

Ocean Lord 331

Chapter 331 - 331: Deep Sea Merfabric, Everyone's Happy

This question was also part of the plan.

Ji Chen smiled slightly. "If she told me the surname correctly, then the one I encountered should be a member of your royal family."

After receiving the confirmation, Miligas became somewhat excited.

This was an elf with royal blood!

The more powerful a being, the harder it was to have offspring, and this was a common trait among most powerful races.

Elves, in particular, had the lowest birthrate among all races.

Over a thousand years ago, there was an internal conflict among the elves, and some members of the royal family, due to ideological differences, took a part of their people and went into hiding.

This unknown royal elf might be one of those who left during that internal conflict, or perhaps a descendant of those who did.

Elves had a long lifespan, and living for a thousand years was not a problem for the high-powered elves.

Even though the elves were prosperous at this time, searching for the whereabouts of the royal elves who had left in the past yielded little results due to the scarcity of information and the passage of time. The empire's members with royal bloodline were also few, numbering only in the double digits.

If he could bring back a royal member who had been lost in the outside world, it would be a great achievement!

He might even be received personally by the Empress!

This supreme honor was not to be missed.

"Lord Ji Chen, what is the full name of this elf? This question is crucial for us."

"Her name? It's Elin Apocalis."

"Elin?" Miligas was slightly taken aback, and he began to think. Whether it was from his memory or the two thousand years of lineage passed down, there was no mention of this name. Could it really be a newly born elf royal offspring?

However, knowing the name was not enough to prove the existence of this royal bloodline elf.

But then, Ji Chen extended his right hand adorned with the Void Ring, "This is the gift that Elin Apocalis gave me."

As soon as he saw the Void Ring, Miligas's gaze was firmly fixed on it.

His heart began to beat intensely once again.

This was definitely not wrong!

There was a noble elf imprint on it, only an elf with tremendous power could leave such a strong aura on an item.

At this point, he was already about seventy to eighty percent sure.

This elf named Elin Apocalis was not one of the royal bloodlines that left during the internal conflict, but a descendant of the royal bloodline!

Ji Chen naturally had no idea what Ambassador Miligas was thinking. If he knew, he would surely have a knowing smile.

Who is Elin if not an ancient elf of a thousand years or maybe a young elf from a noble royal bloodline?

Clearly, she is an elf crone who has lived for thousands of years, at least several generations older than you.

However, judging by Ambassador Miligas's reaction, Elin did not return to the Elven Empire as he had guessed, otherwise, this elven ambassador would not have been so excited.

Changing the subject, Miligas asked the most important question.

"Your Excellency, do you know where this elf named Elin Apocalis is now?"

"At that time, I only sent her to the Northern Continent and did not accompany her."

At these words, a hint of disappointment flashed across Miligas's face, but he continued with some reluctance.

"Did she mention where she was going or reveal any plans?"

"She didn't say much, just that she wanted to see what the elves are like now and visit some friends.

Other than that, she didn't leave any information," Ji Chen shrugged, "As for when she will return, I don't know."

"Well, in that case, there's nothing more we can do," Miligas conceded with a bitter smile. "I'm sorry for showing such urgency in front of Your Excellency Ji Chen. A newcomer to the royal family holds immense significance for us.

If you encounter her again or have any information about her, please inform us, and we will reward you generously."

"Of course," Ji Chen chuckled and changed the topic, "This time I came here, in addition to the previous business, there is also a special product of the Crown of the Ocean that I want to show to you to see if you are interested.

It's an extremely precious deep-sea treasure that is only produced in the middle of the ocean.

Legend has it that in ancient times, only the Ocean Emperor could possess this treasure, and anyone else who privately owned it, once discovered, would be ordered to be beheaded and the treasure confiscated for the royal treasury.

So only the most noble of the strong can possess it.”

Hearing Ji Chen’s words, Miligas was curious. As the Ambassador of the Silvermoon Dynasty in the Maple Principality, he was already an elf noble with hundreds of years of experience, and he had broad knowledge. What rare things had he not seen before?

Ocean Treasure?

This kind of thing seemed more like a marketing ploy, designed to attract buyers. If it were placed in the hands of an ordinary merchant, they would surely sneer at it and dismiss it as insignificant.

But the one saying this was Ji Chen. From this brief encounter, Miligas also realized that Ji Chen was not the kind of person who exaggerated.

With this in mind, a hint of interest appeared on Miligas’s face. “Your Excellency Ji Chen, I wonder what this so-called Ocean Treasure is? We elves collect treasures from all over the world, and it can be said that there is nothing we haven’t seen..”

Chapter 332 - 332: Deep Sea Merfabric, Everyone’s Happy (2)

“Treasures housed in the Imperial Museum are, without a doubt, the most numerous and of the highest quality in this world. In this regard, we elves are undoubtedly at the forefront.”

“For ordinary items, we wouldn’t easily make acquisitions.”

To this, Ji Chen expressed full confidence, “Your Excellency Ambassador, I assure you that you will be satisfied.”

Then, he signaled to Alice, who nodded in understanding and walked out of the hall to retrieve the pre-prepared Merfabric.

Although Ji Chen could have taken the Merfabric out of his backpack directly, doing so abruptly would have lacked elegance.

The packaging and presentation of an item played a significant role in conveying its value.

Soon, under everyone’s gaze, Alice walked in once again, carrying a long wooden box in her hands. The box was made from top-quality jungle wood, emitting a natural fragrance. It was intricately carved with various marine creatures, lifelike and vivid. Gemstones and pearls adorned various parts of the box, with ivory pearls adorning the clasp. Leaving aside what was inside, just from this box, one could sense that its contents were extraordinary, or rather... not cheap.

Seeing this exquisite wooden box, Miligas’ attention was drawn to it, and his interest and curiosity grew more intense. He wondered what was inside.

Observing this, Ji Chen smiled faintly.

This specially crafted wooden box, with the gemstones, jade, and pearls adorning it, was worth the equivalent of thirty thousand gold coins. After adding the cost of the wood and craftsmanship, it couldn't be obtained for less than thirty thousand gold coins.

This time, to achieve the desired effect, he had indeed used his financial resources.

The long wooden box was placed on the table, and even the usually resolute and unsmiling military officer among them cast a curious glance. Elves may be wealthy, but they wouldn't spend their gold coins on making a wooden box.

They had a long history and possessed the wisdom of a sophisticated race with refined tastes, not nouveau riche.

Under the slightly curious gazes of the two elves, Ji Chen gently undid the clasp and opened the wooden box.

Upon seeing what was inside the box, Miligas involuntarily exclaimed, "A... piece of pure white fabric?"

Inside the wooden box lay a pure white Merfabric, as pristine as a cloud trapped in a box.

Soft, ethereal, and pure.

Even Miligas, who considered himself knowledgeable about many things, couldn't help but be amazed. He subconsciously wanted to get closer and feel the softness of this cloud-like fabric with his hands.

However, Ji Chen stopped him, his expression serious. "Your Excellency Ambassador, touching it without caution might contaminate this piece of Merfabric."

As if awakened from a dream by those words, Miligas nodded hastily, his expression becoming equally serious. "Brett, please go to my room and fetch the pair of Ice Silkworm Silk gloves for me."

Military officer Brett nodded and quickly walked out. He soon returned, carrying a wooden box containing a pair of white silk gloves.

Miligas first washed his hands thoroughly, as if trying to cleanse them of any impurities. Then, he used a valuable golden handkerchief to carefully dry his hands until not a single water stain remained. Only then did he begin to put on the pair of white silk gloves.

"These ice silkworm gloves are made from the silk spun by seventh-tier domesticated creatures known as Glacial Silver Silkworms. They naturally possess a property that repels impurities and cleanses the hands. Once you put them on, there's no need to worry about contaminating treasures.

Any treasure should be handled with one hundred percent care. It would be a great regret if damage occurred due to the owner's carelessness.

