

The Mighty 441

Chapter 441 Braised Abalone in Oyster Sauce

Tridacna and sea snails brought a large number of pearls, but the greatest contributor was actually Sea Sprite Ake.

At the Sea View Villa during the night, Liszt patiently listened to Ake's endless tales of the sights at Black Pearl Lake, how the tridacna and sea snails fought over their territories.

He first redefined a new name for the tridacna and sea snails—"Hei Chequ" and "Fen Hai Luo"—and classified both types of shells as sea monsters.

The reason was simple, the largest Hei Chequ actually brimmed with magic power and could cast magic—a Water Bullet.

On its own, it battled the strongest among the three Fen Hai Luo, clashing Water Whirlpools and Water Bullets. The seabed rocks shattered and splashed, darkening the water hazy. In the end, when all four sea monsters were utterly exhausted, Ake effortlessly rushed out and ended their lives. On other battlefields, the Fen Hai Luo and Hei Chequ also determined a victor.

Indeed, the Hei Chequ managed to repel the Fen Hai Luo's attack, but it was gravely damaged and had to cede half of Black Pearl Lake's territory to the Fen Hai Luo.

"Brother, Ake discovered that Hei Chequ and Fen Hai Luo are very smart. When they saw Ake hunting many large Hei Chequ and Fen Hai Luo, they stopped fighting voluntarily. The Hei Chequ left behind many small Hei Chequ, and the Fen Hai Luo left behind many small Fen Hai Luo, then they both retreated."

The young Hei Chequ and Fen Hai Luo had little value when harvested.

"So, Black Pearl Lake is actually more like a nursery for young shells?" Liszt was curious about this behavior.

The large Hei Chequ and Fen Hai Luo obviously didn't live in Black Pearl Lake; they survived in the surrounding deep sea, leaving their offspring to breed in Black Pearl Lake—the place was once the Hei Chequ's breeding ground, but now it had obviously lost half to the Fen Hai Luo.

Thus, continuing to call it Black Pearl Lake was no longer suitable.

"Ake, what do you think we should call this marine lake, Hei Fen Lake or Pearl Lake?" Liszt inquired.

Ake tilted her head and thought about it: "Brother, Hei Fen sounds so unpleasant. Let's call it Pearl Lake, both Hei Chequ and Fen Hai Luo can produce beautiful pearls." She held a black pearl as big as a sea bowl and a pink pearl as big as an egg, with stars twinkling in her eyes.

Women always seem to have no resistance to pearls and gemstones—even though they were just materials Liszt provided for her to study magic arrays.

As a Grand Magician, studying magic had become secondary, but researching magic arrays was the real deal.

After confirming the name of the marine lake formed by the coral reef as "Pearl Lake," Liszt took his leave, reminding Ake to frequently check on the situation at Pearl Lake regarding the Hei Chequ and Fen Hai Luo. One was to determine the breeding times of the two shell sea monsters, and the other was to await their next battle.

The territory conflict was far from over, and the next time, it might be another brilliant harvest.

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The story of the shell sea monsters at the Coral Reef and Pearl Lake comes to an end.

But the work related to seafood was not over yet, as Liszt visited Oyster Village every day, identifying the shallow water seafood that the fishermen brought up.

The species of shallow water seafood were obviously richer than those of the beach.

Not only were there more shellfish, shrimps, and crabs, but there were also many novel creatures.

There was a strange fish with a very good texture, which Liszt named "Xia Chan," and it had already become one of the castle's daily dishes; a strange black bump covered with soft spikes, named sea cucumber, also became a daily dish; and a squishy, eight-legged little thing with its legs and head joined together, named squid, became yet another daily dish.

Mrs. Abbie was now busy figuring out how to cook these seafood delicacies every day.

And the fishermen of Oyster Village were figuring out how to quickly catch these shallow-water seafood.

Unfortunately.

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Liszt called for the Smoke Mission several times but did not see it completed.

It was still the original Serpent Script content: "Mission: The fishermen of Oyster Village are no longer afraid of the shallow waters near the shore and dare to dive into the seabed to gather seafood. However, they do not recognize all the seafood. As a seafood enthusiast, why not guide the fishermen in identifying the delicacies of the sea? Reward: Mutated Rubber Tree."

Until today.

On September 5th, right after a torrential rain, the fishermen of Oyster Village couldn't wait to go out to sea to fish. At dusk, they brought back new seafood.

They came to the Castle to have Liszt identify it.

Liszt saw an ugly shell.

At first glance, the shell seemed like just a shell with flesh attached to it, very unattractive. Yet, he was excited, for he had seen and eaten this kind of seafood on Earth. It is a very precious delicacy, known as "the gold on the table, the crown of sea treasures" — to put it plainly, it is abalone.

The value of abalone on Earth is indescribable.

As for whether the abalone in this world has such rich nutritional value, one only needs to taste it a few times to find out. After completing the toxicity test for the abalone, Liszt immediately had Mrs. Abbie focus on cooking abalone — he roughly provided some ideas, such as frying the abalone with oyster sauce and seasonings, and mixing it all to cook.

Soon, a fragrant dish of oyster sauce braised abalone was freshly prepared.

The butler served the oyster sauce braised abalone on the table, and the butler poured Liszt a glass of wine from the estate's Brewing Workshop. Then, he could start eating.

His utensil was a pair of chopsticks; he always used chopsticks when eating privately.

He disliked using a knife and fork.

Picking up a tender piece of abalone meat, he placed it in his mouth and chewed for a moment: "Not bad, the texture is smooth and delicate, although the oyster sauce flavor is a bit strong. Next time, we should use less to let the natural flavor of the abalone come through." After consuming several pieces of abalone, he announced with lingering enjoyment that abalone would become a regular dish at the Castle.

Lobster, crab, clams, mantis shrimp, razor clams, oysters, sea cucumbers, squid, pawn, conch, abalone, dried fish — and occasionally soft-shelled turtles and geoducks — these had all been added to the Castle's menu.

Currently, the estate could essentially rely on the sea for sustenance.

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When abalone officially made it onto the dining table,

the long-awaited Smoke Mission finally changed.

"Mission completed, reward: Fruiting Mutated Rubber Tree."

The new mission was also promptly released: "Mission: Two secondhand sailboats will soon join the estate's fleet, taking on the cargo transport task between Black Horse Island and Fresh Flower Town. Consultant Goltai, who purchased the sailboats, seems to have brought some very good news. Please seize this information. Reward: Mutated Variety Corn Grass."

"The fruiting mutated variety of the Rubber Tree, if things go as expected, should be a rubber tree bred by the new Cordyceps, a rubber tree that bears fruit — the Rubber Fruit Tree."

Liszt speculated in his mind: "As for the mutated variety of Corn Grass, this time, it should be the turn of the corn cobs, right?"

First, there was the corn similar to sorghum, followed by the oil-rich corn. The direction of the evolution of Corn Grass obviously still includes corn cobs.

"Actually, I suspect this is a chain mission about the Corn Grass Elf Bug, could it be that the Corn Grass Elf Bug is about to evolve?" he suddenly thought but then quickly denied himself, "It probably isn't, the Corn Grass Elf Bug hasn't been around for long, and there is no 'restlessness.' What's restless are the Rubber Bug triplets."

Conveniently, this time's fruiting mutated Rubber Tree also seemed to be a part of a chain mission: "Could it be that what's really about to evolve is the Rubber Bug triplets?"

Chapter 442 Must-Have Both Bugs

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Regardless of whether the Corn Grass Bug or the Rubber Bug can evolve into Little Minor Elves, the Smoke Mission must be completed.

Liszt had no time to go to Black Horse Island again to observe the mutated rubber trees bearing fruit; he delegated the task to Captain Kostor to complete it—if mature rubber trees bearing fruit were found, that would be great; if not, the rubber trees were definitely just sprouting near the new Cordyceps.

In any case, these newly sprouted rubber trees are worth promoting vigorously.

"Levis's wedding is on September 12th, and there is only one week left. I must go to Tulip Castle to help out, or else people will talk," he ordered his servants to pack his bags, preparing to head to Tulip Castle first thing tomorrow morning.

Nightfall.

Fresh Flower Port finally welcomed two old two-masted cargo sailing ships, and Goltai returned with them.

"My lord, the two cargo ships have been purchased; one was phased out by the Tulip Fleet, the other by the Beer Castle Fleet. However, they're quite damaged and require us to refurbish them. The two old ships cost a total of 652 Gold Coins, and here are the remaining coins," he said.

After taking the Gold Coins, Liszt handed them to Butler Carter to count and said, "The task of repairing the cargo ships is also yours. With rubber and Thorn Ironwood, it won't be very difficult. Try to refurbish them to the best possible condition. Moreover, one is called Mangrove Number, and the other... Pearl."

The names of the ships were just simple codes; he didn't bother to think too hard about them.

After that, he began to inquire, "Consultant Gao Ertai, during this purchase of the ships, have you gathered any interesting information or experiences outside?"

