

Ocean Lord 441

Chapter 441: The Parliament, the Price, and the People's Hearts (2)

This time, concerning matters of safety and wealth, the council members quickly reached a consensus.

On an island on the outer edge of the Starshine Islands, Ji Chen stood on a high ground, gazing at the islands arranged like a chessboard.

Behind him was a group of Ocean Crown's heroes, and not far away, thousands of heavily armed troops stood like statues on the sea, waiting for the Lord's command.

Soon enough, a figure appeared in the distance, speeding across the sea's surface. When it reached the island's edge, it leaped lightly, creating a few splashes as it landed gracefully and then walked over.

The masked woman removed her mask, revealing a face that could enchant the world.

This person was Alice.

After departing from the council hall in Starshine City, she quickly returned to this place. Once she had regained her composure to some extent, she began to speak.

"Lord, they have refused."

Ji Chen nodded slowly without the slightest surprise. Convincing the natives to part with one-tenth of their wealth all at once was clearly an ambitious goal, and he didn't expect to persuade them in one go.

However, he had no worries about it because those council members would come to them voluntarily.

"Set up camp!"

"Well rest here for a while and wait for the show to begin!"

Council hall entrance.

Two scribes walked out, raising their hands to shield their eyes from the somewhat dazzling sunlight.

After their eyes adjusted to the light, they lowered their hands.

Seeing that there was no one around, one of the scribes whispered.

"Who do you think that incredibly beautiful masked woman was just now? A native or a player?"

"Of course, she's a native. Didn't you see the transparent fins behind her ears? She's probably some intelligent sea creature... Wait, how do you know she's very beautiful when she was wearing a mask?" Another player asked in astonishment.

The former scribe patted his chest confidently and said.

“I guarantee, based on my ten years of experience at the Pleasure Palace, that woman is absolutely stunning!”

The Pleasure Palace was a legal red-light district in Starshine City, offering all-in-one entertainment, dining, and leisure, comparable to heaven on earth.

It was a place that both players and natives loved.

“We’ve only been in this world for a few months, and you already have ten years of experience!?”

“Never mind, whether she’s beautiful or not doesn’t concern me, and she said she already has a master. She’s probably someone’s subordinate. She sounded so passionate with full of worship for her master... Gee, gee...”

Another player fell silent for a moment and muttered, “Damn, this accursed otherworld!”

“Do you think what she said is true? Is there really a native force that can help Starshine Islands resist the Sea Beast Tide?”

“I don’t know, but the price they proposed is quite intimidating. It seems unlikely to reach a deal.”

“Sigh, if those council members really can’t come up with a way to fend off the Sea Beast Tide, then we’ll have to pack up and leave. Even though they offered a lot of money, our lives are more important.”

The latter nodded in agreement. Since losing their territory, they needed to rely on their experience on Earth to become scribes in Starshine City. They thought that having such a stable job would allow them to live in peace. However, they hadn’t enjoyed the comforts for long before the Sea Beast Tide suddenly arrived.

Tomorrow and the unexpected, they didn’t know which one would come first... It was really a messed-up world.

At this moment, something crossed their minds. “Since that masked woman said she could help Starshine Islands resist the Sea Beast Tide, why don’t we spread this news to other players? Maybe they’d be willing to contribute. Maybe we can persuade this native force.”

“That’s a good idea. At least it would help us keep our jobs. Other players probably don’t want to abandon their territories either... I remember she said she would be waiting on an island on the northern edge of Starshine Islands, right?”

“Yes, that’s right...”

The two of them opened the forum and began to compile what they had seen and heard in the council hall.

Since they had integrated themselves among the scribes of Starshine City, they gained certain insights into the council's policies, catching the interest of many players on Starshine Islands.

When a prominently featured proposal appeared on the forum, it quickly caught the attention of many players.

Forum information spread rapidly, and soon, players across Starshine Islands became aware of the arrival of a native force that could help defend against the Sea Beast Tide.

Some players, half-believing, went to the northern edge island where the two had mentioned the native force was located. When they saw a rather intimidating army stationed there, they became excited and quickly shared the news on the forum.

"Wow, it's real? But it's just a few thousand troops. Can they really hold off millions of sea beasts?"

"Although it's just a few thousand troops, I saw that they're all at Tier 5.

Dealing with those low-tier sea beasts should be a piece of cake, like chopping vegetables, just slashing away!"

"So, is this army made up of natives or players?"

"Of course, it must be natives! Players have only been here for a few months; how could they have such an awesome army? If it's not true, I'll abstain from going to the Pleasure Pavilion for a year!"

"Bro, you're hardcore, I admire you!"

After receiving confirmation of the news, many players began to consider whether to contribute money and resources to enlist the help of this army.

Their territories were in Starshine Islands, and they had already become deeply rooted here. They had a sense of belonging, and they couldn't bear to abandon the land or their not-so-clever but very sincere subjects..

Chapter 442: The Parliament, the Price, and the People's Hearts (3)

The only variable was how much that army would demand. If they were to ask for an exorbitant sum, we wouldn't be able to afford it.

As the sun gradually set and a full moon rose into the sky, many people found it hard to sleep.

Starshine City was a tiered city built around the central mountain. The higher up the residential houses and estates were located, the wealthier and more powerful the inhabitants.

The Thirteen Council Families, as the rulers of the Starshine Islands, naturally had their estates in high-altitude positions. They occupied the only few flat lands on the mountainside, boasting elegant surroundings and beautiful scenery. From their vantage point, they could overlook the lower Starshine City and the distant sea.

Here, the Council Families had established independent facilities to ensure that their descendants could enjoy a life of luxury from birth.

In contrast, the crowded lower valleys were home to a multitude of impoverished residents. They huddled in tin-roofed shanties, wrapped in thin blankets stuffed with cotton to fend off the chilling sea breeze, enduring the gnawing sensation of empty stomachs.

Since the news of the impending Sea Beast Tide had spread across the islands, the residents had become increasingly restless. Especially when there were rumors that the noble councilmen planned to escape with their wealth, the anxiety grew.

