

Ocean Lord 291

Chapter 291 - 291: Pursuit! Killing the Sea Heir Leader, the Black Orb (2)

Following that period, she embarked on a solitary journey, living the life of a lone whale, until she eventually reached the Crown of the Ocean.

She had always kept these experiences hidden well but never forgotten the hatred that had accumulated in her heart. When she saw the leader of the Sea Heirs, it erupted like a bursting dam.

Her gaze was icy, and her intent to kill was palpable.

The leader of the Sea Heirs, who was frantically attempting to escape, also detected her presence. Without hesitation, dozens of Sea Heirs still beside it moved to intercept her, while it commanded a group of strong Sea Heirs to carry it and make a hasty retreat.

Seeing more than twenty Sea Heirs approaching, Anina's expression tightened.

These Sea Heirs had acquired certain human-like physical traits. Some had grown legs, others had developed hands, and a few had even developed breasts. However, the Sea Heir leader hadn't quite mastered the idea of human proportions and aesthetic appeal.

Could you picture a Sea Heir with tentacles coiled around its lower body, a head resembling a petal, and a grotesque mass on its body, roughly the size of two human heads?

Evidently, the Sea Heir leader had noticed that humans possessed this trait and had tried to develop it, perhaps to determine its practicality.

It had learned, but not fully.

Odd as it may sound, despite their unattractive appearance, these evolved Sea Heirs exhibited significantly enhanced combat capabilities. They were at least on par with White-tier heroes, and a few of those with more extensive evolutions even matched Green-tier heroes.

But Anina showed no fear, raising her sword.

The frigid blade gleamed brightly, emitting an extreme sense of sharpness.

She flicked her sword lightly, and dozens of silver sword auras shot out from the tip of her sword like a torrential rain of pear blossoms, spreading out in a fan-shaped pattern.

As if it had directly cleaved through the seawater.

Seeing this scene, the Sea Heirs instinctively dodged, but the sword aura was too fast. In just half a breath, it had reached the Sea Heir leader.

Dozens of Sea Heirs at the center of the attack were cut into pieces by the sword aura.

After the Dragon Slayer Great Sword had been fully repaired, its power had completely recovered, with an additional attached skill.

[Sword Aura Mastery (Able to unleash dozens of powerful sword aura, ignoring 30% armor, causing massive damage to enemies, cooldown time: 10 minutes)]

With just one strike, over half of the evolved Sea Heirs perished on the spot.

They had taken a step on the path of evolution, but in the face of such a powerful attack, their rate of death was similar to that of ordinary Sea Heirs.

Seeing their companions in such a sorry state, the surviving evolved Sea Heirs did not hesitate and continued to advance.

Born out of their gestation, they had no emotions, and they were absolutely obedient to the Sea Heir leader's commands.

However, the gap in strength was insurmountable.

In just a few minutes, they were slaughtered to the last.

Anina did not waste any time and chased after the fleeing Sea Heir leader.

Only by killing it could she end all of this.

Anina followed the sound emanating from the sea, and before long, she spotted the Sea Heir leader making a hasty escape with several Sea Heirs carrying a large, conspicuous fleshy mass – impossible to ignore.

The closer she got, the more excited she felt, and her hand gripping the greatsword trembled.

Just one step away from slaying it. Though this one wasn't the same Sea Heir that had killed her mother, if she could kill it, at least she could secure her home – the Crown of the Ocean.

After wandering for so long, she had finally found a home. Anyone who dared to disrupt this peace would become her enemy!

“Meet your end...”

Anina's gaze turned icy, and in her heart, she silently vowed. She surged forward like an arrow released from its bowstring.

However, at that moment, the Sea Heir leader came to a halt, its tentacles swaying slowly.

Anina was a bit perplexed when suddenly, her head was overwhelmed by excruciating pain. It was as if countless sharp thorns were piercing into her skull, and ferocious creatures with relentless mouths were tearing at her mind. Her soul was experiencing agony!

The sudden and intense pain made her involuntarily stop.

The veins on her forehead bulged, and her eyes were bloodshot.

The Sea Heir leader was attacking her with its psychic powers!

As a warrior who relied purely on physical combat, Anina's psychic strength wasn't formidable. Faced with the Sea Heir leader, who fed on psychic abilities, she was at a severe disadvantage.

Her body became weak, and she couldn't even hold onto her greatsword. It sank into the mud, and she could only half-kneel on a rock, clutching her head in agony.

When a Sea Heir leader, capable of controlling tens of thousands of Sea Heirs, unleashed its full psychic assault...

The souls seemed to tremble and lament.

As if seeing that she had no more resistance left, the Sea Heir leader allowed the Sea Heirs carrying it to set it down and deal with her first.

Witnessing this scene, Anina's heart blazed with boundless anger.

It was just like back then when that Sea Heir leader had used its psychic powers to attack her mother, preventing her from unleashing her full strength. Otherwise, with her mother's immense physical prowess, how could she have been killed by Sea Heirs?

And now, they wanted to do the same thing to her!

Despite her reluctance, Anina's awareness gradually faded, and her surroundings grew dim.

Is this the end?

Anina wondered in a daze.

Some images seemed to appear before her.

First, there were scenes from her childhood, living alongside her mother. Then, it was the time she wandered the oceans after her mother's death, starving and sleeping on desolate islands.

The images shifted, and she arrived at the Crown of the Ocean, seeing the friendly residents, the delicious food on the table, the soft beds, Alice's cold face, and many soldiers.

Finally, the face of her Lord appeared, gentle and caring.

"Anina! Anina!!"

Huh? Why did she hear her Lord's voice?

It must be a mistake, after all, having some hallucinations before death wasn't unusual.

But despite this, Anina struggled to open her eyes, even if it was just a hallucination.

In a daze, she saw her Lord swimming towards her, and then she heard a clicking sound from her body, and everything went black.

Ji Chen watched Anina lose consciousness, burning with anger.

Observing the Sea Heirs who had previously surrounded them now in disarray, scattering in all directions, he understood that Anina must have achieved her goal.

The Sea Heir leader must have faced a life-threatening situation and couldn't continue battling for control over the Sea Heirs.

After briefly instructing the hunt for the remaining non-threatening Sea Heirs, he rushed here with Alice, riding the Tyrant Azure Dragon at high speed. But what he saw was the scene of Anina kneeling on a rock.

He picked her up and quickly checked the Lord's panel.

[Hero]: ...Anina (unconscious, transformation)

Unconscious.

Transformation?

Although not knowing the reason, Ji Chen knew that Anina wasn't in mortal danger, and he couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

Then, with burning anger in his eyes, he looked at the Sea Heir leader who had already been subdued by Alice.

Today, if I don't beat you to a pulp, I'll write my name backward!

"Tyrant Azure Dragon, get rid of it for me!"

The three-headed Tyrant Azure Dragon, circling around them, suddenly exhaled a massive icy breath, instantly freezing the remaining Sea Heirs and the Sea Heir leader who was fighting Alice.

In the endless cold freeze, even the Sea Heir leader, with its tough demeanor, couldn't hold on for too long and gradually lost all vitality.

Several tens of seconds later, a system notification sounded.

"Ding- Tyrant Azure Dragon has killed the Sea Heir leader (Red-Legacy Tier), and you have gained..."

"Ding- You have gained 420,000 experience points, and your level has increased (Level 35->37)."

The Sea Heir leader, responsible for numerous troubles and commanding multiple attacks against the Crown of the Ocean, had met its demise.

Even in death, Ji Chen appeared unsatisfied. He collected hundreds of water blades and unleashed them all at once.

Crack—

The ice was cut open by the water blades, tearing the flesh inside into hundreds of pieces.

The Sea Heir leader's corpse had been torn apart, and there was no chance of him coming back to life.

But at this moment, he suddenly saw a small black bead inconspicuously stuck among the frozen flesh.

Did this bead burst out from the Sea Heir leader's body?

Ji Chen realized that this was somewhat unusual.

With a wave of his hand, a stream of seawater removed the bead and suspended it in front of him.

