

The World 151

Chapter 151: The Death Defying Escape, First Wave Gain

That human was only level 6 or 7. His strength was so weak that everyone looked down on him.

However, they despise his existence, yet he just swaggered away.

It was as if a hand had slapped their big mouths.

For a moment, Richard drew the hatred between the demon and the angel.

Both sides were so angry that they began to attack the sand crazily.

The magic mace in the Mind Eater Demon's hand burst out with storm-like magic energy and smashed into the ground.

'Rumble!'

Countless yellow sand flew, and a hollow pit dozens of meters deep suddenly appeared.

The holy light battle sword in the angel's hand was like a sun. Endless lights blossomed.

'Crack!'

The ground shattered.

Sword energies pierced through the yellow sand that shattered even the rock and earth into sieves.

The breath of the templar dragoons could gather.

'Boom!'

It was like gasoline poured on it, and it instantly exploded.

It drew a tongue of fire that was dozens of meters long.

The yellow sand melted into lava.

This quickly wiped out the sand that was hundreds of meters in diameter under the joint attack of both sides.

When this exposed the rocks on the ground before their eyes, there was still no trace of that human.

When the Mind Eater Demon saw this scene, the fury in its eyes could melt steel.

The angel with the sword of the holy light also had an aura like a raging sea, capable of devouring everything.

He ran away... Not only did he escape under their siege, he even took away the corpses of their companions.

Flames ignited their hearts.

“There’s something strange about that human. I can’t use tracking magic...”

The Mind Eater Demon’s magic spell was ineffective as it glared at the angel.

“It’s all because of this bastard. Otherwise, that bottle of holy dragon’s blood would only be our only war trophy!”

“I want that human dead!!!”

The two-winged angel with the holy light that radiated in its body turned to look at the templar dragoons behind.

“That human is already under the curse of the holy light. He can only live for ten minutes at most.

“After he dies, it will reveal the blood of the holy dragon without the cover of his blood.

“Lead a small team of troops to find that human and retrieve the blood of the holy dragon!”

As it spoke, it looked at the Mind Eater Demon that could gather magic again. Killing intent filled its eyes that emitted white light.

“Let me remove the evil here!”

A small team of templar dragoons immediately received the order and left.

The two-winged angel immediately brandished its long sword to stop the supreme demon lord that wanted to entangle.

The two sides that had just stopped fighting erupted into a battle that was several times more intense than before.

It vented the humiliation it had suffered from Richard on the other side.

“We would not rest until that human died!”

At this moment, Richard did not know that because of his actions, the number of casualties of the great demons and templar dragoons had increased several times.

Run, run away madly.

After the earth turned into sand, Richard's perception covered every corner of the sandy land.

The five supreme demons and two giant dragon corpses made his heart almost jump out of his throat.

He steeled his heart.

He controlled the sandy land and dragged the corpses into the yellow sand.

At the same time, he quickly moved from the depths of the earth toward the lake.

The sandy ground covered a large area of the lake.

The lake's surface couldn't turn into sand, but the bottom of the lake could.

Fortunately, the sandy ground hindered the terrifying fighting strength of those few, which made him buy precious time.

Before this destroyed the sandy ground, Richard dragged the corpses into the lake.

This time, he didn't walk to the bottom of the water.

Instead, he directly traveled through the earth.

There was a large amount of sand at the bottom of the lake. Even if he left the area of the sandy land, he still did not encounter any obstacles.

This gave him a lot of room to maneuver.

However, the only pity was that the body of the giant dragon was too big.

Its wingspan was 30 meters. Once it left the sandy land, its speed would become extremely slow. At this rate, he would not be able to go far.

Finally, he gritted his teeth and hid the two dragon bodies in the lake's depths.

He quickly left with the five relatively small great demons.

At this time, Richard could no longer care about Gunter and the dark gargoyle who waited on the island in the lake.

Gunter had a soul phylactery in his hands. Even if the other party died, they could be resurrected.

As for the dark gargoyle, it did not matter if it died. It could still be resurrected with points. There was nothing to be sad about.

Richard walked through the gravel at the bottom of the lake for a full 20 minutes before he stopped.

It was not that he was safe, but there was a terrifying negative attribute on his status panel — the curse of the holy light. You have been corroded by the holy light, and you are about to die...

When he sank to the ground, the two-winged angel hit him with a terrifying attack.

That thing could not be dodged at all.

“This angel is also an old coin...”

Richard felt his body become weak. He gritted his teeth and used the last of his strength to hide the five supreme demon corpses in the deepest part of the sand.

Then, he felt endless darkness surge over.

His body, which had been in the sand for a long time, turned back into sand and shattered bit by bit...

‘So this is how death feels like.’.

That was Richard's last thought.

The templar dragoons that flew in the sky suddenly sensed something and became excited.

"The power of the holy light has disappeared... The curse of the holy light had killed the human"

"The blood of the holy dragon is not far away! Keep on looking!"

'Roar!'

The giant dragon flapped its wings and flew across the lake and the riverbank. It didn't miss any corner or the grass...

If they had the power to shatter the earth, they would ultimately dig out the ground around them.

Who knew how long had passed?

In his daze, Richard felt the endless darkness light up again.

Then, the sand that had collapsed at the bottom of the lake after his death seemed to have gained life repeatedly.

Sand Regeneration, a Beyond A-rank skill. After death, it would gather sand and revive within ten minutes.

The only flaw of this skill was perhaps its three-day cooldown.

When Richard's pupils regained focus and control of his body, his surrounding senses reappeared.

He let out a long sigh of relief.

There was also some lingering fear in his eyes.

"A Level-18 Mind Eater Demon, dozens of great demons, and a two-winged angel leading dozens of templar dragoons..."

"This A-rank mission is amusingly difficult.

"No wonder Ferguson is willing to raise the stakes so high.

"If it were anyone else, I'm afraid they wouldn't even have bones left."

He initially thought that escorting the other party into Templar City was the toughest part of the mission.

However, he did not expect the crystal bottle would lose its suppression once it left the corpse.

Its terrifying draconic aura would be immediately discovered by the other party.

How could he escape the pursuit of the enemy after obtaining the crystal bottle?... This was the toughest part of this mission.

The other party had a great demon that could move through space, an angel with unparalleled battle strength, a Mind Eater Demon with proficient magic, and templar dragoons extremely familiar with the holy dragon blood in the crystal bottle.

Anyone could make this mission impossible, let alone the four sides combined.

And what was even more vicious was... The curse of the holy light, the death spell that the angel had personally cast.

Even if he escaped the pursuit of the four sides, the spell could still kill him.

It was a sure-death situation, and there was no escape.

“Fortunately, fortunately!!”

Richard let out a long sigh. Turning the earth into sand skill, controlling the yellow sand, and regenerating the sand, these Beyond A-rank skills allowed him to escape from this kind of weird encirclement.

He came back to his senses and thought for a moment,

Although this wave was exceedingly dangerous, and he had almost really lost, in the end, not only did he obtain the mission item. But he also conveniently scooped up five supreme demon corpses and two giant dragon bodies hidden at the bottom of the lake...

Even if Gunter and the dark gargoyles were sacrificed, he still earned back everything.

This wave of missions he risked his life for did not let him lose anything.

If Ferguson's reward was added to the mix, the first wave of the adventure would have been very profitable.

Chapter 152: Great Harvest, Glorious-Level Item [1/3]

The gravel condensed into an overgrown ball and fixed the blood basin and the crystal bottle.

Richard sensed the five supreme demons' corpses in the depths of the earth and gradually regained his calm.

At this time, he was not utterly out of danger. Opening the champagne in the middle was a big taboo.

He took a deep breath, suppressed his inner emotions, and continued to control the gravel to move the corpses downstream in the direction where the mummy troop was hiding.

There was sand below, a lake above, and thick fog on the lake's surface.

After he activated the Sand Transformation, one would be immune to magic detection and enemy lock-on. It was a characteristic that Richard had discovered during the few days of training with Xina.

Even when they were face to face, Xina could not use her bloodline power to lock onto Richard. She could only fight with brute force.

Xina was not a member of Twilight City, so she could not follow him into the dungeon.

All the skills were refreshed after the resurrection.

Richard immediately activated the Sand Transformation to put himself in the safest state to prevent accidents.

At this time, the sand covered every corner of the surroundings and formed a powerful shield.

Under several layers of protection, the templar dragoons in the sky flew over Richard's head several times without being able to detect his location.

They speculated that Richard might have escaped from the river and never left the two riverbanks.

And it was immeasurably laborious to find an unknown target in a river two to three hundred meters wide and long.

But what made them confident was that the curse of the holy light had already taken effect, and the human's soul had already died.

As long as they swam around and waited for the blood energy to dissipate, they would ultimately find the holy dragon's blood.

The two-winged angel's curse of the holy light ensured them great confidence.

But because of this, Richard had the space to escape danger calmly.

He didn't walk fast in the earth's gravel, even if he could control it.

Especially when he dragged the five great demon corpses.

And to avoid making his target too obvious, he could only slow down.

After an hour, Richard returned to where he hid the mummy troop.

His head emerged from the bottom of the lake.

He immediately summoned Gray.

“Immediately set off downstream to meet with Ferguson! The templar dragoons and the two-winged angels may catch up at any time.”

“As you command!”

Gray should be the last. He could not find any traces of Gunter, so he could not help but hesitate.

“Lord, do we need to wait for Gunter to resurrect?”

