

God level 226

Chapter 226: Ambush the Octopus Monster with a Net

When Da Fei's retreat order had just been issued, the Order Flag Bearer came to report, "Captain, Captain Spielberg has something to say."

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched. Did he not want to leave? But he hadn't expressed anything along the way; now he must be speaking up for a reason.

Da Fei hurriedly directed the ship alongside the whaling ship. Right, he still didn't know the name of his ship either.

Spielberg came to the ladder to greet him, "Captain, are you heading back?"

Da Fei sighed, "Yes, for the fleet's safety. Mr. Spielberg, do you have any suggestions?"

Spielberg was silent for a moment, then shook his head, "Since the captain says so, I have nothing to say."

Damn it, you clearly have something to say, afraid of taking responsibility?

Da Fei immediately said, "I just lack confidence in dealing with this returning octopus monster. If Mr. Spielberg has a solution, I certainly wouldn't give up easily, after all, we've come this far."

Spielberg said seriously, "Captain, are you sure this octopus monster will appear again?"

Of course, because my Chamber of Commerce was cursed, wasn't it? Da Fei nodded, "Sure of it!"

Spielberg nodded, "As long as we know it will come back, it's much easier to handle. We can ambush it!"

Da Fei exclaimed, "Ambush?"

Spielberg quickly replied, "Captain, come look at my equipment. For sailors, the terrifying part of a sea monster is its appearance without any warning, catching people off guard. But as long as we're prepared, we're the fishermen, and the sea monster is no different from ordinary catches."

As they spoke, the two of them went to the stern of the whaling ship. Spielberg showed Da Fei a large circle of fishing nets on the iron frame rollers, "This is our ambush tool! The whaling net!"

Staring at these nets full of barbed ropes, Da Fei's eyebrows twitched, feeling hopeful!

Spielberg said sternly, "The giant octopus is a very famous sea monster. Its horror lies in crawling under the ship and using its extremely elastic and powerful tentacles to capsize the boat. It rarely exposes its body above water; its tentacles above the water pose no threat, and it will even spray thick black ink to

obscure a large area of seawater, further hiding its underwater body, leaving the sailors at a loss. When a ship suddenly encounters a giant octopus, there's almost no way to counter it. But not now. As long as our fishing nets bind it, its eight tentacles lose their power, and its ink becomes ineffective. We can blast it with harpoon cannons and ship cannons!"

That makes sense! This octopus is so sneaky, meaning my previous Illusion Army bait tactics were actually ineffective against it! Almost messed up!

Da Fei praised, "Great! Let's do as Mr. Spielberg says, please find a suitable spot to set up the net."

Spielberg nodded and pointed to the gap between two huge icebergs ahead, "Right there!"

Da Fei happily said, "Good, it's all up to you!"

Spielberg shook his head and sighed with a smile, "Actually, I can't say how much confidence I have. Mainly, the captain's magical experiences along the way have shocked me, filling me with hope for this whaling action. I really don't want to give up easily, let's just get through this difficulty first."

So that's it! Surely he was deeply impressed by my brilliance! It's a must. But this Spielberg seems to be an NPC with a story, isn't he? Well, never mind that, let's handle business first. Da Fei quickly said, "Since that's the case, can I fire the harpoon cannon on your ship?"

Spielberg laughed, "Nothing would please me more, I was quite eager to witness the power of a Master-level crossbow cannon!"

Now, the fleet sailed into the waters between the two giant icebergs, and the ambush was set.

The whaling ship released several small boats. The sailors rowed the boats, dragging the fishing nets to scatter and position the trap. Since it was unclear how strong this octopus monster really was, Spielberg also brought out the spare nets, double-layer nets.

Radiant Wings was broadside in the route with all gunports open. Anlicia was appointed as First Officer, steering the medium ship to hide on one side. This was her first time piloting a ship alone, and she was exceptionally excited. As for Da Fei, he began to examine the harpoon cannon on board, trying to mount the telescope on it.

In short, after busying for half a day, Spielberg's double-layer fishing net ambush formation was complete. And Da Fei ultimately achieved no productive research, better leave such matters to the reliable NPC.

Now it was just waiting quietly for the octopus to return.

Time passed minute by minute, and the octopus hadn't appeared. Stay calm, wait!

As night fell, the chilling wind roared, making the entire ice ocean dreadfully desolate.

Da Fei waited anxiously. How had it not appeared yet? Wouldn't it really be scared off and never come back? My schedule is precious you know. Could it be a night attack? Fine, I trust with its intelligence it

should launch a night attack. Have patience when fishing, turn on all the lights on the ship, continue waiting!

