

Ocean Lord 341

Chapter 341 - 341: Powerful Elven Fleet, Yassen, Who is this Player?

Kris had the team stop in its tracks and briskly walked up to Ji Chen to greet him.

Looking around, she asked curiously, “My lord, what brings you here?”

“I’m just out for a stroll. But what about you? What brings your group to this place?”

“We’re here to receive the cargo from the Ocean’s Crown.”

Ji Chen nodded slightly, recalling that he had indeed received a notice from the Elven Embassy that they would be receiving this precious cargo of timber and premium coffee beans soon.

It seemed the timing was about right.

However, Ji Chen glanced around and asked, puzzled, “This batch of cargo is quite substantial. With just you elves here, I’m afraid you won’t have enough manpower for the handling.”

Kris smiled and shook her head. “We’re just the advance team for the reception. As for the handling... you’ll see soon.”

Seeing her mysterious demeanor, Ji Chen didn’t press further on the topic and joined her in waiting.

During the wait, Kris suddenly spoke in a hushed tone, “My lord, i heard from Officer Brett that you’re heading to the area where the trolls are causing trouble in the north. Is that true?”

Ji Chen nodded without hesitation.

Upon receiving confirmation, Kris’s expression revealed a hint of worry. “The trolls in the Alvin Mountains are quite powerful, with tough hides and thick flesh. Most of your army consists of amphibious and marine units, which might put you at a disadvantage against them.

If you need it, i can request Officer Brett to lead a guard unit to accompany you and ensure your safety.”

Feeling the genuine concern from the elven maiden, Ji Chen chuckled lightly. “You were saved by me before, and now you want to protect me?”

Hearing this, Kris blushed, and even the elven maidens who were her subordinates behind her felt somewhat embarrassed.

Now they vividly remembered that the man before them had the ability to summon towering waves of seawater with a mere wave of his hand, easily burying countless monsters.

He had rescued them from the clutches of the dirty gnomes and sent them back here.

Seeing their awkwardness, Ji Chen smiled and reassured them, “Don’t worry;

I’ll let you know if I need it.”

Kris nodded in response.

The conversation between the two of them was quite enjoyable.

The onlookers were astonished by this scene.

“Wait a minute, am i seeing things? A player is actually having such a pleasant conversation with elves? Aren’t elves supposed to be very aloof?”

“Last time I tried talking to an elf, she didn’t even spare me a glance, and now they’re all so enthusiastic! I can’t accept this! Clearly, I’m even more handsome than him!”

“Damn, did you all hear? The lead elven woman said she could have an elven guard unit to protect him personally. Such amazing treatment! Are they involved romantically or something?”

“I’m jealous! i could eat three big lemons!”

“Who is this player? I’m going to find out everything about him within a day!”

Similar to the players, Gilder on the side was also shocked by this scene.

He had known that the Ocean’s Crown was favored by the elves through some grapevine information, but that was probably only related to their business transactions.

However, he hadn’t expected that the Excellency Ji Chen to have such a good relationship with the elves, to the extent that they would dispatch a guard unit to ensure his safety.

Countless speculations raced through his mind.

What had happened between the Excellency Ji Chen and the elves to forge such a strong bond? He even pondered whether there might be a romantic connection between them.

As a merchant, what he should do now was approach, establish a connection, and take advantage of this rare opportunity to converse with the elves.

After all, the chance to encounter elves was extremely rare. Perhaps he could strike up a conversation through his connection with the Excellency Ji Chen.

However, his instincts told him that now might not be the best time to intervene. Doing so could lead to undesirable consequences.

Just as Gilder was torn between these thoughts, a commotion suddenly erupted from the crowd.

“Look, a fleet is approaching from the sea!”

“It’s the elves’ fleet!”

Kris, who had been happily conversing, exclaimed in delight, “My lord, our fleet has arrived.”

Ji Chen followed her gaze and saw a fleet of about fifty elven ships slowly approaching in the distance.

What surprised him was that these elven warships were not made of metal like the ships of the Maple Principality or the gnomes. They were still wooden but intricately engraved with concentric runes that emitted a peculiar glow, enveloping the entire hull in a shimmering sheen.

On the ship’s sides, there were no visible cannons or artillery. Instead, wooden platforms covered in entwining vines protruded outward, each suspending alchemical contraptions shrouded by cloths.

With Ji Chen's powerful magical senses, he could easily feel the unrestrained magical energy emanating from them.

Once activated, they would unleash formidable destructive power.

On the upper structures entwined with vines, there were also devices of unknown purpose. At the stern, a half-submerged magic array provided continuous propulsion from the seawater.

The elven fleet appeared to consist of various types of ships, ranging in size and purpose. Some were heavily armed warships, while others seemed to serve purely as transport vessels.

The entire elven fleet appeared both mysterious and formidable. Its diverse and distinctive designs immediately captured the attention of everyone present..

Chapter 342 - 342: The Powerful Elven Fleet, Yaseen, Who Is This

Player? (2)

"Are you saying that this fleet is here for transportation?"

"Exactly!" Kris smiled as she watched the elven fleet slowly docking at the independent pier, her eyes gleaming. "The Fifth Fleet of the Silvermoon Dynasty in the Mid-Ocean, equipped with eight Guardian Escort Warships, eight Stormfire Artillery Projection Warships, twelve Windrunners fast warships, four Guardians Comprehensive Supply Ships, and one Dominator Command Firepower Flagship.

The Fifth Fleet in the Mid-Ocean is one of the most powerful fleets of the Elves in the Mid-Ocean. Its combat power is equivalent to several ordinary fleets, possessing the power to destroy a weak kingdom or principality.

This time, they have just returned from the open sea, come to Maple Harbor for resupply, and will then return to the country to participate in the Queen's birthday celebration ceremony, bringing back the cargo of the Crown of the Ocean."

As Kris spoke, there was a strong sense of confidence and pride in her words.

This made Ji Chen somewhat contemplative.

With such a powerful fleet, it was no wonder the Elves were so proud.

And from what she said, this was just one of the Elven fleets in the Mid-Ocean, named the Fifth Fleet. There might be the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Fleets as well.

Ji Chen had gained a new understanding of the strength of the Elves.

Watching the Fifth Fleet of the Elves approaching the harbor, Kris and Ji Chen took their leave for now and hurriedly went over to meet the other Elves.

Soon, they followed a male Elf who looked stern and was dressed in splendid attire.

Kris took the initiative to introduce, "Your Excellency Yaseen, this is the Lord of Glory who provided this batch of goods, Lord Ji Chen."

At these words, the male Elf named Yasen just glanced casually and nodded indifferently, not looking directly at Ji Chen throughout the entire process.

This attitude annoyed Ji Chen a bit, as it was the first time he had seen such an arrogant Elf.

Seeing Kris's embarrassment, she quickly said, "Lord Ji Chen, this is Commander Yasen of the Fifth Fleet."

Oh, so he's the big boss of this Elven fleet? No wonder he was so arrogant, looking down on everyone.

Ji Chen smiled faintly and nodded.

"Your Excellency Yasen, earlier, 1 and the other elven sisters were abducted by gnomes. Thanks to the intervention of Lord Ji Chen, we managed to escape the danger and return here.

Second Brother, Lord Ji Chen had a pleasant conversation with the Excellency Miligas a few days ago. In addition to this batch of goods, they also hammered out a long-term cooperation agreement regarding the Ocean Crown territory. The gifts he brought along impressed the Excellency Miligas greatly," Kris took the initiative to explain.

