled with excitement. "I just need this right now! System are you helping me while pretending to be ignorant?"

He didn't receive any answer but didn't care about it either.

Even with this one-hour limit, this soul probing was going to help him find that hidden treasury location, and he has already decided to whom he was going to use it.

After Ace's big breakthrough in soul cultivation, he understands more what it truly meant to be a thief and he was going to do something big this time.

This thing going to shatter the peace of entire Middle-Level lands and cause a ripple in the High-Level Lands!

For the next fifteen days, Ace practice the soul probing on those two maids and didn't go around to search for the treasury anymore.

He also heard the news about his own manhunt now and then, which was becoming intense day by day.

However, no one was able to find any clues on that thief even after fifteen days and everyone thought that this little thief was long been fled from the lands of cities.

Some families even begin to search the wastelands but to no avail.

The most depressed of everyone was obviously not Vance Golden it was Zelda and her Aunt!

Vance on the other hand was feeling quite good seeing Zelda's depressed every day and enjoying himself in Jade Pavilion.

He was dismal for a whole year and now seeing someone else in the same position, how could he not be happy? And that person was also the famous genius of Pill Flame Organization, Green Flame! This was just like having a cherry on the top of the icing.

At this moment inside Jade Pavilion,

"Aunt, do you think that thief has fled in the land of kingdom somehow?" Zelda ask eagerly from Layla who was sitting beside her while her eyes were closed.

Lyla didn't open her eyes but said gravely, "Not possible. You know if that thief is born here he can't go outside no matter what without 'their' approval. And getting approval from 'them' is impossible without winning the hundred years trails."

Zelda clearly knew what Layla mean and retorted in frustration, "But that scoundrel isn't even in the lands of fallen! How can you explain this!?"

Lyla finally open her beautiful eyes and a huge pressure appear all of sudden, "DON'T EVER SPEAK THAT NAME AGAIN!"

Zelda's complexion turns ashen when she recalls what she just said in the moment of heat. "I... I-I understand. It was not on purpose."

"Silly girl, don't lose your tranquillity like this in the future or our whole clan might get destroyed!" Lyla also didn't mention it again and said softly, "As for that little rat, I don't know which hole he was hiding in but we can't find any trace. We even scan every chicken in every city with Truth Seeing Mirrors."

Layla was also frustrated and know this time they have truly encountered a troublesome opponent and he was only fifteen or sixteen years old at that.

This was truly infuriating!

Chapter 87 - Treasury Location!

One month has passed since the manhunt of the little thief begin but no one was able to find even a trace of him.

Now, the passion was dying down, and everyone assumed that the thief was not from the lands of cities, and many had given up on the rewards already.

The power behind Zelda also stop wasting their resources to find a ghost, after all, it was not easy to search on the scale of huge low-level lands.

Zelda even received the order for going back to her post within a month when the new Pavilion Master of Jade Pavilion will arrive.

Vance in end also gave up and blame all this on Dulce and decided to punish her himself after going back. But he still didn't leave, he was waiting for Zelda to leave first because there was a chance she could found out that thief after he leave.

One thought does come to Vance's mind and that was to exchange the information about the legendary herb with Pill Flame Organization, but he was still debating over it.

Wes and Colton weren't so depressed about this situation because they weren't losing anything and Zelda even compensate them with a Low Warrior Grade Skill.

Dion was the one who feeling the most pain since he won't be leaving this hell hole any time soon. He was so mad that he even punished Bill his nephew for using the manor guards to find some random person without his approval.

That unknown thief was now famous throughout the land of cities and even gain a popular name after a whole month, "***Slippery Rat!***"

As for the person in question he was enjoying his meal while scowling heavenly.

"Those bastards are calling me 'slippery rat' just because they can't find me? I'll give you all idiots a big surprise this time around. Just you all wait!" Ace was not happy with this new nickname of his.

When he found out this name he 'greeted' the whole nine generations of that person's ancestors whoever came up with it. He like Black Ghost and Thousand Hands Ghost though.

