

Ocean Lord 101

Chapter 101: Information Gap, Outcome (2)

The Black Widow that had been stolen disappeared without a trace as soon as it entered the archipelago. They had no choice but to split the fleet into several teams to search separately.

However, in such a complicated archipelago, the person who stole the ship had probably taken the opportunity to leave.

Just as they were feeling a little depressed.

The lookout on the mast suddenly shouted.

Northeast direction! Target found!”

The pirates looked over and saw a three-masted white sailboat slowly sailing out from behind a towering island.

It was the stolen Black Widow.

Full speed ahead!”

Open fire...”

Open my ass. Boss wants us to snatch it back. If we were to destroy it, how are we going to report back to Boss?”

The two pirate ships advanced at full speed and quickly caught up.

Enclosed from both sides, the target was caught between two ships as grappling hooks shot out, latching onto the Black Widow’s hull.

Upon witnessing this scene, a glimmer of joy appeared on the pirates’ faces.

If the hooks successfully secured their grip, the two ships would remain bound together, leaving the deck open for them to board and eliminate everyone on board, completing their mission.

However, as the pirates focused their gaze, they saw something unsettling on the deck of the Black Widow—dozens of exotic warriors staring back at them.

Their eyes emanated a chilling and ruthless gaze as if they were already looking at lifeless bodies.

An abrupt, peculiar melody resounded, captivating the pirates and leading them astray.

Ding- You have achieved a glorious victory, earning 12,500 experience points. Current experience [28%/100%].”

When they regained their senses, they found themselves tightly bound, surrounded by the lifeless bodies of their comrades.

Confusion instantly consumed them.

What just happened?

How did everything take such a drastic turn?

At that moment, their gaze fell upon Ji Chen, standing nearby.

However, their hearts were already filled with fear. Even without words, they knew that everything was somehow connected to the man before them.

"I implore you, Noble Lord, to treat us like farts and let us go. We promise never to appear before you again."

"After all, you have already killed so many of our comrades. Surely, you've vented your anger by now?"

The pirate's face was filled with flattery, their previous arrogance completely vanished.

Ji Chen couldn't be bothered to engage in further conversation with them, but considering they still held some usefulness, he gave them a chance.

"Surrender or die."

The pirates exchanged glances, ultimately bowing their heads in resignation.

"I am willing to surrender to you."

"Ding- Pirates have surrendered."

This time, the system prompt appeared.

Jichen casually opened the territory panel, and the number behind "Pirates" in the unit column changed from 66 to 270.

Now he could finally relax.

The straightforward surrender of these pirates was a good thing. Otherwise, it would have been troublesome to bring back two intact pirate ships to his territory. He would have had to hire sailors as well.

With these two pirate ships loaded with cannons, his maneuverability increased significantly.

Ji Chen began to inquire about important information from the pirates.

"Previously, we reached an agreement with the Krieg division fleet not to attack each other and to find you, my lord, together."

"They seemed extremely anxious, eager to find you. Moreover, we feel that the strength of those Blood Spirit warriors is gradually weakening."

Their strength is weakening?

Could it be that once those Blood Spirit warriors leave the Blood Sea, they gradually become weaker?

It wasn't an impossible notion.

To be several times stronger after death than before was already incredible. If they could freely roam outside, it would be truly extraordinary.

Ji Chen pondered for a moment and suddenly thought of a good idea.

He had subdued these pirates and the two pirate ships without the other pirates and the Krieg knowing.

Perhaps he could take advantage of this information gap and leave after a big wave.

As the Black Skull Sail slowly rose, a three-ship formation was formed and began to swim between the islands.

The New Moon was sandwiched between the other two ships, making it look like they had been captured.

Soon, with deliberate searching, they spotted a formation consisting of two Krieg warships.

As the New Moon, seemingly sandwiched between them, appeared, the opposing side became proactive, slowly approaching.

The Blood Spirit warriors on the deck were filled with excitement. Once they found the man Krieg had mentioned, they could immediately return to the Blood Sea.

They had already begun to feel the weakness in their bodies. If they didn't go back soon, their souls would soon dissipate, unable to return to the Golden Tree.

Looking at the two Krieg warships, which were lacking in vigilance and had entered the optimal firing range of the cannons, Ji Chen wasted no time and gave the order to open fire.

The cannons roared, and rain of projectiles covered the warships.

Caught off guard, one of the Krieg warships sustained multiple damages.

One ship developed several fatal breaches beneath the waterline, and seawater poured in. From the moment it was hit to its complete sinking, it took less than five minutes.

Only one Krieg warship remained and was now fleeing at full speed.

The pirates wanted to continue firing the cannons, but Ji Chen waved his hand to stop them.

"My lord, why don't we sink that ship as well? Sinking one more ship would weaken the enemy even further," asked Sparrow, puzzled.

Ji Chen smiled and shook his head. "No matter how much we fight, ammunition and manpower are limited. Sinking ten ships would be the limit."

But by letting this ship go, it will sow doubt and suspicion between the pirates and Krieg, causing them to turn against each other. In the end, we will indirectly sink more warships."

Ji Chen pointed to the black skull sails on the two pirate ships. "Don't forget, we are pirates now."

Upon hearing this, Sparrow's eyes lit up.

It was the pirates who did it. What does it have to do with us?

Indeed.

The escaping Krieg warship found another fleet and recounted everything they had witnessed.

In their eyes, it was just two pirate ships escorting a target that suddenly attacked them without any warning.

“Damn pirates! They are treacherous and cannot be trusted from the start!”

“They must have captured that man but didn’t want to hand him over to us!”

Although the pirates’ motive for attacking them didn’t seem very reasonable, their already fragile cooperative relationship became even more fragile.

Driven by the desire for revenge, the Krieg fleet launched a pre-emptive strike against the pirate fleet.

The pirates were caught off guard and shouted in disbelief, accusing the native inhabitants of this mystic realm of lacking integrity. They had agreed to cooperate, and now they were suddenly attacked.

Thus, both sides engaged in large-scale warfare.

Countless ships sank, and numerous casualties occurred.

The sea was littered with shattered shipwrecks and floating corpses.

Meanwhile, Ji Chen, who was spectating from the sidelines, almost burst into laughter at the sight. Night fell.

The battle within the archipelago finally came to a halt.

Both the pirates and the Krieg fleet suffered heavy losses, with only a few surviving.

In the end, the pirates voluntarily retreated, leaving the Silver Islands with only three pirate ships. They had arrived with more than twenty ships, but now the losses were devastating.

More importantly, they gained nothing and were left with nothing but scars.

On another main battlefield, as night fell, the battle between the Bauhinia Alliance and the Krieg flagship fleet gradually ceased.

Both sides suffered severe losses.

The Bauhinia Alliance lost half of its warships, while the Krieg flagship fleet, due to fighting in unfamiliar islands, was at a disadvantage and lost three-fifths of its warships, severely weakened.

Eventually, Krieg realized that the Blood Spirit warriors were too weak and unsustainable, so they led the remaining ships and Blood Spirit warriors back to the Blood Sea.

The Bauhinia Alliance also returned to the harbor, silently nursing their wounds.

However, the conflict between the two factions was far from over.

The mystic realm gate, connecting the Silver Islands and the Blood Sea, continued to slowly revolve.

As long as the mystic realm gate remained open, Krieg would lead the fleet and return for another round.

But all of this was no longer of great concern to Ji Chen.

The New Moon, with two newly acquired pirate ships, sailed leisurely along the route back to their territory.

His mood was incredibly exhilarated..

Chapter 102: Edward's Treasure (1)

When they set sail, they were penniless, but now, on their way back, they were wealthy beyond imagination.

They had amassed over 40,000 units of crystals. If other players were to find out, they would surely be envious.

The Hero Altar, Crystal Devices, and Alice's unit talent tree required only around 10,000 units of crystals in total. With the extra 30,000 units, they had various options, such as trading them for other resources or keeping them as strategic reserves.

