

The Mighty 631

Chapter 631 Infinite Vitality

Vampires who move through the dark night, especially the powerful purebloods, seldom encounter situations where they are ambushed and killed because they rely on the escape ability of Blood Magic - Bat Incarnation.

Therefore, Fomuir Black Knight had no defense against the message from Bloody Mary and turned directly into a bat, following behind Bloody Mary and flying over to the mountains opposite Trapped Dragon Mountain. Moments after they reached a dense forest, just as he was about to land and revert to human form.

A large net was suddenly thrown over him.

Fomuir's reaction speed was not much slower than Tuobert's before him. He immediately exploded into countless bats and scattered in all directions. However, an ambush with the element of surprise still managed to ensnare most of his incarnations, and they emitted the sound of burning and deep-frying.

Only four bat incarnations managed to escape.

At that moment, Liszt, who had cast the net, turned into flames and directly snuffed out one bat incarnation before swiftly charging at the second one.

Simultaneously, Crimson Peggy and Blood Hamill fiercely pounced on the third bat, while Night Demon Wimbledon and One-Eyed Uso fiercely attacked the fourth one.

Bloody Mary struggled to control the Bloodlight Web, preventing this group of bat incarnations from breaking through the magic equipment.

Pop!

Having crushed the second incarnation bat, Liszt turned around to crush the third and fourth ones that were held back, returning to the location of the Bloodlight Web. With Dragon Dou Qi erupting, he ground the group of incarnated bats to pieces amid their

screams. The blood magic power from all the bat incarnations flowed out, coalescing into Fomuir's body.

He was more decisive than Tuobert, dead through and through—a Quasi-Dragon Knight ambushing a vampire was akin to a strong man bullying an infant.

Liszt took the handkerchief passed by Crimson Peggy and wiped the blood off his hands, signaling for Bloody Mary to take action. While the corpse's blood magic power had not yet dissipated, it was crucial to quickly extract the heart and retrieve the equipment.

The harvest was substantial.

A pureblood vampire's original heart, filled with surging blood magic power, had several Blood Servants staring fixedly with gleaming eyes.

Three mixed-blood vampire hearts, placed in a box.

A set of formal attire, unique to vampires.

A short sword resembling a military dagger with Wind Language "Silver Oath" carved on it. It shared the same name as Tuobert's dagger, a hereditary magic equipment from the Black Knight Family—but with a different design and virtually identical functions.

A Blood Mask, a book on Reincarnation Ritual, and a Blood Extractor Needle.

A wild beast's tooth the length of a finger, which was also some type of magic equipment, emanating a strong scent of blood magic power; a spiked whip, and a Purple Sapphire ring.

Liszt squeezed the heart.

Fomuir's three followers, Enchantress Phoebe, the dark-robed Vansa, and Fang Seth, quickly rushed over and declared their allegiance to the ranks of the Blood Servants after Bloody Mary's threats and narration. Among them, Enchantress Phoebe was Fomuir's confidante and was very knowledgeable about his equipment.

"This tooth is the fang of the Super Magical Beast - Bloodthirsty Bat, a hereditary magic equipment passed down through generations of the Black Knight Family. Not only does it greatly amplify the training and spellcasting for vampires, but blood exchange rituals can also be performed through the Bloodthirsty Bat Fang to increase the purity of the purebloods' blood lineage," said Phoebe.

Liszt raised an eyebrow, "Super Magical Beast? What does a Bloodthirsty Bat look like?"

"I haven't seen one, sir. The Black Knight Family's heritage is ancient, and whether this Bloodthirsty Bat Fang truly belongs to a Super Magical Beast is unclear," replied Enchantress Phoebe, who was average-looking except for her grand, soaring chest, "This whip is called the Whip of Wails, primarily used for... stimulation."

"Skip that, tell me about this Purple Sapphire ring."

"I am not sure of the name of this ring, sir. Its effect is to fill one with vitality, greatly increasing the rate of magic power recovery," she explained.

"That is a very good piece of equipment," Liszt was quite satisfied with the Purple Sapphire ring and without hesitation, slipped it onto his left index finger.

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In the Duchy of Sapphire, or what one may call the customs of Steel Ridge Kingdom, there are only two conventional ways of wearing rings—worn on the left middle finger by gentlemen and on the right middle finger by ladies implies engagement; worn on the left ring finger by gentlemen and on the right ring finger by ladies signifies marriage.

Wearing rings on any other finger is merely a matter of adornment or equipment—wealthy knights and magicians donning gemstone rings on every finger are not an uncommon sight.

Dou Qi activated the Purple Sapphire ring.

He suddenly felt a mysterious force being conducted from the gemstone into his body, invigorating him with a vitality indescribable by words, as if the cells of his body were boiling with activity every moment. Each gemstone was filled with astonishing power.

Only then did he turn to Bloody Mary, "The hunt this time went very smoothly, Mary. You have contributed to my success, and naturally, I won't shortchange you. This heart of Tuobert now belongs to you. However, I am currently too busy to oversee your cultivation and transformation, so after we take Trapped Dragon Mountain, you can properly absorb this heart."

Suppressing her excitement and desire, Bloody Mary replied, "All is as you arrange, my lord. Everything Mary has was bestowed by you."

Liszt was pleased with her attitude.

He looked at the other seven Blood Servants, "The heart of Fomuir is in my hands and it holds no use for me. As long as you serve me loyally and achieve enough merits, it could be yours. There is a mission at hand—for now, start monitoring every exit of Trapped Dragon Mountain, not allowing a single messenger to escape!"

He paused.

Liszt casually tossed Fomuir's heart in the air, "As long as the task is completed, not just this heart, but also this great pile of equipment will be all yours, including the newly joined Blood Servants—the enchantress Phoebe, the man in black Vansa, and Fang Seth."

"Yes, my lord, we will do our utmost to complete the task!" Bloody Mary led the others in kneeling on one knee.

The remaining Blood Servants followed suit, kneeling down one after another.

In this pitch black forest,

It appeared very eerie.

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The mid-August weather remained sweltering.

Carrying a Temperature Calming Pearl with him, Liszt enjoyed air-conditioned comfort wherever he went, much to the envy of Earl William Lee.

The Knight Order from Mesiro arrived swiftly, swiftly taking over Egret Castle. Meanwhile, Liszt led the now fully replenished mixed elite force of 800 knights on a mountainous journey. With Blood Servants scouting ahead, their progress was fairly smooth. By nightfall, they were lying in wait not far from Trapped Dragon Mountain.

After resting for the night, they would launch their attack.

The departure of Fomuir hadn't caused any commotion.

The enchantress Phoebe, the man in black Vansa, and Fang Seth managed to maintain the supervision of the overseers. Not only that, but at the suggestion of Bloody Mary, they diverted many knights from their surveillance posts, and on the eve of Liszt's planned charge, they assassinated many of the sentries on the watchtowers.

Now,

Trapped Dragon Mountain's iron mine lay stark and unprotected under the spearheads of the mixed Knight Order.

"Charge!"

At dawn,

With Liszt's fierce cry, the battle officially began. Yet his gaze passed over the stationed knights of Trapped Dragon Mountain to find two Sky Knights hastily readying themselves for combat.

In his eyes, they were not enemies.

They were glittering Gold Coins, Elves, food, Serfs, resources for Dragon Riding.

Chapter 632 Jack the Ripper

The battle was unremarkable, it was simply Liszt going bang bang bang, slash slash slash, and shoot shoot shoot. The two Sky Knights stationed at Trapped Dragon Mountain lay on the ground, severely injured, and their Knight Order began to collapse. With Liszt continuously picking off the fleeing knights and vampires constantly attacking.

In the end, both Knight Orders stationed at Trapped Dragon Mountain were completely annihilated.

Some died in battle, most surrendered, and only a few scattered in all directions.

"My lord, I am very sorry, some knights fled through the back roads. We didn't dare to pursue them since the sun outside is getting stronger, and under its scorching light, our combat power has completely wilted," Bloody Mary reported after returning.

Liszt frowned.

But he didn't complain, "I understand. You may go and rest."

After Bloody Mary retreated, he gazed at the piles of iron ore in the valley of Trapped Dragon Mountain, suppressing the surging excitement in his heart and pondered, "Trapped Dragon Mountain is not like Egret Castle, which is resolute in defense. It will be incredibly difficult to completely block the news. Surely, the escaping knights will spread the word, and it won't be long before Alonso looks for an opportunity to withdraw from the frontline."

For now,

the only option was to rush the transportation of the iron ore. They would take as much as they could, and should the Dragon Knights return, they would immediately abandon the transport and flee for their lives. Of course, Liszt was only planning to stay at the Trapped Dragon Mountain Iron Mine for five days to prevent it from being retaken by the surrounding Marquis forces. Five days was a safe margin.

After five days, he couldn't guarantee that Alonso wouldn't come ahead of time.

Without being able to ride a dragon, when facing a real Dragon Knight, Liszt knew when to cower, he absolutely must not play tough.

