

Strongest Mage with the Lust system

Chapter 281: Spirit fruit on auction

After a while, the group reached the city market. Unlike the residential area, the city market was extremely bustling, with numerous people, most of which were elves, going about their business. Some were trying to sell their wares, while some were looking for the things they wanted to buy.

"Big brother, big sisters, let me take you to the amazing shop that sells delicious sweets." Little Arya brought them to the east side of the city market. The east side of the market had the least number of shops, and only a few people could be seen walking around.

"There it is." Little Arya pointed to a shop surrounded by many kids of Arya's age.

Whoosh!

The next moment, she became a blur and rushed to the shop without waiting for them to follow her.

"Max, let's go. Since little Arya likes the sweets from this shop so much, we should also try them." Leticia suggested.

"Let's go then." Max nodded before walking toward the shop. After seeing how much little Arya seemed to like them, he had already wanted to try them. After all, delicious food was one of the things he enjoyed most.

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After buying a few types of sweets, Max and the company sat on one of the benches by the shop to eat them.

"Big sister, aren't these delicious?" Little Arya asked Leticia as she took a big bite out of a pie.

"Yeah, they are delicious." Leticia nodded as she also stuffed the sweet in her mouth one after another. Belen and Rima were the same; they also devoured them without caring for their images.

'So, they also have this side.' Max had a smile on his face as he watched them with happy expressions. Usually, they wouldn't talk much about other things, such as their likes, dislike or similar stuff and focus on having sex most of the time when he was with them.

So, it was refreshing to see them act like little kids. 'It seems I should take care of them properly and not think about always having sex.' He thought.

"Big brother, why are you dreaming? If you don't eat them, they will finish very soon." Little Arya said as she took a few candy-type sweets from the packets before stuffing them in her mouth.

"Don't worry about me. I'm eating." Max smiled and started eating.

After a while, they were done with the sweets.

"Let's go and tour the market, shall we?" Max asked the ladies as he stood up. Except for Arya, Rima and the others stood up immediately. Arya glanced at the sweet shop before standing up, albeit reluctantly.

"Hehe, little Arya. Everything is already sold out. However, we can come here tomorrow if you want." Rima chuckled when she noticed her reluctance.

"Really?" Little Arya's eyes lit up when she heard this.

Even though Rima didn't know why she was so happy, she still nodded, "Why not."

"You are the best big sister." Little Arya hugged her arm excitedly.

"Little Arya, why are you so happy? Can't you come here whenever you want?" Leticia asked, slightly intrigued.

When little Arya heard this, her expression dimmed. Just then, the shopkeeper, who was near them, laughed and said, "Haha, young lady. You might not know this, but the city lord doesn't usually allow our saint girl to come here."

"Oh! Why is it so?" Leticia curiously asked.

Before the shopkeeper could reply, Rima giggled lightly and said, "It's easy. Given how mischievous little Arya is, if she is allowed to do as she wishes, she won't pay attention to anything and will always be out having fun."

"Big sister, I'm not so mischievous." Little Arya's eyes became teary, and she stomped out of embarrassment when she heard this.

"Yeah, you are not so mischievous. Now let's go." Max interjected and walked away, with the ladies following after them.

"Huh? Why is everyone in a hurry?" Leticia frowned when she noticed many people rushing in the same direction.

"Let's ask around." Max was also curious. He went to a nearby stall.

"Welcome, dear customer. What would you like to buy?" The stall owner, who was a middle-aged Elvin lady, asked politely with a smile when she saw Max coming toward her stall.

"Hello. Sorry. I'm not planning to buy anything yet." Max shook his head which caused the Elvin lady's smile to disappear.

Seeing this, Max took out a few low-grade Mana stones and gave them to her before he asked, "Can you tell us why everyone seems to be in a hurry?"

The stall owner's eyes lit up, and she hurriedly took the Mana stone and replied, "I heard that the Greenwave auction hall is going to auction a spirit fruit which can help any mage under the four-star realm breakthrough at least two small levels."

'A spirit fruit that can help break through two small levels!' When Belen heard this, her eyes shone brightly, her breathing quickened, and she almost shouted out loud. She turned toward Max, wanting to say something, but eventually, she decided not to.

"A spirit fruit!" Although Belen managed to suppress her excitement, Rima and Leticia couldn't and exclaimed in surprise.

Leticia turned toward Max and asked, "Max, should we go and see if we can buy it?" If it were before, she wouldn't have asked this because she knew they didn't have enough Mana stones. However, just yesterday, the city lord had given Belen a spatial bag which had around 100,000 low-grade Mana stones. Therefore, she didn't hesitate to ask.

"Yes. Let's go." Max nodded, and without any delay, he followed after the people who were heading toward the auction house.

Soon after, they arrived in front of a big three-story tall building, and hundreds of people were standing in a line in front of it.

"Let's stand in line," Max said. However, just as he was about to walk to the end of the line, Arya spoke up.

"Big brother. You don't need to stand in line if you show them the tokens mom gave you yesterday."

Chapter 282: Stunning the crowd

"That's right. Didn't the city lord say we'll be treated as VIPs with our honourable guest tokens?" Leticia chimed in.

"Right. Let's go then." Max nodded and led the ladies to the front of the row.

"Hey, kid. Where do you think you are going? Don't try to cut in the line; the auction supervisors will punish and ban you from ever entering their auction house."

Just as Max and the ladies headed toward the front, an aged voice sounded from the middle of the line. It was an old human man, so when he saw the group of humans trying to cut in the line, he reminded them out of kindness.

"Oh?" Max halted his footsteps, turned to look at the old man, and smiled, "Thank you, senior, for your concern." After saying this, he turned around and walked to the front of the line.

The old who reminded Max shook his head and sighed, "Young people these days!"

"Grandpa, don't worry. He will soon realise that he should have heeded your advice." A young girl standing right in front of the old man smiled contemptuously as she watched Max and others boldly straddle forward.

"Who are these human people? Don't they know that everyone that wants to participate in the auction has to stay in the line obediently? It applies even more to humans than us elves." An Elvin middle-aged man said.

"How bold!"

"Hehe, don't worry. They will be thrown out of here very soon."

"Yeah, look, the supervisors seem to have noticed them. Let's watch this show as we wait for our number to enter."

"What a pity that these beautiful human girls would be humiliated because of that boy's rashness!"

"..."

When they saw Max's group not standing in the line and going to the front instead, everyone started discussing amongst themselves as they waited for the auction supervisors to humiliate them and throw them out. At the same time, some of them felt sorry for Rima and the others ladies.

Max and the others ignored them as they continued walking. Little Arya, walking in the middle of the group, gloated, "They are so dumb. It would be fun to watch their expression when we enter without any problem."

Leticia, who was walking right after her, giggled when she heard her and asked, "Little Arya, is that why you are hiding?"

"Hehe, you are right, big sister. If they recognise me, they will realise that you guys are not ordinary people. If that happened, how would I see their expressions afterwards?" Little laughed mischievously.

Just as they reached the entrance of the auction house building, two middle-aged elves who wore green uniforms with small badges pinned on their chests stopped them. One was male, while the other one was female.

The female supervisor looked at them coldly and said, "Don't you know the rules of our auction house? How dare you come running to the front?" Although the male elf didn't speak, his gaze was piercing when he looked at them.

Under their cold gazes, Max unhurriedly took out the wooden token with a silver word engraved on it and showed it to the female, "I was told that with this, we don't need to wait in line."

"Hmm?" The female supervisor narrowed her eyes and looked at the token in his hand. When she saw it, her cold attitude receded a little. She then waved her hand, and the wooden pass floated toward her.

When she grabbed it in her hand and infused her Mana in it, her cold attitude completely vanished, and a respectful smile appeared on her face. She gave the token back to him and motioned him to enter the building, "Sorry for the offence, respected guests. Please, this way."

Max put away the token and walked toward the entrance with Rima and the others ladies following after him. However, the supervisor stopped them again.

"What is it now?" Max raised his brows when he saw Belen and others being stopped.

"Dear guest, since you have a silver token, you can bring two other people. However, the rest of them has to stay." The female supervisor explained.

'Huh?' Suddenly, the male supervisor cocked his brows when he noticed little Arya trying to hide behind Rima and thought, 'This kid seems a bit familiar?'

Little Arya seemed to notice his gaze on her and turned around to look at him. When the male supervisor saw her face, his immediately brightened in realisation.

'This uncle recognised me?' Little Arya thought and immediately put her finger on her lips and shook her head, signalling him to keep quiet.

The supervisor smiled wryly and inwardly shook his head, 'It seems the saint girl is up to some mischief once again.'

"Oh, if this is the case..." After hearing this, Max turned to the ladies, who nodded and took out their respective tokens.

"This..." Seeing this, both supervisors gasped in surprise.

Initially, when they saw Max take out his guest token, they thought it was given to him by his elders. After all, Max was quite young and didn't seem someone strong, so in their opinion, it was nearly impossible that the high-ranking officials of the city had given it to him.

After seeing the whole group had a silver honourable guest token in their possession, they realised that this group must have an extraordinary background.

Little Arya giggled in a low voice when she saw their stunned expression.

The male supervisor was the first to regain his senses because he had already noticed little Arya in the group and guessed that they mustn't be ordinary people since the city lord allowed her to roam around with them. He hurriedly stepped forward and respectfully said, "Respected guests, please follow me."

He then led the group inside the building, leaving a stunned female supervisor behind.

Meanwhile, the crowd had already broken out in a commotion when Max took out his token.

"What is he doing?"

"Why is that token? It seems to be an identity token?"

"Is he mad? Does he really think he would be allowed entry if he showed his identity token? Who does he think he is, city lord's son?"

"Hey, the supervisor seems surprised after seeing the token. Is he related to some high official of the city?"

"This... he is allowed entry. He must be related to the city lord, or he wouldn't have been allowed entry so easily."

"Yeah, that must be the case since the supervisors didn't even collect the entrance fee from him."

After the momentary surprise, a few among the crowd who had recognised the token regained their senses.

"I had seen someone with the same token a few years ago. That token seemed to be the guest token."

"What? Guest token? The one that only the city lord has the authority to issue?"

"Yeah. That one."

"No wonder the supervisor became respectful and allowed entry without any entrance fee. It turned out that he has the city lord's guest token."

The crowd calmed down when they realised what was going on. However, when Rima, Leticia and Belen also took out the same tokens, they were dumbfounded.

After a while, someone broke the silence, "This is ridiculous!"

"Yeah, since when the guest token became so easy to obtain?"

"..."

While the crowd was in commotion, Max and the company followed the supervisor.

"Hehe, big brother, did you see the look on everyone's faces when all of you took out your guest tokens? Hahaha, it was too funny." Little Arya laughed uproariously. Her eyes had become teary due to laughing too hard.

Max and others were speechless by this and couldn't help but shake their heads. This girl was too naughty.

'It's no wonder the city lord is strict with her.' The supervisor thought.

"Greetings, supervisor!" After they exited the corridor, a few people in green robes greeted the supervisor.

'These guys must be the escorts.' Max thought.

The supervisor nodded to the escorts and led the group to the stairs leading to the upper floors.

"This..." The group of escorts was surprised by this scene.

'Supervisor is escorting them himself. These humans must have some impressive backgrounds.' They guessed.

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Under the supervisor's lead, the group arrived at the third floor, where only the VIPs were allowed.

He then asked, "Respected guests, should I assign you only one cabin, or would you like to have different ones?" Although this question seemed useless because all of them came together, he had to ask it since they all had guest tokens and might want to bid on the same things.

Chapter 283: Three spirit fruits

"We'll be taking only one cabin." Leticia hurriedly replied, slightly anxious. What a joke! Without Max and Belen, who had almost all the Mana stones their group had, they won't be able to bid with the meagre number of the Mana stone they had.

The supervisor nodded but still glanced at Max and the others for confirmation. Leticia frowned at this but didn't say anything since he was just doing his job.

"One cabin is enough," Max said. Belen and Rima also nodded.

"If that's the case, please follow me to cabin number two." The supervisor nodded and led them to the number two cabin.

As they entered the cabin, they found out that although it looked tiny from the outside, it was pretty spacious inside, almost two times bigger than their dorm rooms in the academy. Five wooden chairs were placed at the centre of the room, and in front of each chair was a small table.

However, the first thing they noticed was a transparent light barrier instead of the wall in front of them, and from that, they could see everything outside.

"Wah! We are quite high!" Little Arya exclaimed as she looked outside the light barrier.

