

System 1051

Chapter 1051: The Second Battle of Spirit Reef Port (Part 4)

After asking Gasper a few questions and confirming there was no other intelligence, Lynn directly dismissed him.

He watched as Gasper rode away from the Manor Castle, galloping into the distance.

Lynn's mind started to ponder.

The lords involved in the Imperial Authority battle often possess tens of thousands of armored soldiers.

Of course, he couldn't participate in that right now.

Moreover, if a Great Lord dispatched a large number of soldiers to attack his territory,

he would be utterly powerless to resist.

Rather than worry about these distant and unchangeable matters,

it's better to think about how to deal with Viscount Jon Zuck and his supportive Manor Lords who are right in front of him!

Currently, Lynn has two decisions in mind.

The first is to prepare for action.

While sending out scouts to observe and alert at key points,

allow the armored soldiers in the Manor Castle to continue resting.

Adjust the soldiers who have recently marched and fought for two days and nights to their optimal state.

Waiting for Jon Zuck's army to enter Morgan Town and launch an attack on the Manor Castle.

This advantage can leverage the defensive fortifications of the Manor Castle, conduct a solid defense, and thus reduce soldier casualties.

Where there is an advantage, there will be a disadvantage.

By fortifying the Manor Castle,

control over Morgan Town and a large area of farmland will be lost.

Jon Zuck can completely dig trenches, spike pits, produce chevaux-de-frise, and construct fortifications on large farmlands.

Or even lose the opportunity to attack first.

The second option is to take the initiative and strike!

According to his speculation, it wouldn't be easy for Viscount Jon to gather all the supportive Manor Lords' forces.

If they want to press forward with a massive army to Morgan Town, it would take at least about ten days.

Within these ten days, Rose Wesley can be dispatched with the cavalry army to the neighboring Boxi Town.

To devastate Jon Zuck's two supportive Manor Lords in Boxi Town!

If more time is available, they could even proceed to further small towns.

To completely annihilate all supportive Manor Lords!

However,

he isn't aware of the situation in Boxi Town.

Even if he has a squad of armored soldiers now,

if they fall into a siege by large groups of guards and peasants,

even with the protection of armor, they won't face total annihilation, but there will be significant soldier casualties.

Recklessly deploying troops will only put his already limited number of soldiers in peril.

As Lynn ponders over this,

the sound of galloping hooves enters his ears.

His gaze turns, Lynn follows the source of the sound.

Outside the Manor Castle, amidst the vast farmland on the gravel and mud roads,

a light cavalry clad in composite armor gallops toward the Manor Castle.

The light cavalry crosses the farmland and enters the castle.

Within just a few minutes.

The light cavalry climbs up the stairs to the wall.

Seeing Lynn standing at the edge of the wall, the light cavalry doesn't pause, and strides straight ahead.

In front of Lynn, the light cavalry bows respectfully and speaks.

"Lord, Master Earl intercepted a cart convoy filled with goods during our patrol."

"Master Earl ordered me to report to you for a decision."

Lynn asks, "Is it traveling merchants coming to Morgan Town for trade activities?"

The light cavalry explains, "Lord, they claim they are Manor Lords from Alba Town and wish to meet you."

Lynn frowns slightly, pauses for two seconds, then says,

"Inform Earl to bring them over."

"I will wait for them in the Manor Castle."

Receiving Lynn's affirmative instruction, the light cavalry responds without hesitation, turns around, and leaves.

After a hurried sound of footsteps down the stairs.

The light cavalry rides away from the Manor Castle, galloping towards the distant farmland.

Lynn's mind stirs as he opens the [Holographic Map] to examine.

His view rotates several times.

At the border between Morgan Town and Alba Town.

Under the protection of a team of chain armor guards.

A few carriages bearing different family crest emblems.

Six or seven carts laden with goods drawn by double horses.

Intercepted by Earl leading a squad of composite armor soldiers.

Not only that.

Patrol teams of ten-man composite armor soldier groups are assembling at the junction.

Within just a few minutes.

This cart convoy claiming to be from Alba Town Manor Lords is surrounded.

After observing for a few moments, Lynn closes the [Holographic Projection] panel in front of him and walks towards the Manor Castle behind him.

Red followed without asking any questions.

...

At the junction between Morgan Town and Alba Town.

The bloated man Brick Orlando sat inside the carriage compartment.

Through the carriage window, he watched soldiers outside riding horses, dressed in standard armor plates and armor.

The sound of horses pacing.

Brick's heart is full of tension and fear.

After the armored soldiers of Lord Lynn annihilated Connelly Manor and Louis Manor.

Both he and Helena and Alex have already learned that Lord Lynn of Morgan Town has a large number of armored cavalry.

However, seeing it with his own eyes now, Brick still can't suppress the tension within.

