

The Great Thief Chapter 26 - Surprise

Chapter 26: Surprise

Lu Li stared for a few moments before recovering.

At this point, it was normal for their record to be broken. However, for the new record to be a whole 10 minutes faster than theirs was a bit surprising.

The people in this World Announcement weren't just any ordinary players - they were part of one of the most famous unions- the Blood-red War Flag!

This union was ranked 3rd in all of China, and 9th in the whole world. It was said that the boss of the union was an army veteran, and many of the members were also veterans. If it wasn't because their requirements were so high, resulting in them not having as many players as the other unions, their ranking would be even higher.

To Lu Li, creating new records for Instance Dungeons didn't have much point. After all, it was just an extra Bronze grade equipment. However, creating new records was important for large unions- they would rather exchange 10 pieces of equipment in order to bring more fame to their union.

Indifference was the Blood-red War Flag's Commander of the Instance Dungeon group and was said to be the god of PVE. Yew was also famous within the Blood-red War Flag, and was an expert in PVP. Apart from newbies, there wasn't anyone who didn't know of him.

Them appearing on the World Announcement was the equivalent to the Blood-red War Flag appearing on the World Announcement.

Everyone was also wondering why the top ranked Glory Capital and the second ranked Gangnam Royals had fallen behind by so much.

Perhaps it was because they had bought his guide. Lu Li bitterly smiled to himself. He had said that his teammates could do whatever they wanted with the information, so of course they would have sold the information as a guide.

Lu Li had been planning to log off anyways, and seeing this, he didn't feel much motivation to continue playing for the day. As such, he decided to log out.

Lu Li received a fright when he took off his game helmet.

His little sister, Lu Xin, was looking at him with an expression of fury. He hadn't seen her so angry in a long time, and it made him feel reminiscent.

"Big brother, you played for a whole day!"

Lu Li looked over, and saw that he had been given a plate of untouched egg fried rice.

Lu Li stretched out and stroked her little head, "Big brother's in the wrong. I'll definitely eat properly from now on. By the way, Xin Xin, big brother's already earned some money in the game."

"Really?" The little girl's attitude immediately changed. She simply couldn't help it- the Lu brother and sister had never hidden their desire for wealth, due to their poverty.

"Realer than real!"

"Liar," The little girl pouted, "I heard a few of my classmates say that this game is really hard, and it's really difficult to earn money in there."

"There are people in your school playing?" Lu Li felt a bit guilty. He didn't have the money to send his little sister to a good school. She was currently studying at the Slum District's Primary School. Not only was the teaching inferior to other schools, but the environment wasn't great either.

"They're like big brother. They joined unions to earn money, and receive \$800 per month. Big brother, can I play as well?" Whenever Lu Xin talked about money, her eyes would always sparkle.

Lu Li shook his head, went over, and poured the leftover egg fried rice into the bin.

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"Big brother, what are you doing? You can still eat it if you heat it up... I put a whole 2 eggs in!" Lu Xin was quite annoyed at Lu Li's behaviour.

"I just said I've already earned money, but you don't believe me. Let's go out to eat." Lu Li took his little sister's hand as he started to walk out.

Lu Xin could only reluctantly look at the egg fried rice in the bin, and walked out of the house with her big brother.

They lived in a small alley which was extremely cramped. However, there were many, many people living there. Many people called this sort of place a 'doghole'; it was only 1 step up from homelessness.

Lu Xin was incredibly pretty and cute, while Lu Li was young and strong and would always help out his neighbours. Seeing the Lu brother and sister, the neighbours would always greet them warmly.

“Oi, Lu boy, why didn’t I see you picking up Xin Xin today?” An old uncle yelled out while pouring out a bucket of dirty water.

“Hello Uncle Zhao, something came up today, so I couldn’t go.” Lu Li explained.

“You can’t do that,” Uncle Zhao stopped Lu Li, angrily saying, “You know how unsafe this place is. If it wasn’t for me today, Xin Xin said she might have been bullied. Such a pretty girl walking by herself in this sort of place just isn’t safe.”

What Uncle Zhao had said was true. After all, the Slum District was where the lowest members of society lived.

Lu Li looked at his little sister in shock, “Xin Xin, those bullies from the rubbish dump followed you again? Why didn’t you say anything?”

Lu Xin looked down with a bit of guilt, “I didn’t get the opportunity to tell you.”

“Look after your little sister properly. You should know that girl from the eastern alley was nearly violated. If I wasn’t...” Once people reached a certain age, they liked to talk a lot and nag. However, this was out of the kindness in his heart, and Lu Li sincerely thanked him many times.

