

Sixth Ring Wizard

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After Lillian left, Herag began to organize the information he had gotten from her.

Augustus Academy was similar to ordinary schools, except it had an eight-year program, where wizard apprentices studied according to the curriculum arranged by the academy. If someone was particularly outstanding, they might be chosen by an official wizard to become their student.

Augustus Academy was relatively peaceful among these wizard organizations, with relatively less conflict among the wizard apprentices.

The Moonlight Forest where Herag was located was completely different, wherein all knowledge and resources needed to be paid for; wizard apprentices had to complete various tasks to earn points or magic stones to exchange for the corresponding resources.

Knowledge and guidance from official wizards were also resources, which wizard apprentices had to strive to earn.

Knock knock!

Lillian came to knock on the door again, and when Herag opened it, he saw a bed quilt.

"This is an extra velvet quilt I have, don't use the one from the boat, it's damp, smelly, and moldy," Lillian said, hugging a heavy quilt that almost obscured her entirely.

Herag took it: "Thank you!"

The outside of the velvet quilt was actually silk, with gold trim, and it felt very smooth.

He grew even more puzzled, Lillian should be stronger than himself, why would she show goodwill towards him, there were never any free lunches.

To receive something, one must pay a corresponding price, Herag understood this principle very well.

"Oh right, if you're preparing to go up and eat, call me, we'll go together. Otherwise, those people might cause you trouble seeing you're alone; the ship is particularly

boring, some people find joy in bullying newcomers. I heard someone once hung up a newcomer at the bow to fish, and if Dino hadn't found out in time, the newcomer's head would have been eaten by fish," Lillian reminded.

Lillian boarded the ship a few days earlier than Herag and saw more, knowing those people better.

Herag remembered the situation he saw on the deck and the third floor earlier, those people didn't know each other, maintaining their distances.

He couldn't completely trust Lillian, and likewise, Lillian would also hold something back.

If they were like this, the people upstairs would certainly be no different.

Herag returned to the room, used the original quilt as a mat, and laid Lillian's velvet quilt on top.

"Let's go, time to eat, I'll show you around," Lillian said, standing outside the door.

"Okay." After locking the door, the two of them headed to the second floor.

On the staircase, Herag glanced downward, the fifth floor was very dark, from this angle he couldn't see any light, but could smell something foul and fishy from below.

Lillian held her nose disdainfully: "The sailors live on the fifth floor, they aren't very clean... There are another two floors below, said to store some cargo and ballast items."

As Herag and Lillian climbed past the third floor, they saw a thin-faced man squatting alone at the stairwell, his eyes wide open, staring at them constantly.

"Don't look at him," Lillian whispered, picking up the pace.

Herag averted his gaze from the man, quickening his steps to the second floor.

He could feel the man's gaze following him until they reached the second floor, where it finally vanished.

"That guy is Fegar Mullan, one of the two second-class apprentices among us, the one who hung someone at the bow fishing was him. That guy has some mental issues, seems mentally unstable, don't provoke him," Lillian said fearfully mentioning Fegar.

Herag nodded, Fegar's gaze indeed made him uncomfortable, like a predator searching for prey, filled only with indifference and cruelty.

He felt fortunate to be living on the fourth floor; otherwise, seeing such a guy squatting in the corridor would be chilling.

The dining area on the second floor was fairly spacious, with white bread, pickled meat, and smoked meat placed in baskets, free to take as needed.

Herag also saw two large baskets of green tangerines, the aroma noticeable from afar, their skin especially green, just the sight made one's mouth water.

Besides them, there were also three wizard apprentices scattered around eating in the dining area.

Herag and Lillian's jovial behavior did not go unnoticed by the others, who noted it silently.

"Why are they so cold to each other? With official wizards on board, there should be a degree of safety, right?" Herag asked.

Lillian, adopting a mocking look, smiled: "Dino doesn't concern himself with such matters; there's no prohibition on killing here, as long as it doesn't impede the voyage, Dino won't care if he doesn't see it. Tokens aren't registered to real names, and the wizard organization doesn't care how you get them, some people lack tokens."