Because the armed cavalry with the metallic shine of dark gray,

gives him an overwhelming sense of oppression and visual impact that is simply too intense!

Brick finally understood why overnight, Connelly Manor was devastated, and Connelly Manor chose to surrender unconditionally.

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Compared to the guards and peasants possessed by these Manor Lords,

Lynn's army of fully armed soldiers are the true machines of war and slaughter!

It's not just Brick.

Helena and Alex in the other two carriages were also watching the armored soldiers outside the carriage.

However,

Unlike the tension and fear in Brick and Alex,

Helena's eyes were filled with curiosity and awe.

There seemed to be a hint of admiration...

Possessing armored cavalry means possessing strong military power.

With powerful military strength, it means there's no need to cling to anyone just to survive!

Everything within the territory belongs solely to the Lord!

If there are any Manor Lords or Lords who do things that harm the interests of the territory,

when negotiations fail, they can directly dispatch soldiers and press the enemy with force.

Use military power to decide who is right or wrong!

This is what it means to be a true Lord!

Rather than the situation they are in now,

under pressure from Zock Connally and Viscount Jon Zack,

they had no choice but to bring goods from their Manor and swear allegiance to Lord Lynn, whom they had never met or even heard of.

If Lord Lynn agrees, then that's that.

If he doesn't, not only will they lose face, but they will also have to leave with their goods in disgrace...

The dignity and honor of a Manor Lord would be completely gone!

However, Helena also understood.

Pleading with Lord Lynn to accept their allegiance,

was already their last opportunity, for them and their Manor!

Riding on the warhorse, Earl held the reins tightly, his gaze fixed on the carriage convoy ahead.

The scenes of Bader infiltrating Morgan Town with spies were still vivid in his mind.

If it weren't for the patrols discovering them early and capturing Bader and his men,

and if they had done anything to harm Morgan Town,

then as the Lord specifically instructed to guard Morgan Town, he would be gravely derelict in his duties.

The Lord would have every reason to behead him as a warning to others!

Therefore,

Earl had no goodwill towards the men from Alba Town.

It was only because it was daytime now.

This caravan had dozens of guards as well as carriages loaded with goods.

If it were nighttime,

Earl would have long treated them as spies and taken them directly to the Lord.

While Earl scrutinized the carriage convoy,

from far in the back, the sound of horses galloping could be heard.

Earl glanced back, it was the cavalry he had dispatched to return to the Manor Castle and report to the Lord.

He pulled the reins, turning the warhorse to face the cavalry's arrival.

Helena, Brick, and Alex in the three carriages also saw the cavalry rushing from afar.

Their gaze fixed, they waited.

The reporting cavalry, seeing the interception team ahead, swung his reins again.

Shouting 'giddy up, giddy up,'

hoping to spur the horse to its maximum speed.

Half a minute later,

when just ten meters ahead, Earl on his warhorse, the cavalry quickly pulled his reins.

With a 'whoa,' the horse gradually halted.

The cavalry nodded slightly to Earl and reported,

"Master Earl, Lord Lynn has instructed you to lead the Manor Lords to the Manor Castle."

"Lord Lynn will be waiting in the reception hall."

"I will comply with the Lord's instructions!"

Earl moved his right hand on the reins, directing the warhorse back in the right direction.

He glanced at the guards and carriage convoy, speaking up,

"With instructions from the Lord, you all may proceed to Morgan Town."

"Furthermore, the Lord will receive you in the Manor Castle."

"Please follow me!"

In the carriage compartment, Helena and the others slightly relaxed their taut minds upon hearing this.

Even without knowing the outcome of meeting Lord Lynn,

at least they now had the opportunity to enter Morgan Town and stand before Lord Lynn!

As long as they could see Lord Lynn, as long as they could speak with him, as long as they could gain protection,

no matter the heavy price they ultimately had to pay, they were willing!

Under the guidance of Earl on his warhorse,

the convoy from Alba Town, escorted by light cavalry, moved towards the distant Manor Castle.

As the carriage began to travel at a steady pace,

Helena looked out of the window,

On the left of the carriage, stretched a vast expanse of harvested farmland.

The flat soil bore traces of cut stalks here and there.

On the right, teams of farmers were harvesting the crops in the fields.

Though a bit distant,

from the farmers' attire Helena could instantly recognize,

the farmers were from Alba Town!

The complexity in Helena's heart intensified.

If they could not pledge allegiance to Lord Lynn and seek his protection,

Lord Lynn could easily obliterate them as he did the Manors of Connally and Louis,

completely wiping them out.

By then,

everything they owned would belong to Lord Lynn!

Even as negotiations hadn't yet begun,

Helena had already realized, they had no position to bargain with Lord Lynn!

Under the guidance of the armored cavalry, the caravan continued moving forward.

Until half an hour later,

a castle standing amidst vast farmlands came into their view.

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The towering city walls enclosed a two-story-high castle within.