Midnight arrived, and the sea remained eerily quiet. Under the glow of the ship's lights, the floating ice on the sea reflected a dim light. In the game, a day's time wasn't long, but with the anxiety in Da Fei's heart, it truly felt like an entire day.

Might it not come anymore? If it doesn't, should I continue to Fire Dragon Island, or head back? Isn't this just trying to mess with me?

Who knows how long it was before the bell on the whaling ship's fishing net suddenly rang, and the ship jolted violently. It was hooked!

Da Fei's entire body shuddered with shock! When did it get caught? Why didn't my God-level Reconnaissance Technique alert me!

After waiting for so long, Spielberg shouted loudly, "Prepare for battle! Reel in! Reel in!!"

In an instant, alarm bells rang, and sailors yelled as they rapidly turned the net-winding crank. The whaling ship began to shake intensely. At the same time, all the ship's lights shone on the black waves flipping over in the net array. It was only then that Da Fei noticed the entire sea area had been dyed black by its ink, no wonder the reconnaissance didn't give an alert! Stealth + ink, indeed surpassing God-level Reconnaissance with God-level Stealth!

Holy crap! Luckily, our troops were prepared, letting it fall into the net by itself, otherwise, we wouldn't even know how we died!

Amidst the turbulent waves and under the lights, barbed fishing nets dragged a big mass of white flesh vaguely surfaced.

Spielberg shouted excitedly, "Attack!"

This is exactly the time! I can't wait to test the harpoon cannon's power!

—Bang! Bang! Two harpoon cannon shots boomed, and two harpoons whistled out dragging long ropes! -1366! -1345! Meanwhile, a synchronized volition of firing and hitting! Radiant Wings, firing all crossbow cannons, harpoon cannons on the whaling ship! Massive blue-black waves surged skyward!

Holy crap! My 35 attack crossbow cannon 500 damage can yield 1300 damage! Meaning this octopus's defense is nearly zero! These soft-bodied creatures sure take it all perfectly!

Spielberg excitedly shouted, "Hit the vital spot!"

Oh yeah!

Chapter 227: The Divine Artifact that Transforms Souls

The giant octopus, such an infamous Sea Monster, has countless advantages. For example, it doesn't have to expose its body above water like other Sea Monsters when attacking ships, which inherently grants it an invincible position. Its nature as a soft-bodied creature also allows it to hide in some

unimaginably narrow crevices for ambushes and change color to camouflage itself. If it's ever outmatched, it can spray ink and make its escape at any time.

It can be said that the giant octopus is the Ninja amongst Sea Monsters, a perfect embodiment of high Attack, high speed, and slyness, becoming the nightmare of every sailor!

But it has one flaw: as a soft-bodied animal, it's not durable! This single weakness is its fatal vulnerability!

Now, the giant octopus, caught in the net and severely wounded, has lost its advantage and its defeat is inevitable.

Boom papapa! With another volley from the Crossbow Cannons, the intense turmoil on the water's surface suddenly stops!

— System Prompt: Congratulations, you have slain a Leader-level giant octopus monster! You've gained victory in the battle! Experience +2,000,000! You've obtained spoils of war: "Giant Octopus Ship Figurehead", and you've obtained a special product "Octopus Eggs".

— System Prompt: You have acquired incomplete information about the Leader-level giant octopus monster.

— Giant Octopus Ship Figurehead: B-grade strategic treasure, a statue equipped at the prow of a large ship that can drive away octopuses to protect the ship from the harassment of Octopus Monsters.

— Octopus Eggs: Maritime product. Octopuses can be cultured in coastal territory fishing grounds. Octopus is a delicacy that's highly popular in the market.

The whole fleet erupted into joyous cheers.

Another figurehead! More maritime products! And most importantly, the mission is saved! Da Fei roars with ecstatic laughter!

Spielberg laments with a smile, "Pity, we have no more cargo space, otherwise this big octopus could be sold for a good sum."

Da Fei laughs heartily, "No worries, just drag it along! Perhaps we could sell it for a fortune on Fire Dragon Island?" Just like when he dragged along the great white shark he caught.

Spielberg nods, "Indeed, if it were any other sea area, it wouldn't be long before it went bad, but this is the Ice Ocean which is just right for preservation."

In the meantime, the sailors have already begun repairing the riddled fishing nets and straightening the net frames that have been deformed by the colossal strength of the octopus.

Spielberg laments with a smile, "Both nets are unusable now. Lucky for us, our fleet has strong firepower; otherwise, if it had escaped, who knows what would have happened. I wonder if there's a workshop capable of repairing fishing nets on Fire Dragon Island. This is a special fishing net, not easy to mend."