After saying goodbye to Uncle Zhao, Lu Li walked out of the alley, and turned to walk towards the rubbish dump.

Lu Xin quickly stopped her brother, anxiously saying, “Big brother, don’t be rash. I’m fine, right? Don’t fight with them... if someone dies, then you’ll go to jail...”

Lu Li didn’t want to worry his little sister, so he could only put that thought away. It seemed that the beating he gave them a few days ago was too light; these people healed way too quickly.

“Alright, I won’t fight with them. Let’s go eat for now. Tomorrow’s Sunday, so let’s go and find somewhere else to move to.” Lu Li was originally planning to give the Star Moon Union the penalty for breaking the contract, and then rent a better place to live when he had saved up a bit.

However, seeing what had happened today, which happened regularly, Lu Li decided that it would be best for them to move as soon as possible.

Lu Xin’s eyes widened, “Big brother, you really earned money?”

Lu Li gently patted her head and said, "You little rascal, did you really think that your big brother would trick you? I've really earned a lot of money, so tonight you can eat whatever you want. Let's have a good meal."

After eating, Lu Li had a shower and immediately entered the game

This week, Lu Li not only needed to earn enough money to cover the contract penalty, but also enough to move to a better home. He had to give it his all.

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There were only 2 hours until night fell in the game, but he still hadn't opened the treasure boxes at the bottom of the Moon Reflection Lake. However, he decided to raise his level first.

Before he even left the village, his communication device rang- it was Azure Sea Breeze.

"Lu Li, you're finally online." Azure Sea Breeze said.

"I was having dinner. What's up?"

"I have some things to give you. Where are you right now?"

"What is it? Let's meet at the place where we first met." Lu Li decided that it would be easier for them to meet at a familiar place.

"Alright, just meet me there. I'll be there soon." Azure Sea Breeze said and ended the call.

Not long after, Lu Li saw Azure Sea Breeze, the Elf Warrior, jogging over.

"What is it? You were being so mysterious." Lu Li said.

Azure Sea Breeze immediately opened up a trade window, and threw a pile of things in.

"Holy crap, where the hell did you get these?!" Lu Li simply couldn't stay calm.

The Great Thief Chapter 27 - Buying Loyalty

Chapter 27: Buying Loyalty

Within the Trade Window were 4 Jade Spider Webs!

Jade Spider Webs only spawned in the Elite level Instance Dungeon for the Spider Lair, and had an incredibly low drop rate.

Yet Azure Sea Breeze had suddenly taken out 4.

“Don’t worry, they all came by legitimate means.” Azure Sea Breeze sent them over as he explained, “After clearing the Instance Dungeon, I contacted some of the big unions, and planned to sell the guide to clearing it. After comparing the compensation they each offered, I decided to sell it to...”

“The Blood-red War Flag?” Lu Li realised what was going on.

“That’s right, I sold the guide to them. We agreed that they would give all of the Jade Spider Webs to me, but I couldn’t sell the guide to anyone else.” Azure Sea Breeze said.

“4 Jade Spider Webs... that’s amazing,” Lu Li sighed in awe, “The Grand Hegemony only obtained 1.”

The Blood-red War Flag was much more powerful than the Grand Hegemony, and they had probably invested at least 100 teams into clearing the Instance Dungeon. Assuming that they didn’t keep any for themselves, a 4/100 drop rate was simply astonishing.

“How many do you still need?” Azure Sea Breeze didn’t ask Lu Li what he needed them for. He knew that to require so many of an incredibly rare item, Lu Li was definitely planning something big.

“I still need 2 more,” Lu Li said as he patted Azure Sea Breeze’s shoulder, “Thanks bro!”

He would be a liar if he said that he wasn’t touched. No words could express the gratitude in his heart, so he could only say a simple “thanks”.

Azure Sea Breeze was good friends with him in his ‘past life’ as well. Azure Sea Breeze’s character was bold and refreshing, and wasn’t the type to plot against others. Once he saw you as a friend, he would be completely loyal and devoted to you. Otherwise, Lu Li would have never known about the secret of the Supreme One Ring.

Lu Li couldn’t be as open as Azure Sea Breeze, but that didn’t mean he didn’t want a friend who would be open with him.

“Alright, alright, just take it. I wasn’t this courteous when you gave me your equipment.” Azure Sea Breeze punched Lu Li, “If you’re grateful, then help me level up.”

