

The Great Thief Chapter 31 - Setting Up a Stand For Auctions

Chapter 31: Setting Up a Stand For Auctions

The Dark Ravine was very lively at night. The elves who preferred the quiet couldn't stop players from entertaining themselves and having a good time.

A bonfire had been lit in the open area, and cheap wines that were sold in the grocery were the most popular item amongst the players. Everyone's dramatic fantasies were all satisfied here; there were even some young girls dancing and singing.

There were also many people who set up stalls. The Elven Bodyguards acted as if nothing was happening, not caring about the influence that these foreigners had on the city's image.

Returning to the Dark Ravine, Azure Sea Breeze went about looking for Unions to talk to while Lu Li went around looking at the stalls. He checked if there was anything he could use and scoped out the market prices.

After some investigation, Lu Li discovered that the equipment being sold here was more expensive than what he expected.

A bronze equip that added 1 bonus attribute sold for at least 20 silver coins. An equip that added 2 bonus attributes was worth around 35 silver coins. As for Steel Equipment, there wasn't a single one to be found.

After giving it some thought, he realized that this was normal, as the Elite difficulty Spider Lair was the only place where Steel Equipment could be dropped. Those that could beat this Instance Dungeon would most certainly use the equipment for themselves. Those who couldn't use it had a long queue of people in their Union waiting to trade with them. There was no way any Steel equips would end up in a stall.

After a leisurely stroll, he had only found a Ring that added 1 point of Agility being sold for 1 Gold. What a rip off!

Lu Li didn't think about it much longer and immediately set up a stall of his own.

The last time he set up a stall he was attacked by other people, so this time he was smarter about it. He cut a white cloth with his offhand dagger, making a makeshift mask and covering his face with it.

There were 7 bronze equipments, including two pieces that made one Druid set. In addition, there was a brace, a Steel Axe and a Hunter skill book: Trueshot Aura.

Anything that added 1 bonus attribute he priced at 25 silver, while anything that added 2 bonus attributes was set at 40 silver. The Magic Staff that added 3 Intelligence was priced at 80 silver, while the brace was priced at 1 gold. With some hesitation, Lu Li marked the two Druid set pieces to be 2 Gold each. Of course, no one would buy it at this price, but Lu Li planned to wait until someone asked about it to discuss a price. As for the Steel equip, he set an exorbitant price of 10 gold.

The skill book didn't actually have much innate value, but as no one currently had one, Lu Li marked it to be at 2 gold.

2

After setting up the Booth, Lu Li squatted behind it and read through the forum. Some posts contained techniques, some analyzed different parts of the game and others introduced the large Unions.

The video of him PVPing sat in the highest position, with over 100,000 comments on it. It was simply unsurpassable.

Like the day before, it wasn't long before Lu Li heard someone call out in alarm because of the equipment and skill book.

Yesterday they called out in alarm because of the Bronze equipment, but today it was because of the Steel equipment!

"Oh my, it really is a Steel equip. This is the first time I've even seen one, how lucky." People who saw it were shocked, drawing attention to the stall and causing more people to see it. Eventually, more people were called over to look at it.

Soon enough, even those who couldn't afford anything began crowding around Lu Li's stall.

"Can you give me a discount for this Magic Staff?"

"How can this Steel equip be so expensive!"

"How much would you sell the 2 pieces of the Druid set for in real world currency? I want them!"

"25 silver for a Bronze, how are they selling these for so cheap? I'm already prepared to buy them!"

The clamoring was a sea of voices; it was difficult to clearly hear what was being said.

Two of the ordinary Bronze equips were bought first. Bronze equips were already worth quite a few silver, so they were a profitable purchase at this price, regardless of whether they were for personal use or for selling. Those who had money on hand immediately bought the equips, leaving those who were too slow frustrated and angry.

1

Seeing that the sales had begun, the better Bronze equips quickly disappeared from Lu Li's stall. He didn't even know who bought the Brace, but the items that were left behind seemed to be of interest to no one. Despite this, the number of people crowding his store kept growing.

On the local channel, some people had announced that the Moon Shadow Valley had a Steel equip on sale!

There was a masked man who had set up a stall in Moon Shadow Valley plaza with a pile of high quality equips for sale!

Who could keep their cool after hearing this news? People who were doing Instance Dungeons, or out in suicide squads all made a return trip to see this.