But Your Excellency, please rest assured. I will be extremely cautious, and I won't let even the slightest contamination happen. Please allow me to touch it."

As Miligas put on the gloves, he explained with a serious expression.

Ji Chen:

Although this was originally intended for you.

But when you explain it so seriously and inadvertently reveal your wealth, it makes me uncomfortable.

Initially, Ji Chen had some playful thoughts like, "Oh, my precious item, please don't damage it," which is why he deliberately said that. In reality, Merfabric naturally repelled dirt and wouldn't be contaminated by a simple touch.

Although he didn't know what a Glacier Silver Silkworm was, being seventh-tier suggested it wasn't an ordinary creature.

Well, this attempt to show off didn't quite succeed and ended up with the other party showcasing their affluence.

"Feel free to proceed."

With Ji Chen's permission, Miligas cautiously touched the Merfabric. He felt its softness, akin to a cloud, even smoother than milk. Holding the delicate white fabric in his hands, he couldn't help but brighten up.

At this moment, he fully believed in the claim that this was a treasure from the deep sea.

Just by touching it, he felt a coolness that belonged only to the ocean, and he could even faintly smell the scent of seawater.

Over the past few hundred years, he had seen countless rare treasures, but none could compare to this piece of white Merfabric.

If it could be turned into clothing, there was probably no elf who would refuse it.

Furthermore, the Queen's birthday was approaching, and by then, elf nobles and ambassadors from all over would return to celebrate and present gifts to the Queen. If he could offer this piece of white Merfabric as a gift, he might stand out among the elves and even earn the Queen's commendation.

Thinking of this, Miligas couldn't help but get excited. It took him a while to calm down and carefully place the white Merfabric back in the wooden box.

He raised a question, "Your Excellency, what is the name of this kind of white fabric?"

"Deep Sea Merfabric, a treasure produced only in the boundless ocean."

"Deep Sea Merfabric..." Miligas murmured, his eyes shining, "I wonder how many of these specialties the Crown of the Ocean can produce?"

The crucial question had come, and this answer would determine the maximum value of the Merfabric.

Ji Chen wore a somewhat regretful expression and shook his head.

"Because the materials required to make Deep Sea Merfabric are extremely rare, only about five top-quality pieces have been woven in the past hundred years."

Currently, we can only use lower-grade materials to replace some of the required ones, so the quality will be slightly lower compared to these five. However, we can produce about sixty pieces per month.”

Hearing this, Miligas was not shocked but delighted.

Only five pieces woven in over a hundred years? Didn't that further emphasize the preciousness of this Deep Sea Merfabric?

When presented on the Queen's birthday, it would be another indication of its rarity.

Not only was this highly valuable, but it also had historical value!

“Your Excellency Ambassador, I wonder if the elves would be interested in purchasing lower-grade Deep Sea Merfabric?”

“Of course, we are very interested. Elves welcome any suppliers with excellent products,” Miligas replied with a smile, “I wonder what the price is for this lower-grade Deep Sea Merfabric?”

Ji Chen hesitated for a moment and tentatively held up four fingers.

Miligas, upon seeing this, exclaimed, “Oh? Four hundred thousand gold coins? Deal!”

Ji Chen was stunned.

In fact, he meant four thousand gold coins per piece.

But this guy just multiplied it by ten!?

Ji Chen watched Miligas with a look that said, “Brother, you're really generous. You're selling something so precious for such a low price,” Ji Chen found it hard to put into words.

It seems that there was a bit of a difference in thinking between the wealthy and normal people.

Obviously, for wealthy elves like Miligas, buying a piece of fabric for four hundred thousand gold coins was no big deal. If you offer a lower price, they might even think it's not valuable enough and refuse to buy it.

Ji Chen ended up feeling like he got a “raw deal” and was almost too happy in his heart.

In the end, it was decided that each piece of tier-one Merfabric would be exchanged for three thousand units of third-tier rare resources such as crystals, mithril, and fine gold.

“Lord Ji Chen, you are truly a good friend of the elves, willing to sell such a treasure at such a low price,” Miligas said gratefully.

“Oh, it's nothing. I hope the friendship between the Ocean Crown and the elves will last!” Ji Chen held back a smile and raised the wine glass on the table.

“Hahaha, of course, may our friendship endure!” Miligas also raised his glass, and they both drank to that.

This was a win-win situation, a cause for celebration for all!

They emptied their glasses in one gulp.

Ji Chen noticed the look in Miligas's eyes, occasionally lingering on the Merfabric in the wooden box. Understanding this, he put down his wine glass and smiled.

'Ambassador, we are friends, aren't we?'

'Of course, if someone like you isn't a friend, then I don't have any friends at all!'

'In that case, let this Deep Sea Merfabric be a gift between friends. But wait, Alice, bring me another one. Humans have a saying, 'Good things come in pairs.' So, two pieces are enough to seal our friendship!'

Upon hearing this, even Miligas couldn't help but show a pleasant surprise.

He personally poured another glass of wine for Ji Chen, and once again, they both drank it down. 'Lord Ji Chen, you will forever be a friend of the elves!'

This ambassador had clearly spent a long time in human society, learning many of their customs and culture, which made Ji Chen feel as if he were back on Earth, reminiscing about the days of mingling with clients and toasting to deals.

Miligas, content with the agreement reached, joyfully clinked glasses with Ji Chen and continued to drink glass after glass of fine wine. It wasn't until nightfall that they finally stopped, both slightly tipsy.

Alice helped the slightly flushed Ji Chen out of the reception hall and onto the carriage, assisting him to the carriage window.

'Ambassador, there's no need for further farewells.'

Similarly unsteady on his feet from drinking, Miligas nodded upon hearing this and said in a somewhat slurred voice, 'Then, Lord Ji Chen, may you have a smooth journey. We'll have another drink together next time!'

'Of course, the kind where we don't return until we're completely intoxicated!'

The carriage slowly started moving, its wheels creaking on the stone-paved road. Under the gaze of many elves, it exited the gates of the Elven Embassy and disappeared around a street corner.

At that moment, Miligas, who had been swaying unsteadily, suddenly straightened up. His previously unfocused gaze now gleamed with sharpness.

'Ambassador Miligas, this human... is not simple,' said Brett, the military officer.

'Of course, he's not simple. A territory so far overseas couldn't possibly produce so many rare items,' Miligas replied.

'I'm not referring to going to his territory, but to his abilities.' Brett shook his head, his brows furrowing. 'His strength is not to be underestimated.'

From him, I sense a pressure and magical fluctuations akin to a mountain, no, as vast as the boundless sea.”

I have a vague feeling that if I were to face him head-on, within twenty rounds, I’d be defeated.”

Miligas, hearing these words, was greatly surprised. This military officer, Brett, was a Purple-Rare Tier hero. In the war between the elves and the Polar Troll Horde, he had remained unfazed in the face of an entire army of Polar Trolls, leading his troops to slay thousands of trolls and achieving remarkable feats.

To make such a strong individual say that they couldn’t last more than twenty rounds against this human and give such a high evaluation.

So, how strong is this Lord Ji Chen?

Miligas fell into silence for a moment. He was a civilian and didn’t possess exceptional combat abilities, so he couldn’t perceive these things.

“Anyway, today we’ve made favorable contact with him and reached an agreement beneficial to both sides. This is a good start for us.

Furthermore, judging by his words and actions, he seems to have goodwill towards us. As long as nothing unexpected happens, our relationship with the Crown of the Ocean will only improve, which is in the elves’ interest.”

Brett nodded without hesitation. As long as it served the elves’ interests, everything was negotiable. But if it harmed the elves’ interests, even if the enemy were incredibly powerful, he would not hesitate to counteract it.

“Well, then I’ll go and rest for a bit. This human’s capacity for alcohol is quite impressive. I nearly passed out.”

Miligas rubbed his head, his face showing a hint of fatigue, but his eyes were bright.