"Well, I better find that treasury now that I finally get the hang of soul probing." Ace completely understand the new ability within a month by practicing on those two pitiful maids.

Now he knows almost everything about them especially Javier with their memories. He can now play Javier even more perfectly. He even fools his mother.

But the time of this ability was still an hour that's why it takes him a month to completely grasp it.

Ace waited for midnight and finally sneak outside Javier's room. He was heading towards the dungeon where the prince manor kept all those criminals who break rules and one who received punishment.

He was going there because his target of soul probing was none other than the young prince and his 'friend', Bill Luminous!

Ace felt quite bad about it first but when he found out, that naïve guy was secretly searching for him to help him escape but was punished instead.

Afterward, Ace found out that Bill's reputation was not good here and everyone treated him inadequately just because he wasn't ruthless and decisive like his uncle! Bill was a carefree person and kindhearted and just wanted to live his life freely but end up here.

From that day Ace didn't felt any trouble by robbing this prince manor anymore. Bill even received punishment for his sake, a person he didn't even know completely, and by just following his own heart.

Ace wanted to free him but was powerless because if even the wind of him reached those morons that he was here they would do everything in their power to capture him. Hence, he could only let it be for the time being.

A heavily guarded building came in Ace view. He felt soul waves of early foundation realm experts from five hundred meters away. This was the advantage of having powerful soul cultivation.

Ace didn't decrease his speed and enter the guarded building without even care. Those didn't felt even wind of his and stay still like before.

Ace stealth has become more powerful after he entered the middle stage of Heavenly Foundation and these early-stage qi foundation experts are nothing in his eyes now.

There were many low-level traps but Ace passed them like it was nothing and enter the deeper level of the building.

A potent smell enters his nostrils as he goes downwards and he spotted rows of iron cells. Ace scan with his soul and finally found Bill's soul signature.

When Ace reached the last cell in the left row, he saw Bill was sleeping while snorting, *'This idiot.'*

Ace smiled wryly but he was relieved on seeing him fine. But he suddenly spotted some lash marks on Bill's face and his face fell. 'That guy didn't even spare his own nephew.' Rage filled his eyes.

Ace clearly knew the difference between friends and foes. And now he considers Bill his friend because of what he did for him.

He was here to prob his memories and want to find the treasury from them but seeing Bill scars Ace can't bring himself to do it.

'I'm still too soft.' Ace smiled bitterly before taking out the formation plate from the thief's space and lock the area around within the barrier. No one would come at this hour but it was better to be safe than sorry.

Ace didn't think he would use this formation like this, after setting the formation he released a little bit of his cultivation pressure solely on Bill.

Bill was having a nice dream of beauties when he felt a mountain fell from the sky and his eyes sprang open. But that pressure instantly vanished after he awake. He looked around vigilantly to see if his uncle sent someone to torture him, but the cell and its surroundings were empty.

One has to know those iron bars were not normal even an early qi foundation building expert can't break them easily much less a guy like Bill who was at the peak of the sixth qi gate.

Bill suddenly saw a figure appearing out of thin air outside the cell and his pupil shrunk in horror. *'Is this an assassin of that organization?'* His view of this world was more boarded than Ace's and instantly thought of a terrifying organization.

But when Bill saw the face of this figure in the dim light he was flabbergasted because it was other than Javier!

"Y-you... who ex...exactly are you??" Bill mustered up his courage and ask with a trembling voice. He knew this guy can't be that sick bastard because this kind of skill isn't something anyone could possess even in the land of kingdoms.

Ace grins broadly and takes off the two-face mask and retune to his usual handsome self.

Bill's eyes nearly pop out of his sockets when he saw Javier turned into his 'lost friend' Asher! He rubs his eyes and saw Asher was beaming at him and somewhat understand what was going on here.

Bill smile wryly while speaking, "Brother Asher I'm truly flattered if you're here to see your friend."

Ace was a little startled by Bill's strong control over his emotion and couldn't help but praised him.

