

## Global CM 461

### Chapter 461: Blood Exchange! (Two in One)\_1

Chen Mo surveyed the scene, feeling as if he were looking at a sea of money. The question is how to fleece them; outright robbery doesn't seem appropriate. If I spark public outrage and incite widespread resentment, it could attract trouble, like an Evil God or something similar. This sort of thing requires a clever pretext.

Chen Mo considered this further. Raising taxes would be convenient. Although there'd be some grumbling, I'd only collect for one day, not impose a permanent tax. These people, though likely unwilling, probably wouldn't say much.

With that in mind, Chen Mo immediately focused his senses to find someone suitable for the task.

He soon spotted a brawny man with a fierce and imposing demeanor. This man held the title of executive officer and was clearly a capable subordinate who frequently carried out Kahn's orders.

Chen Mo promptly had him summoned.

"My lord, what are your orders?" the executive officer, Taskum, asked respectfully, dropping to one knee.

"The city's commerce is flourishing, bustling with people and traffic, which has significantly increased the wear and tear on our city's roads," Chen Mo began. "Since most of this wear and tear is caused by the traffic in the commercial district, it's only natural that the maintenance costs for these worn-out sections should fall to them. We haven't levied a tax for this before, but it's time we did. I want you to go to the commercial district and collect a maintenance fee from every establishment."

"My lord, how should this fee be determined?"

Chen Mo estimated the number of merchants and said, "Charge those with street stalls less, and those with permanent shops a bit more. The total tax revenue should be around 1,000 eternal gold coins."

"So much?!" Taskum was dumbfounded. That's equivalent to a colossal sum of 1 billion in this world's currency!

"Divided among everyone, it isn't much," Chen Mo explained. "Tell them this fee is collected once every hundred years. Pay once, and they'll be worry-free for a century. Just record their names when you collect the tax."

"If it's collected on a century basis, then it actually seems a bit too little," Taskum, who moments ago had thought it too expensive, immediately changed his tune.

Chen Mo smiled. "The maintenance cycle for the roads is also quite long. This amount is sufficient. Go and attend to it immediately."

"Yes, my lord! I will immediately have the number of merchants tallied, draw up a detailed tax allocation plan, and then proceed to collect this maintenance fee."

"Excellent. I trust you to handle this. You may go."

"Your subordinate takes his leave."

Watching Taskum depart, Chen Mo felt quite pleased. With just a few words, I can rake in another hundred billion! Fantastic! Now I suddenly understand why those corrupt officials can't resist temptation. Faced with this kind of money-making scheme, anyone would be dazed.

Having delegated these matters, Chen Mo began to enjoy the life of a City Lord.

However, it seemed Kahn had little interest in women; he didn't even have a wife. His female attendants avoided him as if he were a tiger or a wolf, and none dared to try and get close to him or seduce him. Kahn having no intimate companions is actually a good thing for me. It makes it much harder for my identity to be seen through.

As twilight approached, Alina, in Green Bamboo Village, had already led her team toward the Smoky Intoxicated Forest. Chen Mo had previously scouted the Smoky Intoxicated Forest and knew that while

there were many monsters inside, they were no match for a well-organized army, so he wasn't particularly concerned about their progress.

「Later that night」

Chen Mo constantly observed his teammates' movements on the map. On the other two routes, the teams were nearing their target locations. The fighting will likely begin tomorrow.

Around midnight, Alina had led her team out of the forest and onto the plains. She immediately contacted Chen Mo.

[Alina]: "Chen Mo, I've brought the team. Have you scouted Storm City yet?"

[Chen Mo]: "Just bring your team over. I'll send people to meet you."

[Alina]: "Meet where?"

[Chen Mo]: "Inside the city."

[Alina]: "You've already captured Storm City?"

Alina eyed Storm City in surprise. Its walls were intact, showing no signs of a recent battle, which perplexed her.

[Chen Mo]: "More or less. Just bring your people straight to the city gate."

[Alina]: "Okay."

Although she agreed, Alina felt a little apprehensive. Storm City isn't like the previous Reik Fortress. It's heavily guarded, with defensive structures lining the walls row upon row. Its terrain is also excellent,

making it easy to defend and hard to attack. It would be impossible to capture such a place without inflicting any damage. For a moment, Alina couldn't quite grasp what Chen Mo meant.

Seeing the soldiers patrolling back and forth on the city walls, Alina naturally felt uneasy. If we approach recklessly and provoke an attack from Storm City's guards, our tens of thousands of troops probably won't last long.

But, trusting Chen Mo, she led her troops closer to Storm City anyway.

Due to Storm City's high elevation and its many lookout towers, any slight movement in the surrounding area could be quickly spotted. With Alina leading tens of thousands of people so openly, it was difficult not to be noticed.

Sure enough, the Storm City guards quickly spotted them.

An alarm immediately sounded, and the guards on the battlements all drew their bows, nocked arrows, and prepared for battle.

Chapter 462: Blood Exchange! (Two in One)\_2

Alina naturally soon noticed the reactions of the people on the watchtower of Storm City.

Her heart grew even more uneasy.

The reaction of the Storm City Soldiers didn't seem like a welcome.

She felt that if they got any closer, these guards would release their arrows.

However, Alina quickly noticed an unusual change in Storm City. The City Guards, who had initially appeared tense and ready for battle, suddenly put away their crossbows and looked at them calmly. The city gates, usually closed at night due to the curfew, now clicked open.

A burly figure appeared at the city gate. It was Taskum, who had helped Chen Mo collect one thousand eternal gold coins in taxes that very day under a clever pretext.

Chen Mo had initially planned to come personally, but after considering Kahn's persona, he decided to send someone to meet them instead.

As they approached Storm City, the Rebel Army members in their party became extremely nervous. They anxiously asked Alina, "Lady Alina, are we really going to walk over there so brazenly? Once we enter their firing range, we won't even have a chance to escape if we want to."

"Don't worry, Chen Mo has arranged everything. We can proceed with peace of mind."

"What Divine Skills did Lord Chen Mo use to be able to arrange everything in Storm City?"

"I heard that the Lord of Storm City is a ruthless and tyrannical man known as the Devil Marshal!"

"I heard that too. He once single-handedly annihilated an enemy army of 100,000. No one knows what methods he used, but his fearsome reputation as the Devil Marshal resounded throughout the entire empire."