Goltai suddenly said, "My lord, I almost forgot, there's some good news you'll definitely like!"

The contents of the Smoke Mission arrived.

Liszt smiled and asked, "What good news?"

"Viscount Jonas of Shattered Stone Castle has discovered two newly born Elf Bugs in his territory, one is a Dragon Kui Elf Bug, the other is a Venus Flytrap Spirit Worm. He plans to sell them to offset the losses from the Iron Hoof Island campaign," Goltai said excitedly. "These two Elf Bugs, one costs 1,500 Gold Coins, the other 1,200 Gold Coins. My lord, do you need them?"

Dragon Kui Bug?

Venus Flytrap Worm?

Liszt's eyebrows lifted; he was determined to get the Dragon Kui Bug—the recent batch of Auxiliary Magic Medicine Dragon Hollyhocks were about to mature, and although their effects were not yet clear, it was a magic potion and was bound to have substantial value. The territory had only one Dragon Kui Bug, tending a little over a hundred acres of land.

Another Dragon Kui Bug meant another hundred acres could be cultivated.

No matter how much magic potion was grown, it would always seem too little, so the greatest value of an Elf Bug is reflected in whether there is a magic potion to cultivate.

"1,500 Gold Coins for a Dragon Kui Bug is a bit expensive. Teacher Goltai, you set aside the repair work on Mangrove Number and Pearl for now and focus entirely on this Dragon Kui Bug. I want to buy it! My bottom line is 1,200 Gold Coins; every time you cut down ten Gold Coins from the price, you may take one Gold Coin as a commission," he said.

After hearing this, Goltai's eyes gleamed, "My lord, please rest assured, I am best at these matters, I can definitely secure the Dragon Kui Bug for 1,200 Gold Coins!"

"I look forward to you bringing the Dragon Kui Bug back."

"By the way, my lord, do you need the Venus Flytrap Worm?"

"If I can buy it for 800 Gold Coins, then I'll take it, otherwise forget it... Similarly, for every ten Gold Coins you cut down, you may take one as a commission," said Liszt after a moment's thought, knowing what Venus Flytraps were. Some nobles would place a pot or two of Venus Flytraps in their bedrooms to catch mosquitoes.

But in fact, the Venus Flytrap's catching efficiency had no real effect on clearing mosquitoes, at most it was merely a curiosity.

Indeed, all Elf Bugs are beautiful little creatures, but such a useless Elf Bug, costing more than 800 Gold Coins, still felt like poor value to him.

For the completion of the Smoke Mission.

He was willing to spend Gold Coins and buy this Venus Flytrap Worm as well.

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However, once he had made the decision, he quickly massaged his temples, "Dragon Kui Bugs will be 1,200 Gold Coins, Venus Flytrap Worms will be 800 Gold Coins, that's 2,000 Gold Coins altogether... Where am I supposed to get that much money? Could it really be that I must borrow from my grandmother?"

Borrowing money was not something that came easily.

Had it not been for Li Vera taking the initiative to offer him a loan, he would have decided to sell the Crimson Blood Sword. Even with Tulip Castle being wealthy, he was merely using the income from his properties as collateral to obtain Gold Coins in advance, not actually borrowing money. Deep down, he was not used to asking others for money.

But he could not afford to miss out on the Dragon Kui Bugs and Venus Flytrap Worms.

"Huff," he exhaled a breath of turbid air and instructed Butler Carter, "Mr. Carter, please prepare some Fen Hai Luo meat. Send one portion to the Earl and Earless, and another to my grandmother."

"Sir, what amount do you think is appropriate?"

"Five pounds... no, make it ten pounds each." Ten pounds was almost equivalent to the size of a basin full of Fen Hai Luo meat, and it hurt to give away a whole basin-sized Fen Hai Luo at once.

But he was embarrassed to repeat what he had done back then, only giving five pounds of the Six-Headed King Serpent, which weighed several tons, to the Earl.

The Earl had made fun of him for that several times.

"Also, pick out the smallest Black Pearls and string them into a necklace as a gift for my grandmother, to thank her for providing me with Fig Bugs," he added.

Carter bowed and left, "As you wish, sir."

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The task of finding the Rubber Tree was given to Kostor; negotiating for the Dragon Kui Bugs and Venus Flytrap Worms was assigned to Goltai; the repair work for Mangrove Number and Pearl was handed over to Isaiah.

Liszt did this the next morning.

Carrying the two gifts, he headed towards Tulip Castle.

After the Earl received him in his study, he teased in a bantering tone, "How many pounds of Magical Beast Meat have you brought me this time?"

"Ten pounds... but not Magical Beast Meat, it's Sea Monster meat, from a low-level Sea Monster called Fen Hai Luo. These ten pounds are all the meat from the largest Fen Hai Luo," he replied with a well-intentioned lie. In fact, the largest ones were three Fen Hai Luo the size of bathing tubs.

The Earl didn't lack for eating low-level Magical Beast Meat; he just wanted a taste.

"It seems that you've had quite some gains recently," the Earl remarked, sounding quite satisfied with the ten pounds of Fen Hai Luo meat.

"I haven't had much in the way of gains recently, not one Elf Bug, and what's more, I even borrowed eight hundred Gold Coins from my sister."

"You think Elf Bugs are as common as wheat, that they're found everywhere?"

"Actually, I believe that Elf Bugs are not as rare as all that. Father, based on my observations over this past year, I've found that the birth rate of Elf Bugs can be influenced," Liszt decided to share some information with his father, to bring more Elf Bugs to the family.

As the family grew stronger, he would gain better protection, therefore, his mindset was continually changing.

Learning to share some not-so-important experiences to help develop the family.

"How can it be influenced?" The Earl was clearly interested, sitting up straight with an eager, attentive posture. The importance of Elf Bugs to the territory was something every Landlord deeply understood.

Liszt didn't mince his words.

He went straight to the point, "I'm not sure about the gestation rate of Elf Bugs, but I know most Elf Bugs actually die from miscarriage. What we need to do, is to detect any abnormalities in plants as early as possible and then increase the nutrition supply."

Chapter 443 No One Visits a Temple Without a Cause

"Increase the supply of nutrients? Just like you do in your fief, collecting dung and then using it to water the plants... Sorry, Liszt, many people don't understand your practices in the territory," the Earl said with a frown.

Liszt calmly stated, "I've heard people call me the 'Baron Feces-Vegetable' behind my back, and even refer to Fresh Flower Town as 'Dung Town.' This is just their ignorance. You know the Triangle Theory of magicians, which posits that matter, magic power, and spirit are a cycle. In fact, nature itself is the biggest cycle."

"Explain in detail."

"Let me give you an example. A blade of grass sprouts from the ground and is eaten by a sheep. After digesting the food, the sheep produces dung, and where there is dung, grass often grows lushly. That's because the invisible microorganisms break down the dung, and it becomes nutrients for plants. In this way, a complete biological chain is formed."

Next.

Liszt had to recall the biology knowledge he learned in high school and junior high school to answer the Earl's bizarre questions.

Answering questions such as "Why does grass rely on dung to grow," "Sheep are consumers, so did they pay any money," "What does photosynthesis mean, the sun is very hot now, am I also photosynthesizing," "How can you ensure that sheep must defecate for grass, they could just as well do it for trees," and so on.

In the end, there was no need for Liszt to summarize.

The Earl had already concluded, "So, the vegetables grown from dung are the most delicious?"

"Yes, father, you could try it on your own land. The flourishing development of Fresh Flower Town speaks for itself. Others might call me Baron Feces-Vegetable, but now I am the young Viscount and an Elite Earth Knight, and my territory has more than twenty Elf Bugs and two Little Minor Elves!"

"You are indeed favored by knightly glory."

"I am certainly favored by knightly glory, but as you can see, aside from knightly glory, scientific farming methods are very beneficial as well," Liszt asserted.

The Earl pondered for a moment and said, "You make some sense. I will try farming with dung on my land; the food that the serfs eat can all be tried out. However, for the food eaten at Tulip Castle, I will only choose food farmed by the elves, which is the truly reassuring choice."

With that said.

Whether the Earl believed him or not, Liszt didn't say more.

After all, they were not real family, and he still had a barrier in his heart towards the Earl and the others.

Not seeing Levis, who had already gone out to invite guests, Liszt left the study and went straight to the small castle next to Coral City to give a gift to his grandmother. Li Vera was also there.

\She was almost always either at Tulip Castle or the small castle and seldom returned to her own fief.

"Sister, you're here too. Just in time. I brought some freshly caught low-level sea monster meat for grandmother, a full ten pounds of it. You and grandmother can taste it together," Liszt instructed the servants to deliver the Fen Hai Luo meat to the kitchen of the small castle.

"Have you come to Tulip Castle to help?" Li Vera asked.

"Yes."