Richard shook his head.

“Gunter isn’t dead yet. His soul phylactery hasn’t moved yet.”

“Let’s leave first. We can’t wait any longer.”

“Yes!”

It was an urgent matter. Richard didn't want to face a terrifying existence like the double-winged angel head-on.

He dived back into the water. He was even more careful as he drove the sand platform downstream.

Meanwhile, the templar dragoons still waited for the blood to disappear. The holy dragon's blood exuded an aura. They did not dare to move too far away from the area where they sensed the curse of the holy light took effect.

He was afraid that the great demons would beat them to it.

Richard controlled the sand platform at the bottom of the river and slowly left the range of the templar dragoons patrol just like that.

One hundred kilometers away, where the five rivers converged.

Richard found a safe bend in the river and released the remaining four teams of dark gargoyles after he marched in the water until sunset.

He had them scout the surroundings.

Richard felt much more relaxed with the reconnaissance troop in the air and far away from the terrifying lake.

It was too exciting this time.

Escaping from the joint attack of the two-winged angel and Mind Eater Demon and snatching great demons' corpses and two giant dragons, the process was simply too much.

The only pity was that he did not know if the other party would discover the giant dragons' corpses he had hidden at the bottom of the lake.

However, he could not return now. He could only wait for the time before returning after the storm here subsided.

They finally arrived where the five rivers marked on the system map converged after more than half an hour of travel. Multicolored clouds filled the sky.

After the rapids washed away the surroundings, they formed a vast lake.

At first glance, it was vast and mighty. It was many times bigger than the lake upstream.

Richard frowned. Just as he was about to send the dark gargoyles to investigate, the ruby in his arms immediately emitted warmth.

It guided him in the direction.

His heart relaxed. He waved his hand and handed the gemstone to Gray and ordered him to bring a few dark gargoyles to investigate.

In less than ten minutes, Gray returned to report he had found Ferguson.

Only then did Richard feel at ease. With a wave of his hand, all the mummies floated out of the water.

Only the sand platform at the bottom remained as if the troop rode the sand platform down the river.

The trick of hiding soldiers under the water could have an incredible effect at a critical moment.

There was no need to expose this trump card.

Under Gray's guidance, Richard led the troop to the island in the lake's center.

A pale figure appeared in front of them the moment they stepped onto the ground.

The Vice President of the Scarlet Council, level-19 hero, Ferguson.

The figure wore a black robe and was about 45 years old.

Its body was thin, and its breath was weak.

It had the aura of a ruined body, like a man about to die.

What caught people's attention were the two rows of runes on its forehead, which exuded a mysterious aura.

Its pair of blue eyes were as sharp as a sword. Even though it could barely stand, it still gave people a sense of pressure.

That was the unique temperament of a high-level hero.

He opened the stats panel.

[Ferguson]

[Hero Unit]

[Level: 19]

[Status: Near Death (All attributes reduced by 90%)]

[???

Damn, a level 19 hero, even sturdier than the Mind Eater Demon.

Chapter 153: Great Harvest, Glorious-Level Item [2/3]

Unfortunately, the word “near death” caused the figure to lose most of its strength.

“Desert Lord, I sensed the aura of the crystal bottle... you, have you brought it back?!”

Ferguson’s trembling voice carried a strong sense of surprise.

Richard shrugged.

“Sir Ferguson, perhaps, you should have asked me about my losses first. If you knew there were Level 18 Mind Eater Demon, dozens of Level 18 Great Demon, Level 19 Templar Dragoon, and enormously robust double-winged angel in the sky above that village.”

Ferguson laughed loudly.

“Don’t worry. The reward will ultimately be considerable!”

However, Ferguson was too excited. It began to cough violently after laughing a few times. Its face became increasingly pale as if it could pass out at any time.

It made Richard's heart skip a beat. He did not want to fail when he did not receive the mission reward... That would be f*cked up.

Fortunately, Ferguson recovered after taking a few quick breaths.

"Lord Richard, take out the crystal bottle. I need to recover my strength..."

Richard waved his hand. A ball condensed from sand flew out of the water and floated in front of him.

The sand fell the next moment. It revealed the tightly wrapped blood basin.

When Ferguson saw the crystal bottle soaked in the blood basin, its breath immediately quickened.

Richard took out the crystal bottle and slowly handed it over.

His tone was solemn.

"Sir Ferguson, I have fulfilled my promise."

God of Death witnessed the covenant between the two parties. He needed to take back the item, and he must not use it to fill his own pockets.

Ferguson needed to ensure its safety and pay a reward. Whoever violated the covenant would have their soul taken away by the God of Death.

But even if there were no covenant, since he had already promised, he would do it no matter what.

A man's promise was worth a lot. It was the bottom line.

Ferguson sensed that Richard was serious. It was stunned for a moment, and then a smile appeared.

It looked at Richard deeply with a solemn look.

"Lord Richard, thank you for your help."

It slowly bowed to him and then took the crystal bottle solemnly.

This ordinary scene seemed to have an extra meaning at this moment.

Ferguson picked up the crystal bottle and put it in front of its eyes to observe. The golden liquid slowly flowed and gave people a feeling of a holy spirit.

“Lord Richard, do you know what’s inside?”

“The holy dragon’s blood. When I took it, the dragon’s power inside attracted the attention of demons and angels.

“They even stopped attacking each other and attacked me simultaneously for this treasure...”

Richard’s tone was calm. He was like talking about a trivial matter.

Ferguson looked up and stared into his eyes... It was not lying.

It thought that what Richard had said before about being besieged was just rhetoric of wanting to get extra rewards.

But now, it seemed Richard had ultimately escaped from the attack of the demons and angels.

This little guy was not simple.

Moreover, Richard knew this treasure was precious and did not act rashly. Perhaps, it was mainly because of the restrictions of the contract. But even the petty seal at the bottle’s mouth had not been opened.

It was clear that the other party had kept his promise and did not have any intention of peeking at this item that could cause demons and angels to fight over it.

It once again looked at the other party with high regard in the heart.

“That’s right. It is the holy dragon’s blood. We spent an unimaginable price to obtain this supreme treasure.

“And this can turn the tide of the battle of Templar City!”

These words made Richard’s eyes widen.

As expected, he had participated in an undercurrent mission.

Now, it was the clash of the eight primary factions!

Angels, dragons, demons, and these top-tier troops were all formed by several small teams...

How much confidence did he need to say those words to turn the tide of the battle of Templar City?

“You have the power of the desert. I originally planned to give you two equivalent skills as rewards, but your sincerity moved me...”

As Ferguson spoke, it slowly opened the cap of the crystal bottle. With a crisp pop, a faint draconic aura spread out.

It carefully poured two drops of golden holy dragon's blood into its palm.

The two drops of golden blood turned into a small water ball that rolled in its hand. There was no sign of it sticking.

When Ferguson closed the cap again, its body emitted a scarlet light.

A drop of golden blood slowly fused into its palm.

The next second, Ferguson's breath was like a giant dragon that had broken free from its shackles and begun to grow wildly.

The terrifying breath pressed down on the mummies behind made them restless.

Richard felt as if a heavy boulder pressed on his chest. He could not breathe.

In a moment, the near-death status on the opponent's status panel turned into a serious injury — all its attributes were reduced by 50%.

Although it was still far from complete recovery, it had recovered a lot of battle strength and was no longer in the state of a candle in the wind.

When the breath subsided, Ferguson, who had recovered, let out a long sigh.

Then, it slowly stretched out its right hand, and the drop of golden holy dragon's blood burned brightly.

"We cast a powerful curse on the holy dragon's blood. If we don't break the curse and come into contact with it, we'll die immediately..."

"Fortunately, you are not greedy. Otherwise, you would have gone to see that great god before death took your soul away.

"I have already broken the curse on this drop of the holy dragon's blood.

"I admire your behavior. This is an additional reward for you."

"When you reach level 15, you can use the holy dragon's blood to activate the bloodline power in your body and strengthen one of your skills to the extreme."

Chapter 154: Great Harvest, Glorious-Level Item [3/3]

Richard's heart thumped.

It was a treasure that could make demon lords and angels put down their hatred and fight for it together!

Perhaps, this was the genuine reward of this A-rank mission?

Or could it be that the original mission reward was an A-rank hero, but because this mission exceeded the A-rank difficulty, it received an additional?

Taking a deep breath, he took out an empty glass bottle from the system space about to contain the Desert Crown Honey. He carefully placed it inside.

[Holy Dragon's Blood (One drop)]

[Level: Glorious]

[Characteristics: Can be used after level 15. Can activate the potential in the bloodline. And raise one of its skills to the extreme.]

[Description: Blood was taken from the heart of the holy dragon. This is a supreme treasure, but it's best not to let the dragon discover its aura, or else you might experience the feeling of being viewed as an enemy and hunted by the entire world's dragons.]

"Level... Glorious"

Intense excitement shrouded Richard's heart. This wave was about to reach the sky.

To strengthen a skill to the extreme? He had already reached an exaggerated Beyond A-rank skill. What level was above that?

He did not know that the official website of the "Shining Era" did not have a description of a higher skill level.

But no matter what, the glorious level was enough to explain everything.

The only pity was he had to reach level 15 before using it.

Level 15... He remembered what the Fire Elemental Lord had said. It would look for him when he reached level 15. This boss from the fire elemental plane had a new mission waiting for him.

When Richard retracted his scattered thoughts, these things were still too far away from him. He was still a distance away from level 10.