"Lord Chen Mo actually found a way to handle someone like that?"

Everyone was incredibly curious.

However, seeing that the guards on the city wall no longer showed hostility towards them, they couldn't help but begin to believe in Chen Mo's abilities.

Soon, everyone had reached the city gate.

"You must be Lady Alina."

Upon seeing Alina at the front of the group, Taskum immediately approached respectfully and asked.

Although Alina was somewhat confused by the situation, she still nodded.

"You've had a long journey. Your men can enter the city first to eat and rest. As for you, Lady Alina, the City Lord has specifically invited you."

"The City Lord?" Alina looked suspiciously at Taskum.

She had clearly heard her subordinates' discussions just moments ago.

Moreover, The Heavenly Path's Hint had previously provided intelligence that the Lord of Storm City was that Devil Marshal Kahn; she was very clear on this.

She hadn't even seen Chen Mo yet after entering the city, and now she was suddenly invited by this Devil Marshal. Alina had a bad feeling about this.

But they were already completely within someone else's territory. Refusing was clearly not an option; otherwise, things would turn ugly right at the city gate.

She immediately smiled and nodded. "Then please lead the way," she said.

After speaking, she turned to reassure the Rebel Army members under her command, saying, "Everyone, rest easy tonight. I will come back later to inform you of the subsequent arrangements."

Hearing Alina say this, the men, who were still uneasy, could only suppress their doubts and nod.

Being treated as honored guests while openly entering a heavily fortified enemy town was so bizarre that it made them restless and unable to eat or sleep peacefully.

After entrusting her men to Taskum, Alina followed him into the City Lord's Mansion.

In the City Lord's Mansion, Chen Mo was seated in the main seat of the conference hall, savoring a specially brewed black tea while awaiting Alina's arrival.

"My Lord, Lady Alina has arrived." Taskum respectfully reported to Chen Mo before stepping aside to let Alina enter the conference hall.

"Very good. You may leave now. I have matters to discuss with Alina alone."

"Yes, this subordinate shall take his leave!"

As Taskum withdrew, Alina, her face full of doubt, looked Chen Mo up and down. It wasn't until she used a probing skill on Chen Mo that she finally realized the Devil Marshal Kahn before her was not the real person.

Normally, Professionals are able to investigate characters within a dungeon. Even if they cannot investigate related information, the Heavenly Dao will provide corresponding hints. But now, when she investigated this Devil Marshal Kahn before her, not only did she receive no hints, but the result of her investigation was a chaotic void.

This was the same feedback she had received when she first met Chen Mo and secretly investigated him!

In that instant, somewhat shocked, she looked at Chen Mo and asked, "How did you do it?"

Chen Mo had originally intended to act a little longer, but he hadn't expected to be seen through so quickly. He immediately smiled and said, "This all started with that hidden mission in Green Forest Village..."

After some explanation, Alina finally understood. She hadn't expected that the Lord of Storm City had actually been eliminated by Chen Mo during a previous hidden mission.

"So, have we completed the mission now? Why hasn't The Heavenly Path's Hint appeared yet?" Alina asked curiously.

According to Chen Mo's estimate, her leading the people into the city should have already counted.

Chen Mo stroked his chin, thought for a moment, and said, "It's probably because the people in key positions within the city aren't ours, especially in city defense. Right now, it's still entirely Imperial Army personnel; our people haven't occupied a single post yet. Tomorrow, I'll replace the city defense personnel. Only when the entire city defense system falls into the hands of our own people should it count as us having completely taken this city."

"That makes sense. But if you replace such a large number of personnel all at once, won't it arouse suspicion?"

"Don't worry. I already tested it out today. This Kahn truly lives up to his title of Devil Marshal. Within Storm City, he's an absolute dictator whose word is law. Such an autocratic situation isn't good for long-term governance, but it's advantageous for us. As long as no one can expose my current identity, it carries absolute authority. I can issue any command in Storm City, and no one will dare to say anything."

"There's such a convenient thing?"

"To tell you the truth, I even used this identity today to extort a sum of money in the city, and not a single person dared to utter a complaint. Money is life to ordinary people, which clearly illustrates the point," Chen Mo said with a laugh.

"Then it seems we'll be able to complete another hidden achievement or something this time. After all, conquering such a difficult-to-breach town with such an ingenious method as yours is truly rare," Alina said with a smile.

"I've had someone arrange a room for you. Go and rest first. I'll look into the matter of replacing positions tomorrow."

Alina walked over to Chen Mo's side and said, "This is a mission for two people. How can I let you do all the hard work alone? I'll help you look at them."

Seeing this, Chen Mo didn't say much more.

The two of them immediately spent the night examining the situation of various key posts within the city, marking each one so that arrangements could be quickly made the next day.

Time always flies when one is busy.

Not long after the two had finished organizing all the positions, the morning light of the next day was already streaming into the conference hall.

After his subordinates brought in food and they had finished breakfast, Chen Mo summoned Taskum again.

"The soldiers Alina brought back yesterday are all my trusted confidants. Upon their return this time, they will naturally need to be assigned suitable positions. I have prepared a list of position replacements here. Take this list and notify them accordingly."

"Yes!" Taskum respectfully took the list from Chen Mo's hand and then withdrew from the conference hall.

Originally, he had thought Chen Mo would at most give those people a few dispensable sinecures for their retirement. However, when he looked through the positions to be replaced, Taskum was dumbfounded.

All the positions on this list slated for replacement were important posts within the city.

This was a complete overhaul of the city's defense and key management personnel!

Could it be that there was a traitor within Storm City? Is that why the City Lord is undertaking such a large-scale overhaul with such great effort?

Although he was deeply puzzled, Taskum dared not neglect the Devil Marshal's orders in the slightest. He immediately gathered the necessary personnel and began to implement them in earnest!

#### Chapter 463: Wisdom and Plan to Take Over the City! (Two in One)\_1

As noon approached, Chen Mo and Alina were talking when they both received a Heavenly Path's Hint.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have successfully occupied Storm City, completing the second subsection of the first phase of the mission. Your forces suffered 0% casualties during this mission, meeting the requirement of a casualty rate below 50%. Your mission completion rating is Perfect, and you have gained 200 dungeon points.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: By using your own ingenuity to control all of Storm City without bloodshed, you have achieved the super hidden achievement "Wisdom and Plan" for this subsection. You are awarded an additional 600 dungeon points for this mission.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Your current dungeon points are 2,100.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: The current mission phase of the first stage has been completed. Please arrange your remaining time freely and await news of victory from the other two teams...]

