

The Mighty Dragons Are Dead

Chapter 361 : 0370: The Court's Sailing Ship Arrives (Second Update)

Rock Wall isn't a lethal magic, but its usefulness in group battles is very apparent, whether for blocking or for defense, it's a valuable spell.

Rock Spike, Rock Grenade, Rock Wall—Douson's training needed to be replanned to accommodate new commands.

However, the pressing matter wasn't training Douson, but to complete the new Smoke Mission.

"Mission: News from afar is soon to arrive, an earth-shattering scheme may unfold into reality, no one can predict, but as a Landlord, one must stay armed and be ready for battle. Prepare for combat and await the moment the message is delivered. Reward: The breeding of the Green Caterpillar."

This was the new mission content.

The reward was the peculiar "breeding of the Green Caterpillar"; he wasn't clear on what the Green Caterpillar was. After inquiring many people, nobody knew what it was. It sounded like some kind of caterpillar, but generally, caterpillars were pests, so why would it be a reward?

"Could it be like a silkworm? Spinning green silk?" This question could only be answered after completing the mission.

What concerned him was the content of the mission—prepare for battle.

"The Smoke Mission hasn't provided exact news, meaning whether the dragon-slaying occurs and the outcome of it are still unknown. But I should confirm Fresh Flower Town's battle sequence for heading into the battlefield and be ready to join the fight at any time," Liszt thought deeply about his own strength.

He and Douson were a pair, so when heading into battle, he would undoubtedly bring along Douson.

Now, Douson's strength could be compared to a newly knighted Sky Knight, with three magic skills: the main attack "Rock Spike", the control skill "Rock Wall", and the ranged assault skill "Rock Grenade"—no apparent weaknesses. Combined with Liszt's Eye of Magic and archery, they were an extremely powerful offensive platform.

Paris should be brought to the battlefield, not to fight, but to unleash a burst at a critical moment, to handle any fatal crisis.

Then there was the Knight Squad, comprising two Elite Earth Knights and ten Common Earth Knights, not outstanding but should be capable of supporting roles.

Essentially, this was all of Fresh Flower Town's combat ability.

In terms of equipment, the Knight Squad had a full set of Fine Steel Knight Suits armed by him, as well as arrows made from Thorn Ironwood and Thorn Poison—not too great, but not too bad either.

And there were Telescopes to peek into the forefront.

"My Knight Squad will follow the Coral Island Knights and take on logistics and support tasks... Once we really enter the battlefield, I'll think about how to make decisions. The battlefield changes rapidly, so one can only adapt accordingly," Liszt pondered.

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"I didn't expect to enter the battlefield so soon. Don't worry, Baron, I will ensure your safety," Paris said with a smile.

Liszt replied with a smile as well, "With my current strength, combined with Douson, as long as we don't encounter a Sky Knight of the Sword Saint Level,

it's not too dangerous. I will fight alongside my father and brother, so it would be difficult to come across a Sky Knight... If we really face an irresistible force, then you can step in."

He paused and added, "Be cautious about using your transformation. You have a whole youthful future to look forward to; save me if you can, and if not, escape on your own."

It's impossible to predict how a person will react when faced with danger.

Liszt was simply preparing for the worst scenario. As someone who had lived in peaceful times and then crossed over to this Different World where knights charged into battle, it was natural for him to be nervous about the battlefield. Or perhaps, without experiencing the baptism of blood and fire, he couldn't transform his mentality and set his spirit free.

Marquis Merlin had told him that young people should be passionate.

Unfortunately, he wasn't young and rarely had moments of passion, being cautious and considering all aspects was his style.

Paris, who had directly faced the Light Dragon, said with ease, "Within the scope that my life allows, I won't let you, Baron, fall into danger."

It seemed as if an atmosphere was brewing.

They exchanged a knowing smile, and then Paris bid farewell and left the study.

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Within the Sea View Villa.

Ach, the Sea Serpent magician, was still earnestly learning magic. She had completely immersed herself in the world of magic, unable to extricate herself. She spent most of her time in the Sea View Villa, continuously paging through magic books, soaking up various kinds of magic knowledge like a sponge.

"Brother, you're here."

"Yes, I came to see how Ach is doing." Every time he saw Ach, Liszt was in a good mood, "And also to check on Nami."

The Mangrove Minor Elf was sleeping on the table. It rubbed its eyes, saw Liszt, and whispered "jee" as a greeting.

Then it continued to sleep soundly. Unlike the active Thorn Minor Elf Jela, most elves actually prefer peace and spend most of their lives sleeping—after all, they are born from plants, and plants stay in one place for their entire lives.

"Does brother want to hear Ach sing?"

Ach put down her magic books and asked with wide eyes.

Liszt would naturally not refuse.

So, a beautiful and melodious song quietly began to play. It was a popular folk song from the Duchy of Sapphire, and when sung by Ach, it sounded celestial. Compared to playing the piano, it could soothe Liszt's restless mood more quickly, making him feel at ease.

After singing.

Liszt habitually reached out and ruffled Ach's sapphire blue hair, and Ach giggled and nestled into Liszt's arms. She liked to snuggle there, feeling very warm... even though the weather was getting hotter.

"Ach, I might have to travel far away. I hope that during my absence, you will continue to study magic diligently, striving to become a Grand Magician as soon as possible."

"Where is brother going?"

"I don't know, I might go to the battlefield, or I might not have to leave Fresh Flower Town. In any case, you should study hard."

"Mm, Ach is studying hard every day. It won't be long before Ach becomes a Water System Grand Mage. Then in the sea, Ach will no longer have to worry about being hunted by Dulu Miqita. If Dulu Miqita ever thinks about eating Ach, I'll use magic to fight them!"

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At the beginning of June, the blazing sun scorched the earth.

That day, Coral City Port welcomed a swift three-masted ship flying the Sapphire Dragon Banner. After docking, news had already reached Tulip Castle.

Earl William Lee personally hurried to the port to greet this ship representing the Court.

The people from the ship had disembarked and were waiting at the port. Upon seeing Earl William Lee and his party arrive, a knight clad in silver-white armor at the forefront rode forward: "Earl William Lee, I am Boski Pansey, captain of the seventh Knight Squad of the Blueblood Knight Order. I come bearing orders from the Sapphire Duke!"

"Good day, Captain Boski. What message has the duke brought?"

"This is a letter personally written by the duke." Boski took out a black-sealed letter from his breast and handed it to Earl William Lee with gravity, "The orders are within the letter!"

Taking the letter, Earl William Lee already anticipated the unfolding of certain events, but he remained composed as he offered his hand: "Captain Boski, please accompany me to Tulip Castle to rest."

"Thank you, my lord."

Chapter 362 : 0359: Blue Dragon Encirclement Order (Third Update, Alliance Hierarch's Additional Update 18/18)

Sir Levis was entertaining Boski Pansey, a Viscount and an elite Earth Knight of the Pansey family lineage, addicted to the flow of drugs.

This family's territory was located in Rainbow City on Blue Dragon Island and was also of Earl lineage.

With a prolific lineage, most of the offspring served in the Blueblood Knight Order—in fact, families like the Panseys were referred to as the Blue Blood Alliance, meaning "families affiliated with the Blueblood Knight Order." They were not typical noble landlords but rather nobility of a pioneering nature.

They were the whip of power for the Sapphire Family, without large islands as fiefs and not engaged in production; all their wealth came from rewards and plunder.

The Blue Blood Alliance often married within their own small circles, distancing themselves greatly from the landlords of territories.

Moreover, non-direct female members of the Sapphire Family typically became the mistresses of families within the Blue Blood Alliance, helping the Sapphire Family maintain control over the alliance. For example, Boski's mother, the Countess of Rainbow City, was a distant niece of the Sapphire Duke.

Levis wanted to glean some information from Boski but failed to get any direct response, "I'm sorry, Sir Levis. I don't know what has happened; all I know is the Duke commanded me to bring his decree and to follow Earl's orders, executing the Duke's next command."

"Of course, the Duke's decree is the action program for our Tulip Family," Levis could only reply with pleasantries.

Elsewhere.

In the study, Li Weiliam had opened the black-sealed letter, with the Sapphire Dragon seal intact, proving it was indeed from the Duke and not a forged message.

The identity of Boski and a three-masted fast sailing ship were enough to prove the truthfulness of the message.

The letter was brief.

"My follower, the landlord of Coral Island, Earl Li Weiliam Tulip, by the time you read this letter, your Lord, the ruler of the Duchy of Sapphire, Duke Andrew Sapphire, will be filled with rage, needing to vent it through the most brutal war!"

"My once closest comrade-in-arms, a companion worthy of life and death trust, Andy Sapphire of Iron Hoof Island, has betrayed me! He even dared to covet my most gloriously supreme authority—the Sapphire Dragon! This unforgivable betrayal now compels me, as your liege, to command you to assemble all your knights and reunite with me at Iron Hoof Island, Bull Horn City!"