Calculating the time, Raymond had probably finished preparing the first batch of goods for the trade with the Crown of the Ocean and was ready to set off. If they acted quickly, he might already be on his way to the New Moon Islands.

Perhaps they could also use the surplus crystals for trading, exchanging them for other advanced resources like Mithril or Adamantium. They had multiple uses.

In addition to the crystals, they obtained two treasures from the mystic realm —the Mana Pendant and the Strength Talisman. Both were 4-star treasures and incredibly valuable.

They also acquired three core units for recruiting troops—the Tidal Sea Spirit and the Deep Sea Roamer. Even in the outside world, these two units were extremely rare and highly sought after.

Lastly, there was the Tidal Lord class, which granted Ji Chen immense magical power, making him the most powerful spellcaster in his territory. With a wave of his hand, he could conjure storms and raging waves.

It had been eight or nine days since they left the sea.

The food reserves in the territory could last for 20 days, so there was still plenty of time.

Ji Chen thought about it and took out a map from his backpack.

[Treasure Map]

[Level: 2 stars]

[Effect: Records the location of the treasure buried by a great pirate named Edward.]

[Do you want my treasure? Go find it! I put all my treasures there]

The treasure map had been caught while fishing in the sea. Since he hadn't gone out to sea for a while, it was temporarily kept in the backpack, gathering dust.

With plenty of time on hand, it was a perfect opportunity to search for the treasure.

The map marked an unknown island, but the overall depiction was quite vague. They could only vaguely recognize that the island was located in the Western Central Ocean, without any other useful clues.

If other players had obtained the map, they would have been completely confused.

But Ji Chen was not an ordinary person. Ever since he had obtained the map, he had a faint feeling that he would be able to find this place.

He couldn't quite explain the reason behind this strange feeling.

After much thought, he had a hunch that it might have been a hidden effect of his Lord's talent.

Ji Chen didn't dwell on it too much and quickly let go of the matter.

As someone favored by the Mother Ocean, was it strange for him to have such a peculiar ability?

He attributed it to quantum mechanics.

With the general direction determined, the three-ship fleet, led by the New Moon, began to sail at full speed.

The journey was extremely dull.

Bored out of his mind, Ji Chen took some time to study the cannons on the pirate ship.

They were not much different from the cannons in the Blue Star Navigation Era, using solid iron projectiles and gunpowder for ignition.

In terms of firepower, these cannons couldn't even match the several water arrows of the Sea Pixies. However, their superior range allowed them to be widely installed on warships.

But this world was not limited to such low-level cannons. It was rumored that the kingdoms and duchies on the mainland were equipped with alchemical cannons and magic energy cannons with even more terrifying destructive power.

However, these cannons were expensive to produce and strictly regulated, so there weren't many warships equipped with alchemical cannons in the Central Ocean. Only the main fleets of kingdoms and duchies would have them.

Leaving the Silver Islands, the three warships hoisted white sails, dismantling their flashy decorations, and disguising themselves as ordinary merchant ships.

On that morning, as they sailed along the route, they suddenly spotted a convoy of two ships on the horizon.

The ships had a deep draught, indicating they were heavily laden with cargo, and there were no escort vessels around them.

Upon seeing this scene, Ji Chen felt elated.

He immediately decided to carry out the plundering plan.

"What are those? They're not just ships, they're fat lambs!"

So, he ordered the three warships to scatter and raised the black skull sails to give chase.

The two merchant ships, upon seeing three fully armed pirate ships suddenly appear, panicked, and quickly changed direction to escape.

But how could the heavily loaded merchant ships compare to the powerful pirate ships?

They were soon caught up and sandwiched between the three pirate ships.

Initially, the guards on the ships considered putting up a desperate fight, but upon seeing the dense array of cannons protruding from the pirate ships, they immediately lost their will to resist and brought the merchant ships to a stop.

Everyone on board gathered on the deck voluntarily, crouching down obediently.

With the sound of several grappling hooks latching onto the ship's sides, over a hundred pirates boarded the merchant ship's deck, completely taking control of the situation.

As they looked around at the fierce and intimidating pirates, each member of the merchant convoy's guards and sailors felt uneasy.

They knew that their cargo was unlikely to be spared today. They could only hope to be spared with their lives.

But as they noticed the sails of these pirate ships, bearing the infamous Black Skull Pirate Group insignia, they had heard that this group never left survivors. They looted and killed without mercy.

In an instant, their foreheads were covered in sweat, and their faces turned pale.

However, at that moment, they suddenly saw all the pirates bowing their heads in reverence..

Chapter 103: Edward's Treasure (2)

Turning their heads, they saw a handsome and dignified man, accompanied by a stunningly beautiful woman who appeared almost fairy-like, stepping onto the merchant ship's deck from the plank connecting the two ships.

Wherever their gaze fell, no pirate dared to meet their eyes.

What surprised them more was the presence of dozens of Naga warriors following behind the man.

With their tall stature, fierce bone blades, and serpent-like bodies with dragon heads, their icy cold gazes made it feel as though they were looking at the dead.

Instantly, a sense of despair washed over them, and a wave of sorrowful emotions emerged.

They thought, "We're done for. Our lives will be lost here."

A few timid ones even began to cry.

When Ji Chen saw someone suddenly burst into tears, he couldn't help but be taken aback.

"What's going on? Why are you crying when I haven't done anything yet?"

Unable to understand the logic of these people, Ji Chen shrugged and asked, "Who is the owner of these two ships?"

A thin and trembling middle-aged man stood up hesitantly and stammered, "Y-y-your Excellency... I-I am the consul of the merchant convoy for these two ships..."

Seeing how frightened the children were, Ji Chen let out a sigh, "Don't be nervous. I only seek wealth, not lives. As long as you cooperate, no one will die."

As soon as these words were spoken, everyone burst into tears of joy.

They obediently crouched on the ground, behaving like good children.

Ignoring them, Ji Chen turned to the consul of the merchant convoy and asked, "What is the cargo on these two ships?"

Upon hearing that their lives were spared, the consul, now rejuvenated, hurriedly replied.

"Esteemed Lord, of the two ships, one is carrying cotton, and the other is carrying flax. They were originally meant to be transported to the Western Continent."

Cotton and flax?

In his memory, both of these materials were used for making fabrics and clothing.

Well, coincidentally, his territory was in dire need of decent clothing materials, and these two shiploads could solve that problem.

Moreover, there was no need to transport them elsewhere for sale; they could be consumed internally.

One could only say that this plundering opportunity was perfect.

"So, I'll take all this cotton and flax. I hope you don't mind," Ji Chen remarked.

"No, no, it's my pleasure to offer it to you, Your Excellency," the consul replied, showing his compliance.

Seeing the consul being so cooperative, Ji Chen nodded in satisfaction and patted his shoulder.

Then, with a wave of his hand, he instructed the pirates to start moving the cotton from the merchant ship.

Bag after bag of cotton was loaded onto the pirate ship, finally giving some substance to its empty cargo hold.

The consul of the merchant convoy observed as the pirates only moved the cotton from one ship and left the flax untouched, growing increasingly puzzled.

"Your Excellency, why aren't we taking the flax from the other ship?"

Ji Chen glanced at him and said, "I can't be bothered to move it separately. Let's take it all together. If everyone squeezes in a bit, you should be able to return on this ship."

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And so, both sides happily reached their "agreement".

The people from both merchant ships were forcibly accommodated onto a single ship, causing the waterline to nearly match that of a fully laden vessel.

Ji Chen kindly left them with food and fresh water, enough for their journey back.

Amidst a farewell salute, the overloaded merchant ship set sail.

Departing with a tinge of sorrow.

Having successfully completed the transaction, Ji Chen was in high spirits.

He had acquired the cargo from two ships without any damage. It couldn't have gone any better.

