

Carefree 851

Chapter 851

: Naval Battle

“Do you have a grudge against that slave trader?”

Fang Yuan took a glance at the Dark Elf before him.

Truth be told, despite the concealment, some marks on her body could not be eliminated. For example... the marks left behind by whips and searing iron.

“It seems like... you have a past that’s hard to talk about. May I know your name?” Fang Yuan inquired calmly.

“Dark Night Walker—Rolisa!” the Moon Elf lady said her name with a chanting tone.

“Very well. As long as you work for me, I promise you... you’ll have the chance to avenge yourself on Heathfrey!” Fang Yuan promised, glancing at the three high-level crew members and the other normal sailors with an inexplicable expression.

...

“Boss, it’s begun!”

In the moonlit night, Fang Yuan received Bill’s message.

“Formosa set sail secretly at night... After obtaining this information, Heathfrey and the Octopus Marauder Team both took action...”

Fang Yuan gulped a bottle of rum and said aloud. “Very good. Pass down my order! We’ll also set sail!”

Covered by the darkness of the night, Fiery Lotus left the dock silently like a ghost.

Chirp chirp!

An osprey spiraling in the sky suddenly landed on a pirate’s arm.

“Boss... My darling told me that there’s a naval battle ten nautical miles to the east!” the pirate immediately reported to Fang Yuan.

He was one of the special talents that Fang Yuan had recruited. Although his fighting and voyage skills were mediocre, he kept an exotic osprey. With the unusual ability to communicate with it, he could be a rare scout at sea.

“Great. Advance at full speed to the east!”

Of course, Fang Yuan would not believe everything he heard, but his extraordinary sense also told him that something was happening to the east. Therefore, he gave the order immediately.

Rumble!

As they continuously approached the battlefield, some flames suddenly appeared in front of them.

It was the burning wreckage of a few merchant ships on the sea.

“Defense!”

Some pirates on Fiery Lotus looked excited, others solemn, as they slowly entered a battlefield at sea.

Rumble!

Guns roared and people shouted.

With the illumination from the flames and the moon, Fang Yuan could see that there were generally three parties involved in the naval battle right now.

The large group of merchant ships in Cecil style had to be Formosa’s ships.

On the other side, five or six armed merchant ships loaded with artillery charged at Formosa’s merchant ships ferociously.

Furthermore, at a corner of the battlefield, three pirate ships gradually emerged, and there seemed to be a monster hiding beneath the surface of the sea.

“The Octopus Marauder Team?!”

“Kill them all!”

“Prepare the boarding planks!”

At this point in time, the slave trader’s armed merchant ships and the Octopus Marauder Team reached a tacit agreement to deal with Formosa’s fleet together.

A few ships even approached them directly. Many pirates grinned hideously and climbed onto the enemy’s decks.

But their shocked roars were heard in the next moment.

Rumble!

Rumble!

Rumble!

A few giant sparks could be seen forming on the sea.

” *Tsk tsk ...* Formosa is indeed a great merchant. To have such decisiveness and boldness... he’s really surprising!”

Seeing this scene, Fang Yuan could not help praising him.

Evidently, Formosa had filled a few merchant ships with gunpowder and turned them into traps.

Even his own sailors were unaware of that. At least four hundred lives, including enemies and his own people, were lost in the explosion. It was extremely ruthless.

Taking this opportunity, all of the remaining Cecil boats accelerated in an attempt to escape from the battlefield.

“Chase them!”

The sea breeze sent Heathfrey’s voice to Fang Yuan, making him pleased. “How stupid you are! You actually took the initiative to approach me!”

But at this moment, there was a turn of events.

The flagship of the Octopus Marauder Team, Giant Octopus, turned around and charged at Fiery Lotus.

“Arcane Trickster Roche, you shouldn’t have come here...” Orlando said in a loud and clear voice, apparently thinking that Fang Yuan was here to take advantage of the situation. “If you surrender to me and become my subordinate, handing in thirty percent of all your spoils in the future, I shall acknowledge your right to join the plunder!”

Obviously, Orlando thought Fang Yuan was a weakling he could pick on.

But Fang Yuan found Orlando’s words ironically funny. “This Orlando...”

Fang Yuan felt speechless about the fact that Orlando chose to deal with him rather than the merchant ships and Heathfrey.

Evidently, Orlando wanted to take over this newly emergent Purgatory Pirate Team, and perhaps Fiery Lotus.

“It’s a pity... Orlando, you made the wrong choice by wanting to deal with me!”

Fang Yuan snapped his fingers.

Splash!

Three water spheres emerged from the huge splash on the sea and were flung at Orlando.

“You’re also a sorcerer?!”

Orlando’s pupils contracted as he summoned a few light shields.

Splash!

The water spheres smashed onto the large shields and exploded into raindrops all over the sky.

Orlando’s expression was solemn. He whistled.

Bloop! Bloop!

Below Fiery Lotus, an enormous quantity of bubbles emerged as a giant silhouette appeared on the rough sea.

“Be careful! It’s that giant octopus!”

On Fiery Lotus, Wilson shouted loudly and prepared tools like harpoons and guns.

Splash!

The water surface was suddenly torn apart. A few giant tentacles extended out like the Ocean Demon King's palm and tried to pull Fiery Lotus to the bottom of the sea.

"A mere large sea monster!"

Fang Yuan's hand turned azure, emitting chillingly cold air.

An ice spear suddenly emerged in his hand, and he hurled it out like a bolt of lightning.

Poof!

The ice spear penetrated the giant octopus. It curled up in agony and sank into the stormy sea.

"Sorcerer Orlando? Today, I'll let you know that... you're as ridiculous as a clown in front of me, the Arcane Trickster..."

Fang Yuan leaped down and walked on the surface of the sea.

The water under his feet immediately froze, making him appear as if he was walking on level ground.

"Prepare for a boarding battle! Against... one person!"

Orlando gave the order with immense difficulty. He had the ominous feeling that he might have gotten the Octopus Marauder Team into trouble by offending an extremely powerful enemy.

The very silence of the Pirate System was the best proof of that!

The sound of steps was heard!

While he was sunk in thought, Fang Yuan had arrived onto the deck and drew out his cutlass.

"Kill!"

Fang Yuan's ability to manipulate water astonished the pirates of the Octopus Marauder Team, but they still shouted and charged at him to get him into close combat.

After all, an Extraordinary adept at sorcery had to be less capable at close combat.

"Hehe..."

Fang Yuan moved agilely, evading two enemies and slashing gently with his cutlass. Blood immediately spewed out in the air.

"Cutlass—Slanted Slash!"

His figure transformed into an illusion. The cutlass in his hand seemed to possess its own life, taking away a pirate's life every time it was wielded.

"This is... extraordinary cutlass techniques!"

Orlando's pupils contracted as he gripped his cutlass more tightly.

His cutlass techniques were at master level, so he knew the power of extraordinary cutlass techniques even better. It was a whole new level compared to other cutlass wielders.

"Arcane Trickster... How can there be such a person in the world? He seems to disregard all the principles, mastering such powerful sorcery and such surprising martial arts at the same time."

He did not know that Fang Yuan felt completely composed at this moment.

After all, Orlando's stats and weaknesses were all exposed to Fang Yuan.

He felt really bored dealing with this sorcerer.

With that thought, Fang Yuan grabbed another cutlass from a pirate. Holding double cutlasses in his hands, he moved into the crowd of pirates like a whirlwind sweeping by.

On Fiery Lotus.

The pirates of the Purgatory Pirate Team were stunned by this scene.

"Is this a delusion? Did Boss suppress an entire pirate team on his own? His opponent is Sorcerer Orlando!" Bill murmured.

"Moreover, there's that giant octopus!" Butcher added coldly.

"In that case, could our boss be the top pirate in the Nightmare Ocean?" Bill sounded astonished.

...

Clang!

The two cutlasses clashed. Orlando's cutlass was thrown high up into the air before falling into the sea.

"F—"

He wanted to cast a spell, but he suddenly saw a silvery glow. The back of a cutlass smashed onto his face, interrupting his words and beating him onto the deck.

"Too weak! Too weak!"

Fang Yuan stood amid many pirates' corpses, his right foot treading on Orlando's face. "How could a mere pirate think of controlling me?"

"Ah... You dare!"

Orlando's bloodshot eyes looked extremely frightening.

He was one who harbored grudges. After the Octopus Marauder Team was expelled, he had become a sorcerer and immediately strengthened his power and took revenge.

But now, he encountered a disaster even more terrifying than the one caused by the Fierce Shark Pirate Team!

"What? You're unresigned and want to take revenge on me?"

Fang Yuan thought for a while, and then a glow suddenly flashed on the cutlass in his right hand.

“Ah!”

Orlando screamed in agony, feeling a burning pain on his right cheek.

From Fang Yuan’s perspective, a cross was scratched into the youth’s right face. He would definitely bear a scar in the future, so his appearance had been ruined.

“I’ll give you a chance. Don’t disappoint me!”

Amid his loud laughter, Fang Yuan ignited the arsenal on Giant Octopus.

Giant Octopus blew up into pieces in the deafening explosion.

Other than Fang Yuan and the thrown out Orlando, no one else survived.

“Ahhh! Arcane Trickster Roche... I will get my revenge on you! I swear!”

Orlando’s eyes were bloodshot.

“Ding!”

At this point in time, a notice suddenly showed up in the silent Pirate System. “Large quest chain triggered: Revenge!

“Quest explanation: After the fiasco, you have to stand up again and challenge Arcane Trickster Roche... In order to defeat him, you need stronger capabilities. Go and take a look at the royal port of Ettoman! Complete the first step of this quest chain by joining Ettoman and becoming a privateer captain. You will receive the reward of this phase!”

Chapter 852: Undercover Agent

“Boss!”

What happened on Great Octopus appalled the Octopus Marauder Team’s two remaining ships. They no longer cared about looting and quickly left the battlefield after rescuing Orlando.

Fang Yuan returned to Fiery Lotus and waved his hand.

“Full speed ahead. The target... Heathfrey’s flagship!”

Bullying Orlando was just like an adult bullying a child. There was absolutely no sense of accomplishment.

In contrast, after his display of single-handedly wiping out a ship of pirates, especially one with Sorcerer Orlando and the gigantic octopus, the three hundred newly recruited pirates were left with only reverence in their eyes.

Following Fang Yuan bellow, Fiery Lotus immediately started to move at lightning speed.

“Open fire! Open fire!”

The opposing slave trader’s flagship was also a five-masted ship. Its numerous cannons were currently roaring and releasing deafening howls.

“Counterattack!”

When it came to cannon fire, Fiery Lotus did not have the slightest fear. After all, it was originally a military warship created entirely for the purpose of naval battles.

Amid Fang Yuan’s shouts, a hundred cannons were similarly roaring to strike back.

Kaboom!

Multiple explosions resounded on both Fiery Lotus’s and the opposing flagship’s hulls.

“Musketeers!”

As the ships got closer, the musketeers from both parties aimed at one another and began a round of brutal shooting.

From time to time, pirates and sailors shrieked in misery, blood gushing out of their bodies as they fell into the ocean.

Fang Yuan’s expression was as cold as ice. When the two ships were parallel to each other, he immediately ordered, “Start boarding!”

The pirates tossed over iron hooks that were tied to mooring ropes one after another. Some climbed up the ropes; others directly grabbed a rope and swung across.

Butcher took the lead and landed on the deck. Roaring like a ferocious tiger, he slashed with his huge cutlass, instantly decapitating many pirates.