Lady Penelope was delighted to see her grandson, "The Son of Glory in our family has brought me meat, and it's from a low-level sea monster at that, which warms this old lady's heart... If your mother had shown such gestures, I think she could have been counted as a qualified Earless."

"In fact, I've not only brought sea monster meat for you, grandmother, but also a Black Pearl Necklace that can calm and soothe the mind." He took a box from a servant, from which he retrieved a necklace that resembled prayer beads made of black pearls.

"Is this the Black Pearl, the kind that can disperse Wind Attribute Magic Power?" Li Vera exclaimed, "It's truly beautiful, such a bright shade of black. Although it's not a gemstone, it's rounder than ordinary jade or crystal. Such a necklace is simply stunning!"

Liszt placed the Black Pearl Necklace around Lady Penelope's neck, "It really suits your temperament, grandmother."

"I'm over seventy years old, what temperament do I have left?" Although she said this, Lady Penelope still rose and went to stand in front of a mirror.

He looked carefully in the mirror, contentedly admiring the black pearl necklace around his neck.

Meanwhile, Li Vera was pulling Liszt and asking, "Do you have any more black pearl necklaces?"

"I'm sorry, sister, gathering so many black pearls is not easy. I believe that by your birthday next year, I will surely have assembled a new black pearl necklace to give you as a gift," he said.

Li Vera revealed a satisfied smile.

Very soon.

Lady Penelope had already admired the black pearl necklace and hung it around her neck, opting not to take it off again—perhaps out of fear that her granddaughter might take it from her.

She sat down, smiling, and said, "Tell me, Liszt, what are you planning to take from your grandmother?"

"I simply came to give you a gift," he claimed.

"If you had only brought me the meat of a low-level sea monster, I would believe you had no ulterior motive, but such a necklace clearly has more than just a simple purpose."

"Alright, nothing gets past you, Grandmother," Liszt coughed. "I wonder if you've heard about Viscount Jonas planning to sell two Elf Bugs to relieve the financial pressures of his domain. One is a Dragon Hollyhock Bug, the other, a Venus Flytrap Worm. I wish to buy them, but I am short on money."

The meaning was clear.

Lady Penelope directly asked, "How much do you need?"

"I estimate that around two thousand gold coins should suffice to acquire these two Elf Bugs, so, Grandmother, if you could lend me two thousand gold coins, that would be enough," he responded.

"Two thousand gold coins is no small sum. Are you really intending to buy these two Elf Bugs? The Dragon Hollyhock Bug is at least somewhat useful; its fruit is edible. But the Venus Flytrap Worm is utterly useless, only serving as a decorative pot plant," Lady Penelope remarked.

The medicinal varieties of Dragon Hollyhock were still a secret; nobody knew the Dragon Hollyhock also gave birth to magic potions.

Therefore, the value of Dragon Hollyhock Bugs remained low.

"I need them, and to me, every Elf Bug can be of great value if utilized properly. Just like my Thorn Minor Elf Jela, it used to be a mere Thorn Bug but now has become the brightest gem of my domain."

"Since you've made up your mind, very well, I will arrange the two thousand gold coins as soon as possible," Lady Penelope agreed to lend the coins, then added, "The interest on two thousand gold coins can't match this black pearl necklace, which is more precious than White Pearls. So, you should take another potted plant as well."

Every time he visited his grandmother.

He never left empty-handed; taking a potted plant was a must.

With hopeful anticipation, Liszt walked out to the balcony and, using his Eye of Magic, carefully inspected the potted plants. However, he was disappointed to find not a single plant showed any signs of magic power.

So.

He accepted the situation and chose a healthy-looking blueberry plant that seemed somewhat useful.

Blueberries were quite common and tasty. This particular blueberry plant was laden with fruit, and he planned to try planting some on Black Horse Island.

"I will take this potted plant with me when I return to Fresh Flower Town. For now, I will trouble you to continue taking care of it, Grandmother," he said.

With that.

The gold coins had been borrowed, and he only had to wait to get his hands on the two Elf Bugs.

Chapter 444 The Water Attribute Calming Sea Pearl

At Tulip Castle, Liszt quickly immersed himself in preparing for the wedding.

However, he didn't have much work to do, as Tulip Castle had hundreds of servants who could manage tasks smoothly. Besides the Earl, Lady Marie also held decision-making power; there was no need for family members with their own fiefs to come and make decisions.

Liszt didn't want to compete with Lady Marie for power in the castle either; he just occasionally supervised the progress of the wedding preparations to ensure everything was in order for his brother Levis.

Most of the time, he was remotely directing the development of his territory.

Knights traveling between Fresh Flower Town and Tulip Castle reported to him the progress of the territorial development every day. They also brought fresh foods such as Dragon Breed Milk.

The Mangrove and Pearl were undergoing major repairs at Fresh Flower Port. The process mainly involved removing the damaged wooden planks and replacing them with new Thorn Ironwood, then using Rubber Tree wood to glue them together—this repair method was low-tech but highly effective, as the adhesive strength of rubber was formidable.

Even without removing the old wood and simply using rubber and wood to fill the holes, the two old sailboats could be as good as new.

In fact, with the reinforcement from rubber, the performance of the former Fresh Flower Vessel and Thorn Number had already surpassed that of new ships, with no wear and tear.

News about the Rubber Trees arrived three days later.

After Captain Kostor returned to Black Horse Island, he didn't find any fruit-bearing Rubber Trees, but near that new Cordyceps, he saw many Rubber Tree saplings just sprouting. Following Liszt's previous instructions, Administrative Officer Blair organized a workforce to dig out these saplings and replanted them in rows around the Cordyceps.

It could be confirmed that these saplings were indeed the Rubber Fruit Trees rewarded by the Smoke Mission.

On another note, Chris Truth also had good news. In the letter delivered by the knights, she explained that she had figured out the effects of the Pink Pearl—it could disperse the surrounding water-attribute magic power.

The Black Pearl from the Hei Chequ could disperse the surrounding wind attribute magic power; the Pink Pearl from the Fen Hai Luo could disperse the surrounding water attribute magic power.

Once that egg-sized Pink Pearl was turned into magic equipment, it could roughly disperse all water-attribute magic power within a hundred-meter radius. Such an effect combined with a Calming Sea Pearl made from a Black Pearl could almost negate all storms and sea waves at sea, allowing ships to sail smoothly.

"To think it has such a powerful effect. Is this specifically prepared for my upcoming era of navigation?" Liszt, looking at the content of the letter, was overwhelmed with excitement.

The Calming Sea Pearl was already strong, suppressing all storms, and now with the Pink Pearl, suppressing all the sea waves as well.

So, apart from sea monsters, what else could be fearsome at sea—the most crucial point is that Virginia Truth, residing within the Soul Storage Vessel, had already described the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique. When this technique is used in future shipbuilding, even sea monsters need not be feared at sea.

"With this, the obstacles of storms, waves, and sea monsters are all eliminated. Can I lead a fleet, leave the Sea of Azure Waves for the Devil's Sea where devils lurk, cross the Devil's Sea, and explore further worlds?"

What lies beyond the Devil's Sea?

Liszt had a vague guess—he surmised that on the other side was where the Children of the Sun lived, as mentioned in the drifting bottle. It was also the world described in the diary of Old Phil from the Tanners' Shop, who was the ancestor of his friend, Philip, Descendant of the Sun.

It's worth mentioning that Liszt had already learned all of the Sun Script recorded in the diary.

Though complex, it contained a set of patterns, convincing him that such sophisticated and regular script could only be created by a highly developed civilization.

Unfortunately,

The amount of Sun Script recorded by Philip was too limited, and this vocabulary was not enough for reading and writing.

"Once I figure out the Magic Power drive and how to harness the fore-and-aft sails, along with the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique, as well as the 'Calming Wind Pearl' and 'Calming Water Pearl,' nothing in the Devil's Sea will stop me!" He had already decided to turn the Pink Pearl into a new Calming Sea Pearl, using "Wind" and "Water" as suffixes to differentiate from the Black Pearl products.

Feeling cheerful, he sent a letter back to Chris, asking her to continue the research on the Pink Pearl to see if she could create a Calming Water Pearl following the Calming Wind Pearl's example.

Chris wasn't very skilled at making Magic Equipment, so if it didn't work out, Liszt would still have to invite Granney Truth to do the job.

The letter was handed to a knight to deliver back.

Liszt sat by the round table in the Tulip Castle garden, feeling that his transmigrated life was essentially worry-free, aside from being a bit poor.

Ever since the Smoke Mission began, good news kept coming.

He couldn't help but marvel at the mighty force of fate; with just a small nudge, he really became like the Son of Glory.

However, before he could finish his reflection, another knight from Fresh Flower Town came with more good news, "Lord Landlord, Consultant Gao Ertai has sent a letter."

He opened the letter.

The contents were straightforward; after discussions with Viscount Jonas, Gao Ertai had finalized the prices for the Dragon Kui Bug and the Venus Flytrap Worm. He had managed to get the Dragon Kui Bug's price down to eleven hundred Gold Coins and the Venus Flytrap Worm's price down to seven hundred Gold Coins, which was two hundred Gold Coins less than Liszt's bottom line.