After he stored the holy dragon's blood in the system space, he revealed a brilliant smile.

"Sir Ferguson, thank you for your generosity. But I'm also very interested in the two skills you've researched..."

Ferguson was stunned, and then he laughed loudly. This time, his voice was distinctly loud.

“You little guy. We were too similar when I was young. Too similar... You won’t be at a disadvantage as long as you seize the opportunity.”

It was not easy for Ferguson to stop smiling.

At this time, the lost treasure had already returned to its hands. And it especially admired Richard.

In a good mood, it was not stingy.

With a wave of its hand, the majestic power in its hand surged. And a scarlet light enveloped Ferguson.

“Close your eyes, and experience the power I pass to you...”

Richard only felt a special energy surge into his body, and at the same time, the system notification suddenly rang.

[Ding~ Ferguson (Level 19 hero) is teaching you a skill. Will you accept it?]

There was no need to think about it. Richard accepted it and then immediately closed his eyes.

The next moment.

A large amount of information and images appeared in his mind.

He tried his best to digest them.

After a long time, the energy released by Ferguson dissipated, and a notification rang in Richard's ears.

[Ding~ You have acquired special skills — Threat Perception and Concealment Power.]

Richard opened his eyes and felt the newly acquired power in his body. He was in a great mood.

He immediately opened his attribute panel.

[Threat Perception (Special) — Able to use the bloodline power to sense impending threats. Range: 500 meters.]

[Concealment Power (Special) — Able to mobilize the bloodline power. Able to make oneself or a troop item enveloped by the concealment power lose all traces of perception and sight.]

'Damn! No wonder Ferguson was able to escape the hunting of the templar dragoons. The combination of these two skills was simply a godly skill.'

The Concealment Power was even more overbearing. It could erase people from perception and sight.

'If used in a bath... Ugh, if used on a troop, then it could directly hide a troop. Using it for an ambush was simply unsolvable.'

The corners of Richard's mouth curled up.

This round of adventure was worth it.

Not only did he obtain five great demon corpses, but he also obtained a drop of glorious-level holy dragon's blood. In the end, he also obtained two extremely practical special skills.

Moreover, as long as he escorted Ferguson back to Templar City, he could also obtain a dragon crystal that could turn the skeleton blood dragon into an A-rank hero...

For a time, Ferguson became an inexhaustible treasure in Richard's eyes.

Chapter 155: Templar City, Twelve-Winged Angel Phantom

"It's enormously murderous to enter Templar City. Your troop can't just follow us like this."

Ferguson's words interrupted Richard's thoughts. He closed the attributes panel of the two skills and looked directly at the other party.

“Sir, you should know how important these troops are to me... I don’t have the Scarlet Council’s foundation, so I can’t abandon these troops.”

“No, I’m not asking you to abandon the troops. You can take the troops with you, but you have to use a different way...”

Ferguson waved its hand as it spoke. A palm-sized black wooden card appeared out of thin air. Countless inscriptions were carved on it and emitted a faint extraordinary energy fluctuation.

“This is a high-rank Tibetan soldier card. It can accommodate a large troop...”

Richard’s eyes immediately sparked.

‘Was there such a good thing?!’

“But this is also limited. It can only hold undead, machinery, and other types of soldiers that don’t need to breathe...”

He reached out to take it and was overjoyed. Wasn’t this a treasure tailored for Twilight City?

Ferguson said with heartache while staring at Richard’s exuberant eyes.

“I obtained this treasure from the ancient ruins. There’s only one left...”

“No one else can use it after you bind it. You can keep the troop first.”

[Tibetan Soldier Card]

[Level: 3-stars]

[Characteristics: It can accommodate 1,000 troops.]

[Restrictions: It can not accommodate breathing life forms. Its body size can not exceed 5 meters. It will take up an additional ten slots for every one-meter increase.]

[Description: A rare treasure created with ancient magic. It is tremendously precious.]

‘A good treasure!’

It was essentially a divine weapon if used well.

Richard’s eyes lit up.

According to Ferguson, he first bound it with spiritual power and engraved his mark on it.

Others could not use it even if someone destroys it in the future.

Then, with a thought.

The space in front of him suddenly became illusory. It formed an opaque arch 10 meters high and 8 meters wide.

At this moment, the light became a little distorted.

Entering through the arch was the space inside the Tibetan soldier card.

Richard waved his hand without hesitation, and all the troops entered.

As the troops passed through the illusory arch, he could sense the special space of the Tibetan soldier card in his hand became smaller.

And the five-meter-tall heavy sword warriors each occupied ten slots. The most exaggerated one was the skeleton blood dragon, which occupied 50.

He only left two squads of dark gargoyles as his mounts after they were gathered. Only a few of the 1,000 slots were left.

In the end, with his trying mentality, he also placed the five great demon corpses inside.

He did not expect it would honestly work.

That made Richard sigh in relief. This way, he did not have to keep dragging these corpses and running away.

Gunter was still in the lake. Even if he wanted to recruit soldiers from the great demon's corpse, he could only wait for the other party to return.

It seemed better to have a few more people who knew how to recruit mummies. Otherwise, it would be too inconvenient.

Richard looked at the rapidly decreasing number of troops and suddenly felt much more relaxed.

Although the Twilight City troop wasn't weak, it wasn't enough to face powerful enemies like angels and demons.

"Sir Ferguson, should we go to Templar City now or wait for your injury to recover..."

Ferguson shook his head.

"I only used the holy dragon's blood to suppress my injury. I need to return to the Scarlet Council to recover completely."

"Return to Templar City first. We can't delay any longer."

Its tone became crucial as it spoke.

“You must be careful in your next actions. If the situation of the gargoyles in these two teams is urgent, you must be willing to sacrifice yourself.”

Richard nodded solemnly.

“Sir, please do not doubt my determination. Since I promised to escort you back, I will fulfill whatever it takes.

“Even if I have to sacrifice all my troops!”

His face did not even turn red when he said this.

Everyone carried the sedan chair. This level-19 hero was so generous that he did not mind continuing to build a closer relationship between the two sides.

Ferguson smiled in satisfaction.

Although he could see through Richard’s thoughts, he didn’t care.

The two didn’t have much of a relationship before. If they wanted help from others, they couldn’t just rely on empty words.

The real motivation was still a substantial reward.

“Let’s go!”

As soon as his voice fell, Ferguson sat on a dark gargoyle.

Richard and Gray followed closely behind and headed toward the center of the battlefield—Templar City.

This city was the key to the dungeon.

All the battles and missions in the dungeon revolved around it.

As Richard took this step, he would directly collide with millions of players.

Richard could not help but feel a little excited.

He had been looking forward to this for a long time.

Because he had to avoid enemies that could catch up at any time, Ferguson led the team to fly very carefully, and its speed was not fast.

On the way, Richard took a little time to open and look at the ranking board.

He wondered how the other players were doing in the dungeon these two days.

He had not earned any points for a whole day, but he was still at the top of the ranking board with 130,000 points, leading the second place by 80,000 points.

The second place finally reached the milestone of 50,000 points after more than a day of hard work.

He only needed to work hard for a few more days to catch up with him...

Richard could only say it was not about being too sturdy but that the opponent was too fierce.

Who knew that such a scene would happen right from the start?

Being ranked first was also an exceptional experience.

The 3rd to 10th places were around 40,000 points and were close to each other.

The rest of the players were not idle either, and the speed at which they obtained points was not necessarily slow.

It was just that they looked more pitiful compared to him.

He opened and scrutinized the chat forum. The system displayed four panels.

The Full Dungeon Forum.

The Covenant of Evil Forum.

The Oath of Light Forum.

In addition, there was a [Forum Chat].

He did not join the faction. He could only enter the entire forum and post.

He opened the [Forum Chat] and viewed it. The players seemed to have never stopped talking about the ranking of points.

There were countless posts about him.

[F*ck! That pervert Qingqiu! He's still 80,000 points ahead of second place even though he hasn't moved his for a day!!]

[I thought that guy was just lucky. He could earn 130,000 points in an hour, and the others wouldn't be bad either. But a day has passed, and Qingqiu is still betting on 1,000,000 top-tier lords... Just how terrifying this guy is???

[It makes me f*cking angry just thinking about it. I killed 100 rare-level soldiers and only got 3,000 points... Doesn't that freak Qingqiu kill over 4,000 rare-level soldiers? Or 20,000 elite-level soldiers? F*ck! Even if it's tens of thousands of pigs, they can't clean up in an hour, right?...]

[Rise, brothers! We have 999,999 people! We can't let just one person step on our heads!]

[That's easy for you to say. Let's not talk about anything else. Why don't you go kill 1,000 rare-level soldiers and try to climb up to 30,000 points!]

The exchange of heated discussion continued...

Qingqiu's points did not increase at all for an entire day.

Most of the players were very excited. They thought that their chance to catch up had come.

However, they suddenly felt powerless when they saw the vast difference in points on the ranking board after working hard for an entire day.

What kind of monster was this to be able to score points beyond their reach in the first hour or two?

They could only pray and hope right now that this bastard, Qing Qiu, had already been eliminated. Or enemies had starkly wiped out his troops.

Especially the top ten players on the ranking board are even holding back their energy.

There was indeed a vow posture of slaying Qingqiu under the horse...

Richard looked at them a few times and found it funny.

Only a handful of soldiers would last 10 minutes if the demon troops besieged these players.