The supervisor smiled and said, "Respected guests, as you might know, there are only ten cabins on the third floor where only respected guests like you or the high city's high official are allowed in."

Just as he finished speaking, a group of young female elves in auction house uniforms entered the cabin one after another. Some were holding trays in their hand.

"Greetings, supervisor. Greetings, respected guests." The girl bowed in greeting toward the supervisor and the group.

When they saw Max, their expressions brightened, and they couldn't help but exclaim inwardly, 'What a handsome man! I'm afraid there isn't anyone comparable to him in our city.'

The supervisor nodded to the girls and continued, "So, with this room, you will get these servant girls who will accompany you throughout the auction. If you have any requests, you can tell them."

After saying this, he hesitated for a bit and said in an apologetic tone, "I'm sorry if you don't like this. However, I have to inform you since it's my duty. You are not allowed to do anything inappropriate to them, or we will be forced to evict you."

When they heard this, Max and the ladies' expressions stiffened slightly. Max wanted to shout at him and say, 'Can't you see the ladies accompanying me? Why would I do anything inappropriate to the servants?' However, he held back and only nodded.

When little Arya, who was glancing around the room with interest, heard this and noticed their expression, she grew angry and shouted in her cute voice, "Uncle, what do you mean inappropriate? Do my big brother and big sister look like bad people? Moreover, what inappropriate can we do to these big sisters?"

"This..." The supervisor was dumbfounded. The servant girls, Max and the group, smiled wryly when they heard her.

The supervisor looked at Max and the ladies hoping they would say something, but they just ignored his pleading gaze.

"What? Why aren't you speaking now?" Little Arya shouted again when the supervisor didn't respond.

The supervisor struggled for a moment before he bowed toward them and said, "Saint girl, please forgive me for saying something that I shouldn't have."

"Don't apologise to me. Apologise to my big brother and big sisters." Little Arya's expression softened a little when she saw him 'admitting' his mistake.

'Saint girl?' The servant girls' were baffled when they heard how their superior addressed the little girl and started whispering amongst themselves.

"Is she the saint girl?"

"She shouldn't be, right? Why would the saint girl be with these human guests?"

"I don't know why she is with them. However, I'm pretty sure she is the saint girl."

"Yeah, the current saint girl's description perfectly matches her. Moreover, the supervisor wouldn't have addressed her as the saint girl if she was someone else."

Unlike before, now their expressions were respectful when they glanced at little Arya.

Hearing Arya's words, the supervisor struggled. He was clearly unwilling to bow to them, but after a moment, he gave up.

However, just as he was about to bow and apologise, Rima glanced at Max, who nodded lightly toward her, and she hurriedly stopped him from bowing, "It's alright, supervisor. There is no harm done."

"Thank you, milady." The supervisor stood up and gratefully looked at Rima before cautiously glancing at little Arya.

"Humph!" Little Arya grunted in displeasure but didn't say anything, which caused him to sigh in relief.

However, maybe because he felt humiliated after he instructed the servant girls to take care of them and explain how to bid on the auction items to Max and the ladies, he left.

The servants glanced at each other before one of them stepped out to explain the things while others who were holding trays placed them on the tables. There were different types of dessert dishes, fruits cut into fine pieces and jars of juice and wine.

The servant girl who stepped out politely said, "Respected guests, the auction will start in an hour's time. Until then, please take your seats and make yourselves comfortable and enjoy these delicacies and fine wine. In the meantime, let me tell you how to bid on the auctioned items."

"Delicacies?" Little Arya's eyes brightened when she heard her, and she immediately jumped into her seat and urged the servant girls to remove the covers.

"You little girl, you aren't full yet." Leticia and the others laughed when they saw this and took their seats.

"Respected guests, if there is any item that you like to buy, you just need to shout your bid. However, please remember that this room is soundproof. So, before you bid, please remember to infuse your mana into your chair's right armrest. Once you do, the soundproofing formation covering the light barrier will deactivate, and your voice will resound in the auction hall below." The servant girl explained.

"Okay." Max and the ladies nodded in understanding.

"I heard there will be a spirit fruit in the auction today. Is that true?" Max asked.

The servant girl's face brightened when she heard Max speak, and she hurriedly replied, "Yes, my lord. The rumour is true. There will be three spirit fruits on the auction today."

"Three?" Max, Rima, Belen and Leticia became excited when they heard this. Initially, they had thought that there would be only one spirit fruit. So, even if they managed to acquire it, only one among them would be able to use it. However, if there were three spirit fruits, three of them would be able to use them and improve their cultivation level.

Max quickly calmed down and asked, "How long has it been since you started working here?"

The servant girl was surprised but didn't hesitate to reply, "It's been more than five years, my lord."

Max nodded in satisfaction and asked with a friendly smile, "Since you have been working here for such a long time, you must have an idea of how many Mana stones we need if we want to buy them, right?"

The servant girl was entranced when she saw him smile at her and forget to answer.

"Humph! What are you daydreaming about? Answer what he asked you." Leticia harrumphed in displeasure.

"Ah!" The servant girl came out of her trance upon hearing Leticia's voice and her face reddened in embarrassment as she hurriedly apologised, "I-I'm sorry, my lord. I... I just..."

"It's alright." Max smiled reassuringly at her, which put her at ease.

She glanced at Leticia with a slightly fearful gaze, but when she noticed she wasn't even looking, she calmed down, and after taking a breath, she spoke,

"My lord, as you may already know, the spirit fruits are also divided into grades, just like medicine or magical artefacts. Grade one spirit fruits are the least valuable since they can only help a one-star mage, while the grade nine spirit fruits are almost priceless; however, they are the stuff of legends.

The spirit fruits that will be auctioned today are grade-three spirit fruits, and because they can increase the cultivation base on everyone below the four-star realm without any side effects, the competition should be intense today. So, each fruit should go for 250,000 low-grade Mana stones minimum.

"250,000 for one fruit?" Rima, Leticia, and usually calm Belen's eyes widened in shock upon hearing this. They had thought that with the 100,000 Mana stones the city lord had rewarded them with, they were now rich. However, only now they realized how poor they were.

Chapter 284: Beast essence

Max, on the other hand, had a bitter smile on his face. He glanced at Leticia and others, noticing their disappointed expressions; he sighed inwardly.

He knew they wanted the spirit fruits to improve their cultivation and lower the gap between him and them, and he was happy to help fulfil their wishes. However, what could he do now that he didn't have enough Mana stones?

'Should I have asked little Arya's parents for more Mana stones?' As soon as this thought came to mind, he shook his head.

They had already given them the precious guest tokens that were useful not only in the Ninam city but also in other silver-ranked Elvin cities. Moreover, without even asking, the city lord gave them 100,000 Mana stones.

'It seems I need to find a way to earn Mana stones in huge numbers.' He thought. However, how was he supposed to do that? Kill magical beasts?

However, he could only kill two-star beasts, and their cores weren't worth much. If he wanted to earn Mana stones in tens of thousands, he would have to kill hundreds of two-star beasts, which would take a lot of time.

'It seems I can only do this for the time being.' He thought. Suddenly, a thought came across his mind, and his eyes lit up.

He glanced at the servant girl and asked, "Can I auction some things in the auction?"

"Ha?" The servant girl was aback when she heard this and thought, 'It seems, despite being the VIPs, they don't have enough Mana stones.'

Rima, Leticia and Belen were also surprised and happy to see that he was willing to sell his stuff to buy the spirit fruits for them. However, they quickly shook their heads and said, "Max, you don't have to do-"

Before they could complete their sentence, Max interrupted them, "It's fine. Don't worry."

He then turned to the servant girl and asked again, "So, can I?"

"I-If my lord wasn't a VIP guest of the Greenwave auction hall; you wouldn't have been able to since the time to assign the auction hall has already passed, but the VIPs are allowed to assign their things until half an hour before the auction starts." The servant girl replied.

"Good." Max was relieved to hear this and immediately asked, "So, how do I assign my things to your auction house?"

"My lord, you only need to verify the items you want to auction off with our superiors. If they regard your things as valuable, they will allow you to auction them." The servant girl replied, "If my lord wants to auction something, I can call our superior in charge of determining the values of the potential auction items here."

"Okay then. Please call for them." Max nodded.

"Yes, my lord." The servant girl nodded and gestured for one of the servant girls to go out and bring their superior.

After the servant girl had gone out, the ladies exchanged looks before Rima turned to him and asked, "Max, what do you want to auction? If it's something valuable, please don't sell it. Moreover, our cultivation speed is already very fast with your assistance." When she reached the last part of her sentence, her face reddened due to shyness, making her look enchanting.

Max smiled at her and turned to look at Leticia and Belen, who also nodded. Seeing this, his lips curled into a smile, and he shook his head, "Don't worry about it. I won't sell anything too valuable, and even if I do, it's fine since you guys are my women, and it's natural I take care of you, right?"

Upon hearing this, the ladies felt their bodies tremble and were overcome with emotions. This also included Belen because she clearly saw that his gaze was on her when he finished speaking.

Given her intelligence, it wasn't difficult for her to realise what he wanted to convey. Realising this, warmth surged in her heart, and her eyes turned moist.

Although he always treated her the same as Rima and Leticia, because of her agreement with him, she had always regarded her status in his heart to be lower than Rima and Leticia's, who could be considered his women.

A long time ago, she had already fallen in love with him; however, she didn't dare to nurture these feelings and would always blame herself for making that deal with him. If she hadn't made that deal, he would have treated her the same as Rima and Leticia.

However, now that he practically told her she was also his woman, how could she not feel emotional?

Upon witnessing this scene, the servant girl sighed in her heart, 'Not only is he so handsome but also very... considerate. How good it be if I could find a man like him!'

After a few moments, Leticia curiously asked, "So, what do you want to auction off?"

"You'll find out when the expert from the auction hall arrives." Max smiled.

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Only five minutes had passed when the servant girl returned with a middle-aged Elvin woman.

After entering the room, the middle-aged woman's gaze shifted to Max and the ladies one by one, and she nodded slightly. When she noticed little Arya, who was busy eating, her brows rose in surprise.

As if noticing her gaze, little Arya turned to look at her. The middle-aged woman immediately walked toward her and bowed lightly in greeting, "Greetings, saint girl. How are you?"

Little Arya looked at her with a puzzled look. It was clear that she didn't recognise her, but she still nodded in return and good-naturedly replied, "I'm good, auntie. How are you?"

"I'm also good." The middle-aged smiled before turning toward Max and the others, "Dear guests. Can you show me what you would like to auction?"

"Yes." Max nodded and took out a few talismans and the jars of blood he found in the dark mage's spatial ring. Although he wasn't hopeful of these items having some value, he still took them out to try his luck. Who knows, maybe they were valuable?

"Please see if any of these is valuable enough to be put on the auction?"

"This...!" The middle-aged lady was stunned when her eyes landed on the blood jars. She wasn't the only one who was stunned; Belen, sitting beside Max, was equally stunned.

After a moment, both cried out simultaneously, "Beast essence?"

Bonus chapter (3/10)

Chapter 285: Valuable beast essences

"Beast essence?" Max's eyes lit up upon hearing their surprised exclamations. From their expressions, it was clear that this blood was quite precious.

He glanced at Belen intently, waiting for her explanation. At the same time, he thought, 'I should have shown these things to her beforehand.'

After Belen calmed down, she glanced at Max, and from her expression, it was clear that she was dying to ask where he got these blood jars.

However, in the end, she held back her curiosity and said, "This dark blood seems to be beasts' blood essence."

"Is it valuable?" Max asked,

Seeing his eager expression, Belen smiled wryly and nodded, "Yes, it's quite valuable." Then she continued in a slightly excited voice, "Just as its name suggests, this is the blood essence or lifeblood of the beasts, and it can only be extracted from the hearts of the living beasts.

If the blood essence of a stronger beast is given to a weaker beast or beast with similar strength, its strength will rise by leaps and bounds without it having to do it. Therefore, everyone with beast pets is usually willing to pay hefty sums to buy the beast's blood essence to improve their pets' strength.

However, it isn't easy to extract the blood essence without some special means, and even if one has the means to extract it successfully, the chances are high that the beast would die in the process and the blood essence would be wasted. This causes the supply of this blood essence to be tens or hundreds of times lesser than the demand, which in return causes its price to rise by several folds."

When Max heard this, his eyes flashed in excitement. He then turned to the middle-aged lady and asked, "Can you tell me how many Mana stones these five jars of beast blood essence would fetch me if I were to put them on auction?"

Hearing his question, the middle-aged lady took a deep look at Belen before she slowly spoke, "Honoured guest, please let me verify whether it is really beast blood essence or not and if it is, I need to determine its grade first before I can give you a rough amount."

