

## The Mighty 611

### Chapter 611 Unexpectedly One Against Two

Ice Pear City was the viscount's fiefdom, and Snow Pear Castle was his fortress.

And Steel Dyke City was Earl's domain, with the fortress named Little Riverheart Castle. The Earl was called Deborah Yuhua Stone, known as the River-Cleaving Swordsaint, who was said to have once sliced through the Roaring River with a single sword stroke. He was the nephew of Marquis Nuta Dimaria Yuhua Stone, but not the landlord of Yevich.

The Clear Water Sword Saint was a follower of Marquis Nuta.

When the Coral Island Knights arrived at Little Riverheart Castle, Earl William Lee immediately felt the difficulty, "No wonder it's called Little Riverheart Castle, this is clearly a fortress on a river isle. The difficulty of seizing this castle is too high, especially with those four large stone bridges traversing the river, it's like being a live target during the Knight Order's charge."

There were four stone bridges connecting Little Riverheart Castle with the riverbank, each able to accommodate four horses running abreast.

Liszt just took one look.

And he had a plan in mind, immediately saying, "If we can't seize it, then let's tear down these four stone bridges and isolate Little Riverheart Castle from the riverbank. This should draw out Deborah... If Deborah doesn't come out, then we can move on to attack other fortresses."

"That's also a solution."

Demolishing the bridge, naturally, required the Blizzard Beast Squad.

"Douson!" Liszt called out, and Douson immediately came over with his eight children to the front of the stone bridge, ready to follow the command, "Aim at the bridge piers, release the Rock Grenades!"

"Woof!"

The Blizzard Beast Squad, even more disciplined than police dogs, began to release Rock Grenades one after another, incessantly bombarding the bridge piers. Despite the stone bridge's remarkable sturdiness, it kept shattering under the relentless destruction of the Rock Grenades, and if this persisted for a moment longer, collapse was inevitable.

Mounted on the Landwalker bird Loki, Liszt observed Little Riverheart Castle in silence; his target was within that fortress— last night, the Blood Servant had already come to scout, and although deterred from getting too close by the presence of two Sword Saints, they still spotted Yevich.

And just as he was eyeing the fortress,

There were people within the castle watching him. Among them was Yevich Waterflower, the Clear Water Sword Saint with a look of hatred, and the younger one was the River-Cleaving Swordsaint, Deborah.

"Earl Deborah, this Sapphire swordsman, Liszt, is extremely powerful. He nearly brought me down with a sneak arrow shot at the battlements of Snow Pear Castle. You should hold firm in Little Riverheart Castle and wait for reinforcements from the Great Riverheart Fortress, instead of rashly launching an attack!"

"Viscount Yevich!"

Deborah turned his head and looked at Yevich beside him, a disdainful smile seemingly playing on his lips, "You were just sneak attacked by Liszt with an arrow; are you that scared now?"

Yevich's mouth twitched, "I'm telling the truth. You should know that I was once a candidate for the Dragon Knights, so I'm not unclear about the opponent's strength."

Deborah snorted softly, "You were a candidate, but you are no longer one now."

Yevich clenched his fist, holding back his anger, "Either way, I still suggest that you hold Little Riverheart Castle, rather than launch an attack."

"They're smashing my bridge, and those Earth Attribute Magical Beasts pose too great a threat to the stone bridge! Understand that just these four stone bridges cost half as much as the fortress itself!" Deborah suddenly drew the sword hanging at his waist, his eyes flashing with a cold light, "Pass my command, the Knight Order to prepare immediately for a charge with me!"

"Yes, my lord!" A knight standing behind promptly accepted the command and left.

Deborah looked at Yevich again, "I may not have been selected as a Dragon Knight candidate, but I have never lost my courage. Yevich, if you don't want to be looked down upon by me, then show your courage and join me in battle side by side! I shall squash all the sapphire flies dead in my territory!"

With that, he fixed his gaze directly on Yevich.

The meaning in his eyes was clear, if Yevich dared to back down, then in such a large territory as Impact River Plain, there might no longer be a place for Yevich—after all, Deborah was the nephew of Marquis Nuta Dimaria, not like any ordinary follower, at least making Yevich leave wouldn't be difficult.

Yevich took a deep breath.

Suppressing the fear from the chilling arrow of the day before, he nodded, "Since you insist, I shall prove my courage!"

"Good!"

Moments later.

While Liszt was still directing the Blizzard Beast Squad to bomb the stone bridge relentlessly, the gates of Little Riverheart Castle had already swung open, as the Knight Order charged out in an instant, roaring slogans, emitting Dou Qi, raising the Knight's Spears high, charging across the four wide, sturdy stone bridges.

"Douson, form up and retreat!"

Liszt made a snap decision, pulling back the Blizzard Beast Squad, away from one end of the stone bridge.

And behind him, Earl William Lee was already directing the Coral Island Knights, lining up to meet the challenge, "Seal off the stone bridges, and don't let them cross!"

"Charge!"

"Charge!"

The charge of warhorses and the tide of armor commenced, heralding the onset of a clash between knight orders.

Liszt patted the neck of his landwalker bird Loki, which responded with a "clack" and immediately spread its wings, casting a levitation spell and soaring into the sky.

He was searching for the figure of Yevich.

As the knight orders charged, sky knights typically flanked the battlefield, so Liszt quickly located Yevich, mounted on a majestic steed. Yevich happened to look up and spot the landwalker bird ascending, causing his body to tremble as the memory of that terrifying arrow resurfaced in his mind.

However, the knight in flashy gold armor by his side, following Yevich's gaze to Liszt, showed no tremors, but rather a fiery stare full of intent, as if silently issuing a challenge.

"Interesting!"

Liszt, riding atop Loki, didn't rush. He was calculating the distance, a distance from which both men would be unable to escape back to the castle—he wasn't about to let Yevich get away again.

Boom!

One end of the stone bridge near the shore.

The two knight orders finally collided, and with the Blizzard Beast Squad having retreated, this was a direct confrontation between knight orders. Layers of Dou Qi from both sides intertwined in an instant, knight's spears piercing through formations, sending dozens of knights flying off their mounts in a flash.

But Liszt paid no attention to this battle; with an earl watching over, the charge was bound to succeed.

He was merely silently gauging the distance, and when Yevich and Deborah stepped onto the middle of the stone bridge, already a fair distance from Little Riverheart Castle, his brows suddenly furrowed. High-level fire attribute dragon Dou Qi surged through his body, and he leaped from Loki's back, diving toward the middle of the stone bridge.

There was no fear, nor excessive fervor, just an invincible presence as he drew his sky-cleaving greatsword, performing the fully mastered move, Setting Sun Drop—one of the five power-gathering moves from "Rising Sun Blaze", all of which he had mastered to the extent they became part of his instinct.

Whoosh! Dragon Dou Qi transformed into flames, enveloping his body.

A true embodiment of a setting sun plummeting towards the horizon!

...

On the stone bridge.

Yevich, who was constantly monitoring Liszt, cried out in alarm as the other leaped down from the bird's back, "He's coming, Deborah! He's coming!"

"Daring to fight two on one? Seeking his own death!"

Deborah unsheathed her knight's longsword in a reflexive motion, her Dou Qi erupting as she ascended towards the sky.

Though dubbed the River-Cleaving Swordsaint, he was a thunder attribute sword saint, his body crackling with streaks of lightning, fearlessly charging toward the falling fireball that was Liszt.

On the other side.

Yevich, with trembling palms, clenched his teeth and likewise mustered his water-attribute Dou Qi, soaring into the sky after Deborah, incessantly hypnotizing himself, "Perhaps he's only strong in archery. Against two sky knights like me and Deborah, he can't possibly have the advantage!"

However, in the next moment.

In his field of view, Liszt and Deborah collided.

Before he could convince himself of his hypnotism or adjust his mindset, the previously confident Deborah screamed as he was sent flying backward in the air, plummeting to the stone bridge with a velocity thrice the speed of his ascent, creating a thunderous crash and raising a cloud of dust.

Seeing this.

The slight courage Yevich had mustered retreated like the tide, his eyes widened in shock while he forcibly changed the direction of his Dou Qi, abruptly halting his own ascent.

He reversed direction, fleeing toward Little Riverheart Castle.

But just as he gained some distance, a fierce whooshing noise invaded his ears, followed swiftly by a scorching heat that slammed into his body.

"Ah!"

His scream echoed, involuntarily mimicking Deborah's earlier maneuver; he plummeted rapidly, crashing heavily onto the ground. Even with the robust physique of a sky knight, such a fall left him feeling as if his internal organs were upended, spewing a mouthful of fresh blood.

Enduring the crushing pain as if his bones were shattered, he readied himself to stand and continue running.

But a weight suddenly bore down on his back, a foot firmly planted on him, and a cold voice conveyed, "Yevich Water Peanut, do you think you could escape?"

Chapter 612 Cloaked Bear-wearer

"There's no escape, I knew this would be the outcome!" Yevich Water Peanut, pinned to the ground, wailed in self-pity like a woman mourning her fate, "With the foresight of a Dragon Knight candidate like me, how could I be wrong, how could I be wrong, your strength is terrifying indeed!"

"Terrifying indeed..."

Liszt lifted his foot and turned his head to the other side, where the River-Cleaving Swordsaint, Deborah Yuhua Stone, had already risen from the ground and was preparing to flee.

So-called courage had vanished without a trace after a single encounter, replaced by a mind full of confusion and a desire to flee for life.

"Stay here and lie down honestly," Liszt casually instructed Yevich as he stood up, took flight and shot straight toward Deborah, ready to take captive those who offered themselves up.

Seeing Liszt approaching, Deborah's scalp exploded, Thunder Attribute Dou Qi erupting gratuitously, turning her speed into a bolt of lightning.