After all, he was just a benevolent person.

Look, these two merchant ships were heavily burdened. He was merely helping to alleviate their transportation strain!

Hmm? Did you argue that this was undoubtedly an act of piracy?

But what did that have to do with him? Wasn't the plundering carried out by the Black Skull Pirate Group? How did Ji Chen fit into the equation?

See, the ships originally belonged to the Black Skull Pirate Group, the pirates aboard were part of the Black Skull Pirate Group, and even the sails displayed the Black Skull emblem.

Therefore, the conclusion is clear: the perpetrators were the Black Skull Pirate Group!

Thinking of this, Ji Chen secretly laughed.

With a wave of his hand, the fleet continued forward.

Because of the addition of a merchant ship full of goods, the speed of the fleet was much slower.

The originally planned two-day journey was delayed to three days.

Along the way, they encountered many other merchant ships, but most of them were protected by frigates or equipped with many cannons.

To avoid slowing down their progress, Ji Chen refrained from further acts of plunder and obediently proceeded towards their destination.

They finally arrived at the island where the treasure map was located at noon on the third day.

This was an island with towering mountains.

They first circled the entire island to observe the terrain.

The island was concave, and the main part was almost occupied by mountains. The edges were almost all steep cliffs, and at the end of the depression was a gentle beach, which was also the only place on the entire island where one could land.

Unexpectedly, the concave area was very spacious, and the water was deep enough for four ships to anchor there.

However, for safety, he still parked the boats near the sea and took a small boat to land on the beach.

Behind the beach was a dense forest.

Ji Chen took out the treasure map and looked at it.

The place marked on it was in the depths of the island.

With a wave of his hand, the army began to march forward.

This island was very primitive. If there was no treasure map, no one would have thought that there was a pirate's treasure buried here.

Deep into the woods, he gradually saw traces of people.

Broken houses covered in spider webs, rough decorations, bones tied to wooden stakes, broken pirate flags...

These remnants indicated that this was once a pirate nest.

Could it be that this was the pirate Edward's lair?

After passing through the forest, there was a long and narrow river valley. On both sides of the riverbank were steep rock walls.

The location of the treasure was at the end of the valley.

Seeing that there was nothing worth paying attention to here, Ji Chen didn't have the leisure to explore the secrets hidden there.

Right now, he only wanted to find the treasure and take it away.

As soon as they entered the valley, they instantly felt the temperature drop.

There was a stream flowing in the valley. The clear and clean stream flowed slowly from the upper reaches. The noon sun shone down from the sky, reflecting a golden light in the water.

Under the golden light, there was a place that was particularly dazzling.

Ji Chen narrowed his eyes and raised his right hand.

The water flowing downstream was blocked, revealing a golden circular object under the shallow riverbed.

This discovery made the pirates beside him exclaim in surprise. They hurriedly ran over and picked it up.

After looking at it carefully, he was overjoyed and handed it over to Ji Chen.

"My Lord, it's a coin!"

Looking at the gold coin in his hand, Ji Chen smiled.

Perhaps Edward had accidentally dropped the gold coin in the river when he was burying the treasure.

It seemed that the treasure was at the end of this valley.

With this discovery, the morale of the group soared, and they quickened their pace.

Gradually, they started finding scattered gold coins in the stream.

This further bolstered their belief in the authenticity of the treasure, filling them with excitement.

Among them, the pirates were particularly thrilled.

From their accounts, they learned that Edward was not just an ordinary pirate.

"Edward was a formidable pirate from a hundred years ago, a name that struck fear into the hearts of all traders in the Western Central Ocean. His legend still echoes throughout the region."

“His flagship, the Blackbeard, was the most powerful warship in the Western Central Ocean during that era, having plundered numerous merchant ships.”

“For over a decade, he accumulated immeasurable wealth through his plundering, and he even dared to attack warships of the kingdoms. It was this audacity that provoked a kingdom to send an entire fleet to hunt him down.”

“Legend has it that although Edward managed to escape the pursuit, he suffered severe injuries. Before he died, he returned to a hidden island and buried all his ill-gotten wealth.”

The pirates vividly described the stories.

As he listened, Ji Chen couldn't help but become intrigued. He hadn't expected such a background story.

In that case, he hoped that this treasure wouldn't disappoint him.

Advancing along the valley, they finally reached its end after two hours.

It was a circular valley surrounded by towering cliffs.

To the left was a cascading waterfall, the source of the stream. To the right was a dilapidated house, with vines and weeds covering the eaves.

In the center of the rocky wall, there was a stone structure.

At the heart of the structure was a stone door..

Chapter 104: The Ghost Pirates and the Trial (1)

Dusty stone doors, dilapidated houses, slightly weathered stone buildings, and a slightly damp smell.

The scene in front of him was a little strange.

If this really was Edward's lair, it would have been at least a hundred years ago.

They should be the first batch of guests here, and they were also the ones who were about to find the treasure.

Ji Chen first came to the dilapidated house and gently pushed open the door.

Dong—

As soon as his fingers touched it, the rotten wooden door collapsed, stirring up a cloud of dust.

He took a few steps back and waited for the dust to settle before walking in.

The furniture inside the house had mostly decayed severely, with only a few stone furnishings remaining intact. There were large holes in the roof, and vines and weeds hung down through the openings.

He saw the crystal on a stone table.

However, before he could get close, the crystal suddenly emitted light and projected a figure on the stone table.

A figure dressed in pirate attire, wearing a black eyepatch over their right eye. The remaining eye revealed a cruel and cunning gaze. Even though it was just a projection, one could sense a hint of the formidable presence they possessed in their past life.

Ji Chen narrowed his eyes. If his guess was correct, this person should be Pirate Edward.

The ethereal projection gazed ahead with arrogance and wildness, seemingly disregarding everything around.

“If someone has found their way here, congratulations! You are one step away from discovering the hidden treasure of Edward, the great pirate of the Western Central Ocean,” the projection proclaimed.

“For over a decade, I roamed the Western Central Ocean, plundering countless ships—merchant vessels, warships, and even kingdom fleets. The entire Western Central Ocean trembled beneath the might of my ship, the ‘Whitebeard’.”

Upon hearing this, Ji Chen couldn’t help but curl his lips in a sneer. This projection boasted so confidently, yet it had ultimately been defeated and returned here in a state of disgrace?

Why would you dare to attack kingdom ships?

Why not just bully merchant’s vessels? Must you court disaster?

After all, no matter how powerful a single ship might be, it couldn’t withstand an entire fleet.

A hint of resentment flashed across Edward’s projection. “If it weren’t for a traitor who betrayed me and revealed my whereabouts to the enemy, how could I have been surrounded?”

“Although I managed to evade the pursuit in the end, I suffered incurable injuries, weakening day by day.”

“When I learned that my time was running out, I returned here with all my wealth together with my mighty ship, the ‘Whitebeard.’ I ordered my crew to bury both my treasure and my body in this tomb after my demise.”

“I also prepared several treasure maps in advance. If fortunate souls manage to find their way here, they can claim all the wealth I amassed throughout my life!”

Edward’s projection revealed a touch of encouragement. “If you are also a pirate, I have another treasure to bestow upon you—the ‘Whitebeard’.”

At this point, Ji Chen’s eyes sparked with interest.

“The ‘Whitebeard’ is the most powerful warship in the Western Central Ocean. Possessing it means having the power to dominate the seas!”

“I have hidden it in an extremely secretive location where no one can find it. But I can tell you that the clues to its whereabouts are within my tomb. So go and find it.”

As soon as the words were spoken, Edward's projection abruptly vanished.

Kala—

The crystal dimmed and shattered, leaving behind a group of pirates who looked at each other.

Ji Chen rubbed his chin as he digested the information.

It seemed to be similar to what the pirates said.

Back then, Edward, the pirate had indeed been seriously injured in the siege.