Hearing this, Yasen began to take this human more seriously, carefully evaluating him.

Even Miligas had a pleasant conversation with this human?

Yasen was well aware that Miligas, despite appearing friendly on the surface, had a high level of arrogance and rarely regarded ordinary individuals highly. So, what was special about this human?

With these thoughts in mind, Yasen scrutinized the human named Ji Chen.

His appearance and physique were excellent, and his demeanor was quite extraordinary. Even in the presence of a high-ranking figure like Yasen, he remained neither humble nor arrogant, and at first glance, he seemed impressive.

"Lord Ji Chen's personal strength is also outstanding. Even Commander Brett thinks highly of him."

At this point, Yasen was even more surprised. Even Brett Lasoga, the muscle-bound man who led his army to face the entire Polar Troll Legion head-on, had high praise for Ji Chen?

At this moment, a significant portion of his disdain and scorn was finally put aside.

It wasn't entirely his fault; as soon as he heard that this human was a so-called Lord of Glory, he had subconsciously lowered his expectations.

After all, most of these Lord of Glory figures that suddenly appeared several months ago were not particularly impressive. Even those who owned territories were tolerable, but those who lost their territories and infiltrated cities were simply swindlers, often doing some bizarre things.

Yasen still remembered the first time he saw them, breaking into residents' homes and rummaging through their belongings, claiming it was for searching for supplies. They would openly comment on the attractiveness of female NPCs on the streets and sometimes act like thugs in alleys, looking for old people and saying they wanted to take on quests.

For this kind of Lord of Glory, no one would have a good impression.

However, it now appeared that there were exceptional individuals among them.

Amazed by this revelation, Yassen began to show some curiosity about this Lord of Glory. He wanted to see if this “rare adversary” mentioned by Brett was as impressive as claimed.

With a thought, he released a powerful aura, and the surging mana swept through the surroundings like a tidal wave. The people present felt as if several sandbags had suddenly pressed down on them, especially their shoulders, which became notably heavier.

But these were just the residual effects of his aura. Most of the pressure was now focused on Ji Chen.

As the commander of the Fifth Fleet of the Elves, Yassen led his fleet to traverse the oceans, breaking waves and surging across the seas, crushing and tearing apart anyone who dared to threaten the interests of the Elves. His innate aggressiveness was apparent.

At this moment, the fusion of his aura and mana was like a sharp sword capable of cutting through anything, aimed straight at Ji Chen.

Ji Chen narrowed his eyes slightly.

His own mana surged out like the floodgates of a dam suddenly opened.

If Yassen’s aura was like a blade to tear everything apart, Ji Chen’s was an unbreakable and towering fortress, immovable like a mountain.

As if mana had colors, one could perhaps see the two types of mana, one blue and one red, belonging to Ji Chen and Yassen, locked in a head-to-head battle, each trying to overpower the other.

The sharper their auras became, the brighter Yassen’s eyes sparkled, and he looked at Ji Chen with admiration.

Such a Lord of Glory, he had never seen one like this before.

Not only did he have an extraordinary demeanor, but he also possessed such power!?

Ji Chen controlled his mana, resisting Yassen’s surging attack, and couldn’t help but be impressed.

Indeed, he was the commander of an Elven fleet, and his strength was undeniably formidable.

But Ji Chen also sensed that the opponent hadn’t used his full strength. It seemed more like a test than a life-and-death struggle.

Sure enough, after about ten seconds, Yassen’s assault gradually subsided, and Ji Chen maintained his stance until the opponent completely dissipated his attack before waving his hand to stop.

“Well! You truly live up to being recognized by even that guy Miligas. You’re indeed worthy of your reputation!

I didn’t expect someone like Your Excellency, a Lord of Glory, to appear among us. I’ve offended you in the past, please forgive me!”

At this moment, Yassen had completely abandoned his disdain and arrogance, his demeanor now calm.

Elves were proud, but that was directed at enemies and weaker beings.

Elves had become one of the most powerful races in the world today largely due to their formidable strength, so they revered the strong.

And Ji Chen was undoubtedly one of them. He deserved their respect.

Ji Chen let out a sigh of relief and nodded without dwelling on anything.

Seeing this, Kris, who had been anxious on the side, also breathed a sigh of relief and relaxed.

Her intention was to introduce Commander Yasen to Lord Ji Chen. If anything unpleasant had happened as a result, it would have been a mistake.

“Your Excellency Yasen, if you wish to spar again next time, please choose a different location to avoid harming innocent bystanders.”

Hearing this, Yasen looked at the onlookers who had been nearly crushed by the sudden confrontation, smiled, and said, “Very well, this was just a spur-of-the-moment decision.”

Upon hearing this, the players who had been surrounded by the sudden pressure and were cursing in their hearts felt relieved but also secretly cursed Yasen for almost causing them to lose their temper.

“You darn guy, if I could beat you, I’d give you a good thrashing right now.”

While cursing in secret, the other players were also caught in a whirlpool of emotions, amazed by Ji Chen.

Who was this player who seemed so familiar with the Elves?

In their eyes, it seemed like he had fought the highest commander of the Elven Fifth Fleet to a draw. Could players really reach such a level at this stage?

Watching someone who usually struggled to kill monsters now being able to arm wrestle with the commander of an Elven fleet left their emotions particularly complex.

Because right now, Ji Chen was being himself, not accompanied by Alice and Raymond. Moreover, there were plenty of players with Naga-like units because they were close to the sea.

So, no player recognized Ji Chen as the one who had caused a stir not long ago as Zhao Liangchen, and they had no idea that he was the famous Islander.

In the chat channels and forums, a storm was once again brewing..

Chapter 343 - 343: Elves’ Three Tactics, Legends, Queen of the Silvermoon, Deep Sea Naga Original Bloodline

Unintentionally stirring up trouble once again, Ji Chen found himself warmly welcomed by Yasen as they arrived in a large independent harbor within the Elven fleet.

This area was specifically allocated by the Maple Principality for the Silvermoon Dynasty, serving as a berth for Elven ships, housing Elven soldiers, and even providing supplies.

Its nature was somewhat akin to the relationship between a certain small-time landlord and a certain popular streamer.

I provide you a place to station your troops, and you, in turn, protect me.

As a result, while the Maple Principality's military might was not formidable, no power dared to provoke them.

In one of the halls, Yasen and Ji Chen sat opposite each other.

Yasen poured a cup of tea and sighed.

"Lord Ji Chen, I've seen many Lords of Glory, but none of them has been as outstanding as you. You've led your territory from humble beginnings to its current prosperity."

"How do you know that Crown of the Ocean is a prosperous territory?"

"If it weren't prosperous, how could it produce so many unique goods? And having a fleet with over thirty ships, that's not something every territory can boast."

Ji Chen smiled faintly, unable to refute.

He had a question on his mind.

"I have a question, Your Excellency Yasen. I'd like to know your opinion on other Lords of Glory."

"Other Lords of Glory?" Yasen furrowed his brows slightly and took a sip of tea.

"Forgive my bluntness, but based on current observations, except for you, Lord Ji Chen, the other Lords of Glory... are virtually worthless."

"Why do you say that?"

"Firstly, let's put aside their ordinary and meager strength. Most of them are only around level ten to twenty, and their professions are quite commonplace.