Some even went offline to make some phone calls with their rich acquaintances.

Dawn had done well: their large player-base meant that there were also many tycoons. Many people were trying to trade for more gold to scrounge together more money. However, Steel Equips weren't something you could purchase even if you were rich.

1

"Step aside, step aside, those who aren't buying anything please step aside." There was a Mage who was being escorted. By the looks of it, he was definitely rich.

"Can you make this Magic Staff a little cheaper?"

"Nope."

"It's not even a Steel equip and you're selling it for 80 silver. That's a bit of a rip off."

"Steel equips are at least 5 gold each. I sold a skill book yesterday for 20 gold."

3

"Oh, so it was you who sold the skill book. Brother, add me as a friend. If you ever find good Mage items, you can message me directly." It appeared that this Mage called Holy Thunder was truly rich, as he bought the Magic Staff at its original price.

2

Lu Li couldn't reject a tycoon like this, immediately adding him as a friend.

His approach to the friend's list was to reject anyone that added him, however, he allowed himself to add other people.

4

In such a short period, he had managed to make 3 gold. If you included the items that he received from the treasure chests and the Boss, his total profit would be 4 gold.

Lu Li opened the Trade Window and was stunned.

1:1000!

It wasn't 1500 for each gold coin anymore! Lu Li shook his head and bitterly laughed. No wonder the equip prices had increased by so much. The tycoons must have realized that yesterday's gold conversion rate was just too much.

In reality, even 1000 for 1 gold was crazy. However, the gold exchange rate would continue at this level as long as the big unions kept accepting it.

When the prices settled down after the 3rd soft reset, 1 gold would not even be worth 100 real money.

"Can I trade the pieces of the Druid set for real money? No one is going to pay 4 gold for it. Brother Thief, if you don't need gold, how much real money are you willing to sell it for?" A leather clad Druid pushed in, his heart set on the two pieces of the Druid set.

"We also would like to buy the 2 pieces of the Druid set for real money, so go ahead and make a bid." Others had also taken a special interest in the Druid equips. Once they saw that Lu Li was about to yield, they also started yelling.

Lu Li never thought that the interest for these two 2 Bronze equips would be greater than the Steel equipment. It appeared that he had underestimated the demand for healing equipment among parties.

The Steel equip would increase one's DPS and overall attack strength, but the healing equip could increase healing for the whole party. It looked like they were all aware of this, as most of them were Druids, but were trying to buy it for their own party.

"The 2 pieces of the Bronze Druid set were dropped by the Wild Boss. The suit's special effect increases the duration of Recover by 6 seconds. I will begin the auction for it now, but I want to be paid before I give you the goods." Lu Li thought of his previous life, and suddenly had the bright idea of starting an auction.

Upon hearing what Lu Li said, the surrounding crowd quietened down.

The Great Thief Chapter 32 - Warrior God Moonlight

Chapter 32: Warrior God Moonlight

“How do we know that you won’t just run away after you get the money?” someone queried.

Before Lu Li could even respond, someone shot back: “Get out of here, this guy is an expert who has gotten 2 First Clears. Why would he want your small bit of money?”

6

No one could respond to that, as he truly was incredible. He had sold a skill book yesterday and everything on sale had been obtained today. This made all the ordinary players feel useless in comparison.

This was probably the first Steel equip that had been put on sale!

This was probably also the first Bronze suit that had appeared in game!

“For these two Bronze equips, I bid 200 real money.” The crowd was silent for a moment, before someone shouted out a price.

“Let’s not mess around. For those two Bronze equips, we the Great Qin Empire bid 2000 real money.” Lu Li didn’t even need to say anything before someone raised the price significantly.

This was a textbook seller’s market, without any fear that no one would want to buy it.

The price that Lu Li had set was 4 gold together, or 2 gold per piece. According to the current trade market, gold had an exchange rate of 1000 to 1. As such, a bid of 2000 real money was just to test the waters.

“We the Gods of Dusk bid 4000 real money, but would also like to remind everyone not to bid too highly. These attributes are good, but it is only level 5. Let’s not hurt each other but be amicable instead.” This was spoken by a senior player who was experienced and reliable. He accurately pointed out a key issue - these equips were too low level.

Several unions in the crowd hesitated, as they needed to consider this.

