

## The Great Thief Chapter 16 - Leave!

I Am Richy Rich's skill was average, but he was rich and willing to spend money.

He was followed by Ao Jian and played dozens of games, spending millions in each one. As such, he eventually became Ao Jian's number 2, even if someone like Square Root 3 didn't care much about him.

Right now, his dignity was being trampled.

The chatroom was dead silent for a good few seconds and all that could be heard was labored breathing. The leader of the union was surprisingly silent.

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In fact, Ao Jian was actually rejoicing.

Last time he squared off with Lu Li, he had spent 25,000 real money to get one skill book. Every time he thought back to it, he felt more regret, but from another perspective, he also understood. Compared to these rich 2nd generation people, Lu Li was of a different breed.

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This verbal slap to the face could have easily been directed towards Ao Jian.

Ao Jian looked over to the side; he was training with I am Richy Rich. Feeling a shared distaste towards Richy Rich, he felt a sense of satisfaction to see his misfortune.

"O-o-okay..." I am Richy Rich was so angry he couldn't form a sentence.

"Who I do Instance Dungeons with is none of your business. Who the items are rewarded to within our party is none of your business. The items that I choose to use for myself are none of your business." He didn't mention that he had over 20,000 real money on his bank card. Even if he didn't, he wouldn't mention something like that to cause more trouble.

"Why you... you know I can stop you from continuing in this game" Richy Rich said with hatred.

"If there was someone who could stop me, it definitely wouldn't be you", Lu Li wasn't particularly good at this back and forth insulting, but he could remember some people from the previous generation who really could stop him.

At that time his sister had gotten sick, and he needed sell all the equipment he had for money. But he was tricked, so not only did he not receive his money, he was also hunted by several unions.

He had run away and begged before, but to him, what was more important than his life was his precious sister. To other people, this kind of sacrifice wasn't something special to behold. They regularly watched it on TV, which demonstrated the thrill of such a thing.

After experiencing this rebirth, Lu Li refused to accept such a compromise again.

Even if he couldn't earn the money to buy the helmet, he would not join any union.

"That's enough", seeing that the situation was getting out of hand, Ao Jian stepped in. Otherwise, the dignity of the union would be at stake.

All this time, the union was a privilege for its members and their performance was above that of an average person. If someone discovered that they had a bit more money and was convicted enough, a Gold Collection Unit member would be able to take a strong stand. Then, more and more people would start to follow from this example.

"In one week, I will return the money for this violation. You won't need to wait long" Lu Li didn't wait for Ao Jian to speak, he quickly spoke and left the chatroom.

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Raising his head, he saw Azure Sea Breeze and the others who he thought had already cleared the dungeon but were still looking worriedly at him.

Then he remembered that everything he said in the chat room was spoken aloud and the people nearby could hear him.

"Is everything alright, Lu Li?" Azure Sea Breeze kindly asked. The other 3 people were blankly staring, looking very strange.

"Everything is fine, let's get out of this dungeon" Lu Li equipped his dagger.

"You had a falling out with the Star Moon Union? And you need to pay a penalty fee?" Drinking Alone clenched as he straightforwardly asked his question.

"Yeah something like that, those people are nuts. At first I thought I could just ignore them, but I didn't realize I was so impatient." Lu Li laughed; he didn't look anxious at all.

In reality, the penalty wasn't a small amount. The cost of the helmet and the penalty fee was about 60,000 altogether. It was basically the cost of 2 helmets.

“If you are willing to come to our union, we will pay for your penalty fee. There will be no other conditions. All you have to do is take our people to do these kinds of Instance Dungeons. If you need something, just ask. We will not refuse.”

Drinking Alone already thought that Lu Li was an expert when he achieved an 80% Skill completion and when his attacking daggers were dancing like snowflakes. Only when the system detected that they were the first to complete the dungeon did he realize that he had been underestimating this young man who looked as plain as water.

The strength of a union is far greater than that of a single person. Lu Li understood this, as the Star Moon Union sent out 5 parties of 5 to find the ‘Seal Transformation’ Skill Book within an hour. If Lu Li was on his own, he couldn’t have done this.

Lu Li needed a large amount of materials to upgrade his Supreme Ring. If there was a whole union to help him look for these materials, then it would be so much easier. But there was an issue.

The Grand Hegemony wasn’t a very suitable union for him. Its President, “Emperor Hegemony” was a very ambitious person, but he didn’t have the ability to bring the union to its peak. Perhaps he could make some fame for them in “Shadow Realm” but it would be too difficult in a game like Dawn.

