

## ***Ocean Lord 81***

### *Chapter 81: Golden Tree*

In the bustling harbor, Rudy, a member of the hidden Black Skull pirate crew, was secretly observing and scouting for potential targets.

The Silver Islands saw a constant flow of merchant ships, some carrying cheap goods while others held valuable cargo. Some merchants were stingy and hired only a small escort, while others were wealthy and heavily guarded.

Rudy's task was to identify valuable and cost-effective prey, that worth plundering. He would then notify his fellow pirates roaming the seas to strike when the targets left the Silver Islands.

Having lurked here for many years, he had seamlessly integrated into the community, and none of the locals suspected his true identity as a spy.

He embodied the essence of serving in the darkness while basking in the light.

He was the messenger of shadows.

Rudy quietly smiled, brimming with confidence.

Ahem, let's get back to business.

Rudy, disguised as a dock inspector, enjoyed significant convenience with his role. He could freely wander the docks without arousing suspicion.

He carefully selected information about potential targets.

That two-masted merchant ship loaded with cotton seemed mediocre in value and not worth attacking.

As for the ship carrying what appeared to be weapons, despite its heavy escort, capturing it would be profitable as weapons were always in demand. Yes, it would be added to the plundering list.

The large ship resting nearby didn't reveal its cargo, but it had a significant number of guards. If they wanted to seize it, there might be considerable losses... Rudy decided to observe it for a while longer.

Just as Rudy was analyzing the situation with his practiced eye, he unintentionally caught sight of the New Moon anchored at the dock.

His eyebrows furrowed slightly, and he froze in surprise.

Even though its appearance had changed, he quickly recognized the identity of the three-masted ship.

Wasn't this the flagship of their Black Skull pirate crew, the Black Widow?

But why was it here?

He remembered that the Black Widow had set sail for plundering a month ago.

Could it be that they had seized something and come here to sell it?

In such a bold manner?

Rudy's curiosity was piqued, and he calmly approached for a closer look.

He noticed that the person commanding the ship was a complete stranger, an unfamiliar man who clearly wasn't the original captain.

The Black Skull pirate crew's insignia, previously hidden on the ship's hull, had been erased.

It quickly dawned on him.

The Black Widow had fallen victim to pirates themselves!

It had been stolen!

This discovery ignited anger within him.

"We've always been the ones robbing others, and now someone dares to rob us? They've got some nerve!"

"No, this won't do. I must quickly inform our nearby brethren and rally our ships and manpower to retrieve the Black Widow!"

Outside a two- to three-story tavern, Ji Chen casually pushed open the saloon doors and walked in.

Dim lighting, wooden tables, and chairs, a display case filled with bottles, bartenders wiping glasses, and scantily clad women—obscene language filled the air.

Hmm, it really captures the ambiance of a tavern.

Inside, there were many natives and players with their accompanying troops, occupying about half of the available seats.

With a lively atmosphere and clinking of glasses, it was quite a scene.

"People drinking so openly in broad daylight, it's truly scandalous!" Ji Chen thought to himself as he found an unoccupied table and sat down.

He intended to criticize such scandalous behavior!

After placing several dozen Kels silver coins on the table, a waitress in bunny attire approached with enthusiasm, bringing over more than ten glasses of fine wheat beer.

Her eyes had a hint of allure, and she expressed her willingness to provide any additional services if needed.

Ji Chen dismissed her with disdain.

He already had a breathtakingly beautiful little Siren back at home. Why would he be interested in such artificial charm and excessive makeup?

However, he did notice something.

Even silver coins held significant value in the native market.

In this world, the majority of natives used silver coins as their primary currency, while gold coins were primarily used by merchants, nobles, and lords.

Considering the tens of thousands of Kels silver coins he possessed, when converted to gold coins, he would have a considerable fortune. Now it seemed he had some assets.

After his tavern experience, Ji Chen spent a good portion of the day wandering through the bustling city district, purchasing a batch of supplies. After depleting his silver coins, he returned to the New Moon anchored at the port.

He had no intention of staying overnight in the city district.

Upon returning to the ship, Sparrow approached him with a vigilant expression.

“My lord, there’s something I need to report.”

“Oh, what is it?”

“Shortly after you left, I had a faint feeling that someone was secretly spying on the New Moon.”

Hearing this, Ji Chen furrowed his brow.

It seemed Sparrow’s danger intuition skill had kicked in.

Someone was spying...

Could there be players coveting the New Moon?

It wasn’t impossible since the visible power of the New Moon was merely a group of second-tier pirates.

The rest of the troops, such as the shallow sea murlocs and Naga warriors, were hidden in the cabin.

The entire ship appeared empty, which could potentially ignite greed in some players.

But he was not too worried.

The port was also a place where fights and killings were not allowed on the Silver Islands. At this stage, the players should not dare to risk being hunted down and attack openly.

“We’ll set off for the mystic realm tomorrow. Be careful tonight.”

“Yes, sir!”

The night passed, and nothing happened.

The next morning, Ji Chen woke up with Alice’s soft body in his arms, and outside the cabin, there was a buzz of voices.

The ships docked at the port were leaving one after another, heading in the same direction.

In the shipping lane, the ships formed a continuous line, resembling a fleet of water dragons.

The opening of the secret realm was imminent!

Ji Chen quickly dressed and made his way to the deck.

He instructed Sparrow to command the pirates to raise the sails and follow the other ships into the shipping lane.

After two or three hours, the New Moon arrived in the sea area where the mystic realm gate was located.

From a distance, they saw the mystic realm gate standing tall on the calm sea, spanning several tens of meters, with half above the surface and half beneath it.

The rotating crimson mist resembled a massive grinding disc.

The mystic realm gate was directly formed on the sea surface.

This meant that there was a high probability that the secret realm behind it contained a water region.

For Ji Chen, this was excellent news.

This was because his class and military type could only display their full strength in the water.

More and more ships gathered together, almost forming a fan shape that surrounded the entrance to the secret plane.

The fleet guarding the area did not say anything and quickly made way for them.

The players who had been silent suddenly became excited.

Boats of all sizes rushed towards the entrance of the mystic realm.

“Charge! Whether we eat dirt or feast, it all depends on this wave!”

“Our Survivor Alliance will definitely snatch the biggest piece of meat and become the ruler of the Silver Islands. Brothers, let’s go!”

“I used all my wealth to buy this ship. This time, I must make a big profit inside!”

One by one, the ships passed through the secret realm gate and disappeared from sight.

Seeing this, Ji Chen didn’t hesitate and gestured for Sparrow to move forward.

Soon, the New Moon also plunged into the gate.

In an instant, he found himself in a crimson world.

The sky was shrouded in a thick layer of eerie red mist, and the sea appeared as a deep red hue as if countless dyes had been poured into it.

Within his field of vision, there were islands of various sizes, with remnants of structures scattered about.

Clearly, there were both native inhabitants and signs of civilization here.

But what caught his attention the most was the towering, illusory golden tree at the far center. It emitted a dazzling golden light, resembling the legendary World Tree, with branches reaching in all directions.

It served as the brightest source of light within the mystic realm.

In addition, scattered throughout the sea were smaller golden trees, though much smaller in size.

The entire mystic realm appeared both eerie and imbued with a sense of divinity..

*Chapter 82: Blood Beast, Lord Krieg*

As Jichen pondered on how to explore this mystic realm, some players exclaimed in surprise.

“Wait, why is my spell power so much higher? And my mana regeneration rate has increased significantly!”

Upon hearing this, mage players began to test it out.

Soon, they became ecstatic.

“I see, the magical energy concentration in this mystic realm is higher than in the main world, so spell power and mana regeneration are enhanced!”

Jichen discreetly manipulated the seawater and found it easier to control compared to when he was the main world. Moreover, his mana regeneration rate had increased by at least 50%.

It seemed that these were the “rules” of this mystic realm.

In some mystic realms, the magical energy was particularly dense, resulting in more powerful spells. However, in others, the magical energy could be extremely scarce, forming anti-magic domains.

The mystic realm with the golden trees before them was undoubtedly the former.

For Jichen, this was good news.

He had a contingent of magic-based troops, the Sea Pixies, and his Tidal Lord class was a formidable magic-based class, making him even more powerful in this mystic realm.

Without further delay, as more and more players entered the mystic realm through the portal, which was continuously active, Jichen instructed Sparrow to move forward.

The New Moon slowly sailed past a small island nearby.

The remnants of the structures on the island had already been thoroughly searched and looted. It was evident that the Alliance officials had stripped the islands close to the mystic realm portal of all valuable resources.