“5000 real money.” The silence didn’t last long before another bid was called out. The price had now surpassed Lu Li’s original marked price.

Lu Li followed the voice to find Drinking Alone standing in the crowd. He was obviously attempting to buy it for his Union, and if no one increased the bid, he would happily take it at 5000.

“10,000!” A cold, yet magnetic voice sounded from the crowd. It had a mysterious charm to it.

Water Fairy!

The name was shouted and like magic, the crowd split to make way for her.

This was the first time that Lu Li had seen Water Fairy in person. However, he wasn’t unfamiliar with her. She would later become Dawn’s first competitive representative, with her image being placed on a large promotional poster.

5

Water Fairy as an extremely beautiful woman in every sense, with long legs and a charming, slender waist. She maintained a youthful appearance with her immature facial features, but her demeanor was cold and arrogant. As such, she had gained the image of a goddess to the players.

4

It wasn’t clear whether it was because of Water Fairy’s presence, or that 10,000 well and truly exceeded the value of these items, but no one placed any further bids.

“Add me as a friend.” Water Fairy’s voice was actually very soft, like a typical Japanese girl. It was too bad that this was ruined by her monotone intonation.

Lu Li gawked for a moment, before attempting to send Water Fairy a friend request. However, he was met with a system message which told him that the player he was trying to send a request to forbade friend requests...

“Ah... I can’t”

So, she was also someone who didn’t accept friend requests.

After a second, Water Fairy responded: “It’ll work now.”

Lu Li didn't receive a cold system prompt this time and successfully added Water Fairy as a friend.

"Water Beauty, I worship you, please add me." Other people saw that Lu Li and Water Fairy had added each other, so they also quickly sent their invitations. However, they were all disheartened when they rejected by the system.

How could this Thief who was hiding his face add her, but a genuine person couldn't?

"Water Beauty, I am from the Gangnam Royals, please add me. Perhaps my union could work together with Drizzle Court sometime." Gangnam Royals were ranked 2nd among the unions, but upon hearing a proposition like this, one couldn't help but chuckle.

1

A player like Water Fairy had no regard for unions.

A union would provide its resources in exchange for a person's allegiance - it was a mutual relationship.

High-ranking players like Water Fairy, Beast King Hunter, Glacial Autumn Wind and Berserk Warrior Moonlight usually did not engage in union matters, regarding themselves as equals to the unions. They usually spent more time on their own matters.

Only Drinking Alone and Indifference were the kind of people to regard matters of their union to be their primary occupation. However, they would be unable to rise and become the best of the best.

"When can we PVP? You can choose the time and place." This was the reason for the friend request. The female tycoon was showing her aggressive side, and if he were to decline, she would probably scream and attack him.

"Wait until I'm free." Lu Li wanted to tell her that as of now, she wasn't a match for him, but he was scared that he would be killed by her nearby supporters.

Water Fairy seemed to trust that this 'expert' was in the middle of something, and left after completing the transaction with several other members of the Drizzle Court Union.

Spending this kind of money just for a PVP match was something that only Dawn's first female tycoon would do.

"Next is this big Steel axe for a Berserk Warrior. Everyone has already seen its attributes. If you have it, it doesn't matter who you fight in a PVP. You will be the one reaping the rewards!" Lu Li didn't say anything more and announced the starting price.

The Elven race was unsuitable to be a Main Tank and those who played Warrior as an Elf would mostly follow the Berserker Warrior path. As this was Elven territory, this typical Berserker Warrior weapon would almost certainly be sold.

1

Elf characters were also beautiful, which is something that tycoons loved. Elf Berserker Warriors had therefore made a name for themselves in being extremely wealthy.

“Wait!” Suddenly, someone called out to Lu Li.

“Woah, who do you think you are? Just because you say wait, should we all just wait?” Those who were about to name a price were all startled by the shout and nearly choked on their own saliva, while others began to shout back at her. If it weren’t for the fact that you couldn’t attack anyone here, they would have started fighting long ago.

“I am Moonlight.” The voice was firm and steady, unaffected by the scolding.

Others were laughing, but Lu Li didn’t even crack a smile.

Within 2 or 3 years, Moonlight would quickly rise up within the game community.

There were too many Thief experts, so there was too much dispute over the title of Thief God, but the Warrior God was absolute. Many people used this to refer to Moonlight!

