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Chapter 2916

After thinking about it for a long time, he frowned and said earnestly, "We have to just tolerate it for now. Since they want to follow us, let's just let them. I really want to know what their true goal is, and if it has to do with Grayson or not!"

Before, Jackie had said that they knew far too little about Grayson. Even though Jackie had gone through a lot with Grayson and Rudy before, Grayson seemed like a completely different person other than his looks.

On top of that, Grayson had disappeared the moment they entered Phoenix Valley. Those higher ups also seemed incredibly strange every time they brought up Grayson. No matter how they thought about it, they felt like there had to be a massive secret hidden behind everything.

If the matter did not involve him, Jackie might not have been so anxious to figure everything out. However, as time passed, he slowly found that there was no longer any way he could avoid the matter.

Grayson already noticed him and had instigated the warriors and alchemists of the Unbreaking Pavilion to cause him trouble. If things were already at that stage, he would naturally have to figure things out.

Rudy looked at Jackie seriously, not wanting to add to Jackie's troubles. However, looking at Jackie's expression, it was obvious that Jackie had no way of solving those frustrations at that moment.

Rudy thought about it before saying, "Even if you seal my lips, I would also write it out. There are far too many questions in my head, such as why Grayson is in the Unbreaking Pavilion, and why he doesn't recognize us. Why would he suddenly try to do something to us? Could it be because of what I did back then?"

Jackie sighed as he looked towards the others for a while before he whispered, "I'm thinking about these questions as well. However, there's something we can be sure of even if we can't investigate anything at the moment. There's only one reason Grayson would suddenly attack us. That's because you suddenly pulled his arm and asked those questions. We basically alerted him from that moment on..."

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After Jackie finished saying that, Rudy's lips twitched. He knew that what happened that day was complete because he could not keep his mouth shut back then. He felt incredibly bad about that. Back when Jackie lectured him, Rudy was not exactly pleased about it. Yet, now it looked like he definitely deserved that scolding. If he had not pulled Grayson so impulsively, all of this would not have happened.

Jackie knew that Rudy was guilty about what happened, so Jackie shook his head and said earnestly, "It's already too late to regret things. You just need to remember to think before you do anything in the future. Don't act on your emotions alone. All we can do now is respond to things as they come. It's like you said before, Prosper City prohibits fighting. They won't be able to attack us there, nor would they have the guts to. I want to wait and see if they slip up and reveal what they're planning to us..."

Various questions were on Jackie's mind at that moment. He suddenly felt like he did not know what he needed to do next, and could only follow his intuition. Since they wanted to follow him so closely, he would let them.

Earlier, Mark's words sounded like he really wanted to prove things to Jackie, but there was actually another reason behind them.

He wanted to provoke Jackie and have Jackie stay behind. After all, they had not gone through their tests yet.

Jackie could enter Prosper City at any time, but they still needed to take their tests and waste a great deal of time. If Jackie disappeared the moment he entered the city, then they might be left in an unfortunate spot. Time slowly ticked away, and Jackie felt like he was about to go to sleep waiting for them.

Rudy was incredibly tired as well, but Jackie had not given up on looking at the results of the alchemists from the Unbreaking Pavilion. He remembered every result. After Mark participated in the test himself, Mark's mood sank incredibly low.

The results of the test were just like Jackie had said. Only Gent and Mark had managed to get a perfect ninety. The others got eighty-seven at best. Most of them managed to get over eighty pill runes, while the others were just somewhat lacking.

Jackie smiled coldly, "The results were just as I explained. It looks like you know too little of yourself and those other alchemists behind you. I already told you, it's not that I'm looking down on all of you. It's just that you're really not good enough!"

As Jackie said that, the alchemists from the Unbreaking Pavilion were so infuriated that they wanted to rush up and choke Jackie. However, they could only dream of that. They were forced to seethe in anger quietly, not able to say anything back. That was because Jackie was absolutely right. He had even been able to guess the exact number.

Jackie laughed as he said coldly, "In the future, you shouldn't set your sights too high no matter what you do. That's because you'll just end up falling tragically."

Jackie's words might not have sounded that harsh, but they felt like violent slaps on the faces of the alchemists from the Unbreaking Pavilion.

Mark's whole body was already trembling from the anger.