“You sure you want me to help you level up?” Lu Li didn’t think he was much stronger than Azure Sea Breeze, who was a Warrior. In Dawn, Warriors, Magicians and Hunters were the kings of levelling.

After what happened in the Instance Dungeon, I've come to enjoy playing as the main tank. I'm going to lean more towards Constitution in the future, so I won't be able to deal as much damage," Azure Sea Breeze said.

"Being a main tank is good; you'll have lots of potential in the future. If you have good equipment, you'll also be strong in PVP. In his 'past life', Azure Sea Breeze had also been a main tank, however, he had been dragged down by the Supreme One Ring and his attack was even weaker than Lu Li's who was a Druid.

"Levelling up is going to be a pain." Azure Sea Breeze sighed.

"The Public Instance Dungeons can be repeatedly cleared, and there'll be more and more Instance Dungeons in the future. Just level up through doing Instance Dungeons and quests. If you can make a good team, it'll be even more efficient than killing monsters," Lu Li advised.

There were very few quests in Dawn, and relying on them wasn't enough to get to high levels. As such, most players relied on killing monsters to level up. The monsters in Instance Dungeons were harder to kill than monsters outside, but they gave more EXP. If Azure Sea Breeze could form a team with high efficiency, just like Lu Li had said, he really would be able to get on the Player Level Rankings.

The two of them walked as they talked, and soon arrived at a LV8 Stone-skinned Boar Territory.

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There were two types of boars here- one was the Stone-skinned Boar, which had high Defence and average Attack, while the other type was called the Stone-toothed Boar, which had high Attack and average Defence. Both types had high HP, so players generally preferred not to train here.

Lu Li and Azure Sea Breeze both had quite a few pieces of Bronze grade equipment, so that bit of HP was nothing to them.

The most efficient way to train was to not share monsters with anyone else.

Azure Sea Breeze usually spoke a lot, but was incredibly focused while training. He was like a silent monster-killing-robot.

While killing monsters, Lu Li would also practice using his skills, slowly applying the things he had learnt in his 'past life' to his current playing style.

Continuously testing and continuously improving.

On the forums, everyone revered Lu Li, saying that “he had opened a door for Thieves and melee professions.” However, most of the things he used were not his own - he had absorbed many skills and tricks from other Thieves that he had read about in his ‘past life’.

1

If one didn’t want to fall behind, they would have to continuously improve.

It was getting closer and closer to night in the game world, and Lu Li soon stopped, “Alright, let’s go. I want to take you somewhere before it’s night.”

Lu Li wanted to go and open the treasure boxes at the bottom of the lake.

The game was progressing quite slowly, but he didn’t know when other players would start to obtain items that could allow them to breathe underwater. The power of a large union was not something a solo player could compete with.

Most players had reached LV4 by now. It was much more efficient to form a team and hunt high levelled monsters, so there were barely any players at the Moon Reflection Lake by now.

Azure Sea Breeze was completely in the dark as to why Lu Li had wanted to come here.

What made him even more curious was that Lu Li told him to stand on the shore, then looked around and jumped into the water.

Suicide?

Before Azure Sea Breeze could yell out, he saw a seal break out of the water and nod towards him.

The Elf Warrior was completely shocked and his eyes widened as his world collapsed.

Lu Li grinned, then dived into the water.

Not long after, he found one of the respawned treasure boxes.

There were 2 pieces of Bronze grade equipment, both of which had average stats.

With treasure boxes, the more there were together, the worse the items inside would be.

However, during the early stages of the game, any equipment was good equipment. A Bronze grade piece of equipment that had a decent bonus stat would definitely sell for

at least 50 silver coins. Equipment that weren't gender or class specific and had 2 good bonus stats could sell for at least 1 gold coin.

Normal players couldn't afford that sort of equipment, but a team definitely could. A group of people could pool together their money to buy good equipment for their main tank or main attacker, and upon earning more money, they could buy the rest of their team equipment.

This was how non-affiliated players played.

There were water plants everywhere, and it was difficult to find the other 2 treasure boxes. Lu Li looked around the bottom of the lake, but couldn't find any, so he could only go back to the surface and wait for the skill to refresh again.

Upon reaching the surface, he saw Azure Sea Breeze anxiously looking down.

"You finally came out. I thought you drowned!"

"I opened a treasure box down there, but there should be 2 more. I'm going to go down again after my skill refreshes." Lu Li replied.

"Goddamn, you're frickin' overpowered. Even GMs might not be as overpowered as you." Azure Sea Breeze could not help it, as the crude words rolled out of his mouth in shock. Even receiving 4 Jade Spider Webs hadn't made him this shocked.