To make any significant gains here, they would have to venture deeper into the mystic realm.

Ji Chen pondered for a moment and decided to explore and advance with the small golden tree as his target.

Since there seemed to be a human civilization here, then in such a dark world, the natives would most likely use the golden trees that could glow as a foundation to build a gathering place nearby.

As for the dangers here, no one knew.

The Alliance officials did not reveal any information about this mythic realm to the outside world. Now, they could only explore it a step at a time.

Many players had the same thoughts as him and headed towards the small golden trees.

However, some of them headed straight for the big golden tree.

Jichen couldn't help but shake his head, wondering whether these players were acting recklessly or boldly taking the lead.

Gradually moving away from the mystic realm portal, the New Moon sailed slowly across the boundless red ocean.

Even in such a secluded realm, there was an inexplicable wind blowing, propelling the ship forward.

The deeper they ventured into the mystic realm, the redder the seawater became, resembling the color of blood.

"Sir, I have a vague sense that danger is approaching!" Sparrow suddenly spoke up.

Jichen nodded and opened the Omniscience map.

Soon, dozens of red dots appeared on the edge of the map, rapidly converging towards the New Moon.

Their presence also became visible on the sea's surface.

Spiny and grotesque Thornbacks, with lizard-like hideous heads, broke through the water's surface.

[Lizard Blood Beast]

[Race: Blood Beast]

[Tier: 2, 6-star]

[Skill: Bloodstorm (blue skill, can continuously recover its strength in the sea of blood)]

Thrust (Blue skill, spikes made of special materials that can easily penetrate armor and defense)

[Military characteristic: Ambipenous combat (able to move on land for a short period of time)]

[The strange creatures in the mythical realm are not to be underestimated.]

The appetizer was a 6-star Tier 2 dish. It seems that some people are going to have a tough time.

Jichen noticed that some players were still at Tier 2, and some even brought land-based combat units into the water.

Facing these aquatic monsters, they were at a significant disadvantage.

Although his units had a clear advantage over these monsters, he didn't let his guard down and launched a decisive attack.

He was like a lion fighting a rabbit with all its might.

"Naga warriors and Shallow Sea Murlocs, dive into the water and fight! Don't let the monsters damage the ship!"

"Sea Pixies, unleash two rounds of Water Arrows!"

The two units leaped from the deck and charged towards the enemies.

The Sea Pixies released their water arrows, exploding like high-explosive bombs among the Blood Beasts.

It proved that spells were very effective in this mystic realm.

After two rounds of water arrows, more than one-third of the Blood Beasts flipped over, floating on the water's surface.

The remaining beasts clashed with the fierce Naga warriors and Deep Sea Murlocs.

Ten minutes later.

Dozens of corpses floated on the sea surface. The wave of Blood Beasts had been completely wiped out. The New Moon continued its journey, guarded by the Naga warriors and Deep Sea Murlocs at the ship's side.

After a period of sailing, they arrived near a small golden tree.

Even though it was just a small golden tree, it was dozens of meters tall, and its branches covered a radius of hundreds of meters.

On the small island under the treetops, there were dozens of houses scattered around.

Hundreds of people in simple clothes gathered together and looked at them as if they were facing a great enemy.

Ji Chen controlled the seawater and formed a staircase by the side of the ship. Under the shocked gazes of the natives, he stepped onto the island.

The other soldiers also climbed out of the water and looked at them coldly.

These human natives looked at each other, uneasy and terrified.

After a long time.

An old man shakily walked out with a walking stick and begged.

"Lord from the Holy City, we no longer have any blue crystals here. Please come back to collect them in a few days."

His words were filled with fear and pleading.

Holy City?

Blue crystals?

Ji Chen was stunned. The blue crystal was easy to understand. It was probably a crystal produced in this mystic realm.

But what kind of place was the Holy City?

"I'm not some lord of the Holy City. I'm from beyond the world."

The old man was stunned. "From outside the world? This..."

Obviously, these words made them unable to react in time.

Seeing this, he quietly shook his head.

This was also a situation that often happened to the natives of the mystic realm.

This was especially true for those mystic realms that had been opened for the first time. The natives inside had lived here for countless generations and thought that this was the entire world.

They had no idea that the “world” they knew of was a mystic realm. They were all animals living at the bottom of a well.

The old man and the other natives reacted and heaved a sigh of relief.

The old man and the other natives visibly sighed with relief.

It was evident that encountering people from beyond their world was far more comforting than dealing with the so-called “lords” from the Holy City. They seemed to have been oppressed for a long time.

“What is this Holy City you speak of?” Jichen asked.

But even in the presence of Jichen, these natives showed the same reverence.

The old man trembled as he pointed in the direction of the distant giant golden tree. “Great beings from beyond the world, the Holy City is located beneath that golden tree. Lord Krieg resides in the palace within the Holy City.”

“Lord Krieg?”

“He is the supreme ruler of the Blood Sea. Only his army has the power to regularly exterminate the Blood Beasts and allow the ordinary people of the Blood Sea to survive.”

Jichen’s eyes flickered with contemplation.

If he wanted to seek protection, it was only natural for these natives to pay a “protection fee” to express their sincerity.

It seemed that most of the crystals in this mystic realm were concentrated in the hands of this so-called Lord Krieg.

However, this raised more questions for Jichen.

Throughout their journey, they encountered a considerable number of Blood Beasts in the Blood Sea. Yet, on this small island measuring only two or three square kilometers, with the end visible to the naked eye, they hadn’t seen any mining sites.

So how did these natives obtain the crystals?

The answer they received was, “The golden trees provide us with crystals.”

Jichen’s attention was now drawn to the small golden tree standing in the center of the island.

His eyes glinted with a hint of excitement.

These small golden trees.... could they produce crystals?

*Chapter 83: Krieg’s Warship*

With his troops, Jichen approached the small golden tree, and the natives did not stop him.



As he got closer, Jichen noticed that the golden tree had a semi-ethereal and semi-real texture. Embedded within the slightly transparent trunk were small crystals about the size of peanuts.

The crystals grew from within the trunk of the tree?

Jichen's eyes instantly lit up.

If he could bring the golden tree back to his territory, wouldn't it produce an infinite amount of crystals?

But as he looked up, he realized that this idea was unrealistic.

The trunk was tens of meters tall, and the canopy was hundreds of meters wide. What kind of ship would be required to transport it?

According to the natives, the crystals had been collected just a short while ago, and they currently had none.

Just as Jichen was slightly disappointed and shaking his head, he suddenly heard Sparrow's shout.

"My Lord, there are unidentified ships approaching!"

Jichen was startled and quickly led his troops back.

Arriving at the shore, they looked into the distance.

A strange, dark two-masted ship was sailing towards them.

The sail was engraved with an image of a golden tree, and the sides of the ship were adorned with menacing spikes. There were four ballistae on each side of the ship, each loaded with a steel bolt.

The opposing side had also noticed them, and the ship slightly tilted as the four ballistae on one side of the ship turned towards them.

Jichen's eyebrows twitched.

Ballistae, such formidable weapons, could easily pierce through even a sturdy ship like the New Moon.

If they were shot at a person, they would likely be torn into several pieces instantly.

Therefore, close-quarters combat was necessary to prevent the full force of the ballistae from being unleashed.

"Shallow Sea Murlocs, Naga warriors dive into the sea to approach the enemy ships and attack when they enter the blind spot of the crossbow!"

"Sparrow, pay attention to controlling the New Moon's position. Pay attention to avoid being shot by the crossbow."

"Sea Pixies, don't worry about conserving your mana. Give me a blast... forget it, you don't need to intervene. Try to inflict minimal casualties on the enemy. I want to capture this warship!"

After each command was issued, the unidentified ship drew closer. Faint figures could be seen on the deck, officers wielding long swords, and soldiers preparing their weapons in formation.

At this moment, the native inhabitants of the island began to panic.

“Lord of the Holy City is here! What should we do? We have no blue crystals to offer!”

“They will kill us! Last time, because we didn’t provide enough crystals, my son was whipped to death by them!”

Hearing this, Jichen’s expression turned cold as he examined the interfaces of those soldiers.

[Krieg Warrior]

[Race: Human]

[Tier: 2, 8-star]

[Skill: Coordinated Combat (blue skill, when fighting together, combat power increases by 30%)]

Faith (Blue skill, loyal to Krieg, will not cower or surrender)

[Military characteristic: People of the Blood Sea (After death, they will be resurrected and become blood spirits with stronger combat strength)]

“Krieg’s soldiers have decent combat power, but be careful of the blood spirits they transform into after they die.”