The nobles should be using their resources to defend against the Sea Beast Tide, shouldn't they? Why would they want to leave?

When some bold residents approached the city hall to inquire, they were brutally beaten by the fierce guards stationed there.

This seemed to confirm the truth of the rumors, and it sent all the residents into a state of panic. While the nobles could afford to leave on grand ships, safely accompanied by their servants, the common people had no means to cross the vast sea in those small boats.

Just as the residents were overwhelmed with fear, another rumor surfaced.

A powerful army from a distant continent had arrived on the Starshine Islands, and their strength was sufficient to withstand the terrifying Sea Beasts.

All it would take for the noble councilmen to call upon them for help was a small price to pay.

But the nobles, even in their desire to escape, were unwilling to part with even that small sum.

"Why are they doing this? A mere trickle of gold from their fingers could save us. Why won't they do it?"

"They're already so wealthy. Why are they so heartless..."

"Are you out of your mind? If the guards hear you saying these things, they'll beat you to death!"

These rumors and whispers circulated in the streets, eventually reaching the ears of the council members, infuriating them.

How could this be considered a small price!?

This was a tenth of their wealth, an amount you commoners couldn't earn in ten thousand years!

They immediately dispatched soldiers to arrest those who spoke these words, throwing them into dungeons, but they couldn't stop the spread of the rumors.

At the same time, the fleet of the Starshine Islands finally spotted the oncoming Sea Beast Tide from the south and received orders from the council to engage.

However, the ferocity of the Sea Beast Tide far exceeded their expectations. Countless sea beasts, braving artillery fire, charged relentlessly. In just a brief encounter, they caught up with the warships, devouring all the crew members and leaving only a dozen or so battered vessels adrift on the surface of the sea.

This turn of events left the council members in a state of utter panic. They had never imagined that a mere dozen powerful warships couldn't even slow down the advance of the sea beasts.

At the same time, word of the fleet's loss quickly circulated among the people of Starshine City, intensifying discussions about the mysterious but powerful army's role.

Despite the council members' efforts to calm the situation, their attempts were in vain.

You can't defeat them.. Do you realize that you lack the capability?

Chapter 443: Nothing Without Escaping: Price Surges and Pocket Formations

In just one day, the public opinions within the Starshine Islands had completely changed.

The defeat of the Council Fleet had thoroughly eroded the remaining confidence of the merchants. They simply abandoned their industries here, taking their wealth and leaving on ships overnight.

Even the privileged residents paid to board the merchants' ships, departing together from these islands soon to be ravaged by sea beasts.

The sun barely had time to rise and set.

What used to be bustling islands now stood deserted. The once crowded commercial streets were now eerie and quiet. Shops were emptied, leaving only a few rats searching for food.

The docks, once filled with arriving ships, now only had a few lonely vessels. Fat merchants urged the sailors to load the last batch of cargo, took a regretful last glance at the place, and set sail without looking back.

No one wanted to end up in the belly of a sea beast, only to be digested and excreted.

However, on the other side of the city, the town hall was crowded with residents.

"Please, sirs, beg those powerful armies to join the battle! They can surely fend off those dreadful sea beasts!"

"It will only take some gold coins, please have mercy!"

"Sob, sob, I don't want to die!!"

The soldiers guarding the town hall entrance were dutiful, their expressions stern. They would strike without hesitation if anyone dared to rush them.

But there was a hint of complexity in their eyes. Even the naval fleet couldn't halt the advance of the sea beasts, and these people were certainly no match for them.

These loyal soldiers couldn't help but wish that the council members would allow that powerful army to join the battle. Then, everyone wouldn't have to die, and the Starshine Islands could return to what they once were.

The carefully guided public opinion was pushing the Council to pay the price for the assistance of that army in resisting the sea beast tide. However, the doors of the council chamber remained tightly closed, showing no sign of opening.

Some players observed this scene in secret and whispered among themselves,

“These council members can really stay calm in a crisis. It had already reached this point, and they still didn’t want to help. We’ve put in a lot of effort to shape public opinion, but it seems these council members don’t care about the residents at all.”

“Of course, this world has a strict hierarchy, and the gap between nobles and commoners is even greater than the Mardong Rift. Don’t be fooled by their politeness towards us players; they look down on us, and they see us as tools.” Are they really that cold-hearted? Well, it’s hard to say what’s going through their minds. When it comes to situations where there’s a cost and life-and-death decisions, isn’t it clear which one is more important?

“True, but that indigenous army seems to have quite an appetite. One-tenth of the wealth of the thirteen council families, they could probably buy a whole town with that, right?”

“If this continues, we’ll have to make a run for it too. Is the ship ready?”

“It has been ready for a while now. The ship is stocked with enough supplies to get us to the Northern Continent, and there are some residents who are willing to go with us. It’s a stable group!”

As time passed, the sea beast tide, far away and thousands of miles distant, gradually approached. It was less than a day’s journey from the Starshine Islands.

At this moment, the long-closed doors of the Council Hall were finally opened. A group of soldiers streamed out and boarded giant sea eagles, flapping their wings and flying toward the northern side of the Starshine Islands.

Seeing this, the players hiding in the shadows were instantly excited.

“Look, these little guys couldn’t hold back any longer!”

“Darn, does this mean the Starshine Islands are saved?”

“It’s too early to say that. Who knows if that army can successfully fend off the sea beasts? If they can’t, we’ll still have to run.”

“Running away is essential in everything, right? I’m sweating from all the stress.”

Ji Chen stood on a high point of the island, hands behind his back, gazing at the distant sea.

Suddenly, he heard a faint commotion in the wind. In the distance, dozens of black dots appeared in the sky, and the army immediately became alert.

The Water Nymph Archer held her bow and arrow, aiming toward the distant sky. The Dragon Horn Catfish and Silver Sea Pixies also prepared their spells, gazing towards the southern sky. The Guardian troops reorganized their formations and kept a vigilant watch.

Several heroic units were about to approach and guard Ji Chen, but he raised his hand to stop them from attacking.