Da Fei's eyebrows leap!

Could this net be so incredible that it's a special fishing net? Indeed, where would an ordinary net have so many hooks? It truly is a powerful tool against Sea Monsters! Suddenly, Da Fei recalls the three bundles of golden spider silk on the Flying, which are treasure-grade nets. It's definitely not on the same level as these fishing nets. If he could also equip them and make them 'special,' wouldn't he have no fear of Sea Monsters in the future?

Da Fei hurriedly asks, "I want to install a fishing rig on my ship as well; I have a net of excellent quality too. I also wish to craft such a special fishing net. Sir, do you know where I could find the means to do so?"

Spielberg laughs, "That would be the Alliance Fishing Guild, of course. They issue fishing licenses to fishermen and also buy their catch. They have the best craftsmen of the Alliance. However, acquiring a special fishing net requires considerable Guild reputation. But of course, with the Captain's abilities, that definitely won't be a problem."

Da Fei nodded: "I see, looks like I'll have to check it out when I go back."

In the game, going out to sea isn't just for trading; fishing is also an option. Getting a fishing license is as necessary as a sailing permit for trading. However, getting a fishing license is quite a pain; it seems you need to take on fishing quests, catch various kinds of fish to prove your qualification as a fisherman. Fish caught by players without a fishing license won't be bought by NPC Chambers of Commerce. For example, the giant octopus that Da Fei has caught now, he can't sell it.

Just then,

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Alicia has absorbed the soul of the Giant Octopus Leader with the Sea Soul Staff!

Da Fei was startled, absorbing souls! The special skill of the Divine Artifact is in effect! What exactly is the use of this special skill?

Da Fei hurried back to his own ship, at this moment Alicia excitedly waved her Magic Wand at him, “Look! Look, something fun has happened!”

Da Fei asked in surprise: “What’s fun about it?”

Alicia pointed to the glass globe at the top of the Magic Wand, where there was suddenly a ghostly mist-like little octopus swimming around. Was this the soul of the giant octopus?

Da Fei quickly checked the properties of the Sea Soul Staff:

—Sea Soul Staff: Divine Artifact, Magic Power +20, Knowledge +20, can absorb the souls of creatures killed in naval battles. Absorbing the souls of High-level Leader Level creatures +1, soul conversion in process: currently gaining +25 Mana points.

Da Fei was astounded, his eyebrows twitching! Soul conversion? Turning souls into Mana? If that's the case, doesn't this thing become a Mana battery? Doesn't that mean no more worrying about Mana in the future? Does it mean that during major battles, Selvia can keep using Magic without stopping? Damn! A Priest who can cast spells non-stop, that's truly defiant! Worthy of being called a Divine Artifact indeed! But merely soul conversion? That alone doesn't seem to merit the title of Divine Artifact, does it? There should be more to it, right?

Alicia then said gravely: "Captain, it is said that creatures whose souls have been absorbed cannot be resurrected with Resurrection Techniques!"

Da Fei was alarmed once again! No way, I was just thinking that Selvia could resurrect without any concerns during battles, isn't this a trap? This wand doesn't specify whether it distinguishes between friend or foe, right? Does it mean it absorbs any soul that dies in battle?

Damn! It's really a pitfall!

As mentioned before, Heroic Creation Era is a game that encourages players to go all-out in PK (Player Kill), so the Resurrection Technique (Dark Revival), a Divine Skill, was demoted to be usable by Master-level Light Magic (Dark Magic). The intention is, the victors in a ferocious battle will receive the maximum compensation, while the defeated will have nothing left. Therefore, players must go all-in for victory. This game was branded a Tycoon game from the outset.

The Hell Race's burning corpses and the Undead Race's exploding corpse skills are known to be extremely wicked (players call it "female mummy"). Once these skills are used, the corpses cannot be resurrected, which is widely criticized by players as underhanded and shameless.

And now with the appearance of this Divine Artifact, it's more than just shameless! Burning corpses or exploding corpses come with conditions for use, one must make contact with or be close to the corpses,

and there are measures to protect the corpses. But now this Divine Artifact is obviously affecting the entire area; how to defend against it if it absorbs souls upon death?

Of course, it's fine to screw over others, but it's infuriating if it screws oneself over! My troops are all rare Elite forces! For a moment, Da Fei fell into deep frustration. It looks like the Divine Artifact must be used with care. Similar to the Misfortune Hourglass, it has both advantages and disadvantages, one can only try to minimize its drawbacks as much as possible.