Richard focused on other aspects while he ignored these sand sculpture players, especially the content of the players' exchange dungeons.

He obtained a lot of information after he browsed through it.

The Covenant of Evil was gathered in a city 500 kilometers away from the Templar Empire.

The four great evil factions sent out several spies to harass and investigate the news of Templar City.

The Oath of Light used Templar City as its core and gathered supremely startling troops. It also issued various missions to fight against the Covenant of Evil.

The battle between the two sides outside was very intense.

Many players had received the missions. Some of them were secretly discussing how to collude with the other side's camp and be spies so the other side could complete them.

Richard did not take the war between the two sides in the slightest.

There were those young noble wives who initiated to seduce the other side and let the enemies capture them. Some offered a high reward for helping to get a few elves back...

And some of them had such big ideas on their heads. Such tricks made Richard's mouth twitch when he saw them.

These sand sculptures are inseparable from their nature, no matter what.

They even let themselves go without the threat of death in the dungeon.

The moon hidden in the clouds in the middle of the night emitted a weak light. It was hazy and was not clear.

The earth was silent. They could not even hear the sound of insects.

This unsettling atmosphere was probably the ultimate picture of the war before.

It was probably because Ferguson's Concealment Power was profoundly secretive, or the demons had distracted the templar dragoons' attention.

Richard, who had been on the road since dusk, was most worried that the situation had not appeared — the winged angels had not brought the templar dragoons to chase after him.

Just as he was about to open the system map to see how far away they were.

Ferguson suddenly commanded the gargoyle to stop.

It looked into the distance in the night.

Its voice carried a different emotion.

"Templar City... We're here."

Richard was delighted.

He suddenly raised his head and looked through the night. A scene that surprised him appeared at the end of his line of sight.

A towering city stood like a heaven-swallowing behemoth.

Bright torches and magic lamps surrounded and illuminated the towering city walls.

All kinds of exaggerated arrow towers and siege crossbows looked particularly ferocious under the illumination of the light.

This magnificent city in the sky above was an even more striking angel phantom that radiated holy light. It held the sword of holy light in both hands and placed it in front of its chest. The twelve wings on the angel phantom's back made people feel solemn.

The twelve-winged angel phantom was probably more than 300 meters tall.

It still gave people an intense psychological and visual impact even from a distance.

"What is that?"

Richard could not help but ask.

Ferguson's eyes revealed a cold smile.

“That is the ultimate troop building of the Templar Empire — the Phantom of Cloud City. It can recruit troop types — angels.

“And the Dragon’s Nest in the south recruit templar dragons. They are the two pillars of the Templar Empire.

“They are also the peak battle strength of this city.”

Richard’s blazed as he looked at the shocking angel phantom image.

The Phantom of Cloud City, angels, Dragon’s Nest, and templar dragoons?

These forces were probably the best troops in the “Shining Era”.

He clenched his fists tightly.

Sooner or later, he would make Twilight City have a similar or even more stalwart force.

At this moment, the light in his eyes was significantly hot.

Chapter 156: The Collapse of the Players

“For the rest of the journey, we can’t ride on gargoyles anymore. It’s easy to be exposed.”

Richard nodded and commanded the dark gargoyles to descend from the sky. He put the two gargoyles into the Tibetan soldier card.

Ferguson looked at Gray. “Send this mummy in as well. The smaller the target, the safer it will be.”

Richard was stunned. “Even heroes can enter it?”

“As long as it’s a normal life form...”

He nodded and took out the Tibetan soldier card. The hallucinatory space reappeared, and Gray entered it as well.

This thing was honestly a treasure.

Richard was well-pleased. In the future, whoever he went to negotiate with, he had to agree with the other party that they would only be allowed to meet privately.

If they could not reach an agreement, he would shake them... Negotiating with force was also a negotiation.

If they were to fight his troop alone, it was time to show off their strength.

'You're welcome.'

The degree of concealment increased by another level when only two people were left.

Ferguson looked at the sky.

"We'll enter again after daybreak. After nightfall, the most powerful heroes and troops of Templar City will go out on guard to prevent the invasion of the Covenant of Evil. My current strength is unable to avoid their detection."

It then comforted Richard.

"You don't have to worry. The Scarlet Council has been operating in Templar City for decades. It'll be fine."

Richard nodded. He had restored the Sand Transformation skill.

As long as there was an undoable danger, he could just run away. He was not as worried as Ferguson thought.

After the ultimate battle, he realized that Beyond A-rank skill was initially used to create a home-field advantage. Using it to escape was honestly a godly skill...

Now, with the two skills that Ferguson had taught him, Threat Perception and Concealment Power, he really could not see his own shadow.

The two of them quieted down in the night. Richard thought for a moment. He took out two fire dragon rabbit blankets and handed one to Ferguson.

Ferguson was not impolite. He took it and sat down comfortably against the tree.

No enormous beasts or wild troops were gathering in this area because they were close to Templar City.

Not long after, the sound of flapping wings came from the sky.

A small team of giant dragons whizzed past their heads.

Ferguson and Richard suddenly stopped moving. They even held their breath.

Richard only breathed a sigh of relief when the giant dragons flew out of the area.

His relaxed mood immediately tensed up.

It was the lair of the light faction. If the enemies discovered what happened, it would be as easy as turning his bones into dust...

Moreover, he had also snatched a few great demon corpses from the hands of the demons. He had offended the two main factions of the dungeon.

It was also incredible.

“Keep quiet. Concealment Power is a skill I spent a lot of effort developing. It has an exceptionally audacious effect. They will surely not discover us while those giant dragons are not within 30 meters of us.”

Stunning confidence filled Ferguson’s entirety.

The corner of Richard’s mouth twitched. Thirty meters? He could only pray those scout dragoons would not be so stubborn.

Only when the sky gradually brightened did Richard heave a sigh of relief.

During this half of the night, more than 20 small squads of the templar dragoons passed over their heads.

The number of these top-tier troops was so large that it made Richard’s hair stand on end.

‘Was this the true heritage of an empire?’

‘Twilight City still had a long way to go.’

“It’s time to move...”

Ferguson stood up when the sky had starkly brightened.

Richard was about to ask this Scarlet Council leader to return his blanket, but Ferguson waved its hand and put the blanket into a storage space without changing expression.

Richard opened his eyes. ‘This leader was taking advantage of this?’

‘That was a fire dragon rabbit blanket sold at a high price...’

Ferguson looked at Richard’s stiff expression and was secretly happy. Richard had always been in control since they signed the covenant. This made the Scarlet Council leader very depressed.

It finally made this player suffer a loss.

Outside Templar City, a river more than 200 meters wide flowed slowly around the city wall. It formed a giant moat.

And in the southeast corner of the sub-gate, there was a deep-water dock.

A bustling small city had even been built around the dock.

At this time, the sky had just brightened, and several people and fleets had already begun to work.

All kinds of supplies were loaded and unloaded from the ships. It was very lively.

However, there were also some disharmonious scenes.

A large circle of lords with various accents had come to the city in the past two days. And they talked nonsense.

They claimed to be the grace lords. And the gods had summoned them to help the Templar City defend against evil.

Some even asked the residents if they had any missions to issue...

The ordinary residents had never seen this before. At first, they were severely scared. But after coming into contact with these so-called grace lords, they realized they honestly did everything.

From going out to hunt demons, killing their enemies, helping deliver letters, beating up the hoodlums across the street who were spying on their daughters, to even helping their own homes dig out sewers and drain feces... They were capable of anything.

That made the residents feel indeed curious. They gradually began to wonder if these god-blessed lords' collective brains had been damaged...

How could a lord send his troop to do such a thing?

However, these guys were distinctly trouble-free. Some people were even willing to do it without giving them any reward.

The fear of the impending attack of the great demons and undead was greatly diluted by the sudden appearance of these sand sculptures for some time.

Richard immediately saw players shuttling back and forth after he followed Ferguson into the dock town.

Their unique flashy temperament and the way they had to follow them everywhere were too obvious.

However, he was not interested in these players who did not fit in. His gaze was fixed on the Templar City soldiers who passed by from time to time. And his heart was tense.

He initially thought that the two of them were going to sneak in.

However, after Ferguson hid the inscription on his forehead, he strode into the town from the main gate.

He even greeted a few guards warmly with a smile.

The scene made Richard wonder whether those were its relatives.

There was a space full of carriages at the corner of the gate.

A bearded coachman immediately drove a luxurious carriage to the two people not long after Ferguson finished greeting them.

“Good day, Lord Ferguson...”

It seemed the coachman had been waiting here for a long time judging his expression.

Ferguson smiled proudly as if it could see Richard’s confusion.

“Our Scarlet Chamber of Commerce is a big chamber of commerce in Templar City. Young man, there’s still a long way to go. Watch and learn...”

Richard understood. This was its cover.

He did not say anything else. Under the coachman’s surprised gaze, he got into the carriage with Ferguson.

“Lord Ferguson... Do you, do you want to call another carriage to pick up your friend? How can he sit with you?”

Ferguson's angry voice came from inside.

"This is my nephew. It's fine. Let's go. Don't block the way."

"Nephew? How come I don't remember you having such a nephew?"

The coachman muttered as he drove the carriage forward.

The corner of Richard's mouth twitched. This bastard was too narrow-minded. How could he take advantage of this?

The feeling was joyous every time Ferguson saw this young man's expression having the same personality during childhood.

It was a cruel joke.

"Big Brother... The strength of this Scarlet Chamber of Commerce is truly terrifying!"