A Tier 2 8-star strength was not considered strong.

However, the characteristics of the army were a little intriguing.

“Aim and shoot!”

When the two were still several hundred meters away, the enemy ships fired their crossbows.

Whoosh—

Four arrows as thick as an arm pierced through the air and shot over with a shrill sound.

When they first discovered the enemy ships, Sparrow had the pirates raise the sails and anchor, allowing the New Moon to move.

In a naval battle, if one did not move, they would be a target.

However, the enemy’s attack had arrived just as the New Moon picked up speed. The four arrows missed, but one of them missed the target by about ten meters. It brushed past the stern of the ship and splashed on the surface of the sea.

The officer was not surprised to see this. The first round of shooting was to adjust the trajectory.

Just as he was about to command the second round of attacks, he suddenly saw a few blurry black shadows appear on the surface of the sea nearby.

“Be careful at the bottom of the sea, there are enemies-”

Crash ~

Dozens of black shadows broke through the surface of the sea and jumped onto the deck.

As soon as the Naga warriors and the shallow sea murlocs arrived on the deck of the enemy ship, they attacked the crossbows on the side of the ship and took control of them.

Only crossbows could threaten them.

“Draw your swords and kill the enemy!”

“Fight for the great Lord Krieg!”

The sergeant raised his sword high and shouted with a fanatical expression.

The soldiers surged forward like a tide.

Vaguely, they had triggered their military skills and increased their combat strength by a level. Their strength was already infinitely close to the potential of tier 3.

However, the Shallow Sea Murlocs were tier 3, 3-star, and the Naga Warriors were tier 3, 5-star.

They were completely crushed in terms of level.

Even though these Krieg soldiers charged forward fearlessly without regard for their own safety and formed battle formations to cooperate with each other, the disparity in strength between the two sides was like a vast chasm.

When the crossbow fell into their hands, the outcome of the battle was already decided.

Half an hour later.

The deck of the enemy ship was covered with the corpses of soldiers, extending from the front deck to the cabins below.

He had offered them to surrender themselves, but none of them had chosen to surrender, forcing him to eliminate them completely.

“Ding! You have obtained a battle filled with honor. Obtained 20560 experience points...”

The New Moon slowly approached the enemy ship. The pirates used wooden planks to build a simple passageway between the ship’s sides.

Ji Chen came to the deck of the enemy ship through the wooden plank and casually said, “Throw the corpses into the sea.”

Then, he walked straight to the lower deck.

This warship should have come to the island to collect the crystals, so it was very likely that it had already been to other places.

There might be crystals that had already been collected in the cabin.

Soon, he found a wooden box containing crystals at the end of the second deck.

Looking at the sparkling crystals in the wooden boxes, his mood instantly improved.

With a wave of his hand, he put them all into his backpack.

“You have obtained 480 units of crystals.”

480 units...It was far from enough!

Even with a rough calculation, the number of crystals that the territory urgently needed was at least 6000 units.

He would have to rob at least 13 of these ships to gather them.

Upon careful consideration, Jichen realized that he would need to plunder at least 13 similar ships to gather enough resources.

Hmm?

Suddenly, Jichen had a realization. Why did the idea of robbery come naturally when thinking about gathering resources? After all, he was a law-abiding citizen!

That being said, a man still had to eat.

The Krieg soldiers on this two-masted ship had all been killed, turning it into a lifeless vessel. Although he had initially thought of capturing it and bringing it out of the mystic realm, it was clear that he couldn't do so at the moment.

Firstly, he didn't have enough manpower to operate the ship. The core recruitment camp for the Tidal Sea Spirits had not been established, so he couldn't recruit Tidal Sea Spirits to occupy the enemy ship.

Secondly, taking on this burden would only slow down his search for crystals.

After careful consideration, Jichen decided to leave the warship behind and return for it later. However, before leaving, he made sure that the pirates dismantled the eight ballistae from the ship and installed them on the New Moon. These powerful weapons could turn the tide of battle if used effectively.

Soon, the sides of the ship were adorned with ballistae, their steel bolts shimmering with an intimidating cold gleam..

#### *Chapter 84: Despicable Outsider*

Jichen nodded in satisfaction.

Without wasting any more time, he waved his hand and ordered the New Moon to head to the next small golden tree that was located at a further end.

He was looking for Krieg's warship.

At the same time, many players on the Blood Sea had also discovered that the warships of Krieg's soldiers were loaded with crystals.

In an instant, they were all excited and began to attack the warships of Krieg's soldiers in a planned manner.

However, unlike Jichen.

Jichen could easily finish it all by himself.

The players fully embraced the spirit of strength in numbers, gathering in groups and often surrounding a single ship or attacking hundreds of Krieg soldiers with their vast armies.

Despite the strength of the Krieg soldiers, they seemed somewhat powerless against the overwhelming force of the player's swarm tactics.

One by one, the ships carrying crystals were captured, and the crystals were divided among the players.

Half a day later.

"Ding ~ You have obtained a battle full of honor, gained 22560 experience points, your level has increased (io-?n)."

"You have obtained 810 units of crystals."

Jichen stood on the deck of a badly damaged warship, which was covered in blood, and collected the crystals on the ship.

This was the fifth ship he had robbed. He had obtained a total of 2200 units of crystals, which was enough for the Hero Altar.

"Alice's upgrade requires 1600 units... Repairing the Mystic Realm Crystal

Device requires 3000 units... Sigh, still quite a shortage."

"If I consider the future needs, it will be even more insufficient... No, the efficiency of obtaining them is still too slow. I have to go to the Holy City. After all, all the Krieg warships that venture out will eventually return there. We can take care of them all at once."

With this thought in mind, he immediately instructed Sparrow to set sail.

They headed full speed towards the towering giant golden tree that stretched across the sky and earth.

Whether it was the Holy City detecting their intentions to plunder or not, the number of warships sailing on the Blood Sea became fewer and fewer. They searched for quite some time but couldn't find a single ship.

The number of Krieg warships was limited, but the greed of the players was infinite.

Under the attraction of the crystal, the players turned the ship around in unison and headed straight for the Holy City.

They believed that there would be a crystal as tall as a mountain hidden there.

Several hours later, the New Moon crossed the Blood Sea and saw the island under the Golden Tree in the distance.

The first thing that came into sight was a tall wooden water fortress.

There were many archer towers, cannons, and crossbows, and many people.

At the center of the island further away, under the huge golden tree stood a towering city. At the highest point of the city was a Gothic castle with a pointed roof. It should be where the so-called Lord Krieg lived.

If they wanted to attack the city and castle, they had to first occupy the water village and obtain the dock before they could land.

In front of the water stronghold, dozens of fully armed warships were confronting the fleet formed by the players.

The atmosphere was extremely intense.

“Outsiders, quickly retreat and leave the Holy City and the Blood Sea. Otherwise, we will open fire!”

“Lord Krieg’s endless fury will also envelop you!!”

The commander of the water stronghold shouted angrily.

But the players remained indifferent, and some even found it amusing.

As a naturally chaotic and neutral faction, they wouldn’t willingly withdraw unless they were given some benefits.

Moreover, their side had hundreds of ships, large and small, and the combined forces, regardless of their ranks, amounted to tens of thousands.

Some players even began to mock and sneer.

“Just hand over all the crystals peacefully, and we may consider withdrawing,” the players taunted.

The Krieg soldiers were filled with anger at such audacity.

How dare these foreigners speak in such a manner on the Blood Sea!

They were the esteemed soldiers under the great Krieg!

Alongside their anger, these soldiers were also filled with deep confusion.

Where did these individuals with diverse attire and a variety of commanding troops come from?

Just a few days ago, a patrol ship reported the sudden appearance of a strange portal on the Blood Sea.

Just as they were organizing their scouting fleet to head over.

Suddenly, a dozen unfamiliar ships appeared from the door.

They attacked them without warning. What surprised them was that the ships and the invaders were not weak.

Caught off guard, the scouting fleet quickly collapsed. Only two fast assault ships managed to escape and report back, but a few transport ships that had just finished collecting the crystals from the various islands were taken away.

When Lord Krieg heard the news, he was furious and ordered them to destroy the invaders.

However, before they could gather their soldiers and fleets, these extremely despicable Inhumans suddenly appeared on the Blood Sea.

These foreigners not only relentlessly attacked crystal warehouses and outposts on various islands but also never engaged in direct confrontations with them. They preferred to outnumber their opponents, launching surprise attacks, and fleeing like rabbits.