But how to minimize them? Either come out unscathed or not bring any troops at all? Or just keep it in the bag without equipping it? Forget it, don't think about it too much, at least for now the sailors in the fleet aren't rare elites, so if they die, they die.

Now, having finished preparations, the fleet set sail again in the night.

Chapter 228: Little Li Enters the Game

In the central city of the Lionheart Empire, Stream County, a trading hub in the midst of fertile plains, it is the empire's most crucial grain-producing base and also the key grain export base for the Bright Alliance.

A flash of white light in the bustling town square, and another newcomer has joined the game. Newbie ID: Harem Beauty. Specialty: Logistics Skill. Initial skill: Basic Logistics Skill.

—- Basic Logistics Skill: Boosts the player and their troop's marching speed by 10%.

—- Logistics Skill Specialty: Every two levels gained by the player enhances the effect of Logistics Skill by 1%.

Logistics sub-skills: Pathfinding Skill, Rapid March, Transport Cart, Mountain Transport, Home Advantage, War Road, Death March, and so forth.

This ponytailed female player dressed in newbie's cloth armor and armed with a long spear is none other than Little Li. Upon her appearance, a female knight player clad in silver armor immediately greets her: "Haha! It's me, let's be friends!"

—- System Prompt: Player Fleeting Blossom has sent you a friend request, accept?

Little Li grumpily asks, "Can't I change the name?"

Little Fang smiles triumphantly, "Since you're just here to make a quick buck and leave, what do you care about the name? Be a good wife to this queen, hahaha!"

Little Li looks around in amazement: "It's unbelievable how advanced games are now; it feels like stepping into a fantasy world from the movies, so realistic, so immersive!"

Little Fang laughs, "Isn't it more exciting than reading books? Come on, let's go level up in an instance."

"What's an instance?"

“Well, that’s a long story, you’ll understand when we get there. Anyway, it’s the fastest way for a newbie to level up. Once you reach level 10, you’ll change classes, then I’ll take you to the trade center to get a trade permit, and after leaving the city, I’ll take you to my manor, then you’ll be able to earn money by running transport...”

“Hey hey, slow down, I don’t know anything!”

“Well, you’ll learn in time, now you just need to follow me.”

Little Li shakes her head and sighs, “I really can’t handle you.”

Little Fang laughs proudly, “Not happy about it? So many would kill for the chance to run an instance with me.”

Little Li sarcastically agrees, “Sure sure!”

Just then, a passing carriage suddenly stops beside them, and a male player in impressive silver armor gets off.

This player, named “Shenzhi,” warmly greets, “Fangfang, I see you again.”

Little Fang responds unenthusiastically, "Yeah."

Fangfang? Gives me goosebumps! Little Li teases, "Is he the husband you found online?"

Little Fang jumps up annoyed, "Nonsense! How could that be!"

Little Li enjoys teasing her, "Looks like it to me!"

Little Fang snaps, "Really? Then I'll give him to you!"

Little Li hastily refuses, "No thanks!"

The male player laughs along awkwardly, "Fangfang brought a friend to play?"

Little Fang casually mentions, "Yeah, my wife!" Then with exaggerated emphasis to Little Li, "Let me introduce him. This handsome guy here is a senior executive from the famous Chinese guild 'Ninth Heaven,' Shenzhi, a big shot who manages hundreds of people."

Shenzhi modestly laughs, "Hardly, just a transportation leader. Nice to meet you, miss."

Little Li, of course, doesn't know what Ninth Heaven is, presumably not a guild important enough for Little Fang to care about, which explains her lukewarm attitude. So, without teasing further, Little Li responds courteously, "Hello."

Little Fang gets an idea and chuckles, "Hey, Big Brother Shenzhi, you're always boasting about your guild. My wife and I are about to level up, why don't you let us see what your guild is made of?"

Yeah, let Lili see the grandeur of her Queen wife, show her how many men bend the knee for me, hahaha. Of course, the main point is, if Little Li is going to make big money, it's necessary to strengthen relations with the Human Race's top guild. It won't do being cold and high-and-mighty all the time.

As expected, Shenzhi is roused, "Leveling up new people? No problem, I'll get it arranged right away!" He then immediately instructs another player in the carriage, "You all go ahead!"

"Sure thing, big brother."

Shenzhi, a senior executive in Ninth Heaven, is mainly responsible for backend operations. And Fleeting Blossom, the first player from the China Region to recruit an Epic Hero and also the first to obtain Kingdom territory, naturally becomes a key target for Ninth Heaven, which focuses on the Human Race, to recruit. And this task undoubtedly falls on Shenzhi, a "fellow townsman" from Stream County.