This guy Lu Li was simply incredible. He had turned into a seal and dived down to open treasure boxes.

Perhaps he was the only person in the game to do this.

Lu Li was speechless. He didn't really know what to say. Inwardly, he was muttering, "It's because of the item you got in my 'past life', but as a Warrior, you wouldn't have been able to open the treasure boxes anyways."

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Lu Li could only take out a few pieces of equipment saying, "Have a look, and take what you need!"

What magnanimity!

Azure Sea Breeze nearly got down on his knees and called Lu Li 'big bro'.

The Great Thief Chapter 28 - Underwater Boss

Chapter 28: Underwater Boss

Azure Sea Breeze seemed like a carefree person who said things offhandedly, but he had a good sense of what was and wasn't appropriate. As such, although he knew Lu Li could go into the water, he didn't ask why.

Since Lu Li had offered him the equipment, he didn't hold back and chose a valuable shield, as well as plate pants. If these equipments were sold, they could definitely fetch a price of at least 3 to 5 gold coins.

If someone told you their secret and trusted you to be their friend, refusing their goodwill would simply be an act of rudeness.

Friends who always acted extremely courteously and did not accept each other's goodwill could not be said to have truly deep ties.

Lu Li had considered the potential consequences of telling Azure Sea Breeze his secret, but after thinking it through, he still decided to tell him.

Lu Li had received a lot of help from Azure Sea Breeze in his 'past life', and he felt that he owed him for the Supreme One Ring. After getting to know him for 2 years, he knew that as long as he didn't let Azure Sea Breeze down, Azure Sea Breeze wouldn't let him down either.

2

Moreover, Lu Li had some plans of his own.

Dawn simply wasn't a game that could be played as a solo player. Instance Dungeons were incredibly important, as many rare and valuable equipment and materials could only be found within them. Take the Jade Spider Webs for example: there was great demand, but only the Elite level of the Spider Lair spawned them, and they had a horrendous drop rate. Waiting to buy that sort of material for a decent price would take at least 1 or 2 years.

Joining casual groups temporarily was fine, but it wasn't good for the long term.

Seeing that Azure Sea Breeze was keen on once again embarking on the path of a main tank, Lu Li decided to recruit him for his team.

The main tank was usually the core of the team. Azure Sea Breeze was skilled, and was also a decent person. It would be difficult to find a main tank like him.

A Permanent Party didn't necessarily mean that every single person was a permanent member, but the main members had to be able to work together efficiently, as well as be amicable in splitting the rewards.

If everyone got along, then they wouldn't have to worry about disagreements and people trying to take advantage of each other.

In actuality, the 4 Jade Spider Webs that Azure Sea Breeze had given Lu Li were worth far more than the 2 Bronze grade equipment that he had taken. When Trade Professions became more popular, a single Jade Spider Web could be worth as much as 100 gold coins!

Then again, these Jade Spider Webs were exchanged for Lu Li's guide to the Instance Dungeon.

All in all, this was a good transaction for Lu Li. If they really became a Permanent Party, this would have happened anyways.

Lu Li once again dived to the bottom of the lake and searched for treasure boxes. As he searched, he suddenly saw a ridiculously large turtle- one that was bigger than most Elites.

It had a dark-green shell, 4 grey limbs and a thick and powerful looking body.

Could it be a Boss?

This was entirely possible - after all, Bosses in Dawn could appear on land, in the water, or in the sky. However, despite doing his best to recall, he couldn't remember there being a Boss in this place.

Bosses had a certain drop rate for rare materials, so large unions would always try to keep them a secret. Whenever a Boss spawned in the wild, they would always chase non-affiliated players away. As such, Lu Li had never been able to kill a Boss in the wild before.

However, it was different now- currently, no one knew that there could be Bosses in the water.

Lu Li ignored the turtle for now, and went to find the other treasure boxes.

After half an hour, Lu Li finally found the other 2 treasure boxes. He received a valuable material and 2 pieces of Bronze grade equipment, as well as a Hunter Skill Book - Trueshot Aura.

It was a pity that it wasn't Tame Beast!

[Trueshot Aura]: Passive Ability. Cannot be levelled up. Increases the Attack Power for both melee and ranged teammates within 100 yards by 10%.

This was a strong Passive Ability, and was very useful for team situations.

Although it was valuable, it couldn't be compared with Tam Beast.

Currently, there were people advertising that they were willing to buy a Team Beast Skill Book for \$20,000 in the real world, which was about how much Lu Li had sold the Frost Nova Skill Book for.