Of course, it was actually one hundred and eighty Gold Coins less, since he had to give Gao Ertai a commission of twenty Gold Coins.

After reading the letter.

Liszt immediately took the two thousand Gold Coins he had borrowed from his grandmother and rushed to Shattered Stone City. Upon arriving, he was promptly welcomed by Viscount Jonas into Shattered Stone Castle.

"If it weren't for the tight turnover of funds, I would really hate to sell these two Elf Bugs. It's rare for the knight's glory to shine upon us, spawning two Elf Bugs in a month, and yet they have to be sold for cash." After the courtesy, Viscount Jonas complained directly, "It's truly heart-wrenching!"

"With this year's Pioneer Mandate, we can go to the Eagle Kingdom to plunder resources and make up for the losses."

"Are you also taking part in the Pioneer Mandate?"

"That's what I'm preparing for."

"Without any surprises, since you have the Intermediate Magic Beast Dorsen, you can work with the Earl to be invincible in warfare. Gaining military exploits should not be difficult for you. I can't even begin to guess how far you'll go in the future," Jonas exclaimed in amazement.

Liszt smiled: "Let's take it one step at a time. My territory is still in very poor shape, to tell you the truth. To buy your two Elf Bugs, I had to borrow the Gold Coins from my grandmother."

They engaged in a brief exchange of laments about their financial woes.

The transaction formally took place.

After paying the agreed amount of one thousand eight hundred Gold Coins, Viscount Jonas took Liszt to the Elf Bugs' Cordyceps site, allowing Liszt to form contracts successfully. Once the Cordyceps were collected, he stayed at Shattered Stone Castle for lunch. In the afternoon, Liszt hurried back to Tulip Castle.

His brother Levis had returned from the outer islands, and accompanying him was the eldest legitimate son of the Golden Wheat Sheaf Family, Roger Golden Wheat.

Chapter 445 Cousin Needs Help

Roger Golden Wheat Sheaf's arrival was a prelude to that of his sister, Loria Gold Wheat Ear, but the Tulip Family had already made all the necessary arrangements.

The detached castle in Birch City would serve as a temporary residence for the bride.

An Earl's daughter marrying a Viscount's son certainly couldn't match the scale of a Grand Duke's daughter's wedding. The Tulip Family's financial and material resources also couldn't compare to that of the Long Taro Family, but the festivities would not be lacking.

As the wedding day approached.

Nobles on good terms with the Tulip Family began to arrive in droves. Among them, the most distinguished were the Mesiro Couple, bringing along newlyweds Cousin Meioubao and Princess Angela.

Tulip Castle became increasingly lively, and Liszt was so busy he hardly had a moment to rest. He was naturally a member of the groomsmen's party and also had the responsibility of receiving guests. Moreover, he had to endure the harassment from female guests—there were always bold and spicy Noblewomen who admired his looks.

As a single Noble, such harassment was inevitable.

But these were not the sources of his worry, nor was it the awkwardness of potentially seeing Rona Sally Golden Wheat, once romantically ambiguous with him, accompanying the bride back to Coral Island.

His real worry was brought on by Meioubao.

Or to be precise,

It was caused by the Smoke Mission, which made every encounter with his cousin exceptionally awkward, and his heart was a mess of confusion and entanglement, like a bundle of knotted yarn.

"Liszt, Liszt?" Meioubao patted his shoulder, "What are you thinking about? Angela is asking you what kind of Noblewoman you like. She knows many Noblewomen of marriageable age and could help you find a match."

Next to Meioubao, Princess Angela was looking at him with a smile on her face.

Liszt came back to his senses and with a look known only to himself, glanced at the newlywed couple in front of him and laughed, "Sorry, I was just thinking that I have two Elf Bugs that I haven't had time to place with Cordyceps, so I got a bit distracted. By the way, did the Grand Duke give you a Greater Elf?"

Meioubao responded grumpily, "It's an Oat Greater Elf, but let's not talk about Greater Elves now. We're discussing what kind of Noblewoman you like."

Angela also spoke up, "Liszt, you're different from Meioubao and Levis; you can't inherit a peerage. Marrying a Noblewoman wouldn't just help with the development of your estate, but also with your advancement in peerage. Grandfather said you have great potential, but having a Noblewoman as your wife could further ensure the realization of that potential."

"Let's take it as it comes. I'm still young. For now, I want to focus on my cultivation. I need to build a solid foundation so that in the future I can break free from the shackles of the earth," Liszt gave an excuse, "When the day comes that I want to find a Noblewoman to expand my family, I will definitely ask for your help, Angela."

Seeing the couple so concerned about his marriage, Liszt felt even more conflicted inside.

But soon,

He decided within his heart to cut through the chaos quickly, forsaking the new Smoke Mission—just two days ago, after he contracted the Dragon Kui Bug and Venus Flytrap Worm, he completed the Smoke Mission.

"Mission completed, reward Mutated Variety Corn Grass."

The reward set his mind racing; a fruit mutation sounded like the Corn Grass really had mutated into corn cobs. He immediately ordered Blair to keep a close watch on the Corn Grass fields to find the new mutated variety.

The subsequent updated Smoke Mission,

Caused him to be conflicted for two whole days.

"Mission: Continuation of the bloodline is of utmost importance for a Noble family. Your older brother, Levis, is about to enter into matrimony and spread the family's branches, but your cousin seems to have encountered some trouble. His marital relations with Angela Sapphire are not harmonious, and he may need your help. Reward: Piano scores from Meioubao's collection."

This time, the Smoke Mission contained a rich amount of information.

Marital disharmony,

Was understandable,

But needing his help left Liszt puzzled; how could he possibly help with someone else's marital issues? This was why he was conflicted—if it had been anyone else, given Angela's status and appearance, he wouldn't have been tormented and would readily have offered his help.

However, Meioubao was his own cousin, and they were close.

As he grew closer to the moral standards of this world, he still couldn't bring himself to engage in such scandalous and incestuous behavior, and so he decided to cut through the chaos quickly: "I've been studying the piano recently, and Meioubao, I remember you have a collection of piano scores. How about giving me one?"

"No problem,"

Meioubao agreed immediately.

This relieved Li Si Te (Liszt), grateful that the task reward was merely a piano score, which he could possess to change the mission.

If the reward had been a Little Minor Elf or information related to Fire Dragon Bones, his sense of morality might have tormented him—there would be no choice but to feed himself to the tiger.

...

The internal conflict unraveled.

Li Si Te (Liszt) returned to his usual indifference, but he couldn't help thinking that Cousin Meioubao's head would inevitably turn green—without a harmonious life, problems would arise sooner or later.

All he could do was wish the Long Taro Family could maintain the purity of their bloodline as much as possible.

The morning before the wedding day.

The official fleet of Golden Island finally docked at Coral City Port.

Marquis Roderick and his spouse, along with the nobles from Golden Island who had come to attend the wedding and their daughter about to be married, Loria Golden Wheat Sheaf, headed for the separate castle in Birch City. They would stay overnight in Birch City and come to Tulip Castle tomorrow to attend the wedding.

As the second son of the Tulip Family, Li Si Te (Liszt) needed to serve as a groomsman.

The group of groomsmen consisted of familiar faces: Cousin Rolie Pinecone from Aunt Melinda's home, the son of Viscount Trick, Aubrey Lycra, and three barons' sons.

Only unmarried men could serve as groomsmen.

Similarly, only unmarried women could serve as bridesmaids.

Rona Sally Golden Wheat, Loria's sister, was among the bridesmaids. There were inevitably face-to-face encounters when they took time to practice the wedding procedures.

"Hi, Li Si Te (Liszt),"

"Hello, Rona Sally,"

"I heard from my brother that you have been titled Viscount for your military achievements, congratulations." Rona Sally said with a smile, "You own your own island now, is it a city?"

"Black Horse Island, right next to Coral Island."

"That must be a beautiful island."

"Beautiful is yet to be seen, it's just an undeveloped desert island. I've built a small town on it, and then ran out of money to develop it any further."

"Difficulties will always pass, right?"

"Exactly."

Then there was no more conversation to follow, and the day ended just like that, with the rehearsal leaving everyone exhausted.

...

Night.

Inside a guest room at Tulip Castle, Meioubao, having bathed and changed, returned to the bedroom. Looking at Angela, who was already lying in bed, he couldn't help feeling exhilarated, "Angela, in this new environment, do you feel all fired up? I believe with a bit more effort, we will have our own bundle of love."

"I look forward to it, bearing an heir for the Long Taro Family is my unshirkable duty," Angela replied with a smile, but her eyes showed a hint of an unusual expression.

They had been trying for almost a month, and there was no sign of any movement in her stomach.

And she had inquired around—Meioubao, already twenty-five, had many lovers in the past, but he had never impregnated any of them, let alone fathered a child out of wedlock.