"The wound of betrayal must be cleansed with blood and fire, Li Weiliam, it's time to prove your loyalty and courage! Take this black-sealed letter and set out immediately; it is the order to besiege Iron Hoof Island!"

"Sapphire Year 152, May 26th."

After reading the letter.

Li Weiliam showed no expression on his face; he simply sat in his chair, perfectly still for a whole three minutes. Then he suddenly stood up, keeping the black-sealed letter and called for his deputy butler Xi Er Wa: "Notify Captain Mickey and Advisor Jacob to come to my study immediately to discuss affairs."

"Yes, my lord," Xi Er Wa quickly departed.

Li Weiliam tapped his fingers on the desk, continuing to contemplate.

When he finally collected himself, he immediately took out paper and pen to start drafting a letter, beginning with an address: "To Marquis Merlin Taro, whom I respect as a father..."

He had only written half when Captain Mickey arrived.

The Earl put down his pen and spoke directly, "Mickey, it's time for the Knight Order to act! Send knights immediately to notify Liszt, Jonas, Trick... and other landlords to come to Tulip Castle for a meeting. Tell them it's a meeting of the same nature as a Pioneer Mandate."

"My lord, is war upon us?"

"Yes, it has already arrived."

"I'll inform everyone right away!"

Captain Mickey, excited, left, and the Earl continued writing his letter until Advisor Jacob from Coral City arrived, and his letter was just finished.

After sealing the envelope, he handed it to Xi Er Wa, "Send this to Long Taro Castle using the merchant's channels."

Then he said to Jacob, "Send notices to advisors in all major towns to collect the summer harvest taxes early. We have a war to fight and need substantial funds for logistical support. Remember, I need you to ensure that within three days, the expedition supplies reach the port and are loaded onto ships."

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Fresh Flower Town.

Liszt had just woken up from a nap when a messenger knight from Tulip Castle arrived, "Sir Liszt, the Earl has summoned all landlords to Tulip Castle for a meeting."

"What's the meeting about?"

"A meeting regarding the Pioneer Mandate."

"The Pioneer Mandate?" Liszt's brows lifted in surprise, and he instantly understood the message that came from Coral Island. The dragon-slaying event had occurred, and it seemed like a failure. The Grand Duke was issuing a Pioneer Mandate to start a purge on the Marquis of Bull, "I understand. I will prepare to head to Tulip Castle immediately, please wait a moment."

After changing into his leather armor and mounting his Li Dragon Horse, Liszt hurried toward Tulip Castle.

On the way, his emotions surged. It took several deep breaths to calm his spirit. The first time he'd enter the battlefield might start. However, the expected panic and unease were absent; he felt only a sense of excitement. After stabilizing his emotions, he even had the leisure to summon the Smoke Mission.

"Complete the mission for the reward: breeding Green Caterpillars."

The inexplicable Green Caterpillar was probably already quietly proliferating in some corner of Fresh Flower Town or Black Horse Island. Its usefulness was unknown to Liszt.

But the new mission reward didn't clear the mist over his head.

"Mission: Although it is not a Pioneer Mandate to plunder resources from the continental Eagle Kingdom, the Grand Duke of Sapphire's dark-skinned message holds the same nature. Participate in the military conference held by

the Earl and vie for the position you desire. Reward: Settlement of the Green-headed Duck."

Attending the meeting and vying for a position didn't seem difficult.

The key was the reward, "Settlement of the Green-headed Duck." What did that mean? Was it referring to those green-crowned ducks from Earth? Would these ducks settle in Fresh Flower Town or Black Horse Island and become a delicacy for Liszt? Also, was there any connection between it and the Green Caterpillar?

Green Caterpillar.

Green-headed Duck.

He felt there was a significant connection between the two.

Just as he pondered the rewards of the Green Caterpillar and the Green-headed Duck, Liszt began to think about what kind of position he wanted, "If it were a Pioneer Mandate to cross the sea and fight on another continent, it would be very dangerous; logistics would probably be the best position. But this time is likely just a purge on Iron Hoof Island, where the enemy's strength is limited."

The highest combat power on Iron Hoof Island included the Completion Level Sky Knights and the Grand Magicians who mastered all kinds of magic.

And they were not numerous.

The Earl had told him that, among the followers of the Marquis of the Bull, there might only be one Completion Level Sky Knight - the Marquis himself; at most two Sword Saints, the son of the Marquis of Bull, Anfei Sapphire, and the Earl Fan Zheke from Yellow Jade Island; and at most three ordinary Sky Knights.

Chris had also revealed that the Goat Assembly's Grand Magicians totaled only four - Weber Truth, Worrent Truth, Olivie Truth, and Weitesai'er Zhenli. Among them, Weitesai'er was the oldest Grand Magician, living secluded and practicing magic with unfathomable power.

"Facing Andy Sapphire and Weitesai'er Zhenli, even Paris in her transformed state wouldn't be able to stop them from killing me. As for the others, with Douson and Paris to contend with, it shouldn't be too difficult for me to escape... But Andy and Weitesai'er probably won't go to the trouble of targeting me, I'm not their opponent."

By now, the schemers like the Marquis of Bull were likely in no position to concern themselves with their own predicaments.

The Grand Duke would surely gather more than just Coral Island to the purge on Iron Hoof Island.

"So, for me, the military achievements this time are pretty much for the taking. Could I gain merit simply by lying down?" Liszt compared his own strength with that of potential opponents.

Instantly, his confidence soared.

"I won't contend for a logistics position, let's aim for a front-line charge instead."

Chapter 363 : 0360: Becoming the Knight Order's Commander (First Update)

"The Grand Duke's Dragon must have encountered some problem, that's my father's speculation," said Liszt calmly. "He believes that, given the Grand Duke's temperament, if the Sapphire Dragon were unharmed, he would never have issued an order to suppress the Marquis of Bull. The Grand Duke would have directly commanded the Sapphire Dragon to annihilate everything on Iron Hoof Island as a deterrent to his enemies."

After rushing to Tulip Castle, Liszt encountered his brother Levis, who was busy receiving the continuously arriving nobles.

Taking the opportunity, Levis told him what had happened—the Sapphire Duke had sent a letter, summoning all his followers to assemble at Iron Hoof Island to annihilate the Marquis of Bull.

"Have you deduced what exactly has happened to the Sapphire Dragon?" Liszt asked with a steady gaze.

"At the very least, it's injured... The knight who came to inform us is a viscount from the Blue Blood Alliance, and he was very tight-lipped. I wasn't able to extract any useful information from him."

"So, is father planning to proceed with the original plan and follow the Grand Duke's command to join the suppression?"

"When the situation is unclear, that's the most appropriate course of action. Father is already in communication with several marquises and earls, and after reaching Bull Horn City, we'll carefully consider how to proceed with the second step. However, the war is essentially set in stone. Liszt, you're only seventeen; are you really planning to go to war?"

He felt a bit displeased. As someone who had been called a "prodigy" and as the family's heir since childhood, he had only gone to battle at twenty-three, and now seventeen-year-old Liszt was about to go to the battlefield.

Liszt was unaware of what Levis was thinking; he simply said indifferently, "As a noble's second son, the only chance to change my fate is through war... I don't have much time to waste."

"Alright then."

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The meeting convened at dusk.

Earl Li Weiliam Tulip announced the Grand Duke's orders and immediately began arranging which knights would be deployed. "Everyone will go to war. Bring yourselves and your followers. All Earth Knights who are not old, weak, sick, or disabled must appear on the battlefield."

He looked around at all the nobles. "My plan is to form six Knight Orders, one elite Knight Order and four regular Knight Orders that will directly participate in the war, and one more to patrol within the island, to garrison and defend the security of Coral Island."

Six Knight Orders, six Commanders.

Coral City Advisor Jacob was appointed as the Commander of the defensive Knight Order, to stay behind and ensure the safety of Coral Island.

Of the remaining five Knight Orders, four Commanders had already been selected. Li Weiliam himself naturally led the elite Knight Order, while Jonas, Trick, and Levis, the three viscounts, each led one Knight Order.

Now only the last Knight Order's commander was needed.

"Earl, please allow me to lead it," Liszt said without much hesitation or conflict. "Although this is my first time on the battlefield, I have an Intermediate Magical Beast as a pet, with combat power on par with an ordinary Sky Knight. I believe I am fully capable of leading a Knight Order to vie for glory."

Li Weiliam looked over the attendees. "Is there anyone else who intends to volunteer as a Knight Commander?"

Indeed, several barons who were elite Earth Knights had been eager to try, but after Liszt volunteered, they immediately backed down.

Not to mention that Liszt had already been hailed as a future viscount; just by virtue of being Li Weiliam's son, it would be very difficult for anyone to contest

with him. After all, no one would be foolish enough to think that they ranked higher in the Earl's eyes than Liszt, even though he was Lady Marie's brother.

Lady Marie's brother was also an Elite Earth Knight and had inherited a baron's title; his prestige on Coral Island was not insignificant.

