

System 1031

Chapter 1031: Decisive Victory (2)

Rose's body pivoted, looking back at the cavalry and guard peasants behind him, he shouted.

"Everyone, immediately increase your speed."

"Strive to return to Morgan Town before nightfall."

"Lord Lynn is waiting for our triumphant return!"

As Rose's words fell, a series of loud responses echoed.

"Yes! Yes! Yes!"

Rose nodded in satisfaction, exerting force with his legs, he squeezed the belly of the warhorse beneath him.

The horse, understanding the power, instantly began to increase the frequency of its strides, accelerating forward.

Behind Rose, the marching formation also began to accelerate.

The sound of horse hooves and footsteps pounded continuously across the vast expanse of farmland.

After marching rapidly for an hour,

Rose, riding on the warhorse, gazed into the distance.

At the end of his line of sight, he could already see the forest filled with trees towering over ten meters high.

Teams of figures stood at the edge of the forest.

Some stood, some sat on the ground, resting and waiting.

From the armor of those soldiers, Rose could clearly discern.

They were Wesley leading the archers and heavy infantry!

Rose once again urged the team behind him to quicken their pace.

A short while later,

Rose and Wesley finally completed their rendezvous at the forest edge.

...

On the other side of Alba Town.

Two carriages, escorted by guards riding horses, emerged from two manor estates.

Traveling across gravel and muddy roads, they finally met at the junction of two roads.

The two carriages did not halt because of this.

Instead, tacitly, the coachmen continued to drive the carriages.

Heading towards the three-story manor estate in the distance.

A dozen minutes later.

The two carriage teams entered the open square in front of the three-story manor estate.

Amidst the 'whoa' of held horses,

The horses and carriages gradually reduced their speed.

Finally stopping in the open square.

At the manor estate's entrance,

Lorenzo stood upright.

He watched as two middle-aged men, dressed in fine silk robes, stepped down from the carriage compartments, assisted by their guards, crossing the wooden steps.

As Lady Helena's Guard Captain,

Lorenzo naturally knew.

These were the manor lords of Brick Manor from Orlando Manor and Alex Manor from Kennedy Manor.

After the two manor lords stood steadily on the ground and adjusted their attire,

Lorenzo then stepped forward to greet them.

This perfect timing of waiting.

Not only avoided seeing the manor lords' disheveled clothing, giving them enough respect,

but also demonstrated the Wells Manor's decorum in treating guests with neither arrogance nor servility.

Coming before the two manor lords, Lorenzo slightly bowed, respectfully addressing,

"Lorenzo thanks you both on behalf of Lady Helena for coming."

The short yet rotund Brick, his eyes swept over Lorenzo, spoke sharply.

"Spare me the pleasantries, just take us to see Helena!"

The robust Alex beside him nodded in agreement.

"Brick is right."

Lorenzo smiled slightly, without any unnecessary words, raised his right hand in a gesture of invitation.

"In that case, please follow me, manor lords."

Lorenzo took the lead, heading towards the manor estate's entrance.

Brick and Alex, along with their guard captains, followed inside.

Passing through the manor estate's first-floor reception hall, they proceeded to the staircase leading to the third floor in the back of the hall.

Under Lorenzo's guidance,

Brick's gaze roamed freely over the maids standing in the hall.

He observed the maids' young, well-defined faces, slender waists, and the high curves in front...

Brick couldn't help but tease, "The maids in Helena Manor are truly beautiful!"

"Slim arms, legs, and waist, large bust and buttocks, with faces still carrying innocence and freshness..."

"One glance and you can tell they haven't experienced any pleasures between men and women yet!"

Alex followed Brick's gaze.

As Brick said.

The five or six maids in the hall were all gracefully shaped, with youthful and delicate faces.

Alex couldn't help but remark, "I recall that Brick Manor Lord has purchased at least fifty if not a hundred young maids?"

"What? With so many maids, you still can't meet Brick Manor Lord's needs?"

Hearing Alex's words, whether taunting or praising, Brick was indifferent.

He wore a confident smile: "Of course!"

"I'm different from other manors!"

"They like to expand their estates, strengthen their military might, or purchase more peasants for enlarging the plantation scale..."

"But I... prefer buying young maids!"

"Alex Manor Lord, don't you believe that the young and untainted body is the purest existence in this world?"

"Regardless of how much wealth, it can't be measured!"

Alex's face darkened, unwilling to answer Brick's question.

Brick's peculiar habit.

Not to mention in the whole of Alba Town, but even in the entire Kakasong City, it was renowned.

Therefore,

whenever slave traders acquired young girls and reached Kakasong City.

They would inevitably deliver them first to Brick Manor.

Thus, selling them at a good price!

Chapter 1032: Decisive Victory (Part 1)

Lorenzo remained silent, earnestly leading the way ahead.

It was true that he was Lady Helena's Guard Captain.

But his status was far from sufficient for free dialogue with the Manor Lords.

Lorenzo, accompanied by a group of five, ascended the stairs towards the third floor.

Amidst a series of slightly chaotic footsteps.

Lorenzo led Brick, Alex, and two Guard Captains to the third floor of the manor estate.

Turning past the stair railing, they arrived before the closed double wooden doors of the study. Lorenzo raised his right hand and knocked on the door.

Thud~ Thud~

Just as Lorenzo was about to inquire, Helena's magnetic voice came from behind the wooden door.

"Come in!"

Standing behind Lorenzo, Brick and Alex also heard the woman's magnetic voice.

Compared to Alex's calm expression.

Brick's eyebrows visibly lifted, and expectation filled his eyes.

Lorenzo didn't waste any words, extending both hands, pushing open the double wooden doors before him.

"Please enter, Manor Lords."

Brick and Alex responded not with words but by stepping into the somewhat smoke-filled study.

Following the two Manor Lords, the Guard Captains stopped at the study door upon seeing Lorenzo's vigilant gaze.

Lorenzo nodded in satisfaction and then stepped into the study.

He pulled out chairs by the walnut desk for the two Manor Lords.

Lorenzo paced to Helena's side, quietly waiting.

As a Guard Captain, welcoming the two Manor Lords on Lady Helena's behalf was already completed.