Some people said that he possessed an evil spirit because of how bloodthirsty he was. He once picked a Union called Twilight Gloom and fought them. In that battle, he had completely broken all his equipment and lost several levels, but had also managed to kill several hundred of the opposing players.

With such a glorious outcome, should you just accept your victory?

No!

It wasn’t many days before he was re-equipped with a full set of high quality equips and killing people from that union.

No one knew how the situation was resolved, but Moonlight had shocked the entire player-base, and no one dared to offend him from then on.

Others claimed that Moonlight was some Godlike player with a smurf, because his technique was too good and his levelling speed was too fast. The equipment on his body was also the best, which was not the mark of an amateur.

Who knew that today was his lucky day? Two future experts had unexpectedly arrived. Lu Li was a little shocked.

He was curious, however, as to why Moonlight had told him to stop the auction.

The Great Thief Chapter 33 - Trade

Chapter 33: Trade

“I’ll trade you a Steel grade equipment for Thieves, how about that?” Moonlight took out a piece of equipment and showed Lu Li its stats.

[Swift Leather Boots] (Steel): 8 Armour, Agility+4, Special Effect: Swiftiness- when Stealthed, Movement Speed+10%. Lasts for 10 seconds. Cooldown Time: 120 seconds. Effects cannot be stacked. Level Requirement: LV5. Durability: 30/30.

Lu Li’s eyes constricted. This piece of equipment would be fantastic for PVP battles.

However, it definitely wasn’t worth as much as Lu Li’s Axe. The Bloodseeker’s Axe was a weapon, whereas the Swift Leather Boots were Armor. It would be impossible to directly trade them.

Moonlight wasn’t an idiot. He saw the hesitation in Lu Li’s eyes, and hurriedly added on, “If you want money to cover the difference, I can transfer money in real life.”

All the spectators fell silent. Both of these Steel grade equipment were incredible, and were things that most players could only dream of. To be able to take out a Steel grade equipment to trade? It was likely that both of them had more.

Truth be told, Lu Li did indeed have another 3 pieces of Steel-grade equipment. One was his bow, one was a piece of Armor, and the other was the Dagger that had been Enchanted by the Dwarf!

“No need for the money. Help me with something and I’ll trade with you.” Lu Li thought for a moment before giving up on the real life money.

He lacked money in real life, but his \$45,000 in his account gave him some breathing space. His priority now was the Escort quest given to him by Sentinel Captain Carolina - the 24 hours time limit was quite short. As well as this, he would forfeit his rewards if he exceeded this time limit and there would be further penalties if Tap died.

Moonlight was quite skilled and was a powerful Berserker. He was an excellent attacker and had quite a bit of HP and Defence too. Getting his help for this quest would be crucial.

Lu Li had considered asking Drinking Alone and the other people from the Grand Hegemony to do the quest with him, but seeing as he had rejected their offer to join them, he didn't feel that it was right to ask them.

"Deal." Moonlight had already thought for quite a long time, and Lu Li thought that he would refuse. However, in the end, he nodded.

What was there to think so long about? Just what was going on in this guy's head?

Lu Li didn't bother signing a System Contract. He knew that although Moonlight had a reputation for being extremely bloodthirsty, he wasn't a liar or a scammer.

Moonlight was so shocked that Lu Li trusted him this much, that he directly gave the equipment to him. After thinking for a few moments he also sent Lu Li a friend request, but was coldly denied by the system.

2

Lu Li immediately sent over a friend request and they both appeared in each other's friend lists.

The spectators could only watch as the Steel grade equipment in front of Lu Li disappeared. The last remaining item was the Hunter Skill Book.

If it was just a regular Hunter Skill Book, only Hunters would be interested. However, this Trueshot Aura skill would give an entire team a Buff to their Physical Attack Damage. Moreover, melee teams were currently quite favoured due to the Spider Lair Instance Dungeon.

As such, many rich people were interested in buying it for the purpose of strengthening their union.

"We'll swap a Thief Skill Book with you. How's that?" If Lu Li decided to accept, then he wouldn't auction. Auctions were simply too savage - items and equipment would often be sold at many times their actual value.

"That's fine, but it has to be an Ultimate Skill or an Enhancing Skill for Thieves." Lu Li knew that if he wanted be strong in Dawn, he had to think towards the future.