"Young Prince, truly know me well." Ace didn't deny it since he was really there to see him but not like this first.

Bill felt somewhat embarrassed, "I didn't know it was you that time. I was truly worried for nothing. I made a fool out of myself." He bitterly said since Ace can change his appearance and hide this deeply he didn't need his help at all.

"Hah, don't say that I truly appreciate whatever you've done." Ace smile.

Bill took a deep breath and seriously asked, "I know this is me being ungrateful and out my boundary. But I couldn't help but wonder, why is my uncle and that old geezer from Golden Hammered was looking for you like mad dogs? Just what did you steal?"

Ace suddenly laughs seeing Bill's curious face.

"If I told you I steal a herb higher than the golden grade, will you believe me?" He smiles mysteriously.

Bill sucks a breath of cold air, "So that why everyone is going crazy over it." He was not an idiot and knew only this type of thing can make his uncle crazy.

"Then why are you here in this city and you even change your appearance as that sick fuck. Tell your friend I'll help you if I can." Bill was very sharp and connect the dots. He even offers his help without thinking twice, since Ace was here he wasn't here for just chitchat.

Ace truly praised this guy's intelligence and wonder why he end up like this but still said as his expression turn grave, "I'm here for plundering the Prince Manor's treasury! Now, can you tell me where the treasury is? Even if I'm robbing your own hoses?"

Bill looked deep into Ace's eyes, "Damn, you're aren't joking." He exclaimed and laugh all of sudden, "Hahaha, Brother Asher, you're asking me if I can help you slap that old geezer face or not. The answer is of course yes!"

"The treasury of prince manor was in the..." Bill grin widely and Ace holds his breath,

"Luminous Library!"

Chapter 88 - Going In The Luminous Library Again!

Ace nearly fell, discovering the location of the treasury, *'It's on that damn place.'* He smiles bitterly because he was barking up the wrong tree all along.

Bill imagine what Ace was thinking and laugh, "Heh, heh, Brother Asher I know what you're thinking, even I was shocked when I heard about it."

"But don't look down on it just because it was outside of the prince manor." But his expression turns grave the next moment, "I didn't know the treasury exact location since that old geezer didn't trust me much. But I know for sure, once a Qi River Cultivator tries to find it and only get himself killed in the end."

Ace's eyes narrowed into slits hearing this grave information, "I'll take my chances. I have to succeed no matter what." He stated firmly.

Back down just because of this, you must be jesting, he can't afford to lose system for fifty damn years!

Bill saw the strong resolve in Ace's eyes and lament, *'If I have his courage wouldn't I...'*

"Since Brother Asher already made up his mind I'll not stop you, it will, I'm being disrespectful towards you." Bill sighed, "But please be careful just entering the library sneakily is night impossible because of a formation."

Ace nodded and didn't continue on this topic, it was already enough that Bill has given him this much information, and was very grateful.

"Do you want to get out? I can help you escape the city if you don't want your status as the young prince anymore that is." Ace joke.

Bill knew this guy can really help him do this, "I wish. But I can't this land of cities isn't big enough for me to be free. After all, it's just a prison for fallen." He sighs with regret.

Ace pupil shrink, this was his first time hearing this term, and couldn't help but asked, "Prison for fallen what does it means?"

"I know you used a barrier formation to lock this place but I can't really tell you since even I don't know the whole truth. But I can't talk about it either because those old monsters in ancient lands will instantly know about it."

"But I can only give you a warning, this land of cities is nothing but a prison and if you wanted to break out of it you need to cross a deadly formation that is between the lands of cities and land of kingdoms."

"And to this day no one ever manages to do it. If you're born here then that formation will become even more deadly!" Bill was a happy-go-lucky person but while talking about this taboo topic even his face turns gloomy.

Ace was stunned because this was his first time even hearing about this. He always thought he could travel to the land of the kingdom just like he did with east and west. But if things were really the case then his whole plan of exiting the land of cities grandly was nothing but a pipe dream.