He then gestured to Alice, who put on her mask and walked forward.

Whoosh-

The giant sea eagle slowly descended from the sky, and a group of Starshine City soldiers jumped off it.

The soldiers looked at the powerful army before them with mixed expressions, containing both apprehension and a hint of hope.

This army was the only hope to save the Starshine Islands.

The leader of this team stepped forward and came before Alice.

He saluted with a fist over his chest.

“Lord Hadman, the head of the council, sent us here to inform you that Starshine City is willing to accept your terms. Please dispatch your army to the southern side of the islands to fend off the sea beast tide as soon as possible.” Alice smiled faintly, recalling the arrangements made by the Lord earlier, and calmly replied.

“Please tell Council Head Mr. Hadman that due to their delayed response, our preparations for resisting the sea beasts couldn’t be completed in time. Therefore, my master has decided to offer a bit more on top of the previously agreed-upon terms. It’s approximately three hundred thousand rare resources. Otherwise, we might not have the motivation to confront the sea beast tide..”

Chapter 444: Nothing Without Escaping: Price Surges and Pocket Formations (2)

The squad leader looked bewildered, swallowing hard.

Although it sounded a bit strange, he was just a small player, and these matters should be left to the council members to decide.

“I will convey these terms to Council President Hademan.”

The giant sea eagles came and went in a hurry, quickly turning into black dots on the horizon.

The Starshine City Council, upon receiving this message, exploded with anger.

“Damn, how dare that guy! Isn’t he just raising the price while sitting comfortably!?”

“This person is even more cunning than those gnome merchants! Does he think thirty thousand rare resources are just a small sum? It’s enough to buy a small island!”

They were infuriated, as the previous conditions were already quite painful for them.

Now, the so-called master of the masked woman continued to negotiate at this critical moment, using the excuse of not having enough preparation time.

These thirty thousand rare resources were not much compared to their wealth, but it was nauseating to bring it up at this final moment.

It was as if he had deliberately provoked them.

It was simply outrageous!

They had no choice, though.

Council President Hademan suppressed his inner anger and spoke loudly.

“Everyone, we don’t have time to argue further. The Sea Beast Tide is about to arrive in less than a day, and time is life.”

“The growing outrage among the people was likely orchestrated by them, all to force us into submission. Otherwise, how could those ordinary folks have the guts to assemble in front of City Hall and protest?”

“This behavior is despicable, but even if the conditions proposed by this cunning wolf are hard to accept, we have no choice. We must cooperate with them first.”

“Only by using them to repel the Sea Beast Tide can we have a chance to settle this score!”

Most of the council members agreed with these words.

“That’s right, afterward, we must make them pay! Let them know that Starshine City is not to be trifled with.”

“We can also offer some rewards secretly through commissions to manipulate those Glory Lords into assassinating the master of the masked woman.” “That’s a good idea. After all, those Glory Lords are all people who value money above all else and are keen on small profits. I believe they would be happy to accept such a commission.”

Ji Chen had no idea that he had suddenly been burdened with a few black pots. He didn’t guide the public opinion of Starshine City’s residents, nor did he need to. After all, besides relying on them to repel the Sea Beasts, the Starshine Islands had no other choice.

Moreover, he really wasn’t raising the price while sitting comfortably. To prepare to repel the Sea Beast army with thousands of troops, advance arrangements were necessary.

That thirty thousand rare resources was indeed a price that wasn’t meant as a scam... Well, not entirely.

But when the squad of soldiers once again appeared on the horizon riding giant sea eagles, Ji Chen knew that the deal had been made.

The Ocean Crown’s army, which had rested for a long time, moved again and headed south towards the Starshine Islands under the command of various heroic units.

“Tell your Council President Hademan that I need your assistance.”

Before coming, he had already received orders from the council to cooperate fully with the other side, so he nodded without hesitation, saying, “All the soldiers of the Starshine Islands will obey your command and cooperate fully with you.”

Alice, who still wore a mask, didn’t hold back and continued to speak.

“I need you to evacuate the residents of the southern islands of the Starshine Islands. Then, place a large amount of meat on the central part of each island, preferably the kind that’s fresh and bloody.

Do it as quickly as possible, and we will send troops to distract them for some time.

Besides that, you need to follow our commands to use the coastal defense artillery on the islands to minimize the range of the Sea Beasts’ impact.

You need to defend Starshine City and the port. According to our experience, there are some scattered Sea Beasts in the Sea Beast Tide who might get lost. They might even wander near the gathering point.

That’s all. We’ll take care of the rest.”

When there’s money involved, they were very dedicated and serious. The squad leader summarized the key points.

“Understood.” The squad leader remembered all of this and quickly mounted the giant sea eagle to leave.

After they left, Ji Chen came out from the military formation.

“My lord, I have conveyed your orders to them without missing a word.”

Ji Chen nodded slightly. Unlike the Ocean Crown, the Starshine Islands had a significant strategic depth. Thousands upon thousands of islands formed a vast battlefield.

This way, they didn’t need to stubbornly defend a single frontline like the Ocean Crown. They could fully utilize space to buy time and kill the Sea Beasts at the lowest cost.

To complete the arrangements mentioned earlier, the remaining time was certainly not enough. Therefore, they sent the Legion of Soul Servants to distract the Sea Beast Tide—these were Soul Servants who worked without payment, so even if they all met their demise, it wouldn’t be a significant loss. Under Alice’s clever manipulation, the Legion of Soul Servants attracted the attention of the Sea Beast Tide, making their path slightly more meandering. While it didn’t divert them completely, it did delay their arrival at the Starshine Islands by half a day.

This extra half-day, combined with the original time, gave them just enough time to complete the preparations.

The additional thirty thousand rare resources were meant to compensate for the losses incurred by the Legion of Soul Servants. After all, capturing over a thousand qualified soul servants was not an easy task..