Thinking about the two pieces of Deep Sea Merfabric that Ji Chen had gifted him, his mood soared.

This time, on Her Majesty’s birthday, he would definitely make a splash in front of so many elven nobles and colleagues!

Inside the carriage.

Once they had turned the corner, Ji Chen immediately sobered up, without a trace of his previous drunken appearance.

Of course, he had been pretending earlier. If he could be knocked out by just a few glasses of wine, it would underestimate his experiences as a top drinker back on Earth.

Sitting in the carriage, he drew open the curtains, enjoying the cool night breeze.

Recalling the many details of his conversation with Miligas just now, Ji Chen thought about the goals he had achieved during this visit to the Elven Embassy.

Not only had he successfully sold this batch of precious jungle wood, premium coffee beans, and other specialties, but he had also secured long-term, stable trade agreements with the Elves.

As expected, the luxury-loving Elves couldn't resist the allure of the Merfabric and immediately reached agreements on the spot.

One piece of Tier One Merfabric could exchange for a whopping three thousand units of rare resources. With the monthly production of Merfabric, he could acquire 180,000 rare resources.

In contrast, a whole shipment of weapons and equipment had only fetched a price of three thousand units of rare resources. One piece of Merfabric was worth as much as an entire shipload of weapons and equipment. Witnessing such an imbalanced trade, especially at a price the Elves found to be low, was truly remarkable.

But he could handle more of such deals!

Then, Ji Chen had a sudden recollection. He searched through his backpack and retrieved the Travis artifact with an unknown purpose. Inside the carriage, the crystal lamp's light illuminated it, revealing its dazzling golden hue and intricate, enigmatic patterns that gave it an air of mystique..

Chapter 334: Humans Not to Be Underestimated, Good Person Card, Black Gold District (2)

Before, he intended to return this item to the elves when he had contact with them, but Ji Chen changed his mind halfway.

This time, giving a top-notch Merfabric was already sufficient. He could wait until the next meeting to give this item.

The carriage drove out of the embassy district and re-entered the city's main thoroughfare.

Although it was already evening, Maple City was still bustling. The streets were brightly lit, and there was a constant flow of people, a sea of heads as far as the eye could see.

The carriage moved along a dedicated road. Suddenly, the horses neighed, and the carriage abruptly came to a stop. This startled everyone inside the carriage. Shortly after, a commotion could be heard from the front. Ji Chen furrowed his brow and opened the carriage door.

Seeing him come out, the coachman hurriedly explained, "My lord, a young girl accidentally entered the carriage lane, and I had to brake urgently..."

Ji Chen looked ahead and saw a girl who appeared to be a resident of Maple City. She was wearing rough clothes, and her face was freckled. She looked to be about fifteen or sixteen years old. She was anxiously picking up apples scattered on the ground. When she saw the adult coming out of the carriage, her face turned even paler, and her legs gave way, causing her to sit on the ground.

She recognized this type of carriage, the kind that only important figures could ride. Maple City had clear regulations that if she angered these important figures due to her own fault, she would be thrown into prison and receive twenty lashes as punishment.

Thinking of this, the girl's face grew even paler, and she trembled all over.

"My lord, I didn't mean to. Please forgive me..."

Ji Chen looked at the girl, who was now terrified and sighed. He walked over, squatted down, and picked up the scattered apples, placing them one by one into the girl's basket. His expression was kind.

“It’s okay, I won’t hold you responsible.”

The freckled girl was stunned. “Really? You won’t have the guards arrest me and throw me in prison?”

“Of course not. Please, get up.”

With this reassuring answer, the freckled girl hesitated for a moment, then placed her hand on the one Ji Chen had extended to her. She used his help to stand up.

“It’s quite late now. You should hurry home.”

The freckled girl obediently nodded, picked up her wooden basket, took a few steps, and then stopped. She turned around, revealing a face that wasn’t particularly pretty but brimming with youthful charm. Her expression was earnest as she said to Ji Chen.

“Sir, you are a good person.”

She said this without waiting for a response and then bounced away, gradually disappearing into the streets and the crowd.

Ji Chen had a slightly bewildered expression on his face, then smiled and shook his head.

Well, he had just given a ‘good person card’ to a little girl, but it didn’t feel too bad.

This was just a small episode. Ji Chen returned to the carriage, and with the crack of a whip, the carriage continued to rumble forward.

However, what he didn’t know was that the freckled girl was now standing on the roof of a building, watching their departing carriage.

A youthful face was marred by a sinister expression, her eyes filled with endless disgust and murderous intent.

“Damn Divine Patron, you and your domain will inevitably be destroyed by us.”

“Whether it’s Divine Patrons or deities, they will all be thoroughly eradicated! This world does not belong to you!”

Maple City and Maple Harbor, as prosperous commercial zones, had no curfew at night. People thronged the streets, and industries that were dormant during the day became lively at night.

For example, a street lit with red crystal lamps. Inside and outside the shops along the street, there were young women dressed provocatively, with flirtatious and alluring expressions, some seductive, some innocent, some aloof – anything one could imagine could be found here.

Among the crowds coming and going, there were also quite a few players walking shoulder to shoulder, greeted with smiles as they were welcomed in or sent off.

The streets, which were originally filled with a dusty atmosphere, now seemed somewhat peculiar due to the presence of these casual players.

After finally arriving on the continent and in such a bustling place, Ji Chen naturally didn’t want to return to the estate just like that.

He wanted to explore, see some places, or do something interesting.

Ji Chen pondered for a moment, then opened the glass window at the front of the carriage and asked the coachman who was driving ahead.

The coachman was assigned along with the carriage by the authorities of Maple City and had been driving people around the city for years, so he was very familiar with the place. He should know of some interesting places.

If we were to make a comparison with Earth, they would be like local taxi drivers.

“Do you know of any places in Maple City or nearby that are worth visiting?”

The coachman stopped the carriage and said respectfully, “There are quite a few beautiful attractions near Maple City that are worth visiting. However, it’s getting late now, and it might not be suitable to go there. You’ll have to choose within the city or the harbor area... If you don’t mind, sir, I know of a place that you might find interesting.”

“Oh, what place is that?”

“It’s called the Black Gold District. However, there are many Lords of Glory like yourself who frequent that place, so there might be some interesting things happening there.”

Players?

Ji Chen felt somewhat interested. Since coming to this world, he hadn’t interacted with many players apart from I_Love_Black_Socks. This was a good opportunity to see what they were like now.

“Just take me to this place.”

“Yes!”

The coachman skillfully adjusted the reins, turned the carriage around, and left the main road, heading into a side street.

Maple City was quite large, and it would take several hours to travel from one end to the other. So, if you didn’t take a carriage, it wouldn’t be possible to cover the distance in a day.

Ji Chen and his group spent more than two hours traveling from the main road to the place called the Black Gold District.

Its location was at the junction of two city walls, tucked away in a rather secluded corner near the base of the city wall.

Because of the height of the city walls, most places near the base of the walls often couldn’t receive sunlight, making these areas some of the worst positions in the city. In most cases, they were inhabited by the poor, and it wouldn’t be an exaggeration to call them slums.

At first glance, the Black Gold District didn’t appear bustling. Most of the buildings there were only three or four stories high, and there were fewer patrolling soldiers.

Unexpectedly, this district was exceptionally neat. The ground was neatly paved, with crystal street lamps placed at regular intervals.

Even trees were planted along the streets, and the sides of the buildings were covered in ivy-like plants. In this city filled with stone and wood structures and stone-paved roads, it appeared particularly vibrant.

Most of the people here were players, with their respective units coming and going in an orderly manner.

How should he put it?

This place was quite different from the rest of Maple City.

The other parts of Maple City were undoubtedly more prosperous, but that prosperity came with a sense of suppression and tension.

The streets were bustling with well-dressed merchants and nobles, but most common residents felt somewhat oppressed, constantly busy on the streets.