They were continuously suppressed by a few large unions working together. Once their members left the safety zone, they would be ruthlessly attacked.

In this place, things were clear and simple. But it didn’t suit Lu Li, it didn’t suit a professional player and it didn’t suit a Thief.

“Sorry, I don’t plan to join any union. But if there’s a chance next time, we can do Instance Dungeons again” Lu Li shook his head: “You guys can go ahead and grind the Common Instance Dungeon - it is far easier than the Elite level. You can find anyone to join you guys.”

It was as if he had expected this. Drinking Alone sighed and let go of the topic, “Why don’t you continue farming with us. The Elite Instance Dungeon has a 3 hour cooldown, but you can do the Common Instance Dungeon whenever you want. You just offended the Star Moon Union, so going out to train now seems like a good idea.

“I have something to attend to, you can continue,” Lu Li said nicely, but he had already made up his mind. The others could only watch helplessly as he left.

“How unfortunate”, Northern Tang Dream started speaking: “Before he came, I thought Drinking Alone was exaggerating. I never thought he would be stronger than you described. I’ve never heard of this person before, it seems like he just came out of nowhere.”

She was only 20 years old, but was an experienced player already. A while ago she had done research on every expert there was, but there wasn't someone whose style was even close to being like Lu Li's.

"He is stronger than you can imagine, do not underestimate him." Drinking Alone said.

"Do we want to share the strategy to the Instance Dungeon?" Northern Tang Kitty responded, for they hadn't mentioned this matter.

In successfully clearing out an Instance Dungeon, other than gaining fame and equipment, you could also sell the strategy for clearing it out for a large sum. This was especially the case for a small ragtag group like them, as they didn't need to be afraid of a union monopolizing the resource.

Their fellow union members saw them get the first clear on the Instance Dungeon, but because none of them were the party leader, no one asked for the clearing strategy. Emperor Hegemony was someone of extreme principle.

After contacting Lu Li, his response was simple. They could handle it however they liked, but if a Jade Spider Web was dropped, they needed to sell it to him.

Now Lu Li was cautiously moving through the woods trying to stay hidden. In the previous generation he heard that there was a mine in the forest, he wanted to try to see if he could get in. There is an NPC in there that he is interested in.

## **The Great Thief Chapter 17 - Cynocephalus Mine**

### **Chapter 17: Cynocephalus Mine**

As Lu Li was carefully advancing using Stealth, the rest of the Dawn players were in an uproar.

Everyone had the same question on their minds: who was Lu Li?

Lu Li was so low-profile that no one had even heard of his name before. There were hundreds of thousands of players who had currently bought a game helmet, but no one knew who he was.

Only the few people who had seen him try to sell the Bronze grade equipment and Skill Book remembered him. As it turned out, that ordinary-looking Thief hadn't obtained all those pieces of equipment by pure luck.

There were so many Unions and elite groups in Dawn- if he didn't have some skill, how would he have been able to clear it, and not them?

Currently, it wasn't just Lu Li's team who were attempting Instance Dungeons.

In actuality, there were thousands of teams attempting the Elite level Instance Dungeon. Large unions in the top 10 unions, such as "Glory Capital", "Drizzle", "Blood-red War Flag", etc, had all send at least 10 teams to attempt the Instance Dungeons.

Many of them were able to defeat the first Boss, but the second Boss had far too many Guards. As such, they couldn't go according to the normal plans, but had to try again and again.

None of them had expected to hear that system announcement.

If it was another large union's elite team, that would have been acceptable. However, they had never heard of this guy before.

Very soon, this information was passed through private chats to high profile members of different unions.

"Northern Tang Dream isn't a surprise. I'm sure big sister Water Fairy is familiar with her." A female player wearing a white Priest robe read out the information while looking at her beautiful teammate who was squatting down and using her dagger to dissect a spider leg.

The woman was as beautiful as a goddess, and she didn't even look up as she gave a soft harrumph.

"It's only been a few days, but people have already started making a 'Beauty List'. It's expected for big sister Water Fairy to be on there, but why is Northern Tang Dream ranked higher than big sister?" Another teammate wondered out loud, surprised.

The female Thief didn't say anything, and put the dissected spider leg inside her bag. She then pointed her dagger towards the spider's poison sac. Her dissection of the spider made her cold demeanour feel even colder yet, causing everyone else to gulp in anxiousness.