He was very keen on securing the position of Knight Order Commander, it being the best position to earn military honors, but now, he could only look at Liszt with resentment.

He dared not vie for the position anymore — Liszt was known to set his dog on people.

He always brought Douson with him whenever he left home, as if worried others wouldn't realize he owned an Intermediate Magical Beast. Of course, the benefits of doing so were quite apparent.

No objections were raised during the meeting, so Liszt smoothly became the new Knight Order Commander.

The meeting then began discussing how many Earth Knights each landlord could dispatch to participate in the war and then allocate them subjectively among the five Knight Orders. Evidently, the Knight Order led by Liszt was not very attractive, as not many nobles were willing to join, and the response was sparse.

He didn't mind.

He wasn't even that concerned about his own Knight Squad—only Douson was his greatest reliance.

Ultimately, it was the Earl who made a forceful arrangement, "Captain Layden, you are an experienced and prudent Elite Earth Knight; you will lead a Knight Squad to assist Liszt in decision-making. Cobalt, Nash, both of you lead your Knight Squads and join Liszt's Knight Order as well."

Captain Layden had always been the Knight Captain of Coral Island's elite Knight Squad, which meant the Earl had directly supplemented Liszt's Knight Order with an elite Knight Squad.

Cobalt and Nash, on the other hand, were established Barons, each with their own Knight Squads, including Elite Earth Knights among their followers.

In addition, since each Knight Order had a fixed ten Knight Squads but there was still an extra Knight Squad, the Earl made a grand gesture by slotting it into Liszt's Knight Order—thus, Liszt's Knight Order ended up with eleven Knight Squads, totaling one hundred and forty-two people.

The Earl looked deeply at his son, "Liszt, please remember that all the glory of these Knights is tied to your person."

Liszt replied calmly, "I stand with the Knights!"

The Knight Orders were distinguished by color.

The Earl led the Red Knights, Levis led the Yellow Knight Order, Jonas Shattered Stone led the Grey Knight Order, Trick Weed led the Green Knight Order, and Liszt led the Black Knight Order.

All was agreed upon.

The Earl stood up, announcing solemnly, "My followers, you have two days to prepare. At 10 a.m. on June 7th, all Knight Orders must assemble at Coral Island Port. May the glory of knighthood bless us all and may we fight side by side on the path to glory!"

Everyone, including Liszt, stood up and solemnly saluted with their right hand to their chest, "Ready to charge for our lord!"

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The meeting concluded, and they had a simple dinner at Tulip Castle.

They returned to their own lands overnight.

Liszt, regardless of it being one o'clock in the morning, quickly gathered all the Earth Knights and town officials for a midnight meeting. The meeting lasted only half an hour since everything that needed to be prepared had been ready; it was merely a repetition. After taking care of these matters, he took a bath and lay down in bed.

He called forth the Smoke Mission.

Unsurprisingly, as soon as he secured the position of Knight Commander, the mission was completed: "Mission completed, reward: settlement of the Green-headed Duck."

"Not sure where the Green Caterpillar and the Green-headed Duck are, I'll send someone to look for them in Fresh Flower Town tomorrow. If they can't be found there, they're probably on Black Horse Island...There's no time to search Black Horse Island; I'll leave Goltai in charge of it. Whether it's the Green Caterpillar or the Green-headed Duck, neither is likely to be an impressive reward."

He clenched his fist, "War is now my utmost priority!"

The smoke shifted, forming new Serpent Script.

"Mission: War has arrived! Serving as a Knight Commander has paved the way for your path of glory; now lead your Knight Order to set foot triumphantly on Iron Hoof Island's port, and start the steps of your own war! Reward: The awakening of Virginia Truth."

"Virginia Truth?" Liszt suddenly remembered that this referred to the Magic Goat Family girl who used to be the 36D Ghost and had regained her appearance.

After placing her into the Soul Storage Vessel, he had almost forgotten about her.

Chapter 364 : 0361: The New Ethnic Group of Mangrove Island (Second Update)

He pulled out the Soul Storage Vessel and tilted the spout of the teapot to pour, but no smoke came out, indicating that Virginia Truth had not yet awakened.

Without giving it much thought, he continued to sleep.

The next day.

The entire day was busy with preparations for logistical support to the battlefield. Besides the Knight Squad, Liszt would also bring Paris, Douson, and eight Retainer Knights to serve him on the battlefield. When going out to fight, laundry and cooking were unavoidable, and these tasks could not possibly be done by himself, so they had to be entrusted to the Retainer Knights.

Additionally, he had to bring along a few town officials for a special mission—relocating serfs.

Once the siege of Iron Hoof Island began, they would certainly conquer castles one by one, and the serfs belonging to those castles would become spoils of war. Liszt would never allow these serfs to flee and end up in the pockets of the Sapphire Duke to be redistributed to other Nobles.

He had discussed with the Earl and his brother a long time ago about renting the family's sea ships for the transportation of serfs.

If there ever was a chance to take serfs to the seaport to board a ship, he would absolutely not be polite. Black Horse Island had a vast expanse of wasteland, even Fresh Flower Town still had plenty of fallow land not fully cultivated.

Serfs were truly scarce.

These serfs were different from those in the Eagle Kingdom, as they spoke the same language; after being captured, they could be directly put to work without the need for an adjustment period or acclimatization.

"Remember to bring enough provisions, especially flatbreads, breadsticks, and jerky," Liszt checked the supplies on the carriage.

When a Landlord called upon smaller landlords to join the fight, they would not prepare supplies for these little landlords, only for their own Retainer Knights—Marcus, Charles, and others were nominally followers, but in fact, before they received Noble titles and domains, they were only Retainer Knights under Liszt.

"My lord, we've brought 1,500 flatbreads, 1,000 breadsticks, and 800 pieces of jerky, enough for everyone to eat for a month," replied Marcus.

Flatbread was a creation Mrs. Abbie made at the direction of Liszt, easy to carry and store, suitable for the needs of marching and warfare. Flatbread saved more space than traditional breadsticks carried during war marches in this world. Flatbread, breadsticks, and jerky would constitute the main food during war.

Of course.

The Knights would not only eat these items; once they conquered the next Castle, they could eat whatever they wanted. These flatbreads, breadsticks, and jerky served more as emergency rations, just in case.

To fight a war supported by the spoils of war was the essence of Knightly combat.

After meticulously checking the supplies to ensure nothing was overlooked, Liszt reorganized his Gemstone Space once again—he took out some items

that he wouldn't need and stored them in the Castle's warehouse, such as Mithril, Jade, and Crystals.

And refilled it with food.

Together with the earlier chunks of Six-Headed King Serpent meat, this food would be enough for him to eat for a year; he would definitely not starve to death.

Afterward, he went to the Magic Workshop located in Mushroom Hamlet—originally called the Flame Mushroom Processing Workshop, a place Elkerson used for making Magic Potions. Now his work had been replaced by Chris, and the workshop's name had also been changed to Magic Workshop—all the Magic Potions produced in Fresh Flower Town were processed here.

"Chris, are my Magic Potions ready?" he asked.

Chris moved out a prepared box: "Baron, I finally managed to finish making these Magic Potions before you set off to war... However, I must say, the Mr. Elkeson you previously cooperated with, his method of making Magic Potions was really rudimentary and wasted too much Magic Power."

"His potion-making skills are poor?"

"Not to say too poor, but relatively inferior. It's possible he had little experience in making Magic Potions, wasting at least 20% of the Magic Power," Chris said. She was quite a talented Magician, advancing to the next level at the age of seventeen, while people like Elkerson did not advance until they were in their twenties.

Moreover, what Chris was most proficient in was Magic Potion production, so it was quite normal for her to increase the efficiency of Magic Potion use by 20%.

Liszt smiled and said, "Thankfully I have you to help me now, otherwise the thought of my large batches of magic potions being lost in the production process, and perhaps even being embezzled, would not be a happy one."

"If I could break through to become a Grand Magician one day, the efficiency of magic potion production could continue to improve. For now, it has basically reached the saturated utilization rate that a magician can master."

"Do your best. During my absence, feel free to make any requests to the castle."

"I understand, Baron."

All the magic potions were packed into the gemstone space.

Even though he was headed out to war, he still did not want to interrupt his potion consumption routine. The practice of Dou Qi was like sailing against the current; if you don't advance, you will fall back. Now, with the Dou Qi Secret Technique "Breath Decay" to augment the effects of the magic potions, breaking Merlin Taro's record of becoming a Sky Knight at twenty-two should not be difficult.

"Who knows, I might become a Sky Knight at eighteen and ride a dragon at twenty!" Liszt ambitiously thought.

By evening.

He made another trip to the Sea View Villa to bid farewell to Ach.

However, he unexpectedly received news about the Green Caterpillar and the Green-headed Duck from Ach, "Brother, a bunch of ducks and caterpillars have come to Nami's house."

"Ducks and caterpillars? What do they look like?"