Just like the freckled girl who accidentally collided with a powerful person's carriage and then collapsed in fear.

Here, although it might not be as bustling, he could easily feel a relaxed atmosphere, full of vitality. Everything seemed to slow down a bit.

Ji Chen and his two carriages naturally attracted the attention of many players. They whispered among themselves, speculating about which local dignitary had arrived.

However, when they saw a handsome guy descending from the carriage, accompanied by an unbelievably beautiful woman who seemed like an ice queen, and followed by a dozen high-tier unit guards, their thoughts took a different turn.

They couldn't help but wonder, was this a wealthy local young master?

Had he brought his beautiful girlfriend for a day out?

But they quickly realized that this didn't seem like a local.

Amid their astonishment, the handsome guy, who was the envy of many, led the beautiful woman and his personal guards straight into the Black Gold District..

Chapter 335: Mr. Zhao Will Pay Tonight! Zhao Liangchen, Where's the Dragon?

This handsome guy naturally turned out to be Ji Chen and the beautiful lady beside him was Alice.

However, before coming down, he used the Illusory Mask to make some changes to his appearance.

His body became slightly taller and more slender, his features softened a bit, and his skin lightened considerably.

Paired with a set of exquisite clothing and accessories, he looked like a proper rich kid.

Ji Chen looked around with a hint of curiosity, ignoring the strange gazes of the other players outside, and led everyone into the largest tavern here, called "Cat Tail".

Gently pushing open the creaking wooden door, the tavern appeared to have only one floor, but it was quite spacious. Crystal lamps with dimmed brightness were hanging on the walls, creating a slightly dim and atmospheric ambiance.

Circles of wooden booths were situated on both sides, and there was a slightly sunken dance floor in the middle, adorned with a multicolored crystal lamp that illuminated the dance floor in a dazzling array of colors.

Seeing all this, Ji Chen suddenly felt like he had returned to a bar on Earth.

Impressive! These players sure know how to have a good time. They've managed to recreate a typical Earth bar in this fantastical realm.

They definitely live up to the label of "casual players."

Two-thirds of the booths were already occupied, indicating that players chose this place to spend their evenings.

As he observed the environment, the players in the tavern also noticed them and cast curious and puzzled looks their way.

Huh?

Why is there a handsome native rich kid coming to our place?

When they saw Alice, their eyes lit up.

Damn, he even brought a beautiful girl with him. They were incredibly jealous!

Ji Chen withdrew his gaze and suddenly got mischievous. He whispered a few words in Alice's ear.

Alice nodded and walked to the front desk of the tavern, saying something to the female player in charge of reception.

The female player looked startled at first, then, seeing Alice drop a bag filled with gold coins, her expression changed.

She quickly used some DIY-made amplification device and excitedly announced:

"Tonight, all expenses for drinks, food, snacks, and venue are covered by this young gentleman Zhao!"

The entire tavern suddenly fell silent as players looked at each other.

Then, like a volcanic eruption, everyone started cheering.

"Boss, you're generous!"

"Mr. Zhao is awesome!"

"We're going to have a blast tonight!!!"

In an instant, this person, despite his unknown background, appeared to be affluent and became everyone's newfound friend.

Although Mr. Zhao looked a bit strange at first and there were some doubts, as soon as they saw his status panel through the system, all doubts disappeared.

[Player]

[Name]: Zhao Liangchen

[Hidden]

How could the system possibly deceive anyone?

No mistake, this brother must be surnamed Zhao and called Zhao Liangchen!

Just as Ji Chen sat in the best and most expensive seat, many players came over with their glasses, enthusiastically offering toasts.

“Cheers to Mr. Zhao, you’re generous!”

“I wonder where Mr. Zhao’s territory is now. We should visit sometime.”

Facing the questions from the casual players, Ji Chen didn’t answer any of them. He just smiled with a touch of arrogance, raised his glass slightly, and emptied it in one gulp.

Seeing this, the players were even more certain that Mr. Zhao was not simple at all. Only someone with a significant family background could afford to smile like that.

They became even more enthusiastic, coaxing him to speak.

“Mr. Zhao, it seems you’re also a player. How did you manage to achieve this in just a few months?”

“That’s right, tell us, so we can learn from you.”

Watching the players chatter, Ji Chen smiled inwardly but put on a seemingly helpless expression.

“When I first entered the game, I was just an ordinary lord like everyone else. But perhaps due to a bit of luck, there was a large and rare resource vein not far from my territory.

Inside, there weren’t any guardian monsters, so I relied on this vein to continuously sell resources to the indigenous people, earning a substantial amount of gold.

Then I invested all that gold into the indigenous people’s businesses, leveraging the business skills I had from my time on Earth. Money rolled in, profits multiplied, and before I knew it, I had unintentionally amassed a fortune of billions.”

As he spoke, Ji Chen even put on a bland expression.

“Well, I didn’t expect making money in this world to be so easy. It’s like an easy game, with no challenge at all. I could clear it in minutes.”

Hearing these words, the players suddenly realized. They said, “We all entered at the same time, but how come you’ve become a wealthy and glamorous person, while we’re still stuck looking like losers?”

Moreover, seriously, there’s a large, rare resource vein near your territory without any wild monsters guarding it. What kind of luck is that!?

Is Lady Luck your relative or something?

The players couldn't help but feel a bit sour.

Envy, jealousy, and resentment.

But even with their envy, they knew they still needed to butter him up. If they could latch onto this big shot, wouldn't they skyrocket?

They had been in this world for several months already, and their initial aspirations to achieve great things had gradually been worn down by the merciless beatings of this unfamiliar world.

In reality, it had been proven that not every player could thrive, have a powerful territory, and a force of elite soldiers..

Chapter 336: Mr. Zhao Will Pay Tonight! Zhao Liangchen,

Where's the Dragon? (2)

Most players blend into the crowd, and a significant portion of them have lost their territories for various reasons, only able to make a living in indigenous cities.

Players like I_Love_Black_Socks belonged to the top tier.

After finding out that the Black Gold District's Cat Tail Tavern had a generous sponsor who covered the entire tab, idle players from Maple Harbor flocked here upon hearing the news, pouring in from all corners of the city. The tavern quickly filled up, and the celebration began.

Players were always enthusiastic about a free ride.

Ji Chen didn't pay much attention. It was just a tavern, just a few players—how much money could they possibly spend?

The gold coins in his backpack alone numbered in the millions; there was no need to worry.

This scene quickly caught the attention of the Cat Tail Tavern's owner.

But what surprised Ji Chen was that the tavern, which held a prominent position in the Black Gold District, had a middle-aged owner.

He was dressed in a decent robe, had a rather refined appearance, neatly combed hair, and exuded an air of success.

Back on Earth, he might not have been a big shot, but he should be at least a CEO of a publicly traded company.

It seemed like he had hurried back from somewhere. As soon as he walked in, many players greeted him and made way.

Ji Chen nodded silently; it seemed that this middle-aged player had a high reputation among the players in Maple Harbor.

The middle-aged player responded kindly to other players and quickly approached.

He didn't put on any airs and instead humbly extended his hand.

“Hello, Mr. Zhao. I am the owner of this Cat Tail Tavern. My real name is the same as my forum name, both are called Luo Yang.

Thank you for visiting our humble establishment; your presence truly honors us and brings glory to this small shop.”

Ji Chen nodded, his interest piqued. Although “Lord of Glory” allowed able adults to play, most of the interested players were indeed young. Individuals like Luo Yang, who appeared to be in their forties, were rare.

Moreover, in a world where combat was the main theme and strength reigned supreme, young people often adapted more easily and survived longer.

So, the fact that Luo Yang could run such a sizable tavern was somewhat surprising.

When asked about this, Luo Yang’s face revealed a hint of bitterness. He didn’t answer immediately but instead said, “It’s a bit noisy down here. How about we go upstairs for a more detailed discussion?”

