

God level 106

Chapter 106: The Hell Race of the American Zone

Da Fei was startled as he looked through the telescope at the long row of ships. Flying suddenly turned as Catherine exclaimed from the pilot house: "Captain, the enemy ships are all fast rowing assault vessels with ramming prows installed at their bows which have massive destructive power. We can't outrun them here, and once they ram into us, the consequences will be unimaginable! Let's take evasive action now while they haven't spotted us!"

Da Fei was alarmed and filled with fear! Indeed, the calm underground seas are perfect for these rowing boats! What if these dozens or even hundreds of ships charged at him?

At that moment, the Flower Demon Instructor flew over and pointed at the black smoke rising from the distant ships: "My lord, that's corrupted soil extracted from lava by the Demons, which can cause great damage to the roots of the World Tree!"

So that's it! Looks like the players from the Hell Race's task is to transport this soil into the Pool of Radiance and pollute it extensively? Damn! Are you kidding me? With the mission in this state, it can't possibly be completed by me alone, right? Although I am a brilliant rising star and can take on ten at a time, surely I can't handle a hundred by myself?

Scout!

Da Fei stealthily dispatched an Elite Charm Emperor. Although Deirdre had warned that the enemy would be on high alert, the shore was so noisy right now, how alert could they possibly be? Speaking of which, in the fight where we just killed that hero, the attributes of the Charm Emperor had slightly increased once again:

— Growing Elite Charm Emperor: A small-sized Elite Demon Creature, Attack 18, Defense 11, Damage 17-23, Life 141, Attack Speed 11, Command Value 12, Special Skills: Long-range Shooting, Flying Creature, Scout, War Plunder, Agile Evasion, Charming Technique.

Attack +1, Life +4! That was the growth from the recent battle.

But the same goes for killing an Epic Hero, defeating someone like Asmode directly resulted in significant growth, but killing this old man only added a bit to the attributes, what's that? Diminishing returns in later stages of growth? Or did the old man just not have as many level 8 hero nutrients? No matter what, at least one thing is certain: in the end, a game is just a game, not a scientific research or life engineering project, fighting is the simplest way to improve combat capabilities!

So, let's fight! I don't believe it, even such haughtily powerful level 8 military heroes along with crafty ones have been taken down by me, what can these broken ships do to me?

Da Fei raised his telescope to continue observing the ships on the distant shore.

Upon closer inspection, those rowing ships were actually just large manned rowboats. They had low hulls with no Crossbow Cannons, and most importantly, there was no protection whatsoever on the ship – completely exposed to attacks from Crossbow Cannons and Jungle Hunters. In other words, as they charged towards me, I could shoot them down from my higher position! As long as I'm not surrounded, I still have a huge advantage. Plus, I have a large group of Flower Demons to cause chaos on the enemy ships. Having an air force in a naval battle really does give me an overwhelming advantage! Damn, looking at it this way, isn't my ship an aircraft carrier? Wahaha, anyway, as long as the Hell Race doesn't have a Great Demon, everything should be fine. Could there possibly be a Great Demon among the current players? Impossible!

So, I need to hold steady! Even against a million, I shall go forth!

However, I can't stay calm about the scroll matter! It's like those who win the second prize in a lottery, not only are they not happy, but they are also angry enough to spit blood: "Just one number off! Originally, I really meant to pick that number! Damn it!", Da Fei never won a lottery, let alone a second prize, but now he could finally understand that feeling! The difference between millions and tens of millions is like the difference between second and first prizes, enough to trouble a person for a lifetime! Not to mention, not every second prize even wins tens of thousands! This is called being stuck in one's thoughts and not enjoying one's wealth comfortably, it's the pain of rich people!

How should I set a price? So painful! Wahaha! Anyway, let me take another look at the forum!

...

West Coast of the United States, Los Angeles.

In the basement garage of a building, a diverse group of teenagers gathered noisily. Some waved baseball bats, some showed off their skateboard tricks, some danced street dance energetically, and others were spray painting the walls of the garage.

A door swung open, and colorful lights and rock music mixed with women's laughter spilled out. The group of teenagers immediately stood respectfully in line on either side of the doorway.

A fat man stepped out and flung out some cash: "Twenty cases of beer! Ten minutes!"

The teenagers responded thunderously: "YES! SIR!" In a flash, they sped out of the garage on their skateboards.

This unassuming underground bar in the basement garage, named "Desire Hell", is actually a branch of the world-renowned U.S. Supernova Team's Los Angeles Hell Team. Those teenagers at the door were trying to join the team but had yet to succeed. To show their sincerity, they used this place as a gathering center and enthusiastically helped with chores and deliveries for the bar.

The garage was dark and silent, the entrance to the bar inconspicuous, but inside the bar, it was a different world. Upon entering, there was a dance floor with passionate pole-dancing girls. The walls of the bar were covered with high-definition big screens showing game scenes. Bunny-eared beauties wearing only aprons laughed hilariously as they served drinks and snacks to the team members lounging on sofas wearing helmets. The players would then slap their greasy hands on the smooth buttocks of the server girls, provoking a round of raucous laughter.

This wasn't hell; this was the paradise that the garage teenagers aspired to!

In the center, on a large sofa, the massive team captain Howell took a swig of beer and laughed heartily, asking: "Peterson, how much longer?"