"The caterpillars are a bit like Elf Bug babies, about as long as a finger, and their bodies are covered with fluffy fur, not like insect fur but more like animal

fur; the ducks have gray bodies, green heads, and are as big as swans. They can also spit water jets, and are low-level magical beasts that love eating caterpillars the most."

Clearly.

The reward for the Smoke Mission had landed on Mangrove Island.

The Green Caterpillars bred on Mangrove Island, hence attracting the low-level magical beasts, the Green-headed Ducks, that prey on them. The use of the Green Caterpillars was not very clear—it's possible that their green fur could be used to make clothing like animal fur—but the meat of the magical Green-headed Ducks was definitely an excellent food source.

Liszt's eyes lit up. With his current archery skills, hunting low-level magical beasts would be an easy catch.

At that moment, Ach added, "Brother, those ducks love to lay eggs everywhere, and they have already laid a lot of eggs on the island. They seem to never incubate the eggs, as I haven't seen any ducklings."

"Duck eggs?"

Magical Green-headed Ducks were laying eggs on the island.

This meant that if he picked them up, he could directly hatch Green-headed Ducks and then artificially rear them. Much like Tulip Castle's method of raising low-level magical Fire Rabbits for food, satisfying the castle's great demand for magical beast meat—even if he couldn't incubate the eggs, they would definitely be a delicious delicacy.

After thinking for a bit, he said, "Ach, could you and Nami collect these duck eggs and put them inside the Sea View Villa...never mind, don't bother collecting them. Let's talk when I get back."

It was summer now, and he estimated that these duck eggs probably couldn't be stored for long. By the time he returned from Iron Hoof Island, they would likely be spoiled.

It would be better to let the Green-headed Ducks proliferate on the island by themselves—if these duck eggs didn't require incubation and the ducklings could hatch on their own, it would only serve to increase the population of Green-headed Ducks.

Leaving the Sea View Villa, Liszt was in high spirits.

Now that his territory had Blizzard Beasts, Green-headed Ducks, and the Black Pearl Tridacna, which was not a Sea Monster, it was as if he had gained control of three special magical beast resources.

He felt full of high ambition, "I hope to distinguish myself quickly in this war and be soon granted the title of Viscount of Black Horse Island!"

Chapter 365 : 0362: Wishing the Great Lord Triumphant Return (Third update, additional for 120,000 recommendation votes)

The time before dawn is the darkest moment of the day.

Yet Fresh Flower Town was ablaze with light.

Torches clustered and blazed, and the crystal lamps in the castle shone brilliantly, casting a particularly lively atmosphere.

"Thomas, quicken your pace, the lord has already started washing. The ironed undershirt needs to be delivered to the lord by four o'clock."

"Has Douson been fed? Tom, don't forget the lord's order, give Douson a bath and comb its fur."

"Mrs. Morson, have the maids sifted the powdered milk? We need to pack it up promptly and load it onto the carriage,"

"Barton, hurry up and feed all the horses for the expedition. Don't delay the troop's departure time at dawn."

Butler Carter was constantly walking back and forth between the castle and the apple orchard, directing the castle's servants into action, serving the troops about to set off on an expedition.

When Liszt, having washed up, entered the dining room, Marcus, Paris, and others had already arrived, waiting at their seats for breakfast.

Taking the head seat, a manservant immediately laid down the napkin.

He greeted everyone with a smile, "Good morning to all."

"Good morning, Lord!"

The breakfast was exceptionally lavish, with an array of dishes glistening under the crystal lamp and candlelight, comparable to a festival banquet, even including a good amount of magical beast meat.

Cutting a piece of steak and sipping a cup of milk tea, Liszt then said, "This is our last meal in the castle. From now on, I need everyone to quickly enter a state of war readiness. The journey to Iron Hoof Island from Coral Island is four days, eight days for a round trip, plus the time for landing and combat. We won't be able to return for at least half a month. Is everyone prepared?"

"Lord, we are always eager to rush to the battlefield. The mission of a knight is to live for battle!" Marcus was in an exuberant state for the past few days.

He had participated in wars. As an Elite Earth Knight, he had a few experiences with Pioneer Mandates, but he had not made any significant achievements. Yet he was a commoner with an immense fascination for nobility, almost dreaming of earning wartime accolades and ascending to nobility. Now, the opportunity lay before him.

"I always yearn to return to the battlefield and prove myself!" Charles Trap said, his eyes aflame with passion. "I am no longer young; these next years are my last opportunity!"

Liszt's classmate, Rick Trace, remarked, "Though this will be my first time on the battlefield, since childhood, my only goal in life has been war!"

Griffin Haystack grinned widely, "Lo—Lord, Griffin has al—always wanted to go to the battlefield to ch—chop people!"

The recently recruited David Big Yellow Tooth was stern-faced, "I never thought I'd have such a fortunate opportunity. Fresh Flower Town really is a place favored by knightly glory. I will definitely fight for the lord's honor!"

Following Marcus, the other knights also began to declare their fervor.

Only Paris was busy eating and drinking, showing no particular reaction; she was neither a knight nor chased after nobility.

Hearing his followers' lofty ambitions, Liszt's own blood began to boil. He hastily finished his breakfast, wiped his mouth, and stood up.

Those who had finished and those who hadn't all put down their cutlery and stood up following him.

Liszt looked around, wanting to say something to boost morale, but after thinking it over, he felt it was all too cliché. Having spent time at Tulip Castle, where he watched the earl strut and had to flatter him, he well understood that such scenes were too frequent and had lost their ability to inspire.

Moreover, there was no need for further encouragement; the knights were already sufficiently motivated.

So, he simply said in a deep voice, "To war!"

Then he turned and left the dining room, took the Crimson Blood Sword passed by a manservant, and strode out of the castle. Outside, the sky was

still pitch-black, and torches lined both sides of Douson Avenue, illuminating the way forward.

Retainer Knights led the Li Dragon Horse forward, and he swiftly mounted.

The other knights, along with Paris, promptly followed suit, mounting their horses. Along with two supply wagons and the following Douson, the party set for departure was now complete.

Town officials and castle servants stood on both sides of Douson Avenue, saluting with fixed gazes. More residents of the town had also risen early, waiting along the main road, regarding the gallant Knight Squad clad in fine steel armor with eyes full of admiration and reverence. There was no clamor, yet the atmosphere was already fervent.

Liszt said no pleasantries.

He lightly kicked the Li Dragon Horse's belly, leading the squad forward at a slow pace.

Behind him, Goltai called out loudly, "May the glory of the knights watch over you, may Lord Landlord return in triumph!"

The others quickly joined in, "May the glory of the knights watch over you, may Lord Landlord return in triumph."

Their shouts gradually merged into a wave louder than the last.

Filling the entirety of Fresh Flower Town.

"May the glory of the knights watch over you, may Lord Landlord return in triumph!"

The silver knights, amidst the resounding cries, rode faster on their steeds and soon disappeared at the end of the dew-covered road.

The shouting crowd didn't disperse until the knights were no longer in sight, and then, at the scolding of town officials, they scattered. Those who were supposed to continue sleeping went to sleep, and those who had work to prepare for continued with their preparations. Although the landlord and knights had departed, the officials had not, and the serfs who were meant to work still had to work.

Quickly.

The once lively castle slowly regained its tranquility, only the dimly lit crystal lamps still piercing through the veil of darkness before dawn.

Butler Carter stood on the now quiet Douson Avenue, gazing at the dark road, unable to turn away for a long time.

Mrs. Morson approached, "Mr. Carter, breakfast is ready, and everyone is waiting for you."

"Hmm, alright."

"Are you feeling nervous?"

"No, I am anticipating," Carter replied with a smile, "Although I am not a knight, our master's strength does not require us to worry about him, and there is Douson, a magical beast filled with wonders... Mrs. Morson I've seen too much knightly glory in Fresh Flower Town; some people are born nobles."

Mrs. Morson nodded, "The master certainly is one."

"You know I didn't work in Tulip Castle before, I seldom saw the master until the Earl appointed me to serve as the master's butler. When I tasted the first glass of wine with the master in his study, I knew he was a noble of the highest birth."

Carter reminisced about when he first came to Fresh Flower Town, back then he had to calculate every day whether the castle had enough food.

And then Liszt assured him that everything would improve.

His tone held no discouragement, no dejection, no impatience, as calm as if there was nothing to worry about—indeed it was so, as thereafter, Fresh Flower Town saw rapid development and never again fretted over food.

On the contrary.

Carter found himself more preoccupied with figuring out daily how to vary the menu to satisfy the master's palate, for the castle's recipes were too varied, almost bafflingly so.

"Let us send our blessings to the master and his followers," Carter said as he sat down.

The servants, who were seated around the table, instantly straightened up, and following Mr. Carter's lead, they clasped their hands over their chests and pronounced the blessing loudly, "May the glory of the knights watch over you, may Lord Landlord return in triumph."

Chapter 366 : 0363: Covered with Dried Tulip Flowers (First Update)

Draped with stars and crowned with the moon, chasing the morning dew, the fish-belly white of the eastern horizon gradually turned into a red sky. By the time the red sun rose from the eastern skyline, the troop had already arrived at the Coral City Port.

