

The World 551

Chapter 551 - 551 Love of a Lifetime (Chinese Valentine's Day Special) [2/3]

The middle-aged man said disapprovingly.

“I didn’t ask you to give up on Shanna. Shanna is a good girl. You can still be with her after you get married to Elena.”

He said proudly.

“What’s wrong with a man marrying a few wives?!

“Especially an outstanding man like you.

“You’re the pillar of the blacksmith shop, and even Lord Richard treats you differently.

Your future potential is limitless! You can’t just marry Shanna in your life. You can have other girls, right?

“If that’s the case, why can’t you marry Elena?

“If you’re worried that Shanna won’t agree, it’s fine. I’ll help you talk to her. Trust me, she’ll understand...”

Uncle Ode’s retort startled Sam.

Sam slowly shook his head at the middle-aged man after he pondered.

“Uncle Ode... I think you misunderstood me.

“There are several beautiful girls in this world. However, that has nothing to do with me.

“I only want Shanna.

“She is enough.”

Happiness filled his face as he spoke.

“Shanna is my everything.

“In this world, no girl can compare to her. No...”

The middle-aged man’s expression finally stiffened.

He looked at him in confusion.

Their eyes met. Ode could only see the unwavering love in Sam’s eyes.

The mountains and seas collapsed, and one could not move.

The middle-aged man, who did not believe anyone could resist such temptation, fell silent.

He smiled bitterly after a long time.

“Maybe I underestimated you, Sam.”

He reached out and patted his shoulder.

“Shanna is a good girl. The goddess must have blessed her to win your favor.”

Sam smiled and shook his head.

“No, Uncle Ode, to be able to be with Shana... It’s my honor.

“Without her, I might have already become a rotten corpse.”

“She is my light.”

A moment later, the middle-aged man watched the figure disappear at the end of the street with light footsteps. Inexplicable envy engulfed his eyes.

“Loving someone so firmly must be very blissful.”

He lowered his head after Sam disappeared and pulled up his sleeve sparingly. He tied an impurity-filled crystal bracelet around his wrist.

His eyes revealed a hint of reminiscence...

“Shanna, Sam will become a big shot in the future.

“He might marry you. But he might not only have one wife.

“Which of those big shots doesn’t have a few women?

“Besides, with your situation, staying with him will only delay him...

“Sam is now a top figure in Twilight City. He often misses home for a few days. Doesn’t that mean something?”

“The broader difference in status between you, the harder it will be to maintain this relationship.

“Shanna, maybe you haven’t realized yet. But Sam has gradually forgotten about you. He has a better life now. He won’t put you first anymore... You’re no longer that important to him.

“And as you know, he met a girl called Elena some time ago. That girl likes him very much.

“She has bright eyes and can play a musical instrument called the Kronen. Her singing is lovely, and her father is a big shot in the logistics department.

“They’re the most compatible pair...”

In a brightly lit room, a young man in his early twenties looked at a girl as she sat on a stool with unfocused eyes.

The young man was tall and had a shiny golden haired-head.

Intoxication filled his eyes.

He emphasized his tone and tried to increase his persuasiveness.

“I’m different, Shanna. You’re the only one I want in my life.

“I swear to the goddess that from the day I saw you, I have engraved your appearance in my soul... You are the only love of my life.

“I’ve already become an employee of the food workshop. I’ll work hard and earn money to treat your eyes. I’ll accompany you every day after work.

“There will never be a situation where one will neglect you for many days!

“Shanna...”

Shana was silent for a long time and slowly raised her head when she heard his voice and looked at the figure before her.

Her tone was firm.

“Daniel, I’m sorry. Please forgive my directness... Sam isn’t the kind of person you’re talking about.

“In the future, please don’t say anything about Sam in front of me. I don’t like it.

“Sam is my lover and my only one.

“Other than him, I will never fall in love with anyone else in this life, none, even in the next life.

“Daniel, since we’ve known each other for a few years and you’ve helped Sam and me a lot, I’ll pretend that nothing happened today. You can leave.”

The boy raised his voice unwillingly.

“Shanna, don’t you understand? Love is mutual! Sam could be holding hands with Elena right now while they watched the sun rise and set outside the city!

“Otherwise, why hasn’t he returned for a week?

“Although the blacksmith shop is busy, it’s impossible that he can’t spare any time!

“Today is still your birthday!

“I can always be with you...”

The girl’s expression turned cold.

“Daniel, I’m warning you for the last time, don’t say anything about Sam!!

“You don’t have to worry about how Sam does things!

“I won’t accept you even if Sam comes home over a month, a year, or forever!”

Chapter 552 - 552 Love of a Lifetime (Chinese Valentine's Day Special) [3/3]

"I love Sam more than my life and soul!"

The young man felt a knife cut through his heart when he saw her unwavering face.

He opened and closed his lips a few times. He could not speak again.

In the end, he felt something sucked out of his soul. He sighed and staggered away in disappointment.

The girl didn't mind the young man's departure. Her mind still thought about her man.

"Sam must be very busy these few days. I made his favorite honey bread today... I'll ask Aunt to bring me to the blacksmith shop later."

A bright smile immediately appeared on the young girl's face as she thought about seeing Sam in the following hours.

Just as she was about to get up.

'Yiya!

She heard someone push the door open and heard familiar footsteps enter.

The girl looked pleasantly surprised and subconsciously turned to look in the direction of the sound.

“Sam, you’re back!”

Indescribable joy filled her tone.

The girl was sparingly angry a moment ago. She was like a statue, and someone gave her life. A lively aura filled her state.

The smell of spring flowers filled the air.

It was mesmerizing.

Sam looked at his beloved girl and smiled brightly.