"From the looks of these Heavenly Path's Hints, this first stage won't be completed so easily. Something is bound to happen to the other two teams. The time Heavenly Dao has prepared for us is likely intended for us to continue strengthening our forces," Alina said after reading the Heavenly Path's Hints.

"That's right," Chen Mo agreed. "I took a tour of the city earlier and scouted around. I found quite a few places selling high-quality military equipment. These items should be enough to fully arm our rather mediocre Rebel Army, substantially boosting their combat power."

"It seems this time we've been given is for that purpose. But I'm a bit curious—if we hadn't used your method to take this ironclad fortress, how would one normally go about capturing Storm City?"

Alina had previously observed Storm City's terrain and defensive strength and felt that it would take at least ten times the troops to even have a chance of conquering such a city.

"There's an underground secret passage within the city, and there's an arsenal inside," Chen Mo explained. "If one were to infiltrate the city through the secret passage and detonate that arsenal, the entire Storm City could be blown sky-high. Under normal circumstances, the difficulty in taking Storm City isn't actually the siege itself, but rather a test of infiltration capabilities and whether one can secure the arsenal after infiltrating."

"Oh, so that's how it is. That makes sense."

If it's just a matter of detonating the arsenal, the forces she currently commands are indeed sufficient. Otherwise, she truly couldn't imagine how they would capture this impregnable city under normal circumstances.

"Since Heavenly Dao has given us time to strengthen the entire army, let's proceed with that plan," Chen Mo said with a smile. "Although we don't really need them to participate in battles, following Heavenly Dao's lead might still earn us some reward points."

"Hmm, but upgrading the equipment for the entire army will probably cost a significant amount of money," Alina said, considering the expense.

"No problem. My current identity is Devil Marshal Kahn. Money is not an issue," Chen Mo smirked.

"What are you planning to do?"

"We'll just requisition it directly. Tell them we'll settle the accounts at the end of the month. By then, we'll have long since completed the dungeon and be gone."

"Chen, you're so mischievous!" Alina scolded playfully.

"This is called wisdom," Chen Mo retorted.

Soon after, Chen Mo once again summoned the workhorse, Taskum.

"Taskum," Chen Mo began, "there are reports of the Rebel Army stirring up trouble. Many of our people in Storm City are still poorly equipped. Go to the Smithy and the equipment merchants, order a batch of quality military equipment, and distribute it. We need to prepare for a rainy day and ensure we are fully armed."

Taskum immediately assented but didn't move from his spot.

"What is it?" Chen Mo asked, looking at him curiously. "Is there something else?"

Taskum's lips twitched. He hesitated for a moment, then said, "Sir, earlier you... you took the operating funds from the treasury. This purchase of military equipment will require..." He trailed off, figuring the City Lord should understand.

Chen Mo understood at once. "Regarding the funds, you don't need to worry. Just tell them it will be settled at the end of the month. And get the items procured as quickly as possible; it would be best if it could all be arranged within a day. We don't know when the Rebel Army might attack Storm City."

"Your subordinate understands," Taskum replied. "I will see to it at once."

Taskum exited the City Lord's Mansion and went straight to the Smithy and the equipment merchants to order the quality military equipment.

There, he found the craftsmen at the Smithy somewhat flustered and uneasy, having heard the news about the Rebel Army's disturbances.

Taskum quickly reassured them, explaining that the City Lord already had a plan to deal with the situation and guaranteed their safety.

Hearing this, the craftsmen felt somewhat relieved. Moreover, when they heard that this batch of military equipment was to arm the City Guards to prevent an attack by the Rebel Army, delaying the payment until the end of the month didn't seem like a big issue.

They immediately began to meticulously craft the military equipment.

Taskum recalled Chen Mo's words and conveyed the City Lord's directive to the Smithy and the equipment merchants: it would be best if all the military equipment could be ready before that evening.

Although the task was urgent, the Smithy and the equipment merchants were the city's best suppliers. They were experienced, well-stocked, and possessed a high level of skill and speed in producing and outfitting military gear.

They just needed to take some time to re-polish all the quality equipment they had in stock.

They immediately began working overtime to complete the preparations as quickly as possible.

Chapter 464: Wisdom and Plan to Take Over the City! (Two in One)\_2

Meanwhile, Taskum was also getting busy.

He was continually coordinating with all departments, arranging and directing personnel, ensuring that all military supplies could be prepared within the specified time and distributed to the people who needed them.

Time flew quickly, and as evening approached, the Smithy and equipment providers completed the production and equipping of the military supplies at the last crucial moment.

Taskum and his team successfully distributed all the supplies according to the plan.

The whole process was tense, but in the end, everything was resolved satisfactorily.

「That night,」 all the Rebel Army led by Chen Mo swapped their muskets for cannons, putting on new, powerful equipment.

By then, the other two teams had already engaged with the enemy.

As expected by Chen Mo, not long after the confrontations began, he received The Heavenly Path's Hint. It indicated that both sides had encountered problems.

They had no trouble at the first checkpoint and pushed through very quickly because they thought a General was guarding it, but there wasn't. That's why they were able to advance so easily.

But the current checkpoint presented major problems: not only were four Generals defending it, but even a Marshal was stationed there.

The defenses were incredibly strong. With such a defensive force, breaking through the target location was undoubtedly very difficult, and naturally, both sides fell into a fierce battle.

Alina and Chen Mo exchanged a glance, and Alina said, "It seems we need to go and provide support. Chen, what should we do now? Who should we help first? Should we help Lilith first? She is the Chief Commander; she cannot die. If she dies, I'm afraid all the points we've earned won't be enough to cover the penalty."

"Since she's the Chief Commander, she must have her own strengths. She won't be defeated that easily. I think we should support the other side first," Chen Mo said after some consideration.

"Then let's follow your advice," Alina replied. "After all, they are all leader-level figures. Their strength is not inferior to the Generals of the Imperial Army; they shouldn't die so easily in a short time." Alina thought that with Chen Mo's strength, there was no need for much deliberation; a swift victory would be best.