But unfortunately, Fleeting Blossom is too proud and aloof, utterly unmoved, causing Shenzhi much discouragement. Now that Fleeting Blossom is initiating a request, how could he miss this chance? He must handle it well!

Shenzhi immediately reports to the guild leader, Divine Emperor, “Boss, Fleeting Blossom needs someone to help her and her friend level up; she says she wants to witness the style of our guild!”

The president of Ninth Heaven, Divine Emperor, was busy recruiting and buying horses, determined to compete with the high-profile Star. The moment Fleeting Blossom made her stance known, it immediately caught the high attention of Divine Emperor!

Divine Emperor didn’t hesitate and said, “Teleport to Grey Stone Town, take them to join the guild’s fourth Pioneering Team, and lead them in running the Elemental Mine instance!”

Shenzhi was taken aback, “Boss, this is a Pioneering Team! Fleeting Blossom is a Lord Player with weak combat power, and her friend is even a level 1 newbie!”

Divine Emperor chuckled, “Two extra burdens won’t make a difference. Isn’t she wanting to witness our guild’s capabilities? Then let her see for herself. It’s no big deal leading newbies to level up, but it’s awesome to take them on pioneer runs!”

“Got it!”

Now, Shenzhi cheerfully said to Fleeting Blossom, “All set, the guild specifically has an instance team for newbies, and they’re about to start running it, let’s go, teleport to Grey Stone Town. Oh, and I’ll cover the teleportation fee.”

Little Fang exclaimed, “The Grey Stone Town in the northern mountains? The Grey Stone Town that’s often attacked by Earth Elementals?”

Shenzhi laughed, "Exactly, it's a leveling spot for level 30 players, perfect for taking newbies to gain levels!"

This joke seemed a bit too much; that place was where level 30 players would get beaten to a pulp, how could it be a place to take newbies? Little Fang felt immediately uneasy and quickly shook her head, "No, no, no, let's not bother, it's too much trouble."

Shenzhi hurriedly said, "No trouble, our president has arranged everything, our leading team is full of experts, it's not a problem at all."

Refusing now would just make her seem petty. Fleeting Blossom didn't refuse any further and chuckled, "Alright then, we'll impose on you guys!"

"Not at all, having Miss Fang join us is an honor for our guild."

Little Fang was delighted and whispered to Little Li in her dorm, "Did you hear that? I'm gracing their guild."

Little Li replied indifferently, "Yes, yes, Queen, first conquer the Ninth Guild, then one by one conquer the top eight guilds!"

Little Fang laughed out loud, "Oh, you really think they're ranked ninth? Ah, well, I guess they do barely make it into the world's top nine..."

Amidst laughter and chatter, the three arrived at the Teleportation Array, and with a white flash, they were in Grey Stone Town, a town in the Lionheart Empire that produced stone mines. However, this town was plagued and threatened by Earth Elemental creatures, and the mines had been occupied by them. The players' task was to clear the mine instance every once in a while.

A large number of players had already gathered at the broad stone material yard outside the mine entrance.

A player named Divine Flame stepped forward with a smile, "Welcome, welcome!"

Fleeting Blossom smiled, "Sorry for the inconvenience."

Shenzhi laughed, "It's all on you now!"

Divine Flame smiled, "No problem."

Little Li looked at the crowd and exclaimed in surprise, "There are so many female players!"

Divine Flame laughed, "Yeah, all friends!"

When Shenzhi recognized who those female players were, he was suddenly startled!

At the same time, Little Fang in the dorm couldn't help but curse, "It's hot!"

Little Li asked, "What happened?"

Little Fang sneered, "The so-called number one Beauty Studio in China, just ignore them. We'll just mix in for the experience, that'll piss them off!"

Little Li asked in surprise, "You have a grudge against them?"

Little Fang scoffed, "They're just jealous of me, the Queen! Pfft!"

Meanwhile, Shenzhi urgently contacted the president, "Boss, is this a mix-up? Why did you put her and Bloodrose in the same group? They've had fights on the forums!"

Divine Emperor replied with a cold laugh, "It's not a mix-up, I deliberately arranged this to get them to meet. If they can reconcile, that's even better. If not, we can take this opportunity to knock down Bloodrose's pride by promoting Fleeting Blossom! So these women don't think they're all that, acting as if the world would have no women without them!"

"Understood."

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— Team Channel: Fleeting Blossom has joined the team.

— Team Channel: Harem Beauty has joined the team.

The entire Bloodrose Studio erupted into commotion!

“Who the hell is this?!”