"Drinking Alone and Northern Tang Kitty are also in the Grand Hegemony," The Priest continued to speak, "There isn't much information about Azure Sea Breeze, but was a little famous in Shadow Realm. There was a period of time where he sat at the top of the Player Level Rankings. He was probably an expert hired by the Grand Hegemony."

"What about Lu Li?" The female Thief carefully put away the poison sac, unable to hold herself back from asking.

“We don’t know anything about him.” The Priest bitterly smiled.

“I might know something, but I’m not sure if it’s that person,” One of the people in the team hesitantly said, “I saw a player called Lu Li selling things on the street before, and he was also a Thief like big sister.”

“Speak!” The Thief addressed as “big sister Water Fairy” was expressionless. Her voice was very pleasant to the ears, but she spoke in short sentences.

None of the other players found this weird, though. This was one of the Drizzle Union’s legendary players- Water Fairy. Not only was she on the ‘Beauty Rankings’, but if there was an Expert Ranking, she would definitely be on that as well.

“Last night, he was selling things at the Moon Shadow Valley. He had 2 Bronze grade equipment, as well as a Skill Book...” The player described the 3 things Lu Li were selling, causing everyone to breathe in sharply.

“There’s actually this sort of skill book?” Water Fairy’s face was full of disbelief. For someone who enjoyed fighting other players in games, she knew just how powerful this skill was.

Not only was it a Crowd Control skill with an AOE of 12 yards, but its duration of 8 seconds, was incredible. Currently, the longest Crowd Control skill was the Thief’s 4 second Ambush. However, compared to this, Ambush was nothing. Of course, the advantage of Ambush was that after stunning their target, they could continue to attack them normally.

“That Thief should be part of the Star Moon Union,” The person reporting looked a bit confused at this point, “But seeing how they interacted with each other, it seemed that he didn’t have a good relationship with the people there. After all, he didn’t choose people from the Star Moon Union to do the First Clear of the Instance Dungeon with him.”

Although Water Fairy was a high profile member, she didn’t care about the union’s matters, and wasn’t very interested about this.

Female tycoons were only interested in experts.

She was only interested in experts to buy good equipment, or to cut them down.

And now Lu Li had entered her field of vision.

Other unions were also investigating Lu Li, so they could pull him to their side, or to ask him for the strategy to clear the Spider Lair Instance Dungeon.

Currently, Lu Li was slowly advancing into the mine.

There were many mines in the forest, and this was one of them. There were many dog-headed people, called Cynocephali wandering around that ranged between LV8 to LV10. They sometimes dropped equipment, but they always dropped a lot of money. After a day or two, this place would become filled with people.

Lu Li didn't come here to earn money. It wasn't that he wasn't strong enough, but earning money this way was too inefficient. Moreover, if he faced off against more than 2 of them at once, he would be finished.

After using Stealth to wander around for a bit, Lu Li finally found the NPC he was looking for.

Explorer Tap, Moon Shadow Valley Guard, LV13, heavily injured.

"Greetings, my kinsman. There's something I need your help with." Tap got straight to the point, and issued out a quest.

It is worth mentioning that after leading his team to the First Clear of the Spider Lair, Lu Li gained a suffix to his name in the eyes of NPCs.

Lu Li the Spider Lair Pioneer. This was similar to a Title, but it didn't give him any bonus stats. However, when he had enough reputation, NPCs would start to take the initiative to offer him quests. Although Pioneer was a low-grade suffix, it was still a symbol of power.

"Of course, it would be my honour." Lu Li slightly bowed. He was much more familiar with etiquette than other players.

Tap nodded in satisfaction, took out a mask, and gave it to Lu Li, saying, "There are some strange noises in one of the mine tunnels. Please take a look for me."

System: You have received a quest, Check the Mine Tunnels... Quest Rank F, Quest Reward: 1 silver coin.

This was a very ordinary quest, and had the lowest Quest Rank. Although the Quest Reward was decent, it wasn't a fortune by any means.

There were many LV8+ Cynocephali walking around, and Lu Li was only LV4.

The key lay in the mask in his hands.

Cynocephali Mask: This piece of equipment has mysterious illusion magic, causing the wearer to look like a Cynocephali.

Lu Li put on the mask, and instantly transformed into a Cynocephali soldier. He had a ferocious looking dog-head, a muscular body clothed in some tattered Leather Armour, and was holding a crude wooden club.

With this mask, Lu Li didn't even need to use Stealth anymore. Just like this, he walked past a small group of Cynocephali. They looked at him dumbly, but didn't react at all.