"Is there is no way of leaving the lands of cities?" He promptly asked Bill.

After all, Ace's whole future depends on it.

Bill pounder over it for a bit before saying instantly, "There is actually, hundred years trails."

Ace's face fell, did he have to wait for a hundred years?

'No, wait. How did Alina and that old goat sneak here if there is no way out?' Ace suddenly remembered Alina and her grandpa. *'There is a way out. I just have to find it!'*

"Brother Bill thanks for everything. I'll remember this huge favor and repay it anyhow. I need to leave now." Ace earnestly thanked Bill.

Bill smile heartedly hearing Ace calling him Brother for the first time.

"Don't mention it. Just remember to slap that geezer hard." Bill laugh out loud.

"Of course, I'm planning on giving everyone a pleasant surprised, just wait for my good news." Ace grin broadly.

Ace retrieve the formation barrier and everything was normal. He was about to leave before he turned around and asked, "If I found a way out of this place do you want me to fetch you?"

Bill's eyes brighten but dim the moment, he waves his hand, "No need. I'm here because of my mother's safety, if I leave they won't spare the Luminous Kingdom as a whole."

Ace sighed and leave, he heard from Bill about that Prince Cursed and know he can't help him right now.

But he can't right now doesn't mean he won't in the future. Yet, he didn't say it because he doesn't want to give Bill false hope since the journey ahead was filled with dangers and unknown.

Bill watched Ace vanished without trace and mumbles, "I wonder if he is really able to escape. I for once really wish he could and bring a huge storm there." He chuckles lightly. "Well, that greedy hag is about to fell in a deep shit-pit. Man, I'm looking forward to seeing her face."

He was going to sleep again when he saw a folded paper on his bedding and opened it. Inside was a name, "What an arrogant name for a thief. Well, I expect nothing less from my brother." Bill laughs as he turns that paper into dust.

Ace returned to Javier's room and couldn't help but chuckled remembered the conversation with Bill. *'He is a good person but I still didn't give him my true name.'*

Past traumas aren't easy to dissolve. He still didn't trust Bill completely

"Whatever, I guess I'm going to meet that old hag who swindles me again very soon." Ace laughs sinisterly as he retires for the night.

In the morning, Ace gets ready to go in the luminous library again but as Javier.

He first goes to Braxton and asked, "Old Man, I want to go in the Luminous Library, is there any problem?"

Since it has been a month, Ace was now used to behave like Javier.

'This rascal wanted to go in the library? Now, this is new.' Braxton frowned deeply but still replied, "You can go and gain access to the first floor with my identity crystal card. But why should I give it to you?"

Ace knew this guy was a tough nut to crack and said, "I know you're thinking I'm doing something shady with your identity crystal. But I'm really going there you can even send 'Big Log' with me."

Braxton raised his brows he knew Javier called Keith, Big Log. But he would never travel with him and now he was even asking for him just to go in the library?

'Did he turn over new leaf?' Braxton was somehow felt happy and said while taking his crystal card from the storage bag, "Here I trust you this time if you really do as you told me then I have no problem with you going in the library."

Javier snorted while taking Braxton's identity crystal card as he leave towards the carriage stand.

Braxton saw Javier leaving and said coolly, "Keep an eye on him. If he used my name to do something suspicious broke his legs and drag him back instantly."

"Yes" A voice sounded but no one was there.

Ace nonchalantly enters the carriage and comfortably sits in the seat. He had long been felt an Early Qi Foundation Expert was following his carriage but didn't care.

He knew Braxton would never leave a person like Javier alone with his identity crystal card.

Half an hour later the carriage stopped outside the luminous library.

Ace saw the familiar Library and mused, *'When I come in this city I enter in this place and also meet Bill outside this place. And now when everything is coming to an end I came back here. What a mysterious thing fate truly is.'*

Ace had already used true and false eyes but wasn't able to see anything. It was clear that this skill has reached its limit.