This Trueshot Aura Skill Book was very suitable for Hunters who worked in teams. It would definitely be able to sell for at least 5 gold coins.

The rare material was called Crocodile Scale, and was a high-quality material used in creating heavy armour. There was even a chance of it giving the armour a special effect. However, since no one would be using it soon, Lu Li could only put it into his storage.

One of the Bronze grade equipment was a hat which had average stats, but Lu Li could at least equip it immediately.

[Black Velvet Cap] (Bronze): 5 Armour, Agility+1. Level Requirement: LV4. Durability: 12/20.

Lu Li swapped out the Fisherman's Old Felt Cap for this cap. Not only did it look better, it had a few more Armour points and a point in Agility. Lu Li was extremely pleased.

The other piece of equipment was a Magic Staff.

Moon Shadow Magic Staff (Bronze): 15-22 Damage, Intelligence+3. Level Requirement: LV5. Durability: 28/28.

This Magic Staff's Damage was quite high - higher than the Whisperer Lu Li had obtained from the Goblin Businessman. Moreover, it gave a whole 3 points in Intelligence that even most LV5 weapons could not compare to it. Lu Li was sure many Magicians would be willing to pay a high price for it.

When Lu Li came out of the water, Azure Sea Breeze was killing Grells. These LV4 monsters had no chance against a LV6 Warrior - it was pretty much 1 hit, 1 kill for Azure Sea Breeze.

It was a pity that they gave very little EXP, and rarely dropped anything.

"Done?" Seeing Lu Li come out, Azure Sea Breeze's eyes lit up, "Did you find anything good?"

Lu Li shared all the equipment on the Party Channel and replied, "There's a Boss underwater- do you want to kill it with me?"

"Boss? How would I kill it? I can't go underwater like you." Azure Sea Breeze was excited, but soon became deflated.

"I'll lure it up here and you draw aggro. Do you have enough Potions? Don't be too reluctant to part with them." It was Lu Li's first time hunting a Boss in the wild, so he was a bit nervous.

Will we be able to kill it? And do we need a healer?" Azure Sea Breeze asked.

"I'm not sure, but let's try. Don't let anyone know that I can go underwater though," Lu Li replied.

Apart from players that he wanted to form a Permanent Party with, Lu Li wasn't considering telling anyone else his secret. When Potions and items that allowed players to breathe underwater became more common, it wouldn't matter if he revealed it then.

One of the reasons why Azure Sea Breeze had been hunted down in Lu Li's 'past life' was because many people knew he was a Warrior who could turn into a seal.

"If we can kill it, we'll kill it. If we can't, we'll run away. Alright bro, go lure it over." Azure Sea Breeze was quite open with trying new things.

After Lu Li's Seal Transformation refreshed, he dived into the water and carefully edged towards the Boss.

It turned out that the massive turtle was indeed a Boss and it even had a name- 'Kleig'. As soon as Lu Li swam into its aggro range, it immediately charged towards the little seal.

[Seal Transformation]: Instant Cast, Cooldown Time: 30 minutes. You turn into a seal, and can swim in water. The effects last for 20 minutes. You receive Swimming Speed+50%, draw 30% less aggro, and can also breathe underwater. While transformed, you cannot use any Attack Skills. Proficiency: 23/1000.

If it wasn't for the bonus 50% to his Swimming Speed, Lu Li probably would have been caught very quickly. Lu Li could only swim as fast as he could as he watched the turtle Boss closing in on him.

The little seal furiously swam for its life!

The Great Thief Chapter 29 - Keep Grinding Until It Dies

Chapter 29: Keep Grinding Until It Dies

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The Seal Transformation actually had a very dangerous hidden effect; after transforming, the effects of Lu Li's equipment would be nullified. This meant that he had 0 armor.

What would happen if you had 0 armor and were hit by a Boss?

Death!

It was only natural that he felt anxious.

The blueish green lake appeared dim and ripples could be seen across its surface. Just as Lu Li thought he was about to get hit, a red light shone down from the setting sun and he broke through the surface with a splash.

An arrow shot through the air, hitting Kleig directly in the head. Although it only dealt a little bit of damage, there was still a noticeable spray of blood. Kleig wailed and abandoned the small seal at the surface, instead charging towards the damned Elf Warrior near the bank.

"Dammit. This monster's defense is insane; I barely even damaged it," Azure Sea Breeze cried out in surprise. He changed his weapon from the crossbow to a long sword and shield as the turtle rushed towards him.

