

God level 51

Chapter 51: Seeing the Rainbow after the Storm

Let it go, definitely let it go!

How could the system really trap a player in the bathroom? It will always give a hint to let the player exit. There's no other choice, the opportunity cannot be missed, I must escape.

It's now midnight, three days in the game is just 6 a.m. tomorrow, fine, go to sleep. It's just a pity that with this escape, my God-level scroll is gone. If only life were as simple as the first meeting, I'd definitely not mess with that damn Mysterious Stealth Navigation, sigh.

The next day, the alarm clock woke Da Fei up, he quickly finished eating and drinking and went online.

At this time, the calm before the storm was indeed clear, the entire sky of the Desolate Sea Area was gloomy, the sea waves roaring. The bustling pier was filled with pirates busily tying up the docked ships. There were figures everywhere, collecting clothes from the streets.

A storm was imminent, and Da Fei also memorized the escape route, anxiously waiting for the chance to flee.

In the evening, thunder and lightning crashed as the roaring wind and torrential rain poured down; all the pirates retreated into their houses, and the whole world was pitch black. Amidst the dark rainy mist, you couldn't see your hand in front of your face, only the sudden lightning momentarily illuminated the entire world.

Now's the time! Da Fei activated Master-level Reconnaissance Skill's Stealth, leaned against the wall against the choking wind and rain, and climbed to the dock where the Flying was moored.

The massive hull of the Flying was firmly tied to the dock with hundreds of thick ropes, making a creaking noise as if about to split under the pounding storm and waves. Even the waters within the archipelago were so violent; Da Fei could already imagine the monstrous waves he would encounter after going to sea. Perhaps, the ship would sink as soon as it set sail. However, no matter the cost, I must escape.

With the perfect timing and location plus Da Fei's Grandmaster Stealth, the swaying oil lamp on the sentry post in the dock's wooden house was utterly useless. Da Fei successfully climbed onto his ship.

First, check the ship's status.

Ship Name: Flying (Task reward bound players cannot trade)

Captain: Da Fei

Ship's Special Skill: Divine's Blessing (Sailor Luck +2)

Ship Model: Large four-masted three-deck high-speed sailboat.

Ship Cargo Capacity: 1000 units

Ship Usage Time: 10 years

Minimum Sailor Capacity: 30

Ship Durability 1690/1690

Ship Speed: 10

Ship Armor Defense: Port Side 32, Starboard 80.

Sea God Insurance Level: 0 (The ship is not protected by the Sea God, if it has an accident it will sink forever)

Current Ship Status: Additional Armor on the left side fell off and was cursed by the Curse of Misfortune (Sailor Luck -3).

Turns out the pirates have repaired the ship these past few days, indeed they must have, but it's a pity there's no solution for the upper limit on the ship's durability. There's nothing more to say now, cut off the ropes and leave.

"You really came!" A familiar and charming voice sounded from behind.

Da Fei was startled, quickly turned around, it's Catherine! At this moment, she wore a headscarf, gloves, and dual swords at her waist, perfectly dressed as a sailor ready for the sea!

In an instant, two words popped into Da Fei's head: elope!

Catherine laughed and said: "Not welcoming? Do you really think you can sail the ship away alone?"

Holy moly, holy moly, holy moly!!! Legendary Hero, Legendary Hero, Legendary Hero!!! Beautiful Hero, Beautiful Hero, Beautiful Hero!!! Elope with me, elope with me, elope with me!!! I'm amazing!!! Hahaha! Wahahaha!

Da Fei was so excited that he was rolling on the ground with excitement; his thousand words condensed into two: "Welcome! Welcome!"

Catherine laughed: "I'll steer, you cut the ropes tying the ship, start from the bow, as soon as you cut them all, immediately go and raise the main sail; just raise it halfway at most. Watch the wind direction, don't let it blow the ship to the shore."

Da Fei hurriedly nodded like a pecking chicken: "Okay, okay, okay!"

On this stormy night, when I was isolated and helpless, you were an angel sent by God; no, you are the Goddess! I'm in love with you!

No need to cut all the ropes; the giant waves directly snapped the ropes at the ship's stern, and the Flying burst out of the harbor like a wild horse, rushing to the giant waves of the open sea.

- System Prompt: You struggled against the storm, gaining +1500 Experience!
- System Prompt: You struggled against the storm, gaining +1500 Experience!
- System Prompt: Warning! Leakage in third deck of the ship, urgently pump it out.
- System Prompt: Warning! Left hull of the second deck has broken planks, urgently repair them.

The sailboat soared up and down in the storm's fierce winds and waves, Catherine skillfully controlled the ship to avoid the waves according to the wind. With the legendary hero steering, Da Fei, a player who knew nothing about steering, had a backbone. This sense of safety, solidity, and excitement set Da Fei's heart ablaze as he frantically moved about repairing things. Da Fei had too many questions to ask, never imagined that an NPC could make him so moved, so attached; this was love!

The wind howled, it was the scream of my love. The waves surged, it was the stirring of my love. The sailboat rocked, it was the cradle of my love with her! Haha! Wahahaha...

The storm passed, the sea and sky were one color, waves rolling.