They were impossible to catch, frustrating the Krieg soldiers to no end. It felt like punching cotton—utterly infuriating!

However, if they pursued too far, they risked being surrounded by more of these foreigners, resulting in significant losses of soldiers and ships.

It was despicable!

Encountering such enemies left the once-dominant Blood Sea forces feeling powerless. Ultimately, they had no choice but to retreat their soldiers and warships back to the water stronghold and the Holy City, hoping to avoid further losses.

Now, the numerous foreigners, with their miscellaneous armies, converged upon the area, forming layer upon layer of encirclement around the water stronghold. The atmosphere grew increasingly oppressive.

The Krieg soldiers had lifted their cannons, loaded ammunition, and readied their crossbows. They were prepared to unleash their power at a moment's notice.

Jichen frowned slightly when he saw this.

Using the tidal force, the New Moon retreated a little.

He didn't want to suffer the first wave of attacks.

According to the situation he had observed, the defenses of the fortress and the water stronghold were very tight.

Let's not talk about those powerful cannons.

There were dozens of crossbows and catapults everywhere, and their firepower was very fierce.

Even if the players were lucky enough to break through, they would suffer heavy casualties.

He had to think of a way...

Jichen carefully observed the island and soon made a new discovery.

The entrance to the water village was a tight shut steel gate. The water channel leading into the village was concave and was guarded by several crossbows and catapults.

Anyone who tried to enter from here would be shot into candied haws or smashed into meat paste.

He thought about it and decided to let a few shallow sea murlocs dive into the water to investigate the gate.

A few shallow sea murlocs quietly jumped into the water at the stern of the boat and arrived without alerting the Krieg soldiers.

Soon, the news came back.

The water channel under the water was blocked by the gate, and there was no gap or flaw that could be infiltrated.

This gate was probably used by the Krieg soldiers to block the blood fiends, so it was extremely hard. It was not something that the current army could break.

Interestingly, the murlocs also told him that they were not the only ones in the water below the gate. There were also many other players' troops.

Just like Jichen, they all wanted to see if there was an entrance.

After a thorough investigation, he discovered that the defenses of the fortress and the water stronghold were extremely tight. There were no weaknesses that he could exploit.

Just as they were feeling troubled, a new fleet suddenly appeared on the sea behind them.

After seeing it clearly, the players exclaimed.

"Their ship's sails bear a Bauhinia flower... It's the fleet of the Bauhinia Alliance!! They've finally arrived!"

"But what good will it do for them to come? This place is like a turtle shell.

Even if they come, they'll just hit a wall and suffer heavy casualties..."

"Wait, look at what they have on their ships..."

Narrowing his eyes slightly, Jian Chen took notice.

The Bauhinia Alliance was the dominant force ruling over the Silver Islands. After allowing players to enter, they disappeared from sight.

Many players were well aware of the Bauhinia Alliance's strategy. They were using them as cannon fodder, defending against the Krieg soldiers and minimizing their own losses, weren't they?

Despite the tempting allure of the crystals, players still joined their ranks without hesitation.

Now, seeing them reappear, many players felt a slight sense of relief.

With the addition of this force, perhaps they could truly break through the fortress and enter its interior.

After all, the Bauhinia Alliance's warships were equipped with proper cannons!

Destroying the defenses of this water stronghold was within their capabilities!

### *Chapter 85: Sneak In*

Seeing the fully armed fleet slowly approaching, the Krieg soldiers quickly became wary.

The cannons of the Bauhinia Alliance's fleet posed a tremendous threat to the Krieg forces.

Without much hesitation, the commanding Krieg officers ordered their forces to open fire.

The defenders of the fortress and water stronghold unleashed a barrage of bolts and stones from their siege crossbows and catapults. The shipboard ballistae, as well as the cannons, joined in the attack.



Boom!

Swish!

Amidst the shrill sounds, dozens of stout bolts soared through the air, raining down on the players and soldiers on the decks. They pierced through flesh, firmly nailing victims to the deck. Large stone projectiles shattered the ship hulls, breaking masts, and solid cannonballs shot straight into the vessels, causing seawater to rush in.

In an instant, cries of anguish filled the player fleet, and players themselves were driven to fury.

During their previous raids on ships, they had seized a significant number of shipboard ballistae and bolts, which now served as their means of counterattack.

The players' retaliation also inflicted casualties on the Krieg soldiers. However, due to the height of the water stronghold and the angle of the ballistae, most of the bolts were embedded in the stronghold, resulting in less effective damage.

Jian Chen had ordered the New Moon to retreat from the start, so his ship remained unharmed in this initial wave of attacks.

The battle had reached its climax from the very beginning.

Player units and Krieg soldiers fell in a constant stream, and every few minutes, a warship sank beneath the waves.

Just as the players and the Krieg soldiers were engaged in a heated battle, the warships of the Bauhinia Alliance were already approaching. More than ten warships equipped with cannons turned their bows and faced the water stronghold.

The wooden board of the muzzle was moved away, and black barrels extended out. After a short delay, flames burst out.

Dong—

The cannonballs smashed into the wooden walls of the water stronghold, creating large holes and even penetrating the walls, killing many soldiers.

Under such crazy attacks, cracks quickly appeared on the wall, like a dry land, covered in spiderweb-like cracks.

Ji Chen's eyes burned with passion when he saw this.

Crossbows were nothing compared to cannons!

After that, he would have to bring back a few cannons. Building a cannon in the territory or installing it on a ship was a good choice.

Boom!

With a loud cracking sound, one of the walls of the water stronghold was broken and collapsed. The soldiers and city defense equipment on top fell into the water like dumplings.

After the smoke dispersed, a huge gap was revealed.

Seeing this, the players cheered.

They immediately drove their ships towards the gap, braving the firepower of the crossbows and rocks, and landed at the dock.

Hundreds of Krieg's soldiers rushed over with fanatical expressions and engaged the players in battle.

In the beginning, they could still rely on their level advantage to firmly suppress the players' troops.

But very quickly, as more and more players landed, one Krieg soldier had to deal with at least ten soldiers. They were outnumbered and their morale was low. They gradually lost control of the dock.

Having lost their defensive advantage, the Krieg soldiers were gradually unable to stop the aggressive players.

Under the command of a few sergeants, the army retreated like a collapsing mountain and ran towards the fortress in the distance.

The troops successfully landed and chased after the defeated soldiers under the leadership of the players.

The ships of the Bauhinia Alliance also anchored, and teams of fully armed Alliance soldiers disembarked from the deck,

Ji Chen took the opportunity to look at the interface of these Alliance soldiers.

[Bauhinia Alliance Warrior]

[Race: Human!]

[Tier: 2, 9-star]

Their tiers were slightly higher than the Krieg Warriors by one star, but the difference in strength was very limited,

The players' units were only one star higher in rank compared to the Krieg soldiers, but the power gap was relatively limited.

Relying solely on their own strength, even if they could breach the water stronghold, seizing control of the landing area would come at a great cost.

As the saying goes, "There's no harm in being prepared."<sup>1</sup>

This was also why the Bauhinia Alliance was willing to let players enter and have a share of the spoils. Many players were already marching with their armies towards the city beneath the Great Golden Tree,

Jian Chon didn't want to fall too far behind either.

After instructing Sparrow to take the pirates to watch over the New Moon, he successfully landed with his own army and left.

The Water Fortress and the city were separated by a plain, where the terrified residents watched the retreating Krieg soldiers being chased by a group of strange and monstrous units. The players had no time to pay attention to these residents, their eyes focused solely on the Krieg soldiers.

They fully demonstrated the spirit of mercilessly beating a fallen dog.

After leaving the Water Fortress, Jichcn found a small waterway that led to the Holy City. A bright idea struck him.

He ordered all his units to enter the waterway and swim.

Secretly, he manipulated the power of the tides.

A surge of water appeared behind them, pushing them forward at a rapid pace.

Their swimming speed was several times faster.

While many players had only run halfway, they had already reached the moat at the foot of the city walls of the Holy City.

Due to being underwater, the Krieg soldiers on the city walls did not notice them and instead focused their attention on the oncoming players.

In the moat.

In the moat, Jichcn floated calmly in the water, contemplating how to enter the city.

The Holy City was built on a mountain, surrounded by tall city walls. The defenses, including arrow towers and ballistae, were even more dense than those of the Water Fortress. The defensive strength of the city walls was several levels higher.

More importantly, the Bauhinia Alliance's cannon ships could not reach this place, so they could not use their cannons to blast open the city walls.

This increased the difficulty of attacking the city by several levels.