While this was happening, Lu Li had climbed back onto shore and stabbed Kleig in the tail.

-7!

He was shocked - what kind of defense was this? When he hit Bosses from Instance Dungeons, he would deal at least 10 to 20 damage. When he PVP'ed with other weaker players, he could deal up to 100 damage. Kleig was only a level 3 Boss, but he could only deal 7 damage.

Kleig sobbed like a baby; its cry was high pitched and sad.

It opened its mouth which was densely filled with teeth and began attacking Azure Sea Breeze. Each tooth looked lethal, like the tip of sharp knife.

“I was scared earlier, but it turns out it has very low attack.” Azure Sea Breeze breathed a sigh of relief after he was attacked, putting away the potion he was about to take.

It was only after Lu Li had checked the Battle Announcement that he understood why he said that.

Battle Announcement: Azure Sea Breeze’s Charge deals 4 damage to Kleig; Kleig deals 8 damage to Azure Sea Breeze...

The damage that Kleig was dealing to Azure Sea Breeze was not Boss-status-worthy.

However, when they saw Kleig’s HP, Lu Li and Azure Sea Breeze’s faces both went dark. 30,000HP!

This was 2 times higher than a level 5 Instance Dungeon Boss!

How many potions would they need!?

No one would give up on a Boss just because they were afraid of using too many potions. They simply had no choice: for the sake of better equipment and materials, they had to do it.

Kleig was powerful in the water, but when it reached the shore, it became somewhat slow and weary. It lay on the ground unmoving, while Lu Li stood still and attacked it. This allowed him to attain an extremely high Skill Completion value, which in turn allowed for the Boss to be stunned often and gave Azure Sea Breeze some breathing space.

After fighting for 30 minutes, Azure Sea Breeze had used 10 potions and the Boss had lost more than half its HP.

In the midst of the struggle, Kleig suddenly moved and rushed towards the lake.

“Dammit, it’s going to recover!” Lu Li really wanted to slap himself.

Most amphibians and other monsters with a similar biology had the ability to return to a more suitable environment and recover large amounts of HP.

Under Lu Li’s and Azure Sea Breeze’s angry stares, Kleig’s HP bar slowly increased by 10. Not only did this mean that they had lost several minutes of their time, but there could be an even greater effect that they didn’t know about.

“It’s okay, let’s pull it to the small forest to fight it.” They both felt exasperated, but the system didn’t make any further announcements. They had already gotten this far and couldn’t give up now.

Kleig was slow in following, as they travelled further and further away from the Moon Reflection Lake.

By the side of the lake, there were many similar trees that were all densely packed together. Kleig was having trouble getting through them, but the aggro system forced it to follow them.

When they felt that they had gone far enough, Lu Li and Azure Sea Breeze once again began to attack.

This time, when it reached 50% HP, Kleig didn't try anything new. It simply made a futile effort to hit Azure Sea Breeze's Bronze shield. Not knowing what would happen if it spent too long away from the water, its damaged was reduced by a significant amount. Its HP went from 50% to 30% without taking a single critical hit.

When it reached 30% HP, Kleig began to twist its body and clumsily attempted to return to the lake.

"Block it and pay attention to your positioning." Lu Li rushed over, blocking the front of the Boss, but the Boss knocked him aside.

Kleig's knock-aside skill might have had a cool down, so Azure Sea Breeze quickly copied Lu Li. This time they were able to successfully block the Boss.

They didn't know how long it would stay in this agitated state, but after 30 seconds it calmed down once again. This signaled the continuation of their struggle in depleting its HP.

Azure Sea Breeze's potions were almost completely used up. He had used 11 potions in this fight alone, and if it weren't for Lu Li helping him loot the Goblin Businessman, this fight would have been impossible.

"I still have 6 bottles, it should be enough." Lu Li took a few bottles from his own bag and threw them onto the ground.

"You keep one, just in case the Boss goes berserk. I'm not sure if I can tank it all," Azure Sea Breeze said.

Victory was in sight, but neither of them could guarantee that an accident wouldn't happen.

"If we kill the first wild boss, we could get on TV!" Lu Li laughed, his hand movements continuous. He regularly produced an 85% Skill completion on Shadowstrike that stunned Kleig for 2 seconds.

“Ever since I got to know you, getting on TV doesn’t seem like that much of an accomplishment anymore.” Azure Sea Breeze used to think that he was an expert, but now that he knew Lu Li, he realized that were players so strong it was almost unnatural.

“I’m just lucky.” Obviously, Lu Li couldn’t say that he had experienced rebirth, which would be even more unnatural.