"Alright, let's get moving. As for my men, they can stay in Storm City to avoid any mortality-rate-related scores. I don't need their help anyway."

Alina nodded.

"Right," Chen Mo continued, "you stay and hold the fort in Storm City in case any problems arise here. This base is quite vital; we can't afford to lose it. I can go alone."

Alina pondered for a moment and nodded. "Alright."

After giving his instructions, Chen Mo summoned a few of his important subordinates in the city. He ordered them to regard Alina with the same authority as the City Lord during his absence. His subordinates naturally dared not object, all nodding in agreement.

Seeing this, Chen Mo stepped directly onto the Teleportation Array and was transported to the City of Faith "Jerusalem"—the city currently under attack by the army led by Priest Ryan.

Due to the fierce battle raging, Energy fluctuations were chaotic, making the Teleportation Array unstable. Although Chen Mo had been teleported, the Teleportation fluctuations hadn't completely stabilized yet. He couldn't move recklessly at this moment; otherwise, he might trigger a space fluctuation, leading to a Teleportation error. If that happened, there was no telling where he might end up.

His Teleport ability was currently restricted in this instance. If he were teleported to some remote corner of the world, it would be too late for regrets.

He could only wait quietly for the surrounding Teleportation Energy to stabilize before he could take action.

Standing within the Teleportation Array, Chen Mo could clearly hear chaos and rumbling noises. The battle between the two armies was evidently fierce.

Unable to move yet, Chen Mo took the opportunity to sense the current battle situation.

Using his Pioneer's Ability to perceive the situation, he saw that the shields of everyone in the Rebel Army here had vanished.

He didn't know how the Imperial Army had managed to clear them.

He assumed some kind of shield-clearing Skill had been used. Such Skills weren't particularly rare, so it wouldn't be surprising if one of the Empire's Generals or Marshals possessed one.

After a moment of sensing, Chen Mo discovered that it was indeed the opposing Marshal who possessed such a Group Shield Dispersion Technique.

At that moment, the white-robed Priest Ryan was on the front lines, directing the Rebel Army's archers. They were drawing their bows with all their strength, aiming at the Imperial Army's Soldiers and loosing a crazed volley of arrows.

Arrows flew swiftly through the air, striking shields or the bodies of Imperial Army Soldiers, making a crackling sound.

Some arrows hit enemies in the head; blood gushed out, and screams pierced the clamor of the battlefield.

Simultaneously, the Rebel Army's Mages sprang into action. The Magic Wands in their hands unleashed powerful Fireballs, Thunder, and Ice Cones, blasting enemies to pieces.

Fireballs exploded, releasing dazzling light and scorching heat. Thunder cracked with deafening roars, and Ice Cones shattered with crisp sounds.

Even as Soldiers of the Imperial Army were blasted to pieces, they refused to yield. Their infantry and Cavalry began to charge the Rebel Army's Soldiers, advancing with powerful, orderly steps.

Musketeers stood with their guns, pointing at the Soldiers of the Rebel Army, their expressions solemn.

Their archers, meanwhile, focused on volley fire, launching indiscriminate attacks.

Mages and Priests in the rear controlled the flow of battle, providing their Soldiers with BUFFs or fire support.

The infantry used their shields to block enemy attacks, making thumping sounds.

The charging Cavalry thundered forward, the sound of their hooves deafening.

Chapter 465: Wisdom and Plan to Take Over the City! (Two in One)\_3

The tips of the Musketeers' Long Spears pierced the enemy with a WHOOSH.

The Cavalry galloped across the battlefield, drawing their bows and loosing arrows. The sound of the arrows mixed with the howling wind, making ears throb.

Magic exploded, releasing dazzling light!

As the melee Soldiers charged, the two armies quickly clashed in fierce combat, descending into a chaotic battlefield.

Blades, spears, swords, and shields clashed. Arrows crisscrossed, Magic exploded, and bones flew.

The battling Soldiers grappled with each other, shouting loudly.

The sounds of clashing weapons, screams, ragged gasps, and the stench of blood permeated the air.

Flesh and blood flew. Corpses piled up. It was a ruthless slaughter.

Ryan constantly directed the Rebel Army, his resounding voice echoing across the battlefield, "Overwhelm them!"

The Rebel Army, led by Ryan, performed exceptionally well, their morale high. What startled Chen Mo was that the Rebel Army had actually gained a slight advantage.

How is it possible that four Leaders against one Marshal and four Generals can still gain an advantage?

Soon, Chen Mo discovered that the five elites of the Imperial Army were not fully committed to the fight. It was a strategy by the Imperial Army: feign weakness to bait the Rebel Army into an all-out attack.

As the saying goes: the first charge carries the most vigor, the second sees it wane, and the third exhausts it.

Ryan's army gained a significant advantage in the initial offensive. However, when they realized their prolonged assault was futile and the enemy seemed to grow stronger with each passing moment, their momentum faltered and morale quickly diminished.

Observing this, Chen Mo estimated it wouldn't be long before the Rebel Army showed signs of faltering.

Indeed, Ryan quickly realized the problem.

Dressed in a white robe, while casting buffs for his entire team, Ryan began to consider countermeasures.

This is troublesome. We've fallen into the enemy's trap. Once the Soldiers' morale begins to drop, the enemy army will undoubtedly launch a full-scale attack. By then, the enemy will be surging with strength while our side falters. There's absolutely no chance we can withstand their onslaught!

Seeing the critical situation, Ryan's brow furrowed tightly. He could feel the morale of the Rebel Army Soldiers steadily decreasing.

He knew he had to take action to change the situation.

He shouted loudly, "Warriors! We cannot give up! For our freedom and dignity, we must fight on!"

Ryan's words slightly uplifted the Rebel Army's morale. They surged with renewed vigor and continued fighting, but the battle had already demanded a heavy sacrifice from them.

Many of them had already fallen, struck by enemy swords and arrows. Wounded Soldiers screamed in agony as blood and bodies littered the ground, staining it crimson.

In the battle, infantry and Cavalry mingled, blades clashed, and the sound of hooves thundered across the field.

With morale running high, the Musketeers formed a phalanx with their Long Spears, thrusting at the enemy's charging vanguard.

The archers loosed countless arrows. The shafts flew swiftly through the air, striking enemy shields or bodies with sharp THWACKS.

Mages unleashed an array of devastating spells—Fireballs, Thunder, and Ice Cones—blasting enemies to pieces.