He had fled back here with all his wealth and buried it all in the tomb.

But what Ji Chen didn't expect was that apart from this wealth...

Edward's flagship, White Beard, had also survived.

To be able to escape from the encirclement of a main fleet, it must be a very powerful warship, at least much more powerful than the New Moon.

He was determined to get this ship.

Ji Chen looked at the crystal.

After the crystal shattered, a large metal key fell out. It should be used to open the stone door.

Because it was wrapped up, it did not seem to have rusted and was in good condition.

Without wasting any time, he walked out of the house and came to the stone door.

Soon, he found a low stone pillar beside the door. There was a socket at the top of the stone pillar.

He inserted the key and twisted it.

Following the rumbling sound of friction, the stone door slowly opened, revealing a staircase that led down.

The passage was very dark, and the bottom could not be seen clearly with the naked eye.

"The Naga warriors will open the way in front, and the sea pixies will support them at any time."

"Sparrow, you take half of the pirates and half of the shallow sea murlocs to guard the door, defending against possible enemies."

Sparrow nodded seriously. "I will definitely pay close attention."

After Sparrow became a Green Hero, his combat power increased greatly. Ji Chen could not be more at ease with Sparrow guarding the rear.

Ji Chen nodded slightly, gesturing for the other pirates to light their torches.

The torch was successfully lit, which meant that there was air in the tomb.

Seeing this, he also felt relieved and led the rest of the army to move down.

The flames dispelled the darkness and lit up the stairs leading down.

He didn't know if it was his imagination, but he felt that the further down he went, the gloomier it became. He felt a chill on his skin.

However, he did not care too much about it..

Chapter 105: The Ghost Pirates and the Trial (2)

After all, this was Edward's tomb. Since it was a tomb, it was quite normal for it to be gloomy.

The tall bodies of the Naga warriors were like shields, giving Ji Chen a strong sense of security.

The Sea Pixies were also flying around. No one would have thought that these harmless little cuties possessed terrifying destructive power.

The shallow sea murlocs crowded around them. Their dull appearance made it impossible for people to imagine that their tridents could pierce through gold and crack rocks.

Looking around, only the pirates were as fierce as they looked.

At this moment, the pirates were all excited.

As pirates, they were extremely interested in the treasure of the legendary great pirate Edward.

Pirates loved money the most.

The wealth that Edward had plundered in the Western Mid-Ocean for more than ten years was enough to tempt the dragons.

Surprisingly, the stairs were very long. Ji Chen estimated that they had already walked down dozens of meters.

The rough rock walls on both sides cracked open, and water seeped out. Streams of water flowed down the steps, making the passage even more humid.

It was obvious that Edward had not hastily built this place before his death. Instead, he had already begun to build his own tomb.

However, Edward didn't expect that he would die so quickly.

"My Lord, we're almost at the bottom," Alice said softly.

Ji Chen focused his gaze and saw that they had reached the end of the stairs and arrived at a platform.

What greeted his eyes was an underground space of several thousand square meters. Rather than calling it an underground space, it was more like an underground pool.

Other than the central high platform and the platform below them, the rest of the place was filled with water.

There was an exquisite stone coffin on the high platform.

Edward's corpse was probably inside.

Ji Chen looked left and right, but he didn't find the so-called treasure.

Could it be in the water?

Thinking of this possibility, he waved his hand and asked a few shallow sea murlocs to jump into the pool to investigate.

Whoosh—

The murlocs, creatures of the shallow waters, jumped into the water, causing splashes and displaying less-than-perfect diving poses.

But soon, they floated out of the water and shook their heads.

Two murlocs took out a few bones from the water and raised them above their heads to claim the credit.

This caught Ji Chen slightly off guard.

Then, the water in the pool began to tremble violently, creating ripples akin to an earthquake.

Simultaneously, the map displayed a cluster of dense red dots.

He quickly realized what was happening—the enemies were in the pool!

“Everyone, be on guard! Keep away from the pool and watch out for the enemies in the water!” Ji Chen commanded.

Without hesitation, both pirates and Naga warriors swiftly retreated from the pool.

One after another, pale blue figures abruptly shot out from the water, floating above the surface as if defying gravity.

Though their bodies appeared somewhat ethereal, it was clear that these figures were dressed as pirates.

Pirate attire... Ji Chen’s mind started to form some speculations.

He focused his gaze and examined their character information panels.

[Ghost Pirates]

[Race: Undead]

[Level: 13]

[Tier: 3, 2 stars]

[Skill: Soul attack (blue skill, can cause soul damage)]

Soul Prisoner (Blue skill, a soul cannot leave the underground space)

Agility (Green Skill, Movement Speed increased by 30%)

[Military characteristic: Ghost body (immune to physical damage and mental control)]

[The pirates who were killed by Edward and buried with him were disturbed by outsiders. They are now filled with resentment.]

Soul attack!

Immune to physical damage and spiritual control!

Ji Chen narrowed his eyes.

This was the first time he had encountered such a monster. Alice's singing should not be effective on them. It seemed that he had to be careful.

Just now, two silly murlocs had taken a few bones out of the water. It was probably because of this that they had alarmed the undead.

Countless pirates had been killed and buried with Edward, but there was an endless stream of ghost pirates rushing out of the water, staring at Ji Chen and the others with their white eyes.

"I hate it so much...Edward...Why do you want us to die with you..."

"Why did you disturb us...Together with us... Stay here..."

"Hurry up and take the bones...Give it back to me..."

These ghost pirates muttered intermittently, and then rushed over like a green wave.

Ji Chen's eyes narrowed as he raised his hands.

The water in the pool floated upside down and condensed into hundreds of water blades in the air.

He pressed his palm down slightly.

The water blades were thrown at the incoming ghost pirates silently, but they were filled with killing intent.

"All!"

Hiss-

Like the sound of water falling into a pot of boiling oil, the moment the water blade came into contact with the body of the ghost pirate, white smoke rose.

They let out sharp and painful howls as if they were in great pain.

Ji Chen's eyes lit up with joy.

Magic attacks had a miraculous effect on these things.

"Sea Pixies, shoot them hard!"

Upon hearing the order, the little cuties flapped their wings. Their round faces became serious as they waved their staffs.

Whoosh—

Boom!

A water arrow filled with intense energy shot out and exploded on the body of the spirit pirate.

Hundreds of water arrows exploded at the same time, causing the entire underground space to shake.

However, it was like hitting a hornet's nest. More ghost pirates emerged from the pool.

Ji Chen didn't show any fear on his face. He moved his hands, and countless water blades condensed and shot out one after another.

Three or four water blades could kill one.

Under the rain of water blades, the ghost pirates could barely move forward.

At this moment, the power of the Tidal Lord class was fully displayed.

In the small underground space, there were violent explosions and the screams of ghosts.

After nearly half an hour of killing.

When the last ghost pirate was eliminated, a system notification sounded in his ear.

“Ding ~... Obtained 35800 EXP. Your level has increased (11->12)...”

Ji Chen exhaled and smiled.

The experience points given were quite a lot, allowing him to level up directly.

Other than him, the levels of the other troops had also increased.

Other than the Sea Pixies who were only level 10, the rest were all level 11 to 12.

Alice had already reached level 13 and was at the top of all the troops.

Seeing that no more ghost pirates were coming out of the water, Ji Chen looked at the platform in the center.

In the entire underground space, only that place had not been searched.

Although it was immoral to open someone else’s coffin, Edward didn’t leave the treasure in a conspicuous place, so he couldn’t be blamed for opening it to take a look.

A pontoon bridge was formed on the surface of the water. Ji Chen stepped over it and walked up to the platform.

He signaled the four Naga warriors to lift the coffin lid.

Creak—

The heavy coffin lid was slowly lifted and pulled away, rubbing against the coffin body with an ear-piercing sound.