The bead was the size of a thumb, crystal clear, and radiated an extremely profound color.

Nonetheless, he wasn't inclined to investigate it at this moment. Instead, he had the Tyrant Azure Dragon release another frigid breath onto the remains, ensuring there was no possibility of revival. Afterward, he picked up Anina and Alice and departed from the scene, heading back to the Crown of the Ocean..

Chapter 292 - 292: Anina's Transformation, Cocoon

Upon returning to the New Moon Islands, the army began pursuing the Sea Heirs who were in a state of chaos and disorder.

Without their Sea Heir leader, they seemed like soulless creatures. While they still possessed some resistance, they no longer posed a significant threat.

Daro and his team were temporarily tasked with the cleanup. Ji Chen carried Anina back to her residence and laid her on the bed.

Up to this point, Anina remained in a state of unconsciousness. However, it appeared to be a self-protective mechanism rather than a result of the Sea Heir leader's mental attack.

Her breathing was steady, her complexion healthy, showing no signs of injury.

Simultaneously, Ji Chen could feel the energy fluctuations within her growing stronger, similar to when Alice underwent advancement.

Ji Chen recalled the second state on Anina's panel, aside from her unconsciousness, which was "Transformation".

Could "Transformation" be synonymous with advancement?

Out of curiosity, he opened the military talent tree panel and found Anina's page.

He immediately noticed the words inscribed there:

[Dragon Whale Hero: Anina, awakened her ancient Dragon Whale bloodline due to intense mental pressure, breaking through her current life form.]

[She is currently in a state of Transformation. After the Transformation is complete, her tier will advance to the Red-Legacy Tier Hero, and her potential will rise to the Orange-Legendary Tier.]

[There are currently 71 hours, 12 minutes, and 24 seconds remaining for the Transformation.]

It seemed that Anina had inadvertently benefited from the intense mental attack she endured. Although she suffered greatly, she had now gained an even greater opportunity.

When she woke up, she would become a Red Hero like Alice, and her potential would skyrocket from Rare to Legendary, a significant leap forward.

Seeing that Anina was indeed in no major trouble, Ji Chen felt relieved. He instructed the maid to keep a close eye on her condition and then left the room.

Outside, there was a mess waiting for him to clean up.

Over the next two days, the Crown of the Ocean's army scoured the Sea Heirs from all corners, gathering their bodies for safe disposal by cremation.

The residents who had taken refuge in the caves gradually returned, repairing the buildings and facilities damaged by the Sea Heirs. This was especially true for the sea rice fields, which had been trampled as if a tank had rolled over them. The nearly ripe sea rice lay flattened, causing the responsible farmers to unleash a string of curses.

Destroying the food supply was even more painful than killing them.

During this battle, the fortress on the northeastern sub-island suffered the most severe damage. Its walls were riddled with pockmarks corroded by acid, and spikes deeply embedded in the walls.

There wasn't a single intact spot left. This fortress, which had recently undergone extensive repairs using a significant amount of stone, had once again turned into ruins within a single day.

However, this time, the Sea Heirs didn't breach the core area of the Crown of the Ocean, so most of the crucial structures and facilities, such as the military recruitment camp, remained intact, and the residents were unharmed.

With its foundation intact and just a few days' time, the Crown of the Ocean renewed its vitality and appeared thriving once again.

However, this time, the frontline forces that resisted the Sea Heirs suffered considerable casualties.

Almost every military unit had some losses, with the Ocean Guardians and Ruins Guardians being the hardest hit.

These alchemical creations had been directly facing the Sea Heirs, using their bodies to block the attacks.

Out of over two thousand Ocean Guardians, fewer than five hundred remained, and out of over eight hundred Ruins Guardians, only two hundred survived. The losses were indeed severe.

Once all the post-battle mess was dealt with, Ji Chen finally had some free time to look into other matters.

On the chat channel, he noticed that there were more than a dozen private messages that had accumulated over time.

Upon closer inspection, most of them were from "l_Love_Black_Sockings."

Three days ago in the morning:

"Ji Chen, we've urgently discussed it on our end and decided to start trading with you as soon as possible. How is the situation on your side?"

"I've almost got things sorted out here. We can start anytime."

Three days ago in the evening:

"Ji Chen, are you busy? If you see this message, just let me know. We're eagerly waiting on our end."

Two days ago at noon:

"Hey, hey, hey, big boss, have you eaten? Talk to me. I had dry rations and water today, but I'm still a bit hungry."

"Hey, are you there? Say something, you're worrying me. The other members are already starting to doubt whether I've made a deal with you. I almost got threatened with a knife!"

One day ago in the morning:

"Big boss, no, bro, big boss, daddy! Are you there? Don't get into trouble, at least finish this deal before anything happens!"

“If you don’t reply soon, the other members are going to tie me up to a wooden frame and set me on fire!”

Early this morning:

“Ji Chen big boss, you’re not really in trouble, are you?! At least reply to me! I’m bringing people to help you!”

From this point on, messages were sent almost every few hours.

The most recent message was at noon today.

As Ji Chen read through, he realized the emotional journey of I_Love_Black_Sockings, from calmness to anxiety, and finally, to impatience.

“I have some matters to take care of these few days, so I didn’t read your messages.”

In just a few seconds, I_Love_Black_Sockings’ response popped up.

“Oh my god, big boss, you finally replied! I thought you’d run into some serious trouble!! I was about to gather an army and come see what’s happening over there!”

Chapter 293 - 293: Anina’s Transformation, Cocoon (2)

“It’s alright, everything has been resolved now.”

“In that case, I can rest assured. Oh, by the way! About the trade between the Crown of the Ocean and King Kong Island!”

“You don’t need to worry about that. In a day or two, the first batch of five fully loaded merchant ships will depart, and if nothing unexpected happens, they should arrive soon.”

“That’s great to hear! We’ve already prepared the resources you need here, so as soon as the ships arrive, we can close the deal.”

I_Love_Black_Sockings seemed quite concerned about this matter.

Just as Ji Chen was about to say something else, I_Love_Black_Sockings suddenly sent another message.

“Big boss, since you’ve traveled the vast oceans and seen so much, there’s something I’d like to ask for your insight on.”

“[The Gloria Map]”

Gloria?

Why did that name sound so familiar?

Suddenly, Ji Chen realized and took out a key fragment, and its name was exactly “Gloria Elf Treasury Key Fragment.”

Gloria was the name of the ancient elven city that Ernesto mentioned, a city lost in the river of time.

Legend has it that its treasury housed immeasurable wealth, weaponry, rare treasures, and secrets not found in the outside world.

And this map was named after it?

With a thought, he opened it.

[Gloria Map]

[Tier: Special]

[Description: It can guide you to a lost city – Gloria.]

[A map imbued with strange magic, preserved to this day.]

Sure enough.

If this map was real and could guide him to the ancient elven capital Gloria, it would be an earth-shattering discovery.

Gnome merchant Ernesto had mentioned that even the descendants of the ancient elves themselves couldn't find its location now.

If Ji Chen could get his hands on this map, he could find the city's location. Besides the treasury key fragment he had, as long as he collected the other six key fragments, he could unlock the Gloria Elf Treasury.

“Where did you get this map?”

“A few days ago, I raided a Murloc camp, and I found it inside. Big boss, do you know anything about this Gloria that the map mentions?”

“Well, I have some knowledge about it, involving some ancient secrets.”

“A lost city... it sounds like a dangerous and frightening place. Big boss, I'm giving this map to you.”

Ji Chen was stunned. I_Love_Black_Socks, who always acted poor, was unexpectedly generous this time?

He had been contemplating whether to tell her about Gloria earlier, and he didn't expect her to offer him the map directly.

With something of such importance, he didn't hesitate and immediately replied, “If that's the case, I graciously accept it. I do indeed need it. But I can offer something in return. If there's anything you desire, please let me know, and I'll do my best to fulfill your request.”

“Big boss, you're too modest. You've helped me so many times before, and it's because of you that I've come this far. What's this little thing worth?”