When the neighboring armed merchant ships belonging to Heathfrey saw this, they quickly rushed over to assist.

However, Fang Yuan chuckled and released a dense fog, thoroughly enveloping the two ships that were in the middle of a fight.

“Counterattack! Counterattack!”

Formosa definitely would not let this opportunity slip by, immediately changing his original order to escape.

Although his ship was a merchant ship, he had done several modifications to it to handle the situation in the Nightmare Ocean.

At this moment, numerous cannons fired simultaneously, immediately pinning down Heathfrey’s remaining armed merchant ships.

Fang Yuan came to the deck, looked at the slave trader in the center of the crowd opposite him, and laughed heartily. “Haha... Heathfrey, who would have thought that we’d meet again so soon!”

“Arcane Trickster Roche... Damn it, do you know what kind of enemy you’re messing with? I am affiliated with the great pirate governor Blackbeard...”

Heathfrey glared at Fang Yuan with eyes full of hatred.

This pirate had repeatedly destroyed his plans. He was practically wishing to eat Fang Yuan’s flesh right now.

“Kill them!” Fang Yuan sneered. “Reward five gold coins for every ordinary sailor killed and double for high-ranking sailors! That black fatty is worth one thousand gold coins!”

“Owoo! Owoo!”

The promise of handsome rewards immediately stimulated the pirates’ wolf-like nature.

Soon, the deck was in complete chaos.

Cutlasses, firearms, and bows and arrows were chaotically intertwined together.

Blood splattered everywhere, rapidly accumulating a thick layer on the deck.

“Damn it! Retreat to the ship’s hold!”

After all, Heathfrey was not a professional pirate. Furthermore, his forces were scattered and his reinforcements were held back by Formosa.

With a roar, he brought his last remaining elite troops and retreated into the ship’s hold.

“Haha... Boss, they’re doomed!”

When Bill saw this, he laughed out loud and looked toward Fang Yuan expectantly.

After all, the situation when they seized Fiery Lotus was still vivid in their minds.

“He isn’t an idiot... Besides, as a major slave trader that dominated the Nightmare Ocean, how could he not have any trump cards on hand?”

In contrast, Fang Yuan’s expression was solemn.

Suddenly, streaks of hazy light rays emerged from the ship’s hull.

The blood on the deck continually seeped downward, seemingly attracted to some array.

Swoosh!

Soon, following the sounds of a charge, three knights in black armor dashed out from the hatch.

Resembling ghosts under the curtain of night, they were fully clad in black heavy armor and had black mounts as well. Only in their and their horses’ eyes were there still a glint of scarlet twinkling.

The horses galloped on the deck as though it was nothing. When firearms, swords, and sabers landed on them, they did not suffer from even the slightest damage. Yet when they waved their long swords, it often took the lives of numerous pirates.

“They’re Ghost Riders!” Rolisa’s expression changed. “One of Heathfrey’s subordinates is a necromancer who’s very proficient in summoning undead creatures for combat...”

She was enemies with him, so naturally she had inquired about his trump cards long ago.

These three Ghost Riders were equivalent to three Extraordinary creatures. They barged into the pirates and wantonly reaped their lives.

Butcher howled and dashed forward. His huge cutlass clashed with a long sword, and he was sent flying.

“Prepare a cannon!”

With a kick from Fang Yuan, a cannon that was originally aimed at Fiery Lotus suddenly had its muzzle turned around to target the two Ghost Riders that were charging toward him.

“In the name of the Holy Light...”

In his hands, a bright, milky-white light orb entered the cannon’s muzzle.

Rumble!

The cannon boomed. The shot flew out in a fan shape that was mixed with specks of holy light.

“Ow! Ow!”

The two Ghost Riders, who originally could immediately recover from any form of damage taken, collapsed onto the ground and let out inhuman growls.

Bits of armor flew in all directions, exposing their skin and flesh that were rapidly rotting at a speed visible to the naked eye and emitting a stench.

“Purify!”

Fang Yuan once again threw out two light orbs, and they landed on the Ghost Riders’ bodies.

Suddenly, large amounts of black gas dissipated as streams of black water flowed out from the armor. The Ghost Riders and their black horses quickly disappeared without a trace.

Upon seeing this, the last Ghost Rider roared and jumped into the ocean, fleeing at lightning speed.

Evidently, the black horse that he rode had the bloodline of the legendary nightmare horse. Its hooves were burning in flames, its mouth and nose were emitting black smoke, and it was able to gallop on the ocean surface as if it were flat ground.

“Thinking of fleeing now...”

Fang Yuan opened up his senses, and his psyche pierced into the back of the Ghost Rider’s head like an arrow.

“Ahh!!!”

The last Ghost Rider pulled on his reins and let out a beast-like roar.

...

Below, in the ship's hold.

"Ahh!"

A sorcerer clad in a black robe collapsed onto the floor and was holding his head, continuously shrieking in misery.

A moment later, his entire body was dripping with cold sweat, looking like he was just fished up from the ocean. "My Ghost Riders have been completely wiped out. Not only that, the other party is even manipulating one of them to attack the ship's hold!"

"Master Jaffa, what should we do now?"

The great slave trader Heathfrey immediately had greasy sweat on his forehead.

He had paid a high price to hire this necromancer from a cannibal tribe and had always been using him as a trump card.

His abilities were indeed very sharp, and he had resolved many difficult problems.

However, he was so powerless when faced with the Purgatory Pirate Team's attack.

He could not help feeling slight regret. If only he had known earlier, he would not have provoked that Arcane Trickster Roche.

"Damn it... Impossible, why... can he use both light magic and necromancy?"

The necromancer kept going in circles, his eyes full of doubts.

Swoosh!

Unfortunately, there was already no time left for him to think any further.

Along with the huge horse's neigh, it smashed open the wooden door and caused pieces of wood to fly in all directions. The Ghost Rider was in the lead, with numerous red-eyed pirates following behind...

"Long live the captain!"

On the deck, the pirates cheered after seeing Fang Yuan easily manipulate the originally hostile Ghost Rider and make it the vanguard.

It even gave rise to some thoughts that 'the captain is omnipotent'.

Although it sounded foolish, it marked the beginning of loyalty, which was already pretty good for pirates.

"Captain!" Rolisa looked at Fang Yuan with earnest eyes.

"Mmm. Youne, lead a team with Rolisa and head down... It's best to capture Heathfrey alive—I still have some matters to question him about!"

Fang Yuan nodded and said to Rolisa, "Rest assured. The final say on how to handle that slave trader is in your hands!"

“Thank you, Captain! If you assist me in completing my vengeance, I swear in the name of the Moon that my everything shall belong to you!” the Moon Elf said seriously. Then she jumped into the ship’s hold with a thin rapier in her hands that had appeared out of nowhere.

“Roar! Roar!”

The pirates flocked in, and the deck soon appeared somewhat deserted.

Apart from corpses with wounds turning white, there were only some old and weak people as well as Fang Yuan.

“Danogu!” He turned around and smiled faintly, staring at the only high-level crew member remaining. “So? Still not making a move? This is your best chance!”

“Boss, what do you mean?” Danogu’s expression changed. “Are you doubting my loyalty?”

“I’m not doubting. I’m already certain!”

No matter how a background was falsified, as a Dream Master, Fang Yuan was very sharp in detecting lies.

No matter what Danogu claimed, he was certain that this Rose Swordsman was an undercover agent that Heathfrey had placed at his side.

After all, Heathfrey had taken root in Bloody Mary Port for a long time and had some hidden relationships.

No matter how many precautions Fang Yuan took, it was still difficult to guarantee that all the newly recruited sailors were absolutely clean.

Seeing his determined look, Danogu laughed bitterly. “Indeed... people thought that I don’t know Heathfrey personally, but in reality, he’s my employer! He gave me a high price of five thousand gold coins to lay low on your ship and wait until a critical juncture to take action. However, I’ve changed my mind...”

Danogu knelt on one knee and said solemnly, “It’s difficult for me to attain your strength. Furthermore, you can summon ice and control spirits... Your greatness is already at the level of great pirates. I, Rose Swordsman Danogu, am willing to pledge my allegiance to you for all eternity!”

As for his performance, Fang Yuan was not in the least bit surprised.

This was precisely what pirates were like. Once you displayed insufficient control or were about to face defeat, they would ruthlessly abandon you!

Chapter 853: Underwater

“So... do you think that I’ll choose to pardon you, Danogu?”

A mortal who relied on extraordinary items to flaunt his powers was no different from an ant in front of Fang Yuan.

“Yes, because I’m very useful!” Danogu said quickly. “Heathfrey has a total of fifteen merchant ships. When he came out tonight, he brought most of his forces. This Slavery is his only flagship, and it’s a five-masted ship that’s comparable to the navy’s third-level warship. The remaining are four three-masted ships. I’m confident I can convince two of the ship captains to surrender to you. As long as they’re certain that Heathfrey already has no chance of reversing the situation, the remaining two ships will definitely leave the battlefield without the slightest hesitation!”

After he rebelled, he quickly and thoroughly betrayed his former employer.

“Very well, go ahead and do it!”

Fang Yuan waved his hand.

At this moment, cheers could be heard from the ship’s hold.

Youné, Rolisa, Butcher, Bill, and the other pirates had detained two men and brought them up.

One of them was black and fat. If it was not the slave trader Heathfrey, who else could it be?

The other person was the necromancer clad in a magician’s robe—Jaffa!

“Boss... We indeed captured these two by following the Ghost Rider!” Bill was brimming with excitement as he spoke.

“Great!” Fang Yuan stepped forward, his lips curling up slightly at the corners. “We meet again, Mr. Heathfrey!”

“Roche!!!” Heathfrey yelled. However, before he could curse, Bill responded quickly and stuffed a tattered rag into his mouth.

“Strip him naked and hang him on the mast to let everyone know that Heathfrey is defeated!”

Fang Yuan made his decision and then looked at the necromancer beside him.

Apart from his magic, he was totally just a wizened, emaciated old man. After stripping him, he looked similar to a skeleton.

“Hang him up, too, to clear his head!”

Although Fang Yuan could see from his eyes that he was begging for mercy, he still coldly gave the command.

It was naturally valuable to subdue an Extraordinary, but he still needed to properly get rid of this necromancer’s arrogance.

...

The dense fog dissipated.

Soon, with the aid of flames and moonlight, almost all the ships saw the black fatty and the necromancer being hung on the mast.

Heathfrey, a notorious slave trader who had no scruples about his lawless acts in Bloody Mary Port, was actually stripped naked and hung on a mast.

With this as a deterrent, the armed merchant ships under his command immediately descended into chaos.

Danogu seized this opportunity to persuade them to surrender, and two of the three-masted ships' captains surrendered to Fang Yuan on their own accord as expected.

"Pixar! Robert! We pledge our allegiance to you!"

The two captains came onto Fiery Lotus's deck and kissed Fang Yuan's boots.

"You'll soon understand what a correct choice you've made because the two ships that chose to leave will sink under the ocean forever!"

In reality, Heathfrey had Blackbeard backing him, so it should have been absolutely impossible for the captains to betray him.

However, although Fang Yuan did not have Blackbeard's huge fame, he currently had direct control over their life and death and was naturally entitled to speak such words.

"Wind!"

With a light touch, Fiery Lotus immediately accelerated with the wind's assistance, easily closing in on the two ships that were preparing to depart.

Kaboom!

Shortly afterward, over fifty cannons fired simultaneously, and the two ships instantly exploded into pieces.