"Yesterday, I saw a level 14 hero enter the secret chamber. I also heard from those NPCs that this level was as a gatekeeper in the headquarters..."

"The quests this chamber of commerce randomly triggered are all D-rank and C-rank. They are countless times stronger than the outside world! If we successfully join, we will surely have a golden leg!"

In the core area of the dock town, in front of a three-story shop that occupied a huge area.

Dozens of luxuriously dressed merchants stood at the entrance as if they were waiting for someone.

A few players who did not fit in with the surrounding people stood at the back. Their gazes burned as they looked at the end of the street.

“I heard the person we’re welcoming is the Vice President of the Scarlet Chamber of Commerce. He has connections with the great nobles in Templar City.”

“If we can earn its recognition. Tsk, tsk, we’ll surely be able to take off in one go. By then, Qingqiu will count as nothing. Wouldn’t obtaining a few treasures be better than grinding monsters to death?”

One of the skinny players said, “I just heard that the Vice President has a high position and is extremely difficult to approach. I’m afraid it’s a top-tier NPC that requires a lot of time and effort to gain favorability. Everyone should be mentally prepared.”

The calm-looking leading player said, “Right now, the most important thing is to join the Scarlet Chamber of Commerce as soon as possible.”

The skinny player shook his head.

“The entrance to this chamber of commerce is insane. We are still probationary members. I’m afraid we will need at least three days to become official members...”

As he spoke, he became excited again.

“However, I believe that we are the players with the fastest progress. As long as we could join this chamber of Commerce, we will surely obtain amazing benefits!”

A commotion came from the front just as the few immersed themselves in their hopes for a better future.

The Vice President of the Scarlet Chamber of Commerce had arrived!

The few players immediately stretched their necks to look. It was the NPC with the highest status they could come to meet. It was ultimately a big shot.

If they could get closer to it, this dungeon would win...

Under the players' gazes...

'Creak! Creak! Creak!'

The carriage slowly came to a stop.

A few NPCs with the highest status stood in front of them. They usually did not even have the right to greet them. They immediately stepped forward with smiles and took the initiative to open the carriage door for them.

Their humble attitude made the few players even more excited.

They had great expectations for the NPCs inside.

The next moment, a thin figure with a solemn expression and an extraordinary aura walked out of the carriage. He was about forty years old.

They immediately opened their status panel and gasped when they saw the level 19 player.

Due to the Concealment Power, they could no longer detect the hero's condition.

At this moment, they could only sigh at the strength of this hero.

After the Vice President alighted from the carriage, the surrounding high-level NPCs immediately stepped forward and greeted him respectfully.

However, to the players' surprise, the Vice President only nodded indifferently. He then moved aside and pulled the carriage door open.

This scene immediately silenced the crowd. What was this?

A few breaths later, an exceptionally handsome figure who wore a black robe appeared from within the carriage.

The Vice President at this moment was ultimately a top-tier big shot in the players' eyes still. But it pulled the carriage door open.

Grant the Vice President to pull the carriage door open for the young man.

The few players were stunned. What level of a worthy young man was this?

They could not help but feel excited as they hurriedly opened the young man's attributes panel.

They were starkly stunned.

An ID that all dungeon players were intensely familiar with appeared before their eyes.

Qingqiu.

The few players looked at each other and saw the stupefaction in the other party's eyes.

'What the hell is going on???'

'How did that Qingqiu get involved with the Vice President of the Scarlet Chamber of Commerce? Furthermore, the other party even opened the carriage door for him!...'

"F*ck! That's a level 19 hero!!"

"Does a dauntless leader need to open the carriage door for the young man??"

"Isn't this looking down on our pride and disdain?"

"You're a level 19 hero. And the Vice President of a force like the Scarlet Chamber of Commerce. Why would you help a player pull the carriage door?!!!"

The few players felt as if their entire bodies were about to collapse.

They had done so many missions and sacrificed half of their troops. But they were still a trainee member.

And they needed to look up to, or even beg to see, a top-tier NPC that ignored them. Yet, in front of player Qingqiu like them, they had done such an inhumane and despicable thing.

Did he have any humanity?

Did he talk about the basic law?

Where was the justice!!!

Chapter 157: Unexpected Incident

Surrounded by the crowd, a few players watched as Qingqiu and Ferguson swaggered into the Scarlet Chamber of Commerce.

The way those high-level NPCs smiled at Qingqiu made them crush their teeth.

“What about your arrogance? Don’t you have any dignity?”

After the group of high-level NPCs left, a lower-level manager who was unqualified to assist Ferguson into the hall for a meeting suddenly saw a few players who had not made any movements.

He was already in a bad mood, so he found them even more annoying.

He quickly walked over and reprimanded them loudly.

“What are you guys looking for?! That’s Lord Ferguson. How can you look at him like that??

“Hurry up and go to the warehouse to move the next batch of goods!

“Why don’t you take a look at your own identity?!”

The few of them suddenly felt as if lightning had struck them...!

“Why can’t we just take a look???”

“That Vice President of the Scarlet Chamber of Commerce has personally opened the carriage door for Qingqiu?! Why don’t you go and question him???”

When they thought of this, sorrow began to rise in their hearts.

They were all players, and various high-level NPCs treated Qingqiu as distinguished. Various high-level NPCs surrounded him as they ate, drank, and waited.

Yet, not only did they not have the qualifications to go in, they even had to f*cking carry the goods...

They were all human, so why was the difference so vast?

The Scarlet Chamber of Commerce did not smell good for a moment which they had spent so much effort to enter...

However, these players did not know that Richard had not noticed them at all.

There were too many people. And they almost squeezed their seats into the bushes nearby.

They did not know if these guys, who had suffered a tremendous blow, would be hurt again if they knew this news...

Ferguson led Richard and the higher-ups of the Scarlet Chamber of Commerce to exchange some pleasantries. Ferguson quickly sent them away in the name of dealing with important matters.

Then it led Richard into a luxurious room.

Countless defensive magic arrays marked the surrounding walls. From the looks of it, they were probably able to withstand the dragon's breath.

They would only think the merchants were afraid of death even if outsiders entered.

Ferguson's identity was the best disguise.

Richard saw that after the door closed, no one from the crowd followed in. He could not help but feel a little puzzled.

Ferguson saw his confusion and said with a trembling voice.

“The Scarlet Chamber of Commerce has no connection with the Scarlet Council. The Scarlet Chamber of Commerce is a genuine and legitimate Chamber of Commerce. The members inside are all residents of Templar City with clean backgrounds.”

With a wave of hand, Ferguson removed the Concealment Power that enveloped its entire body. It revealed the striking magic inscription on his forehead.

“There is a powerful magic array carved in this room. Outsiders are unable to detect it...”

As soon as it finished speaking, Ferguson, who had been full of vigor just a moment ago, spat out a mouthful of blood. And its breathing immediately became sluggish.

It was like a strong wind had blown and could extinguish a candle at any time.

“I can’t delay any longer. The injuries on my body have already worsened...”

“The power of that drop of holy dragon’s blood has been completely exhausted. I have to return to the Scarlet Council immediately...”

Richard quickly helped Ferguson sit down.

He opened the status panel and found that the negative buff that reduced all attributes by 50% had increased to 70%.

He immediately asked when he saw the situation didn’t look good.

“How do we enter Templar City?”

He hadn't gotten his hands on the dragon crystal yet. It was an A-rank hero.

Ferguson let out a long breath, and its face turned even paler.

It looked at the carpet embroidered with exquisite patterns from the corner of its eyes.

“Help me lift the carpet.”

Richard nodded. He bent down and slowly lifted the thick carpet.

A striking colorful pattern with deep religious connotations appeared on the ground.

But other than that, there was nothing unusual, not even the slightest magical fluctuation.

“There is a crystal bottle in the corner of the oak bookshelf... Bring it here and pour the powder inside it.”

Richard immediately got up and found the crystal bottle from the bookshelf by the window. Crystal clear powder filled the crystal bottle that looked like glass fragments.

He unscrewed the bottle cap, slightly tipped it over, and tapped the bottle's opening with his finger.

The powder inside was sprinkled slowly on the floor.

A sparkling light flashed in an instant. And a magic array hidden in a pattern slowly appeared in front of his eyes.

Richard's eyes lit up. "Holy shit! How could this thing be so hidden?"

Ferguson saw that the magic array was not surprising, and he immediately breathed a sigh of relief.

"This is a two-way teleportation circle, connected to the magic circle in the city... It's an item I found in the ancient ruins.

"This teleportation circle is different from other ordinary magic circles. It doesn't consume the magic power in the surroundings but directly uses the power of space. The movement is seriously delicate. And even the top-tier mages can not detect it."

Richard's eyes lit up. This thing was distinctly a high-quality treasure. He did not know if he could get his hands on it...

Ferguson dragged its seriously delicate body to stand up. Richard immediately helped it to stand in the center of the magic array.

A mysterious spell sounded. In an instant, the magic array on the ground flashed.

The space in front of them began to blur.

In the next second, the two appeared in a spacious basement.

The surrounding walls flashed with the same magic inscriptions as Ferguson's bedroom.

The floor was painted black and reflected the light of the magic lamp.

The first thing Richard saw was a middle-aged one-armed guardian who stood from a stool.

When the one-armed guardian saw Ferguson appear from the magic circle, its eyes revealed an unconcealable shock and fear.

Its expression repeatedly changed as if it had not expected the guest to appear.