He now only needed to wait patiently for further instructions.

Brick and Alex glanced briefly at Helena, who was leaning back in the main seat.

She was wearing a black silk satin gown, the crinkled waist accentuating the prominence of her bust.

Especially, the deep cleavage between that snow white.

Additionally,

those moist, crimson lips were constantly opening and closing while exhaling smoke...

Causing Brick to be momentarily unable to divert his gaze.

Strange images of intimacy between a man and a woman filled his mind.

Brick barely noticed it.

Helena's amber eyes were staring directly at him.

Removing the cigarette holder from her mouth, exhaling a breath of mist, Helena spoke.

"Want to come closer and admire?"

Hearing the cold magnetic words, Brick suddenly snapped back to reality.

Quickly averting his gaze, there was a trace of awkwardness in his voice.

"Lady Helena, you are as alluring as ever!"

"As for getting closer, I think there's no need to be so polite..."

Gently placing the cigarette holder back into her moist mouth, Helena continued to exhale smoke while coldly staring at Brick.

Under Helena's scrutinizing gaze, Brick dared not utter another word.

He walked over and sat on the wooden chair beside Alex.

Only then did Helena finally move her eyes away from Brick.

Releasing the smoke within her lungs, Helena spoke.

"I presume the two of you know why I've invited you to Wells Manor?"

Alex nodded in acknowledgment.

Brick's eyebrows furrowed with curiosity as he asked.

"Is it true that Connelly Manor and Louis Manor were destroyed overnight?"

In just one night, Alba Town's two major estates were wiped out.

As a fellow Manor Lord of Alba Town, how could he not be curious?

Helena remained silent, continuing to exhale smoke.

Sitting beside Brick, Alex spoke up to explain.

"Upon receiving Lady Helena's invitation and learning the situation, I immediately dispatched spies to investigate Connelly and Louis Manors..."

Brick turned his gaze to Alex, awaiting his continuation.

"Just as Lady Helena said."

"Connelly Manor and Louis Manor have indeed been annihilated!"

"Louis Manor was still somewhat intact, while there were obvious signs of battle at Connelly Manor."

"The ground was stained red with the blood of Peasant Guards who perished under a barrage of arrows."

"Although the corpses were buried in ditches and spiked pits, the air was still filled with a pungent stench of rotting bodies..."

"Similarly, both manor estates were looted clean, as if raided by bandits!"

Brick's expression turned grave.

Sitting in the main seat, Helena took over from Alex, continuing to speak.

"Indeed!"

"The destruction of Connelly Manor and Louis Manor is an undeniable fact."

"That Lord Lynn of Morgan Town, who destroyed the two manors, possesses extremely formidable military power."

"So powerful that if he wished, he could have destroyed all the manors in Alba Town last night."

"We wouldn't even have the ability to resist, crushed completely!"

Brick and Alex instantly fell silent.

They naturally understood the implication in Helena's words.

Helena continued, "As long as he wipes out all the manors in Alba Town."

"Whether our Guard Peasants in the estates or the thousands of Free People in town—they will all become Lord Lynn's labor force."

"Morgan Town and Alba Town will both become his territory!"

"And we might be executed by him, or perhaps become his prisoners..."

Chapter 1033: Decisive Victory (4)

Brick and Alex nodded in agreement.

Helena shifted her words.

"However, this Lord Lynn has not launched an attack on our manor!"

"After conquering the Connelly and Louis manors and seizing all goods and labor, the armored soldiers left!"

"In other words, this Lord Lynn doesn't possess the ambition and desire for expansion as imagined."

"Lord Lynn only destroys manors or powers that pose a threat to him by waging war!"

Brick and Alex nodded once more to show their response.

Seeing that the two manor lords opposite had nothing to say.

Helena continued speaking.

"But there is one thing you might not know yet..."

"Zock Connally fortunately survived and arrived by carriage to Kakasong City."

"And that is the reason I invited the two manor lords to Wells Manor."

"Having refused Zock's request for military assistance, will we now face Zock's reckoning?"

Despite Helena's overwhelming sense of temptation from the opposite side.

Facing the life and death of the manor, Brick had lost any thoughts of desire.

Brick furrowed his brow, stared directly at Helena, and spoke.

"You mean to say that Zock would request Viscount Jon Zack for military aid and then return to attack Alba Town?"

As soon as Brick finished speaking.

Alex immediately took over the conversation.

"It's not returning to Alba Town."

"Rather, when Viscount Jon Zack's army attacks Morgan Town, they would conveniently reorganize Alba Town."

"With the relationship between Zo Connally and Viscount Jon, there is a high possibility..."

"No, to be precise, the whole of Alba Town will no longer have other manor lords, but will fall into the hands of Zock Connally."

"Zock Connally will become the sole lord of Alba Town."

Helena took a deep puff of smoke, exhaled the smoke, and spoke.

"So, do you two manor lords have any means to deal with this?"

"Previously, for some petty gains, we indeed had disagreements and conflicts."

"But now, we are in the same boat."

Brick and Alex fell silent again.

Their eyes turned, quickly pondering.

Helena showed no urgency, continuing to inhale and exhale the smoke in her mouth.

The spacious and lavishly decorated study fell into silence.

Only the smoke exhaled from Helena's mouth kept rolling and drifting...

Until a few minutes later.

Alex raised his head, looked at Helena opposite, and asked.

"Lady Helena, Alex can't think of any method at the moment."

"However, since Lady Helena has invited us both over..."

"Surely... there's already an initial plan in mind?"

Brick also looked at Helena curiously.

Helena's thin and light brows slightly raised: "Of course!"

Brick and Alex opened their eyes wide, waiting for Helena's explanation.

Helena continued: "With the military strength our three manors possess."

"Naturally, we cannot resist the army of supporter manor lords summoned by Viscount Jon Zack!"

"As long as Viscount Jon Zack dispatches an army to invade Alba Town, like the armored soldiers sent by Lord Lynn entering Alba Town."

"We won't have any chance to resist!"

"Lord Lynn of Morgan Town might not have many thoughts on our manor for the time being."

