

Seller 491

Chapter 491 The Grand Auction (part-3)

"110 thousand" "4120 thousand" "4130" "4140" "4150" "4160" "4170" "4180"

"4650" "4660" "4670" "4680"... "4880" "4890"

The Auction House Master was filled with excitement as neither party seemed to be going down. An item that was listed at 100 thousand gold coins is now bid at 5 million. Who could have expected such a thing?

Seeing such an absurd thing, Mark couldn't help but feel regret for not putting up the semi-divine weapons in his inventory for the auction.

He kept those items to himself for the purpose of trading them to the system whenever he would be in need of money. The system pays him more money compared to the fixed prices put up by the Void Temple.

But, what is the use of regretting right now? The deadline is already over and there is nothing he can do unless he resorts to threats of pulling out the lone item he put for the auction if they don't overlook the rules and list the items sitting in his inventory.

But, that's not good for business either.

Hence, he could only swallow his frustration and watch the bidding war between Rong Huang and Tang Xin.

"5170" Tang Xin's bidding paddle lit up once again. But, this time, he opened his mouth, "Lord Rong, there are still 249 items to go. Why don't you let this go? It's pretty much important for me."

Everyone looked at the charismatic young man in his early thirties. More than a mercenary group leader, he had the bearing of a scholar. Even his attire resembles one, giving the impression of a tiger in the skin of a docile sheep.

"Hmpf, dream on," Rong Huang scoffed in response to the request as his lips curled up. "Do you think I'm not aware why you want it? You don't want it for taming purposes or anything. You merely want to destroy it and absorb its core, thereby awaken the Dragon bloodline."

He then let out a snicker, "Too bad that you have already missed your chance of the buyout."

"You..." Tang Xin got up from his seat as he tightly clenched the paddle. "Only those of Dragon descent can awaken the bloodline."

"Well, I can still gift it to someone who needs it though," Rong Huang shrugged his shoulders as he crossed his legs. He raised the bid once again and added a comment, "I don't lack the money."

At once, the entire coliseum shook by surprise. Even Xin Rui and the Auction House Master were taken aback for a moment.

While several VIP guests started discussing with their respective acquaintances, Mark on the other hand had a look of disgust appear on his face as he mumbled, "These fellows are terrible actors."

"Hmm?" Sylvandria's pointy ears perked up as she heard him clearly. She looked at Mark and asked, "What do you mean? They are acting?"

Mark answered, "The statue doesn't have such capability. It is likely they were acting to bait someone."

"Hmm... Quite possible," Shen Ling also nodded in agreement. After a quick analysis, she said, "Due to the intense bidding war, they might have realized that they went too far and probably put up an act in order to drag someone in the bid and give up. After all, who would reveal such a hidden ability openly? The Void Temple's representative didn't even speak of it. There are a lot of nobles and wealthy individuals here. There must be a couple of people who would definitely fall for it."

"Maybe, they were speaking the truth and were frustrated that the bid is getting out of their hands?" Song Yue also threw in her opinion, but Mark immediately refuted the suspicion, "No. I'm sure that the statue doesn't have such capability. It is not easy to deceive my eyes." His tone was very confident.

In reality, he was confident that the system's given Eyes of God ability could uncover any secret.

Perhaps, it is because of their collective effort, or due to his 7 points of luck. Someone who looked like a teenager bit the bait right away.

Ever since that memory loss fiasco occurred in the Elven world, the descriptions of the inspected item/person have become more detailed.

He was sure that they were trying to bait someone by letting out false pieces of information and he was also looking for the idiot who would fall for it.

Perhaps, it is because of their collective effort, or due to his 7 points of luck. Someone who looked like a teenager bit the bait right away.

"5200" The 17-year-old in luxury attire and two Exalt realm experts (7-circle) as guards on the side announced the bid, attracting the people's attention.

tap

Shen Ling slapped her own forehead and shook her head with a comment, "The fool has fallen for it. But then again, it is expected."

"Do you know him?" Song Yue asked in curiosity.

Shen Ling nodded while letting out a sigh, "Yeah. Yu Tiajin, the second son of the wealthiest merchant of the Leon Empire. I was classmates with his older brother. Senior Brother Yu once said that his younger brother has excellent memorization but lacks wisdom. Because of his risk-taking personality regarding bets, I heard that his family lost tens of millions of gold coins."

"Yet, they sent him for this auction?" Mark wanted to inspect his details too, but due to the absence of line of sight, he couldn't do it.

Shen Ling answered his question with a shrug of shoulders, "It is probably because he was born with the blessings of Heaven. The Goddess of Luck favored him many times."

"What do you mean?" Mark became curious.

Shen Ling explained, "I still remember the last year's auction. It was only an annual world auction and he purchased a mystery box for a buyout purchase of 6.5 million gold coins. Everyone took him for a fool on spending such money for a random item ranging from silver grade item to platinum grade. However, it ended up being an Earth-grade item. Even Void Temple didn't expect it."

"I see..." Mark shifted his attention back to the podium calmly as if he wasn't interested.

The mystery boxes have sealing techniques inscribed on them and weren't usually appraised by the Auction House. Even a trap could be possible. It just means that he is either incredibly lucky or already knew what was in the box, beforehand.

Since he doesn't know about him, Mark decides not to have any opinions for the moment until he inspects his soul and sees the details.

The auction continued at the same aggressive pace, making them look like madmen and almost confusing Shen Ling with her earlier analysis. Mark, on the other, was confident and watched calmly in silence.

"5210" "5220" "5230" ... "5300"

"5510" "5520" ... "5600"

"5910" "5920" ... "5980"

"5990" called out Yu Tiajin.

Usually, it was supposed to be Rong Huang's turn to bid for the higher amount, but he put away the paddle instead without any expression.

The spectators shifted their attention toward Tang Xin, who seemed like he was discussing something with his teammate. Because the object is stated to be important to him, everyone thought that he was seriously considering the matter.

The time passed but they seemed like they were talking.

Once the 55-second mark crossed, Xin Rui's voice, which was amplified by a sound skill, was heard all over the coliseum, "5 seconds left. Any bidders?"

Tang Xin abruptly stopped his discussion with his aide and shook his head while putting down the paddle, indicating that he had given up.

"5,990,000; once, twice, sold. Congratulations, Mr. Yu Tiajin, on winning the Statue of Dragon Deity, Agaros."

The statue disappeared back into her storage ring while the attendant went to the VIP Box to get the money.

Five minutes later, the attendant returned to Xin Rui and she checked the contents of the ring with a special monacle, a semi-divine treasure.

"Hmm, there are 1000 coins more, but that's not my problem regardless," mumbled Xin Rui before putting away the storage ring full of gold coins in her storage ring.

She then took out the second item of the auction without wasting any time as one whole hour passed just for the first one, and there were 499 to go.

While she was still happy on behalf of the Void Temple that they struck it rich, a lot of time has been lost due to that. This was the first she was doing her job as the representative of the Void Temple and she doesn't want to mess it up.

As a result, she acted quickly and changed the bidding raise instead.

"The Sword of Tular, crafted by the Master Blacksmith Tular using the powder of bone marrow of a Greyhound King as the key ingredient. The listed price is 100,000 gold coins and the bidding raise is 10,000 coins."

She directly raised the bidding raise, hoping to save time.

But, her plan backfired as only two bidders came forward for the item and the bidding was over in two minutes, selling for only 150k.

Thinking that maybe it is just because the item is a weapon and the wealthy guests here usually would have semi-divine items in their arsenal, Xin Rui continued the auction by taking out the third item.

The result?

The next twelve items entirely netted her a total amount of 2 million gold coins, which isn't even half of what came from the first item.

Xin Rui started feeling nervous inside, but as the legendary realm expert and the official representative of the Void Temple, she kept her coolness on the exterior and continued to deal in the same way upon convincing herself that platinum-grade items are not important either way and the first item was merely a ploy created by those two well-known rivals. The main focus is always the semi-divine category.

"14th item of the auction." She announced while taking out a large rectangular wooden box with various mysterious markings on every side.

"As you can see, the item is a mystery box. The seller requested the starting price to be fixed at 50,000 gold coins. The bid raise is 5000 gold coins. Let the bidding begin."

As soon as she announced the bidding, the paddle in Shen Ling's hands was raised high and Mark's voice echoed in the coliseum, "Buyout."

In an instant, tens of thousands of spectators shifted their attention to VIP Box 8 for the first time.

"Hmm, buyout? There's another 5 million bid?" Even Xin Rui was also taken aback for a moment and looked in the direction of the voice. Her eyes fell on Mark and the group.

Letting out a smile, Mark raised the glass and drank a sip of wine before he slowly spoke to the others, "Now that we have already entered the ring, it is the perfect time to release all your auras."

Sylvandria, James, and Steve, who had been masking their cultivation until now, suddenly released it and threw the entire coliseum into commotion, including the VIPs.

Chapter 492 The Grand Auction (part-4)

Roughly half a minute ago;

Due to uninteresting items being popped up in the auction which didn't grab the attention of the biggies, Mark also lost his interest a while ago and just became busier in conversing with Song Yue.

They were currently talking about the wedding plans, and Xin Rui's announcement of the mystery box briefly stole the attention of Mark.

It was the second mystery box that was brought up in this auction. The first one only contained a bunch of intermediate-grade augmentation pills that will temporarily raise the cultivation level of the users by 1 realm as long as they are below the 7-circle realm.

Hence, he didn't have much expectation at first.