He stepped forward and took out a white bouquet from his back.

His single hand led Shanna to take it.

“Happy birthday, Shanna.”

The girl held the flowers in her hand and sniffed them lightly.

Smile and surprise shrouded her face while she smelled the fragrance of the fresh flowers.

“Whitemoon flowers? Sam, where did you get the Whitemoon flowers? This is the desert...”

Sam laughed.

“Do you like it?”

The girl nodded fiercely and held them in her arms happily. She was unwilling to let go.

Just as she was about to say something, the girl suddenly felt the figure before her squat on the ground. Sam held one of her hands.

A mellow and gentle voice sounded just as she was puzzled.

“Shanna, today is our birthday. It’s also the day we met.

“This day is like a new life for me. You gave a new meaning to my life.

“I hope to protect you, take care of you, and love you forever from this day on.

“I hope to be your husband and the father of our child.

“I hope to hold your hand when I grow old. And until my hair turns white.

“Shanna, my true love, I hope you can marry me...”

The girl felt the coldness of the ring on her ring finger as soon as the young man finished speaking.

At this moment, an indescribable sense of happiness surged from the bottom of her heart.

Tears rolled down uncontrollably.

Her voice trembled uncontrollably.

“Sam...You, are you serious?”

Sam’s tone was solemn and passionate.

“I’ve never been so severe in my life. Are you willing to be my bride?”

“Wuhuhuhu!” I, I’m willing...”

The girl could no longer hold back the excitement in her heart. She choked and pulled the boy into her arms.

She smelled Sam's aura and felt the worth of dying.

Sam whispered in the girl's ear with a trembling voice.

"Shanna, I was scared when the desert of death trapped us. I wasn't scared of death. I feared I wouldn't make you my wife when I died.

"At that time, I thought that if we could leave the desert of death alive, I would definitely propose to you immediately!

"Fortunately, the goddess has blessed us. Lord Richard pulled us back from the hands of death and brought us to Twilight City.

"After that, the lord bestowed great power and gave me everything... Now, I can take care of you.

"I've thought about this when I came to Twilight City.

"It has fulfilled my wish. I'm willing, even if I die now.

"Shanna, I love you."

When the girl heard the most straightforward and passionate words in her heart, it made her heart drunk.

Emotions choked her, and she could no longer speak a complete sentence.

All she could respond was hug the young man. She tightly held him in her arms. It was like she wanted to rub her body into his.

After a long time, she sobbed and whispered.

“Sam, we will have a future. You have to serve Twilight City and repay Lord Richard with enormous achievements.

“We have to live well together.

“Live until the day Twilight City becomes a pearl in the desert. Live until the day we can no longer walk...”

Sam hugged the girl tightly.

“Yes, we have to live well.

“We wait until Twilight City has become immortal. Lord Richard has not become the ruler of the desert of death yet...”

“We haven’t repaid the favor we owe...”

Chapter 553 - 553 The Delightful Black Sorbet Ice Cream [1/3]

Richard felt Vale’s proposal to build a logistics core city in Twilight City was quite feasible after he thought about it.

However, he could not carry out this plan yet... It was not suitable to expose Twilight City to the public yet.

He could use Fearless Lost skill to develop, but this core logistics city could not be Twilight City.

The current Twilight could not deal with the pressure from the outside world.

The Fearless Lost skill was simply irresistible to the forces around the desert of death.

A high chance that nothing good would happen to a child who carried gold through the downtown area if he rashly exposed this skill before he could have enough strength.

“It’s not too late to carry out this idea when my strength is sufficient in the later stages.”

“Twilight City now has the power to travel freely in the desert of death. We’ll be able to reap a lot of benefits if we dig deeper.”

Richard rubbed his forehead.

“Initially, the desert of death was impassable, and doing business there was a great opportunity. However, the appearance of players has smoothed out the price difference in most areas.

“It’s unlikely there will be a situation where the prices in some areas differ by a hundred times... A market that allows free trade has changed many rules.

The arrival of players could have fundamentally changed the [Trading Market] in the “Shining Era”.

Direct and timely trading could save him money even with a 30% handling fee.

Previously, due to the inconvenience of transportation, the price difference between items in areas that were far away could be dozens of times higher.

However, after the players appeared, they directly killed this situation.

Some players who lost their territories even went to explore unfamiliar maps to find the price difference.

He retracted his thoughts and said slowly.

“We’ll make plans for this in the future.”

Butler Karu nodded and didn't dwell on this matter anymore.

He knew this plan was good. But the timing was inappropriate.

He thought for a moment and changed the topic.

"Lord, the food workshop has recently developed a special food using a magical plant from the underground world."

"It can make people feel very cool after eating it. I feel that it has quite the potential..."

Richard was interested.

The food workshop was the earliest building blueprint he had obtained. He had built it for more than half a year.

One could not calculate the resources invested during this time.

Last time, he heard that the food workshop had made progress. Now, there was finally a product that he could take out.

However, he wanted to look at the finished product before his evaluation due to the prior poor performance of the food workshop.

“Get someone to bring that food over.”

“Yes.”

Butler Karu immediately turned around and left. Not long after, he brought a young man who looked excited and nervous into the hall.

The first thing Richard saw was the three porcelain bowls on the tray.

He spotted a black jelly-like object in the bowl.

It looked ordinary, and he had no appetite.

“Lord, this is the product we developed in the food workshop—Black Sorbet.”

“Please, try it.”

Butler Karu was a little nervous when he saw Richard’s expressionless face.

They would only know after his judgment whether they succeeded or not.

“Bring it over.”

Richard was reluctant, but he had once scolded the food workshop before. He couldn't do it again, could he?