Chapter 446 The Ambition of the Four-Headed Dragon

The wedding was held as scheduled, with no unexpected complications.

Liszt presented his gift, a basketball-sized black pearl, which nearly made Levis's eyes pop out of his head, naturally leaving him utterly satisfied.

After the banquet.

The guests began to leave one after another.

Meioubao and Angela also prepared to leave. Before departing, Liszt repeatedly reminded them, "Cousin, don't forget to send your piano scores to me."

"Don't worry about it."

After seeing off his uncle and aunt's family, Liszt returned to Fresh Flower Town. He hadn't been back for several days and there were many affairs waiting to be dealt with—today was September 12th, and in two days, on the 14th, would be the Earl's birthday, so he would have to come back here again.

In short, socializing was very time-consuming.

By the time he got back to Fresh Flower Town, it was already dark. The Venus Flytrap Worms and the Dragon Kui Bugs were to be taken to Black Horse Island, where cordyceps would also be settled—he had arranged for people to develop a Dragon Kui Field and a small Venus Flytrap field on Black Horse Island when he decided to buy the two elf bugs.

"My lord, this is the newly discovered mutated Corn Grass. It looks very strange; its ear is very thick, resembling a stick." Isaiah showed Liszt the new Corn Grass using the light from a crystal lamp held by a castle servant, clearly pointing out the differences.

Originally, Corn Grass produced multiple ears, with each Corn Grass growing several of them, although they were very thin with only a few scattered seeds inside.

The current ear already resembled the shape of a corn cob, about as thick as a baby's arm and as long as two fingers.

Unfortunately, it was still not a magic potion, remaining a common plant. Liszt directly said, "Let's call it Stick Corn. Like Valley Corn and Oil Corn, protect their seeds. In the future, plant these types of corn extensively on Black Horse Island. Try to cultivate all the wasteland as much as possible."

No matter the growth, reaping even a little was good.

After returning to the castle, he carefully observed the Corn Grass Bug and found the little guy to be stable both emotionally and physically, with no signs of change, showing no potential for evolution.

Then he checked the Rubber Bug triplets.

Since one of them had shown restlessness once, the triplets had returned to their calm state, moving and feeling emotions in sync, as if they were one entity. They too showed no signs of wanting to evolve.

"Do you want to evolve or not?"

He muttered to himself, "If you're not evolving, then why are all the recent tasks related to elf bugs associated with you? And why are the related plants mutating every day?"

The Peanut Bug, Alfalfa Bug, Tulip Bug, Millet Bug, two Little Wheat Bugs, Tomato Bug, Fragrant Coconut Bug, Dragon Kui Bug, four Serpent Blood Fruit Bugs, Apple Bug, Barley Bug, Fig Bug, Blackberry Bug, Pea Bug, and Smoked Grass Bug, along with the Green Tea Tree Bug, were all honestly eating, drinking, and sleeping.

Jela also stayed honestly inside the castle, not going out.

It was too hot outside. With both Liszt and Ach not around, after picking on the Eight Tiny Ones to her heart's content, Jela had no choice but to lay low. However, she demanded a servant bring her cold water every day so she could soak in it and enjoy the coolness.

"Wu wa."

It raised its head and looked at Liszt, without moving.

Elves have quirky and diverse natures, with the majority not fond of community living, and many elves are naturally not friendly towards humans. It is only after forming a contract with humans that they become emotionally close to their bonded humans. Like Jela, it was clearly not a sociable elf kin to humans.

Its temperament was irritable and domineering, and it was prone to resort to violence at slight provocation, with only Liszt able to tame it.

...

Mr. Elkeson had delivered another batch of magic books, swindling Liszt out of more than ten gold coins.

To provide for magicians like Chris Truth, Paris, and Ach, he genuinely spared no expense. Ordinary magicians simply didn't have the financial strength to purchase so many magic books.

Nor were they willing to spend so much.

It was only Liszt who, with the belief that "knowledge is power" and "science and technology are the primary productive forces," valued books so highly.

Mr. Elkeson also brought a common Light System Magic spell—Strong Light Bullet.

"There are relatively few types of Light System Magic, and even fewer spell schemes available. Generally, only grand magicians research Light System Magic. Grand magicians usually don't lack

money, and magicians who lack funds generally don't have access to Light System Magic. Viscount, with my connections, it will be quite difficult to obtain more Light System Magic."

"A common Light System Magic spell for five gold coins, and an advanced Light System Magic spell for thirty gold coins, Mr. Elkeson, I am very sincere in my dedication to magic," Liszt said, greatly increasing the price from the original two gold coins for common magic and twenty for advanced magic.

Mr. Elkeson's eyes sparkled with excitement: "Rest assured, Viscount, I would run my legs off if I had to, in order to find more Light System Magic for you!"

Suckers were hard to find.

Willing to spend such a high price on Light System Magic.

While there was indeed an intent to train the Black Dragon Childe Paris to transition into a Light System Mage, deep down, Liszt couldn't help but harbor ambition for the Light Dragon—not all metal and gemstone dragons, which were highly sought after and protected by various countries, were easy to find, but Elemental Dragons were the most convenient.

He now had clues to four dragons.

One was the elusive Smoke Dragon, whose whereabouts and status, alive or dead, were unknown; one was the Formless Dragon that had left behind a Space Gem and might visit Fresh Flower Town again to savor the taste of Smoked Grass; one was the dead Fire Dragon, whose bones, if revived, might give birth to a new Fire Dragon.

The last one was the Light Dragon that had turned Paris into a Black Dragon Childe, living in Red Maple Mountain in Maple Leaf Duchy, yet to be hunted by dragon slayers.

There were others like the Sapphire Dragon and White Maw Iron Dragon, but those were dragons with owners and were difficult to obtain.

Of course.

Obtaining the Smoke Dragon, Formless Dragon, Light Dragon, and Fire Dragon was no less difficult than a pipe dream—at least, he had no idea how to successfully ride a dragon at the moment.

The ambition for the four dragons was merely a precautionary measure.

"What difference is there between a person without dreams and salted fish!" Liszt's dream was to ride a dragon through the nine heavens, fearless.

...

After separating out a batch of magic books for Chris Truth, Liszt inquired about the progress on the Pink Pearl research.

"Viscount, I may not be able to craft it into a magic equipment like the Calming Sea Pearl. The runes and the principle of the magic circle within it are not difficult, but the technical skills required are beyond my capability; I don't possess Mr. Grandini's exquisite crafting skills," Chris said apologetically.

"It doesn't matter; having Mr. Grandini craft the Calming Sea Pearl is just as well, though it will cost quite a bit more money."

"By the way, Viscount, I've crafted the Fen Hai Luo shells into the horns you require," Chris handed over a conch shell that looked like a large trumpet. "It's quite simple to make this magic equipment, and the effect is excellent. If I blow it here, the entire town can hear it."

"This is a wonderful thing; if you have spare time, you can craft all the Fen Hai Luo shells into horns, one for each ship... We'll call it the Conch Horn."

Chapter 447 Ach Picks Up an Elf Bug

With the Mangrove Number and Pearl being repaired and officially joining the naval fleet, along with the Thorn Number, these three twin-masted cargo sailboats were now sufficient to meet the shipping requirements between Black Horse Island and Fresh Flower Town.

Thus, the Fresh Flower Vessel became the exclusive sea vessel for Liszt and the Territory Officers to travel between the islands, which would dock at Fresh Flower Port when not in use.

When needed, it could set sail immediately without having to wait for the ships to return.

Upon arriving at Black Horse Island, the port town didn't show much change, the serfs had all been arranged to go and clear fields for farming, as well as to excavate underground volcanic glass—Liszt had required that before all the farmlands on Black Horse Island had been cleared, the extraction of volcanic glass must be completed.

Otherwise, once the fields were tilled and sown with crops, it would be difficult to turn the soil over for mining again.

In the rubber garden, row upon row of new tender rubber tree saplings were thriving, centered on the Rubber Tree Cordyceps. These were all new varieties continuously propagated by the cordyceps, and the Rubber Tree Cordyceps were still persistently breeding new rubber tree saplings, showing no signs of slowing down.

"Is it all set to propagate over a hundred acres of rubber garden saplings at one go?" Liszt looked at the current rubber garden with satisfaction.

It felt as if the land wasn't planted with rubber trees, but with fields of gold.

After inspecting the rubber garden, he quickly headed to the pasture—recently named the Black Horse Ranch. In Black Horse Ranch, Liszt changed mounts to Lightning and galloped towards the Burial Ground. At this time, the Burial Ground was heaped with a great amount of volcanic glass around the five revived Fire Dragon Bones.

All of them were volcanic glass that had not released Fire Dragon Magic Power.

"After the Earl's birthday is over, I must collect the Fire Dragon Magic Power here, and store all of it for any potential necessities," he thought.

Now was not the time for this task.