Thunder Attribute Dou Qi enhanced speed, and although Liszt only had Fire Attribute Dou Qi, which had since been upgraded to Dragon Dou Qi, with a flying speed no slower than his opponent's, the gap in their take-off left him trailing Deborah. However, he was in no panic, promptly switching to the Swift Shadow Bow.

The arrow nocked, the bow drawn fully.

Releasing his hold, three flames tore through the sky, racing straight for Deborah.

Naturally, Deborah saw Liszt shooting arrows. At the level of a Sky Knight, archery was hardly effective in single combat, and a knight who could fly could easily dodge arrows. She was about to scoff at him in her mind for his stupidity when she suddenly remembered what Yevich had once said—that he was nearly killed by one of Liszt's arrows.

When she first heard it from Yevich, Deborah completely disbelieved that even a Completion Level Sky Knight could kill a Swordsaint with an arrow.

But now, she dared not disbelieve.

She twisted her body in a frantic attempt to dodge the trajectory of these three fire-like arrows. Her expertise in archery informed her that arrows shot by knights were capable of changing their trajectory, so she dodged as much as possible, estimating the path of the three flame arrows to avoid them within a span of dozens of meters.

Yet as the three arrows collided with each other, they seemed to track her somehow and charged toward her again.

Clearly, her speed was not faster than the arrows, and with no way to dodge, Deborah, shocked, mobilized her entire Dou Qi to resist the incoming arrow.

Just as the arrow touched her Dou Qi.

Boom!

An explosion rang out as the Dragon Dou Qi clinging to the arrow was detonated without hesitation by Liszt. The blast, hitting Deborah mostly directly, also accelerated the three arrowheads, which pierced through her golden armor and into her body with soft thuds.

"Ah!"



Deborah screamed as she once again fell from the sky.

She couldn't block even one move from Liszt face-to-face, and at a distance, she couldn't withstand even one of his arrows. The gap between a Dragon Knight and a Sky Knight was just that vast.

Deborah, who fell to the ground, tried to endure the pain of three arrows piercing into her body as she struggled to rise. Then, she was kicked fiercely back to the ground by Liszt, who descended from above, her body once more ravaged, letting out an even more agonizing scream.

This scream sent a chill through Yevich, who was debating internally in the distance, freezing him in terror.

Just a moment ago, he noticed Liszt chasing after Deborah while he himself was left unbound. It was the perfect opportunity to flee, but before he could resolve his hesitation, Deborah's agonized scream instantly evoked his fear of Liszt.

He was once admired by everyone as a Dragon Knight candidate, but the years passed, and his edges had long since worn down.

Liszt's aggressive attack evoked the fears he once harbored, fears dominated by those true Dragon Knights—he fell into his fear of the Dragon Knights. It was clear that he had been eliminated from the Kingdom's Dragon Knight program as a candidate who was afraid of Dragon Knights.

And he never recovered from this setback.

"Why!"

"I, Yevich, have a justifiable fear of Dragon Knights, so why do I feel such fear towards Liszt?"

"Why does the fear he brings to me feel just like the fear Prince Alex White Maw Iron of the past brought to me?"

Looking at Liszt's upright figure, a thought suddenly emerged, one he couldn't suppress no matter how hard he tried, "Could it be... he is also a Dragon Knight?"

"No, no, that's impossible!"

"How could a Sapphire Fly possibly become a Dragon Knight!"

"Aside from that Sapphire Dragon which was nearly killed by Prince Alex White Maw Iron's mount, it's impossible for another Dragon to appear in the Duchy of Sapphire! That place is nothing but a desolate island where, each year, the starving Sapphire Flies must come to the bountiful continent to loot supplies in order to survive!"

The Duchy of Sapphire has always been viewed by the people of the Continental Kingdoms as barren, impoverished, barbaric, and uncouth, which is why they rob the continent every year.

Moreover, many Nobles were aware that the Sapphire Family had once sought to establish a kingdom on the continent but were thwarted by the Eagle Kingdom during the Dragon Battle. With the deployment of just one White Maw Iron Dragon, the Sapphire Dragon was nearly killed, leaving behind the Blue Blood Mountain with its rich Sapphire mines before they fled in panic overseas to establish a nation on the barren islands.

To this day, Blue Blood Mountain still occasionally yields Sapphire mines.

"Impossible!" Yevich shook his head, having convinced himself to believe that Liszt was not a Dragon Knight but had somehow attained power that surpassed that of a Sky Knight.

There's a vast gulf between Sky Knights and Dragon Knights, but that doesn't mean there haven't been strong figures bridging that gap.

At least Yevich knew of a Marquis, a Landlord he had once followed, Marquis Pilof of the Earth Fury of Boulder, who was such a powerful intermediary.

With his initial strength just entering the ranks of the Swordsaints, he couldn't even withstand a single punch from his opponent.

Moreover, he knew the direct bloodline of the Earth Fury Family did not call themselves Knights but "Cloaked Bear-wearers." He had heard of similar families, such as "Cloaked Wolf-wearers" and "Cloaked Pig-wearers," after Pilof got drunk, but he didn't know which two families these referred to.

Additionally, Yevich had also heard of Vampire families. Among those Vampires who liked to affiliate with the Nobles, the most powerful Pureblood Vampires indeed had strength surpassing that of Sky Knights.

"So young, what is Liszt's identity? What is the nature of the power he has acquired?"

Not much time was left for him to ponder. After dragging Deborah up, Liszt was already approaching Yevich.

Meanwhile, on the other side, with the Earl personally intervening and witnessing the defeat of two of their Sky Knights, the Knights of Little Riverheart Castle could no longer hold out and scattered in all directions.

Those who couldn't escape knelt on one knee, accepting their fate as prisoners.

What should have been a straightforward Knights' charge ended in a dramatic fashion. Leading the bound Deborah and Yevich, the Coral Island Knights triumphantly entered Little Riverheart Castle.

The Earl watched the wide-open gates of the towering Little Riverheart Castle, his heart surging with emotion, as if seeing a promising future beckoning, "Another glorious victory. Even though there's little military merit in conquering a castle, every gemstone collected will earn me a merit!"

#### Chapter 613 Refusing to Follow

Sitting in the main seat of the council hall of Little Riverheart Castle, Li Weiliam felt extremely pleased. He had easily gained a castle. His side had suffered only a few dozen knight casualties, yet they had captured two Sky Knights and a large number of Earth Knights. Moreover, with the knights previously conscripted at Snow Pear Castle, the more they fought, the more knights they seemed to have.

Although according to the plan, the supplies were all Liszt's, the military exploits belonged to Li Weiliam.

At the same time, these surrendered knights were all Noble Landlords of Coral Island, each one available to be chosen and conscripted, provided that one could afford the knights' upkeep. There was no shortage of captive knights, even Elite Earth Knights were captured in large numbers, many unable to pay their ransom, available for the taking.

Li Weiliam was in high spirits.

Liszt was equally elated, having captured two Sky Knights in succession, one an Earl and the other a Viscount, their ransoms were not sums that ordinary wealth could compensate.

His face beaming, he asked the Earl, "Father, you have captured a Sky Knight before too, what did it cost him to redeem himself?"

This matter was basically known to all the knights of Coral Island, and naturally, Liszt knew as well. Asking this question was merely a way to vent his excitement.

Light shone from the Earl's eyes: "In that battle, I received two Little Minor Elves as ransom!"

"If one Sky Knight is worth two Little Minor Elves, then I'll demand the same from Yevich. However, Deborah, being the nephew of Marquis Nuta, who has a very rich territory, should pay a bit more, let's say four Little Minor Elves." Liszt instantly decided on the ransom amount.

Yevich, a bit poor, pays less, Deborah, a bit richer, pays more, fair and just.

And indeed, that was how he conveyed his demands.

He first met with Yevich, this former Dragon Knight candidate, who seemed to be quite devastated, staring blankly at the ceiling with listless eyes.

"Yevich," Liszt called out across the cage.

Yevich turned his head woodenly, and upon seeing Liszt, he jolted slightly, coming somewhat back to his senses, "It's you... you look even younger than before."

"Let's skip the nonsense, you should know why I'm here."

"How much ransom do you want for my freedom?"

"I don't like to haggle with others, so the standard is the bottom line, I don't accept bargaining," Liszt replied indifferently, "Two Little Minor Elves, no older than fifty years and must be Grain or Magic Potion type, or of equivalent value. Additionally, you'll need to compensate me with a batch of craftsmen."

"Two Little Minor Elves? Must be of the Grain or Magic Potion type?" Yevich gave a piteous smile, "Viscount Liszt, you are a viscount too, do you think a viscount can have so many Little Minor Elves?"

"An ordinary viscount might only have one Little Minor Elf, but you as a Dragon Knight candidate and a Sword Saint, don't tell me you can't bear to part with two. Keep in mind, your Sword Saint status alone is worth at least three Little Minor Elves, but since you are only a viscount, I've lowered the demand to two."

"Haha..." Yevich's laugh grew more wretched, his eyes even wanting to tear up, "Once I was a contender for Dragon Knight, but I was born a commoner, all my training expenses came from my landlord's resources. Later, it was the Kingdom that provided the resources, I myself didn't have much in the way of resources... Decades have gone by, stuck at the Sword Saint level, what do you think I could have saved up?"

Liszt frowned, "You mean to say, you can't produce two Little Minor Elves as ransom?"

"Indeed, I have two Little Minor Elves, but both are Shui Huasheng Minor Elves. Shui Huasheng is just ordinary water grass, other than serving as livestock feed, there are no additional outputs."

Such was the plight of a mighty Sword Saint.

It also broadened Liszt's horizons: "Are you joking with me?"