Secondly, I've taken an interest in learning more about them, but the results left me greatly disappointed. Their character and conduct are hard for me to accept—lacking in morality, untrustworthy, motivated solely by greed, and willing to do anything for personal gain.

If it weren't for their adherence to the law and their ability to be driven by self-interest, they would have been expelled from the Maple Principality long ago."

Hearing these words, Ji Chen instinctively wanted to counter, but he didn't know where to begin.

These observations seemed almost accurate.

Players were called players precisely because of their uncontrollable and unpredictable nature. You couldn't predict what they would do next.

In just a few short months, the number of players locked up in Maple City's dungeons had reached tens of thousands, a testament to their unpredictability.

But at the same time, if lured by incentives, they could complete difficult tasks and commissions that even the indigenous inhabitants found troublesome through various unconventional methods.

As a result, the indigenous inhabitants held complex feelings towards these Lords of Glory, who seemed to have dropped from the sky.

They had concerns about their absence, but they were equally worried about the potential consequences if they were present.

As the highest commander of the Elven fleet, Yasen couldn't help but have such thoughts.

But perhaps it was precisely because Yasen held a high position and had a broad perspective that he failed to see the immense potential of the players in the face of uncertainty.

In just a few months, many players had already developed and established themselves. In contrast, if the same amount of time were given to the indigenous inhabitants, they might not have achieved much.

Ji Chen smiled faintly, choosing not to dwell on the matter. Such things would need to be proven with time and facts.

Seeing his response, Yasen willingly changed the topic.

"Lord Ji Chen," he began, "I heard from Kris that the gifts you've given have even earned the admiration of Miligas?"

"While Miligas may not be strong in terms of combat, his ability to appreciate and recognize various treasures is quite exceptional. If even he finds it impressive, I'm genuinely curious."

Ji Chen, who already had some understanding of the elves, couldn't help but internally chuckle when he heard this.

Elves as a race were known for their passion for luxury. Their capital was incredibly prosperous and extravagant, leading them to have a strong desire for all things extravagant.

When they saw something rare, their first instinct was to buy it.

After all, Elves were never short of money, whether it was gold, rare resources, or valuable items. They could easily use their wealth to exert pressure if they couldn't buy something.

If purchasing it wasn't an option, they would move on to the second approach: using their influence to exert pressure.

The strength of the Silvermoon Dynasty, an elven power, lay in its political and economic influence. They cultivated high-level relationships with other factions and exerted pressure downwards through these connections.

If the other party remains unyielding, they resort to the third option: using force to seize what they want. It's a straightforward yet highly effective approach.

Don't expect a race or empire with immense power and wealth to necessarily possess noble virtues.

Even if they once did, centuries of extravagance and dominance have eroded many of those qualities, leaving behind a carefully crafted facade of goodness.

With these thoughts in mind, Ji Chen smiled and said, "Since Your Excellency Yasen is so curious, allow me to present something."

“Naga Berserker, return to the manor and fetch a top-grade Deep Sea Merfabric.”

The Naga Berserker, who had been waiting outside the hall, heard the command and headed towards the exit.

Seeing this, Kris, who had also been waiting outside, hesitated for a moment and said, “Your Excellency Yasen, Lord Ji Chen’s Merfabric is extremely precious. I’m concerned that there might be accidents on the way. I request permission to escort a small team to ensure its safe delivery.”

Yasen paused for a moment, then nodded. “Very well, I grant permission.”

As Yasen watched Kris and her team depart, he couldn’t help but be curious.

“Is the gift Merfabric? It sounds quite extraordinary from its name alone.”

Ji Chen revealed a mysterious smile, leaving Yasen even more eager to see it..

Chapter 344 - 344: Elves’ Three Tactics, Legends, Queen of the Silvermoon, Deep Sea Naga Original Bloodline (2)

One hour later.

The Naga Berserker, along with Kris and a Merfabric also housed in a luxurious wooden box, returned. However, they were accompanied by Alice.

Alice knew the value of top-notch Merfabric, and there were only five of them in the entire Crown of the Ocean. Two had been previously gifted to Miligas, leaving only three, so she couldn’t trust anyone else to deliver them.

Ji Chen received the Merfabric and noticed that Yasen was staring intently at Alice.

This gaze wasn’t due to anything else but sheer astonishment.

“Lord Yasen?”

“Huh?” Yasen snapped out of his daze, his thoughts in turmoil. “Lord Ji Chen, who is this?”

“This is Alice, one of my subordinates.”

“Forgive my curiosity, but what is her race?”

“Alice is a Siren.”

As soon as this was said, Yasen’s face became complex, and he was already caught in a tidal wave of emotions.

He had realized that Alice was a mature Siren at the Red-Legacy Tier.

As a fleet commander who spent more time at sea than on land, he naturally had an in-depth understanding of many stories circulating in the ocean.

He was well aware of the Sirens.

The Siren race was extremely rare, but each one possessed formidable psychic powers and could control powerful creatures to fight for them.

According to ancient elven texts, there had once been a powerful Siren in ancient times who controlled as many as tens of thousands of creatures, forming its own nation.

Due to their psychic control, this vast army operated seamlessly as one entity, making their military strength terrifying.

However, this wasn't what shocked him. It was the combination of the Siren and this Lord of Glory, a human.

Could the legend be true?

Rumor had it that the Elven Goddess had passed down a prophecy over a thousand years ago.

It foretold that an unchanging world, devoid of gods, would welcome outsiders who would change the rules and appearance of this world... accompanied by a sea prodigy...

He hadn't thought much of it before, but now, as he examined the details, it all fell into place.

The outsiders... were these Lords of Glory who had descended from the sky, weren't they?

The sea prodigy, perhaps a Siren?

But upon further thought, Yassen felt that such an explanation was too far-fetched, leading to unnecessary confusion.

According to the prophecy, the sea prodigy's power rivaled that of a demigod, while Sirens could, at most, reach the Red-Legacy Tier, a far cry from demigod status.

So, this speculation was likely incorrect. Moreover, in the world where the gods had vanished, the authenticity of such rumors couldn't be confirmed.

Ji Chen noticed that Yassen's expression seemed off and couldn't help but ask, "Your Excellency Yassen, is there something on your mind?"

"Ahem, nothing, just a bit surprised, that's all. Sirens are exceedingly rare in the ocean, Lord Ji Chen, it's an incredibly fortunate thing for you to have the loyalty of a Siren."

One had to admit, it was indeed fortunate.

And who would have thought that Alice had been reeled in by him with a fishing rod, and later claimed with a mouthful of potion?

Looking back now, it all seemed rather magical.

Perhaps to cover the earlier awkwardness, Yassen proactively asked, "I wonder what makes this Deep Sea Merfabric so exceptional?"

"What makes it exceptional, Your Lordship, you will know after you have seen it."

Saying that, Ji Chen opened the wooden box, revealing the cloud-like Merfabric.

Sure enough, it immediately captivated Yassen's gaze, and even his recent thoughts were temporarily set aside.

Just from its appearance, it had a top-notch presentation.

“Is this the gift for Miligas?” Yassen, wearing gloves, caressed it gently with a fascinated expression, but also with a hint of reluctance. “You’re being too generous to him!”

Ji Chen chuckled softly.

Casually, he said, “I’ve given Ambassador Miligas two Deep Sea Merfabrics in total—one as a business sample and the other as a personal gift.”