Ji Chen fixed his gaze on the coffin and couldn’t help but pause in surprise.

Inside the coffin, there were no remains. Instead, there was a crystal and a parchment map.

Just as he was lost in thought, the crystal emitted a radiant light, projecting the ethereal image of Edward.

Edward burst into boisterous laughter.

“Unknown seeker of treasure, when you witness this projection, it signifies that you have passed the small trial 1 left behind and are worthy of obtaining my riches.”

“Cowards and the weak have no entitlement to claim my treasure.”

“I won’t waste more words. The map within the coffin will guide you to the hiding place of the legendary ship ‘Whitebeard’. I hope you treat it with reverence and let its renown resound across the seas once more!”

As his words trailed off, the crystal promptly shattered, and the projection of Edward vanished. Ji Chen and Alice stared at each other, enveloped in silence.

So, where exactly was the treasure?

Suddenly, as if triggered by a mechanism, the water in the surrounding pools trembled, swiftly receding to reveal a bed of countless bleached bones underneath.

Layer upon layer of bones and muck concealed the pool's bottom entirely.

These bones were the burial companions of the pirates, left behind by Edward after he had slain them. Fuelled by their grievances, they had endured as spectral entities, forming a challenging obstacle.

Ji Chen rubbed his chin, a flash of insight illuminating his mind.

“Sea Pixies, unleash a water arrow into the pool's depths!”

The water arrow soared forth, detonating amidst the myriad of bones.

Splintered fragments and sediment scattered, unveiling a sight that caused everyone's hearts to pound vigorously.

Beneath them lay a layer of sparkling gold coins!

Chapter 106: Instant Wealth (1)

How much treasure had Edward obtained over the past decade?

Some people said that his treasure could pile up into a small mountain.

Some said it could fill an entire ship.

However, no one expected that his treasures would actually cover thousands of square meters of the pool.

In the dark underground space, under the illumination of the torch, a brilliant golden light was revealed from the ghastly white bones and the dark mud.

The gold coins were buried underneath!

Ji Chen was silent for a long time before he slowly came back to his senses.

His heart immediately became excited.

This time, they were really going to make a fortune!

If the bottom of the pool was filled with gold coins, how many would there be?

Without wasting any time, Ji Chen ordered the pirates to return to the surface. He had Sparrow, who was guarding the surface, bring the other half of the pirates down to increase their manpower.

Perhaps it was Edward's bad taste. Before he died, he spread the gold coins at the bottom of the pool so that the ghost pirates would be alerted first, and the gold coins would only be found after they were defeated.

Although this design shocked Ji Chen and the others at first glance, it also brought some trouble.

This was because they had to clean up the bones and mud first before they could put the scattered gold coins into the boxes before taking them away.

Ji Chen pursed his lips as he looked at the vast expanse of the pool's bottom.

It seemed that they would need to spend quite a bit of time here.

Sparrow quickly descended with the other pirates. Their astonishment was evident upon seeing the sea of bones at the pool's bottom.

Then, they witnessed the radiant gold revealed amidst the scattered bones and mud that had been blasted open by the Sea Pixies. Their eyes widened in awe.

"You, along with the pirates, dig out all the treasures here and load them onto crates to be transported back to the New Moon."

"Yes!" Sparrow nodded in agreement.

Promptly rallying the pirates, they jumped into the pool and joined the excavation effort.

Ji Chen turned to Alice and noticed her puzzled expression. Curiosity got the better of him, and he asked.

Alice hesitated for a moment before speaking, "My Lord, why are you exerting so much effort to dig out these glowing things?"

Glowing things?

Ji Chen chuckled and quickly realized the misunderstanding.

Alice was a Siren, living her life in the ocean, and had no need for money or the concept of currency.

In her eyes, gold coins were probably just shiny pieces of rubbish.

"These are gold coins. In human society, they hold a special value and can be exchanged for various resources. Our territory is in great need of gold coins."

Alice had a sudden realization, "So, the delicious food I eat and the beautiful human clothes I wear also require gold coins for exchange?"

"Exactly."

"In that case, we'll need to dig up more." She nodded earnestly.

Then, as if remembering something, she continued, "When I used to roam the seas on my own, I discovered many of these glowing things in sunken human ships... um, they all shine."

Sunken ships?

Ji Chen's interest was immediately piqued. "Where did you find them?"

"They're everywhere on the seabed... um, but if I had to pinpoint a specific location, it would be in the Stormy Seas region, not far from the New Moon Archipelago."

“If you wish to find them, my Lord, I can guide you.”

Ji Chen’s face lit up with joy.

The oceans of the Western Continent were densely traversed by maritime routes, bustling with trade and numerous ships sailing back and forth.

Just like the sea routes between the Blue Star Europa and the New Continent, there were countless ships that sank into the depths of the ocean due to harsh weather conditions, wars, pirate raids, and other circumstances.

Due to the depths, water pressure, and marine creatures, most of these sunken ships lay at the bottom of the sea, rarely discovered and resurfaced by human beings.

But for Ji Chen, it was like returning home—a vast expanse of water where he could come and go as he pleased.

These submerged ships, hidden from the world, were like treasures waiting to be excavated.

Seeing that excavating the treasures would take some time, Ji Chen didn’t linger. He picked up the map from the coffin and examined the hiding place of the Whitebeard.

Like the treasures, the Whitebeard had also been brought to this island by Edward, but its location was on the other end of the island.

Returning to the valley on the surface, Ji Chen approached the waterfall on the left.

His eyes narrowed as he held the map in his left hand and raised his right hand.

The cascading waterfall, as if blocked by an invisible hand, abruptly split in the air several meters above the ground, defying gravity and flowing to both sides.

In the middle, a gap appeared, revealing a cave.

Without hesitation, Ji Chen took the lead and entered the cave.

Following the winding path of the cave, he walked for almost an hour until the darkness gradually gave way to a colossal cavern.

At the top, there was an opening through which sunlight slanted, providing illumination to the cavern.

In the center of the cavern, there was a dry dock where a massive warship was berthed.

With five towering masts, numerous cannons lined on both sides of the hull, and a gigantic metal anchor resembling a unicorn’s horn, the ship stood like a behemoth.

Ji Chen couldn’t help but feel awed, realizing how insignificant he was standing in front of this warship, like an ant.

So, this was Edward’s Whitebeard?

It seemed even larger than a palace ship.

No wonder it managed to escape from the clutches of an entire fleet of the kingdom. Just by looking at the heavily armored hull and the dense array of cannons, one could gauge its formidable power.

However, Ji Chen also noticed some signs of damage on the Whitebeard. They must have been inflicted during the siege.

Edward, being severely injured, had only managed to bury the treasures without having enough time to repair the ship..

Chapter 107: Instant Wealth (2)

But it seemed that they could still set sail.

The troops spread out and searched the cavern, looking for an exit.

Soon, a nearby Murloc shouted loudly.

In front of it, there were two metal levers embedded in the ground.

Ji Chen first pulled the lever on the left.

With a slight tremor, the dry dock began to fill with water, gradually lifting the Whitebeard.

Whether it was his imagination or not, the presence of water seemed to enhance the intimidating aura emanating from the Whitebeard.

Ordinary enemies would be filled with fear at the sight of such a warship, even before engaging in battle.

Once the dry dock was completely filled with water, and the ship floated steadily on the surface, Ji Chen proceeded to pull the lever on the right.

This time, the tremors were more intense.

As if experiencing an earthquake, the entire mountain shook.

Under the astonished gaze of everyone present, the rock wall in front of the dry dock suddenly opened to the sides. Amidst a thunderous frictional sound, a dazzling light poured in from outside.

Torrents of water rushed in from the outside, crashing against the hull and causing the ship to sway slightly.

After the rock wall was fully opened, they saw the deep blue sea outside and seagulls flying in a panic-filled sky.

This cavernous mountain hollow was separated from the vast ocean by just a rock wall!