"But the character of Zock, both of you should be very clear."

"As long as there's an opportunity, he wouldn't hesitate to seize all the manors!"

Brick and Alex responded softly.

Helena changed her tone.

"Therefore, if we want to survive, we must find a reliable backing!"

Upon hearing this.

Both Alex and Brick understood Helena's thoughts.

Brick looked at Helena in slight surprise and asked.

"Do you mean, we are to seek Lord Lynn of Morgan Town, to swear allegiance to him, allowing him to become our backing?"

Alex had no words.

Brick's question was also his question.

Helena remained calm in her speech, "Otherwise?"

"In Kakasong City, with Viscount Jon Zack's military strength and several supporter manors..."

"Who but Lord Lynn dares to oppose him?"

"Who has the strength and courage to oppose him?"

"And, compared to the once Marquis Duca, who personally granted the viscount title to the Zak Clan..."

"As manor lords within the Marquisate of Dukas, we are completely insignificant!"

"In other words, if we don't save ourselves, we are doomed to be annihilated!"

Brick's mouth slightly opened, wanting to say something.

But after keeping it open for a few seconds, he chose to close it.

Alex stared directly at Helena, who was inhaling smoke again, and asked.

"Lady Helena, how do you think we should proceed?"

Helena spoke blandly, "As Manor Lord Brick said, pledge allegiance to Morgan Town's Lord Lynn!"

"Thus, seeking shelter from Lord Lynn."

"Even if it requires ceding land to Lord Lynn, or economic taxation, or military support, or the transfer of political and judicial power... it is worth it."

"No matter how much we have to pay, we can still ensure the continued development and inheritance of our manors."

Alex agreed, "I believe Lady Helena's idea has no flaws."

Chapter 1034: Decisive Victory (Part 5)

"Kennedy Manor is willing to follow Lady Helena and swear fealty to Lord Lynn of Morgan Town!"

Brick's brows furrowed, his face full of hesitation.

Helena's gaze turned towards Brick and inquired.

"Does Manor Lord Brick perchance have another plan?"

Alex likewise turned his gaze towards Brick.

Feeling their gazes, Brick's heart tightened slightly.

He hesitated a bit and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, what if that Lord Lynn, like Zock, wants to take everything we have?"

"What should we do?"

Helena spoke without any hesitation.

"Even if Lord Lynn wishes to take everything we have, what can we do?"

"After we refused Zock's request for military aid, Connelly Manor was wiped out."

"We no longer have any choice."

"And even now, I, Helena, have never regretted rejecting Zock's request for military aid."

"Whether it's Connelly Manor or Louis Manor, they all deserve to perish!"

Brick subconsciously nodded.

Louis Manor is not much better.

Like Connelly Manor, both are supporters of Viscount Jon Zacks.

Even though there are some conflicts and disputes between them, more often it's about the interchange of interests.

On the contrary, their three manors suffered long from the exploitation of Connelly Manor.

Alex pondered for a few seconds and hesitated to speak to Helena.

"Lady Helena, even if we wish to swear fealty to Lord Lynn, how should we establish contact with him?"

"If it's merely to seek his protection and thus pledge our loyalty..."

"We who humble ourselves will certainly have to pay a great price!"

"As you said, Lady Helena, surrendering land, perhaps even losing the ability to manage the manor!"

"The best way to show loyalty is when Lord Lynn requires military aid, we should provide him with a certain number of armed followers for assistance."

"Of course, we can also pay the economic taxes of the manor to Lord Lynn."

"And when we need help, Lord Lynn can provide us with protection!"

Brick gave an approving nod, his gaze fixed on Helena.

Not just the two manor lords.

Even Lorenzo, who silently stood by, also turned his gaze towards Helena.

Helena said nothing.

She leaned back in her chair, resting against the back of the seat.

With her amber eyes, she stared straight at the ceiling above.

Leaving that distinct chin, matched with a neck that was white and devoid of a single excess fold or wrinkle.

And in front of her, the snow-white curve that nearly escaped the strapless cover of her long dress, displayed before the three.

Helena was indifferent, focused solely on exhaling smoke from the pipe in her hand.

Burst after burst of smoke.

From Helena's moist and crimson lips flowed out...

Half a minute later.

Helena, sitting in the chair, moved her body and sat up straight.

That prominent curve in front of her was directly placed on the table.

The right elbow rested on the table, with the pipe held suspended in front of Helena.

In the pipe, wormwood and wispy leaves constantly burned, emitting strands of smoke.

Either floating in mid-air.

Or drifting into the mouth and nose of Brick and Alex opposite.

Seeing Helena suddenly change her posture, Brick asked with some anticipation.

"Lady Helena, have you thought of a solution?"

Alex's eyes were full of expectation.

Helena instantly rolled her eyes at the two, "What? You really think I'm a savior?"

"If I were that powerful, would I let Connelly Manor exploit Wells Manor for so long?"

Brick and Alex's faces bore unmistakable embarrassment.

Helena continued speaking, "Regardless of whether a solution exists, we must make a decision quickly."

"Zock has arrived in Kakasong City, and Viscount Jon Zacks certainly knows everything that happened in Alba Town."

"Once Jon Zacks decides to launch an attack on Lord Lynn, and summons all the manor lords for assembly, then sends troops from Kakasong City to Morgan Town..."

"That is to say, whether for Lord Lynn or for us, there is little time."

Brick and Alex knowingly nodded.

Suddenly.

Helena, sitting, stood up.

The nearly one-meter seventy height, overlooking the two manor lords seated opposite.

Her voice was magnetic as she spoke, "It's better to act soon than later."

"Let's head to Morgan Town tomorrow morning."

"This way, we can demonstrate our sincerity to Lord Lynn and also have ample time to investigate his military strength."

"What do the two manor lords think?"

Brick and Alex couldn't help but look at each other.

A few seconds later.

Alex stood up first, responding.

"I agree with Lady Helena's suggestion!"

"Rather than shrink in fear within the manor, waiting for the crisis to hit, it's better to gamble once."

Brick similarly gritted his teeth and stood up.

"Since we've reached the endgame, let's fight them!"