“Your luck is one thing, but what is most important is how diligent you are. Every time you fight a monster you are practicing; it seems like every time I see you you’ve significantly improved. With such great leaps of progress, how can you mix with people like me?”

“I have no choice. If I don’t work hard, I’ll be eliminated quickly. To most players this is just a game, but to me this is my job, my hope,” Lu Li responded.

“Work?” Azure Sea Breeze was surprised: “You have to earn money by playing this game?”

“Yep, it looks like you aren’t a newbie yourself - you must have played games for a few years already. What do you think of Dawn?” Lu Li already knew this about Azure Sea Breeze, but he couldn’t show it. The story needed to slowly play out.

Azure Sea Breeze had a shield equipped and struck Kleig on the head with it with a Shieldstrike. The Boss was stunned as he heard Lu Li ask the question and he immediately replied without hesitation: “I think this game is good compared to the others.”

“The business opportunities in this game are finite and the money that can be made is comparable to work in real life. Are you still studying or are you working?” Only someone who had experienced rebirth would know that Dawn’s market was big. In one year’s time, it would expand across the world, spawning a rich professional scene.

“I studied in the big four, and am about to start looking for work.” Azure Sea Breeze was somewhat serious; university graduates were basically just unemployed people. This was a phenomenon that had appeared 200 years ago. With the development of better intelligent systems, finding employment was becoming more difficult.

Welfare had become a large part of people’s living income, which was a severe social problem. That is, until Dawn had appeared.

“How about we band together to make money in this game?” Lu Li was 80% sure that Azure Sea Breeze would agree because most of this generation couldn’t find a job. As such, they spent most of their days playing these video games.

The Great Thief Chapter 30 - Bountiful Reward

Chapter 30: Bountiful Reward

"I've previously tried to work part in time in games. It's easy to earn money." Azure Sea Breeze still hadn't graduated yet and didn't know how difficult it was to find a job, so he didn't accept the offer too easily.

"I sold a skill book yesterday and made 25,000 in real money," Lu Li said casually.

Azure Sea Breeze immediately responded: "You sold a book for 25,000?"

"I still have some equipment in my backpack and if I sold them, I could probably make several thousands more. Even if I was really unlucky and sold them all at their minimum price, it would still be 20,000 in real money." Lu Li was fanning the flames of Azure Sea Breeze's interest.

Azure Sea Breeze's breaths were short and the sword that he was gripping was shaking. His blood surged as Lu Li showed him a whole new world.

Currently in society, everyone was becoming 'smarter', which resulted in needing less manpower. A marketing student like Azure Sea Breeze could only earn 10,000 per month at most, by working from early morning until late at night. He would also need to accept the various difficulties with leadership, making the whole experience stressful.

Moreover, Azure Sea Breeze was not part of a rich family. While he didn't live in a slum, his parents were just ordinary workers who rented.

"I'm planning for a group of around 10 people..."

"Count me in!" Lu Li hadn't finished speaking but Azure Sea Breeze had already called out.

"I told you all this so you would join me. Now focus on the boss - you don't know when it's going to go berserk. When it does, protecting your HP is the top priority," Lu Li reminded him.

These two had been in a fight with Kleig for over an hour now. It was almost night, but they still hadn't killed it yet. Maybe it didn't want to waste any more time, as it had reached 5% HP and was still not in berserk mode. It even transformed into a weaker state. A straightforward announcement was then made by the System.

System Announcement: Lu Li and Azure Sea Breeze have successfully achieved the first clear of a wild boss - Kleig!

This announcement had not yet been made to the World Announcements or the Faction Announcement, but once it was made in the Local Announcements, many people immediately came out from the bushes.

Elegant Village Sister: "What kind of things does a Wild boss drop, let me see..."

Grinning Laugh: "It shouldn't be that much weaker than an Instance Dungeon boss, but the fact that these two people could kill it is pretty impressive."

Festive Sacrifice: "The people who completed the first clear of an Instance Dungeon also included these two experts. I've heard of Azure Sea Breeze who is an expert in the game 'Shadow Realm', but I have no idea who this Lu Li is."

Lu Li and Azure Sea Breeze didn't have any time at all to bother with these players' comments. They were too busy staring at the loot!

1

A wild boss dropping items was especially magnificent, with a bloom of equipment and materials flying everywhere.

They hastily picked up all of the items, afraid that a stranger would appear and steal them.

"You pick things up really quickly!" Azure Sea Breeze exclaimed.