I_Love_Black_Sockings said indifferently. Her curiosity about the lost city behind this map was feigned, even though she had some self-awareness.

From Ji Chen's words and hints, her intuition told her that the matters related to this city were beyond her control and could easily cause trouble for her small territory.

Rather than holding onto the map, it was better to do a favor and simply give it away.

Furthermore, her deeper consideration was that the more gains and benefits this map brought to Ji Chen, the better he would regard her.

When the time came for any benefits, she would naturally have a share.

I_Love_Black_Sockings thought that it was better to align herself with a powerful figure than to compete against him desperately.

Seeing I_Love_Black_Sockings repeatedly declining, Ji Chen didn't want to say too much and just replied, "I'll go to King Kong Island again later and handle these matters all at once."

He closed the chat channel.

At this moment, a maid suddenly rushed in from outside.

"My Lord, My Lord!"

Seeing the maid out of breath and in a panic, Ji Chen furrowed his brows and said, "Don't be in a hurry, take your time and explain."

"Lady Anina, Lady Anina is encased in a cocoon!"

When Ji Chen arrived at Anina's room, he saw a large azure cocoon on the bed. In the slightly dim room, it emitted a misty blue light.

This kind of light was like sunlight piercing through the sea's surface and shining into the water, exceptionally beautiful.

Thump, thump, thump...

However, with attentive listening, one could discern the rhythmic and robust heartbeat emanating from within the cocoon. It possessed a formidable strength, resonating with depth and authority.

It made people feel as if this was the heartbeat of a colossal beast.

In fact, Anina was originally a deep-sea dragon whale, with a considerable size that was no less impressive than the Tyrant Azure Dragon. Now, she had merely taken on a petite human form.

But if Ji Chen were to choose, he still preferred the humanoid form. After all, who would find a giant beast more appealing than a little girl?

"When did Anina become like this?"

"Just a moment ago, she suddenly transformed into this form, without any warning."

"I swear, I absolutely didn't do anything!"

The maid explained with tears in her eyes. Right in front of her, Lady Anina, who had been sleeping peacefully, suddenly emitted a dazzling light from her body, causing her to involuntarily close her eyes.

When she opened them again, Lady Anina was gone, replaced by a large cocoon. This left her in a state of panic, prompting her to report the situation urgently.

After hearing the maid's description, Ji Chen stroked his chin and looked at the cocoon where Anina's aura and energy fluctuations were slowly growing stronger.

Then he opened his interface and navigated to the hero section.

It still showed that Anina was in the midst of transformation, with less than a day remaining.

If his guess was correct, this should be a part of her evolution.

However, this advanced process was different from how Alice used the Red Heroic Soul Essence.

Seeing the anxious maid, Ji Chen waved his hand and said, "Anina should be fine, no need to worry. Continue to watch over her here, and if anything happens, report to me."

"Yes, I understand!"

Looking at the cocoon on the bed, Ji Chen began to feel a sense of anticipation.

Such a peculiar transformation method, what would Anina ultimately become?

Originally, her combat prowess was already the strongest among the heroes of the Crown of the Ocean, especially in solo combat.

She was unparalleled. If the conditions were right, she could single-handedly act as an entire army, easily causing chaos among enemy forces.

Advancing to the Red-Legacy Tier, Anina's strength would only become more terrifying.

In high spirits, Ji Chen left the Lord's Castle and began to inspect his territory.

After the intense battle in the Crown of the Ocean, the liveliness of the place exceeded its previous state. Repair work was underway everywhere, with residents diligently working under the scorching afternoon sun. Despite the heat, they didn't complain but rather worked diligently.

Their faces bore expressions of fulfillment and joy.

Upon seeing Ji Chen's arrival, each of them immediately greeted him with expressions filled with reverence.

"Lord, good day!"

"Lord, we are repairing the damaged buildings, and they will be fixed soon!"

"Are you inspecting the territory, my Lord? But the sunlight is too intense right now. Please wait until later in the evening!"

Before coming to the Crown of the Ocean, these people had been wanderers, homeless, and struggling for survival. They had lived a life of hardship, exposed to the elements and suffering from hunger and cold.

However, upon arriving here, they not only had an abundance of food to eat but also luxurious housing and the protection of the military.

As time passed, they naturally developed a sense of belonging.

This place was their home!

“You’ve all worked hard!”

“We’re not working hard, my Lord. You’re the one who’s working hard, and fighting those monsters is very dangerous. Please be careful!”

“That’s right, we can’t do without you! If something were to happen to you...”

“What are you saying? Don’t jinx the lord!”

“I didn’t mean that, I just...”

Ji Chen smiled and waved his hand, indicating that it was okay.

After all, what could a wise lord like him possibly take offense at?

Moreover, he understood the sentiment of the residents. As he looked around and saw the grateful and admiring faces of the residents who were eager to speak with him, he felt a sense of accomplishment in his heart..

Chapter 294 - 294: Big Anina, The Girl’s Madness, Raymond’s Complete Submission

The next day.

Ji Chen arrived at Anina’s room, quietly waiting for the countdown to her transformation to end.

Compared to yesterday, the cocoon enveloping Anina had grown even larger, radiating a bright light that bathed the room in a watery blue hue, as if submerged in the sea.

The cocoon, as large as a bed, emitted tangible energy threads that extended outward. Even an ordinary person could sense the tremendous energy contained within, like a bomb ready to explode at any moment.

On the control panel, the countdown gradually decreased, and the energy emanating from the cocoon grew stronger.

Suddenly, the energy within the cocoon dramatically decreased, as if it had been absorbed by something. In just a few minutes, it was completely depleted, leaving only an empty shell.

At that moment, the countdown reached zero, and the cocoon slowly dissipated into light and electricity, revealing a figure.

A smile appeared on Ji Chen’s face as he walked over, but as he saw the appearance of the figure lying on the bed, his smile gradually faded, replaced by confusion.

The girl lying on the bed before him possessed a rather mature look, with a face that fell somewhere between girlhood and womanhood. Her eyebrows exuded a hint of charisma.

Her waist-length silvery-gray hair cascaded gracefully over the bedspread, resembling flowing silk. She wore a revealing outfit with black scales that left little to the imagination, showcasing her mature and well-defined physique. Subtle muscle definition added to her overall sense of strength.

She was a girl who combined a gentle demeanor with a heroic aura.

However, these specifics weren't the main focus at the moment. Ji Chen's expression revealed his confusion.

Where did my big Anina go? Where did she disappear to?

Subconsciously, he began checking the information about this "unidentified girl".

[Dragon Whale Hero: Anina]

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???

???

Is this Anina? Are you kidding me?

Ji Chen widened his eyes and, upon closer inspection, recognized some familiar features on her face.

So, she was indeed Anina, but her transformation had caused significant changes, perhaps as a side effect, maturing her body.

Previously, Anina looked more like a fifteen or sixteen-year-old girl, not yet fully matured. Now, she resembled an eighteen or nineteen-year-old, mature young woman.

Now, she was truly worthy to be called 'Big Anina'.

At that moment, Anina's eyelashes twitched slightly, and she slowly opened her eyes, sitting up with a bewildered expression on her face.

"How long did I sleep? It feels so comfortable... Wait, I remember I was in battle before. How did I end up in my room..."

Shortly after, she detected something out of the ordinary, bowed her head, and ran her hands over her noticeably shapely curves, pinching them in surprise. "Huh? Why do I suddenly feel so well-endowed? I'm almost as developed as Alice! And my legs feel unusually long, nearly reaching the end of the bed..."

Anina suddenly slapped her palm, looking as if she had a sudden realization. "I know! This must be a dream! How else could I suddenly look like this? Hehe, but this dream feels quite real. Even the lord in the dream is so handsome. Who knows, maybe I can do some other things..."

But suddenly, she saw the "lord" looking complex, as if hesitating to speak.

"Anina."

Anina looked at Ji Chen in disbelief, her eyes filled with uncertainty. After some thought, she cautiously replied, "Lord?"

"Yes."