“Two of them?” Yassen suddenly fell silent. He understood why Miligas was so eager to return to the capital.

The Queen’s birthday was approaching, and Miligas must have wanted to present the top-notch Deep Sea Merfabric as a gift to win her favor.

Returning from the open sea this time, he had brought back many marine treasures, thinking of choosing the best one as a gift for the Queen. However, upon seeing this type of Deep Sea Merfabric, he suddenly felt that his previous selections were lacking.

No, he had to at least obtain one as a gift. Otherwise, he would undoubtedly face Miligas’s sarcastic remarks when he returned.

Watching Yassen’s focused gaze and the hints in his eyes as he looked at the Merfabric, Ji Chen couldn’t help but sigh.

Damn it, the elves were too greedy.

However, originally, he had intended to give away these five Merfabrics as gifts. Investing in one with Yassen, the highest commander of the elven fleet, wasn’t a bad idea.

Compared to the one-time economic value they would bring, he valued the long-term, substantial benefits of the future.

After some consideration, Ji Chen pushed the wooden box over and said with a cheerful tone, “Consider these top-notch Deep Sea Merfabrics as a gift for our meeting, both for you and Lord Yassen!”

Upon hearing this, Yassen’s face lit up with immense joy. “Then I thank you, Lord Ji Chen! The elves won’t forget a generous friend!”

After some thought, he probably felt that it wouldn’t be right to simply accept without reciprocating, after all..

Chapter 345 - 345: Elves’ Three Tactics, Legends, Queen of the Silvermoon, Deep Sea Naga Original Bloodline (3)

An elven officer was summoned.

“Bring the ocean treasure we retrieved from the high seas.”

Soon, under Ji Chen's slightly curious gaze, the elven officer brought forward a crystal vial filled with shimmering blue liquid.

"This vial contains the essence of the Deep Sea Naga, obtained from a lost ocean relic during our recent expedition. It possesses extraordinary power.

In theory, it should enhance the strength of Naga units and elevate their tier. I see that you also have Naga units under your command, so it should be of some use to you.

So, consider it a token of our meeting, a gift for you."

As he spoke, Yasen gently pushed the crystal vial toward Ji Chen.

"Detecting the original bloodline of the Deep Sea Naga, assessing compatible units for evolution...

The compatibility of the Naga Berserker is at 98%, capable of transforming one Naga Berserker unit into a hero."

A voice that had been silent for a long time echoed in his ears.

Deep Sea Naga original bloodline?

Transformation into a hero?

But Yasen had mentioned Deep Sea Naga essence, not the original bloodline.

Although there was doubt in his heart, Ji Chen maintained a calm expression and accepted the gift with a smile.

With the exchange of gifts, the atmosphere became very cordial.

After receiving the gift, his lips loosened, and some words naturally flowed out.

"Your Excellency Yasen, I heard from Kris that the Elven Queen's birthday is coming up soon?"

"Yes, we elves are different from humans; our lifespans are much longer. Therefore, we celebrate the Queen's birthday once every ten years.

In about two years, it will be the birthday of Her Majesty, the Supreme Queen of the Silvermoon Dynasty.

At that time, there will be a grand celebration, and elves from all over will return to the capital. Representatives from various nations, empires, and races will also come to join in the festivities.

In a few more days, the Fifth Fleet will set sail once again to return to the capital and participate in the parade for Her Majesty's birthday."

The name "Queen of the Silvermoon" was a frequent character in certain popular Earth film and television productions, often appearing alongside some orcs or green-skinned creatures.

"Queen of the Silvermoon?"

“The Queen is the most powerful and top-tier being in this world, but no one truly knows just how powerful she is. For three thousand years, Her Majesty has been safeguarding the Elven race and the Silvermoon Dynasty, acting as an unwavering pillar that no one dares to provoke.

Under Her Majesty’s wise leadership, the Silvermoon Dynasty has grown increasingly powerful and stands at the pinnacle of the world.”

When it came to the Elven Queen, Yaseen’s face displayed absolute reverence. He spoke with fervor, akin to a devout follower of a deity as if the Queen were his faith.

Ji Chen felt that if he were to say anything negative about the Elven Queen in front of Yaseen, he might provoke a strong reaction.

Seeing this, he couldn’t help but feel curious.

However, his curiosity had its limits.

At his current level, Ji Chen probably couldn’t reach the echelon of the Elven Queen.

The previous prompts from the military talent tree had shifted his focus, and he only continued the conversation for a while before politely taking his leave.

Yaseen readily agreed, also eager to get back to inspecting the Deep Sea Merfabric. He sent Ji Chen off with a warm farewell.

Back at the estate, Ji Chen couldn’t wait to examine the crystal vial containing the essence of the Deep Sea Naga’s origin bloodline.

[Deep Sea Naga Origin Bloodline]

[Level]: Special

[Effect]: Allows a Naga unit to merge with the bloodline and transform into a powerful Deep Sea Naga hero.

[Note]: The purest bloodline of the Deep Sea Naga, possessing the power of transformation.

Well, Yaseen had clearly overlooked this.

This wasn’t just any ordinary blood essence; it was the origin bloodline capable of creating a powerful Deep Sea Naga hero.

The difference between blood essence and origin bloodline was akin to limbs and the heart.

The latter was the most core and crucial part.

Seeing this, it seemed he hadn’t come out at a loss..

Chapter 346 - 346: The Troll’s Abnormality, Battle Begins

The player with a system, possessing abilities that the natives lacked, could quickly acquire items through the attribute panel of the system, unlike the natives who relied solely on their instincts.

In this regard, it was evident that even an elf of Yaseen's caliber had overlooked this, mistaking the original bloodline of the Deep Sea Nagas for the essence blood of the Deep Sea Nagas.

Ji Chen's mind was slightly relieved, and he put it into his backpack.

The next morning.

Ji Chen, accompanied by Alice, returned to the port, boarded a ship to the area where the warships were anchored in the nearby sea, and led the Ocean Crown's army to the location of the Marshland Dragon, as mentioned by the two clowns, Monkey Gift and Monkey Gift Hair.

Raymond, a person without combat capability, naturally stayed at the estate.

Since this time required a journey to the land, the army brought along only a few types of units that could be effective, including 820 Naga Berserkers and 840 Dragon Blood Murlocs, for a total of 1660 units.

Although not a large force, it should be sufficient to deal with two or three dozen Marshland Dragons.

Maple Harbor and Maple City prohibited the entry of armies, so Ji Chen landed his troops on a mudflat about ten kilometers away from Maple City.

He took out the map.

According to the map's markings, the marsh was located to the northwest, and on the way, they needed to pass through a branch of the Alvin Mountains. Although it was not the main battlefield between the Maple Principality and the trolls, there were still quite a few trolls lurking there.

The level of danger was not high.

With the Naga Berserkers and Dragon Blood Murlocs, as long as they didn't encounter the main troll forces, there shouldn't be too much of a problem passing through.

Thinking of this, Ji Chen felt slightly reassured, put away the map, and continued forward with the army.

Along the way, they merged onto a road.

Many civilians of the Maple Principality, with their families in tow, hurriedly passed by with anxious expressions, heading toward Maple City.

They were probably fleeing to seek refuge in Maple City due to the troll invasion. However, Ji Chen also saw several units of Maple Principality soldiers rushing to the front lines along the road to stop the trolls from invading and pillaging.