The young man respectfully came forward with a tray. Anticipation filled his eyes.

Richard didn't rush to taste. He opened the attribute panel to glance.

[Black Sorbet]

[Level: 1-star]

[Characteristic: After consumption, recovers 20% of stamina within 10 minutes.]

[Description: Magical food made from special plants.]

“One-star item?”

Richard was relieved. It couldn't be too bad, right? Although the level was low.

He casually picked up a bowl and examined it slightly. The Black Sorbet was no different from black jelly. They were both very elastic.

He placed it under his nose and sniffed it gently. There was no special strange smell. Instead, there was a faint sweetness.

It made him heave a sigh of relief.

He would never fall for such a trap again if he were jealous.

He picked up the spoon beside him and scooped up half a spoonful.

He slowly put it into his mouth...

Butler Karu and the two young men were on tenterhooks.

He feared Richard would put down his bowl and scold him the next second...

Richard had thought that the Black Sorbet tasted like jelly.

However, in the next second, an icy and sweet texture exploded. The taste was incomparably delightful. At the same time, an intense ice-cold aura spread out as he chewed.

It engulfed his entire body.

The coldness instantly dispelled the heat in his body. It was different from the coldness of an ice cube. This coldness was more like an air conditioner that blew at 20 degrees.

It was just right.

He instantly became spirited.

Richard's eyes lit up.

'Good stuff... This thing was a hundred times better than any ice cream to relieve the heat.'

He couldn't help but scoop another spoonful and experience that icy feeling again.

He quickly finished the bowl of Black Sorbet ice cream.

Richard put down his bowl and looked at the two with a burning gaze.

Butler Karu was in a good mood.

He knew that the lord was delighted if one would judge from his actions.

“Lord Richard...What do you think?”

Richard reached out and patted the shoulder of the young man who held the tray.

He laughed loudly.

“Good stuff!

“The food workshop didn’t disappoint me!

“Black Sorbet ice cream has a bright future!”

It was the scorching desert of death.

This food could make people feel great and be a top-notch killing weapon for people in hot areas.

Chapter 554 - 554 The Delightful Black Sorbet Ice Cream [2/3]

When it was hot like a husky, a bowl of Black Sorbet ice cream could instantly relieve the heat... Just thinking about it, he knew he wouldn’t have to worry about the market of this delicacy!

Compared to this characteristic that could relieve heat, the one-star level and the effect of recovering 20% of stamina were secondary.

Excitement flushed at the young man's face at Richard's praise.

Karu smiled brightly.

"Lord, do we need to increase the Black Sorbet ice cream?"

"Increase production. Use as much force as you can."

Richard's smile didn't fade, but he suddenly thought of something and asked.

"How much is the production cost of each bowl of Black Sorbet?"

Karu looked at the young man.

"Lord, Bi Qi was the one who led the research and developed Black Sorbet. I would summon Bi Qi to report to you."

The young man suppressed his excitement and spoke in a trembled voice when he saw Richard nod.

"City Lord, the primary raw material for the Black Sorbet is the magic plant you brought back from the underground-frost grass.

“This magic plant has unique magic properties. Its outside stalk doesn’t appear unique but has an invisible ice magic power hidden inside. It will freeze those who touch it.

“It can preserve that ice magic power if one has handled it well.

“One could only make Black Sorbet ice cream with the frost grass as the core and 30 other ordinary plants through 12 processes such as grinding, filtering, and steaming.”

The young man momentarily paused before he continued.

“Frost grass is the main ingredient of the Black Sorbet ice cream, but we don’t know the value of this magical plant...”

Richard had an idea.

The wealth of the underground world was more complex than it seemed.

He still had to increase the intensity of development. Not only did he have to obtain superficial benefits, but he also had to collect rare plants and unique animals. It couldn’t be useless.

He immediately gave the order after he regained his senses.

“Call Rand Augustus over. At the same time, go to the food workshop and get the frost grass.”

“Yes.”

Not long after, Rand, the old dwarf, entered the hall with a perturbed expression.

Richard didn't waste any time and handed him the frost grass he just obtained.

“Rand, do you recognize this magical plant?”

The old dwarf reached out and took it. He only glanced at it briefly before he raised his head.

He was sparingly puzzled.

“Lord Ruler, this is frost grass. It grows near swamps and water sources. It contains a special magical energy that can make one feel cold when touched... Other than that, it doesn't seem to be of any use.”

Richard's interest grew.

“Is this kind of magic plant rare underground?”

The old dwarf had a strange expression.

“Rare? In the underground world, it could be everywhere where there is water. There would be... Great Ruler, do you need the frost grass for something?”

“Where there is water everywhere?”

Richard’s expression was subtle.

He shook his head and retracted his thoughts. He reached out to gesture at the bowl on the tray.

“Try the latest top-notch delicacy the food workshop had developed—Black Sorbet.”

The old dwarf looked at the black, jelly-like substance. He still quickly took a bite, although he was sparingly hesitant.

His body trembled when the Black Sorbet ice cream entered his mouth.

He revealed a delighted expression... It was too cool.

He couldn’t help but take a few more bites. In the end, after the bottom of the bowl was empty, he couldn’t bear to put the spoon down.

He looked at Richard in surprise.

“Lord Ruler, what kind of delicacy is this? It’s simply too delicious. That ice-cold aura is simply mesmerizing...”

Although there was a statue of an ice elf and the temperature in Twilight City remained constant, a desert was still a desert. It was still unbearably hot outside the city.

The feeling of cooling down his entire body was simply irresistible in this hot and humid environment.

Halfway through his sentence, the old dwarf looked at the frost grass in his hand and immediately came to a realization.