Plus that heavy, tall iron gate, which seemed to have been reinforced with iron plates and rivets.

Unless there was an army far stronger than the garrison of this Manor Castle to launch an attack on it,

otherwise, it would be very hard to break through.

But then Helena thought of something.

Hadn't Lord Lynn just broken through this very Manor Castle?

Although this was Helena's first time coming to Morgan Town,

she had still heard that there were five major Manors in Morgan Town.

This Manor Castle was precisely the strongest power in Morgan Town—Frank Manor!

And not just this Manor Castle.

Lord Lynn had wiped out all the Manors in Morgan Town!

Under Helena's sweeping gaze, as the carriage convoy kept moving forward, they passed into the shadow of the Manor Castle that blocked out the sun.

In the end, they crossed the iron-plated gate and entered the Manor Castle.

Earl swung down from his horse with agile movement and walked toward the carriages behind.

Coming to the front of the carriages, Earl's clear voice rang out.

"Honorable Manor Lords, we have arrived at the Manor Castle where the Lord resides. You may get off now."

With the support of their Guards, Helena, Brick, and Alex stepped on the movable wooden steps and alighted from the carriage.

Once off the carriage, the three of them let their gazes roam, scanning their surroundings with some wariness.

Earl continued, "Please follow my lead. I will take you three to see the Lord."

"As for your Guards, they need to stay here and wait."

Hearing this, the three of them looked at one another.

But then they thought it through.

Ever since they entered the territory of Morgan Town,

with Lord Lynn's strength, if he wanted to do anything to them,

they basically had no chance to resist at all!

After each of the three gave a few instructions to their respective Guard Captain,

they followed behind Earl and walked toward the distant stairs.

They set off, climbed the steps, and quickly arrived at the open-air courtyard where the city wall and the Manor Castle joined together.

Earl swept a glance over the empty open-air courtyard.

He led Helena and the other two toward the Manor Castle hall on the right.

As soon as they entered the reception hall of the Manor Castle,

Earl and the three of them all saw the figure sitting on the Manor Lord's throne.

Earl couldn't help quickening his pace as he walked toward Lynn.

Crossing the reception hall, they came to the carved, patterned steps.

Earl bent in a bow and explained respectfully, "Lord, the three Manor Lords from Alba Town have been brought here."

Lynn's gaze shifted as he looked down at the three Manor Lords from above.

Listening to Earl's introduction and feeling Lynn's gaze fall on them,

Helena, dressed in a black brocade silk long robe, was the first to bend slightly in a bow as she greeted.

"Helena Wells, Manor Lord of the Wells Clan of Alba Town, pays her respects to Lord Lynn and thanks you for granting us an audience."

As Helena spread her feet slightly, bent her knees, and lowered her body a bit, the high, rounded, snow-white curves in front of her were outlined.

Lynn's brows lifted ever so slightly.

Such an alluring, voluptuous figure, with that unique air that only a mature noblewoman possessed.

Add to that her distinctive, magnetic voice.

Those moist, crimson, thin lips...

Whether Helena did it intentionally or not, she had displayed her advantages to perfection.

Women like this mature noble lady often easily won many people's favor, or at least their goodwill.

At least in Lynn's eyes,

a woman like this was much more pleasing to look at.

As Helena finished her self-introduction, Brick and Alex hastily followed suit and began introducing themselves.

When Alex's words fell silent,

Lynn, still seated on the Manor Lord's throne, stared straight at the three of them and spoke in a flat tone.

"I assume you three Manor Lords have come because of the destruction of Connelly Manor and Louis Manor, haven't you?"

"Could it be that the three of you came to Morgan Town to seek justice for those two destroyed Manors?"

At these words, the three of them felt their hearts lurch.

Given the military strength Lynn had just displayed,

as mere small Manor Lords, what did they have to seek justice for Connelly Manor and Louis Manor?

How would they even dare to seek justice for them?

Brick hurriedly explained, somewhat flustered.

"Lord Lynn, y-you misunderstand."

"We definitely didn't come to seek justice for them."

"Especially Connelly Manor. Relying on the relatively strong military power it had, and on its ties with Viscount Jon Zuck, they endlessly made things difficult for and squeezed the three of our Manors.

"We couldn't wait for Connelly Manor and Louis Manor to be destroyed by you as early as possible!"

Helena and Alex said nothing, heads lowered, quietly waiting.

Lynn gave an "Oh" and fixed his gaze on the three as he continued to ask,

"Then what is the purpose of you three Manor Lords coming to Morgan Town...?"

Brick's mouth opened; he was just about to continue speaking.

Helena, standing to the side, directly cut him off and took over.

That magnetic female voice sounded from Helena's lips.

"Lord Lynn, the powerful strength you displayed in destroying the two major Manors has deeply convinced us."