The contrast between the civilians and the soldiers traveling in opposite directions was stark.

Suddenly, a shadow descended from the sky.

Looking up, Ji Chen saw a fleet of airships that he had seen once before, slowly flying overhead from a hundred meters high, accompanied by over a thousand Royal Griffon Knights, heading toward the Alvin Mountains.

Amidst such a scene where armies were advancing and civilians were retreating, the Ocean Crown's army on its way to the front lines stood out.

At the same time, many players, like Ji Chen, were also leading their own units towards the front lines. However, in Ji Chen's eyes, their units seemed somewhat disorganized, a mishmash of second and third-tier units, human, non-human, and demi-human units, making it hard to understand how they were maintaining the morale of their armies.

Out of curiosity, Ji Chen struck up a conversation with a player.

"Why are you heading to the front lines for the troll invasion?"

The player he spoke to was a bit surprised. He had already noticed Ji Chen leading a seemingly formidable army, appearing quite influential, so he hadn't dared to speak before.

Unexpectedly, he was now being approached, feeling a bit flattered.

He replied promptly, "The Maple Principality has issued a large-scale mission to defend against and defeat the trolls. Many players from Maple City have accepted the mission and are leading armies to the front lines."

"The rewards for this mission are exceptionally generous and can be exchanged for merit points obtained by killing trolls."

Upon hearing this, Ji Chen nodded in understanding.

He had forgotten about this. The natives often issued tasks and commissions to players, and this troll invasion was probably their way of seeking assistance.

The player then asked in a somewhat strange manner, "Bro, didn't you also accept the mission before coming here? If you go kill trolls without taking on the mission, it would be a big loss. You won't be able to make up for the lost rewards."

Ji Chen smiled slightly but didn't answer directly.

He casually remarked, "This troll invasion seems a bit unusual. Be careful, buddy. Don't lose your life over it."

Without waiting for a response, he waved his hand and led his army to continue marching.

The player was stunned, watching the Ocean Crown's army quickly move ahead, creating some hesitation.

Even the big shot said that this invasion was unusual. Maybe... he shouldn't go?

After marching for several hours and passing through several checkpoints, they arrived outside the Alvin Mountains, at the last checkpoint that the trolls had yet to attack—a camp on high ground.

Here, a Maple Principality army of two thousand soldiers was stationed, tasked with early warning and defending against troll invasions.

"Sir!"

Just as Ji Chen was about to pass through directly, he heard a familiar voice.

He turned around and saw Kris, wearing a smile, accompanied by several elves, walking towards him.

"How did you end up here?"

“There’s an agreement between the elves and the Maple Principality. During times of war, we help them defend against invaders. I was ordered to lead three squads of elves and rushed here overnight to garrison this place.”

According to the military organization in this world, troops were typically divided into squads, platoons, companies, and legions, with numbers ranging from 10,100,1000, and 10,000, respectively.

A platoon consisted of 100 soldiers, so three squads of elves meant a total of 300 elves.

Considering the strength of the elves, it was indeed a formidable force.

“I see...”

Ji Chen nodded and teased, “But every time I see you, Kris, the number of soldiers under your command keeps growing. First, it was a squad of elves, then dozens of elves, and now it’s three squads of elves.. Are you going to lead a full platoon of elves next time?”

Chapter 347: The Troll’s Abnormality, Battle Begins (2)

“Hahaha, ever since you saved me, it seems like my luck has improved a lot, and I’ve earned quite a bit of credit.” Kris chuckled at Ji Chen’s words. “So, I’ll take your words to heart. Maybe one day, I’ll even become a Legion Commander.”

As the saying goes, a soldier who doesn’t want to become a general isn’t a good soldier.

Clearly, Kris was such a good soldier, and Ji Chen quite admired this ambitious individual, or should he say, elf.

After a brief chat...

“Lord Ji Chen, are you really heading further north?”

“Yes, there are things that must be done.”

Hearing this, Kris pursed her lips but didn’t try to dissuade him. “After passing this checkpoint, you’ll be in an area where trolls roam.

We scouted it this morning and found that the trolls in this area are acting strangely. They haven’t been raiding like they did in the past few days; instead, they’ve been hiding, as if they’re planning something.

If you want to go there, you’ll inevitably have to pass through this area, so please be careful.”

Upon hearing this, Ji Chen nodded slightly and kept this information in mind.

“Thank you for the warning. I’ll be extra cautious.”

Then, without further delay, he bid farewell and left with his army.

After passing the checkpoint, they arrived in a plain.

Near the plain's roads were several villages, but now they were in ruins. Houses were damaged, and the ground was littered with dried bloodstains and scattered remnants, half-hidden amidst the weeds.

Clearly, the trolls had already visited this place and sown the seeds of destruction.

After passing through this grassland, which had been nearly devastated, an endless expanse stretched ahead, with dense forests so thick that hardly any sunlight could penetrate.

Walking along the forested mountain path, thin rays of sunlight struggled through the cracks in the canopy, casting dappled and swaying patterns of light between the trees. The dappled light created by the d'Alembert effect made the already tranquil forest appear exceptionally serene.

All around, the human eyes could see tree trunks and thickets. There was no sign of trolls whatsoever.

Just as Kris had mentioned, it seemed that the trolls had all gone into hiding, planning who knows what.

Maybe it was because of the troll invasion, but even the usual monsters that inhabited the area had disappeared.

Ji Chen didn't pay much attention to this. Regardless of what the trolls were plotting, their target was the Maple Principality, not him. He was happy to continue his journey without anything getting in his way.

"March at an accelerated pace!"

With a command, the army increased their speed further.

In the absence of a water source, he had little confidence and could only urge them to exit the dense forest as quickly as possible.

Besides tasking the two talentless Monkey Gift duo to mark the location of the swamp, he also instructed them to mark the positions of various rivers, lakes, and water sources along the way.

Every time they made camp, they chose to be near a water source, allowing for resupply and giving Ji Chen a chance to recover some combat strength.

Although they hadn't been harassed by trolls along the way, the sense of insecurity caused by their loss of combat power still made Ji Chen uncomfortable.

The ocean was his home.

In the future, unless absolutely necessary, he would try to stay close to the ocean.

With accelerated marching, they arrived at the swamp in just three days.

They began searching for traces of the marshland dragon.

The swamp was vast, about half the size of the main island of the New Moon Islands, and it was filled with muddy quagmires and dead trees. Fortunately, most of the quagmires were not knee-deep, so they could still make their way without too much difficulty.

Ji Chen took a moment to assess the situation. His combat power could recover to just under half in this swamp, which he could reluctantly accept.

His mind settled a bit.

Then, following a rule of three people per group, the Naga Berserkers and Dragon Blood Murlocs were sent out.

Soon, in the inner part of the swamp, they found large footprints imprinted in the rotten mud.

There was no doubt that these footprints belonged to the marshland dragon.

The army was regrouped, and they slowly moved forward following the footprints.

As they ventured deeper, the footprints around them became more and more numerous, and there were more and more white bone fragments floating in the mud. Many of the fragments were gnawed and shattered, leaving behind crisscrossing tooth marks.

Ji Chen's mind stirred, and he activated the Crown of Omniscience.

This treasure had greatly aided him early on and was now playing a crucial role once again.

On the map, several red dots suddenly appeared clustered together.

They followed the traces.

