

## Carefree 831

### Chapter 831: The Rise of an Eminent Writer

Malan Port.

Fang Yuan was like a specter as he watched a horse carriage 'passing through' his body.

Closeby, a few fishmonger stalls were emitting a strong fishy smell. All kinds of sounds and congregating pedestrians were creating a bustling morning market scene.

Although he could only take form as a specter while walking around the world, he was already very satisfied.

At least when compared to being an absolute observer, it was a huge improvement.

"Mmm. In summary, this place is quite similar to Europe's Age of Discovery from my previous life, but it also possesses fundamental differences!"

Fang Yuan strolled around and arrived at the heavily guarded royal dock.

There were multiple sinister-looking giant warships that were just like quietly crouching giant beasts, giving off a dangerous and terrifying feeling.

In particular, among them were a few 'leviathan' warships that were fully covered with armor, having incomparable displacement tonnage and a frightening amount of cannons on its hull!

"Armored warships?"

Fang Yuan could imagine that with such fearsome ships, the average pirate ship would practically be in tatters with merely a bump on the ocean.

It was to the extent where even the octopus monster from earlier might not be able to deal with it.

However, this type of armored warship had a bizarre appearance. Not only did it have a sail, but it also had a tall chimney. It was impressively powered by a hybrid of steam engines and sails.

"Industrial Revolution!"

Fang Yuan sighed emotionally. As if he had entered an uninhabited land, he freely toured around the warship.

Even though the royal fleet was heavily guarded, and even had Extraordinaries keeping watch, they were still completely unable to discover a single trace of him.

In particular, when Fang Yuan saw a machine that was relatively more primitive, bulky, and cumbersome, he smiled as though he had met a familiar acquaintance.

"In reality, the steam warships in this era might not necessarily surpass the ultra-large five-masted ships... but this is a trend!"

It went without saying that replacing manpower with machines was a sign of society's progress.

No matter what, it would always be better to exploit machines over people.

Furthermore, the most important point was that the power of steam engines could be reproduced by every family.

Otherwise, what difference would it make if it was merely a tiny amount of extraordinary forces?

“When discussing what true warships are, wooden ones are simply cannon fodder, and armored warships also only meet the basic standard. Only legendary magical warships are truly able to embark on the Golden Sea Route and cross various large oceans!”

Magical warships!

As implied by the name, they were designed to use mysterious forces as their power source, with the most famous one being the legend of the Specter Ship.

Of course, due to issues such as magic attachment, there were very few forces in the entire ocean that possessed a magical warship. However, those forces that did possess them were all at the level of an absolute overlord and dominated an entire area.

The Octopus Marauder Team was basically not even a strand of hair when compared to such existences.

...

“Praise you, my Lord, you are the Master of Dreams and Armaments!”

“I’m willing to believe in you with my devout heart! Please grant me permission to recite your name!”

...

Fang Yuan could hear multiple prayers coming through.

In fact, it was precisely because of his believers’ power of faith converging that enabled him to slightly break through the world’s limitations and transform into a specter-like image in the main world.

With a thought, he directly returned to the vicinity of Donald’s family.

After that incident, Donald had brought his wife and child to reside in the city.

Entering his view was a small two-story villa with a garden in front.

Prayers could be heard coming from the villa’s living room.

The butler was used to the strange sight and paid attention to every single guest, ready to satisfy their demands at all times.

“All right... As long as you are a devout believer of the Lord, you will eventually receive his response!”

Donald spoke like a religious fanatic among the believers.

He was a mad believer that was absolutely convinced of Fang Yuan’s existence. Moreover, he was proactively advising his own wife and child to believe in the Dream and Armament Master.

This was because Donald was clear that he was a great and generous existence.

Those ancient rulers were all naturally very powerful and also possessed strange abilities. But when it came to generosity, they were far inferior to the Dream and Armament Master.

Relying on the pearls that he had obtained, Donald had purchased a villa and deposited the remaining gold coins in a bank. He had also hired a butler and a few servants, immediately living the blessed life of the upper class.

What sort of people were the upper class?

From the perspective of the port's residents, only those who had nothing to do every day and merely depended on rent and interest for their livelihoods were truly dignified gentlemen.

Although society's atmosphere for pursuing wealth was gradually intensifying, there was a large market for such a statement once.

Ettoman was formerly a country that regarded physical labor as a form of disgrace.

Not to mention, the current annual interest rates from the royal bank had reached ten percent! This was both good news and paradise for any investor who had deposited their savings.

With just a few steps, Donald instantly completed his transformation.

Almost everyone acquainted with him knew about the unfortunate voyager who, through his own efforts, had successfully entered upper-class society and became a dignified gentleman.

They were crazily envious, crowding around Donald and worshiping him.

It was with the help of this favorable start that had allowed Donald to smoothly spread his faith.

The general atmosphere in Ettoman was fairly open. As long as it was not the spread of evil cults, the government's attitude was very open-minded.

Furthermore, Donald had not yet begun preaching properly. At most, he had started a regular salon to carry out some publicity.

Of course, if this situation developed well, it would ultimately form the fledgling stages of a religious service.

"Everyone, I have ordered some light refreshments. Please enjoy them freely!"

Donald was very relaxed among these brothers and sisters who were already believers of the Dream and Armament Master. He had the butler lead the servants to serve many delicious cakes.

"Wow... These are top quality cakes made from refined flour with honey added on top, right?"

"Such intoxicating sweetness, it really leaves a memorable aftertaste!"

For these ordinary residents, they might not even be able to be so extravagant once a year.

Donald's actions had gained him even more admiration and praise.

He was courteous and respectful, full of smiles while chatting with the people around him, causing every guest to feel enlightened.

However, only Donald himself knew what his weaknesses were.

*My foundation is too weak... My assets have reached the threshold to join the upper class, but fundamentally, I haven't received the acceptance of mainstream society... Currently, the people surrounding me are just a group of common residents!*

*Although these kinds of people are good targets for growing the Lord's faith, they're detrimental to the church's future development... I can only depend on myself to make up for it. Don't tell me... I really have to spend money to purchase a noble title? However, the expenses will definitely be much greater than the current savings that I openly own. Do I have to unearth another 'hidden treasure at the bottom of the ocean'? That'll truly be too conspicuous.*

After waiting for all his guests to leave happily, Donald returned to his study alone. However, his melancholy continued to persist.

"My Lord... You are my guide that takes me forward, my source of light in the darkness. I hope that you can enlighten me..."

In the dead of night, Donald once again started praying.

After contemplating, Fang Yuan responded, "Donald, my agent and loyal servant, what are you perplexed with?"

"Great Dream and Armament Master, I wish to enter upper-class society as soon as possible so that I have more favorable conditions to spread your faith," Donald said without the slightest hesitation. "But now... I have reached a bottleneck. No matter how much effort I put in, those genuine upper-class members still regard me as a parvenu and a country bumpkin."

As an island nation, Ettoman had the tradition of isolating itself.

Although they were faced with the impact of emerging economies and forces, those truly high-ranking nobles still held a certain amount of influence.

When it came to such matters, unless there was a coincidental opportunity, it simply could not be rushed.

Fang Yuan was aware that even if Donald spent his hard-earned capital to purchase a noble title from the king, the end result would only be further condemnation as a parvenu.

"It is all right, my servant. I have already seen your effort, and I have prepared for you a stepping stone to enter the upper class!"

Fang Yuan directly communicated with him through his thoughts.

Regarding Donald's identity and development, he indeed had some plans.

Presently, the first thing to do was still to make Donald famous!

Sometimes, fame was the best stepping stone.

As for how to increase fame? Wealth and exploration were merely the most basic aspects, and they might even reinforce his impression as a parvenu.

Apart from this, it was to become a public figure. For instance, a well-known actor, author, writer, scholar, and so on.

In Ettoman, the status of theater actors was far inferior to eminent writers. Thus, what Fang Yuan selected for Donald was the path of copying literary works.

With Fang Yuan's past experience and knowledge, he could readily search for some famous works and then hand them over to Donald for him to gain instant success. There would be no issues at all.

Donald was originally a cultured person. Otherwise, he could not have been a voyager nor record a ship's log.

He only needed to be slightly repackaged and disguised as an eminent writer. Along with a handful of new and original adventure stories, he would be well-received by the upper class.

Otherwise, if he was only a lucky explorer, even if he went to the dinner parties, he would probably still be regarded as just a clown.

Moreover, Fang Yuan had his own ambitions.

He wanted to borrow Donald's hand to make a big gamble.

The best case would be to thoroughly alter the course of this world. Only by changing the World Thread could more variables be introduced, thereby obtaining more opportunities.

Thus, the selected work should not be of literary nature. Instead, it should be along the lines of monumental works in economic sociology.

This way, Donald's identity would change from a clown parvenu to that of a teacher in the field of economics.

After all, Ettoman had not experienced the information explosion like in his previous life. Therefore, titles such as expert, teacher, and so on were still very valuable.

"My Lord, your will is my calling. What kind of work do you want me to complete?" Donald asked, resolution in his voice.

"The Wealth of Nations!"

## **Chapter 832: Famous**

In Fang Yuan's previous life, there was a very famous book titled 'The Wealth of Nations'. It was known as the pioneer of modern economics and had an extremely profound influence on the growth of capitalism.

Due to some historical constraints, there was an overemphasis on the control of the 'invisible hand'. Nevertheless, everyone made mistakes. Regarding that period of time, the author had immediately become an influential figure in the field of economics thanks to this book and was revered by many capitalists.

Based on Fang Yuan's recent investigations, although Ettoman had entered the Great Voyage Era and invested in the use of steam engines, the ideology of the upper levels was still in a state of disorder. In other words, there was no truly towering, monumental work in the field of economics to support the situation. Without a doubt, this was Donald's opportunity.

As for the source of this monumental work?

In his previous life, he had flipped through this book once.

Of course, he had only briefly browsed through it and had forgotten everything afterward. However, it should not be forgotten that Fang Yuan was a Dream Master!

Ever since he became a Dream Master, he was able to consciously mobilize his memories and unlock a great deal of treasure that had been sealed for a long time. Even if he had only caught a glimpse back then, it was now vivid in his mind without missing a word.

It would naturally be idiotic to replicate the content word-for-word. However, after going through a series of amendments, it would definitely be more suitable for this era.

By relying on this, it would certainly enable Donald to spring into fame.

"Yes, my Lord. It's just that..." A trace of hesitation appeared on Donald's face. "I was only an apprentice for a period of time and thus learned to read and write... I'm afraid that nobody will believe me!"

He had a deep understanding of the upper class's disdain.

"This is simple. You just have to say that you studied on your own since you enjoy reading economics-related books during your free time... If it really won't do, you can even directly say that it was enlightenment by a god!"

Fang Yuan's lips curled up slightly at the corners.

So what if someone discovered something fishy?

Donald himself was a huge flaw. With such a sharp contrast, the purpose was precisely to attract attention toward the issue of faith!

Anyway, the Dream and Armament Master was not some Evil God.

Moreover, he had a great deal of advanced knowledge and mysterious ceremonies that would enable people to obtain powers. As long as people gained a deeper understanding, they were most likely to waver.

What Fang Yuan was currently at a loss with was if he should get involved in the domains of steam machinery and economics?

In this period where the Great Voyage Era and the Industrial Revolution were progressing together, these two domains seemed to be more valuable than that of dreams and armaments.

...

It was another beautiful morning.

Thomas was leisurely having breakfast in his pajamas.

On top of the white tablecloth were fried eggs, bacon, bread, cheese, and the freshest fruits.

Beside him, his butler was carefully ironing newspapers for him.

After finishing his meal, he was leisurely drinking coffee while flipping through the newspaper whose ink no longer stained his hand.

“The Spice Archipelago experienced a violent storm, causing its output of spices to decrease drastically this year. The prices of spices are likely to see high inflation!