What a grand design!

No wonder Edward was so confident that nobody would discover the hiding place of the Whitebeard.

No one could have imagined that a warship was concealed within the mountain.

Ji Chen led the troops onto the deck via a gangplank and began to explore the ship.

Compared to ordinary warships, the Whitebeard had more decks—five in total—and over a hundred cabins.

Captain's quarters, storage rooms, armories, showers, living quarters—he even came across a bar and a bathhouse.

This wasn't just a warship; it was practically a cruise ship!

Ji Chen was delighted because he had now become the owner of this ship.

He suddenly thought of a problem.

Since this ship belonged to him, he should change its name.

After pondering for a while, he decisively changed the name of the New Moon to this ship.

From now on, this New Moon was his ride, and also the flagship of the other warships!

Apart from inspecting the various decks and cabins, Ji Chen also inspected the cannons on the ship.

Due to the lack of maintenance, most of these cannons had rusted and could not be used.

Less than one-fifth of the hundred cannons could still be used.

This made him a little disappointed.

With such a warship that could carry so many cannons, if it was left empty, its threat would be greatly reduced.

However, where could he find such a large gap in the cannon?

Silver Islands?

There were many merchant ships there, and there were all kinds of black markets. Naturally, there were many things like cannons.

However, he had just left the Silver Islands not long ago. He did not know if they were still fighting there. It would not be good to return now.

Transplant the dozens of cannons from the two pirate ships?

It didn't seem very reliable. In his expectation, the two pirate ships would be used as frigates to protect the merchant ship that he had stolen and trade with them.

Removing the cannons was equivalent to pulling out the tiger's teeth and claws. It was impossible.

After much thought, Ji Chen still placed his hopes on Raymond, the businessman.

Using Raymond and the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce's name to purchase cannons and other more powerful weapons was much better than doing it himself.

After making his decision.

He closed the stone door and led the army back.

The pirates were bustling between the underground tomb and the ship, transporting the gold coins.

He found Sparrow and inquired about the progress of the excavation.

"We have already dug up half of it. Please give us some more time, My Lord," Sparrow replied.

After instructing them to continue their work, Ji Chen walked toward the outside of the valley, crossed the forest, and arrived at the beach.

As he leisurely admired the seascape, he suddenly noticed a warship appearing in the distance, heading straight toward their location.

Ji Chen squinted his eyes; it seemed an unwelcome visitor had arrived.

Immediately, he gathered the troops.

On the ship.

“Boss, is Edward’s treasure real? I have a feeling that this treasure map is a scam,” someone questioned.

“I feel the same way. It seems like this treasure map was designed to mislead people. The information on it is practically useless in finding the actual location. Maybe it’s just a trick,” another pirate chimed in.

“We’ve been drifting at sea for so long, who knows what might happen to our territory...”

Hearing the complaints and criticisms from the others, Qiao Yixiong’s face flickered with hesitation and doubt.

It had been almost a week since they set sail. To spend such a precious week at sea in the initial stages of the treasure hunt showed how much hope he had placed on this treasure map.

After all, it was the treasure of the pirate Edward!

If they could find it, the immeasurable wealth they would gain would be enough to change their lives.

But reality had dealt him a heavy blow. They had sailed aimlessly for so long, without even catching a glimpse of the so-called island.

The disparity between his expectations and the complaints of his companions had almost shattered his confidence entirely.

Maybe we should just turn back now?

Qiao Yixiong let out a deep sigh, ready to give up.

But at that moment, his companions suddenly exclaimed in surprise.

“Look, there’s an island!”

An island?

It was probably another worthless island.

Qiao Yixiong shook his head and looked up.

In the next moment, he felt like he had been struck by lightning.

The appearance of this island, why did it look so familiar?

He swiftly retrieved the treasure map, scanning it up, down, and then up again. A surge of elation washed over him.

The shape and appearance of this island matched the markings on the map exactly!

They had found the island where pirate Edward had buried his treasure!

“Full speed ahead! The treasure is right in front of us!”

He exclaimed with excitement, and the others shared the same excitement.

But soon, they felt as if a bucket of cold water had been poured over them.

They stood frozen in their tracks.

Because they saw that four ships were anchored at the shore of the depressed area of the island.

Were they pirates, or someone else who had gotten there first?

An unwillingness surged within them, driving them to get closer.

They saw a figure standing on the beach, surrounded by some troops.

“Could it be that this person has already obtained the treasure? Has all our effort been in vain?”

“It seems to be a player. Should we go over and take a look?”

Qiao Yixiong’s expression darkened, and he quickly gritted his teeth.

“Let all the amphibious troops enter the water, hide in the shadows. We’ll get closer and observe.”

“If their strength is weaker than ours, we’ll directly eliminate them. If their strength is stronger, we’ll lie in wait for an opportunity to ambush. Once we take down their leader, the troops will be easier to handle.”

“We have searched for this treasure for so long, we can’t return empty-handed!”

As soon as he finished speaking, he received the approval of the others.

They had searched for so long, how could they return empty-handed?

He didn’t feel guilty about killing other players.

This was a world where the strong preyed on the weak.

His face was expressionless, but his heart was filled with killing intent.

They took a few small boats and slowly sailed towards the shore.

Hundreds of soldiers swam slowly on the surface of the water.

Qiao Yixiong waved his arms and shouted enthusiastically when he was still dozens of meters away.

“Brother, are you the lord of this island? We’re just in some trouble and need your help! Please do not attack!”

Seeing that person nod, Qiao Yixiong was delighted and called out to the soldiers to speed up the rowing.

The small boat quickly passed by a few warships that were anchored by the shore in pairs, and a hint of jealousy flashed through her eyes uncontrollably.

The four of them desperately collected resources and accepted commissions to earn gold coins. Only then did they sell everything they had to buy a two-masted sailboat.

And this person actually owns four ships, three of which are three-masted warships.

It's simply unbearable to see others surpassing them!

Soon, a wave of greed washed over them. If they could kill this person, then wouldn't all these ships belong to them?

In the depths of their hearts, the intent to kill grew stronger..

Chapter 108: Acting, Huge Harvest (1)

Watching the man standing on the shore, Qiao Yixiong's face was filled with relief, as if he had seen a lifeline. Their small boat ran aground on the shoal, and they disembarked with about twenty to thirty soldiers.

"Brother, thank you for allowing us to land. Otherwise, we wouldn't know when we could reach land. The sea around here doesn't even have a visible island," Qiao Yixiong said in a familiar tone.

"Your territory seems quite remote..."

Hearing his casual words, Ji Chen nodded lightly, not showing much reaction. "Where are you from, and what brings you here?"

Seeing Ji Chen's indifferent attitude, Qiao Yixiong's enthusiasm didn't waver. His face still expressed gratitude, and his tone was sincere. "Well, my name is Qiao Yixiong. May I know your name, brother?"

"Just call me Ji Chen."

"Ji Chen? A great name!" Qiao Yixiong flattered first, then gestured to the four people following him. "They are all my companions. Their names are..."

"Well, a few days ago, we just left the Silver Islands and are on our way back to our territory," Qiao Yixiong explained. "Brother Ji, you must have heard about the secrets of the Silver Islands from the chat channels and forums, right?"

Ji Chen nodded without denying it.

Not only did he know, but he was also deeply involved.

Seeing him nod, Qiao Yixiong's eyes lit up. "You probably don't know that the mystic realm was filled with Krieg soldiers everywhere, and it was extremely dangerous. We lost a lot of soldiers inside the mystic realm, and the final massive naval battle was intense..."

"...Player fleets, pirate fleets, Krieg fleets, and even the Bauhinia Alliance fleet were all attacking each other..."

Qiao Yixiong vividly described the events, speaking as if he had truly experienced it all.

Listening to his words, Ji Chen's lips twitched imperceptibly.