Having battled all night, Da Fei and Catherine sat side by side at the ship's bow, watching the sunrise and the rainbow. The morning sun shone on Catherine's tired, damp face, reflecting a golden brilliance so dazzling Da Fei couldn't look directly. Goddess, this is truly a goddess delivered to me!

Da Fei gazed deeply towards the east and said affectionately: "I never expected you to come to help me at the last minute. Come with me, let's trade together, make money together, and renovate our ship into a luxury yacht fit for a queen. I'll give you a life like a queen."

Catherine chuckled and pulled out a gleaming piece of paper from the folds on her chest: "Even though you've already said this once, I still love hearing it, returning it to you now!"

— Ah, the delight of regaining something lost made Da Fei cough up a mouthful of blood! The system indeed wouldn't easily cheat the player's equipment! The system not only restored the items to me, it also brought me a beauty! Sis, you've been keeping such an important thing here all this time? What if it fell out? How confident are you in its storage feature? But confidence is good, I like it, wahahaha!

Catherine laughed again: "I decided to help you because you're resolutely not becoming a pirate, even if it means giving up something so important. Do you understand?"

Da Fei was taken aback: "You, you weren't always urging me to become a pirate? Were you testing me?" Did she really know what this piece of paper was?

Catherine laughed heartily: "You're right, the pirate world is indeed too small. I've always yearned for the world beyond islands, yearned for the noble lives of ladies. I've always fantasized about a true hero taking me away, and you are the hero who passed my test and was chosen by me! If you became a pirate, I'd just be a good friend with you, but since you wouldn't join the pirates no matter what, I'd go with you!"

As soon as she finished speaking, a row of system prompts flooded the screen!

— System Prompt: Congratulations! Epic Hero Catherine has become your Vice Hero!

— Beginner Tip: Congratulations! You've obtained your first Vice Hero. Once by your side, a Vice Hero who is defeated will appear in your Vice Hero space, requiring a resurrection at the hero altar in a large city. Reviving heroes requires paying a fee, which increases with the hero level. However, if you have emergency medical talents, you can revive Vice Heroes after battle. Heroes revived through emergency care will be in a weakened state for a long period.

— Beginner Tip: A ship is equivalent to moving territory, with sailing mode akin to territory management mode; a Captain can assign various duties to the Vice Hero, who can apply their talents in different positions. It is recommended to appoint your first Vice Hero as the First Officer.

— First Officer: Deputy Captain, possessing all the captain's functions, able to cruise automatically when the captain is absent.

Da Fei now suddenly understood! Actually, her poetic demeanor had already hinted at it! So that's how it was!

Luckily, my will was firm; otherwise, I would've done the opposite! In the end, I'm still amazing! Now that everything is done, I graciously accept. Although I initially thought she was a Legendary Hero, but it's nearly impossible for Legendary Heroes to join players anyway; an Epic is just right, wahahaha!

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At the Desolate Barbarian Pirate Port, Desolate Barbarian Pirate Leader Captain Rock stood all night until dawn at the watchtower, looking weary and lonely.

Barak yawned and approached: "Big brother, it seems Catherine went with that kid."

Rock relit the pipe dampened by the rain, exhaled a smoke ring deeply: "That kid's young and already a navigator with unlimited potential. Catherine may have a better future with him."

Barak sighed: "With this departure, Catherine may never return."

Rock laughed heartily, swung his hips a few times: "No worries, I'll just father another batch of daughters, wahahaha!"

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Chapter 52: The Artistic Female Pirate Indeed

At this moment, Da Fei's Vice Hero column glowed brightly, and he couldn't wait to check her attributes, feeling akin to a husband unable to wait to look at his bride on their wedding night.

Catherine: Pirate Leader Rock once plundered a noblewoman as his wife and fathered a daughter, Catherine. Influenced by her mother's tastes from a young age, Catherine longed for a life of noble

luxury, but her father Rock intended to train her as his successor. Among the mountains of loot stolen by the pirates, she always managed to find the most valuable treasures.

Disposition: Passionate and free-spirited, with a love for luxury.

Loyalty: 100 (If loyalty drops below 10, the Vice Hero will leave you.)

Level: 30.

Hero profession: Master-level Pirate. (Enhances sea damage of the troops by 50% and increases the ship's sea move speed by 25%, effects stack with Attack Skill and Sailing Skill)

Natural Specialty: Noble Demeanor (A noble demeanor makes one appear distinguished and refined, easily gaining recognition from high society as well as the respect of the common people)

Professional Specialties: Master of Treasure Identification (An advanced form of the Pirate's professional specialty "Treasure Intuition," pirates have an extraordinary intuition for discovering treasure, and Catherine excels even among them)

Command Power: 36

Attack: 60 (50 Strategic Attack, Weapon +10 Personal Attack)

Defense: 30 (0 Strategic Defense, Armor +30 Personal Defense)

Magic Power: 0

Knowledge: 0

Health: 70

Attack Speed: 22 (Weapon +2 Attack Speed)

Move Speed: 14

Melee Damage: 17-22

Ranged Damage: 4-8

Personal Skills: Dual-Wielding, Fire Gun Shooting, Agile Evasion, War Plunder, Threatening Intimidation.
(Activating these active skills will consume additional Stamina)

Hero Skills: Master-level Navigation Skill, Master-level Attack Skill, Intermediate Leadership Skill

Current Equipment: Crimson Dual Blades, Pirate Full Set of Leather Armor

—Crimson Dual Blades: Personal Attack +10, Damage +4, Attack Speed +2.