“The plantation situated at Black Horn Coast was attacked by the aboriginals and suffered heavy casualties!

“A huge silver mine was found on a large island located in the Nightmare Ocean... This is indeed good news!”

...

Thomas was a knight and currently employed by Viscount Floren, assuming the role of an advisor.

As the lowest grade among the nobility, it was not an embarrassing matter to be serving higher nobility and receiving remuneration.

However, what Thomas was most proud of was not this status nor post, but the fact that he was a scholar! A scholar that researched economics!

This was not self-proclaimed, but rather the reputation that he had slowly accumulated. Even the Ettoman Royal Academy had hired him as a guest professor for their Department of Economics.

With such honor, it was only natural that there was high demand for him in upper-class gatherings. For some high-ranking cultural salons, they would immediately lose their luster if he did not attend.

Of course, Thomas had his own air of arrogance. As he had reached old age, his energy gradually lessened, and he very rarely participated in those non-professional salons and gatherings.

“All right, butler, what’s my schedule today?” Thomas asked unhurriedly after drinking the last mouthful of coffee and slowly savoring the aftertaste of bitterness followed by sweetness.

“Today, you need to attend the opening ceremony of a shipyard. There’s also Lady Teresa, who has already sent you an invitation three times...”

The butler spoke meticulously.

“Teresa... That passionate young lady!

"If only I were thirty years younger..." Thomas muttered, as though he was a child who had stolen candy and was reflecting on the sweetness from before.

"In addition, you've received a letter from Donald!"

The butler finished his report.

"Donald..." Thomas was puzzled for a moment before tapping his head soon after. "I remember now... It's that lucky little fellow?"

He was indeed very lucky to have survived an encounter with pirates, even making a profit from it. However, that was his entire impression of Donald.

"That's right!" The butler took out a thick stack of papers. "These papers have already been inspected. There are no problems!"

There was a letter and a manuscript inside.

After hearing this, Thomas took out the letter.

"A draft?"

Thomas was baffled as he read the letter. Donald humbly greeted him and mentioned that he had been reading books in the field of economics recently. As he had gained some inspiration, he especially wrote down some items and would like to ask for comments.

"Oh? Is this a joke from the Goddess? A sailor telling me that he has written a thesis on economics?" Thomas mumbled to himself with a look of disdain in his eyes. "Throw it away... A futile attempt by a clown trying to force himself into the upper class. He must have gone insane thinking about becoming famous?"

"Understood!"

The butler was about to step forward when suddenly he saw Thomas wave his hand. "Wait a moment..."

At the end of the letter, Donald admitted that this draft was sent not only to him, but also to a few other well-known scholars, and even to the Royal Academy and newspaper publishers. It was obvious that he desired to promote it at all costs.

If a parvenu was willing to spend money, there would still be some results in the end.

Thus, after pondering for awhile, Thomas picked up the manuscript. "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations? What a huge topic, haha..."

However, after reading for a few minutes, his expression turned grave.

"... The premise to studying the market economy is people's self-interests during economic activities..."

"Relying on the market's 'invisible hand' to manage the economy..."

...

The more Thomas read, the more his eyes brightened. His palms were even starting to tremble slightly. "This... Impossible... How can a sailor be able to write such content?"

This thesis had truly accurately put forward some of the hazy discourses he had in his head and some of the viewpoints that he was uncertain of, giving him a feeling of having read to his heart's content.

"Donald, huh?"

After rereading it three times, Thomas even cast aside the opening ceremony and Lady Teresa to the back of his mind. He began to carefully consider Donald as a person.

"It's really... a pity..."

He sighed after a long while.

Given his foresight, he could naturally see what kind of earthquake this would trigger in the field of economics research once this article was released.

Speaking unceremoniously, praise, reputation, and status would all come one after another, and the author himself would definitely spring into fame.

It was even sufficient for him to earn a title as a professor at the Royal Academy.

This made Thomas deeply envious.

After all, although he was already a guest professor, he really did not have much research and many theses that he could bring to the table. Had this paper been written by him, it would have certainly risen his reputation to an unprecedented level!

For a moment, there was a thought entrenching itself into his mind like a viper.

Unfortunately, while looking at the letter, Thomas bitterly laughed. "It won't work..."

The other party had already declared that he was not the only 'reviewer'. If he tried to be the first to publish, these letters would be the best proof.

Of course, if this was the only reason, Thomas was confident that he could keep it under control.

After all, how could a parvenu fight against the connections he had? If the other party did not budge, he could totally mess with the other party and ruin his reputation.

However, the thesis that Donald had given was only half of it!

This was a very crucial factor, sufficient to dispel all thoughts of coveting.

After thinking for a while, Thomas made a decision.

"Donald, huh? Have him come see me! This thesis is very well-written. However, some of the wording and professional terminologies still need to be amended..."

Even if he was unable to become the first author, it would still be pretty good to leech a position as a secondary author.

At this point, he gained a strong interest in this rumored parvenu.

After all, no matter how one looked at it, it was abnormal for a sailor who was regularly out at sea to actually be capable of writing such a monumental work in economics!

What he did not know was that this scene was repeated across the homes of various well-known scholars in Ettoman and the Royal Academy.

Donald's name became thoroughly popular in an instant.

"My Lord..."

Donald, who was originally treated coldly by the true nobility, had a bitter expression when he saw the invitations to dinner parties coming one after another.

These were all invitations from the true upper class, which was equivalent to being admitted into the circle.

However, he really could not split himself and attend to everything at the same time.

Besides, he was also very afraid.

After all, Donald clearly aware of his own background. It was not much of an issue if he was made to calculate a navigation route and record a ship's log.

But if there was any mention of economic terminologies and even complex models, there was a ninety percent chance that he would be caught unprepared.

"Do not worry, my agent. What you need to do now is to continuously raise your fame!"

Ever since he had released 'The Wealth of Nations', Fang Yuan had a strange feeling.

There was some kind of major trend that was influenced by him, and it even began to affect his surroundings.

Originally, Donald's fate would not have many twists and turns.

However, the countrywide sensation this time had immediately attracted some undercurrents.

Nevertheless, Donald was an Extraordinary himself, so there should not be many problems when handling them, and it might even be an opportunity.

### **Chapter 833: Ambush**

*There are already three scholars who have agreed to jointly publish the article with me. The newspaper office and publisher have also been contacted... That's sufficient. Next, according to the Lord's will, would be to immediately print and circulate 'The Wealth of Nations'. At least all the cultured people in Ettoman should hear about it...*

Silently thinking to himself, Donald alighted from the horse carriage.

Currently, he was very low-profile. He was dressed in black and had a tall-collar shirt covering half of his face.

According to the original plan, he was intending to decline any invitation and concentrate on maintaining his reputation by staying home.

The invitations from others were still easy to decline, but Sir Thomas was an authority figure in Malan Port with a vast network of connections. He had no choice but to come.

Moreover, the other party was also very sincere.

“Hmm? This place... doesn’t seem to be Sir Thomas’ villa... Mond, you...”

Donald turned his head and saw his driver’s lifeless expression suddenly slumping to the ground.

“You are Donald?” A gorgeous woman wearing a crimson dress walked out from the house in front.

“Seems to be rather ordinary too? Follow me!”

“Why should I?”

Donald moved his lips slightly, but was shocked to discover two radiant light orbs being emitted from the woman’s pupils and going straight into his eyes.

If it were an ordinary person who encountered this, they might immediately be turned into a puppet and be freely manipulated.

After contemplating, Donald chose not to expose himself. He allowed the light rays to enter him, and his face promptly became expressionless.

“Hehe... Good boy, follow me!”

This woman was evidently highly confident in her methods and was proudly humming a folk song as she had Donald follow her into the wooden house.

“Haha... That was so simple!”

The woman brought Donald to a hidden chamber underground and lazily stretched her body. “Of course, even if it was very easy, the mission contribution can’t be any less...”

“No problem! Our ‘Nightingale’ has once again successfully used her charm to capture another servant...”

Two men draped in cloaks walked out from the shadows. “Is it confirmed to be the target?”

“Mmm. Donald, originally a sailor on Flame and Beauty. More than half a year ago, by a stroke of luck, he managed to escape with his life after an encounter with pirates and obtained a bag of pearls!” responded another member who had clearly done his research.

“Pirates and treasures aren’t the key here...”

The first man in black had a solemn expression. “What we need to figure out is how he wrote ‘The Wealth of Nations’, such a monumental work... My Lord—”

Halfway through, he suddenly stopped talking. His face looked cautious as he took a meaningful glance at Nightingale.

“Hehe... rest assured. No one can escape from my charm...” Miss Nightingale said confidently. She strutted forward with a cat-like gait and held up Donald’s face with her hands, causing their eyes to meet. Her red lips moved slightly, and with a dreamy voice, she spat out words as though they were snake venom, “Your name...”

“Donald!” answered Donald with a dazed voice, seemingly half-awake.

“Where’s your home?”

“Malan Port!”

“Who are your wife and son?”

...

After a few easy questions, Miss Nightingale’s eyes glistened. “What exactly happened that time you were out at sea? Also... why were you able to write ‘The Wealth of Nations’?”

“Because of... my Lord’s blessing!”

Suddenly, Donald’s voice became clear. His eyes under his green hair even had a look of mockery.

*Not good!*

Miss Nightingale quickly retreated, but at this moment, a steel-like fist punched into her lower abdomen.

“Ahh...”

She had never been good with physical strength. After receiving the blow, she immediately collapsed onto the ground, curled up like a huge prawn, and threw up stomach acid.

“What a pity... I was hoping to pry more intelligence!”

Donald loosened his joints and gazed at the two men in black. “So... who are you? Which organization are you a part of?”

“Mr. Donald, it seems that you’ve exceeded our expectations!”

A man in black spoke slowly and took out a firearm from within his robes.

Right at this moment, without saying a word, the man beside him swiftly pounced at Donald, just like a preying cheetah.

In view of this, Donald just softly shouted a word, “Water!”

A river-like curtain emerged around him in an instant, obstructing the man in black’s attack.

“Hmm?”

The leader of the men in black retreated rapidly while shooting his rotating firearm without thinking.

*Bang! Bang!*

There was a rising plume of white smoke, and the smell of gunpowder permeated the entire basement.

However, Donald was completely unharmed. The water screen in front of him had circles of ripples and squeezed out multiple lead bullets.

After seeing this, the leader of the men in black immediately questioned him.

“Mysterious being? Where did you get your promotion from? Is there any relationship with the recent sea perils?”

“Those are very ungentlemanly questions and goes against the tradition of exchange!”

Donald held out his hand, and a chain formed by two streams of water circled around his wrist endlessly. “Before that, shouldn’t you be telling me... which existence is backing you?”

“Fight!”

The two men in black did not have the slightest hesitation as they chose to attack once again.

With a snarl of rage, one of the men’s muscles exploded, bursting open his clothes and transforming into a small black giant in an instant.

As for the leader who was speaking, he took out another silver firearm. With a shot, a frighteningly huge hole emerged on the water screen.

“Hmm? This sort of attack? Breaking magic?”

At this moment, Donald knew that he was not unparalleled. In fact, even when he was pretending to be controlled, it was also to secretly make arrangements to summon water streams and obtain a favorable location.

With a single thought, a great amount of water streams extended to completely fill up the gap in his defense.

“Aw! Aw!”

Right at this moment, the black giant’s punch also arrived.

*Thump!*

As he howled, his fist smashed onto the water screen, causing it to tremble continuously.

“Extraordinary powers!”

Donald’s heart tensed up. Evidently, this group of mysterious people attacking him had Extraordinaries to rely on.

However, he was still fearless.

Although he was only an Ocean Warlock that had just been promoted and was even fighting against two opponents now, it was nothing much.