“I didn’t expect that one could create a delicacy from an ordinary magical plant...”

Richard looked at the man’s amazed expression and suddenly had an idea.

“Rand, all the dwarves will temporarily join the food workshop. We’ll look for special magical plants from the underground world for the food workshop to try and develop new food.”

These dwarves were not strong enough before the unsealing of the blood in their bodies.

He might make the best use of it since that was the case.

Even if the other party did not have Inherited Knowledge, he would still have experience in this area since he has lived in the underground world for so long.

Richard looked at the young man who held the tray after he said that.

“Bi Qi, you’ve done well this time. The Black Sorbet is of great significance to Twilight City.

“You will continue to be in charge of the research and development work this time!”

Bi Qi was startled. This young man named was a B-rank lifestyle hero.

Richard knew after he asked Karu that Bi Qi had automatically become a hero unit a week ago. He was a rare talent.

“Other than that, you must collect recipes from the underworld and food with special effects and flavors.

“Find something valuable to improve and develop...”

The “Shining Era” was a world with magic. Plants had special effects, which turned the delicacy more creative.

For example, Black Sorbet ice cream was a unique specialty. On Planet Blue, cold air couldn’t cover his feet even if he ate ten ice cream sticks...

Chapter 555 - 555 The Delightful Black Sorbet Ice Cream [3/3]

Richard felt he had opened his train of thought when he thought in this direction.

Since there were magic plants that were extremely cold, were there any that were hot? He could sell them in hot places, but he couldn't judge them in cool places...

The old dwarf was clever. He quickly sensed the hidden meaning in Richard's order.

He answered firmly.

"Yes, Lord."

"We will do our best... For Twilight City!"

The last slogan sounded a little abrupt, but to the old dwarf, it came from the bottom of his heart.

Although he had not been in Twilight City for some time, he had never felt this city before.

Full of vitality and hope... It seemed that all the adjectives for beauty were appropriate here.

The strong preyed on the weak in the dark and disorderly underground world. They would kill each other for a piece of bread. The difference between the two was so enormous that one could not describe it with words.

If the underground world was a chaotic jungle of flesh and blood, then this was the orderly kingdom of god.

He might have come to the surface before. But after he felt the different environment, he wanted to bring the dwarf into this territory.

Richard was about to speak when he heard a message notification.

He opened the [Forum Chat].

A new message immediately popped up on it. It was from the lionman mummy player with the ID Hyena, one of the players he had met in Solan City.

[Hyena: Boss Qingqiu, are you still in Solan City? Several abyssal demons suddenly appeared in a collapsed ruin in the southern region.]

[Several players have already gathered there...]

[We're preparing to team up and see. Do you want to come along?]

"The collapsed ruins... Rotten tree?"

Richard frowned.

A frightful hunch rose in his heart.

It was indeed the location of the rotten tree after a detailed inquiry.

There had been too many things that had happened recently. In addition to the departure of Xina and the dark valkyrie, the god's ancient tree, and Alves's slumber, it had enormously reduced his power, so he did not have the time to investigate.

[Qingqiu: Why did it suddenly change?]

[What's the specific situation?]

[Hyena: I don't know. I only heard that several abyssal demons came out, and the experience of those demons is five times that of ordinary soldiers in the wild, so it has attracted several people.]

[Qingqiu: You guys go first. I'll be there soon. Report to me the soonest if anything horrid happens.]

[Hyena: Alright, don't worry!]

Richard closed the [Forum Chat].

Richard suppressed his doubts and looked at Karu. He told him about the rotten tree and the collapsed ruins.

He said in the end.

“I’m going there immediately. You supervise the implementation of our plan.

“The value of a single Black Sorbet may not be high, but it is a consumable. There is a massive market in the hot place, and it can generate tremendous wealth.

“Send someone to arrange the distribution, quantity, production cycle, and growth requirements.

“Send the finished product to Solan City and give it to Vale after you have calculated the cost. Let him confirm the price of the Black Sorbet.

“Twilight City will also participate in the knowledge-sharing system that Bloodhoof City is establishing.

“The underground world has accumulated for hundreds of years. Their knowledge reserves must be more abundant than ours.

“You have to follow up and figure out the situation of the heroes and troop lairs in the underground world. That is crucial to control it.

“The alchemy technology in Fortress City is full of possibilities. Brown has already explored the application of alchemy technology in people’s livelihood. You have to cooperate with him.

“In the future, alchemy technology could assist agriculture, mining, forging, and transportation.

“Now, the food workshop can also benefit from the underground world. We need to strengthen our exploration in this area.”

The development of the underground world required a long-term stable investment of resources and a vast amount of energy. One could obtain a limited output in a short time.

However, a persistent one could eventually produce colossal results one day.

Chapter 556 - 556 Lord of the Abyss-King of Decay [1/2]

'Whoosh!'

Hundreds of Skeleton blood dragons with wingspans over 20 meters flapped their broken wings and flew away from Twilight City.

The six squadrons of the stone statues of the dead followed closely behind. They disappeared into the air in the blink of an eye.

The residents below mind when they saw this scene.

They firmly believed that the almighty ruler would emerge victorious no matter what happened next.

That was the confidence they had built up over the past half a year.

No one could break it.

Richard did not bring any heroes with him this time because of the change in the situation. The heroes had their mission.

Gray and Gunter were left behind to guard the city.

His current power could already bridge many gaps with the increase in his battle strength.

He flew at full speed in the direction of the collapsed ruins.

Richard mobilized the power of the sand to speed up the troop.

It allowed the overall speed to exceed 400 kilometers per hour...

It whistled through the sky.

The stone statue of the dead was born at level 9 and had a brilliant potential of 3-stars. However, its battle ability was much stronger than the Crown 1-star skeleton blood dragon, born at level 10.