Meanwhile, the Imperial Army was not to be outdone. Their infantry and Cavalry formed an ironclad formation, charging towards the Rebel Army's lines.

Neither arrows nor Magic could halt their advance. They launched a fierce charge, cutting down the Rebel Army's Soldiers.

The entire battlefield was filled with blood and smoke. The shouts of Soldiers and their death cries echoed incessantly, accompanied by the neighing of warhorses and the clash of weapons. The scene was one of utter chaos.

Time seemed to stand still. Each person fought desperately in their own corner, only the sounds of death and battle reverberating endlessly.

Though the Rebel Army resisted bravely, the tide of battle had turned irreversibly. Their morale and fighting strength had reached their limits.

Chapter 466: The Abnormally Strong Skeleton Monster! (Combined in One)\_1

The Soldiers of the Rebel Army fought to their limits, attacking relentlessly while also having to constantly defend themselves.

Their shields were battered and punctured by the enemy's swords, their armor burned red-hot from Fireballs and bolts of Thunder, and their weapons constantly broke.

They fought with all they had, but the Imperial Army held the advantage in numbers and equipment.

Cavalry thundered across the battlefield, their hooves pounding the ground with a deafening clamor.

The Musketeers charged with their spears, the sharp points piercing the bodies of the Rebel Army Soldiers.

Archers on the battlefield concentrated their fire, raining arrows down continuously on the Rebel Army Soldiers.

The Mages' Magic bombarded the enemy like artillery; Fireballs exploded, flames surged, and bolts of Thunder struck down—a terrifying sight.

Ryan stood to one side, wielding his Magic Wand and casting potent Spells.

His face was devoid of expression, only his eyes were cold.

He unleashed offensive Magic upon the enemy. As a Priest, a class skilled in both Support Magic and offensive Spells, his attacks were also extremely powerful. Every Spell he cast produced a huge roar and explosion.

The battlefield reeked of blood. Soldiers died brutally, their deaths a heart-wrenching sight.

Their cries, moans, roars, and sobs merged into a cacophony.

The Cavalry's horses whinnied and galloped, trampling many Soldiers underhoof.

The archers' bowstrings TWANGED, and arrows WHOOSHED through the air toward the Rebel Army's formation.

The spearpoints of the Musketeers flashed with cold light, like long silver snakes, as they charged the Rebels.

If this continued, the entire Rebel Army would soon be annihilated.

Just then, Chen Mo finally emerged fully from the unstable Teleportation Array.

Finally, a stable landing! If I'd been any slower, all my men would have been wiped out! Chen Mo thought, incredibly anxious as he took in the scene.

The moment he appeared, he immediately waved his Magic Wand and summoned millions of Skeleton Monsters!

These Skeleton Monsters were grotesque and terrifying. Their gaunt, bony frames were sparsely covered with patches of green, rotting flesh and bloodstains, their eyes gleaming with an unsettling black light.

At Chen Mo's command, these Skeleton Monsters swarmed out like a tide, spreading to every corner of the city.

To draw the Imperial Army's aggro from Ryan's Rebel Army outside the city toward himself, Chen Mo deliberately kept the Skeleton Monsters from entering an invisible state. Instead, he had them rampage visibly throughout the city, causing widespread destruction!

This was the fastest way to draw the attention of the entire Imperial Army and make them all focus their attacks on me!

As the Skeleton Monsters began their rampage, the Imperial Army reacted just as Chen Mo had predicted, immediately shifting their attention.

Seeing dense swarms of Skeleton Monsters rampaging through the city, the city guards immediately grabbed their weapons to engage them.

However, they were utterly no match for the Skeleton Monsters; they couldn't even last a single round against them.

The Skeleton Archers held longbows, loosing arrow after arrow at the guards. The shafts WHIZZED sharply through the air, instantly piercing the guards' defensive lines.

Some guards raised shields, attempting to block the arrows, but it was a futile effort; they simply couldn't withstand the Skeleton Monsters' frenzied and concentrated assault.

Meanwhile, Skeleton Mages roamed the city. Blue Magic light coalesced in their hands, transforming into terrifying Energy Bullets that they then fired off.

Each Energy Bullet fired would blast a large crater in the ground, shredding nearby city guards into fragments.

The guards constantly tried to approach the Skeleton Mages, but each time they got near, the Skeleton Mages would fire Energy Bullets, blasting them to smithereens.

Unwilling to see their city destroyed by Skeleton Monsters, the guards rallied together, advancing on the Skeleton Monsters step by step.

But facing the dense, continuous volleys of arrows and Energy Bullets from the Skeleton Monsters, even though the guards were agile and constantly tried to Dodge, they still couldn't evade all the attacks. In an instant, many were blasted apart, flesh and gore flying everywhere; the scene was exceptionally brutal.

The few guards who finally managed to get close to Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters immediately charged with spears and Longswords, furiously hacking at their bones, but the outcome left them dumbfounded.

They discovered they couldn't even damage these Skeleton Monsters.

Not only were these Skeleton Monsters numerous, but their strength was also shockingly formidable.

Reeling from such blows, the already exhausted guards were immediately entangled by the Skeleton Monsters and then slaughtered in waves where they stood.

The slightly luckier guards managed to die with their bodies intact, bearing only the holes where the Skeleton Monsters' arrows had pierced them.

Arrows pierced their bodies, spilling blood as they collapsed, dead.

But those hit by Energy Bullets were almost never left whole; even the more complete corpses had large chunks blown out of them!

No matter the state of the guards after being attacked, the Skeleton Monsters didn't pause, nor did they show any mercy. Their assault continued unabated, turning the city into a terrifying and chaotic inferno.

Leveraging their numerical superiority, Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters easily cleared the city of its garrisoned guards, destroying large sections of the city walls and defense towers in the process.

It all happened so suddenly and swiftly that by the time Chen Mo had nearly cleared the entire inner city, the Imperial Army Soldiers on the walls finally, abruptly, realized their home base was being overrun.

The attention of the Imperial Marshal and the four Generals was also completely drawn to this new threat.

Chapter 467: The Abnormally Strong Skeleton Monster! (Combined in One)\_2

Marshal Albert, a tall middle-aged man with a serious countenance and long black beard, is an excellent swordsman and commander, capable of calmly handling any situation on the battlefield.