"Yes. Please check it." Max nodded, slightly embarrassed at himself for losing his composure.

"Mm." The middle-aged lady nodded before she grabbed one of the jars, ready to open it; however, Max stopped her, "Please wait a moment."

"Hmm? What is it?" The middle-aged lady raised her brows as she asked.

Max didn't answer her and turned to Rima and others, "Cover your noses. The stench of this blood is horrible."

The ladies didn't hesitate and hurriedly covered their noses with their Mana. Since little Arya wasn't able to use her Mana to isolate smell, Rima helped her. The servant girls also did the same.

After they were done, Max gestured for the middle-aged lady to open the jar's lid.

The middle-aged lady cringed when she looked at the jar in her hand. However, she couldn't do anything to isolate her senses because she needed to verify it, and if she did block the smell, her accuracy would dwindle.

She then proceeded to open the lid and check the blood. Max and the ladies stared at her without blinking while she checked the beast's blood essence.

After a few moments, she suddenly exclaimed, "It's really the beast's blood essence. Moreover, it's the essence of a three-star beast." Without wasting any time, she started checking other jars.

Max and the company also became excited when they heard it was a three-star beast's blood essence. They then continued to watch her as he took the rest of the jars one by one and verified them.

'Hopefully, the rest of the jars also have grade-three beast essence.' Max, Belen and others prayed in their hearts.

However, they were bound to be disappointed because the middle-aged lady shook her head and sighed after checking the rest of the jars, "Too bad these jars only have the grade two blood essences, or today's auction would have been even more perfect."

"Oh!" Hearing this, Max and the company sighed, slightly disappointed.

The middle-aged woman was speechless by their reactions and said, "Dear guests, there is no need to be disappointed. Your luck is already pretty amazing to come across one jar of grade three and four jars of grade two beast blood essences."

"Oh? How are you so sure that It's not mine from the beginning?" Max was taken aback by her words and asked with interest.

"Well, from your expressions until now, it isn't difficult to guess this." The middle-aged lady smiled before changing the topic, "So, are you sure you want to sell this?"

"Yes. I do. Since none of us has a pet beast, keeping it in our possession is useless. Moreover, I need Mana stones to bid for the spirit fruits." Max nonchalantly said.

Hearing this, the lady became a little excited. If they added these blood essences, not only would they earn more profit, but their auction house also would be positively affected.

However, seeing that they were with little Arya, she calmed down and advised again, "Since you are our saint girl's friend, I would advise you to keep these essences since they are very hard to come by. Moreover, sooner or later, you will have a pet beast, and these will prove useful to them at that time."

"Yes, Max. What this elder said is right. I also think you shouldn't sell them." Belen also chimed in.

Max was silent for a while. He then repeated the question he had asked previously, "How about you first tell me how many Mana stones would I be able to acquire if I put them on auction?"

Hearing his question, the middle-aged lady thought for a while before saying, "It should be a little more than a million low-grade Mana stones."

"A million low-grade Mana stones?" Although Max and the company had already expected that the price of these blood essences would be pretty high, they were stunned after hearing the actual price. Of course, it was only the approximate amount. It might be a little lower and higher than this based on the people's demand.

Chapter 286: Putting a spell on auction

After a moment of shock, Leticia excitedly said, "With this many Mana stones, we can easily buy all three spirit fruits."

"You..." Belen and Rima looked at her, speechless. Didn't she hear how valuable and rare a beast essence was, and it would be beneficial to them if they kept it instead of selling it?

When she saw Belen and Rima's expressions, she felt embarrassed and hurriedly said, "Of course, we don't need to sell it since it is better if we keep it. I was only calculating whether we can buy all three fruits if we were to sell the essence."

After saying this, she turned to look at Max to see if he was angry because of her naivety and only when she noticed that he seemed deep in his thoughts without any signs of anger did she sigh in relief.

Although she wanted the spirit fruits since they could increase her strength quite a bit, she didn't want to seem selfish and make Max dislike her.

Rima and Belen obviously knew of her thoughts, and they also sighed in relief, seeing that Max didn't seem to hear her words. Over time, they became close and were like best friends, if not sisters. So, they naturally didn't want Max to be angry with her.

Hearing Leticia's words, the middle-aged lady chuckled and shook her head, "Dear guests, it isn't guaranteed that you will be able to successfully buy all three spirit fruits with only a million Mana stones."

"Why? she told us that we should be able to buy them with 250,000 Mana stones per fruit," Leticia asked in confusion as she pointed at the servant girl who told them about the price.

The middle-aged lady glanced at the servant girl before she nodded, "What she said should have been correct if it was some other time."

"Some other time?" Max frowned.

"Oh? You don't know?" The middle-aged lady raised her brows when she saw the confused expression on Max's and others' faces.

"Are we supposed to know this?" Leticia asked when she the middle-aged lady's expression.

After a moment's pause, the middle-aged lady shook her head, "No, I didn't mean that."

She then changed the topic and said, "The reason I said that it should have been correct if it was some other time is that many wealthy guests from our Elvin race and your human are here for the spirit fruits. So the chances are high that their prices might double or even triple than usual."

"Oh? That's the case." Leticia nodded in understanding while Max, Belen and Rima looked at the middle-aged lady skeptically. They could see that she was trying to avoid telling them why there were more customers than usual.

Seeing their expressions, the middle-aged lady flashed an apologetic smile and asked, "So, dear guest, are you going to put the essence on auction?"

Max didn't dwell on it since she wasn't willing to speak about it and shook his head, "No."

"Oh, okay." The middle-aged lady was disappointed to hear this. However, it was normal for her to feel this way after all; if they had the rare beast blood essence, their auction's reputation would increase.

Max ignored her expression, pointed at the talismans on the table, and asked, "How about these?"

The middle-aged lady nodded and took a look at the talismans before she shook her head, "Although they are quite good, they aren't worth putting on auction."

Max nodded and put away the talismans and jars of the beast's blood essence in his inventory. Even though Leticia, Belen and Rima didn't show any emotion, they were also a bit disappointed.

"Dear guest, I shall take my leave if there isn't anything." After seeing that Max wasn't going to put anything on the auction, the middle-aged lady bade farewell and turned to leave. However, before she could even take a step, Max stopped her.

"Wait."

"Huh?" She stopped in her tracks and asked, "Is there anything you need my assistance with?"

"Yes, please wait for a while." Max nodded and took out a pen and paper, and started writing something without waiting.

The middle-aged lady frowned upon seeing his action and her gaze turned slightly cold as she thought, 'What does he want to do?' She felt he was wasting her time, but since he was their honoured guest, she couldn't ignore him.

While Belen and Leticia were confused, Rima's eyes flashed in realisation, and she exclaimed in a low voice, "I understand."

"What is it?" Leticia asked curiously.

"I think... he intends to auction one of his spells to procure enough Mana stones to buy the spirit fruits," Rima replied emotionally.

"What?" Belen and Leticia almost shouted in shock. In the next instant, their expression melted as they looked at him. Belen and Leticia tried to dissuade him, but he ignored them and continued writing.

Although Rima and others spoke in a low voice, as a mid-stage three-star mage, the middle-aged lady clearly heard them, which caused her to be stunned.

'Is he crazy or something?' She felt like laughing. If he had taken a pre-written scroll, she might have believed that it was thinking that he obtained it from somewhere, but no, he was writing it himself.

A mage who hadn't even reached the three-star realm was writing a spell, thinking it would sell for more than a million Mana stones.

It should be known that only those who have mastered a spell completely can write it and pass it on to others, and since the mages couldn't comprehend any spell that was a tier higher than respective realms, usually only three-star or higher mages' spells were

worth auctioning. As for spells suitable for two-star and lower-level mages, they were very cheap.

'He clearly isn't a three-star mage. So, why are his companions so sure that his spell would be worth more than a million Mana stones? Could it be that he is one of those rare geniuses who can comprehend and use higher-tier spells?'

Upon seeing Belen's reaction, the middle-aged lady was puzzled. From their interaction until now, she knew that Belen was the most knowledgeable person in the group and should know the values of different tiers of spells. So, when she saw her confident expression, she started to have second thoughts.

After a while, Max was done writing and handed it over to the lady, "Here, Please check this spell and tell me if it is valuable enough to put on auction."

Chapter 287: Is she beautiful?

"This..." The middle-aged lady was speechless. She stiffly extended her hand and took the paper from him.

Taking a deep breath, she began reading the spell to check whether it was defective and determine its grade.

When she was done reading, she drew in a cold breath, and an astonished expression appeared on her face. She then looked at Max as if he was a monster and asked in a slightly stuttering voice, "This... y-you've mastered this grade three spell?"

(A/N: I've decided to standardise the spell ranking system to avoid causing any confusion. So, the spells will be graded as grade one, two, three, and so on...)

"Well, you can say that." Max neither denied nor accepted and only smiled in response. When he first gave Rima the [Destruction wheel], Rima also couldn't believe it and asked whether he had already mastered it. When he asked why? she had told him about the requirement of spell inscribing.

Max was very puzzled at that time. If only those who had mastered a spell could pass it on, why was he, who merely bought them from the system's shop, able to do the same? Even the system didn't know the reason, so he could only regard it as his unique talent.

"You..." The middle-aged lady didn't know how to respond and looked at him blankly for a while.

'Could... could it be he is already a three-star mage or higher?' This idea suddenly popped into her head and took root.

'However, if he is, how can he be clueless about the sudden demand for the things that can expedite the one's cultivation? Maybe he already knows, but the girls beside him aren't three-star mages, and he is acting like this not to worry them. Yeah, that must be the case.'

The more she thought like this, the more she found her guess correct.

"So, how is it? Is it worth putting on the auction?" Max asked when she didn't respond for a while.

Upon hearing his voice, the middle-aged lady returned to her senses and hurriedly nodded and replied respectfully, "Y-yes, respected lord. It is more than qualified. In fact, it can even replace spirit fruits as the final auction item."

"No, there is no need to replace the final auction item." Max shook his head and said, "I want you to auction it near the auction's beginning so I can have enough Mana stones to bid for the spirit fruits later. Can you do that?"

"No, there is no need to do that, my lord." The middle-aged lady shook her.

"Hm?" Max frowned slightly. If they didn't auction it first, how was he supposed to bid on the spirit fruits?

The lady smiled and said, "My lord, you can just bid for the items you like in the auction. As for the payment, we can calculate and deduct it after this spell is sold."

"What if the Mana stones we get from selling this spell aren't enough to bid for the spirit fruits?" Leticia asked. She was very happy when she thought that they would be able to get their hands on the spirit fruits. However, she didn't want anything that could negatively affect them to happen. So, she was naturally wary.

"Don't worry, guest. Although most of the people are here for the spirit fruits, this spell that my lord has given me would undoubtedly sell for enough Mana stones to buy all the spirit fruits." The middle-aged lady confidently said.

"That's good." Leticia's eyes gleamed in excitement when she heard this. It was not only Leticia who was excited; Rima and Belen were the same too.

"My lord, since the auction is about to start, I'll excuse myself and put your spell on the auction." The middle-aged lady bid farewell and went out of the room. But before she went away, she didn't forget to remind the servant girls to take care of Max and the group properly.

After she went away, Rima looked at Max and curiously asked, "Max, which spell did you give her? I noticed she became more respectful toward you after seeing the spell."

Belen, Leticia and little Arya, who was busy eating, also looked at him curiously.

"It's the [Destruction wheel] which I taught you earlier." Max smiled at her before taking a grape-like fruit and eating it.

"No wonder she reacted like that." The ladies nodded in realisation. They had already seen how powerful the [Destruction wheel] is despite being a non-elemental spell.

Buzz!

After a while, they heard buzzing noise coming from the auditorium beyond the light barrier.

The large wooden platform, which was on the ground floor previously, was slowly rising in the air, and it only stopped after it was around ten meters above the ground. Five figures could be seen standing on it.

"Wow! What a beauty!"

"Isn't this manager Saina? Is she going to host the auction this time?"

"It's worth travelling to such a long distance now that I have seen her."

"Hey, old man. You are still a pervert at this age."

"What does a kid like you know what it is to appreciate a beauty."

Exclamations rang in the air when everyone saw the slender figure standing in the middle of the auction stage.

Max and others also glanced at the figure standing in the middle. When Max saw her, he couldn't help but exclaim inwardly, 'What a beauty!'