"If you truly think so, I am willing to exchange my freedom with two Shui Huasheng Little Minor Elves; as for the craftsmen, you can take any from Ice Pear City... In fact, I probably can't follow Marquis Nuta anymore; my reputation has completely deteriorated."

Yevich had served four landlords in succession, falling out with the first three, and now he had been captured while serving the fourth; it was unlikely that any more landlords would be willing to take him in.

Liszt felt a toothache coming on, he had hoped that capturing Yevich would result in a huge profit, but it turned out he had caught a pauper instead.

Two Little Minor Elves that could only produce weeds certainly had value but were nowhere near comparable to the grain or Magic Potion Little Minor Elves. To use these two as a ransom, he was far from satisfied, suffering too great a loss. However, apart from that, Yevich really had no other Minor Elves—a fact that would be easy to verify with a little investigation.

After some thought.

He inquired, "Besides the two Little Minor Elves, how many Elf Bugs do you have, and what kind are they?"

"I have fourteen Elf Bugs, one of which can cultivate Magic Potions, one can cultivate grain... but if I use them as a ransom, I'll be completely devoid of resources. I might as well simply surrender and pledge allegiance to you..." As he spoke, Yevich suddenly had a bright idea.

Seizing a spark of inspiration, he stared blankly at Liszt outside the cage.

Breathing heavily with excitement, he said, "Viscount Liszt, no, Lord Liszt, your power is so terrifying it sends shivers down my spine, and I cannot afford my own ransom! Perhaps, I can pledge my loyalty to you. I cannot survive in the Eagle Kingdom, I might as well follow you and join the Sapphire!"

"Hmm?"

Liszt was shocked by Yevich's wild idea; he didn't know how to respond—for a Sword Saint to willingly pledge allegiance because he couldn't pay his ransom was definitely astounding news that would make people's eyes pop.

Far too ostentatious!

He also didn't trust Yevich's character, so after some thought, he flatly refused, "I do not need your allegiance, just pay the ransom."

"I can't afford the ransom, I wish to follow you, my lord!"

"I can give you a discount, just hand over all your Minor Elves."

"Handing over all the Minor Elves would mean my life's efforts have gone down the drain. Please allow me to follow you, my lord!" Yevich knelt down on one knee in the cage, his tone becoming increasingly fervent.

He had witnessed Liszt's strength and seen his youth; such a landlord had boundless prospects. His reputation in the Eagle Kingdom was ruined, so he might as well start afresh by pledging himself to Liszt—from the Duchy of Sapphire, he would start over—managing territory was not his strong suit, but with tasks like the Pioneer Mandate, he was quite fit for the job of robbery.

"Pay the ransom!"

"I wish to follow you, my lord!"

The two were at a stalemate, Liszt very much reluctant to accept Yevich, a person of low character considered useless, but Yevich had set his mind on Liszt and insisted on following him.

After going back and forth several times.

Liszt's expression darkened, and through gritted teeth, he said, "The two Little Minor Elves will serve as the ransom, the Elf Bugs I do not want, Yevich, this is my bottom line!"

Yevich also gritted his teeth, "My lord, Yevich is willing to offer all his Elves, just to be able to follow you! You are the most powerful person I have seen beneath a Dragon Knight, and so young. Yevich is willing to charge into battle for you and seize glory!"

#### Chapter 614 Dragon Tooth Platform

Having followers with powerful strength is indeed gratifying, but Liszt values the character of his followers even more.

Yevich, who has repeatedly turned against landlords and now is willing to serve the invaders for a bit of ransom, certainly has a very low character.

On Earth, he would be akin to the turncoat Lü Bu—of course, Lü Bu was the unparalleled warrior of his era, while Yevich is not even particularly strong among Sword Saints, so the difference in strength between them in their respective eras is immense. At most, Yevich has only turned against landlords, not committed patricide for glory.

It is not uncommon for landlords and followers to fall out due to personal disputes.

If it's just about character, accepting his allegiance is not a big deal. Even the most despicable person, once under his command, would have to obediently accept the allocation, or else Liszt's Sky-Cleaving Greatsword would show no mercy. Be it dragon or snake, they must coil within his territory.

What he worried about was the resource issue. Once Yevich followed him, he would undoubtedly rely on Liszt for the consumption of magic potions before any fief allocation.

Even if all the elves were given to Liszt, that output would not satisfy a Sword Saint's need for magic potions.

As a potential Dragon Knight who has wasted many years and only reached the level of a Sword Saint, it seems that he has never truly enjoyed the thrill of consuming potions to the fullest.

"Although I can already afford the potion consumption for both myself and Little Fire Dragon Leo, supporting another Sword Saint would stretch my domain's resources thin, which doesn't seem proper!"



That was one of his concerns.

The second reason for concern was being too high-profile—defeating a Sword Saint with such strength was already conspicuous enough to potentially alert the Sapphire Duke and arouse suspicion.

To then take another Sword Saint as a follower would be like actively reminding him that "there must be something fishy going on."

"However, why do I feel a vague sense of excitement, as if I want to provoke the situation? Could it be because I have previously speculated that the Duke is not a Dragon Knight but just a Dragon Domain Landlord, and therefore do not take him seriously?" He looked at Yevich Water Peanut kneeling before him, but his thoughts drifted far away.

The Duke did not participate in this year's Pioneer Mandate.

As long as the Dragon Knights of the Eagle Kingdom were restrained by those of the Steel Ridge Kingdom, there was no need for the Sapphire Dragon to appear.

As the existence that suppressed the fortunes of their countries, dragons do not easily take the field unless it is a critical moment—any injury would waste substantial resources. For instance, during the past Dragon Slayer battle, the Sapphire Dragon's blood spilled across the sky, leaving behind Blue Blood Mountain, allowing the Eagle Kingdom to mine sapphire ores for over a hundred years.

Such losses are unbearable for any country.

Last year's Pioneer Mandate saw the Duke's participation probably as a way to show that the Sapphire Dragon was unharmed. Therefore, there was no need for him to participate this year; it was more important to stay within the country and protect the nation.

"The one who rides on a dragon's back is a Dragon Knight, the one who stands on a dragon's back is a Dragon Domain Landlord... Perhaps the Duke really is just a Dragon Domain Landlord. That's right, I can ask Yevich—he was once a potential Dragon Knight and participated in the Dragon Knight project. He should know the secret of that flat spot on the dragon's back!"

And so,

he began to ask, "I have a few doubts that I need you to clarify for me."

"Please go ahead and ask, my lord!" Yevich had already cast himself in the role of a follower.

"You were once a potential Dragon Knight and became a Sky Knight at the age of sixteen. During the subsequent period, did you have any contact with a real dragon?"

"I have had contact for a while, or to be more precise, I have interacted with three different dragons for a period of time each—the White Maw Iron Dragon, the Brass Dragon, and the Light Green Gemstone Dragon."

"How many dragons are there within the Eagle Kingdom?"

"The Kingdom breeds nine dragons, and there are six identified evil dragons in dangerous lands. The vassal states breed five dragons, so in total, there are twenty dragons."

"How about Dragon Knights?"

"The Kingdom has six Dragon Knights, and the vassal states have two."

"What's the difference between a Dragon Knight and a Dragon Domain LandLord?" Liszt gradually moved towards the real question he wanted to ask. The previous questions about the number of dragons and Dragon Knights were just common knowledge.

Yevich frowned slightly, "I don't know much about the Dragon Domain Landlord, and I only have superficial knowledge about Dragon Knights, so my lord, I can't really say what the differences are."

"Then, does a Dragon Knight have to make a pact with a dragon?"

...

"That's not merely a contract, but a fusion, where a Dragon Knight fuses deeply with a dragon, unleashing unimaginable formidable power,"

"How does one fuse?"

"By gaining the recognition of the dragon..." Yevich's tone was somewhat muted.

"Dragons are intelligent and proud creatures, their wisdom undifferentiated from that of an adult. The Kingdom expends substantial resources to nurture these dragons, and in return, they contribute minerals and assist in combat. However, only those knights who have been recognized can mount them!"

"Is there a difference between standing on their back and riding on their back?"

"There is."

Yevich gave an affirming response, "There is a spot on a dragon's back called the 'Dragon Tooth Platform,' which is directly connected to the dragon's teeth. As the soul of the dragon resides within its teeth, when a knight mounts the Dragon Tooth Platform, they can engage in deep communication with the dragon's soul and achieve fusion."

Upon hearing such an explanation, Liszt suddenly understood.

It was indeed true that the Sapphire Duke had never successfully ridden the dragon; he stood rather than sat on the Dragon Tooth Platform. It could be surmised that the Duke had struck an agreement with the Sapphire Dragon, becoming a Dragon Domain Landlord and likewise harnessing the dragon's power. Nevertheless, it was clear he hadn't earned the dragon's recognition and couldn't fuse.

A Dragon Domain Landlord might have an extended lifespan, but his strength certainly paled in comparison to a Dragon Knight's.

Liszt grasped this, feeling much lighter in spirit. Given time, surpassing the Sapphire Duke was just a matter of when, not if. When he stood before the Duke as a Dragon Knight, the Sapphire Family would probably realize who the true master of the sea was.

He took a deep breath, calming his fluctuating emotions, and continued to inquire, "Do you know how to earn the dragon's recognition and then fuse with it?"

"I apologize, my lord, I am but a Sword Saint. My modest abilities are insufficient to impress a dragon, let alone earn its recognition... Since then I've neglected my training for a period and have been expelled from the Dragon Knight program, thus forever losing the chance to see any dragons... However, I was once mentored by His Highness Alex White Iron, the Dragon Knight."

"The Royal Family's Dragon Knight?"

"Yes."