Anina's body stiffened instantly, her small face flashing with realization.

She lowered her head again, touching her drastically changed body, and murmured, "This is actually real, I wasn't dreaming..."

Ji Chen watched her acting all silly and couldn't help but sigh, finally confirming that she was indeed Anina. Such pure silliness couldn't belong to anyone else.

Ji Chen shook his head and explained the events that had transpired.

"...That's roughly it. Maybe the transformation made you look like this."

"I see, that's why I felt so much stronger." Anina scratched her head a bit embarrassedly, then suddenly remembered something and asked, "My lord, does this mean that the leader of the Sea Heirs has been completely killed?"

"Yes, it's shattered into hundreds of pieces, as dead as it can be."

"Then, have you found a bead from its body?"

As she mentioned it, Ji Chen also recalled that he had indeed found a black bead from the wreckage of the Sea Heirs' leader.

He searched through his backpack, swiftly located it, and placed it in his hand, closely inspecting it.

[Sea Heirs Heart Core]

[Tier]: Special

[Effect]: Increases spiritual power by 75%, an additional 75% when used for mental control.

[A special treasure produced by the Sea Heirs' leader, possessing powerful spiritual augmentation abilities.]

Well, this thing is really something. Just from the description, it's clear that it's highly suitable for Alice to use.

The Sea Heirs' leader was quite generous, even in death, offering such a precious item.

Thanks to the Sea Heirs' leader for this heart core!

What a generous boss!

Feeling rather good, Ji Chen looked at Anina, who was adjusting to her new body.

[Anina (Hero)]

[Race]: Ancient Dragon Whale

[Level]: 35

[Current Tier]: Red (Legacy Tier)

[Potential]: Orange (Legendary Tier)

[Skills]:

Incarnation of the Giant Whale (Red Skill, tapping into the ancient Dragon Whale bloodline within, transforming into the body of a Dragon Whale, increasing all attributes by 100%)

2.. War Roar (Red Skill, using a roar to forcibly stun enemies for 1-20 seconds, potentially leading to the obliteration of lower-tier creatures, the effect depends on the tier and level of the enemy compared to the user)

Chapter 295: Big Anina, The Girl's Madness, Raymond's

Complete Submission (2)

Ancient Dragon Whale Bloodline (Red-tier skill: This ancient and robust bloodline bestows a powerful physique with increased resilience, endurance, and strength by 150%.)

Slaughter Recovery (Red-tier skill: Self-combat prowess grows over time in battle, increasing up to 75% of his initial strength.)

Ocean Current Protection (Red-tier skill: Enhances abilities while in the ocean, granting an additional 250% swimming speed when harnessing water currents.)

Mental Resistance (Red-tier skill: Boosts resistance to mental attacks by 50%.)

[Unit Trait]: Battle Endurance (Every enemy slain restores a portion of health and temporarily increases strength and speed).

[The ancient Dragon Whale with revitalized bloodline can freely switch between human form and whale form.]

After the transformation, in addition to upgrading all skills to the Red tier, Anina gains two new abilities, "Incarnation of the Giant Whale" and "Mental Resistance".

By the literal meanings, the former allows her to switch freely between her human form and the whale form. The latter seems to have been acquired due to the previous mental attack by the Sea Heir, making it a pleasant surprise.

Other heroes learned of Anina's awakening and came to visit.

Seeing her transformed appearance, they were even more astonished than Ji Chen.

If it weren't for the signature silvery-gray long hair and somewhat familiar facial features, they would never believe that this tall, well-built, and formidable young woman was the same petite girl they remembered.

It was an eye-opener!

The residents of the Crown of the Ocean were even more stunned. When they saw Anina's current appearance, they were deeply shocked. The little girl had turned into a strong and valiant young woman!

Especially the younger girls, who gazed at Anina with eager eyes, appeared to have stars in their eyes.

Now, Anina, clad in fine armor, wielding the Dragon Slayer Great Sword, her hair neatly tied in a long ponytail, and her gallant face, appeared extremely handsome.

She instantly won the hearts of these girls who had daydreamed about her.

“Lady Anina looks so handsome now, just like a real knight. It’s like my dream lover!”

“Oh, my goodness! I feel like she’s even more handsome than our lord. My heart is racing!”

Anina looked at the enthusiastic gazes from those around her, accompanied by the girls’ excited cheers. She was a bit puzzled but still smiled and waved at them.

“All, Lady Anina is waving at me! I’m going to suffocate.”

“Oh, my goodness! I can die happy now!”

Watching their exaggerated reactions, Anina looked a bit puzzled as she glanced at her lord. She couldn’t understand why these humans had become like this.

There was indeed a generation gap between humans and whales.

In the days that followed, the commotion caused by Anina’s transformation gradually subsided, and the Crown of the Ocean returned to its steady development.

A fleet consisting of five ships, loaded with fluorescent mushrooms and various weapons and equipment, set sail for King Kong Island as the first batch of goods under the trade agreement between the Crown of the Ocean and King Kong Island.

This marks the first trade conducted between the Crown of the Ocean and player factions, which could be seen as a milestone.

Meanwhile, Raymond, leading a large fleet tasked with delivering weapons and equipment to the Northern Continent, almost crossed paths with the first fleet, returning smoothly to the Crown of the Ocean.

Upon his return, Raymond wasted no time and hurried to the Lord’s castle to report.

In the hall, Ji Chen looked at the dusty Raymond and patted his shoulder with satisfaction.

“You’ve worked hard.”

Raymond had a hint of fatigue on his brow, but his eyes were bright. He shook his head and said, “Serving the Crown of the Ocean is my honor. This was nothing.”

“Alright, how did the trade go? Was the journey smooth?”

“Report, my Lord. The mission to transport the weapons and equipment went incredibly well. Despite encountering a few pirates during the journey, we managed to repel and defeat them without much trouble. We also didn’t face any harsh storms or unfavorable weather conditions. The entire voyage was remarkably peaceful.”

This outcome was not surprising to Ji Chen.

Whether it was due to the Lord’s talents or the protection of the territory, from the beginning until now, Ji Chen had never encountered any adverse weather conditions at sea, not even heavy rain.

And this seemed to extend to his army and residents as well; they hadn't encountered any adverse sea conditions either.

In the treacherous and stormy Mid-Ocean, this was quite incredible, and the countless shipwrecks on the ocean floor served as ample evidence.

This unique advantage had brought the Crown of the Ocean to the forefront.

"...We reached the Northern Continent swiftly, and the harbor was bustling with numerous arms merchants. The moment they discovered we had brought dozens of top-notch weapons and equipment, they went wild, buying up everything in a frenzy!

In just two days, all thirty-two ships of goods were sold out. Moreover, many merchants asked me if there were more weapons and equipment available. They are willing to establish a long-term procurement channel with the Crown of the Ocean and are willing to pay high prices.

This time, the reputation of the Crown of the Ocean has soared!"

Raymond spoke with enthusiasm, his face full of excitement.

"My Lord, I request your permission to transport another batch of military equipment to the Northern Continent immediately, to expand our market share and establish our reputation completely!"

Seeing Raymond's enthusiasm, Ji Chen smiled and waved his hand.

"Your idea is commendable, but I believe that wars can't be concluded quickly, and the military equipment market in the Northern Continent is substantial. There's plenty for the Crown of the Ocean to compete for.

But after your strenuous journey, it's best to take a few days to rest and then consider this matter. If you exhaust yourself, I won't have anyone else to rely on."

Hearing the concern in Ji Chen's words, Raymond felt a bit touched. After some contemplation, he seemed to have made a decision.

"My Lord, there's something I'd like to request."

"What is it?"

"I want to bring our family to live in the Crown of the Ocean. Is that possible?"

This surprised Ji Chen.

Even though Raymond appeared loyal and diligent, he couldn't hide the business relationship between them.

Most of the time, Raymond put in such effort because he could earn a substantial financial reward from the Crown of the Ocean's trade.

Without this financial incentive, it's uncertain how devoted he would be.