Chapter 229: Infighting in the Instance

Fleeting Blossom joined the team, and immediately caused an uproar at Bloodrose Studio.

“Big sis! What does Divine Emperor mean by this? We’re cooperating with them to pioneer the instance, but when did we become their little wage earners?”

“Exactly, it’s bad enough to carry someone, but to carry this jerk! They have several pioneering teams in their guild, why did they have to arrange for us to be with this team, what is he trying to do? Does he know we don’t get along with this jerk?”

“And what’s with this level 1 alt’s name Harem Beauty? Is there some hidden meaning here?”

“Ha! You still don’t know what men are thinking?”

Big sis Zhou Qing was busy with the Chamber of Commerce task at the harbor and was not in the team. Upon learning the situation, she was taken aback and then sneered coldly: “Shut up, pretend they don’t exist, just do what we have to do, don’t let jerks laugh at our studio’s professional level.”

The sisters grumbled: “Understood.”

Zhou Qing had roughly guessed Divine Emperor’s intentions. Supporting our rival right in front of us, hoping to make us feel the pressure? Ridiculous! He really thinks he’s the Emperor, wanting to turn us into concubines vying for favor in his harem? Men’s thoughts are so simple! How many wealthy tycoons couldn’t even do it, and just because he plays games?

Despite her disdain, Zhou Qing felt her mood deteriorate even further. It seems like since joining this game, there haven’t been many happy days!

Speaking of which, Fleeting Blossom should have had no entanglement with Bloodrose Studio, especially since one mingles in the harbor, the other in the mainland, one is a combat-focused team, and the other is a business-oriented individual. But there are always some players who love to stir trouble on forums with ulterior motives, posts like “Bloodrose acts so arrogant, Star Goddess Bu Feiyan alone could beat their entire studio, and independent Fleeting Blossom alone is worth their entire net worth”, and just like that, hatred was secured, shaking the entire Bloodrose Studio!

As for Bu Feiyan, no need to mention, with strong backing and numerous fans, Bloodrose can't do anything to her, but what counts as a single player like Fleeting Blossom? Bloodrose's fans blasted her on the forums.

But soon, Bloodrose found that things were getting seriously out of control. Some of the "fans" were bashing too harshly and without limits, affecting Bloodrose's image. These were certainly not fans! These were definitely bad actors who borrowed the name of fans, attempting to tarnish Bloodrose's image, so Bloodrose contacted the forum mods to urgently handle it. Although this issue was quickly resolved, it caused profound trauma to Fleeting Blossom's pure, innocent, and kind heart.

The internet is like this, the low cost of wanton slander brings a lot of trouble for well-known figures.

If there was one celebrity who was not troubled, it was probably Da Fei, utterly unfazed by a forum full of curses. It seems freer to be the bad guy.

Now, after listening to Little Fang's complaints, Little Li roughly knew what the conflict between both sides was, and a seed of shared enmity was planted in her young heart. But with Little Fang's sharp and snarky personality, surely she's not the kind to only be scolded without fighting back, right? To say that Little Fang had no fault in this, Little Li firmly didn't believe it.

— Team Channel [Divine Flame]: Good, everyone is here now, let's enter the instance.

— System Prompt: You have received the shared team instance mission "Grey Stone Town Mine Clearance."

Little Fang said, "It's starting, just stick with me and don't go anywhere."

“Got it.”

The team entered the cave, where a large door was tightly closed. After the team leader Divine Flame handed over the dungeon pass to the guard, the door opened, revealing a Space Gate that was pulsating within. Everyone entered in single file.

In this game, instances aren't something you can just run whenever you want. You need to accept the quest, you need to use Gold Coins or reputation to exchange for dungeon passes, or you need to get dungeon keys from certain monsters in the wild, and some particularly high-end dungeon keys must be looted from particularly strong BOSSes. These rules effectively prevent traditional MMO studios from gold-farming in instances, and maintain a market for players, greatly enhancing the value of the dungeons.

At the same time, the number of people entering an instance is calculated by the number of heroes, not players. For example, this cave instance is a 50-hero team instance, meaning players including their Vice Heroes can only bring in a maximum of 50 people. Large guilds mainly aim to increase player levels when pioneering instances, and unless there are particularly strong Vice Heroes, team members are not allowed to bring Vice Heroes into the instance.

Instances are also divided into battle instances and adventure dungeons. Battle instances naturally have very large scenes, where the player's team can bring as many soldiers as they have, so in the later stages, a hundred-player team with tens of thousands of soldiers densely spread out is quite common. And adventure dungeons, like the situation now, limit each player to bringing no more than 10 soldiers.