The Royal Family of the Eagle Kingdom had two surnames, one being "Moonlight Silver," derived from a Silver Dragon, and the other being "White Maw Iron," derived from a White Maw Iron dragon. The Moonlight Silver lineage had traditionally assumed the role of King, though Dragon Knights were seldom born into it anymore. However, the White Maw Iron lineage brought forth a Dragon Knight every other generation.

Alex White Iron was the Dragon Knight of his generation, holding a princely title parallel in stature to a grand duke, nearly forty years old, and famed far and wide.

Even from as far as the Duchy of Sapphire, Liszt had heard of his deeds, as he also held the title of a hero—the Dragon Slayer—for having slain what was said to be an Ice Dragon turned Evil Dragon.

He squinted his eyes.

Liszt suddenly asked, "Yevich, compared to Dragon Knight Alex White Iron, how do you think my power measures up against his?"

"Well..."

"Speak frankly, I wish to gauge the full measure of the gap between myself and a Dragon Knight."

"My lord, truthfully, I do not know. I've never seen His Highness Alex in true action. And since I cannot withstand even a single strike from you, there's no way for me to compare..."

However, I find even just breathing difficult in His Highness Alex's presence, an oppressiveness stronger than I've experienced around you."

"That must be Dragon Might, right?"

"It should be."

Liszt had so far only been training with Little Fire Dragon Leo and hadn't been recognized as a Dragon Knight, therefore he did not possess Dragon Might.

Liszt had felt the Dragon Might of real Dragon Knights or Dragon Domain Landlords in the presence of the Sapphire Duke, and indeed it made breathing difficult. The Formless Dragon had also exuded Dragon Might before, creating the suffocating illusion—Even the newly born Leo had a faint presence of Dragon Might.

Although Dragon Might does not possess a direct offensive power, it can certainly disrupt an opponent's actions.

Considering the dragon's synergy, one can imagine just how powerful a Dragon Knight's combat prowess is.

With a soft sigh, Liszt couldn't help expressing his sentiment, "It seems the distance between me and a Dragon Knight is still very great."

Yevich immediately perked up, "Dragon Knights represent the pinnacle of the world's strength, they are rarely seen, and are not easily deployed. But your strength, my lord, comes right after that of Dragon Knights and is powerful enough to sway the outcome of a battle. I have only felt such strength in the Marquis of Boulder."

"The Marquis of Boulder?"

...

Chapter 615 Berserker

"Who is the Marquis of Boulder?"

"He is the second landlord I followed, Pilaf the Earth Frenzy, from an old marquis family of the Eagle Kingdom. The offspring of this family call themselves Cloaked Bear-wearers and do not like to charge on horseback; they prefer fighting on foot. Sometimes, their fists are more powerful than guns and swords!"

"Cloaked Bear-wearers, what kind of profession is that?" With the Pioneer Mandate continually expanding his knowledge, Liszt had already encountered many cultivation systems different from those of knights and magicians.

"I'm not clear on the specifics, but aside from the Cloaked Bear-wearers, there should also be Cloaked Wolf-wearers and Cloaked Pig-wearers. When I first entered the level of Sword Saint, I challenged the Marquis of Boulder. After he ate a poison mushroom, his momentum skyrocketed in an instant. Just with one punch, he sent me flying."

"Poison mushroom?"

"A kind of poisonous mushroom that's very common. It's a small, gray, umbrella-shaped mushroom called Dog's Mantle."

Liszt was familiar with Dog's Mantle; even on Coral Island and Black Horse Island, these small toxic mushrooms would grow after rain. Unexpectedly, this kind of poison mushroom could act like a stimulant, causing the Cloaked Bear-wearers to become frenzied and significantly increase their strength.

However, the Cloaked Bear-wearers somehow reminded him of the druid bear warriors.

In the Sun Scriptures studied by Ach, there had been detailed explanations stating that warriors among the Children of the Sun could transform into bears, eagles, leopards, and other creatures for combat, utilizing natural magic and their observations of animals.

Perhaps there really was some connection between Cloaked Bear-wearers and druid bear warriors.

So, he asked, "Then, what changes occur in the body of a Cloaked Bear-wearer after consuming Dog's Mantle?"

"It seems their bodies enlarge slightly, their eyes turn somewhat red, and their spirits appear to fall into a state of intense frenzy. Normally, the Marquis of Boulder is cultured and refined, making him seem like a born noble. But once he eats Dog's Mantle, he becomes a berserk... almost like a humanoid magical beast."

Yevich tried his best to recall, but since he had seen the Marquis of Boulder take action only a few times, he didn't have a thorough understanding of the Cloaked Bear-wearers' combat methods.

After all, it was the family's secret training inheritance, hard to reveal the intricacies to outsiders.

"Do Cloaked Bear-wearers have Dou Qi Manuscripts like knights?"

"I don't know."

"Do they practice magic, or Dou Qi?"

"It should be Dou Qi."

"Dou Qi, huh..." Although Yevich's descriptions were vague, Liszt was gradually forming a preliminary impression of the Cloaked Bear-wearers through his account.

They didn't transform into bears, but there were signs of "going berserk."

They didn't like mounted combat, so they could not be called knights, but rather warriors. The thought of warriors capable of going berserk made Liszt involuntarily think of a fighting profession from Earth's legends—the berserker.

Of course.

The Cloaked Bear-wearers were only similar to berserkers.

In fact, as a Different World with language and history distinct from Earth's, this world had no such terms as dragon, elf, magician, or knight—these were labels Liszt translated in his

mind according to his personal preferences, comparing them to Earth's legends to aid his own understanding.

Just like the term "druid," which in Serpent Script was just a string of squiggly symbols resembling little snakes, devoid of any reference meaning—with neither the semantic evolution of Chinese words nor the root and affix changes of English words—Liszt named it "druid" based on his impression.

His impression from Earth's legendary stories mentioned druids capable of transforming into bears, eagles, and other animals.

Thus, this chain of meaningless symbols was interpreted by him as "druids."

Liches and vampires, both are interpreted in a similar manner.

Take elves, for instance. On Earth, they are supposed to be the high intelligence race living in forests as described in "The Lord of the Rings". However, in Li Si Te's understanding of this world, there is no elf race, so based on the literal meaning of elf, it becomes a magical creature endowed with the ability to plant vegetation.

"Yevich, you have felt the strength of Marquis of Boulder. Compared to me, who is more powerful?"

"I believe you are more powerful, my lord. When I first became a Sword Saint, Marquis of Boulder sent me flying with a punch, but I did not suffer much harm; Now that I've spent many years as a Sword Saint, and am much stronger than when I first entered the rank, yet I was severely injured by one of your arrows and defeated by a single sword strike, the defeat was much more swift and decisive."

Li Si Te nodded, not saying a word, yet he understood clearly in his heart, "Indeed, being a Dragon Knight is the most powerful profession—a Cloaked Bear-wearer is at best a stronger inheritance, lacking the strength to compete with a Dragon Knight."

All in all.

The Marquis of Boulder represents a new occupational system—the Cloaked Bear-wearer.



This indicates that in this world, not only do casters have a variety of professions, but those who cultivate Dou Qi aren't limited to knights either. Cloaked Bear-wearers, Cloaked Wolf-wearers, and Cloaked Pig-wearers could all potentially cultivate to become very powerful systems. There are even more hidden occupational systems on the continent.

In the ordinary stages of cultivation, knights do not necessarily have an advantage—after all, a Cloaked Bear-wearer at the Completion Level could very likely overwhelm a powerful Sky Knight.

But with the almost cheat-like method of Dragon Riding to gain the dragon's strength, it becomes only logical for knights to rule the world.

And with the rise of Dragon Knights, not only have other Dou Qi occupational systems gradually declined, but so have the magicians who were the rulers of the Moon Empire era. The era progresses, civilization advances, and anything that cannot adapt to survival will be eliminated like the ancient casters and warriors.

Even those who survive can only tremble and gasp for breath in fear under the domain of the Dragon Knights.

Li Si Te felt quite fortunate.

He too was part of the hierarchy of this era's rulers, not the ruled.

He quickly curbed his excitement and pride; the information about the Cloaked Bear-wearers broadened his horizons, but what mattered now was Yevich's ransom.

He still did not want to accept Yevich: "Yevich, counting Marquis Nuta, you have followed four lords. How did you fall out with the first three?"

Yevich took a deep breath and sighed, "When I was full of pride as a reserve Dragon Knight, my first lord promised to marry his daughter to me, but after I was quickly eliminated from the Dragon Knight program, that lord swiftly reneged on his word and married his daughter to the offspring of a Noble."

In a fit of anger, Yevich refused to follow him.

The second lord was Marquis of Boulder, powerful and elegant, but he valued loyalty above all else. Thinking that Yevich wasn't loyal enough, he was very strict with him regarding military achievements and material distribution.

Yevich simply handed over his fief and left.

The third lord valued Yevich highly, but just when the fief granted to Yevich was not yet fully transferred, a wild Little Minor Elf was discovered on it. The lord forcibly took the Little Minor Elf under contract away.

Having grown scared of poverty, Yevich, upon seeing the Little Minor Elf that belonged to him being taken, confronted him directly.

After wandering for some time, he followed his current lord, Marquis Nuta. After several deeds of valor, he was entitled a Viscount; the relationship was normal, but after being defeated and captured in battle, even Marquis Nuta's nephew Deborah was implicated—this disgraceful experience was to completely exhaust whatever little fame Yevich had left.

That's why he planned to leave the Eagle Kingdom and follow Li Si Te.

"I do not owe the Eagle Kingdom anything. Apart from Marquis Nuta, I don't feel any debt to the other lords. Now that I am defeated and captured, I am dutiful to Marquis Nuta... At this moment, I choose to follow you, my lord, to lead charges into battle for you, to start anew and begin again!"

By that account, Yevich's character is at least much better than Lü Bu's.