"Therefore, we have deliberately brought our respective tokens of goodwill, hoping to establish relations with you, Lord Lynn, and sign a treaty of friendly exchange."

Brick glanced at Helena in some surprise.

But once he heard the almost watertight words from Helena's mouth, he immediately shut his own.

Aside from his initial self-introduction, Alex hadn't said another word from beginning to end.

Lynn fixed his eyes straight on Helena before him and said blandly,

"Then I'm afraid you three Manor Lords will be disappointed. I have never needed any so-called 'establishing relations.'"

"Before me, there is only submission or... death."

Listening to Lynn's voice, so flat it carried no trace of emotional fluctuation,

the bodies of the three of them instantly went taut.

If it had been someone else saying such a thing,

they might have hesitated, might have dismissed it with contempt.

But right now, the one saying this was Lynn!

Lynn had just dispatched an army of armored soldiers to wipe out Connelly Manor and Louis Manor in their Alba Town!

Especially Helena, who was the one conversing with Lynn.

At thirty already, Helena had long since grown used to all manner of people.

She prided herself on being able to face all sorts of individuals calmly and unafraid.

Yet the words spoken by this young Lord in front of her, Lynn,

left her, for a moment, at a loss for how to respond.

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Only submission or death!

Although Lynn's tone was calm.

But Helena felt a majestic aura from these calm words.

The most crucial thing is.

Helena understood that the Lord Lynn sitting on the Manor Lord's throne had such strength!

Brick and Alex, who were standing, felt tense.

The two exchanged glances, not daring to utter a word.

Finally, their eyes turned to Helena, waiting for her response.

Helena is indeed a female Manor Lord.

But the wisdom and way she handles things are far above theirs.

A woman becomes the Manor's Manor Lord.

Avoiding the encroachment and devouring by other Manor Lords.

And managing it in a well-organized manner.

Such ability is not something an ordinary woman can possess!

After a few seconds of silence, she slowly stood straight, slightly raised her head, and met Lynn's gaze.

"Lord Lynn, I think you needn't rush to refuse."

"If we establish diplomatic relations, there are bound to be benefits and no disadvantages!"

Lynn said nothing.

His gaze fixed on Helena's amber eyes.

Scanning her fair neck without a trace of excess flesh, the clearly visible collarbone, the high and full curves restrained by the bodice of her gown.

Looking at her waist that, in contrast with the surging front, was slender enough to be encircled by hands, set off by the pleated waistline.

Helena naturally saw Lynn's gaze, unabashedly scanning her.

A sudden tension surfaced within Helena.

What puzzled Helena was that under other men's gazes, she felt no emotional fluctuation or anomaly.

But under Lynn's scrutiny.

Helena felt not just tension but also a hint of shyness...

Helena took a deep breath, suppressing the strange thoughts in her heart, and continued.

"Lord Lynn, as long as we establish diplomatic relations..."

"In military terms, Morgan Town and Alba Town can unify the frontlines."

"If faced with an external enemy's attack, we can form a mutual support position, providing support to each other."

Brick and Alex's eyes brightened a little.

If it truly was just establishing diplomatic relations, just mutual assistance, without requiring them to swear allegiance.

That would be wonderful!

This means they would not need to pay the production taxes from their territories to Lynn.

Nor would there be any land concessions.

Moreover.

They could continue to retain their autonomy within the Manor!

Seeing that Lynn still had no words, Helena took a breath and continued.

"In economic terms, Alba Town can engage in close trade activities with Morgan Town."

"Besides agricultural planting and production, Alba Town has already begun development in linen weaving and clothing production."

"Just from our three Manors alone, the linen garments we can produce yearly would reach at least five thousand sets!"

"This is just the initial development stage. As we expand the production scale, the number of linen garments produced yearly will only increase."

"We can sell linen garments to you, Lord Lynn, at the lowest possible prices."

"We can also give you the linen seeds, planting, and weaving techniques from Alba Town, Lord Lynn."

"You can also sell the crops and economic plants produced in Morgan Town to Alba Town."

"Thus realizing economic exchanges and common development."

Brick and Alex couldn't help but nod, secretly admiring Helena's high level of negotiation and conversation skills.

If it were them communicating and negotiating with Lord Lynn.

They certainly couldn't achieve the logical clarity and orderly manner of Helena.

Lynn still had no words.

He moved his right arm, resting his elbow on the armrest of the throne, the back of his hand supporting his chin.

Quietly watching Helena's moist, red lips continue to open and close, narrating endlessly.

Under the gaze of Lynn's deep eyes, Helena's heart tightened once more.

She continued: "In political terms, forming a political alliance between Alba Town and Morgan Town can enhance influence in Kakasong City."

"When it comes to issues involving common interests, we can take a unified stand, jointly safeguarding our common interests."

"Especially when Viscount Jon Zack and his supporting Manor Lords control Kakasong City and the surrounding small towns."