But then, as he inspected the item using Eyes of God skill, he instantly halted his conversation with his fiancée and focused on the seemingly ordinary-looking wooden box.

Mystery Box

Description: Contains the flag of Huangdi "Hmm? Huangdi? Isn't he one of the five emperors from the legends that once ruled the world, just like Emperor Shun whose spirit gave me the celestial sword?" Mark's eyes further widened as a holographic screen popped up in front of his eyes.

*Ding! You discovered an artifact, the Flag of Huangdi

Flag of Huangdi

Description: Also known as the flag of the true emperor, the flag of Huangdi shall boost the strength of the user's allies as long as their rank is lesser than the demigod. The lower the rank, the greater the benefits one would receive. With its range covering as far as 10 km, the Flag of Huangdi is considered a perfect weapon for the battlefield.

Note: Allies include living beings and non-living beings.

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That note at the end is what made Mark make the decision to call for the buyout.

Shen Ling always had suspicions that his eyes were quite special, which could see through everything.

Hence, she didn't question his decision and directly raised the paddle while pouring her ether energy into it.

Once the paddle started glowing in scarlet energy, Mark directly announced the buyout instead of going through a bidding war.

"Since the buyout was called, no biddings were allowed for this item henceforth. Congratulations, Ms. Shen Ling on winning this item."

Dressed in white armor from top to bottom, Ark, or one should now call him, Eol, the White Knight has walked to the platform instead of giving money to the attendant.

The earlier stint of the buyout call and the revealing of the presence of not one but three supreme beings was already surprising enough. Mark surprised everyone once again by sending out Eol to collect the weapon right away.

VIP Box no. 1;

The Crown Prince of Xiezhi Empire looked at his trusted bodyguard, who looked like a feeble old man, "Uncle Lao, who are they?"

The old man answered, "That must be the princess of Western Moon, a small independent kingdom from the Vermilion bird Continent."

"Western Moon?" The 47-year-old furrowed his brows as he stroked his long and thin beard coming down from the chin, "Such an insignificant existence had such powerful backers?"

"We haven't paid much attention to forces other than Leon Empire, Your Highness. So, we don't have much information on them," replied the bodyguard and apologized further.

Qing Longwei stared at the White-clad armor warrior, who was collecting the wooden box and on his way to return. "Hmm... I can't even see through this one; must be an expert masking his cultivation level."

After stroking his beard a couple of times more, he said, "Uncle Lao, I need all the information on those guys before this auction ends. And also, I see Qing Jie is here. Knowing that coward, he probably would have made arrangements for his safety. So, we will take him down in the city instead."

"But that's..." The old man was taken aback at first, but then as Qing Longwei gave him a stern gaze, he bowed, "As you decree, so shall it be."

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VIP Box no. 7;

"Who the f*ck is sitting in the next room?" Wu Zhi, the leader of a small guild named Chimera sweated profusely as soon as he sensed the presence of Supreme Beings. Chimera's strongest adventurer of peak-6-circle cultivation, codenamed Scarlet Flames, sitting beside him, was also shivering in fear, "They are too powerful, Brother Wu. If some trouble arrives, we will be the first ones to die in the crossfire."

"Relax, trouble only occurs during the last stage of the auction, and we aren't here to purchase in that segment either way," Adventurer Wu patted her shoulder while forcing out a smile, "once the challenge round is over, we will leave with our earnings from the auctioned items."

The girl nodded in agreement.

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VIP Box no. 9;

"Ugh... Our next-door neighbors starting trouble on purpose," Also famed for being the lazy knight of Baize, Liu Ming was probably the only one to remain unbothered by the Supreme Beings even though he was sitting in the next room. His bodyguard, on the other hand, had the same reaction as Mark's other next-door neighbors.

"Supreme Beings around Princess Shen Ling? No doubt about it. Lu Zhen is just staying low," mumbled an adventurer named Neng Hai before shaking his head seriously, "No, that is not possible. If he had been there, he would have stopped them. Whatever the case, first, I need to confirm his identity and then inform His Majesty."

VIP Box no. 12;

"Three supreme beings... It's him alright," The young prince of the Dragon Empire muttered under his breath. Before coming to the auction, he was already given the information by the acting emperor.

He instantly took out the communication scroll and sent the message.

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VIP Box no. 18;

"Supreme Beings around Princess Shen Ling? No doubt about it. Lu Zhen is just staying low," mumbled an adventurer named Neng Hai before shaking his head seriously, "No, that is not possible. If he had been there, he would have stopped them. Whatever the case, first, I need to confirm his identity and then inform His Majesty."

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VIP Box no. 32;

"It's Lu Zhen. But, I couldn't spot that Supreme Being on his side. There are new ones. Where was he getting such experts?" The fourth prince of Kun Empire couldn't help but be amazed by the new discovery. From the other side of the pavilion, he could see Mark and his allies through his binoculars.

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VIP Box no. 47;

Qing Jie, who knew about them before anyone else, read the atmosphere in the coliseum and clenched his fist in excitement, "I knew it. Now, as long as I align myself with those Supreme Beings, that bastard eldest brother of mine wouldn't dare to attempt assassination on me, this time."

Eol returned to VIP Box no. 8 and handed the wooden box to Mark before taking his seat in the back, alongside James and Steve.

As Mark caressed the box with a smile on his face, Eol couldn't help but ask, "Uhh, Lu Zhen, do you know what was inside the box?"

"You can see it by yourselves," Mark tossed the box back to him. Eol caught it in reflex with a look of surprise on his face, "You want to open right away? If there is a treasure as you suspected, then, it will bring unnecessary commotion."

"We have Big sis Sylvandria, James, and Steve though," commented Shen Ling, defending her fiancé's actions.

In response, Eol answered, "Exactly, Your Highness. If they attack despite such powers, it means they will have a stronger expert on their side. You and Lady Song will be the ones that will be in danger."

"No need to worry about that, Eol. With me on the side, none of my loved ones shall ever be hurt."

Meanwhile, at the Imperial Palace of the Dragon Empire;

The acting emperor, Tang Yifan reached a large door located in the forbidden section of the palace, where not even ministers or members of the imperial family were allowed to enter.

Now that Tang Yifan became the emperor, he earned such qualification but for some reason, he didn't open the door. Instead, he knocked on the door a few times and waited in patience.

A whole hour passed, but he didn't move an inch from the spot. Every 15 minutes, he wouldn't forget to knock and then wait in patience.

After nearly 70 minutes, his patience was finally rewarded with the door opening on its own, revealing endless plain grassland on the other side.

Taking a deep breath, he entered the bright place but with no sun in the clear sky.

There, he saw a messy-white-haired boy sitting all alone on the grassland in his pajamas. He appeared to be lost in thoughts.

One look at him and people couldn't help but wonder whether this boy was sick or something.

Tang Yifan gulped saliva and walked forward. The boy remained unmoved until the acting emperor reached him and gave him a 90-degree bow. He couldn't kowtow because of his position as the Emperor which forbids such practice to any individual but a deity from the heaven.

"Tang Yifan greets the Founder."

The boy finally raised his head to look at the man, who disturbed his peace, "Skip the introductions and tell me what you want."

Staring directly into the eyes of his ancestor, Tang Yifan said, "An enemy of the throne is in the city with three Supreme Beings on his side, and I ask for the founder's help to take him down."

Chapter 493 The Grand Auction (part-5)

Flag of Huangdi

Status: sealed

Grade: Mythril

Range: 10 km

Effect 1: The user and his ally's rank will increase based on their ranks. No limit on the number.

Increase by 3: Those with cultivations lower than peak-3-circle.

Increase by 2: Those with cultivations between low-4-circle to peak-6-circle.

Increase by 1: Those with cultivations between low-7-circle to peak-8-circle

All stats increased to 9.9 if the cultivation was above low-9-circle.

No effect on those with rank above demigod.

Note: To qualify as an ally, the user should think of the target as an ally or one of his own. The non-living things and beasts are also qualified to enjoy this benefit.

Effect 2: Upon planting the flag at any place in the universe where the Heavenly Palace has the authority, the user could claim the land of its effective radius as one's own property. The user could create laws that apply to everyone who stays in the range. Note: The user isn't an exception for the laws he creates.

Effect 3: The user could use the aura of the Huangdi left inside the flag to invoke his spirit in the battle. Note: It has the strength of a peak-stage demigod and could be used only once. After that, the item's benefits will be gone.

Description: Also known as the flag of the ruler, The Flag of Huangdi, once wielded by the first emperor who conquered the entire world, is gifted by the Guardian deity, Yuqiang, as a congratulatory gift for becoming the first mortal demigod from his region.

"System, I can break the seal, right?" Mark doesn't want to rejoice too much before confirming the usage.

Luckily for him, the seal didn't end up being something he could not handle.

*Ding! The seal is of Emperor Grade. The Seal breaker skill can break the seal placed on this object.

"Great. Now, I can celebrate." Mark didn't break the seal right away and merely handed it to Shen Ling, "Do you recognize this?" He asked.

Shen Ling took at the scarlet flag where a sphere resembling a planet was drawn in the center. A majestic gold dragon's tail was coiling around it as it was raising its head and looking at the sun and the moon.

Shen Ling went into a trance for some reason and kept staring at it until her arm was shaken by Song Yue, "Sister Ling."

"Ah, I'm sorry..." Coming back to reality, Shen Ling, who started sweating, handed it back to Mark quickly, "For a second, I felt like I have seen the illusion of this drawing. It felt like the dragon is..."