However, with Raymond's proposal to relocate his family to the Crown of the Ocean, it suggested a strong commitment to this place.

This also signified his wholehearted dedication to our cause.

After a brief moment of thought, Ji Chen replied, "Of course, the Crown of the Ocean could use more fresh blood. I believe your family will be well-protected here, and you won't need to worry about any living arrangements."

Upon hearing this, Raymond's face lit up, and he expressed his gratitude.

"By the way, when the next fleet sets sail, I want you to take a few special guests with you to the Northern Continent and escort them back to their homeland."

"Special guests?"

"Yes, a dozen or so elves."

"Elves?" Raymond was taken aback. When did the Crown of the Ocean have a dozen or so elves?

After Ji Chen explained, Raymond realized what was going on.

As a merchant who operated on the ocean, Raymond had heard of the greed of gnome merchants. However, he hadn't expected them to engage in the trafficking of elves. It was quite audacious.

Soon, Raymond grasped the key point and said, "If we can transport a dozen or so elves back, it should greatly improve the favor of the elven race. This will be extremely beneficial for future trade between the Crown of the Ocean and the elves."

Ji Chen glanced at him and nodded, saying, "That's right. So, I will also accompany you to the Northern Continent when the time comes to formally engage with the elven race."

"The Crown of the Ocean cannot remain confined to just the New Moon Islands..."

Raymond shuddered suddenly, as if he had sensed the ambition in Ji Chen's words. His expression turned serious.

He looked around cautiously.

As good as the New Moon Islands were, they could only accommodate a maximum of around a hundred thousand residents and nurture a few tens of thousands of troops.

However, a kingdom was much more than just a small number of people.

The Crown of the Ocean needed to extend its reach outward....

Chapter 296: Freeman, Slaves, Leysha, and the Brewer

Raymond's respect for Ji Chen grew stronger, and he couldn't help but feel that he had made the right choice.

Being able to work under a lord with ambitions and the power to realize them was something fortunate.

"My Lord, as you instructed, this time I used the funds to purchase various resources needed by the Crown of the Ocean. Among them, I bought a batch of skilled slaves.

In addition, following your instructions, I found another group of freemen willing to settle in the Crown of the Ocean. Most of them left their homelands due to war, famine, and bandits, seeking a place where they could live in peace and prosperity.

Therefore, I allocated a portion of the funds in advance as resettlement fees and distributed them to alleviate their concerns and worries, convincing them to come and see what the Crown of the Ocean has to offer.

I hope you can forgive my initiative, my Lord.”

Ji Chen immediately waved his hand upon hearing this and said, “You did the right thing. Gold only truly holds value when it’s put to use. If these gold coins can help retain this group of freemen, then it’s entirely worthwhile!”

“How many slaves and freemen are in this group?”

“Reporting, my Lord, there are more than 1,500 slaves, and most of them possess skills such as shipbuilding, farming, animal husbandry, carpentry, and more. With this batch of slaves, the Crown of the Ocean’s industries, such as wood processing, fish farming, and shipbuilding, could all develop faster.

Due to time constraints, we couldn’t find more freemen, so there are just over 1,000 of them. However, they are all decent potential soldiers. With proper training, we can recruit a batch of fairly capable troops from them.”

In addition to recruiting units from the recruitment camp, players could also recruit soldiers from among the indigenous people, providing another means of increasing their military forces.

Many players were recruiting soldiers from refugees or indigenous gathering places during the recruitment camp’s downtime.

However, he clearly didn’t need to do that. After all, at most, he could only recruit second-tier units from the freemen, so it would be better for him to upgrade other units through the military talent tree.

“No need for that... Where are these freemen now?”

“They are still on the ship, waiting for your orders, my Lord.”

Ji Chen nodded and, with Raymond, went to the port. Soon, he saw many freemen gathered on the returning merchant ship’s deck, their faces showing confusion and anxiety.

From their homeland to this foreign land, from the mainland to an island, anyone would feel a sense of unease.

But there was also an element of surprise.

Contrary to their expectations, they hadn’t thought that the merchant named Raymond was telling the truth. The territory called the Crown of the Ocean did indeed lie on a beautiful chain of islands deep within the ocean.

Like a crescent moon, they stretched across the serene blue sea.

Prosperous harbors, anchored warships, formidable armies, bustling crowds, and continuous buildings.

It was nothing like the desolation they had imagined; in fact, it was even more prosperous than some of the royal cities on the mainland!

Inevitably, they felt a glimmer of hope in their hearts.

Next, they needed to see if the lord of this place was worthy of them staying.

However, when they disembarked and were confronted by a handsome young man, they couldn't help but feel perplexed.

Was this the lord of the territory? He looked excessively young.

This was completely different from what they had previously imagined, an image of a white-haired old noble or a dignified middle-aged man.

Nevertheless, they refrained from showing disrespect or insolence. Instead, they watched attentively, each one cautious in their demeanor.

In this society resembling medieval times, where class distinctions were strict, a lord was not someone these freemen could afford to offend or disrespect.

Ji Chen looked at the crowd before him, full of expressions ranging from unease, and fear, to curiosity. He carefully chose his words and spoke loudly.

“Freemen who have come from the distant Northern Continent, welcome to the Crown of the Ocean. I am the lord here, and I am the one bringing you a new life.

You have left your homes for various reasons, such as war, banditry, famine, monster invasions, and more, in search of a place where you can live in peace and prosperity, a haven from the troubles of the world.

Here, I can tell you that the Crown of the Ocean is indeed such a haven!

We have a powerful army here to protect you from harm. We have an abundance of food to ensure you never go hungry. There are plenty of homes to shield you from the wind and rain. There is ample space for you to find meaning in your survival!

Yesterday, what you all dreamt of can easily be obtained by joining the Crown of the Ocean. I promise you, everything I've just said is true, with not a hint of falsehood!”

I, Ji Chen, the Lord of the Crown of the Ocean, invite you to join us.”

“Ding- Skill: Persuasion Activated, significantly enhancing the effectiveness of this speech.”

The freemen's eyes were filled with excitement and hope, and much of their anxiety and confusion seemed to dissipate in these words and promises.

Though this lord was young, his words precisely touched upon their deepest desires. Leaving their homes, facing various hardships, and drifting on the vast sea for days had left them yearning for a sense of security.

At this moment, they truly felt a glimmer of reassurance..

Chapter 297 - 297: Freeman, Slaves, Leysha, and the Brewer (2)

Soon, someone raised their hand and shouted, "I'm willing to join the Crown of the Ocean!"

"I'm also willing to stay; I don't want to wander around anymore!" Another voice expressing willingness followed.

Humans are creatures of the crowd. Upon hearing others expressing their desire to stay, even some freemen who had a hint of hesitation in their hearts raised their hands.

More than a thousand freemen, nearly all of them, decided to remain right there.

There were very few who were still hesitant, and Ji Chen didn't pressure them. He simply advised them to stay for the time being and get a good look at the Crown of the Ocean before making a decision.

He instructed Wilus to arrange accommodations for them.

Apart from the freemen, there was another, larger group of slaves.

When it came to the slaves, there was no need for lengthy discussions.

In a sense, Ji Chen spending gold to buy them meant they were Ji Chen's personal property, and he had the right to kill them if he wished.

After they disembarked, they didn't exchange a word but were quickly put to work in various areas of the territory. Ji Chen believed that in the days to come, they would come to appreciate the goodness of the Crown of the Ocean.

Ding-1037 units of freemen have joined the territory, no hero units discovered."

"Ding, 1520 units of slaves have joined the territory, hero units discovered."

Ji Chen was taken aback; there were hero units among these slaves?

That seemed like quite a stroke of luck.

However, he wasn't overly excited because the Crown of the Ocean already had quite a few heroes, around forty of them, both white and green heroes.

He opened the territory panel to take a look

Sure enough, in the heroes section, he saw a new name.

Leysha (Purple Hero)

Ah, a hero with a purple-tier ranking. Ji Chen was intrigued to find out more about this obviously female character.

He closed the panel.