"We should unite for warmth and reduce their exploitation and oppression as much as possible!"

Saying this, Helena concluded.

"Lord Lynn, establishing diplomatic relations between Morgan Town and Alba Town is beneficial and harmless to both you and us!"

Brick and Alex also remained silent.

After Helena finished speaking, they slightly raised their heads and looked at Lynn on the throne.

Wanting to discern Lynn's current thoughts through any changes in his expression.

In the next moment.

Brick and Alex felt disappointed.

Because Lynn's expression did not change in the slightest.

Just like when they entered the Manor Castle, his face was full of calmness, and his eyes were as tranquil as ancient wells.

Seeing Lynn showing no indication, Helena slightly raised her voice, asking.

"Lord Lynn, do you find Helena's proposal reasonable?"

Lynn lowered his right hand from his chin, directly looking at Helena, speaking with a slightly cold and indifferent tone.

"I think..."

Hearing Lynn finally speak, Helena, along with the two others, looked on with great anticipation.

"The three Manor Lords do not need to beat around the bush, testing me anymore, do you?"

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The anticipation in Helena's eyes turned into astonishment in an instant.

Lynn ignored their expressions and continued speaking.

"The reason you came to Morgan Town is not merely because you were impressed by the armored soldiers I dispatched."

"It's even more because... you felt fear."

"You fear being destroyed by my armored soldiers, just like Connelly and Louis Manor!"

A shadow passed over Helena's fair and delicate face.

Brick and Alex, sensing the powerful aura emanating from Lynn, quickly lowered their heads, not daring to look at Lynn again.

Lynn continued, "So, you came with guards and wagons full of goods to Morgan Town to propose establishing relations."

"Attempting to gain my friendship and coexistence with you at the smallest cost!"

Helena's mouth opened slightly, wanting to argue.

But Helena found that Lynn on the throne seemed to have long seen through their minds.

Now, more unceremoniously tearing off their hypocritical mask labeled 'establish relations.'

Lynn glanced at the three Manor Lords and continued.

"Even though I know your intentions, I am still willing to meet with you."

Doubt appeared in Helena's eyes.

Lynn said indifferently, "Because you pose no threat to me."

"Whether it's you standing before me now or the manors behind you."

"Or if you three were to unite the three manors..."

"If I wish, I can send soldiers at any time to destroy you."

"You have no opportunity or ability to resist even a tiny bit."

"Therefore, if you want my protection, you have to submit!"

Dominion, disdain, indifference, even contempt!

The words from Lynn on the throne felt just like that to Helena and the others.

Even when facing Lynn's contempt.

Brick and Alex dared not refute at all.

They could only lower their heads and bend their backs even more.

Because they knew, Lynn had the strength and the right to speak such words!

Just as Lynn said.

If he wished, he could send soldiers at any moment to wipe out their manor!

Only Helena stared directly at Lynn with her wide amber eyes.

In those eyes, there seemed to be nothing but unwillingness.

Lynn overlooked Helena from above, ignoring the resentment in her eyes.

"If your manor possessed sufficient strength."

"You would not immediately come to Morgan Town to invite me to establish relations."

"If your military strength far surpassed mine."

"The ones entering the Manor Castle now wouldn't be the wagons transporting goods, but armed soldiers to destroy me and occupy Morgan Town."

"You and I both know that in this world, it is often only the strong who oppress and exploit the weak."

"The weak, wanting to barely survive, can only depend on the strong, even offering everything they have!"

"Perhaps you or your manor have never done such things before."

"But now, if you and your manor wish to continue surviving, you can only choose to depend on me—Lynn Blake!"

"Of course! You have a second option."

"Take your goods and leave Morgan Town."

To establish relations with the three manor lords.

Even if there is no harm, there will never be any benefit.

On the contrary, due to the matters faced by the three manor lords, it would distract his attention and disperse the forces of his armed soldiers.

Regarding Helena's mentioned economic, military, and political benefits comparison.

Lynn was even more disdainful.

In terms of economy.

Not to mention Morgan Town.

The number of workers in the Handicraft Workshop District he owns was nearly six thousand people.

Nearly twice the population of Alba Town.

Plus, possessing Glaze Workshop, Brewing Workshop, Textile Workshop, and Blacksmith Workshop, etc.

The production efficiency and daily economic output of any workshop could far exceed the total output of the manors held by the three manor lords like Helena combined.

Lynn even felt.

Just Grayson coming to trade and replace a single glazed glass for one thousand gold pounds was enough to surpass the monthly economic goods production of their manor!

In a period when the glaze industry is not yet developed.

Possessing complete and advanced production technology means being able to obtain substantial high profits and rapidly accumulate wealth.

Even in the textile industry.

The Saxon Spinning Wheel he previously led Colin and others to create.

Its effectiveness was four or five times higher than the currently prevalent ordinary spinning wheels!