The woman in question was an Elvin beauty in dazzling purple robes. Her skin seemed as smooth and pale white as a newborn baby's. She had captivating black eyes and a tall nose bridge, and her thin pink lips were curled up into a faint smile which was capable of making any man's heart race. Her figure, although not as seductive as Rima's, was perfect and gave the feeling as if it was personally carved by the god of beauty.

She was one of the most beautiful women he had ever since in his life. The moment his eyes landed on her, he was entranced.

Although Belen and the others were females, their eyes were also glued to her.

"She is indeed a beauty." Leticia sighed, feeling a little depressed. Rima and Belen also nodded their heads in acknowledgement, their eyes flashing with envy.

They then turned to look at Max and found him looking at her as if in a trance. Rima moved near him and whispered in his ear, "Is she beautiful?"

Chapter 288: 40,000 for a smile

"Yeah." Max nodded without thinking. But the next moment, his expression froze when he felt three piercing gazes on him. He smiled wryly and said, "You guys aren't any less beaut-"

Hehe~

As he started speaking, Rima giggled, "I was just kidding."

"Oh?" Max was stunned for a moment before he turned to Belen and Leticia, who also had smiles on their faces which he found strange. It was understandable if only Belen and Rima seemed unaffected, but Leticia seemed fine too.

From what he knew, Leticia was the most jealous among the ladies. The latest example would be when the servant girl tried to flirt with him, and she was instantly provoked.

When Leticia saw him looking at her with a confused look, she felt bitter. It was true she didn't want any more women to be close to him because it would lessen her precious time with him.

'However, what could I do when I am neither beautiful like this host nor strong enough so you would be with me more.' She felt helpless.

This was also one of her biggest reasons why she was now determined to become strong because even though it was not apparent, she could feel that Max seemed to favour the one with the strongest cultivation base among them for some reason.

When he saw this, Max looked at them with a loving gaze and thought, 'No matter if I have other women in future or not; I'll definitely take care of you guys.'

"Big brother, big sisters, that's aunt Siana." Little Arya became excited when she saw the host and hurriedly introduced her to them.

"She is your aunt?" Rima asked.

"Yes." Little Arya nodded vigorously, "She is my mother's best friend and would often come to visit us."

Hearing this, Max trained his eyes on Siana, the auction's host, 'So, she is Elena's best friend. No wonder both of them are so stunning.' As the saying goes, birds of the same feather flock together.

"Hello, everyone. I'm Siana, your host for the auction." Siana looked at everyone sitting in the auditorium below and then at guests on the second and third floors and greeted them with a slight smile on her fairy-like face.

Right after she spoke, there was a commotion in the auditorium below as everyone, young and old, greeted her back very enthusiastically. Of course, most of them were males.

"Thank you, everyone, for the warm welcome." Siana nodded before she continued to say, "I'm sure everyone here knows about the rules of the auction house; the highest bidder will win the items up for auction. So, without wasting any time, let's start the monthly auction."

Swoosh!

Just as she finished her sentence, she waved her slightly, and a long silver spear appeared and hovered above her.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is the first item of the day. This is a high tier grade-three weapon capable of boosting your attacks by 20%. It means your normal attacks will be comparable to some of the weaker low-tier spells. The bid will start at 20,000 low-grade Mana stones. Each bid must be at least one thousand Mana stones."

Immediately after she stopped speaking, a commotion broke out in the crowd, and exclamations of surprise could be heard.

"A grade-three weapon capable of boosting attack by 20%?"

"As expected of the Greenwave auction house. Although it's not an elemental weapon, it's still a grade three weapon."

"They really deserve their reputation."

"..."

"Uncle, should we try bidding for it since its price is quite low for a grade three weapon?" A young lady sitting in one of the rooms on the second floor asked a middle-aged man beside her.

The man shook his head, "The bidding price is always low, but the final price after the bidding is always a lot higher. Let's just wait and watch. We aren't here for the weapons anyway."

Just then, a robust voice rang out in the air, "21,000 Mana stones."

Following that, more voices started to ring out one after another.

"22,000"

"23,000"

"24,000"

...

The girl who previously asked her uncle to bid had a stunned expression. She then looked at the middle-aged man reverently and said, "You were right, uncle. Look how much the price has risen in just a few moments."

By now, the price has risen to 29,000 Mana stones, and the people weren't as enthusiastic as before.

Siana had a satisfied expression when the price rose this much. She looked at the people below with a businessperson's gaze and spoke temptingly, "This madam has bid 29,000 Mana stones. Is there anyone who would like to raise the bid and win this weapon? Let me remind you, although it's not an elemental weapon, it's still a good grade-three weapon."

However, no one bid, even after a few seconds had passed. Siana glanced at the crowd and feigned a slightly disappointed expression, "Since no one is willing-"

Just then, a burst of laughter rang out in the air from a room on the second floor, "Hahaha, miss Siana. Although I don't care about a mere grade-three weapon, I can't bear to watch a beauty like you with such an expression. So, I'll bid 40,000 stoness for your smile."

"40,000... for a mere grade three weapon. Such extravagance!"

"It seems he is one of miss Siana's admirers."

"No wonder he has so much money to spend. It turns out he is a guest on the second floor."

"..."

Many people gasped when they heard the bid and started discussing it amongst themselves. Unlike the third floor, where only guests like Max and others were allowed to sit, the second floor was open to everyone and had many rooms.

They just had to pay five thousand Mana stones for a room. Needless to say, only wealthy people were willing to spend so many Mana stones for a room. Others would choose ordinary seats in the auditorium that cost only 100 Mana stones.

Siana's eyes glinted coldly as she glanced toward one of the rooms on the second floor, but she still maintained her smile and asked, "That sir bid 40,000 Mana stones, would anyone want to raise it?"

Bonus chapter (4/15)

Chapter 289: War Blood race

After her voice fell, no one tried to bid anymore since spending so many Mana stones on an ordinary grade three weapon they could buy in around 30,000 in the market would be deemed stupid.

As Siana waited for the people to raise the bid. In-room number 2 on the third floor, Rima giggled and said, "Max, it seems she has many pursuers." When she said this, Leticia and Belen stared at him intently.

Max's lips twitched when he heard this and saw Belen and Leticia's reaction. He said in a low voice that only she could hear, "It seems I need to punish you properly when we get back."

Rima's face flushed red when she heard this and understood what he meant by 'punish'. However, she didn't back down, looked into his eyes and said, "I'll wait for it." After saying this, she turned her blushing face away from him and stopped speaking.

Leticia and Belen were puzzled by her reaction for a moment before they guessed what he might have said for her to react like this, and they looked at Rima enviously.

Meanwhile, in room 23 on the second floor. A group of four were sitting in the chair, sipping tea. A man around the age of 30 was sitting in the middle with an Elvin servant on his lap. He had an eye-catching blood-red mark on his forehead, which gave him a devilish vibe.

If any ordinary person saw him, they wouldn't find anything strange apart from that mark on his forehead. However, if those who had some knowledge saw him, they would know that despite looking like a human, he wasn't one.

He was from a race called the 'War Blood race.' The people of this race looked just like humans. Their only distinguishing feature was the blood-red mark on their forehead.

"Young master, I think you shouldn't squander money like this. If the master finds out about this, he will be angry. Moreover, I hope y-you will try to maintain a distance from miss Siana. She isn't the one to be trifled with." A middle-aged man, who also had the same red mark, sitting slightly behind him said. When he mentioned Siana, his voice trembled in fear. It was clear he was wary of her.

"I know. I'm not going to offend her. Don't worry." The 'young master' replied nonchalantly as his hands moved up and down the Elvin servant's body, feeling her up while his eyes were trained on Siana.

The middle-aged man and his companion could only shake their heads helplessly at this. They knew he wasn't going to heed their advice.

...

Siana waited for a while before she announced, "Since there isn't any higher bid, congratulations, guests in room number 23, for successfully acquiring this item." Saying this, she flicked her finger to one of the four people standing behind her and said, "Elder, please deliver this to room number 23 and receive the payment."

"Yes, miss." The old lady grabbed the spear and jumped down the platform, and headed toward the second floor while the auction continued.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the next item is one of the most mysterious items that ever we auctioned in our auction house. Please take a good look at this." Siana announced with a smile. However, she didn't rush to reveal it and waited for a few moments.

"Mysterious item? What could it be?"

"I heard that only those items that the auction house can't identify but are extraordinary can be called mysterious by them. I hadn't expected to come across such an item."

"If that's the case, I don't think many people will be interested in it. We should try obtaining it. Who knows, maybe it will be something useful for us."

"Hehe, you aren't the only one to think like this. Many will bid in the same hopes. So, if you want to buy it, prepare to fork out at least a few ten thousand Mana stones more than the minimum bid."

"We'll see that later. Let's first see what it is that not even the Greenwave auction house can identify."

"Miss Siana, don't keep us in suspense. Please show what this mysterious item is."

"..."

Everyone's interest was piqued after hearing the description from Siana. Many in the crowd became impatient and started asking for the item to be revealed.

Siana smiled in satisfaction upon seeing this. This was the reaction she wanted. She then waved her hand, and with a golden flash, an elliptical-shaped object appeared above her hand.

Everyone, including Max and the company, the people from the war blood race and others in the guest rooms looked at the object with interest.

The object hovering above her palm looked like a golden 'rock' with some dark patches near the top of it. Apart from this, there was nothing extraordinary about it.

"This... is this rock the mysterious item?"

"Is the auction house trying to trick us into spending our Mana stones on this rock?"

Everyone was dumbfounded. No matter how they looked at it, it looked completely ordinary. Siana had an indifferent expression upon hearing these comments.

Meanwhile, In guest room 2...

"Belen, do you recognise this golden rock?" Leticia asked Belen after glancing at the rock. Rima and Max also turned to look at her.

Belen shook her head and smiled wryly, "No, I don't."

"If even you don't know it, then it shouldn't be anything extraordinary. It seems the auction house is indeed trying to trick people." Leticia scoffed.

Hearing this, the servant girls frowned, clearly displeased. The servant girl who was previously conversing with them said, "Dear guest, our auction house has a very good reputation in the kingdom for being honest and upright. So, please avoid making such comments."

Leticia was displeased by her words, and just when she was about to lash out, Belen chimed in, "She is right, Leticia. Although this golden rock seems ordinary, it might be some kind of treasure. You should know that the knowledge I have is limited. There are countless things that I'm unaware of."

"Hmm. In any case, this rock is useless since we don't know what is it." Leticia nodded, and after glaring at the servant girl last time, she turned to look at the auction platform.

Although Max was slightly interested in that rock since it might turn out to be something valuable, he didn't intend to bid and waste his Mana stones in case it was something useless. However, just then, the system's surprised voice rang in his ears.

Chapter 290: Golden winged python

[A high-ranked beast egg!!] The system exclaimed in a surprised voice.

"Mm?" Max's eyes brightened when he heard the system's exclamation and asked, "Are you sure it is a high-ranked beast egg?"

At the same time, he felt the system's voice just now resembled a human almost completely. However, he didn't overthink it because the system had already been 'developing' for some time. Moreover, his attention was on the golden rock.

[Yes. This is most likely an egg of a golden-winged python.] The system replied and added, [Kid; you should do your best to acquire it. It will help you a lot in future.]

Although Max didn't know what a golden-winged python was, he knew it would be able to reach at least a five-star realm since it was a high-grade egg. Such a strong beast would be of much help as his pet. He could even traverse the dangerous way to the central plains.

Thinking this, he became very excited. However, he felt it was weird that not only did the system speak in a much more casual tone, it even addressed him as 'kid' instead of 'host'.

This sudden change made him think something was wrong, and his eyes narrowed imperceptibly.

As if the system knew what he was thinking, the system said, [Don't worry, kid. There is nothing wrong here. The system's speech style was always supposed to be like this. However, because it was without a host for a long time, it lost quite a bit of energy and couldn't function the same as it was designed.]

Then its voice turned solemn as it said, [No matter what changes the system has, the system will never do anything to harm you, so don't worry.]

Upon hearing this, Max took in a breath of relief. Although he was still a bit sceptical, there was nothing he could do.

The system then added, [That's enough chit-chat. Now hurry up and bid for the egg.]

"Oh, okay." Max nodded and turned to Siana, who just raised her hand to quieten down the crowd.

"Ladies and gentlemen, let me introduce this item some of you call a 'useless rock.'" Siana smiled a little and continued, "Although we don't know of its origin, which is why

we called it a mysterious item, we do know that it is an egg. Moreover, it is an egg from one of the high-tier beasts and should have the potential of reaching at least King rank when it matures."

"Beast capable of becoming a king mage? How awesome!"