This was because he had a god backing him!

After silently praying in his heart, Donald roared as azure scales appeared on his body.

*Thump!*

He ferociously dashed forward and went head-on with the black giant.

*Smack!*

After a loud bang, the black giant was knocked into the wall, causing the walls on all sides to crack open and dust to fall everywhere.

The leader held a firearm and was taking aim for quite some time. However, he was afraid of causing accidental injury and did not dare to recklessly pull the trigger.

“Not shooting anymore?”

Donald had water flowing on him from head to toe, and with the azure scales, he had two layers of protection. He had absolutely no reason to fear ordinary bullets. Even for breaking magic bullets, he was also eager to give it a try.

“There’s no need. Your strength is already sufficient to gain our respect!” The black man slightly bowed. “Let me introduce myself. I am Hai Nie from the Silver Star Cross.”

Silver Star Cross was an ancient organization that believed in Lady Moon. It was a formidable existence whose activities were at night and had a silver moon as its insignia.

“Oh? Such a quick change in attitude?”

Donald was rather surprised.

“Because I just received the goddess’ directive! We shouldn’t become enemies!” said Hai Nie, with hidden meaning in his words.

“Goddess?!”

Donald was bewildered and doubtful.

He started to pray to Fang Yuan in his heart. *My Lord... your devout believer, Donald, seeks your aid!*

In reality, he had no need to pray since Fang Yuan had already followed him into the villa and was spectating the whole time.

In particular, Donald’s explosion at the end was actually all from Fang Yuan’s powers. However, he mistook it to be a gift from the Dream and Armament Master, which made Fang Yuan unsure of whether to laugh or cry.

The foundation of Donald’s mysterious powers were actually all from this world. He simply provided a train of thought for the ceremony.

It was not that he could not be like Orlando and be directly injected with powers or even bestowed a system. However, this way, they would be imprinted with the mark of his powers and would certainly face backlash from the world.

Originally, writing 'The Wealth of Nations' and publishing it throughout the whole kingdom was already conspicuous. If he continued, Donald would surely be pushed to the cusp of public opinion and be unable to keep his life even after becoming a mysterious being.

If such an extraordinary chess piece were damaged, it would be quite a pity.

"But... Lady Moon is a god or some other existence?"

Fang Yuan carefully observed the surroundings.

Unfortunately, even if the other party's believer admitted that he was communicating with Lady Moon, he still could not find the slightest trace.

It was similar to how he was currently speaking directly to Donald's mind, and the other party also did not have the slightest realization.

"If two evils gods or existences that transcend limitations want to communicate, apart from going through channels such as their believers, the only way is for both to descend into the real world?"

Fang Yuan made a deduction in his mind.

Donald trembled for a moment and then shot a profound glance at the man in black. "My Lord's name is Dream and Armament Master, controlling the domains of dreams and armaments. He just gave me an oracle saying that he's willing to join hands and collaborate with you."

"Dream and Armament Master?!"

The man in black muttered the name repeatedly, appearing to be sensing the power in this title.

After a long while, he nodded. "Lady Moon has sensed this existence's outstanding powers. We can join hands and collaborate. Also, we have some compensation as an apology for earlier!

"Within Ettoman, we're able to influence quite a number of scholars. They'll all back you and promote your book, 'The Wealth of Nations', allowing it to spread across the entire kingdom in just one night!"

"In that case... thanks a lot!"

Donald's still had a look of caution in his eyes.

The other party had evidently started developing much earlier than him. Moreover, it was significantly earlier, having already formed a deeply-rooted relationship network within the kingdom a long time ago.

The Dream and Armament Master's current group of believers would not be able to resist this level of strength.

Thus, resolving the conflict was naturally the best choice.

"Of course, I'm not sure if you're willing to give up the titles for secondary author and tertiary author?"

The leader's eyes gleamed.

After all, the benefits that 'The Wealth of Nations' represented were too great, or else it would not have attracted them to come.

Regarding this, Donald only thought for a moment and gladly extended his right hand.

"It would be my pleasure. May we have a pleasant cooperation!"

## **Chapter 834: Pirates**

With the support of Lady Moon, the publishing and circulation of 'The Wealth of Nations' instantly became smooth-sailing.

Of course, if a work only relied on the early stages of a campaign but did not have any special value nor meaningful ideas itself, then the end result would only be sensationalism and ultimately being lost among the mundane.

However, 'The Wealth of Nations' was different!

It was a monumental work in the field of economics. For a society whose economy had developed to a certain stage, it would even be a long-awaited remedy!

It was famous!

After 'The Wealth of Nations' was published throughout the kingdom, it became thoroughly famous!

Not only did numerous economists comment that it was the greatest work in the century of sea voyage, but it was even chosen by the Royal Academy's Department of Economics as a must-read book. There were even rumors that it might be turned into a textbook.

So much so that all the major bookstores were sold out, and they had no choice but to immediately pick up more from the printing company. But even then, the supply still could not meet the demand.

The book was also translated into multiple foreign languages, which were sold on the mainland secretly.

His fame was rising thick and fast.

The author of 'The Wealth of Nations', Donald, became a scholar who was famous far and wide. There were countless invitations for him to give lectures.

Of course, as his entire life was unearthed bit by bit, the voices of suspicion ran rife, causing a massive clamor.

...

"My Lord controls dreams and armaments..."

"He was born above the chaos and sliced open the sky with a sharp, pitch-black weapon in his hand..."

Inside his villa at Malan Port, Donald was piously introducing his belief to the guests at his gathering.

Not only were there nobles dressed in gorgeous gowns with platinum hair curls, but there were also noble ladies waving various kinds of small fans currently encircling him. The people's statuses were entirely different from before.

"Mr. Donald, may I make a request?"

A young man who was still a child raised his hand.

He had very handsome features and was tightly holding on to a newly printed copy of 'The Wealth of Nations'.

"Of course you can, young mister!"

Donald gestured for him to proceed.

"I'm your loyal reader. I want to ask—how did you come to write this monumental work? Also, can I have your autograph?"

The young man's face was flushed as he handed his book over.

"Of course you can!" Donald happily took the book and signed it with a quill pen. "I was previously a sailor and traveled across many countries. Furthermore, in order to earn money, I had also delved into numerous business opportunities. 'The Wealth of Nations' was precisely the conclusion I made based on some business activities and studying of various countries' economies. Of course, my Lord had also given me some enlightenment in this aspect!"

"Hmm?"

The people around him were astonished.

"My Lord is an erudite existence. He enlightened me through my dreams..." Donald was completely like a religious fanatic as he continued speaking, "Dreams... represent unlimited possibilities and can even foresee the future!"

*Clamor!*

This caused quite a commotion among the people. A noble lady instantly asked, "Mr. Donald... you're saying that this monumental work was jointly written by the god and you?"

"All the honor belongs to the Lord!"

Donald made a gesture and held up the pendant on his neck.

"Thank you, mister!"

The young man took back the autographed book and bowed, but he was somewhat in a daze while looking at the pendant.

...

The host and guests had a great time, and the dinner party ended.

Donald went to his study and knelt down to pray. "My Lord, with the courtesy of your grace, the growth in believers has been rapidly increasing. However, recently there have been all kinds of suspicions coming one after another..."

"Donald, my servant, you do not have to worry!" Fang Yuan replied. "Let all the honor be attributed to me, and then all the doubts from the secular world will be as light as spider silk and inconsequential... Moreover, the best way to respond to these doubts is to continue revealing your strength!"

He still had a few monumental works in economics that he had read before, and he could absolutely bring them over and amaze this world once again.

Of course, the most important thing was that Fang Yuan could feel that his interference on the entire world was continuously strengthening along with his increase in believers.

In particular, after 'The Wealth of Nations' was published, a boundless force was constantly hovering around him.

This was the flood of energy from people's beliefs, and it also represented a part of the world's intrinsic quality.

"It's reached a certain limit..."

After sensing this, Fang Yuan immediately ended his response and returned all his energy back to himself.

The rules in this Great Voyage World were very strict. Any existence surpassing the limit was banished and faced difficulties in having their true body descend into the world.

However, after all the time he had spent on cracking and accumulating power, Fang Yuan finally succeeded today.

"This small amount of energy collected from people's beliefs is still insufficient to rescue my main body, but it's enough to separate out a Magical Clone," Fang Yuan muttered. Separating from his body, a shooting star wrapped in energy from people's beliefs made an opening and entered the real world.

*Kaboom!*

Around his main body, space was trembling as though a black hole had collapsed, presenting a scene of complete upheaval.

"Hehe... Discovered? Furious? Unfortunately... what can you do about it?"

Fang Yuan laughed coldly.

He was now gradually aware that the more advanced a world was, the closer heaven's will was to the 'Dao'!

What was the Dao?

It was high up above and operated based on rules without having the slightest personality.

Although it was difficult to invade this kind of world, it could all the more be deceived by finding the right methods.

...

A salty sea breeze and a sturdy floor...

Fang Yuan spread his arms, as though he was embracing the world.

After being excluded for so long, his abrupt descent into the real world filled him with emotion, which was quite a novel experience.

As the number of worlds Fang Yuan traversed to increased, he realized that his interest grew stronger and stronger. He was fond of such experiences and hoped to experience even more.

In his vision, there was a soft and slender palm that was also as fair and exquisite as a youth's hand.

"Roche?" he mumbled. A string of memories from the host poured into his mind.

Roche, seventeen years old, from Fatiq Archipelago.

Two days ago, he had gone out to sea to fish alone, but was captured by pirates and became a slave on their ship.

Pirates also needed to replenish new blood.

Of course, for someone like him, there was a ninety percent chance that he would be locked up in the completely dark ship hold and end up in the lowest rung of galley slaves.

And when he died, he would once again be treated like trash and thrown into the ocean.

" *Whew ...*"

Fang Yuan deeply exhaled, knowing that it was almost time to lay his cards on the table.

"I'm only a Magical Clone without the main body's strength, so at a crucial moment, I'll still need to request help from the main body."

Fang Yuan glanced at his stats window:

"Name: Roche (Fang Yuan)

Strength: 0.9

Speed: 1.1

Physique: 0.8

Psyche: 2

State: Weak, Starving

Specialization: Sailing (Normal), Angling (Normal), Boxing Basics (Normal)"

"As expected, it's really a blank state..."

Fang Yuan was speechless, but shortly after his face was grave. "The stats window formed is indeed different from the main body's when operating in reality..."

Shockingly, his main body had prepared for him the same system as Orlando.

Of course, some privileges were definitely greater.

“Furthermore... I myself am a mutant! Although I’ll be targeted, my fate was originally extremely bumpy, so there’s actually nothing to be concerned about. I can just pray to my main body and obtain powers...”

“Dream and Armament Master, Fang Yuan!”

With this thought, Fang Yuan immediately sent a signal to his main body.

The feedback came quickly. Traces of powers were converging and forming inside his body, carrying a bit of extraordinary powers.

Although it was minute, it was his assurance for breaking through his current predicament.

*Clang!*

The room’s door was violently pushed opened, and a few pirates with evil grins walked in. “Kid, are you done considering?”

“I’m done. I will join the pirates!” Fang Yuan calmly replied.

Presently, it was naturally better not to get into conflict if possible.

If it were the young man from before, he would simply be wailing to go home. But for Fang Yuan, becoming a pirate was the beginning stages of his plan.

“...”

However, the three pirates were evidently rather astonished.

” *Keke* ... Just like I said, an ordinary kid will yield right away once you starve them for a couple of days!”

One of the pirates laughed heartily, revealing his sparse and yellow teeth.

“Great. Kid, what’s your name?” asked the leader of the three.

This pirate’s figure was on the thinner side. He had a pair of viper-like triangular eyes and a pale face. But currently, his gaze made Fang Yuan feel rather uncomfortable.

“Roche!”