General Alice, a beautiful female general with long golden hair and green eyes, is an excellent archer capable of effortlessly taking down enemies from a distance.

General Marx, a tall and burly man with a thick beard and blue eyes, is a distinguished knight capable of charging through the enemy lines on a warhorse.

General Aina, with short black hair and deep brown eyes, is a remarkable mage capable of wielding powerful Flame Magic to destroy enemies.

General Eddie, the youngest of the generals, with brown hair and bright blue eyes, is a top-notch melee warrior who can shatter an enemy's defenses with the great sword in his hands.

These five were initially witnessing considerable success in their battle against the Rebel Army outside the city. They believed victory was imminent and that they would soon annihilate the rebels. Then, an unexpected incident occurred: a massive number of Skeleton Monsters appeared out of nowhere within their main city, launching indiscriminate attacks. It was utter chaos.

Unable to remain calm, they immediately abandoned Ryan and others, who were already at the end of their tether, and turned towards the city! If the city were to be destroyed, what would be the purpose of killing the small Rebel Army outside?

"What is happening!? How could so many Skeleton Monsters suddenly appear in our city!?"

The Imperial Marshal and the four generals stared, dumbfounded, at the endless sea of white Skeleton Monsters in the city, their faces filled with shock and astonishment.

"This doesn't seem to be the doing of an ordinary Undead Mage. It's more like the curse of a Dark Force. There are just too many Skeleton Monsters!" The generals looked at each other, their expressions tense.

"Don't they realize this is a challenge against the Empire? Using such Dark Magic and relying on the power of these demons is an insult to us!" Alice said indignantly.

"Now we must focus the power of the entire army to defend Jerusalem City!" Eddie shouted excitedly.

They began to take action, organizing troops for attack, using arrows and magic against the Skeleton Monsters, hoping to curb this onslaught.

"Long live the Empire! Destroy the demons, protect the holy city!"

Swarms of close-combat soldiers yelled slogans as they madly charged into the city, attacking the Skeleton Monsters that were everywhere.

But very soon they realized their mistake. The Skeleton Monsters under Chen Mo's command were simply too powerful for them. They couldn't possibly combat this strength, and the Imperial Army was utterly unable to resist their assaults.

A single volley from the Skeleton Monsters wiped out more than half of their soldiers.

Even if they managed to break through to confront Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters, they wouldn't be able to inflict any substantial damage.

After all, Chen Mo had equipped every Skeleton Monster with a shield that had hundreds of millions of hit points. There was no way they could break through that.

Since you have walked into the net yourselves, don't expect to leave.

Upon seeing the Imperial Army madly charging into the city, Chen Mo ordered the Skeleton Monsters to surround them. This severed their escape route, preventing them from fleeing if defeated.

"We are trapped in the city, what should we do?" a City Guard panicked upon seeing the vast white sea of Skeleton Monsters surrounding them.

"We can only hold on to the very last moment. Even if we die, we die at our posts!" another City Guard replied, his eyes bloodshot.

Knowing there was no way out, all he could do was maintain his integrity as a soldier until the end.

Inspired by this soldier, many others found their last scraps of courage and prepared to resist.

But in the face of absolute power, all their valiant resistance seemed like a joke.

They defended Jerusalem City with their lives, engaging in a fierce battle with the Skeleton Monsters.

The Imperial Army's soldiers attempted every possible means of attack. They used swords and spears to stab at the Skeleton Monsters, attacking them with flames and frost.

But the Skeleton Monsters' shields were too thick. Their attacks were like a clay ox entering the sea, vanishing without a trace and utterly failing to curb the terrifying onslaught of the Skeleton Monsters.

The Skeleton Monsters, aloof as robots, killed any Imperial Army soldier they saw while simultaneously destroying the city's defensive structures.

Chaos engulfed the city, and the soldiers gradually broke down. Chen Mo, however, sat high up, looking down on it all.

The city's streets became a theater of battle. Flames and lightning intertwined. Bursts of magic exploded incessantly, and corpses littered the ground, sending chills down one's spine.

Furthermore, all the dead soldiers rose again in an undead state, having succumbed to become Dark Creatures.

Growls and shrieks from the Skeleton Monsters and the reanimated dead soldiers filled the city, leaving no room for escape. In no time, not a single living creature remained within the city.

"Damn that evil curse! They shall not defile my Empire's soldiers!" Suddenly, Chen Mo felt the temperature in the sky above Jerusalem City surge. The air grew thick with a scorching heat, making it feel intensely hot, like an oven.

He immediately looked up at the sky.

One of the four generals, General Blazing Sun Aina, was waving her magic wand and murmuring incantations. A great magic rune flashed and quickly transformed into a massive fireball, within which a viscous liquid seemed to flow. This fireball now hovered in the sky above Jerusalem City.

Chapter 468: The Abnormally Strong Skeleton Monster! (Combined in One)\_3

With Aina's gesture, the Magma Fireball began to expand continuously, its range growing ever wider.

Soon, the Magma Fireball's coverage extended to the entire interior of the city wall. Within this area, the air became so hot it was difficult to breathe.

As she swung her Magic Wand down, the Magma Fireball in the sky instantly shot towards the vast expanse of white Skeleton Monsters within the city, carrying a scorching gust of wind!

Lava rained from the sky like scorching meteorites, crashing onto the ground with a thunderous roar, releasing intense explosive power and blazing flames.

BOOM! A massive explosion resounded, immediately creating a sea of magma that covered the city's entire interior. The heat from this magma sea even caused the surrounding air to distort and writhe.

Within this scorching hell, the Skeleton Monsters had nowhere to hide. They were all completely swallowed up. The soldiers on the city wall stared in astonishment; they had never before seen General Blazing Sun display such a powerful Spell.

"That's enough, Aina. Don't burn all the supplies in the basement!" Marshal Albert promptly said.

Hearing this, Aina immediately waved her Magic Wand again to withdraw her Magic Power.

Following her action, the scorching hot lava on the ground, which had distorted the air, vanished instantly. It was truly marvelous.

However, even though she withdrew her Magic Power quickly, the entire interior of Jerusalem City had already been reduced to ruins; no buildings remained intact. All that was left was charred rubble and debris.

Of course, aside from these, the vast horde of Skeleton Monsters remained unharmed in their original locations!

"How is that possible?" Aina exclaimed, her expression a mixture of shock and horror.