If there was anyone else present, they would have seen an incredibly independent Cynocephali swaggering into the mine tunnel.

All of the Cynocephali he passed by acted as if they hadn't even see him.

It was much darker inside the mine tunnel, and there were many Cynocephali working inside. However, there weren't as many as outside, and most of them were mining with pickaxes. Practically all of them were working separately.

Lu Li ignored them and went further into the tunnel.

## **The Great Thief Chapter 18 - Superior Quality Copper Ore**

### **Chapter 18: Superior Quality Copper Ore**

Lu Li wasn't here to kill Cynocephali.

Dawn's EXP system gave bonus EXP for killing monsters higher than the player's own level. When killing a monster than was 1 to 3 levels higher, a player would receive an extra 5% to 15%. However, when killing a monster that was more than 3 levels higher, the bonus would be set at 10%.

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Moreover, when a monster was more than 3 levels higher than a player, damage dealt was greatly reduced, so it was almost impossible to even damage those monsters. As such, very few people tried to kill monsters that were more than 3 levels above their own level.

This was to prevent rich people from gaining too much of an advantage by hiring people.

After all, if a group of people attacked an incredibly high level monster and let the rich boss deal the final blow, the rich boss would be able to take 20% of the EXP. If the bonus was too high, this sort of method would be game-breaking.

The mine tunnel winded around, and was now very high. There were lots of rocks on the ground, mixed with mottled pieces of ore. These were all the lowest quality of ore, and were worth roughly 1 copper each.

They were also quite heavy, so Lu Li completely disregarded them.

After walking for a minute, his eyes lit up. There was a depression in one of the walls, and there seemed to be something rectangular hidden there.

Nearby, a Cynocephalus was striking the wall with his pickaxe. Every time it had hit the wall a few times, he would turn to look at the rectangular object, as though it were in a hurry.

Lu Li took a few steps back, took off the mask and used Stealth.

This Cynocephalus was LV9, and was a whole 5 levels higher than Lu Li. When Lu Li was close, it stopped striking the wall and looked around, trying to see what was making it feel uncomfortable.

Lu Li did his best to calm down his heart, and silently attacked.

Ambush successful!

He now had 4 seconds, to attack first.

Lu Li didn't use Shadowstrike, although it was his most used skill. It was no longer difficult for him to achieve a Skill Completion of 80%, giving him a 1 second stun. Instead, during those 4 seconds, he used normal attacks.

-6, -7, -6...

The damage he was dealing was simply pitiful. The current Lu Li not only had the Supreme One Ring, but also had 2 pieces of Steel grade equipment - his Armour and Bow, as well as 3 pieces of Bronze equipment, one of which was his dagger. With this sort of equipment, he should have been dealing at least double digits, but the gap of 5 levels was simply too vast.

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However, this didn't mean that Lu Li wasn't able to kill this LV9 normal monster.

In less than a minute, Lu Li had killed the Cynocephalus.

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The 300 EXP he received was nice, but he had also used a Basic Health Potion in the process.

When he finally retrieved the rectangular object, the Potion he had just used didn't seem like much anymore.

A treasure box!

There was a pile of coins inside. According to the system announcement, there were 43 silver coins in total.

Clearing an Elite level Instance Dungeon, not including the Boss, would yield about this much money. However, that money would be split among 5 people, so these 43 silver coins was quite a fortune for Lu Li.

Now, Lu Li had 60 or so silver coins.

In real life, this would be worth about \$1,000.

Before, even working as a menial worker, he wouldn't be able to earn this much in a month.

Treasure boxes usually contained 2 items. Lu Li dug around, and found something that felt like a band.

It was a bracelet!

Lu Li was overjoyed. Bracelets were different to Bracers- anyone could equip Bracers, but only female players could wear Bracelets, which replaced Bracers.

5

Because they were exclusive to only some players, they were much more valuable!

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As a gift, Bracers were much better than even Rings.

1

[Astromancer's Bracelet] (Bronze): Intelligence+4, increases bag space by 6 spaces. Level Requirement: LV5. Durability: 20/20.

2

Instantly, Lu Li felt as though a sea of coins was raining down on him.

In the Emporium, a bag with 6 bag spaces could be bought for 80 silver coins. Not only did this Bracelet increase bag space, it did not take up any of the 5 set bag slots that players had. It also gave a bonus 4 Intelligence, which people would go crazy over.

Priests, Magicians, Warlocks, Druids, Shamans... all professions that required Intelligence would want this piece of equipment.