After seeing this, the two captains, Pixar and Robert, gulped down a mouthful of saliva. They knew that if it was not for their choice, they would have ended up the same as those pirates that were feeding the sharks right now.

Compared to Blackbeard, who was far away in the horizon, they would naturally choose imminent survival.

"From now on, you're privateer captains under me! I'll provide you with protection, and thirty percent of all the spoils you plunder will be paid as tribute to me!"

In fact, this was generally the rule among pirate commanders.

An ordinary pirate team only had one ship. In contrast, apart from their own flagship, pirate commanders had a fleet of ships

Only pirate commanders that reached this level were truly great pirates.

Originally, the Octopus Marauder Team already had signs of development in this direction, but Fang Yuan had unceremoniously sent them back with one slap after their encounter.

After this battle, the unknown Purgatory Pirate Team would certainly become well-known across the entire Nightmare Ocean.

As the team's captain, Arcane Trickster Roche was naturally qualified to recruit ship captains and become worthy of the title of a great pirate.

"Boss!" At this moment, Rolisa had another discovery. With a pleasant scent in her breath, she whispered in Fang Yuan's ears, "In the prison on Heathfrey's flagship, we found an interesting prey! Hehe..."

"It can't be... Elizabeth?" Fang Yuan glanced at Wilson. "This slave trader still brought this woman along with him when he is out to plunder?"

"I'm afraid so!" Wilson laughed bitterly. "Perhaps he felt that his flagship was very safe, or maybe he wasn't intending to return to Bloody Mary Port after he was done with this pillage.

"In short, the unlucky Miss Elizabeth is once again back in our hands!"

Fang Yuan laughed indifferently. "It doesn't matter anyway. At worst, we can just sell her again or wait until her father becomes the Solomon Strait's colonial governor and then use her to extort him for greater benefits."

"Boss... this noble lady is truly unlucky to end up in your hands!" Rolisa eyes were bright and said charmingly, "How about... handing her over to me? I know a lot about how to 'educate' females slaves..."

"Forget it!" Fang Yuan rolled his eyes. "Also, I know what you truly want. That black fatty belongs to you!"

"Thanks, Boss!"

Rolisa was elated. She glanced at Fang Yuan coquettishly and stuck her chest out, causing the surrounding pirates who were watching to salute her one after another. They then promptly lowered their heads, not daring to take another glance at their captain's woman.

"Captain!" Helga shouted. "A ship from Cecil is approaching!"

"Hmm? Pretty daring..."

Everything that this merchant, Formosa, did tonight was remarkable.

Furthermore, Fang Yuan felt that the other party definitely still had other trump cards apart from the earlier trap using ships filled with gunpowder.

Otherwise, they would be unworthy of their huge reputation.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

As the other flagship approached, it fired three blank shots—a gun salute representing the etiquette used when pirates met.

"Return the greeting!"

Fang Yuan nodded. He put on his coat and brought along his pirate captain's hat. When he arrived at the ship's bow, he saw Cecil's great merchant, Formosa.

"Arcane Trickster Roche?" Escorted by numerous bodyguards, Formosa stood on the edge of his ship and took off his hat to pay his respects. "Thank you for your help!"

Although he knew that Fang Yuan similarly harbored evil intentions when he came, he naturally would not say it out loud.

After all, with the Octopus Marauder Team from before and Heathfrey on top of that, it was already sufficient for the Purgatory Pirate Team to eat to their fill, and perhaps they were already stuffed.

After all, a ferocious beast that had eaten its fill would be safer than a ferocious beast that was hungry.

Besides, as a successful merchant, he naturally had more than one trump card.

"A verbal promise is as light as a feather. If you truly want to express your gratitude, why don't you give me several large chests of gold coins or call that big fellow below up..."

Fang Yuan laughed heartily, his voice spreading far.

"What?"

This time, it was Formosa who was astonished.

"As expected of the Arcane Trickster!"

He forced a smile and clapped his hands.

Splash!

Huge waves formed on the sea surface, and a black shadow emerged. It was as though a hill had bulged out, and huge amounts of water cascaded down.

Butcher and the others immediately cried out in surprise.

This was because a three-masted ship had impressively floated up from the bottom of the ocean!

It had a smooth, flowing teardrop shape and had actually been lurking at the bottom of the ocean the whole time! Even the Octopus Marauder Team, which possessed the giant octopus, had not discovered it!

"Extraordinary ship!" Wilson was the first to exclaim. "It's actually an alchemical magic ship with underwater abilities!"

Within the oceans, it could be said that these types of ships were the epitome of a pirate's dreams, and they also represented the greatest strength.

Although it was only a three-masted ship, two Fiery Lotuses still could not match its worth.

"It's truly a beauty. What is its name?"

Fang Yuan was also very interested in knowing about the greatest accomplishments in this kind of magic alchemy.

At the same time, he became aware of what Formosa was relying on.

Even if he were to have been ultimately defeated, he could have escaped unscathed with the existence of this extraordinary ship.

Even if Heathfrey flew into a rage, he could only just watch. And within the Octopus Marauder Team, only the giant octopus barely had the ability to pursue it.

This was even more so for the current Purgatory Pirate Team, which did not have any means against Formosa.

“Mermaid!” Formosa said proudly. “Although she’s far inferior to those legendary pirate ships, it is thanks to her that I’ve achieved my success today!”

“Indeed!” Fang Yuan nodded, his eyes glistening.

He was naturally highly interested in these kinds of alchemical magic ships.

He even had thoughts of dismantling Mermaid and exploring its secrets.

However, although he had the confidence to restore the dismantled Mermaid, even having no problem replicating another ship if there were sufficient materials, he did not even need to think to know that Formosa would immediately fall out with him if he really were to make such a request.

“In order to express my gratitude to everyone, here are some small gifts. Please accept them!”

Formosa could not stand how Fang Yuan was looking at Mermaid and promptly coughed to divert his attention.

Soon after, well-built sailors carried a few large chests onto Fang Yuan’s flagship.

“I like forthright friends. I hope there’ll be an opportunity to cooperate next time!”

Seeing this, Fang Yuan could only sigh. He had his subordinates take the gifts and watched as Formosa’s fleet departed.

Bill briefly inspected and then said joyfully to Fang Yuan, “Boss, the chests are full of gold coins... This merchant is really rich!”

“Mmm... you guys can distribute it!”

Fang Yuan waved his hand. He was unconcerned about the cheering pirates and picked out a treasure map fragment from Heathfrey’s clothes.

Chapter 854: Privateer Captain

This treasure map was merely a fragment, yet it was shimmering with the radiance of an extraordinary item and had an indestructible property.

Of course, most important was that it had the blessing of destiny and would ultimately reunite with the other map fragments one day.

Fang Yuan took out his treasure map fragment, and the two fragments instantly emitted a dusky glow. At the jagged corners of the map, the paper threads seemed to come alive, entangling and intertwining with one another... ultimately forming a larger treasure map piece.

“Hmm?”

Fang Yuan was slightly astonished.

The treasure map fragment from Heathfrey was evidently much larger than the one from the auction.

After it combined with his fragment, he could already see some concrete routes that required the help of specific ocean currents and terrain in order to reach a certain destination.

“No wonder this treasure map was so important to Heathfrey... He had another fragment in his hands!

“This treasure map should only be missing its last piece now!”

With Heathfrey’s selfless contribution, Fang Yuan made huge progress in his quest to gather the treasure map fragments and had high hopes of completing it.

“Back then, the Soro Pirate Team had occupied the Solomon Strait and plundered wealth from east to west without restraint. Any ship that passed through had to pay taxes to them... The hidden treasures left behind by such a pirate team...”

Fang Yuan’s lips curled up at the corners.

“Boss, what should we do next?”

On Fiery Lotus, all the high-level crew members had gathered together and saluted Fang Yuan, their eyes as though they were looking at a living god.

“As Heathfrey is Blackbeard’s man, it’s indeed somewhat troublesome that we attacked him...” Fang Yuan looked around. “Thus... we’ll directly cross the Nightmare Ocean and head east on the Golden Sea Route. As long as we reach the Golden Ocean that’s under the Pirate Prince’s sphere of influence, there’ll be absolutely nothing to fear!”

Blackbeard was the Nightmare Ocean’s pirate governor, whereas the Golden Ocean was under the Pirate Prince’s influence.

These two great pirates already had conflicts, and it would be a joke if the Pirate Prince agreed to help Blackbeard arrest people.

“This time we’ve made a huge fortune. After properly recuperating in the Golden Ocean, we’ll set out for Pirate King City!”

Fang Yuan had long made his decision.

Pirate King City was the greatest transit hub between the East and the West. It was also the holy ground in all pirates’ mind.

“Roar! Roar!”

Upon hearing this news, all the pirates immediately cheered.

“Bill, I appoint you as the captain of Slavery!” Fang Yuan drew out his sword and lightly tapped on a few of his subordinates’ shoulders. “Wilson will be Fiery Lotus’s chief officer. Butcher and Single Ear will be the chief officers on Pixar’s and Robert’s ships respectively. The above-mentioned people shall enjoy the right to the entire fleet’s bonus post-battle.”

“Thank you, Boss!”

Bill and the others promptly saluted, their eyes glistening like flames.

As for Pixar and Robert, as people who had just surrendered, they did not dare to have any objections.

Furthermore, Fang Yuan would not give them any chance at all. It was a must to send a supervisor. Single Ear was also one of the original Mockingbird members, among the first batch of people to follow Fang Yuan, and thus was chosen for promotion now.

With them, as well as a few stronger members like Youne and Rolisa scattered around to supervise, a small pirate fleet was established.

Now, Fang Yuan was fully deserving of calling himself a pirate commander!

He could absolutely be considered a big shot in the oceans that had a reputation spread far and wide. If he reached the top, he would be a region’s pirate governor like Blackbeard and the Pirate Prince, and his status would be no different from a king.

...

The next day, the sun emerged.

Fang Yuan was having breakfast on the deck, while Rolisa was like a maid standing by the side.

“All right, let them down!” Fang Yuan ordered after glancing at the mast.

Heathfrey was only an ordinary merchant, and Jaffa was a magician, not a fighter.

After being hung for a night with the sea wind blowing against them, they were already like a pile of mud when they were brought down.

Fang Yuan gracefully picked up a white napkin to wipe his mouth and said calmly, “Rolisa, I hand Heathfrey over to you... You can handle him as you wish. Of course, I hope you can get some useful information out of him before you kill him. For instance, his assets and the distribution of Blackbeard’s forces or any other secrets...”

“Boss, rest assured. I guarantee with my tribe’s honor that he’ll even recall how old he was when he wet his bed under our Moon Elves’ art!”

With deep-rooted hatred in her eyes, Rolisa stepped forward and carried Heathfrey away.

When Jaffa saw this, he clenched his jaw even tighter.

“All right, your name!”

Fang Yuan towered above, looking down at the curled-up necromancer.

“Ja-Jaffa!” The poor necromancer struggled for a long time before he finally managed to say something.
“From the Gagagu tribe...”

“Very good!”

Fang Yuan nodded. He could see that this necromancer had already been rid of all of his arrogance and would practically answer any question.

Just from its name, it was clear that this was an aboriginal tribe, perhaps even one that preserved the vices of cannibalism.

But after thinking carefully, it was pretty normal too. Due to their characteristics, it was unavoidable for necromancers to have dealings with corpses, undead, and spirits. Such behavior would definitely suffer from relentless pursuit in any civilized country.

However, there would be no problem if it was in those barbaric cannibal tribes.