After touching the Fire Dragon Bones, which seemed unchanged, he still had no clear idea what these five bones were brewing, so he could only leave first.

He continued towards the northern part of the island to inspect the green tea garden—since the Green Tea Bug was introduced, the process of propagating green tea trees became simpler. Direct cuttings of the green tea tree branches were planted in the ground, and influenced by the Green Tea Bug Cordyceps, these cuttings easily sprouted and grew into new green tea trees.

The reason the world's agriculture was still using the primitive slash-and-burn method was due to Elf Bugs restricting human exploration of farming ideas—everyone was accustomed to planting crops rudely under the influence of cordyceps, and for landlords and serfs alike, lands without cordyceps were barren wastelands.

Liszt was determined to change all that.

Yet he would not be inventing fertilizers; at most he might use some organic fertilizer which resulted in him being nicknamed "Baron Feces-Vegetable."

"I have absolutely no clue how to invent fertilizer, only how to compost, adding a bit of nutrients to the farmland; I know even less about how to create pesticides, and if the crops get sick, I can only wait for them to die. However, I should not overlook another aspect—irrigation," he thought while looking at the small river flowing beside the green tea garden.

On Earth, China once experienced a natural disaster period where many people starved to death, but as efforts were concentrated on researching fertilizers and pesticides and constructing extensive irrigation systems, food production increased year by year. Coupled with the introduction of high-quality seeds from abroad, and improvements to seeds by agricultural experts like Li Zhen Sheng, the food and warmth crisis was finally overcome.

Fertilizer, pesticides, irrigation, seeds—in Liszt's view, these were the four means representing a rich harvest.

Now with no possibility for fertilizer or pesticides, seed improvement completely relied on Elves; the only thing left that his territory could achieve was probably the irrigation works.

"Once the Pioneer Mandate arrives, and a new batch of serfs is transported back to Black Horse Island, the first thing to do is to commence comprehensive irrigation to make rational use of the water resources on Black Horse Island," he planned.

With that, another item entered his agenda.

Indeed, there were so many projects he needed to push forward vigorously; nearly every industry required a ton of effort to complete. Alas, he dabbled in each industry but did not want to give up and had no manpower to develop further, so he had to struggle to keep them barely alive.

If serfs were able to move freely, he believed high welfare would attract a large number of migrants to settle.

However, serfs were the private property of the landlords and forbidden to move, while those freemen often did not regard agriculture as work; they were mostly craftsmen.

In many places, craftsmen lacked neither food nor drink.

They would not be attracted to Fresh Flower Town.

...

At Black Horse Island, he did not stay the night. That very night, he boarded the Fresh Flower Vessel to return to Fresh Flower Town. This was because the next day was the Earl's birthday, and he must hurry to Tulip Castle to celebrate his father's birthday.

Just as he was preparing to listen to the waves and sleep at sea for the night.

Suddenly, he heard a familiar horn sound—it was the Sea Sprite Ake calling him. Based on the tone and length of the horn sound, Liszt understood that Ake had some good news to share with him.

Under the current circumstances, of course, they could not meet.

So he immediately picked up the horn and blew his response—meet tomorrow morning at the Sea View Villa.

Sailing through the night.

He managed to return to Fresh Flower Port just before dawn, and without going back to the castle, Liszt went straight to the Sea View Villa. There he saw that Ake had already been waiting inside the villa—her swimming speed was so fast that she had returned here to rest for the night.

"Brother, you're back! Ake has wonderful things to share with you," she said.

"What kind of wonderful things? Did you catch another pearl?" he asked.

"No, not this time," Ake waved her hand from downstairs. Soon, the Mangrove Minor Elf Nami flew up, holding a plump Elf Bug in her arms.

And then stuffed the Elf Bug into Liszt's hands.

"Chirp,"

the Elf Bug tilted its head, looking at Liszt's pocket.

Seeing the Elf Bug, Liszt's eyes lit up and he immediately took out a peanut nougat candy and handed it to Nami.

"Chirp, chirp,"

Nami, holding the peanut nougat candy, happily flew to one side to savor her treat.

As he played with the somewhat nervous and anxious dark green Elf Bug, Liszt asked with surprise, "Ake, what is this Elf Bug?"

"It's a kind of plant that's very long, right around the Mangrove Forest on Mangrove Island, covering a vast area. Look, brother, I even brought one back," she said, gesturing with her hands to bind a dark green, slightly yellowing long strip-shaped plant with water and sending it into Liszt's hands.

Recognizing the familiar shape,

Liszt immediately realized, "This is kelp, you actually found a Kelp Elf Bug? Can the ocean also nurture Elf Bugs? Have you bonded with it already?"

"Um, I originally planned to catch it for you to bond with, brother, but it sneakily bit Ake, so Ake bonded with it," she replied.

"No matter, you bonding with it or me bonding with it makes no difference." Even the Sea Sprite Ake was considered Liszt's private property, so naturally, he didn't mind who bonded with the Kelp Elf Bug.

He was just very surprised.

Ocean plants could also give birth to Elf Bugs, which meant that this Kelp Bug lived in the ocean. After a closer inspection, he indeed noticed the Kelp Bug's differences, spotting two gill-like structures at the neck, probably the means by which it survived in the sea.

Indeed, elves are full of wonders.

Liszt passed the Kelp Bug back to Ake to put away, and with a painful yet joyful thought he mused, "Kelp is delicious food, and now, my territory will have another specialty... So far, no kelp has been found in the waters surrounding Coral Island. It's just a shame that for now we must let the kelp grow and perish naturally."

There's really a shortage of people.

Chapter 448 Praise at the Birthday Banquet

There are also Elf Bugs in the sea, a significant discovery.

Liszt couldn't help but contemplate how to obtain the ocean's Elf Bug resources—he could swim but not dive, and it was very tough to approach the Ocean Elf Bugs. Moreover, transferring Cordyceps into the sea was quite troublesome. Besides, the Cordyceps from the deep sea regions might not adapt to the shallow waters.

Even if the Cordyceps could adapt, the marine plants affected by them couldn't be relocated to coastal waters for cultivation—it would be a futile effort as these were marine plants that required certain habitats.

The current situation.

Even as an Elite Earth Knight known for consuming potions, he could not conquer the ocean.

But Sea Sprite Ake could do it, as she was a spirit of the ocean itself. She could easily contract any Elf Bug in the sea and move the Cordyceps at will.

As for his relationship with Ake, Liszt was never worried since they had an inseparable bond of kinship.

If he had to be wary of and distrust even Ake, life would be far too exhausting.

Of course.

For Elf Bugs that Liszt could contract, he still wanted to do it himself: "Ake, to manage the Elf Bugs more easily, from now on, when you find Elf Bugs in the shallow waters, be careful not to contract them. Leave them for me to contract, to fully utilize the Elf Bugs' potential."

"Mm, Ake understands."

"Also, when you play in the ocean, remember to pay extra attention to the various seaweeds. If you spot Elf Bugs, you must not let them slip away."

"Mm-hmm."

Since discovering the Elf Bugs in the ocean, Liszt had decided to heavily invest in Ake's development. In the future, he could rule the skies and the earth of his domain, and Ake would assist him in dominating the ocean.

...

For the Earl's birthday, Liszt also gifted a Black Pearl, though it was only the size of a sea bowl.

With the discovery of the Black Tridacna and Fen Hai Luo colonies, Black Pearls and Pink Pearls were no longer rare items. In fact, the Black Pearl, due to its abundant numbers, had significantly depreciated in Liszt's eyes. Now, he was only interested in Black Pearls larger than a basketball.

Because a basketball-sized Black Pearl, when made into a "Calming Wind Pearl," could disperse all Wind Attribute Magic Power within a hundred-meter radius, perfectly sheltering a sea vessel.

Smaller, and it wouldn't cover a ship sufficiently, naturally decreasing its value.

Hence, aside from giving the Levis couple a basketball-sized Black Pearl for their wedding, he chose to give Black Pearls of sea bowl size or smaller for other festive gifts.

Even more so, he had decided to recognize the Black Pearl as a commodity for external sale, to increase his domain's financial revenue.

"Smaller Black Pearls and Pink Pearls can be sold. The pearls capable of making Calming Wind Pearls and Calming Water Pearls must be kept as strategic resources... But the names Calming Wind Pearl and Calming Water Pearl seem a bit lengthy. It might be better to simply call them Calming Wind Pearl and Water Calming Pearl."

A Calming Wind Pearl and a Water Calming Pearl, along with a Dragonbone Stabilizer, together composed the Calming Sea Set.

...

Noon was time for a family banquet.

So no followers came.

The Earl sat at the head of the table, with Lady Marie on his right side. Lady Penelope sat in the middle of the long table, with Levis and Loria sitting in the center on the other side. Next to them was Loria's sister, Rona Sally, who would spend some time at Tulip Castle with her sister and was not in a hurry to return.

Li Vera and Li Si Te (Liszt) sat at the other end of the long table.