However, a follower who casually turns against his lords is not something Liszt wants. He simply said, "Since you cannot pay your own ransom, I will demand it from Marquis Nuta. He is your lord, two units of grain and a Magic Potion-type Little Minor Elf, and your freedom will be returned to you immediately!"

Chapter 616 Bold Idea

"Of course, given that you've answered my questions seriously and provided me with quite a lot of valuable information, I won't be demanding an exorbitant ransom. We can sit down

and talk about everything," Liszt was rather satisfied with Yevich's attitude, aside from the information about the Dragon Knights and the Cloaked Bear-wearer.

Yevich also detailed the situation of Marquis Nuta, as well as the information about the assaults on the territories around the river's source, which was of great value to Liszt.

Therefore, he decided not to be too hard on him, only demanding the release of two Little Minor Elves and all the craftsmen.

After that, he disregarded Yevich's disappointment.

He turned and left the cell, then prepared to go see Deborah Yuhua Stone. Compared to Yevich, a poor wretch, Deborah was definitely rolling in wealth!

The cells where they were being held were separate, to prevent the two from colluding or planning an escape.

As he walked, he summoned the Smoke Mission: "Task completed, reward Iron Knight Alvin Eagle Sword."

"Hmm?"

"Alvin Eagle Sword?"

"This surname is a bit special, actually being named after a sword. And isn't 'Eagle Sword' the name of most standard magic longswords used by the Eagle Kingdom?" Liszt was familiar with this, as he had seized plenty of equipment from the Knights of the Eagle Kingdom and gained quite a few Eagle Swords.

The Eagle Sword belonged to magic-powered weaponry. Although not exceptionally outstanding in quality, the materials were common and the craftsmanship was excellent, which led to a high rate of proliferation.

Many Elite Earth Knights liked to wield Eagle Swords.

Compared to the standard magic longswords manufactured by the Duchy of Sapphire, Eagle Swords were slightly shorter, but had broader blades that required more strength to wield properly.

Of course, there was no fixed standard for the quality of a Knight's Longsword. The Knight Order of the Duchy of Sapphire adhered to a swift style, rarely engaging in head-on clashes, so their Knight's Longswords were longer and narrower, suitable for thrusting and quick maneuvers. The Eagle Sword, being weighty and forceful, was more fitting for charges and defending castles.

"This Iron Knight being named after the Eagle Sword is certainly no ordinary person... Of course, it seems only large families are capable of fostering Iron Knights."

He merely pondered for a moment before shifting his attention to the next task.

"Task: Upon receiving news of the fall of Little Riverheart Castle and the capture of Deborah Yuhua Stone, Marquis Nuta is furious beyond measure, already leading his elite knights on a hundred-mile rush to assist Little Riverheart Castle. This is destined to be a life-and-death trial. Please repel Marquis Nuta's Elite Knights. Reward: Unknown number of Little Minor Elves."

"An unknown number of Little Minor Elves?"

Liszt was initially delighted, then frowned: "Does this seem to be talking about Deborah Yuhua Stone's ransom?"

At first, he thought there might be new Little Minor Elves waiting for him to discover, but upon further thought, the most likely opportunity to gain Little Minor Elves recently was clearly Deborah's ransom. Given the nature of the Smoke Mission, rewards would never appear out of thin air; they leverage situations and provide guidance.

The most appropriate guidance now was undoubtedly Deborah's ransom.

Marquis Nuta wouldn't hold back just because the hostage was in Liszt's hands—it was only his nephew, not his son. He would definitely choose to defeat the Coral Island Knights first, before considering the ransom for Deborah. Liszt had already invaded his territory; there was no reason to shrink back.

At least, according to the rules of warfare among knights, once a Knight is captured, they are out of the war and just wait for the ransom to be paid.

If he could defeat the Coral Island Knights, he might not even need to pay a ransom, and if he captured Liszt, then it would be Liszt's turn to worry about how to prepare his own ransom.

"Marquis Nuta is a seasoned Completion Level Sky Knight, and in his youth, he was known as the Surging Waves Sword Saint. His elite knight order is called the Roaring Knights, named after the Roaring River, so they must be very powerful!" Liszt pondered intently, realizing that the Coral Island Knights clearly could not contend with the Roaring Knights.

They weren't on the same level.

The Marquis's direct elite knight order was filled with Elite Earth Knights.

"I plan to command the Blizzard Beast Squad to join the charge. I wonder if they can support the Coral Island Knights in holding their ground against the Roaring Knights... If they cannot, then I must take action myself. Given my strength, I should be able to take on the elite knight order alone with my sword!" As a Half-Step Dragon Knight, Liszt had that confidence.

He didn't immediately go to see Deborah; instead, he took a moment to reflect alone,

drawing upon the information revealed by Yevich and combining it with the arrangement of the Smoke Mission, a bold idea quickly sprung to mind: "Little Riverheart Castle... Great Riverheart Fortress... Roar City, Three Dragons City... Yevich said that Trapped Dragon Mountain harbors a secret iron mine!"

He suppressed the thought.

He summoned Bloody Mary and five other vampires: "How is the Blood Magic Tome coming along?"

"My Lord, we vampires have a greater affinity for violence rather than writing, which is more suited for magicians. It has been many years since we have undertaken such tasks, so it will take some time," they replied.

"No hurry... I have a new mission for you now. Based on the information I've received, there is a Trapped Dragon Mountain west of Three Dragons City with a secret iron mine within. Investigate Trapped Dragon Mountain for me, locate this secret iron mine, and ascertain the defenses!"

"Yes, my Lord!"

The five vampires adapted well to their roles as Blood Servants, as ever since they had witnessed Liszt's awe-inspiring might, they no longer harbored any malicious intentions.

Once the Blood Servants departed,

Liszt hurried to find the Earl to discuss how to resist the attack led by Marquis Nuta and the Roaring Knights and to communicate his bold plan to the Earl.

"Father, based on my estimation of Marquis Nuta, he has already led the Roaring Knights to confront our Coral Island Knights," Liszt said.

"I had the same guess. That's why, once the supplies are packed and transported away, we will leave Little Riverheart Castle and raid other cities and castles." Hit and run—a cornerstone of pioneer warfare—was something that Li Weiliam had mastered through years of battle; being outnumbered and overpowered meant avoiding head-on confrontations.

However, Liszt shook his head and said, "I do not wish to leave Little Riverheart Castle. We should rely on the fortifications here to take the initiative!"

"Take the initiative?"

"Yes, we have telescopes that can give us an early look at the movements of the Roaring Knights. Why not ambush them with two knight orders attacking from the flanks, with Father leading a charge down the middle and me supporting with the Blizzard Beast Squad. When our knight orders clash, I can step in to suppress them!"

The Earl hesitated, "Your boldness concerns me; we should not engage Marquis Nuta in direct combat."

"If we acted as we do every year during the Pioneer Mandate, seizing a bit of supplies and then leaving, of course, we wouldn't need to confront Marquis Nuta. However, if we aim to expand our achievements, the quickest way is to plunder mines." He took out a map collected from Little Riverheart Castle, pointing at the Roaring River.

Meticulously crafting a blueprint for war.

"The Roaring River is a Golden Waterway. Its broad expanse allows the Tulip Fleet to sail from the sea upriver. Once we secure the Roaring River, the entire upper river basin will be open to our expeditions! Moreover, with this Golden Waterway, we could use Three Dragons City upstream as a springboard to make a significant trade!"

Chapter 617 Determination and Ambition

The source of the Roaring River was unknown; it likely began in a perilous area thousands of kilometers away—the continent's vastness meant that territories untouched by humans far exceeded their active range. Particularly regions like high mountains and flowing streams, primeval forests, deserts, and large lakes were forbidden zones for human life and the exclusive domains of magical beasts.

The Earl followed Liszt's pointing finger.

Snow Pear Castle was situated at the mouth of the Roaring River, with Little Riverheart Castle upstream, and even further upstream was Great Riverheart Fortress. However, Liszt's finger moved past Great Riverheart Fortress, continuing to extend upstream.

It finally settled on a location even further upstream—Three Dragons City.

"The territory where Three Dragons City is located belongs to an Earl, a follower of Marquis Nuta. Defeating Marquis Nuta and subsequently uprooting Three Dragons City would make the Roaring River an internal waterway for the Tulip Fleet. This Golden Waterway is not only capable of swiftly transporting goods but also of rapidly moving the Knight Order."

"Are you planning to use the Roaring River to plunder resources from the surrounding territories?"

"It's not just about resources." Liszt smiled slightly, his finger now pointing further west of Three Dragons City, "Father, the name of Three Dragons City originates from a battle from the past. It's said that two Dragon Knights once chased an Evil Dragon through here, hence the name Three Dragons City."

The Earl was silent, listening intently.

Liszt recounted the information revealed by Yevich: "Three Dragons City is also where the Roaring River meets with its tributary, the Three Dragon River. If you follow the Three Dragon River further upstream, there is a continuous mountain range known as Trapped Dragon Mountain. Father, please look here—there's a secret iron mine!"

"An iron mine?"

"Yes, this is the news from Yevich; he once entered Trapped Dragon Mountain intending to capture a magical beast for a mount... I've already sent the Blood Servants to investigate. Once it's confirmed that there really is an iron mine, perhaps we can join forces with my uncle's Knight Order. Relying on the Three Dragon River and the Roaring River, we can repeat the glorious deeds of your youth!"

After speaking, Liszt looked expectantly at the Earl, awaiting his response.

The Earl didn't answer immediately; he was lost in the memories of his younger days.

When he inherited the title of Viscount from Greg Wafers of Tahiti City, he was bent on revitalizing his family. He wildly plundered resources and sought military achievements every year with the Pioneer Mandates. One year he even ventured deep into the heartland of Eagle Kingdom and seized an iron mine, making away with no less than two hundred thousand tons of iron ore.