He desperately needed money, but making himself stronger was the top priority.

"What's an Enhancing Skill?" Everyone had blank looks on their faces. Moonlight, who had decided to hang around was looking confused as well.

Everyone knew about Ultimate Skills. Thieves' skills gave combo points, which could be used for Ultimate Skills. However, no one had ever heard of Enhancing Skills before.

Lu Li could only patiently explain. “Enhanced Skills are extensions of normal skills. For example, there’s Enhanced Charge, Enhanced Stealth, Enhanced Blizzard and Enhanced Backstab. There are also some skills that aren’t quite Enhanced, but are similar. For example, there’s a Druid skill called Little Leopard Transformation which is similar to the Cheetah Transformation skill, but its stats are even better.

2

“My friend found a Chain Lightning Skill Book. Does that count as Lightning Arrow’s Enhanced Skill?” asked someone in the crowd.

“One’s a single target skill and the other is an AOE skill. Chain Lightning is very valuable, but it’s not the Enhanced Skill of Lightning Arrow,” clarified Lu Li.

“As expected of an expert.” Everyone was in awe of Lu Li’s knowledge. Many people sent out friend requests to Lu Li, but all of them were, as usual, were coldly rejected by the system. Yep, he was definitely an expert - only experts were this hard to add as friends.

“I have a Backhand Backstab Skill Book. Is it different to Enhanced Backstab?” a female Hunter timidly asked.

“Backhand Backstab isn’t an Enhanced Skill, but is an Ultimate Skill. Would you like to trade with me?” Lu Li calmly asked.

“I... I train by myself, so... so wouldn’t it be a bit of a waste?” The Hunter was a young girl, and didn’t have a full set of equipment. The drop rate in Dawn was incredibly low, but as long as one had the patience and skill, it wouldn’t be too difficult to obtain a full set of Common grade equipment. This girl was definitely a newbie.

“In the future when you have pets, this skill will also Buff you pets. Plus, once you have this skill, it’ll be easy to get into a good team,” Lu Li patiently said.

The early stages of the game were often the most difficult for Hunters. This was because Tame Beast Skill Books were incredibly rare, in addition to having low accuracy and low attack speed. If a Hunter didn’t have any good equipment, it would be almost impossible for them to find a good team. The girl in front of him obviously fell into this category, but he was curious as to how she had obtained a Skill Book like Backhand Backstab.

[Backhand Backstab]: Instant Cast. When you are at your target’s side, consume all of your combo points to backhand backstab your target, causing Equipment Damage x (1 + 30% x number of combo points) worth of Damage. Proficiency: 1/1000.

This Ultimate Skill was quite powerful, but if one had to point out a drawback, it would be that Backhand Backstab required difficult positioning. As such, most Thieves in

Dawn chose to use Eviscerate as their Ultimate Skill. However, to Manual mode players, this skill was easier in being able to achieve surprising effects.

The Hunter girl was convinced by one of Lu Li's reasons, and then nodding, opened up a Trade Window with Lu Li.

Lu Li let out the breath that he had been holding and traded with the girl.

Lu Li felt a bit guilty, perhaps because he felt that he had taken advantage of this girl. He sent her a friend request, hoping that he would be able to make it up to her in the future.

Trueshot Aura was quite a good skill and was very rare. However, it simply couldn't be compared to the Backhand Backstab. At least to Lu Li, he had received much more than he had given, and thus the exchange hadn't been very fair to the girl.

The Hunter girl was very surprised that Lu Li would add her as a friend. However, being added by an expert made her quite happy, so she accepted the request without hesitation.

The Great Thief Chapter 34 - House Searching

Chapter 34: House Searching

After selling all of his equipment and the Skill Book, Lu Li sent a message to Azure Sea Breeze to see how things were going on his end. After confirming that all was well, Lu Li logged off and went to sleep.

The next day was Sunday. Lu Li and his little sister ate some breakfast, then left to look for a new home.

From a sociological standpoint, once private ownership was established, people were bound to be divided into the 'rich' and the 'poor'. Despite how advanced technology was, this was something that could not be changed.

1

The wealth gap between the rich and the poor was still as present as ever in the 23rd century. There were 3 main Districts: The Slum District, Commoner District and the Rich District. Although these weren't their official names, that was how reality was.