Not to mention the seeds of linen and the spinning technology!

Perhaps in Helena and the few others' views.

The spinning technology possessed by their manor was an industry that could increase the economic income of Manor Lords.

But in Lynn's view, it was just some outdated technology with low efficiency and production capacity, of no use to him!

The military strength possessed by the three manors was even more insignificant to Lynn.

Whether it was Helena before him.

Or Brick and Alex next to her.

The total of soldiers and peasants owned by each manor did not exceed fifteen hundred people!

What kind of military strength could Manor Lords like these boast?

If he established relations with the three manor lords,

With the combined soldiers of Helena's three manors, it would be of no use at all.

Waiting for Viscount Jon Zack to lead an army of manor lord soldiers and their supporters to Morgan Town.

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Because with his armored soldiers, it's enough to wipe out this entire army of soldiers!

The three Manor Lords have no role to play.

If there were a stronger army than Viscount Jon Zuck's, invading Morgan Town.

Even with the military aid of three more Manor Lords, it would still be a drop in the ocean.

In terms of political alliances...

Achieving unified political goals, striving for shared interests...

Lynn firmly believes that only by possessing sufficiently strong military power can one have political rights!

In Lynn's mind, a phrase is etched: Weak countries have no diplomacy!

Even though Lynn has not yet experienced diplomatic games between nations.

But from some books and images, witnessing the humiliation and struggle of weak countries in diplomacy, the painful memories of being bullied...

That imprint, like it comes from deep within the soul and bloodline, makes it impossible for Lynn to forget even a bit.

Even here, it is equally applicable.

That's why, as a Lord, he is still willing to go all out, not daring to slack off in the slightest.

If you want to survive, if you don't want to be oppressed by others...

You must do everything possible to develop and strengthen military power!

Simply put.

Establishing diplomatic relations with the three Manor Lords of Alba Town offers no benefit!

Compared to the benefits Helena spoke of.

Lynn is more willing to wipe out the three Manors, seizing the guards and peasants from the three Manors and the Free People in Alba Town!

In Lynn's view, letting them use this labor force is a waste of labor and land!

At the foot of the throne.

Helena's breathing was rapid, her already full and white chest heaving quickly.

Having been the Manor Lord of Wells Manor for fifteen years, Helena naturally understood that what Lynn said was correct.

As a Manor Lord, long accustomed to being above everyone else.

How could she possibly willingly depend on another Lord?

However.

Helena was more aware of the imminent crisis facing Wells Manor...

Helena's heart was full of hesitation and complexity.

A pair of white and slender, bony hands clenched tightly, turning blue and white.

The words spoken by Lynn were no longer negotiations with them as fellow Manor Lords.

But a blatant threat!

If their Manor wanted to survive.

There was only one choice.

Submit to Lynn on the throne!

Otherwise, death!

Helena turned her gaze to look at Brick and Alex beside her.

At this moment, the two Manor Lords lowered their heads, not even daring to breathe heavily.

Helena couldn't help but curse inwardly.

"Fools who only play with women!"

"Muscle-bound blockheads!"

Being the only remaining Manor Lords of Alba Town, at a critical moment for the survival of their Manor.

They didn't even have the courage to speak to Lynn!

If not fools or blockheads, then what are they?

Withdrawing her gaze, Helena's thoughts spun rapidly in her mind.

A few seconds later.

A gleam appeared in Helena's eyes.

Her moist red lips slightly parted.

Just as she was about to use the reason of being feudal vassals appointed by Marquis Duca.

To persuade Lynn to give up coveting their Manors.

But Helena thought again.

Lynn on the throne had just wiped out Connelly and Louis Manors!

And soon, he would be warring against Viscount Jon Zuck and a group of supporting Manor Lords!

How could Lynn be concerned about the so-called shared title of Marquis Duca, which held no deterrent power?

Helena's lips immediately closed, the bitterness, helplessness, and powerlessness in her heart grew even stronger.

Helena originally thought that, with her wisdom and quick response ability, she could achieve the goal of establishing diplomatic relations.

But now.

In the face of the powerful military force Lynn possessed, everything was just empty talk.

Their weak power gave them no right to establish diplomatic relations with Lynn!

After a moment of silence.

Determination flashed in Helena's eyes, she raised her head, looked at Lynn on the throne, and spoke with certainty.

"Lord Lynn, Wells Manor is willing to submit to you!"

"Pay tribute, provide labor, relinquish some economic rights, political subordination, Manor autonomy, and even military aid, military expenses, and military decision-making power..."

With these words.

Brick and Alex, who had been bowing their heads, immediately lifted them, looking at Helena in shock.

Brick hurriedly asked, "Helena, do you know what you're saying?"

Alex's eyes narrowed slightly.

Helena turned her gaze and gave Brick a fierce look, responding.