After clearing the battlefield at Trapped Dragon Mountain, the transportation work began rapidly, with the leaders of Knight Orders like Marcus repeatedly shouting to gather the captive knights. These knights were stripped of their equipment and driven to help transport the iron ore. The elite Knight Order was always monitoring their work.

The miners who had been in the mines were also driven up to join the transport workers.

Cart after cart of ore was transported to the bank of Three Dragons River nearby, awaiting the arrival of the fleet for loading. The only ones treated well were the two Sky Knights who could be exchanged for elves and the six Mine Masters—Mine Masters were akin to Architects, extremely skilled in drilling and mining, and were considered highly talented individuals.

Liszt always favored talents, so these six Mine Masters were spared from menial tasks, but they had to pack their belongings and follow the fleet away to his territory.

Although his territory had no minerals to mine, hoarding such specialized talents would undoubtedly be beneficial.

As for the families of the Mine Masters, they all resided in Lock Dragon City, and it wouldn't take long to bring them back using Blood Servants. Taking these Mine Masters along with their families was also one of Liszt's humane actions.

"My lord, we have already sent knights to Egret Castle to deliver the message. I believe that Lord Mesiro will soon call upon the serfs from Three Dragons City to come and transport the iron ore," someone reported.

"Hmm, Captain Marcus, take care of things in Trapped Dragon Mountain for me and report to me immediately if there is any situation."

"Yes, my lord!"

After Marcus left, he called for Bloody Mary again.

"The battle is over. Now, here is a heart for you. And here's your heart back, absorb this heart right in front of me and practice, show me how Blood Magic is cultivated," Liszt said indifferently, tossing the two hearts over.

Vampires must replace their hearts back to cultivate.

To prevent subordinates from fleeing, Purebloods would personally oversee the Mixed-bloods' cultivation. Liszt retained this method—he also did not trust these vampires.

Clutching the hearts, Bloody Mary was overwhelmed with emotion and knelt on the ground, kissing the tip of Liszt's shoe, "Bloody Mary will forever be loyal to you, my lord!"

After that, she began her training in front of Liszt.

First, she removed her upper garment, displaying herself boldly before Liszt—a sight that was extremely seductive. However, before Liszt could take a good look, Bloody Mary sliced her own chest open with her own hands, then stuffed her heart back into the bloody cavity. The sight made Liszt's scalp tingle.

In an instant, all erotic thoughts shattered completely.

Yet he still forced himself to suppress the discomfort, using the Eye of Magic to observe how Bloody Mary absorbed the heart. It seemed to be some kind of mysterious Blood Magic, which converted the heart from a state of Magic Power into individual Magic Runes—the inverse form of a Magic Array.

Since the Blood Servants had not completed the related books on Blood Magic, Liszt's understanding of it was limited.

He lost interest after watching for a while; the entire absorption process was quite tedious. Bloody Mary simply sat still, constantly casting spells to absorb those Magic Runes into her body.

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By the time Bloody Mary finished absorbing the heart, a whole day and night had passed.

She had not become a Pureblood Vampire yet, as it still required some time for digestion and absorption. After the absorption was complete, she conscientiously dug out her heart again and handed it over to Liszt. Compared to her previous heart, the current one was much more translucent and rich with Blood Magic Power.

Taking the still-beating heart, Liszt couldn't help asking, "I'm curious, when you slice open your own chest like that, don't you feel any pain?"

"My lord, pain is a part of Blood Magic. Often, it's through pain that we can better feel alive, rather than just a talking corpse."

"Do you ever regret becoming a Vampire?"

"I have no regrets. I was forcibly transformed into a Vampire by Tuobert—it wasn't a choice I could make. But it feels quite nice. At least after becoming a Vampire, I can preserve my youthful face, and the feeling of flying freely is also beautiful."

Liszt could not relate to her feelings.

He could already fly, whether by himself or on a bird. Plus, his face had always been tender and handsome. By the time he became the Dragon Domain LandLord, he would probably look young for a few hundred more years—but he was not particularly fixated on eternal life. A few hundred years would probably be enough.

Living too long had no appeal to him.

After signaling to Bloody Mary that she could leave, he stayed alone in the study of Nameless Castle, flipping through the Advanced Dou Qi Manual "Meteor Fall Shockwave" that he had confiscated the day before yesterday. It was found in the bedroom of a Sky Knight stationed here, with signs of daily wear.

And this Advanced Dou Qi Manual was the reward for the Smoke Mission.

"Complete the mission, reward: Advanced Dou Qi Manual 'Meteor Fall Shockwave'."

The mission was completed when the Knight Order surrendered, and a new mission followed.

"Mission: This Pioneer Mandate has already achieved glorious results. The war spoils from the iron ore will continue to pour into the bag, and next, it's time to carefully consider the ransom for the captive Knights, as well as the future trade of Serfs. Please patiently wait for the war to end. Reward: Unknown reward."

"It's indeed time to consider how to wrap things up," Liszt said as he tossed "Meteor Fall Shockwave" directly into the Gemstone Space, "With five Sky Knights captured, two ordinary and three Sword Saints, one of whom shamelessly insisted on following me... The spoils from this Pioneer Mandate will keep me well-fed for years!"

At that moment.

The study door was knocked, and the Earl's voice came from outside, "Liszt, I've arranged with your uncle Mesiro to go hunting in the nearby woods. Would you like to join us? My Knights have discovered the trail of a powerful Magical Beast, perhaps we can capture it!"

Chapter 633 Watch and Learn Well

A trace of a powerful Magical Beast.

In fact, ever since Li Weiliam had rushed to Trapped Dragon Mountain to guard the iron mines, he had been sending out knights every day to search the surrounding mountains, nominally for signs of enemy knights, but in reality, he was more eager to find Intermediate and Advanced Magical Beasts—he had longed for a Magical Beast mount for many years.

In the Duchy of Sapphire, Magical Beasts were rare, and few knights rode Magical Beasts; instead, for the charge on the battlefield, they all uniformly rode horses.

Only Sky Knights would ride various Magical Beasts into battle.

The huge tiger that Marquis Nuta rode before was a Wind Attribute Intermediate Magical Beast—the Colossal Claw Tiger. However, Intermediate and Advanced Magical Beasts usually inhabit deep in the Primeval Forest, and it was already quite difficult for Knight Orders or Mercenary Corps to team up and kill them, let alone capture them alive.

Even if captured, they were difficult to tame.

The Low-Level Magical Beast—the Fierce Earth Dog Tupo—that Liszt had brought back was continuously subdued by Douson using his body, but it still took a tremendous amount of time to erase its wild nature. Although Tupo no longer harmed people now, it was still very difficult for it to accept Liszt's commands.

A Low-Level Magical Beast was already so difficult to tame, let alone those Intermediate and Advanced Magical Beasts.

Liszt was able to have the Blizzard Beast Squad partly because Douson was originally an unopened-eyed newborn of a Low-Level Magical Beast, and partly because it evolved after eating the Bloodline Fruit. If Douson had been an adult, it would have been difficult to completely tame him. As for Landwalker bird Loki and Rainbow Whale Rose, it was probably the Dragon bloodline that endowed them with easy-to-ride characteristics.

Dragons, such noble creatures, could be ridden by people; it was evident that Dragon-related creatures would inherit this trait.

Magical Beasts that were not related to dragons were entirely different. When Marquis Nuta attacked Little Riverheart Castle, he rode the Intermediate Magical Beast Colossal Claw Tiger but did not fight alongside it, implying that he had tamed an adult Colossal Claw Tiger—it could be ridden, but it could not be commanded like an extension of one's limbs in battle.

And capturing just one Colossal Claw Tiger was already difficult, let alone breeding offspring from it.

Magical Beasts with strong bloodlines inherently had difficulty reproducing.

"If Magical Beasts were so easy to capture and tame, I'm afraid the Noble Landlords of the Eagle Kingdom would have established a Magical Beast Knight Order long ago... and the Magical Beasts around Trapped Dragon Mountain would have been roasted and eaten by those two Sky Knights already," Liszt thought during the Earl's invitation to capture a Magical Beast.

He considered many pieces of information in an instant.

Of course, he did not openly say this, only criticized in his mind that the Earl's idea was a bit naïve; it was not as simple as finding a powerful Magical Beast and being able to tame it into a mount. At the very least, one had to be "favored by the glory of knighthood" to obtain excellent Magical Beast mounts like Douson, Loki, and Ros.

He left the study.

He still accepted the hunting invitation; if possible, he would capture a Magical Beast for the Earl, saving him from the daily nagging about mounts, and eyeing his own mounts Douson, Loki, and Ros inappropriately.

"Father, we are leaving Trapped Dragon Mountain; will the defenses here be alright?"

"Don't worry, the First Prince has already sent the Hemp Eagle Knights to send messages; he is dispatching an elite Knight Order here for support, while also organizing a fleet from various Landlords to transport the iron ore. There's no need for us to be tense anymore; we should appropriately distribute the profits to others."