"I knew the auction house is upright and won't try to exploit us."

"If I get this egg, I will have a king-rank pet. At that time, no one in the kingdom would be a threat to me."

"I have to have this egg no matter what. I would sell everything I have if the need arose."

"That still wouldn't be enough because the guests on the floor, second and third, would definitely compete with us."

"..."

As soon as Siana's voice fell, the crowd broke out in a commotion. Everyone seemed to forget about the spirit fruits as they scrambled to rally more Mana stones to bid for the egg.

Max didn't react as strongly as the crowd since the system had already told him about it.

However, he couldn't help but be surprised upon hearing about the possibility of the beast inside reaching king rank. This cemented his resolve to acquire it, even if it meant giving up the spirit fruits.

In room number 2, although Leticia also became excited upon hearing Siana's words, she didn't say anything since she knew they didn't have enough wealth to contest for it.

In room number 23, the young master from the war blood race turned to the middle-aged beside him and urgently said, "Uncle, we should bid for it and do our best to acquire it. If what she said is true, then we will have a king-rank pet. It will increase our family's standing."

"Don't be hasty lest you become disappointed later." The middle-aged man replied calmly.

"Huh? What do you mean?" The young master asked, confused.

"You will know soon enough." The middle-aged man didn't explain. Although the young man was quite impatient in nature, he believed in the middle-aged man and focused on the auction platform.

Others in the guest rooms reacted the same way. They knew that something was amiss with the egg. If not, why would the Elves put something as valuable as it on the auction instead of keeping it? After all, the most powerful person in the city was only a five-star mage. If they had a king-rank pet, Ninam city would be safer.

Siana smiled, "I'm sure most of you want to know why we are auctioning it instead of keeping it, right?"

Without waiting for anyone's reply, she continued, "It's because our auction house is incapable of hatching it."

There was silence when everyone heard her before they broke out in a commotion.

"No wonder. They are willing to sell it."

"Damn it. I got my hopes high in vain."

"What are they thinking? Why would they put it on auction knowing it won't sell?"

"Maybe they think someone will buy it, hoping to hatch it himself?"

"Pa! When even the Greenwave auction house with its enormous resources can't do it, who would be foolish enough to think they can do it?"

"..."

The guests on the second and third floors had nodded to themselves upon hearing this and weren't disappointed. They had already expected it. The young master from the war blood race looked at his uncle in admiration, "You were right, uncle." His uncle only smiled in response.

In their room, Leticia felt a bit happy hearing this. If the egg were without any problem, she would feel bad about not being able to buy it, but since it was useless, she won't feel anything.

Unlike Leticia, Max frowned and thought, 'Since it can't hatch, is there any benefit in buying it? Maybe the system has some way of hatching it.'

Just as he was about to ask the system about it, the system's voice sounded in his ears, [Don't worry about hatching it. I will take care of it. You make sure to buy it.]

Chapter 291: Jack Dalton

"Okay." Max nodded, excited. He once again felt happy that he had the system that could help him do the things that were usually extremely difficult or even impossible.

Siana didn't mind the crowd's chatter and maintained her smile as she announced, "Now that I've told you everything about it, I would like to invite everyone interested in the item to bid for it. The starting price would be 80,000 low-grade Mana stones, and each bid must be at least a thousand Mana stones higher."

Just as she finished speaking and everyone, including Max, thought that not many people would be interested in the egg, a hoarse voice resounded in the auction hall, catching everyone's attention.

"80,000 Mana stones."

Everyone in the crowd and Siana turned to look at a figure sitting in the back seats in the auditorium. It was unclear whether it was a male or female or from which race because it was garbed in black clothes from head to toe.

"I hadn't thought someone would still be interested in it."

"He is mad and is simply wasting his wealth."

"Look at him. From how he is trying to hide his identity, I reckon he is someone mysterious. Maybe he has some way to hatch it."

"Then why isn't he in the guest rooms where no one can see him? I say he is intentionally being mysterious and trying to show off."

"It's good for us whether he is doing it to show off or not. If he spends more here, he wouldn't be able to compete with us when spirit fruits come out."

"..."

Siana's smile brightened seeing someone so eager to bid. She then asked in her sweet and melodious voice, "This guest here has bid 80,000 Mana stones, is there anyone who would like to raise the bid?"

"85,000!" Just then, an alluring female voice sounded in the hall and raised the bid by 5,000, making Siana nod in satisfaction.

"90,000!" The black-clothed figure made the bid before anyone could react.

"95,000!" The woman from the second floor also didn't hesitate before raising it by another 5,000.

"100,000!"

...

Max had a slightly uneasy expression on his face. Just like everyone, he had also thought that very few would want the egg after hearing it was useless, and he could bid a few more thousand more than the initial price and successfully buy it.

However, he didn't expect someone to start bidding in a frenzy even before he could make his bid.

Belen and others had been watching people bid with interest and didn't notice his expression. But after a while, Rima, who was sitting right beside him, felt a change in his emotions, and when she saw his anxious expression, she worriedly asked, "What is it, Max? Is there something wrong?"

Belen and Leticia also turned to him upon hearing Rima.

Max took a breath and said in a bitter tone, "I plan to buy this egg. However, If it keeps going like this, I'm afraid we won't have enough Mana stones for spirit fruits."

"If that's the case, don't worry about spirit fruits and buy this egg," Rima said without hesitation.

Belen and Leticia also nodded in agreement which surprised Max quite a bit and warmed his heart. He knew how much they wanted the fruits, but they didn't hesitate and told him to buy what he wanted.

He looked at them lovingly and smiled, "Don't worry. I'll try to buy both the egg and spirit fruits."

Then he focused his attention on the auction. The egg's price had reached 120,000 Mana stones.

"121,000 Mana stones!" The woman from the second floor made the bid again. However, this time, she didn't increase it like before and merely raised it by 1000 stones and from his tone, it seemed she had reached her limit.

The black-clothed man sighed in relief upon hearing this and raised the bid by another 1000, "122,000!"

After the man made his bid, the crowd turned to look at room number 13 on the second floor to see if the woman would raise the bid again or not.

However, even after a few seconds, there was no movement.

"It seems she had reached her limit."

"Sigh! I was having fun seeing them fighting for this useless egg. So disappointing."

Siana felt a bit disappointed for a moment. She shook her head and thought, 'It's already enough that the people here are willing to spend so much for this. I should stop comparing them with the people from the central plains.'

She then asked in a clear voice, "This guest here has bid 122,000. Would anyone like to raise the bid?"

On the second floor, room number 13...

Two people were sitting in the chair while three stood behind them. The two sitting were a man and a woman. The man looked to be in his thirties, while the woman seemed to be in her mid-twenties.

If Max were here, he would find both of them familiar. The woman resembled Flavia. However, unlike Flavia, who had a gentle and elegant air about her, this woman seemed sly as a fox, while the Man resembled Dalton to some extent.

He glanced at the woman and asked, "Miss Janice, aren't you going to bid anymore? I thought you wanted it."

Janice sighed disappointingly and said, "Although I want it, I can't afford to pay any more than this for it."

Hearing this, his eyes gleamed, and he said, "Since that's the case, why don't I buy it and gift it to you?"

"Thank you for the kind gesture, sir Jack. However, you don't have to do it." Janice shook her head and flashed a captivating smile at him.

"It's nothing, miss Janice. Please don't refuse." Jack said and then proceeded to inject his Mana in the armrest to raise the bid. However, before he could do it, a voice sounded from the floor above.

"125,000!"

Bonus chapter (5/15)

Chapter 292: Arasia family

Jack frowned, and a displeased expression appeared on his face. However, realising the voice came from the third floor, where only people of substantial background could stay, he calmed down and thought, 'It seems I won't be able to buy it now.'

Thinking this, he turned toward Janice. However, before he could say anything, Janice covered her mouth with her hand and giggled, "I think sir Jack should refrain from bidding now. Although it's within the rules that everyone could bid as long as they have money, I believe it won't bode well if sir Jack infuriates a guest from the third floor."

Jack was immediately infuriated upon hearing this. He scoffed coldly and said, "It doesn't matter who they are. I'll bid and win this egg for you for sure. If it infuriates them, they are welcome to try me."

'Heh, such a simple-minded fool. No way in hell would I marry this guy.' Janice smirked inwardly but put on a slightly worried look and pretended to dissuade him, "But Sir Jack..."

"It's alright, miss Janice. Since I said I'll gift this egg to you, it means I'll do it. You don't have to worry. Dalton family isn't to be trifled with." Jack proudly proclaimed and proceeded to bid, "130,000 Mana stones!"

Seeing this, two of the three people standing behind him frowned and had displeased expressions as they glanced at Janice. As bystanders, they could clearly see how she goaded him to bid.

However, no matter how displeased they were, they didn't dare say anything about it in case they offended her. Janice was from the Arasia family, which was one of the four strongest families after the royal family. Although the Dalton family was also considered quite strong, they were incomparable to giants like the Arasia family.

Moreover, It was said that the Arasia family in the Green leaf kingdom was only a branch family, exiled from the main family that was said to reside in the central plains. Although it was exiled and the main family didn't care for them, no one, including the royal family, dared provoke them without a good reason.

...

In-room number 2, Max frowned when he heard someone outbid him. He had made the bid of 125,000 stones, thinking that both contenders would back out and won't bid anymore. However, he didn't expect someone new to pop up just when he thought the egg was his.

'It seems I would need to spend some more stones.' He smiled bitterly and got ready to bid more.

"Damn it. Who is it? Why did he have to raise the bid?" Leticia wore a displeased expression. She had thought if they could buy the egg in just 125,000, maybe they would have enough Mana stones, after selling the spell, to bid for spirit fruits. However, now with someone new vying for the egg, the price was sure to increase.

"I think this voice came from the same room as that woman who was bidding until now. They seem to be adamant about buying it." Rima chimed in with a slight frown.

Seeing their expressions, Max didn't know what to say. So he didn't bother with it, injected his Mana into the armrest and raised the bid, "135,000!"

It wasn't long before Jack also raised the bid, "140,000!"

"150,000!" Max was getting impatient, so he raised the bid by 10,000 in one go.

"160,000!" However, the other party also didn't back out, and he, too, raised it by another 10,000.

"170,000!"

"180,000!"

"190,000!"

...

"This..." Everyone was dumbfounded as they watched the stakes getting higher by the second.

Siana was feeling the same. Just a moment ago, she thought the bid for 122,000 was good enough, and people here won't be willing to spend any more on this almost useless egg, but after just a few moments, the price had nearly doubled and was still rising without any signs of slowing down.

She then glanced at room number 2 and asked the people standing behind her, "If I'm not wrong, that non-elemental spell was given to us to auction by the guest in room number 2, right?"

"Yes, miss." An old Elvin lady immediately replied.

Siana nodded and thought, 'I'm sure he isn't a normal person since he was able to produce a spell as good as a grade-three elemental spell. I wonder if he has some method to hatch the egg since he is bidding so enthusiastically or wants it for collection's sake.'

As she thought this, her eyes gleamed with interest. She was the one who found this egg a long time ago when she was in the central plains. She had asked around and found it was from a high levelled beast.

However, no matter what she did or who she asked the help from, the egg didn't hatch. So, she kept it with her and eventually forgot about it.

When she returned to Ninam city, where she grew up, a few days ago and found out there was a lack of items for the auction in their auction house, she decided to give it away to make up the number. If it sold, it was good; if not, that was okay too. Now that someone was showing so much interest in it, she couldn't help but think of the 'impossible.'

Suddenly, a loud voice sounded in the auction hall, forcing her out of her thoughts, "230,000!"

In room 23, Jack had an exasperated look. He regretted talking big and trying to compete against Max to impress Janice. He came here on his family's behalf to buy the spirit fruits, and although the Dalton family was ridiculously rich in the Green leaf kingdom, he wasn't allowed to squander money willfully.

'Damn it. If that guy doesn't stop raising the bids, I think I'll have to use my Mana stones.' He gritted his teeth in frustration. However, when he looked at Janice, his eyes burned with desire, and he thought, 'It's worth it if this pushes me closer to her. I can't wait for the day when she is under me.'

Thinking this, he smiled at her and shouted, "250,000!"

Chapter 293: Hannah

As Max and Jack continued bidding, everyone in the crowd was silent. They had expressions that said, 'Are they crazy or what?'

In another room on the second floor, a group of two, an old lady and a young lady, were sitting side by side, watching the happenings with interest.

Both wore purple clothes and looked normal, but despite that, they had an air of dominance around them that required everyone's reverence. This was especially true for the old lady.