The port had already gathered many knights, as well as their retainers.

"Captain Layden, I'll leave the assembly of the Black Knight Order to you," said Liszt as he saw Layden Pot, entrusting the task of assembly to him.

He then proceeded to discuss with Levis the allocation of his own ships.

The Tulip Family owned about fifty sea vessels, half of which were twin-mast cargo sailing ships; the remaining half comprised two-thirds twin-mast

ordinary sailing ships and one-third twin-mast fast sailing ships. There were only two triple-mast ships, one being the Tulip— a triple-mast ordinary sailing ship, and the other being the Coral— a triple-mast cargo sailing ship.

Liszt certainly would not be assigned the triple-mast ships.

He was allocated a twin-mast fast sailing ship, two twin-mast ordinary sailing ships, and one twin-mast cargo sailing ship.

The cargo ship was used to transport food and water, ordinary ships for the retainer knights and horses, and the fast ship for nobles to ride in. Of course, Liszt had privileges—his knight squad and retainer knights also rode on the fast ship, serving him, even the Li Dragon Horse was placed on board.

Paris stayed next door, with Douson standing guard at the door.

Personal safety reached the highest level.

After he had negotiated with Levis which four ships belonged to the Black Knight Order, the Earl had already come over and, after delivering a speech at the port, took the lead to board the triple-mast ship Tulip.

Afterward, one by one, the sailing ships left the port.

In the rising sun, the Knight Order of Coral Island set sail, heading toward Iron Hoof Island.

...

Sailing was boring.

However, this time Liszt was somewhat busier, as he had to straighten out the Knight Order, so he kept gathering the one hundred and forty-two knights of the Black Knight Order on the ship. Charging together in training was impossible, but establishing various battlefield signals and slogans among one another, and building a simple trust, was feasible.

At the same time, it was a period to establish authority, as there were two other seasoned Barons on the ship besides him—Cobalt and Nash.

After a simple sword fight on the deck, they had to admit that even without relying on Douson, the intermediate magical beast, they were no match for Liszt.

Even two against one, they could not defeat Liszt.

"Knight Commander, are you sure you have not become an Elite Earth Knight?" asked Cobalt, very dejected after their sound loss in a two-against-one.

Liszt smiled faintly, neither denying nor confirming, "The combat power of a knight is not entirely based on the level of Dou Qi. All you need to know is that my strength is sufficient to shoulder the responsibilities of a commander. Follow me into the charge, and the glory on the battlefield will definitely belong to our Knight's Spear!"

He had already begun practicing "Breath Decay".

But he had not yet succeeded in his practice, and the effect had not been shown; the Dou Qi in his body was still continuously dissipating outward.

Before obtaining the Dou Qi secret technique, he thought this kind of waste was normal, but with the secret technique, seeing the Dou Qi dissipate made him uncomfortable—it was not just a little waste of Dou Qi; it was a waste of his strength, a waste of his gold coins.

Cobalt was thoroughly convinced, "Of course, I would not dare to doubt it now."

Nash also replied, "With the Knight Commander's mighty strength, I am even more confident in seizing glory; I will definitely follow the commander's footsteps closely."

Status, strength, both completely suppressed.

No one in the Black Knight Order dared to defy Liszt, so in just a short four-day journey, he had already successfully grasped the authority of the entire Knight Order.

There were no more voices of dissent.

...

...

Encountering neither storms nor sea monsters, the expedition fleet from Coral Island arrived safely at the Bull Horn City Port, now flying the Sapphire Dragon Banner, on the night of the fourth day.

The vanguard Knight Squad landed at the port.

After a brief reconnaissance, they confirmed that the port was indeed occupied by the Knight Order of the Grand Duke.

Consequently, a series of flag signals were sent from the Tulip, and all the ships began to dock one after another, with five Knight Orders swiftly assembling at the port.

Liszt, clad in fine steel armor with a fine steel round shield in his left hand and a fine steel Knight's Spear in his right, also had the Crimson Blood Sword hanging at his waist. The lining of his armor was made from the skin of the Six-Headed King Serpent, making its defense unparalleled. Mounted on his Li Dragon Horse, the unity of horse and rider exuded an imposing aura.

He rode around the assembled Black Knight Order, his face solemn beneath his lifted visor, his sapphire-colored pupils shimmering under the torchlight.

Once he was certain that all the knights had found their positions in the rows, he suddenly snapped his visor down and bellowed, "All units, close your visors and follow me!"

"Click!"

"Click!"

"Click!"

The crisp sound of metal fasteners echoed as over a hundred and forty knights in orderly rows quickly shut their visors, completely encased in their armor.

Following Liszt, they moved from the port towards Bull Horn City.

Bull Horn City is a major city on Iron Hoof Island and one of the renowned cities in the Grand Duchy of Sapphire, famous for the Bull Horn Academy at its edge. This academy supplies servants to The Court year-round, and numerous noble maidens come here to learn needlework.

It is also for this reason that many single nobles linger in Bull Horn City, hoping to court a well-born lady from the academy.

However, the once-busy Bull Horn City was now almost devoid of civilians, with well-armored knights being the main figures on the streets.

The knights stationed in Bull Horn City coordinated with the Earl and accommodated the Knight Orders from Coral Island in a common district.

"Knight Commander Liszt, the Earl has informed me that after you set up camp, you and the other commanders are to go to Bull Horn Castle for a welcoming banquet," a knight relayed the message.

"I understand," he replied.

He then called over to Captain Layden, "See to it that accommodations are arranged for each knight."

Layden was not put off by Liszt's delegating attitude; on the contrary, he relished the temporary authority, raising his voice as he directed the knights to their lodging.

Liszt instructed his Retainer Knights, "Ensure my room is thoroughly cleaned, call for water to wash the floor and furniture, and spread dried Tulip flowers liberally to dispel this nauseating stench!" Accustomed to the fragrant air of Fresh Flower Town, he struggled to endure the foul odor of excrement mixed with urine in the city.

Paris, who stood nearby, coughed.

Liszt casually added, "Also clean the room for Paris's guard and sprinkle it with dried flowers as well."

Paris gave a small curtsy, "Thank you, Baron," her face unable to hide her amusement.

"Paris will accompany me to the banquet to ensure my safety. Xavier will take care of Douson, and Philip will look after the horses," Liszt briefly ordered.

Having left the encampment of the Black Knight Order, he headed towards the area where the Yellow Knight Order was stationed. It so happened that Levis had also finished arranging his knights and was ready to set out with a few retainers. After a short wait for Viscounts Jonas and Trick, the four Knight Commanders made their way together to Bull Horn Castle.

To attend the welcoming banquet.

...

Chapter 367 : 0364: Bull Hooves, Bull Tail, and Bull Horns (Second Update)

The Sapphire Duke was not in Bull Horn City.

In fact, the Duke had not left Blue Dragon Island at all, and the one who came to oversee the encirclement campaign on Iron Hoof Island was his eldest son, Anthony Sapphire.

This 32-year-old heir to the Grand Duchy had already reached the level of a Sky Knight of the Sword Saint Level, and was gradually taking over the management of the Blueblood Knight Order from the Duke.

If nothing unexpected happened, he would be the Sixth Duke—but now it was hard to say, as the unexpected had already occurred.

He was stationed in the largest coastal city to the southwest of Iron Hoof Island—Bull Hoof City.

"The port of Bull Hoof City is the last stop for the Pioneer Mandate each year. We must prevent the Marquis of Bull from fleeing from Bull Hoof City and also defend against any possible intervention from the Eagle Kingdom. Therefore, the First Prince must personally take charge," Levis commented after mingling in Bull Horn City's castle before returning to his seat.

Iron Hoof Island is known as the barrier of the Duchy of Sapphire, being the island closest to the mainland. It only takes six days to sail from Iron Hoof Island to the coast of the Eagle Kingdom.

As the nearest seaport facing the mainland, Iron Hoof Island is where the fleets carrying out the Pioneer Mandate replenish their supplies before heading to the mainland.

For this reason, the island was granted to a branch of the Sapphire Family, and has been controlled by the Bull Family. Unfortunately, it is now the once most trusted Bull Family that is rebelling against the Sapphire Family, led by none other than the current Duke's closest partner and comrade in arms—Andy Sapphire.

Liszt did not walk back and forth as he was not very keen on mingling, and as a follower of Coral Island's Count, he was also not suitable to interact with nobles from other islands.

"So, who is in charge of Bull Horn City?"

"Marquis Glendenton," Levis replied, his expression not very pleasant, "the leader of the Blue Blood Alliance, the deputy commander of the Blueblood Knight Order, the father-in-law of the eldest princess."

Glendenton Red Maple Leaf, one of the seven Marquises of the Grand Duchy, with his domain in Red Maple City. The Red Maple Leaf Family is one of the two major Marquis Families in the Blue Blood Alliance, and the Grand Duke's eldest daughter, Princess Annie Sapphire, is married to Glendenton's son, the future Marquis of Red Maple City.