Upon initial hearing, the account seemed convincingly authentic, leading players without personal experience of the event to unquestionably believe in its vivid portrayal.

However, from Ji Chen's perspective as someone deeply involved in the event, the description was full of loopholes.

Wow, this guy is really swinging a big sword in front of Guan Yu, isn't he?

But Qiao Yixiong, who was passionately narrating, was unaware of Ji Chen's expression. As Qiao Yixiong continued to speak, he almost started to believe his own words.

"...Just when hundreds of warships were chasing the player fleet, in the midst of all the chaos, a three-masted sailing ship suddenly appeared, like a fearless warrior, leading the charge towards the Silver Islands, showing the players an escape route."

Qiao Yixiong paused for a moment, pointing to the old New Moon ship beside him. "It's probably about the same size as that ship."

"Let me tell you, that person on that ship was truly clever and decisive. They actually came up with the idea of using the complexity of the Silver Islands to evade pursuit."

Hearing this, Ji Chen took a deep breath.

Hmm, more praise, he likes it.

"...In the end, only one out of ten players survived. Some of us left early to preserve our strength."

"But fortunately, before the mystic realm opened, we made some trades with other players for specialty items, so when we returned, we could still make some money instead of returning empty-handed..."

"Oh, I see. What happened to you after that?" Ji Chen asked, intrigued by the vivid and novel description despite its numerous flaws.

Upon hearing this, Qiao Yixiong's face showed a hint of helplessness, and he let out a deep sigh.

"But on our way back, about two days ago, we encountered a storm at sea and accidentally lost some of our food and freshwater supplies. The remaining supplies are no longer sufficient for our journey back to the territory. So, I thought of

purchasing some food and fresh water from you. We will pay with silver and gold coins.”

Ji Chen “realized” and nodded, understanding the situation.

This so-called Qiao Yixiong had never been to the Silver Islands. Although he appeared vividly, most of the information could be obtained from chat channels and forums.

However, after hearing this long spiel, he was able to consolidate so many fragmented pieces of information and present them so vividly. That was quite a talent in itself.

But unfortunately...

Ji Chen silently shook his head and said, “In that case, I can engage in trade with you.”

Qiao Yixiong was delighted.” Thank you, Brother Ji. Thank you for your help.”

He then relaxed his right hand, slightly raising his thumb as a signal to his companions.

Soon, a young man among them glanced around and curiously asked, “Brother, with so many ships, why haven’t you built a dock for easier access?”

“Shut up, don’t ask irrelevant questions,” snapped Qiao Yixiong, furrowing his brow. He then turned to Ji Chen with an apologetic expression and said, “Brother Ji, I apologize for his curiosity. He meant no harm.”

The young man, realizing his mistake, quickly expressed his regret. “I’m sorry, I shouldn’t have meddled.”

Among players, there was an unwritten agreement not to inquire about the details and specifics of others’ territories.

Qiao Yixiong was very clear about this, so he did the opposite. One played the good cop and the other played the bad cop, using psychological tactics.

In this way, people would be inclined to believe that they had no ill intentions.

Although this method was simple, the effect was surprisingly good. It allowed them to succeed in every endeavor, killing many players who competed with them for resources..

Chapter 109: Acting, Huge Harvest (2)

After going through both tactics, Qiao Yixiong refused to believe that they couldn’t find an opportunity to strike!

But Ji Chen had already seen through their intentions and couldn’t help but smile at their earnest acting. If it weren’t for the hundreds of red dots hidden underwater on the comprehensive map, he would have been tempted to applaud their synchronized cooperation.

However, since they wanted to play a role, he decided to play along a little. After all, he had nothing better to do.

With that in mind, he put on a friendly face and said, “No worries, just wait here. I’ll have someone fetch the food and fresh water for you.”

After speaking, he signaled a few pirates to return to the forest, pretending to retrieve the food and water.

Meanwhile, he himself appeared relaxed, as if he had let his guard down, slowly approaching them.

Qiao Yixiong and the others were secretly excited. It seemed like everything was going smoothly!

As Ji Chen got closer, they secretly signaled the underwater troops. As soon as he entered their attack range, they would launch an attack and eliminate him instantly!

But suddenly, Ji Chen stopped in his tracks as if he had remembered something. “You guys came from the Silver Islands, right?”

Qiao Yixiong was taken aback, and instinctively nodded, “Yes, we did. Why?”

“In fact, I’m the one you mentioned, the one who led the ship to the Silver Islands.”

They were all stunned, and Qiao Yixiong’s face instantly turned pale. He spoke sternly, “He has seen through it. Attack immediately—”

In an instant, a multitude of amphibious creatures emerged from the sea, including devil frogs, fishmen, snake people, clam people, and various others. They swiftly rushed towards him, bearing the intention to harm.

Well, it seemed like he had his own underwater zoo.

A smile curved Ji Chen’s lips as he sighed, “Why did it have to come to this? I only wanted to peacefully dig up a treasure...”

In the airspace centered around him, water surged and condensed into hundreds of water blades, which were then unleashed like sharp blades.

Silent, yet deadly.

Qiao Yixiong and the others watched in awe as this unfolded before their eyes.

Within a few breaths, hundreds of amphibious creatures had been completely wiped out.

They hadn’t even fully set foot on the beach before they were killed by countless water blades.

The sea instantly turned into a sea of blood.

Was this still a human being?!

How could a lord possess such immense power?

As they caught a whiff of the scent of blood, they suddenly woke up from their illusion.

“Brother Ji, please listen to our explanation...”

Splish-splash—

The torrential water blades covered them, slicing through flesh and severing bones.

When the chaos subsided, the ground was littered with five unrecognizable masses of rotten flesh.

Ji Chen looked at “them” and shook his head.

It seemed like this was his first time killing players, but he felt no emotions whatsoever.

From the bodies of the deceased, something suddenly popped out with a pop.

Oh, were these dropped equipment?

Curiosity arose, and Ji Chen roughly inspected them, only to be greatly disappointed.

They were mostly ordinary weapons, miscellaneous items, and nothing resembling treasures.

What a bunch of paupers...

He silently ridiculed them. Just then, a piece of parchment caught his attention.

He casually picked it up and took a look.

Instantly, a hint of surprise appeared on his face.

It turned out to be another one of Edward's treasure maps. No wonder these players were able to find this place. Their appearance was not a coincidence they were also here to search for Edward's treasure.

However, unlike them, this treasure map was more detailed. The markings and information on it made it easy to locate this particular area of the sea.

If he had delayed a few more days on the Silver Islands, they might have dug up the treasure before him.

It could be said that these players had quite an unlucky streak. They encountered him at the wrong time and even harbored murderous intentions.

Hopefully, they would be more cautious in their next life.

However, it was not as if they had not contributed anything. At least they had sent him a ship.

Ji Chen ordered the Naga Warriors and the shallow sea murlocs to clear out the remaining enemies on the ship.

Soon, the remaining few enemies were cleared out, and the Naga warriors and shallow sea murlocs returned to report.

Then, he called some pirates over and asked them to drive the ship back.

Including this ship, he now had a total of six ships.

Three warships, two merchant ships, and a flagship.

It would take quite some time to dig out the treasure, so Ji Chen waited patiently on the ship. No one else came to find him.

Therefore, he had a hard time leading a leisurely life.

Sleeping, fishing, shooting cannons, touring the island, and sightseeing. It was quite relaxing.

Four days later, in the morning.

Just as Ji Chen was about to make love with Alice, Sparrow, who was supervising the excavation, suddenly rushed over and sent a message.

— Mithril has been discovered in the underground tomb!

This news filled him with great joy.

Ignoring Alice's slightly resentful gaze, he pulled up his pants and quickly made his way to the underground tomb.

Upon entering, he indeed saw the pirates pulling out pieces of dark golden metal from the uncleaned pool bottom and neatly placing them into wooden crates.