The young girl looked to be the same age as Leticia. She glanced at the old lady, who had her eyes closed, with a respectful expression, and asked curiously, "Grandma, do you think they can hatch this golden python's egg?"

The old lady opened her eyes and glanced at the girl with a gentle expression, and said, "The first thing you need to know before trying to hatch a high levelled beast egg is their species and the element they possess, and I'm afraid only a handful of people in the beast clans and from the supreme forces can recognise this egg as the golden-winged python's egg. So, as long as they aren't one of those people, it doesn't matter even if they have the required resources; this egg won't hatch."

The young girl's eyes gleamed upon hearing this, and she asked, "Grandma, since you recognise this, why don't we buy it? It would be great if our family had a golden-winged python, it would increase our strength and help us defend against those people."

The old lady's eyes also gleamed for a moment before she sighed and shook her head, "There is no use. Although I know of its species and element, we don't have enough resources to hatch it. Maybe I could use my energy to hatch it if I wasn't injured."

"Um, can't we buy it and hatch it when you recover?" The young girl hesitantly asked.

The old lady smiled bitterly upon hearing this and said, "We can't. This egg is many decades old, and the probability of it hatching is very low. So, it isn't wise to waste our remaining Mana stones on this."

After saying this, she sighed inwardly and thought, 'Only if my spatial ring weren't destroyed in that fight, we wouldn't have to spend so sparingly and could buy this egg without any concern. Sigh, such a treasure would go to someone else now.'

Hearing the old lady's words, the young girl went silent. She rubbed the purple ring on her finger and thought, 'I should've stored more Mana stones in my ring when we fled.'

As she remembered how they were forced to flee their home, the images of her family member being killed flashed before her eyes.

Boom!

Purple lightning surged out of her body along with dense killing intent, and her eyes also turned purple. "When I reach the monarch stage, I'll make sure to kill every one of those scum bastards and get back everything that was rightfully ours." She swore.

Seeing her sudden outburst, the old lady sighed and patted her head, "I'm sure you will." After a pause, she added, "And if we can find our heirloom weapon, the revenge will be easier."

The young girl calmed down, and the lightning around her vanished. However, an expression of resentment appeared on her face when she heard about the heirloom weapon and said through gritted teeth, "If grandma had that sword, you wouldn't have gotten injured. Why did she have to take our heirloom sword when she abandoned us to die."

The old lady sighed again and said, "Little Gene. You shouldn't blame your aunt. She sacrificed a lot for us. We would've died years ago if it weren't for her."

"What do you mean, grandma? Didn't she steal that sword because of her greed?" The young girl name little Gene asked in confusion. Ever since she was born, she had heard

everyone say that her aunt had stolen their heirloom weapon, causing their family strength to lessen significantly.

So, when their enemy force found out about this, they took advantage and killed the strongest members of our family and massacred many others. Only a few people were able to escape with their lives.

"No, that's not true." The old lady shook her head and said, "Your aunt didn't steal it but was entrusted with it by the then-family leader, who asked her to escape with it so that it won't fall into the enemy's hands."

Seeing Gene's confused expression, she continued, "You know our Valiant family and the thunder family had always been mortal enemies, and they always coveted our heirloom weapon. However, because our families were of similar strength, we were always in a stalemate.

However, 25 years ago, the thunder family birthed two new monarch-rank mages. Although the thunder family tried to hide their existence to take us by surprise and annihilate us, the family leader somehow found out about it. Just before they attacked, he had sent many family members away so that they could survive the incoming massacre.

Unfortunately, they were all killed because the supreme elder's faction had betrayed the family and informed the thunder family about it. The family leader knew they wouldn't survive now, and because he couldn't trust anyone because he suspected the people under him also to betray him and join the supreme elder's faction, he gave our heirloom sword to his daughter and your aunt, Hannah, and sent her away with four of his most trusted people.

He did this because she was the most talented person among the younger generation and had the potential to use the sword to its full potential when she became a monarch mage. So, he hoped she would avenge the family when the time came. However, who knew that two of his most trusted people would also betray him?

While they were escaping, those two bastards took the other two elders off guard and severely injured them. They wanted to kill them all and give the heirloom sword to the thunder family so they would spare their pathetic lives. However, although injured, the other two elders fought with their lives on the line and helped your aunt Hannah to escape."

The old lady's eyes had reddened when she finished saying until now. After calming down, she said, "You know, she was only a three-star mage at that time and had to traverse the dangerous area between the central plains and the outer area alone, but she still did because she knew if she stayed in the vicinity of the central plains, the thunder family and the supreme elder's faction could easily find her, and once they had our heirloom sword, the Valiant family would be doomed."

When Gene heard the whole story, she understood why they were allowed to live even though they didn't join the supreme elder's faction. The thunder family and the supreme elder's faction were keeping them alive because they believed that her aunt Hannah would come back to save them, and if they killed them, she might not show up, and the heirloom sword would forever be lost.

After realising this, she felt angry and guilty that she blamed everything on her aunt.

After a while, she asked, "Grandma, didn't you tell me that aunt Hannah had already died? So, how would we find our heirloom sword now?"

Chapter 294: Egg acquired

The old lady nodded, "That's true. However, a few years before she died, she sent me a message and informed me that she was in the Green leaf kingdom."

"That's why we didn't stop anywhere on our way here." Gene nodded in understanding. Previously she was confused as to why her grandmother did not stop to recuperate anywhere and took her to this rural kingdom. As it turned out, she wanted to find their heirloom sword as soon as possible.

After a thought, she said, "Grandma, although this kingdom isn't as big as the empires in the central plains, it is still quite big. On top of that, we don't know where exactly she was staying in this kingdom. I'm afraid it won't be easy to find it."

The old lady nodded, "You are right. Therefore, we will take our time searching around." She then patted her head and smiled, "You focus on your cultivation and training. With your talent, maybe you won't even need that sword to avenge our family in future.

"Yes, grandma." Gene also smiled. She knew her grandma meant they might not find that sword and would need to rely on themselves.

"Okay, let's try to buy a spirit fruit for you now." The old lady smiled lightly and turned her attention to the ongoing auction.

...

"Woah! Are they going to stop or not?"

"250,000 Mana stones! As far as I remember, it was the final bid for some of the spirit fruits in the past, right?"

"Yeah! I can't believe an egg with almost no possibility of ever hatching can go for such a high price."

"I think it'll go for even higher."

The crowd started discussing heatedly among themselves after Jack made the bid for 250,000 Mana stones.

On the stage, apart from Siana, who had the same expression since the start, the other four old elves were smiling brightly.

One among them said, "It seems miss Siana is our lucky star. We had thought this egg would go unsold. Who knew we would be able to earn so much from this."

"Hey, old man, don't forget this egg was miss Siana's property. All the money received from selling it should go to her."

"Cough! I know that."

...

"Big brother, he raised the price to 250,000. Hurry up, or aunt Siana will give the egg to him." In room 2, little Arya hurriedly said when she saw Max silent for a moment.

"Don't worry. Your big brother will win it." Rima chuckled when she saw her become anxious.

'It seems I need to raise the stakes some more.' Max thought before shouting his next bid, "280,000 Mana stones!"

As his voice fell, the crowd went silent for a moment before breaking into a commotion.

"Amazing! He raised it directly by 30,000."

"Will that other guy raise it again?"

"I hope he will. It's fun watching them wasting their money."

"I really want to see who will be the eventual victor."

Jack's expression darkened when he heard the bid. But because he had already resolved to use his Mana stones, it didn't take long before he also raised the bid. "300,000!"

Janice Arasia, sitting beside him, asked, "Sir Jack, are you sure you want to spend so much on it? I'm sure the Dalton family gave you a limited amount for private usage, right?"

Jack felt a pang in his heart when he heard this because what she said was right. He was allowed to use only 250,000 Mana stones from the funds the family gave him to buy the spirit fruits, and this was because his mother was one of the Elders that held the authority in the family. If it were someone other instead of him, they wouldn't have been allowed so much.

He forced a smile and said, "It's alright, miss Janice. I can spend this without any problem. Moreover, I believe the guest from the third floor is also here for spirit fruits and wouldn't want to spend any more on the egg."

Although he said this, he was sweating inwardly. Apart from the 250,000 Mana stones he was allowed to use from the family's fund, his total savings amounted to only around 100,000 Mana stones.

So, in total, he only had around 350,000 Mana stones, and the bid had already reached 300,000. If it increased by another 50,000, he wouldn't be able to bid anymore. So, he was praying that Max would stop increasing the bid now and let him have the egg.

However, a moment later, his smile froze, and his worries became real when Max's voice rang out once again.

"350,000!"

"This..." He was dumbstruck and didn't know how to respond to this.

He glanced at Janice stiffly and opened his mouth to say something, but no sound came out.

Janice almost couldn't control her laughter when she saw his constipated expression and thought, 'Who told you to show off with this little wealth?'

However, she still put on a smile and said, "Sir Jack, it's okay. You don't have to bid anymore. I don't think it's worth so much."

At the same time, she glanced at the egg in Siana's hand and shook her head, 'It's very unfortunate the chances of it hatching are too low and spending so much for that minute possibility is simply a waste.'

Meanwhile, the crowd was waiting for Jack to raise the bid again and give them a good show.

"Hey, do you think that guest on the second floor would raise the bid again?"

"I hope he does."

"I don't think he would do that if he his brain is functioning properly."

"Oh? Why would you think so?"

"It's simple. He should know by now that the guest on the third floor seems hell-bent on buying this egg. So, even if he is more wealthy than the guest on the third floor and succeeds in buying it, I'm sure the guest on the third floor wouldn't let him leave Ninam city alive."

"What you said makes sense. After all, the people who are able to stay on the third floor aren't to be taken lightly."

As if proving the crowd's speculation true, Jack's voice sounded, "Since the friend on the third floor wants this precious egg this much, I won't compete with you any longer. You can have it."

Hearing this, Leticia became angry, "How shameless! After raising the price this much, he is acting as if he is doing us a favour."

Max didn't bother replying to him and waited for Siana to announce the winner.

Bonus chapter (6/15)

Chapter 295: Final three items

Siana's gaze went over the crowd and the guest rooms before she asked, "The guest from room number 2 has bid 350,000 low-grade Mana stones. Would anyone else like to raise the bid?"

After a while, when no one responded to her call, Siana announced, "This egg goes to the guest in room number 2."

After saying this, she gave the egg to an older man behind her and asked him to deliver it to Max's room, who immediately jumped down the auction stage and headed to the third floor.

Meanwhile, Siana took out a batch of triangular talismans and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, the next auction item is this batch of five grade three armour-piercing talismans. They are capable of destroying the defence of almost any three-star beast or most grade-three defensive. The initial bid for these is 25,000 low-grade Mana stones, and each bid should be no less than a thousand Mana stones."

"26,000!"

"27,000!"

"30,000!"

"33,000!"

"35,000!"

...

As soon as Siana's voice fell, everyone started bidding like crazy and in just a few moments, the price went past 40,000 Mana stones.

However, no one was surprised or discussed it because this type of reaction from everyone was expected since the talismans like these were very useful for people weaker than the three-star mages and would prove to be like life-saving talismans in many situations.

Even for three-star mages, these talismans were quite handy since they could be used at a moment's notice and had the power of a normal attack from the three-star mage.

Max also wanted to buy them; however, he didn't make any bid because he didn't want to lessen his chances of buying the spirit fruits by spending more Mana stones when he didn't know how many he would get after selling the [Destruction wheel] spell which he put up on for the auction.

Knock! Knock!

Just then, someone knocked on the door.

"Dear guest. I'm here to deliver the item you just won." An elderly voice sounded from outside the door.

Max signalled to the servant girl standing near the door to open the door.

Weng!

The door opened, and in came the old man who had been standing behind Siana a while ago. He was an average-looking Elvin man and had a professional smile as his gaze scanned the people in the room.

When he saw little Arya, he didn't seem surprised as he smiled and bowed lightly toward her, "Saint girl!"

Little Arya nodded and asked excitedly, "Grandpa, did you bring the egg? Show me!"

The old man nodded at her before shifting his attention to the sole male in the group, Max. He then took out a wooden box and gave it to him, saying, "Dear guest, please verify the contents."

Max took the box and opened the lid. The golden egg with dark patches over it was lying there. When he held it in his hand, it felt like he was holding a heavy rock.

'I'll soon have a king-level pet!' Max felt excited thinking about this.

"Big brother, can I hold it?" Little Arya's voice jolted him out of his thoughts.