Now, the team has entered the instance, and a spacious underground cavern appears before the players. Even though each player can bring no more than 10 soldiers, the troops from a 50-person team add up to four or five hundred, a sight to behold.

Little Li, new to the game, couldn't help but exclaim in awe. Of course, this was also Little Fang's first time entering the instance, but as a veteran, naturally, she couldn't be so visibly shocked.

Little Fang chuckled, "This is the instance, it looks like just a small hill from outside, but once you enter the Space Gate, it's a whole new world, the space is far beyond your imagination."

Chapter 230: Internal Strife in the Instance_2

Little Li sighed: "So that's how it is."

—Team Channel [Divine Flame]: Everyone stick to the original plan. Team one handles the left side, team two the right, the main team charges through the center. Miss Fleeting Blossom just follows the main team's ammo cart; it's the safest there.

Little Fang laughed heartily and quickly said: "Got it, thanks everyone for the trouble."

Divine Flame continued: "...Bloodrose team members are still in charge of covering for us. We've brought two new members this time, and the gaps are a bit larger, so you all need to be on the lookout."

Tch! The women of Bloodrose let out a cold snort. Divine Flame felt a sinking feeling, a foreboding premonition. Honestly, Bloodrose's attitude was really disappointing. If it were him, he would have taken the opportunity to greet the other side proactively, at the very least to show the grandeur of a large guild and a big studio.

Forget it, if you expect women to act like men, they wouldn't be women. In any case, whatever their discontent, as long as they follow the command, that's fine. Otherwise, don't blame the team leader for not being polite when scolding. A good team is scolded into shape; that's Divine Flame's principle of leading a team.

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Now, with each team member in their place, the battle began. Little Fang also started chattering non-stop to Little Li, explaining all the professions, soldiers, and various tactics.

At this moment, the strategy employed by the Pioneering Team was the standard Human Race iron bucket formation strategy, which meant the first row was comprised of level 3 Soldier Shield Guards, the second row of level 1 long spear battle, and the archers were positioned amid the crowd. With a very standard formation, they pushed forward in a straight line clearing minor mobs, making smooth progress like a hot knife through butter.

Soon, Little Li, the newcomer, noticed a problem: "Why is their gunner different?"

"Different?" Little Fang was too busy giving instructions to Little Li and only then noticed that the team leader Divine Flame's 10 gunners indeed looked different from other players' gunners; not to mention their shiny armor, their guns were much longer too! No, more than double the length! How do you even turn a corner with such long guns? Wouldn't that be inconvenient when walking?

Little Fang, of course, was not someone who would pretend to know things she didn't, so, faced with something new, she unhesitatingly and shamelessly asked a team member nearby: "What type of soldier is the team leader's gunner? Why is the gun so long?"

The team member laughed heartily: "The leader's spear isn't just long, it's also thick!"

"Stop talking nonsense!" Another team member kicked him and said: "Those are Dragon Spear Soldiers, the team leader's treasured assets. Just one of them fights at the level of a sixth-level soldier, can slay dragons in the sky and dominate Cavalry on the ground, and is usually too precious to use. They were equipped just now to welcome Miss Fleeting Blossom in grand style."

Dragon Spear Soldiers! Hearing it for the first time! Little Fang, pleasantly surprised, said: "These soldiers must be very precious, right? What if they die?"

The other team member laughed loudly: "To welcome you, who cares if a few soldiers die? Don't let our leader's stern appearance fool you, inside his chest is a blazing fire!"

—Team Channel [Divine Flame]: Silence!

The two members gave Little Fang a mischievous look, chuckled, and then stopped talking.

As one of the top three largest guilds in the China Region, Ninth Heaven, the leader of the Pioneering Team undoubtedly represents the highest level of players in the China Region, and it was clear they had some trump cards up their sleeve. This was also the confidence Ninth Heaven's Pioneering Team had to bring in newcomers.

Clearly, the two members playfully complimented and flattered Little Fang, which greatly amused her, especially since they spoke so loudly that even the team leader in front could hear them, let alone Bloodrose in the middle – they had no reason not to hear. Such differential treatment felt simply fantastic with a single word: exhilarating!

So, at this moment, Little Fang laughed heartily in the dormitory: “Wifey, did you see that? This is the style of your Queen! I’m going to infuriate that bunch of jerks, ah hahaha!”

“Of course, of course, the Queen is magnificent and enchanting...”