Richard even had the confidence to rely on this troop to defeat most players without personally entering the battlefield.

As he flew, he communicated with the players from Hyena to implement the changes in the collapsed ruins.

He had to admit that these players were indeed quite capable. With their connections, they could accurately give him real-time information about the collapsed ruins.

As time passed, the situation of the collapsed ruins became worse.

Increasing demons surged out of the cave, and the number of players gathered rose exponentially...

On the morning of October 19th, Richard finally arrived within 100 kilometers of his destination.

Richard grew excited when he saw the mark on the system map and increasingly went closer.

The news from last night had not stopped. It has connected the ruins to the bottomless abyss, and several demons appeared inside... The players even forcefully retreated to the outer area.

The sound of a system notification suddenly rang in his ears.

[Ding~ You have triggered a regional quest: The 333rd level of the bottomless abyss has opened up a passage to the desert of death. Several demons have appeared in the central plane. They seriously threatened the safety of Solan City. The glorious Grand Duke of Frostwolf has quickly sent troops to eliminate the demons.]

[Lords, you are free to receive missions.]

[During the mission period, the experience gained from killing demons will increase by five times.]

[You will earn contribution points from Solan City for every abyssal demon you slay. You can exchange these contribution points for high-level treasures.]

[Solan City will reward the lord who seals the abyssal passage.]

[Time Limit for this Regional Mission: 3 days.]

“Regional mission?”

Richard’s eyes lit up.

That was the first time he had encountered such a mission.

It looked interesting.

“But three days only? Could that Grand Duke of Frostworf in Solan City, the glorious ascetic, make a change in three days?”

He had never seen a glorious powerhouse in action before. He wondered if he could witness it this time.

He immediately sped up.

At this moment, the private message rang again.

[Hyena: Boss Qingqiu, we triggered a regional mission. Did you receive it?]

[Qingqiu: Yes, I got it. I'll be there in 20 minutes.]

Hyena was very excited. He could finally rely on a soul-strapping lord again.

[Hyena: Alright, we'll wait for you!]

“Quick, retreat!!

” F*ck! There are so many enraged abyssal demons. We can't hold them off anymore...

“Be careful of the Balrog. These demons have already reached level 14...”

In the ruins of a collapsed building.

Several players led their troops and fought against the demons that surged out of the central area.

From the sky, it looked like a black tide surged out, and a low roar that sounded like a beast on the verge of death vastly resounded.

It carried a terrifying and sinking language.

The abyssal aura was like a giant hand that grabbed necks. The enemies couldn't breathe.

There were too many demons...

Countless low-level inferior and fallen demons, and high-level furious and flame demons were scattered everywhere.

In the outer region, the players led the troop like a reef. They forcefully blocked the tide of demons.

The priests of the sect camp incessantly cast light magic and caused massive damage to the enemy.

The human archers, the gunners of the Fortress City, the beastmen's flying axe warriors ...There were all kinds of races, and the situation became dizzying.

However, there were too many demons.

The troop players gradually retreated, although they were also very tenacious.

Moreover, the players were here to hunt and earn contribution points experience, so they would not go against the demons.

Hence, they retreated while they fought. They did intend to fight with the demons head-on.

Richard saw the battle scene from thousands of meters away.

It was rare for dozens of races to fight against the abyssal demon troop.

However, he was not interested in interfering at the moment.

Richard followed the coordinates that Hyena and the others gave and flew in another direction. He sensed Hyena and the others hid in a collapsed building a few minutes later.

Hyena, Brother Knight, Big Boss, and Third Brother excitedly came out of cover when they saw Richard land.

“Boss Qing Qiu...”

Richard nodded.

“Do you know the reason for the sudden appearance of the abyssal demons?”

“No, it’s just that two days ago, a player suddenly sent a message saying several demons had appeared here, and their experience points were extremely high.

“At first, the number was still within a controllable range, but later on, it gradually went out of control until it triggered the regional mission.”

Richard frowned.

Chapter 557 - 557 Lord of the Abyss-King of Decay [2/2]

He had heard from the players who had discovered the rotten tree that the collapsed ruins had existed for a long time.

‘Now, it suddenly changed... Could one relate this to the Crimson Moon?’

Although there was no definite connection between them, it gave him a very subtle feeling.

“Don’t go near the central area. There might be supremely soul-crushing demon heroes hiding inside. It’s enormously dangerous.

“At the periphery, help me find out as much as possible about the reason for the abyssal demons’ appearance...

“I have something important to deal with, so I can’t spare any time.”

One could only describe the battle strength of the players as ordinary. A small team of stone statues of the dead could quickly slay them.

It was futile in battle. But it was suitable for gathering information.

“Alright, go ahead. If there’s anything you need, just let me know.”

They were very self-aware and did not compete blindly.

Richard did not stay any longer. He flew up into the sky and landed on a skeleton blood dragon. He sped off in another direction.

He looked at the skeleton blood dragon and the stone statue of the dead that covered the sky.

Hyena and the others all revealed envious gazes.

“Boss Qingqiu is indeed Boss Qingqiu...”

‘Whoosh!’

Richard flew across the sky without any scruples. That caused many players to exclaim.

However, he didn't mind these guys entangled with the demons and quickly flew north of the collapsed ruins.

[Rotten Tree.]

The goal of this trip.

Although he was curious about why the demon would suddenly appear, the most important thing was to find the rotten tree.

He wanted to confirm if this evil tree of darkness was still alive.

Whether or not he could recover.

Everything else was secondary.

His flying speed was swift. Even the collapsed ruins that occupied dozens of kilometers could not withstand the flying troops' speed.