Helena nodded in satisfaction, "Thus, tomorrow morning we'll gather in Alba Town."

"Let's head to Morgan Town together to see Lord Lynn."

The meeting ended.

Under Lorenzo's guidance, Brick and Alex left the study, walking down the stairs.

Perhaps still immersed in the conversation during the meeting, neither spoke a word.

Chapter 1035: Decisive Victory

Descend the stairs and step out of the manor residence.

Brick spotted in the distance.

A few maids, whose linen robes were soaked from washing clothes, revealing their alluring body outlines.

Brick also felt no interest.

Zock headed for Kakasong City; Viscount Jon Zuck was likely to launch military action against Alba Town.

This made Brick feel a huge crisis.

After a brief and casual chat with Alex by his side, they bid farewell.

With the support of the guard, Brick stepped into the carriage compartment.

Brick instructed the coachman, "Return to the manor residence!"

The coachman sitting ahead, upon hearing the instructions of the Manor Lord,

quickly responded with sharp commands, flicking the whip to drive the horses forward.

Heading towards the gravel and mud road ahead, they proceeded.

The guard that Brick brought along, riding on their horses, quickly followed.

Closely following in departure was Alex's carriage convoy.

Watching the two manor lords depart, disappearing in the distant fields.

Lorenzo then withdrew his gaze, turning to enter the manor residence.

Passing through the reception hall again, climbing the staircase, he arrived at Helena's study.

Lorenzo glanced around and saw Helena standing by the window, immediately stepping up.

Coming to a spot five or six meters behind Helena, Lorenzo bent in salute, speaking respectfully.

"Lady Helena, the two manor lords have already left."

Gazing through the wide-open window at the carriages departing into the distance,

Helena did not turn back and asked, "Did the two manor lords mention anything?"

Lorenzo quickly responded, "They said nothing."

"After descending the stairs, leaving the manor residence, they each boarded their carriages and left."

Helena responded, "I understand."

"Prepare the carriage for tomorrow morning, I need to personally go to Morgan Town!"

"By the way... how much medium-quality linen cloth is left in the warehouse?"

Lorenzo thought for a few seconds and spoke.

"Excluding the batch sold over three months, there's an estimated thirty thousand yards left."

Helena nodded, "Prepare ten thousand yards of linen cloth to load onto the carriage."

Lorenzo, having listened to the entire meeting,

naturally knew the purpose of this ten thousand yards of linen cloth.

Lorenzo bowed in response, "Understood, Lady Helena."

Seeing Helena remain silent, Lorenzo understood the cue and retreated quietly.

As the sound of the closing double wooden doors echoed,

only Helena's study once again fell into silence.

One could even hear the 'sizzle' of burning mugwort and fibrous leaves in Helena's hand-held pipe.

As Helena exhaled smoke, a murmur escaped her lips.

"Lynn... Lynn..."

...

Morgan Town.

The setting sun gradually descended, sinking below the horizon.

The radiating red-orange glow painted the manor castle and the vast fields ahead in golden hues.

Within the manor castle,

Lynn sat upright on the manor lord throne in the reception hall.

Compared to the wooden lord chair in his castle,

the manor lord throne at Frank Manor was evidently more luxurious and imposing.

The throne was crafted from solid oak, weathered and polished over generations, the wood bearing a deep brown hue.

The chair's back was tall and sharp, carved with the emblem of the Frank Clan, a soaring eagle.

The seat surface was draped with soft sable fur, with golden threads embroidered intricately along the edges.

Below the throne was a three-tiered carved stone platform.

In front of the platform stood Gavin, bowing.

Respectful words emerged from Gavin's mouth.

"Master, with the current workforce of six hundred Free People,"

"to complete the harvest of Morgan Town's one hundred twenty thousand acres of farmland, it will likely take until early September..."

Lynn nodded slightly to indicate his acknowledgment.

Gavin's report aligned closely with his previous estimates.

Gavin hesitated a bit and said, "Master, if there were more manpower..."

"It doesn't need to be like your lordship's territory with four or five thousand,"

"even if just over a thousand, I can assure you."

"By the end of this month... within half a month's time, I can lead them to harvest all the crops in Morgan Town's fields!"

Just as Lynn was about to speak, the sound of running footsteps came from outside the manor castle.

Lynn, along with Gavin and Red, directed their gaze towards it.

A soldier wearing composite armor entered the reception hall, quickly striding toward Lynn.

Coming to a standstill beside Gavin, the soldier reported.

"Reporting to the Lord, the patrol soldiers from Morgan Town have come to report."

"Lord Rose and Lord Wesley are leading a significantly large team and have entered the vicinity of Morgan Town."

"They are moving towards the manor castle."

Lynn's eyebrows slightly raised, looking at Gavin, he spoke.

"It seems that Rose and Wesley have brought back the workforce you needed!"

Gavin's face also showed a hint of surprise.

As the Agricultural Officer appointed by Master Lynn for Morgan Town,

the only concern is the agricultural production and construction in the fields.

Gavin doesn't care where these workers came from.

Whether they are Free People hired from Kakasong City,

or Peasants captured and taken from other small towns,

he only needs labor, a large quantity of labor!

Dismissing the soldier, Lynn rose from the lord's throne, striding towards the outside of the manor castle.

Red and Gavin followed closely behind.

Outside the manor castle, they stood at the opening of the parapet.

With the vantage of the manor castle's height and the setting sun's glow, Lynn looked far into the distance.

Sure enough, as the soldier reported,

a long line was moving towards the manor castle from the vast fields in the distance.

At the forefront of the advancing group were cavalry riding tall warhorses!

Despite the distance, making it hard to see the cavalry's faces clearly,

that familiar black-gray color allowed Lynn to recognize them at a glance.

It was precisely the standard plate armor cast using sandboxes by the apprentices in the blacksmith workshop, hand in hand.

As time quickly passed,

the cavalry force grew ever closer.

Lynn finally discerned the advancing formation.

Rose, clad in standard plate armor, rode atop his warhorse.

Illuminated by the sunset's rays, the black-gray armor shone with a peculiar gleam.