4

The people who lived in the Slum District were mostly unemployed and barely scraped by on government handouts. Most of them didn't have the right to education or healthcare. The reason why the Lu family lived in such poverty was because Lu Li wanted his sister to go to school, so that one day she might be able to find a good job and marry into a good family.

1

Those who lived in the Common District were mostly the working class who earned low incomes. Although they didn't have much money, they were handed more rights than those in the Slum Districts and lived in much better conditions because they could at least contribute to society.

As for the Rich District, they were the minority who controlled the majority of society's wealth, and enjoyed much more in terms of rights and power.

Lu Li now had more than \$40,000 in his bank account. It was impossible for him to buy a house even in the Commoner District, but renting a house would be no problem.

Currently, they were looking for a house in the Commoner District with a nice and safe environment, that was close to a school and wasn't too expensive...

"Big brother, look, there are police here even though it's still daytime," pointed out Lu Xin in curiosity.

Lu Xin was a little beauty but had always lacked a feeling of security since she was young. Luckily, her big brother was good at fighting, so she was able to safely grow up in the Slum District.

"It's because this side of the Commoner District is close to the Slum District," Lu Li explained. This was quite ironic - Lu Xin was excited to see the police, but the people they were here to guard against were people like Lu Li and Lu Xin.

"Big brother, if we find a house to live in over here, we won't count as poor anymore, right?" The little girl asked with a look of hope on her face.

"Xin Xin, we weren't poor because we lived in the Slum District, but because we didn't have any money. Now that we have money, we aren't poor anymore." Lu Li swore to himself that he would never let his little sister feel inferior because of her social status ever again.

"Oh! Big brother's so awesome; you earned that much money in just 2 days!" To Lu Xin, her big brother was always the strongest and the most awesome person. A certain bro-con's eyes were filled with little stars.

1

“Xin Xin, let’s not look for a house here.” A certain sis-con’s heart started racing as he proudly said, “Let’s go to the Rich District!”

4

“Big brother, are you sure?!” Lu Xin burst into excitement, but then became doubtful. “Big brother, will we really have enough for that? If... if one day we don’t have enough money, what will we do?”

It was normal for the little girl to worry about this.

However, what she didn’t know, was that sis-cons hated being doubted by their little sisters. What? Not being able to earn enough money? Impossible!

The more Lu Li thought about it, the more he wanted to move to the Rich District. The living conditions there were simply too good. The Slum District was a crappy area that should have been demolished 200 years ago, while the Commoner District was equivalent to the normal suburbs. Only the Rich District could match the 200 years of advancement in technology.

Lu Li and Lu Xin sat in a hover car as they set out for the Rich District.

The Rich District was quite large, but there were not many people. Apart from some special regions, the residential area was filled with trees and some rare plants that had become extinct 200 years ago.

Plant DNA that had been preserved for 200 years had finally been reconstructed using technology. It was very fitting for them to be growing in the gardens of the Rich District.

1

“You want to rent a house here?” Most of the receptionists came from the Commoner District, so they didn’t have the same condescending attitude that most people of the Rich District had. The receptionist kindly said, “The government regulations require that your account needs to have at least \$1,000,000 in order to live here.”

“\$1,000,000...” Lu Li’s hopes were instantly dashed.

“Big brother, let’s forget about it then,” Lu Xin softly said as she pulled Lu Li’s arm.

“You could try out the region near the Higher Education Mega Centre,” the receptionist suggested.

“Right!” Lu Li suddenly realised that it wasn’t just the Rich District that had a good living environment.

Seventy years ago, when the location for the Higher Education Mega Centre was being chosen, there had been some complications.

The government had wanted to put all of the universities in the same location to save money and space.

They had originally been planning to build the Higher Education Mega Centre in the Rich District, as all the members of the committee were from the Rich District. After all, who wouldn't want universities to be close to where they lived?

However, no one thought that those from the Commoner District and Slum District would be so outraged. Factory workers went on strikes, teachers went on strikes, electricity and water was cut, transportation was blocked, and even the military fell into chaos. Soon, members of the committee began to be assassinated.

3

As such, someone suggested that the Higher Education Mega Centre should be built between the Rich District and Commoner District.