What's more, this Bracelet looked incredibly beautiful. Astromancers were a specific type of Magician, and the reference to an 'Astromancer' was definitely referring to the High Astromancer Solorian. She was an upper-class Elf, and was a noble of nobles who loved beautiful and luxurious things.

The Bracelet evidently reflected this.

Although this piece of equipment was not worth as much as the Frost Nova Skill Book, if he met a tycoon who desperately wanted it he would be able to sell it for at least 5 gold coins.

Think about it: with your girlfriend or wife looking at you with a pleading look in her eyes, would you really be able to say no?

\$60,000 in the real world seems like a lot of money, but I've lived this life before, and I won't walk a normal path. I'll definitely be able to earn that much in a week.

Suppressing the excitement in his heart, Lu Li continued on.

There was definitely more than 1 treasure box in this mine tunnel. In his 'past life', Lu Li had read a guide for levelling up the Thief skill Unlock. That guide had mentioned that there were many low grade treasure boxes here.

Not long after, he saw another treasure box.

In Lu Li's eyes, its crude and dusty exterior couldn't block the golden light it was radiating!

This treasure box only had Bronze grade equipment. One of them was a pair of Shoes for Magicians which gave 2 Intelligence. It wasn't too good or too bad.

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The other piece of equipment was a Shield for Protection Warriors. Not only did it give a fair bit of Defence, it also gave 3 Constitution. Although it wasn't as good as the Bracelet, it was still worth a lot.

For a team to take down a Boss in an Instance Dungeon, the main tank's HP and Defence was one of the deciding factors.

"Lu Li, we've obtained a Jade Spider Web. Where are you right now? We'll take it over." Drinking Alone had sent him a voice message.

"Just send it over to me. I never thought that you would've cleared the Elite level Instance Dungeon again so quickly." Lu Li replied.

Anyone could mail things at inns. The delivery cost was 5 copper coins, which wasn't much.

"Eh, you turned off your Friend Function? Our boss asked me to thank you. If it wasn't for your guide, we wouldn't have known about the Buff from the brook, or how to take down the Boss at the end. Who knows when we finally could have cleared that Instance Dungeon!" Drinking Alone earnestly said.

"How many teams do you have doing the Instance Dungeon?" Lu Li asked.

"We have 10 in total. All of them are above LV4, but only 4 teams cleared the Instance Dungeon, and only 1 team found a Jade Spider Web. Its drop rate is way too low. Plus, the equipment they got were all quite average." Drinking Alone was worried that Lu Li might think that they had kept some for themselves, so he explained in detail.

"That's pretty normal. Keep working hard." Lu Li didn't continue to chat, and went back to looking for treasure boxes.

Lu Li soon found that there weren't as many treasure boxes as he had expected. After having a thorough look, he confirmed that there were only 3 in total.

3 treasure boxes with a refresh time of 24 hours. Only fools with heaps of time on their hands would use this method to level up their Unlock skill.

This was actually due to changes Lu Li was unaware about. What Lu Li was relying on was his experience from his 'past life'. However, many things had changed from the beginning of the game to when he had actually started playing. For example, in order to calm down the countless protesting Thieves, the company had, later on, increased the number of treasure boxes in many locations. Of course, the treasure boxes in those areas were quite mediocre.

The mine was one of those places.

The current mine only had 3 treasure boxes!

The third treasure box gave an average Bronze grade equipment, as well as a piece of Copper Ore. Its Quality was a whopping 86, and was graded to be "Superior Quality".

Minerals and ores had 4 levels of Quality: Normal, Good, Superior and Perfect.

Good Quality ores weren't that hard to come by, but Superior Quality ores and minerals completely depended on luck. If one was lucky, they could find one on their very first swing of a pickaxe. If they were unlucky, they might only find one after 2 years.

With this Superior Quality Copper ore, Lu Li suddenly formed a new plan. With this ore, he would be able to receive a good quest.

## **The Great Thief Chapter 19 - Sap**

### **Chapter 19: Sap**

However, before going for that quest, he would complete the one he had right now.

Lu Li had already run around the entire mine tunnel, and had finished the quest given to him by Tap.

A few Cynocephali Magicians were gathered around an altar, calling their god.

That's right- their god!

The Cynocephali in Dawn were the lowest creatures, but they deeply believed that they were chosen by the greatest evil god- Saron.

1

The Cynocephali Magicians chanted as they made sacrifices, "O Great Saron, descend upon us with your immeasurable glory and destroy those arrogant Elves."