Large dragons, about seven to eight meters in length, resembling small trucks, lay in the mud, dozing off.

They had four appendages resembling limbs, with thick diamond-shaped scales, robust tails resembling tree trunks, and mouths filled with sharp teeth that looked like shredder blades, all stained with blood.

[Marshland Dragon]

[Race]: Earth Dragon

[Tier]: 5th Tier, 4 Stars

[Level]: 35

[Skills]: Dragon's Might, Dragon Scales, Charge, Bite

[Unit Traits]: Dragon's Bloodline (Recovery ability increased by 100%, further increased by an additional 100% while in combat)

[Creatures with a significant dragon bloodline possess formidable defense and recovery capabilities.]

It seemed these marshland dragons considered themselves the overlords of this swamp and had little vigilance towards the outside world.

They were sleeping in broad daylight, and even Ji Chen and his group, when they approached, went unnoticed as the dragons snored loudly.

Alice whispered, "Master, should I enslave them as soul servants?"

Ji Chen pondered briefly and shook his head.

The marshland dragons were at the 5th Tier, 4 Stars, just one star lower than the Tyrant Azure Dragons.

However, they were purely land-based creatures, not well-suited for most ocean or amphibious units, such as the Ocean Crown. It would be better to eliminate them and obtain dragon blood crystals.

“No need for that; we just need to disrupt their actions continuously.”

Alice nodded in agreement.

The two talentless Monkey Gift duo had reported seeing over twenty marshland dragons, but there were only fifteen here. The rest were probably out searching for food or hunting elsewhere.

Dealing with fifteen was certainly more manageable than over twenty.

Ji Chen’s expression hardened.

Without further delay, he spoke in a solemn tone.

“Naga Berserkers, engage the enemy to draw their attention. Dragon Blood Murlocs, provide long-range trident support.”

“Alice, create distractions.”

“Everyone, charge!”

As he finished speaking, the army rushed forward.

Under the leadership of various unit heroes, they split into twenty groups with remarkable coordination.

Fifteen groups engaged each marshland dragon, while the remaining five acted as a reserve team, ready to assist at any moment.

The commotion caused by the charge of thousands of units couldn’t go unnoticed, even by the marshland dragons that were sleeping soundly. They began to stir, slowly opening their eyes, revealing eyes as large as copper bells. Standing up with an expression of extreme anger.

Nonsense, they were sleeping soundly and suddenly got disturbed; anyone would be grumpy when waking up.

Seeing the thousands of little creatures rushing towards them, the marshland dragons let out a low roar and launched themselves forward.

Their massive limbs stomped the ground, creating ripples in the mire, causing the earth to tremble.

This display of power was truly astonishing.

Imagine several dozen small trucks charging at you at a speed of 100 meters in seven seconds.

If these giants hit you head-on, you’d be lucky to escape with your life, let alone unscathed.

Therefore, the roles of various unit heroes were clearly demonstrated. They took their troops and decisively evaded the charge, seeking cover behind various obstacles while there was still some distance between them and the dragons.

It wasn’t until the marshland dragons finished their charge that the heroes converged on them, much like a swarm of bees.

Without proper command, this wave alone would result in at least hundreds of casualties.

As the marshland dragons finished their charge and prepared to use physical attacks, Alice took advantage of this opening and immediately activated her mind control.

With a red-tier mind control, she had the power to influence 5th Tier monsters.

The effect was immediate.

The marshland dragons suddenly felt dizzy and disoriented, and the song in their ears was like a lullaby, making them drowsy.

Meanwhile...

Within the song, there was also an uplifting power, greatly boosting the combat abilities of the Naga Berserkers and Dragon Blood Murlocs.

The bone blades contained immense force and struck the dragon scales with a metallic clash. Coincidentally, the tridents struck them and were instantly deflected.

Given that the marshland dragons had a higher tier than the Naga Berserkers and Dragon Blood Murlocs and were renowned for their strong defense, it's not surprising that they couldn't break through the dragons' formidable protection..

Chapter 348: Kill and Harvest, Troll, Deceiver

Defying Alice's captivating tunes, the marshland dragons sensed as if tiny creatures were incessantly gnawing at them, and their fury surged to its peak.

With a roar, a powerful surge of energy burst forth from their dragon bloodline, momentarily breaking free from the effects of mind control.

Invisible waves of energy radiated from their bodies, enveloping an area of over a hundred meters.

"Ding- Marshland Dragon activates Marsh Aura, reducing movement speed by 20%."

The system's notification caused Ji Chen and his troops to feel a significant decrease in their walking speed due to the influence of the Marsh Aura.

Under the effect of the Marsh Aura, the army's movement became considerably sluggish.

One of the truck-sized Marshland Dragons suddenly lunged forward, and with a single collision, it sent five or six Naga Berserkers flying like ragdolls, knocking down several Dragon Blood Murlocs as well.

The power unleashed by these fifteen colossal marshland dragons, akin to giant trucks, was absolutely terrifying. With each strike and sweep, they left the Naga Berserkers and Dragon Blood Murlocs completely unable to defend themselves.

Being at a formidable Tier 5 and possessing 4-star strength, the marshland dragons dominated over the 3-star Dragon Blood Murlocs and the 5-star Naga Berserkers at Tier 4.

Despite their combined numbers exceeding a thousand, they couldn't make much impact here and were scattered and overwhelmed.

Ji Chen watched as his troops were sent flying like balls and his expression grew more serious. Lie knew that they couldn't defeat the Marshland Dragons with just these forces.

Raising his right hand, he rapidly condensed his abundant mana.

In an instant, dozens of thick water chains rose from the muddy marshes around them, coiling around the Marshland Dragons like snakes, binding them tightly in the blink of an eye.

Roar—

With their bodies and movements restrained, they struggled frantically, trying to break free, but the water chains, made of water essence, proved exceptionally resilient, and for the moment, they couldn't break free.

Taking advantage of their immobilization, the Naga Berserkers charged again.

These fearless warriors, even if thrown a hundred times, wouldn't stop their attacks as long as they could move.

The Dragon Blood Murlocs were the same; their signature Dragon Might ability didn't work on the Marshland Dragons, who also possessed dragon bloodline, but they still fiercely hurled their tridents.

Even the sturdiest rock would develop cracks under the constant erosion of water, and under the onslaught of attacks multiplied a hundredfold, the Marshland Dragons' tough scales gradually showed signs of damage.

They felt pain in their bodies, and amidst their roars, a hint of agony seeped out. Their colossal bodies writhed more frenziedly as they struggled to break free from the restraints.

But how could Ji Chen allow them to succeed?

One water chain shattered, and more water chains formed, re-entwining them.

Mana continued to pour out, reinforcing and repairing the damaged water chains.

If the Marshland Dragons could speak, they would surely shout insults at the despicable outsiders.

Having great brute strength but unable to unleash it, they could only stand passively and take the beating.

Several tens of minutes later, the previously unharmed Marshland Dragons were now covered in wounds. Their scorching blood dyed the marsh red, and their lamentations filled the air.

"Ding- Naga Berserker has killed a unit of Marshland Dragon."

"Ding- Dragon Blood Murloc has killed a unit of Marshland Dragon."

One after another fell, and with the last resounding wail, all fifteen Marshland Dragons were vanquished.

Ji Chen breathed a sigh of relief, stopped expelling mana, but remained vigilant.

"Split into twenty squads, guard the surroundings, and be on alert for other Marshland Dragons."