Beside him on the sofa, a skinny, pale-faced curly-haired man retorted grumpily: "The Japanese are not in a hurry, what are you rushing for?"

Howell burst out laughing: "I really want to see the ridiculous look on the faces of the Japanese!"

Shake shook his head: "It won't be more than 2 hours."

Howell grumbled: "Why is it still so long."

"It's already been moved up significantly; it was supposed to be after 8 a.m. tomorrow, but there's a very powerful player in the China Region who is rapidly advancing the process."

Howell laughed heartily: "Confident?"

Shake coldly smiled: "That depends on whether the Japanese give me a chance to enter the game."

Howell burst out laughing: "Of course! The Japanese are only good at business. When it comes to fighting, they have pig brains – in the past, now, and in the future! Only we, Great America, are the strongest on Earth – in the past, now, and in the future! Neither the Japanese nor the Chinese can shake our status! Be it military, politics, sports, or gaming! We'll make the Japanese realize that even in gaming they can never be first! They should just obediently listen up!"

Shake coldly smiled: "Every time I hear you flaunt your patriotism, I feel like throwing up! I hear your broken leg crying!"

Howell laughed out loud: "Kid, that's a hymn from hell!"

Howell, a retired Lieutenant from the U.S. Marine Corps, is a fervent patriot who mercilessly attacks enemies that infringe on American and global American interests, or rather, he is a butcher who kills fervently in the name of patriotism. His right leg was blown off by a landmine in Iraq, and he has no regrets in life. Game ID: Wolverine, Hero Special Ability: Overwhelmer, every level up grants the hero 1% extra damage against small-sized creatures.

Peterson, former U.S. Army Sergeant stationed in Afghanistan, drone operator. He was a seasoned hacker before enlisting. He was discharged for excessively using drones to kill civilians during his service.

For him, ordinary games no longer satisfy him, which is why he was eager to enlist and go to Afghanistan, where ordinary soldiers least want to go. Game ID: SawSaw.

His Hero Special Ability is: Great Demon Commander! Teleportation distance of Great Demons is increased by 50%, and their damage is boosted by 10%.

Yes! It's a level 7 troop's special ability! It's the special ability of Seren, a Legendary Hero from the Hell Race!

Heroic Creation Era is a game developed based on American military engines, and naturally, the United States knows more secrets than other partners. Although it does not cheat by exploiting backdoors, having knowledge about the mechanisms of lotteries means a higher chance of encountering powerful heroes compared to other countries.

And SawSaw, possessing this special ability, was born a level 7 troop Great Demon! Only Great Demons can command Great Demons!

Actually, the quality of Hell Race in the American Zone is not inferior to that of the Japan Region, but America's international image dictates that the Supernova Team cannot develop the Hell Race. Therefore, the Hell Race accounts end up with a group of veterans, somewhat mentally unstable due to various discharges, receiving real psychological healing in this artificial hell created in the bar, and their talents are truly realized, representing the highest level of esports; but their reputation is not notable, as they are too high-spirited to compete with professional players for fame and profit, perhaps only psychologists and psychiatrists know what they're thinking.

Now, SawSaw has perfectly returned from the novice trials of purgatory, and he and his buddies can't wait to stir up something in the world.

...

System Prompt pulled Da Fei back from the noisy forum once again, the Charming Emperor returned from reconnaissance.

Damn it, what's the use of watching forums? I'm underground, unable to trade with others. Better honestly complete the task first.

The Charming Emperor reported: "Master! I have important intelligence about the instructor!"

Eh? She can talk now? While surprised, a Task Hint appeared:

—Master, I have transformed into an apprentice of an Evil Mage and successfully infiltrated the enemy's main Magic Tower. This is a great opportunity to create chaos! I can operate this Magic Tower!

Da Fei's brow twitched! Damn, worthy of being my darling, truly incredible!

Chapter 107: Transforming into Spiderman to Infiltrate

The game's progression always had a pattern to follow. Da Fei took out all the Mages in the newly built Magic Watchtower, so the old watchtowers had to pull people out to fill the vacancies, leaving the old watchtowers understaffed. Thus, the disguised Deirdre naturally blended in. As for how Deirdre, after infiltrating, would relay the intelligence, this question didn't need to be tangled with, because this was a game, not scientific research; what the NPCs said was what it was.

What did it mean once you controlled a powerful old watchtower? Of course, it meant blasting everything around, especially that row of broken ships by the shore! Once they were cleared, it was time to skedaddle. Da Fei made a decisive decision, and the sneaking operation commenced again!

So, Da Fei discussed a plan with Katrina for meeting up, and the Flying set sail for the watchtower where Deirdre was located. Upon arriving at the destination, the Flying continued to hide behind the roots of a large tree, and Da Fei again activated Stealth and Phantom March, diving into the water and swimming all the way to the shore; the first step went smoothly.

At this moment, Da Fei found himself wedged between two Hell Warships, with Demon Infants hopping around, transporting goods onto the ships, and along the shore were Horned Demon Governors standing guard every three steps. The line of guards stretched along the lakeshore as far as the eye could see!