This exploit that shook the Duchy of Sapphire drew out a Dragon Knight of the Eagle Kingdom, who journeyed thousands of miles to intercept the fleet.



Because of those two hundred thousand tons of iron ore, Marquis Merlin noticed Li Weiliam and gave his daughter Melissa in marriage to him. The following year, the Grand Duke personally bestowed upon him the title of Coral Island's Count.

Nearly two decades later and the bold exploits of his youth had not been repeated. Furthermore, he had spent those twenty years stagnating as an Earl.

Now, still ambitious, he hoped to advance further and become a Marquis.

The iron mine in Trapped Dragon Mountain seemed like a direct path to nobility, making him breathe more rapidly with excitement. Yet after deliberating, he shook his head, "Liszt, I understand your youthful vigor and the great ambitions you have for your strength, but it's too dangerous!"

"Father, if we strike swiftly before the Dragon Knights react, the chance for a decisive battle is significant! If we don't seize the iron mine in Trapped Dragon Mountain this time, there might not be another opportunity, as the mines yield less and less each year!"

"If you know that I plundered a mine when I was young, then you should also know the consequence was that it drew out a Dragon Knight." The Earl was visibly apprehensive, "If it hadn't been for the Steel Ridge Kingdom's Dragon Knight holding them off, I might have been killed by the Dragon Knight at sea."

Liszt fell silent for a moment, his eyes still brimming with brilliance: "Fortune favors the bold!"

...

Dragon Knights, the pinnacle of strength!

Dragons were not rare in this world, but relative to the vastness of the land, their distribution was sparse. Many nobles might not see a dragon in their lifetime, to say nothing of the common folk.

Including subordinate states and Evil Dragons, the Eagle Kingdom had a total of twenty dragons, not too many.

Only a Dragon Rider could be conferred the rank of Grand Duke and found a new nation, which would meet its end should the dragon die or depart.

Thus, any country, be it a Grand Duchy or a Kingdom, would inevitably possess dragons.

A Kingdom itself comprised many vassal states, and naturally, it wouldn't maintain too few dragons. The Eagle Kingdom raised nine dragons, but currently, only six of them were bonded with humans—meaning there were six Dragon Knights serving the Kingdom for life, either born into the Royal Family or bound by contract.

However,

Compared to the vast expanse of the Kingdom, which was almost as large as Asia, the six Dragon Knights simply could not defend such a broad swath of land. It would take ten days to half a month just for messages to travel from south to north. What's more, the Eagle Kingdom had Dragon Knights, and so did the Steel Ridge Kingdom!

The number of Dragon Knights in the Steel Ridge Kingdom even exceeded that of the Eagle Kingdom.

But each Dragon Knight was entangled in a vast array of international relations, which made it difficult for them to act rashly, especially in battles to slay dragons between Dragon Knights.

Victory would of course be a good thing, but defeat could lead to a terrible result that might shake the very foundations of a nation.

Why royal families entrusted the dragons they raised to outsiders was precisely because they did not have enough Dragon Knights, which could plunge the nation into great trouble.

Just as countries like China, Russia, and America all had nuclear weapons, but none dared to use them carelessly, nor dared to reduce them without consideration—it was a means of deterrence and balance.

The Eagle Kingdom, Steel Ridge Kingdom, and even the vassal state of the Duchy of Sapphire all had Dragon Knights or dragons. However, their mutual wariness, opposition, and entanglements resulted in very few battles to slay dragons among the Dragon Knights.

Dragon Knights seldom took part in the wars of ordinary knights.

Using a Dragon Knight against ordinary knights, one could decimate countless knight orders. But just as you could destroy the enemy's knight orders, their Dragon Knights could do the same to yours. With both sides neither gaining nor losing, it was better to rely on deterrence and only take part in battles when necessary.

No matter how ambitious the Earl might be, he was inevitably worn down by the years and had grown to harbor fears.

Liszt, however, refused to give up this opportunity, "The Dragon Knights of the Eagle Kingdom are tied up on their borders. If we act swiftly, plunder the iron ore quickly, and retreat down the Three Dragon River and the Roaring River, by the time the message reaches the Dragon Knights, we will already have withdrawn back to our own country!"

"But what if we can't retreat in time, Liszt? I long for the title of Marquis, but I do not want to attain it at great cost. Your future is bright, the glory of knighthood always favors you; there's no need to be so reckless."

Reckless?

Extremely reckless!

Liszt was well aware that such an action was not just bold—it was more aptly described as reckless and impulsive. He was not usually this type of person. He would prefer to stay in Fresh Flower Town rather than join a war, content to farm in a small place for half his life, and wait until he was fully equipped before chasing his dreams.

He had not anticipated that acquiring a dragon early, along with the power of the Smoke Dragon and the gift from the Formless Dragon, would rapidly elevate his strength to the point where he was close to standing at the pinnacle of the world.

His mindset underwent a profound change, developing a longing for war and a keenness for plunder. He had not changed the world; the world had quietly changed him—of course, he preferred to call his shift in perspective growth. When he had been but an inconsequential commoner, he naturally preoccupied himself with trivial matters.

But now that he had one foot on the summit, gazing out at the boundless expanse of land, how could he bear to continue hunkering down on an island, counting one or two Elf Bugs?

After a moment of deliberation,

Liszt spoke slowly, "Father, you are absolutely right. I really don't need to be so reckless, but it's also difficult for me to let go of such a huge temptation. Perhaps we can reach a compromise."

The Earl raised an eyebrow, "What kind of compromise?"

If they could safely carry away the iron ore, he too was reluctant to let go of the opportunity.

"We stick to the plan for a quick battle and a quick resolution, but this time we bring in the Long Taro Family and the Golden Wheat Sheaf Family, getting them to help us seal off the territories around the Roaring River. After we plunder the iron ore, we'll share some of the spoils with them and bring together the fleets of all three families to quickly withdraw and break through to the source of the river!"

"But there is still no guarantee of safety."

"Once we've taken Trapped Dragon Mountain, father and I will immediately blend in with the other knight orders to lay low. Regardless of whether the fleet withdraws smoothly, we will not be involved in what follows... Additionally, we can inform the Grand Duke ahead of time and have him come to our aid. With the Grand Duke's protection, I believe that even if the Dragon Knights personally arrive, it will make no difference!"

The Earl's eyes lit up. According to this plan, the glory of their victory would indeed be shared quite broadly, but the risks would be reduced to the minimum, making it worth a try.

After locking eyes, father and son each saw unwavering resolve in the other.

And ambition!

Chapter 618 Ancient Warrior Legacy

After formulating the plan, Liszt could leave the remaining work to the Earl to arrange, and took the opportunity to visit Deborah Yu HuashI. The River-Cleaving Swordsaint resided in a cell, yet she apparently hadn't suffered any indignities.

"You are very strong!"

Upon seeing Liszt, he spoke calmly with his first sentence, "I couldn't even withstand a casual blow from you, it seems your background is extraordinary. May I know which Ancient Warrior inheritance you possess?"

Ancient Warrior inheritance?

Liszt had never heard of it, but he cleverly did not show it, merely smiling slightly, "Guess."

"The bear-skin wearer, unlikely, you haven't gone mad; the wolf-skin wearer, also unlikely, you aren't bloodthirsty; the pig-skin wearer, seems incorrect, you haven't turned into a sphere of flesh... Could you be a gladiator inheritance? Or perhaps the bronze-muscled warrior inheritance, or the Shadow Incarnation inheritance?"

The bear-skin wearer.

The wolf-skin wearer.

The pig-skin wearer.

The gladiator.

The bronze-muscled warrior.

The Shadow Incarnation.

Deborah listed six types of Ancient Warrior inheritances in one breath, impressing Liszt immensely; he did not realize how vast the world was before coming to the mainland. Within the Duchy of Sapphire, he thought there were only magicians and knights, but on the continent, all sorts of strange cultivation systems continuously emerged.

"You seem quite knowledgeable about Ancient Warrior inheritances?" Liszt inquired subtly, as if making idle chat.

Deborah harrumphed, with an undeniable pride in her tone, "As a member of a nobility that has continued for hundreds of years, the Yu Huashi Family is naturally familiar with Ancient Warriors and Ancient Magicians. However, it's quite unexpected to find Ancient Warrior inheritance in a place like Sapphire, which is a remote overseas territory."

"But you don't know which Ancient Warrior inheritance I carry."

"With so many inheritances lost to the river of time, how could I possibly know them all? However, this is the era of knightly rule; the Ancient Warrior inheritances will eventually be extinguished, all becoming part of the Dou Qi secret techniques that knights can cultivate!"

Ancient Warrior inheritances, ultimately transformed into Dou Qi secret techniques?

Liszt cleverly uncovered another important piece of information – it turns out that so-called Dou Qi secret techniques actually belong to the Ancient Warrior inheritances – could it be that the knightly cultivation system, which gathers the strengths of all trades, assimilates most of the Ancient Warrior inheritances?

It made sense.

He had practiced "The Eye of Magic" and "Breath Decay", which were vastly different from the mainstream Dou Qi manuscripts on the market. Not only was the difficulty of cultivation considerably greater, but more importantly, compared to ordinary Dou Qi manuscripts, Dou Qi secret techniques tend to favor special effects.

To keep probing.

Liszt still did not reveal any emotion, and simply remarked, "Who knows what the future holds, even though Dragon Knights rule the world, how many Dragon Knights are there in the world? Without a dragon to fight alongside, the strongest a knight can ever be is just a Completion Level Sky Knight!"