This was the same logic as to how some abominable witchcraft practices had become taboo in the Opher Continent long ago but were still rampant in various cannibal aboriginal tribes.

“Jaffa... you have offended me, but I am merciful and have decided to spare your life. You will need to serve me for one year as a slave. After one year, you will receive the same treatment as a high-level crew member until you fully redeem your wrongdoings... Any objections?” Fang Yuan said indifferently as he drank a glass of red wine.

Jaffa promptly crawled up and said while kneeling and bowing, “I swear in the name of Specter Ship, Jaffa accepts these conditions. If I break my oath, may Specter Ship hunt me down!”

“Great. Bring him down and give him treatment!”

Fang Yuan waved his hand.

Specter Ship held a supreme status among necromancers.

There were even rumors that Specter Ship traversed between the netherworld and the human realm, that all the extraordinary abilities related to necromancy were spread from the ship.

Thus, for these necromancers, Specter Ship was their faith.

Swearing using its name was no different from those followers who swore in the name of their gods.

...

Several days later, Ettoman, Royal Port.

Two battered pirate ships slowly approached the dock that was surrounded from all sides with wary people.

“Orlando Kirk?”

When Orlando alighted from the ship, he was met with a group of navy soldiers carrying guns with bayonets attached.

A navy officer wearing a platinum wig headed the group. He took large strides forward, having a look of disdain as he looked toward this group of filthy pirates. His eyes could not conceal his disgust.

Yet he still took out a scroll of parchment after a moment of silence. Holding the top and the bottom of the scroll, he read out loud, "... In the name of the Queen, you are pardoned for your previous crimes. In addition, as long as you do not infringe on the interests of the great Ettoman, the Queen will guarantee your legal interests and award you with the authority of a privateer!"

"Praise the Queen!"

Orlando bit his lips and took the amnesty edict, unsure if what he was doing was right or wrong.

"Orlando, from today onward, you are a privateer captain of Ettoman..."

The navy officer was frowning as he coldly said, "I'll keep my eye on you... Once you violate any laws, I'll send you and your disgusting ship to the bottom of the ocean in the name of the Queen..."

"..." Orlando clenched his teeth, remaining silent.

Seeking refuge in Ettoman and becoming a privateer was not only a mission from the system but also done after careful deliberation.

After all, no matter what, a country's strength would always be greater than a weak pirate team. This was especially so for a large country by the ocean like Ettoman, where not even Blackbeard would dare to rashly provoke it.

Pirates were mostly people without foundation and could not afford to experience defeat.

Taking this time as an example, Orlando had lost his flagship and his wealth. He himself was defeated, and his reputation was greatly damaged. Most of the pirates under him had even run away, and he did not have enough gold to recruit any more sailors... In the long run, it would be an infinite loop without a solution.

If he wished to regain his strength in the shortest time, he could only rely on a great power.

Without a doubt, Ettoman had the most resources. They gave pirates phased-out military equipment as though they were simply clearing out trash. This was already sufficient for pirates to be overjoyed and fully armed.

When the navy soldiers were done, they hastily left, leaving behind a merchant who was full of smiles.

"Mr. Orlando, from today onward, Advisor Donald will be the middleman between privateer captains like you and the Ettoman Royal Navy..."

"Advisor Donald?!" Orlando threw over a gold coin.

After receiving the tip, the merchant shared everything he knew. "He's Duke Ham's advisor and a well-known economist in the country. It's rumored that... the Queen and prime minister only ultimately decided to go ahead with this privateer permit after he entered the palace and defeated numerous scholars in debate!"

"What a remarkable man!" Orlando smiled, but became much more cautious.

Donald's office was in a building right at the dock.

However, Orlando's pupils contracted when he saw the extremely familiar-looking emblem.

"That emblem... what does it mean?"

When asking, Orlando's heart was beating wildly, as though he had returned to the night he received the system.

"Oh, that's Advisor Donald's faith—the emblem of the Dream and Armament Master!"

The merchant said indifferently, "Advisor Donald is very devoted to his faith and has been doing his utmost to spread it... Due to his fame, there are already some people who have chosen to believe in this newly emerged Dream and Armament Master."

Chapter 855: Shock

"Dream and Armament Master!"

Orlando repeated it a few times, as though he wanted to engrave the name into his mind.

"Please!"

The merchant opened the door and gestured for him to enter.

Orlando took a deep breath and walked into the living room.

"Captain Orlando?"

The hall was very spacious. It had a black bear hide hung on the opposite wall and even two tanned deer head mounts.

A green-haired, middle-aged man clad in a robe was leisurely adding sugar and milk to his coffee.

He raised his head and smiled brightly at Orlando. "Would you like a cup of Schland's specialty coffee?"

"Thanks, Mr. Donald!"

Orlando unceremoniously picked up the coffee cup and sat on a chair straight away, gazing at Donald and sizing him up.

The two of them exchanged glances, feeling that they were somewhat similar.

After all, they were not only spell casters, but they also had close relationships with the Dream and Armament Master, Fang Yuan.

"You should address me as Sir Donald now..." Donald corrected Orlando's small mistake. "The Queen has just conferred me with the title of lord. Of course, the news hasn't really been spread yet."

"All right... Sir Donald, so you'll be the middleman between the navy and me?"

Orlando continued to look at Donald closely.

Of course, he wanted to ask more about the Dream and Armament Master, but he held back.

“Yes, currently, in order to maintain our kingdom’s maritime supremacy, there’s an urgent need for talents like you to join...” Donald was very straightforward. “We need you to block the countries in the Opher Continent from exploring the oceans, especially Cecil, which is developing too quickly! Of course, when necessary, we’ll also need you to assist the navy in annihilating some pirates such as Blackbeard!”

“Blackbeard, haha... Did I mishear? Is today the God of Lies’s festival?” Orlando jumped up exaggeratedly. Shortly after, he unceremoniously grabbed an apple from a basket and took a bite. “Do you know Blackbeard’s true strength? He’s the Nightmare Ocean’s pirate governor and has an army of over ten thousand pirates under him. Three island nations are directly under his control. He’s the largest slave trader in coastal waters, and he even owns the legendary pirate ship Monster! Even if Ettoman’s Royal Navy attacks him, they might not necessarily be Blackbeard’s match in Nightmare Ocean!”

“Thank you for your explanation, Mr. Orlando. You seem to know a lot about Blackbeard?” Donald laughed scornfully. “However, your understanding of the royal navy is too shallow, even stuck at five years ago. Come... let me show you some things!”

He stood up, put on his coat, and brought Orlando to the other side of the dock.

It was filled with docked warships and had numerous naval soldiers conducting checks. If Donald had not displayed his identity, Orlando reckoned that he would not be able to infiltrate this place at all.

Hiss hiss...

When he saw multiple giant steel warships, Orlando could only gasp in astonishment.

In front of him were several extremely enormous steel ships. They cast enormous shadows and covered the skies; they resembled hills and oppressed all living beings.

“Such huge... ships made entirely from steel. How do they not sink to the bottom of the sea, are they magical ships? No... that’s wrong... they don’t have the slightest trace of magic...” Orlando mumbled with an infatuated gaze, yet he had very complicated feelings.

Presently, for the ships on the ocean, apart from legendary warships, the largest first-level warships were only a hundred meters long, had three thousand tons of displacement, and a speed of no more than twenty knots.

Such standards were already large seven-masted ships and the current limits for ordinary wooden sailing ships.

But here? Any ship was easily over a hundred and fifty meters long and had more than twenty thousand tons of displacement. Furthermore, these ships’ hulls were significantly larger than wooden sailing ships.

Taking any for comparison would be like comparing a muscular man to a child.

“Impossible... even if a ship made from steel doesn’t sink, what about its motive power...”

Orlando was indeed an experienced pirate, seeing yet another practical problem.

In a naval battle, a ship's speed was extremely important. As long as its speed was superior, it could firmly grasp the initiative to fight or escape.

Otherwise, it would be sending oneself into the enemy's hands for nothing.

"Have you... heard of steam engines?" Donald laughed. "In order to cope with the colonies' growing production demand, Ettoman's research in steam engines is definitely the top in the continent. As for the warships' motive power, I can describe it to you like this—when they start running, they don't need sailors to paddle at all. Of course, you may understand it better if I phrase it differently... That is, their speed is generally above twenty knots, and twenty-five knots is not unusual either! Perhaps they can't catch up with the Pirate Prince's Wanderer, but Monster would definitely be unable to escape..." Donald explained confidently.

Orlando closed his eyes and took a deep breath.

Solely from looking at the armor covering these ships, he already knew the result of naval battles with ordinary pirates. If their speed was also fast, there was no doubt that there would soon be a huge shuffle in the ocean forces.

And the initiative was in Ettoman's hands!

The emergence of ironclad warships was this supreme maritime power displaying its might to the new world!

The pirates had been leading carefree lives for too long. A brand new era was about to arrive!

Orlando kept silent for a long time before suddenly bursting into laughter. "Haha... great! Arcane Trickster Roche, wait for me... It won't be long before I once again stand before you!"

...

"Boss, based on the intelligence we obtained when we stopped at that pirate port earlier, your bounty has doubled to thirty thousand gold coins!"

Nightmare Ocean.

Fiery Lotus was in the lead, with Slavery and the other two ships following behind. The sails were fully extended, but they were barely running at seventeen knots.

On the deck, Wilson was respectfully making a report to Fang Yuan.

"Mmm..."

Fang Yuan was lying in a cushioned chair with his hat covering half of his face. He made a casual response, seeming to be very bored.

Although this was already very fast in the eyes of ordinary pirates, it was no different from crawling turtles in Fang Yuan's view.

"Perhaps... when Ettoman's all-new ironclad warships are in active service, the whole world will be astonished?"

Steam engines were not Ettoman's specialty, and neither were steam-powered warships.

But without a doubt, this supreme maritime power went the deepest and furthest in the area of ironclad warships.

With the early advantage gained from this, it was sufficient to leave its rivals behind by two to three years, which was basically the amount of time required to construct a steam-powered warship. Even magic would be unable to save their overall strength from falling behind.

In other words, even if their rivals were able to get ahold of all of the shipwrights and design drawings and even relocate the entire factory from Ettoman right now, it was already too late.

"If this were in my previous life, with this huge advantage, in addition to a technical blockade and policy support, it's absolutely enough for Ettoman to establish its position as a maritime empire and maintain its supremacy for decades... Unfortunately, this is a world brimming with extraordinary powers! Even some of the ironclad warships are inferior in strength to extraordinary ships... But it wins in terms of being able to be mass-produced, which is its absolute advantage."

There would not be any problem in crippling a pirate governor when Ettoman's accumulated strength was released.

Fang Yuan reckoned that it was about time for Donald to release another book—The Influence of Sea Power.

"Speaking of which, when Ettoman's Royal Navy displays its might, the first one to be unlucky will definitely be Blackbeard!"

After all, the first section of the Golden Sea Route was the Nightmare Ocean. As the Nightmare Ocean's governor, Blackbeard would not be able to escape!

By having his own logistics base, although his war potential improved greatly, he also lost the mobility that pirates originally had.

For instance, even if Blackbeard had an army of over ten thousand pirates, once he lost those few island nations, he would definitely be unable to provide for the tens of thousands of pirates and would only collapse in the end.

"During such a dangerous time, what exactly is Blackbeard's purpose in waging war with the Pirate Prince?"

Fang Yuan pondered.

Do not underestimate any pirate governor.

Although the intelligence on ironclad warships was classified, with Blackbeard's extensive resources, he should be able to get ahold of some vague news.