'This mission is just too important without it the store will never be upgraded.'

He entered the Library just like last time since the protective formation was only active at night or when the library was closed.

The door was opened and Ace spotted the old hag again. He also detected a storage ring now that he was clearer-headed than last time and really wanted to steal it from her to teach her an unforgettable lesson but control himself for time being.

The old hag saw Javier enter arrogantly and frown a little, "What do you want brat? Do you know you're trespassing?"

'Same old dialogue.' Ace's disdainfully scoff in his heart.

"Here." Javier snorted and throw Braxton's identity crystal card to the old hag.

The old hag was enraged, seeing Javier was showing a temper but still catch the crystal card just to see who this overbearing brat was before dealing with him.

"Oh, you're Braxton son and rotten one I supposed. Since you have this identity card I won't teach you a lesson. You can go to the 'servant' floor. Don't dare to go up on the higher floor. It is only for the Royal or you'll die a horrible death."

She ridicules Javier while saying the first floor is a servant floor and nonchalantly pulls a formation plate that controls the entire building formations from her storage ring in front of Ace.

This was the biggest and last mistake she ever made in her entire life!

Chapter 89 - Scouting The Library!

This old lady's name was Aspen Nash, she was a noble of the Luminous Kingdom appointed to protect the Library. This task was always given to Nash Noble Household for centuries.

This Aspen didn't want to come here but end up offending a higher noble of the Nash family and appointed in this barren place.

First, she was quite unwilling but after coming here she soon found there is no one above her and only Grand Prince can order her around, but even he didn't care about what she does and leave her alone.

This made Aspen fell in love with this place she can do anything and defraud anyone who isn't important to Grand Prince. She began to live her life to the fullest and didn't want to go back anymore.

Now it has been already ten years and she was living a carefree life; her duty was only to protect this place and no one dares to mess with the Luminous Kingdom so even this was just a comfortable job for her.

That's why she used the formation plate so carelessly in front of others.

Moreover, she is a qi formation realm expert herself and Flawed Foundation One 1st at that! And here there were only five formation plates experts. This made her even more lighthearted.

But now she did it in front of a Heaven's Stealer!

Ace's eyes shimmer when he saw this old hag was taking the formation plate from her storage ring so carelessly.

'What an idiot.' Ace thought ecstatically, now he didn't have to think of a way to pass the formation!

Aspen pour qi into the formation plate and a stairway appeared that leads to the upper floor of the library.

She placed the formation plate back in the ring and coolly said while waving her hand at Javier, "Go, follow the stairway. It will lead you to the 'servant' floor. Remember don't go upwards and you only have two hours."

Ace ignores Aspen's mockery as he steps on the stairway. He was quite astonished because all those books that he saw after entering the library were merely an illusion! Now that he was on the stairway the illusion has vanished.

His heart sank, *'Even true and false eyes can't see through this illusion!'*

Ace knew his basic skills is reaching their limits and he needed more powerful skills if he wanted to get out of here safely and only by completing this mission he can do that.

He steps on the first floor, there were twenty towering bookshelves, that were filled with books. He never saw this many books before but he wasn't interested in them.

Because Ace knew these books didn't hold any importance since even servants were allowed on this floor.

Ace looked at the stairway that was going to the higher floor gloomily, he can't go up since he can't see any traps here with the True and False Eyes.

'Well, it's not like they would store some important information in this land of cities.' Ace concluded.

It was common sense, who would store some hidden information in this place, right? But Ace didn't know the reason Luminous Kingdom 'Descendent Cursed Punishment' was exactly in this Library!

Just as Ace was thinking about how should he proceed further, he heard a notification that he was waiting for all this month,

=====

"[Target in range]

[Did the host want to scan the target?]

{Cost: 40 Thief Points}"

=====

Without any further delay, Ace said, "*Do it.*"

"[Scanning Start... Complete in 120 Seconds.]"

[Thief Point(s): 1045]

Ace was excited and eagerly wait for two minutes. He knew this report going to decide the course of his whole path he's going to take in this thievery!