“Right now, you can only be in the lowest rung of galley slaves, but that doesn’t matter. As long as you’re hardworking, I’ll promote you to combat personnel. If you kill someone in the next pillage, you can become an official member!”

Triangular Eyes took a few steps forward, but there was something increasingly amiss about the atmosphere.

“It doesn’t matter if you aren’t good at combat since I’ll protect you! As you know, our crew has rather... bad tempers. For instance, Butcher is really fond of biting children’s fingers...”

It seemed like Triangular Eyes considered Fang Yuan to be under his control, and thus his words became increasingly explicit. “Of course... if you receive something, you must pay something in return...”

“What!”

Discovering that he had an increasingly evil and lewd glint in his eyes, Fang Yuan immediately burst into vulgarities. "I should have already known that the majority of the pioneers in the Great Voyage Era are a bunch of scum! The dregs of society!"

"Kid, you're asking for trouble!"

Triangular Eyes was rather furious and shot a meaningful glance at the two behind him. "Take him down, but take care not to hurt his face..."

"Boss, I think we can pull out his teeth!" The two pirates behind him stepped forward and evilly grinned. "This way, it'll be even easier for us to love and care for him..."

*Thump!*

Just as he finished speaking, the pirate was ruthlessly flung into the air as though he were struck by a train, spitting out a mouthful of blood-stained teeth.

"North?"

Triangular Eyes was shocked to discover that the pirate's neck was twisted 180 degrees and could see his own back. Obviously, he was not going to survive.

*Crack! Crack!*

Fang Yuan was rubbing his fists, his knuckles producing explosive sounds. With an icy voice, he said, "Trash indeed ought to be thrown into the trash can!"

Although he himself was practically the mold for a good-for-nothing, he had his main body backing him.

The usage of extraordinary powers caused his stats to be in a state of comprehensive growth. In addition, with his experience from countless battles, killing a few pirates was naturally a piece of cake.

### **Chapter 835: Mockingbird**

Fred was the captain of the pirate ship Mockingbird.

He had the steadfast face of a typical Ottoman man and wine red hair. His right hand had been lost during a pillage and had been replaced with an intimidating iron hook.

Regarding strength, the team he led was practically the lowest rung. There was simply no way to compare with those pirate teams that had already made a name for themselves such as the Octopus Marauder Team.

Fred's lifetime wish was to be able to rob a merchant ship that was full of gold, which would enable him to immediately retire respectably.

If this wish did not work out, then he would settle for his second wish of letting the Mockingbird pirates become as formidable and famous as the Octopus Marauder pirates.

However, these two wishes seemed rather out of reach based on the current circumstances.

“Recently, our luck hasn’t been good, and we haven’t been able to find a suitable target...” Fred grumbled while gazing into the distant sky.

He did not dare to head to the bustling Golden Route and other sea areas, so he could only cruise around coastal waters like a vulture looking for rotting flesh.

For matters such as robbery, they were largely dependent on luck.

In fact, pirates living in destitution could be practically found everywhere.

After sensing the low morale among his subordinates, Fred shouted loudly, “Hey... Mates, keep your spirits up and sing!”

The few pirates scrubbing the deck lifted their heads. A pirate folksong brimming with freedom and boldness was sung by a mix of voices, resounding throughout the ship.

“... We are pirates, fierce pirates, with a bottle in the left hand, treasure in the right hand.

“We are pirates, carefree pirates, laboring to survive under the guidance of the skull flag.

“We are pirates, pirates with no tomorrow, pirates drifting in the oceans, forever without end...”

*Bang!*

Just as Fred was thinking about if he should catch a few fish to improve tonight’s meal, there was a loud bang amid the singing voices, and a cabin door was smashed into pieces.

The pirate song abruptly halted. Two bodies were thrown onto the ground, practically like worn-out gunny sacks.

“It’s the boatswain!”

Fred’s eyelid twitched. He no longer looked at the two corpses and turned toward the cabin door.

A rather thin figure walked out with a haughty expression, as though he were a noble inspecting his territory.

Fred was feeling quite uneasy.

This was because Mockingbird was his possession, and he felt that his authority as captain was under question.

“I remember you. You’re the little chap who was fishing...” Fred maintained a steady tone, but the majority of his subordinates had taken out their weapons and surrounded Fang Yuan. “Seems like you’ve rejected my good intentions.”

“Sorry, I don’t work together with these kinds of dregs!” Fang Yuan shrugged his shoulders and smiled widely. “As for you, captain, how about we make a deal?”

“What deal?”

Fred took out a silvery metal wine pot and casually downed a mouthful of spirits.

Only those most intimate with him would know that this was a subconscious action done when he was nervous.

"Let me have this ship and all your subordinates... In return, I can guarantee your life and appoint you as my chief officer!" Fang Yuan said seriously.

"Haha..." The pirates burst into loud laughter. "Don't think that getting rid of the boatswain makes you amazing... Thinking of seizing our boss' place? Butcher! Food is here!"

*Bang! Bang!*

Amid the sound of heavy footsteps, a tall figure pushed aside the crowd and walked over.

The man was two meters tall and half-naked, exposing his numerous centipede-like scars. He could basically scare a child into tears when he smiled.

As he stared at Fang Yuan, his eyes were brimming with bloodthirsty desire.

"Let me introduce myself. I am Butcher!"

Butcher laughed sinisterly and grabbed the enormous cutlass on his waist. "I'll give you a quick death. Believe me, it's absolutely a blessing compared to being forced to walk the gangplank and plunging into the sea to feed the sharks!"

"Oh!"

Fang Yuan took a step forward with his right foot, and then his whole body dashed forward like a cannonball.

*Bang!*

The crisp sound of bones cracking could be heard from Butcher's chest. His huge figure flew backward while his cutlass landed Fang Yuan's hand.

"Surrender? Or die?"

He looked at the surrounding pirates with a hint of blood appearing in his eyes.

Since his powers were borrowed and the buff period was limited, he needed to finish this in the shortest amount of time possible.

"Butcher... was defeated in one move?"

The other pirates were startled.

After all, Butcher was the assault captain and accepted by everyone as the strongest among them. But to their surprise, he was not even able to withstand a single blow when facing this youth.

The scene fell dead silent. Shortly after, the pirates roared while dashed forward.

"Really... acting recklessly!"

The long cutlass in Fang Yuan's hands drew a subtle arc.

*Splash!*

The first three pirates dashing forward were sliced in half. Huge amounts of blood gushed out along with their intestines, internal organs, and whatnot all over the floor.

*Poof!*

Straightening the huge cutlass, Fang Yuan suddenly struck again, and another pirate was instantly sliced in two.

“Save us!”

“He isn’t human, he’s a devil!”

“An evil demon from the seas!”

After seeing that Fang Yuan resembled a butcher even more than Butcher, the pirates were finally frightened, practically wetting themselves.

“These stupid idiots!”

Fred looked at the scene, but his hands that were grabbing onto the railing were secretly trembling.

“Immediately mobilize the archers and musketeers. Have people in front act as shields... Be careful, he’s an Extraordinary!”

Extraordinary!

They were a community that was truly high above the masses in this world and possessed mysterious powers.

They were very rarely seen even among pirates.

Even for the Octopus Marauder Team, only their captain had the mysterious power of contracting with a giant octopus as his companion.

As for this type of unknown pirate team, it naturally did not have a single Extraordinary.

Nevertheless, they still had methods of going up against the lowest rung of Extraordinaries.

Simply put, it was to have as many people as possible fight until the Extraordinary died.

“A very smart captain!”

Seeing that the pirates had already taken out a few metal shields, Fang Yuan smiled faintly.

“Unfortunately... it still isn’t enough to deal with me!”

His steps were graceful, just like a musician dancing elegantly along with music.

For the average Extraordinary, perhaps only their speed and strength exceeded ordinary people.

However, Fang Yuan was different!

His technique had undergone repeated revisions from his experiences in countless worlds and had become extremely polished a long time ago—it was purely a killing technique.

Solely based on his stats window, his experience in saber techniques was at the Legend level at the very least.

Of course, with only the experience but without the matching strength, he still could not compare to those who could single-handedly subdue ten opponents.

Nevertheless, there was naturally no one among these pirates that was difficult for Fang Yuan to deal with.

*Bang! Bang!*

Fang Yuan dodged, and the place where he had stood earlier now had a few more black holes emitting green smoke.

“Indeed. There’s not much meaning in killing pirates!”

With a few light steps, Fang Yuan reached the crow’s nest.

Fred’s face instantly turned green. He raised his firearm and pulled the trigger.

*Bang!*

Amid the cloud of white smoke, a lead bullet shot out.

*Ding!*

But at this moment, Fang Yuan followed his heart to move his hand and slice with his cutlass.

The tip of the blade was almost aligned with the bullet. Fred’s pupils constricted as he watched the unbelievable scene before him.

Under Fang Yuan’s long cutlass, the bullet was sliced right through the middle, not injuring him in the slightest.

“An Extraordinary at this level...”

Although he still had a cutlass in his hand, Fred’s face turned white, having lost all confidence. “W-why did you let us capture you when you were fishing? Were you making fun of us?”

“No. I can only say that you weren’t lucky enough!”

Fang Yuan stepped forward and beheaded the captain in one strike.

Even if he had thoughts of acquiring the entire pirate ship and taking over these pirates, he absolutely could not keep the captain.

Not only the captain, but his chief officer and trusted aides would also definitely have to be sent to the grim reaper’s embrace.

“Captain! The captain is dead!”

Once Fred died, the pirates immediately fell into chaos.

“All right. Now, I want to become a pirate, and all of you will become my subordinates. Any objections?”

Fang Yuan took immediate action and directly used violence to instill fear in them.

A pirate's loyalty was just like the chastity of a prostitute—both jokes.

When they heard this, their mouths opened wide. It was rather unbelievable, but they still loosened their grips on their weapons.

This man was like a grim reaper, and it was obvious that they were not a match for him. Thus, there was no harm in complying for a while first.

However, it was a joke for them to admit him as their captain.

Nevertheless, Fang Yuan quickly made them aware of his methods.

"Where are your chief officer, second officer, and third officer? Let them step out!"

As soon as he finished speaking, two men were isolated.

"Boss! They're the chief officer and the third officer. As for the second officer, you killed him a moment ago!" said a pirate that looked like a skinny monkey ingratiatingly.

"Mmm. What's your name?"

Fang Yuan nodded in gratification. Regardless of his motive, he was the first to take his side after all.

"Bill. My name is Bill!"

The skinny monkey was instantly overjoyed and bowed awkwardly.

"Damn it, this clown! You actually dared to betray us! Where are the gunmen? Open fire together. We don't have to be afraid of him!" roared the chief officer. But the next moment, Fang Yuan flung a few bullets. The bullets whizzed through the air and left several bloody holes in the two men's bodies.

"If you want to become my subordinates, then immediately step forward with your cutlasses and cut out a part of their bodies!"

Fang Yuan glanced over the pirates. "I mean everyone! From the pirates on the deck to the cooks and galley slaves, everyone must do so! Of course, it appears that just the two of them might not be enough, but it doesn't matter. I allow you to expose each other! Find the trusted aides of the previous captain!"

Shortly after, Fang Yuan smiled coldly as he watched over ten unlucky fellows being carried out.

It was only proper to first suppress the former captain's trusted aides and then promote his own henchmen.

The most crucial point here was that he would then retain a few from these unlucky fellows and even promote them to be a small leader.

The purpose was to intentionally create barriers and conflicts among the pirates.

With these actions and his own strength to suppress them, he had absolutely no fear that this small pirate ship would be able to turn the tables.

## **Chapter 836: Sea Route**

In the middle of the azure ocean, the dorsal fins of numerous sharks could be clearly seen forming a triangle of death. They were densely packed and fighting against each other to tear apart the flesh being thrown from the ship.