However, he still took the risk to become enemies with the Pirate Prince at this time. Of course, it might be because their feud could no longer be stopped, but the motive was still pending deliberation.

“Could Blackbeard want to seize some territory and find a way out in the Golden Ocean... Or perhaps the Pirate Prince has grasped a portion of the ironclad warships’ secrets but is unwilling to trade and thus angered Blackbeard?”

Pirate Prince Edward!

He was the Golden Ocean’s pirate governor and rumored to be a very charismatic young man. His smiles could even make mermaids become deeply bewitched.

Furthermore, Edward’s flagship, Wanderer, was also a legendary pirate ship. It was said that it had the blessing of the God of Speed, which gave it speed superior to all other warships.

With Wanderer, Edward was like a spirit in the wind, free and laid-back.

Needless to say, for such a person, even if he had some subordinates, his fleet’s cohesiveness and organization would certainly be inferior to Blackbeard’s.

Thus, even though Edward had the support and backing of other forces, he was still at a disadvantage in his fight with Blackbeard.

Under these circumstances, the Pirate Prince should be more welcoming of new forces joining?

Fang Yuan thought about it and then asked directly, “How much longer until we reach the Golden Ocean?”

“We’ve already reached the border of Nightmare Ocean. According to the nautical chart that Heathfrey provided, we just need to pass through the Hell of Lightning ahead of us before we reach the Golden Ocean!”

Wilson bowed and continued, “The Golden Ocean is a land of riches, and it also has numerous plantations and colonies that Ettoman established...”

“Attention, there are incoming ships!”

At this moment, Helga gave a warning from the lookout, causing Wilson’s entire body to quiver.

Chapter 856: Monster

“Enemy ships spotted behind us! There are five!”

Helga’s shout echoed on the deck.

“They’ve hoisted the Jolly Roger. It’s confirmed th-that they’re the Blackbeard Pirate Team!”

After seeing the black mustaches on the Jolly Rogers, Helga’s voice started to tremble.

After all, this was a pirate governor’s fleet! Moreover, Blackbeard was known for his powerful black magic and cruel means.

It was said that any pirate who offended him would either be skinned alive or turned into a corroded corpse, having both their soul and their body enslaved by Blackbeard forever.

“Command all the ships to accelerate and sail into the Hell of Lightning. We’ll fight the enemies there!”

Fang Yuan went to the helmsman and kicked him aside. Holding the helm with one hand, he gave it a sudden turn.

Fiery Lotus immediately swerved, plunging into the ocean of lightning and storm.

“All five are five-masted ships, and Monster isn’t among them. Although Blackbeard didn’t pursue us personally, he’s mobilized an admiral...”

While Fang Yuan also had four ships, he was not optimistic about his subordinates’ fighting capability at all.

Other things aside, Pixar’s and Robert’s three-masted ships would only become a pile of wreckage if they were to really battle with the opponent.

Splash!

The sea was rough and the sky was dim. Lightning flashed in the dark clouds.

The Nightmare Ocean received its name because of its unpredictable climate and its complex, mysterious topography.

This Hell of Lightning was at the boundary between the Nightmare Ocean and the Golden Ocean. The cumulonimbus clouds here never dispersed, and lightning struck everywhere in this region.

There was a risk of encountering whirlpools and reefs in the strong wind and turbulent current, but this was negligible in comparison with the fearsome lightning from above. It could destroy a ship and kill its unfortunate crew within one strike.

The Blackbeard Pirate Team had forced the entire Purgatory Pirate Team to enter the Hell of Lightning.

Rumble!

A storm suddenly arrived in the roaring thunder.

The torrential downpour drenched everyone.

“Fire!”

Following a loud voice, the rumble of cannons was heard.

A few sparks exploded on Slavery, which was following Fiery Lotus.

“Arcane Trickster Roche... I will make you realize that messing with the Blackbeard Pirate Team was the greatest mistake that you’ve made in your entire life!”

The loud voice sounded again from a ship behind. “I, the Skinner Blackrope, will skin you alive!”

“It’s Blackrope!” Wilson looked perturbed beside Fang Yuan. “He’s the top admiral among the five under Blackbeard’s command. He worships and imitates Blackbeard crazily and enjoys skinning captives alive!”

“He’s courageous, but unfortunately, he’s an idiot!”

Fang Yuan closed his eyes and indeed sensed a lot of extraordinary information from behind.

Obviously, there were many capable people in this troop giving chase. Not only did they possess sturdy ships and powerful artillery, but a large number of strong Extraordinaries were assisting them as well.

He was sure that if he left now, a single enemy ship could kill all of his subordinates on the spot.

Fang Yuan closed his eyes and commanded, "Escape to the Golden Ocean at full speed!"

Fiery Lotus and Slavery sped up immediately, but the two three-masted sailboats behind them were a bit hesitant.

There was even a commotion.

"It's not good! Boss!" Helga yelled. "Riots erupted on Pixar's and Robert's ships, but they've been suppressed!"

Evidently, the two captains and their sailors had caused the riots.

They had shivered at the thought of making an enemy of Blackbeard.

If Fang Yuan had not delegated chief officers to supervise them and sent a few experts like Danogu, Youne, and Rolisa covertly, those two three-masted sailboats would have left him or surrendered to Blackbeard.

Do not think too highly of pirates. They were just this kind of people.

His original subordinates would even have the wild ambition to replace him as the captain if he encountered a fiasco.

"Let them catch up to us. Proceed onward!"

Fang Yuan held the helm steadily and steered Fiery Lotus through the Hell of Lightning.

But the riots had taken up too much time. Two five-masted large ships soon caught up with the sailboats, enclosing Pixar's three-mast boat from both sides like a sandwich and revealing many cannons.

Rumble!

The ships on both sides opened fire at the same time, and the poor sailboat trapped in between them was instantly in shatters.

Plop!

A chained shot accurately hit the other three-masted sailboat, reducing Fang Yuan's ships to two in the blink of an eye.

Fang Yuan took a deep breath and ordered, "It's about time... Turn around and confront the enemies!"

"Turn around and prepare the artillery!" Wilson shouted at the top of his lungs.

However, this scene made the many pirates under his command hesitate. "Boss, that's an admiral under Blackbeard!!"

“Kill!”

Wilson took a glance and immediately slashed with his cutlass.

Crack!

This pirate’s head was chopped off and rolled onto the deck. Fresh blood was spurting out like a fountain.

“Whoever dares to question the captain’s order shall die right now, understood?”

Wilson’s face was stained with blood as he gave the order with a fierce expression.

Fiery Lotus and Slavery soon turned around and faced the five scary large ships that were besieging them.

Blackbeard Jolly Rogers hung on all the ships. The black ships looked like death knights harvesting lives at sea.

Fang Yuan had bought himself more time because the power transfer from his original body required time and he needed to prepare his sorcery. Furthermore, he could sieve out those who were not steadfast enough.

Of course, given the size of the Purgatory Pirate Team at this moment, they would be courting death if they were to fight head-on against the Blackbeard Pirate Team.

If he really tested their loyalty until the very last moment, everyone would definitely betray him in the end.

Therefore, Fang Yuan decided that it was enough to stay loyal until this stage.

A film of light rose from the black warship in front, revealing the figure of a black and skinny pirate. His voice sounded from over the long distance. “Arcane Trickster Roche... I will take your skin!”

“He has no idea what he’s talking about!”

Seeing this, Fang Yuan sneered and flicked his finger.

Bloop! Bloop!!

Waves suddenly swept across the rough sea, and a large number of bubbles emerged.

A dreadful whirlpool formed in the middle of the two parties like a depression on the sea, pulling them in with strong forces.

“Oh my... Prayer to the Sea God!”

Seeing this scene, Wilson could not help making a gesture of prayer.

“A giant whirlpool!!!”

Helga’s voice was also trembling.

“Go!”

Fang Yuan nodded and flicked his finger.

A strong pulling force was suddenly exerted on the five giant warships on the opposite side.

The ocean roared like a demon that could devour everything.

No matter how hard the five ships struggled, they were dragged firmly to the center of the whirlpool.

The pirates were astonished that Fiery Lotus and Slavery remained steady, as if the whirlpool did not affect them at all, and saved the pirates that had fallen into the sea earlier.

“Was this whirlpool... also summoned by the boss?”

Wilson’s eyes glistened as he gazed at this scene. “Could the legendary Sea God be the boss’s trump card? Rumor has it that this legendary pirate ship can readily manipulate the sea to summon tsunamis and whirlpools because its keel is made from the Sea God’s spine! But shouldn’t it belong to Kingsman, the pirate governor of the Coral Ocean”

“Long live the captain!”

Unlike Wilson, the pirates below did not think so much. They immediately cheered in excitement when they saw this scene.

Clearly, their boss had led them to defeat yet another seemingly unfathomable enemy, just like before.

The so-called authority was based on victories like this.

Eventually, these pirates might be fearless even if Fang Yuan led them to challenge Blackbeard.

“Something’s wrong!”

But Fang Yuan frowned at this scene.

His original body suddenly passed on an inexplicable sense of danger to this incarnation, which sent a chill down his spine.

Having sensed this kind of danger, he ordered immediately, “Hurry! Quickly leave this place!”

Rumble!

The entire world suddenly turned white.

A huge bolt of lightning fell from the sky and struck vertically at the center of the whirlpool.

Poof!

It seemed as if a giant bubble had burst, and a cyclone engulfed the place.

In this disastrous phenomenon, the giant whirlpool gradually disappeared.

A scary, dark silhouette suddenly emerged from the glaring white.

It was entirely black and made of a kind of ironwood that was as hard as steel and iron. The ship was three hundred meters long and exerted even more pressure than a steam-powered ironclad.

There were some unusual, decorative patterns on the bow, just like a monster opening up its mouth!

“Monster!” Fang Yuan heaved a long sigh. “This is Blackbeard’s flagship. He’s come to chase us!”

Behind them, Monster moved forward like an unstoppable and invincible fortress.

Creak! Creak!

This giant monster of the sea went to the three-masted sailboat with the broken masts. It opened its mouth and swallowed this boat, munching on it slowly.

An ear-piercing screech was immediately heard.

Monster was like a magnified longhorn beetle. Its two iron clamps moved quickly, and the sailboat was soon masticated into pieces.

Light flashed all over the ship, mending all the tiny scratches on the surface of its hull caused by the collisions during its voyage. It then chased after Fiery Lotus and Slavery at double its previous speed.

“Is Blackbeard causing this kind of danger?” Fang Yuan stood at the stern of the ship with a cold expression. Suddenly, he looked at the sky. “It doesn’t seem like him... There must be some shocking secret hidden in the Hell of Lightning that has even surprised my original body...”

Chapter 857: Prince

Fang Yuan’s original body, which was isolated and sealed, had combat strength at the Demon God level.

In other words, it was essentially identical to those powerful Evil Gods discussed in the real world.

Only beings at his level could alert him!

“Perhaps... when my original body breaks through the restriction and descends into the real world, it will be the moment when he can break through to the Dao of Demon God!”

A strong premonition suddenly rose in Fang Yuan’s mind.

His Dao path was the Dao of Dream Master and at the boundary between fantasy and reality. It could be used to break through the restriction in the real world and overcome the last barrier.

He would then be a powerful Demon God with two Dao paths, respected even in the Mental Demon Realm.

Of course, it was still too early to think about all of this.

Fang Yuan gritted his teeth as he gazed at Monster, which was chasing him.