"Yeah, sure, but make sure not to drop it." Max gave it to her and cautioned her despite knowing that a simple fall wouldn't be enough to break it.

"Oh, it's too heavy!" Little Arya struggled to hold it in her tiny hands.

While little Arya curiously played around with it, the old man said, "Since the item has been delivered, I shall take my leave. Please enjoy the rest of the auction."

"Thank you for bringing it over." Max nodded. He was surprised when the old man didn't mention anything about the payment because he knew the lady from before must have already informed them of their agreement.

After the old man left, Belen, Leticia and Rima also checked out the egg. Rima couldn't hold back her curiosity and asked, "Max, do you really have a way to hatch it?"

At this question, Everyone, including the servant girls, focused their attention on him.

Max only shrugged his shoulders and said, "Maybe."

"Hmph! What kind of answer is that?" Rima huffed in anger but didn't ask again.

Max only smiled at this. He knew she wasn't angry or anything.

If only they were in the room, Max would've told them the truth. However, since there were servant girls present, too, he knew the auction house would find out if he did so, and he didn't want to take the unnecessary risk. Who knows, they might kidnap him to extort his method. After all, a king-level pet's temptation was irresistible.

After that, he turned his attention to the ongoing auction. After the talismans sold for around 100,000 Mana stones, many valuable things came out, but it frustrated him quite a bit because he couldn't bid for them.

He only prayed that his spell would come out sooner so that he would know how many Mana stones he had to bid for the rest of the items after it sold.

...

After more than two hours had elapsed and many items had successfully sold, Siana raised her hand to quieten the excited crowd and announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, now it's time for the finale. We have prepared three items for the finale for you, so be prepared."

Upon hearing this, the crowd broke into a discussion.

"Three items? Weren't there only spirit fruit for the finale?"

"Who knows! But that's even better. I'm sure the other two items won't be any less valuable than spirit fruit."

"Yeah, I really want to know what the items are for them to be regarded as the finale items."

It was not only the crowd in the auction hall which was excited; the guests in the guest room on the second and the third floor were the same. They immediately started amassing their wealth to bid on the items in case they were useful to them.

- Chapter 297: We are rich[1] |

Chapter 297: We are rich[1]

Siana didn't let them wait too much.

She waved her hand a thick piece of paper appeared in front of her.

"What's this, a paper?"

"Did she make a mistake with the real second item, or is there something great about this paper?"

"Maybe it's a unique talisman?"

"Yeah, that's right. It could be an ancient talisman."

The people in the crowd had weird expressions when they saw a seemingly ordinary paper floating in front of Siana and started their guesswork.

In room number 2, when the ladies heard the crowd's discussion, they almost couldn't hold their laughter.

Max also smiled wryly and thought, 'Maybe I should prepare a few blank spell scrolls for future use.'

On the auction stage, Siana's expression was also a bit unnatural.

When she was given this piece of paper and was told that it was one of the auction's finale items, she couldn't believe it since it was just an ordinary paper. Only after she saw the spell written on it did she realize why it was a finale item.

She sighed and said, "This is the second last finale item. I'm sure you guys must want to know what is extraordinary about such an ordinary piece of paper. Let me introduce this item to you."

After a pause, she continued, "This paper is extraordinary because on it is written an extraordinary non-elementals spell."

When the crowd heard this, most of them were disappointed because they preferred an elemental instead of a non-elemental one for obvious reasons. However, before they could express their disappointment, Siana continued,

"The reason it is considered extraordinary even though it is only a non-elemental spell is that this is one of the rare few non-elemental spells that are comparable to an elemental spell. This spell is called [Destruction Wheel], and it is comparable to a top-tier grade three elemental spell. When it's cultivated to perfection, its power should be comparable to some weaker low-tier grade four elemental spells."

When the crowd heard this, they were given a shock and couldn't react for a while. The same was true for the guests on the second and the third floor too.

After everyone came to their senses, a commotion broke out in the auction hall.

"Is it real? A non-elemental spell comparable to an elemental one."

"Aren't these types of spells long lost?"

"Yeah, it's unbelievable."

"Hey, should we pool our Mana stones and try bidding for it? It would change our life if we could have this spell."

"Sigh! It's no use. Those guys on the second and the third floor would easily outbid us."

"..."

Meanwhile, the people in the auction hall were heatedly discussing among themselves, and the people on the second and third floors had started informing their respective forces about it.

In-room number 23, Jack and Janice were the same. As soon as they recovered from their shock, they immediately took out their communication crystal and contacted their families.

Everyone got the same reply, "Buy it no matter what. Even if you have to give up on the spirit fruits, it doesn't matter."

After Janice put away her communication crystal, she glanced at Jack and put on a charming smile and said, "Sir Jack, I wonder if you could help me acquire this spell. I'll..."

Unlike before, Jack immediately cut her off and said, "Sorry, miss Janice. I can't help you this time. My family wants this spell."

Janice's expression turned cold and but she didn't say anything else.

Jack noticed this and panicked a little. He smiled stiffly and said, "Miss Janice, I hope you understand. If it weren't for my family's orders, I would have helped you with this."

"It's all right, sir Jack. I understand." Janice nodded. Inwardly, she was fuming in anger.

...

In-room number 2, Leticia wore an anxious expression and asked, "Belen, why aren't they bidding for it? Don't tell me they don't want it because it's a non-elemental spell, right?"

Belen shook her head and smiled, "Don't worry. They must be informing the forces they belong to about it."

After her worries about being inferior to Rima and Leticia allayed, she had become a lot more lively which was a relief for Max.

"I hope so." Leticia nibbled on her nails, still anxious.

On the stage, Siana was silent for a while and waited for everyone to digest the information.

She then announced, "Now that you know everything about the spell, you may begin bidding now. The initial bid is 200,000 low grade Mana stones and each raise must be at least 10,000 Mana stones."

The crowd went silent and since they knew wouldn't be able to bid for it, they instead focused their attention on the higher floors.

"500,000!" As soon as Siana's voice fell, a female voice sounded from the last room on the third floor, room number 5.

When Leticia heard this, she was relieved and then became excited. "It's only the first bid, and the price has increased by two and half times."

Max, Belen and Rima were also excited, and their excitement continued to rise when they heard the subsequent bids.

"600,000!" Someone from the second floor raised it by 100,000, and it didn't take long before someone raised it to 700,000.

In room 23, Jack glanced at Janice and said, "Aren't you going to bid, Miss Janice?"

Janice shook her head and emotionlessly said, "I plan the competition to thin out first."

"Oh! If that's the case, let me help you." Jack smiled and injected Mana into his armrest before he shouted, "One million!"

Boom!

His voice was like a clap of thunder to ordinary people in the auction hall.

"Good lord! Only a few seconds have passed the price has reached the million mark."

"One million! Even if I sell everything I have, I won't gain even half a million. How wealthy they are!"

"That's why I said the auction's finale items are reserved for the guest on the second and third floors."

Just as someone said this, an indifferent voice sounded out from behind him.

"1.5 Million!"

Bonus chapter (7/15)

Chapter 298: We are rich[2]

"This..." They were stunned when everyone saw the one who had just bid for 1.5 million. It was the person dressed in full black who tried to compete for the golden egg.

"Isn't he the same guy who competed for the egg before?"

"Didn't he concede because he didn't have enough Mana stones? How come he has so many now?"

"It's easy. He must have thought that the egg wasn't worth that much."

"That's right. However, why isn't he sitting on the second floor if he is so wealthy?"

"Maybe he is a cheapskate and doesn't want to spend extra stones?"

"I don't think he has so many Mana stones and is only trying to show off to us."

"Tsk, if that's true, he is just playing with his life. You should know the auction house has a rule that no one shall make empty bids, or they will be killed without mercy."

While everyone was in discussion, Jack frowned and raised the bid, "2 million!"

Everyone quietened down immediately and shifted their attention to the upper floors once again.

For a while, no one raised the bid.

In their room, Leticia's heart was beating faster and faster while her palms were clenched into fists as she mumbled, "Someone raise it a little more. Raise it..."

Although Max, Rima and Belen tried to remain composed, the excitement was palpable on their faces.

Just when Siana was about to ask whether anyone was willing to raise the bid, the guest in room 5's voice sounded, "2.2 Million!"

Jack smiled when he heard him raising it by a mere 200,000 and thought, 'It seems the guest in room number 5 is approaching her limit.'

"2.5 Million!"

Just as he was thinking this, the black figure from the auction hall made another bid, attracting everyone's attention.

Jack's expression darkened by a few notches when he heard the bid. He was told to try to win the spell in less than 3 Million stones, and he had thought that since the price was very slow, it meant most of the people present were near their limit, and he could successfully buy it in less than 3 million.

However, with this bid, he wasn't so sure any longer. He then turned to look at Janice, who also wore a slightly troubled expression.

Just as he was about to say something, his expression froze as another bid sounded.

"3 Million!"

"Woah! It is someone from room number 3. It's the first time they made a bid in this auction, right?"

"It seems the guests on the third floor are even richer than those on the second floor."

"Yeah. It seems so. Did you notice there wasn't any ripple in the voice just now as if 3 Million Mana stones are worth much in his eyes, unlike those from the second floor whose voice seems strained a little whenever they make a bid?"

In room number 12, Gene asked curiously, "Grandma, why are they bidding so much for it? No matter how strong, it's only a non-elemental spell, right?"

"Little Gene, you forget that it's the rural area we are in. The strongest forces here only have one or two grade-four spells and only a handful of top-tier grade three, most of which are non-elemental ones which are many times weaker than the elemental spell.

Moreover, because of the lack of resources here, many people can't awaken an element even after reaching the three-star realm. So, a strong non-elemental spell is what they dream of.

So, now that they are given a chance to acquire a spell that's as strong as a top-tier grade elemental spell, they naturally are willing to go all out for it. " The old lady explained.

"Oh!" Gene nodded in understanding, and then a worried look appeared on her face, and she thought, 'Doesn't that mean my progress would be slower here?'

The old lady noticed this and smiled, "Don't worry. I won't let this affect you."

"Okay, grandma." Gene nodded and didn't ask how she was going to do it because she believed in her and knew that she must have thought of some plan.

In room number 23, Jack's expression was ugly. 'It seems I can't compete for the spirit fruits now.' He then gritted his teeth and made the bid, "3.5 million!"

In room number 3, a beautiful woman in golden robes who looked to be in her mid-twenties was sitting with two old women standing behind her. One seemed cold and aloof, while the other one seemed warm and amiable.

When Jack raised the bid, she smiled lightly, "He should be from the Dalton family, right?"

"Yes, milady." The amiable old lady replied respectfully.

"They are really as wealthy as the rumours say. It seems I can't buy this spell with him bidding against me." The golden-robed woman said.

"Milady, do you need me to lend you my Mana stones?" The old lady asked.

"No, it's fine. Since I can't buy it from the Mana stones I have, it means it isn't meant to be mine." The golden-robed woman replied.

The old lady hesitated a little when she heard this before saying, "Milady, if her majesty finds out that you let it go, she will be angry."

Hearing this, the golden-robed woman's expression turned cold for a fleeting moment. She then said calmly, "It's fine."

The old lady kept quiet when she saw her reaction.

"4 million!" Just then, the black-clad man in the auction hall made another bid.

Jack's eyes glinted with murderous light when he looked toward the black-clad man. He then shouted angrily, "4.5 Million!"

Sitting beside him, Janice's troubled expression vanished the moment Jack made his bid as she sighed inwardly, 'I can only compete for the spirit fruits now.'

Sitting in the back seats of the auction hall, the black-clad person glanced toward Jack's room and then shook his head in disappointment.

Jack, whose eyes were fixated on him, felt relieved when he saw this. However, just then, another voice sounded, and his face went pale.

The guest from room number 5, who had been silent for a while now, spoke again, "5 Million!"

In room number 2, Max and company had ecstatic expressions. Leticia couldn't hold it in and shouted, "We are rich!"

Chapter 299: Provoking on purpose?

Everyone in the room looked at her when she shouted, which caused her to be a bit embarrassed.

The servant girls looked at Max with sparkling eyes when they saw the spell written by him fetching millions of Mana stones.

Max was also delighted. However, as they say, humans are the most greedy creatures. Max wished someone would raise the bid and give them even more wealth.

In room 23, Janice looked at Jack, who seemed like someone who had lost his soul, with a mocking smile and said, "Sir Jack, if you are lacking in some stones, you can always ask me."