"Telling the heavens that the world belongs to it," Sylvandria finished the sentence for her, "isn't it?"

"Yes," Shen nodded while wiping off her sweat with a hanky. She added, "No doubt about it. This belonged to the Yellow Emperor of the legends."

"So, he is real?" Song Yue exclaimed in surprise, "I heard those five emperors are just a myth. After all, the story of magic started just 1800 years ago, and that too, by the Shang Dynasty's founder. Isn't it?"

"Historical manipulation," commented Shen Ling.

"Eh?" As Song Yue looked at her for an explanation, Mark explained, "A lot of history before the so-called pre-ether period was manipulated. There must have been a mutual understanding between the empires back then. It is why there were no proper records anywhere and only stories passed down as folklore were left. As for the five emperors, they were true. I have met the spirit of Emperor Shun in the dungeon. It is where I formed a contract with Baltrow. "

Mark didn't reveal much about the incident that occurred in the dungeon and neither did he reveal about the sword of light, but his statement so far is enough for his fiancée to believe that whatever she studied of the ancient history turned out to be false.

But then again, as a person who was always trying to understand with changes in her life, Song Yue didn't think too much about it and just accepted whatever Mark told her and moved on.

As for the others, Shen Ling was already aware of the historical manipulation and she didn't feel any strange that someone as extraordinary and mysterious as Mark had met the spirit of Emperor Shun. The remaining people were from another world and had no idea about the history. Hence, they didn't care about it much.

However, the presence of the divine grade item startled the true experts in the coliseum. Their faces were full of envy and admiration as they stared at VIP Box No. 8.

Even Xin Rui became flustered for a moment before she was reminded by the Auction House Master to continue with the auction.

She forcefully calmed herself and proceeded to take out the next item.

During the next eight hours, all of the platinum-grade items were auctioned. That's almost like one item every two minutes.

Surprisingly, not even one of them remained unsold. Even more surprising fact is that all of those items that no one showed interest in were purchased by just one person, the so-called foolish teenager, Yu Tiajin. He alone won 118 times, nearly 47 percent of all the items listed in the auction.

Never in the history of the auction has ever there been where there have been a sold out.

Everyone couldn't help but wonder why he was wasting so much money. But then again, his father is so rich that 35 million gold coins wouldn't dent too much into his fortune anyway.

The spectators were so dazzled by his performance that they even forgot Mark's buyout from hours ago.

Of course, another reason was that Shen Ling bid a lot of times in the auction but only won once more. It is a platinum-grade set of armor, which she bought for her father, costing her about 1.2 million gold coins.

While the spectators no longer placed attention on Mark or his companions, the experts in other VIP boxes and the spectator zone were always on the edge. They felt too stressed throughout the auction. It was also one of the reasons the items were auctioned too quickly as no one dared to engage in an intense bidding war.

Once stage one was over, the lunch break of 90 minutes was called. Xin Rui didn't forget to warn the bidders that the challenge round will start sharply at 4 p.m.

The Auction House took care of the lunch arrangements for the guests. In the VIP section downstairs, Mark and his companions joined the royal banquet.

However, owing to the traditions, once again, he had to get separated from his three fiancées, but he was still at ease considering the fact that Sylvandria was with Song Yue for protection.

As for the golden kitten and the manticore, both of them were currently put inside the pet inventory due to the Auction House's rules that strictly forbid the beasts inside the coliseum.

Mark, along with Eol, James, and Steve sat together at the assigned table. Qing Jie self-invited him to their table to look like he was part of the same group. Mark had business to talk with him. Hence, he didn't mind it.

As the servant assigned to them was introducing the menu available for the banquet, he was interrupted by a warrior who looked like a knight of the Empire, according to his golden-colored armor, a helmet in his left hand, and his graceful walking. "Excuse me..."

Mark turned his head aside to look at the knight, who then said, "Forgive me for the disturbance. Lord Rong wishes to invite you and Venerable beings to his table." While saying that, he took another look at the Supreme Beings who look like harmless teenagers without any air of an expert in one glance. The knight then shifted his attention to Mark and thought, "This guy is even stranger. I cannot even read him."

Mark forced him to come out of his analysis with a calm statement, "Tell your Lord Rong that I have an important guest at my table. So, it is not possible."

The Knight was taken aback at first and then looked at Qing Jie before giving him the bow of farewell, "I understand. I'll relay the message." He returned without trying to speak anymore.

Slam

"He declined my invitation over that exiled prince of Xiezhì and he even didn't bother to act modest? Such an arrogant fellow..." Rong Huang felt humiliated at first, but then as his advisor quickly reminded him that anyone would be as arrogant as the Emperor if they had three Supreme Beings as backing, the Lord of Reignar thought for a bit and said, "Gu Yong, this time, you go and make a personal visit to Lord Qing's table and give him the invitation."

"Milord..."

As the advisor left, Rong Huang glanced in the direction of Mark and let out a smirk, "Fine then, if you can't pay the consequences of humiliating me, then, your dear guest will pay for it."

Chapter 494 The Lunch break

"So, this is what you call a Firearm? Hmm, interesting..." Qing Jie was staring curiously at the stylish-looking Derringer.

Mark then tried to strike the iron while it was still hot by further adding, "It is one of the few basic firearms that could be used by any non-cultivators, you know for basic protection from street gangs and thieves."

"But, you are saying it costs 10 gold coins," Qing Jie pointed to the major issue with the gun. "Adding on top of an entirely new kind of weapon, it costs very high. Not to mention one would still have to buy that... that... ammu... ammu..."

"Ammunition," Mark helped him finish the sentence.

"Yes, that's it. One would have to keep buying it for one whole life to use this weapon," Qing Jie then went on to say, "You see the Xiezi Empire doesn't have any wild zones and the occurrence of dungeons is quite rare, forget about the dungeon break. It is also why our home is known as the graveyard for adventurers."

Mark stayed silent. He suddenly felt like he made a bad choice in making this guy an acquaintance.

Meanwhile, Qing Jie continued, "Hence, the weapon with such small uses won't attract the ones who can afford such an amount. And the ones who need might feel reluctant to spend such an amount on it as 10 gold coins aren't a small amount for the common folk, even though we are casually throwing away millions of gold coins here. Rather than selling this one at Xiezi Empire, I recommend our neighboring empire. I knew a few trusted merchants and weapon sellers. If you wish, I will talk to them in your place and settle it at a mere 10% commission fee."

Qing Jie's further explanation once again changed Mark's opinion and made him feel like this guy might become a reliable partner, after all.

Just as Mark was about to speak about the advanced weapons, Qing Jie dropped another surprise by further stating, "Come to think of it, why waste on commission? If Brother Lu is willing to work with me, we can open a weapon store at Baize Empire on joint ownership. I'm close with the Crown Prince, there. So, permissions and promotions can be taken off. What do you say?"

*Ding! You triggered a Side Quest, Business Partner.

"Eh?" Mark was slightly surprised as the holographic screen popped up in front of his eyes as soon as Qing Jie came up with a suggestion.

While pretending to drink water, he secretly operated his finger to click on the notification and open the quest details.

Quest: Business Partner

Description: Qing Jie is willing to form a partnership with you to open a store at Baize Empire. Negotiate the terms and conditions.

Reward: Affinity with Qing Jie +?, unknown.

"Oh, it looks like the reward depends on the terms," Mark understood the task, but there was also another thing weighed on his mind.

Does he really need such a partnership?

Well, he wants a partner for sure. That's the whole reason he bothered to make friends with a stranger like Qing Jie in the first place.

Mark doesn't want his business to get damaged in case his relationships with the big shots there get sour for whatever reason. It happened in Phoenix Empire and he doesn't want it to be repeated elsewhere.

Thus alongside his stores, he needed reliable partners who could sell firearms even to the enemies he would eventually destroy. If they want a commission, that's fine, now that he earns 100% of the entire earned amount.

In the end, it will spread the fame of the firearms faster than he intended and the market monopoly will still be in his hands.

But, what Qing Jie is suggesting is something different from his plans.

Seeing that the system also seemed like it was acknowledging such a partnership, Mark felt like he had to give it some thought before making the decision.

Hence, he could only reply with a, "I'll think about it and send you the reply later," and resumed eating. Meanwhile, James and Steve were busy talking with each other, regarding this current world and the auction and even about certain people around. However, they only spoke English, so that no one apart from their dad could decipher the contents of their conversation.

"Bro, look at that fellow at our 4 o'clock. He looks so inflated that he might explode at any second," commented Steve before adding, "The AI says that he had a 19-year-old son and a 17-year-old wife."

James couldn't help but make a face of disgust, "Ugh... these wealthy nobles and their weird fantasies."

"Bro, forget about that fatty for a moment. Think about the girl. She must be quite unsatisfied with her married life. And his son was also around her age. You know what I am getting at?"

"Shut up, Steve. Don't talk about ladies in such a way. She must have already experienced hell..."

"C'mon..."

Mark's ears perked up when he heard that. He wanted to comment that the girl could also be a gold digger and that the concept of age is something almost nonexistent in this world but kept the thoughts to himself, remembering how he looked at the elven princess like she was a grandma, although the age of 96 still considered an adolescent there. In the end, he even agreed to marry the elf who lived for more than 500 years.

Maybe, it is because the news about Rong Huang's invitation being firmly declined by Mark was passed around. Or maybe, it is because of the presence of Steve and James themselves. Or maybe, it could even be because Qing Jie was already at the table.