Although some people were still unhappy, most of the chaos ceased, and the Higher Education Mega Centre became a buffer between the Commoner District and the Rich District. While it was affordable for most people of the working class, the conditions there were almost as good as those in the Rich District.

2

By the time the Lu brother and sister arrived at the Higher Education Mega Centre, it was already 11am. Lu Li decided to go to the Villa District where the Star Moon Union was, since he was familiar with its surroundings.

This was a Garden Villa District. In the front, there were 4 office buildings, and behind them was the residential area.

Lu Li held Lu Xin's hand as they walked past a Real Estate Agent's office and into the residential area.

"Big brother, I heard that Real Estate Agents can show you around and give you some information. Why didn't we go in there?" Lu Xin turned around, wanting to look back at the office.

"Silly girl, Real Estate Agents are all swindlers. They always start with the worst house and work their way up from there. If you meet a really bad one, they sometimes even collude with the landlord to cheat you of your money. So remember, never, ever find a Real Estate Agent," Lu Li said, as he passed on essential knowledge to his little sister.

Lu Xin completely trusted Lu Li, and she looked at the office with wariness.

“Then how will we know which houses are for rent?”

“There are 2 ways: we can either look online, or look at the District’s bulletin board.” In his ‘previous life’, Lu Li had also moved out of the Slum District with his little sister. However, they had only been able to move to the Commoner District, and the living conditions still weren’t that great.

“Are we going to look online?”

“Most of the photos online are fake. It’s better if we go and take a look in person. We’ll have a look at the bulletin board first,” Lu Li replied. Even after hundreds of years, some things had never changed. Beside the digital bulletin board were some empty spaces for people to put up their own ads.

There were those wanting to buy second hand game helmets, clinics advertising their medicine, as well as advertisements for renting rooms.

The brother and sister pair squeezed in front of the bulletin board together, looking for an ad that caught their eye. Just as they were about to choose one to call, they heard someone impatiently saying, “Are you guys done or not? Can you let me stick something on?”

The Great Thief Chapter 35 - My Beautiful Landlord

Chapter 35: My Beautiful Landlord

The person’s voice was slightly hoarse, and Lu Li turned around, he was that it came from a beautiful woman.

2

Her clothes were not very orderly and she had eyebags as well as an impatient expression, however, she was definitely a beauty. This went to show just how stunning she was.

The Lu brother and sister took a few steps back to make way for her. She was holding a sheet of paper with a sticky back, and she carelessly stuck it onto the bulletin board. She didn’t even bother to look at it after, and yawned, then shakily left.

“Big sister.” Lu Xin called out to the beauty.

The beauty turned around in annoyance. However, seeing that it was the cute little girl who had called out to her, her voice became somewhat more amicable. “What is it little sister?”

Lu Li had been completely ignored.

1

“Big sister, you stuck your ad upside down!”

The beauty seemed to waken up, and walking over, she saw that it was indeed upside down.

Villa overlooking the Little Mirror Lake. Renting out 3 rooms. Includes a private bathroom, shared gym, kitchen... IV-6 network port for gaming... Monthly rent: \$8,000-12,000. For more information, please call 182*****001.

1

After turning it the right way up, Lu Li was able to read the ad, and immediately called out to the beauty who was about to leave.

“What is it now?” The beauty frowned and her eyes filled with annoyance. Her attitude towards Lu Li was completely different.

“The room you’re renting out has an IV-6 network port for gaming? Are you sure it’s an IV-6?” Lu Li asked.

The IV-6 network port was designed especially for gaming and costed quite a bit of money - about \$2,000 per month. Furthermore, because of the network resources it took up, the installation of such network ports was strictly limited. Even if one had money, they might not necessarily be able to access one.

“That’s right, you want to rent?” The beauty gave him a strange look, “Sorry, but we only want to rent to females.”

3

“Big brother, it’s so expensive,” Lu Xin said as she held Lu Li’s hand. She was simply astounded by the monthly rent. The government handouts given to those in the Slum District would be around \$8,000 per year, and it would rarely be given in cash.

1

“This price is actually quite fair. You know, Xin Xin, it would be quite hard for us to find a cheaper and better place than this in the Higher Education Mega Centre,” Lu Li replied.

“How about we go back to the Commoner District? We’ll come back when we have enough money.” Lu Xin didn’t want her brother to overwork herself. She would already be happy living in the Commoner District.