Ji Chen nodded slightly.

Leading the way, Luo Yang extended his hand towards the staircase and said, “Mr. Zhao, this way, please, and Madam, right this way.”

Ji Chen left the Naga Berserker to guard the staircase on the third floor and followed Luo Yang upstairs with Alice.

The second floor consisted of private rooms, while the third floor resembled an upscale club. The decorations were much more luxurious than on the lower floors. They arrived at an elegantly styled room.

They both sat on either side of the table, with Alice standing by Ji Chen’s side, expressionless, resembling an icy beauty bodyguard.

Luo Yang politely vacated the main seat, even leaving a secondary seat for Alice, and took the third seat.

“Mr. Zhao, to be honest, coming to this world was an accident for me,” Luo Yang began with a wry smile.

“An accident?”

“Yes, as you can see, I’m already at this age, and I didn’t enter this game because I wanted to become a lord, conquer monsters and enemies, and enjoy the life of a lord, like the younger players.

Back then, I heard that ‘Lord of Glory’ had an extremely high degree of virtual reality, with all the senses being no different from reality. Moreover, there were breathtaking sceneries and scenes beyond imagination that couldn’t be seen in the real world. So, I just wanted to come in and take a look, purely for sightseeing. But who would have thought that after entering the game, I suddenly couldn’t log out.”

At this point, the middle-aged man sighed, “So many terrifying monsters and enemies appeared around the territory, which made my life miserable. I, a middle-aged man with no experience in this, had no idea how to fight. So, after the newbie protection period ended, my territory was quickly breached. Fortunately, during my escape, I encountered the army of Maple City, barely saving my life. But I didn’t have much money left.

In the end, I followed the army to Maple City and, relying on my limited experience from Earth, slowly earned some gold coins. That’s how I started this Cat’s Tail Tavern.”

Luo Yang explained with some sentiments.

Although the last part of his speech seemed light, Ji Chen could faintly sense the hardships hidden within it.

First, his territory was breached, and although he was saved, he was left almost penniless. Yet, not only did he survive in the vast Maple City, but he also opened this relatively large tavern.

As a Lord, Ji Chen naturally empathized with this.

For the native inhabitants, the sudden emergence of a billion players was met with more caution and vigilance. Amid this vigilance and competition, Luo Yang’s ability to thrive in Maple Harbor was quite commendable, making him seem like a talent.

Wait a minute, this was beginning to sound like an inspirational story.

A tale about a middle-aged man who had lost his territory and, through relentless effort, had changed his destiny in a foreign world?

Ji Chen felt a sense of admiration welling up in his heart.

Unconsciously, he dropped the playful expression that had been on his face and teased, “Your experiences are quite remarkable. I believe your journey over these few months could be turned into a bestselling book.”

Luo Yang modestly waved his hand, “My experiences aren’t really worth writing about.

Mr. Zhao, may I ask if you have any specific reason for coming to Maple City this time? Although I haven’t been in Maple City for long, I’ve been involved in business and have gathered quite a bit of information. I’ve also made acquaintances with many players, and I might have some information that could be of assistance to you.”

Luo Yang was a clever individual. Faced with someone significantly more powerful than himself, he understood that cultivating goodwill and friendship could lead to benefits, whether in the short or long term. Regardless of whether this Mr. Zhao was a second-generation wealthy individual or something else entirely, he saw the potential for mutual gain.

“Information?” Ji Chen’s interest was piqued. “So, besides running a tavern, you’re also involved in the information business?”

Luo Yang felt somewhat embarrassed but nodded. “Among the players in Maple City, I have earned some reputation, and many trust me enough to sell me the information they gather outside. So, I decided to make some money out of it.”

Although players' current strength was not that high, their adventurous spirits led them to explore and gather various miscellaneous information.

From dangerous ruins to gossip about native noble tribes, they knew a bit of everything.

Ji Chen contemplated for a moment. He had already interacted with the Elf race, and his goods had been sold. There didn't seem to be anything specific he needed to do at the moment... wait, there was one thing.

The Dragon Blood Murlocs, in their quest for further advancement and progression, require more Dragon Blood Crystals. This journey to the Northern Continent serves as a perfect opportunity to seek and acquire them.

With his mind made up, he said, "There is indeed something I'd like to ask you."

Hearing this, Luo Yang became alert and replied promptly, "Please, Mr. Zhao, go ahead."

"Do you know where I can find creatures like dragons, perhaps wyverns or earth dragons?"

"Dragons?" Luo Yang's eyes widened. In this world, dragons and dragon-like creatures were exceptionally powerful beings. Even the lowest-tier earth dragons had a starting tier of four stars, while the higher-tier wyverns were solidly fifth-tier creatures. As for dragons, they were among the top-tier creatures.

"Mr. Zhao, what do you need dragon-like creatures for?"

"You don't need to concern yourself with that. Just tell me if you know."

"Well..." Luo Yang thought for a moment. "I recall that when some players sold me information last time, they mentioned encountering certain dragons while adventuring outside."

"If you urgently need this information, I can contact them right away and inquire for more details."

"That would be ideal."

With Luo Yang's quick coordination, half an hour later, two players in disheveled attire arrived, escorted by the tavern's guards.

As they walked in, they were still chattering.

"Uncle Luo, why did you summon us so late? We were having fun with two ladies from Sixth Street, and you called us before we could finish...!"

The two players had just entered and saw Luo Yang sitting with a distinguished gentleman. There was also an incredibly beautiful woman standing beside him, making them abruptly fall silent.

They were stunned for a moment before hurriedly adjusting their clothes.

Even if they were a bit slow on the uptake, they understood what was going on..

After they had tidied themselves up, although they still appeared a bit messy, at least they were more presentable now.

“Uncle Luo, may I ask who this, um... distinguished guest is?” One of the older players asked cautiously.

“This is Lord Zhao, and tonight, all expenses at the Cat Tail Tavern are on him.” All expenses are on him?

Both players’ expressions changed abruptly.

As frequent patrons of the tavern, they knew that reserving the entire establishment would cost at least five thousand gold coins or more, and if you added drinks and food, it would easily reach a five-digit sum.

A five-digit gold coin expenditure was enough for an average player to live lavishly for a long time.

As players, their mindset shifted quickly, and they soon realized the reason why Luo Yang had called them over, and they respectfully inquired, their faces changing.

“Hello, Lord Zhao. My name is Hou Li Xu (Monkey Gift), and his name is Hou Li Fa (Monkey Gift Hair). Those are our forum names.

May I ask if you have any instructions? We are willing to serve you as you wish.”

Ji Chen was speechless for a moment.

Wow, could they have chosen more peculiar names for themselves? They were truly an interesting pair...

He nodded slightly and asked slowly, “Luo Yang mentioned that you encountered a great dragon while exploring outside?”

“Not really.” Hearing this, the two of them exchanged embarrassed glances. “That was just us bragging. A top-tier creature like a dragon, if we had really encountered one, we probably wouldn’t be standing here right now; we would have been turned into ashes with a single breath.

In reality, we encountered a Marshland Dragon.”

His interest was piqued.

In this world, dragon-like creatures were easily distinguishable by their names alone.

Dragons such as the Red Dragon, Blue Dragon, and Poison Dragon, each with a dragon term in its name, were considered top-tier dragons and were commonly known as traditional dragons.

While Ocean Dragon and Desert Dragon were considered secondary-level dragons.

Following that were creatures like Marshland Dragon and Wyverns, which had a certain amount of dragon bloodline and were still formidable in strength.

Below them were various dragon-like species with minimal dragon bloodline, mostly offspring of dragons known for their promiscuity, creating new species with some dragon characteristics.

What these two players described was a Marshland Dragon, which belonged to the same tier as the Wyverns.

Ji Chen felt a bit disappointed. Lower-tier dragons had less dragon bloodline, which meant fewer Dragon Blood Crystals could be produced.