At the same time, the few unlucky fellows who had been disclosed as the former captain's trusted aides were cowering in fear as they stood on the gangplank, covered in wounds. In front of them was a sea of sharks, yet behind them were former comrades pointing weapons at them.

There was no doubt that such torture was extremely terrible, but the most frightening aspect was still the psychological pressure.

"Captain, your wine!"

Bill could not wait to deliver a bottle of wine from the ship's treasure collection. Presently, Fang Yuan was leisurely sitting on a cushioned chair with turkey, as well as a fork and knife, placed before him.

"Not bad!"

While cutting the turkey, he was watching the unlucky fellows being forced to jump into the ocean one by one and letting out ear-piercing shrieks.

Regarding this, all the sailors kept quiet out of fear.

From today onward, they would all be extremely afraid of this captain who smiled as he killed.

Fang Yuan was already the captain of Mockingbird.

He was wearing the captain's hat that originally belonged to Fred and dressed in a well-ironed trench coat with an exquisite gold-plated commander knife on his waist.

Looking at its design, it seemed to be some navy officer's beloved item, though he was unsure which pirate had offered it.

As the pirate ship's captain, Fang Yuan not only had control over the ship and the sailors, as well as the privilege of obtaining more of the loot, he could also order the crew to give him offerings.

The rules on this were basically equivalent to how vassals had an obligation to their lords. Every year, they had to contribute a certain amount of free labor and goods, though only to a certain limit.

Of course, given that Fang Yuan was now the new captain and establishing his authority, unless his subordinates lost their mind, they would definitely only be incessantly currying favor with him.

At last, when Fang Yuan leisurely finished the last drumstick, all the unlucky fellows had already been forced into the sea.

The screams had also stopped. Only large amounts of light red blood and scraps of clothing remained floating on the sea, causing those looking on to shudder in fear.

"Captain!" At this moment, another pirate came forward, stuttering over some of his words. "B-B-Butcher looks like he's not going to make it!"

“Bring me there!”

Fang Yuan wiped his mouth gracefully with a napkin and got up.

Frankly speaking, Butcher could also be considered as one of Fred’s trusted aides. However, he had intentionally pardoned Butcher.

The reason was simple. Apart from artificially creating barriers among the original pirate team, he also needed someone who could fight.

Otherwise, what would become of him if he, as the leader, was the first one to dash out whenever they met trouble? Was he the captain or the assault leader?

Butcher’s massive body was lying flat on the deck while vomiting blood.

The only ship’s doctor was flustered at the side, his face full of sweat. Unfortunately, there was nothing more he could do.

After all, Fang Yuan’s attack earlier had practically broken Butcher’s sternum into pieces, which had then stabbed into his internal organs. It was already a miracle that he was still alive.

Seeing how Butcher, who was originally the fiercest person, was now in this state, the pirates gained an even greater understanding of Fang Yuan’s strength.

“After some time, you will all know how fortunate you are to have someone like me as your captain!” Fang Yuan said with a deep voice as he scanned his surroundings.

Currently, the pirates only had a deep fear of him since he had solely brought massacre and death to them, without the slightest benefit.

If this continued, Fang Yuan did not have any doubt that when they rested and reorganized at the next port, more than half of these pirates would secretly run away.

The method to manage subordinates was to employ a balance of reward and punishment.

Previously, he had revealed his tyrannical side; now, he should give some favors.

Fang Yuan stepped forward and saw that Butcher’s face was already deathly pale, as though he was going to be in the grim reaper’s embrace at any moment.

“Bill, bring me a pot of water!” he commanded indifferently. *Such a small amount of extraordinary power is only a drop in the ocean for the main body anyway!*

After taking the waterskin from Bill, a visible orb of white light emerged from Fang Yuan’s hands and entered the waterskin.

“Let him drink half! Pour the other half on his wounds! This is a healing potion I made that can heal heavy injuries!”

After hearing his words, the ship’s doctor’s eyes brightened and was soon in disbelief.

The other pirates also immediately leaned in to take a closer look.

After all, their field of work was tantamount to having their brains stuck to their waistband, where it was common for them to suffer serious injuries.

*Bloop! Bloop!*

After being fed half of the water, the results were instantly seen. Butcher coughed once and opened his eyes.

“God!”

“Impossible...”

Even though they already knew how frightening Fang Yuan was, the pirates around him still softly cried out in surprise, which clearly showed the extent of shock in their minds.

Next, as water flowed into Butcher’s chest, a series of crackling and rattling sounds were heard. Butcher’s chest, which was originally caved in, was actually recovering at a speed visible to the naked eye.

After a couple of minutes, the burly man turned over and crawled up. He stared at Fang Yuan with mixed feelings.

“So? Swear allegiance to me and I’ll grant you life. Refuse me and you can continue being a corpse!”

Fang Yuan haughtily looked at him in the eyes, with no sign of fear.

“I swear allegiance to you! Captain that transcends life and death!”

Butcher moved his lips. Finally, he bent down on one knee and kissed Fang Yuan’s boot.

“Very good!” Fang Yuan drew his saber and tapped Butcher’s shoulders. “Henceforth, you shall be my assault leader!”

He looked at the pirates around him. “I am a generous and benevolent person. Anyone who fights gallantly in battle but sustains injuries can receive the opportunity to be treated by me! Moreover, I can also bestow upon you all sorts of powers!”

The ceremony to become an Ocean Warlock was still in his mind.

Perhaps to the previous Donald, killing a sea monster was risky. But for a pirate team, hunting a small-sized sea monster was not without any possibility.

*Rumble!*

A huge commotion broke out among the pirates.

Seeing this, Fang Yuan’s lips curled up slightly at the corners.

The loyalty of pirates was a joke in itself. As long as he revealed sufficient means, he could totally build his own team with this group of people.

At the moment, this should already be good enough. Next, it would be to ruthlessly rob and obtain a glorious victory to let them know the vast difference between the former captain and him.

*Of course, pirates are just like a group of dogs. You have to feed them flesh but yet can't let them eat too much...*

With some thoughts in mind, Fang Yuan returned to Fred's captain cabin.

The living conditions on the ship were absolutely incomparable to that of on land. However, as the highest-ranking, the former captain still had a cabin to himself.

Of course, everything naturally now belonged to Fang Yuan.

Fred's cabin had an ordinary layout. There was no order in the way he arranged some of the loot he had plundered, giving off the air of a parvenu.

Fang Yuan sat down in a cushioned chair. The first thing he did was to flip open the captain's journal and the ocean map in front of him.

A captain's journal was the most important information medium for a captain. In Fred's journal, he accurately recorded down every major event that had happened on the pirate ship and even explored a few potential sea routes.

Sea routes were all treasures brimming with opportunities and dangers. Those who thought that they were simply straight or curved lines were no different from an idiot.

A true voyage had to take into consideration trade winds, ocean currents, seasons, and even the migration of sea monsters, as well as the effect and changes caused by all kinds of mysterious responses.

If any one of the items above was omitted, a route that was originally safe would immediately turn into a vortex of death.

The few routes that Fred had recorded were merely sea routes within coastal waters, and he did not have complete confidence in them.

Otherwise, he would have stopped being a pirate long ago and become a sea merchant, which would also earn him a fortune.

This was the norm in this world's ocean.

Perhaps due to the migration of some sea monster colonies, a route that had been validated to be safe for decades could be completely turned into a route of death and cause people to lose everything they had.

This was precisely why the Golden Sea Route that led to the East had such importance.

It was so important that numerous countries and legendary pirate teams worked together to safeguard and maintain this endless gold mine.

In the past, the Mockingbird Pirate Team did not even dare to think about the Golden Sea Route and could only roam around coastal waters.

"World ocean map!"

Fang Yuan was deep in thought as he closed the captain's journal and opened the ocean map.

This ocean map was very sketchy. In fact, it only gave others an impression of the big picture. If someone really sailed according to the directions on the map, it would be no different from a death wish. This map was at most only an ornament.

On the map, Ettoman and the bordering continent was in the absolute center.

There were multiple oceans surrounding this continent, and they could be roughly divided into several geographic regions namely—the Nightmare Ocean, the Golden Ocean, the Devil Ocean, and Star Clusters Archipelago.

Starting from Ettoman, followed by the Nightmare Ocean, the Golden Ocean, Pirate King City, the Coral Ocean, Spice Archipelago, and ending with the mysterious Eastern Empire, was the legendary Golden Sea Route.

Apart from this, there were also a few sketchily drawn continents on the edges of the Nightmare Ocean and Star Clusters Archipelago, which were labeled with dwarves, elves, midgets, et cetera.

“This world is an ocean world, and the expanse of the ocean is infinitely vast. Although more and more continents are being discovered, there hasn't been any ships nor explorers able to find the end of the world! Furthermore, a single sea area here is practically bigger than the Eurasian continent in my previous world.”

Fang Yuan stood up and strolled around the captain's cabin.

As the captain possessed the right to pick his loot first, Fred had indeed collected some good stuff for himself.

However, in Fang Yuan's view, there was practically no item that was truly useful.

“This world... is a world where mysterious powers exist after all. On the sea routes where conflicts are the most intense, the frequency of Extraordinaries emerging is much greater than on land. Maybe there are a few treasures in Fred's collection?”

With the mindset of rummaging through trash, Fang Yuan started his search for treasure.

In reality, he was skeptical that Fred would have any good stuff. Otherwise, he would have used them when going against him earlier.

## Chapter 837: Battle Starts

Honestly speaking, Fred's taste in art was really nothing great.

In the captain's cabin, Fang Yuan mostly saw gold and silver artifacts.

It seemed that in the eyes of this captain, only precious metals were real currencies.

Of course, based on the difficulty of disposing of stolen goods, this notion was also understandable.

“As for these oil paintings, statues, and so on, they were most likely moved here because they couldn’t be sold?”

Fang Yuan was disdainful when he discovered Fred’s small vault. Between the mezzanine, there was a small box that contained all kinds of gold coins and gems. A conservative estimate of the total value was roughly five to six hundred gold coins.

“Greed knows no bounds... If it were Donald when he was still a voyager, he would have taken this sum of money and enjoyed a life of retirement long ago...”

Fang Yuan shook his head when he noticed a certain rod-shaped item inside the treasure box. Its surface was golden, and it was even embedded with multiple huge pearls.

“All right... He really knows how to have fun. Don’t know which unlucky noble lady he snatched this trophy from...”

Fang Yuan was somewhat speechless as he closed the box. He made a decision—he was definitely going to immediately spend this sum of money to either raise Mockingbird’s fighting strength or use it to bribe people.

Honestly speaking, Mockingbird was also just a common armed merchant ship, and Fang Yuan had thoughts of replacing this ship a while ago.

Unfortunately, given his current financial resources, it was simply not possible.

However, if a pirate was lucky, it was certainly an industry where one could reap a windfall.

No money? That was too simple. Just ruthlessly rob a few times, and you could have everything.

“My pirate ships certainly won’t be limited to just one ship. A true flagship should at the very least be at the standard of Ettoman’s steam-powered armored warships...”

Fang Yuan used his cutlass and went ransacking around the captain’s cabin. Unexpectedly, he really did find an item that caught his eye:

[Four-leaf Clover Charm]

[Ingredients: Silver, Four-leaf Clover Juice]

[Description: This is a charm that has been exposed to mysterious powers and seems to be able to bring its owner a certain amount of good luck.]

[Status: Sealed]

...

“The Pirate System developed by the main body even has this function. It seems to be pretty good!”

Fang Yuan gazed at the small object in his hand.

It was a silver charm that had a four-leaf clover carved in it. “The workmanship is rough and primitive, seems to be some witch’s product. Moreover, it’s currently sealed...”

Of course, even if Fred had a dozen such charms on him, he still would not have had any chance since Fang Yuan had wanted to kill him.