Levis glanced toward the young man in the hall, surrounded by others, his demeanor quite arrogant: "See that? That's Glendenton's son, just an ordinary Sky Knight propped up by his family and magic potions. Look at how smug he is, as if he's the next Dragon Knight."

The tone was one of discontent.

Clearly, Levis's interaction with the other party was not so pleasant.

The Blue Blood Alliance and the landed Nobles have never been on friendly terms.

Even a Marquis in the Blue Blood Alliance only has one castle; even a Viscount who is a landlord owns either a small island or a city. One depends on the Sapphire Family, akin to a servant, wealth entirely reliant on plunder and rewards; the other follows the Sapphire Family, akin to a vassal, almost a little king in his own domain.

They could never really get along.

Thankfully.

The noble knights of the Blue Blood Alliance did not give Levis much face, but the noble knights of the landlord Nobles frequently greeted Levis.

Even Liszt received quite a few greetings.

Moments later, Liszt caught sight of the Earl, trailing half a step behind an elderly Noble and a middle-aged Noble. He understood that the elderly Noble must be Marquis Deep Throat—Wallace Pineapple Green; the middle-aged one was the Marquis of Red Maple City—Glendenton Red Maple Leaf.

There were also several Nobles walking shoulder to shoulder with the Earl, likely all bearing the title of Earl.

As this group of Nobles entered the hall, the Knights who were previously busily engaged in conversation quickly returned to their seats, and the room fell silent in an instant.

Marquis Glendenton unhesitatingly walked to the main seat, clad in bright silver armor, with deep wrinkles that made him look exceedingly stern, "Tonight is the welcome banquet for Earl Li Weiliam Tulip of Coral Island. With the arrival of Earl Li Weiliam, the battle array of Bull Horn City is now fully assembled. The war begins next!"

He paused.

He continued, "After the banquet tonight, starting tomorrow, each Knight Order will be assigned their own direction of attack, waiting for the troops from the other ports to assemble completely. Together, we will launch an offensive and sweep Iron Hoof Island! We must fulfill the Grand Duke's wrath and annihilate everything of the Bull Family!"

"Furthermore, everyone must take note that all spoils of war from Iron Hoof Island are prohibited from private trafficking. These are the internal resources

of the nation and must be personally allocated by the Grand Duke! Should anyone break the rules, do not blame my longsword for drinking their blood!"

Having said this, Marquis Glendonon waited for everyone to digest the information briefly before he continued speaking.

"Now, let the banquet begin!"

...

Sitting in his place.

Liszt was very unhappy in his heart; he had made full preparations, intending to transport a batch of serfs back to Fresh Flower Town. He didn't expect that before the battle even began, his plan to plunder serfs was already blocked.

This made him dissatisfied with the Sapphire Duke—wishing the horse to run, yet not wanting the horse to eat grass.

In addition, the dishes served were not to his taste, so he felt no joy throughout the welcome banquet. His enthusiasm for the war cooled rapidly. Now, the only reason that sustained his drive was the path of achieving military merit—he still needed to secure the Viscount title of Black Horse Island as soon as possible.

After the banquet, people returned to their barracks.

The Earl summoned Liszt and others to a room for a brief meeting, "Marquis Glendonon is known for his iron fist. You must restrain any acts of private plundering... There will be spoils of war, and after the struggle ends, you will not miss what you deserve, so do not slacken."

Jonas asked, "Earl, what exactly is the current situation? I'm still unclear about it."

It was not just Jonas who was unclear; Liszt was equally in the dark, knowing only that the Grand Duke had issued an order to besiege, and so the Knights of Coral Island hurried to assemble in Bull Horn City.

After a moment of consideration, the Earl said, "Judging from the information revealed by Marquis Glendenton, the Sapphire Dragon is wounded and temporarily unable to mobilize, and the Grand Duke is healing the Sapphire Dragon. After the Marquis of Bull and his party initiated the attack, they have fled Blue Dragon Island and holed up back on Iron Hoof Island."

The situation was somewhat perplexing, and the Earl could only simplify it to one clue, "So what we need to do now is follow the command, sweep Iron Hoof Island... and believe that the situation will soon become clear."

Although the overall picture was still unclear.

But everyone felt somewhat relieved, knowing that the Sapphire Dragon was not dead, meaning that the Duchy of Sapphire would not be unstable for the time being. The siege of Iron Hoof Island would continue without overthinking.

...

However, just as everyone was confident and pondering how to crush Iron Hoof Island, suddenly shocking bad news arrived.

Second Prince Angus Sapphire, stationed in another port city, Bull Tail City, was ambushed by the elite Knight Order of Marquis of Bull due to a rash attack. Three hundred knights of the Blueblood Knight Order, along with eight hundred knights of the fief, were completely obliterated. Only Prince Angus himself managed to escape back to Bull Tail City with the desperate protection of his guards.

"The Wrath Knight Order, under the direct command of the Marquis of Bull, is attacking Bull Tail City, attempting to breakthrough from Bull Tail City. The

First Prince has already issued an emergency secret order, calling for reinforcements from each city to support Bull Tail City!"

The messenger was a Sky Knight, who descended from the sky—he was a true "Sky" Knight, mounted on an Ashen Hawk, a low-tier Magical Beast that could be tamed.

Chapter 368 : 0365: Assault on Mane City (Third Release, 10,000 Coins Reward Celebrating 1/4)

This chapter has been sponsored by "Redemption" with a donation of 40,000 coins, and there are three more chapters to follow.

In this strange world, the mounts of knights are not only horses, especially after becoming Sky Knights, as horsebacks can no longer confine them.

Thus, various magical beasts have entered the eyes of Sky Knights.

Compared to wild beasts, magical beasts have a relatively higher intelligence and a great potential to be tamed, understanding the concept of submission to the strong. When the Earl came to Coral Island, he took an interest in the Intermediate Magical Beast, the Giant Barbarian Bear that lived on the island and wanted to tame it as his mount. Of course, the end result was failure.

The Giant Barbarian Bear did not become a mount but instead a chair.

Since then, the Earl had been searching for a magical beast mount, but none caught his eye, making him a Sky Knight without one.

As for his son, Liszt.

He had long owned a magical beast mount, not just one, but nine Intermediate Magical Beasts—of course, outsiders did not know that the eight tiny ones were all Intermediate Magical Beasts, even if Liszt renamed them Blizzard

Beasts, many still believed that Douson was the one and only Intermediate Magical Beast.

And the eight tiny ones were just low-level magical beasts mixed with some Intermediate Magical Beast bloodline.

After all, they had no prompt from the Smoke Mission.

The messenger Sky Knight before them descended from the back of a massive Ashen Hawk, his silver-white Mithril Armor highlighting his status—the Hemp Eagle Knights.

The Ashen Hawk is a flying magical beast domesticated by the Sapphire Family. The Grand Duke selects outstanding knights from the Blue Blood Alliance, grants them Ashen Hawk mounts, and forms a knight order. In theory, this knight order is more elite and powerful than the Blueblood Knight Order, but due to limited numbers, it has never been full, with only a peak of just over forty members at its most.

Nowadays, the Hemp Eagle Knights only have twenty-five members.

"The visitor is Boaten Tricolor Violet, the father of Boski Pansey, the Earl of Rainbow City, and the captain of the Greyhawk Squad, one of only two knight squads in the Hemp Eagle Knights," Levis whispered an introduction to Liszt, standing beside him.

The twenty-five members of the Hemp Eagle Knights, aside from the leader, form exactly two knight squads, one named Greyhawk and the other Hemp Eagle.

The news that Boaten brought forced Marquis Glendenton to make a decision: "Marquis Wallace, I hope you will lead your knight order to support Second Prince His Highness at Bull Hoof City!"

Marquis Wallace said, "Then the battle situation in Bull Horn City is left to you."

"Rest assured, since Andy's personal knight order has already headed to Bull Hoof City, we will quickly take over the Bull Horn City area! The Grand Duke's wrath will not be delayed by any counterattack," Marquis Glendenton's command wrinkles deepened. "Earls, look at this map, each of you choose a direction, and complete the purge!"

A massive map was spread out.

It was a bit abstract, but already precise down to every city's subordinate towns.

Liszt and the others could only watch the decision-making; soon Earl Li Weiliam chose a large city as his main attack direction—Bull Hair City.

Bull Hair City is a fief of an Earl, Sned Celery.

Back at the encampment.

Earl Li Weiliam immediately held an internal meeting: "Apart from Bull Hair City, Sned only has three small cities, and his strength is merely that of an ordinary Sky Knight. I will lead the Red Knights to contain Sned and the knights of Celery Fort. You quickly complete the purging of the three small cities, and join forces with me to attack Celery Fort."

After a moment of thought.

He made further arrangements: "Jonas goes to Little River City, Trick to Green Shade City, Liszt to Mane City, Levis is responsible for roaming support... If there are no problems, start preparing your equipment now. Once I gather intelligence on the rebel defenses with the other earls and determine the attack schedule, we will directly advance towards Bull Hair City!"