Whatever the reason it might be, until the end of the banquet, no one approached Mark even though he constantly felt several gazes on him from every direction.

Meanwhile, in the ladies section, almost all the ladies gathered there had their veils off and Song Yue suddenly became the center of attention. She is like a sun among the sea of stars.

If there was someone who attracted equally enough attention as her, it would be Sylvandria.

But the only problem was that she was an elf and looked very different from the rest of the ladies.

Most women here are wives or relatives of respected nobles/princes/wealthy individuals, and their cultivation levels are usually meager enough to say that they couldn't understand how terrifying Sylvandria is. These people could only judge her based on her appearance.

As for the remaining women, these were adventurers who gathered on one side to discuss things among themselves. These adventurer women don't mingle with noble ladies as the former looks down on the latter kind who had political/arranged marriages while the latter detest the former kind as they feel like these women fighters lack elegance.

They knew how powerful Sylvandria was and due to her elf race, instead of revering her strength, they made sure not to go anywhere near her due to the fear.

Hence, Sylvandria became the target of scorn and distasteful remarks, although it was mostly whispering between third parties.

As the princess of a kingdom, Shen Ling had the obligation to talk with the ladies with important backgrounds, well, atleast until the food was arranged, and then, after their lunch was over and until the men were done with their lunch too.

Song Yue was also someone who grew up in a noble household. She has been familiar with such events since she turned 16. Hence, she followed in the footsteps of the princess.

As for Sylvandria, she wasn't interested in mingling with mortals. She used to be the revered High Priestess, whom everyone in the Ixitus Empire used to treat as representative of their God.

She was silently sitting there with her eyes closed. No one was conversing with her and neither was she minding anyone.

Everything was peaceful until a comment from a relative of Dragon Empire's imperial family entered her ears, targeting Shen Ling.

"Say Shen Ling, I heard an interesting story about your father. Did your mom really imprison your father for a decade and let your uncle impersonate him to rule the kingdom?"

Shen Ling's calm-looking face turned serious in an instant.

Before Shen Ling could react to her statement, another lady let out a giggle as she added, "Perhaps, they were lovers in the past and King Shen Niu had snatched her away using power. But then again, living together for a decade... they must have used this opportunity to the fullest and enjoyed their nightlife."

"By the way, you are sure that you are King Shen Niu's daughter, right?" the third one joined the fun with a mischievous grin on her face, taking it too far.

"Hahaha" "Hahahaha"

Another two ladies in the back burst into laughter as Shen Ling's face reddened in anger and her fist was clenched tightly. She wanted to punch her face but couldn't do it as she herself couldn't forgive her mother to this day.

It was at that moment the five ladies suddenly collapsed onto their knees, taking everyone around by surprise. Even Shen Ling herself was taken aback as she saw those five ladies from a big background look like they were having heavy breathing.

"Milady" "Milady"

Two guards nearby hurried toward them but they crashed into an invisible barrier and fell down.

"It's that, isn't it? The Aura Suppression; the ability to suppress lower ranked cultivators without affecting the surroundings, a power unique to a Supreme Being," A 6-circle realm adventurer in the corner of the room whispered to her team leader. The 7-circle realm expert nodded in seriousness. Sweat drops formed on her forehead.

Sylvandria's voice then echoed in the ears of the fallen, "It is not my place to teach someone a lesson but I must remind you that those with loose tongues and bad manners shouldn't forget that there is always a greater bully than you, in this world. And not everyone would resort to using their words. So, choose your words carefully next time."

The suppression was removed after the warning. The guards reached the affected women and helped them to get up.

Instead of getting afraid by the sudden near-death experience, Tang Jia shouted in rage with her eyes focused on the place where adventurers gathered, "Who is it? Who is it that dared to ambush me? I'm the wife of Rong Huang and the daughter of Tang Hanying. A word from me and none of you or your families will be spared no matter where you are from. I will... Argh..."

She let out a painful cry as invisible pressure descended on her and she was crushed to the floor once again. This time, her breathing wasn't affected as previously. It was just the weight of suppression on her soul and the ether particles in Tang Jia's body.

Sylvandria's eyes opened for the first time and she got up from her seat.

The room descended into silence as she calmly walked to her. The guards wanted to defend her but they were frozen by the Aura Suppression too.

Stopping before her, she looked down at the struggling Tang Jia and spoke coldly, "I can see that your soul has been tainted by darkness, child. I have no compassion for sinners like you. You are bound to go through thousands of years in the hell realm after your death. But, you can still redeem yourself by doing good deeds so that you suffer less in the afterlife and get to reincarnate in a good family, next time.

As for your so-called Rong Huang and Tang Hanying, I don't know who they are and how powerful they are for you to boast in arrogance but I'm certainly aware that there is no immortal realm cultivator living in this world, and in that case, it would be very unwise to pursue to drag this matter any longer. Just apologize to her and end this. Or else..."

Chapter 495 The Grand Auction (part-6)

After a couple of hours, Mark reunited with his women.

He didn't know what happened during lunch time but he could see the ladies are a lot closer than they were before a couple of hours.

What changed is how Song Yue and Shen Ling were addressing Sylvandria with sister as a prefix. Previously, there used to be a certain wall between them, the one that separates normal people from having casual conversations with true experts.

After returning to their VIP Box, Mark once again made sure that the room was secured before settling down and having a talk. He talked about Qing Jie's proposal and Song Yue told him what happened in the ladies section too.

Mark couldn't help but burst into laughter upon realizing that both of the parties were on the same wavelength. Here, he refused Rong Huang's invitation, and there, Sylvandria taught Rong Huang's wife a lesson.

Nevertheless, he fully supported her decision, stating that when it comes to standing up to family, nothing else matters.

Roughly, 45 minutes later, Xin Rui and the Auction House Master returned to the bidding platform, announcing the Challenge Round.

The rules of the challenge round are as follows.

They put up an item and the bidders shall bid for it. The winner can send anyone to challenge the warrior that was guarding the item.

If they win it, then the item will be theirs to keep. If they lose the challenge, then, money will go down the drain too. In order to milk more money from the bidders, the auctioneer allows the bidder to send more than one expert to defeat the challenger. Up to 4 experts are allowed.

However, the amount will also increase accordingly. For example, if the winning bid is 100k gold coins, then, the winner should pay 200k gold coins for 2 participants, 500k gold coins for 3 participants, and 2 million gold coins for 4 participants.

While one's chances increase with more numbers, those with a powerful background don't opt for such a method unless the item is of great importance as it will damage their reputation even if they win. If they lose, one can imagine how humiliated they will be.

Last but not least, the item that doesn't get acquired by any winning bidder through the challenge shall be moved to the last segment of the auction.

With such things in mind, as the guests were ready with their bidding paddles, Xin Rui took out the first item of the challenge round.

"When the Rings of Yin and Yang are worn by the same person, they will give an additional benefit of raising the user's aptitude for magic spells.

The starting bid for the challenge is 1000 gold coins and the guardian is a 7-circle realm beast king. The buyout is 100,000 gold coins.

Let the auction begin."

"Shen Ling, let's bid for it," said Mark.

Princess Shen nodded and raised the paddle. Just as she was about to pour ether energy into it, a paddle from elsewhere was raised and glowed followed by a deep voice, "Buyout."

Mark was familiar with the voice and so was everyone. In fact, it was the voice the spectators were tired of hearing it again.

"Congratulations Yu Tianjin on winning the bid. You have five minutes to send the challenger on your behalf to the arena"

Soon, a mysterious fellow wearing black robes with a hood landed in the arena while riding a winged tiger.

Mark instantly activated his Eyes of God and inspected its details.

Name: Xiao Ba

Beast: Long Hu

Species: Tiger/Dragon

Rank: 7 (advanced stage)

Grade: King

Attribute: Fire/wind

Description: Long Hu/Dragon tiger is a beast created from the crossbreeding of a Red Dragon and a Tri-Horned Tiger. Born as a hybrid, Long Hu contained the abilities of both of his parents.

*

"Hmm... these guys put up quite an interesting opponent as a guardian."

The instant Mark saw the beast's details, he came to the conclusion that ordinary Exalt realm experts couldn't defeat it. Within a minute, two Exalt realm experts walked into the field from the other side.

The Spirit Warrior from the Void Temple left the beast king's side and stood behind Xin Rui before she signaled for the start of the battle.

Both of them charged forward at the same time at their peak speeds and reached it in little less than 2 seconds.

The spectators couldn't even get to see their movements properly, but the Dragon Tiger was completely calm.

It cleanly evaded their attacks with a jump and counterattacked with its paws.

An intense battle ensued between both of the parties. It went on for ten minutes. The spectators, despite not getting to see their movements, were cheering loudly; some were cheering for the tiger to shred them to pieces while some were rooting for the challengers.

Meanwhile, discussions went on at several VIP Boxes. Mark was also included in those people, but the contents of their discussion were vastly different from the others.

Eventually, Yu Tiajin was forced to throw in the towel and admitted the loss, earning laughter filled with mockery from several VIP guests.

Maybe, the fact that Yu Tiajin had snatched away almost half of the products in the first segment probably angered them and this failure made them think that he deserved such a humiliation.

The adolescent's face reddened in shame and when they apologized for the failure, he could only comment that they weren't at fault but it was his dad's fault for selecting them.

Xin Rui announced the item's base price as 200k and will be available in the next segment before she went on to take out the next item.

Like the first one, this one is also a pair of platinum-grade accessories, although one is a pendant and the other is a ring.