"I certainly know what I'm saying!"

"Wells Manor is willing to submit to Lord Lynn; this decision is solely on behalf of Wells Manor."

"Whatever decision the two Manor Lords make has nothing to do with Wells Manor."

Brick and Alex immediately fell silent.

Helena turned her gaze again to look at Lynn.

Her eyes full of resolve, her words carried weight.

"Helena leads Wells Manor in submission to Lord Lynn!"

"No matter how great the cost, we are willing to pay."

"Helena only hopes that in facing a crisis, Lord Lynn can provide aid to Wells Manor."

"I hope Lord Lynn agrees..."

Helena's magnetically resonant voice echoed in the empty reception hall of the Manor Castle.

Brick and Alex looked up at Lynn, waiting for his response.

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Lynn did not immediately respond, but instead asked a question.

"Is the crisis at Wells Manor caused by Jon Zack from Kakasong City?"

Helena slightly bowed her head and explained, "Yes, Lord Lynn."

"Before your army launched an attack on Connelly Manor, Manor Lord Zock had sent guards to our manors."

"To request military aid from us by dispatching guards and peasants from our manors."

"But due to long-standing conflicts between the manors, we all chose to refuse military aid to Connelly..."

"Ultimately, Connelly Manor was destroyed by your army, and Zock, as the Manor Lord, fled early to Kakasong City."

Lynn nodded, listening to Helena's account.

"Given Zock's petty nature, he will surely retaliate against our manors."

"With the military strength led by Jon Zack and supported by other manor lords, we are definitely no match."

"And you, Lord Lynn, are the only lord in the entire Kakasong City area with formidable military strength, unafraid of offending Viscount Jon Zack."

"Only you can save us!"

At this point,.

The physically and emotionally exhausted Helena no longer wished to engage in any more entanglements with Lynn.

She poured out all the crises and challenges faced by the manor to Lynn.

Helena knew.

To gain more dignity in front of Lynn.

To obtain military protection from Lynn at the least cost.

It was simply impossible!

To obtain the protection of a powerful lord.

The only way is to give everything and plead!

Listening to Helena's explanation, Lynn nodded slightly, his expression not showing any surprise.

Not to mention.

Zock Connally did not die in the fall of Connelly Manor.

Even if he had died in that battle.

With the death of Jon Zack's two supporting manor lords and the loss of control over Boxi Town.

Jon Zack will certainly arrange or support a new manor lord.

Helena and the other three manor lords, having been indifferent and unhelpful when the two supporting manors were destroyed.

Will certainly face Viscount Jon Zack's reckoning.

If Helena and the two other manor lords want to survive and have their manors continue to be passed down, they naturally need protection.

Or, they could submit to Viscount Jon Zack.

But Helena and the two manor lords have never become Jon Zack's supporter manor lords for so long.

There must be a special reason for this.

No matter what the reason or hidden matters are, Lynn did not care.

Looking at Helena, Lynn said, "I can accept the allegiance and loyalty of Wells Manor."

"And I can extend a helping hand in the life and death crisis faced by Wells Manor."

"Including when an attack is launched against Wells Manor by Viscount Jon Zack from Kakasong City and his supporters!"

Lynn, who could not avoid it, was bound to fight Viscount Jon Zack and the supporting manor lords.

If he could gain the allegiance of the Alba Town Manor Lord while waging war.

That would naturally be the best!

With the expanding territory.

Lynn needed more labor for the subsequent land reclamation, planting, defensive construction, and soldier recruitment.

Helena's usually somber eyes brightened with delight.

Brick and Alex looked slightly surprised.

Even under the attack of Viscount Jon Zack, could Lynn still provide military aid?

Keep in mind.

Viscount Jon Zack has armored soldiers and ordinary soldiers numbering at least over two thousand.

If the remaining six manor lords gather all the guards and peasants from the manor, the number is at least nine thousand.

In total, at least eleven thousand!

How could Lynn dare to make such confident promises?

The next second.

Brick and Alex realized something.

Seated on the throne, Lynn had a sufficient number of armored soldiers.

Enough to give Lynn absolute confidence to not fall into a disadvantageous position in the coming war with Viscount Jon Zack!

Brick and Alex exchanged glances without speaking, but both had made up their minds.

Brick and Alex bowed respectfully and said,.

"Lord Lynn, Orlando Manor and Kennedy Manor are also willing to submit to you."

"We hope Lord Lynn will accept us."

Hearing their coinciding words, Helena could not help but cast a cold glance at them.

One could say that since being in the Wells Manor study, she had been the one strategizing.

Figuring out how to meet Lynn.

After meeting Lynn, how to maximize their benefits...

Even though all hopes fell through under Lynn's strong presence.

Still.

Brick and Alex only opportunistically benefited, making Helena disdainful in her heart!

Looking at the bowing Brick and Alex, Lynn said gravely.