"I understand this principle, but the importance of the iron mines goes without saying. If the nearby Landlords take risks for the iron mines, wouldn't that severely diminish our military achievements?"

"Not being coveted is because of being favored by glory, and even if snatched away, it's not a bad result. In the past few days, we have already transported more than 300,000 tons of iron ore, and these military achievements are enough for me to accumulate to the rank of Marquis within two or three years, and you also get the resources for development... Being overly powerful is not necessarily a good thing."

The Earl had his own reasoning.

He only knew that Liszt was an inheritor of the Ancient Warrior, a Ghost Swordsman from Arad; while he certainly could help the family rise, they still had to rely on the breath of Dragon Knights to survive.

Thus, being appropriately low-key and developing steadily is a good thing.

Liszt could not deny this, as he actually wouldn't mind pushing Li Weiliam to the position of marquis in one step, while he himself would be promoted to earl along the way, continuing to follow Li Weiliam. He wanted to avoid being so outstanding that the Sapphire Duke might forcibly recruit him as a follower, which would be quite awkward.

After all, regardless of strength, he was at least a Dragon Knight of equal status!

However, since the earl wanted to stabilize things, Liszt did not strongly oppose, and the two of them left the Nameless Castle together to meet up with Mesiro at the Knight Order's camp.

"Liszt, are you ready? Let's go capture a big one!" Mesiro approached, slapping Liszt on the shoulder.

There was always an unreal feeling.

The once timid and unwelcome nephew at Tulip Castle had actually grown into a top-tier powerhouse, reaching a height that even he, as the heir to the marquisate, had to look up to. The gap in noble titles didn't give him any advantage, for Liszt's future was destined to become a marquis.

A powerful Ancient Warrior Inheritor—the position of marquis was the highest treatment the Duchy of Sapphire could offer.

Fortunately, Mesiro could still talk to Liszt as an elder, and he had to maintain the relationship through family ties. Marquis Merlin was on his deathbed, and in the period when Meioubao had not yet grown up, the Long Taro Family's rule over Red Crab Island urgently required Liszt's support.

Otherwise, given the Little Princess's strong background, Red Crab Island might change from "Long Taro" to "Sapphire" in a few years.

Especially since thus far, there hasn't been any sign of the Little Princess being with child—divorce is clearly impossible, for who would dare to abandon the Grand Duke's daughter. The most likely outcome is that the family bloodline would be replaced, and by

then, the only one who could uphold justice for the Long Taro Family would be Liszt—Mesiro had considered this problem more than once.

While his expression became briefly absent.

Liszt had already declared himself ready.

He was unaware of his uncle's inner thoughts, but knew that his uncle's attitude was very warm, certainly intending to win him over—actually, it felt quite nice.

Looking at the Retainer Knights accompanying him, he said to Xavier, "Go find Emily and tell her to follow me for a hunt in the forest."

"Yes, my lord!"

Moments later, Emily rode up on a horse, the twelve or thirteen-year-old girl in the midst of growing, nearly shooting up in height every day, currently almost reaching one meter seventy. Her talent had once again astounded Liszt, touching the bottleneck of Dou Qi after just a few battles and killings.

Becoming an Elite Earth Knight.

If it weren't for knowing that all her training resources were provided by him, Liszt really would have doubted whether it was Emily who had inherited the legacy of the Ancient Warrior.

"My lord!" Emily greeted him respectfully.

Liszt nodded indifferently, feeling more and more the pleasure of nurturing, though his expression remained placid: "Emily, follow me on the hunt, and remember, watch carefully and learn well."

Emily responded excitedly, "As you wish, my lord!"

She knew that Liszt was preparing to teach her personally; this was definitely an opportunity all knights dreamed of—the incredibly powerful knight teaching lessons himself!

Chapter 634 Return Fully Loaded

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Li Weiliang and Mesiro relentlessly trailed the magical beast's tracks, while Liszt lazily followed behind, instructing Emily on how to cultivate and fight.

Even though he was currently just an ordinary Sky Knight aside from his Dragon Knight status, he had fought a considerable number of opponents. Especially with the powerful force of the Dragon Dou Qi, he could calmly observe how other Sky Knights fought.

By using a scientific approach to summarize his experiences, he had not only written "The Earth Chronicle of Liszt"; he was now pondering "The Sky Chronicle of Liszt".

In the realm of knight training, he believed his ideas were far more advanced than the ideas of his time.

Emily was an excellent student—intelligent, resilient, and not given to complaints or idle talk. She always maintained a humble and respectful attitude towards him. Attitude is particularly important; Liszt did not like those who are arrogant due to their talents, nor did he like those who considered themselves geniuses.

The reason he was not fond of Lidun was related to Lidun's often-displayed attitude that he was a genius—an attitude incompatible with Liszt's presence, in which no one could claim to be a genius!

"Elite Earth Knights mainly rely on consuming magic potions. Once the Pioneer Mandate is over and we return to our territory, I will provide you with enough Magic Potions. Furthermore, you should diligently study "The Earth Chronicle of Liszt", which will guide you on how to take potions effectively and break through the constraints of your cells."

"Yes, my lord!"

"In addition, you must also learn archery. It's a standard skill for knights. However, my "Multi-Arrow" is not suitable for you. I will choose an archery instructor from among the

Elite Earth Knights to teach you other types of archery," Liszt said. His "Multi-Arrow" relies on the "infinite bullets" cheat provided by the Gemstone Space.

That's why it can inflict such powerful damage, with each casual shot releasing three arrows. A regular knight wouldn't have enough arrows in a quiver to execute it many times.

He believed that the creator of the secret manual for "Multi-Arrow" must have had access to a Space Gem; otherwise, they wouldn't invent such an arrow-consuming archery skill—if one is only satisfied with the realm of Double Arrow, then "Multi-Arrow" is a fine choice, but his expectations for Emily went beyond just being an Elite Earth Knight.

Emily didn't ask why: "Yes, my lord!"

"Further, if you're not good at arithmetic, I can help you measure your body's tolerance and adaptability to Magic Potions. It's only through scientific consumption that one can minimize expenditure and maximize benefits to break free from the shackles of the earth as soon as possible."

"Yes, my lord!"

Emily no longer just thanked Liszt with words for his nurturing grace. She had already resolved in her heart that everything about her belonged to Liszt. Simple words of thanks were meaningless. Dedicating herself entirely to Lord Landlord was now her sole focus in life.

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To the Earl's regret, the hunting party ultimately lost track of the powerful magical beast, and by nightfall, they had not rediscovered any useful clues.

After a whole day's journey,

Aside from hunting a number of low-level magical beasts, they captured only one Intermediate Magical Beast—a Spiked Porcupine.

This Spiked Porcupine, with its Thunder Attribute, had formidable offensive power. Liszt forcefully breached its lightning coat with Dragon Dou Qi and then knocked it out alive.

He inquired if the Earl wished to use the Spiked Porcupine as a mount.

Looking at the long, sharp spikes on the back of the Spiked Porcupine, which resembled a Knight's Spear, the Earl fell into a profound silence. After returning to Trapped Dragon Mountain, the evening feast saw dish after dish of delicious Spiked Porcupine roast served. The Earl picked up a pork rib and crunched it up, bones and all.

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"What a pity."

Liszt said, eating a leg of Spiked Porcupine meat, expressing regret, "In fact, if you remove the spikes on the back of the Spiked Porcupine, it can still be tamed as a mount for riding."

Of course, it's pointless to talk about that now. He had to focus on filling his stomach.

Thus, a day passed.

In the blink of an eye, Liszt had been stationed at Trapped Dragon Mountain for five days, and it was time to depart. The Sunset, tasked with transportation, had already sailed up the Roaring River against the current, and Captain Marcus had the Black Horse Island Knights Order tirelessly moving the mass of goods collected to the Sunset.

The elite knights sent by the First Prince had already taken over the defense of Trapped Dragon Mountain. The commander was a Sword Saint, strong enough to uphold the mountain's defenses in the coming times.

"Viscount Garcia, Viscount Fox, once the knights withdraw from Trapped Dragon Mountain, your letters will be sent out at the same time. Once your families or landlords send someone with your ransom to Iron Hoof Island, you will gain your freedom... As for now, you need to pay a visit to Coral Island."

"Understood."

The two Sky Knights responded listlessly; they were followers of Alonso Xiankelai. They didn't come from major families but from the orphanage of the Xiankelai family and hadn't been Sky Knights for long. Therefore, apart from one or two Little Minor Elves, they had nothing else.

Liszt had them write letters, primarily to Alonso, asking him to pay the ransom with two ordinary Little Minor Elves per person, or one grain-related or Magic Potion-related Little Minor Elf.

Seizing his iron mines, enlisting his knights, and now demanding a ransom—Liszt would not be lenient with this potential rival in the upcoming dragon-slaying battle.

The Sunset set sail.