"I see." Herag had thought that the presence of official wizards would ensure some peace on the ship; he himself had two demonized items, others probably had some as well.

Without tokens, people must pass tests to have a chance of joining a wizard organization, having a token provides direct entry, creating temptation for some to risk everything for murder and treasure.

These wizard apprentices boarded the ship knowing nobody, wary of others' intentions, leading to the current situation.

Herag and Lillian each took some food and chatted while eating, while the other three noticeably hastened their meal and quickly departed upon their arrival.

This dining area was exclusively for wizard apprentices; sailors couldn't dine here.

"I have a token for Augustus Academy, many people want it, I have no choice but to form an alliance with you," Lillian said, looking stressed.

Herag understood, those without tokens mostly targeted those with, and Lillian's Augustus Academy token certainly attracted much coveting.

"I seem to have gotten the short end, just by walking with you, they now assume we're together, meaning you've dragged me into this," Herag finally realized the catch; a simple meal turned into a trap.

Lillian straightened her ample chest: "I'm stronger than you, I can protect you, besides, forming an alliance with a noble princess..."

Herag cut her off, rubbing his finger: "Cut the nonsense, I want something tangible."

Lillian, seeing he wasn't convinced, rolled her eyes, and pulled out a ring: "Here, it's a space ring, you probably don't have a demonized item like this, right?"

"This is nice!" Herag grabbed it quickly.

Lillian said seriously: "You think keeping your distance from me ensures your safety? Quite the opposite, you'll be even more endangered. There's a total of two second-class apprentices on board; if we team up, even second-class apprentices can't ensure they can kill us both and escape unharmed."

"Know that if a second-class apprentice gets hurt, would the other spare them? So, we should temporarily join forces to guarantee a measure of safety."

After thinking for a moment, Herag said: "Alright, we can cooperate since in others' eyes, we're already together."

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Herag finished speaking and picked up the space ring, observing it for a while.

Space rings are special demonized items, the internal space varies in size, the one Herag held is as big as a ten-square-meter room.

"Shenlan, check for any anomalies." Herag, to be safe, asked Shenlan to scan it first.

"No anomalies detected."

Only after Shenlan gave the results did Herag confidently put on the space ring: "No wonder she's a princess of Seville, she's really rich."

"Only two in total." Lillian rolled her eyes at him.

"Shenlan, check Lillian's body data, and cancel the scan immediately if there is any resistance."

Herag issued an instruction, he has always been cautious, and didn't dare to use Shenlan's detection on wizards like Dino.

Lillian is just a first-class apprentice, he thought he could give it a try, the previous redhead didn't notice Shenlan's detection either.

"Lillian Stuart: Power 3.1, Agility 3.2, Constitution 3.7, Spirit 7.6."

Herag's eyes widened when he saw the data, all aspects far exceeded his own, he couldn't beat Lillian in a physical fight.

7.6 spiritual power is terrifying, generally, a second-class apprentice would only have that level of spiritual power.

"Shenlan, check my data."

"Herag Merlin: Power 2.1, Agility 1.7, Constitution 2.9, Spirit 4.6, Magic Power 100%."

Herag felt that his path was long and he still needed to work hard when he saw it.

"What's wrong with you?" Lillian saw Herag a bit dazed and asked.

"Nothing, just spaced out a bit." Judging by her demeanor, Herag thought she completely didn't detect Shenlan's scanning behavior.

"Won't you try Dino someday..."

Herag weighed it over and decided to abandon the idea.

He had a gut feeling that even if Dino couldn't detect Shenlan's presence, he could sense himself "watching" him.

...

Late at night, Herag lay in bed, covered with a comfortable velvet quilt, two and a half stars twinkling in his mind, the third star almost fully formed.

Since learning the meditation method, he hadn't slept; even lying in bed covered with a quilt, he remained in meditation.

After seeing Lillian's spiritual power today, Herag felt an even stronger sense of urgency.

Herag stayed in meditation throughout the night, realizing it was the next day only when the ship began moving.

The ship sailed out of the port, getting farther from Swan City.

As Lillian mentioned, if the voyage proceeds smoothly it would take three months to reach Karg Continent, but unexpected events could push it to half a year or even a year.