Rose's solemn face and eyes reflected a palpable fearlessness and confidence.

Together with the pure-blood Badan Empire warhorse, towering and imposing,

it further added to Rose's heroic aura!

Beside Rose was Wesley, also riding a warhorse.

Unlike Rose's eye expression,

Wesley possessed eagle-like sharp eyes!

Seeing the soldiers' faces filled with joy and excitement, and within the advancing formation, the large workforce carrying abundant supplies...

Lynn understood,

this external campaign had achieved a great victory!

Chapter 1036: Requesting Punishment from the Master

Three thousand soldiers clad in standard plate armor or composite armor, along with eight hundred Pan Rock Iron Guard with battlefield experience.

With such military strength, not to mention a remote and impoverished manor lord in Alba Town.

Even if Viscount Jon Zack of Kakasong City gathered all his supporting manor lords.

In the vast plains, Lynn would dare to battle them!

Lynn is absolutely confident of achieving victory in this war!

Because.

The number of armored soldiers, heavy cavalry, heavy infantry, and archers he possesses is enough to compensate for the numerical disadvantage.

In the fields.

Bine Greyk, a freeman bending over to harvest, slightly straightened his body and twisted his neck.

To relieve the soreness and fatigue from excessive labor.

Bine turned his head, and the advancing army of soldiers instantly came into his view.

Bine's eyes widened instantly, full of shock.

Bine quickly shouted to the freemen beside him.

"Stop for a moment, hurry and stop!"

The freemen beside him, still bending over to harvest barley, looked at Bine impatiently and shouted.

"Stop for what? Don't you know, the more crops we harvest, the more we earn?"

"Yesterday, I harvested almost four hundred pounds of wheat."

"Heh heh, converted at the current market price, that's eighty pence!"

"If it were the usual labor, it would take me almost three months to earn that."

"Being hired by Lord Master Lynn is the luckiest thing in my life! No doubt about it!"

"This isn't working for the lord, it's literally picking money."

"..."

Bine rolled his eyes and explained.

"Armored soldiers, a large number of armored soldiers have entered Morgan Town, heading towards the distant manor castle!"

"Look quickly!"

The freemen who were previously working hard, harvesting, all straightened their bodies, raising their eyebrows in unison.

They followed where Bine was looking.

Indeed, just as Bine said.

A large number of armored soldiers, under the red-orange glow of the sunset, were heading towards the distant manor castle.

At a glance.

From the front of the armored soldiers' ranks to the back, there seemed to be no end in sight!

Their numbers were evident.

From the soldiers wearing standard armor, marching in unison, and the ordinary personnel transporting various items in the ranks...

They were not here to launch an attack on Master Lynn's manor castle in Morgan Town.

Looking at the familiar standard armor of the soldiers, Bine, his eyes wavering, confidently said.

"They are Lord Master Lynn's soldiers!"

The freemen were slightly moved, nodding in agreement.

They could clearly see that the manor castle's commander Wesley was leading at the forefront of the advancing troops!

Wearing an iron helmet, clad in standard armor, riding a tall horse.

As the horse trotted, their sturdy bodies swayed back and forth...

The freemen's eyes were filled with envy.

"That's so impressive!"

Although they are freemen, compared to the lowest peasants, they possess some rights.

But those so-called rights are almost negligible.

Renting land from the lord and the Church requires paying high land rent.

Living in towns or cities, hefty taxes, such as poll tax, property tax, etc., need to be paid.

Even if they wanted to engage in commercial activities, they'd be subject to various restrictions by the lord.

In terms of political power, it's safe to say, they have none!

As freemen, naturally, they also desire to be like those soldiers.

Wearing armor to ward off danger, tightly gripping weapons to change their fate...

At the edge of the manor castle walls.

Lynn continued to stand at the parapet, his gaze fixed on the approaching soldier ranks.

As the red-orange sun fully sank below the horizon, and the sky gradually darkened.

The troops led by Rose and Wesley had already reached one to two hundred meters before the manor castle.

Lynn spoke to the guard behind him.

"Open the gates, welcome the army into the manor castle!"

Following Master Lynn's direction, the guard promptly responded and ran towards the steps not far away.

Shouts of command delivery echoed beneath the walls.

"By order of the lord, open the gates immediately, welcome the army into the city!"

"By order of the lord..."

As the guard's voice subsided.

Amid the rattling of iron chains, the heavy iron-clad wooden door gradually tilted outward from the manor castle.

When Rose led the troops to the manor castle.

The iron door emitted a heavy sound as it laid flat on the ground.

No waiting or delay was needed.

Everyone entered the manor castle.

With the sound of footsteps climbing and the clashing of armor metal parts...

Rose and Wesley stepped onto the manor castle walls.

They turned their gaze, spotting the familiar silhouette at the parapet, and, without hesitation, strode forward.

Stopping three meters before Lynn, Rose and Wesley stood their ground, bowing in salute.

Rose respectfully said, "Master, we did not fail you!"

"Under my and Wesley's leadership, we successfully vanquished Connolly Manor and Louis Manor!"

"From both manors, all money, grain, iron tools, labor force, poultry, and livestock were brought back by us."

Chapter 1037: Awaiting Judgment and Punishment, My Lord

"The exact number needs to be calculated before I can report to you."

Lynn nodded in satisfaction.

At this point, Rose's expression became somewhat hesitant, his eyes shifting to Wesley beside him.

No reminder was needed from Rose, Wesley began to explain.

"Due to the master's strong military strength, the attack on the Connolly Manor was extremely smooth."

"However, it wasn't until after I led the soldiers to capture the Connolly Manor that I discovered..."

"The Manor Lord, Zock Connolly, had already learned in advance about our army planning to attack his manor."

"Zock fled the Connolly Manor by carriage ahead of time."

"I learned from the guards at the Connolly Manor that Zock had gone to Kakasong City."

Wesley shifted his tone, bending down to speak.

"Wesley has failed the master's trust, I ask the master to impose severe punishment!"

Lynn's brows furrowed involuntarily.

"Tell me, how did they find out?"

A look of helplessness appeared on Wesley's face.

"Because Zock doubted the number of armored soldiers in Morgan Town."