The eight Blood Servants also departed, having transported away 500,000 tons of iron ore from Trapped Dragon Mountain, now completely handed over to the knights under the control of the First Prince.

The Earl didn't follow the Sunset but boarded a Court Fast Sailing Ship provided by Mesiro.

The two stood at the prow of the ship, gazing at distant Trapped Dragon Mountain, sharing their sentiments. Mesiro said, "Leaving now, most of the remaining military exploits will be consumed by the many noble landlords, which is quite a pity indeed."

Li Weiliam smiled, "The military exploits that are mine cannot be taken away by anyone."

"Indeed, with Liszt's formidable power as a Ghost Swordsman Inheritor, he is more than capable of safeguarding the share of military exploits belonging to Coral Island. However, at such a young age, Liszt has helped you achieve such splendid results. After returning to our country, I fear a whole host of nobles will be driven mad with envy."

"Only those who are superior to others invite envy. My second son, Liszt, is destined to become the cornerstone of Sapphire. They envy him now, but in a few more years, they

will change their mindset—because Liszt will make them understand that envy cannot destroy a genius."

"That's true."

Mesiro, resting his hands on the railing, said, "If Liszt were still weak, obtaining the Ghost Swordsman Inheritance would not be a good thing. But he has grown strong enough to protect himself. Even a Grand Duke must pay him the utmost attention... Perhaps in a few years, he will join you and me in ascending to the rank of Marquis."

The Earl, with hands clasped behind his back, spoke in a nonchalant tone, "Let's see how he develops."

Chapter 635 Overnight Wealth

The ape-like cries on either shore persist, yet my light boat has already passed through a myriad of mountain ranges.

Though the speed of the Sunset on the sea wasn't fast, it far surpassed the sea's pace when flowing downstream on the Three Dragon River and the Roaring River, even when the cabin was filled with mountainous stacks of supplies.

It soon arrived at Little Riverheart Castle.

Imprisoned at Little Riverheart Castle were three Sword Saints, one of whom was Deborah Yuhua Stone, another was Count Egret, and the last was Yevich Water Peanut.

Marquis Nuta sent people to participate in the ransom discussion for the three followers. The final agreement was that Count Egret would pay for two grain-producing, Magic Potion-related Minor Elves and one common Minor Elf; Deborah would pay for two grain-producing, Magic Potion-related Minor Elves and two common Minor Elves.

The Minor Elves' lifespans could not exceed fifty years.

As for Yevich, Marquis Nuta had given up and did not intend to pay any ransom for him.

"This is really awkward, isn't it? Yevich can't even fetch a price!" Levis felt quite gloomy about Marquis Nuta's decision. To abandon a Sword Saint follower as if discarding him

like cabbage, "As a marquis, you have no sense of public duty. Trash shouldn't just be thrown anywhere!"

Yevich felt similarly embarrassed, of course knowing that Marquis Nuta wouldn't pay much for him. However, to not even name a price was a great insult to his dignity!

He made up his mind resolutely, "My lord, Yevich wishes to follow you, to start anew, forsaking any titles from the Eagle Kingdom!"

By now, he had become an inextricably attached burden.

Liszt pondered for a long while and at last came up with a decision, "You've decided to start over and I, being as merciful as I am, can't deny you an opportunity. Here's what we'll do, I don't want your Minor Elves, but they must be planted on my land, with Elves in my custody. And you..."

Yevich had two rather useless Water Peanut Minor Elves and fourteen Sprite Bugs.

The contract count for Sprite Bugs was too low, and switching contracts was too much trouble. Moreover, only one "Erect Centipeda Elf Bug" was capable of planting the Magic Potion Erect Centipeda, and one "Sweet Potato Sprite Bug" could cultivate the grain Sweet Potato, both had slight value. Contracting them wasn't worth it. They were better used as a means to keep the other party in check.

"Please give your orders, my lord. Yevich has no objections!"

"I plan for you to venture out to sea and to find new habitable islands outside the Duchy of Sapphire. Each island found would be equivalent to you establishing a feat in battle. If you can find a large island like Iron Hoof Island, making you an earl wouldn't be a problem at all... You do believe I have the power to make you an earl, don't you?"

Yevich agreed readily, "I believe completely in your lordship!"

"Then, you agree to set sail in search of islands?"

"Yes, my lord."

"Swear your oath of allegiance."

The loyalty ceremony was carried out, and Yevich officially became one of Liszt's freemen followers, having cast aside the noble titles granted by the former Eagle Kingdom. Once the oath was done, his identity naturally changed, with no possibility of returning to the past—public allegiance, under the watchful eyes of many, held clear legal effect.

Having regained his freedom, Yevich could not decide whether to feel happy or sorrowful.

A man, a Sword Saint, reduced to such a state was sincerely devoid of anything that could offer self-comfort. Moreover, he was also mentally weary of war; after a lifetime of struggle, things had only gotten worse, and it seemed better to explore the solitary seas. No need to face the manipulative schemes and one-upmanship among the nobles.

Observing the somewhat dejected Yevich, Liszt wasn't concerned.

He didn't want Yevich involved in any knightly wars, as the fellow's character was unreliable. If he changed loyalties again, it would be a losing deal.

Better to dispatch him to search for new islands.

This way, without Liszt's support, Yevich wouldn't stand a chance in the vast ocean, and there was no need to worry about him attempting to defect. And Liszt did need a powerful knight to lead the fleet on his behalf, to scout for him and find suitable maritime territories to establish a state.

Toppling the Sapphire Family was only a contingency plan; it would be activated only if the Grand Duke were confirmed to turn hostile.

He disliked the life of constant fighting and preferred to establish a nation on an island, living a tranquil life separated from the world—turning to the continent for sustenance, much like the Sapphire's Pioneer Mandate, whenever impoverished or starved.

Especially once the new sailing technology was developed, he planned to sail around the continent, seizing all islands and establishing his influence. To rear the continent as his

private garden was a tempting thought, yet the difficulty of making it a reality was enormous.

Resolve the following issue with Yevich's followers.

Little Riverheart Castle also welcomed the team delivering the ransom for Marquis Nuta. The Sword Saints could raise their own ransom, but it was up to Marquis Nuta to cover the cost for the numerous captured members of the Roaring Knights.

The ransom, after much back-and-forth during this period, was essentially settled. Now it was just a matter of completing the exchange.

For Count Egret's part, his family delivered three Minor Elves—a Wheat Minor Elf and a Sword Minor Elf related to grain, along with an ordinary ornamental plant "Snapdragon Minor Elf." The Sword, being a type of grain, was very valuable, not only for making ropes but also as fodder for livestock and poultry.

Deborah herself personally handed over four Minor Elves—a Coptis Minor Elf related to Magic Potions, a Millet Minor Elf related to grain, as well as a common Apple Minor Elf and a Flipped-White Grass Sprite—the Apple Minor Elf could also be used to grow apples, and the Flipped-White Grass Sprite could probably only grow wild grass.

Marquis Nuta, moreover, brought not only a large amount of Gold Coins and seeds but also owed two Minor Elves—a Tobacco Minor Elf, equivalent to grain since it could be used to make cigarettes, and a Pine Elf Bug, a commonly used timber, also equivalent to grain.

All the Minor Elves were contracted to Liszt. One could easily imagine his excitement as he watched the nine Minor Elves that now surrounded him.

War indeed was the best way to wealth.

After more than two years of farming on the island, he had gained only one Greater Elf and six Minor Elves. But with this Pioneer Mandate of less than a month, he had harvested nine Minor Elves, and if you added Yevich's two Water Peanut Minor Elves, that was eleven in total!

The most crucial part was,

Most of them were grain and Magic Potion-related Minor Elves, which were more valuable.

"If Alonso weren't likely to return at any moment, I would really like to stay here, continue to capture Sky Knights and earn ransom. After a year or so, I might be able to fill an entire room with Minor Elves," thought Liszt, watching the procession handing over the ransom and continuously carting away the supplies, feeling delighted.

An Earl typically had but one Greater Elf and twelve Minor Elves.

Yet he now possessed one Greater Elf and fifteen Minor Elves, not even counting the two Water Peanut Minor Elves, a veritable overnight fortune.

...

Late August.

Liszt, replete with his harvest, bade farewell to Li Weiliam before setting sail on the Sunset: "Father, I leave the matters here to you. I will be waiting on Coral Island for your return."

"Go, the war may not be over, but your Pioneer Mandate is. After you return, focus on cultivating on Black Horse Island without minding other affairs, and strive to penetrate the Spiritual Power of the Ghost Swordsman soon."

"I understand. Let Enchantress Phoebe, Night Demon Wimbleton, and One-Eyed Uso be at your command. Although their combat strength is quite average, they are the most suitable as eyes," he assured.

The Earl glanced at the three Vampires wrapped in black cloaks: "Mm."

And so,

The Sunset weighed anchor.