A Marshland Dragon could produce enough Dragon Blood Crystals to advance dozens of Dragon Blood Murlocs, which was still decent.

“Tell us everything you know. Mr. Zhao won’t let you down,” Luo Yang said.

Monkey Gift and Monkey Gift Hair nodded and said, “I remember we once took a mission from the natives to survey the terrain of a certain area. Big Boss, you don’t know, those natives were so stingy.

They made us travel so far to such a dangerous place, and can you guess how much they paid us?”

It was less than a thousand gold coins, it’s simply a rip-off!

But we had no choice. Our territories were all occupied, and we had to compromise for our livelihood, so we reluctantly took on this task.

On the way, we encountered countless gathering spots of wild creatures, and roaming bandits, and several times we almost lost our lives...”

Ji Chen’s lips twitched involuntarily.

These two fellows started well, but the more they talked, the further away they deviated from the topic, expressing the emotions they had been harboring.

Seeing that they were getting more and more excited, Luo Yang’s face gradually darkened.

“Get to the point!”

“Oh? Oh, yes, I’ll get to the point.” Monkey Gift smiled awkwardly and coughed lightly.

“Later, on our way back, we took a shortcut through a swamp to save time, and we saw more than twenty Marshland Dragons rolling in the mud...” “Are you saying there were more than twenty Marshland Dragons?”

“Well, yes, we only saw that many, but there might be even more in deeper areas.”

Ji Chen felt a sense of excitement. While twenty-something Marshland Dragons might not be considered many, at least it meant he could obtain a considerable number of Dragon Blood Crystals, making it worth a trip.

Seeing the change in Ji Chen’s expression, Monkey Gift and Monkey Gift Hair suddenly thought of a possibility. Could this big shot, ahem, this great lord be planning to slay dragons?

“Mr. Zhao, are you planning to deal with those Marshland Dragons? Even the lowest-ranked ones are at Tier 5, and they’re in their home swamp. It’s incredibly difficult to defeat them.”

“That’s right, I’ve checked the information. Marshland Dragons not only have tough skin and thick flesh, but they also possess a skill called Marshland Aura, which can inflict negative buffs on enemies. It’s quite nasty.”

Ji Chen waved his hand dismissively.

“I know what I’m doing.”

This statement silenced Luo Yang, who had originally wanted to offer some advice.

In all honesty, wasn’t this just courting death?

At their current level, Tier 5 creatures posed a significant challenge for them, especially since most players were still focusing on Tier 3 units. Taking on more than twenty Tier 5 Swamp Dragons in their own territory would demand a substantial force.

Even if you have a fortune, you’re still treated equally in front of wild creatures!

This isn’t some online game where you can respawn; a single mistake can cost you your life, and people will die!

Seeing Ji Chen’s determined and resolute expression, the three of them could only sigh inwardly.

Ji Chen naturally didn’t know what they were thinking, and even if he did, he would just smile it off..

Chapter 338: Marshland Dragon, the Stir Caused by Mr. Zhao, and Elven Etiquette (2)

The one who courted death was Zhao Liangchen, Mr. Zhao. So, what’s that got to do with Ji Chen?

“Where was that swamp where you encountered the Marshland Dragon?”

Monkey Gift and Monkey Gift Hair didn’t hesitate. It was just a swamp filled with monsters, and they had no intention of going there a second time. There was no harm in revealing its location.

Monkey Gift took out a map and marked a location on it.

“Big Boss, if you really plan on going there, you must be cautious. Not only are the Marshland Dragons fearsome, but there are also many powerful wild creatures along the way.

We had to employ quite a few tactics just to return in one piece.”

Recalling the perilous journey they had faced, they shuddered and silently swore never to take such a dangerous mission again.

Ji Chen glanced at the map. It was about a four-day journey from Maple City, well beyond the city’s security perimeter.

However, there was a downside: this Marshland was far from the coastline and deep into the mainland. This meant that without suitable terrain, his combat capabilities would be significantly compromised.

Moreover, as the Crown of the Ocean was a pure aquatic unit, amphibious units weren’t that compatible with it.

After some contemplation, he ultimately decided to go.

It's still the same old saying: the greater the risk, the greater the rewards.

As the first unit in the military talent tree capable of evolving using external factors, Dragon Blood Murlocs were of extraordinary significance. With their Dragon's Might skill, they already stood out from other units.

Advancing to the end of the Dragon Blood tech tree might even allow them to evolve into beings akin to dragons.

This was a temptation Ji Chen couldn't resist, and it was worth taking a risk for.

After marking the swamp's location on his own map, Ji Chen stowed it away in his backpack.

He casually tossed two bags of coins onto the table, creating the sound of clinking gold and heavy objects hitting the surface.

Looking at the bewildered faces of Luo Yang and the Monkey brothers, he leisurely remarked, "These two bags of gold are for you."

Also, inform the players in Maple City that Zhao Liangchen will never mistreat those who help me."

With that, Ji Chen flashed a smug grin and left with Alice.

He certainly had the demeanor of an old-school playboy.

It wasn't until Ji Chen descended the stairs that the three men reacted.

"Damn, that guy knows how to show off!"

Monkey Gift rolled his eyes. It was the first time he had seen a player act so ostentatiously in this world.

"Indeed, but he's also quite generous!" Monkey Gift Hair's eyes gleamed as he looked at the two bags of gold on the table.

Judging by the sound of them landing, each bag contained at least several hundred gold coins.

Just by saying a few words, they could earn so much. This is too easy.

While Monkey Gift and Monkey Gift Hair joyfully divided the spoils of gold coins, Luo Yang, on the other hand, gazed at the staircase as Zhao Liang Chen departed, deep in thought.

With Ji Chen's ostentatious behavior in taking over the Cat Tail Tavern, although some players secretly mocked him as a sucker, it was precisely because of this behavior that his name spread like a virus throughout the entire player community in Maple City overnight.

In a single night, every player in Maple City knew about the arrival of Zhao Liangchen, the young master who had become rich by selling rare resources, with a fortune of billions. Even players in nearby regions heard his name, causing quite a commotion.

There were many admirers, jealous individuals, and those seeking sponsorship.

Of course, the aftermath of this commotion was not limited to that alone.

Leaving the Cat Tail Tavern and returning to the carriage, Raymond, who had been left behind, brightened up and came forward with his big belly.

“My lord, you’re back. Did everything go smoothly?”

“Yes, not bad.”

“By the way, the expenses incurred from renting the entire Cat Tail Tavern tonight will be your responsibility to settle and wrap up. Remember to act like a subordinate of an extravagant playboy and be a bit arrogant!”

Raymond was momentarily puzzled, wondering what kind of game this was again. But since it was the lord’s order, he had to comply.

“Understood.”

Ji Chen nodded and boarded the carriage, heading back to Maple Harbor.

Maple City permitted entry and exit at night, but only for those with special privileges, and Ji Chen was among those fortunate enough to have such privileges.

After showing the entrance token to the gate guards, they were quickly allowed through. A team of elite soldiers was even dispatched to escort them back to Maple Harbor.

During the return journey, the moonlight was serene, casting a pleasant glow.

The gentle night breeze was soothing, accompanied by the song-like chirping of insects, which calmed the soul.

Taking off the Illusory Mask and returning to his original appearance, Ji Chen leaned back in the carriage, reminiscing about his visit to the Black Gold District.

What struck him the most there was the current state of the players.

Players had only been in this world for a few months, and at their current stage, they couldn’t match the depth of experience possessed by the natives, who had lived here for decades, centuries, or even millennia.

However, players were a creative and adaptable bunch of beings. Amidst numerous limitations, dangers, various races, and factions, they had found a place suitable for their survival.

The player alliance on King Kong Island and the Black Gold District in Maple City were living examples he had witnessed.

Given time, players might become an important force in this world.