Ten minutes later, Richard coincided with the mark on the map and subconsciously flew ahead.

In the next second, his eyes maximally widened.

He was bewildered.

A twisted, giant rotten tree a thousand meters more than fifty meters tall stood on top of countless ruins.

It stationed several abyssal demons a hundred meters away from the rotten tree. These chaotic and evil creatures did not dare to approach it at all.

One could see dozens of twisted branches of the rotten tree. They were like shriveled human arms that gave off a creepy feeling.

What was more shocking was that there were densely packed human skulls on the trunk of the giant tree. They were like the bumps of ordinary trees.

Countless skeletons covered the ground within a hundred meters. It was like the corpses in the mass grave had turned over.

It added countless horrors to the already terrifying scene around them.

In addition, demons, evil, darkness, and cruelty wandered around... One could use negative adjectives to describe this strange, twisted rotten tree.

Richard suppressed the fast beat in his heart and continued to approach.

The demon on the ground sensed the subtle aura and immediately raised its head. It released a soul-shaking roar.

Richard ignored the demons. But as he approached the rotten tree, he gradually felt terrible pressure.

It was pressure from the depths of his soul.

It was like an abyssal demon that could devour a demon god stared at him.

That feeling reached the 100-meter limit of the rotten tree.

Richard waved his hand to stop the troop. They did not step into the sky above the countless skeletons.

He fixed his gaze on the decaying tree that still seemed lifeless.

He opened his attribute panel.

[Rotten Tree]

[Status: Withered (recovering)]

[Description: A mysterious evil tree.]

It was a simple attribute, and he could not see the details.

However, he had a bad feeling about the status of “recovering”.

“It could also receive replenishment after the abyss connected to the central plane?”

However, “how could he benefit from it” was the biggest problem.

Currently, he does not have a treasure like the dark contract.

As his thoughts spun, he opened the Black Gold System.

The notification made his breathing subconsciously down.

[Rotten Tree]

[Tree of decay, the lord of the 333rd level of the bottomless abyss, the King of Decay. A seed planted by Labrace for some scheme. It contains a wisp of the authority of decay of Labrace.]

[1. It can water the power of the abyss. It could allow the rotten tree to regain its strength. At that time, Labrace can use the authority of decay to recover control of the rotten tree.]

[2. You can use holy water to rinse the rotten tree. That could destroy its vitality and shatter its authority. Labrace will permanently lose a portion of it and decrease its power.]

[3. Consumes divine power to snatch the decaying authority hidden in the rotten tree.]

Richard felt his mouth go dry after he read the notification.

The weather was about to change...

A portion of the kobold god's clone he imprisoned, and also the statue of the dwarf god, lay in his hands. He had now discovered another abyss demon, a backup plan buried in the central plane.

"Is that because a new expansion is coming, so some top presence is gradually surfacing?"

"But can the current players deal with the existence of this level?"

His scalp even felt tingling.

"In a horrible place like the abyss. Who can rule the lord of a plane if this level is singled-out like the kobold?"

Chapter 558 - 558 Rotten Authority [1/2]

Richard collected his scattered thoughts and turned his attention back to the rotten tree.

The first and second points of the Black Gold System were unacceptable.

Once the rotten tree regained power, the King of Decay would regain control of the authority.

'Didn't that mean the 333rd floor's Lord of the Abyss, the King of Decay, had succeeded in his plan?

'At that time, who knew how big a storm it would cause?'

It would probably affect half of the desert of death. And it was unknown whether Twilight City could avoid it.

At that time, even a glorious powerhouse like the Grand Duke of Frostwolf in Solan City would have a headache.

He was the ruler of an abyssal plane.

He had not heard of the holy water mentioned in the second notification. He had no chance of obtaining it. Moreover, destroying the rotten tree would not benefit him at all.

Only the third notification was the most valuable.

[Can consume divine power to snatch the decaying authority hidden in the decaying tree.]

[The rotten authority was the power of the abyssal rulers, terrifying existences above level 30.]

[Rule Force.]

It was not something ordinary power could compare to even if it was just a trace.

Richard took a few deep breaths and forcefully suppressed the throbbing in his heart.

His gaze gradually became heated.

He sought wealth and honor in danger.

With such a heaven-sent opportunity before him, it was worth a try, no matter how enormous the risk was.

Moreover, one hadn't opened the connection between the abyss and the central plane.

The rotten tree had yet to revive, and Solan City did not know what they hid inside.

That gave him an empty slot where he did not receive any attention.

With a thought, the ancient god statue appeared in his hand.

Richard looked around.

“All troops, listen up. Clear the surrounding demons. No one is allowed to approach within a kilometer.”

A demon troop that couldn't fly filled the ground.

The skeleton blood dragon and the stone statue of the dead had absolute air superiority.

Moreover, this was the desert of death.

Even if the flying demon troops appeared, the terrifying disorientation characteristic would let them experience what it meant to have the home ground advantage.

Richard gave the order.

One squadron of skeleton blood dragons and six stone statues of the dead immediately swooped down.

Thirty to forty meters above the ground.

'Roar!'

Scarlet energy burst out from the skeleton blood dragon's throat.

'Puchi!'

It left a trail of flames dozens of meters long in the air.

There was no way for the demons to dodge.

The dragon's breath would envelop and corrode their bodies into broken limbs like ice and snow melting at high-temperature even if their skin was rough and their flesh was thick.

The terrifying corrosiveness instantly caused an enormous space to appear on the ground.

The stone statue of the dead did not show any weakness.

The tomahawk in its hand whizzed out.

'Kacha!'

The tomahawk shattered, and countless fragments enveloped the surrounding dozens of meters.