With paddles stirring and sails rising, the ship faced the undulating Sea Waves and sailed into the deep blue sea. Moments later, it disappeared over the horizon.

Chapter 636 The Scholar

Out at sea, the strong wind whipped up waves, but the Sunset remained steady.

Liszt sat at the bow, enjoying the breeze, with nine Blizzard Beasts either sitting or lying down, occupying the entire front of the ship; Loki was a bit more spirited, occasionally flying up into the sky for a loop before landing back on the bow, taking a batch of wheat kernels scented with a secret recipe from Liszt's hand, savoring them one by one.

Not far away on the deck, Alvin Eagle Sword was studying the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword. As a family heirloom of a Greater Elf Warrior, he mastered the usage methods more swiftly than Liszt.

The Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword had two properties.

One was to transform the nature of Dou Qi, turning the user's Dou Qi into ice-attribute Dou Qi—Liszt referred to this as "Ice Rotation," and he was close to figuring it out; just one final step, along with prolonged integration and practice, would enable the effortless use of the Ice Rotation Skill.

The second was the Ice Seal Dou Qi Domain, sealing the Domain Knight's resonance within the Dou Qi Domain—Liszt called this "Ice Seal," and at present, there was no clue. It was unlikely that even Marquis Nuta could have figured it out after half a year of trying; Alvin wouldn't be able to master it right off the bat.

Fortunately, there was Alvin Eagle Sword, an Iron Knight. Though his talent was mediocre, the techniques of the family's Iron Knight, combined with unlocking the special abilities of the heirloom Greater Elf Warrior, should not be too difficult.

"Once Alvin cracks the Ice Seal Skill of the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword, Domain Knights will be no different from ordinary Knights in my presence!" Liszt thought to himself as he drank the still-warm Banpo cow milk, "Besides, Alvin has already decided to offer his family's Iron Knight techniques to me, it's time to start an Iron Knight course at the Knight Academy."

Since the future was destined for nation-building.

Then all kinds of talents had to be nurtured in advance, lest when the time comes, the nation would be desolate, scarcely populated.

After finishing the Banpo cow milk in the cup, Liszt took out a piece of roasted Magical Beast Meat from the Gemstone Space and began to eat. Although he was reluctant to expose the Space Gem, he was no longer overly cautious; even if the Space Gem was revealed, who would dare to snatch it.

Even if the Grand Duke took action, he wouldn't be afraid.

At worst, he would just turn against them.

Of course, most of those around him were his followers and Servants. As long as he avoided strangers, no matter how he exposed the Gemstone Space, news would not leak easily—very few people knew of the miraculous gemstone called Space Gem, and most people didn't even know or believe in the existence of the Sacred Dragon.

On the deck in the middle of the ship.

Emily was practicing archery under Viscount Garcia's guidance, studying the secret tome "Guided Arrow."

As an Advanced prisoner, he could move freely within the designated areas of the Sunset. Since he was skilled in archery, he took the initiative to teach Emily—Liszt treated him with good wine and meat, so it was only natural for him to reciprocate. On the other side, Viscount Fox, another prisoner, was also instructing a few young Knights.

After several consecutive battles.

The original sixty-plus members of the Black Horse Island Knights Order had suffered a third of casualties, falling in battle—a fate inevitable for Knights. However, not only did the size of the Knight Order not diminish, it expanded to over a hundred and twenty, with all the additions being Elite Earth Knights.

So many Earth Knights were definitely beyond Liszt's means to support, and he was not willing to do so.

But the ransom from this wave of prisoner exchanges brought him nine Little Minor Elves, including a Coptis Minor Elf that produced Magic Potions, as well as two Minor Elves of wheat and corn that produced grains. The output of Magic Potions and grains basically sustained the expansion of his territory.

Once the iron ore transport was completed, Liszt was also planning to ask the Earl to purchase thirty thousand Serfs for him.

Black Horse Island was developing industry instead of merely agriculture, hence it could absorb a large number of Serfs. As long as food was sufficient, it could support up to a hundred thousand Serfs.

"Elite Earth Knights must be constantly trained to form an exclusive elite Knight Order of my own, and before I ride dragons, I can contemplate how to cultivate the Dou Qi Domain... Although I'm a Dragon Knight, there's no guarantee that my descendants will inherit the talent. If they can't ride dragons, then they must master the Dou Qi Domain," said Liszt.

He didn't even have a wife yet, but he was already worried about his future children.

Clip-clop, clip-clop.

The sound of high heels tapping against the ground.

It was Bloody Mary, shrouded in a long robe, walking towards him. Her pale face concealed in her hood was tinged with an unnaturally red flush. "My lord," she greeted.

The Eye of Magic was deployed.

With one glance, Liszt could see that the Blood Magic Power surging within Bloody Mary had reached another level. "Have you successfully evolved into a Pureblood Vampire?"

"Yes, thanks to your lordship's cultivation, Mary has finally become a Pureblood Vampire," she confirmed.

"Good, by evolving into a Pureblood Vampire on your own, you must have gained a new understanding of the Blood Magic system, which can provide more research material," Liszt noted.

"I am already preparing to add this material to 'The Nature and Development of Blood Magic,'" said Bloody Mary as she presented her heart, cradled in both hands, to Liszt. "My lord, my cultivation has come to a pause, please continue to safeguard it for Mary."

Taking the heart.

Liszt found himself increasingly satisfied with her attitude and nodded. "I've seen your loyalty. Now, I entrust you with this Reincarnation Ritual, this Blood Extractor Needle, and this Blood Mask. In addition, the hearts of the Mixed-bloods are yours too, their cultivation will be under your supervision from now on."

He had no desire to waste time overseeing the training of a few Mixed-bloods.

"Thank you for your trust, my lord. Mary will surely manage the Blood Servants well and be your eyes in the darkness of night!" Bloody Mary accepted the items and bowed deeply, kissing the tip of Liszt's shoe once more. "My lord, may I transform new Vampires?"

"If you wish to transform others, you may. But it must be on a voluntary basis, forcing no one to become a Vampire," he instructed.

Bloody Mary replied respectfully, "Your lordship's kindness is the happiness of your subjects. Had I encountered you first, perhaps my life would have been different."

"Perhaps you would have become a Grand Magician," suggested Liszt with a slight smile. "You should know, though I am a knight, I have also conducted extensive research on magic theory. I have published three books on the subject, and in my domain, there's a magician who was promoted to Grand Magician after studying my work."

He was referring to Chris Truth.

Indeed, his Magic Books had profoundly inspired Chris's advancement.

Bloody Mary expressed her astonishment fittingly, "Ah, lord, you study magic as well? Your writings helped a magician advance to Grand Magician? You truly are a scholar. If you had not chosen to cultivate Dou Qi but instead pursued magic, you would certainly have become a great Archmage!"

Liszt gave a faint smile.

He seemed to be indifferent to the praise, quickly changing the subject, "Not only must you manage the Blood Servants, but don't forget to supervise Lars, Cyrille, and Drak, these three Grand Magicians. If they can't pay the ransom for their freedom, then they must work for me honestly."

"As you wish, my lord!"

Chapter 637 I Love the Ocean

Speaking of the three penniless Grand Magicians, Liszt suddenly remembered the hand-drawn map, pointing towards the lost civilization ruins of an unknown race.

The map pointed to the seas near the coast by Roaring River Mouth.

When the three Grand Magicians found Yevich, since he was also penniless, they coaxed him into believing that this civilization's ruins might contain a vast amount of ancient treasure—Yevich took it for truth and prepared to finance their excavation of the ruins.

"Whether there is treasure, we don't know, but as an unknown marine civilization, we believe there must be extremely valuable knowledge left behind." This was the evasive answer Lars·Truth gave to Liszt when he inquired, as he also wanted to coax Liszt into searching for the treasure.

But actually, without his cajolery, Liszt would still excavate the ruins of the lost civilization of the unknown race.

Taking out the handmade map and looking at its three sections, he couldn't help but want to quickly return to his Black Horse Island—as successful location of the ruins with this

map would definitely rely on the assistance of Sea Sprite Ake and Rainbow Whale Rose, or else diving would be a major problem.

"Could the unknown race actually be a race of sea sprites?"

No answer.

He put away the hand-drawn map of the ruins, no longer thinking about it.

Instead, he turned his gaze towards the sea, where Clear Water Sword Saint Yevich·Waterflower was trying hard to learn to swim. Being a landlubber, though he had Water Attribute Dou Qi, he wasn't very good at swimming. Set to take the position of captain of the Adventure Fleet, he went to the sea every day to struggle in acclimation to nautical life.

At first, he had to be fished out of the water by sailors several times.

Now he could swim back to the ship himself and was gradually overcoming his fear of the deep sea: "I've grown to love the sea, its endless azure hues give me great enjoyment of its depth and vastness. Although I arrived almost thirty years late, at this moment I've found true love!"

Yevich, fresh from swimming, made a passionate declaration of love for the sea.