The dark golden hue was as enticing as the sparkling gold coins.

What an unexpected delight!

He didn't expect Edward to have buried so much Mithril here.

Mithril was the final resource needed to activate the Hero Altar!

Ji Chen was extremely excited. Initially, he had planned to have Raymond purchase Mithril for him after returning. But unexpectedly, he found this high-level resource, on par with crystals, here.

If he had enough quantity, he could activate the altar and summon a blue-grade excellent hero as soon as he returned!

Two more days passed.

The final pool bottom was cleared, and all the Mithril and gold coins were excavated.

Suppressing his excitement, he waved his hand.

"Ding! You have obtained 6,000 units of mithril."

"Ding! You have obtained 988,652 gold coins."

Hiss-

A staggering 988,652 gold coins...

Just a second ago, the most gold coins he had ever held in his hand were only in the three-digit range.

Now, with a single brush, it had turned into a seven-digit amount, and he suddenly felt a sense of unreality.

In comparison, the 6,000 units of Mithril seemed less dazzling.

Now, he truly had financial freedom and had instantly become incredibly wealthy.

With such a huge sum of money, he could purchase a large amount of resources and make his territory soar!

Ji Chen was in a good mood as he led everyone back to the surface.

After a slight hesitation, he summoned the Sea Pixies and had them shoot water arrows at the passage.

Hundreds of water arrows shot in one after another, and the violent explosion destroyed the passage bit by bit.

After a series of violent explosions, the tunnel began to collapse, and the falling rocks completely blocked Edward's underground tomb.

Seeing this, he nodded in satisfaction.

He randomly brought a portion of the pirates to the mountain cave. After operating the lever to open the stone wall door again, he boarded the New Moon.

The larger the ship, the more manpower it required.

A ship of the New Moon's level would require at least ten times more manpower than a three-masted sailboat if it wanted to be fully operational.

However, even if he filled in all the pirates he could command, he might not be able to fully operate them.

However, when he returned to the territory and recruited the Tidal Sea Spirits, he could operate the New Moon more easily.

The other five ships had a lot of manpower, and there were not many pirates who could be assigned to the New Moon.

Therefore, it took them half a day to drive the New Moon out of the dock and arrive at the sea outside the depression around the island.

At this moment, with the comparison, Ji Chen could clearly distinguish the New Moon from the other ships based on their specific differences in size and appearance.

In simple terms, the New Moon was like a blue whale, while the three-masted ship was like a killer whale, only half the size of the New Moon.

Standing on the New Moon and looking at the three-masted ship was like looking at a child.

Suddenly, Ji Chen frowned, thinking of a question.

With the New Moon being so large, how big of a dock would be needed to accommodate it?

More importantly, larger ships are heavier and have a deeper draft.

A large water fortress could easily accommodate two-masted merchant ships or three-masted warships.

But it might not be the case for the New Moon. Now, he could only hope that the blueprint would bring him some surprises.

With the treasure obtained and the ship in his possession, Ji Chen no longer wasted time. He set sail, joining the other ships to form a fleet, and headed towards his territory..

Chapter 110: Anina's Return, Civil Construction (1)

After several days of boring sailing, when the outline of the New Moon Islands appeared on the distant sea level, everyone on the ship was excited.

Although they had only been out at sea for more than ten days, it felt as long as years.

His tensed nerves slowly relaxed as the gentle sea breeze blew over him.

When Wilus saw so many ships appear on the sea, his expression turned grave. Especially when he saw the giant ship that was as big as a hill, he was even more prepared to die in battle.

He quickly ordered someone to inform Lady Anina. He brought all the Murlocs Rangers, and some armed subjects to the beach as if they were facing a great enemy.

Small boats were lowered from the ships and slowly rowed over.

However, when he saw a familiar figure standing at the bow of the ship, he immediately relaxed and revealed a pleasantly surprised expression.

He led the army and quickly went up to them.

“My lord, you’re finally back!”

As Ji Chen stepped onto the shore and observed the traces of weariness on Wilus’ face, a sense of reassurance settled within him.

It appeared that this middle-aged man had been truly dedicated to his work during Ji Chen’s absence.

“Yes, I’m back. It’s been hard on you these days. Has our territory been invaded by the enemy?”

Upon hearing this, Wilus straightened his posture and said seriously, “During your absence, everything in the territory has been running smoothly without any major issues. Occasionally, when monsters crawled out from the sea, they were all eliminated by the vigilant Murlocs Rangers, ensuring the safety of the territory and its residents. Additionally, the resource collection has been going well, and we have accumulated a considerable amount of resources in the warehouse.”

As he spoke, Wilus suddenly remembered something and said anxiously, “However, about a week ago, a portion of the resources in the warehouse disappeared before my eyes.”

A week ago?

Doesn’t that coincide with the time he was in the mystic realm?

Resources disappearing out of thin air...

He quickly realized that the missing resources were most likely the consumption caused by Alice’s Temptation Song upgrade.

Looking at the anxious expression on Wilus’ face, Ji Chen smiled and waved his hand.

“This has nothing to do with you. I used those resources.”

Upon hearing this, the diligent middle-aged man let out a sigh of relief and continued his report.

“The Kobolds have been obediently mining in the resource nodes. It seems that they have completely lost their will to resist. And as per your orders, we promoted a small group of Kobolds as ‘overseers’ among them. We promised them better food and accommodations if they can manage the other Kobolds well and report any rebels or slackers. This approach has surprisingly brought out a more brutal side of these overseer Kobolds towards their fellow kind. It turns out that this method of implementation is even more effective than directly overseeing them!”

As he spoke, Wilus’s eyes were filled with admiration.

Ji Chen only smiled.

This was what they called Kobold management. There were nearly five hundred Kobolds, and it required too many manpower and resources to fully control them.

But by implementing this method, they were able to greatly reduce the need for monitoring and supervision.

They achieved more with less effort.

Humans had played this trick to the point of mastery, and the results were indeed impressive.

“Oh, by the way, Lady Anina helped us a lot during that time and repelled numerous monster attacks.”

Upon hearing this, Ji Chen finally looked towards Anina, who had been standing alone in the distance.

He could tell that Anina was feeling extremely excited and happy at the moment, but she suppressed her emotions and kept them from showing, only blinking her eyes in his direction.

Seeing Ji Chen looking at her, she suddenly felt slightly panicked and turned her head away.

Ji Chen couldn't help but smile and walked towards her.

“Anina, I heard from Wilus that you diligently guarded the Crown of the Ocean during that time. You truly lived up to your title as the Deep Sea Dragon Whale. You kept your promise!”

Upon hearing these words, a smile appeared on the corners of the young Dragon Whale's mouth, clearly showing her happiness.

But realizing her own reaction, she immediately suppressed it and spoke with a stern face, “That was our agreement, and naturally, I abided by it.”

Ji Chen looked at her adorable appearance and said with a smile, “Agreement is an agreement, but your assistance to the Crown of the Ocean was also a fact. The residents were very grateful to you.”

As soon as these words were spoken, the Dragon Whale girl, who couldn't resist compliments, couldn't help but burst into a big grin. “Really? Why did I feel like they looked at me in a strange way?”

Perhaps she had eaten too much and startled them.

“How could that be? They genuinely liked and appreciated you.”

As Ji Chen winked at the residents, they immediately responded, as if they had been prepared, “Lady Anina, thank you for protecting us!”

“Without you, our territory might have been invaded by monsters. We were grateful for everything you did!”

Upon hearing this, the young Dragon Whale girl's happiness was about to overflow, and she smiled sheepishly.

But then, it seemed like she remembered something, and her expression suddenly darkened.

Ji Chen was puzzled and asked her about it.

“We had an agreement that I would protect this place while you were away at sea, but now that you have returned and the agreement is fulfilled, I have to leave.”

Before Ji Chen could respond, the residents instantly became anxious..