And at this moment, was Bloodrose Studio angry? No! Absolutely not angry! Getting angry would mean being jealous, vying for favor, which would mean losing! Who couldn’t see they were just putting on a show for them? Why perform such a spectacle, if not to show how much they valued them? In a world full of women, singling out one woman for praise is a foolish move, unless a man is no longer interested in maintaining a harem. But would a man be the kind of creature to give up an entire forest for a single tree? Obviously not.

So the beautiful ladies of Bloodrose, realizing this internally, appeared nonchalant and scoffed in their hearts. But not being angry didn’t mean they wouldn’t feel annoyed.

Consequently, Bloodrose Qiqi, the team leader in the studio, laughed: “Big sister, looks like they’ve become a bit too proud of themselves, should we give them a little color to see?”

The other ladies echoed in agreement: “Yes, yes, wipe their team out once. Let all those precious Dragon Spear Soldiers they couldn’t bear to use die off and see their faces then.”

Zhou Qing smiled faintly: “Okay, but make sure it’s done with some skill. Don’t embarrass ourselves by doing something stupid.”

Bloodrose Qiqi burst into laughter: “Leave it to me, they’ll definitely be in for a surprise and speechless. Back then, I was the star of many guild disbandments!”

Everyone disdainfully said: “And you still have the face to brag about it!”

...

With practiced coordination, effective command, high-end gameplay, and alert reactions, the Pioneering Team advanced smoothly through the tunnels. Little Li also successfully leveled up to level 2. Of course, no matter how high the instance monsters’ experience was, it was still very little after being split among fifty people. Therefore, the key to leading people through an instance was to complete missions. A mission worth hundreds of thousands of experience might not matter much for players over level 30, but it was enough for level 2 Little Li to level up to double digits.

Now, the troops followed the mining tracks deep into a spacious underground mine filled with abandoned mine carts, at the center of which was a huge Earth Element BOSS.

—Team Channel [Divine Flame]: Let me go over the precautions now. This BOSS can throw rocks at long range and conjure spikes all over the area. No one should stay in one spot for more than three seconds, which means this BOSS can’t be taken down with the Crossbow Cannon. Everyone, all soldiers, especially archers, must keep moving. Miss Fleeting Blossom!

Little Fang quickly responded: “Here!”

“You and your friend just keep running circles around that farthest corner, where the BOSS’s rocks can’t hit you and where you absolutely must not stop. Understood?”

“Understood!”

“Good, this isn’t everyone’s first time fighting this BOSS, so I won’t say much more. Everyone take your positions!”

The battle began in an orderly fashion.

Suddenly, a harsh grating noise came from the direction everyone had entered the chamber through, sounding like mine carts moving on tracks? The whole team was in an uproar! The one thing to fear most during a BOSS fight is an unexpected situation!

Divine Flame roared: “What’s happening? What’s going on?”

No one except the silently smirking Bloodrose Studio could answer him! The noise grew louder and then there they were – a line of mine carts loaded with ore, scraping sparks off the track and barreling into the crowded hall!

“Damn it!” A chorus of curses rang out from the team!

And the Bloodrose Studio erupted in laughter! That’s right, female players are meticulous; they had discovered this mechanism during their last visit to this instance. By moving a few piles of gravel off the track, you would uncover the brake valve hidden beneath. Once the valve was opened, the mine carts would start to move slowly and imperceptibly, then gradually begin sliding down, gaining more and more speed. Thus, they had plenty of time to commit their act without the guild master finding any evidence.

Perhaps this mechanism was intended to hit the BOSS? Of course, they couldn’t be bothered to share such a minor secret, but now, it came in handy!

Caught off guard by the charging mine carts, numerous team members had nowhere to hide and were taken out along with their soldiers on the spot! Thunderous booms echoed through the underground mine!

—Team Channel [Divine Flame]: Damn it!!! My Dragon Spear Soldiers!!!

“Muahaha! Wiped out!” Bloodrose Studio celebrated with high-fives all around!

Bloodrose Qiqi was even more triumphant: “That’s what you get for showing off! Let’s see how that jerk dies now!”

The sudden turn of events left Little Fang and Little Li, who were taking a stroll in a corner, dumbfounded. Watching the BOSS go on a rampage in the dust-filled mine, Little Fang said with a mix of laughter and tears, “We got played by that jerk!”

Little Li anxiously asked, "What do we do? Are we going to die?"

Little Fang chuckled and sighed, "If we die, we die. It's just a game."

Little Li, in her first time playing a game, clearly hadn't yet reached the level of detachment from life and death. As she looked around, she suddenly spotted a broken hole in a wall created by a mine cart, with a faint light seeping through.

Little Li exclaimed, "What's that?"

Little Fang was taken aback: "This could be our chance! Let's hide in there!"