Chapter 445: Nothing Without Escaping: Price Surges and Pocket Formations (3)

A large amount of meat was transported from the icehouse in Starshine City. After being drenched in fresh blood, it was sent to dozens of islands on the south side of the archipelago or placed on fishing boats, which were anchored in specific water locations to act as bait.

These meat placements seemed random, but when viewed from above, they formed a pyramid-like pattern. T

he wider side faced outward, while the pointed side pointed towards the deeper part of the archipelago.

Sea beasts had a penchant for meat, and once they caught the scent of blood, they went into a frenzy, desperate to feed.

So, Ji Chen reused an old trick and placed meat at specific locations, following the principle that the Ocean Crown used small boats as bait. This way, the attracted sea beasts would gradually enter the pocket formation, narrowing the battlefield's width. This ensured that the sea beasts obediently advanced towards the defensive line and didn't scatter elsewhere.

After all, no matter how high the quality of the Ocean Crown's forces, they numbered only a few thousand, and their defensive range was limited. If the sea beast horde ran amok, they would be helpless.

The coastal defense artillery on various islands was reactivated, and troops from the Starshine Islands took up positions.

It's unclear whether the Starshine City Council had a change of heart or for some other reason, but they finally made up their minds to resist the sea beasts.

As a result, shiploads of cannonballs and torpedoes, originally used for defending against enemy ships, were placed in the waterways that the pocket formation had to pass through, guided by the Ocean Crown.

As time passed, thanks to everyone's efforts, a vast net covering the southern side of the Starshine Islands gradually took shape.

At the pinnacle of the "pyramid," there were two islands situated close to each other, resembling a pair of upright figures, stretching for over ten kilometers in the southeast and southwest directions. These islands had steep, knife-edged cliffs, and in between them, there was a strait about three kilometers wide.

This was where the final defense line was located. If the plan went smoothly, most of the sea beasts would be lured here, and thanks to the natural terrain, they would be confined to this area.

The narrowness of the defensive line would stop them from making full use of their huge numbers, making them repeatedly assault this

three-kilometer-long defensive barrier with just a small portion of the sea beasts until the very last one was defeated.

Of course, this was the most ideal outcome.

Ji Chen stood at the highest point of the western mountain peak, gazing at the layers of islands in the distance. He clenched his fists tightly as if he could see the massive sea beast tide surging toward them.

To say that there was no nervousness would definitely be a lie.

After all, it was a million-strong sea beast tide. Even if this number was an exaggerated figure, there would definitely be some variations in the actual count, but there was no doubt that there were eighty to ninety thousand sea beasts.

This meant that each of their military units had to kill a whopping 150 sea beasts.

Even with the assistance of alchemical cannons, torpedoes, and the like, they could only kill a small portion. The outcome of this battle still depended on the Ocean Crown.

If they won, they could take away a substantial reward, and they wouldn't have to worry about the resources needed to recruit the next round of military units.

If they lost, they could only run away in embarrassment, and the Starshine Islands would be engulfed by the sea beast tide, turning into a dead zone, with countless natives becoming food for the beasts.

Suddenly, he felt a weight on his shoulders.

Wu-wu—

A muffled horn suddenly sounded.

Ji Chen's expression sharpened.

The sea beast tide was here!

Chapter 446 - 446: Sea Beast Tide! Players Join the Battle!

At the far end of the meeting point of sea and sky, a long, dark line suddenly appeared. The eerie howls echoed gently in the sea breeze as tens of thousands of sea beasts surged forward through the roiling waves.

This was the almost extinct Sea Beast Tide that nearly wiped out half of the Western Mid-Ocean.

Even though they witnessed Sea Beast Tides of two or three hundred thousand before, they were still amazed by the scale of this one.

From the leftmost to the rightmost horizon, their entire view was dominated by an endless sea of sea beasts. These creatures were like unsightly blotches on the ocean's surface, consuming everything in their path, whether it be fish or plants, and transforming it into a single, voracious mass.

The Sea Beast Tide was not originally this large. It started with just tens of thousands of sea beasts migrating collectively, but as they forced more and more sea beasts to join them on the way, it grew like a snowball, gradually forming this Sea Beast Tide that numbered in the millions.

As the sea beasts advanced on the sea surface, they suddenly smelled the rich scent of blood carried by the sea breeze.

Their eyes turned blood-red in an instant.

Their appetite, which had not yet subsided after devouring an enemy force earlier, was stirred up once again. It was as if their stomachs were growling, and without any hesitation, they surged toward the direction where the scent of blood was blowing from.

Ahead, an island chain came into view, and the scent of blood was emanating from those islands.

All the resistance they encountered along the way was easily overwhelmed with a single charge, and nothing could stop their advance, just as it was this time!

All the creatures standing in their way would become their food!

Therefore, the vast horde of sea beasts rushed in without any hesitation.

Amphibious sea creatures rushed onto the islands, seeing a large amount of meat piled up on them, the strong scent of blood constantly stimulating their appetites. They rushed up without any hesitation and began to devour it ravenously.

Marine sea beasts charged toward the spaces between the islands, tearing the floating fishing boats into pieces and feasting on the scattered flesh and blood.

Such a small amount of flesh and blood could not satisfy the desires of nearly a million sea beasts. After devouring all the flesh and blood here, they continued to surge toward the next location with the scent of flesh and blood.

The final defense line.

A makeshift tent on a western mountainside.

Alice hurriedly entered the tent, a hint of joy on her face.

“My lord, the Sea Beast Tide has entered the trap as planned, and the formation is gradually closing in. They are moving step by step deeper into the islands along the predetermined route.”

According to the pre-established plan, the key to the successful plan lay in using flesh and blood to guide the sea beasts in the desired direction, compressing their range of influence as much as possible, and ultimately gathering all the sea beasts that had originally spread over a range of dozens of kilometers into this narrow strait.

Now that they had been lured in, it was equivalent to the plan being half successful.

Ji Chen naturally understood this, but he didn't show any signs of excitement. He spoke in a solemn tone, “Continue to closely monitor the movements of the sea beasts, and report to me immediately if anything happens.”

“Yes, sir!”

On the front lines.