As the bidding process started, the 17-year-old became very busy cussing his own dad as he could no longer send people. His strongest bodyguards were defeated and he didn't have the face to send them once again.

Hence, there was no point in participating in the bid.

As the others were busy winning the challenge token, the door behind Yu Tiajin was knocked a couple of times.

One of Yu Tiajin's attendants opened the door to find one of the security guards, a 6-circle realm Spirit Warrior, who bowed in greetings and said, "Lord Yu, there is someone who would like to meet you. He says he is with a message from VIP Box no. 8."

"No. 8?" Yu Tiajin furrowed his brows. He seemed like he didn't remember who occupied that box. "What was his identity?" He asked.

Before the guard could answer, one of the injured exalt realm experts who was tending to his wounds suddenly exclaimed, "Young Master, it belongs to Princess Shen Ling. She is the one with three Supreme Beings on his side."

"Oh, please send him in," Yu Tiajin forgot about the auction and sprung up on his feet, leaving the chair as well as the spectator's sight.

Soon, Eol in white-clad armor entered the room and greeted him in a casual tone as if they were equals, "Hello, Mr. Yu, I'm called White Knight and I'm here to deliver you a message, or more like an offer, on behalf of my master."

Chapter 496 The Grand Auction (part-7)

An hour later;

"Item number 6, The Staff of Horus."

"It is a low-quality semi-divine weapon, crafted by the Dwarves with Mythril and a myriad of metals. Regarding the material composition, it was on the level of an earth-grade divine weapon."

Xin Rui caressed the staff's handle with a bit of disappointment on her face, continuing to say, "However, what makes it a semi-divine weapon is the core used during the forge. A goblin's brain was used as a core."

A series of sighs escaped from several VIP Boxes and some spectators, but that's to be expected anyway.

Xin Rui also couldn't help but sigh in her heart as she announced the bid, "The minimum bid is 10,000 gold coins and the guardians are the Dragon Tiger and its master."

The Dragon Tiger had proven to be a menace for the challenge round this time. It was the guardian for the first three items and no one yet to even manage to defeat her.

Since its master is a powerful healer with a mysterious artifact that could restore one's ether energy and stamina, it was always in its best shape every time it battled a new opponent.

But now, its master was also joining the battle for the first time and he is a peak stage 7-circle realm expert. Not to mention, the item doesn't seem like a treasure. To use it properly, one would have to melt it down and forge it again with a powerful core. It might need the services of a grandmaster blacksmith. The Dwarves won't do it as it is absurd to even think that they would destroy the same weapon they create.

As a result, the guests seemed reluctant to bid for this specific item. But, one had a different thought.

A paddle was raised after ten seconds of silence.

"21000, Box No. 8." Xin Rui's announcement made several heads turn toward Box number 8.

The spectators might have forgotten who was sitting there but not the VIPs.

Their interest was aroused further when a white-clad armor knight came into the arena with the challenging token in his hand, instead of a Supreme Being.

Far more surprising is that he looked completely like a normal person without an ounce of ether energy.

Is he another Supreme Being? Or was he using some other skill to hide his cultivation?

They couldn't help but watch him with various thoughts in their heads.

After silently handing over the token back to Xin Rui, Eol stood there on the platform and had his eyes fixed on the beast king which also looked like it was observing him.

Due to his android body, the Dragon Tiger couldn't sense anything from him, which frightened it slightly. On the other hand, its master, Cai Zan, who is also like its father, had a deep frown on his face. Box No. 8 did make him take the opponent very seriously even though his beast had proved its strength.

"The battle will start in 20 seconds." Xin Rui announced the timer just like before, indicating that he should take out his weapons or get prepared for the battle.

However, Eol just stood there in silence.

20 seconds later, as soon as Xin Rui gave the signal to the start of the battle, the Dragon Tiger opened its mouth right away to attack him.

Clenching his fists, Eol smiled under the mask and mumbled, "Battle mode, activate."

The fireball was launched by the Dragon Tiger and Eol slowly started walking toward it.

As it almost reached him, the spectators expected him to either evade it or block it through force.

To everyone's surprise, just as the fireball almost reached him, a mirror made of water appeared out of nowhere and took the attack.

As soon as the fireball struck the mirror, it was absorbed into it and then reflected the attack with a stronger fireball.

"This attack..." Tang Xin, the 7-circle realm mage, got up from his seat in shock, seeing the exact same skill he used to defeat his opponent to win item number 4. In fact, he was known for that special skill.

"Dodge" Cai Zan jumped to the side and the Dragon Tiger flapped its wings to dodge the fireball.

In that split second, Eol charged forward at his maximum speed to reach the mage and caught his throat.

As he raised the healer and started crushing his throat, the Dragon Tiger let out a powerful roar.

Eol simply turned toward its direction and kept him as a shield.

Meanwhile, the healer who couldn't free himself from Eol's grasp was forced to expel ether energy from his body and tried to push the enemy away.

However, the audience only saw a bunch of water mirrors appear all around the healer in the instant he expelled the ether energy.

They bounced off at the same time. Since he wasn't moving and there was no place to dodge either, they struck him with a stronger power equaling to an advanced stage legendary realm expert.

"Aaargh..." A piercing scream echoed in the coliseum.

The water mirrors disappeared as soon as their job was done, revealing an unconscious man who looked like he was just a step away from death.

Eol threw him away like a peel of a banana and looked at the beast flying in the sky. "It's your turn now."

Graaaaa

The roar from the Dragon Tiger was more powerful this time. Its body is covered by a scarlet aura, making it go into a berserk state.

As if the water mirrors of Tang Xin weren't enough to shock the experts, as the beast king flew down toward him and swiped its claws toward him, Eol turned into a shadow and let it go past him and almost crashed onto the ground.

It controlled its path to fly higher but Eol's counterstrike was perfect once again. As soon as it tried to fly higher, chains of dark energy erupted from the ground and captured its body.

Eol's shadow formation materialized and he raised his hand to conjure a giant lightning-energy broadsword before swinging it down at its tail.

The beast king's tail was cut off from its body and fell to the ground.

"Graaaa" "Graaaa" "Graaaa"

The beast king looked like it was going out of control, melting the chains with its blazing flames.

It was at that moment Xin Rui, who was watching the battle from the sidelines, made her move.

She rushed forward and cut down the dark chains, taking Eol by surprise.

Before Eol got to open his mouth to question her motive, Xin Rui once again surprised everyone by jumping high and planting her hand on the Dragon tiger's forehead, "Sleep."

The beast king's eyes met Xin Rui's eyes, where something like a spiral motion was seen. It fainted right away, regardless of the bleeding at the tail end.

From the start of the battle till its knockout in the hands of Xin Rui, only 28 seconds have passed. Just 28.

"The challenger wins the battle. Ms. Shen Ling won the item. Congratulations." Xin Rui announced the results.

VIP Box no. 19;

With his elbow supported by the armrest of the chair, Tang Xin tilted his head slightly and rested his cheek on his fist, "Hmm, there's no doubt about it. This expert could copy our techniques and make it his own in an instant. Or that's what he was trying to show to everyone. Or else, why would he only use the techniques used in earlier battles? Probably a skill or some unique bloodline that allowed him to do that. Interesting."

VIP Box no. 32;

"This man never ceases to amaze me," mumbled the fourth prince of Kun Empire. "Letting him stand on the crown prince's side might become a heavy disadvantage for me later on. I guess I can no longer take that eldest brother of mine lightly. It is best if I act as fast as possible to indict him and make sure he is not eligible for the throne. Or should we cripple his cultivation? Hmm... I wonder..."

VIP Box no. 47;

"Damn, this fellow Lu Zhen has another powerful subordinate?" Qing Jie was naturally excited. "No matter what, I will have to make him my friend."

VIP Box no. 4;

"Dammit." Yu Tianjin threw away the glass of wine in anger, "I should have accepted his offer. When I challenged him that I would accept it if he defeated the beast king and it didn't happen for the second and

third rounds either, I thought they might be tricksters with fake cultivation levels. Argh... I made a mistake."
His face was filled with regret.

Finally, at VIP Box no. 8;

With a surprised look on his face, Mark couldn't help but turn his head and ask the former High priestess,
"Sylvandria, I just one question. Is he really the hero from your legends or your history was fabricated?"

Sylvandria: ...

Chapter 497 The Grand Auction (part-8)

"Item no. 7: One-time use, Scroll of Thousand Blossoms. This painted scroll, when unfurled, releases a shower of mystical cherry blossoms. Each blossom possesses extraordinary healing properties. In theory, there is a 1 in a 100 chance that it could even bring back the dead to life when used within an hour of death.

The starting bid price is 10,000 gold coins and the guardian for this challenge round is a peak stage 7-circle realm Spirit Warrior."

"Congratulations Ms. Shen Ling on winning the bid for 230,000 gold coins for the challenge. Please send the warrior to the field."

"Congratulations Ms. Shen Ling on winning the item."

*

"Item no. 8: Fan of Ephemeral Storms:

This delicate folding fan possesses the power to summon ephemeral storms. With a flick of the fan, the user can conjure thunder, lightning, and rain, creating a tempest that disorients enemies and bolsters the wielder's agility. This item only has the power to alter weather in the region and doesn't contain either offensive or defensive techniques.

The starting bid price is 1,000 gold coins and the guardian for this challenge is an elementary stage 7-circle realm Spirit Warrior."

"Congratulations Ms. Shen Ling on winning the bid for 26,000 gold coins for the challenge. Please send the warrior to the field."