Ji Chen then headed toward the temporary place where the slaves were being housed.

The temporary lodging for the slaves was in an open area not far from the port. There were many thatched huts set up here, and the slaves were standing around, creating a noisy and chaotic scene.

Surrounding them were squads of lizardmen soldiers. Unlike the freemen who had come willingly, many of the slaves had thoughts of escaping, so they needed a military presence to keep them in check.

Ji Chen's sudden arrival surprised both the slaves and the soldiers. They wondered why such a noble figure had come to this chaotic place.

A lizardman captain hurried over, his face filled with anxiety as he asked,

"Lord, is there something you need us to do here?"

"Nothing much, I'm here to find a slave named Leysha."

"Alright, I'll go get her right away. Please wait a moment, Lord."

After saying that, the lizardman captain immediately rushed back with his subordinates to search for Leysha.

About ten minutes later, they returned, with a young girl in tow.

"Lord, we have brought the slave Leysha."

"Very good," Ji Chen nodded and turned his gaze to Leysha.

She was a young girl, and while her appearance might not be considered top-tier, she had a remarkably beautiful face and a youthful, vibrant figure that added to her charm.

At this moment, she looked anxious, clutching the edge of her clothes with trembling hands, appearing very reserved.

She didn't understand why the Lord had brought her out alone.

Could it be, as others had suggested, that the Lord had taken an interest in her?

Thinking about this, Leysha's grip on her clothes tightened, her cheeks turned crimson, and she almost buried her head in her chest.

The other slaves around her looked at her with envy, thinking that being favored by the Lord meant she was soaring to great heights and would live a good life from now on.

Ji Chen paid no attention to the others and first opened her panel to check.

[Leysha (Hero)]

[Race]: Human

[Level]: 8

[Current Tier]: Purple (Rare Tier)

[Potential]: Red (Legacy Tier)

[Skills]: Ancestral Winemaking (Purple skill, inherited wine-making technique, capable of producing exceptionally high-quality wine)

Ancestral Farming (Purple skill, skilled in growing wine-making crop materials)

[Unit Trait |: Winemaking Talent (Greatly improves winemaking success rate, greatly improves wine quality, has a certain probability of producing top- quality wine)

Well, it turned out she was a lifestyle hero.

And what's more, her expertise was in winemaking!

This was an incredible discovery!

Earlier, Ji Chen had already figured out that the New Moon Islands were most likely formed due to volcanic eruptions. As a result, the volcanic soil produced by these eruptions contained rich mineral elements, giving it a natural advantage for agriculture.

From the perspective of agricultural advantages, besides excellent soil, the New Moon Islands had very few storms, tsunamis, long hours of daylight, and more, making it an excellent place for grape cultivation.

Wine was a product in high demand everywhere, and there was never a shortage of buyers.

If the Crown of the Ocean added this product to its offerings, it would only mean more gold!

Gradually, Ji Chen's eyes lit up with enthusiasm.

Feeling his direct gaze, Leysha became even more bashful, not knowing where to put her hands.

However, she had no idea that Ji Chen wasn't interested in her body at all; instead, he coveted her skills.

Regaining his composure, Ji Chen cleared his throat and said, "Your name is Leysha, right?"

"Yes, Lord," Leysha replied, feeling bashful but nodding nonetheless.

"Follow me."

With an unmistakable tone, he made her obediently follow him. As she looked at the tall and handsome Lord in front of her and then at her somewhat dirty self, she felt a sense of inferiority and worry.

Ji Chen led her to a grand hall and motioned for her to sit.

"Leysha, are you skilled in winemaking?"

Leysha was slightly surprised. How did the Lord know? She hadn't told anyone, not even when she was bought as a slave, as it was her appearance that had caught their attention.

But she failed to realize that Ji Chen, as a player, could directly view her information panel.

"Yes."

"Then how did you become a slave?"

Leysha's expression darkened, and she began to explain her story.

"My father was a winemaker in a large noble estate. When he noticed my talent in winemaking, he secretly taught me the techniques of winemaking and farming..."

We lived happily as a family until soldiers from a hostile nation attacked our estate, killed our parents, and sold me as a slave. Afterward, you, Lord, bought me and brought me here.”

Ji Chen nodded in understanding, but he couldn’t help but shake his head.

It wasn’t because of her unfortunate experiences but because of her talent.

Achieving a purple-tier hero status through winemaking at such a young age was a truly exceptional display of natural talent.

Considering her youth, there might still be potential for further breakthroughs in the future.

“The past is behind you, and your parents wouldn’t want to see you so sad...”

Seeing her looking so dejected, Ji Chen offered some words of comfort before getting to the main point.

“Since you possess such talent, it should not go to waste!

I will personally construct a winemaking workshop and allocate a dedicated piece of land for grape cultivation. Would you be willing to become their overseer, responsible for planting grapes and making wine?”

Upon hearing this, Leysha looked surprised and somewhat overwhelmed. To go from being a simple slave to being in charge was a remarkable leap in social status!

However, she quickly composed herself, and her gaze became more resolute. She clumsily performed a bow.

“I’m willing!”

“Very well!” Ji Chen nodded and immediately called for Wilus.

“Wilus, Leysha is no longer a slave; she has become a resident of the Crown of the Ocean. Assign her a residence and provide her with exclusive servants.

In addition, start planning the construction of a winemaking workshop and designate a suitable area for grape cultivation. Deploy enough residents and slaves to assist Leysha with planting and winemaking.

This matter should be given the utmost attention!”

Upon hearing Ji Chen’s stern tone, Wilus looked surprised as he glanced at Leysha, but he nodded earnestly. “Understood, I will handle these two matters seriously.”

Ji Chen nodded and then turned his gaze to Leysha, who looked overwhelmed with favor.

“You should go with Wilus to your new residence now. Freshen up and take some rest. You’ll be busy very soon.”

“I’m at your service, Lord!” Leysha quickly nodded. In her heart, she had already made up her mind to seize this rare opportunity and make the best of it..

Chapter 298 - 298: Change in Strategy, Leysha’s Expertise, Soul Servants

Watching Leysha walk out behind Wilus, Ji Chen paused and took out a heavy scroll made of sheepskin from his backpack, placing it on the long table.

With a wave of his hand, six maidservants by his side stepped forward, unfolding the parchment and covering the entire length of the table.

At a glance, this parchment was none other than a map of the New Moon Islands, displaying detailed information about the islands, including the distribution of specialties, resource points, building layouts, roadways, military arrangements, and everything, big or small.

With this map, one could swiftly grasp and understand the current situation of the New Moon Islands and the prosperity of the Crown of the Ocean. Compared to when it first landed, it had grown immensely, more than a hundredfold.

However, Ji Chen didn't bring it out for admiration or show. He had another purpose.

He intended to make a major adjustment to the territory layout.

With the further increase in population, the current population on the surface of the Crown of the Ocean, including some lizardmen, had reached around fifteen thousand. Such a population brought about increasing disorder.

In simple terms, all functional areas were mixed together. Residential areas were next to the port, interspersed with warehouses and functional facilities, creating a chaotic mess.

There were only a few proper roads, crisscrossing the entire Crown of the Ocean. People moving around and goods transport were all squeezed together, inadvertently greatly reducing efficiency.

Walking through that mess was giving him a headache.

Ji Chen looked at the map, deep in thought.

The main concept was to divide living spaces from workspaces and keep regular foot traffic separate from the movement of goods, ensuring they wouldn't disrupt each other.

Additionally, military structures such as recruitment camps were to be kept apart from the previous two categories and grouped into single, self-contained large-scale barracks, making it convenient for assembling and deploying troops.

Following these two ideas, Ji Chen wrote and sketched on the map. After half a day of effort, a brand-new layout plan for the Crown of the Ocean was quickly completed.

The residential area was relocated to the west, adjacent to the square.

Between the square's east side and the port, including the cliff where the Elemental Arrow Tower stood, was all designated as a military area. All the recruitment camps were relocated here.

This location was adjacent to any area in the territory and could provide the fastest support.