"Zock believed the intelligence reported by his guards was false information."

"Walter, as the Guard Captain, personally led the guards to explore Morgan Town under the cover of night."

"Coincidentally, they encountered our marching troops."

Lynn remained silent, only slightly nodding in acknowledgment.

Such coincidence.

No matter how clever and secretive a night raid might be, it is difficult to avoid.

Rose picked up where Wesley left off, continuing to speak.

"Master, although Zock escaped from the manor, his steward Land swapped out the money and treasures Zock was taking."

"Coincidentally, the steward fleeing with the swapped money and jewelry was captured by me."

"Thus, a large amount of money and jewelry was seized!"

Even as Rose pleaded for leniency like this, Wesley remained bent over.

"Even so, it doesn't change the fact that Zock escaped."

"I ask the master to impose punishment!"

Listening to Wesley's resolute words, Rose's brow furrowed deeply.

This time.

Rose did not pick up Wesley's plea again.

If he continued to plead for Wesley...

It would mean...

The two commanders with authority over the soldiers were using their positions to force Lord Master Lynn!

Lynn looked directly at Wesley and said in a deep voice.

"This time, the external battle was victorious, whether due to your commanding abilities or the soldiers' brave fighting..."

"I believe both are indispensable, and both were done well."

Lynn shifted his tone: "If done well, I will praise and even reward."

"Similarly, if negligence occurs, there will naturally be punishment!"

"Wesley, due to the failure in preventing Manor Lord Zock from escaping to Kakasong City..."

"The following punishments are imposed: deduction of half a year's salary, and for all soldiers who attacked the Connelly Manor, there will be an additional ten-mile weighted endurance run training each day."

"The punishment will conclude itself in thirty days!"

"Wesley, do you have any objections?"

Wesley did not waste any words, promptly responding.

"Thank you, master, for not imposing the death penalty; Wesley has no objections."

Lynn responded, his eyes turning to Rose, standing to the side, and continued.

"Rose, you are also guilty of oversight."

"Like Wesley, you will have half a year's salary deducted."

"Do you have any objections?"

Rose's expression turned serious, quickly bowing in respect.

"Rose has no objections and will comply with all the master's instructions!"

Marching overnight, they entered Alba Town, attacking Connelly and Louis Manors, and exterminated them.

The final result, though unchanged.

As the Manor Lord, Zock escaped.

Such culpability can be considered significant or insignificant!

The punishment depends entirely on the master's mood!

Even if the master ordered their public beheading, there would be no issue!

However, the master did not do so.

Instead, he imposed what was nearly the lightest punishment.

Deduction of salary and additional physical training.

In the eyes of Rose and Wesley, there was a look of gratitude towards Lynn.

Lynn nodded, "Go back to your duties now."

"Finish counting the spoils of this battle and report back to me."

Rose and Wesley both responded with a bow and withdrew.

Lynn looked at Gavin, standing not far away, and said.

"It's getting late, you should also leave."

"Once the workforce captured and brought back is counted, assign them to you for management."

"Yes, master."

Gavin bowed respectfully, likewise withdrawing.

Until they had all left.

Only Lynn stood at a gap in the battlements on the castle wall.

A breeze, carrying the earthy scent of cut grass and uprooted roots, gusted through.

Stirring Lynn's black hair and the silk brocade robe adorning his body.

Lynn's gaze turned again to the distant view.

The vast fields that had just been bathed in the red-orange glow of sunset now lay shrouded in darkness.

The Free People busy with harvesting on the fields returned to Morgan Town.

Only fields of unharvested barley and wheat remained.

Swaying like waves under the breath of the wind.

Lynn's mind swiftly processed the words shared by Rose and Wesley.

Zock survived the night raid by a stroke of luck and went on to Kakasong City.

Chapter 1038: Please Punish Me, Master (3)

For him, it would certainly have a certain impact!

He was informed immediately that the two supporters of the Manor Lord in Alba Town had been wiped out.

Viscount Jon Zuck would undoubtedly be furious because of this.

He might even feel threatened and immediately rally the remaining Manor Lord supporters to launch a full-scale attack on Morgan Town!

However.

This just fits into his plan!

He dispatched soldiers to Alba Town to wipe out two supporter manors with two purposes in mind.

First, to weaken Viscount Jon Zuck's military strength.

Although the combined forces of the two manors were only about a thousand men.

Once they joined forces with Jon Zuck and other supporting Manor Lords, they would unleash a strength beyond a thousand men.

Second, to provoke Viscount Jon Zuck to anger and animosity!

It would be best if, in his anger, Jon Zuck immediately summoned all the troops of the supporting Manor Lords to Morgan Town.

The harvested farmland in Morgan Town was already flat and open.

As soon as Jon Zuck's forces entered the Morgan Town territory.

He could let the cavalry in the Manor Castle charge without hesitation!

No complicated terrain, no obstacles, and Viscount Jon Zuck didn't have a phalanx of spears.

When the cavalry charges, they are almost invincible!

Plus, Wesley leads five hundred archers.

Before engaging in close combat, they would first launch several volleys to weaken the living forces of Viscount Jon Zuck's troops!

If there was no external aid like Marquis Duca.

In such a war, Lynn couldn't even imagine how he would lose!

The gap between armored soldiers and unarmored soldiers is really too great.

Dispatching almost all soldiers from the territory to the Manor Castle in Morgan Town.

He had already prepared to wage war with Viscount Jon Zuck in Morgan Town!

He had also thought about continuing to send Rose and Wesley to several other small towns.

To wipe out the remaining supporter Manor Lords of Viscount Jon Zuck.

Thus.

Achieving the goal of attracting Viscount Jon Zuck to launch an attack on Morgan Town.

But due to the lack of detailed control over the distance and intelligence information of the other small towns.

And the need to digest various items and labor brought back from Alba Town.

To avoid unnecessary soldier losses.

He still decided to proceed step by step slowly.

At this moment, rapid footsteps sounded behind Lynn.

The vigilant Red had already turned around to look.

Under Red's gaze, the guard stood not far away and reminded.

"Lord, dinner is ready; you may dine."