However, by the afternoon, this declaration fell apart in haste, leaving only Yevich's hoarse roar: "My Lord, let me back into the cabin; I don't want to stay on deck!"

The weather was clear in the morning, but by the afternoon it turned into a violent storm.

The huge waves slapped against the sea's surface, making the Sunset resemble a frail leaf, helpless against the force. The Sunset was equipped with a Water Calming Pearl and a Calming Wind Pearl, but Liszt didn't allow the captain to activate them because he wanted to scare Yevich, to see if he had truly fallen in love with the sea.

A moment later.

The Water Calming Pearl and the Calming Wind Pearl were activated at the same time, and the Sunset returned to calm. A hundred meters out at sea, tumultuous waves were still raging, but as they entered the influence area of the Calming Wind Pearl and the Water Calming Pearl, they gradually slowed down and settled. However, there were still some waves rocking the ship.

Many people who had never been on a ship before.

Like Alvin Eagle Sword and the three Grand Magicians, were vomiting profusely.

Yevich, originally with the robust physique of a Sky Knight, was not prone to vomiting. But after being locked out on the deck rolling about, he could no longer hold back, heaving over the side of the ship with "woah," "woah," vomiting out everything he had eaten at noon, his face turning pale.

Once he was cleaned up by several Retainer Knights and changed into clean clothes,

Liszt received him in the small tower building: "Yevich, the sea is so fickle, gentle one moment and cruel the next. Do you still feel that you've fallen in love with the sea, and want to live upon it?"

Yevich took a deep breath.

His answer was still firm: "Yes, My Lord! My swimming is poor, and I was seasick just now. The sea indeed has such a terrifying aspect, but I still wish to ride the waves. I once missed the opportunity to conquer dragons, and now I don't want to miss the opportunity to conquer the sea!"

Dragons and the sea... what's there to compare?

Liszt didn't understand Yevich's line of thinking, but since the man wasn't scared witless and was still full of fighting spirit, it showed the Adventure Fleet could be entrusted to him.

...

The Sunset docked at the Port of Bull Hoof City on Iron Hoof Island on August 23rd.

The port was bustling, with ships carrying iron ore coming and going one after another. Stationed at Bull Hoof City was the Marquis of Quicksand City - Nesta Big Flower Hydrangea, the Grand Duke's big brother-in-law.

Upon receiving news of Liszt's return, Nesta personally went to the port to receive him.

"Marquis Nesta, thank you for coming to meet me, I am truly honored." Liszt performed noble etiquette with great grace.

Of course.

There was not the kind of devout ceremony that a minor noble would exhibit upon meeting a great noble, but rather a more battlefield-oriented knightly etiquette, which skillfully circumvented the status gap brought about by their respective ranks.

Otherwise, a viscount like Liszt meeting a marquis would have necessitated a level of ceremony that would have made him uncomfortable.

Nesta didn't mind this point.

Arrogance is a fault exclusive to the young.

He enthusiastically clapped Liszt on the shoulder, "So young and promising, young and promising! I've heard about you back in the country and I was itching to personally head to the Impact River Plain to witness your great battle with Marquis Nuta. The Sapphires have not seen such an excellent youth like you for a very long time!"

Liszt gave a restrained smile, choosing not to respond.

Nesta immediately took him by the arm and headed towards the nearby castle, "I've written to the Grand Duke about your affairs and he has praised you highly in his reply. It's a pity that his two daughters are already married, otherwise he would definitely have

wanted them to marry you... But don't worry, my eldest granddaughter has just come of age, and you two could get to know each other."

By rights, Nesta's granddaughter was one generation younger than the Little Princess and so also one generation younger than Liszt.

However, status is not a major concern here; marriages are primarily considered based on whether the parties are well-matched and whether the union benefits both families.

As for female nobles, Liszt never held any expectations unless it was a cultivated relationship; otherwise, he would not easily accept—one must admit that the customs were too liberal.

He had his subordinates arrange for the Sunset's resupply.

Liszt only brought a few retainers, as well as Yevich and Emily, to the castle to attend Marquis Nesta's banquet. There were quite a few nobles attending the banquet, most of whom were from the Blue Blood Alliance nobility stationed on Iron Hoof Island, which for the moment was firmly in the grip of the Sapphire Family.

At the banquet.

Marquis Nesta didn't shy away from beating around the bush to inquire about Liszt's identity, quickly coaxing a lot of information from the "not so shrewd" Liszt, including details about the "sunken ship," "G.S.D instructor," "spiritual power," the "Ghost Swordsman," and the like. He realized that Liszt, basked in the glory of knighthood, had actually obtained the legacy of Arad civilization.

Whether or not they believed it, at least the atmosphere at the banquet was pleasant.

They flattered each other.

So much so that one could grow calluses from hearing it all.

No young noble lacking foresight came to challenge Liszt— after all, since Liszt became the youngest Sky Knight in the country, he had not encountered a single impudent young noble who dared to provoke him.

Being an earl's son himself and just barely making it into the ranks of the great nobility, plus his lack of enthusiasm for socializing, meant he met few young nobles. Most of the young nobles who did make the rounds were heirs of great families, trained in the art of hypocritical social tactics, and furthermore, most were only at the Earth Knight level.

How could they dare to challenge a Sky Knight, and the country's youngest at that?

And so.

The banquet ended amidst a joyful atmosphere.

Nesta still didn't let Liszt leave, but continued to chat idly with him, probing for more information about him while also subtly promoting his granddaughter.

Liszt was not interested in these topics; instead, he asked, "Marquis Nesta, do you know about Domain Knights? Marquis Nuta is one, and he almost killed me. If his Dou Qi Domain hadn't been unstable, I'm afraid I would have had a hard time making it back alive."

"A Domain Knight, you say..." Nesta murmured, organizing his thoughts.

Chapter 638 Scared

"There are quite a few Completion Level Sky Knights in the country, and basically, as long as a member of the Marquis Family isn't too stupid or worthless, they can accumulate a Completion Level Sky Knight with the help of Magic Potions. However, a Domain Knight has never been born; this is no longer something that resources can accumulate."

Nesta Big Flower Hydrangea shared many valuable pieces of information, probably because Liszt had reached a certain height, which made him feel it was worth giving a favor by telling him: "The past generations of Grand Dukes have all attempted to trade for the Dou Qi Domain cultivation inheritance from the Steel Ridge Kingdom, but without exception, they failed."

"Is it because the price offered was not high enough, or is it the technology blockade of the Steel Ridge Kingdom?"

"You see the problem very clearly. Indeed, it's not that the Grand Dukes were unwilling to pay a huge price, but the Steel Ridge Kingdom does not want to see the Duchy of Sapphire becoming too powerful. When the First Grand Duke failed in the dragon-slaying battle, no one would have thought that one day the Duchy of Sapphire could dominate the seas, even posing a threat to the Steel Ridge Kingdom."

The Sapphire Fleet, coming and going like the wind, easily attacking the Continental Kingdoms' hinterland, grabbing as they pleased, certainly posed a threat.

"Then hasn't the Grand Duke tried to snatch the Dou Qi Domain inheritance from the hands of those landlords who have it?"

"The Grand Duke cannot act rashly, and without taking action himself, with our strength, it's very difficult to deal with a Domain Knight. Perhaps after you grow stronger, you can suppress a Domain Knight and find an opportunity to snatch the Dou Qi Domain inheritance." Nesta stared at Liszt with burning, spirited eyes.

Anyone with clear eyes could see the value of the Ghost Swordsman inheritance.

Although the general trend of the era is for Knights to overpower everything, and all inheritances of Ancient Magicians and Ancient Warriors are gradually fading away and being swallowed by the Knights, the Ghost Swordsman is also a declining inheritance of a fallen civilization, destined to eventually disappear into the river of history.

But, under the current circumstances, the Ancient Warrior inheritance is still a very important force in combat.

"My strength mostly comes from the Spiritual Power left by G.S.D mentor, not the results of my own cultivation. I'm afraid it will take me a few more years to grasp the real cultivation system of the Ghost Swordsman. When that time comes, if I have the opportunity, I will take action myself to snatch the Dou Qi Domain inheritance."

Liszt gave a simple, evasive reply.

Half an hour later, after mutually flattering and pandering to each other, the conversation ended. Liszt declined Marquis Nesta's invitation to dinner and left the castle to return to Sunset.

Without spending the night in Bull Hoof City, Sunset set sail for the sea directly.

Four days later.

Sunset arrived at Black Horse Port harbor, setting off on July 20 and returning on August 27. This period of over a month could be described with the saying, "One should view those who have undergone changes with a fresh eye." Lsi Te, returning to his territory, was warmly welcomed by Territory Officers and civilians alike.

Consultant Goltai piled on relentless flattery as if it cost nothing at all.

"The glory of the Knight shines upon you, my Lord..."

"Enough. Don't speak of hollow formalities. I am going to be very busy upon my return. So, Consultant Goltai, coordinate with the Territory Officers and give me a detailed report on the territory's development tomorrow. For now, I have many Little Minor Elves that need to be quickly settled with Cordyceps."