Following that, various workshops, warehouses, and functional structures were moved to the northern area, next to the northeast mountainous region. This location was conveniently situated near the Kobold Caves, making it easy to transport various minerals and resources directly to the workshops.

Furthermore, it was in close proximity to the port, allowing the finished products from the workshops to be swiftly transported to the port through dedicated cargo routes for export.

This arrangement created a closed-loop system for resources, production, and export: from resource points to workshops and finally to the port for export.

Following the principles of modern industrial production to guide the construction and layout, it was as straightforward as that.

The agricultural area, on the other hand, would focus on seawater rice paddies and high-quality coffee plantations. It would be located to the west of the residential area, occupying a vast expanse of flat and fertile land.

Ji Chen attached great importance to food cultivation.

Thanks to the conquest of the underground Lizardmen Kingdom, a large quantity of fluorescent mushrooms had been brought to the surface, ensuring the Crown of the Ocean wouldn't have to worry about hunger for a long time.

However, the taste and texture of fluorescent mushrooms were just average. They were suitable for short-term or emergency consumption, but if you wanted to use them as a daily food source, it would be a bit of a stretch.

Who would want to eat these dry mushrooms when they could have delicious rice and bread?

Ji Chen had only outlined the new layout, but there were many details to be filled in. This workload couldn't be handled by him alone.

Therefore, after a few hours of rest, he gathered Wilus and the others to brainstorm and refine the plan.

As they say, many hands make light work.

In just two days, a relatively complete layout and plan were established.

"Alright, let's proceed with this plan and make the necessary adjustments. I'll ensure that everyone cooperates fully to complete it as soon as possible."

"Yes!"

The others left, and Wilus stayed behind.

"My Lord, I've already found a location for the winemaking workshop and grape vineyard. It's situated in the southwest of the northeastern mountainous area."

Ji Chen thought for a moment. The terrain in that valley was relatively flat, which was ideal for agricultural cultivation. Moreover, several rivers flowed through it, making irrigation very convenient. It was indeed a good location.

"Since it's already chosen, let's begin as soon as possible."

After Wilus left, the wine-making hero, Leysha, came to visit.

Compared to her previous dirty appearance, Leysha was now dressed in appropriate clothing, with a slightly youthful face that exuded the unique vitality of a young girl. It couldn't help but bring a smile to one's face.

Although they were a bit more familiar now, Leysha was still very cautious in front of Ji Chen and greeted him respectfully.

"My Lord, good day..."

Ji Chen casually waved his hand. "No need for formalities. It looks like you've been resting well?"

"Thanks to my Lord's kindness, I've had two days of good rest, and the sisters have been taking good care of me.."

Chapter 299 - 299: Change in Strategy, Leysha's Expertise, Soul

Servants (2)

Leysha was a bit nervous as she spoke, but her happiness couldn't be concealed in her words.

In just two short days, she had experienced a completely different life. Not only did she have a comfortable independent house to live in, but she also enjoyed delicious food that she had never even dared to dream of before.

And there were even a few maids who took care of her every need.

She used to always imagine what kind of life would be considered happy. Well, she probably had it now...

Seeing Leysha's joyful expression, Ji Chen smiled. "Your talents deserve this kind of blissful life.

Alright, in a few days, the grape plantation will begin construction. Do you have any ideas?"¹

When it came to this topic, Leysha's expression became serious. With her mature mindset, she understood that the reason for this wonderful life was her talent for winemaking and grape cultivation.

Only by fully utilizing these talents could such a life continue.

"These past two days, I also asked Mr. Wilus, and he sent soldiers with me to inspect the island.

I believe the grape plantation should be located on a gentle slope near the northeastern mountains.¹¹

"A gentle slope? Why?" Ji Chen was a bit puzzled. He wasn't a professional, but in his impression, crops were usually better grown on flat land, right?

Leysha nodded and continued to explain.

"That's true, but grapes and similar crops are different from wheat and others. They require ample sunlight but not excessive water. If they are planted on a slope with a certain incline, it helps with drainage and ensures they receive sufficient sunlight.

Furthermore, I've explored the island, and the only level spots I found are the river valley near the mountains and the jungle area to the west. However, both of these locations pose challenges for growing grapes – either there's too much tree cover that blocks sunlight, or there's an abundance of water, making them unsuitable for grape farming.

Moreover, that gentle slope could be quite near the volcanic eruption site, which means the soil there is well-suited for farming.

Therefore, considering all factors, that gentle slope is the most suitable location."

As Leysha spoke about her area of expertise, her nervousness gradually disappeared, and her words flowed more smoothly.

By the end, she noticed Ji Chen looking at her attentively, which made her nervous again, stammering, "M-My... My... My lord, did I say something wrong?"

"No, you did great," Ji Chen replied with a pleased expression. "From start to finish, you'll be in charge of this matter. If there's anything, just contact me or Mr. Wilus directly. No need to consult with others."

This is what professionalism looks like.

Without asking Leysha, they might have wasted resources and time by choosing the wrong location in the river valley.

Upon hearing his words, Leysha became full of enthusiasm and quickly took her leave.

Ji Chen watched her hurried figure, shook his head with a smile, and followed her outside to the military recruitment camp.

Since the last time he recruited units, it had been over two weeks. This meant that he could recruit all the units he hadn't recruited during those two weeks all at once.

On the panel, in the warehouse, resources disappeared one after another, flowing into the recruitment camp.

An hour later, thousands of newly recruited units appeared.

Tyrant Azure Dragons: 9 units, Tier 5, 5-star.

Naga Berserkers: 680 units, Tier 4, 5-star.

Dragon Blood Murlocs: 700 units, Tier 4, 3-star.

Elemental Sea Pixies: 780 units, Tier 4, 3-star.

Lobster Riders: 670 units, Tier 4, 1-star.

Murioc Rangers: 350 units, Tier 3, 5-star.

Self-Detonating Water Spiders: 1400 units, Tier 3, 3-star.

Elite Pirates: 270 units, Tier 2, 4-star.

Deep Sea Prowlers: 60 units, Tier 4, 1-star.

Tidal Sea Spirits: 7 units, Tier 4, 1-star.

Giant Octopuses: 30 units, Tier 4, 8-star.

Ruins Guardians: 210 units, Tier 3, 8-star.

Ocean Guardians: 565 units, Tier 3, 9-star.

Sky Guardians: 40 units, Tier 4, 8-star.

Half-Orc Warriors: 275 units, Tier 3, 8-star.

After this round of recruitment, a significant portion of resources on the panel were depleted.

Especially when recruiting six Furious Azure Dragons, it cost him a substantial amount of crystals, mithril, and adamantium, each totaling 4800 units.

Recruiting such high-level units didn't just consume ordinary resources but also rare resources more valuable than gold coins.

Even for someone as wealthy as Ji Chen, he was somewhat amazed at the expenditure this time.

It seems that during the upcoming journey to the Northern Continent, he would need to pay more attention to collecting rare resources.

Among these units, Ruins Guardians and Half-Orc Warriors are a few that couldn't be replenished.

The former was obtained from the ancient land of the divine realm on King Kong Island. Their ability to endure pain and ignore negative effects makes them very useful but certainly irreplaceable.

After all, he didn't possess the relevant manufacturing technology, and his territory lacked experts in this field. The only person who had mastered the related technology, Thotmudo, had long disappeared.

As for the Half-Orc Warriors, they were also obtained from King Kong island. Their berserk combat power and loyalty made them a good unit as well. Perhaps he could consider recruiting another batch when he returns to King Kong Island in the future.

Once the heroes of each unit had taken their recruited armies with them, Ji Chen found Alice and set out with his nine Tyrant Azure Dragons.

His goal was to assist Alice in capturing a batch of soul servants.

Since she advanced to a Red Hero and evolved her skills, this skill had been left unused.

Now, it was time to unleash its full potential.

After equipping the Sea Heart Core on her, her mental power was instantly enhanced by an additional 150%. This meant that Alice's mind control skill could now control:

- 25,000 Tier 1 units.