Lynn responded with a word, "Understood."

Hearing the lord's response, the guard dared not say anything further and retreated quietly.

Half a minute later.

Retrieving sight from the thoroughly darkened farmland.

Lynn turned and walked towards the hall of the Manor Castle.

Upon reaching the dining table, Red pulled back the wooden chair of the main seat, and Lynn sat down without hesitation.

After Master Lynn sat down.

Without needing Master Lynn to instruct, Red tacitly approached the dining table and began to serve the meal.

Seated on the padded wooden chair, watching Red slice the golden pork, Lynn's eyebrows slightly raised.

As his personal Guard Captain, Red was almost always by his side, except during rest periods.

Whether he was chopping, farming, cooking, building...

Or entering the battlefield.

Red had never been far away.

The number of times Red handed him the water jug was many, but when serving dining like this, they were few and far between!

Perhaps sensing Lynn's strange gaze, Red shyly explained.

"Master, Kuisi instructed and taught me."

"Kuisi said, if you are not in the castle or territory, as your personal guard, I must serve you."

Lynn felt a bit touched in his heart, "Very well done!"

Red's arm moved, placing the sliced pork seasoned with a layer of cumin spice before Lynn.

Then he picked up the ladle and served Lynn a bowl of stewed chicken soup meat, putting it on the table in front of him.

Watching Red's orderly actions, Lynn said.

"No need to keep busy, sit down and eat together."

Red didn't hesitate and responded.

"Yes, Master."

Lynn gripped the iron fork with his right hand, putting the aromatic pork from the plate into his mouth and chewing it vigorously.

Immediately.

The oily meat aroma and the taste of cumin spice spread in Lynn's mouth, straight to his taste buds.

Lynn's eyes slightly lit up.

While eating dinner, Lynn looked at Red and asked.

"Red, you're twenty-six this year, right?"

Listening to Master Lynn's question, Red was slightly surprised.

Master Lynn actually knew his age.

But soon he thought it was certainly Kuisi who told Master Lynn his information.

Red nodded in response, "Yes, Master, I'm twenty-six."

Swallowing the chicken soup in his mouth, Lynn continued.

"If you find a woman you're interested in within the territory, you might consider marriage."

"We certainly can't let your Harper surname end with you, right?"

Red instantly fell silent.

Seeing Red silent, Lynn asked.

"Why? Any problems?"

Red solemnly responded, "Master, Kuisi said, both she and I, besides you, can never have any close personal relations again."

Chapter 1039: Please Punish Us, Master (4)

Lynn's brow furrowed slightly, "What is the reason?"

Red continued speaking: "Kuisi said that right now, she and I are the ones closest to Master Lynn."

"If we were to marry others and have bloodline offspring."

"If someone with intentions wanted to use our bloodline offspring to harm you, we would be caught in a dilemma."

"Rather than this, it might be better to cut off the thought of marriage altogether!"

"This way, even if someone wanted to harm you, we could take control ourselves and absolutely not endanger you."

Lynn's movement of chewing chicken suddenly stopped.

The hairs on his back and arms stood on end.

A few seconds later.

Lynn resumed chewing, swallowed, and said.

"I understand, continue dining."

Red nodded in response.

In the reception hall.

Only Lynn and Red were seated at the dining table for dinner.

The manor castle in Morgan Town was naturally not as good as the castle in Lynn Territory.

With dedicated chefs, with Kuisi, Janet, and other maids.

However.

Lynn did not care.

The manor castle was originally built to establish a garrison, allowing Wesley to bring soldiers to guard it.

Until half an hour later.

After finishing dinner, Lynn went to sit on the Manor Lord's throne carved with an eagle ready to fly.

His right elbow propped on the armrest, his hand supporting his chin.

Lynn continued to contemplate how to build the first garrison outside the territory through the manor castle.

Only by recruiting soldiers aggressively and establishing the first garrison at the manor castle.

Training the 5,600 recruited soldiers in physical endurance and armor and weapon outfitting.

Plowing and planting during busy farming seasons for self-sufficiency.

Training daily in leisure times to improve the soldiers' combat abilities.

This way.

The estate and surrounding fields could be effectively managed, strengthening territorial notifications.

The manor castle could also serve as the first line of defense for the territory!

Completing the road construction between the manor castle and the territory.

Should there be an enemy intrusion in Morgan Town, and an attack on the manor castle.

He could immediately dispatch the soldiers from the territory to provide military support to Morgan Town and the manor castle.

To expand the territory.

A garrison must be successfully established within the manor castle.

To establish the garrison, a large amount of labor force is necessary!

Rose and Wesley went to Alba Town to destroy Connelly's and Louis Manor, bringing back guards and peasants.

They could just be the main force in establishing the manor!

Even if the majority of the returned labor force consists of peasants.

As long as they are provided with enough food to replenish their physical skills consumption, supplemented occasionally with protein-rich meat...

Improving their physical condition is not too difficult, given sufficient time.

As a last resort.

As long as they are well-fed, with enough strength to operate various siege defense equipment.

Or to transport rolling logs and stones for the defense of the manor castle.

It can be accomplished!

As long as the enemy attacking the manor castle is engaged in a stalemate with the garrison soldiers defending the castle.

Delaying enough time, waiting for him to send the soldiers from the territory for support, will be sufficient!

If it's a stronger enemy...

Ten thousand soldiers in armor can push large siege equipment to attack the castle.

With the planned 5,600 garrison soldiers, it would naturally be difficult to resist.

But as long as there isn't an overly powerful crisis.

He can rely entirely on the soldiers in the garrison to plow and plant the fields in Morgan Town.

Using heavy plow deep tilling techniques and planting more productive crops...

Accumulating more food in this way!

To build the garrison, and completely control Morgan Town, can only be achieved step by step.

As Lynn contemplated.

The sound of mixed footsteps entered the reception hall of the manor castle.

Lynn slightly raised his head and looked over, it was Rose and Wesley.

The two of them stepped before the carved patterned stone stairs, stood firmly, and simultaneously called out.

"Master!"

Lynn's right hand was still supporting his chin.

"Have the spoils of war brought back from Alba Town been inventoried?"