Just like a ball of flames, how could it set the ocean on fire? It was practically a pipe dream for a charm's power to be able to interfere with such an enormous source.

Nevertheless, it still had some effect on ordinary people.

"However... it's sealed!"

Fang Yuan could slightly sense the powers contained within, and it was not much. If it was directly placed on him, it would whittle away in a few days.

"I wonder how many gold coins a charm with mysterious powers can be sold for... I have to build a true warship for myself as soon as possible. After all, I'm someone who is going to become the Pirate King!"

Fang Yuan thought indifferently, "Wait a moment... It's too troublesome to build a ship myself. I might as well steal one since I'm currently a pirate anyway..."

Thump! Thump!

At this moment, someone was knocking on the door hastily. "Captain..."

"What's the matter, Bill?"

Fang Yuan opened the cabin door and looked at his new appointed second officer.

"The lookout has spotted a ship!"

Bill swallowed his saliva.

"Oh? Bring me there!"

Fang Yuan immediately became energetic upon hearing this.

When it came to sailing on the ocean, it was normal to be unable to find a target for weeks.

Even if they were fortunate enough to meet one, it was also possible that the ship was fully armed.

The majority of real pirate teams did not have any business for half a year, and once they did, it would last them for another half a year.

Fang Yuan had long made up his mind to display his might in the next pillage. This ship truly came at the perfect timing.

"Hmm..."

On the crow's nest, he picked up a spyglass and immediately saw the silhouettes of two sailboats on the horizon.

The ship was huge! Furthermore, there were two of them!

That was his first impression.

Presently, most merchant ships placed the transportation of goods as their primary priority. Thus, they would build their ships as large as possible while considering its speed at the same time. On the other hand, pirate ships were very focused, emphasizing on speed and the capability to quickly transport arms.

However, for the ships that were entering his line of sight, one was bigger than the other. It looked as though it was a merchant ship with its corvette, but something was fishy.

"If it's really a merchant ship and its corvette, something is amiss with this scale. Instead, it's more like..."

Fang Yuan grinned evilly after realizing something.

As the ships came closer, the view also became increasingly clear.

The outsides of the two ships were full of bullet holes, as though they had just experienced a great battle. Moreover, the pirate ship at the front was actually hauling the merchant ship behind it.

"This is a pirate ship that has just finished pillaging and is bringing along its loot!"

At this moment, not only did Fang Yuan confirm it, but the experienced pirates also had, revealing subtle expressions.

Although piracy was at its peak in this world, the top rule for pirates was that there were no rules! Profits above all else!

Even with the suppression by the Pirate King, it could not stop the young ones from pursuing wealth, regardless of whether that wealth came from a merchant ship or from other pirates.

In fact, battle between pirates themselves was the third most common cause of deaths among ordinary pirates, after annihilation by navies and resistance from merchant ships.

The ship across from them had also obviously discovered Mockingbird and hoisted up a skull flag. At the same time, there was also a blood-colored flag that was sending signals.

"Bill, what are they saying?" Fang Yuan naturally was unfamiliar with the flag signals among pirates and called his second officer over. "Also, do you recognize their flag?"

Pirate teams all possessed their own identity, and this was even reflected in the fine details of their flags.

"Yes... they're the Ferocious Tiger Pirate Team! Fred knew their captain..."

Bill gulped and said, "In this sea area, they're undoubtedly the boss. At least... they've already made their name known!"

In comparison, Fred's position among the pirates was just the captain of Mockingbird, and it was at a totally different level compared to the captains of famous pirate teams.

One had their reputation still tied to their ship, while the other's reputation had already taken root in their pirate team!

“Great! Pass the order down—prepare for battle!”

Fang Yuan drew his officer’s sword.

As a pirate, who could see a ship but not rob it?

Furthermore, the pirates they were planning to rob had just finished its pillage. It was evidently an attractive and easy target.

How about I just become a pirate that focus on robbing other pirates in the future! However, the key is still to first establish a name for my pirate team...

Fang Yuan slowly thought about it and then looked at the combat personnel gathering in front of him. “I won’t say anything further—rob that ship and the loot is all yours!”

“But... that’s the Ferocious Tiger Pirate Team!” said a cowardly voice.

Without a second thought, Fang Yuan threw a knife.

Poof!

The small knife stabbed straight through the throat of the pirate that just spoke, right to its handle.

“I call the shots. You only have the right to obey, understood?” Fang Yuan’s voice was cold.

“Understood, Captain!”

The other pirates looked at their comrade’s corpse and quivered in fear.

After all, their captain was an Extraordinary who could rob a ship single-handedly.

“Rest assured, Boss. Leave the boarding battle to me!”

Butcher’s tall figure emerged from among the pirates and smiled goofily.

After saving this subordinate’s life, Fang Yuan had obtained an oath of allegiance from him.

“Very good. Bring out your wolf spirit... I want to lead all of you to conquer the Nightmare Ocean, the Golden Ocean, and the Golden Sea Route. What is a mere Ferocious Tiger Pirate Team in comparison?”

Fang Yuan laughed heartily.

In reality, he was not the least bit optimistic about these pirates.

After all, this pirate team had just undergone a bloody fight and suffered heavy injuries. Also, it was the critical period where they had faced a change in leadership.

It was not a problem to rob an average merchant ship, but to directly engage in battle against another pirate team? He was afraid that once the situation was unfavorable, they would immediately surrender!

Thus, he needed to help them.

“Prepare seawater. I’m going to conduct a blessing ceremony!” Fang Yuan ordered. He had the pirates take out their weapons and soak them inside a huge barrel.

“With my blessings, your weapons will temporarily become sharper!

“Your firearms will find its target much more easily than usual!

“You will always be more energetic than your enemies!

“You will be luckier than your enemies!”

...

Finally, Fang Yuan thought for a while before taking out the four-leaf clover charm. With a swipe of his hand, there was a flash of bright light, and from the charm, a hazy ring of light entered the water barrel.

The enhancements such as sharpening were the abilities of the Dream and Armament Master. As for the enhancements in luck, he borrowed the charm’s power.

Although the effects were definitely going to be much weaker, as he had changed from a single target to multiple targets, it was still better than nothing.

“With Captain leading us, we’ll surely gain victory!”

Butcher revealed a sinister smile as he grabbed his huge cutlass that was glittering coldly and had suddenly risen in sharpness.

But for Bill, who was looking at Fang Yuan from the side, his mind was in a whirlwind.

The captain’s identity as an Extraordinary was publicly known long ago.

But at the start, the abilities that he had revealed were fearsome hand-to-hand fighting skills, just like he was a giant prehistoric beast.

Afterward, he had used a bag of healing water to cure Butcher, acting as though he were a cleric.

Now, he even had the ability to provide blessings and enhance the sharpness of weapons.

This truly somewhat puzzled him about what kind of Extraordinary his boss was.

After all, in the rumors, although these mysterious powerful beings had strange abilities, it was only in a certain aspect. They were absolutely not as well-rounded as what Fang Yuan had displayed.

Could he be... This moment, a thought involuntarily crossed his mind. Could he be a warlock or sorcerer like described in the legends?

## **Chapter 838: Ring**

“Hang our flag!”

Following Fang Yuan’s command, a black pirate flag with a white skull was gradually hoisted on Mockingbird.

There was immediately an uproar on the ship across from them. Shortly after, that ship’s crew was roaring in rage.

After momentary astonishment, the Ferocious Tiger Pirate Team immediately prepared for battle when they saw their former old friend turn hostile.

“Captain?” Bill moved slightly nearer to Fang Yuan. “Why not send a friendly signal so that we can get closer before attacking them by surprise? They don’t know that our ship has just undergone a drastic change!”

“As far as pirates are concerned, the little friendship from before is inferior to even the feathers of a seagull. Not to mention, they just raked in a great fortune... If we had approached, they’d certainly attack!” Fang Yuan shook his head, and his expression instantly became arrogant. “Moreover... with my blessings, if you still aren’t able to easily defeat them and obtain victory, then what do I need you guys for?”

His icy cold words immediately caused Bill to shiver. He knew that everything this captain said was the truth!

*Kaboom!*

At this point, the other pirate ship opened fire.

Multiple cannonballs landed in the sea around Mockingbird, causing huge splashes of seawater.

“Go closer!” Fang Yuan bellowed and raised the officer’s sword in his hand. “Where are our gunners? Counterattack! Counterattack!”

Unfortunately, he had killed too many of the former crew members. Even if they had barely managed to gather sufficient manpower, their cannon fire was sparse, and the accuracy was so low, it made people want to cry.

*Bang!*

Right at this moment, a cannonball accurately hit Mockingbird’s deck, blasting a huge hole surrounded by flesh and blood.

“Get lost!”

Fang Yuan stepped forward, kicked the helmsman away, and steered the ship personally.

He was clear that if the two ships continued bombarding each other with cannons, his Mockingbird would certainly end up shattering into pieces.

Their only hope was to fight a boarding battle with them.

Under his control, Mockingbird was as agile as a fish, navigating through the net of cannon fire and getting progressively closer.

“Everyone... attack!” Fang Yuan shouted.

During this time, numerous cannonballs had violently landed on Mockingbird, causing it to become full of holes.

But at this moment, Mockingbird had already completed its mission.

*Bang!*

Amid the astonished cries from across, the ship's ram firmly slammed into the center of the opposing ship, almost causing it to break into two.

"Hehe!"

Butcher laughed wildly and jumped from the ship's bow onto the other pirate ship. With a sweep of his huge cutlass, the few pirates that came to encircle him were overwhelmed with shock and severed at the waist.

"Ahh..."

"Help!"

Miserable shrieks were heard one after another.

This situation was similar to the extremely inhumane waist chop from ancient times. Some of the pirates were still able to survive for a short while even after their bodies had been severed in half. They were crawling on the floor, trying hard to join their bodies back together.

Even for pirates who had killed countless times, their limbs turned icy cold and their skin crawled after seeing such a cruel scene.

"Kill!"

Whereas for the pirates on Mockingbird, it boosted their morale after seeing this. They followed behind Butcher and went on a killing spree.

*Clang! Clang!*

After a few loud clashes, the pirates of the Ferocious Tiger Pirate Team were stunned to see that the weapons in their hands were broken. Afterward, they were easily killed during this momentarily astonishment.

"Haha... This is the kind of battle that I wanted!"

Butcher sliced one of the pirate leaders into two and laughed heartily.

Although their numbers were less than the other party, they were dominating in all aspects of strength due to the captain's blessings.

By now, the battle had already begun to become one-sided.

"Roar! Roar!"

Suddenly, a tiger's roar was heard.

A dark shadow lunged out like a ferocious tiger and grabbed a pirate. Tearing with its hands, the pirate was ripped in half and overflowing with fresh blood.

"Fred must have gone mad to dare attack me. However, looking at you guys... could he have obtained some secret treasure, or perhaps something drastic happened on Mockingbird?"

The black shadow stopped, and the figure of a pirate ship captain appeared.

He was a burly man with bronze skin, clad in a black-spotted animal skin robe. He had tied his hair into over a dozen braids that were all different in appearance.

“Ferocious Tiger Pirate Team Captain—Tiger?!”

However, when Butcher saw him, his expression was fearful and grave.

“It seems that... something really happened on Mockingbird... But it doesn’t matter. Since you’ve chosen to declare war on me, then be prepared to pay the price!”

Tiger assumed a position resembling a ferocious tiger pouncing on its prey.

The weapons he used were very bizarre. They were ten sharp metal finger cots that made his hands seem as though they had transformed into the sharp claws of a ferocious beast.

Ferocious Tiger—Tiger!

He was the strongest man on the Ferocious Tiger Pirate Team, and he had even ripped apart a navy battalion. It was also rumored that he was a mysterious Extraordinary.