"Congratulations Ms. Shen Ling on winning the item."

*

Item no. 9: Elixir of Eternal Spring:

This elixir bestows the drinker with eternal youth and vitality. It halts the aging process and grants resistance to diseases. The amount of elixir is sufficient for two people. Please do note that it doesn't change one's lifespan.

The starting price is 10,000 gold coins and the guardian for this challenge is a peak stage 7-circle realm Spirit Warrior."

"Congratulations Ms. Shen Ling on winning the bid for 110,000 gold coins for the challenge. Please send the warrior to the field."

"Congratulations Ms. Shen Ling on winning the item."

*

After winning the Staff of Horus, Mark continued to maintain his superiority by sending Eol to the field.

A large part of this contribution goes to the Flag of Huangdi placed in VIP Box number 8 which raised Eol's stats significantly enough to suppress his opponents.

While no one These just four battles brought "Now, the last item of this round. This one is a little special. The item itself is the guardian. Behold the battle robot VIII, a metallic battle puppet made of unknown materials and unknown grade. It is said to have the strength of a legendary realm expert of Fighter Path but doesn't have any skill either. Just like every other puppet, it has to be controlled by its master as long as it is within a 300-meter range. You can also teach martial arts techniques to this puppet to improve its fighting ability. Unlike humans, it doesn't age. In a battle, it doesn't hesitate to kill your enemy no matter who it is. Most importantly, it absolutely stays loyal to its master.

But, those who are interested in this puppet must understand that it needs a heavy amount of electricity as food.

However, what makes it stand apart from other battle puppets is that this one's control could be controlled by more than one person and you can pass it down to someone else. The secret of its controls and its other hidden functions is only to be revealed to the buyer as requested by the seller.

Coming to the rules of the battle, first of all, only those with cultivations lower than the Supreme realm are eligible to challenge it. Secondly, the challengers merely have to throw it off from this platform and they win. The starting bid price for this item is 100,000 gold coins and 10,000 for every bid-raise. Let's the bidding begin."

As soon as she finished the description, more than a dozen paddles were raised in the air, but only one was lit up as it turned out to be the fastest by just a fraction of a millisecond.

"Buyout," The imperial prince's voice was heard for the first time since the beginning of the auction.

Even Xin Rui was taken aback by the announcement. "These bastards..." She muttered her breath before forcefully calming herself down and announcing, "Since a buyout was called, no more bids were allowed henceforth."

"Congratulations, Tang Weimin on winning the bid for the challenge for 10,000,000 gold coins. Please pay the amount and send the challenger with the token."

VIP Box no. 12;

"You did it, Grandpa Lao," The young prince smiled in happiness as he looked to the side. There was an old man who had the paddle in his hands.

"Now, go and bring that puppet," He ordered the old man who was at the peak stage of the legendary realm.

"Your Highness," As the expert bowed to him and left the room, the prince who was representing the Imperial family clenched his fist as he looked at the 6-foot robot with a strange appearance, "If Grandpa Lao wins it, I can secretly keep it for myself. As long as I use my own money, I can give an excuse that Grandpa Lao was the one who paid the money and fought it. Since he is not a servant of the imperial family, even my brother cannot order him to hand it over."

*

Meanwhile, at Box No. 8;

"Nothing..." Mark shook his head. He was about to say 300 million but since the princess stated a higher figure, Mark couldn't bring himself to tell the same thing. He said, "It is indeed worth such a figure but I'm just worried that people might not be able to take out such an amount."

Song Yue looked thrilled after the buyout was called. Shaking his arms, she expressed her delight, "It's 10 million, Markie. Imagine if he loses now. It will atleast get 100 million easily."

Mark calmly shook his head, "100 million is just..."

He was about to say something; Princess Shen Ling interrupted him with a bold statement, "I won't be surprised if it gets sold for even 500 million, Sister Yue. Hmm? Were you saying something?"

"Nothing..." Mark shook his head. He was about to say 300 million but since the princess stated a higher figure, Mark couldn't bring himself to tell the same thing. He said, "It is indeed worth such a figure but I'm just worried that people might not be able to take out such an amount."

"Well, that is also true," Shen Ling nodded in agreement.

"What if it sells at a lower amount than even 100 million? You know, those truly wealthy could collude to bring down the amount," Sylvandria pointed out the most obvious flaw here.

Mark let out a sigh in response, "Then, we will just have to let it be and make sure to not use this platform to sell my things ever again. We already made enough profits in the challenge round. So, it shouldn't be a big deal."

"I hope it doesn't come to that," commented Song Yue.

What they didn't know is that Mark now had a debt of 100 million gold coins with the system with 1% high interest (1 million gold coins) per week. Since he doesn't have such huge money in his account to unlock the Rank-8 Battle robot in the gallery, he has to accept the system's proposal.

As he wasn't selling the robot at the store, he had to create the robot and buy it for himself with 10 million gold coins before listing it at this auction.

Now, in his account, there were only a bit more than three hundred thousand credits and a little more than a million gold coins.

So, whatever he gets from this auction, he intends to take it and pay back the debt as quickly as possible. The remaining shall be compensated with the semi-divine weapons in his inventory.

While he is confident that the robot will be winning this round, he wants it to be a completely one-sided fight. The more this battle drags on, the more its price will reduce later on.

But, what if this battle ends up in the challenger's victory? Then, he will have to sell a lot of advanced weapons to compensate for the losses.

Of course, it is just a worst-case scenario. Mark wasn't interested in seeing it.

Hence, he opened the inventory and had his eyes fixated on the Flag of Huangdi.

He was in the dilemma of whether to use the Flag of Huangdi on the Robot or not. It was different with Eol as the latter was the challenger.

If he gets caught now, no one would dare attack him but his reputation will get hit. It is the last thing he wants.

"Should I do it? Or should I wait and see?" As he was thinking about whether he should do it or not, his eyes fell on the old man who took out his weapon. A sudden idea popped up in his head.

"System, activate remote control function. Equip R-77 with Ogre Emperor's Club."

A titanium club with Mythril spikes appeared in the hands of the robot, taking the spectators by surprise.

Chapter 498 The Grand Auction (part-9)

With a spiked club in its hand, a semi-divine weapon Mark looted from the Wuji sect, the Battle Robot was ready for the battle.

While it is not an uncommon sight for a high-quality puppet to use such weapons, the legendary realm expert was still surprised because of how it appeared in its hands when a puppet cannot be bound to semi-divine weapons like Spirit Warriors do. Hence, either this puppet is slightly special because of its unconventional appearance or its master who was currently operating it remotely while probably sitting somewhere in the stands had teleported the item into its hands.

Or so, thought the master swordsman as he changed his weapon to a whip instead, surprising the audience.

As soon as the signal was given, he turned into shadow form and moved around at high speeds.

It was so fast that spectators saw dozens of realistic afterimages of the challenger, all over the battle platform. Not even the true experts (7-circle realm) who used peak-level concentration had it tough to track the real person. However, the battle robot remained calm with its eyes moving left and right at a fast pace.

But then again, this is nothing more than a puppet and is expected to be completely calm regardless of the opponents. Hence, they found its stillness reflected the calmness of its master who was probably giving it instructions telepathically.

After thirteen whole seconds, the moment has finally come when the challenger reached behind and launched an attack. The whip was stretched toward the robot and even captured its waist. All that's left for the challenger is to swing it away and throw it out of bounds.

But, sadly for him and his master, the prince, that plan wasn't materialized. Instead of the challenger swinging it away with his mighty strength, the robot's free left arm just went over its shoulder and caught the lash before swinging it over the same shoulder.

The challenger flew along with the whip and was about to crash onto the ground.

Just when he was about to free himself from the whip and escape from there, his eyes captured the spiked club moved at him at a blurring speed.

A great force struck him in the front with a couple of spikes pierced his chest before his entire body was slammed onto the floor.

"Argh..."

He couldn't help but let out a scream of pain as his head started spinning.

However, it isn't over yet.

The Robot motioned back its arm to raise the spiked club in the air, revealing the two holes in his chest, and once again it swung it down ruthlessly on his body.

"Ack..."

Spitting out a mouthful of blood and leaving the whip's handle, he rolled to the side after it freed him but raised the club once again.

This time, as it swung it down, the master swordsman expelled ether energy from the body to blast it away.

Taking him by surprise once again, the spiked club cut through the wave of ether energy like a sword cutting through the wind and ruthlessly struck his abdomen.

"Ack..."

At that moment, most of the spectators involuntarily shut their eyes, unable to watch how miserable a great legendary realm expert had become.

Watching the scene, Mark, on the other hand, let out a smirk, "Oops, that club has the ability to cut through ether energy attacks. Now, as the final touch..." *snap*

The club disappeared from the hands of the robot and it proceeded to raise the body with its hand firmly gripped over its injured opponent's neck; its other free arm was raised and clenched its fist, intending to give a powerful punch to its opponent.

As it motioned its fist to the back, three words escaped from Box No. 12 and echoed in the silent coliseum.

"I give up."

The Silent Auction House Master and Xin Rui couldn't help but clench their fists in happiness, although due to different reasons, the challenge failed.

The robot freed its opponent and walked away for a few meters before turning around and staying there like a statue.

Xin Rui gave a glance at the Auction House Master, who sent it back to the same storage ring given by Mark.

"The challenge was failed. The item will be moving to the next segment. We'll be taking an hour break. The sellers who are available here could meet Auction House Master Wang at the chancery and settle their accounts."