Returning to his senses, Ji Chen looked at Alice, who was sitting across from him and smiled.

“How did this lord’s performance as the gullible nouveau riche go? Did it look convincing?”

Alice smiled faintly.

“The original appearance already fit the role quite well, but with your exceptional acting skills, if you hadn’t revealed it, you could have easily passed as a true nouveau riche. Even if a real one appeared, they would have been put to shame.”

Ji Chen:

If Alice weren’t completely on his side, he would have suspected that she was mocking him.

Back at the estate in Maple Harbor, after a quick wash, Ji Chen lay on the bed, holding Alice’s soft body, and soon fell asleep.

He slept until noon the next day, lazily waking up.

While enjoying a fine lunch prepared by the butlers and maids, a visit from an elf occurred.

The visitor was the taciturn elf martial officer. Upon seeing Ji Chen, he performed an impeccable elven etiquette, exuding a full sense of nobility.

Perhaps due to the Silvermoon Dynasty’s formidable power, in order to distinguish themselves from other races, the royal family and nobles had developed an intricate system of etiquette.

The complexity of this system could be compiled into a book, and its intricacy put human royal court etiquette to shame.

From audience with the Queen to every word and action, there were clear textual standards.

Even a martial officer like the one in front of Ji Chen exhibited exceptionally proper etiquette.

In comparison, Ji Chen appeared much more casual.

He sat in his chair with a carefree attitude, using a fork to directly skewer a piece of prime steak that had undergone over a dozen processes, and took big bites.

In one hand, Ji Chen held a glass of wine and downed it in one go.

He even crossed his legs casually.

However, no one in the room raised objections to his demeanor, not even Brett.

Moreover, Brett had already sensed that he might not last more than twenty rounds against Ji Chen, so he had no objections.

In this world, strength was paramount.

The strong could do whatever they pleased and even change customs and trends.

However, Ji Chen noticed Brett’s presence and restrained himself slightly. He set down his fork and wine glass, then got up to greet him.

“Mr. Brett, do you have something to discuss with me?”

“Lord Ji Chen, our ambassador requested me to deliver a letter to you.” Brett produced an uncreased envelope.

“A letter?” Ji Chen was somewhat surprised and reached out to take the envelope, examining it closely.

The envelope was made of some material he couldn't identify but had an exquisite texture. It was adorned with golden floral patterns, and a faint floral fragrance lingered in the air.

In the center of the envelope, it read "Confidential: Exclusively For Lord Ji Chen" in both Elvish and the common language used across the continent.

Wow, even the elves paid so much attention to an envelope?

"In addition to this letter, our ambassador also asked me to convey that it's best for you not to leave the safety zones of Maple City and Maple Harbor in the next few days. The troll tribe in the northern Alvin Mountains seems to be getting restless again."

The troll tribe?

Ji Chen's interest was piqued..

Chapter 339 - 339: Trolls, Zhao Liangchen's Storm, Gilder and the Elves

Previously, before entering the city, Raymond mentioned that the Maple Kingdom's airship fleet had just returned from the Alwin Mountains, seemingly related to the trolls there.

Now, hearing about it again, Ji Chen couldn't help but be curious.

"Mr. Brett, could you tell me more about the Alwin Mountains and the troll tribes?"

"Lord Ji Chen, you're being too polite. Of course, I can."

Brett nodded and began, "The Alwin Mountains are located about a hundred kilometers north of Maple City. They cover a vast area, spanning the entire northern border of the Maple Kingdom and even extending into half of the Northern Continent, dividing it into two distinct regions.

The region is rich in resources and home to various races, including the trolls.

The troll population in the Alwin Mountains is substantial. They are known for their cruelty, brutality, and unpredictable behavior. They sometimes form large groups and venture south to raid.

While the Maple Kingdom has launched multiple campaigns against them, the results have been limited. The terrain in the Alwin Mountains is incredibly complex, and there are deadly miasmas everywhere. Only the trolls, being native to the area, can survive there for extended periods.

It is thought that the recent troll attacks were provoked by a prior offensive that upset their leaders. Based on reconnaissance reports, multiple troll clans are taking part in this raid, and they're showing up in locations they haven't been spotted in before."

With this explanation, Ji Chen quickly understood.

He could think of the trolls as bandits and the Maple Kingdom as the authorities, which made it easier to grasp the situation.

He had a thought.

"Mr. Brett, can you show me the areas where the trolls have been active?"

“Of course.”

Brett took the map Ji Chen offered and marked several regions to the north.

Upon seeing it, Ji Chen couldn't help but frown.

The troll-affected areas included the route he was about to take to where the Marshland Dragon was located.

His luck seemed incredibly good.

If he chose to go through the route previously taken by Monkey Gift and Monkey Gift Hair, there was a reasonable chance of encountering trolls.

If he opted for an alternative route, even the closest one would significantly increase the travel time, requiring at least ten days to return.

The amount of time required was excessive.

Seeing Ji Chen's furrowed brow, Brett quickly caught on and asked, “Lord Ji Chen, are you planning to travel north of Maple City? I believe this might not be the most suitable time.”

“Thank you for your concern, Mr. Brett, but I have something to attend to, and my decision is final.”

Upon hearing this, Brett recalled Ji Chen's profound strength and refrained from further persuasion.

He realized that trying to advise someone stronger than himself would be futile and unwise.

“Since you have made up your mind, I trust you have considered everything thoroughly and have complete confidence.

However, if you run into any trouble, you can visit the Elf Embassy in Maple City. I believe our ambassador will be more than willing to assist you.”

“If needed, I will do so.” Ji Chen smiled faintly. “Apart from this, is there anything else Mr. Miligas wishes to convey?”

“That's all for now. But if there is anything else, it's probably written in that letter.”

Ji Chen nodded, acknowledging this possibility.

He couldn't help but be curious about the contents of that letter.

Choosing to convey information through a letter rather than orally usually indicated something special or significant.

Brett glanced outside and said, “Your Excellency, I have some matters to attend to. I won't bother you any longer.”

“Very well, I'll see you off.”

After seeing Brett off, Ji Chen returned to the hall, broke the seal on the envelope, and took out the letter.

As he read through it, he found that it started with a lengthy greeting. Perhaps it was a common trait among literati, combined with the meticulous etiquette of the elves, but these formalities made his head spin.

He quickly skipped over this part to get to the crucial information.

“Lord Ji Chen, in the days to come, I will be returning to the capital. During my absence, all embassy affairs will be temporarily overseen by the military officer, Brett. If you require any assistance, you can directly visit the embassy without hesitation.

Upon my return to the capital, I will not only report on my mission but also the trade we have successfully concluded. I have great confidence that the goods you delivered this time will undoubtedly bring me some recognition.

If all goes smoothly, Your Lordship and your Ocean Crown Territory may come to the attention of the higher-ups among the elves. This would secure your future market and bring significant benefits to both you and me.

I will be away for quite some time on this trip. Once everything is settled, I will return. Then, we can share a drink and promise not to leave until we're thoroughly drunk!”

Miligas personally penned the letter.

The message concludes here.

How should he put it?

Despite Miligas had sent him a letter, it appeared he didn't write anything substantial.

Ji Chen felt he hadn't read anything new.

Nevertheless, it does impart some information.

Miligas was about to return to the Elven Empire, the capital of the Silvermoon Dynasty. He would report on his mission and the successful trade they had conducted during this time.

In theory, a simple trade like this wouldn't require an ambassador to personally return and report. However, it was evident that Ji Chen's presentation of the Merfabric had truly caught his attention. Such a rare treasure was a first even for someone as well-traveled as Miligas.

Ji Chen welcomed this attention. The more favor he gained from the wealthy elves, the better Merfabric would sell.

Regardless, the profits for the Crown of the Ocean were bound to be substantial..

Chapter 340 - 340: Trolls, Zhao Liangchen's Storm, Gilder and the Elves (2)

Ji Chen, once again, reviewed the letter to make sure he hadn't missed any information.