—Dwarf Short-Handle Fire Gun: Personal Attack +10, Damage 4-8.

—Pirate Full Set of Leather Armor: Personal Defense +30.

Possessed Treasure: Precision Craftsman's Telescope.

Hero Skills: Master-level Navigation Skill, Master-level Attack Skill, Intermediate Leadership Skill

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After reading her background and looking at her attributes, Da Fei felt a mix of admiration and an incongruent sense of irony.

Isn't she supposed to be a pirate? Then why does she have the natural specialty of Noble Demeanor? And why would a pirate have a professional specialty like Master of Treasure Identification? That's just too artsy, isn't it?

Of course, in the face of true love, special skills don't matter, levels don't matter, attributes don't matter, skills don't matter, disposition doesn't matter, and even gender doesn't matter. But life is like the mundane necessities of salt, soy sauce, vinegar, and oil—long-term and rational planning is still essential.

Strategically speaking, she has taken the pirate profession's focus on offense to the extreme. Adding 10 points to attack during the level 10 newbie phase, after class change to pirate, every level up allocates 1 point to attack automatically by the system, and continuing to focus on attack with free attribute points, reaching level 30 equates to 50 strategic attack. What is the concept of 50 attack? Having hung around Renior, Da Fei was all too clear.

And what's more terrifying is that the professional attributes of a Master-level Pirate can stack an extra 50% damage on top of the Master Attack Skill, doubling the damage! Her offshore damage is definitely on par with that of an Angel. Her special skill is dual-wielding weapons, what is dual-wielding? It means holding two blades at once, which means her Attack Speed is twice as fast as normal people. Hence, this extraordinarily high 22-point Attack Speed isn't unfounded.

Of course, chasing after high damage and high Attack Speed brings an obvious downside, low health, and Defense! Pirates are an absolute disaster when facing Mages. But man, I'm so cool, just played for three days and got myself an Epic Hero. When other people's Mages get into shape, mine has already left them blocks behind, who's afraid of who? Nevertheless, low Defense is ultimately a big problem, so as the main hero, I need to plan my attribute points carefully.

Now the issue is her innate Professional Specialties.

Noble temperament is neither a combat specialty I urgently need nor a management specialty, but a pirate with culture is frightening, and the existence of an Epic Hero has its rationale, just depends on how the player utilizes it.

Da Fei shamelessly asked: "My dear—"

Catherine responded coquettishly: "How annoying~"

So annoying~~! I'm about to melt here! Am I sure I'm playing a game? Why don't real women ever make me feel this way, isn't this true love? Wahahaha!

Da Fei, with a greedy face, asked: "Babe! How do you use this 'noble temperament' special skill of yours?"

Catherine flipped her long hair and let out a sigh: "Well, it's three parts temperament and seven parts dress-up. You need good clothes for it."

Da Fei quickly said: "Good clothes? I have plenty, I've got five or six sets!" then took out a Sailor Captain's ceremonial uniform. This was top-quality stuff!

Catherine's eyes immediately lit up, but then she gave a wry smile: "But this is men's clothing!"

Da Fei: "Err..."

Catherine nevertheless took the clothes and chuckled: "The charm of a woman lies in the fact that clothing has no gender!" and quickly changed into them.

In that instant, Da Fei's eyeballs practically popped out! But that's not all! Catherine then replaced her black leather skirt, and a fiery red tattoo of a rose blossomed dramatically!

Public-beta players really didn't deceive me, a gorgeous female hero truly is an existence that can drive male players crazy! I finally understand why there are so few female heroes; they must consume more game server resources than male heroes, the game developer's intentions are crystal clear! Even knowing it's a trap, there are still countless male players ready to jump right in! This is sickness, it must be cured!

Having seen through the game developer's cunning intentions, as a professional player, would I fall for their tricks? Hmph, if not me, then who will take the plunge into hell?

Amidst my dizzy excitement, Catherine did up her hair and changed her clothes, and before me stood a young, elegant, and dashing naval officer.

Catherine mimicked an officer's salute: "How about that?"

Such a different taste! Da Fei clapped and praised: "Good! You look so stylish!"

Catherine's smile brightened: "Do you see my noble temperament now?"

Do I? Where is it? Da Fei glanced her up and down, and suddenly noticed Catherine's hero aura beneath her feet had turned a light golden color. Damn! The bloody red aura of a pirate hero turned into the golden aura of a Knight Priest hero! A change of clothes actually switched the hero's faction!

This is totally scamming!

Vice Heroes, with their different factions and races, might not have a significant impact when accompanying players into battles. As long as they can fight, it's fine. But it could be quite a headache during peaceful times. For instance, if a Human Race player hires an Undead Vice Hero, the Undead hero cannot enter the city and can only station with troops in the barrack outside the city. (Note: Players' armies cannot enter cities)

And Vice Heroes' roles are, of course, not limited to just accompanying players in battles. They can also lead troops independently, complete tasks on behalf of the player, or act as Deputy City Lords managing castles. Especially for players who own castles, the ability of a Vice Hero City Lord is critical to whether the player can have a good night's sleep while offline.