...

No need for too much tactical arrangement.

In this world, battles are determined by the charge of knights, at most with the addition of ambush tactics and counter-ambushes. Therefore, gathering intelligence was fairly easy, and without a long wait, the war had already been triggered. Following the predetermined decision, Liszt led the Black Knight Order, accompanying the Earl to Bull Hair City.

Upon reaching the territorial border, the Earl rode up to Liszt and first instructed Layden, "Protect Liszt well!"

Layden solemnly responded, "I am willing to be Baron Liszt's shield, my lord!"

The Earl nodded his acknowledgment, then with a complex look in his eyes toward Liszt that conveyed worry and relief, he finally spoke calmly, "Fight on your own, be careful and cautious."

Liszt took a calm breath, "Victory is in sight!"

Without any overly sentimental words, the Earl waved his hand, and the five knight squads scattered immediately. Liszt lightly kicked his horse, and the Li Dragon Horse burst forward like an arrow, leading the Black Knight Order toward Mane City.

More than one hundred and forty Earth Knights, plus over thirty Retainer Knights, totalled one hundred and eighty horses, trampling the earth under the scorching sun.

The knights, armor, and horses, with their combined weight, were like a tank.

The dust they kicked up hung in the air like haze, long unable to settle.

"Mane City's terrain is fairly open, and since there is no Viscount Lord, the difficulty of sweeping through is not great. We'll start the sweep from Dry Grass Town and push all the way to take over Mane City. Execute all knights, ultimately clearing the entire city to meet up with the Earl at Celery Fort."

Liszt led the Black Knight Order forward, discussing battle strategies with Layden, Cobalt, Nash, Marcus, and others while replenishing their water supplies.

"The knights in the small town have probably heard the news and have hidden inside Mane City to defend it."

"That's perfect, we'll take care of them all at once in Mane City!" Liszt galloped on his horse, hiding his excitement about the upcoming war, replaced with calm.

In all of Bull Hair City and the three small cities under its jurisdiction, there was only Sned, a common-tier Sky Knight. Once this knight was targeted by Li Weiliam, there was no one left in Bull Hair City who could stand against Douson's knights. Even if Sned employed a strategy to lure the tiger away from the mountain and ambush Liszt, Paris and Douson would join forces to block him.

Therefore, he had nothing to fear.

Of course, being careful and cautious was essential. While speeding along, he would occasionally take out a telescope to carefully observe his surroundings.

The route chosen avoided woods, instead traversing open terrain.

The charging Knight Order could reach a speed of 40 kilometers per hour.

The whole army set off in the morning, the Knight Order split up at noon, and by less than four in the afternoon, the Black Knight Order had arrived at the predetermined destination—Dry Grass Town.

Seeing a group of unfamiliar knights charging toward the town, the serfs of the small town threw down their hoes and bone spades in panic, hiding inside their dilapidated thatched cottages, daring not to show their faces.

Liszt ordered, "Marcus, take a team to the town to find the local officials and gather information."

Marcus obeyed the command, returning in less than ten minutes.

"My lord, I have found out. There are no Feudal Nobles in Dry Grass Town. The closest Feudal Noble is ten kilometers away at Boar Town, which is a territory of a Baron."

"Ten kilometers, just a journey of one or two dozen minutes, let's go, to Boar Town!"

The Black Knight Order did not stop for a moment, continuing on to the next town. Fifteen minutes later, the sound of their horses' hooves entered Boar Town. However, under the glow of the setting sun, the town was very quiet, with no resistance encountered. After capturing a few townspeople and questioning them, the situation became clear.

Ten days ago, the Baron of Boar Town had already packed up his belongings and fled his ramshackle little castle, leaving it deserted without even a servant left behind.

Let alone a single grain of food.

Chapter 369 : 0366: I Have a Secret (Fourth Update, 10,000 Coins Reward Celebration 2/5)

This chapter is a "kazenoiro" reward update.

In front of the empty and dilapidated small castle.

There was only one serf responsible for looking after the castle,

trembling as he answered, "Noble, noble sirs, all the nobles from Mane City have gathered in Mane City on the orders of Earl Celery Fort. The butler of the

castle gave me ten copper coins, asking me to watch over the castle so that no one would steal the fresh flowers from the garden."

After listening to the serf.

Liszt furrowed his brows in deep thought, "As expected, knowing that a large army is approaching, all the nobles have begun to band together in resistance... Apart from Mane City, there are hardly any knights in this area."

He made a quick decision, "The closest to Mane City is Honey Town, about twenty kilometers away, which we could reach in half an hour. We will station ourselves in Honey Town!"

"Sir, isn't that too close to Mane City?" Layden reminded.

"Maintain vigilance at night, I actually hope that they will abandon the castle and launch a surprise attack on us. If not, we will rest for the night and then directly assault the castle first thing in the morning; with Douson here, their castle won't hold for many minutes. Destroy the castle, eliminate the knights of Mane City, and then swiftly move forward!"

Douson's Rock Spike was almost the quickest magic for dismantling a castle, unless there were anti-magic materials in the castle.

After exterminating the knights of Mane City and joining forces with the Earl to wipe out Count Sned's Celery Fort, they would be able to swiftly advance to the next major city.

Iron Hoof Island has only eleven major cities in total. The three port cities of Bull Hoof City, Bull Horn City, and Bull Tail City had already been occupied. Iron Hoof City, where the Marquis of Bull resides, is easy to defend but hard to attack, but amongst the remaining six major cities, each conquest meant seizing a significant achievement.

In truth, exterminating Iron Hoof Island was not a difficult task.

Although the Marquis of Bull was capable of launching surprise attacks that could injure the Sapphire Dragon, it involved preparations of over thirty years, and even at his strongest, he was only a marquis.

His strength was limited.

The Grand Duke had already called all his followers to besiege from all major ports. Without any external factors interfering, this battle was a great opportunity to seize achievements. Moreover, the Wrath Knight Order, which was directly under the Marquis of Bull, had already gone to fight the Second Prince.

The area around Bull Horn City theoretically represented an abandoned battlefield. If they did not seize achievements now, when would they?

"The only thing to watch out for is the magician from the Goat Assembly. The ties between the Marquis of Bull and the group of evil magicians from the Goat Assembly are very deep... However, these nobles who follow him may not necessarily have any connections with the magicians," Liszt declared his decision before allowing others to discuss briefly.

In the end, they all agreed on his decision and hurried towards Honey Town.

Honey Town was only two kilometers away from Mane City, practically a chargeable distance. As the red glow of twilight spread across the western sky, the Black Knight Order had already blocked the main exit roads out of Honey Town.

The town had no knights stationed in it.

Liszt gave the order directly, "Begin the purge, drive the serfs away, but do not harm them indiscriminately!" No matter what, his soul belonged to a modern person, and he was far from regarding human life with indifference.

Trading in serfs was already the greatest evil he could commit against the common people.

"Yes, Lord!"

The Black Knight Order quickly dealt with the serfs in the town, driving them out of the castle's perimeter, and then began to set up camp around the castle—of course, some serfs were brought over to help the knights with tasks such as pitching tents, collecting firewood, carrying water, and digging soil.

The knights had searched the town inside and out, and by the time they returned, the camp had already been established.

"Sir, there must be a number of rats from Mane City among the serfs, sent to gather information. Unfortunately, we only caught two, and their kind must have already taken the news of our arrival to Mane City," Captain Layden reported.

"No matter, I had intended for the people of Mane City to know... Tonight they will either be on tenterhooks and not get a wink of sleep, or they will organize a sneak attack. Either way, it won't change the outcome on the battlefield... We are here to conquer and besiege!"

Having finished his stern declaration.

Liszt then said, "Bring the two rats here."

The rats were quickly brought forth, having already suffered physically, so they lacked any resolve and started spilling everything they knew right away: "Respected knight, Mane City has nearly one hundred and thirty Earth Knights, with the strongest being Baron Moray, an Elite Earth Knight. They all stationed within the Castle."

Another rat hurried to say, "The Castle is on a hill slope, easy to defend but hard to attack, and they have abundant water and food supplies. Now Baron

Moray and other lords are building Rock walls, preparing to make a stand within the Castle... They might not plan to attack."

"Why wouldn't they consider attacking or fleeing but instead choose to make a stand?" Liszt inquired.

"Perhaps they dare not leave their territory on their own. Once they leave, it would be akin to fleeing, which would incur severe punishment," the first rat replied.

Yet the other rat shook its head and said loudly, "Noble knight, Parker is willing to trade significant secrets for my freedom."

"Speak, if it truly is a significant secret, I wouldn't mind letting you go," Liszt signaled Marcus with his eyes, and the Earth Knight dragged the first rat away.

Parker the rat sighed with relief, "It's like this, I have a brother in Bull Hair City, a rat like me; he got involved with a maid named Tracy from Celery Fort. Once, while they were doing their business in the storage room, they overheard a Magician who had arrived at Celery Fort, secretly discussing matters with Earl."