This ship called Monster was not only surprisingly fast, but it appeared to possess its own life, pouncing at Fang Yuan ferociously like a giant living beast.

Furthermore, this ship had an incomparable driving force.

Neither the earlier whirlpool nor the ice wall and the fire ocean that Fang Yuan was currently summoning could slow down its motion at all.

Rumble!

Suddenly, a bolt of lightning struck Monster.

This giant ship became even more ferocious as the entire lightning-shrouded ship glistened everywhere.

Creak! Creak!

Monster opened its huge mouth and revealed two giant teeth, seeming like it could not wait to devour its prey.

Fang Yuan grabbed the helm firmly and commanded, "Wind! Onward at full speed!"

The two five-masted ships rode the wind, sailed through the waves, and pierced the dark clouds before they finally reached a vast expanse of sea.

The ocean was bluish-green under the azure sky and the white clouds.

The dark sky and the lightning were suddenly replaced by bright sunshine and a nearby beach.

"The Golden Ocean!"

"We've arrived!"

Pirates on both ships burst into cheers.

Pirates were fundamentally adventurous. Despite the enemies chasing them, they still cheered in exhilaration for their achievement at this moment.

The Golden Ocean, as its name suggested, was virtually full of treasure.

There were plenty of untouched gold and silver mines as well as all sorts of pearls and precious stones at the bottom of the ocean.

Anyone who searched carefully here could definitely get rich within a few years... Of course, there were ways to get rich faster, such as transporting goods on the sea route to the East or becoming a pirate.

Creak! Creak!

While the sailors on Fang Yuan's ships were greedily breathing in the fresh air of richness and freedom on the Golden Ocean, an ear-piercing noise resounded.

Lightning danced wildly in the sky and struck down at times.

Like a bottomless fortress, Monster approached them quickly, disregarding all of the lightning above it.

"Get ready for a boarding battle!"

Fang Yuan took a deep breath. Currents surged on the sea and suddenly transformed into three water spears in the shape of giant snakes with long horns that shot at Monster's deck forcefully.

Ding ding!

Unfortunately, some intangible force on the deck seemed to block the three water spears seemed and they broke down immediately.

“Arcane Trickster Roche...” A pair of eyes as sinister as a viper looked at Fang Yuan from Monster. “As a newcomer, you have the privilege of choosing how you prefer to be killed!”

“I choose to kill you!”

Fang Yuan turned around and smiled brightly.

“An interesting newcomer. I hope you can hold on longer under Monster’s attack...” Blackbeard’s voice sounded.

Roar roar!

Suddenly, a loud roar rang out from Monster’s bow.

Black hair flowed out from its mouth into the ocean and suddenly became thousands of times thicker, transforming into black pythons to besiege the two ships.

“Sorcery... Black Snake Kill?!”

Fang Yuan had learned a lot since he first arrived here, even studying things like black magic and ghost spells.

Hiss hiss!

Seeing the black pythons creeping continuously along the ships, Jaffa took responsibility and stepped forward. “Summon... Dark Knights!”

Swoosh!

A few knights roared as they spearheaded the assault, wielding giant swords and slashing off the pythons’ heads.

A thick fog immediately overflowed from the pythons’ bodies, spreading with a strong corrosive smell.

“Be careful! Things created by this kind of black magic carry terrifying poisons and curses in them!”

Jaffa was experienced in dealing with such things. He commanded undead creatures such as ghost riders to fight in the front and used archers and musketeers to consume the enemy’s life force.

Hiss hiss!

But his response was obviously a little too late.

Although more than half of the black pythons were slashed, a dozen of them still hung on to the mooring ropes.

The sailors fearfully watched a few black pythons intertwining with the mooring ropes.

All of the black pythons immediately merged with the mooring ropes into a whole entity.

"This is the second part of this black magic... Activating Mooring Ropes." Jaffa's head was covered with cold sweat. "The opponent must be at a higher level than me, especially in terms of black magic..."

"Obviously!"

Fang Yuan rolled his eyes.

Blackbeard was the governor of the Nightmare Ocean.

If he could not even cope with a sorcerer, then he might as well renounce his position.

At this moment, Monster targeted the slightly slower Slavery. It moved forward quickly and enclosed the bow and the hull of the ship, its giant mouthpart rubbing continuously in an attempt to devour everything in front of it.

This shocking scene resembled a snake opening up its mouth to swallow a big rat.

Rumble!

At this time, a few golden shots struck Monster.

After the shots exploded, plumes of condensed holy light burst out. This was clearly something unusual.

"Aw aw!"

Suffering this heavy damage, Monster had a few big holes on its body and let out a low and furious roar.

This legendary pirate ship was actually like a creature with its own life.

"So fast..."

The pirates on Fiery Lotus saw even more.

A white thread sailed toward them from afar at an astonishing speed.

After it was closer, they found that it was a huge ship with the streamlined shape of a thin arrow. A white sail was hoisted fully, giving the ship strong wind power.

Behind it, the ocean was split by three long white lines that formed a triangle.

"The speed is at least twenty-five knots, and that's not its real capability..." Seeing this, Fang Yuan's eyes glistened. "It's Pirate Prince Edward's flagship—Wanderer!"

Captain Edward was an anomaly among pirates. He adhered to ancient gentlemanly manners, and people in the entire Golden Ocean looked up to his reputation and his charm.

Countless ladies thought of him as their ideal lover.

Even the protagonists of many bestsellers on the continent were based on Edward.

Seeing the Pirate Prince's Jolly Roger, which had a symbolic crown on the skull, Monster paused in its motion.

Traces of light emerged on its body and mended the ship.

“Edward...”

A pirate wearing a formal suit appeared on Monster’s deck.

He was wearing a gentleman’s white-blond wig. He was lame in one leg, which had been replaced by an iron leg, and every step was accompanied by an unsettling thump and a scratch on the deck.

Of course, the most unforgettable things were his conflicting temperament, which was both brutish and sinisterly quiet, and his thick mustache.

“Pirate Prince Edward... Do you have to be my enemy?” Blackbeard said in a depressed voice, gazing at Wanderer, which was practically flying toward him.

“My apologies, Mr. Blackbeard! But this place is already within the Golden Ocean... As the pirate governor of this ocean, I believe it’s my duty to maintain order among pirates to some extent.”

A person was standing at the top of the mast of the famous Wanderer.

He had a handsome countenance, healthy wheat-colored skin, delicate facial features, and an unruly smile, possessing the temperament of a playboy.

It had to be acknowledged that his appearance, clothing, and aura could almost definitely attract those noble madams and ladies.

“Good! Very good!”

Blackbeard had a sullen expression.

At this point, the big holes on Monster were already completely mended.

As soon as Blackbeard finished his sentence, Monster opened its huge mouth and shrieked.

The power of the entire ship seemed to be concentrated on Blackbeard’s right hand.

He lifted his right hand and sparks flashed by. He then gripped the air and struck at Edward with his fist.

“Evade!”

Wanderer suddenly sped up, breaking the limit of some extreme like a speedboat, and evaded the air bomb.

Rumble!

The surface of the sea exploded, revealing a huge hole, which was soon filled with seawater once again.

“Ah... What a warm welcome! Sir, if I were you, I would be so touched, I’d burst into tears!”

While depending on his fast speed to deal with Blackbeard, Edward gave a thumbs-up to Fang Yuan and the others.

This battle between the two pirate governors was definitely the top fight in this ocean.

Fang Yuan’s subordinates, including those who had lost their limbs, crowded the deck and gazed at the battle while red-faced.

If they were to give up watching such a fight, they would regret it for a hundred years.

“This is really boring... Blackbeard!”

While Edward was fighting against Monster, everyone could still hear his attractive voice.

“We’re both pirate governors. Are we going to kill each other and benefit others?”

His words suggested that he was alert to what Ettoman was doing.

“True. Looks like we need to have a discussion indeed!”

Blackbeard stopped first. Wanderer immediately slowed down and stopped bombarding Monster.

This disastrous battle stopped. If the prey had been a group of merchants or a port, they would have cheered in exhilaration.

To an ambitious person like Blackbeard, a mere Arcane Trickster Roche was nothing significant.

“Yes. The threat from Ettoman is drawing near, but we free pirates... shall never surrender!”

Pirate Prince Edward stated his point in one sentence. “My opinion is that we should immediately convene the other governors to meet the enemy head-on. How about it?”

Chapter 858: Skin

The private discussion between the two top-notch pirate governors soon ended.

Due to the magic barrier that was raised, Wilson and others could not hear what was discussed. They could only vaguely sense that the entire ocean’s forces and state of affairs were about to undergo tremendous changes.

“Hmph!”

When the two legendary pirate ships ended their meeting, they were even more nervous, afraid that the Pirate Prince would compromise with Blackbeard and give them away as a gift.

Fortunately, the worst-case scenario did not occur.

Blackbeard snorted coldly. The huge Monster roared and reentered the Hell of Lightning.

In contrast, Wanderer gracefully made a left turn, like an exceptional dancer with the ocean as its stage, and sailed alongside Fiery Lotus.

“I’m Roche, captain of the Purgatory Pirate Team. Greetings, great son of the Golden Ocean!”

Fang Yuan opened his arms wide with his palms up and bowed.

“I’m Edward!” The Pirate Prince grabbed on to a mooring rope and exerted a slight force. He drew a beautiful arc in the air and landed on Fiery Lotus’s deck. “Mmm, this is a third-level naval warship, right? In the past, it would have been enough to sail in the Nightmare Ocean and the Golden Ocean.

Unfortunately, even the navy's former trump card, a first-level naval warship, won't be enough in the future..."

Edward gently stroked the mast and sighed.

Simply from this statement, Fang Yuan knew that the Pirate Prince was definitely not completely ignorant about the changes that were currently taking place in Ettoman.

Furthermore, he had a sufficient understanding of the ironclad warships.

Unfortunately, it was still the same line.

What could you do even if you knew about it?

The entire steam engine industry system was not something that could be completed overnight. Even if the Pirate Prince was already going all-out and working overtime to prepare for war, he was still at least a year behind Ettoman.

Even worse, the pirate governors had their own territories, so they had no choice but to meet the enemy head-on in order to guard their own interests and reputation.

While looking at the Pirate Prince who seemed like a sentimental old man, Fang Yuan unexpectedly felt a hint of 'sunset'.

It was like... seeing the afterglow of the closure of the pirates.

"All right, let's talk about some happy matters... Captain Roche, welcome to the Golden Ocean that I guard!"

Edward exhaled deeply and smiled brilliantly.

It only took a moment for the sad atmosphere from earlier to be immediately dispelled.

After a brief chat, even Fang Yuan had to admit that the Pirate Prince was truly an admirable man.

Not only did he have plenty of experience and knowledge, but he was also not bound by this world's etiquette.

Right after their discussion on the subtle differences between female elves and female humans, Edward pulled open his collar and said nonchalantly, "Oh right, Roche, I heard that you have a noble lady from Ettoman on board your ship?"

"Yes, her name is Elizabeth, and she's the daughter of Viscount Quaid!"

Fang Yuan nodded in admittance.

Speaking of which, this woman's luck seemed to be always pretty good.

If she had not been imprisoned on Fiery Lotus but on either of the two three-masted ships, she would have probably died long ago.

"However, she's only a woman. Edward, if you want her..." Fang Yuan was very generous and swung his hands. "Then she's all yours!"

“That won’t do... Based on the pirate rules that I set in the Golden Ocean, only high-ranking pirates can order low-ranking pirates to pay tribute, and the frequency can’t be too high! You aren’t my subordinate yet, so if I accept your tributes, that would be quite wrong...”