They have to stay on the ship during this time, only having the chance to walk on land occasionally when docking for supplies.

For half a month straight, the ship sailed across the vast sea.

Herag maintained a routine of eating, sleeping, and meditation; this period of focused meditation brought his third star close to fully forming.

The eleven wizard apprentices continued to maintain a delicate peace, no one started trouble.

Fegar seemed warned by Dino, behaving well all along.

Having secluded in meditation for half a month without seeing the sun, Herag felt a bit suffocated staying inside the cabin, with the recent calm seas he decided to go to the deck for some fresh air.

Upon opening his cabin door, Lillian also opened hers, wearing a corset dress.

"I'm going to the deck for a breeze, it's been stifling for too long." Herag said.

Lillian thought for a moment, then said: "I'll go too."

On the deck, there were sailors fishing at the ship's side, while others sprawled out sleeping, snoring loudly.

Dino stood at the bow holding a telescope, glanced back at Herag and Lillian but didn't speak, continuing to observe ahead.

He advised these wizard apprentices to avoid coming to the deck to prevent any accidents from happening to them.

One of Dino's tasks was bringing fresh blood to the wizard organization, the number doesn't matter, but the more, the better.

Thus, it was preferable for him that as few as possible died among these wizard apprentices.

However, for someone like Herag who stayed in the cabin for long periods, occasionally coming up for air, he wouldn't say anything.

Herag leaned against a deserted railing, feeling comfortable in the sea breeze.

The ocean was vast, with no land in sight.

Looking down, the light blue seawater appeared particularly beautiful, the ship's forward motion creating tall waves.

Lillian beside him was also facing the sea, the sea breeze blew her golden long hair upward, giving Herag the illusion of taking a girlfriend on a sea vacation.

"You two! Get back to the cabin quickly! Something's coming!" Dino suddenly turned around shouting from the bow.

Herag said nothing, decisively pulling Lillian's hand as they rushed back to the cabin.

He trusted Dino's judgment; if something could make an official wizard so agitated, it was surely extraordinary.

Lillian reacted a bit slowly, but quickly came to as Herag pulled her, accelerating towards the cabin.

Roar!

A sky-covering shadow loomed over the sea where the ship was located, the powerful pressure forced everyone on the deck to the ground.

Herag and Lillian were also pressed on the deck by this imposing aura, he tried to get up several times but failed.

Their hands clutched tightly, giving each other a slight sense of safety.

Herag struggled to turn his head, finally seeing what it was.

Dragon.

A gigantic black dragon soaring in the sky, the dragon was so large that Herag couldn't see its entirety.

"&%@!%@%" The black dragon opened its mouth, speaking words of unclear meaning.

Lillian listened carefully then said: "Dragon Language! It's Dragon Language."

"Can you understand it?" Herag asked.

"I can't, only able to pick out a few syllables." Lillian replied.

The ever-standing Dino at the bow looked at the black dragon in the sky, opened his mouth and said: "¥#@% @@"

The giant dragon responded, yet it was still incomprehensible.

Dino's right hand waved, a large pile of gold, pearls, gems appeared at the bow, enough treasure to drive ordinary people crazy.

The black dragon lowered, instantly whipping up a storm in the sea, tons of seawater thrown up, splashing onto the deck.

Herag and Lillian got drenched, Lillian happened to wear a corset dress again, thin enough. Once soaked, her entire dress almost turned transparent, her graceful body directly shown in front of Herag.

The intimidating aura persisted, forcing Herag and Lillian to lie face to face.

Lillian looked down once, blushing instantly: "Close your eyes!"

Herag immediately closed his eyes, yet couldn't suppress the smile on his lips, which infuriated Lillian.

"Big big big..." was the only word in Herag's mind now.

The black dragon opened its dragon mouth, inhaling to swallow all the treasures in one go.

"¥%...¥...%" The black dragon spoke again, appearing somewhat dissatisfied.

Dino's hand flashed, a magic staff over a meter long appeared, then looking up at the black dragon without a word.

The black dragon, somewhat wary, flew higher, circling above for a while before finally departing.