When he went back to Explorer Tap, Lu Li described the altar, completing his quest.

Lu Li originally wanted to delay completing the quest- that way, he would be able to use the mask for a few more days. However, it was a pity that the mask would be taken back at night, and Lu Li would receive a penalty of a reduction in reputation for not completing his quest.

Fortunately for Lu Li, players only started taking this sort of quest after they were LV8. To the LV4 Lu Li, 300 EXP was a tremendous amount.

He had risen to LV4 in the Instance Dungeon, and had received EXP from 2 Bosses. Adding on the EXP for clearing the Instance Dungeon, the bonus EXP for the First Clear, as well as the EXP from a LV8 quest, Lu Li's level shot to LV5.

LV5!

Currently, most players were still LV4, and only some exceptional players were LV5, or even LV6. Out of these people, the only one Lu Li knew was Azure Sea Breeze. Even if there were other levelling-freaks, they would be few in number.

In order to obtain the Supreme One Ring, Lu Li had spent quite a bit of time. He had also used a lot of time in clearing the Instance Dungeon, as well as travelling to this mine through the forest. Within the mine, he had spent more than 1 hour looking for treasure boxes. Out of these first 2 days, at least half the time he spent could be described as 'mucking around'.

And yet, Lu Li's level was still on par with that of other experts.

"Wait, my kinsman, I'm sure you can see that I'm heavily injured, and can't return to the Village." NPC Tap called out to Lu Li.

Lu Li's heart sank. Could it be that he had to take this injured Elf back to his village?

Escorting Quests were quite common in Dawn, and required players to protect a character or thing to their destination. Players would battle monsters the entire trip, and sometimes even NPCs.

And this place was filled with LV8 monsters.

The worst thing was that Escort Quests weren't easy to refuse. Once refused, the NPC would take it as the player abandoning them to die. This was particularly bad for Lu Li, since Explorer Tap was his kinsman- the drop to his reputation with Elves would be terrifying.

"Respected kinsman, can you please take this letter to the Moon Shadow Valley's Sentinel Captain Carolina?" It seemed that Explorer Tap had some intelligence, and was mercifully sparing Lu Li from death.

However, how the hell did he write a letter without Lu Li even noticing?!

By the time Lu Li returned to the Moon Shadow Valley, it was already late. Lu Li first headed over to the Profession Trainer.

A LV5 Thief and a LV4 Thief were worlds apart- this was because of the skill Double Dagger Proficiency.

Double Dagger Proficiency: When using 2 Daggers, Physical Attack Damage+40%, Attack (Skill) Success Rate+5%. Proficiency: 1/1000.

Although at low levels, Lu Li's offhand damage couldn't be maximised, an extra 40% wasn't too bad. Moreover, with normal attacks, 2 Daggers simultaneously attacking quickly could sometimes seem like an Attack Speed Bug.

The Double Dagger Proficiency skill not only drastically increased Thieves' Attack Power, but also had a hidden skill- Parry.

The offhand Dagger could be used to parry enemies' attacks. Even some Magic Attacks could be parried. If the Parry was successful, the damage received would be greatly reduced. Of course, parrying greatly relied on one's experience and battle sense.

Furthermore, there were 2 other skills that he could learn.

Sap: Instant Cast, Cooldown Time: 10 seconds. Incapacitates a target for a maximum of 20 seconds. Can only be used while Stealthed, and can only be used on a humanoid target not in combat. Any damage will cause the target to awaken. Only 1 target can be incapacitated at a time. Proficiency: 1/1000.

2

In the distant future, there would be a thread on the official forum dedicated to cursing the most disgusting skill in Dawn.

No one could protest against the Thief Skill 'Sap' hanging at the top of the Skill Rankings.

Imagine if you were doing a quest, and suddenly found that you couldn't move at all. Goddammit, is it possible to lag in a virtual game?!

Before you could realise what was happening, your HP would start to empty out.

It was also possible that the Lord Thief didn't want to kill you- but this depended on the Lord Thief's mood. Female players would often be harassed by this skill.

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Of course, all the Thief would be able to do was look. They could look at breasts, butt, face, etc, but as soon as they touched, the system would allow the female player to retaliate.

2

And afterwards, you would appear back at the spawn point.

There was another skill that Lu Li could learn: Backstab.

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Backstab: Instant Cast, Cooldown Time: 30 seconds. Stabs the target in the back, causes 150% of Equipment Damage. Must attack from behind the target, and the main hand must be equipped with a Dagger. Awards 1 combo point. Proficiency: 1/1000.