The noble banquet did not have a strict seating arrangement, aside from the host taking the seat of honor and nobles of equal rank sitting at the same table; other than that, there weren't many particularities. In fact, at a buffet, there weren't even designated seats—everyone ate wherever they felt comfortable. After all, everyone was a landlord with only a nominal colleague relationship.

In most countries, including the Duchy of Sapphire, there wasn't centralized power but rather a feudal distribution of territory.

Regardless of the size of the territory, unless it was a relationship between a lord and his followers, there were no entanglements between them; hence there was no need to be too concerned about the disparities in their statuses,

For instance, Marquis Roderick of Golden Island, one of the six marquises of the Grand Duchy, would be greeted by Liszt, but nothing more than a nod was necessary; he owed his allegiance solely to Earl Li Weiliam.

As Liszt attended more banquets,

he became increasingly accustomed to this system and its rules, gradually shedding his bureaucratic mindset. He wouldn't go weak at the knees just because the other party was a marquis, nor would he think he could boss someone around just because they were merely an Honored Knight—the rights of nobles were confined to their own territories.

"Having been busy with overseas endeavors for many years, birthdays were seldom celebrated, and since Lidun's birth, the family hadn't added any new tableware."

The earl raised his glass and said with a smile, "Now that Levis has married Loria, the Tulip Family's dining table can finally be adorned with a new set of tableware. My hope is to add a second set as soon as possible. In fact, I wish to have more tableware each year than the year before."

The second set of tableware naturally meant for Levis and Loria to hurry and have children.

Even though the monogamy limited the number of nobles' offspring, the Nobles still hoped to have numerous descendants to carry on the family lineage.

"Father, Loria and I will work hard to provide the family with more children," Levis raised his glass and casually responded.

"It is your duty, not just to be taken lightly but to be treated as something even more important than seizing glory on the battlefield."

After advising the Levis couple, the earl turned to Li Vera: "My daughter, you are already twenty years old. You have your own thoughts, and I shall not interfere. However, I hope that you will take action soon, attend more social balls, meet more young nobles, and select a suitable partner."

"Of course, I understand," Li Vera replied.

Having spoken to Li Vera, it was then Liszt's turn.

The earl picked up his glass but pondered for a long time before saying: "Liszt, I am quite satisfied with everything about you. You are the Son of Glory of the Tulip Family—steady, smart, brave, with great vision. All the virtues of a knight can be found in you."

"I am just a bit luckier than others and a bit more thoughtful," Liszt said modestly.

"Luck is part of a knight's strength in itself. Let's drink to that," the earl tilted his head back and finished the wine in his glass.

Liszt also finished the wine in his glass.

Finally, the earl's gaze fell upon his youngest son Lidun and he gave him a series of wishes. As the half-brother of the three siblings from different mothers, Lidun had grown up under the protection of the earl and Lady Marie. Gifted and at the age of thirteen this year, he looked set to break through to become an Earth Knight soon.

Such talent posed a pressure on the three siblings.

Especially Levis, who felt the greatest pressure—many resources of the Tulip Family were devoted to Lidun, which made Levis, the legitimate eldest son and heir of the family, quite dissatisfied.

Liszt's predecessor had once been very jealous of Lidun's talents.

But the current Liszt was rather indifferent to Lidun. He harbored a hidden estrangement even towards his full siblings, Levis and Li Vera, let alone Lidun, a half-brother. He maintained a relationship where they did not encroach on each other's affairs.

He neither suppressed nor paid much attention to him.

His gaze was fixed on the vast future, with no place for Lidun in his vision.

Chapter 449 The Dawn of Glass Making

At the Earl's birthday party, the most unexpected thing for Li Si Te was the restoration of a tepid relationship with Rona Sally Golden Wheat.

Perhaps this is the instinctive way of behaving for nobles, passions having faded, returning to their respective life tracks.

Without interference with each other.

Apart from some reflections, he didn't have many other thoughts, and took a short rest in the afternoon before returning to Fresh Flower Town. With myriad duties on his land, the absence of its backbone always instilled unease. However, upon returning to his territory, he found no urgent matters awaiting him.

So he went straight to the Burial Ground on Black Horse Island to extract Fire Dragon Magic Power.

Filling Fire Dragon Bones with magic power could be helped by his knights, but extracting Fire Dragon Magic Power and infusing it into Fire Dragon Jars had to be done by him alone, as only he possessed the Dou Qi Secret Technique "The Eye of Magic". Once he became skilled at the craft, the speed at which he could fill jars with Fire Dragon Magic Power increased.

He could extract about four tons of Volcanic Glass a day, filling nearly eight Fire Dragon Jars.

After extracting the Fire Dragon Magic Power, the Volcanic Glass was immediately sent to the newly built Crystal Workshop in the port town, where the crystal craftsman Brad carved vessels.

Volcanic Glass is not as hard as crystal, but it is much harder than glass, and its translucency is not bad, making it suitable for making glass vessels. Water glasses, wine glasses, tea cups, teapots, wine bottles, glassware, test tubes, and small bottles for storing Magic Potions—all these vessels were not for sale.

The reason is simple: Volcanic Glass has a blocking effect on Fire Dragon Magic Power, which led him to guess that this material might also block other dragons' magic power.

Then its value would be incalculable.

In his spare time, Li Si Te also went to the Smithy to fetch a blacksmith's furnace, bellows, and charcoal for high-temperature experiments—as he remembered, glass could be melted and blown repeatedly.

So he wanted to melt down the remnants produced when Brad carved the Volcanic Glass to reuse them by shaping into other forms.

Charcoal burned in the blacksmith's furnace, with servants continuously pumping the bellows to stoke the coals into a roaring flame. The Volcanic Glass was placed inside the furnace in an iron container and heated—he was not sure about the melting point or softening point of glass, but if it was higher than that of iron, the experiment would certainly fail.

Fortunately, the Volcanic Glass began to melt as soon as the iron container started to glow red.

It quickly melted into a bright, soft substance.

Li Si Te instructed the servant operating the furnace to pour this mass of Volcanic Glass onto another red-hot iron plate. He then had one of the Retainer Knights insert an iron tube into the soft glass and blow hard. The knight had strong lungs, and with a gentle blow, the soft glass began to expand.

Once it expanded into a sphere shape, Li Si Te asked him to stop and pull out the iron tube.

After slightly processing the bottle's mouth, an ugly glass bottle was freshly made. Then a master from the Fire Dragon Brick Factory came to help complete the annealing process—annealing was a

technique discovered by the workers of Fire Dragon Brick Factory, who had used water spraying after brick firing for faster cooling in the past.

However, bricks splashed with water tended to shatter.

Encouraged by the rewards from Lord Landlord, the workers, after much trial and error, found the proper annealing procedure, greatly reducing the fragility of the fired products. Ten workers were awarded ten silver coins each for this discovery and became the first masters of the Fire Dragon Brick Factory.

They were upgraded from mere workers to qualified craftsmen.

Since Volcanic Glass was a new product, the master did not know the appropriate temperature for annealing and had to explore slowly. After the cooling of the Volcanic Glass, he took the initiative to report to Li Si Te, "Lord Landlord, there is something I wonder if you'd like to know."

"Speak," Li Si Te always encouraged his people to discover new things.

The Master Craftsman was not old, around twenty years of age, and his name was Atest, a serf from the Eagle Kingdom: "You know that the Fire Dragon Brick Factory is always looking for new materials to calcine. Once, a serf from the Thorn Caravan brought a kind of yellowish-white rock that felt a bit transparent when held up to the light."

Seeing that Liszt was listening earnestly.

Atest said, both nervous and hopeful, "So I threw this type of rock into the kiln to calcine, but it was very strange, it melted into a puddle very quickly, and when I took it out, it had changed into something else... just like, just like the volcanic glass you asked me to anneal, only much cloudier."

"Hmm?"

Liszt's eyebrows raised: "Like volcanic glass?"

"Yes, it was also soft and soon solidified, and it was somewhat transparent. I showed it to the master craftsmen at the brick factory, and nobody could figure out what use it had, and it broke apart quite

soon after, so we assessed it was not suitable for calcination and abandoned this type of rock," Atest explained.

His words greatly stirred Liszt.

If he was not mistaken, the substance that Atest had calcined was the glass he had long anticipated—primitive glass made from quartz.

The stone brought by the serf from the Thorn Caravan was definitely the raw material for glass—quartz.

Liszt had once searched for quartz and had tried calcining all sorts of stones and soil from his territory in the kilns of the Fire Dragon Brick Factory, but never succeeded in making glass.

He vaguely remembered that seaside sand could be used to make glass, but the results had been disappointing; glass did not emerge from the sand after calcination.

The beach's sand here seemed to be the remains of ancient coral reefs weathered over time.

Unexpectedly, the rock brought from foreign lands could potentially be quartz ore, and Liszt immediately issued an order for Goltai to take charge: "Consultant Goltai, what you need to do is to purchase a batch of the type of rock mentioned by Atest, then cooperate with the forging glass experiment. Remember confidentiality."