"No, it's alright. There is no need." Jack shook his head. When he came to Ninam city for spirit fruits, he was given a total of 5 million Mana stones which was quite a lot even for a family as wealthy as the Dalton family. However, the family still gave him this much just in case some valuable things appeared in the auction.

Even though Jack could feel the mockery in her voice, he knew if he asked, she wouldn't refuse to help him with a few million stones due to the relationship between the Arasia and Dalton family. However, he knew that even though his family placed great importance on this spell, his family wouldn't be willing to spend more than 5 million for it.

"As you wish!" Janice shrugged.

...

While everyone was in a state of stupor, Siana's clear voice rang out, "The guest from room number 5 has bid 5 million low-grade Mana stones. Would anyone like to raise it?"

After a while, when no one raised it, Siana announced the guest in room 5 to be the winner of the [Destruction wheel] before storing it away.

No one discussed that a spell was sold for 5 million because their attention was focused on Siana, who was going to introduce the last item: spirit fruits. Although they knew that most of them wouldn't be able to compete for them, they were excited all the same.

Siana glanced at the crowd and, seeing their eager expressions, smiled lightly and thought, 'Maybe I should remain here for a few years. It's not bad being the host of these auctions.'

Seeing her standing there without moving, the crowd was starting to become impatient. The elderly elves standing behind Siana wanted to prompt her to reveal the spirit fruits, but an old woman shook her head and stopped them, "Let her be."

After a few seconds, Siana came out of her thoughts and noticing the crowd's impatience, she waved her hand, and three violet berry-type fruits appeared in front of her.

"Everyone, these are your much-awaited spirit fruits. These fruits are capable of raising the cultivation base of everyone below the four-star realm. Those below the three-star realm will have their cultivation improved by two minor stages while those in the three-star realm by one minor stage." Siana introduced the fruits.

When the crowd heard this, those who were already three-star mages were slightly disappointed and thought, 'As expected, the rumours were wrong. It can only help us increase one minor stage.'

They had heard that these fruits were able to raise their cultivation by two minor stages no matter whether you were a two-star or three-star mage, and this excited them a lot. However, now that they found out that it could help increase their cultivation by only a minor stage, it was natural for them to be disappointed.

Many who were representative of the forces they belonged to hurriedly informed their superiors about this. Jack and Janice did the same too.

In room number five, when Max and the company heard that the fruits could only help three-star mages' cultivation by only a minor stage, they were among the rare few who weren't disappointed and were happy instead because this would lower the competition even though only a little bit.

Meanwhile, Siana continued to say, "We will be auctioning one fruit at a time, and the initial bid shall be 300,000 low-grade Mana stones. Each raise shall not be lower than ten thousand stones. You may bid now."

"1 million!" As soon as she finished speaking, Max made the bid. Since he was going to try and acquire all three of them and the competition was sure to be fierce, he didn't want to waste any time by starting at a lower bid.

Those who were prepared to bid around 300,000 were taken by surprise.

However, they soon reacted and started bidding.

"1.1 million!"

"1.2 million!"

"1.3 million!"

"..."

Hearing the bids rising by merely 100,000 at a time, Max was a bit relieved. This indicated that although people wanted the spirit fruits, they wouldn't be bidding as crazily as when they were bidding for his spell.

In room number 23, Jack glanced at Janice and asked, "Miss Janice, may I know how much you are willing to pay for each fruit? If it's more than what I'm prepared to pay, I won't bother making any bid."

Janice nodded and said, "It's around 2 million for each fruit and a total of 4 million. If the bids for them go beyond this, I will give up. You see, my family isn't as wealthy as the Dalton family."

Upon hearing her remark, Jack smiled embarrassedly and turned his gaze away, not wanting to continue this topic and thought, 'It seems I can only bid for the third fruit then.'

Seeing him turn away without boasting, Janice felt strange and asked, "Sir Jack, how about you tell me about your limits too, so I won't make a fool of myself bidding against you."

Jack forced a smile at her question and said, "Don't worry, miss Janice. I won't bid for the fruits you bid for since I only need to buy one for my younger cousin."

In reality, he was told to try and buy two of three fruits in 4 million or, if that wasn't possible, buy at least one in three million. Now that Janice was also willing to bid two million each for the two of them, he dropped the thought of competing against her and decided to go for the second option.

"That's good to hear." Janice nodded and turned her attention to the ongoing auction.

If Max had heard their discussion, he would've gotten a rough idea that the average price of each spirit fruit would be around 2 million Mana stones if nothing unexpected happened.

When the bid reached 1.5 million, each raise was only around 50 or so thousand Mana stones, and this continued to decrease as the price hit 1,7 million.

Seeing this, Jack glanced at Janice and asked, "Miss Janice, do you want to bid for this one, or shall I go for it?"

"Please let me have this one, sir Jack." Janice smiled at him, and before he could say anything, she made the bid, "1.8 Million!"

Jack immediately regretted and cursed himself for trying to be a gentleman and asking her first instead of bidding himself. If he did, there was a chance he could get this one

under 2 million, while there was less chance of this happening with the second and third fruit.

A few seconds passed, and no one made another bid which caused him to feel even more regret while Janice's smile widened by the second as she prayed for no one to make another bid.

However, she was bound to be disappointed.

In his room, Max's eyes were trained on Siana. He wanted to wait until after she asked whether anyone else was going to raise the bid or not so. If no one made a bid by then, he would make his move because he didn't want to compete with someone like before.

Rima and the other ladies looked at him with puzzled looks, wondering why wasn't he making a bid even now. However, seeing his expression, they didn't ask anything.

After waiting for a while more, Siana asked whether anyone was willing to raise the bid. However, no one responded to her call. So, she prepared to announce Janice as the winner.

However, just when her lips moved again and just when Janice thought that she had won, Max injected his Mana into the armrest and made his bid, "2 million!"

Janice's expression turned ugly, and she cursed inwardly, 'This bastard. Why didn't he make his bid before? Is he trying to provoke me because I'm in the same room as Jack, and he competed against him for the egg?'

Chapter 300: Auction ends

'Should I increase the bid then?' Janice thought before shaking her head, 'No, if I do, it'll mess up my budget. I'll let him have this one and try to bid for the next one.'

Suddenly she remembered something, glanced at Jack, and said, "Sir Jack, I'm not bidding anymore for this one. You can if you want it."

Jack was infuriated when he heard this. How could he not know what she was thinking? However, he didn't show any emotion on his face since he didn't want to lower his 'good' impression on her and shook his head, "It's fine, miss Janice. I'll bid for the next or the last."

"Okay, then." Janice nodded stiffly.

Meanwhile, in room number 2, Leticia bit her lips anxiously and prayed, 'I hope no one raises it anymore.'

Belen, Rima and Max were also feeling anxious about it as they waited with bated breath.

Fortunately for them, no one was willing to pay more than 2 million for a single fruit. So, after waiting a while, Siana announced Max as the winner.

After a pause, she announced, "Now, you may begin bidding for the second fruit. The starting bid is the same as before."

It didn't take long before the price hit 1.5 million; however, unlike before, it didn't slow down until it hit 1.8 million.

"It seems we have to pay more if we want the second fruit," Belen commented.

"It's fine. We'll just bid more." Max said and then glanced at her, Leticia and Rima before saying, "However, I'm afraid we can buy only two fruits."

Without him saying it clearly, they understood his implied meaning that one of them won't get it. They glanced at each other and spoke simultaneously, "It's fine. I don't need it."

Max was a little taken aback by this, and when he glanced at them and saw their expressions, although they were a bit unwilling, they didn't seem sad about it, which made Max sigh and think, 'Maybe, I should've written the [Destruction wheel] in two pages and auctioned them separately. That way, I could've easily bought all three of them.'

Just then, little Arya spoke up, "Big sister Belen, Big sister Leticia, you should have those fruits."

"Mm? Why?" Leticia asked in confusion.

"Did you forget that big sister Rima will become granny Aria's disciple very soon? With Granny Aria around, big sister Rima won't lack anything." Little Arya said with certainty.

"See? That's why I said you should have them. Moreover, I've already broken through to the high stage." Rima chimed in, and her face reddened slightly when she mentioned her breakthrough.

"Really?" Leticia asked, surprised and then said, "But weren't you recuperating? How come..." At the end of her sentence, she trailed off when she remembered the three days she was with Max alone in the room and thought, 'No wonder she broke through.'

Following this, she and Belen congratulated her. Rima felt embarrassed when she noticed the knowing smile on their faces and sneakily glanced at Max. Fortunately, his

attention was on the ongoing auction because the price had just reached 2 million Mana stones.

Seeing this, he immediately shouted his bid, "2.2 million!"

In room number 23, Janice's expression darkened because she was the one who made the previous bid of 2 million. This strengthened her suspicion that he was especially targeting her.

"Grandma, we should compete for this one because the price of the last one would be even higher." In room number 12, Gene said to her grandma.

The old lady didn't immediately respond. They had a little less than 2 million low-grade Mana stones in Gene's spatial ring, while the rest were middle-grade ones.

Now that the bid had surpassed the 2 million mark, she would have to use the mid-grade Mana stones if she wanted the spirit fruit.

However, she hesitated because she didn't want to reveal that they had middle-grade stones, which was a rarity in kingdoms like the green leaf kingdoms. So if it was revealed, they might invite trouble to themselves, which she didn't want, especially now when she was at her weakest due to her injuries.

After thinking for a while, she decided to take the risk and made the bid, "2.5 million!"

In his room, Max was taken aback. He didn't expect someone to raise it this much when previously there was no response from them.

So, he took his time counting his current wealth and discovered that he had around 2.8 million low-grade Mana stones. Gritting his teeth, he decided to go all in and shouted, "2.8 million!"

"3 million!" The old lady from room number 12 raised it again.

Sigh!

Max sighed, disappointed and thought, 'Maybe I can buy the next one.' Even though he thought like this, he knew the chances were meagre.

Seeing the bid hit 3 million, Janice didn't make another one. Jack tried to compete and made a bid of 3.2 million, but the old lady immediately raised it to 3.5 million. Therefore he also backed out, thinking he should try bidding for the last one.

After her 3.5 million bid, no one made another bid. Therefore, Siana announced her winner, and the bidding for the third fruit began immediately after.

As expected, for the last fruit, the competition was very intense. Max tried competing but was quickly outbid by others.

This turn of events saddened them. At one time, they thought they might get all three fruits, but now they could get only one.

Leticia was sad to the point where her eyes turned red, and tears threatened to fall. Max was also disappointed, but he could do nothing at this point.

Knock! Knock!

Just then, someone knocked on their door. When the servant girl opened the door, the middle-aged lady who had appraised their items before came in with a smile on her face.

Before Max and the others could say anything, she said, "Dear guests, I noticed you want to buy this fruit too, but it seems 2.8 million Mana stones is your limit. Is that right?"

Max raised his brows slightly before he nodded, "That's right."

The middle-aged lady smiled and said, "I came here with a proposal that would help you with that. Do you mind me telling you?"

"Yeah, please do." Max nodded. He had guessed it when she mentioned the spirit fruit and his limit. Moreover, he also knew what she was going to say next. Apart from his, Belen and Rima also understood her intentions.

On the other hand, Leticia seemed oblivious to it and became excited when she heard they might have a chance at buying their second spirit fruit.

The middle-aged lady nodded, "We would like you to sell us another copy of that spell. We are willing to buy it for 4 million Mana stones which would be enough for you to buy the last spirit fruits."

"Since the first copy sold for 5 million, how about you give me 4.5 million for the second copy?" Max asked. Although he thought the 4 million offer was already good enough, he decided to try his luck.

Hearing this, the middle-aged frowned slightly and nodded, "Okay. 4.5 million it is."

She then added, "You can bid as you like now. As for the spell, you can give it to me after the auction ends."

"Very well." Max nodded and turned his attention to the ongoing auction. The bid had reached 3.8 million.

Just as he was about to make his bid, someone raised it to 4 million.

This bidder was Jack, whose expression was currently hideous. He glanced at Janice, whose expression wasn't any better, and thought, 'I should've bid from the start. If I did that, I wouldn't have to spend this much now. Moreover, there is no guarantee that I will be able to win it in 4 million.'

As if proving him right, Max's voice rang out, "4.2 million!"

Bang!

Jack punched the table, broke it into pieces, and shouted, "It's this bastard again! I will kill him."

He became so angry because he knew this last fruit was also a lost cause since he couldn't bid any more than 4 million due to his family's orders.

After making his bid, Max waited patiently. He wasn't as anxious as before since he now had more than enough money to successfully buy the fruit but still, he wished that no one else should raise the bid so he wouldn't need to spend more stones.