On a small island with lush vegetation, two Starshine City scouts hid among the dense branches and leaves. At this moment, they were watching the Sea Beast Tide passing by the island with anxious expressions.

Sea beasts one after another filled the sea between the islands, and the roars of the beasts echoed incessantly, sending shivers down their spines.

Because the sea beasts were all attracted by flesh and blood, none of them had climbed onto their island.

“There are so many of these sea beasts. It feels like they’re everywhere, quite eerie.”

“If they come up, I guarantee I won’t make a sound.”

“Indeed, I won’t even make a sound even if they were to swallow me whole.”

“Ahem... Let’s not digress. Do you think they’ll collide with it? After all, with such a big, ominous iron sphere in the water, anyone would think something’s not right, right?”

“Well, that person in the mask said that the intelligence of these sea beasts has hit rock bottom. If they can charge through, they won’t think twice, so they won’t avoid it... But I’m not entirely sure.”

“Sigh, I hope the plan succeeds. My family is still in Starshine City. If we can’t hold back these sea beasts, it will be disastrous...”

“Look, they’re getting ready to reach the location of the water mines!”

The two Starshine City scouts squinted their eyes and saw that the Sea Beast Tide, upon seeing the water mines, did not stop but instead charged straight into them.

Boom!

A muffled thunderous sound and the water mines exploded among the sea beast horde. A water column several tens of meters high shot into the sky, spreading out like scattered fireworks.

In the midst of the splashing water, sea beasts were launched into the air, and torrential rain of blood began to fall from the sky.

One water mine directly killed hundreds of sea beasts, achieving remarkable results.

Just as they were feeling jubilant, an astonishing scene unfolded before their eyes.

Other sea beasts, upon witnessing the explosion of the water mines, didn’t react by fleeing quickly. Instead, they charged towards the explosion point with red eyes, gnawing on the corpses of their fallen comrades.

This left the two Starshine City scouts astonished, and they couldn’t close their mouths for a while.

After a moment, one of them swallowed hard and said, “These sea beasts are really savage, aren’t they?”

“Who’s denying that... Let’s go, we need to hurry back and report this before we miss any opportunities.”

“Agreed.”

Soon, two giant sea eagles took off from the forest and sped towards the final defense line.

With the help of the giant sea eagles from Starshine City, Ji Chen was able to quickly obtain updates on the battlefield situation and the sea beasts’ movements in real-time.

As things stood, everything was going smoothly.

The sea beasts obediently followed the predetermined route, even in the presence of the water mines, without deviating from their path..

Chapter 447 - 447: Sea Beast Tide! Players Join the Battle! (2)

Viewed from above, the massive sea beast tide, which had once spanned tens of kilometers, was now coming together in a pyramid-like formation. They were lured by the scent of flesh and obstructed by the island's geography, all making their way towards the ultimate defense line.

Intermittent muffled thunder signaled the triggering of underwater mines, each causing hundreds of casualties.

Dealing with these irrational sea beasts with human intelligence was remarkably easy.

The only problem was their sheer numbers.

Soldiers from the Starshine Islands flew through the air on the broad backs of giant sea eagles. This caused the sea beasts below to roar and claw at the air in frustration.

Many sea beasts with ranged attack abilities launched bone spikes, but due to the height difference, the giant sea eagles easily evaded them.

The soldiers gazed down at the densely packed sea beasts below, their hearts racing. They clung tightly to the reins, aware that a single misstep could lead to being swallowed and digested, becoming a pile of waste.

At that moment, they suddenly noticed something unusual among the sea beasts, furrowing their brows in deep concern.

A large gap appeared in the center of the crowded sea beast tide, with only a massive group of sea beasts numbering in the thousands, among which one sea beast stood out conspicuously.

All other sea beasts maintained a certain distance from it, seemingly fearing it.

He tapped the giant sea eagle, urging it to descend for a closer look.

But as he did, the soldier who had been staring intently suddenly saw the strange sea beast lift its head and look in their direction.

Instantly, alarm bells rang in his mind.

He immediately commanded the giant sea eagle to leave.

However, it was too late. The group of sea beasts numbering in the thousands raised their massive tails hidden beneath the water, and the crystals at the tips of their tails emitted beams of blue light in rapid succession, much like a burst of machine gun bullets.

The soldier's pupils contracted sharply, reflecting flashes of intense blue light.

Swoosh!

A beam of light precisely struck the wing of the giant sea eagle, effortlessly piercing through it like a hot knife through butter, leaving behind a searing wound and a cavity.

Losing one of its wings, the giant sea eagle tumbled helplessly a few times before plummeting straight into the sea beast horde, torn to shreds amid the soldiers' terrified cries.

Ji Chen quickly received this message: In the center of the sea beast tide, there is a formidable sea beast capable of emitting blue beams, and among them is a suspected commanding unit.

Due to the harsh living conditions in the sea, there were not many sea beasts with long-range attack capabilities among them. If they did possess such abilities, it was usually through means like launching bone spikes. Sea beasts capable of emitting laser-like beams, like the ones before them, were unheard of.

The ocean was vast, and the diversity of sea beast species within the marine race was countless. It was only due to this sea beast tide that these sea beasts, which had never been seen by outsiders, were forced to reveal themselves.

However, just this single tribe of sea beasts numbering in the thousands was evidently not enough to change the overall situation.

He merely instructed Alice not to get too close to that particular group of sea beasts, and everything else should proceed according to the plan.

The sea beast tide had completely entered the archipelago, devouring one bait after another, heading straight into the trap.

These sea beasts, known for their relentless aggression, were utterly oblivious to the fact that they had walked right into a trap. At this moment, they were immersed in a frenzied feast of flesh.

Even if some among them sensed that something was amiss, they were compelled to press forward by the throngs of sea creatures behind them. Stopping meant being trampled into a pulp and devoured by their fellow kin.

At this point, there was no turning back; everything had reached an unstoppable point.

When the sea beasts finished consuming the last few baits in front of them and began searching for the next one, they saw something in the distance.