Edward promptly waved his hands in refusal. “Furthermore, Viscount Quaid isn’t a simple fellow. Even without relying on his daughter’s marriage for connections, he still narrowly defeated his competitor and became the colonial governor of Ettoman’s Solomon Strait... Congratulations Captain, your slave’s worth has risen again.”

“Then, great son of the Golden Ocean, I wonder if you could offer me a suggestion?” Fang Yuan thought for a while, and then his eyes glistened. “If I use this captive to extort Viscount Quaid, what should I demand?”

“For ordinary pirate teams and merchants, an exemption right in Solomon would be a gold mine with a steady income. But in your case...”

The Pirate Prince said sincerely, “I suggest you demand other things, such as... have you heard of legendary pirates ships?”

“Of course. Monster, Sea God, King’s Throne, Specter Ship, and your flagship, Wanderer, are well-known among all pirates.” Fang Yuan nodded.

“Any great pirate must possess their own extraordinary ship, and this will only become even more important in the future!” Edward winked.

“Could... Viscount Quaid have an extraordinary ship?” Fang Yuan was truly astonished.

“No, he doesn’t have one. However, all extraordinary ships are built by legendary shipwrights and sorcerers... As far as I know, excellent skills and magic attachment techniques are only one aspect. What’s truly important are still the materials! For instance, the wood used in my Wanderer is from the extinct Wind God Tree. Of course, there were other extremely precious materials put together to ultimately build the world’s fastest sailing ship!”

Edward was gazing at Wanderer as though he was looking at his lover.

“Viscount Quaid’s family has a very precious material for shipbuilding... Mmm, have you heard the rumors about the ship Sea God?”

“I’ve heard. It’s said that this ship had obtained the Sea God’s powers and can easily summon tsunamis and whirlpools and call for tempests to assist in battles...” Fang Yuan said everything he knew.

“That’s right!” Edward sneered as he shook his head. “The ship’s keel is made from the Sea God’s spine... Such material is indeed unparalleled in the world. The ship is practically invincible in the ocean. It was thanks to it that the king of the mermaids, Kingsley, was able to suppress the entire Coral Ocean and resist all outsiders!

“When they were building the ship, although they used the Sea God’s body for blood sacrifice, portions of its body were still circulated. Among these, a piece of the Sea God’s skin is Viscount Quaid’s hands!” Edward slowly shared a secret.

“Of course, although it’s the Sea God’s skin, it’s too difficult to cast. Furthermore, even if you come across excellent shipwrights who are willing to undertake this task, there aren’t many great forces that can gather enough of the other legendary materials. So although this piece of the Sea God’s skin is priceless, it’s still possible that Viscount Quaid would be willing to exchange it!”

“I see!” Fang Yuan took a deep breath and nodded his head. He then looked at Edward. “Then... great Pirate Prince, why are you helping me so much?”

“Me? I just don’t want the ocean to be too lonesome in the future...”

A lonely look appeared on Edward’s face, and he swung back onto Wanderer’s deck. “An incomparable great ocean war will break out in the Nightmare Ocean a month later. Any pirate with the ambition to become the Pirate King shouldn’t be absent.”

...

“Pirate Prince Edward? What an interesting person...”

Looking at Wanderer quickly fading away, Fang Yuan’s lips curled up at the corners. Shortly after, his expression turned grave. “Get everyone to gather on the deck and count our losses! Also, order Slavery to come closer and report the list of survivors!”

“Boss!”

After some time, Wilson passed a loss report to Fang Yuan.

Although they had successfully crossed the Hell of Lightning and reached the Golden Ocean, their losses were significant.

First, the two three-masted ships were lost. And along with the two captains, Pixar and Robert, most of the crew had died without burial. As a self-proclaimed pirate commander, Fang Yuan was immediately at risk of regressing back to before.

Next, in terms of personnel, from the people that he had sent to supervise, Single Ear and Danogu had met with misfortune. But Butcher and Youne, these two simple and honest fellows, had survived. Perhaps fortune favored fools.

As for Slavery, although it was not completely destroyed, it was still heavily damaged. The poor carpenter almost fainted when he saw it.

Most of the crew was still alive, which could be considered a consolation amid all the misfortune.

“Boss, what should we do next?”

Having narrowly escaped from death, Bill made up his mind to cling on to Fang Yuan and would never leave Fiery Lotus again, even if he was given the position of a captain!

“We’ll first head to the nearby Hokululu Port to rest for half a month. We need to replenish crew members and find a few shipwrights with ample experience...” Fang Yuan paused before continuing, “After half a month, we’ll once again return to the Nightmare Ocean.”

“What? Return?”

Most of the crew's faces turned green at once.

Experiencing a narrow escape from death once was already enough. Any more would simply be an ordeal to the heart.

"Yes, we must return!" Fang Yuan's expression was cold and firm. "Anyone questioning my decision?"

All the pirates immediately cowered.

"Great. In that case, it's decided."

There was no doubt that Fang Yuan had absolute authority on his ship.

...

Ettoman, Royal Navy Port.

"Sir Donald, Captain Orlando has come to visit!"

The butler brought Orlando, who was carrying gifts, into the study.

Donald, who was originally hard at work at his desk, raised his head and smiled.

"Haha... Welcome! My captain, do you like your new ship and equipment?"

"I like them a lot!" Orlando then asked courteously, "Also... I've discussed it with Mr. Donald many times, but I'm still very curious about the Dream and Armament Master. I wonder if you could further introduce his existence to me?"

"Of course... My Lord is benevolent and will shelter anyone willing to convert their faith to Him!" Donald spoke like a religious fanatic.

Orlando sat down and casually asked, "That'd really be great... Also, what are you currently writing, Sir?"

"A literary work titled 'The Influence of Sea Power'!" Donald laughed. "Later on, I'll send you a portion of my manuscript, and you can help me take a look. After all, you and I are different types of sailors, and I need the opinions of professionals."

"It'd be my honor!" Orlando promptly bowed.

Chapter 859: Divination

Hokolulu Port.

When Fiery Lotus and Slavery slowly sailed into the port, the sailors could feel an obviously unusual atmosphere.

Instead of pirates horsing about, nervousness filled the entire port.

The two ships had suffered bombardment when they approached the shore.

Fang Yuan and the others were only allowed in after their identities were fully confirmed, and they learned why the whole port was on the defense.

“Specter Ship... that legendary ghost ship has appeared!”

“It’s sailed on the Golden Ocean and slaughtered seven ships, three of which were pirate ships!”

“There are countless undead creatures on the ship, and they won’t let any prey escape!”

...

“Right now, even pirates dare not sail out of the port... Rumor has it that the son of the Golden Ocean, Pirate Governor Edward, has sailed to this vicinity and is searching for Specter Ship with Wanderer!”

From a plethora of information, Fang Yuan managed to understand one thing.

The reason why Edward happened to appear and stop Blackbeard was that he had been sailing in the vicinity all this while, keeping an eye on the activities at sea.

Now that Fang Yuan came to the dock, he saw the many densely packed ships here.

Both merchant ships and pirate ships berthed here.

After all, other than a few major pirate governors, even the top pirates among the rest could not guarantee that they could escape from Specter Ship unharmed.

To pirates, Specter Ship would leave after some time, so they would not risk their lives doing things that could not bring any returns.

“However... in this case, the Pirate Prince’s power will be reduced covertly!”

Fang Yuan frowned when he thought about this point.

According to the information that Edward had disclosed, Ettoman’s Royal Navy might invade the Nightmare Ocean and fight against Blackbeard a month later.

Even if the two governors formed an alliance, how much aid could the Pirate Prince provide Blackbeard if he himself was in trouble?

“It happens... just at this crucial moment. A coincidence? Too many coincidences occurring together appear to be intentional... So the truth is that Ettoman is controlling Specter Ship? Or perhaps it found some method to guide it?”

Passing the dock, Fang Yuan came to the congested city streets.

Due to the various ships that berthed here, the place seemed very crowded.

Some vendors even started to sell goods on the spot, forming a small but bustling fair.

Silk, china, spices from the East, poisons and blowguns from tribes, and rum from Ettoman... There were so many kinds of goods that the place felt like a big mall in Ettoman.

“All of you go and purchase the daily necessities needed on the ship!”

Fang Yuan waved his hand and brought along Bill and Rolisa. The three of them mixed into the crowd, keeping a low profile.

“Bill... you go and find some shipwrights. We should also prepare some extraordinary materials needed for building the ship in advance...”

Fang Yuan was finally preparing to build his own extraordinary ship.

After all, with the rising power of Ettoman, the powers on the entire ocean would be reshuffled, and an ordinary warship was somewhat outdated even before a first-level naval warship, much less a steam-powered ironclad.

“Okay, Boss. But such things are all very expensive...”

“Don’t worry. I’ll give you fifty thousand gold coins first. If you find something good and feel unable to get it, then come to me...”

Gazing at Bill’s back, Fang Yuan looked pensive. “Searching for these materials and building my own extraordinary ship is only the last resort... The fastest way is still to obtain those legendary extraordinary ships directly.

“Specter Ship that’s recently appeared on the Golden Ocean seems to be a good target. Other than that... there’s this thing...”

A map emerged on Fang Yuan’s hand, just short of the last fragment.

“Boss!” At this moment, Rolisa came very close to Fang Yuan and whispered beside his ear, “That black fatty gave away all the secrets about this treasure map... He not only possessed two pieces but also knew where to find the last piece!”

“Oh? Where is it?”

Fang Yuan was somewhat excited upon hearing this.

“In Blackbeard’s hand...”

Rolisa chuckled.

“Are you sure you’re not trying to make my relationship with a pirate governor go sour?”

Fang Yuan squinted his eyes and examined this woman.

“In the moon’s name, no!” Stared at by Fang Yuan, Rolisa felt a chill sent down her spine, as if she were a child encountering a giant dragon.

“Moreover... is your relationship with Blackbeard considered friendly now?” Rolisa added.

“Hmm... You provided this piece of intelligence just at the right time!”

Fang Yuan took a few steps forward. His eyes glistened as he saw a gypsy tent and immediately entered.

The space in the tent was narrow, and all kinds of weird things filled the shelves on both sides.

Fang Yuan even saw a huge glass bottle containing big, strange eyeballs.

“Greetings, my honored guest from afar. May I answer any questions for you?”

A woman was sitting on a woolen blanket at the center of the tent. Her hair was tied in many small braids, and Fang Yang could see her blackened teeth when she smiled at him.

Doubtlessly, this was a witch!

She had mastered the mysterious power that only females could master and even possessed the ability to foretell the future.

Of course, Fang Yuan came here because he recognized that, unlike those swindlers, this witch indeed had some ability.

In fact... the Dao of Dream Master contains all kinds of techniques, including the technique of dream divination, but I'm not adept at this Dao... Furthermore, many parameters are different in a different world, so the divination technique may not be as effective as before. The magical techniques indigenous to this world are the most suitable for it after all...

Divination masters followed heaven's trend and sought unity between human and nature.

In this aspect, the rules in different worlds were very similar.

For instance, the indigenous witches always liked to say 'we must fear destiny!'

"I want to predict two things!" Fang Yuan sat cross-legged in front of the witch. "If your divination is accurate, I won't be miserly with gold coins!" he said casually, and Rolisa threw a bag full of gold coins onto the table.

"I like generous customers!"

The string tying the bag loosened, and a few gold coins dropped out. The golden light reflected from them could provoke greed in most people.