As she announced the break, two individuals in typical knight attire but with exquisite-looking armor set entered the field to support the defeated warrior.

Meanwhile, at Box No. 8;

As the individuals in other boxes were planning on preparing the funds to acquire this amazing robot, Song Yue was filled with joy, "Markie, that was super cool. And you have more of them in your storage ring? What if it ends up getting bid for 500 million as Sister Ling predicted? We could be so..."

Mark couldn't help but smile as he stared at Song Yue, who looked like she was cheered up a lot. That pale and bony appearance of her as if she was near death was still fresh in Mark's head. Looking at her forgetting the tragedy and smiling like a normal girl also made him happy.

But, the sudden change in her expression put an end to those feelings. She stopped midway and picked up the binoculars to watch the field, "Markie, it's him." She tugged the sleeves of his robes.

"What happened, Sister Yue?" Princess Shen Ling was the first to react among the people in the room.

Song Yue raised her finger and pointed to the field, "That knight on the left; I can't remember it properly because it happened at midnight but I think I saw him among those who abducted me."

"Hmm?" Mark also stopped smiling and paid attention to the knight Song Yue pointed at.

Dong Bao

Rank: 6-circle (advanced stage)

Age: 38

Spirit Path: Swordsman

Attribute: Fire

Affiliation: Dragon Empire, Phoenix Empire (former)

Description: Dong Bao used to be a disciple of the Xu Sect and a sworn brother to Shang Jun. He left the sect due to unknown reasons and joined the Knight division of the Dragon Empire. He is currently one of the imperial guards who directly serve the Emperor of the Tang Dynasty.

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"Hmm? Sworn brothers with Shang Jun but is serving Tang Dynasty?" Mark's eyes flickered in surprise. "If Song Yue was right, then, there are more culprits behind the act."

If it was someone else, they would have thought a second time once again about the consequences in case they were wrong but Mark is different.

Just her strong suspicion and surprising details of the target were enough for Mark to conclude that he was a culprit. However, he also knew that he could not just barge and disrupt the auction.

Hence, he asked Song Yue to remain patient and calm until this event was over.

Roughly around 20 minutes later;

At the Chancery, the office of the Auction House Master, Wang Zhongwei was handing over the money to the adventurers from Box no. 7. "The total bidding amount of your auctioned items is 951 thousand gold coins. As you probably already know, our fees for the platinum grade items are fixed at 20%, semi-divine items at 10%, and divine or unique items at 5%. All of your auctioned items are of platinum grade and the cut will be 190,200 gold coins. Sparing the change, you will be receiving 761 thousand gold coins. Please check the amount. Here..."

The adventurers were checking the amount with a special monocle handed by the Auction House Master and the latter took his seat before crossing the list of items written on the piece of scroll.

Knock Knock* Knock*

The series of knocks on the door interrupted their concentration for a moment. Wang Zhongwei thought that it was another seller who was there to take his money and spoke loudly, asking them to enter the room.

The adventurers moved to the side to not disturb the proceedings. Little did either of them expect Mark to enter the room with the White-clad armor Knight, who made a great impression on them with his fighting skills during the challenge round.

Even Wang Zhongwei couldn't help but quickly stand up on his feet to greet them with a bow, "Lord Lu..."

"I wish to talk with you privately."

Chapter 499 The Grand Auction (part-10)

The adventures hurriedly left the room without bothering to count everything.

They might not be aware of Mark's true identity but they know that Eol is from the same room as the Supreme Beings.

The fact that they couldn't sense anything from Mark only put more fear in their hearts.

As a result, Wang Zhongwei and Mark found themselves alone in the chancery with Eol guarding the door from the outside to make sure no one comes and disturb by accident.

Meanwhile, the Auction House Master was filled with shock as he heard Mark's new request.

He neither accepted it right away nor rejected it.

Instead, he stayed there in silence for a while as if he was pondering on it.

Unable to bear the silence for a very long time, Azzy broke it by asking him, "Is there a problem? I believe the items I have described are heaven-defying enough to bypass the established rules and make an exception."

"Ah, no. It's just that I have to talk with Elder Xin. Without her consent, it is not possible and Void Temple's Elders are too strict with their rules," replied the Auction House Master while slowly glancing at Mark's face to check his expression.

The overly calm expression on Mark scared him even more.

However, thankfully for him, Mark didn't take it as offense and instead said, "Arrange a meeting with Ms. Xin, right now. I will talk to her."

Mark let out a fake smile as he took out the two items he planned to add to the auction.

"Certainly," Wang Zhongwei hurriedly took out his communication talisman to converse with the Void Temple's representative.

After a while, Xin Rui entered the room and Wang Zhongwei stood outside, alongside Eol.

Xin Rui was aware of Mark's friendship with the Supreme Beings but her words didn't contain any ounce of politeness.

She treated him just like the others.

"So, what is it that you want to talk about?" She looked at him coldly with a mild displeasure on her face.

Mark let out a fake smile as he took out the two items he planned to add to the auction.

While Xin Rui was indeed surprised by the items, she remained uncooperative, "Look, Mr. Lu, they might be special but you are merely using our auction as the medium to sell to others." Her tone was firm and her eyes were fixed on Mark's face as she continued, "Even if you sell them for a billion gold coins, we will still get 50 million as our cut at most. Certainly, the money is high but not to the extent to make favor on you."

Mark narrowed his eyes and stared at her for a while, thinking, "So, you are playing this game of logic, huh? Fine, in that case, I'll slam the uno reverse on you."

Making up his mind, Mark dragged the chair nearby and sat down, earning a frown from the other party, before he said, "Let's not involve the Void Temple here. We shall talk about you, Ms. Xin Rui. Or should I call you, Lan Rui, the daughter of Lan Haoyu and Princess Tang Yejin?"

Not only is Xin Rui's frown deepened by his words, but even her own personal weapon is out.

Pointing the saber at him, she almost growled, "Who the hell are you?"

With a fake smile on his face, Mark replied as he crossed his legs, "I told you earlier, I'm Lu Zhen and I'm a weapon seller. But, we are not here to talk about my identity anyway. So, the daughter of Lan Haoyu, before we talk further, can you take this away? I don't like pointy objects at my face."

As she dismissed the saber and asked him to go on, he continued, "My offer is simple. You make an exception for me to put these two items into the next segment of the auction and I will help you with your revenge. Of course, I believe that revenge is more satisfactory when taken with own hands. Hence, I will not kill your enemies for you but you can count on my help to work behind the scenes and pave the road for you. What do you say? Ready to do a small favor to get big dividends later on?"

"Eh?" Shock filled Xin Rui's face.

*

After a while;

The break was over and everyone settled down in their seats as the hosts came to the platform and introduced the next segment.

Unlike the other two segments, the items that were about to be auctioned were displayed openly on the platform. It was a tradition followed by Void Temple and no one minded it.

Along with the Battle robot and the three items from the challenge round, eight more items were placed in a line.

"Hmm?" Mark couldn't see his two items joined them. So, he thought they made it to the final three that were considered the most prestigious items of the auction. That means there is only one object that is on the same level as the other two? Mark couldn't help but wonder what might be that item. After all, he could even see a couple of low-quality divine-grade items on the platform.

Xin Rui then spoke, "The four items on the left need no further introduction. We'll skip directly to the fifth."

"The fifth item of this segment is a couple wear. They were specifically crafted by the Void Temple, just for this occasion."

Shrouded Nightshade Ensemble

For Him: Shadowstep Infiltrator Attire

Crafted from nightshade fibers, this attire grants the wearer the ability to meld into shadows and move swiftly. It enhances the wearer's stealth and provides a chance to evade attacks.

For Her: Midnight Rose Enchantress Gown

Woven with enchanted midnight roses, this gown bestows the wearer with the power to manipulate shadows and create illusions. It enhances the wearer's magical abilities.

Couple's Synergy:

When the couple stands together, the Shadowstep Infiltrator Attire and Midnight Rose Enchantress Gown combine their shadowy powers. The couple gains heightened stealth, illusionary capabilities, and the ability to create a field of enchanted midnight roses for defensive and deceptive purposes.

*

As her words ended, both Shen Ling and Song Yue coincidentally spoke at the same time, "So beautiful." They were startled and looked at each other in surprise, leaving Mark in a dilemma as their gazes shifted toward him.

While he only loves Song Yue out of his three fiancées, he knows that it is useless for someone like her with low cultivation.

And if he gives it to Shen Ling, it will probably disappoint Song Yue.

Hence, Mark decided that he wouldn't let them bid on this item and ignored their gazes.

Meanwhile, Xin Rui moved on to the next item.

Item no. 6: Sapphire Moonlight Mirror

Type: Artifact

Description: This enchanted mirror reflects not the physical appearance but the true essence of individuals. It unveils hidden intentions, secrets, and emotions. This high-quality semi-divine item can also be used to trap reflections of magical attacks and redirect them back to the caster. The frame is adorned with sapphires that shimmer like moonlight.

Item no. 7: Primordial Azure Phoenix Medallion

Type: Medallion

Description: Housing a fragment of the soul of a primordial azure phoenix, this medallion grants the wearer control over the elemental forces of wind and water. This high-quality semi-divine item allows the summoning of typhoons, manipulation of storms, and the power to transform into an azure phoenix for swift aerial combat.

Item no. 8: Samsara Rebirth Lotus Seed

Type: Seed

Description: This mystical lotus seed holds the power of samsara, granting the ability to reincarnate upon death. The user retains memories and experiences from previous lives, accumulating wisdom and strength with each rebirth. The seed blooms into a lotus upon successful reincarnation.