The fragments penetrated the thick skin of those demons like cotton. And then their bodies exploded and ignited balls of flames.

The terrifying lethality simply made one's heart tremble.

After one has reinforced the glorious treasure, the original fire, the axe of the stone statue of the dead, had horrifying flame damage.

The denser the enemies, the better the effect.

Inferior demons, fallen demons, bewitching demons, enraged demons... It slaughtered all kinds of ferocious and terrifying in a one-sided manner without any means to fight in the air.

In the distance, a dozen players from a small guild watched the battle between the skeleton blood dragon and the stone statue of the dead.

"Is...is that a player's troop?"

They slaughtered the demon troop that had made their scalps numb like little chicks.

Moreover, why could the enemy's troops fly into the desert of death?

"I glanced at the master of this troop just now. It's the player panel..."

“Which big shot is this? Are they all so brave?”

“Activate the troop and prepare for battle. That big shot has attracted most of the firepower. We’ll just drink some soup here...”

The group of players immediately responded after they recovered from their shock. They could compete with the big shots. But they still could drink some leftovers.

Richard ignored the battle.

Among these demons, the most powerful Balrog was only level 14.

They would often collapse after a few rounds without any means to fight in the air when faced with the siege of powerful stone statues of the dead.

Even the most powerful demon was like this, let alone others.

The one-sided battle did not pique his interest.

He stared at the rotten tree corpse before him.

Richard looked at the white bones on the ground. He had a thought.

The yellow sand surged in from all directions and directly submerged the ruins of the building where the rotten tree was. It also moved the bones on the ruins to the yellow sand a few hundred meters away.

The ruins of the buildings had turned into a land of yellow sand.

The desert was his home ground.

In the next second, the ancient god statue in his hand emitted a dark light.

In the sky, a body with a faint divine soul condensed.

Renee.

Powerful battle power with the Resurrection ability.

The other party had even relied on the Resurrection ability to drag the dark valkyrie down.

“Lord, I feel an evil power. That tree is not dead.”

Renee fixed her gaze on the rotten tree.

Solemnity filled his words.

Richard briefly explained the original plan to the other party.

“You used divine power to suppress the power of the rotten tree... Take away the rotten authority hidden in the other party’s body.”

Renee replied proudly.

“As you wish, my Lord.”

She would not die as long as the ancient god statue is protected.

Reene didn’t even have the concept of death as a living being residing within the statue.

He gripped the elven longsword in his hand tightly.

Renee suddenly disappeared before his eyes.

Chapter 559 - 559 Rotten Authority [2/2]

In the next second.

Before a vast, twisted, and lifeless rotten tree.

Renee appeared out of thin air.

Then, a somewhat transparent palm slowly imprinted itself on the tree trunk with human skulls.

At this moment.

'Boom!'

The mountains collapsed, and the rivers roared...

A supremely soul-devouring pressure erupted from the rotten tree.

At this moment, the world suddenly dimmed.

There was only that twisted and evil giant tree in his eyes.

It was as if the other party could directly split open the world and tear the earth apart in the next moment.

The dozen or so players behind him subconsciously turned their heads.

Fear engulfed their eyes.

“What was that player doing? Why was there such a terrifying aura?”

“Let’s go! Quickly retreat from this area!”

He had wanted to take advantage of the chaos, but now it seemed this was not a f*cking advantage. It was simply the death of the god’s soul.

Players with such powerful troops were not to be trifled with...

“Hurry up! Run! If you don’t want to die!!”

Richard’s gaze was extremely grave.

Because... The withered rotten tree moved.

The twisted branches, which looked like withered human arms after decades of weathering, slowly waved.

In addition to the human skulls that grew on the tree trunk, this scene simply sent chills down one’s spine.

A trace of the rotten tree's actions.

Richard suddenly felt an indescribable sense of danger.

Every cell in his body warned him.

Dangerous, extremely dangerous.

It was as if death had clamped a sickle on his neck. With a gentle wave, he could reap his soul.

Richard retreated a few dozen meters before the danger dissipated slightly.

He focused his attention and glanced while he suppressed his emotions.

A faint, hazy light appeared on the rotten tree, like the thin mist in the morning.

However, wherever the mist passed, indescribable energy seemed to appear in the world...

Renee pressed her palm against the tree trunk. She was on the verge of collapsing like a candle in the wind.

Large patches of festering began to appear on its transparent body.

The mist had spread a hundred meters away in the blink of an eye.

It covered a large number of demon corpses on the ground.

In the next second, the recently dead demon corpses visibly decayed.

Within a breath, it was like pork stored in a trash can for more than ten days. It was smelly and unpleasant.

In less than a minute, the corpses turned into pus, and the desert swallowed them and left only skeletons.

The stench left in the air made people's eyes uncomfortable.

Countless yellow sand on the ground began to decay and shatter into powder.

It continued to slide down not long after it revealed the ruins of the building where one had just brought the groceries.

The ruins of the buildings could not hold on for long, and they similarly decayed into powder ...

Richard felt his scalp numbed as he watched everything around him rot and shatter silently.

Decaying authority...

This kind of power was simply terrifying.

He looked at Renee, who stood before the rotten tree.

At this moment, her body began to glow with a faint light.

The other party used divine power to block the corrosion of the rotting power.

But even so, one could see the supremely soul-devouring pressure on his body.

Perhaps in the next second, it would directly rot.

It was also Richard's first time to see rule force. Although there were no fancy moves, the pressure it gave him was even more terrifying than facing any Beyond A-rank skill.

That was the power of laws. Richard stepped into this range and would only send them to their deaths without resistance.

Moreover, this was before the rotten tree recovered.