This Magician informed Count Sned that the Marquis of Bull needed him to hold the Castle and delay the advance of the army.

He promised that after the success of the matter, he could be granted a new Marquis title for his service, and even if Sned were to fall in battle, his son would inherit the Marquisate.

"Earl's son is serving in the Wrath Knight Order, which is under the Marquis. So, the Earl quickly agreed to the Magician's proposal to hold Celery Fort," Parker the rat recounted everything in detail.

"Have they mentioned what would constitute a success?"

"I do not know, noble knight, I've divulged everything I know. These are all things my brother bragged about after drinking, saying that sleeping with Tracy is like sleeping with a future Marquis's maid," Parker finished speaking and then couldn't help asking, "Knight, you promised to grant me my freedom, and I swear I'll leave Mane City without looking back."

"Of course, I'll grant you your freedom right now. Marcus, take him out," said Liszt, giving Marcus a knowing look.

A moment later, Marcus brought the other rat over and said, "Sir, Parker has now been granted complete freedom," emphasizing the word "freedom."

In this world, to be alive, is to be bound by many things at any given time.

Liszt looked at the remaining rat, "Your accomplice Parker has traded his freedom for a secret. Now, if you too have a secret worth enough, you might gain your freedom."

The rat hesitated: "Sir knight, I... I... Ah, yes, I've got it, I have a secret!"

"What secret?"

"The Elf Bug, sir! In the barley fields belonging to Baron Moray outside Mane City, a Barley Bug is being nurtured, and Baron Moray couldn't move it elsewhere, he could only raise it outside... But, but, it's been several days, and I don't know if the Barley Bug has been nurtured successfully."

A Barley Bug in the middle of nurturing?

Liszt's brow quirked, having received an unexpected surprise.

Chapter 370 : 0367: Low-Level Dragon Breed Magical Beast (First Update)

He did not rush to investigate whether the Barley Bugs in the barley fields had hatched.

Liszt chose to stay in Honey Town, rest for the night and directly assault the castle tomorrow, "Don't forget to strengthen the vigilance! Layden, split the Black Knight Order into three groups, each standing guard for four hours in rotation! Marcus, lead the Knight Squad to inspect the warning barriers again!"

Unlike other Knight Squads, the squad from Fresh Flower Town not only had to learn how to charge but also had to learn about traps, sailing, languages, and other knowledge.

Actually, Liszt wanted to nurture his Knight Squad into a special forces unit.

Layden organized the Knights and Retainer Knights for the watch, while Marcus took his men to check the guard devices. During this busy time, Paris suddenly approached, "Baron, I'm prepared to scout out the castle in Mane City to find out the internal situation of the stronghold."

As a Black Dragon Childe of a Light Dragon.

She could turn invisible using the ability to tug at light and shadow, which was an excellent reconnaissance skill.

Naturally, Liszt was willing for her to make a trip to the castle, knowing both ourselves and the enemy ensured victory in every battle. However, he did not immediately agree, "The castle of Mane City must have received news of our attack by now, and they will definitely defend every aspect rigorously.

Wouldn't it be too dangerous for you to scout out?"

"Please trust my skills. As long as they don't possess abilities like yours, Baron, no one will find me. Even if they do, they can't keep me. I'll be back soon, and if possible, I might even kill a few leading knights along the way."

This wasn't bragging; Paris had such abilities.

However, Liszt shook his head, "The power of Mane City isn't strong, there's no need for your intervention. Just carefully find out whatever you can and do

not put yourself in danger... You know, I wouldn't want anything to happen to you." As he spoke, he patted Paris's shoulder with his hand.

At once, a blush crept onto Paris's face, "I understand."

Liszt's mouth curved into a pleasing arc as he spoke calmly, "Moreover, I need to use the knights of Mane City for practice. This is my first time leading the Knight Order into battle, and finding a suitable whetstone isn't easy."

"Mhm."

Paris looked up at Liszt, "Baron, I will be back soon."

With that, her figure had already vanished from sight, the sound of her footsteps spreading into the distance, eventually blending into darkness, elusive as ever.

Liszt remained standing there, lost in thought for a moment.

"I've only made armor from the skin of the Six-Headed King Serpent for myself, and there's still plenty of skin left. I should make a set for Paris... Additionally, I should find an opportunity to forge the Mithril I have collected into Mithril Armor to equip my Knight Squad... It's a pity I don't have a blacksmith capable of forging Mithril."

Mithril, as a magic metal, demanded highly precise forging techniques beyond the capabilities of a normal blacksmith.

Immediately after.

He summoned the Smoke Mission.

Ever since setting foot on Iron Hoof Island.

The Smoke Mission had already indicated, "Mission completed, reward available: the awakening of Virginia Truth."

Virginia, residing in the Soul Storage Vessel, was ready to be brought forth, but the timing was not right, and Liszt did not bring her out — she was of little help on the battlefield, but once she mastered the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique from the Magic Goat Family, she could answer questions once he returned.

Now, the smoke swirling before his eyes formed new Serpent Script with a new mission.

"Mission: Without taking the initial steps, there is no journey of a thousand miles. As a Dragon-Riding Landlord with aspirations to reach the four corners, please showcase your prowess on the battlefield. Only by personally slaying an enemy of equal rank can you stand out and earn greater glory. Reward: One Low-Level Dragon Breed Magical Beast."

"A Low-Level Dragon Breed Magical Beast!"

Excitement surged in Liszt's heart, "I wonder what kind of Dragon Breed Magical Beast it will reward me with. In the Duchy of Sapphire, Dragon Breed Magical Beasts are rare specimens. A Low-Level Dragon Breed Magical Beast won't be much worse off than an Intermediate Magical Beast... And if it can be bred in large quantities, it's even more valuable!"

According to some enthusiasts who rated the preciousness of mythical species, excluding legendary creatures such as Sea Serpents/Nixies and Vampires,

The first tier — Elf Kings and Dragons;

The second tier — Super Dragonkin Magical Beasts, also known as Sub-dragons;

The third tier — Dragon Elves;

...

Fourth rank — High-Level Dragonkin Magical Beast, also known as High-Level Dragon Beast;

Fifth rank — Greater Elf;

Sixth rank — Super Magical Beast;

Seventh rank — Intermediate Dragon Breed Magical Beast, also known as Intermediate Dragon Beast;

Eighth rank — Advanced Magical Beast;

Ninth rank — Little Minor Elf;

Tenth rank — Intermediate Magical Beast;

Eleventh rank — Low-Level Dragon Breed Magical Beast, also known as Low-Level Dragon Beast;

Twelfth rank — Dragon Breed Beasts;

Thirteenth rank — Elf Bug;

Fourteenth rank — Low-Level Magical Beast;

Fifteenth rank — Magical Beast breed creatures, that is, wild beasts mixed with a bit of magical beast lineage.

In Fresh Flower Town and Black Horse Island, Liszt already had two kinds of Dragon Breed Beasts, the Black Blood Treasured Horse and Dragon Breed Cows, as well as an Intermediate Magical Beast Blizzard Beast and a Low-Level Magical Beast Green-headed Duck. To count it all, there was also the Black Pearl Tridacna, which should be considered a Magical Beast breed creature, no, it should be said a Sea Monster Shell.

Each one is an industry worth developing vigorously.

Of course, they all need time to mature, and without several years of cultivation, they temporarily cannot explode with much value.

"I wonder if the Low-Level Dragon Beast rewarded from the Smoke Mission could be developed into a breeding industry, but in any case, in this battle to clear Mane City, I must personally kill an Elite Earth Knight!" Liszt did not have a bloodthirsty desire, nor did he like killing people.

But since it's war, one must be prepared for life and death situations.

From the moment he chose to step onto the battlefield, killing became a compulsory course, and in fact, he adapted quite well— the two rats were just one practice, since they chose to spy on the Black Knight Order, they were the enemy. He would definitely not mercifully let rats go, allowing them to take the news back to Mane City.

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About an hour later.

Liszt was practicing "Breath Decay" when he heard familiar footsteps, causing him to look up at the door.

Knock knock knock.

The sound of knocking came, accompanied by Paris's voice, "Baron, it's me."

"Come in."

As Paris entered, he immediately asked, "Did you encounter any danger?"

"Not at all, the castle in Mane City is indeed very tense, but none of their knights could detect my presence," replied Paris with a hint of pride, then added, "It seems they do not plan to defend the castle to the death. I discovered they were digging tunnels leading towards Mane City."

"They're preparing to flee at any moment?"

"I think they might be bolder than we imagined. I have seen that Baron Moray and overheard his secret conversation with other knights. They're planning to

gather through the tunnels in Mane City, and when you lead the Knight Order to attack the castle, they will launch an assault from Mane City."

Liszt nodded, "That's a very good plan... You've worked hard, Paris."

"It's just a small matter."

"You must be tired; get some rest early."

"Good night, Baron."

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