At this moment, the shallow sea murlocs scattered in the water suddenly sent back a message.

They had discovered a sewer entrance!

Jichen's face lit up with joy and he immediately instructed the merfolk to lead the way and investigate.

On the side of the city wall, about three to four meters below the water's surface, a rectangular sewer entrance, about four to five meters wide, came into view.

An iron grille blocked the entrance, with a gap of only ten centimeters.

To enter the city from here, they would need to break through this iron grille.

Jichcn gently tapped on it.

A dull sound resonated.

Well, this iron gate was much less sturdy than the steel gate of the Water Fortress.

Perhaps it could be forcibly cut open...

With this thought in mind, Jichcn secretly manipulated the power of the tides.

The invisible and gentle water gradually formed several tangible and resilient water saws under the reinforcement of his magic power.

The water saws began to rhythmically cut back and forth on the iron grille.

With the powerful force of the tides, the water saws were ten times sharper than metal saws and could cut through even steel.

The sewer iron grille was quickly cut through by dozens of water saws, revealing an entrance large enough for a Naga warrior to enter.

There was no time to waste.

Jichen signaled for the Shallow Sea Murlocs to enter first and lead the way, with the others following behind.

After traveling over a hundred meters in the dim sewer, the entire map was filled with red dots representing the Krieg soldiers, densely scattered all around.

They had no idea that beneath their feet, a group of invaders was silently infiltrating through the sewers.

### *Chapter 86: Crystal*

They advanced through the dark sewers and cut through another iron fence.

Ji Chen saw a flash of light in front of him.

His heart shook.

At the exit...

On the map, four red dots stood above the exit, like guards.

It seemed that they were not completely defenseless against this place.

“Have you heard? Many invaders suddenly appeared in the Blood Sea. I heard that the water stronghold that has been breached is currently advancing towards the Holy City...”

“Hmph, those intruders will definitely be punished by Sir Krieg.”

“Stop talking. It’s better to guard this place well and prevent intruders from invading the city through the sewers...”

“Who would come from this smelly sewer...”

The soldier lowered his head in disbelief. A bone blade had pierced through his chest.

Before the words could be fully spoken, the body weakly collapsed to the ground, emitting a choked sound.

From the tilted perspective, dozens of serpent-like creatures with dragon heads crawled out of the sewer, and a man stepped slowly on the staircase they formed.

The soldier’s final thought was that there were indeed invaders in the sewer...

Jichen glanced at the corpses on the ground. This surprise attack was successful, without alerting other enemies.

As for the next plan...

He looked in the direction of the city gate.

Other players had probably reached the outskirts of the city by now, but it would be difficult for them to break through the city walls and enter the city with their own strength alone.

At this moment, they needed an unnamed hero to provide a little assistance.

A sturdy fortress is often broken from the inside.

As long as they could open the city gate from within, the players could swarm in, and capturing this holy city would only be a matter of time.

Jichen understood this very well, even though he had already infiltrated the city.

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

However, it would be difficult for him to break through the blockade of so many Krieg's soldiers and find the warehouse where the crystals were stored.

Therefore, it was necessary to borrow the strength of other players.

With that thought, Ji Chen and the others headed toward the city gates.

The players ran through the wilderness and saw the walls of the Holy City from afar.

"Why is there such a tall wall? Without the cannons of the Bauhinia Alliance, how are we going to break in??"

"I remember that in ancient times, didn't they use local materials to build siege weapons before attacking the city?"

"It is not difficult to build a ladder, but it is also very difficult to break in if we only use a ladder..."

Just as they were at a loss, staring at the city walls, sharp-eyed players suddenly noticed the drawbridge being lowered and the city gate slowly opening.

Although they didn't know what was happening, they knew it was a rare opportunity.

They rushed madly towards the city gate.

The Krieg soldiers on the city walls were instantly dumbfounded.

"Send someone down to see what's happening! Close the city gate and raise the drawbridge!"

"Alice."

A beautiful melody filled the air, leaving them stunned in their tracks.

By the time the Krieg soldiers snapped out of their daze, the city gate had been fully opened, and a large group of players and troops had already flooded in, overwhelming them.

After seizing control of the city gate, a frontal battle ensued.

And the mastermind behind it all had already infiltrated the city.

“Quick, stop the invaders! We can’t let them reach Krieg’s palace!”

“They’re likely after the crystals. Protect the crystal warehouse!”

Soldiers shouted as they ran out from the streets.

Bubbles rose from the nearby water channel.

Jichen slowly emerged from the water, a smile playing on his face.

There were many waterways in the Holy City, connecting all parts of the city.

He could travel around without being noticed by anyone through the water channel. Moreover, most of the Krieg soldiers’ attention was now on the other players, which created an excellent opportunity for him to sneak in.

Moreover, the crystal warehouse that these soldiers mentioned...

His eyes lit up, and he led the army in the direction of the soldiers.

- ??

In the majestic and luxurious bedroom, the sergeant was reporting the situation of the battle.

“Lady Krieg, the invaders have already taken control of the city gates and are fighting with our soldiers in various parts of the Urban area.”

“We have also sent more soldiers to guard the crystal warehouses to prevent anyone from sneaking up on us.”

The officer lowered his head and did not dare to look at Krieg who was sitting on the throne.

After a long time, he said slowly.

“Have you figured out how the city gate was opened?”

His voice was cold and emotionless, like a glacier on a mountain peak.

“The surviving soldiers all said that they heard a strange song and entered some kind of hallucination or absent-minded state. When they came back to their senses, they found that the city gate and the suspension bridge had been opened from the inside,” the officer replied, sweating profusely.

“Oh? It seems that someone has already sneaked into the city in advance. As for the singing... it’s probably the effect of some kind of spell or artifact.”

“Such a magical effect, I’m quite curious... I’ll give you ten squads of the Forbidden Army. Find them and bring them before me.”

There was a hint of interest on Krieg’s face as she spoke in a calm tone.

As if this question intrigued her more than the invading players themselves.

- ??

In front of a gothic cathedral, hundreds of Krieg's soldiers who were originally stationed there had fallen to the ground, no longer breathing.

Ji Chen stepped over the corpses and pushed open the church door.

There were hundreds of wooden boxes piled up inside.

He casually asked the Naga Warrior to pry open one and took a look.

The wooden box was filled with crystals that emitted a pleasant glow.

With a wave of his hand, he took all of them.

“Ding ~ You have obtained 4700 units of crystals.”

A total of 4700 units!

It was equivalent to robbing ten warships!

It was a bloody profit!

Even a mini-crystal mine would only produce 2100 units of crystals, and the crystals here were equivalent to more than two mini-crystal mines.

It was unknown how long Krieg had been operating in this mystic realm, but the number of crystals she had collected must have reached a considerable amount, and many of them were piled up in various warehouses.

This warehouse was just one among many.

Adding the 2,200 units previously acquired, Jichen now had a total of 6,000 crystal units.

He had achieved half of his goal of 10,000 crystal units!

Ji Chen nodded silently.

Next, he just needed to seize another crystal warehouse, and his initial objective for this journey would be accomplished.

With this in mind, he led his army to the next warehouse.

Less than half an hour after their departure, an officer arrived at the scene with a fully armed squad of Krieg Forbidden Army.

Looking at the scattered corpses of soldiers, a hint of gloom flashed across the officer's face.

He knew he was too late.

Amidst the wreckage, he analyzed the traces of the battle.

Based on the condition of the corpses, a significant portion of the defending Krieg soldiers was killed without any resistance, completely matching the description given by the gate guards.

It appeared that the enemy who plundered this warehouse was the same group that had opened the city gates.

With the target confirmed, the officer waved his hand and said, "We must capture the enemies that Lady Krieg desires. Her will is our objective, and Krieg's blade is the direction we advance!"

"Full speed ahead!"

The Krieg Forbidden Army shouted fervently, their faces filled with zeal, as they followed the officer's lead to track down the enemy..

### *Chapter 87: Chasing*

Not only this Forbidden Army, but after news of the attack on the crystal warehouse in the rear spread, a large number of Krieg soldiers were also searching for the whereabouts of Ji Chen and his group.

Ji Chen hid in the waterway, sensing the frequent footsteps passing by outside, feeling somewhat frustrated.

Just after they looted the first crystal warehouse and found the location of the second warehouse, they were forced to hide in the sewer by the increasingly dense soldiers.

Although the strength of the Krieg soldiers wasn't impressive, the saying "many ants can kill an elephant" applied here. Once they called for reinforcements, the sheer numbers could wear them down.