Nine Little Minor Elves were currently being held in Jade Boxes by Retainer Knights, following behind Liszt.

Wheat, Sword Grass, Broad Bean Green, Sorghum, Coptis, Apple, Turn White Grass, Pine, Tobacco—any of the nine Minor Elves were waking up from their slumber.

Flying out of the boxes, they circled around Liszt, either curiously or boredly, cautiously or boldly looking at the new environment. They varied in shape and personality, their calls high and low, but all were so beautiful and exquisite, a delight to the eyes, instantly endearing.

Seeing so many Little Minor Elves.

The eyes of Goltai and the others were practically popping out: "My, my, Lord... this..."

"I captured a few Sky Knights, and this is the ransom they paid. Now let me tell you their species. you must quickly plan out their Cordyceps settling points on Black Horse Island... Also, this is Yevich Water Peanut, known as the Clear Water Sword Saint. He is my follower."

Immediately, Yevich stepped forward, bowing slightly, and greeted in not very fluent Serpent Script: "Yevich greets everyone."

...

"Ah, a Sword Saint!"

"A Sword Saint powerhouse?"

"My lord's follower is actually a Sword Saint powerhouse?"

"My heavens!"

The territory officials were all shocked, for even an average Sky Knight was an unattainable existence to them, let alone a Sky Knight of the Sword Saint Level.

However, Liszt was not pleased with their reactions.

Exclaiming in surprise at the sight of a Sword Saint, what if they saw how he had crushed the Domain Knights in his glorious days? Wouldn't they have been scared to death?

Of course, Liszt did not blame them, nor did he flaunt himself—there was no need for him to boast, as the knights who had followed him into battle and returned would naturally spread his great achievements far and wide, ensuring that all the residents of his territory knew just how powerful their lord was.

Having a Sword Saint as a follower was just basic practice for him.

He glared at the flustered Goltai, "Yevich also has two Little Minor Elves, as well as fourteen Elf Bugs, which will be planted on Black Horse Island. You need to coordinate the arrangements... Captain Marcus, take Yevich to get familiar with Black Horse Island."

"Yes, my lord!" Goltai hurriedly responded.

"Yes, my lord!" Marcus replied in kind.

Liszt continued his introductions, "This is Alvin Eagle Sword, a Steel Ridge Knight, and my follower. He will be teaching the Steel Ridge Knight courses at the Knight Academy, Consultant Goltai, make sure to arrange this properly."

"Ah, yes, my lord!"

"These two are Viscount Garcia and Viscount Fox, two Sky Knights. They are... foreign guests. Arrange accommodations for them in the port town." Without Liszt having to clarify their status, it was evident from their expressions that they were captives.

Goltai was taken aback for a moment, not immediately catching on.

It wasn't until Marcus approached him and quietly explained the situation that Goltai finally realized what was happening and stammered, "Y-yes, my lord, please rest assured, I w-will make the necessary arrangements." After speaking, he laboriously swallowed, as today's events proved to be a massive shock to him.

He would need to find a small tavern later and sit for a moment to drink some Fresh Flower Brew to calm his nerves.

Yet his alarm was not over.

Down from the Sunset came seven or eight magicians donned in Magic Cloaks, one of them a pale-faced female magician who curiously surveyed Black Horse Port and asked softly, "My lord, is this your Territory Black Horse Island? The residents here have happy smiles on their faces."

The equally shocked Blair had a sudden flash of insight at that moment and quickly responded, "Esteemed magician, the happiness you see in the lives of the residents of Black Horse Island is all thanks to our Lord Landlord's benevolence!"

While this flattery was blunt,

it was more pleasurable to the ear than the flattery Goltai offered upon first meeting.

Liszt smiled and said to Bloody Mary, "I hope you will enjoy life here, Mary. Take the three Grand Magicians with you and follow me to the Magic Academy in the Mage Tower. You'll be residing in the Mage Tower from now on."

"We obey your arrangements, my lord."

Chapter 639 Dawnbreak

Mage Tower.

In the Magic Academy, Chris Truth was instructing Rose and Lucy.

The twin girls were magic talents suggested by the Smoke Mission, and Liszt had specially arranged for them to study at the Magic Academy. They also indeed did not disappoint Liszt's expectations, having completed their affinity with magic power in a short period, standing out from their peers.

Having caught Chris's attention, they were taken as official magic apprentices.

Chris had more than once declared, "Once they grow up, they will become my successors, continuing my steps in exploring more truths!"

At that moment, a magic apprentice hurried over, "Dean, Lord Landlord has returned and has come to the Magic Academy, please go there."

"Lord Landlord has returned already?" Chris was somewhat surprised, as normally the Pioneer Mandate wouldn't have started at this time of the year, yet this year it had already ended and he had returned.

However, she did not hesitate, signaling the twins to try out the Fireball Technique by themselves.

She then hurried to the first floor of the Mage Tower's Magic Academy, and upon descending the stairs, she saw a group of people inspecting the condition of the academy. Leading the group, the handsome and tall young man enveloped by the crowd was none other than that comforting, warm-hearted, and stirring Liszt Tulip, the Viscount of Black Horse Island.

Although she had sworn her life to the pursuit of truth, ordinary human emotions still controlled her, and she couldn't help but be captivated by Liszt.

"Viscount."

"Dean Chris."

A simple greeting, no need for excess words.

Liszt went straight to the point, "My Pioneer Mandate has ended, and I've captured three Grand Magicians. They don't have the money for a ransom, so they've volunteered to serve me. I plan to have them stationed at the Mage Tower, to carry out work under your command."

The three Grand Magicians each shrank back into their hoods.

Being captured was always a bit embarrassing, not to mention that they would now have to obey a somewhat younger female Grand Magician — not that they discriminated against women, but age was the issue; each of the three Grand Magicians was over forty, while Chris was only in the prime of her twenties.

Chris looked at the three Grand Magicians and nodded, "I will arrange their work."

Liszt turned to the three men and warned, "Your freedom will definitely be limited. You need to submit an application to leave the Mage Tower. You're prohibited from researching anything beyond the topics that Chris has assigned, although you may submit proposals for your own research projects. You will also bear some teaching responsibilities."

Liszt was always wary of magicians, hence his preparation of a compulsory system to manage the magicians' research direction, pushing them to transition into scholars and researchers.

This was actually more in line with the temperament of a magician — those willing to dedicate themselves to truth already bore the aspects of a scientist.

By providing them with comfortable personal services, he believed these magicians would eventually adapt to the future he had arranged for them.

The Mage Tower had designated servants for these tasks.

Soon, arrangements were made for the living quarters of the three Grand Magicians.

On the other side, Liszt was still introducing to Chris, "These five are my Blood Servants, you might have heard of the legendary occupation of vampires, they are vampires... Mary can assist you in managing the Mage Tower, although they have been transformed into vampires for years, their magic knowledge shouldn't be completely gone."

"Lady Chris, it's a pleasure to meet you. We should have a good talk when you have the time," Bloody Mary took the initiative to extend a friendly hand.

Chris nodded her head, her attitude not very enthusiastic.

As for these suddenly appearing magicians and vampires, she needed time to accept their presence. She used to be the only Grand Magician of the Mage Tower, relied upon by everyone, and could do as she pleased. Now, not only were there three more Grand Magicians but also many more vampires.

Especially that leading vampire, who always made her feel an immense threat—nominally there to assist with managing the Mage Tower, but who knew she wasn't there to seize power?

Actually.

Liszt had indeed considered letting Bloody Mary take over part of the Mage Tower's authority. It was not because he held her heart in his hand, ensuring her inability to betray him and thus gaining more trust, but because he thought Chris was more suited to being a scholar than a manager, as she lacked the cunning and intrigue of the vampires.

However, he did not understand Chris.

After a moment of bewilderment, Chris quickly started her own "politic maneuvering." In front of Liszt, she said, "Viscount, I think names like Bloody Mary and Crimson Peggy are really unsuitable for the harmonious atmosphere of the Mage Tower. It's improper to address them as such in front of young apprentices."

Bloody Mary and the others narrowed their eyes at once.

Proposing a name change to their face was undoubtedly a power move.

Liszt could not help but hold Chris in higher regard. He had held high positions for a long time and had some insights into politics, naturally understanding that Chris wanted to establish authority through changing names.

He was pleased to see this scenario, a combative Chris could better balance the power structure of the Mage Tower: "You make a good point. Terms like bloody, blood, and fangs are indeed inappropriate. So, Mary, what do you think about changing your name?"

Bloody Mary said with a smile, "It is entirely up to you, my lord."

"Then let's change the names. Magicians take Truth as their surname, while vampires see the family as a collective... You are bats that walk in the darkness in the Black Knight Family; with me, you shall see the light—let 'Dawnbreak' be your surname," he proposed.