3

What a good girl. Lu Li couldn’t help but stroke his little sister’s head. “If we live over here, I can send you to a good school. That way, you’ll be able to go to the No. 1 Affiliated Middle School. I heard that the enrolment rate there is quite good, and the minimum mark for passing is alright. Big brother wants you to get into the best school and best university, alright?”

“But...” Lu Xin wanted to say something, but was cut off by Lu Li. “Don’t worry about money. Big brother will take care of that.”

These people probably weren’t looking for male tenants because there were females living there already. It would be quite awkward for them if he moved in. As such, Lu Li did not push it, and instead continued to look through the ads, searching for one that had an IV-6 network port.

An IV-6 network port was simply too important, especially to a Manual mode player.

A virtual reality game depended on the game helmet, as well as the network port. Only with a decent game helmet and network port would the game run smoothly and actually appear like a virtual world. Lu Li’s game helmet was one of the worst, and combined with the network port in the Slum District, he could definitely feel the effects.

“Oi, you two.” The Lu brother and sister were muttering together about the different ads when they heard the woman call out to them.

“Eh, you’re still here?” Lu Li was a bit surprised.

“Didn’t you say you were looking for a place to rent? Come with me.” Without waiting for them, the beauty started to march forwards.

From behind, the beauty’s figure was quite impressive. She had long, slim legs and had a thick waist with a well-rounded bottom. Even without trying, she was quite sensual.

Lu Li hesitated for a moment before taking Lu Xin’s hand and following her, as he asked, “How much rent do I have to pay at once?”

“Pay for 3 months plus the next 3 as security.” This time, the woman didn’t sound as annoyed at them.

“No problem, but can we start next month? I’ll need to prepare during this month,” Lu Li said.

“Why do you need to start next month? Are you going to become rich in a month?” The woman’s thinking process was a bit strange. Most people wouldn’t have agreed to such a thing, but instead, she had asked them why.

“I won’t be able to become rich, but renting a place should be fine.” Lu Li replied.

As they talked, they had come to the entrance of the Villa. No wonder they said that it was overlooking the lake - this villa had 2 storeys and was right next to it. There was also a decently-sized balcony that extended out over a bit of the lake.

“If you’ve found a good job, then let me see the contract. Otherwise, how can I trust you... wait here.” The beauty opened the door and walked in. However, after taking a few steps, she immediately ran out and turned around while yelling, “I brought some people who are interested in renting; hurry and clean the place up. There’s a guy...”

Lu Li started sweating. He could almost imagine a bunch of almost-naked girls sitting in the living room.

2

There was a flurry of movement inside and someone yelled back, “Alright, big sis Huan Huan, you can come in now.”

The living room was quite large, but was a bit messy. However, at the very least, there wasn’t any underwear lying around. There were two women sitting on the sofa, looking at the Lu brother and sister in curiosity.

As the saying goes, ‘birds of a feather flock together’. These two women were also exceptional beauties. One of them was wearing a light blue shirt and was quite a lot shorter than the other two women. Her large and sparkling eyes, coupled with her sizeable chest made her appear like a ‘kawaii’ girl from a manga.

The other looked much more delicate and quiet, as if she was from a painting.

“Please take a seat. What were we talking about just then?” the woman who was called ‘big sis Huan Huan’ said, as she found a spot on the sofa and curled up.

“Big sis Huan Huan, didn’t we say that we’d look for a female?” the kawaii girl said unhappily.

“Ah, I saw that he treated his little sister really well, and I felt touched at the time,” Huan Huan said, as she messed around with messy hair, evidently feeling conflicted.

The kawaii girl looked at Lu Xin and suddenly realised something, saying, “Hey, at least she’s shorter than me and she’s super cute. Let’s let her stay.”

“Dou Dou, she’s still young; she’ll definitely still grow,” the delicate girl reminded her.

Although Lu Xin was already in grade 10, she was only 14 years old. She was incredibly pretty, but was only about 1.5 metres or so tall.

3

“Big sis Yi Yi, will you die if you just agree?” The girl referred to as Dou Dou yelled out furiously. The delicate beauty looked away, and didn’t say anything else.

“Alright, be quiet you guys,” Huan Huan cut them off as she looked at Lu Li and said, “You said that you wanted to start renting next month, right?”