“I have long wanted to fight against you!” Butcher had a zealous look on his face. “Apart from Captain, no one can be stronger than me!”

*Poof!*

He swung his huge cutlass, and it was as if a tornado had formed on the ground.

*Sizzle!*

A black shadow flashed by in midair and discharged a flurry of sparks.

Two silhouettes fought at lightning speed, and then they stood firmly in place.

“Your skills aren’t bad, but unfortunately you’re too slow!”

Tiger licked the traces of blood on his metal claws.

“Damn it!”

Butcher looked at the wounds on his own body, and his face turned gloomy.

Such a small injury was certainly not capable of causing him to lose his fighting strength, but the difference between them was obvious. If he continued fighting, it would definitely not end well for him.

“Move aside...”

At this moment, a cold voice was heard.

Butcher’s body tensed up, and he subconsciously stepped aside.

“You’re... the new pirate ship captain? It seems that Fred, that useless piece of trash, has already been fed to the sharks...”

Tiger's expression was unprecedentedly grave while gazing at Fang Yuan.

His beast-like instincts told him that the reason why these pirates had undergone such a drastic transformation was entirely due to this man in front of him.

Dangerous! Very dangerous!

A shiver immediately spread across his entire body.

"Captain of the Ferocious Tiger Pirate Team, right? I'll give you a chance. Fall on your knees and pledge allegiance to me! I will then spare you..." Fang Yuan said in a deep voice.

"Spare me... kid!"

Tiger's expression became sinister in an instant. He exposed his fangs and suddenly pounced, as though he had really transformed into a huge tiger.

"Rise!"

Fang Yuan bent his fingers.

*Splash!*

Pieces of the deck's wooden planks floated into the air, blocking the black shadow's path.

"Roar! Roar!"

Tiger repeatedly brandished his sharp claws, ripping apart the wooden planks and dashing toward Fang Yuan.

*Poof!*

Soon after, he plunged right into a gigantic ball of water.

A three-meter-wide ball of water was floating in front of Fang Yuan. Inside it, the captain was constantly struggling, seeming like he was drowning.

Witnessing this, the Ferocious Tiger Pirate Team instantly lost their will to fight. Some of them even directly raised both hands in surrender.

"Sorcerer!"

"Boss is definitely a sorcerer!"

Seeing this, the pirates of Mockingbird, especially Bill, had once again reaffirmed the guess in their hearts.

"Useless chap. I thought... you could've brought me more delight!"

It could be seen from Fang Yuan's expression that he had lost interest. He snapped his fingers.

The ball of water slowly floated up. Trapped within, Tiger was like a small bug inside a piece of amber.

"Fire!" Fang Yuan once again said another word. In an instant, there was a ball of flames burning inside the water, and Tiger was turned into ashes.

*Splash!*

The ball of water exploded, raining down as droplets.

“Surrender if you don’t want to become like him!”

Fang Yuan swept his eyes over everyone.

The Ferocious Tiger Pirate Team was already in a lost cause, and its pirates immediately chose to surrender.

Numerous pirates threw down their weapons and raised their hands.

“Bill, all the captives are now under your watch. Butcher, head over to take control of the merchant ship!” Fang Yuan swiftly issued his commands.

At the same time, a wrought iron ring landed in his hand.

This was the only thing the former Ferocious Tiger Pirate Team captain had left behind after the ball of water was burned.

The reason it had caught Fang Yuan’s eye was naturally due to the mysterious powers encircling it.

[Ferocious Tiger Ring]

[Ingredients: Wrought Iron, Beast Blood, Ferocious Beast Spirit]

[Description: This ring utilizes the power of black magic to seal the spirit of a ferocious tiger. The ferocious tiger spirit can be summoned for spiritual possession once per day to obtain enhancements in speed and strength.]

[Status: In good condition.]

...

“This little item is pretty good. In all likelihood, it was thanks to this that Tiger was rumored to be an Extraordinary...”

Fang Yuan played around with the ring in his hand.

In terms of enhancements, this extraordinary object could simply not be compared with the powers that he had borrowed from the main body. It would be a total waste if this object was kept on him.

However, if he gave it to a subordinate, he could immediately produce another Tiger.

Almost without any consideration, he already had a suitable candidate in mind.

Sporadic shouts of killing could be heard. It was not long before Butcher sent news of settling the merchant ship.

After all, the main forces of the Ferocious Tiger Pirate Team were here, and they were either annihilated or held captive. The remaining members on the merchant ship were only there to maintain the ship’s basic operations and watch over the captives. Thus, they simply did not have the ability to resist.

“Captain?”

With the evening sun gradually disappearing below the horizon, Fang Yuan was drinking rum while listening to the reports from his two subordinates.

“... We’ve taken thirty-seven pirates as captives. At the same time, the Ferocious Tiger ship has become our spoils of war, and just Tiger himself had contributed over a thousand gold coins!” Bill said respectfully.

“This merchant ship is from the Rose Business Council. The goods it was carrying were spices and silk, which are both very popular on the market. Their estimated value is around two to three thousand gold coins. Of course, this is the price given at a pirate port. Those black-hearted merchants always like to drive prices down.” Butcher mumbled resentfully, but soon after, he exposed a smile that all men could intuitively understand. “Also... Captain, I found some interesting captives on the merchant ship. There’s a beautiful noble lady on it!”

For pirates, it was only right that the captain was the first to take their share and pick all the best stuff.

### **Chapter 839: Female Captive**

Elizabeth swore she would never trust the fairy tales told by wandering poets again.

In the countryside, the songs passed on had described the adventures at sea as a game that was filled with excitement and mystery while having high returns.

Even pirates were given the heroic image of robbing the rich to feed the poor. They were gentlemanly, pursued freedom, and pitted their wits and courage against all kinds of evils.

Furthermore, there were published novels that specialized in this field, even being best sellers at one point.

In the fantasies of the numerous inland girls who had been duped, a real pirate was similar to a knight of the sea. The most distinct image of them was that they had handsome features and well-built bodies while also being young and rich.

... But now, Miss Elizabeth only wanted to pull that wandering poet’s tongue out and then squeeze it into his \*\*\* ... Hmm, a real lady should not be using such words, or even thinking about them. However, may the heavens take pity on her. Elizabeth was truly tragically duped.

Her family operated the Rose Chamber of Commerce and had always been living in one of Ettoman’s colonies.

As her father had helped her find a partner, she was about to return to Ettoman’s mainland to get married.

It was said that the other party was a respectable gentleman who owned huge amounts of land. Just his income from the land was already over a thousand gold coins every year!

Regarding her partner, Miss Elizabeth was very pleased.

Furthermore, she could experience a voyage across the ocean before getting married, which was also quite good, even if it was not brimming with fantasy like described in the legends.

However, after the initial feeling of novelty had passed, Elizabeth finally discovered the sufferings of going on a voyage.

Every fraction of space had to be reasonably utilized. Even though her lodging conditions were already the best on the entire ship, it still made her feel claustrophobic.

Needless to say, poor Elizabeth suffered from insomnia practically every night ever since she boarded the ship, as it would rock violently when met with stormy seas.

Oh, and freshwater!

Without mentioning how monotonous the food was, they were so stingy with fresh water that it caused Elizabeth to almost break down.

In such an environment, regardless of whether they were sailors of merchant ships, pirates, or even the navy, they all did not bathe. Thus, the smell on their bodies was naturally not very pleasant.

The longer they traveled, the closer she was to breaking down.

However, the jokes that destiny was playing on her had only just begun!

Just when they were approaching Ottoman's coastal waters and Elizabeth thought that she could finally free herself from this hellish life, she was shockingly informed that they had run into pirates!

Unlike the image of knights of the sea that she had expected, the pirates of the Ferocious Tiger Pirate Team were practically the combination of scoundrels and scum, giving Elizabeth an enormous shock.

After she saw the granny who followed her being dragged into a room, Elizabeth finally revealed her identity to the pirates that resembled a pack of wolves.

The consolation amid all her misfortunes was that after Tiger knew about the identity of her fiancée, he happily kept her captive and told his subordinates not to violate her in the slightest.

It was not because he was some gentleman. It was merely because he felt that people would only be willing to pay a higher ransom if the merchandise was 'in good condition'.

For this reason, he even specially let her original granny and servants continue to serve her.

In reality, Elizabeth was practically resigned to her fate.

However, what she had never anticipated was that after falling from one hell to another, there was still a third hell waiting for her!

Amid gunfire and battle cries, she had thought for a time that it was the heroic navy coming to save her. However, when Butcher's ugly face broke into the ship's cabin with a huge cutlass stained in blood, Elizabeth knew that she had been thinking too much.

She had encountered a battle between pirates. Furthermore, her upcoming fate would depend on whether the victorious pirates would still have the patience to deal with her like the previous pirates.

“The pirates that defeated the Ferocious Tiger Pirate Team...”

When Elizabeth was brought to the deck of Ferocious Tiger, she saw Fang Yuan.

Overall, this pirate captain actually corresponded the most to the rosy dreams of girls.

Not only did he have a handsome face with fitting clothing, but he was also valiant and wild, unlike the usual gentleman. It could be said that if there was such a pirate in the mainland holding a rose in his mouth and knocking on the window of any lady, he would basically not receive any rejections.

Elizabeth composed herself. Just when she thought she might have gotten lucky, she saw Fang Yuan casually brandishing his officer’s sword.

*Poof!*

In a flash of the blade’s brilliance, the row of pirates kneeling in front of him had their heads chopped off. Blood was instantly gushing out.

“Still unwilling to work for me after becoming captives, aren’t you forcing me to kill you?”

Fang Yuan wiped his officer’s sword using one of the corpses’ clothes and looked at the remaining captives. “What about you guys?”

“We’re willing to obey you, great captain!”

The other pirates were practically pissing their pants. They were shouting loudly, afraid that they would be following the footsteps of their comrades if they were slightly slower.

*Splash!*

Elizabeth could hear a clear and crisp sound coming from her body. As a young lady who fantasizes, her heart was thoroughly shattered.

*Damn it... creatures like pirates should be completely annihilated!*

Elizabeth was shouting hysterically in her mind, but she recalled the teachings of her home tutor at that moment. She held her head high and stood straight, subconsciously having the manner of a lady.

“Hmm... Butcher, you did pretty good!”

No matter what, Butcher could not be counted as bearing malice.

Fang Yuan sized up this noble female captive. The first thing he saw was her milky skin and her dazzling, golden, and wavy hair.

This female captive truly had pretty good looks. In addition, her haughty expression made it easy for others to have the desire to conquer her.

For instance, Bill, who was beside him, was already enthralled.

But no matter how beautiful she was, it was merely fleeting beauty to Fang Yuan.

At this moment, he threw a bag of water to the ship’s doctor.

After gulping down the healing water, the pirates who had suffered heavy injuries all stood up one after another with zealotry in their eyes.

Having such a captain would almost be like having countless lives during future boarding battles.

Knowing that their lives were safeguarded, they would be able to display 120% of their strength during hand-to-hand combat.

*Smack!*

Fang Yuan clapped his hands, and two pirates carrying a wooden chest came forward.

He went forward and kicked open the chest. Golden rays poured out along with various other colors, blinding their eyes.

Undeniably, regardless of which world, which era, it was always benefits that could touch the hearts of people.

Even the establishment of the Golden Sea Route was only for the purpose of obtaining numerous benefits.

A chest of gold coins mixed with other gems was spilled onto the ground, immediately making the breathing of all the pirates intensify, and even Elizabeth was forgotten by them.

However, for this missy, she was gritting her teeth in anger.

This was because a large portion of the Ferocious Tiger's fortunes inside the chest was from the Rose Chamber of Commerce's merchant ship, and some were even her dowry!

"I am a fair captain. I absolutely won't deprive you of the wealth that belongs to you!"