Da Fei was instantly dumbfounded! Damn! They were using a human Great Wall to bolster security? Even with his God-level Reconnaissance Technique, he couldn't slip through such tightly packed spaces, could he? Reconnaissance Skills weren't the same as Invisibility Techniques! Admittedly, this method, though primitive, was very effective, and it left Da Fei in a bit of a pickle for a moment.

What to do? Cut a bloody path through? Damn, don't joke around. Deirdre had said that any commotion would provoke the Magic Tower to launch indiscriminate attacks. Perhaps he could cause a commotion and have them indiscriminately destroy these ships as well? Could the game really be that unreliable?

Wait a minute, something was still off! During the last operation, he clearly saw a puddle in the photo, allowing him to hide from Hellhounds; but there weren't any puddles nearby now. Even if he smuggled himself ashore, the Hellhounds would inevitably discover him!

Da Fei was dumbfounded again! Was this the rumored technique that's ineffective against a Saint the second time? No way, was this task forcing players to confront head-on? Was the quest that much of a trap unless he could fly like a Banshee—

Fly? Da Fei looked up at the sky; the Underworld had no sky, just a ceiling.

Right, wasn't that Spider Hero invading the barrier from the ceiling? He could try walking on the ceiling too, who knows if it might work.

Da Fei opened the C-level treasure Cliff Walker Backpack he got from the Spider Hero, and rather than a backpack, it resembled a grotesque organ, a spider's silk sac? From the item's description, it seemed like a climbing grappling hook; he would try it out in a safe place.

Da Fei quietly swam back and hid behind a tree root where no one could see him. Click to use! A red line similar to a crosshair shot upward from the backpack's opening. Oh yeah, it even had target indication!

—System Prompt: Please choose a climbing entry point.

Right there, confirm!

Bang! With a dull thud, a thick white line shot out from the backpack following the red line's target, sticking to a chunk of rock on the ceiling with a slap. Oh yeah? The backpack deflated? Sure enough, it was spider silk! It was indeed a silk sac!

—System Prompt: Adhesive point completed, using the stationary retraction feature or reverse retraction feature allows you to execute various climbing actions.

Stationary retraction? Reverse retraction? Da Fei pulled on the unstirring silk line and realized, of course, it was reverse retraction!

Immediately, the deflated backpack began to inflate like taking a breath, while Da Fei also slowly ascended to the ceiling! Wahahaha! So that's how it worked! The so-called stationary retraction is just like a fishing rod reeling line. Compared to ordinary grappling hooks, this thing had an exceptionally long range, didn't require any skills, no effort on one's part, and most importantly, it didn't require specific entry points, damn, it really was a treasure! Even though it was a C-level item and couldn't contribute to an army, it was a Divine Artifact for players sneaking into a city! The legendary 3D Maneuvering Device! Truly worthy equipment from the Spider Hero, here he was turning into Spiderman!

Now, with most of the silk line retracted into the bag, Da Fei was hanging from the ceiling, taking in the bustling shoreline view. Through the barrier, he peeked outside, seeing Hellhounds patrolling in scattered groups! Damn, they really trapped his God-level Stealth!

But, he came from the sky! Wahahaha!

Da Fei again aimed his backpack at a protruding rock ahead on the ceiling, spraying sticky silk, and now, with two points and one line, the elevator turned into a roller coaster cable car! It was simply a cozy ride!

Now, Da Fei grew more adept at using the treasure, continuously spraying line and retracting along the ceiling, a few jumps later he was out of the barrier, crossed the lake beach, and hung quietly above the main Magic Tower as mentioned by Deirdre.

On the mini-map, the green dot representing Deirdre was right below in the tower. And on the tower's top were hundreds of Flower Demons being held. It truly was the main tower; if successful, rescuing

these hundreds of Flower Demons would make his Flower Demon Army strong enough to storm the insect nest in the Pool of Radiance.

Now, utmost caution was necessary, and as Da Fei prepared to control a Charming Emperor for reconnaissance, angry roars echoed from the tower.

—"Idiot! Useless! What exactly can you do? How did you sneak in as an apprentice?"

Da Fei's heart skipped a beat, who was getting scolded?

The roar resounded again: "Spirit Magic? That's not needed here! If I didn't lack personnel now, I'd chop you up to feed the Hellhounds!"

Da Fei's heart raced, releasing silk to let himself dangle down, and at this angle, he saw a flame-engulfed Mage furiously pointing at a black-robed masked apprentice through the watchtower's upper window.

Damn! That apprentice was the green dot on the mini-map; it was Deirdre! And that Mage, ablaze head to toe, was standing on a brilliant red aura, damn! A hero! The main tower was guarded by a hero?

Now things got big! Was this her so-called successful infiltration into the Magic Tower?

She, a Banshee, only knew charming spells, posing as an NPC apprentice yet lacked real substance! In reality, she and apprentice weren't the same type of NPC at all.

NPCs in the game were roughly divided into troop units, hero units, and ordinary NPCs. Troops and hero units could be recruited by players into armies, with their data following strict level settings and balance settings. Ordinary NPCs wouldn't join player teams; they were just wandering characters on the street, with rather loose data settings, for instance, if an NPC Mage Apprentice was said to have a certain amount of health, then that's it, and if said to know Fireball Technique, then they did.

So now Deirdre was in an extremely dangerous situation, on the verge of being exposed! What to do? If exposed, he'd have no choice but to sacrifice himself to distract the hero, covering Deirdre's escape!