However, when it found the other party's aura was seriously delicate, it immediately suppressed its emotions and tried its best to restore its natural state. Its tone was somewhat dry and excited.

"Lord Ferguson, you're finally back. Elder David and the President are waiting for you..."

Richard's eyes narrowed... There was something wrong with this guardian.

He opened the attribute panel and glanced. It was a level-9 hero. Its attributes were ordinary and nothing special.

Ferguson, whose injuries rapidly deteriorated, was distracted and did not notice these details.

"Activate the magic array and send us to the headquarters..."

Richard's expression was a little ugly. 'This was only a transit station?'

The one-armed guardian was delighted when it heard this. Then, it sharply gazed at Richard and lowered its head as if it did not dare to look at him and Ferguson.

It turned around and took out a bottle of red powder from a few boxes placed together on his back.

It walked not far from them and sprinkled the powder on the ground.

A sparkling light flashed, and another magic array appeared in front of them.

Ferguson braced himself.

“This is special access to the Scarlet Council Headquarters but can only be used once.

“The site will be abandoned once used.”

Richard fixed his eyes without speaking.

“Ready, my Lord...”

Richard looked at the one-armed guardian, who had not raised its head. Its temperament was somewhat timid.

Its eyes became increasingly strange. This guardian always gave Richard a weird feeling.

It was like when he was in school. He climbed over the school wall. And when he was about to enter the school the following morning, the teacher hit him in the head.

Ferguson was exhausted from suppressing its injuries and had no time to care about anything else.

It motioned for Richard to stand in the center of the magic circle with it.

Richard frowned. But still went forward and stood abreast.

The one-armed guardian chanted a spell. The magic array on the ground flashed in an instant.

Then, the space in front of them began to blur.

It was not until the moment before the teleportation the guardian raised its head. Relief and excitement filled its eyes.

A bad feeling rose in Richard's heart.

There was honestly something wrong with this one-armed guardian.

At the moment when the teleportation array was activated.

It suddenly pushed Ferguson and staggered out of the teleportation array together with him.

'Shua!'

The teleportation array was activated with a flash of light. And the two had already left its coverage area.

Ferguson suddenly woke up and turned his head to look at Richard.

Before he could ask anything, Richard shouted coldly.

“There’s something wrong with that guardian! This teleportation array is very likely a trap!”

Ferguson was shocked. It turned its head to look at the one-armed guardian’s cold smile.

Anger filled Ferguson’s tone.

“Oddo?!!”

Even though Ferguson was heavily injured and could not stand up, the one-armed guardian was still so scared he took a few steps back.

It gritted its teeth and threw the crystal bottle into the teleportation array.

Richard’s pupils constricted. With a wave of his hand, dozens of grains of sand flew out and knocked the crystal bottle away.

However, the magic array had a powerful suction force. It still forcefully sucked the crystal bottle away, even if knocked out.

‘Shua!’ A large amount of red powder fell into the magic array.

The next second.

The light the magic array emitted was like a flame splashed with gasoline. It exploded with enormously majestic energy.

'Kacha!'

The teleportation array could not withstand the energy and directly cracked as if it could collapse at any time.

Then, a hallucinatory blood-colored figure condensed in the air.

Its head had a pair of short horns. Its face was profoundly horrible and savage, and a tail swung behind.

It looked very much like the legendary evil life form...

"Demons?!!"

Ferguson was speechless.

Why would a demon appear at the Scarlet Council's most secretive transit point?!!!

The Scarlet Council had an unexpected incident!

The phantom of the demon shattered just as this thought appeared in Ferguson's mind. And it turned into a wave of pure energy.

'Shua!' Ferguson was directly dragged into the teleportation array.

Everything happened too quickly.

Richard wanted to save Ferguson, but that boundless energy was something no one could resist, even if he exhausted all his strength. Richard suppressed the gravel he controlled the moment it flew out.

It was a powerful force that was far beyond his imagination.

"Richard, go to the Black Oak Manor on 17th Street to find Knowles..."

Ferguson's voice suddenly rang in his mind.

The next moment, blood-colored energy enveloped Ferguson and disappeared from his sight along with the blood-colored light.

It has finally activated the teleportation array.

'Crack!'

The sound of shattered glass rang out. The array in front of Ferguson directly collapsed after teleportation.

It only left Richard with a stunned expression and the one-armed guardian in the hall.

"Hahaha, the great ruler has arrived! It will topple down all rebellion!"

As it said that, it looked at Richard fiercely. This human had almost ruined its good deed!

Richard's heart raced at this moment.

The dragon crystal that could create an A-rank hero was about to be obtained. And now the one who gave out the mission reward had disappeared...!

"Is there anything more f*cked up than this???"

Chapter 158: Three-Star Treasure Chests

Richard turned his head and looked at the one-armed guardian. Killing intent filled his eyes.

He took out a wooden bucket filled with sand with a wave of his hand from the system space.

The one-armed guardian was a little bewildered when it saw this scene. Then it laughed out loud.

“Lowly human, are you using this sand to build your own grave?!”

It swung its arm as soon as it finished speaking.

The magic array on the surrounding walls suddenly emitted an endless ray of light.

However, before it could continue to control, a wave of shock surged into its mind the next moment.

In its sight, the sand in the wooden barrel exploded like lightning.

The one-armed guardian did not even have time to react. It only felt an indescribable pain.

‘Puff!’

Its throat, eyes, face... The sand pierced its entire body. It turned into a hornet’s nest.

The smell of blood in the air was thick and pervasive.

This level 9 hero went straight to the sky in a single move.

Richard, who was enraged, wanted nothing more than to grind this soldier's bones into dust.

“He is an A-rank hero!!!”

At this moment, the system suddenly rang with a notification.

[Ding~ You have triggered an emergency—Save Ferguson.]

[Ferguson, who had a vital mission, returned to the Scarlet Council with the blood of the holy dragon when suddenly a demon attacked it... The secret stronghold guardian had become a traitor. And it kidnapped the heavily injured Ferguson.]

[1. You can go to the Black Oak Manor to look for Knowles and get more clues.]

[2. You can leave this matter alone.]

[You can report this to the guards of Templar City.]

[In free-form exploration mode, each choice you make will affect the rest of the plot. And gain different benefits...]

It's another unexpected situation.

Richard heaved a sigh of relief and suppressed his emotions.

The eyes gradually returned to clarity.

Knowles, 17th Street, Black Oak Manor...

Devil, Scarlet Council, holy dragon's blood, mysterious mission...

He increasingly felt there was an undercurrent in this mission.

What exactly was Ferguson's mysterious mission that required a glorious-level item of sacred dragon's blood to complete?

And why would the demon suddenly attack the Scarlet Council? Had the Scarlet Council fallen? Or was this just an accident?

Countless complicated thoughts lingered in his mind. It made him feel as if the muddy waters got increasingly deeper...

The unhappiness in his heart disappeared again when he thought of the benefits he had gained from the previous incidents.

This mission was so difficult, so the benefits must be very substantial... Thinking about it didn't seem like a bad thing.

With a thought, he took out his Tibetan soldier card. Richard summoned Gray and two teams of bandaged mummies and dark gargoyles.

He repeated the situation to the other party and finally looked at the tightly shut door of the basement.

"Gray, lead the troop and search this place. I want to know where we are now."

Although he did not sense the fatal danger outside, he still had to be careful.

With a thought, the released energy gushed out and enveloped the troop.

The Concealment Power.

The body of the bandaged mummy disappeared.

Even its aura was gone.

Only the immune to magic dark gargoyles remained where they were.

Richard didn't care. He let these dark gargoyles stay here to protect him.

'Yah!'

The door slowly opened. The turned invisible mummy slowly left. After he had confirmed it was safe, Gray followed behind...

The sand that had killed the one-armed guardian slowly floated out again.

The sand circled him and formed a defensive shield.

When Richard encountered danger, he could immediately control the sand to block it.

He glanced around and saw that magic runes covered the walls.

Although he had changed his job to a mage, his knowledge of magic was only limited to his inheritance. He was unable to recognize these runes.

However, after he looked around, a few oak chests behind the one-armed guardian's seat caught his attention.

The one-arm guardian took the bottle of red powder that summoned the demon here...

He walked forward with some curiosity.

He opened the attribute panel.

[White Oak Treasure Chest]

[Level: 3 stars]

[Description: An unlocked treasure chest. Maybe you can get some good treasures from it.]

Richard's eyes lit up.

"Treasure chest out??"

He had gotten so few treasure chests in such a long time.

At most, he would get a 1-star treasure chest after he conquered the troop base in the wild. He didn't even want to mention the junk that came out.

It was the highest-level treasure chest he had ever obtained.

However, other than this treasure chest, the other four did not have any attributes.

He was not disappointed. These treasure chests could be additional rewards.

He took a few steps forward and chose to open it.

[Ding~ You have opened a 3-star treasure chest. You have found among them a 2-star strategic treasure — Leaping boots.”

[Leaping Boots]

[Level: 2-stars]

[Skill: Spatial Leap (Able to jump to a distance of 100 meters in an instant. Can also carry ten people apart from oneself. Body size can not exceed 5 meters. Can be cast 3 times per day.)]

[Description: Some mages have cast spatial magic on it, giving it a subtle power.]

Richard’s eyes lit up. Good stuff.

Wasn’t the skill that came with it the great demon’s talent?

It was simply a top-tier skill.

One can use it to escape and fight.