Furthermore, through chat channels and forums, they learned that players in the outer city were facing strong resistance, resulting in a stalemate and making it temporarily impossible to breach the inner city.

He could not count on the other players for the time being.

It seemed that he had to change his strategy slightly.

He thought for a moment, and a bright idea popped into his head.

Controlling the water around him, he expelled it to create an air-filled cavity.

He instructed the shallow sea murlocs, "Go to a few distant locations along the waterway and attack the nearby Krieg soldiers. Create as much commotion as possible to attract the attention of the pursuers."

"But be careful not to get carried away. Hit and run, and after completing the mission, regroup back here."

The shallow sea murlocs nodded vigorously and dived into the water, flapping their fins to swim away.

Now it was up to the murlocs to do their job.

Ji Chen patiently waited in the water.

Soon, the footsteps outside became increasingly dense as a large group of Krieg soldiers ran past.

"Hurry up! The infiltrators are in the nearby city area. Lady Krieg ordered us to capture them!"



“Besides us, Lady Krieg also sent a Forbidden Army to pursue them. We will surely catch them!”

Forbidden Army?

Ji Chen frowned.

It seemed that Krieg already knew he had infiltrated the city and opened the gates.

They even specially dispatched a Forbidden Army to pursue him.

The name Forbidden Army alone indicated that they were stronger than ordinary Krieg soldiers. He realized he needed to be even more cautious.

The murlocs in the shallow sea had successfully attracted the attention of the other soldiers. Ji Chen didn't waste any time. He led his army out of the water and charged towards the next crystal warehouse.

A few minutes later, a crystal warehouse was in front of him. Seeing the number of soldiers guarding it, his confidence increased.

Due to a significant portion of the soldiers being dispatched to intercept the Murlocs, the defense of this crystal warehouse was weakened.

There were only fewer than a hundred soldiers.

As a result, they easily captured the warehouse and looted all the crystals inside.

However, this warehouse contained only 3,000 units of crystals, much less than the previous one.

Without wasting time, they collected the crystals and set fire to the warehouse before calmly retreating with their army back into the waterway, leaving before the pursuers arrived.

The Krieg soldiers, who had been drawn to the commotion caused by the Murlocs, arrived at the scene with excitement but found no sign of the enemy.

“Where are the enemies?!”

The bewildered soldiers who had been under attack replied, “Strange Murlocs suddenly appeared and attacked us, but for some reason, they fought for a while and then suddenly left, diving into the sewer.”

“It's like... they didn't really want to fight us.”

Upon hearing this, the incoming soldiers also looked perplexed. Suddenly, their expressions changed, and they shouted, “We've been tricked! Let's go back!”

More than ten minutes later.

The Forbidden Army and a large group of Krieg soldiers arrived, only to see a burning warehouse.

The crystals inside had been plundered.

At this moment, the flames seemed to burn in their hearts, making them flush with anger. They roared in rage.

“Damn it! These despicable outsiders, are they afraid to fight us head-on!?”

“If I catch them, I’ll flay their skin and break their bones!!”

Suddenly, from another area of the city, a thunderous battle cry echoed.

It was the location of another crystal warehouse!

Consumed by fury, they ran towards the sound, their hearts filled with seething anger.

“The enemy must be over there. Let’s hurry over and provide support!”

After sprinting all the way, they passed through many streets, but when they saw that the garrison was safe and sound, their expressions changed again.

Damn it, they fell for it again!

At that moment, a loud battle sound came from the crystal warehouse in the other direction, accompanied by a violent explosion.

A diversion!

This was the real target.

By the time they arrived at the real attack site, the ground was already covered with the corpses of the garrison soldiers. The entire warehouse was already empty.

“Damn it! These bastards, how dare they play with us like this!?”

“We must catch them, or else Lady Krieg will be furious!”

The soldiers who had been rampaging recklessly in the bloodshed finally experienced first-hand the cunning tactics of the outsiders.

They had been toyed with!

After a burst of powerless rage, the soldiers began to analyze and contemplate their countermeasures.

“Based on what we have seen before, these enemies hidden in the shadows shouldn’t be numerous, otherwise, they wouldn’t have needed to divert our attention before launching their attacks.”

“Furthermore, their target has been the crystals twice, so as long as we gather the crystals together and heavily guard them, they won’t have anywhere to strike.”

“Then we can thoroughly search the entire inner city. We will definitely catch these rats!”

“Good, let’s do it this way!”

In a hidden section of the sewer system.

“Sir, it seems like they have finally realized it and started consolidating their forces.”

Upon meeting with the Murlocs, Jichen and his group quickly noticed the unusual behavior of the Krieg soldiers.

Rather than rushing to search, they began to relocate the crystals, heavily guarded by a large number of soldiers, far away from the waterway, displaying an extreme level of vigilance.

They want to gather the crystals together!

The enemies were not ordinary NPCs. After suffering losses twice, they naturally became aware that something was amiss and devised targeted countermeasures.

In this situation, it would be difficult for Jichen to continue plundering the crystal warehouses.

He silently shook his head.

However, after plundering three warehouses, he now had a total of 12,000 units of crystals.

Summoning a blue-grade excellent hero from the Hero Altar, repairing the Broken Warning Lighthouse and Crystal Device, would require only a few thousand more units of crystals.

It was sufficient.

Even if he chose to leave the mystic realm now, he wouldn't be at a loss.

Therefore, he could shift his focus to other areas, such as treasures and other rare resources.

The more dangerous a place, the more likely it was to contain valuable items.

Jichen looked towards the highest point of the castle in the Holy City, where the chances of finding something valuable were the greatest.

But before entering, he needed to make the water here even murkier....

### *Chapter 88: The Temptation Song of Purple Grade*

The city of Sanjin is divided into an outer and inner city. Apart from the regular city walls surrounding the outer city, there is an additional smaller wall between the inner and outer city.

The outer city is where ordinary residents reside, while the inner city is the domain of the powerful figures within the Blood Sea.

After Jichen opened the city gates of the outer city, the Krieg soldiers began to retreat and regroup within the defense of the inner city walls.

Although the players outnumbered their opponents, they faced the challenge of attacking the towering inner city walls, which stood over ten meters high. The momentum of the assault became stagnant.

The soldiers of the Bauhinia Alliance were also hesitant to engage in a direct siege due to the formidable defensive artillery mounted on the inner city walls.

Instead, they established their camps at a safe distance, seemingly awaiting the arrival of additional siege equipment.

On the streets not far from the inner city gate, players gathered together, deliberating on strategies to breach the city gate.

"Why don't we send some soldiers to sneak in through the sewers?"

“No, I’ve already sent them before. They’ve sent a large number of troops to guard the exit of the sewers.”

“Why don’t we just set up a ladder and attack? Anyway, we have more people and troops!”

“If you want to go up, do it yourself. Who knows how many soldiers will die if you forcefully attack the city.”

Not many people were willing to endure the losses that came with a direct siege.

They hadn’t even laid eyes on a single piece of crystal yet!

If they suffered too many casualties here, their own forces would be insufficient to intimidate others. That could lead to problems when it came time to divide the spoils of the crystals...

Although they had temporarily formed an alliance, it was clear that their hearts were not completely united. Each person harbored their own hidden intentions...

“Then what should we do? Should we just stand here and watch?”

“I heard that the outer city gate was opened from the inside by a big shot who infiltrated in advance. Perhaps he is already in the inner city and can help us open the gate? If we work together, we might be able to break through the city gates.”

“That makes sense, but the problem is that after we lose the outer city gate, those soldiers will definitely focus on guarding the city gate. That big shot might not take the risk to attack.”

“That’s right, and does anyone know this big shot? How can we let him lead us when we don’t even know who he is?”

“Uh, that’s true...”

“Why don’t we call him out in the chat channel and the forum?”

“Although it sounds silly, we can only try this method.”

Just like that, these players started to flood the chat channels and forums with messages and calls.

“Dear powerful figure who secretly opened the outer gates of the Holy City in the Silver Islands’ mystic realm, if you are inside the inner city, please be kind and open the gates for us!”

“Once the inner city gates are opened, we will join forces with you and storm into the Krieg’s palace, seizing her throne and allowing you to take your place!” “Father, I beg of you!”

“Please, we beg you. We will express our gratitude with generous rewards once the mission is accomplished! May you have a peaceful life, kind soul!”

“May you have a peaceful life, kind soul!”

“May you have a peaceful life, kind soul!”

At first, there were various requests and pleas, but then the players transformed into parrots, repeating “May you have a peaceful life, kind soul” on the screen. It truly astonished other players who were unaware of the situation.