The Lord's orders were absolute.

With this command, the Naga Berserkers and Dragon Blood Murlocs, who had just finished the intense battle, immediately moved again, dispersing in all directions.

Seeing this, Ji Chen walked towards the corpses of the fifteen Marshland Dragons lying in a pool of blood.

Apart from collecting Dragon Blood Crystals from them, these land dragons also had some valuable items.

Dragon Scales, which could be used as armor materials. Dragon Fangs, which could be used to make arrowheads, with enchantment properties better than regular iron arrowheads. Dragon Meat was naturally a good source of food, and the meat from their truck-sized bodies could produce quite a substantial amount.

In addition, Dragon Whips were also a rare find, and Ji Chen believed that many indigenous people would be interested in them.

He didn't need to do the dirty work of dissecting the bodies himself. With a wave of his hand, he summoned some Naga Berserkers to start dissecting the Marshland Dragon corpses.

However, he was starting to feel somewhat puzzled.

Didn't the two Monkey Gift Duo say that there were at least twenty Marshland Dragons here? Why had he only seen fifteen from start to finish? Where did the others go?

In theory, even if this marsh was vast, the tremendous commotion from the battle and the roars of these marsh dragons should have attracted the others.

Ji Chen furrowed his brows slightly, realizing that things were not as simple as they seemed.

But he couldn't directly ask the two Monkey Gift Duo now. After all, he had inquired about it under the identity of Mr. Zhao, and the Illusory Mask could change his appearance and attributes, but it couldn't alter the name of the forum.

Asking directly would expose his true identity.

However, he didn't believe that the Monkey Gift Duo had any reason to deceive him. Who would hold grudges over a few coins?

He had no choice but to suppress his doubts and wait for the dissection to be completed.

It took a full four to five hours for the corpses of the fifteen Marshland Dragons to be thoroughly dissected, leaving neatly sorted materials on the ground.

First and foremost were a total of over 1500 Dragon Blood Crystals, averaging about 150 crystals per Marshland Dragon. This was a decent yield, considering that Marshland Dragons were not particularly high-level dragonkin creatures, with more lizard-like bloodlines in their veins..

Chapter 349: Kill and Harvest, Troll, Deceiver (2)

More than 1500 Dragon Blood Crystals, enough to further enhance the Dragon Blood concentration of the Dragon Blood Murlocs.

With over 8000 pieces of Dragon Scales, more than 700 Dragon Teeth, and some units of Dragon Meat.

These secondary gains could be handed over to Raymond for processing when they return, bringing in a significant profit.

The Dragon Blood Crystals, Dragon Scales, and Dragon Teeth, relatively precious items, were stored in the backpack, while the Dragon Meat was temporarily left in place. They would come back for it once they found more Marshland Dragons.

Ji Chen looked at the map and the surroundings. They were currently in the inner part of the swamp, and the core area deeper inside hadn't been explored yet.

The remaining Marshland Dragons might be in the core area of the swamp. This time, they must capture all the remaining ones in one fell swoop. Thinking of this, he didn't waste any more time and waved his hand, leading the army deeper into the swamp.

As Ji Chen and his team ventured further into the swamp, in a distant sea area, they were greeted by some unexpected visitors.

In the midst of howling winds and pouring rain, a fully armed ironclad fleet was cutting through the waves.

The flags hanging on the metal antennas revealed their identity – the fleet of the Kingdom of Bass.

They had one main battleship, four escort ships, and one supply ship, totaling six warships, making up this small fleet.

Though their numbers were not many, their firepower was quite formidable, enough to make the ordinary forces on the ocean tremble.

On the main battleship.

“How far are we from that suspicious sea area?”

“Reporting, Commander, it will take us about three more days to sail.”

“Very well... Last time, I thought that bitch Monica had been buried in the sea under our bombardment, but I didn't expect her to be so lucky, she actually made it back to the Lienhardt Grand Duchy alive.

She even exposed our plans internationally, putting our Kingdom of Bass in an extremely passive position. Not only that, but I also received a reprimand from His Majesty the King. I almost lost my title. It's really infuriating!”

The fleet commander slammed the table with anger, his face turning red. “Even so, Commander, you've done a great job. No one expected that after entering the Stormy Sea, Monica would actually be able to come out of it... We obtained information from our spies in the Lienhardt Grand Duchy that Monica didn't return alone. She came back on an unidentified ship...”

Hearing this, the Chief of Staff quickly realized, “So, you mean Monica was rescued and then sent back?”

“That’s right! My spy used a Lost Soul technique to forcibly probe the soul and memories of a sailor on the Radiant Envoy. We learned some information... Inside the Stormy Sea, there’s an archipelago with a territory belonging to a Lord of Glory, and it’s that Lord of Glory who sent Monica back!

That’s why I volunteered to lead the fleet. This time, we must destroy that territory and kill that Lord of Glory!

Only then can I wash away my disgrace!”

At this point, the fleet commander’s face was filled with murderous intent, and his gaze seemed to pierce through the endless sea, projecting into the Stormy Sea.

In contrast to the commander, who wanted to kill the Lord of Glory and cleanse his disgrace, the Chief of Staff thought about the archipelago.

If there was indeed such an archipelago within the Stormy Sea, with an area large enough to support the development of a territory, then if they could occupy it, it would undoubtedly bring great benefits to the Kingdom of Bass. This was much more important than killing the Lord of Glory himself.

As the unfamiliar fleet approached with rolling malice, the residents of the Crown of the Ocean knew nothing about it and remained in a state of harmony, unaware of the impending danger.

Watching the scene before him, Ji Chen raised his hand to stop the army.

In a swampy area, there were a series of large footprints.

They were unmistakably the footprints of Marshland Dragons.

Judging by the number of footprints, there were probably the remaining ten or so Marshland Dragons. For some reason, they had gathered in the depths of the swamp.

With a brief pause, he continued forward with the army.

Regardless, after dealing with the remaining ten or so, they could return.

They followed the footprints slowly.

The footprints ended at the entrance of a cave.

Looking at the pitch-black cave entrance, Ji Chen didn’t hesitate much and led the army inside.

Through a passage of dozens of meters, they suddenly emerged into an underground hall.

This underground hall appeared to have been dug out by the Marshland Dragons. It was exceptionally spacious, roughly the size of four or five football fields. In the center of the hall, there was a prototype skylight, allowing rays of sunlight to provide illumination.

The swamp was naturally quite cool, and being underground made it even colder, sending chills down their spines.

Ji Chen scanned the area and was quickly drawn to something.

On the inside of the entire hall, a particularly massive skeleton lay sprawled.

It looked like the skeleton of a Marshland Dragon, but its size was extremely abnormal.

Ordinary Marshland Dragons, even with their bones and flesh intact, are only about the size of a large truck. However, this skeleton, just the bones alone, is as big as a small hill, comparable to a two-masted merchant ship.

Judging by the vegetation and moss that have grown on its bones, it had been dead for who knows how many years. Some of the bones have even developed cracks and fractures.

“Lord, look over there.”

Ji Chen followed Alice’s pointing finger and quickly saw on the other side in a dark area more than a dozen bodies of Marshland Dragons lying prone on the ground.

What surprised him, though, was that these Marshland Dragons looked very languid, gasping for breath, and even when they saw him, they could only emit weak roars.

What had happened to these Marshland Dragons?