But the witch only took a glimpse of it, as she was still more interested in Fang Yuan. "What two things?"

"First, I obtained a piece of intelligence and want to know its validity!"

Fang Yuan glanced at Rolisa.

"Then Destiny Cards should be used for divination!" The witch made a sound with her lips and took out a stack of cards. "Think about what you want to judge silently. Then take out any card from this stack and pass it to me!"

"The sun?"

Fang Yuan took one casually and flipped it, finding the pattern of the sun on the card.

"It suggests a definite 'yes'. There's no doubt about the truth of the intelligence you received!" The witch did not even frown. "What else?"

"I want to know about the location of a ship!" said Fang Yuan in a deep voice.

"Hehe..." The witch smiled madly and gazed at Fang Yuan with glistening eyes. "So... my young and handsome guest, which ship do you want to track? Is it a merchant ship from the East loaded with gold or a ship belonging to your enemy?"

“Neither!” Fang Yuan shook his head. “I want to know about Specter Ship!”

“That ominous thing connected to the netherworld?!” The witch shivered all over. “Three groups of people have asked me the same question before you, and I had them leave... because we must respect and fear destiny, and mustn’t peek into the domain of the dead!”

“Is that so? What if I force you to do it?”

A red glow flashed in Fang Yuan’s pupils. An emblem that was neither a saber nor a sword but appeared like both emerged on his palm.

“Ah!”

Seeing this, the witch immediately covered her face with both hands and screamed, as if she saw something extremely fearsome.

Thud! Thud!

While she was screaming, two strong men pounced out from behind the tent, but they were immediately taken down by Rolisa.

My own dream divination is only at a superficial level and can’t be used because it’s incompatible with this world... But this witch is an indigenous divination practitioner...

Thinking silently, Fang Yuan hung the emblem on the witch’s neck.

These types of spiritually sensitive people could most easily receive the murmurs of all sorts of beings, but of course, they were most likely to go mad as well.

The witch looked baffled now, as if she was stunned by something extremely shocking.

“I want you to make a prediction for me again!” Fang Yuan said.

“All right!”

The witch remained silent for a moment before taking out a crystal ball and putting it on the woolen blanket, her face and motion expressionless.

“The mist of destiny, please disperse before me... The spherical crystal, please guide me... to the specters sailing at sea!”

The witch grabbed the crystal ball and recited a prayer in a murmur, speaking faster and faster.

A plume of fog emerged in the crystal ball, revealing the vague silhouette of a sailing ship.

The sailing ship was entirely black and mostly corroded, but many undead creatures gathered on it, exerting a terrifying spiritual pressure.

The pressure even penetrated the crystal ball and entered the tent.

Rolisa knelt immediately.

Only Fang Yuan could act as if nothing had happened in front of such pure power of death.

“Who dares covet the ship sailing between the netherworld and the mortal world?”

“Who disturbs corpses that were sound asleep?”

“And who draws the attention of the undead specters?”

...

Mysterious voices were heard from the crystal ball.

It seemed as if specters were really going to creep out from the crystal ball.

The power of Specter Ship was indeed unimaginable. It actually cursed everyone who tried to learn about it through divination!

Chapter 860: Extraordinary Ship

With the whispers of the specters, the concentrated power of death quickly spread in the tent.

White foam overflowed from the two guards' mouths, seeming like they would die at any moment.

Rolisa's face was ghostly pale, clearly having encountered something extremely horrifying.

Of course, the witch herself was the most severely affected.

Greenish-black veins emerged on her face and darkened continuously, even rotting straightaway.

“It's indeed the power of death... Now I sort of believe that this Specter Ship sails across the boundary between the netherworld and the mortal world,” Fang Yuan murmured as a veil of fog emerged on his body.

The emblem of the Dream and Armament Master shined brightly on the witch's chest, releasing circles of power.

Keke!

The specters screamed, the illusion in the tent disappeared, and the chilling aura quickly broke down.

“Your... Excellency...”

The witch gazed afar and passed the crystal ball into Fang Yuan's hand.

There was now a thin streak of white fog at the core of the crystal ball, just like a column of rising smoke.

“The location of Specter Ship isn't fixed, but this crystal ball can indicate its location accurately when it's within a thousand nautical miles of the ship... It's yours.”

The witch smiled madly, her face looking a bit more lively.

“Very well. This is your reward!”

Fang Yuan kicked Rolisa, who was beside him.

Flushing with embarrassment, this female subordinate immediately got up from the ground and prepared to take out some money.

"No need!" the witch said in a hoarse voice, stroking the Dream and Armament Master emblem on her neck with a zealous expression. "This is sufficient."

Anyone with an extraordinary profession had to be interested in the past rulers of the world.

This was especially true for people like witches, fortune tellers, and sorcerers.

Their high levels of psyche and awareness allowed them to interact with these kinds of beings more readily and hear their whispers.

Of course, there were many taboos about things like Demon Gods.

It was hard to tell what would happen if she continued studying them.

Perhaps, losing her mind was already a relatively good ending.

"This witch knows its real value!"

Fang Yuan nodded and left the tent inconspicuously.

As for whether she would believe in the Dream and Armament Master or do something else, Fang Yuan could not be bothered to find out.

...

After a while, in a bar.

At this place, pirates who had drunk too much rum finally forgot about their fear of Specter Ship and started to quarrel.

Fang Yuan seated himself at a bar counter. Soon, he saw Bill bringing an old man into the bar.

"Boss... sorry. Those kinds of precious materials are very rare, and a large amount of gold coins is needed to build even the simplest extraordinary ship. Materials suitable for building ships are quickly sold out once they appear in the market. I searched through the entire port and dock and only found this person... Jeeps!"

Bill pulled the old man to the front of Fang Yuan. "This is the only shipwright I found for now who has experience in building extraordinary ships... Jeeps, this is our boss, the captain of the Purgatory Pirates, the great Arcane Trickster, Mr. Roche!"

"Jeeps?"

Fang Yuan frowned. This guy named Jeeps looked almost identical to any other old pirate, and he had a big red nose.

After sitting down, he kept staring at Fang Yuan's wine glass. Then he said in an unclear voice, "Yes... great pirate captain, as long as I have wine to drink, I'm very willing to serve you!"

"No problem!"

Fang Yuan snapped his fingers and ordered lots of high-quality alcohol.

Jeeps' eyes glistened when he saw the alcohol. He drank the wine in a hurry, as though he were drinking water.

Fang Yuan stared at this shipwright and said slowly, "I want to build an extraordinary ship!"

"Impossible!" Jeeps continued drinking, squinting his eyes slightly. "The cost of building a first-level naval warship is at least a hundred thousand gold coins! And even the cheapest extraordinary ship is worth more than a million gold coins! Do you understand the difference?"

"Of course... If a pirate governor had a million gold coins, he'd probably choose to retire. This amount is sufficient for him to purchase a legitimate identity and even a noble title in any country and live a carefree life!"

Fang Yuan nodded. "I don't have so many gold coins, but fortunately, I don't have to pay the full price in one go... I'm very confident in my ability to earn money."

"However, even if you're determined and have enough gold, you might not be able to build an extraordinary ship smoothly... because the materials are hard to find, and those rare materials are bought up by all those great pirates and governors as soon as they appear."

Jeeps shook his head. "Without truly top-level materials, it's impossible to build ships with extraordinary powers."

"In this aspect, I think I happen to have a trump card..."

Seeing this, Fang Yuan smiled.

Evidently, this shipwright had some real talent. Fang Yuan was unconcerned about other things and had the bartender continue serving wine for Mr. Jeeps to enjoy himself.

Fang Yuan said slowly, "What do you think of the Sea God's skin?"

"It's of course a legendary divine material. Even the oil extracted from it is the best glue for ships, and it can deter sea monsters!" Jeeps' eyes glistened. "Sea God was built using the Sea God's skin. Do you have a part of it?"

"Not yet, but soon!" There was nothing to conceal about this, so Fang Yuan admitted it frankly.

"Since that's the case, it's possible to build the ship. With the most important material, the Sea God's skin, we just need a few other auxiliary materials..." Jeeps frowned. "Although I can't build a legendary ship like Sea God, I can definitely build a simpler extraordinary ship."

"Are there differences among extraordinary ships?"

Fang Yuan grasped this key point.

"Of course!" Jeeps rolled his eyes. "Extraordinary ships are superior in every aspect to all six levels of naval warships... Even a first-level naval warship may not be able to defeat an extraordinary ship, and extraordinary ships are typically the flagships of great pirates!"

"If they're classified, there are roughly three classes. The first class is legendary ships like Specter Ship, King's Throne, and Sea God, each of which is a real legend! Even pirate kings and governors may not possess them!

"The second class is famous extraordinary ships like Monster and Wanderer. Although they're inferior to the first-class legendary ships, they can defeat any first-level royal naval warship, and they're typically the flagships of pirate governors and great pirates.

"And while ships in the third class are called extraordinary ships, their abilities might not be very powerful. Nevertheless, some abilities bring a lot of convenience, such as Holy Spring, which provides an endless supply of clean water, and Mermaid, which can descend underwater... If you can provide the Sea God's skin and collect some other precious materials, I'm confident I can build a third-class extraordinary ship..."

"Not a second-class or first-class ship?" Fang Yuan asked.

"No..." Jeeps burped. "Even if you can find top-level materials, that's still totally beyond my ability!"

"Very well. You're honest, so I'll employ you!"

Fang Yuan nodded. Bill stepped forward immediately and waited for his instructions.

"Invite Mr. Jeeps onto our ship. If he has any family members or disciples, let them come together. And prepare enough rum for him to bathe in!"

After giving his command, Fang Yuan felt the situation a bit regrettable.

It seems that building my own ship will take too long, and the result may be unsatisfactory. I'd rather give up on this method... It's more convenient to get an existing ship directly.

Moreover, after resting at this port and recruiting all the crew members, it's time to promote one or two subordinates to Ocean Warlock!

Bill and the others who had been following him since the beginning had proved their loyalty through their actions.

Furthermore, what he would do next was mostly dangerous, so he had to have a few loyal and capable subordinates.

Displaying such ability at this point in time could better unite his crew.

...

A group of people left the bar and walked on the dark street.

Suddenly, a strong gust of wind blew past, almost extinguishing their torches.

"Who's there?"

With a movement at Rolisa's waist, a black whip emerged on her hand. She gazed at a shadow.

"You're surrounded by an ominous fate... I think you need a professional witch to pray for blessings from the gods and curse your enemies!"

A figure who had an emblem on her chest walked out slowly from the darkness. It was the witch that Fang Yuan had visited earlier.

“Oh? The reason isn’t bad, but unfortunately, it’s not good enough...”

Fang Yuan shook his head.

The witch’s expression changed a few times before she finally told the truth.

“This emblem you gave to me is connected to a great being, but given my current spirituality, I may lose control when hearing his voice. I don’t want to be driven crazy...

“Since you gave me the emblem, I hope to complete this divine exploration with the help of your power... Of course, it would be best if I can acquire divine knowledge. I’m willing to serve you using my ability in return.”

Fang Yuan thought about it and realized that his crew was short of extraordinary people in this aspect.

“Deal!”

What about the rumor that said that allowing women on board a ship would cause misfortune?

He himself was repelled by the world. Furthermore, Elizabeth and Rolisa were both women, and he would not mind another one on his ship.

“I, Cassenia, will serve you!” The witch revealed her black teeth as she smiled madly and knelt. “I swear in the name of that being that I will be loyal to you!”