Ships are often referred to as "moving territories," akin to mobile castles. After Da Fei appointed Catherine as the First Officer, she could independently engage in trade even when Da Fei was not on the ship or even offline. (Doesn't it sound like an offline gold-farming bot?) But if Catherine's identity were that of a Pirate Hero, that might be a problem. Kingdom Navy might overlook it because the owner is Da

Fei, or they might attack on sight, and even the port may not allow Catherine to dock. To put it simply, anything could happen.

So, if players don't want a headache, they should, in principle, hire heroes from the same faction. Unless they encounter an enemy faction hero who is exceptionally valuable.

Now, what's with Catherine's situation? Dual identity! She can play all sides! This alone significantly increases the safety of her independent trading voyages. Probably, the benefits don't stop there. As a pirate, she can dispose of loot and trade on pirate territory, meaning I could open up an entire pirate market!

Da Fei realized where the value of her special skill lies—this is definitely the high society route. Those brawling combat specialties pale in comparison to her!

However high-end the high society route may be, it still needs a solid foundation from the lower route. I still need to recruit capable heroes to strengthen the team, to compensate for the pirate's lack of Blood Defense and to form a Mysterious Stealth Navigation team. The next step is to recruit a Magic Type hero, preferably a beauty.

Speaking of beautiful Magic Heroes, Da Fei suddenly remembered the 15-year-old daughter mentioned in the Sailing Captain's diary. She must have been placed in the church, right? Could she have learned Light Magic? Could she be a hero? Da Fei was filled with anticipation.

Chapter 53: Transforming Innate Talents

"After analyzing Catherine's innate talents, we move on to her professional specialty, Master of Treasure Identification. She holds the key to unraveling Renior's Skill Book, the Divine Skill that changed my fate. She loves tinkering with telescopes; the subtle maneuvers with the Skill Book are surely a habit influenced by this specialty.

A normal pirate's professional specialty is actually 'Treasure Intuition.' (Pirate class has five sub-skills, meaning five professional specialties: Ship Sailing Specialization, Sea Battle Specialization, Pirate Training, Ship Tracking, and Treasure Intuition.)

Her Master of Treasure Identification, which surpasses basic specialties, is also known as professional specialty specialization. For instance, the Hell Gate Master Hero from the Japanese region, valued at \$6 million in the current market, has Hell Gate as a normal demon hero's professional specialty; Hell Gate Master is a more specialized and superior form. The result of specialization is a vast difference in market value.

Heroes with professional specialty specialization are assuredly good heroes.

Although Hell Gate Master is a professional specialty specialization, it's categorized under innate talents; in other words, such a talent is available from the player's initial creation, lottery draws, and before any job changes. Similarly, the 'Knight Model' hero, valued at \$3 million, also has an advanced form of the common Knight Priest professional specialty 'Blessing Ceremony,' another professional specialty specialization, again classified under innate talents.

This setup implies that a hero is destined for their role from birth.

What does this imply? Normally, Catherine's Master of Treasure Identification should be under innate talents as well. But now, this talent is in her professional specialties.

Isn't this exactly the effect of my Navigator God-level Scroll? Transforming an innate talent into a professional specialty, then creating a new spot for an innate talent; this signifies that Catherine is actually a dual-specialty hero!

Realizing this, Da Fei became even more excited! His eyes were even more feverish when looking at Catherine! Labeling a dual-specialty hero as epic is indeed a bit of an understatement, but she's still young, hahaha!

But speaking of her treasure-identifying specialty, Da Fei suddenly noticed the telescope in her bag was called a 'Precision Craftsman's Telescope'?

Da Fei checked the equipment and was instantly astonished.

—Precision Craftsman's Telescope: Increases Hero's vision by +50%. A masterpiece by a famous craftsman, selling this treasure enhances the price by 300%.

Damn, this is definitely the gift I gave her, right? It's expected for a Master of Treasure Identification to find hidden treasures, but she even appraised variations of the same treasure!

Da Fei couldn't help but ask in surprise, "Honey, why is your telescope different?"

Catherine replied in surprise, "Of course it's different; aren't there never two identical leaves in the world?"

I see! To an ordinary player, leaves seem the same, but the world in the eyes of a Master of Treasure Identification is indeed different, with real depth.

Catherine laughed, "Captain, think about it, so many valuable famous paintings and sculptures have countless replicas and forgeries; isn't it easy to be deceived if you can't tell the real from the fake? That's using the fake to confuse the real. Another instance is genuine masquerade: some genuine artefacts are disguised to look extremely ordinary to prevent theft. Merchants often do this. These are the most challenging to identify."

Da Fei raised an eyebrow, "Genuine masquerade? Disguised as ordinary objects? How ordinary?"