The only pity was that one could only use it three times a day...

But its value was also considerable.

The unhappiness in his heart since the demon had abducted Ferguson instantly dissipated.

He took two steps back, put on the leaping boots, and then controlled the gravel to open the remaining four unattributed treasure chests.

'Yah!'

A ray of light flashed under the illumination of the magic lamp.

A crystal-clear rare-level resource appeared in front of him — crystals.

Richard was amused. He did not expect these unattributed treasure chests to have such a high price.

He immediately put the crystals into his bag.

Each box had 300 units. Four boxes had 1,200 units, and each box had half an extra crystal.

It didn't seem like a lot, but this was the output of 12 miniature, rare-level mineral veins.

Rare-level resources contained vast amounts of energy. Not only could they be used to recruit high-level soldiers or build remarkable buildings, but also as the core of magic arrays.

Therefore, their value was extremely precious.

Richard felt he didn't lose so much after he earned two extra profits.

He looked at the open basement door and took a deep breath. While he waited for Gray, he also began to think about his next plan.

It was impossible to give up the dragon crystal. The value of an A-rank hero was enough for him to take the risk.

Moreover, the benefits behind the sudden incident also made him restless.

Gray returned safely with a small team of mummies while Richard was thinking.

“Lord, there’s a quiet courtyard outside. I didn’t find any danger.

“It seems to be a bustling street outside. I can feel a large number of humans walking around.

“But there are often templar dragoons flying through the sky. We don’t dare to leave the courtyard...”

Richard heaved a sigh of relief. Fortunately, they were in the city. It would be difficult to enter if they were still outside.

“Did you find other treasures like strategic equipment in the other rooms?”

“No, this place is empty. There are no valuable items here.”

Richard nodded and did not hesitate anymore.

The sand had destroyed the magic array. He did not know if it would attract the attention of other powerful existences.

It was better to leave this place for now.

They walked out of the basement under Gray’s guidance, through a winding, dark tunnel, and came to the ground.

Just as they walked out of the house and came to the front yard.

'Roar!'

A low roar came from the sky.

Richard subconsciously raised his head.

A squadron of templar dragoons quickly passed by at a low altitude of 100 meters...

It still made people feel a sizeable pressure even if the horrible draconic aura was restrained.

When the giant dragon flew away, the sky covered by the dragon once again became clean. A vast shadow of a 12-winged angel stood above his head.

That holy light was enough to make any evil feel fear.

It was like a sacred object in myths and legends, giving people a profound psychological and visual impact.

Richard took a deep breath, and his heart inexplicably felt modest excitement.

Templar City, he came...

Chapter 159: Prodigious Hunter-Mechanical Puppet

'Ta-ta-ta!'

'Ta-ta-ta!'

The horse's hoofs hit the floor. It made a uniquely crisp sound.

Richard looked out from the glass window while he sat in the carriage.

Prosperous, spectacular, and fantastic.

It was his most straightforward impression of Templar City.

He quietly left the stronghold and went to the street to hire a carriage after he collected all the troops into the Tibetan soldier card. He headed to 17th Street.

Although he did not know whether Knowles was living in the Black Oak Manor, Ferguson said this name at the last moment, so it must be someone trusted.

The Templar City was worthy of the status of the King's City.

The main street was 100 meters wide. On both sides stood three to five-story, 10 to 20-meter tall dome-shaped buildings.

The style was simple and elegant, full of dignity and elegance.

They embossed images of angels and dragons on most of the empty spaces on the walls. Each wall seemed to be the most precious piece of art.

The stained-glass windows of the houses shone under the morning sun. It scattered different bright colors that added a bit of atmosphere to the street.

This place was surprisingly bustling.

On both sides of the street, shops sold all kinds of goods. The crowd surged, and all of the items were dazzling to the eyes.

The pedestrians were bustling with activity. There was not only one race of humans: the elegant and arrogant elves, the short and sturdy dwarves, and the orcs with beast heads... All kinds of strange races came into his sight from time to time.

And the players who attracted Richard's attention the most were those with especially obvious temperament.

These guys would occasionally ask some high-level NPCs next to them if they needed help.

The elves with good looks were especially popular.

It was also Richard's first time experiencing so many players around him. It was quite a novel feeling.

However, he didn't have any thoughts about experiencing this method. High-level players naturally had high-level ways of playing.

Richard came back to his senses after observing for a long time. As if he had thought of something, he opened his mouth and asked the coachman in front of him.

"Sir, do you know the situation of the Black Oak Manor?"

The young coachman seemed to have held back for a long time when he heard this and muttered.

"Sir, why are you going to that Manor?" There lived a creature who liked alchemy and machinery... The last time I helped it bring in a batch of goods, it kicked me out without even giving me a mouthful of water. Moreover, it didn't even pay me the bill. The second time I went, it only gave me the last salary!!

"God of justice, even if you are his friend, I have to say, that creature is simply the most stingy guy in the world!!"

Richard was stunned. It was a little different from what he had thought.

“Alchemy and machinery... What kind of alchemy machinery?”

“Who knows? No one can enter its manor...”

The driver seemed to often help in bringing goods and didn't even keep his mouth shut.

“The goods he needs are similar to the ones I sent to the other mages. The only difference is that there are many more machines...”

Richard asked for many details, but in the end, he only got unlikely information from the coachman.

The thing coachman mentioned the most was that it wouldn't pay him. It made Richard not know whether to laugh or cry.

“My Lord... we have arrived at the Black Oak Manor.”

The young coachman's call woke Richard up.

After he paid the carriage fee with gold coins, the other party even reminded him.

“If you are here to complete your bounty missions, you must hand over the money and the goods. Otherwise, that old miser will steal your goods!”

Richard could not help but laugh. After thanking the coachman, he got off the carriage.

The Black Oak Manor came into view.

It was a medium-sized manor. The courtyard wall was seven to eight meters high, almost like a city wall.

When Richard looked, he could see the towering oak trees inside.

But unlike ordinary oak trees, the trunks of these oak trees were all pitch black.

It seemed to be the origin of the name of the manor.

He stepped and pressed the conspicuous magic doorbell in front of the giant door that seemed to be for giants.

Richard waited for a long time, just when he thought the doorbell was defective.

'Yeah!' The manor's door finally moved.

However, an angry voice came out first before the door opened.

“Damn bastard!! Who disturbed me while doing my experiment?... If there is no proper reason, trust me, I will shove your head into your butt!!”

The door made of black oak opened a crack.

A dwarf who was about 1.4 meters tall appeared in Richard’s sight. It had messy hair, and body proportions were vastly out of place.

The dwarf’s bright red nose made it look like a clown. Its appearance was especially comical.

It was a race similar to dwarves, but they did not have strong muscles like dwarves. They were more famous for their protruding heads.

They were a member of the Fortress Faction.

“You’re the one who rang the damn doorbell? Human, tell me why you’re here!! Otherwise, I’ll let you know, Master Knowles’ fist!!”

Richard looked down at the angry dwarf as it waved its fist, and the corners of its mouth twitched.

‘Why did this guy look a little unreliable?’

‘Was Ferguson sure that I did not find the wrong person?’

He opened the attribute panel.

[Knowles]

[Hero Unit]

[Level: 19]

[???

[???

[???

Richard's pupils constricted. 'Another level-19 hero?'

And this dwarf was not like Ferguson, who was heavily injured.

Its strength was at its peak.

Even if the opponent was a dwarf, its level-19 strength was enough to blow up a giant rock with one punch.

As Richard's thoughts spun, his tone was solemn.

"Are you Knowles?"

"Sir Ferguson has entrusted me to look for you."

The dwarf frowned.

"That idiot Ferguson asked you to look for me? Impossible! How could it recruit an outsider... Could it be that something happened to him?"

Its eyes were fixed on Richard as it spoke. At this moment, its gaze became incomparably sharp.

The aura it unintentionally emitted instantly made Richard feel like a giant dragon was targeting him.

Its tone became a little lower.

"Sir Ferguson was seriously injured on the way. We encountered a traitor when I escorted him from the stronghold outside the city to the inner city.

"The traitor lured Sir Ferguson into the teleportation array for the demons to snatch it away... And they disappeared without a trace."

After he said this, Knowles' face suddenly froze. An immensely paralyzing pressure on its body was like the collapse of a high mountain.

It pressed firmly on Richard's chest.

At this moment, the body of the dwarf seemed to have given birth to a giant abyss beast!

"What did you say?!!"

Richard took a deep breath and said slowly.

"The demons took away seriously injured Ferguson lured by the traitor. Its life and death are unknown!"

As Richard spoke, energy rose from his body and enveloped his entire body.

He lost all traces in his opponent's eyes.

"The Concealment Power?!"

Knowles sensed this scene and quickly withdrew the pressure spreading out.

Its gaze fixed on Richard, who had lost all traces.

“This is that idiot’s skill! Unless it was willing to teach it. There can not be a third person who knows it!”

“I agreed with Ferguson. There are two versions of the power of concealment. The first was the one that taught if one has to. But there’s an obvious flaw in that skill.”

“But you used the other version. I also gave a lot of suggestions for this skill. Otherwise, how could that idiot have developed it?!”

The hostility on the dwarf’s face disappeared after it sensed something for a moment.

The Concealment Power on Richard’s body eased up with a wave of its hand.

The dwarf’s gaze softened a little.

“Human, who are you? How did you gain Ferguson’s trust?”

Richard’s tone was neither servile nor overbearing.