=====

"[Scan Complete.]"

[Notification Panel]

[[Target's Scan Report]]

[Total net worth: Host has to find himself.

Security:

1: Middle-Grade Illusionary Formation (5th Ranked Mortal Runes)

1: Middle-Grade Attacking Formation (5th Ranked Mortal Runes)

1: Middle-Grade Detection Formation (5th Ranked Mortal Runes)

1: Middle-Grade Trapping Formation (5th Ranked Mortal Runes)

1: Middle-Grade Lock Formation on Middle-Grade Treasury (5th Ranked Mortal Runes & 5-Star Weaponry)

1: Mid-Level Middle-Grade Lock & Detection Formation on Middle-Grade Treasury (6th Ranked Mortal Runes & 5-Star Weaponry)

Evaluation: Host has 30% chance of succession]

=====

Ace nearly had a stroke seeing all those formations and cursed, ***'Why don't you guys put more formations? After all, it's just a treasure in the land of fucking cities!'***

'This is a huge disaster!' He knew system evaluation was extremely accurate.

He really had only thirty percent chance of succeeding and even that is, if he could obtain that formation plate from, Aspen!

"System why not give me something that can help me break in at least the front door." Ace transmitted gravely. All these formations and these shitty rune symbols were getting on his nerves lately.

"[Host already has this kind of treasure.]"

Ace was astonished because he wasn't hopeful of getting any help from the system but it did actually. *'I already have?'*

He thought deeply and suddenly something came to his mind and eagerly asked, *"Are you talking about the invisible beads?"*

"[Yes]"

Ace was quite confused at this moment and couldn't help but retort, *"These invisible beads have limitations... wait a moment."*

It was as if someone had struck him with a hammer, *'There is no limitation on them nor any warning in their use when I bought them.'* His heartbeat raced, *'And I wasted three of them just for escaping! I deserved to be struck by lightning.'*

Ace cursed himself for his ignorance, he finally understands the true terror of those five beads.

Because the system always warn him every time it gave something with limitation to him. But it never warns him about those beads even when he was facing that elemental guardian. This means those beads can be used in any kind of situation for escape and anything!

Only that it came in his mind just too damn late when the system pointed it out for him!

'I only have two left and I know how to use them!' Ace was quite ecstatic at the moment and all the tension was gone in smoke, *"System tell me in the future will there be more invisible beads?"*

No answer came.

Ace didn't mind it in the least bit. Since he has two hours to waste he decided to read something random.

At the entrance of the Library, Aspen holding a small mirror while frowning.

In this mirror was the image of Javier who was strolling around the first floor like it was his own backyard.

This mirror was connected with the 'All Detection Light Formation' with it one can see what was happening on every floor of the library.

Aspen was lazy but she didn't dare to overlook her duties that much. Since someone was here it was her duty to watch what that person was doing all the time.

After all, this place was where the treasury was hidden and also something that can help the Luminous Kingdom end this cursed punishment!

They only open this library for higher-ups of the luminous city is because they didn't want to arouse any suspicion.

After all, if you protect something with everything you had, everyone would think there is something very important in your possession. This was, even more, the case when a power like the Luminous Kingdom was protecting it!

Even Zelda didn't know about the whole truth behind the Descendent Cursed nor Dion who wanted to escape from here.

Only the Luminous King of every generation would know the real truth and he has to send his firstborn here when they turned fifteen. It was happening for more than eight hundred years now.

'Is this brat being only here to mess around?' Aspen thought as her expression turn a little ugly.

She knew on the first floor there wasn't anything interesting but there were many normal skills and even some half-grade mortal techniques.

That's what a library of power represents!

But now Javier was just casually strolling around like these books were trash in his eyes.

Aspen wanted to kick him out but held herself back because that Braxton was quite closed to Dion and she didn't want her carefree and comfortable life to end. So, she didn't pay any attention to that ignorant brat anymore and decided to take a nap.