"I have a lot of bonus Agility," Lu Li responded. In his previous life, he had stolen many things by picking them up quickly, which led him to offend many unions.

"Well, I don't know how to respond to that." Azure Sea Breeze was speechless.

"Let's see how good the items are. After all, this is the first Wild Boss," Lu Li said with anticipation.

He really needed more money; it was 60,000 for the penalty fee, in addition to finding a new house, changing schools for little sisters, food and clothes...

1

4 Equipment:

Bloodseeker's Axe (Steel): Damage 18-36, Strength +5. Special Effect: Attacks with this weapon have 10% armor penetration. This effect cannot be stacked. Equipment Requirement Lv 5, Durability 30/30.

Snake Skin Bag (Bronze): 10 Spaces, reduce weight by 5%.

1

Jungle Herdsmen Helmet (Bronze): Armor 6, Intelligence +2, Equipment Requirement Lv 5, Durability 30/30. (One piece of the Jungle Herdsmen suit, exclusive to Druids)

Jungle Herdsmen Leg Guard (Bronze): Armor 10, Intelligence +2, Equipment Requirement Lv 5, Durability 30/30. (One piece of the Jungle Herdsmen suit, exclusive to Druids)

1

1 Skill Book:

Shield Wall: Instant Cast, 60 second cooldown. All damage received is reduced by 60%, lasting for 5 seconds. Need to have a shield equipped. Proficiency 0/1000.

2

There was also 1 piece of material:

Horn of Kleig: Forging Material, provides 5% additional armor piercing for weapons. Requires high level forging.

There was also a significant amount of money that was dropped. Between the two of them, they received 13 silver coins and several potions. However, the Boss was only level 3, so the potions weren't of a very high level.

The axe was clearly the best item and by far the most valuable.

The Snake Skin Bag was currently not very valuable, as two 6 space bags didn't sell for more than 1 Gold. Lu Li planned to hold on to the Snake Skin Bag, as he regularly opened treasure chests which required him to have a large storage space.

As for the two bronze equips, it was hard to say.

Even though they were bronze equipment, their attributes were good. In addition to this, when both were equipped, there would be an additional effect: Recover skill duration increased by 6 seconds.

Recover: Instant Cast, consumes 30 mana to restore 15 HP on a target, subsequently restores 5 HP every 3 seconds for 9 seconds.

Recover was one of Healer Druid's most used spells. This suit extended the skill duration, which was valuable in a combat situation.

“Are you interested in the Axe? It’s pretty useful while training.” Lu Li passed the axe to Azure Sea Breeze.

Azure Sea Breeze brandished the axe and returned it to Lu Li: “This is more useful for a warrior playstyle and not at all for me. Go sell it for money, I’d like the skill book.”

This axe was suited to a Berserk Warrior, but Azure Sea Breeze had taken the defensive route. However, the skill book was clearly useful for him.

After using Shieldstrike to draw aggro, a Defense Warrior could then use Shield Wall to guarantee the safety of the whole party. Azure Sea Breeze didn’t hold his interests back.

Lu Li had no qualms with giving it up; the skill book’s value wasn’t even close to that of the Steel Axe.

“You can take this 6 space bag. I have a 10 space one already.” Lu Li took out the bag and threw it at him. “I’ll sell the rest and split the money with you later.”

“Don’t do that.” Azure Sea Breeze waved his hand. “If it weren’t for you, I wouldn’t have even found the boss. All I did was spend some of my time. Taking this skill book is already more than enough.”

“We fought it together, we have to split it evenly,” Lu Li responded.

“What I’m saying, Big brother, is that since you formed the party, you are the leader. You can’t lead by just splitting everything evenly - you have to look at the members’ contribution and what they want.” Azure Sea Breeze started to sweat profusely, “Friendships have unspoken rules, and the party will need to be the same.”

Hearing how serious he was, Lu Li kept the rest of the items.

Azure Sea Breeze was more passionate about the group that he was, and didn’t stop talking about it, asking: “What now? Do we need to recruit more people?”

“We can slowly recruit people. Tomorrow, our first order of business is to help someone break an Instance Dungeon record. Aren’t you in touch with a few large unions? Ask them how much they are willing to pay to improve the record by 5 minutes.”

1

Lu Li had many ways to make money in mind, but unable to carry many of them out. As of now, the market of helping other people grind was still in its fledgling stages. Most unions were just trying to survive.

“Let’s go back. We don’t have much time left.” When the game went into night, the wild was significantly more dangerous. They both took out their Hearthstones and activated them.