As Ji Chen witnessed this scene, his face was filled with confusion.

These group of silly internet users really caught me off guard. Goodness, each one of them is just looking for a handout, huh?

But in his plan to create chaos, it also included opening the gates of the inner city.

If players don’t come in and distract the soldiers, how can he sneak into Krieg’s palace amidst the commotion?

The gates need to be opened, but the question is how. After he opened the outer gates, a large number of soldiers were dispatched to guard the inner gates, forming a dense crowd around them.

Even if he could cast an illusion on all of them, Ji Chen wouldn’t be able to reach the gates before Alice’s mana was depleted.

It would take quite some time to deal with such a group of fools, let alone humans.

The Krieg soldiers in the inner city are already on edge due to his previous actions. At the slightest sound, they charge like a pack of mad dogs.

Especially that elite guard, actively searching for their tracks. He couldn’t guarantee a safe escape if their traces were exposed in front of so many soldiers.

How can he safely open the gates and leave without endangering himself?

As he contemplated, Ji Chen suddenly remembered Alice’s unit talent tree.

[Unlocked node A-l: Song of Temptation (Blue skill -> Purple skill)][Consumes 3200 units of wood, 3200 units of clay, 800 units of mythril.]

The only thing that could possibly break the situation now was Alice’s upgraded Song of Temptation.

Upgrading from a blue skill to a purple skill was equivalent to a qualitative change.

The blue-grade Song of Temptation was not very effective against tier 3 soldiers. If it could be upgraded to purple grade, its effect and duration would be greatly enhanced.

Perhaps he could kill his way through the gate and forcefully open it.

After thinking about it, Ji Chen felt that this was very promising.

He immediately checked the resources he currently had.

After setting sail, it seems that the Kobolds have been busy as well, continuously logging and gathering resources. The current wood resource has reached over 6,000 units, more than enough to meet the wood requirement for Node A-i.

As for clay, before setting sail, he entrusted Wilus with the authority to collect resources, including clay, in his territory. So now the territory has accumulated 5,400 units of clay, satisfying the clay requirement.

As for Mithril, he had previously left 800 units, and the territory has also received a considerable amount of Mithril income these days, meeting the Mithril requirement as well.

All three resource requirements are fulfilled!

Seeing this, Ji Chen didn't waste any time and tapped on Node A-i with his finger.

"Would you like to consume resources to unlock A-1?"

"Yes."

"Consuming 3,200 units of wood, 3,200 units of clay, 800 units of mithril to unlock A-1."

"The tier of 'Temptation Song' is upgraded from blue skill to purple skill."

In the Stormy Seas, Wilus was stunned as he watched a large portion of wood and clay suddenly disappear from the warehouse. What happened? Where did all my wood and clay go?

The culprit behind all of this, Ji Chen, with a hint of anticipation on his face, opened Alice's panel to check the description of the upgraded Temptation Song.

[Skill: Song of Temptation (Purple skill, can use beautiful and seductive songs to confuse the enemy, causing them to fall into a state of absent-mindedness and hallucination. Can charm and control the enemy, the effect depends on the enemy's level [Charm, mana consumption speed increases by 100% when controlling the enemy])]

Controlling enemies?!

Ji Chen suddenly realized.

So, what Anina said was true. Sirens indeed possess the ability to bewitch and control creatures!

It's just that their previous skill level was too low to demonstrate it.

Being able to charm and manipulate enemies...

A glimmer of confidence flashed in his eyes. With this ability, the maneuverability would be greatly enhanced....

### *Chapter 89: Turning Against Us*

Alice's song was actually a spell. Since it was a spell, he could choose the target of the spell.

In other words, if there were 100 people in front of her, Alice could choose to control 50 of them with her voice.

These 50 people will enter a state of trance or illusion, or even be under manipulation. However, the other 50 people, although they can also hear the song, will not be affected in any way and simply find the melody pleasing.

Based on this, he devised a plan.

The plan was called “Defection Operation”.

When Ji Chen and his group confidently and fearlessly appeared near the inner city gate,

The Krieg soldiers guarding this area were all utterly bewildered.

Previously, they had searched the entire inner city but couldn’t find any trace of Ji Chen and his group.

But now, they brazenly showed up in front of them, wearing a nonchalant expression.

In an instant, it made them doubt if there was a trick behind it.

After all, they had been played like fools before and had become overly sensitive.

They were afraid of being deceived again.

However, as more and more Krieg soldiers arrived from all directions, surrounding Ji Chen and his group from inside and out, the Krieg soldiers became full of confidence.

With such a large number of soldiers present, they vowed that if Ji Chen and his group managed to escape once more, they would tear apart the city gate right then and there!

At this moment, hundreds of Krieg’s Forbidden Army received the news and rushed to the scene.

They were fully armed, resolute, and filled with killing intent in their eyes.

It seemed as though Ji Chen owed them millions of gold coins, turning him into an unforgivable enemy in their eyes.

If killing intent had weight, Ji Chen would probably have been crushed by it already.

A commanding officer stepped forward, wearing a cold sneer on his face. “I didn’t think you’d be so eager to face your demise before we even found you. Well, since you insist, listen up, everyone! Spare no one except for that man and woman!”

“Wait!”

Ji Chen’s shout interrupted their actions.

There was no panic on his face. He looked around calmly and finally looked at the Forbidden Army.

[Krieg’s Forbidden Army]

[Race: Human]

[Tier: 3, 6-star]

[Skill: Powerful Soldier Hard Armor (Blue skill, attack and defense increased by 30%)]

Protection (Blue skill, combat effectiveness in the Holy City increases by 30%)

Intimidation (Blue skill, can use a roar to intimidate the enemy, there is a certain chance to cause the enemy to enter a short stun state)

[Military characteristic: People of the Blood Sea (After death, they will be resurrected and become blood spirits with stronger combat strength)]

As expected of the Forbidden Army.

They were Tier 3 6-star, much stronger than ordinary soldiers.

They were even stronger than the strongest Naga warriors under him. Their numbers also reached 200 to 300, and they were powerful.

It could be said that the strength of this Forbidden Army was enough to wipe off Jichen and his troops.

Furthermore, they were completely surrounded by hundreds, if not thousands, of Krieg soldiers. They were like a trapped turtle with no means of escape.

To make matters worse, the officer leading the soldiers was not an ordinary individual either. He, too, possessed the powers of a hero.

[Kajiso Nolan (Hero)]

[Race: Human]

[Level: 15]

[Tier: White Common]

- ??

However, in terms of rank, it doesn't look very impressive. At most, it's equivalent to a commanding officer of soldiers, not posing a significant threat.

After reading the information, Ji Chen quickly grasped the situation and looked around before smiling.

"To be honest, the reason I voluntarily showed up here is because of something. Would you like to hear it?"

Kajiso was also curious upon hearing this. He wanted to know the reason behind Ji Chen's voluntary appearance and was in no rush to capture him. In his eyes, Ji Chen and his group were already trapped, and they would be captured sooner or later. There was no need to rush at this moment.

"Speak, this is my last mercy."

"What I want to say is, can you take the initiative to open the city gate? This way, I can save some effort and time."

Veins popped out on Kajiso's forehead. "Are you playing with me?"

"You're still so arrogant even though you're surrounded. If it wasn't for Lord Krieg's order to capture you alive, I would have hung you on the gate of the water stronghold and let the blood fiends eat you up."

Kajiso gritted his teeth and looked at the calm Jichen. He suddenly felt a sense of foreboding. Without hesitation, he ordered, "Everyone, attack!"

Jichen grinned as he looked at the soldiers coming from all directions.



“Control them.”

Alice opened her lips slightly, and a different song sounded.

Like a stream of water, it drilled into the enemy’s ears.

If the spell had a visible trajectory, then Alice’s mana would have turned into several white wisps and drilled into the bodies of the powerful Forbidden guards.

In an instant, they were stunned on the spot.

The killing intent and fanaticism in his eyes gradually turned into a strange look.

“Go,” Alice said softly.

In the next moment, the Forbidden Army soldiers brandished their weapons and charged at their allies.

Although Kajiso was a hero, he was only at the lowest tier, White Common. Therefore, when faced with Alice’s song, his performance was not much better than the Forbidden Army.

With bloodshot eyes, he raised his weapon uncontrollably and slashed at the surrounding Krieg soldiers.

The Krieg soldiers did not expect their allies to attack them. They were not prepared at all, and dozens of them were killed in an instant.

The encirclement that had surrounded Ji Chen and the others was instantly torn open.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, they began to break out of the encirclement.