The Mage continued to berate, “Although we’re short-handed here, having an extra useless fool is worse than continuing to be short-handed! Though you’re a waste, even a sanitary pad or a pair of underwear has its use, since you know Spirit Magic, I’ll give you a simple task and if my patrol returns and you still haven’t completed it, wait to be dog food!”

—System Prompt: You have received the time-limited mission “Clear the Mischievous Resentful Spirits in the Cleft”!

—Task Hint: Deirdre must complete the task assigned by the hero Siriel before his patrol ends, or else her situation will be perilous.

Da Fei’s jaw dropped! Damn, what was this? He received a quest from the enemy?

Chapter 108: Taking on the Enemy’s Mission is Quite Exhilarating

Deirdre, transformed into an apprentice, walked out of the tower and headed deeper underground.

Good, she’s out! This is escaping the jaws of death. This transformation infiltration no longer seems reliable. It’s crucial to abandon the mission and make a run for it. Without further thought, Da Fei immediately flew high along the ceiling, trying to contact her.

Crossing layers of underground workshops, construction sites, and lava pools, Deirdre reached a secluded part behind the Demon Camp where there were hardly any people. Da Fei finally could speak to her and descended from the sky.

Deirdre exclaimed with delight, “Master!”

Although wearing a mask, her voice remained clear and seductive, and her black robe still failed to cover her alluring figure. Damn, are you sure you’ve transformed?

Da Fei hurried to say, “The situation has changed, we can’t eliminate that hero named Siriel controlling the Magic Tower. Abandon the mission, let’s get out of here.”

Deirdre sighed, “I managed to sneak into the Magic Tower successfully, but the Hell Race suddenly sent a Mage instructor hero for onsite apprentice training. I was caught at once—but I don’t want to miss this opportunity!”

Da Fei was shocked, “Opportunity?”

Deirdre nodded, “That’s right. This Siriel is a famous Demon mentor. Normally, you can’t even meet him. If it weren’t for the war temporarily expanding many Magic Towers and recruiting a lot of apprentices, and due to the severe issues exposed from your attack, this Demon mentor wouldn’t have appeared. It’s said that he trained many renowned hero commanders. If I can perform well and gain his appreciation, I might receive inspiration to become a hero!”

Da Fei anxiously said, “No, no! If the mission isn’t completed, you’ll be in danger!”

Deirdre laughed softly, leaning softly against Da Fei, and said in a gentle voice, “But how could a man bear to kill a woman?”

—Apu! Da Fei spat out a mouthful of blood! What the heck, is this the legendary tale of female students and professors? Luckily, this is a game, otherwise, I’d have risked everything to blow up that tower and crush him!

Da Fei sighed inwardly. It seemed she was determined to take this risk. Given the current situation, running away wouldn’t solve anything. It wouldn’t work out to rely on that single Flower Demon barracks to accumulate soldiers, right? Since I don’t know how to cultivate her into a hero, let’s just do as she wishes. Once she becomes a hero, I won’t have to worry about her safety. I’ll support her. Even if she doesn’t become a hero, gaining further trust will be beneficial for our actions.

Da Fei then asked, “Can you use help on the task of clearing the Resentful Spirits?”

Deirdre smiled, “Thank you for your support, Master. I do urgently need help! The quicker I complete the task, the more likely I’ll be appreciated.”

“Then let’s act quickly.”

The so-called chasm should be the dumping ground for the Demons. All creatures that resisted them were killed and piled up here, forming a stinking Bone Mountain. Where there are dead bodies, there are usually Resentful Spirits, which are common task monsters in the game. Their attack strategy mainly includes haunted houses, pranks, and sabotage, which are indeed troublemakers (thrilling). This might be the reason the mentor issued this task.

As Nihility Bodies, the Resentful Spirits had excellent physical evasion attributes and could absorb the enemy's mana to replenish their own life, qualifying them as the most annoying level 3 units. Their weakness was fear of Spirit Magic such as "Soul Scream" and "Banshee's Howl." Unfortunately, Deirdre, who claimed expertise in Spirit Magic in front of the mentor, still could not master these spells and urgently needed help. Da Fei, with two Elite Charm Emperors in tow, indeed provided strong support with his attack and defense bonuses.

Normal Banshees had low damage, limiting the power of their Chain Shooting. But elite and BOSS-level Banshees were different, and with lightning flashing continuously, the roaming Resentful Spirits in the chasm were cleared.

—System Prompt: Deirdre completed the task "Clear the Disruptive Resentful Spirits in the Chasm" within the time limit. Please return to Siriel immediately to report.

Deirdre exclaimed in joy, "Thank you, Master! Completing the task so quickly will definitely make the mentor see me differently."

Da Fei suddenly said, "Wait, there's still one left!"

Deirdre exclaimed in surprise, "Another one?"

Da Fei nodded solemnly. Indeed, Da Fei's mini-map radar still showed a red dot, which hadn't been paid much attention to initially. It wasn't until the task was completed that it was noticed that there was still a monster uncleared. This meant the monster had never shown itself.

Da Fei knew that the world seen with his God-level Reconnaissance Skill differed from ordinary players, so this monster that had never shown itself might be a hidden BOSS! With such a big Bone Mountain and such a huge scene, it's only reasonable to have a BOSS, right? If it hasn't shown itself yet is such a big red dot, wouldn't it be like a sun if it did show up?