Two cliffs stretching for tens of miles and thousands of enemies standing between them.

Without any hesitation, the tightly packed sea beast horde charged forward.

They didn't even notice the formidable aura emanating from these enemies.

The towering cannons protruding from the islands on both sides, and the underwater mines scattered throughout the strait.

In an instant, the waters between the two islands were filled with ferocious sea beasts, every inch of the sea surface occupied by them, and even more beneath it.

Thanks to the natural terrain, the Ocean Crown army only needed to guard this three-kilometer-long sea passage. The density of their defensive forces was extremely high. Having prepared for a long time, they gazed coldly at the approaching sea beasts.

However, the first round of counterattacks didn't come from them but from the numerous artillery positions on the islands.

“Adjust the cannon firing parameters!”

“Load the shells!”

“Shells loaded—fire!”

As soon as the soldiers in the artillery positions heard the command to fire, they instinctively pulled the ropes, instantly tightening them. The cannon barrels suddenly recoiled.

Amidst a burst of orange-red flames, projectiles of various sizes rained down from the sky like a downpour.

The surging sea beast tide hadn’t even reached the defensive line yet when it was bombarded relentlessly. A multitude of sea beasts were devoured by the flames, and even the splashes of water were evaporated.

But their numbers were simply too great. The gaps cleared by the shells were filled in the next moment, with even more sea beasts than before.

Their speed didn’t diminish in the slightest, resembling a black tidal wave that crashed violently against the defensive line in a matter of seconds.

The most brutal and crucial battle on the Starshine Islands had begun.

Regardless of victory or defeat, it would leave a profound mark in the annals of history..

Chapter 448: Sea Beast Tide! Players Join the Battle! (3)

Boom—

The thunderous roar of cannons echoed between the cliffs, proclaiming their dreadful destructive power to the flesh and blood creatures; the intense explosion of sea mines turned countless sea beasts into fragments.

However, the true protagonists of this battle were not these lifeless weapons.

Looking from afar, the most intense part of the battlefield was undoubtedly a relatively short defensive line, where every second was filled with death and slaughter.

But most of the time, it was the sea beasts that fell.

The average strength of the Ocean Crown army was simply too overwhelming. Whether it was in terms of tier levels, cooperation, or combat experience, they were many times stronger than these sea beasts, who seemed to have nothing on their minds but eating.

Arrows fired by the Water Nymph Archers, water arrows from the Silver Sea Pixies, and lightning balls thrown by the Dragon Horn Catfish.

Red, blue, and flashes filled the scene.

Bone blades, spears, and tridents were thrust with the powers of dragons, drawing blood with every strike.

Each attack claimed the life of one or several sea beasts.

But there were just too many sea beasts, and after several hours of bombardment and carnage, it seemed that the sea beast tide had only slightly diminished. The seemingly endless sea beasts still crowded the sea surface, extending from one end to the other as far as the eye could see.

If they followed conventional methods, it would probably take several days for the Ocean Crown team to eliminate this massive wave of sea beasts, no matter how efficient their killing was.

Therefore, they had to resort to unconventional methods.

“Lord, I request to join the battle!”

Alice spoke with determination, offering to fight.

Ji Chen looked at this hero unit who had followed him for the longest time and had made significant contributions.

The soul servant legion under Alice had been completely wiped out during the previous delay, leaving only her.

However, ninety percent of the entire legion’s power was concentrated in her alone.

It could be said that Alice possessed the strength of a legion.

But Ji Chen gently shook his head, “Let’s not be hasty; we need to wait a little longer.”

Alice was somewhat puzzled but obeyed the command.

Just as the battle grew more intense, she noticed that shadows suddenly appeared on the cliffs on both sides of the defensive line. The number of these shadows almost filled every hilltop.

Upon closer inspection, they turned out to be other Lords of Glory, just like her lord!

“F*ck, we finally made it up. This island is quite tricky to climb... Oh my god, there are so many sea beasts?”

“So many sea beasts... We’re going to be rich!”

Players who saw the sea filled with sea beasts didn’t react with fear but excitement!

All these sea beasts represented live experience points.

Now that a powerful “native” army had led the sea beasts to this location, attracting their attention and holding off their attacks, this was the perfect opportunity for them to gain experience!

“Second Battalion Commander, where thef*ck is your Italian cannon?”

“The Italian cannon is right here!”

“Good, bring it up and let’s give these sea beasts a good pounding!”

In addition to bringing their armies, players also brought a batch of portable war machines, such as ballistae, small-caliber alchemical cannons, and the like, which displayed formidable firepower.

After a brief pause, players launched their attacks one after another, and arrows, bolts, and cannonballs poured down like rain, catching the sea beasts off guard.

Seeing this scene, Alice couldn't help but look surprised. "Lord, were you waiting for these Lords of Glory?"

Ji Chen smiled, neither confirming nor denying it. To be honest, he was also somewhat surprised by these players.

Weren't they afraid that the Ocean Crown wouldn't be able to hold back the sea beast tide, and they'll all be wiped out together?

All he could say was that these casual players were even more audacious than he had imagined..

Chapter 449: Players Withdraw for the Time Being, Might of the Dragon Horn Catfish

The arrival of the players was a pleasant surprise.

The sea creatures were suddenly under a barrage of firepower, and some of them turned their attention towards the players, charging forward.

However, the players were positioned on a cliff that was dozens of meters high, and the creatures couldn't climb the nearly ninety-degree cliff wall. They could only claw at the air in frustration.

Seeing this, the casual players became even more enthusiastic, enjoying the thrill of exploiting the terrain.

The cannons roared, and arrows rained down.

Although the average level and tier of the third wave of sea creatures were higher than the previous two waves, most of them were still first, second, or third-tier. Except for a few with strong defenses, the rest couldn't withstand the attacks of arrows and cannon fire. They perished one after another.

Even the fourth-tier creatures were heavily injured and became frenzied.

The Crown of the Ocean's army firmly held the defense line. The narrow width of the area prevented the sea creatures from utilizing their numerical advantage, and most of them could only be targets for the players.