Meanwhile, Alice controlled the Forbidden guards to charge towards the city gate.

The surrounding Krieg soldiers were perplexed as they faced the bewildering “friendly” attacks from their comrades. They found themselves in a dilemma, unsure whether to retaliate or hold back, moving cautiously amidst the chaos.

In stark contrast, the Forbidden Army went berserk, acting like merciless puppets solely driven by a lust for bloodshed. The Tier 3, 5-star Forbidden Army soldiers effortlessly dominated their lower-tier Krieg counterparts, overpowering them as if a father disciplining his disobedient child. The display of Alice’s manipulation abilities was nothing short of horrifying.

Alice’s manipulation ability was terrifyingly effective. It completely defied the natural instincts of these creatures, forcefully controlling their minds and bodies. Jichen couldn’t help but sigh inwardly. If the Temptation Song, even at the Purple grade, possessed such immense power, how terrifying would it be at the Red grade or even higher?

With a single command, the hundreds of Forbidden Army soldiers turned against their own comrades, redirecting their blades towards them. The Sirens truly deserved their reputation as a rare and formidable marine race. Their control ability alone was enough to elevate them to the pinnacle of marine species.

In this chaotic situation, the Forbidden Army quickly reached the city gate. Alice manipulated them to hold their position at the gate while opening it.

Outside the inner city:

“Did that boss see the message we sent? Why hasn’t there been any response?”

“I guess even if he saw it, he won’t want to take the risk. After all, there are so many soldiers guarding the city. If I were him, I wouldn’t intervene either...”

“Listen, something seems to be happening in the inner city... Wait, the city gate is opening!”

The heavy gates slowly began to rise.

Before they could react, they witnessed an unbelievable scene.

Not only were a group of well-equipped soldiers assisting in opening the gates, but they were also fiercely attacking the regular Krieg soldiers, causing blood to flow.

“What is happening? They seem to be killing each other?”

“Could it be that the Krieg couldn’t pay their wages, and now these soldiers are rebelling?”

While some players speculated, they wasted no time and immediately led their armies towards the city gate.

Opportunities like these were rare and not to be missed!

*Chapter 90: The Benevolent Boss*

As Alice’s singing came to an end and Ji Chen and his group disappeared around the corner, the scene at the city gate was in chaos. The few remaining Krieg soldiers regained their senses, looking bewildered and unaware of what had just happened. But their fellow soldiers around them looked at them with fear, as if they had done something unimaginable.

Only then did they notice the bodies of their comrades scattered all around, the broken bodies of officers, and their own hands and weapons stained with blood. And behind them, the city gate was wide open.

Instantly, fear struck the hearts of these Krieg soldiers. What had happened just now?

With the inner city gate wide open, players and Bauhinia Alliance soldiers rushed in like mad dogs, overwhelming the Krieg soldiers guarding the gate, just like they did at the outer city gate.

Though they didn’t know exactly what had transpired, they knew it was another golden opportunity.

Capturing the inner city gate meant gaining access to the numerous crystals stored within the city. Those crystals would become their spoils.

They had fought and killed tirelessly for this moment, all for the sake of obtaining some crystals and accelerating the development of their territories.

However, some players had a hunch that this might have been the work of that hidden boss. But how they managed to make the Krieg soldiers turn on each other remained a mystery to them.

On a distant street, Ji Chen listened to the sounds of battle coming from the city gate, his heart steady.

The first step of the plan was complete.

Now for the second step: guiding the players to the location of the crystal storage. Thanks to his previous unintentional actions, the Krieg soldiers had centralized all the crystals in one warehouse, heavily guarded.

Therefore, in order to effectively divert the attention and energy of the Krieg soldiers, it was necessary to incite the players to engage them in battle.

At that moment, Ji Chen felt a mix of responsibility and concern, taking on the roles of both a guide and a protector.

First, he assisted in opening the city gate twice for other players, and now he had to personally lead them towards the crystal storage.

How could he be so selflessly devoted to helping others?

With these thoughts in mind, Ji Chen began to strategize.

Once the players successfully captured the city gate and pondered their next move, a sudden cry rang out.

“Quick, check the forum! Someone has posted a map to the crystal storage warehouse.”

“Wait, is it... the Lonely Islander who made the post?”

“I see, so this legendary figure has been aiding us all along! It was him who opened the city gate!”

“Such selflessness deserves admiration and respect.”

“The Lonely Islander is truly amazing!”

In an instant, the forum thread erupted with excitement and discussion.

The name “Lonely Islander” had already gained recognition before this incident.

This time, his actions within the secret realm further solidified his reputation among the players in the Western Domain.

Previously, he became known for the possibility of possessing a red-legacy tier hero.

But now, his fame was derived from his altruistic deeds and the exhibition of his formidable strength as a benevolent figure.

The former was a by-product of Ji Chen’s plan.

The latter was the players’ senses. After all, the fact that he was able to create a sea of blood in the midst of so many Krieg’s soldiers and forcefully open the city gate was enough to prove that the ‘Lonely Islander’s’ strength was extraordinary.

Ji Chen smiled as he looked at the posts that kept refreshing.

He wasn't worried that he would be exposed in reality.

They were looking for the 'Lonely Islander', what did that have to do with him?

A large group of players charged towards the storage crystal. At this moment, the other Krieg soldiers could no longer care about Ji Chen. They gathered together and blocked the players from advancing. The defenses in other areas became lax.

At the center of the entire Holy City, Krieg's castle stood on high ground, surrounded by a moat. There was only one covered bridge that led to the castle.

Hundreds of Krieg soldiers were stationed inside and outside the castle, guarding the covered bridge.

Due to the invasion of players, a considerable number of soldiers had been deployed elsewhere, resulting in weakened defenses in this area.

Ji Chen didn't immediately choose a direct assault.

Quietly sneaking into the moat, he dispersed his troops, hoping to find a sewer or similar entry point to infiltrate.

If he could avoid unnecessary risks, he would.

However, after an extensive search, he was disappointed to find no accessible entrances in the impregnable fortress. There were guards both on the surface and even underwater, making infiltration impossible.

Must he resort to a frontal assault?

Just as Ji Chen felt somewhat helpless, a fully armed group of soldiers appeared on the bridge.

It was the Bauhinia Alliance!

Previously, they had maintained a low profile, except for a slight presence at the water fort.

But why were they here instead of attacking the crystal storage? Could it be that, like Ji Chen, they had their eyes on the wealth and treasures within Krieg's fortress?

Although there was a slight deviation from his plan, it was inconsequential. The appearance of these soldiers could also be seen as a fortuitous event.

Ji Chen patiently observed from the water, hidden from view.

Neither the attacking soldiers of the Bauhinia Alliance nor the Krieg soldiers had any inkling that someone was silently observing their every move from the depths of the moat.

With a brief pause to regroup, the soldiers of the Bauhinia Alliance launched a fierce assault on the bridge.

While their individual strength was average in Ji Chen's eyes, their higher rank of l-star compared to the ordinary Krieg soldiers gave them a slight advantage.

Furthermore, their coordination and formation were excellent, with sword-and-shield troops, spearmen, and archers, all filled with high morale.

For a moment, they managed to suppress the Krieg soldiers, swiftly pushing towards the castle gate.

However, their progress gradually slowed as the defensive mechanisms on the castle walls came into play.

Swoosh!

Thick crossbow bolts, as thick as an infant's arm, were propelled by taut bowstrings, piercing through several Bauhinia Alliance soldiers like skewered candied fruits.

Cannons erupted with flames, solid projectiles carrying unstoppable momentum smashed into their targets, and the crisp sound of bones breaking reverberated like firecrackers.

The cannonballs bounced off the ground several times, shattering the legs and arms of countless soldiers.

Before their troops reached a certain rank, these types of weapons would always be a nightmare for low-tier soldiers.

On the bridge, blood flowed like a river, and cries of agony filled the air.

Witnessing this gruesome scene, the faces of other soldiers turned pale, and they took a few steps back.

The officer raised his long sword and roared loudly, urging them to press forward.

However, it was evident that, with their current forces, it would be difficult to withstand the firepower and cross the bridge.

Observing this scene, Ji Chen couldn't help but shake his head.

He himself wouldn't dare to face such killing machines head-on, yet these soldiers foolishly tried to charge in directly, seeking death.

Seeing these soldiers diverting the attention of the defenders, Ji Chen didn't waste the opportunity. Manipulating the water currents, he formed a staircase along the side wall, leading his troops onto the ramparts, silently infiltrating the castle..