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He had obviously been infuriated.

Jackie merely let out a light snort and retrieved his entry token from Mustard Seed and turned to look at Rudy, "The show's already over. There's no reason for us to stay in the plaza. Go pick out two people and get twenty thousand spirit crystals from them. Let's hurry up and enter the outer city."

Rudy nodded and immediately ran over to pick out two warriors who wanted to enter Prosper City. There were many to choose from. The warriors that were resting outside the city numbered at least over ten thousand. From there, it was incredibly easy to pick out two that were suitable.

After fifteen minutes, Jackie held the twenty thousand spirit crystals he had earned and entered the outer city of Prosper City with Rudy and two other warriors. Prosper City was split into the outer city and the inner city. When he got the entry token for the outer city, all of Prosper City's rules went into his mind. Rather than the inner and outer cities, it was more like a massive marketplace.

The moment they entered the city, they saw many stalls of various sizes set up right in front of them. There were many people walking along those stalls.

Everyone was browsing and looking for something they liked. There were various things on sale. It was not just pills or materials, there were even technique manuals or some broken down ancient weapons.

The moment Rudy entered the city, he could not help but exclaim, "Oh my, this place is massive."

The place was at least ten times larger than the plaza outside of the city. There were a lot of alchemists and warriors gathered there. Of course, the warriors were naturally all there for business. The inner city was where the alchemists would go through their actual tests. Regular warriors would not enter the place easily. Rudy stood on his tip toes as he looked around.

All he saw was people. Many warriors and stall owners were shouting out their prices intensely. Most of the warriors there were not that strong. They only went there to try out their luck and earn some spirit crystals. After all, the Whirling World lacked a lot of resources compared to the outside world. High-grade alchemists were incredibly rare in the Whirling World, and pills were necessities for warriors. If they bought a lot of pills from this place, they would definitely be able to earn a lot of money by selling them in other seventh-level cities.

Jackie had perfectly passed the entrance test, and obtained entry tokens for three other people. Since Rudy had not passed, they wasted one of the entry tokens.

There were only two warriors who entered with Jackie. After they entered with Jackie and Rudy, they exchanged a few pleasantries before going their own ways, not saying anything else.

After all, it was just a one time deal. Only Rudy and Jackie were left. After entering the outer city, the two of them were in no hurry to look around for things they wanted to buy at the stalls. Instead, they looked for somewhere secluded and stopped for a rest. It was mainly because Rudy had a lot he wanted to say. Enemies had surrounded them at the plaza in front of the city, so he could not have said anything without fear of being overhead.

It was only the two of them at that moment, so Rudy no longer had those reservations. He sighed and said seriously, "They followed so tightly behind when we entered. Those flies won't let us go just like that."

Jackie nodded, "Since I agreed to look at all of them take their tests, I naturally have no intentions of giving them the slip. They think that I'm an idiot to argue with them, and probably think that I'm too prideful..."

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Rudy let out a laugh when he heard that, "They don't know anything about you at all. There's no way you would waste your time on something so petty."

As the two of them talked, they saw Mark, Gent and the others entering the city. The group's eyes were wide as they entered, hurriedly looking for Jackie among the crowd. They had thought that Jackie would jump into the crowd the moment Jackie entered the city, so they were all looking forward. Yet, Jackie and Rudy had not walked further inside at all, and had instead headed to the more secluded city walls.

Rudy looked on as the group struggled to find them.

All of them started to panic, and he laughed as he pointed at them, "They're all in such a panic. What do you think they'll do if they still can't find us after a while?"

Jackie raised an eyebrow, "Who cares what they'll do? We won't deliberately hide ourselves. If we want to find out what's happening behind all this, we'll have to make them slip up. The more they do, the more obvious their goals will be, but it's quite funny seeing them panic like that as well. Let's just wait here for a moment. We'll make our appearance after they fumble about for a bit more."

Rudy was very amused as he looked on next to the city walls with Jackie. They watched as the Unbreaking Pavilion and Compass Pavilion's alchemists were frantically trying to find them. Taking the opportunity, Jackie gave Rudy an introduction to the rules of the outer city.

Rudy started to get annoyed hearing the numerous rules there were, "Isn't this just a large marketplace? Why are there so many rules?"