This skill's damage was not bad, but its Cooldown Time was quite long. Only Lu Li knew that although this Backstab skill seemed very ordinary, if he could obtain the Backhand Backstab and the Enhance Backstab Skill Books, this skill would become the Enhanced Backhand Backstab. Not only did it deal a huge amount of damage, but if its Skill Completion was high enough, it would also cause Paralysis.

After learning those skills, Lu Li planned to go and clear the 2 remaining LV4 and LV5 quests.

The Hunter Trainer had a "Pet Betrayal" Quest. Apparently one of his pets, a wolf, had escaped, and his request was for players to kill the wolf and bring back its head. The Quest Reward and EXP were all decent, and also gave 2 pieces of Pet Food which could increase Pet Loyalty. They could sell for 1 silver coin each, which was decent.

2

The other quest was a Collection quest, and required him to look for a plant called the "Silver Leaved Grass". This quest allowed players to learn the Herbalism Skill for free, and the Quest Reward was the Alchemy Skill. These skills were essential to Thieves.

Also, Lu Li still had the "Tap's Request" quest that he needed to complete. The Sentinel Captain Carolina wasn't stationed in the village; she was somewhere in the wilderness, so doing these 2 quests meant that he would also have a high chance of running into her.

The Collection quest was quite easy. Silver Leaved Grass was one of the most common herbs, and while looking for the escaped wolf, Lu Li quickly found 20 of them. However, he still couldn't find the Sentinel Captain.

A scream sounded out, and Lu Li instantly entered into Stealth and rushed over.

A gigantic black wolf was mauling a player, who quickly turned into a white light and flew off.

The face of the little girl next to him was completely pale, and she didn't even dare to move.

## **The Great Thief Chapter 20 - Kill Stealing**

## Chapter 20: Kill Stealing

1

The escaped pet!

Seeing the target of his quest, Lu Li stared in shock for a few moments.

This thing was a bit too different from what he had seen in his 'past life'.

The wolf in front of him was gigantic and towering, whereas the one in his 'past life' had been the size of a small husky and didn't have much HP. This was the difference between a normal monster and an Elite grade monster.

However, he realised that this was normal- in order to allow players who had started later to catch up, the game company had reduced the difficulty of many of the quests. By the time Lu Li had joined the game, the escaped pet could easily be killed.

"Hey, do you want to form a party?" It would be difficult to fight by himself and there was no one else around, so Lu Li casually asked the girl in front of him.

"But, but my big brother's... dead," the little rabbit-like girl said with watery eyes.

"It's just a game; it's not like your brother's permanently dead. He'll be back soon." Lu Li sent over a party request. It was accepted by a player called "Lonesome Flower". The other player in the party, "March Rain", was evidently the little 'rabbit' in front of him.

Who would have thought that this scared little rabbit would be one of the members of the champion team of the 5v5 team fights in 2 years' time.

"Bro, wait for me, I'll be right there." Lonesome Flower was the player who was just killed.

A party of 3 people against an Elite grade monster wouldn't be too hard.

"Flower, you're a Magician, so start attacking at full power once I start attacking. March Rain, when I tell you to heal, make sure you heal immediately." After chatting for a bit, Lu Li started to give out orders.

"Don't call me Flower. If you have to shorten my name, at least call me Lonesome." The Magician sounded quite annoyed.

2

“Alright, Flower, get ready.” Lu Li used Stealth and went to the back of the monster, and used Cheap Shot to stun it. He and Lonesome Flower began to rapidly attack it.

1

Lonesome Flower evidently hadn't cleared any Instance Dungeons before, or killed any Elites. He didn't have a single piece of Bronze grade equipment, and his damage was simply pitiful.

“I say, bro, what hack are you using?” Seeing that his skill damage couldn't even compare to Lu Li's normal attacks, Lonesome Flower couldn't stay calm.

“I'll tell you for 1 gold coin. Deal?”

“1... just 1 gold coin?” Lonesome Flower was quite disappointed. If Lu Li had wanted a higher price, he might have accepted. 1 gold coin was far too little for something so precious; Lu Li was definitely joking.

1

System: Backstab Skill Completion 65%, caused 72% Skill Damage.

Lu Li successfully used his new skill. However, it was not executed very well, so he only dealt about 20 or so damage.

Seeing his maxed out combo points, Lu Li could only inwardly sigh. Once a Thief reached LV5, they experienced profound changes. However, what truly made a Thief strong was their Ultimate Skill.

