Empress 96

Chapter 96: How Many Steps Does It Take to Weigh an Elephant?

"What did you say?" Alina looked at Roland in surprise.

She smiled self-deprecatingly and asked softly, "Why?"

"The deep sea is too dangerous, we are friends."

"I have a friend who is a Jin Yuan Kingdom spy?" Alina asked with a smile.

"I have a friend I can entrust my life to named Alina." Roland answered seriously.

Alina froze, her eyes gradually softening.

"Thank you. Actually, I don't want to give up astrology either. My love for the stars far surpasses that for the deep sea, and astrologer is a higher-level profession. If there's a way, how could I bear to give it up?"

"Higher-level profession?" Roland was somewhat surprised.

Alina was taken aback, realizing Roland wasn't pretending to be ignorant but truly didn't know, so she smiled as she spoke:

"That's right; without a teacher to guide you with care and no family heritage, you're a wild Transcendent, not knowing this is quite normal."

"Let's go to the study. We can talk slowly."

Looking at the half-table of leftover food, Roland felt a pang of pity. He quickly ate the remaining steak and left the life-enriching delicious large snail behind.

The study.

Alina organized her thoughts, then said quietly, "The history of Transcendents starts from the ancient Third Era Natural Era. The Natural Era is the oldest era with historical records; even older Chaos and Age of Gods are ancient legends, difficult to substantiate."

"Natural Era gave birth to two major human-like intelligent species groups: elves and earth spirits. The earliest magic and extraordinary abilities also originated in this era. Earth spirits and elves are strictly hierarchical races, so mages and Transcendents also have a strict hierarchy system."

"Besides tier promotion, extraordinary professions are also divided into higher-level and lower-level. Higher-level professions must be the main profession; lower-level professions can be the main or the vice profession."

Alina thought for a moment, calmly saying, "Astrologer is a higher-level profession, traveler is a lower-level profession. Higher-level professions have greater potential; if one can choose higher, who would choose lower?"

Roland asked curiously, "Writer, knight, lady, and chef, which are higher-level professions, which are lower-level?"

"Writer is a branch of [Scholar], a higher-level profession. Lady is a branch of [Authority], also a higher-level profession. Knight is a special higher-level profession, among which the holy knight branch is one of the very few higher-level professions that can be a vice profession."

Only the chef profession was left, making Alina hesitate.

She cautiously opened a hidden compartment behind the bookshelf, took out a dark box, and with a "click," the box opened. She retrieved a small notebook from inside, carefully read through it, then shook her head and sighed:

"Chef seems to be a newly emerging extraordinary profession, not yet classified. But it’s nothing to worry about; higher and lower levels are mainly divided by function, not necessarily making lower-level less competitive."

Alina’s comfort helped Roland gain a clearer understanding of the differences between higher and lower-level professions.

But he didn’t hope for Lisa to risk her life on the battlefield; whether higher or lower wasn’t too important. Perhaps lower-level professions, with their lower difficulty for promotion, were more suitable for her.

Alina asked curiously, "These professions you mentioned..."

"Writer and knight are me, the rest I can’t say for now." Alina didn’t hide her extraordinary profession, so Roland wouldn’t conceal his either.

But Sylph and Lisa might not want to say.

Alina’s eyes brightened.

"Do you have two cards? Both writer and knight are higher-level professions; choosing either is great. It’s a pity the fusion profession and dual profession methods have been lost—we must give one up during promotion."

"I really don’t want to give up being an astrologer."

Roland suddenly thought of Elf Sylph, feeling a chill in his heart.

He wanted to help Alina but could not, nor could he reveal the existence of Elf Sylph, so he just smiled and offered a hint.

"Who knows? Since people in the past could do it, we might have a chance."

Flower Sea and Elf Sylph were secrets that could not be shared with anyone.

Especially Elf Sylph, though she claimed triple death was incurable, Roland still longed for the day he could meet her in reality.

Everyone’s path to promotion has its own struggles and opportunities.

Elf Sylph was his opportunity and could only be his.

Alina casually listened to Roland’s words, shrugged and said:

"My teacher also said the same, but no strong fusion professions have emerged in the Magic Era New Calendar. Although dual professions exist, they all end prematurely during promotion."

"Having too much may not be a good thing. Let’s not talk about that; you said you’d help me observe fate, do you also know astrology?"

Alina’s eyes burned with intense enthusiasm.

"No." Roland poured a bucket of cold water on her excitement.

Alina’s just raised hand froze in mid-air, uncertain whether to continue her joyful gesture or awkwardly take it back.

She was somewhat upset.

Yet, she let out a final sigh, "I knew it."

"I mean, I don’t know how to directly observe my fate but can infer it indirectly."

"Huh?" Alina’s brain was about to fry.

"Have you heard the story of the smart boy measuring the elephant?"

"No, tell me tell me." Alina’s curiosity dispelled the disappointment, and she motioned to Roland to sit opposite, hands on cheeks in a listening posture.

"You should have seen an elephant, right?"

"Seen them, not only grassland elephants but also woolly mammoths. I know they’re heavy, can only estimate their weight but can’t measure it." Alina was very excited.

"Measuring the elephant is simple..."

Roland narrated the historically famous story of measuring the elephant. Of course, the name of little friend Cao Chong has been localized.

Alina suddenly realized.

"Using displacement to estimate weight, that’s it." As someone who crossed the sea multiple times, she instantly understood.

Roland calmly said, "Yes, it’s displacement. My fate is like that elephant, unable to be measured directly. But you can observe the people around me to infer my fate trajectory."

"Close relationships can provide more trajectory range; distant relationships less. As long as there are enough samples, my fate trajectory direction can roughly be determined!"

Alina’s eyes shone with brilliant light.

Roland had never seen such a sparkle in her eyes before.

Like the most dazzling star in the night sky.

Captivating.

After a long silence, Alina stood up, walked outside the desk, and bowed deeply to Roland.

"Hey, what are you doing?" Roland hurriedly got up to stop Alina.

"Thank you, Roland, the idea you provided is very good, worth a try. Whether I break through Tier Eight, I'll remember this goodwill."

"Don't exaggerate; we're friends, we should help each other when faced with difficulties."

Roland shook the old ferry ticket in hand, half-jokingly saying:

"If I'm in trouble and need you to captain a ship to take me and my friends out to sea, you surely wouldn't refuse, right?"

"I swear on my life. As long as you need me, I can be your captain anytime!"

Alina placed her right hand on her chest, speaking seriously.