“The Lord of Twilight City, Richard. Sir, shall we talk at the door?”

Knowles turned its head to look behind him. After it made sure there was no one behind Richard, it nodded and signaled for him to come in.

They entered the main door.

'Yiya!'

There were two immensely crude-looking giant puppets behind the main door. They looked like someone had randomly piled up them with rubbish. They slowly pushed the main and closed the door.

Richard didn't pay much attention to them at first, but out of curiosity, he opened the attribute panel to take a look.

The next second, his eyes immediately narrowed.

[Glorious-2 stars, Level 11...]

After he saw these two attributes, he immediately felt this dwarf was not easy.

It was made casually but had reached a glorious level.

Combined with the information of the coachman, he instantly had a rough assessment of Knowles.

This dwarf was oddly remarkable.

They entered a vast green grassland in front of the manor. A prodigious black oak tree trunk in the central area was particularly striking.

Knowles did not bring Richard into the main building in front. Instead, they went around the backyard and entered an inconspicuous house.

Richard's breathing stopped when the dwarf pushed the door open.

There were dozens of three-meter-tall mechanical puppets inside. Each of them was a Glorious 3-stars and was level 14.

'This dwarf has something...'

He was relieved that Ferguson did not trick him.

He saw a basement entrance in the central area when they passed through these cold and rapacious puppets.

"Kid, don't touch the things inside..."

Knowles turned its head to warn Richard and signaled him to follow.

Richard slowly walked down with the dwarf in front of him as they followed the wide metal stairs.

They arrived at the mysterious area after hundreds of steps.

Richard looked around and saw a shocking scene.

It was an enormous underground space with a diameter of more than 500 meters.

There were a lot of mechanical puppets around, almost filling up the space.

It was no worse than the Arcana Hall used to produce magic puppets in the ancient ruins of the Resplendent Wizard Tower.

And in the center area.

A 15-meter-tall giant mechanical puppet that looked like a prehistoric beast stood in the center.

To his surprise, the chest of the mechanical puppet was open. It revealed a space that could accommodate adults.

‘That was... The cockpit?!’

‘Humans can drive this mechanical puppet?!’

Richard immediately opened the attribute panel after he returned to his senses.

His heart started beating faster in the next second.

This dwarf was astounding.

[Extraordinary Hunter-Mechanical Puppet]

[Level: 20]

[Characteristics: Can be operated in battle]

[???

[???

[???

[Level 20... Prodigious Hunter]

Although he couldn't see the specific attributes, just the level of level 20 was enough to explain everything.

'F*ck! If I moved this astounding dwarf back from the dungeon..? Wouldn't I be able to fly into the sky???

Chapter 160: Glorious Disguise Spell That Can Lead to the Bathhouse of the Opposite Sex

"How is it, human young man? Have you seen it? It is the big thing I created!!

"That idiot Ferguson can only beg for mercy in front of me!"

Knowles, who had a head full of chicken poop, proudly came to the feet of the prodigious hunter.

However, he was not taller than the instep of the mechanical puppet, so he looked candidly funny.

Richard collected his thoughts and gave the short race a hearty thumbs up.

"Astounding!"

It was indeed a bit astounding to create a puppet of a prodigious level.

When it heard this compliment from the bottom of the young man's heart, Knowles immediately opened its mouth and laughed loudly.

However, its laughter was worse than crying and was scary among the machines.

Richard continued to ask, "Sir Knowles, I wonder if others can get this magic puppet?"

"Although I appreciate your vision, the manufacturing cost of this thing is too high. You can't afford it. I've already emptied..."

The dwarf said hatefully.

"That idiot Ferguson never dared to admit the power of my mechanical puppet!!

"Humph! Now it's been taken away by someone else! That Idiot! It already had a puppet for self-defense. How could such a thing happen?"

As it spoke, its eyes turned cold.

"Tell me, did something happen to Ferguson? And how did you two meet?"

Richard did not hide anything. He told the dwarf everything that had happened in the past two days.

Finally, he said, "When the demon dragged Ferguson into the teleportation portal, it told me through magic voice transmission it wanted me to come to Black Oak Manor to look for you... Sir Knowles."

Knowles half-leaned on the prodigious hunter's foot and scratched its head.

It was a little angry.

"Idiot Ferguson! Now it knows to come to me!! Tell it not to take risks. Don't take risks, and do not listen to my advice!!

"The fury of revenge has consumed the idiot!! It only wants to let those dirty and disgusting nobles die! But how can such a thing be done in two or three days?!

"That idiot!!!"

Its tone became even angrier.

"The demon who set up the ambush must have lured that idiot Vice President of the Scarlet Council. It had advocated for them!!

"Ferguson has told me this more than once... It even made up its mind to eliminate the other party when it returned this time. Unexpectedly, those bastards made the first move..."

As it said this, Knowles seemed to have thought of something, and it suddenly walked toward a nearby storage rack.

After it flipped through it for a long time, Knowles found a piece of parchment.

Knowles handed it to Richard after a few glances.

Anger filled its tone.

“This list contains the names of those who proposed to cooperate with the demon in the Scarlet Council. It contains their addresses and hidden identities...”

Richard took the list and looked at it. There were more than 50 of them.

Most were heroic units above level 10.

The Vice President of the Scarlet Council, David, who was at the top, was level 18.

It was exceedingly stalwart.

If the other party had already defected to the demons and had additional backing, its true strength would probably be even more terrifying.

“Sir Knowles, what are your plans?”

The dwarf’s disproportionate figure suddenly waved its hand and said fiercely.

“Kill them one by one!! Until we find that damn demon!!”

The corner of Richard’s mouth twitched.

“With such a big commotion, at such a sensitive time in Templar City. Even if you can drive an extraordinary mechanical puppet, you might not be able to win, right?”

The Scarlet Council was not a benevolent force, to begin with, and Ferguson did not know where he got the holy dragon’s blood.

If this commotion were too big, the big shots in Templar city would discover it.

Not to mention a level 20 mechanical puppet, even 10 or 20 would not be much use.

This dungeon involved the background of the battle of the gods.

Even gods could appear...

Level 20 could only be considered top-tier battle strength. There was still a lot of ultimate battle strength and above...

The most important goal was to rescue Ferguson and get the A-rank dragon crystal. He had no interest in courting death with this creature.

Knowles immediately became silent and muttered unwillingly.

“Then what can you do?”

Richard waved the list in his hand and smiled.

“Who else hates the demon the most besides us?”

“Besides us?” Knowles shook his head. “None, including us. Everyone in this city hates the demon!”

“If that’s the case, why do we have to do it ourselves?”

Knowles was startled. “You mean... get someone else to do it?”

Richard narrowed his eyes.

“That’s right. Since we have the specific address information, I think many people are willing to eliminate these dangers for us.”

“But Ferguson’s safety is not the same as being threatened? Those bastards who talk about justice and light won’t care about its life...”

“No, Knowles. Those peripheral, unimportant people, let others clean up for us and cut off the demon’s claws.”

Richard’s tone was firm.

“When the time is right, we will be mainly responsible for hunting the most important being... The Scarlet Council President, David!”

These words made Knowles’ eyes light up.

But it was still a little hesitant.

“Will those bastards follow these small characters and trace the clues to the Scarlet Council? Won’t Ferguson be in danger as well?”

Richard nodded.

“We can’t rule out such a risk.”

After Richard pondered for a moment, he continued, "Let's think about it another way. We can attack at the same time!"

"With the help of the Templar City's troops, they will attack simultaneously. They will clean up their minions, and we will ambush the primary target and cut off their heads!

"In this way, the enemy will not be able to react in time. Even if they find the clues, they will not cause us any more trouble.

"The large-scale deployment of troops will distract the enemy, and the pressure on us will be much less."

Knowles nodded.

"It is indeed better than hunting them down one by one. But how can we spread the news and ensure that the enemy will attack simultaneously?"

Richard stared at the level-19 dwarf and said in a deep voice.

"Leave it to me, but I need you to help me hide my aura using alchemy.

"If possible, it would be best if you could hide my appearance, too.

“I have already met the templar dragoons and the two-winged angels. Templar City is so big that I might not meet them.

“But we have to consider this possibility. We can’t pin our hopes on things we can’t control.”

Knowles looked at him deeply.

“Human, you’re very similar to Ferguson when it was young. You’re responsible and courageous...

“I might slightly understand why Ferguson would teach you a skill like the Concealment Power...

“Follow me.”

It turned around and came to a wall with countless alchemy potions. It reached out and took a dozen bottles from it.

Finally, it let him lie down on the operating table.

It was the first time Richard had experienced the skill of a level-19 dwarf...

Half an hour later.

Richard looked at the ordinary-looking, sallow-faced middle-aged man in the mirror. He bolted out of the blue.

It was simply a change of face. It was even more overbearing than the three great evil spells in Asia.

Moreover, not only his appearance but his aura was also starkly concealed.

If someone gave him a photo, he probably wouldn't even be able to recognize that it was him.

“Hello, I'm... Draco...”

A dull middle-aged man's voice came out of his throat. It sounded like he had smoked too much tobacco. And it was somewhat hoarse.

A special buff appeared on the stats panel.

[Glorious Disguise Spell: Within three days, your aura will change into another person. Unless you use a divine detection spell to identify you three times in a row, you will not be able to see through your disguise.]

[This dwarf is astounding. I would like to call it the mightiest skill that leads to the opposite sex bathhouse...]