Fang Yuan stepped onto the gold coins with his boots. He grabbed a handful of gems in varying colors and threw them onto the ground. "First, everyone that participated in the attack will receive a basic reward. Those who killed someone in the boarding battle will be rewarded with three gold coins... Those who used ranged weapons such as bows, firearms, and cannons will have half the rewards. Any opinions?"

"Nope!"

"Whatever you say, boss!"

The Mockingbird pirates were already perfectly satisfied with being able to accomplish this impressive feat. On top of that, they would still receive gold coins. This immediately boosted their morale, and they burst into cheers.

"Hmm, I would like to particularly commend someone here! Butcher!"

Fang Yuan motioned with his hand to suppress the clamor and had Butcher step forward. "Your performance was the most outstanding in the battle. I intend to honor my promise and bestow you with stronger powers!"

While he was speaking, he threw the Ferocious Tiger Ring to him.

“This is a ring imbued with black magic, containing the speed and strength of a ferocious tiger inside... By tomorrow, you’ll be able to use it... The incantation to activate it is...”

After the brief introduction about the ring, Butcher’s eyes immediately brightened. “Thanks, Captain!”

Looking at his excitement, it seemed like this ring was the only thing in his eyes. Even if there were another ten Elizabeths, it would still be incomparable.

“Ferocious Tiger Ring! Extraordinary powers!”

When the pirates witnessed this scene, all of their eyes were red with envy.

Especially Bill. With a pensive expression, he looked at Butcher and also at Elizabeth.

“Hmm, there’s still this...” In the end, he finally turned his attention to Elizabeth. “What’s your name?”

“Elizabeth!” This young noble lady took a deep breath and said, “I am Viscount Quaid’s daughter, and I am headed to Ettoman to marry Viscount Charlie. My future husband is a respectable noble gentleman, and he has an income of a thousand gold coins from his lands every year...”

When she finished speaking, her back was even straighter. It was only because the previous pirate captain had believed her words that he kept her captive. Presently, this pirate captain appeared to be more civilized, so he should be even more understanding.

“Oh... a noble’s fiancée!” Fang Yuan nodded. “Just sell her off at the next port. Who has the time to slowly bargain with a noble on land... Kidnapping and blackmailing...”

That amount of time would be sufficient for several pillages.

“You can’t do this!” Elizabeth was about to break down. Unfortunately, Fang Yuan only waved his hand. Two pirates stepped forward, harboring evil intentions as they pulled the hemline of her skirt.

“No... I am the daughter of a noble. My father and husband will absolutely be willing to pay the ransom...”

Elizabeth screamed, feeling her change in fate.

*Whoosh!*

Her skirt was ripped apart, revealing large areas of skin.

The smiles of the surrounding pirates immediately harbored even more evil intentions.

Elizabeth sank into deep despair.

A valuable hostage could make the captain restrict his crew, but merchandise about to be sold? Most likely, no one would mind if some things happened.

*Smack!*

But right at this moment, Fang Yuan swung with the back of his sword, sending one of the pirates flying. “I’m setting up a new rule. From now on, no one is allowed to humiliate female captives on my ship!”

**Chapter 840: Level**

The top rule among pirates was that there were no rules.

Other than that, there were some conventions on a ship.

Strictly speaking, there was no generally accepted codex among pirates. In fact, even the Pirate King would not be able to command all pirates.

But a pirate captain had absolute authority on his own ship.

Fang Yuan declared that he would set a new rule, and the pirates had to listen to him despite their pride.

*Someday, pirates all over the four oceans will know and follow the codex I've set. I'm the one who will bring about rules... Hmm, that's a method to amplify my influence and hence probe into the world, but even the position of Pirate King seems insufficient for this purpose.*

"Mister pirate captain... may I know your name?!"

Elizabeth covered her body with a white veil, staring at Fang Yuan with both hatred and gratitude.

*Hmm... the name of my pirate team and my alias...*

Fang Yuan was stunned for a moment as he thought of something that had slipped his mind.

How could a pirate team that was going to conquer the four oceans have a mediocre name?

Even he was a nobody on the seas near Ettoman now.

"I..." With that thought, Fang Yuan laughed out loud. "I am the pirate Roche! Someday, I will lead my Purgatory Pirate Team to conquer all the oceans!"

"Pirate Roche!"

Elizabeth gazed at Fang Yuan deeply, as though she wanted to thoroughly remember this arrogant pirate. But the next moment, two pirates cursed at her and pushed her into a cabin.

"Purgatory Pirate Team?" Bill repeated.

"Yeah, this is my pirate team. As for the flag..."

Fang Yuan picked up a brush and casually added some flames to the edges and corners of the black skeleton flag, just like the flames of negative karma.

"The Fiery Lotus Pirate Flag represents the flames that burn up the world, and it'll be my symbol in the future! The day will come when all the pirates on all the oceans surrender to the Fiery Lotus Pirate Flag, and even ocean empires will have to pay tribute to it!" Fang Yuan said eloquently.

His domineering aura seemed to astound the pirates around him, who were unable to utter a single word.

"All right... I've declared my ambition. Now let's talk about something more pragmatic. The total gain this time, including goods and other spoils of the war, is worth about five thousand gold coins. Two

thousand gold coins and diamonds will be distributed as the reward. For the other goods worth three thousand gold coins, we must find a port to sell them at... And there are these three ships.

“Carpenter!” Fang Yuan summoned a ship worker. “Repair these three ships as soon as possible. Assign two groups of people, one each to Ferocious Tiger and Merchant Ship Rose, and try to make the ships sail... But if you can’t fix them, move the goods and sink the ships!”

Earlier, he had steered Mockingbird to crash into Ferocious Tiger, severely damaging both ships.

The bow and the ram of Mockingbird were destroyed, while Ferocious Tiger was almost broken in two.

The poor ship worker trembled in fear when he reported that Ferocious Tiger was beyond repair, but that Merchant Ship Rose was in the best state among the three ships due to its lack of armaments and therefore the less violent battle.

“Sink Ferocious Tiger and try your best to repair Mockingbird. Then sail toward the nearest pirate port!” Fang Yuan ordered immediately. “Oh yes, and carefully preserve Tiger’s corpse. It’s worth quite a lot of money!”

Since Tiger was a well-known pirate team leader, a number of bounties were offered for his capture.

Honestly, Ettoman was relatively miserly in this aspect, offering only 500 gold coins as the bounty. But together with the offers from the victims, the bounties added up to around 1000 gold coins!

Tiger’s life was really not worth this much. If Tiger had not disguised himself as an Extraordinary using the Ferocious Tiger Ring, even his subordinates might have tried to kill him for the money.

“However, this is nothing compared to those great pirates on the Golden Sea Route, who are wanted with bounties worth more than ten thousand gold coins...”

Truly great pirates were pirate governors active in their respective regions. They even had their own fleets and ran some businesses. Ships passing by the region, and even some small countries, had to pay tribute to them.

Moreover, they had their own territories, which were typically one to a few large islands with many inhabitants. These pirates were like nobles with many privileges in their territories.

A pirate governor at this level was very similar to a king.

Even the Pirate King might not be able to conquer all of these pirate governors. The relationship between them was similar to a king and powerful nobles.

“Still... Mockingbird is way too small, and its armaments are insufficient. So is Ferocious Tiger. I have to get myself a new warship!”

Fang Yuan learned about the ships in this world from the ship worker, together with the detailed explanations from Bill and the others.

Other than common fishing boats, the ships currently active on the ocean could be classified into four tiers.

The first type was civilian merchant ships, most of which had large volume and capacity but weak firepower. These plump guys were the favorite targets of pirates.

The second was armed merchant ships, which were fast and equipped with strong firepower. Trader teams often purchased them as escort vessels. Of course, they were top targets for some pirates as well. Ferocious Tiger and Mockingbird were in this category.

The third was naval warships, specially built for battles at sea and the unbeatable rival of small and medium pirate teams. They were generally classified into six levels, and those in the top three levels could be considered battleships. The most frightening first-level battleship had three decks, more than two hundred cannons, displaced three thousand tons of water, and possessed a crew of more than a thousand. It was undeniably a fortress on the sea.

Finally, the fourth type was special ships such as steam ironclads, which had only occurred recently, and legendary pirate ships, which had always been active on the ocean.

“A steam ironclad is much too expensive for pirates. No, it’s not about financial capability. Without a complete chain of production, it’s impossible... Perhaps those pirate governors can invest in this aspect, but it’s a daydream for the Purgatory Pirate Team now!”

“To me, a third-level naval battleship should be good enough. This type of ship has two decks, over a hundred cannons, and a crew of five hundred, and it’s the main force in the navy... I’ll plunder one, and it’ll be sufficient for now!”

In fact, famous pirate teams mostly possessed second-level or third-level battleships.

And the great pirates who dominated the four oceans had fleets consisting of first-level battleships!

“With more affluence and power in the future, while I may not get a steam ironclad, I can still build or plunder my own legendary pirate ship!”

Fang Yuan rubbed his chin.

Legendary pirate ships!

These were outliers among pirate ships. Instead of being superior in terms of capacity or firepower, each of them had an extremely special ability.

In the previous era, they used to rule the ocean! Their names, known by every pirate, were extremely frightening to the navies.

From Fang Yuan’s perspective, this sort of legendary pirate ship was actually an ultra-large magical item that needed Extraordinaries to control and maintain them.

“Tell me about... the legendary pirate ships you know of!”

Fang Yuan seemed highly interested and let Bill explain.

“Yes, Captain!” Bill cleared his throat. “As far as I know, Sea God and Specter Ship are two of the legendary pirate ships... It’s said that Sea God had been blessed by the Sea God and can readily cause tsunamis, summon cyclones, and awaken whirlpools! It’s controlled by the pirate governor of the Coral

Ocean, Kingsley—the king of the mermaids and Mermaid Kingdom, the team leader of the Mermaid Pirate Team, and the one who controls all the resources in the Coral Ocean.”

Pirate was only a job, not restricted to any species.

The Coral Ocean was home to the mermaids, and a mermaid kingdom was located there.

Kingsley was the indisputable king there.

Legend had it that mermaids were the darlings of the sea. Such a legendary warship, together with the Mermaid Pirate Team’s power, was invincible on the Coral Ocean.

“And Specter Ship is said to be a cursed ship. Its crew is all dead spirits, wraiths, blood knights, and other legendary immortal creatures. It wanders the sea, slaying any ship it encounters, be it a merchant ship or a pirate ship... It’s the nightmare of all sailors!”

Bill’s teeth were chattering as he mentioned this.

After all, Specter Ship never sailed along any fixed route. It was even possible to encounter it near Ettoman.

“Besides those... there’s the famous ‘King’s Throne’, the previous Pirate King’s flagship!” At this moment, the ship worker also spoke. “It’s said that King’s Throne has the ability to bind various giant sea monsters using contracts. After the death of the previous Pirate King, it’s been guarding Pirate King City.”

Pirate King City was a holy ground in every pirate’s mind, and it was the largest transit hub on the Golden Sea Route.

A few generations of pirates had invested in its construction, and it took hundreds of years for the city to develop to the scale it had today. It was the largest free trade market in the world and, of course, a thorn in the side of every country’s navy.

It managed to survive until today not only because of the disunity among the navies of the various countries, but because of King’s Throne as well.

“These three are the most famous legendary pirate ships. Of course, there are many more pirate ships with magical powers, and the owners are all great pirates known all over the ocean!”

The ship worker looked fascinated when he got to this part.

“Hmm, your name?” Fang Yuan nodded, looking at this ordinary carpenter.

“Vidich, Your Excellency!” The ship worker bowed humbly.

“I guarantee that as long as you can follow my pace, you will definitely have an opportunity to serve on a legendary ship in the future... Haha...”

Fang Yuan laughed out loud, his eyes glistening like flames.