"A few Dragon Knights are enough!" Deborah said, looking at Liszt who was already thirty-four years old, yet with a naivety more fitting of a seventeen or eighteen-year-old, "I admit that as an Ancient Warrior inheritance, your strength is remarkable, but this is the end of the road for Ancient Warrior inheritances, with no further progress possible!"

He didn't know where his sense of superiority came from, as if feeling sorry for Liszt, he added, "Only a knight can grasp how to wield the power of a dragon, which is why knights rule the world! And it's not just about Ancient Warriors or Ancient Magicians; even magicians will eventually be integrated into knightship, becoming part of the Iron Knight Order!"

"It seems you mainlanders know much more, I have never heard so much about Ancient Warriors and Ancient Magicians back home."

"Heh, the Duchy of Sapphire has been established for just over a hundred years, isolated on an island, spending each year pillaging like Magical Beasts, what cultural inheritance could there be!"

"Indeed, living secluded overseas has left me ignorant of many things," Liszt nodded earnestly before adding, "But you are my prisoner now, and since you are both a Swordsaint and of noble lineage, I've set a high ransom for you. You need to produce four magic potions and grain-type little Minor Elves for your ransom!"

Pfft!

Deborah, who was wallowing in a sense of superiority, almost choked on air, "What! My ransom is four little Minor Elves, and they must be grain and magic potion type Minor Elves!"

"Yes."

"Impossible, absolutely impossible!" Deborah's face was as dark as still water, "My uncle, Marquis Nuta, will crush you, and then I won't need to pay any ransom at all."

"I will crush Marquis Nuta, and even take him captive!"

"Naive!"

"You have seen my strength. Do you think Marquis Nuta could escape my onslaught? Even if he brings along several Sky Knights, I can still crush them all!" Liszt's face was haughty, his tone triumphant, "Although I am not a Dragon Knight, I am invincible below the Dragon Knights!"

"Naive, how naive!" Deborah laughed in anger, "The Yu Huashi Family is not an ordinary noble house. You may have an Ancient Warrior heritage, and your family might have a Dou Qi Secret Technique heritage, but the Roaring Knights will show you what an unstoppable force is! Ancient Warrior heritage, it can't block a knight's charge!"

"This isn't naivety, it's confidence. As an heir to the Ancient Warrior tradition, wiping out the Roaring Knights would only be slightly strenuous for me."

"You're overestimating the Ancient Warrior inheritance. If it were truly so powerful, it wouldn't be on the brink of decline as it is now!"

"The Ancient Warrior and Ancient Magician heritages haven't declined, there are still many legacies in this world!"

"They are merely lingering on their last breaths, very few are actually making a difference."

Liszt scoffed, "You're only an Earl. You didn't even get selected as an alternate for Dragon Knights like Yevich, so what do you know about the Ancient Warrior and Ancient Magician heritages."

"Haha, a Sky Knight of commoner origin like Yevich, what would he understand!" Deborah sneered, "As for the Cloaked Bear-wearer, Cloaked Wolf-wearer, Cloaked Pig-



wearer, gladiators, bronze-skinned muscle warriors, Shadow Incarnations, I've had more or less contact with all of them. Although I can't identify your heritage, it's most likely one of these."

...

When leaving the cell, Deborah was still seething with indignation. He hated Liszt's arrogant, ignorant, and self-centered nature.

Though he had been defeated by Liszt, he believed it was only because of the Ancient Warrior heritage. If he could obtain the Dragon Knight inheritance, killing Liszt would be a matter of minutes. In the end, it was just bad luck; the knight's glory didn't shine upon him, and it surely wasn't due to a lack of skill!

But he didn't know.

After Liszt left the cell, he reflected, "Yevich had told me that Deborah was a conceited, shallow fool, and it turns out to be true... With just a little scheming, I obtained a lot of hidden knowledge about the Ancient Warrior and Ancient Magician heritages and Dou Qi Secret Techniques."

In recent years, nobles have enjoyed hoarding their treasures and do not easily reveal secrets that could empower others.

If Liszt had asked directly, Deborah would certainly have kept silent. However, by pretending to be an heir of the Ancient Warrior heritage and provoking the other a little bit, Deborah revealed a lot of secrets not even known to Yevich—the Ancient Warrior heritage had not been severed, it had mostly turned into Dou Qi Secret Techniques.

As for the Ancient Magician heritage, it seemed to be integrated with knights, becoming part of the Iron Knights.

"It seems I need to visit and provoke Deborah a few more times; perhaps he will even reveal his family's Dou Qi Secret Techniques to me... But one thing is certain, Marquis Nuta must possess Dou Qi Secret Techniques. Now, how can I obtain the Dou Qi Secret Techniques of the Yu Huashi Family?"

He shook his head, not ruminating over it too deeply.

Perhaps he would capture Marquis Nuta on the battlefield, and then the Dou Qi Secret Techniques would easily fall into his hands.

Thinking about the Ancient Warriors and Ancient Magicians heritages, he was reminded that he hadn't yet received the reward for his last Smoke Mission—the Iron Knight Alvin Eagle Sword.

#### Chapter 619 Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword

Alvin Eagle Sword didn't need to be found; in fact, he was imprisoned in the dungeons of Little Riverheart Castle.

"My lord, this is the prisoner list of Little Riverheart Castle. Alvin Eagle Sword is in this cell," said Marcus, holding the dungeon list and locating the cell that confined Alvin.

The dungeon was dark, damp, and smelled foul, where prisoners on straw mats were snoring loudly in their sleep.

Marcus couldn't help but rap on the cell door with a stick, bellowing, "Get up, get up, no more sleep, Alvin Eagle Sword!"

"Why is today's meal so late?" Alvin grumbled as he got up and slowly made his way to the cell door.

Clad in tattered rags, his hair unkempt, his beard ragged, and heavy metal shackles on his hands and feet, it was obvious that he had been imprisoned in the dungeon for a lengthy period.

He looked at Marcus standing at the door, and couldn't help but be taken aback, "The one serving food has changed today, and it's now a knight. Are you preparing my last meal?"

Overwhelmed by the stench of the dungeon, Liszt had already backed up to the entrance. Hearing the dialogue inside, he directly said, "Marcus, let him out, have someone clean him up, and then bring him to the drawing room to see me."

"Yes, my lord!"

About a quarter of an hour later, Liszt, who was sipping tea in the drawing room, saw Alvin Eagle Sword, now bathed, hair cut, shaved, and dressed in new clothes.

This was a tall and thin middle-aged man. From his frame, one could tell that before his imprisonment, he must have been a strapping man. But now his cheekbones were prominent, his eye sockets deeply sunken, and his skin on his face and hands pale as if it had never seen the light. Perhaps he had not been abused, but he certainly had never been well-fed.

"So you are Alvin Eagle Sword, an Iron Knight?" said Liszt, looking at the man with interest. "Captain Marcus has told you about the current situation, hasn't he?"

Alvin seemed somewhat unused to the environment, taking a while before responding, "You are a Sapphire person, you have taken over Little Riverheart Castle? Deborah Yuhua Stone, that hypocritical, greedy man, has he been captured by you too?"

Liszt frowned, "Right now I am the one asking questions. You only need to answer mine!"

"I am Iron Knight Alvin Eagle Sword."

"Tell me your background, and why you were imprisoned in Little Riverheart Castle."

Alvin took a deep breath before responding, "My ancestors were once marquises of the kingdom and had forged magic weapons like the Eagle Sword for the kingdom, taking the name Eagle Sword as our surname... But now our family has fallen into decay. By my generation, not only have we lost our title, but many of our forging skills are also hard to reproduce."

To hone his skills, to revive his ancestors' glory.

Alvin had moved between many nobles, using their resources to study weapon forging technology. However, with limited talent and an unwillingness to casually hand over family secrets, the nobles who invested in him considered him a fraud and expelled him from their lands. Afterwards, he wandered to the region around Roaring River.

"Deborah promised to recommend me to Marquis Nuta, but due to the wrapping of my heirloom crumbling apart revealing its true nature, he became greedy. He snatched away my family heirloom and imprisoned me, demanding that I hand over my family's forging skills... I did not yield, and thus have been living in the dungeon."

Liszt wasn't too interested in his story, instead asking eagerly, "What heirloom is this?"

Alvin hesitated.

Liszt waited patiently.

A moment later.

Alvin seemingly made up his mind, "Captain Marcus mentioned your incomprehensible strength, overpowering Deborah in one move. That I can see the light of day again is thanks to you... If you help me retrieve my family heirloom, I will follow you and contribute all of the Iron Knight skills of the Eagle Sword family to you!"

"I released you because I need you to follow me, to serve me. But what is this family heirloom of yours?"

"It is a Greater Elf Warrior weapon, the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword! Originally forged from dragon bone, refined through generations in my family and finally cast as a Greater Elf weapon. It has already been presented by Deborah to Marquis Nuta. I do not dare hope to possess it again; I only wish to see it one more time when you retrieve it!"

Alvin knew the power of a marquis's influence; he could not afford to ask for a higher price, so he was not greedy, only yearning to hold the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword once more in his hands.

Liszt was not excited by the Greater Elf Warrior.

Even the strongest weapon is only as good as its wielder. For example, even with a common weapon in hand, he was still stronger than a Sky Knight wielding a divine weapon.

"Are you sure you know how to forge Magic Power weapons?"

"Indeed, I haven't inherited my family's talent. Ordinary Magic Power weapons like the Eagle Sword can certainly be forged, but beyond gemstone weapons, I am powerless. However, I possess my family's complete forging techniques, and I'm willing to offer them to you, so you can train more talented Iron Knights!"

"Are you willing to part with them?"

Alvin looked down at his now thin and weak body, his tone filled with resentment, "I wasn't willing before, but what have I got left to lose now?"

"Alright, I agree to this trade!"

No matter what, the Marquis Nuta was someone he planned to deal with.