Two hours passed in a flash,

Javier causally exited the first floor and saw Aspen was looking at him coldly. He didn't even blink and said, "Give it back."

Aspen wanted to slap this bastard so bad but knew she can't since he didn't do anything wrong and with resentment in her eyes, she throw the identity crystal back.

"Brat don't let me find you outside." She coldly threatens.

Javier who was about to exit the library turn around and smiled mysteriously, "Oh, I'm going to find you very soon. Don't run away at that time!" He didn't wait for her reply and exit the library.

Aspen was flabbergasted by this nonsense of Javier and bark, "What do you mean, darn brat!"

Javier sneered as he enters the carriage and leaves dumbfounded Aspen behind.

Five Slates means Cracked Foundation, Six Slates means Flawed Foundation, Seven means Complete, and Eight means Perfect foundation in the golden sky world.

Chapter 90 - Beginning Of Thivery!

From the Luminous Library, Ace goes straight to the busy market of the Luminous City. He bought some 'important stuff' for his big thievery and returned to the Weston Villa in the evening.

Ace was in good mood, he has finally completed everything he needed to and scout the entire library as well.

Now was the time to leave the Weston Villa. He didn't like it here but they didn't treat him that badly except for all those ridicules and contemptuous eyes.

And it was not a bad experience for his first time posing someone and he somewhat even enjoyed it. Maybe he becoming more and more like a real thief, who knows.

However, before leaving for good, Ace gave those two guinea pigs... ahem, maids some good fortune. They truly serve him well in this one month and even helped him train his soul ability.

He knew they were both sisters and orphans, that's why he left them ten million ruby coins and a secret letter with it. With it, they can live the rest of their life happily.

As for Javier, he didn't care because he knew everyone would be happy, not sad because of this rotten egg disappearance.

After everything was taken care of, Ace wait for the night.

At night, outskirts of the Prince Manor territory,

A silhouette was moving like a phantom towards the tightly close tower-like manor gates. It was obviously Ace.

Ace has changed into an inky hood with a silver lining on it. This was the same 1-Start Armor Hood that he bought in the red mountain city with Eva. He didn't have time to use it before but now was definitely the perfect time.

This one-start hood was nothing to Ace but since he bought it with Eva and it was his last thievery in the land of cities he whores it, just for the sake of it.

Besides, he has already changed Javier's appearance to his handsome self. But a fully black mask was on his face. He couldn't help but nostalgically remembered his first thievery four years ago and smile lightly.

As for doing thievery with Javier's face, Ace didn't do it because he simply think it wasn't worth it and the biggest reason for it was the system!

On his last thievery, the system has told him little about how it evaluates his performance, and didn't want to lower his grade just because he used another face other than his own.

After all, the system has clearly said it wanted him to become famous not someone else!

Now, Ace was standing a hundred meters away from the exit gate and thinking, should he open it or just jump off the wall.

In the end, he chose the second. The walls were three hundred meters high but for a mid-stage heavenly foundation cultivator like him, it was nothing.

Ace saw the surrounding from the tall wall as the cold wind brush past him. It was the middle of the night but outside was still lit with the moonlight and lamps glows.

He truly enjoys this peaceful view.

'Sighs... In the end, I have to leave this city as well.' Ace lament while sighing heavily.

Ace truly didn't like the part where he has to flee the city after thievery but he knew he can't stay here even he wanted to because this land of cities was not enough for him anymore.

Ace wanted to experience the outside world and experience more marvels of the cultivation world.

This tiny land of cities was just a fragment of the humongous Golden Sky World and stepping stone for Ace.

But first, he had to complete the mission!

Watching the beautiful city one last time, Ace jumped. He landed like an agile cat and didn't feel a thing.

No one notices him leaving even with this much security. If Dion knew he would definitely kill all those guards in anger.

After leaving the prince manor Ace didn't waste any more time and head straight in the direction of Luminous Library with an evil smile on his face. *'Old hag I hope you're doing well.'*

In half an hour, Ace was standing outside of the library, watching it with his starry sky-like dark blue eyes behind the mask.