She was a general of the Imperial Army, immensely powerful. The Skill she had just unleashed, 'Magma Rainfall,' was an ultimate Skill of Minor Forbidden Curse Level!

Even when they were completely submerged and targeted head-on, it had only managed to kill the soldiers who had transformed into Ghosts. However, it failed to incinerate even a single bone fragment of the Skeleton Monsters. These Skeleton Monsters are truly terrifying!

"If even Aina's powerful Skill is ineffective, these Skeleton Monsters are way too monstrous. They're unbeatable! What are we supposed to do?" Marx anxiously asked.

"Gather all those who can use Holy Magic! Holy Magic is perfect for dealing with these Dark Creatures. I have a Skill that will combine well with divine energy!" Albert said, his mind racing.

A dark torrent of a million Skeleton Monsters, led by Chen Mo, swept through the entire Holy City.

Countless soldiers from the Imperial Army lost their lives, unable to resist the onslaught of the Skeleton Monsters.

Now, their only hope lay in the Divine Spells of the Holy Mages.

Only the power of holy attributes could effectively suppress and purify these Skeleton Monsters.

Following Albert's command, those who could use Holy Magic and holy attribute attacks immediately gathered.

They formed a large circle, closed their eyes, and began to concentrate their power.

As they congregated, the surrounding atmosphere began to shift.

A sacred aura began to radiate from them, gradually pervading the entire city.

The sky, already dimming with the approach of night, began to brighten at this moment, its somber hue receding.

With a gesture from Albert, everyone nearby immediately infused their divine energy into his body, and the scene fell silent.

The next moment, a white radiance began to emanate from Albert's palm. Immediately after, a beam of intense Divine Radiance shot from his hand towards the sky.

This radiance was blindingly bright, as if it could illuminate the entire world.

After the radiance shot into the sky, thousands of Divine Light Pillars rained down instantly, like meteors streaking through a rainstorm, bathing the entirety of Jerusalem City in holy light.

As countless Divine Light Pillars descended upon Jerusalem City, the city underwent a profound baptism, as if, in that instant, it had reclaimed its original brilliance and sanctity.

With such formidable divine energy released, everyone believed that these Skeleton Monsters would undoubtedly be purified instantly.

They all looked towards the Skeleton Monsters in the city, eagerly anticipating the sight of these outrageously resilient creatures being eroded into drifting ash under the purification of the holy light!

Chapter 469: Crazy PUA! (Two in One)\_1

But they soon discovered that something was amiss.

When the Divine Light Pillar shone upon the Skeleton Monsters, they seemed to bask in it fearlessly, even daring to gaze directly at the sacred light!

Discovering that these Skeleton Monsters had bizarrely become immune to the suppression and purification of Divine Spells, fear and shock spread throughout the entire Imperial Army!

This shattered their common sense!

The Skeleton Monster Army led by Chen Mo loomed like an insurmountable mountain, pressing heavily on the hearts of the Imperial Army.

They tried ceaselessly to resist but only reaped helplessness and despair.

This war had spiraled beyond their control.

"You've had your fun. Now it's my turn!"

At this moment, Chen Mo, who was in an invisible state, issued the command with a smile.

In an instant, under the stunned gazes of the entire Imperial Army, the Skeleton Monsters that were on the ground suddenly took to the skies.

"How... how can Skeleton Monsters fly?"

"No, this is impossible!"

"These are not ordinary Skeleton Monsters! They're Demons! Demons have invaded our world!"

Albert watched this scene, his expression turning grim.

Despite his vast experience as one of the four Marshals of the Empire, he had never witnessed such a terrifying scene.

Over a million Skeleton Monsters! They were unassailable by physical attacks, impervious to Spells, and even resistant to the sacred strikes meant to suppress them—and now they could fly!

Apart from the Grand Marshal, who could possibly deal with such an unnatural Skeleton Legion?

Albert's eyes filled with despair. There's no way out. These Skeleton Monsters are beyond our capabilities.

All methods had been exhausted, and he could not conceive of any other way to deal with these Skeleton Monsters.

"Sir, since we cannot deal with these Skeleton Monsters, let's gather all our forces and eliminate the Rebel Army! Consider it a final blood offering for the Empire!"

The young General Eddie suggested.

Young people are always full of fervor.

Albert, however, smiled bitterly and shook his head. "Given the strength of these Demons, now that they've invaded, I'm afraid the Rebel Army won't fare well either. We should gather our forces and retreat immediately!"

Without us, they'll likely target the Rebel Army first. There's no need for us to waste our strength!"

Gazing at the vast ocean of flying Skeleton Monsters, Albert didn't believe these creatures had any connection to the Rebel Army.

He simply classified these Skeleton Monsters as a demonic invasion.

Hearing this, the other generals also found it reasonable.

If they retreated before the Rebel Army, they would be accused of treasonous desertion.

But now, facing a Demon Army, it was logical to gather forces and plan strategically; retreating under these circumstances wouldn't be an action that invited criticism.

They all nodded in agreement.

Once the generals had no objections, their subordinates naturally followed suit.

In fact, they had wanted to flee for a long time.

After all, who wouldn't want to leave upon seeing such a terrifying horde of Skeleton Monsters that could neither be killed nor destroyed?

It was only because the Marshal and the four Generals remained that no one dared to make a move.

Otherwise, if they were treated as deserters, it would mean an immediate death sentence.

Now that the Marshal had ordered a retreat, they immediately began to form ranks, eager to escape as quickly as possible.

Unfortunately, Chen Mo gave them no such opportunity!

Just as they were preparing to flee, a streak of light suddenly shot towards them.

This streak of light struck them and then chain-jumped between the Skeleton Monsters and the soldiers.

It was Chen Mo's Infinite Healing Wave.

Simultaneously, the Skeleton Monsters in the sky launched their attack. A volley of arrows rained down along with a barrage of Energy Bullets. WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH! They fell like a torrential downpour onto the Imperial Soldiers on the city wall.

"Shield Soldiers, raise shields! Priests, cast protective shields!"

Albert, after all, was an Imperial Marshal. Even amidst the chaos, he was able to quickly issue the most appropriate commands.

However, though his commands were correct, the enemy was simply too powerful.

Whether it was the shields raised by the Shield Soldiers or the protective shields cast by the Priests, both were like paper, utterly unable to withstand a single barrage from these terrifying Skeleton Monsters.