Catherine giggled, "It's quite bizarre; some treasures, it's said, can be disguised without any attributes, indistinguishable from regular daily items. Alchemists in the Silver Federation are experts in this. That's why Uncle Barak simply took away all the knick-knacks from the ship, making his store seem like a general store, very amusing, and it was my favorite place to play as a kid." (Note: Silver Federation is a neutral force, otherwise known as Mage Academy City, unavailable for direct player selection.)

Da Fei nodded repeatedly; it seems the treasure business in this game is intricately complex, and being a pirate is quite an artistic endeavor.

Thinking about items disguised without any attributes, Da Fei suddenly remembered the artistic, ancient flute found in the Sailing Captain's legacy bag. Could it have hidden depth?

Da Fei hurriedly pulled out the flute from his bag, "Honey, take a look; this is someone's legacy. Does it have any special attributes?"

“Oh?” Catherine took the flute, her eyes lighting up again!

There was hope!

As expected, Catherine began expertly fiddling with the flute, her expression excited yet tense.

Haha! Definitely some hidden depth here! Good! A great hero! My precious heart, hahaha!

Now, my character is not only a navigator and a grandmaster, but also a dual-identity treasure-identifying vice hero; it's practically a cash machine! If the in-game prices fluctuate as much as speculated, making millions within a year or two shouldn't be a problem. At the very least, a few million should still be achievable in less favorable conditions.

Decision made, I'll never mention selling this account again! Who cares about being wanted across the server? Does that brat truly believe having wealth means being the boss of the server? That's delusional arrogance! Needs a cure! Don't let me catch you; otherwise, my grandmaster will beat you into begging on the streets.

Finally, Catherine released a long breath, “Captain, this must be a treasure; it should be a device for summoning a hunter’s falcon, likely produced in the Elf Kingdom, but I can’t determine anything beyond that.”

Da Fei was overjoyed, “No problem, no problem! All I needed to know was if it’s a treasure, thank you, darling!” A treasure even the Master of Treasure Identification couldn’t fully assess must at least be A-rank or above, right? There are plenty of appraisers among NPCs; I’ll just pay them to solve it later.

Catherine giggled, “Captain, where are we going now?”

Da Fei was taken aback, “Where are we now?”

Catherine laughed, “Emerald Sea, not far from the Elf Kingdom, Farolan.”

Da Fei laughed heartily, "Good! Then let's head to the Elf Kingdom and find someone there to appraise this treasure!"

Catherine laughed, "I've heard transporting goods from the Elf Kingdom to the Human Kingdom can earn a lot of money."

Da Fei quickly nodded, "Yes, right, our first shipment will start from the Elf Kingdom, hahaha!"

Catherine giggled, "As expected of the Captain. I'll go steer the ship then, and leave the sails to you, Captain?"

Da Fei chuckled, "No problem, absolutely. Handling the sails is a rough task meant for men." But I say, darling, shouldn't you take off these wet clothes? After getting drenched all night, you ought to sunbathe first, right?

The Flying started sailing towards the destination with the wind.

Once free, Da Fei took out that hard-earned golden paper and, with great emotion, took a deep breath as if inhaling the scent of his darling's sweat between her breasts, ah~~.

—System Prompt: Your innate talent 'Storm Navigation' is a rare navigation specialty suitable for the use of the Navigator Wisdom Scroll; do you want to transform your innate talent into a Navigator professional specialty?

—Confirm!

The golden paper flashed into gold dust and vanished.

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have used 1 Skill Point to acquire the Navigator professional specialty 'Storm Navigation.'

—Storm Navigation: Increases the safety of hero's fleet while navigating in severe storms, effectiveness improves with the Navigator Skill Level. (Note: Prerequisite requires the hero to possess a large Galleon with good wave resistance or better models. A large Galleon requires the hero to have certain prestige to be eligible for purchase at a shipyard.)

Finally, it was no longer just a wild talent; compared to before, it now included an effect that improved with the profession level! Finding the organization indeed feels vastly different, haha! Hahaha!

—System Prompt: You have converted your innate talent to a professional specialty, now you have the opportunity to choose a new innate talent; you can select a skill from those you have mastered to become your new talent.

As expected! I have dual specialties now! Hahaha!

But which skill should I choose as a talent? My most advanced skill currently is 'Intelligence Analysis,' should I go with it? No, no, why rush? I'm already a Grandmaster; is God-level far off? I'll wait until I master a God-level Skill; I'm a God-level Hero, a God-level Divine Master, hahaha!

Chapter 54: The Beginning of a Great Maritime Enterprise

The so-called rich people were essentially just those who cruised around in luxury yachts filled with bikini-clad beauties, spraying champagne all over them while going "aha aha ha ha"—so vulgar!

In my heart, the rich should be like me now, holding a silky-smooth, sultry sweetheart, sitting on a deck as smooth as water, fishing, barbequing, drinking rum, enjoying the sea breeze, watching the stars, listening to the waves, and singing love poems from the heart! Discussing the future of love! Between the sky and sea, it's our artistic world!

—"Let us paddle together, the little boat pushes through the waves..." That's for pirates, no future.

—"Chase the power of thunder and lightning... even the smallest sails can travel far!" That's courting death!

—“Night after night, I dream of seeing you...” That’s Titanic, fits perfectly! Wahaha!