His pupils turn golden as he used the true and false eyes skill but didn't find anything because this skill was not enough to see these formations. He sighted *'I truly need new skills.'*

But he didn't faze by it as a yellow palm-sized ball appeared in his hand. This yellow ball is called an Explosion Bomb!

It wasn't anything special in the cultivation world as it can't even leave a scratch on a Peak Qi Gates Cultivator and only mortals used it in large fights. It was quite easy to find and Ace bought quite a few different varieties of these fascinating bombs.

Ace was after all a normal mortal for twelve years of his life and knew quite a lot about these kinds of stuff. He didn't think all those boring stories of the restaurant owner came in handy one day.

Ace's complexion darkens when he thought about the restaurant owner's face and all those workers, whom he used to work with and treat him somewhat nicely. Now everything was destroyed and he can't see them or that city surrounded by beautiful flowers again.

His hatred for Dulce reached a level higher!

Ace quickly calms himself and returns to his usual self.

He looks coldly at the silent library while the string attached with the explosion bomb is aflame. It was his first time using this 'toy' so he didn't know just what kind of commotion it would make.

He was quite worried though, what if its sound didn't wake that old hag and make her come out? Did he have to use an invisible bead in the end?

After all, Ace did all this just because he didn't want to waste those two remaining beads here, now that he knew just how potent they truly were. They were like two life to him now.

Ace throws the bomb outside the library gate and hides nearby, watching the string becoming shorter and shorter with anticipation.

'ccccceeepp'

The aflame string finally enters the yellow bomb.

'Boooooooooooooooooommmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmbbbbbbbbbbb'

A huge booming sounded rang in the silent area as it creates powerful ripples in the air.

Dirt was flying everywhere as Ace saw all this with alarm. Cold sweat breaks out when he remembers why that owner didn't let him test it inside the show and even cursed at him.

If he really tests it inside the shop and that shop was full of these things, it would've definitely blown away hundreds of meters of the area around it.

'I should be careful with these things in the future. I don't want to alarm the whole city now.' Ace nodded seriously while taking a mental note.

Nonetheless, the explosion bomb really did the trick and the whole area around the library was alarm because of it.

"Damn it! Who dare to use explosives inside the city and in this hour!?"

"Fuck that damnable bastard! I nearly peed my pants!"

"But your robe is already wet?"

"Shut the fuck up! Do want to die??"

....

'Cough....'

Ace heard this kind of commotion and was quite embarrassed about it. He pretends as if he didn't hear anything and only focused on the library that is still silent.

'Should I use that orange one?' Ace thought.

He was about to take the big gun out when the library gate open and an old woman stomp outside with an ugly face full of fury.

"WHICH DAMNABL SCOUNDREL DARE TO RUNE THIS OLD LADY SLEEP??!" Aspen howls with hatred.

She was sleeping like log while having a nice dream when she heard a piercing explosion just outside of the library.

First, she thought it was an enemy attack and was scared shitless but when she finally snapped out of her drowsy state, she remembered this was the luminous city, not the kingdom. Who will dare to attack this place?

Her fright turns into fury as she came out to teach that rascal a lesson. But found nothing except for curses coming from different directions just like hers.

"Who dares to mess outside the luminous library???? Don't let me found you or this is the last thing you have ever done. YOU Wrenched Rascal!" Since Aspen can't find the culprit she cursed some more with an ugly mug.

All those guards who were coming here to investigate the matter hurriedly turn back when they spotted Aspen because they knew she was bad news. It was also the same case for those who were cursing a while ago.

They somewhat knew the person probably did all this just to piss her off and she was mostly the one who offended them first. After all who in their right mind blow the explosion outside the library?

Well, she was quite famous around the area from the name of Old Mountebank.

Aspen was about to swear again seeing those damn guards escaping without investigating the matter when a light cold voice enters her ears from behind.

"Do as I said or die!"