Ji Chen furrowed his brow slightly and led the army a bit closer, squinting to get a better look.

[Marshland Dragon (Near-death State)]

[Suffered a powerful curse, soul weakened]

A curse?

Before he could fully grasp the situation, a chaotic noise came from outside, so loud that even the muck of the swamp couldn’t muffle it.

Thump, thump...

Ji Chen’s expression changed.

Those were the sounds of numerous footsteps!

Although he didn’t know why there had suddenly been a large number of unidentified creatures, he knew that they might be coming for him.

As he led the army out of the cave, he saw trolls surrounding them from all directions, numbering in the thousands. Most of them were clad in crude animal hide clothing and wielded a variety of rudimentary weapons.

However, these trolls, compared to the Shallow Sea Trolls he had encountered on the New Moon Islands, were taller and stronger, their muscles appearing as if they were about to burst through their clothing.

[Mountain Trolls]

[Race]: Trolls

[Tier]: Tier 4, 4 Stars

[Level]: 33

[Abilities]: Berserk, Resilience, Regeneration

[Unit Trait]: Troll Bloodline (Fearless of pain when entering a berserk state, subordinates gain a 50% boost)

[Mountain Trolls of the Alvin Mountains]

At this moment, Ji Chen finally recalled the unusual behavior of trolls in this area that Kris had mentioned before he left.

At that time, he hadn't taken it seriously, but he couldn't believe these trolls had actually come here.

With a quick scan, there were at least five thousand trolls in this area.

It seemed like most of the trolls in this region were gathered here.

What puzzled him was, if their intention was just plunder and killing, why would they actively provoke him?

Just as Ji Chen was racking his brain for answers, about a hundred figures slowly walked out from among the trolls.

They were dressed in identical uniforms, their bodies completely concealed by loose gray robes, and they wore iron masks on their faces.

On the forehead of each mask, there was an eerie and elongated eye pattern, as if it were staring at him.

Ji Chen's heart sank.

If he guessed correctly, these people were using the trolls to surround him. [Deceiver. Enchanter]

[Race]: Human

[Faction]: Deceivers

[Tier]: Tier 4,1 Star

[Level]: 35

[Abilities]: Brief

[Unit Trait]: Eye of Deception (Able to see through illusions)

[Key Figures among the Deceivers]

Chapter 350: Silver Mask Deceiver, Troll Queto,

Backstabbing Blow

Deceiver?

Ji Chen racked his brain, trying to recall when he had crossed paths with these people, but came up empty-handed.

However, it was clear that this group of deceivers had planned this encirclement in advance.

There was no way they could have gathered so many trolls and driven over a dozen marshland dragons here without prior knowledge. This led him and his troops to walk right into the trap.

As he pondered this, Ji Chen's heart sank.

He quickly reviewed the events and details from his memory, trying to connect the dots.

When he had obtained information about the marshland dragons, he had done so under the identity of Zhao Liangchen. Only Luo Yang, the Monkey Gift Duo, and himself knew about this. Could they have leaked this information?

As for his role as Ji Chen, only the elven military officers Brett and Kris were aware of it, but they only knew that Ji Chen was coming to this location, not the specifics of his mission.

In theory, there was no reason for the elves to exert such effort or carry out such actions.

Would they really tear up the agreement with the Ocean Crown right after reaching a deal? Is that even possible?

Therefore, it's highly likely that the elves didn't leak the information.

But if it were Luo Yang and Monkey Gift Duo who leaked the information, then how did they know about the relationship between Zhao Liangchen and Ji Chen?

The Illusory Mask had almost completely transformed his appearance. Even if these deceivers had the ability to see through illusions, he doubted they could pierce the deception of the Illusory Mask, a 7-star artifact.

Despite the numerous questions swirling in his mind, Ji Chen had to put them aside and refocus on the immediate situation.

After a brief hesitation, he raised his left hand and ordered the troops to retreat into the underground chamber.

With the trolls having completed their encirclement outside, breaking through such a formidable wall of trolls would be no easy task.

“Everyone, fall back and defend at the entrance of the underground chamber!”

As soon as he gave the order, the Crown of the Ocean's troops displayed remarkable coordination. They split into groups and retreated, with the Naga Berserkers standing their ground for a moment before gradually withdrawing. In the narrow entrance, less than fifty meters wide, they formed a defensive line with their bodies.

Ji Chen positioned himself behind the defensive line, standing on a large stone, and observed the movements of the trolls and the masked deceivers through the entrance.

His expression was cautious.

It seemed that the trolls had already completed their encirclement, and they didn't appear to be in a hurry to attack. Leading the trolls was a monstrous chieftain, who seemed to be engaged in conversation with one of the masked deceivers, their faces obscured by silver masks.

“I've followed your instructions and surrounded this Lord of Glory with my warriors. It's time to fulfill your end of the deal,” the troll chieftain said, staring with his large bronze eyes, as he lowered his head to look at the figure before him.

The figure was completely wrapped, making it impossible to determine if it was male or female, and spoke in a low, resonant voice.

Beneath the silver mask, a harsh, almost hundred-year-old voice emerged, “Of course, Your Excellency Queto, you know we are very committed to our contracts. This is the promised evolutionary elixir.”

With that, the Deceiver in the silver mask, with bandages covering parts of their body, reached into their clothing and casually tossed a bottle containing a blood-red liquid over.

Queto carefully caught the bottle, pinching it with his fingers, and watched the liquid sloshing inside with a hint of fanaticism and excitement in his eyes.

This was a potent alchemical elixir capable of transforming trolls. A small bottle like this was enough to allow over a thousand troll warriors to evolve into even more powerful Troll Berserkers. This would be a significant advantage in the ongoing war between the trolls and the humans of the Maple Principality.

The Deceiver behind the silver mask chuckled dryly, “Your Excellency Queto, we’ve been working together for so long. It’s time you had a little more trust in us. After all, our enemies are the same, at least for now.”

He paused and added, “At least, for the time being.”

Queto pursed his lips, unable to deny it.

As a troll, he had a natural aversion to these peculiar individuals who dared not reveal their true faces.

However, he had to admit that the trolls had received substantial support from them, starting from more than a decade ago when these Deceivers had suddenly visited the Alvin Mountains and reached an agreement with the Troll King. Since then, they had been providing assistance and supplies, including various elixirs, weapons, and equipment, turning the mountain trolls into a significant threat to the Maple Principality in a short period.

Despite the long-standing collaboration, the trolls knew nothing about these Deceivers. They only knew that the Deceivers seemed to hold a deep grudge against the God-Choosers, a divine lineage.

Perhaps this was one of the reasons why they were willing to help the trolls, as trolls were a notorious outcast race, inherently disliked by many.

These Deceivers supplied weapons and armor that were only slightly inferior to those forged by dwarves. They also provided large quantities of food, elixirs, and various supplies.

Nobody knew the true depth of their power, and their ability to provide specific military information and troop deployments of the Maple Principality’s army was eerie.

With such a powerful yet mysterious ally, even the fearless trolls couldn’t help but be cautious.

They always felt that these Deceivers were plotting some sinister scheme to drag the trolls into something they didn’t fully understand.

Nevertheless, wary as they were, they couldn’t afford to reject the support they received.

Seeing Queto remaining silent, the silver-masked Deceiver continued, “Next, I need you, Your Excellency Queto, to launch an immediate attack and deplete their forces and stamina..”