After last night’s storm, this ship’s durability was now under 1000, with cracks everywhere, not far from becoming the Titanic. While storms easily damaged the ship, fixing it would restore durability. But the fact that it easily lost maximum durability showed the ship was too old. The system was not that generous after all.

Facing the future, Da Fei, while holding the beloved in his arms, sighed, “Don’t worry, this ship can still be used for a while. In this period, we’ll earn big money and then buy a new big ship. By then, we’ll decorate the new ship into a luxury palace, mount a dozen crossbow cannons, arm the ship into a fortress, and then we can roam in the New World, living the happiest life of a sea emperor.”

Catherine sighed gently, “It’s really a pity about this ship. Even though it wasn’t maintained for years, it’s still the most high-performance ship I’ve seen. Kingdom terms would call it a special-purpose ship. Regular shipyards wouldn’t produce it.”

Da Fei was taken aback, “Special-purpose ship?”

Catherine nodded, “Yes, the wood materials of this ship are very rare and unique. The size and shape of a ship are closely tied to the quality of the wood. The wood of this ship is sturdy and resilient; only sturdy wood can support a massive hull under the thrust of waves and strong winds, and only resilience can sustain such a long, streamlined, high-speed hull. Now, with just the two of us, we can’t bring out its performance. The ship is too old to perform, but if it had top sailors, one could imagine how fast it used to be!”

So, building ships in the game also had so much science behind it? Da Fei sighed, “After all, it’s a ship that once shouldered a significant historical mission, must be much better than ordinary ships—” then he perked up, “But no worries, we just work hard to make money. As long as there’s enough money, there’s always a way to get a new ship with the same performance.”

Catherine smiled charmingly, “Although such ship materials are hard to get, I believe the Captain will find a way.”

While stroking her smooth fragrant shoulders, Da Fei laughed, “Of course, nothing can stump me!”

Even so, Da Fei was inwardly struggling, as the personality of a hero was indeed quite important! The darling was passionate and fiery, easily persuaded to shed layers until only underwear remained, a player's blessing! But she was outright a gold digger! I'm a professional player, making money to sell Gold Coins to buy cars and houses, not this far-fetched, unreliable special-purpose ship!

But then, who am I? An expert! A Master! A God-level Hero with dual specialties and dual professions! Someone who's onboard a broken ship with not a penny to his name, yet she chose me for my future! Are there such good gold diggers in reality? Conquering a gold digger is a symbol of a successful man! If things unachievable in real life aren't achievable in the game, then what's the point?

In short, a bright tomorrow calls me, and beautiful angels open their arms to me!

Arms! Looking at the bosom of the sweetheart that was wrapped and about to burst, Da Fei felt a pang of hatred! What is underwear? The game's Divine Domain! An absolutely impregnable fortress no matter how thin!

A streak of dawn reddened the sky, marking the start of a new day. The fresh sea breeze lightly caressed the sails, and flocks of seagulls circled the Flying, chirping briskly. Having seabirds indicated that land was near.

Catherine took out the sea chart, "Captain, we've reached the coastal waters of the Elf Kingdom Farolan. The nearest big port is Elorin, and once on shore, the first thing the Captain must do is go to the Alliance Sea Commerce Association to get an outbound trade permit, only with this permit will the trading houses do business with us. Initially, the trade permit is only level 1, and trading houses will sell us a maximum of 10 units of low-grade goods per day. Only by doing more business and gaining a good reputation can we upgrade the permit to buy more and higher-grade goods. However, this doesn't fully utilize our ship's transport capacity. So, we should take on the Chamber of Commerce's transport tasks; the more and farther we transport, the more credit we gain, rapidly increasing the trade permit level. Of course, such tasks require upfront deposits equivalent to the value of the goods, so first we must find ways to earn money for the deposits."

Da Fei laughed heartily, "Baby, I didn't expect you to know so much."

Catherine laughed, "Being a pirate, one must understand the habits of merchants, investigate market trends, and then ambush them at their most likely places."

Da Fei laughed, “Pirates really are a technical job!”

Indeed, Catherine made sense, but players had their own methods. The trading house limited players to one transaction a day, right? Well, just buy goods from other players at high prices.

Players with a regular level 1 trade permit could only buy 10 units per day, while my ship had a capacity of 1,000 units; I could just set up a stall at the trading house entrance and buy 100 players’ supply orders at high prices. How high? Just slightly above their purchase price. During public testing, many players were too lazy to go out to sea, simply staying in the city to do this business.

In the game, commerce and trade were crucial selling points, determining a player’s ability to develop and grow. That’s why there were “Accounting Skill” and “Bargaining Skill” in Lord System Skills.

—Accounting Skill: Territory income can increase by up to 3% monthly, with 3% increases per skill level.

Sub-skills include “Farm Development,” “Mine Development,” “Orchard Development,” “Fishery Development,” “Market Development,” etc., further boosting facility income and production.

—Bargaining Skill: Haggling can reduce purchase prices by up to 5% and increase selling prices by up to 5%. Each level enhances effects by 5%.

Sub-skills include “Food Trade,” “Textile Trade,” “Luxury Trade,” etc., enabling cheaper prices to buy more from the trading house. Master-level Negotiation Skill included “Bribery” during public testing, shocking the business world with this Divine Skill!