- Or 12,500 Tier 2 units.

- Or 6,250 Tier 3 units.

- Or 3,125 Tier 4 units.

- Or 1,562 Tier 5 units.

If she could fill any of these categories to the brim, it would be an incredible source of power.

Consider 3,125 Tier 4 units; it's equivalent to all Tier 4 units under the Crown of the Ocean.

If they could capture dozens of Tier 5 units, not to mention creatures like the Tyrant Azure Dragon, even just Tier 5, 1-star units would be enough to form a terrifying Tier 5 army.

If they could fill all the slots with 1,562 Tier 5 units...

He was starting to have trouble imagining it.

If it ever got to that point, what would they have to fear?

He dared to take on the Grand Duchy and Kingdom-level powers head-on, making them understand who the real boss of this sea region was!

Suppressing the excitement in his heart, Ji Chen stood on the back of the Tyrant Azure Dragon alongside Alice, beginning the search for suitable soul servants.

In his mind, only Tier 4 units were eligible to occupy a slot, and he had no interest in Tier 3 or lower units.

They journeyed to the outskirts of the Stormy Sea, and with a brief search, they quickly found some Tier 4 units that met their criteria.

It was a group of about fifteen or sixteen giant swordfish, Tier 4, 3-stars a decent Tier 4 unit.

As they detected the arrival of unbeatable foes, they fled in a panicked frenzy. However, their speed couldn't match the explosive swiftness of the Tyrant Azure Dragon.

They were soon caught up to, surrounded by the nine Tyrant Azure Dragons, shivering in fear.

Ji Chen glanced at them and immediately said, "Alice, make them your soul servants."

Alice obediently nodded. Even though she had become a Red Hero, she still appeared just as she had when she was a Blue Hero in front of Ji Chen.

A song began to play.

The giant swordfish trapped in the middle shivered uncontrollably as if struck by lightning. They desperately tried to break free, but a single tail strike from the Tyrant Azure Dragon sent them flying back one by one.

After a few minutes, they gradually calmed down, their eyes losing their luster.

At this point, Alice also stopped and nodded, saying, "I've taken control of them."

"Ding! Siren Hero: Alice has controlled 115/3125] units of Tier 4."

Ji Chen watched this scene before and after, deep in thought.

This is a bit different from what he had in mind before. Alice couldn't instantly control them; it's more like a process of conquest, similar to recovering fairies.

The higher the rank and grade of the troops, the longer it should take.

This did provide some balance; otherwise, being able to turn enemies into permanent soul servants in an instant would be too frightening.

Even the gods wouldn't dare to do such a thing!

Chapter 300 - 300: Various Items, Enslavement Contract Scroll, Medieval Town?

After enslaving these dozen giant tunas, Ji Chen and Alice continued their search for the next batch of lucky ones.

Far from the mainland, in the distant stormy seas, the fisheries here were undeniably abundant. Abundant fisheries brought with them the gathering of numerous oceanic wilderness monsters.

In just a few hours, they found hundreds of wilderness monsters ranging from Tier 4,1-star to Tier 4, 4-star, successfully tamed under the siege of the Nine Tyrant Azure Dragons, becoming Alice's soul servants.

It was worth noting that having over a hundred different types of Tier 4 monsters displayed in front of the formation, which was even more diverse than the units under the Crown of the Ocean, definitely gave off a unique and impressive vibe.

As the sun set behind the western mountains, only a sliver of the sunset remained on the horizon.

Seeing that it was getting late, Ji Chen and Alice returned to the Crown of the Ocean, planning to continue capturing soul servants tomorrow.

At the Lord's castle, after dinner, Ji Chen retrieved the items acquired from Ernesto in his backpack. He hadn't had a chance to examine them earlier due to the unexpected arrival of the Sea Heir that day.

Among the items were two treasures, two building blueprints, two skill scrolls, two bottles of potions, and a bundle of parchment and metal creations.

One of the treasures held a 4-star rating, while the other was a 3-star treasure.

[Mithril Ring]

[Tier]: 4-star treasure

[Effect]: 0 Increases spell resistance by 10%, increases resistance to negative effects from spells by 20%

[Skill]: 0 Can generate a spell shield that withstands a huge amount of spell damage, with a cooldown of 3 hours

[Charging Ring]

[Tier]: 3-star treasure

[Effect]: © Increases the next spell damage by 30%, with a cooldown of 30 minutes

Two decent spell treasures.

One for survival, and one for damage increase.

Ji Chen wore the two rings on his left and right hands respectively.

Counting these two, he now had three rings in total, already occupying three of his ten fingers.

His aspiration was to discover additional ring-type treasures in the future and adorn the remaining seven fingers, ultimately achieving the status of a Ring Lord!

After admiring the rings for a moment, he looked at the two building blueprints.

[Blueprint: Gnome Freshwater Filtration System]

[Tier]: 4-star

[Effect]: Capable of filtering seawater into drinkable freshwater

[Construction Required Resources]: 1500 units of crystal, 1500 units of mithril, 1500 units of orichalcum, 1500 units of iron

[Footprint]: 20x20x30

[Maximum Purification Capacity]: 50,000 people's daily use

[Blueprint: Brewery Workshop]

[Tier]: 4-star

[Effect]: Enhances the success rate of brewing and reduces the production rate of bad alcohol

[Construction Required Resources]: 1000 units of crystal, 5000 units of wood, 3000 units of stone, 3000 units of clay

[Footprint]: 50x75x10

Both blueprints were of 4-star quality.

The former could filter seawater to produce freshwater, enough to meet the daily needs of up to 50,000 people.

Although there was currently no freshwater crisis, as the population increased in the future, freshwater, like food in the early stages, eventually became a significant concern.

The latter blueprint allowed the construction of a Brewery Workshop, which was self-explanatory and incredibly beneficial.

While territories could be constructed without blueprints, the effects were uncertain. With blueprints, not only could standardized buildings be constructed, but the construction speed could also be significantly accelerated.

Under normal circumstances, even a simple small tile-roofed house would take at least half a month to complete, let alone a massive project like a Brewery Workshop.

He had soldiers deliver a copy of each blueprint to Wilus and Leysha.

Then, he turned his attention to the remaining items.

The skill scrolls were what he had been most eager for this time.

In this world, skills were a core component of a hero or a unit's combat power. Having a powerful skill could easily multiply their combat effectiveness several times over.

Just like the Tyrant Azure Dragon, without its Ice Breath skill, its combat power and lethality would drop by at least 70% or more.

[Skill Scroll: Spell Flight]

[Type]: Combat Skill

[Tier]: Blue-tier Skill

[Effect]: Enables the comprehension of the blue-tier skill: Spell Flight (the ability to condense a pair of magical wings using mana, granting the power of flight).

[Skill Scroll: Alchemy Basics]

[Type]: Lifestyle Skill

[Tier]: Blue-tier Skill

[Effect]: Enables the comprehension of the green-tier skill: Alchemy Basics (Gains the Alchemist profession, opening the door to the path of alchemy).

Among the dozens of skill scrolls, these two were not the most precious, but they were the ones that intrigued Ji Chen the most.

Spell Flight, the ability to condense wings and soar in the sky like a bird, was a dream come true for many humans. Even with Ji Chen's strength, he could only have the Sky Guardian carry him into the high skies to experience it briefly.

The sky was a forbidden zone for countless terrestrial and marine creatures, viewable from a distance but inaccessible.

The other skill scroll, Alchemy Basics, brought an even greater surprise to Ji Chen. The value of a blue-tier Alchemy Basics skill scroll was even more precious than a purple-tier skill.

If players entering this world chose professions like fishermen, blacksmiths, or tailors as their secondary professions, which were as ordinary as they could be, then becoming an alchemist was a relatively rare and valuable hidden secondary profession. It was on par with professions like potion makers, all of which were considered elite secondary professions.

For Ji Chen, this had a special significance.

He wasn't particularly interested in becoming an alchemist, nor did he have the spare time to delve into alchemy. However, this didn't mean that this skill scroll was useless..