Ghost Vengeful Spirits and the like are usually defined as Plane creatures, which means that it should be hiding in the Otherworld. The Otherworld is within the reconnaissance range of his God-level Reconnaissance Skill and the attack range of the Phantom Crossbow Cannon! Yet, without bringing the Phantom Crossbow Cannon and uncertain if time permitted to kill the BOSS, according to workplace principles, it's always best to ask permission early and report results late. Although independently acting employees might surprise their leaders, more often they displeased them.

Da Fei, with a plan in mind, immediately said, "Here's the chance to achieve great feats and genuinely make the mentor see you differently! You report back and say there's still a powerful Resentful Spirit hidden, and ask the mentor if you should kill it! The mentor will surely be amazed by your discovery and talent and approve of your plan to kill it, then we'll finish off this Resentful Spirit and surprise him!"

Deirdre, filled with joy, said, "Okay, I'll report back immediately!"

Da Fei nodded, "Time is tight, let's act quickly. I'll go back now to fetch the crossbow cannon to deal with it!"

Da Fei set the two Charm Emperors to Independent Expedition status, letting them stay in place, hide, and then found a lava pool to jump in. Oh yeah! Indeed, the fastest way to return was to die and revive! That's the convenience of games.

Da Fei revived in the Captain's cabin, rushed to the gun cabin to dismantle the Phantom Crossbow Cannon.

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At this moment, the Magic Watchtower. Deirdre was glancing around at the door, waiting for Shireka's arrival.

Boom! Amid the roar of flames, Shireka, having inspected other watchtowers, made a grand entrance via Teleportation Movement. His attitude remained arrogant, "It seems you're quite smug about your success?"

Deirdre immediately responded, “No, mentor—”

Shireka shouted angrily, “Shut up! You are not worthy!”

Deirdre hastily said, “Report to the General, although I cleared all the Resentful Spirits, a stronger one remains hidden. I request instructions from the General on whether to kill it?”

Sure enough, Shireka’s entire body of flames suddenly trembled, “A stronger Resentful Spirit? How did you discover it?”

Deirdre smiled coquettishly, “A woman’s intuition...”

Shireka laughed wildly, “Is that so? Then as you wish, go eliminate it with your woman’s intuition! There’s no time limit for this task, but I hope you can make it for the handover shift by tomorrow morning!”

—System Prompt: Deirdre received the task “Eliminate the Culprit in the Chasm!”

At this moment, Da Fei, having finished packaging the Phantom Crossbow Cannon, clenched his fist with joy upon seeing this information, “Oh yeah!”

Damn, why am I not as happy accepting my task as I am excited about an enemy’s task? This isn’t good, not good...

Chapter 109: Deirdre Becomes an Apprentice

For Da Fei, who had transformed into Spiderman, the Demon Camp might as well be an uninhabited land. Just like that old spider who also could use advanced Stealth, it was a case of an eye for an eye.

Da Fei once again arrived at the corpse-strewn ravine, where Deirdre had been waiting for a long time. No need for words, he found a spot to assemble the Crossbow Cannon. There was no space to set up the

cannon on the bone-covered mountain as it was too uneven, and it also grossed out Da Fei; he found a flat ground just within range of the red dot.

The downside of Extreme Shooting is the reduced damage, but the advantage is the longer range, which provides enough time to reload for a second shot. Although the Ghost Vengeful Spirit is a Flying Soldier, nicknamed “Piaopiao,” it is as slow as some infantry. Together with the “Shake,” the level 2 Flying Soldier Stone-statue Ghost from the Mage Academy, they are known as the Piaoyao Combination, the game’s only two flying units that are slower than some foot soldiers.

So even if the first round doesn’t kill the enemy, there is still plenty of time for Da Fei to reload. By that time, the enemy would have just entered full range, ready for a critical hit.

The assembly of the Crossbow Cannon begins. The annoying thing about War Machine Science is that a whole day in game time is only 2.4 hours, but it takes half an hour just fiddling with the Crossbow Cannon.

Ten minutes later, the assembly of the Crossbow Cannon is complete.

Bro can’t wait any longer! Oh, wait! The ghost’s special skill has a 50% chance to dodge attacks, with the third attack guaranteed to hit after two consecutive dodges. What if Bro’s luck is terrible and both shots from the double-shot Crossbow Cannon are dodged? That would be disgusting. And this ghost is definitely a BOSS, who knows if it can cast spells? If it isn’t severely damaged, who knows what kind of counterattack it will unleash?

Nothing more to say, when levelling up to level 27, I saved up 1 Skill Point, and learned Triple Crossbow.

—Triple Crossbow: After mastering precise Arrow Skill, the hero gets enlightened, pushing the Crossbow Cannon to its limits to fire three arrows at once. The price is the Crossbow Cannon’s Durability will continuously decrease.

Learning prerequisites: Master War Machine Science, Master Level Archery, Crossbow Master.

Bro’s current force composition consists of the Crossbow Cannon and ranged troops, there’s no reason not to learn this sub-skill derived from Arrow Skill and War Machine Science. As for the reduction in

Durability, utterly ignore it. The Phantom Crossbow Cannon isn't mine to keep anyway, I wouldn't be heartbroken if it breaks.