Ultimate Skills required combo points to use. Right now, if Lu Li had an Ultimate Skill, he would be able to insta-kill a Magician with Common grade equipment like Lonesome Flower. It wouldn't even require a Critical Hit.

“Heal me!” Lu Li commanded.

“But... but you're still at full health.” March Rain felt quite confused.

Just as she spoke, she saw Lu Li's health being reduced by half, and she hurriedly healed him 3 times to return him back to full health.

Lu Li wasn't angry, and patiently explained, “Healing requires intuition and prediction. You need to predict when a Boss will attack, and start healing just as your target starts receiving damage. This wolf's attack damage isn't that high, and isn't very tricky to deal with. Otherwise, if it continuously attacked me twice, I would already be dead.”

“No wonder you told me to heal when you were at full health. But how do I tell when the monster is going to use its skill?” March Rain seemed to really like her Priest Profession. Normally, she didn’t dare to say much to Lu Li, but as soon as he mentioned skills for being a Priest, she instantly became excited.

“Normally, only Elite grade monsters or NPCs can use skills. These sort of characters have fairly good AI systems, so their movements, expressions and words all have meanings. For example, the giant wolf’s howl was slightly longer than normal. That meant it was going to use a skill. Plus, the amount of HP it has left indicates that it’s probably in its ‘struggling’ state.

“You know so much...” March Rain paused, “Even more than my big brother.”

Lonesome Flower’s face fell. Was this guy here to steal his little sister?

2

“Make sure you spend time and effort practicing. Healing takes a lot of skill, and will often determine the outcome of a battle.”

March Rain had always been interested in being a Priest, but she had never felt that Priests were strong or important. However, upon hearing Lu Li say this, she felt a spring of hope well up inside her.

Lu Li didn’t know how much of an impact his words had had on this little rabbit. Back then, she had joined at least half a year earlier than him, and for games, half a year was incredibly important.

“The escaped pet is over here. Big brother, come over quickly; it’s about to be killed!” They suddenly heard a few players and soon saw them appear.

The giant wolf’s HP had fallen to 20%, and neither Lonesome Flower nor March Rain had expected any other players to barge in. Their faces turned a bit pale.

“Flower, go and lead the giant wolf somewhere else. Go with your big brother, March Rain. I’ll kill these guys first and then meet up with you.” Lu Li retreated a few steps, and entered into Stealth. The Boss’ aggro was instantly transferred onto Lonesome Flower.

“They haven’t done anything though.” March Rain said in a small voice.

“It’s going to happen sooner or later.” Lu Li said in the Party Chat, then stopped speaking.

The newcomers were a small party made up of a Priest, Warlock, Hunter, Magician and a Druid. From how much HP the Druid had, it seemed that he was the main tank.

Druids were Jacks of all Trades, and could play a variety of roles. The Bear Transformation could greatly reduce damage taken, which helped in tanking.

The group of people came over while sniggering. They didn't view Lu Li's party as a threat at all. Seeing Lu Li enter into Stealth, the Magician commanded the Druid and Hunter to gather around the Priest to protect him.

As long as the Priest didn't die, he could continuously heal back the damage the Thief dealt, reducing Lu Li to an insignificant threat.

However, just as they got into position, the Magician found that there was something wrong with the Warlock next to him.

His eyes were clouded, and was slightly swaying, as if someone had smashed his head with a stick.

Sap!

The Magician immediately prepared to release a Blizzard around himself and the Warlock. AOE skills were incredibly effective in forcing Thieves out of hiding.

Blizzard was an Instant Cast skill, and only required a hand gesture. It was fast and easy to activate.

This Magician had pretty good reactions, and had good judgement. It was a pity that he had run into Lu Li. Just as he started to raise his Staff, he felt a sharp pain in the back of his head.

Swish swish swish...

-67, -82, -74... a chain of terrifying numbers quickly arose. By the time the Hunter had pulled out an arrow, the Magician was already dead.

Lu Li had 2 pieces of Steel grade equipment and 3 pieces of Bronze grade equipment. The Magician only had a single ordinary piece of Bronze grade equipment. Not only was there a great gap between their equipment, Lu Li was also 1 level higher than him. Lu Li had finished him off with just 5 normal attacks.

After the Magician fell, Lu Li sprang towards the Warlock, who was still incapacitated.

System: Shadowstrike Skill Completion 89%, caused 112% Skill Damage, target stunned for 2 seconds!