Empress 130

Chapter 130: The Closest Place to the Heartbeat

Just as Roland was pondering how to explain in detail, Sif nodded calmly, "When do we leave, tonight?"

The thousand words Roland prepared for explanation were completely swallowed by this sentence.

The absolute trust reflected in the pure smile was particularly heartwarming, yet heavy.

Although no explanation was necessary, since he had prepared, Roland still explained the reason to Sif.

From William and others' attitude, it could be seen that the Cabinet Ministers had been pushed to the brink several times by Sif.

Their attitude toward Sif was quietly changing.

Mature politicians really hate uncertain X factors.

They prefer stability and controllable risks.

If Sif were to linger in the Imperial Capital for a few more months until next spring when the Knight Order begins to take shape, the Cabinet Ministers might collectively have a stroke.

No one wants to have a stroke, so they will definitely find ways to limit Sif, even resolving the issue at the root.

Leave before the situation becomes unbearable for both sides.

The sooner they go overseas, the more time they have.

The Empress investigates her father’s whereabouts overseas, while the Ministers stir things up in the Imperial Capital according to their plans, both sides thinking they have won big.

This is a win-win.

"They won’t oppose?" Sif was somewhat worried.

With the aid of the [Insight] technique, she could clearly feel William and others’ patience waning.

"As long as you’re willing to devolve authority to them, they have no reason to refuse," Roland said calmly.

Sif’s mind raced, pondering Roland’s words.

Roland was right, the subtle shift in the ministers’ attitude was evidence.

They needed a compliant puppet, not someone who walked down the path of creating unforeseen events every day.

While the honeymoon period of harmony between the new monarch and ministers wasn’t completely over, it’s better to leave.

As for the specific timing...

Roland’s expression was very calm, "Let’s depart after attending the diplomatic banquet the day after tomorrow. We already have a reason prepared, to inquire about the attack investigation in Dovor Port."

Originally intending to board Alina’s ship with a ticket, now the situation has changed, it’s Alina who needs to board his ship.

Since they can’t sneak away, they might as well set sail openly.

Her Majesty the Empress inspecting territories and investigating the Late Emperor's cause of death—who dares to stop this is surely looking to revolt?

Of course, with the Imperial Capital affairs being busy, it will indeed trouble the Cabinet Ministers to work hard.

Everyone can get what they want.

Whether Sif can get chips to participate in the Imperial Capital's power struggle depends on how she manages in the Three Overseas Provinces.

Perhaps in the Cabinet Ministers' eyes, the mere three provinces are too wild to stir up waves. But in Roland's view, the Three Overseas Provinces are just a springboard, the vast Rodinia Continent offers unlimited prospects.

The three provinces striking back at the Imperial Capital is surely an egg hitting a rock, but uniting the continent's forces and returning to the Imperial Capital would be the return of a king.

Everyone has a script written in their minds, it's up to the actors to perform it now.

But no matter how well-written the script is, it can't fight against unexpected events.

Just like how Roland couldn't imagine Captain Alina's ship would capsize, the Cabinet Ministers also couldn't imagine the obedient and adorable Sif before ascending would become the source of their headache.

No matter how perfect the main plan is, a backup plan is necessary.

As long as there are enough PLANS, the negative impact of bad luck can be offset to the greatest extent.

Roland's Plan A was to set sail openly, while Plan B was to smuggle.

Among those options, smuggling included leaving stealthily by warship and leaving incognito by civilian ship.

For various situations, Magic Mirror and Sif played the roles of the Empress and Count to supplement designated solutions.

At the same time, he also designed a way for Sif to hide her identity.

The Cabinet Ministers' attitude could be tacit approval, public recognition, or complete disapproval.

Complete disapproval could be divided into impeachment or capturing the Empress and bringing her back to the Imperial Capital.

Depending on different situations, Roland drafted at least ten sets of plans.

With such comprehensive preparations, it's fine even to set sail with the King of Misfortune.

After hearing all of Roland's plans, Sif proposed opening a bottle of Milan Champagne to bring good luck.

Roland politely declined, but Sif was adamantly opposed.

Her reason was simple.

"Today's a good day, we can't miss out on lucky champagne."

The caged bird flying skyward, the dormant dragon entering the sea, it was indeed a good omen.

Open it!

Considering that in this world, Milan Champagne is a good omen, and Sif was adamant about it, Roland didn’t spoil the fun and shared good food and drink with her.

After being well-fed and satisfied, the night had fallen.

Roland remembered there was someone waiting for him at home, so he quickly took his leave.

Just as he was about to leave, Sif stopped him, took out a prepared gift box, and handed it to Roland.

"Your pocket watch was damaged in the previous fight, I had someone custom make one for you. Don’t refuse, you need to keep track of time accurately."

"It’s not polite to refuse a kind-hearted gift from a lady."

Looking at the exquisitely carved patterns full of elegant artistic atmosphere, the fine craftsmanship, and the white rose motif, Roland knew this was a product exclusively supplied to the Imperial Family.

Since Sif said so, he naturally wouldn’t refuse.

Placing the pocket watch in his left chest pocket, the pocket watch and heart beat together, this gift was indeed quite nice.

Watching Roland leave, Sif’s lips were full of smiles, her gaze gradually softened.

Roland was really too busy, he actually forgot what day it was today, but fortunately, she noticed while flipping through the Knight Order archives.

She purposely wouldn’t tell him, letting him guess for himself.

Returning home, Roland looked at Lisa busying herself in the kitchen while humming a tune, suddenly feeling a bit emotional.

The new home on Belphar Street wasn’t big, compared to the Earl’s Mansion it wasn’t even fit to talk about as a tiny place, yet it was Lisa’s cherished home.

Looking at the clean and tidy furniture and floor, listening to the "beep-pow" of the firewood burning in the fireplace, Roland suddenly felt that such a small home was also very cozy.