Powerful weapons like the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword should not be in the hands of a common marquis—The Sapphire Duke himself owns a Greater Elf weapon known as the Wailing Cage Sword, the best weapon Liszt knows of. Now, this Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword would be a fitting match for his identity.

...

Alvin Eagle Sword himself was only an Elite Earth Knight and over half a year in the dungeon had ravaged his body, which would take a long time to recover.

Arrangements were made for this Iron Knight.

Liszt glanced over the list of other prisoners in the dungeon and ordered their interrogation, one by one, to see if there were any special figures among these captives.

The result was disappointing; they were just some knights from the territory who had made mistakes.

For these errant knights, Liszt had no intention of releasing them—at all. Having taken Snow Pear Castle and Little Riverheart Castle, he had enough prisoners to choose from to select a hundred Elite Earth Knights. Now, he wouldn't even spare a thought for Common Earth Knights, let alone this bunch of prisoners.

The Tulip Fleet was making its way up the Roaring River against the current, heading for Little Riverheart Castle. The castle's supplies had been packed, ready to be loaded onto ships and transported to the river mouth.

Knight allies of the Long Taro Family and the Golden Wheat Sheaf Family had also received their orders and departed. The Earl had even written letters to Liszt's uncle, Mesiro Taro, and Roderick Gold Wheat, the Marquis of Golden Island, directing the dispatch of Knights and ships to be ready to move out along the Roaring River at a moment's notice.

The first hurdle to the success of this plan was the Marquis Nuta's Roaring Knights.

"Possessing the Dou Qi Secret Technique, being a Completion Level Sky Knight himself, and having the Greater Elf weapon Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword, I wonder just how strong Dimaria Yuhua Stone truly is!"

Standing in front of the Window on the fourth floor of the Castle.

Gazing at the undulating crops on the vast land, Liszt was brimming with confidence, "I hope for a good fight, to truly understand how strong I am!"

He felt that recently he had been very inflated, acting so high-profile without regard for consequences—a dangerous behavior.

But he couldn't suppress the smugness itching to surface.

"I can't control myself!"

So, he hoped a hearty battle would completely wake him up to reality, adjust the appropriate attitude, and be prepared for the possible suspicions of the Sapphire Duke, "Perhaps, I should now fabricate an Ancient Warrior's legacy to appease the Duke...

Should I invent an ancient bronze muscled hero, a gladiator, or perhaps the Cloaked Wolf-wearer?"

As a historical inventor.

Inventing stories was not a difficult task for Liszt.

Chapter 620 Ghost Swordsman

The Cloaked Bear-wearer, Cloaked Wolf-wearer, Cloaked Pig-wearer, Gladiator, Bronze-muscled Warrior, Shadow Incarnate—these were the six ancient warrior lineages that Liszt knew of.

However, he felt that he did not fit any of the above ancient warrior lineages, since he had limited information on them and it was easy to overlook something.

"Therefore, an original ancient warrior lineage is the best explanation," he thought.

After careful consideration, he decided on his "new identity": "I shall claim the inheritance of the Ghost Swordsman... The Ghost Swordsman represents an ancient cultivation system, one who can see souls... The lineage comes from the salvage of shipwrecks around Black Horse Island, this is the favor of knightly glory."

Ghost Swordsman.

That was the most suitable guise he could adopt before his identity as a Dragon Knight was established: "Whether others believe it or not, I certainly do... It's just a ruse. If the Sapphire Duke doesn't believe it and insists on forcibly investigating my true identity, then I will have no choice but to abandon my territory and flee overseas!"

Take Ach, take the elves, take Leo, and entrust the entire territory to the Earl.

The day he became a Dragon Knight would be the moment the flames of vengeance swallowed the Duchy of Sapphire!

"I hope that the Power of Destiny of the Smoke Dragon will always envelop me, manipulating the threads of fate in my favor and ensuring I am always under the shelter of knightly glory."

He took his gaze back from the distant fields.

Liszt did not wish to conflict with the Sapphire Duke; giving up the Black Horse Island Domain, which he had worked so hard to cultivate, was an incredibly tough choice—the land had inventions like white liquor, glass, tofu, and paper was under research, along with a large number of rubber trees, corn grass, and other crops.

Additionally, there was the Smoked Grass, which could attract the Formless Dragon to visit again at any time.

Whether it was a Smoke Dragon or a Formless Dragon, both were Sacred Dragons, and he could not bear to give up either one. If the Sapphire Duke dared to come and snatch them, then it would all come down to who had stronger tactics and who would become the last one laughing victoriously.

"Of course, it is still too early to worry about that now. I should rather be concerned about when Marquis Nuta will make his appearance!"

A day had passed.

The exploring Knights had not found any trace of the Roaring Knights, and Li Weiliang also frequently soared the skies, observing through telescopes, likewise without any sighting of the Roaring Knights' whereabouts.

Nevertheless, the Coral Island Knights were ready and waiting in ambush, hidden in the woods by the banks of Little Riverheart Castle.

Once the Roaring Knights started their attack on the stone bridge, and clashed with the Coral Island Knights, two ambush squads of Knights would charge out from both flanks, hitting the Roaring Knights from the sides and disrupting their formation. Of course, against an elite Knight Order, such a sneak attack could not gain a decisive advantage.

Liszt would personally take action, leading the Blizzard Beast Squad, to give the Roaring Knights a surprising start to the battle, making them understand the meaning of an overwhelming surprise.



In the blink of an eye, another night had passed.

When the sunlight illuminated the earth, Li Weiliam, holding a telescope and taking to the skies, finally spotted the Roaring Knights.

This elite Knight Order, renowned for its formidable charges, was racing from the west towards Little Riverheart Castle, against the light of the sun, like a black torrent.

Dressed in black, with armor and horses, they were faintly visible through the dust they kicked up.

Boom!

The Earl quickly landed and then shouted, "Enemy attack! Sound the horns! Meet the enemy head-on!"

"Enemy attack!"

"Wooooooo!"

"Prepare to charge!"

Little Riverheart Castle instantly became restless, with the Coral Island Knights hurriedly readying their gear, lining up in formation awaiting the impending battle.

The Black Horse Island Knights, under the leadership of Marcus, also swiftly formed up. With meticulous care, Marcus checked each Knight's equipment. When he reached the end of the line, he was surprised to see a youthful face.

"Emily, step out!"

"Yes, Commander!"

"Check the equipment!" Marcus barked coldly.

The tender face belonged to Liszt's youngest follower, Emily, who quickly checked her own gear—her armor was a Mithril Armor, the one crafted by the grandson of the Marquis of the Bull; the Knight's Longsword was the Crimson Blood Sword, a gemstone weapon that Liszt had already discarded... crossbows, Knight's Spears, horse armor, arrows.

"Reporting to the Commander, Emily has completed the check, nothing is missing!"

"Fall in!"

Watching Emily finish her equipment check, Marcus breathed a sigh of relief, keeping his composure. As the smallest Earth Knight, he certainly understood Emily's talent, and Liszt had also entrusted him to take good care of Emily, hoping she wouldn't be killed in one of the charges before she had a chance to grow.

War inevitably brings death, and Marcus was powerless to stop the chaos of the Knight Order's charges; he could only watch Emily's preparations as closely as possible.

The rest of her fate would have to be entrusted to the glory of the knights.

Within the ranks.

Emily held her Knight's Spear, unflustered. Marcus worried for her, but she herself was not at all concerned. To her, the battlefield was the best place to cultivate; there she only felt excitement, not fear. Since the siege at Snow Pear Castle, she had felt her cultivation speed soar.

Especially when she personally used her Knight's Spear to kill an Earth Knight, her blood seemed to boil and her strength surged forward. When she killed another Earth Knight with the Crimson Blood Sword, her power jumped again.

She didn't understand why she was cultivating so quickly, but killing made her feel exhilarated to the core—not because she was bloodthirsty. She had no craving for blood, nor did she lose her reason after a kill. In fact, she normally liked to cultivate and wasn't too interested in external affairs.

"Wuu wuu wuu wuu..."

The deep sound of the horn added an atmosphere to the imminent war.

Emily's hand, gripping the Knight's Spear, involuntarily tightened. "I can no longer see the imposing figure of the Master; I must work harder, constantly growing stronger, to repay the Master for his boundless grace towards me!"

...

War.

Arrived very swiftly.

The Roaring Knights led by the Marquis Nuta didn't pause for a moment, directly charging towards Little Riverheart Castle, seemingly prepared to seize the initiative in an unguarded moment before the Coral Island Knights were ready.

However, equipped with telescopes, the Coral Island Knights had already formed ranks and were poised to strike.

Riding the Blizzard Beast Dousen, Liszt was surrounded by a squad of elite Knight Squads, with eight other Blizzard Beasts following behind him. As the rushing tide of knights drew closer, he remained motionless. Just as the Roaring Knights were about to rush in front of him, the knights defending Little Riverheart Castle began their charge as well.

At this moment, Liszt calculated the distance.

Suddenly, he gave an order: "Blizzard Beast Squad, all units ready, target straight ahead, release Rock Grenade!"

"Woof!"

Dousen was the first to open his mouth, releasing the magic rooted in his bloodline.

A massive rock took shape in the air and smashed down towards the Roaring Knights, followed by eight more giant rocks, all targeting the Roaring Knights.

Boom, boom, boom!

The power of the Rock Grenades was mighty; even the elite knights who led the charge, releasing their Combat Skills to counter the Rock Grenades, were still struck down in large numbers. The shattered stones flew wildly, wreaking havoc on the front ranks of the Roaring Knights. However, being elite troops, they quickly reformed their ranks and continued the assault.

At this time.

Liszt gave another order: "Blizzard Beast Squad, all units ready, target the area ahead, freely release Multiple Stone Spikes!"