Rose did not speak but looked towards Wesley.

Wesley bent down to respond: "Yes, Master."

"This time, our side had not a single soldier dead in the war against Connelly and Louis Manor in Alba Town!"

Lynn's brows slightly raised, waiting for Wesley to continue.

"First, regarding Lord Rose leading the cavalry to attack Louis Manor..."

"As soon as the cavalry arrived at Louis Manor mansion, the Guard Captain Theron had already taken the lead, assassinating Neil Manor Lord."

During Wesley's speech, he looked at Rose on his side.

Understanding the cue, Rose responded.

"Master, just as Lord Wesley said."

"I believe Guard Captain Theron assassinated the Manor Lord to steal his assets."

"Wanting to leave the manor by carriage as the cavalry was about to attack."

"Seeing the cavalry's attack speed was too fast, he then led a group of guards and peasants to surrender and disarm."

"Wanting to trade this for a contribution to you, Master, and gain an opportunity to negotiate..."

"Of course, this is my unilateral speculation, and the specifics need your decision, Master."

Chapter 1040: Requesting the Master's Punishment _5

"Therefore, during the attack on Louis Manor, there were no soldier casualties!"

"The guards, peasants, and maids from Louis Manor were all brought back to the Manor Castle."

"A total of one thousand four hundred people!"

Lynn nodded knowingly, eyes shifting towards Wesley.

Wesley continued, "Master, the archers and heavy and light infantry under my command, also found the attack on Connelly Manor to be relatively smooth."

"Only a dozen members of the Pan Rock Iron Guard, because they lacked armor protection, incurred injuries while confronting the guard soldiers of Connelly Manor."

"However, Master, you needn't worry. Even with injuries, they are only lightly wounded."

Lynn nodded again.

The intelligence clearly shows.

Once the attack was launched, it was a crushing battle.

If, in such a case, there were still soldier deaths.

Whether it was Rose or Wesley, they could very well roll off to the open pit mines and switch professions to miners.

Wesley's account continued.

"In the attack on Connelly Manor, a total of three hundred eighty resisting guards and peasants were slain, as well as Guard Captain Walter."

"One thousand three hundred prisoners who surrendered were also brought back to the Manor Castle."

"That means, in this foreign war, a total of two thousand seven hundred laborers were brought back."

"Among them, there are one thousand six hundred adult men and one thousand adult women; the remaining two hundred are either disabled, elderly, or children..."

Lynn responded with an acknowledgment, without words.

With two thousand seven hundred laborers, plus the six hundred Free People hired, totaling three thousand three hundred people.

Among them, nearly half are women.

To use these laborers to construct a garrison in the Manor Castle, clearly, the numbers are still insufficient.

However.

With these two thousand seven hundred laborers, at least by the end of August, the remaining agricultural land harvesting in Morgan Town can be completed.

Wesley paused momentarily, continuing.

"Master, aside from the returned laborers."

"The barley among the grains is estimated at two million pounds, wheat at nine hundred thousand pounds, and oats at one hundred twenty thousand pounds."

"In beans, there are two hundred thousand pounds of peas and one hundred twenty thousand pounds of lentils."

"In roots, there are one hundred thousand pounds of turnips and eighty thousand pounds of carrots."

"Various meats, adding up to at least twenty thousand pounds!"

Listening to Wesley's continuous report on various foods, Lynn gave a brief acknowledgment.

Although Wesley didn't explain.

Lynn could understand why so much grain was seized from Connelly Manor and Louis Manor.

The two manors held numerous laborers.

The manor estates' warehouses naturally needed to store large quantities of grain.

Plus, the summer harvest had just been completed!

Lynn even felt.

The populations of these two manors hadn't even tasted a bite of fresh grain.

Before Rose and Wesley brought back all the grain!

Wesley's narration continued.

"There are one hundred twenty head of cattle, ninety of which are adult oxen and thirty are dairy cows, one hundred eighty draft horses, ninety pigs, one hundred twenty sheep, two hundred sixty chickens, and fifteen dogs."

"Iron tools and poor-quality weapons, numbering nearly four thousand pieces."

"Besides this, the warehouse holds thirty to forty thousand yards of linen cloth, twenty thousand pounds of linen, and more than ten thousand pounds of wool, etc."

Wesley shifted his tone.

"Master, concerning food and goods, this is approximately everything."

"Aside from these, what hasn't been reported yet are the finances and gold and silver jewelry."

"After repeated counting, one thousand five hundred eighty Gold Pounds, three hundred twenty shillings, and several thousand pence were seized from the two manors."

"Regarding gold and silver jewelry, most items are made using gold and silver and inlaid with gemstones."

"I am currently unable to estimate their exact value."

After speaking, Wesley paused for a few seconds, contemplating.

Recalling all the items brought back to the Manor Castle.

After confirming no content was omitted from the report, Wesley concluded, "Master, the spoils brought back are roughly these."

Lynn said, "All the food and meat should be temporarily stored in the Manor Castle for emergencies."

"The livestock and poultry brought back should be arranged to be transported to the territory, handed over to Foreman Guy at the ranch for feeding and breeding."

"The money and gold and silver jewelry should also be brought back to the territory and handed over to Steward Kuisi."

Listening to Lynn's instructions, both Rose and Wesley nodded in agreement.

Lynn continued, "As for the laborers brought back..."

"After last night's events, a large batch of supplies was transported."

"Presumably, they are now both physically and mentally exhausted."

"Prepare sufficient food for them, let them eat and drink their fill, and have a good rest for one night in the open spaces of the Manor Castle."

"Tomorrow morning, distribute one tool to each of them, and have them join the harvest team led by Gavin."

"Coincidentally, during the day, Gavin also brought up the issue of lacking manpower..."

Rose and Wesley nodded again in response.

Lynn thought for a few seconds, then spoke again.

"In addition to that..."

"I need you to immediately arrange scouts to go to Kakasong City, Alba Town, and Boxi Town, at the transportation hub leading to Morgan Town."

"Implement a twenty-four-hour rotation guard."

"Once a large force is spotted marching towards Morgan Town, return immediately to report."