Ji Chen walked over to the fireplace, along with the envelope, and lit it, tossing it into the fireplace until it turned into ashes.

In the afternoon.

Raymond, who had stayed in Maple City to handle the expenses that Ji Chen had spent in the Cat Tail Tavern, also returned to the estate in a carriage.

Upon arrival, he reported, “My Lord, the expenses for the Cat’s Tail Tavern this time amount to 98,589 gold coins, including beverages, food, and venue fees... everything has been paid in full.”

Rounded up, it was nearly 100,000 gold coins.

A few months ago, Ji Chen would have thought of this amount as substantial. However, at this moment, it appeared neither excessive nor insufficient; it was approximately equivalent to the value of a three-star treasure.

However, this extravagant act of scattering money like confetti had produced effects far beyond that of a three-star treasure.

It was easy to find out from the chat channels and forums.

Almost overnight.

Many players learned that there was a super-player, a rich young man named Zhao, in Maple City who spent 100,000 gold coins in a single night.

The amount of 100,000 gold coins was somewhat subtle. For a small number of well-off players, it wasn’t that they couldn’t afford it, but they certainly wouldn’t spend it so casually without batting an eye.

Moreover, it wasn’t being spent on themselves but freely distributed to others.

They liked getting freebies from others, but they didn’t like being treated the same way.

If this had only caused players to admire the benefits of having wealth, the mention of two unidentified players immediately sparked their interest.

“We just revealed a piece of information, exchanged a few words, and were rewarded with hundreds of gold coins by Mr. Zhao, who then provided us with an all-inclusive service in the Sixth Street District.

That’s right, this job was so easy that I’m starting to feel guilty about the money I’ve earned.”

Below were also several pictures of the interior of a building. Maple City players instantly recognized it as a famous service venue in the Sixth Street District, where all the ladies were exceptionally attractive.

Following that, the owner of the Cat Tail Tavern also appeared and confirmed the truth, passing on Mr. Zhao’s message to the Maple City players.

“I, Zhao Liangchen, will not mistreat anyone who helps me.”

In no time at all, Maple City and players from nearby areas flocked to the Cat Tail Tavern, inquiring about the details of the matter and trying to find out more about the wealthy Mr. Zhao.

Facing the numerous inquiries from players, Luo Yang looked somewhat helpless.

He had only passed on the message and didn’t actually know much about this Mr. Zhao, including where he resided.

Because of the influx of visitors, it even boosted the tavern's revenue significantly, leaving this middle-aged player quite delighted.

Ji Chen also took notice of this commotion.

Even before making an appearance, he had already created the image of a wealthy individual, Mr. Zhao, who viewed gold coins with indifference in the eyes of numerous Maple City players.

If he were to appear as Zhao Liangchen in the future, he could surely gather a large number of players, who were willing to work for him in no time due to the attraction of money.

This, indeed, was far more valuable than a mere 100,000 gold coins.

However, he couldn't have anticipated that the timing for summoning players to work for him would arrive so soon.

The next day.

Ji Chen didn't bring Alice and Raymond along; he left the estate temporarily with his Naga Berserkers and headed to the harbor.

Around the Ocean Crown's cargo ship, which had previously been moored here, workers were now crowded, busy unloading goods. Several cranes hoisted crates of weapons and equipment onto the pier, which were then loaded onto cargo horse-drawn carriages.

In the midst of the crowd, a stout figure stood out.

Gilder, accompanied by a large group of servants, approached energetically.

"Your Excellency, what a coincidence to meet you here! Today is truly a lucky day!"

"Mr. Gilder, indeed, quite a coincidence." Ji Chen nodded. "But what are you doing here? You shouldn't need to oversee unloading activities like this, right?" Gilder smiled and shook his head.

"Oh, I'm not here to oversee personally, but rather on behalf of others. After all, this business deal has not come by easily for us, and it also witnesses the friendship between me and Your Excellency Ji Chen!

I must ensure that every step proceeds without errors, or it will be a letdown to your expectations!"

Ji Chen chuckled softly.

This chubby fellow truly lived up to his reputation as a prominent merchant; his words were always so well-crafted.

However, this reminded him of something, so he asked, "Wasn't there news that trolls are raiding in the north of Maple City? How do you plan to transport this batch of weapons and equipment further north?"

This time, several troll tribes launched a large-scale invasion down from the mountains. Looking at the map, the entire north of Maple City had turned red. It would take a considerable amount of time to repel or clear out the trolls.

Upon hearing this, Gilder smiled and whispered, “Your Excellency, you don’t need to worry about this. We already have a plan in place.”

A plan?

Ji Chen looked at the chubby man with a mysterious expression and nodded slightly.

As a prominent figure in Maple City, Gilder had a vast network and channels, and it wasn’t surprising that he had a special method for transporting goods.

Ji Chen wasn’t overly worried about this. According to the trade laws of the Maple Principality, once the goods were loaded beyond the ship’s railing and placed in the storage area at the dock, it was considered a completed delivery by the seller.

As long as he obtained the rare resources as agreed in the trade, it didn’t concern him how Gilder handled the cargo.

This time, the Ocean Crown brought in a relatively small quantity of weapons and equipment, with only ten ships in total. Based on a price of three thousand units of rare resources per ship, it amounted to thirty thousand rare resources.

That was more than enough to upgrade a unit.

If they added what they sold to the elves, the income from this transaction would far exceed expectations.

Ji Chen was in a great mood.

At this moment, a commotion arose from the crowd.

“Elves! Elves are here!”

“Why would elves suddenly come here? Aren’t they supposed to stay in the city?”

“Oh my, are all female elves so beautiful? If I could have one...”

The crowd slowly parted in the middle, clearing a path.

A group of about forty to fifty elves walked out.

The males were tall and sturdy, wearing armor and carrying broadswords, with stern expressions.

The women were lovely and attractive, carrying sturdy bows on their shoulders and quivers strapped to their waists, and they had faces as cold as icebergs.

This combination of what looked like a mix of beasts and princesses had a striking impact.

Their presence made the human natives in the surrounding area instinctively step back a few paces, giving them space and lowering their heads slightly.

The strict social hierarchy wasn’t exclusive to humans but existed among different races as well.

The elven race was flourishing nowadays, and ordinary people would hold a certain degree of awe when facing them.

Unlike the natives, the players gathered around had no understanding of this concept called “awe”. They were all leering at them with greedy gazes.

With an average beauty rating of 90, willowy waists ripe for the picking, slender thighs, and skin as white as snow, especially the female elf leading the group, she was top-tier... Slurp. They were practically drooling and their eyes were turning green.

Sensing the lecherous gazes of these Glory Lords, which were completely out of place among ordinary residents, Kris furrowed her brow deeply, her eyes filled with disgust.

If she didn't have official business to attend to, she probably couldn't resist giving this group of Glory Lords a lesson on the spot.

At the same time, she couldn't help but feel more and more amazed.

How could the difference between one group of humans and another be so vast?

As the Lords of Glory, these freeloaders couldn't even compare to the esteemed Ji Chen. One was at the pinnacle, and the other was far below.

The esteemed Ji Chen had an exceptionally noble character. Not only did he possess a rich and beautiful territory, but he also had powerful heroes, thousands of elite soldiers, and formidable strength. Even Brett, the Military Officer, praised him.

Such a powerful young man was a rarity even among the elves.

If only... thinking of this, Kris couldn't help but sigh and remembered the young lady Alice, who was much more beautiful than the elves and possessed great strength.

With such a beauty by the esteemed Ji Chen's side, who else could he possibly look at?

Perhaps only Her Majesty the Queen could compete with Alice!

At that moment, Kris suddenly saw a familiar figure not far away, waving at her with a radiant smile on his face.

This scene left the players in the vicinity stunned.

Wow, this female elf actually smiled at someone, and such a bright smile at that..