Jackie raised an eyebrow and looked into the distance. The outer city was far too large. Jackie was unable to even estimate how many warriors were gathered there.

"Even though the outer city is a massive marketplace when compared to the inner city, Prosper City is still a city built for alchemists. Anyone who enters Prosper City would need to go through tests that are targeted at alchemists. Just look at the various stalls set up around the place. Those stalls are only obtainable after going through certain tests. Otherwise, you wouldn't even have the chance to peddle your wares."

Rudy's lips twitched when he heard that even setting up a stall needed tests. Rudy sighed, feeling like he did not belong anywhere.

He said helplessly, "Even setting up a stall needs a test. It's so hard to relax around here."

After saying that, Rudy could not help but look around at the various stalls. After some observations, he could see the difference between the stalls. The stalls were all of various sizes. Some stalls were only five square feet large, and various things were placed all around, looking incredibly packed. Some stalls were a bit bigger, possibly at around ten square feet. They could even see a few stalls that had tables and chairs around, but not many people could enter those stalls.

Jackie pointed at the stalls and introduced to Rudy, "There are three levels to the stalls, high, middle and low. The low-tier stalls are the smallest, and are only around five square feet in area."

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"The highest amount they can deal with has also been set at a hundred thousand spirit crystals. The middle-tier stalls are about ten square feet, and the limit of any transactions is set at two hundred thousand spirit crystals. The highest level stalls are those sects with their own tables and chairs towards the top. Anyone able to open up a stall there are definitely people with incredible backgrounds. There's also a limit to the deals that can be done in the high-tier stalls, but it's not an upper limit. Instead, there's a lower limit. Any transactions done there can't be lower than four hundred thousand spirit crystals."

Rudy's mouth was wide open after hearing the explanations.

The rules were not too complicated, and anyone with half a brain could understand it. However, the meaning behind all that was different.

Rudy took a deep breath as his mouth twitched slightly, "The high-tier stalls are all at least four hundred thousand spirit crystals! Isn't this sum just far too big? Maybe it's nothing much to high-grade alchemists, but it's definitely not the case for people like us.

Any warriors or alchemists who can enter the Whirling World are all younger than sixty. With those conditions, there can't be any alchemists who are particularly amazing! Since they won't be that high grade, the deals practically will never reach that number. We're talking about four hundred thousand spirit crystals!"

As he said that, Rudy excitedly raised four fingers with his hands, waving it in front of Jackie, "Four hundred thousand spirit crystals. I'd have to save up so long for that! If I manage to get that amount in ten years, it would already be an amazing achievement!"

The more Rudy thought about it, the more horrified he was.

Every transaction that was done in the high-tier stalls were all done in amounts that he would not be able to get even after ten years of saving up.

The moment he thought about that number, he felt like there was a huge gulf between him and those people.

Jackie looked up at the sect that stood at the highest point by itself. Most of the sects were empty, but some of them had been taken up as well. Those people all wore incredibly expensive clothes and sat idly on the stone benches.

Compared to the low and middle tier stalls, there were at least less than half the number of people browsing the high-tier stalls. After all, there was a lower limit to the spending there. However, those people were in no hurry at all. After all, as long as they managed to seal just one deal, they would be able to get at least four hundred thousand spirit crystals.

Just one deal would have them set for years.

Rudy frowned, "Why don't we set up a stall..."

As he was saying that, he suddenly felt like he was being an idiot again. Jackie and himself did not have anything amazing to sell. There was nothing they could do even if they got a high-tier stall.

Jackie immediately knew what Rudy was thinking when he saw Rudy's expression.

Jackie let out a laugh and said, "We might not have much use for any stalls, but we can help people get stalls and ask for a fee..."

When Jackie said that, Rudy started to get a little confused. He frowned as he looked at Jackie with wide and curious eyes.

Jackie did not bother stalling and continued, "Do you think that everyone with a stall is an alchemist? Look closely at what they're wearing. Most of them are warriors who're here to make money or warriors from larger clans who're here to buy pills. There are very few stalls that are actually manned by alchemists."

Jackie's words caused Rudy to have a moment of realization.

He suddenly looked around. The stalls were all very neatly arranged, and there was a stone road in the middle for customers to walk through.