If they could speak, they would surely curse the despicable outsiders.

Ji Chen looked at the battlefield situation that was barely holding up and nodded slightly.

As long as they could hold the line in the early stages and prevent the sea creatures from breaking through, the rest would be easy.

He looked at a few hero units eager to let their weapons be stained with sea creature blood and advised, "Don't join the battle for now. The fifth-tier sea creatures haven't launched an attack yet, and these lower-tier ones aren't worth your efforts."

Upon hearing this, Alice and the others suppressed their excitement and quietly watched the battle below.

This battle continued from day to night.

After the sun completely disappeared on the horizon, the world suddenly grew dark.

Perhaps the heavens weren't being merciful, as tonight, the moonlight was blocked by layers of dark clouds, plunging the Starshine Islands into darkness. Only the torches lit by the players provided some illumination.

Fortunately, there were so many sea creatures that even if they fired spells and arrows haphazardly in the general direction, they could easily hit their targets. The efficiency of their output didn't drop much.

However, as the players looked at the blood-red eyes of the sea beasts below, scattered throughout the bay like light bulbs, they couldn't help but shiver with fear.

"Damn, they still look a bit scary..."

"There are way too many sea beasts. We've been killing them all day, and we're still not done. My hands are almost worn out."

"Damn it, I'm out of arrows. Do you guys have any left? Give me some."

"I ran out of them too. Both arrows and cannonballs were used up a long time ago... Should we go back for resupply and come back tomorrow?"

As night fell, the players began to retreat. They had underestimated the sheer number of sea beasts, and the ammunition supplies were running low.

Moreover, most of them and their troops were experiencing fatigue after a day of continuous battle.

Although they knew it wasn't the time to rest yet, they simply couldn't go on.

Ji Chen also noticed this and didn't display any disappointment; this situation was already part of his plan.

He signaled to Alice, and she quickly understood his intention.

Stepping forward, her crimson lips parted.

"Esteemed Lords of Glory from afar, I thank you for your contributions in defending against the sea beasts.

After a day of fierce battle, I have witnessed your fearless valor, and your courage shines brighter than the stars.

Therefore, let us take over from here."

Her ethereal voice echoed throughout the battlefield, causing many players to stop and look at each other in surprise.

At this moment, a player shouted loudly, "We'll go back to rest and resupply for a while, and we'll be back soon!"

"That's right, Miss, wait for me for one night, and tomorrow I'll bring back an army of a hundred thousand to rescue you!"

"Hoo, hoo, hoo!"

Alice blinked in surprise and gave a faint smile.

These Lords of Glory might not be as powerful and wise as her lord, but they had their merits.

Soon, the players began to withdraw, taking their troops with them and returning to their territories for resupply.

Watching them leave and disappear into the night, Ji Chen took a deep breath and said with a smile.

“Next, it’s time for our performance.”

A hint of excitement appeared on the faces of the heroes; they had been eagerly waiting for this moment.

“Yes! We will bring you victory!”

With the players gone, they could finally unleash their full potential.

Indeed, they hadn’t fully exerted their strength before. After all, was the Crown of the Ocean’s army only this powerful?

A million sea beasts?

Certainly, the sheer numbers posed a significant threat, but facing troops that were all fifth-tier, they didn’t seem quite as intimidating.

This was evident in the resource consumption.

The main forces of the Crown of the Ocean had troops with the lowest tier, and the water nymph archers, which required the least rare resources, needed 900 units of such resources each.

In the player market, trading 900 units of rare resources could get him a significantly larger amount of common resources in return. By using these common resources to recruit lower-tier troops, he could amass a substantial number of units.

The gap between lower-tier and higher-tier troops was not just in terms of recruiting resources but also in the vast difference in strength and life levels.

A thousand lower-tier sea creatures couldn’t match a higher-tier unit!

As night fell.

Not only did the sea creatures go into a frenzy, but the Crown of the Ocean’s army also seemed to have completely unleashed themselves. Their gazes gradually turned icy and ruthless..

Chapter 450 - 450: Players Withdraw for the Time Being, Might of the Dragon Horn Catfish (2)

Their blood began to heat up, and it felt like their hearts might leap out of their chests.

The legions and heroic units in the Crown of the Ocean all had impressive bloodlines, each from different races.

The Naga Guardians possessed ancient Naga bloodlines, the Dragon Blood Murlocs had the blood of dragons, Alice was a Siren, Anina was an ancient Dragon Whale, Herald hailed from the deep-sea Naga, and Benbo also had a rich dragon bloodline.

In this territory of the Crown of the Ocean, such a gathering of noble bloodlines and races was indeed a testament to the abundance of talent.

Powerful bloodlines and races translated into formidable combat strength.

There was no doubt about their strength.

The Crown of the Ocean, with its hands unshackled, soon displayed crushing power.

The already robust Naga Guardians swelled even further, their bone blades sharper and more terrifying than a cutting machine, leaving a trail of carnage wherever they went.

After killing one sea beast, another would charge forward?

No problem, they would just kill it too.

No matter how many came, beneath the relentless slashes of those bone blades, they all met the same fate—reduced to piles of minced flesh.

Their bloodlines provided them with almost inexhaustible power, and even if they were injured, they quickly healed.

This was the strength of high-tier units.

Unless they encountered enemies stronger than themselves, they stood like mountains, preventing any foes from passing without first toppling them.

The Crown of the Ocean had always adhered to the path of elite troops, and now it was proving its worth.

Although their numbers weren't particularly high, each one was of high quality, and in this long-duration, high-intensity battle, they proved remarkably sturdy and enduring.

Especially the magical units specifically chosen by Ji Chen, the Silver Sea Pixies and the Dragon Horn Catfish, could recover mana over time, ensuring they wouldn't run out.

The Water Nymph Archers were the same; compared to ranged archer units that required arrows and ammunition, as long as they had water, it was equivalent to having an endless supply of arrows.

Ji Chen's eyes shone slightly; as a Lord, his talents and legendary profession granted him the ability to see in the dark as if it were daylight.