—Bribery: You could pay the trading house trader to sell you additional goods.

The Lord System also included Recruitment Skill for troop recruitment, and City Construction Skill for boosting building durability and construction speed. Overall, Lord System Skills were quite a pain as they left few Skill Points for fighting. As a Lord, the focus was on having many troops and Vice Heroes; fighting personally was the lesser option. For Da Fei, amid the hefty profits from large transport capacity, any bargaining skill was just fleeting.

Now, Da Fei could see the coastal land and those tiny white sails on the distant sea. Those white sails were of players running small commercial ships near the coast, only being able to buy a single-masted ship that could carry 10 units of cargo at most, shuttling between ports.

Ah, I wonder what they will think seeing my 1,000-unit large ship? Land, I've finally returned! My grand sea commerce enterprise starts here! Wahahahaha!

At this moment, a fleet of 20 small sailboats was sailing lightly on the distant sea, and the approach of the massive Flying naturally caught their attention.

“Brother Cannon, look, look, that ship seems to be player-operated!”

A dwarf clan player named Skyshattering Cannon immediately took out a telescope to check, seeing the big red words “Flying (Da Fei)” atop the large ship!

Skyshattering Cannon was shocked, “The trash player Da Fei wanted across the entire server!”

Suddenly, the whole fleet burst out! But they quickly regained composure, “Da Fei is alone! And even with the notorious red name, if we kill him, his equipment and ship certificate might all drop!”

Skyshattering Cannon immediately ordered, “Quick, contact Blood Sea Studio, everyone record the video as evidence, ready to engage!”

Everyone shouted in excitement!

Chapter 55: Who's Robbing Who?

In the Elf Kingdom's Elorin Port, Skyshattering Cannon was a player with a bit of fame.

As a dwarf, he traveled all the way from the Dwarf Kingdom to the Elf Kingdom, all for the sake of using the Elf Kingdom as a base for his trading ventures and making money. The Elf Kingdom's handicrafts are

recognized as best-sellers in the Bright Alliance, with statues purchased for 100 Gold Coins able to be sold in the Human Kingdom for a whopping 800 to 1000 Gold Coins.

However, these handicrafts are considered high-end goods of the Elf Kingdom, only available to players with high trade license levels. Moreover, the Elf Kingdom is far by sea from the Human Kingdom, and one must buy a big ship to undertake such trade. In reality, inter-kingdom trade demands large cargo volumes, only feasible with big ships. Who would dare risk capsizing by shipping just a handful of goods over such a long distance for nearly a dozen game days in a small vessel?

Therefore, Skyshattering Cannon gathered a dozen or so good friends to trade near the port, earn reputation, level up together, and then they discussed raising funds to purchase a big ship. After that, once enough money was earned, Skyshattering Cannon's advantages as a dwarf would come into play—forging weapons! The dwarves' weapons were the first in the Bright Alliance, or even the best in the world.

In short, Skyshattering Cannon and his buddies had their little life nicely planned out.

And today, they encountered an unexpected windfall on their trade route! Red names have no rights—killing trashy red names is considered a public service, and you can collect a hefty reward from the bounty notice, so why the hell not? Of course, it goes without saying that there's no need to advertise the massacre of red names and looting their gear.

Blood Sea Studio.

These past few days, Blood Sea Wave had been very busy. Establishing the studio, clearing the site, recruiting, hiring trustworthy acquaintances to manage, setting up studio rules and salary packages, forging an alliance with the Dragon Slayer Guild, and so on—a heap of things to do. Fortunately, with many brothers and a wide network, Blood Sea Wave saw smooth progress.

Since Blood Sea Wave was a famed naval war hero of the China Region, it was only natural for his studio's development direction to also be oriented toward the sea. Elorin Port, known for producing handicrafts, demonstrated its value during open beta testing, and Blood Sea Wave naturally had plans for his studio members to settle in this port for development. First trade, then strengthen the military force.

And now, Blood Sea Wave received a tip-off from a player—his archenemy was spotted in the waters near Elorin!

Blood Sea Wave's spirits lifted, and he glared furiously, saying, "Tell them, kill! Once the bounty is issued, we mean business! Money is no issue! I'll log in later and personally contact that player!"

Money was obviously not a problem; it was an opportunity to establish the credibility and authority of the Blood Sea Studio! Using the archenemy as a sacrifice on the studio's opening day was just too perfect! As long as the enemy resurrected on shore, they couldn't escape from the people's oceanic grasp—they'd be like rats on the street, hunted down to level zero!

At this moment, near the waters of Elorin, Skyshattering Cannon shouted loudly, "Brothers, the big boss has spoken, kill! Whoever takes him out gets a 100,000 reward, 5,000 each!"

The crowd roared in unison: "Charge!"

Twenty small sailboats immediately changed course, encircling the Flying with the ferocity of a pack of wolves.

Da Fei was of course alerted by the unusual activity of the small boats.

"Damn it! Instead of trading properly, what the heck are you trying to pull?" Having extensive experience as a senior healer, Da Fei knew these players were definitely not here to celebrate his arrival.