—System Prompt: You spent 1 Skill Point and learned the combined sub-skill "Triple Crossbow"!

Master-level Crossbow Cannon stats are 30 Attack, 6-7 Basic Damage. At level 27, Bro has a total of 26 upgrade attribute points plus 5 attribute points from Junior Navigator, giving a total of 31 points, with $\text{Total Damage} = \text{Basic Damage} \times \text{Total attribute points} = 186-217$. With a 150% bonus from 30 Attack, it comes to 465-542 damage, and with 30 Magic Power Enchantment, the damage from Master-level Ice Pillar Magic is 468 points. Bro's cannon deals a damage of a thousand! Even with physical damage reduced by half at maximum range, 800 damage is still there.

In short, even if Bro is incredibly unlucky and two shots miss due to dodges, the third shot can still blast 800 of its health! It's equivalent to the damage of a one-shot kill of a 900-health crocodile on Pirate Island! Since a ghost has no form or body, how high could its Blood Defense be? Higher than a crocodile?

Now everyone is in position and ready, aim!

—System Prompt: Your Phantom Crossbow Cannon has locked onto an unknown target from another plane, do you wish to attack?

Attack!

The base of the Phantom Crossbow Cannon burst into a dazzling magical light, boom pop pop pop! Three shots go off in succession, the Crossbow Arrows turn into three flashes of white light that disappear into thin air as soon as they leave the barrel, and then boom boom boom! The space around the target violently warps, and ice shards explode everywhere—Miss! -612! -598!

A horrifying scream echoed through the ravine, deafening, and -40 damage popped above Da Fei's head! At the same time, a large cloud of white mist appeared in the middle of the bone mountain! Damn it! Soul Scream! Such a large formation! In that instant, Da Fei's minimap was lit up with red!

Although not the worst-case scenario since only one shot was dodged, the Resentful Spirit's Blood Defense was beyond imagination! Plus, even at that distance, it was able to hit with a spell for 40 health, what would happen if it got closer?

"Take cover! Don't fire!!!" Da Fei shouted at Deirdre while hurriedly reloading, with a herd of grass-mud horses galloping through his mind! How cruel is the world outside this barrier? Is this map not really a place for someone of Bro's level?

But Bro has always been unlucky in life, always preparing for the worst while hoping for the best! Moreover, it's not bad luck yet. Come on, Bro doesn't believe he won't flip you over with the second shot!

The white fog blanketing the valley flashed with lightning, illuminating the entire Underground World, and Da Fei's eyes narrowed in shock!

Damn it! Lightning Strike!!!

And at that moment, a piercing scream erupted from the Demon Camp, like a gust of wind sweeping through, and the white fog in the valley suddenly shuddered. The screen filled with "-3" "-4" "-2" damage numbers dazzling Da Fei's in-app purchase-gilded helmet dog eyes! At the same time, a -50 damage number popped over Da Fei's head! Amidst the indiscriminate screen-wide assault, the lightning in the rising white fog disappeared without a trace!

What was that? Regardless, it bought precious time for Da Fei to reload! Da Fei was ecstatic, his hands never stopped, and he finished loading the Crossbow Cannon! Without thinking about anything else, Da Fei kicked the trigger fiercely!

—Boom pop pop pop!!! The Triple Crossbow Cannon shots whistled through the air! During the third shot, a rainbow light soared! The Misfortune Hourglass finally paid its respects to Dad! -634! -Miss! -1156!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have slain a Tree Elf Vengeful Spirit, and gained Experience +360,000! You have obtained a B-class strategic treasure Tree Elf Bow, and received the quest item "Tree Elf Heart".

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have leveled up to 28! You have gained +1 free attribute point...

—System Prompt: Deirdre has completed the quest “[Slay the Culprit in the Ravine!]”

—System Prompt: After the fierce battle, your Charming Emperor’s Army has grown!

Deirdre jumped out from her hiding place excitedly cheering: “Master! We’ve won!”

Da Fei burst out laughing! This Demon Camp really lived up to its high-security state, what timely and satisfying help! Thanks, haha! This map truly is no place for a brother to mingle in, I almost took a fall.

—System Prompt: Reconnaissance Skill warning! A large number of troops are approaching you! Please be on alert.

Da Fei was so shocked his jaw dropped to the ground! Holy shit! Could it be the sudden appearance of a BOSS has alarmed the Demon Army? What am I thanking them for? I can hide, but what about the Phantom Crossbow Cannon?

Deirdre exclaimed in shock, “Master, quick, hide!”

At this point, there was only one way out. Da Fei hurriedly said to Deirdre, “Just say that the crossbow cannon is yours!”

After finishing his sentence, he activated Stealth and Spiderman took off into the sky.

Soon after, dust billowed, and a large group of Hell Horses and Hellhounds appeared, along with several Hell Barons. One of the Hell Barons stood out and galloped over to Deirdre, asking sternly, “Who are you? I don’t remember seeing someone like you in the camp?”

Fuck, another level 8 hero soldier! Could this give us away? Da Fei, huddled under the ground, was sweating bullets in tension.

Deirdre hurriedly said, "I'm a student of Master Siriel, I've been sent here on the orders of my mentor to clear out hazards in the rubbish heap!"