Item no. 9: Stormweaver's Thunderstruck Gauntlets

Type: Gauntlets

Description: Imbued with the power of thunderstorms, these gauntlets allow the wearer to harness and control lightning. Martial artists could deliver electrifying strikes, summon thunderclouds for cover, and channel lightning through their limbs for devastating close-quarter combat.

Item no. 10: Thousand Petal Blossom Palm

Description: Focusing on rapid and precise strikes, this palm technique mimics the unfolding of a thousand petals. Martial artists could unleash a flurry of blows with unparalleled speed, overwhelming opponents with a seemingly endless barrage of attacks.

"And now for the eleventh item, Seraph Dragon Bow; Crafted from sacred wood of the ancient seraph trees, found only in the plane of fire and ice, with its core made of an Ice Dragon's eye, this amazing divine bow of Earth grade can shoot the arrows filled with the power of an Ice Dragon. While it can be handled by any warriors, due to its attribute, it is best in the hands of someone with an Ice attribute."

VIP Box no. 8;

"Markie, you have the Ice attribute," commented Song Yue.

Mark shook his head, "I don't like conventional weapons."

"Hmm, that's true. You are cooler with guns," Song Yue nodded and gave another comment.

"I never expected your mom to have such a bubbly side to her. The one we know is quite different, right," James whispered to Steve, in English. The latter nodded in agreement.

Sylvandria who was sitting beside Mark had her ears perked up and she looked to the side, glancing behind her, "Mom?"

"They sat at the back, maintaining a bit of distance from the others, quietly whispering to each other in confidence. Unbeknownst to them, Sylvandria understood their language, courtesy of Zan Rong, Marina Zan, and Allen.

Finding their conversation interesting, she paid a bit of attention to them.

It was then Steve said, "Not just her demeanor, even her strength leaped bounds. She might have faced a heaven-defying moment that changed her personality along with her talent."

"I hope we will be there to see that. Based on the timeline, we might have to return soon. Don't develop any unnecessary affection for their past selves," replied James in a whisper.

"I know that." Steve looked like he was slightly frustrated.

"Timeline? Heaven-defying moment? What exactly are they talking about?" Sylvandria wondered.

Mark, on the other hand, was too busy with either chatting with Song Yue and Shen Ling or focusing on the displayed items. He didn't hear anything.

Back at the platform;

Xin Rui raised the sword hiding in its sheath to show everyone and grabbed the handle.

"This next item is recommended for the sword users with a fire attribute." As soon as she took out the blade from its sheath, fiery blue flames erupted from the sword and she quickly placed it back. "This next item is recommended for the sword users with a fire attribute." As soon as she took out the blade from its sheath, fiery blue flames erupted from the sword and she quickly placed it back. "This Sky-grade weapon is called Inferno Blossom Blade, one of the masterpieces created by the Void Temple once again.

Coming to its details, it is a fiery katana forged from titanium and adamantium with a seed of fire as its core. The blade bursts into flames upon unsheathing, dealing both physical and fire damage. It is said that each strike releases the fury of the fire seed within the blade."

"Sky grade weapon?" In an instant, whisperings began in the VIP Boxes as well as in the spectator zone. Everyone was quite surprised to see a sky-grade weapon, which is not in the top 3.

And one voice expressed it loudly, "A sky-grade weapon didn't make it to the final 3 of your auction? I didn't expect your backward realm to possess items of Heaven's grade. Nevertheless, too bad that you came into my sight..."

Followed by the voice, a figure floated out of VIP Box no. 48, the room adjacent to Qing Jie's and the one that has yet to bid for a single item.

With freckles all over his face, a silver-haired old man in white robes that have the symbol of the Sun engraved on both sides broke the most important rule of the auction, directly coming down onto the platform through flying and that too when the Void Temple's representative is introducing the items.

Sensing nothing from him, Xin Rui acted quickly by sending all the displayed items back into their respective storage rings before collecting all of those storage rings in her storage ring.

The old expert didn't land on the floor and stopped a few feet above, looking down at two of them, "I'm here to investigate the news of the holy beasts' rebirth in this backward place but didn't expect to find a treasure."

*Ding! You triggered an emergency quest.

Chapter 500 Intrusion of an immortal

Xin Rui's heart pounded as an uninvited presence jolted her senses. The stranger's strength eluded her, fueling her unease. Swiftly reclaiming the items on display, she unsheathed her own weapon, directing the

gleaming saber toward the intruder. "Who are you?" she demanded, her eyes narrowing with suspicion. The intruder's response was a mocking chuckle. "A cute weapon you've got there," he remarked, his tone dripping with amusement.

He raised his index finger and pointed at her.

A ray of scarlet light shot from his finger and struck her chest. She didn't even see the attack coming at her.

But, the blood of the dragon inside her instinctively moved her body slightly aside. It missed her heart just by 2 millimeters and saved her from instant death.

"Ho, that was some survival instinct you have there." The intruder, with a hint of surprise on his face, had acknowledged her evade. "For that, I will give you a second chance to live. Hand over your storage rings."

Meanwhile, at VIP BOX NO. 8;

"Everyone, keep your aura suppressed," Mark gave quick orders as soon as he inspected the details of the intruder.

"An immortal?" Sylvandria whispered to him.

Mark nodded, "Yes, but not exactly. It seems his realm was suppressed to only demigod realm."

"Hmm, I guess that is natural," Sylvandria nodded in agreement, "An immortal in the mortal plane of existence will unnecessarily attract the attention of the guardian deity."

Mark remembered the figure that had given him the ancient holy beasts and disappeared without any trace. He promised to deliver all the adamantium available in the mortal plane but has yet to hand over even the first installment.

"Anyway, it's best to exercise caution. He is not the type of enemy we want to fight right now." Mark further warned them not to hesitate to escape when things go out of hand.

Sylvandria was quite surprised by Mark's words. She couldn't help but ask, "Are you the same Lu Zhen as the one I met at our home?"

Mark looked at her with a grim face and answered, "I didn't have anything to lose back then. Now, I have so much to lose. There's no need to put myself to risk on..."

"Argh..." The scream from the center of the field interrupted their conversation. As Mark turned his head aside, he saw the intruder grabbing the throat of Wang Zhongwei, the Auction House Master.

It wasn't just throat-grabbing. As every second passed away, the legendary realm expert had his life force rapidly absorbed by the intruder.

Eventually, in the span of four mere seconds, all that was left was the dried flesh of Wang Zhongwei. Along with the life force, it looked like the water and the blood contained in his body was also sucked away.

Thud

The Auction House Master fell to the ground and Xin Rui was seen shivering in fear. It wasn't a manifestation of her own fear; it was more like the dragon bloodline inside her that was afraid of the enemy. Dragons were supposed to be fiercest but they are intelligent enough to judge who is an insignificant ant and who the behemoth is.

Having just defeated the Auction House Master, the intruder locked eyes with Xin Rui, his expression icy. As he advanced, Xin Rui, calm but cautious, slowly brought out all the hidden storage rings from her own stash. Picture it like she's pulling these magical rings out of thin air, one by one, showing her control over these mysterious objects. The intruder watched, silent, as she revealed her collection, a quiet but powerful demonstration of her abilities.

"Good." The intruder smiled with a nod. "I hope everything is there. If I find out that there is something wrong later on, then..."

"Then, what?" A voice interrupted him before a blinding flash of light appeared on the field. Amidst the chaos, terrified onlookers halted in their escape. Their gaze was fixated on the scene where a regular-looking teenager stood beside a girl. She had dragon wings and horns, like a mythical creature come to life. The hushed whispers spread through the crowd as they witnessed this surreal pairing, the boy and the dragon-like girl, a living tableau amidst the fleeing masses.

"Your eminence?" Xin Rui's astonishment mirrored in her wide eyes, mirroring the shock of the departing guests and those who had confidence in the Void Temple's might. The room buzzed with a shared sense of surprise, a collective gasp echoing through the once-confident crowd.

The dragon girl glanced at her back, "You are the representative? Reaching the 8-circle realm at such a young age is indeed an achievement. Not bad for my descendant."

Xin Rui's heart rate increased further when she heard those words. With a simple glance from this girl, she felt like her secret was out, "I... I... I..."

As she was looking for words of excuse, the teenage boy bickered with her with an unsightly expression, "That's your young master's descendant, you indecent woman. You never gave birth to anyone. It was his bloodline running through her veins."

"Hey, you brat. Mind some manners, will ya? You have forgotten who brought you to this world when you were just a pup? I practically raise you even though you are not one of us," The dragon girl argued back.

"Yeah, right." The boy snorted, "You gave word to my father to bring me alongside your young master to a safe location. It was your duty to protect us, but you abandoned us to fend for ourselves in a jungle full of beasts when he was a baby and I was only two years old and ran off to rule some forest in the primitive land. Talk about disobedience and oath-breaking..."

"You ungrateful brat..." the dragon girl's face reddened in embarrassment and anger. She opened her mouth widely and chomped on his head, but couldn't hurt him a bit.

Xin Rui's face paled as she fell on her butt.

With his head entirely inside her mouth, the boy then raised his hands and grabbed her horns, trying to break them with brute force.

The intruder stood bewildered, his focus stolen by the absurd sight of the interrupting clowns. Instead of confronting him, they bickered among themselves, creating a chaotic scene.

"Hehehe... hehehe... hahahaha"

Evil laughter burst from him, filling the coliseum and forcing a pause in their brawl.