In calm seas near the coast, big ships usually can't run as fast as small ones. Moreover, with only two people on board, escape was definitely not an option—but Da Fei hadn't planned to run anyway.

"I need to make an example of one to warn the others, so no one dares to have designs on me just because I'm red-named!" Da Fei's confidence, of course, came from his Master-level Crossbow Cannons, perfectly capable of sinking one of their small boats with a single shot, decimating half of them before they could even get close. Then it was time for his precious treasure. Although Catherine wasn't a Battle Hero, her Angel-like combat power was evident, easily snipping through these level 20-something players with just 50 or 60 hit points. Not one of them would board his ship.

Then Catherine exclaimed, "Captain, are we going into battle?"

Da Fei nodded, his tone dark: "That's right! If they come looking for death, they can't blame me for giving it to them."

Catherine chuckled in surprise: "It's the first time I've seen merchants take the initiative to attack me. It's good enough that I didn't rob them."

Rob? A thought flashed through Da Fei's mind. That's right! Killing them would make me lose reputation, and it would be a disservice to my own reputation if I didn't loot a bunch of their cargo, considering it costs money to restore reputation.

Da Fei exclaimed excitedly, "Can we rob them?"

Catherine laughed. "With their level, we can rob them till they're left with nothing but their underwear!"

Hey, hey, hey, only I'm allowed to steal her underwear, no one else can. However, if we were to rob them, considering they have about a dozen players plus at least one or two NPC sailors on their small boats, they're quite a formidable group. If any of those players knew some magic, even Catherine's 73 health points might not be safe.

Da Fei suddenly remembered that he had a Demonized Anemone King's Heart in his bag, which he originally planned to sell. But given the current situation, he decided it was best to use it now, to spare his darling any hardship. With her terrifying attack speed, the paralyzing and interrupting effect would be unimaginable.

As the two sides approached each other, Da Fei, afraid of sinking their boats, deliberately slowed down by lowering the sails. As they got closer, the Skyshattering Cannon's small fleet noisily docked alongside the Flying, completely surrounding it.

Then, Brother Cannon was flabbergasted, and Da Fei silently lamented that he had overthought things. How do you expect to board when the Flying has such high sides? Did you think you were pirates who could perform aerial acrobatics standing on the mast? Even if you could do that, your tiny ships' masts

aren't tall enough to reach the sides. All in all, attacking a big ship with a small one is as difficult as laying siege to a castle.

Sure enough, the players exclaimed in shock, "Brother Cannon, we can't board it, what do we do?"

Brother Cannon gritted his teeth. "Then smash the ship! Sink it!" It seemed they had no hope of looting the ship for valuables, so they decided to go for the bounty instead.

Da Fei was suddenly startled! Damn, did you really think you could dock with my ship just like that? With a turn of the wheel, I could sink you all!

Da Fei hurriedly threw down two ropes. "Hey! If you've got guts, come on up!" Throwing one might make them hesitant, throwing two would give them courage.

Brother Cannon was overjoyed. "Charge aboard!" he shouted. "Brothers, charge! The big boss will reward us dead or alive!"

The players immediately climbed the ropes and poured onto the deck. They breathed a sigh of relief when they were not met with the expected resistance as they climbed over the sides.

This is the power of a big ship! Standing on the firm, smooth deck, they couldn't help but cheer, as if the ship was already theirs. But Da Fei was nowhere to be seen. "Where is he?"

"Idiots, if you have the guts, come on in!" Da Fei's voice came from the cabin corridor.

"What's he up to?" they muttered in their hearts.

Brother Cannon waved his hand. "Charge, we have numbers on our side! We'll grind him down!"

The players immediately rushed into the cabin, and just as everyone poured in, Catherine, wielding her dual blades, leaped from the bridge into the corridor, on a killing spree. Screams and flashes of white light filled the tight space. With Catherine's 60 attack, 20 damage, plus 22 attack speed, coupled with

the pirate attribute and Attack Skill doubling her damage from behind, these level 20 players with just 40 to 50 health points stood no chance against her.

Right, if it were a fight on deck, Da Fei would worry about being encircled by their numbers, which would spell trouble. So he lured them into the narrow cabin corridors. And then, you know the rest.

When Da Fei and Catherine eventually rejoined victoriously, a sweaty Catherine triumphantly waved a stack of papers in her hand. “Captain, guess what this is?”

Da Fei was overjoyed, “The purchasing orders! We really got them! Darling, you’ve worked hard!” But thinking about how he just killed about twenty level 10-20 players and lost 4000 reputation, he sighed inwardly, hoping the value of their merchandise could make up for the reputation loss, otherwise, there might be trouble entering the port.

So what is a purchasing order? It is of course the proof of goods bought by merchant players from the trading posts. Goods without a purchasing order are considered of unknown origin, black-market goods that trading posts won’t accept, and the navy might even confiscate them upon discovery. Merchants trading goods between themselves is essentially the trading of purchasing orders. Only when you have the purchasing order are you legitimately in possession of the goods. That means if the players didn’t drop the purchasing order, even if Da Fei robbed their goods, there would be nowhere to sell them, and it would have been a pointless robbery.