A flash of red light shone from the Hell Baron's helmet, "I think you're the hazard!" He exclaimed and prepared to bring down his Flame Cutting Horse Saber with a swing!

Run!!! Da Fei was almost screaming in terror. Deirdre was ready to roll on the spot when suddenly— Boom! A blast of flames exploded in front of the Hell Baron, pushing him and his horse back several steps, and a Mage engulfed in flames appeared in the midst.

As if meeting a savior, Deirdre shamelessly rolled behind him, clasping his thighs and cried out, "Mentor! Save me!"

Da Fei felt his heart drop from his throat to the ground and shatter. My dear heart, that scared the hell out of me!

Siriel snorted coldly. Although he was not pleased to be forcefully addressed as a mentor by this shameless student, under the current circumstances, he could not deny it either, lest he be mocked by other Demons as cowardly and not willing to protect his own.

"Lord Alistair, just after I took office today, I discovered the issues in the bone pile. You've been here for so long and haven't noticed a thing, which shows that the recent problems are all related to your incompetence!"

Alistair snorted coldly as well, "Everyone knows, that here lies a Guardian of the World Tree that I have exterminated. As long as it's left alone, there will be no trouble. I advise you not to overstep your authority and meddle in things you shouldn't. Your job is to teach!" With a whoosh, he led his troops away in a cloud of dust.

Da Fei breathed a sigh of relief. Now he just had to get past this guy.

At that moment, Deirdre sweetly smiled, "Thank you for saving me, mentor!"

Siriel grunted and went straight to the Phantom Crossbow Cannon, saying in a surprised tone, “What is this?”

Da Fei tensed up once more!

Deirdre, with great admiration and exaggerated tone, accompanied by gesticulating hands and feet, said, “This is a peerless invention by a great genius Mage from the surface world, which I managed to steal with great effort. Mentor, you will surely be awed and overwhelmed by it!”

Da Fei almost pissed himself! Hey hey hey, my dear heart, you can’t screw me over, that’s my precious treasure!

“Pfft! Boring!” Siriel indeed snorted with contempt, turning away without giving the crossbow cannon another glance. Da Fei was stunned again. So this guy’s got an attitude, huh? The more you praise it, the less he cares? This temperament, I like it, wahaha!

“Speak, Banshee, what is your intention?”

Da Fei’s heart skipped a beat. Did he give us away?

Deirdre immediately knelt down, “I want to become your student!”

Siriel burst into flames all over, “I can’t teach someone too foolish, it would only damage my reputation! However, after what just happened, whether or not you’re my student, you are now. Fortunately, you killed that Resentful Spirit without shaming me, so I’ll reluctantly take you in!”

Pshaw! A professor reluctantly taking in a beautiful student my ass, I’m this close to beating you up!

Deirdre was overjoyed, “Thank you, mentor!”

Siriel snorted, “Come see me in the tower, you’ll have to start from the basics!” With a boom, he disappeared from view.

Oh yeah! Done deal! But why does my heart feel so sour?

(Before the holiday, I was busy revising for two days, and the pressure is quite heavy on me a part-time author with a scheduled release on the first of October coming up. So dear readers, please allow me to save up three days' worth of writing, updating once a day for today, tomorrow, and the day after, and I'll have a burst of updates during the National Day holiday. Thank you all for your support!)

Chapter 110: Replace Destruction Target

Now that everyone had scattered, Da Fei could finally focus on disassembling the crossbow cannon, although his mood was quite complicated. Sigh, sending the kids off to school, a parent always has to give them some pocket money or equipment or something. Even though that evil mage scoffed at the Phantom Crossbow Cannon, you could tell from the first glance he was quite shocked.

Damn, this is an invention by Makar, a big name in the Death Lord's official lore, not like that nobody Siriel, right? You can't help but be shocked, can you? Maybe, without this astonishing crossbow cannon, Siriel might not have gained Deirdre's allegiance just by killing a boss. What if the mage wants to take a look when he's bored and Deirdre can't produce it? Yeah, our word is our bond, so for now, this Phantom Crossbow Cannon can only be equipped by Deirdre; it's her capital for being relied upon.

Da Fei handed the packaged crossbow cannon and the "Maintenance and Upkeep of Crossbow Cannons" skill book he had found on the ship to Deirdre, advising her, "Be extremely careful!"

"Deirdre doesn't have the War Machine Skill; without this booklet for disassembling the crossbow cannon, it's absolutely a no-go." Furthermore, Deirdre isn't a hero, so even if you threw a War Machine Study Skill Book in front of her, she could only stare blankly, unable to learn it. This book is very important.

Deirdre happily accepted the equipment, "Thank you, master. I won't keep the teacher waiting, I'm off."

"Go on, go on!"

Man, how cool is this, sending your kid off with a Phantom Crossbow Cannon to school equips them with an aura of a big deal no one else has; this is what being a millionaire tycoon in US dollars feels like!

Now it's time to see the spoils of this battle. The dear heart is studying, let's see how much the little heart has grown earlier.

—Growing Elite Charm Emperor: Small-sized elite demon creature, attack 23, defense 14, damage 18-24, life 170, attack speed 11, command value 12, special skills: chain shooting, flying creature, scout, war plunder, agile evasion, charming technique.