The other party was not even conscious at the moment... The explosive power of the defensive nature was already a little unbearable for him.

Renee's body emitted an even more eye-catching light.

However, she seemed far from controlling the rotten tree.

Richard could feel that after the rotten tree was activated, the speed at which it devoured the surrounding energy began to increase, and his expression turned grave.

To consume her divine power would allow her to snatch the rotten authority, but from the looks of it, Renee's divine power wasn't enough to support this consumption.

He couldn't wait any longer.

Richard held the ancient god statue tightly. He slowly approached the area enveloped by the power of decay.

The moment he got close to the thin mist.

A dark light surged out of the ancient god statue.

It enveloped Richard.

At the same time, something blocked the power of decay that could look down on everything and turn rocks and sand into ashes outside.

Chapter 560 - 560 Falling into the Abyss [1/2]

Richard held the ancient god statue and quickly approached the rotten tree that had yet fully recovered.

Although the rotten tree already waved its branches, it only subconsciously defended itself and had not regained consciousness if one had to judge from its stiff posture.

The ruler of the abyss did not control the rotten tree either.

The dim light of the ancient god statue resisted the corrosion of the decaying authority.

Not only did the power not dissipate, but it became even hotter.

Desire...The ancient god statue was like a hungry shark that smelled blood.

It was restless.

Richard flew over slowly. The sand around him would quickly decay and crumble once it left the range of the light.

It was as if nothing could last long in the decaying authority.

That was the power of laws that robbed time.

The closer he got to the rotten tree, the more he could sense how terrifying the pressure was.

The twisted branches waved slightly, and extreme evil darkness shrouded the tree trunk with countless human heads.

Ordinary people that stood under the tree trunk were as small as ants before an elephant.

Richard approached Renee. She tried her best to control the rotten tree with her divine power.

This divine soul's body had already become transparent, and the aura that her body emitted was supremely frail.

The rotten authority could devour it at any time.

Richard placed a hand on Renee's shoulder, and in the next moment, the dim light of the ancient god statue spread out and protected Renee.

Instantly, the feeling of being on the verge of collapse disappeared, and she slowly returned to normal.

“Lord, the power contained in the rotten tree is too overwhelming. I can’t control it with my divine power.”

Guilt engulfed Renee’s gaze.

She didn’t expect that even though the rotten tree partially regained consciousness, the subconscious release of the ancient god statue’s power to protect her made her feel helpless.

Moreover, a majestic power hid in the other party’s body. It was like an abyss sea. It was endless.

Her strength was like a child’s compared to a dragon’s.

Richard nodded slightly.

“Let me do it.”

The rotten tree was complicated. The source of its power was the ruler who controlled the entire plane of the abyss.

Even though it was still far from recovery, it was still not something ordinary people could imagine.

“If you are outside, other demons will approach.”

Renee held her chest.

“I will obey your orders.”

As soon as she finished speaking, he suddenly disappeared and appeared outside.

Several demons guarded the rotten tree. The ruler must have planned something new with the cunning of these evil creatures.

Richard looked at the rotten tree before him. It seemed to suppress the lava about to erupt.

The surging energy and pressure made his skin hurt.

No one could imagine how exaggerated the scene would be if this giant tree were to revive.

Although the enemy was powerful and fierce, his gaze was burning with passion.

“The rotten authority... The power of laws.

“This is the closest I’ve ever gotten to the ultimate power of this world.

“If I can obtain the power of laws that only gods can control now, then in the future, whether it’s becoming a transcendent, a glorious, or even planning to become a god, there will be great benefits.”

His gaze became increasingly wanton. He gripped the statue in his hand tightly and pressed it against the tree trunk.

'Peng!'

A dull sound rang out.

In an instant.

The ancient god statue shone brightly like a candle splashed with gasoline.

It burst into flames.

The dim light quickly spread along the trunk of the rotten tree. In a few breaths, it enveloped most of it.

'Gu gu gu!'

The dark light was like a dried sponge thrown into the river. And it began to devour the power of the rotten tree.

The mist-like rotten power in the surroundings gradually thinned.

It shook the foundation of the rotten authority.

The rotten tree's twisted trunk increasingly swung as if it sensed an incoming danger.

Some of the tree trunks began to smash toward Richard.

One could compare it to a battering ram three times thicker than a millstone.

Richard did not back down. He pressed down on the ancient god statue and waved his hand. He turned his flesh and bones into the sand.

'Bang!'

The tree trunk smashed down.

The sand exploded, and a portion of it flew out of the area covered by the dim light and directly rotted and collapsed.

After the remaining sand had formed, Richard frowned. His body was now half broken.

It looked miserable.

He lowered his head slightly and looked at the ground into an exaggerated hole. The yellow sand on his body surged.

In the next second, the sand outside the rotten authority surged out.

The vast amount of yellow sand enormously delayed the time of decay and collapse.

A large amount of sand rushed over. It repaired the damaged body.

Richard made up his mind.

The rotten authority was the power of rules. But there was only a wisp of it, and no one initiated to control it.

Therefore, there was an obvious flaw—the energy of rotten items had an upper limit.

He continued to control the sand on the ground to rise with a wave of his hand.

Around him formed a thick yellow sand shield several meters.

It forcefully blocked the smashing of the withered and twisted giant tree trunk.

Sand and gravel flew in the sky.

At this moment, the ancient god statue emitted an aura and became increasingly turbulent.

The rotten authority covered an area and gradually shrank.

Richard could sense that something gradually added power to the statue.

It carried an ancient, lonely, dark, and decaying aura that time had washed away.

It made one's heart palpitate inexplicably.

The ancient god statue devoured the rotten authority!

At this moment, a series of shrill roars came from afar.