"Thank you, my lord, for granting us a new surname. From now on, I shall be Mary Dawn Break," expressed Bloody Mary with pleasure.

She did not necessarily truly like the surname "Dawnbreak."

But since it was a gift from Lord Landlord, it certainly held a different significance.

Although Chris had established authority by changing names, she also used this opportunity to gain new trust—bestowing a surname was an act of closeness, representing trust.

As she spoke.

She turned and smiled at Chris: "Mary Dawn Break once again greets Lady Chris Truth."

Chris showed no particular emotion: "Hello, Mary Dawn Break."

...

The vampires went to arrange their accommodations.

Liszt and Chris walked into her workshop alone, where a large number of finished Magic Potions were piled up, all the fruits of Chris's labor over the past month.

Liszt, who hadn't had a Magic Potion in a long time, urgently needed these potions to nourish his cells, which were close to drying out.

"You have worked hard, Chris."

"It's my duty to do so."

After thinking for a moment, Liszt gently added, "The Mage Tower is named after you, Mary and the others are just staying temporarily. Their roles are more suited to scouting on the battlefield. You don't need to have other ideas, these magician positions need you to manage them properly for me."

"Viscount, I can understand your arrangement and am willing to help you manage the Mage Tower wholeheartedly."

"That's good."

Chapter 640 Elves Quarrel

Since neither the Sea Serpent nor the Rainbow Whale Rose were at Black Horse Island, Li Si Te couldn't quickly rush to Fresh Flower Town, nor could he immediately head to Dodo Island to see Little Fire Dragon Leo.

So he spent his afternoon inspecting his own Thorn Castle.

After more than a month of construction, the peripheral buildings and facilities of Thorn Castle were essentially completed, and the main foundation of the Thorn Castle was under construction.

In front of the castle was a nine-hundred-plus meter long Tonghai Canal.

On both banks of the canal, they had just settled one of Yevich's Elf Bugs—the Wolf Tail Grass Elf Bug. Wolf Tail Grass doesn't have many uses, it can be used as feed for animals like cows, sheep, rabbits, geese, and fish, and its mature stems can be woven into various grass products. Additionally, it helps stabilize the banks of the canal.

This section of the canal near the castle was to house Li Si Te's newly acquired Apple Minor Elf. It was there to create a larger apple paradise within Thorn Castle.

That way the apple garden of Fresh Flower Town Castle wouldn't need to be transplanted anymore.

Under the Cordyceps Tree of the apple paradise, a round apple table would still be built, with a few chairs placed around it, which would be where Liszt and his knights would hold meetings in the future—his elite Knight Order had been decided to be named the Apple Table Knights. Perhaps not the most overbearing name, but meaningful nevertheless.

To the left of the apple paradise, a Shell Corridor had been built from various shells produced in the territory, serving purely as a decorative structure.

On the right was Fish Spring, and built above it, the Fish Spring Corridor, mainly for future outdoor barbeque parties.

Additionally, in the middle of the apple paradise there was a well, and a bird's nest—the bird's nest was the dwelling place for Landwalker bird Loki, Li Si Te's main mount before dragon riding.

To the right of the castle was a newly constructed large ice cellar. Initially, a flower bed was planned around the ice cellar, but now Liszt had directly converted the flower bed into a Daisy Garden—Yevich had a Daisy Spirit Worm, which was perfect for cultivating the Daisy Garden. Daisies were ornamental flowers in this world, but Liszt felt they had value for making tea.

Without chrysanthemum available, chrysanthemum tea for removing heat and toxins could only be substituted with daisies.

To the left of the castle was also a well, and an in-construction Venus Flytrap Garden for housing the Venus Flytrap Worm he had purchased from Viscount Jonas.

Behind the castle was the horse ranch.

To the right of the ranch were stables and a well, for raising the horses of the castle and for noble guests to store their mounts; in the middle of the ranch was a training ground used solely for Liszt's personal cultivation; to the left were several dog kennels, mainly for the Blizzard Beasts to live in.

These were essentially the main auxiliary buildings of the castle.

"By the end of this year, I should be able to move into this castle, right?" Liszt asked the architect Jomaya Bangtu, who accompanied him to inspect the construction site.

Jomaya replied, "Lord Landlord, if all goes well, we'll definitely be able to finish the construction before the snow falls. We do, however, need the cooperation of your Blizzard Beast Squad to provide stone materials and columns for the construction team."

"That won't be a problem."

After all, Douson and the Eight Tiny Ones would randomly cast magic, creating a lot of Rock Spikes. With this group of Intermediate Magical Beasts producing rocks every day,

the territory would never lack stone materials. Sometimes, seeing the piles of rock growing larger, Liszt even planned to reclaim land from the sea.

He mainly wanted to reclaim land around Black Horse Port and turn it into a large sheltered harbor.

Black Horse Island was his independent fief.

And it was where his career had started.

One day he might leave the Sapphire Founding Nation, he might leave Black Horse Island, but the construction on the island would not be in vain. Firstly, all infrastructure could be sold at a discount to the new landlord, if not he had the right to destroy it; secondly, the talent cultivated during early construction was the foundation for the future.

Just like this Thorn Castle, its construction would train a group of outstanding construction workers, laying the groundwork for more future buildings.

And if one day the castle had to be sold.

If the new landlord couldn't afford the sky-high price in Dragon coins, Liszt would rather tear it down himself.

...

The night.

The banquet was held in the port town, where officials from the small town, newly arrived knights, and mages were all invited to attend. They commemorated the knights who had bravely sacrificed themselves and drank gloriously in honor. The flowing delicacies and the continuous laughter created a banquet filled with the joyous smiles of victors.

"This time, the Pioneer Mandate has reaped huge benefits, and the brave warriors who accompanied me on this campaign, your contributions are being tallied. Gold Coin, titles, fiefs, as long as you've achieved battle merit, they are yours!" Liszt, holding a wine cup,

spoke seriously, "The families of our fallen comrades will also receive the rewards and compensation they deserve, I guarantee it in my name!"

"Praise the Lord!"

"Praise the Lord!"

"Praise the Lord!"

The tidal wave of praise was unending. Liszt looked at the excited faces around him and the corners of his mouth lifted into an arc, and he took a long time to compose himself.

What was the desperate participation in the Pioneer Mandate for?

It was for the very scene he was witnessing now.

The increasingly fragrant and refreshing Fresh Flower Brew lingered on his lips and teeth, and Liszt quickly became drunk. Without using his Dragon Dou Qi to recover, he went to sleep with the attendants caring for him.

However, even so.

The next morning, Liszt woke up early, feeling not a trace of a hangover. No matter how drunk he got, his powerful Dragon Dou Qi would still spontaneously and swiftly restore his body to optimal condition.

After washing up.

Having enjoyed a sumptuous dinner and replenished the living supplies in his Gemstone Space, he took his Little Minor Elves, including Yevich's elf, and boarded the Fresh Flower Vessel. They rapidly made their way to Fresh Flower Town, arriving in the afternoon to find the small town as bustling as ever.

Administrative Officer Isaiah welcomed him at the port, and even Butler Carter turned up to wait.

"Lord, welcome home!"

"Mr. Carter, good afternoon."

After dismissing the officials to continue their work, Liszt, accompanied by Carter, returned to the Castle, which looked no different than when he had departed for war. From a distance, a psychic connection made him look up, only to see Thorn Minor Elf Jela, crying "woo wah," "woo wah" as she flew over.

She landed right on Liszt's head in an instant.

"Woo wah!"

She was expressing her longing.

Liszt took her in his hand and stroked the little leaf on her head, feeling missive, "Little guy, have you been mischievous while I was gone?"

"Woo wah!" Jela quickly denied.

But seeing the helpless look in Butler Carter's eyes, Liszt understood that Jela had caused quite some trouble during his absence. He didn't press the matter, instead signaling Jela to meet the new companions. The nine Little Minor Elves he called forth with his mind quickly stared at each other, wide-eyed.

"Chirp."

"Grumble."

"Ula."

"Cack."

The various calls overlapped, and the atmosphere as the minor elves met was clearly not friendly. Jela, accustomed to being bossy, became even angrier, hands on hips, and scolded the other little elves, "Woo wah! Woo wah! Woo wah!"

The Minor Elves retorted right back.

Instantly, chaos ensued.

Until Liszt glared at them, "All of you, behave!"

Only then did they reluctantly close their mouths, as the power of the contract was undeniable.

Carter wiped sweat from his brow in secret, "Lord, one Jela is enough to almost overturn the Castle, and now, with such rich glory you've won, you have so many Little Minor Elves... I fear the Worm Room in the Castle won't be able to hold them all."

"Turn the other vacant rooms into Worm Rooms, the well-behaved Little Minor Elves can stay together, the mischievous ones should be isolated... Anyway, make do for a while, when Thorn Castle is finished, there will be brand-new Worm Rooms for each Little Minor Elf to move into their own space."

For now, everyone would have to squeeze in together, increase their education, and strictly forbid fighting.