Da Fei's eyes lit up with joy. Based on the previous growth, attack increased by 5, defense by 3, damage by 1, and life jumped from 141 to 170! These attributes are undeniably stats of a Level 6 soldier, with health nearing Level 7 soldiers! As expected, the stronger the boss you kill, the faster you grow.

So now, let me take a look at what loot this powerful boss dropped.

—Tree Elf Bow: B-level strategic treasure, support equipment position. Increases hero archery effect by 15%.

Da Fei was stunned! Archery effect increased by 15%? Doesn't stack 15%? That means my master-level archery effect, which increases ranged damage by 50%, now goes up to 57%?

Damn! It only increases damage by 7%, and this shamelessly qualifies as a B-level strategic treasure? Are you kidding me? Any random C-level treasure that adds 2 attack points is equivalent to a 10% damage increase and affects the entire army regardless of range or melee!

Wait, support equipment position! Oh, really? This bow isn't a weapon? That makes sense! Players have 10 support equipment positions; if it were a weapon, it'd be garbage, worse than a C-level, but as support equipment, it's acceptable.

Of course, it's just barely acceptable, miles behind an A-level support treasure like the Misfortune Hourglass, with such absurd attributes it's not fit to be B-level, but an empty equipment bar is useless, and I'm not one to dislike having more treasures, ha-ha-ha!

Life, it's all about slaying bosses. Every boss kill brings new thrills, never tiring of a hundred kills, ha-ha-ha!

Lastly, there is this heart of the tree elf glowing faintly like ice crystals.

—Tree Elf Vengeful Spirit Heart: Quest item. Using this item will trigger a hidden task.

Da Fei shook his head and sighed heavily. Another hidden task! It must be a hidden task, right? Without the God-level Reconnaissance Technique and my high-tech crossbow cannon, who else in the world could discover and force out this boss? The problem is, I've already got too many tasks, my heart is already jumping with worry, and I'm honestly not interested in messing with any hidden tasks.

But it doesn't matter, at this stage for me, it's just another debt I won't feel. Let me see what kind of task requires such high-level skills and weapons to uncover.

Use! With a flash of icy light, a new attribute appeared!

—Tree Elf Vengeful Spirit Heart: Completing the task will grant you a “Raise Ranger profession level cap by 1 level” reward!

—Task information: I was once a Guardian of the World Tree, but now I am a vengeful spirit filled with regret and self-blame! Even death cannot extinguish my remorseful will! My foolishness, my mistakes, my rashness led our guard troops into a devastating ambush by the spider demons! Even the World Tree fell because of it! These maggots multiply in the demon space below the roots of the Pool of Radiance; maggots breed there in great numbers! Nonetheless, this is my final obsession, kill them all! Leave none! My hatred will grant you new strength!

—System Prompt: You have obtained information on the Abyss Blood Pool.

—System Prompt: You have accepted a related task for the Abyss Blood Pool.

Facing this overwhelming negativity, Da Fei was stunned for a moment. You're kidding me. Raise the Ranger profession level cap by 1 level? Same as the Blood Eagle Flute? So, this task is specially designed

for Elf Clan players? Damn! Have you considered the thoughts of players from other clans? Furthermore, the Abyss Blood Pool task collided; this is telling players that there's more than one way to accept a task, huh?

Damn! I put in so much effort, honed my magical skills, broke out in a cold sweat, even sent my heart, and this is what you show me?

Whatever, since this task came as a side benefit of training Deirdre, let's just complete it while attacking the Abyss Blood Pool because at least there's experience to be gained. But never mind the Abyss Blood Pool, things are difficult right now; what's the next step?

Let's take a look at how Deirdre is settling into her studies first.

Now Da Fei climbed to the top of the main magic tower, peering through binoculars to spy on the scene in the watchtower while hanging by a thread. The other apprentices were all busy, but Deirdre was the only one reading a book that looked like "Magic Primer ABC" or something. Damn, it's not even a skill book; is it some kindergarten primer?

Speaking of which, what's the biggest difference between heroes and units? It's that heroes have magic and knowledge attributes, while units don't! Even though units have mana, mana doesn't equal knowledge, a vast gap in understanding exists, yet even with this gap, units with mana are a hero's close approximation. So, if Deirdre could study and successfully gain 1 point of knowledge, does that mean she'll step into the hero's threshold? Let's hope so.

Upon seeing Deirdre settle into her studies well, Da Fei felt relieved.

Now, what to do next? With this elusive teacher around, trying to sneak in and save the Flower Demons has almost become impossible. Damn, let's shift gears, I'll sabotage the workshop! Doing nothing is still doing something.

Based on the earlier conversation between Siriel and the Hell Baron hero, it seems like the two might be at odds due to some power struggle. Siriel seems poised to take charge of the Magic Watchtower's defenses. Well, this job sounds perfect; if something goes wrong, he'll be the first to take the fall, perfect scapegoat material!

Alright, since you're my kid's teacher, I'll spare you; I'll sabotage the Hell Baron. Once he is toppled, you'll rise to power, and my Deirdre will rise too, something like that, right?

Da Fei got excited and set his sights on the largest, most bustling advanced workshop in the Lava Pool that resembled an oil rig! Yes, this is what stirs up a player's urge to destroy, it's you!