"Lord, can this kind of stone really be calcined into glass, just like the cups you made from volcanic glass?" Goltai was very skeptical.

"Whether it is or isn't, we will decide after the experiment."

...

The potential discovery of quartz filled Liszt with great joy; he could already imagine how glass, as the specialty of Black Horse Island, would amass fortune in the future.

In an era where crystals were expensive, minor nobles would definitely find it hard to resist the allure of glassware.

Of course.

Before confirming that the rock was indeed quartz, Liszt did not get carried away. He continued his volcanic glass experiment—he needed to verify that the volcanic glass, once recalcined, still had the effect of blocking the magic power of the Fire Dragon.

The Dragonfire Syringe drew a little bit of Fire Dragon Magic Power.

Injected into the new "Fire Dragon Bottle," he quickly found that the Fire Dragon Magic Power still assumed a Magic Form, flowing quietly within the Fire Dragon Bottle without any leak. This proved that the volcanic glass's ability to block the magic power of dragons did not change with the melting and reshaping process.

"So it seems the volcanic glass from Black Horse Island indeed has significant strategic value and is very likely to help me subdue dragons, thereby achieving the great endeavor of Dragon Riding," he thought to himself, pleased.

Chapter 450 The Powerful Effects of Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine

He allocated a ton of volcanic glass and handed it over to the master craftsmen at the Fire Dragon Brick Factory to conduct glassblowing experiments—this was a highly technical craft that required constant exploration and refinement to blow suitable glassware.

At the same time, the skill of glassblowing also required repeated practice to cultivate truly qualified glass craftsmen.

Moreover, glass manufacturing might sound simple, but producing flawless and transparent glass was not an easy task, and it was likely to require a long period of exploration—at least in the short term, glass would not be able to compete with crystal, even crystal that had been drained of magic power.

Liszt himself stayed on Black Horse Island, extracting fire dragon magic power.

The master craftsmen at the Fire Dragon Brick Factory blew a very large volcanic glass bottle, which was translucent and had an apparent quality of real glass.

Of course.

There was still a fundamental difference between volcanic glass and regular glass; this was just a glass-like substance. Glass is fragile, but volcanic glass is not easily broken, and its stress tolerance is much greater than that of ordinary glass.

With this large volcanic glass bottle, his efficiency in extracting fire dragon magic power was further accelerated.

He fixed the volcanic glass bottle in place, inserted a volcanic glass tube into its mouth, broke the bubbles in the volcanic glass ore, and immediately fitted it onto the volcanic glass tube. With a gentle blow, the fire dragon magic power naturally squeezed into the volcanic glass bottle. Once overflowing with fire dragon magic power, he would then extract it into fire dragon jars.

The efficiency improved more than twofold.

While he was happily harvesting fire dragon magic power on Black Horse Island, Chris sent a letter from Fresh Flower Town, accompanied by a batch of magic potions.

Upon opening the letter and reading it, he quickly lit up.

Because among these magic potions, there finally appeared a magic potion made from the auxiliary medicine variety Dragon Hollyhock—Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine. This was the fifth type of magic power potion produced on the estate, following the Flame Magic Potion, Thorn Magic Potion, Ice Fire Magic Potion (Ice Snow Flame Mushrooms), and Dark Magic Medicine (Black Tulip).

Of course.

Currently, Ice Snow Flame Mushrooms could not be cultivated, so the Ice Fire Magic Potion could not be used for the time being; Black Tulip was supplied to Levis, and production of the Dark Magic Medicine had also ceased.

Only the Flame Magic Potion and Thorn Magic Potion were essential for Liszt's regular potion consumption.

There were only five vials of Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine.

The auxiliary medicine variety Dragon Hollyhock had not yet fully matured, and currently, only some fully matured Auxiliary Medicine Dragon Mallow was harvested, leaving seeds to be sown in the Dragon Kui Field on Black Horse Island. The rest of the plants were all used to extract Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine, barely yielding five vials of it.

He adjusted his mental state and took out paper and pen.

Liszt began his potion consumption, first tasting the effects of the Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine alone—after the magic potion was ingested, he could soon feel a surge of magic power rising from within his body.

However, compared to any other magic potion, the rise of magic power from Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine was slower.

It was like a small stream, flowing gently and persistently.

It moistened the meridians where Dou Qi circulated, bit by bit, and felt very comfortable. However, it could not help Liszt to break through and expand the total volume of Dou Qi within his body.

It was too soft and only made one feel drowsy, without the ability to muster the strength for a breakthrough.

"A very strange magic potion. If taken alone, it basically has no effect... Perhaps the meaning of 'auxiliary' is that it must be combined with other magic potions to explode with effect, and cannot be chosen as a stand-alone option for consumption?" This situation had not exceeded Liszt's expectations.

The Smoke Mission had already suggested that Dragon Hollyhock was an auxiliary magic potion variety.

After carefully experiencing the effect of the Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine, he quickly took out a vial of Flame Magic Potion and drank it down swiftly. In an instant, fierce flames ignited in his

abdomen, and violent Dou Qi charged towards his limbs and bones, increasing the total amount of Dou Qi in his body. This was the expected behavior of the Flame Magic Potion.

However, the next moment he suddenly understood why Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine belonged to the category of auxiliary magic potions.

The Flame Magic Potion, which should have ceased its violent reactions at this point, seemed to undergo some kind of combination reaction with the Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine, causing the Flame Magic Potion to explode with even more ferocity.

Wave after wave surged through Liszt's Dou Qi meridians.

This sensation was just like the first time he consumed the Flame Magic Potion, an uncontrollable upheaval, heat welling up in his body. Only by executing a rigorous set of "Fire Dragon Drill" was he able to settle the tumultuous Dou Qi within himself. Afterward, he gained new insights into the Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine.

It hadn't been completely consumed; even after the Flame Magic Potion had fully integrated into his body, the Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine continued to release a steady stream, repairing the minor damage to the meridians caused by the earlier Dou Qi impacts.

It felt as if he was soaking in a hot spring.

So comfortable that he wanted to moan out loud.

After approximately twenty minutes, the effects of the Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine finally subsided. He closed his eyes to carefully savor his body's current state and came to a conclusion—the Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine had tripled the effects of the Flame Magic Potion and had reduced the side effects to virtually negligible levels.

"Very strong!"

"The value of the Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine exceeds that of these Magic Potions by a large margin," Liszt exclaimed with excitement, clenching his fist.

If the value of the Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine was 1 Gold Coin, and the value of the Flame Magic Potion was also 1 Gold Coin,

then the combination of the Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine with the Flame Magic Potion equated to the effects of three Flame Magic Potions. In other words, spending 2 Gold Coins yielded the value of 3 Gold Coins. Considering that consuming three Flame Magic Potions would damage the meridians, while the Auxiliary Magic Medicine concurrently repaired them, the total value was even equivalent to 4 Gold Coins.

The value could be roughly calculated as such.

In short, the value of the Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine was three times that of the Flame Magic Potion, so naturally, its price could be set at three times higher, or even ten times as much.

And the knights in need of Magic Potions would flock to it. Everyone would appreciate the effects of combining the Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine with a regular Magic Potion, as it could significantly save time—using the combination once equaled using the Flame Magic Potion alone four times.

"Of course, I won't be selling the Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine for now; it needs to serve me first!"

With a radiant smile, Liszt said, "Taking over Viscount Jonas's Dragon Kui Bugs was indeed a wise decision; who would have thought the Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine could be so potent."

Subsequently,

he continued testing the effects of combining the Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine with the Thorn Magic Potion and reached a similar conclusion—it could also enhance the effect by three times and continue to repair meridians.

"Given my current physical condition, I could probably withstand a combination of Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine and Flame Magic Potion once, as well as two combinations of Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine and Thorn Magic Potion... Before, I could only drink one Flame Magic Potion and one Thorn Magic Potion per day... This is 4.5 times more efficient than my previous drug-taking routine!"

Now, taking drugs for one day was equivalent to four and a half days before.

"Once I find the optimal method for drug-taking, I fear this efficiency could increase to the point where one day now surpasses five or even six days before, a truly meteoric ascent."

Continuing to consume drugs in such an unbroken manner,

he had a premonition that he might become a Sky Knight within the year.

Originally, he had set his goal to reach the skies by the age of twenty; he was seventeen now, with less than three years until twenty. If the efficiency of taking drugs increased by five to six times, naturally, the time required would shorten to within a year, or even half a year, making him a Sky Knight before the age of eighteen.

"Phew!"

"I must plant Auxiliary Medicine Dragon Mallow over more than two hundred acres, and moreover, I need to continue purchasing Dragon Kui Bugs from outside!" Not only do the Elite Earth Knights need to consume drugs, but the Sky Knights do as well.

As long as there's training day by day, there is no escaping from drug consumption.

The more Auxiliary Medicine Dragon Mallow, the better.