As clear as day.

In his eyes.

The seemingly massive sea beast tide had now shrunk considerably, no longer as towering and immense as before. After a day of fierce fighting, the sea beasts had suffered losses of at least three hundred thousand, which meant there were now at most less than six hundred thousand remaining.

This number was now almost on par with the two previous waves of sea beast tides that had attacked the New Moon Islands.

This left him with a sense of illusion.

Perhaps the sea beast tide was nothing more than this.

Looking at the sky, Ji Chen decided to expedite the battle.

“Have the Dragon Horn Catfishes prepare, and throw them toward the center of the sea beast tide. Let's blast those high-tier sea beasts hiding there.”

The command was given.

After a short time.

On the pitch-black sea surface, bursts of crimson flashes suddenly appeared.

Upon closer inspection, it became evident that the Dragon Horn Catfishes, positioned at the back, had lifted their horn-like crystals, unleashing a powerful surge of energy.

Strands of red lightning converged on the horns, swirling and interweaving like an electromagnetic field with a regular pattern.

Then, the Dragon Horn Catfishes gently raised their heads, and the lightning on top of their heads leaped into the air.

Hundreds of strands entwined with each other, and after several minutes, the chaotic lightning gradually formed a lightning sphere with a diameter of over ten meters. The constantly bursting light illuminated the entire sea surface, even the dark clouds in the sky were lit up.

Even the least intelligent sea beasts could feel the terrifying energy from it, and a hint of fear appeared in their chaotic and frenzied eyes.

Their trembling bodies and souls told them that this lightning sphere was extremely frightening.

Out of instinct for survival, these frenzied sea beasts actually had the thought of retreating for the first time.

Then, this lightning sphere condensed to the extreme, and it flew towards them while they watched helplessly.

It was like the moment of a cosmic explosion.

The lightning sphere didn't explode immediately; instead, it compressed several times, and the energy was suppressed to the extreme before quietly bursting.

All that could be seen was a light as if one were staring at the explosion of a nuclear bomb. In the moment when the light blossomed, countless red lightning serpents burst forth.

The darkness was completely dispelled, the seawater evaporated and burst, and ripples with lightning coursed outwards, sweeping in all directions. Countless sea beasts, like ragdolls, were carried into the sky by the terrifying energy and turned into charred remains.

On the sea surface, which was originally crowded with sea beasts, a hole with a diameter of hundreds of meters suddenly appeared. The seawater hadn't even had a chance to fill it back up, and lightning darted around in the water, pulling even more sea beasts into the depths of the sea.

The soldiers of Starshine City had just removed their hands from their eyes when they saw the deep hole in the sea surface, which extended several dozen meters deep. The faces of those resolute soldiers were filled with astonishment and awe.

What is this...

Could it be some kind of terrifying bomb?

Until they saw this scene with their own eyes, they would never believe that any creature could create such a terrifying attack.

Is this the power of this unknown army?

Deep down, they felt a shiver of fear and panic.

It had nothing to do with being scared of the enemy; these were emotions born out of instinct.

A Starshine soldier suddenly felt something land on his face and couldn't help but look up in confusion.

The dark clouds still dominated the sky, but there was no rain.

He reached out and touched it, then looked down; there was a black object with a bloody hue on his fingertip.

Before he could recognize what it was, more objects fell from the sky with a pattering sound.

Thinking back to the terrifying lightning sphere just now, he finally realized.

These were the flesh and blood fragments of the sea beasts that had been turned into charcoal by the electricity!

Looking at the scattered flesh and blood fragments around them, they were momentarily at a loss.

Boom—

However, a sudden burst of blue beams appearing in front of them snapped them back to reality.

The sea beasts were launching a counterattack!

Ji Chen watched the beams of light that were shot out from the center of the sea beast tide and let out a soft snort.

Had those sea beasts finally lost their patience?

The ones firing these beams were the same sea beasts that had launched the counterattack with the giant sea eagles earlier.

These sea beasts had a snake-like appearance, were covered in diamond-shaped scales, and had sharp teeth.

But the most eye-catching feature was the blue crystal at the end of their long tails, and it was from within these crystals that the beams were emitted.

These beams were fast and sharp, like meteors streaking backwards as they shot into the defensive line.

For the first time, the champions of the Ocean Crown suffered significant casualties in a single round of attacks.

Dozens of Naga Guardians were pierced in their vital areas by these beams, leaving terrifying, gaping wounds, resulting in instant death. Over three hundred units of military troops perished under this barrage of beams.

This kind of attack was not something low-level sea beasts could produce. Only sea beasts of Tier Five and above could kill Tier Five units with a single blow!

Ji Chen's expression hardened; he couldn't allow this attack to continue!

“All ranged units, focus fire on those sea beasts! Don’t let them have a chance to continue firing!”

“All hero units, charge! Kill these savage sea beasts!”

The heroes, with expressions of fervor and excitement, joined the battle one by one.

The three major ranged units under the Guardian Legion, after a brief pause, simultaneously unleashed spells and arrows towards the center of the sea beast tide.

The east wind scatters a thousand trees in the night.

A dazzling round of attacks streaked through the dark night sky, leaving glowing trails as they descended into the sea of creatures.

“Ding- Your troops have slain 25 Serpent-Necked Dragon Beasts.”

“Ding- Your troops have slain 158 Serpent-Necked Dragon Beasts.”

“Ding- Your troops have slain 89 Serpent-Necked Dragon Beasts.”

From the densely packed system notifications, it was clear that the counterattack by the Ocean Crown had dealt a severe blow to the enemy, with more than half of them being killed.

In the next round, only a scattered three to four hundred beams flew towards them, with most of them being blocked by the well-prepared Crab Guardians. The casualties were less than a hundred.

Terrified by the previous combination attack of the Dragon Horn Catfish, as Ji Chen had expected, those high-tier sea beasts that were hiding could no longer restrain themselves and joined the fray.

However, the numerous hero units of the Ocean Crown that had already entered the battlefield were waiting for their appearance..