"Full retreat!"

Seeing that resistance was futile, Albert had no choice but to order the worst possible action: a scattered, indiscriminate retreat.

The main advantage of this tactic was that some personnel might escape. However, it would also reduce the entire army to a disorganized rabble, devoid of any defensive or resistive capabilities. Beyond awaiting death, there was no other prospect.

But now, this was the best—and only—way to save at least some lives.

This strategy might have worked against mindless Skeleton Monsters. However, he wasn't facing true Demons; these Skeleton Monsters were controlled by humans. Escape was impossible for them.

Under Chen Mo's command, the Skeleton Monsters prioritized sniping those who ran at the forefront.

The faster they ran, the faster they died!

Realizing this, the Imperial Army's retreat abruptly slowed to a crawl.

Seeing this, Albert cursed inwardly. Damn it! Why do these Demons seem to possess intelligence? They're specifically targeting those who run the fastest!

While the Imperial Army was thrown into chaos by the Skeleton Monster Army, the Rebel Army, having finally caught their breath outside the city, now gazed at the situation in Jerusalem City with stunned disbelief.

Chapter 470: Crazy PUA! (Two in One)\_2

Ryan noticed something amiss with the Imperial Army up ahead and immediately used his perception to sense the activity in Jerusalem City. When he saw Skeleton Monsters taking to the sky from all over the city, his eyes filled with joyous surprise. As an ally from Chen Mo's faction and one of the ten great leaders, he naturally knew of Chen Mo's abilities. Just like the Heavenly Dao had revealed their abilities to Chen Mo. It was mutual.

"Warriors! Our reinforcements have arrived! The Imperial Army is now being routed from within Jerusalem City by our reinforcements! Now is the time to press our advantage and pursue them! Block their escape; don't let a single one get away! Those willing to surrender will be spared!"

While Ryan was directing the Rebel Army's operations outside the city, Chen Mo had already soared into the air from within. By expending a large amount of Energy, Chen Mo amplified his voice to the extent that everyone in and around Jerusalem City could hear it!

"The Demonic Queen is unprincipled, the Prime Minister tyrannical! The empire's foundations are as precarious as a stack of eggs. We, the Rebel Army, fight to save the world, not to bring chaos! We now offer you the chance to cooperate with us and accomplish this loyal act of purging the court! Given that the empire has long been controlled by treacherous officials, His Majesty the Emperor himself is in dire straits, urgently needing our support and rescue..."

As Chen Mo delivered this brainwashing speech, backed by the dense Skeleton Monster Army behind him—a force that could easily decide the fate of everyone present—all the Imperial Army Soldiers were stunned into silence!

They had all assumed this was a hopeless situation, a certain death. They never imagined there would be a way out?

Moreover, this way out even offered them a way to save face.

According to his words, joining the Rebel Army wouldn't be treason; it would merely be purging the court and helping His Majesty the Emperor eliminate treacherous officials.

This was an act of loyalty!

Of course, whether they truly believed it in their hearts didn't matter. At least for now, their surrender could be justified on the surface.

Being able to convince themselves superficially was enough.

Who would willingly die such a worthless death?

In an instant, a large number of Imperial Army Soldiers cast down their weapons, threw off their armor, and indicated their willingness to surrender.

At this moment, however, Imperial Marshal Albert and the four Generals with him wore extremely grim expressions. Although they also felt that Chen Mo's words were enough to convince them to surrender, they were still conflicted internally.

They knew these words contained more brainwashing than truth; if they wanted to live, they had to pretend to believe.

However, their integrity made it extremely difficult for them to accept such transparent brainwashing tactics.

And if they didn't accept, the only path left for them was death.

Should they cling to life ignominiously, or die heroically? It was a difficult choice.

Of course, they could also choose to feign surrender, but the opposing side had Priests in their ranks.

The Priests could cast a soul control spell!

Given their status, if they surrendered, they would undoubtedly be subjected to such a spell to prevent them from suddenly betraying the army and causing a devastating blow.

So, feigning surrender was definitely not an option.

After all, they wouldn't be able to get past the Priests' soul control.

Now, it was either genuine surrender or a gallant death.

Albert glanced at the four Generals behind him and asked, "What do you all think?"

At this, Eddie, the most hot-headed among them, immediately retorted, "I think he's spouting nonsense! There's no credibility to it! The Queen Mother is His Majesty the Emperor's birth mother, and Lord Prime Minister is His Majesty's maternal uncle. They would never harm His Majesty!"

"Even if, hypothetically, they would, don't forget everyone, the Grand Marshal is still by His Majesty's side. With the Grand Marshal's strength and status, even the Queen Mother and Lord Prime Minister must show her due respect. Moreover, she answers only to His Majesty. If His Majesty were truly threatened, he would only need to turn to the Grand Marshal to resolve any problem. What need would there be for any Rebel Army to rectify the court! It's all utter nonsense!"

Hearing this, Albert and the other three Generals all gave bitter smiles. They had been trying to convince themselves, but now, this hot-headed Eddie had extinguished that last possibility.

Indeed!

With the Grand Marshal around, how could His Majesty the Emperor possibly be threatened by anyone?

The Grand Marshal merely needs to step forward, and no one else would stand a chance.

Whether it's the Queen Mother or the Prime Minister.

Whether they wield immense political power or possess world-shaking might.

Before the Grand Marshal, they are all a joke.

Now that the reasoning was laid bare, there was no longer any basis for self-deception.

Albert felt a pang of regret for asking the question. He had originally hoped to get a couple of those who didn't want to die to voice some words of agreement, and then they could all surrender together. But now, this hot-headed Eddie had completely blocked off that path.

Just as they resigned themselves to death, Chen Mo's figure suddenly descended nearby.

These were five important figures. If he could persuade them to surrender, the benefits would be immense.

Seeing that they weren't making a desperate last stand, Chen Mo felt there was a chance to persuade them.

So, he decided to approach them personally for a chat.

"Gentlemen, are you interested in having a chat?"

As Chen Mo landed, the millions of Skeleton Monsters behind him descended in unison, landing neatly on the ground.

Seeing such a vast, dense horde of Skeleton Monsters behind Chen Mo, the expressions of Albert and his men turned grim.

Initially, they had mistaken these beings for mere Demons.