"Of course."

"As long as you offer loyalty, you can all become my supporter manor lords!"

Upon hearing Lynn's affirmative response, Helens and the other two felt relieved.

Yet.

Before they could take a breath, Lynn's deep voice echoed throughout the reception hall.

"However, I must say in advance, I need to know the extent of the loyalty you can offer!"

"Otherwise, when your manors face enemy attacks."

"It will be difficult for me to make an accurate judgment and save you at a crucial moment..."

This time, not just Helena.

Chapter 1058: Submission or Death

Even Brick and Alex, who were often slow on the uptake, sensed the threat in Lynn's words.

The meaning behind Lynn's words was simple.

If they fail to demonstrate loyalty that satisfies him.

In future face of their requests for military aid, Lynn would not provide full support!

Helena hesitated slightly and said, "Lord Lynn, I don't quite understand what you mean..."

Brick and Alex nodded in agreement.

Sitting on the throne, Lynn leaned slightly forward, casting a gaze down upon the three.

"For example, militarily, when I initiate a summons, how many soldiers can your Wells Manor provide?"

"As the Manor Lord, can you personally lead troops into battle?"

"Economically, how much of your monthly or yearly estate output will you, the Helena Manor Lord, pay as tribute?"

"In the event of special circumstances, during external expeditions, how much additional economic support can you, the Helena Manor Lord, offer?"

"Every year during spring planting and autumn harvest, how many peasants from your Helena Manor can you arrange to come to my territory to provide unpaid labor?"

"Politically, as the Helena Manor Lord, do you acknowledge and respect me continuously?"

"Regardless of whether in future meetings I convene, or in terms of address, seating arrangements, and decision-making processes?"

Lynn altered his tone and continued.

"The meaning is simple, I need to know exact numbers!"

"If it's merely a simple bow, lip service declaring fealty..."

"Then it seems rather casual to consider loyalty fulfilled."

Helena furrowed her brow ever so slightly.

Although Lynn's words sounded somewhat aggressive.

Helena understood that it was reasonable for a lord to demand detailed offerings from supporting Manor Lords.

It made sense!

Seeing the three Manor Lords with somewhat troubled expressions, Lynn spoke again.

"If you three Manor Lords are uncertain, you may engage in discussion."

"I can give you five minutes!"

Upon hearing Lynn's words, Helena felt slightly relieved.

Without discussion, they truly didn't know how to respond at the moment.

Helena nodded to the others, then gathered together.

Looking at the corpulent Brick before her, and Alex, full of muscle yet lacking in intelligence.

Helena said impatiently, "Let's hear your thoughts."

"How should we pledge our loyalty to Lord Lynn?"

Brick glanced at the fair skin in front of Helena but quickly looked away without any ulterior motive.

The decision before them affected the long-term alignment of their Manor.

The primal desires within Brick's soul were long cast aside.

After a few moments of thought, Brick spoke.

"Orlando Manor, aside from the previous Marquis Duca, has never pledged fealty to anyone else."

"To be honest, I really don't know how to pledge loyalty..."

Helena turned to Alex.

Feeling Helena's gaze, Alex spoke in a somewhat somber tone.

"Lady Helena, perhaps we could emulate the tribute ratio from Connelly and Louis Manor to Viscount Jon Zack?"

"Otherwise, I really don't know how much to offer..."

Helena asked curiously, "What is their tribute ratio?"

Alex recalled slightly, "If we're only talking tribute... thirty percent!"

"Zock Connally needs to pay Viscount Jon Zack thirty percent of the Manor's agricultural output."

"As for other special circumstances, providing additional economic support, unpaid labor, and troop numbers..."

"These detailed matters, I am also unaware."

Helena nodded, then spoke, "I understand!"

"So, we will also pay Lord Lynn thirty percent of our Manor's production?"

Brick and Alex exchanged glances.

Brick said somewhat angrily.

"No more than thirty percent."

"Any more would exceed the limits of our Manor's normal operations."

"If we can't even guarantee normal operations of the Manor, what's the point in surviving under his protection?"

Alex agreed and nodded.

Helena summarized, "So, thirty percent it is!"

Brick and Alex nodded again in response.

Discussion concluded.

The three stepped forward again, standing before the throne steps.

Helena bowed to Lynn and spoke respectfully.

"Lord Lynn, economically, we are willing to pay thirty percent of our Manor's output as tribute."

"To show our loyalty to you!"

Brick and Alex imitated her, bowing respectfully.

Then.

Lynn's words left their faces shocked.

"Thirty percent... is too little!"

The three were a bit stunned, not believing their ears.

Thirty percent of the Manor's total output.

Was already everything left after considering daily consumption of the Manor's people and livestock!

Lynn on the throne actually said it was too little?

It must be noted.

Even Connelly Manor and Louis Manor pay only thirty percent to Jon Zack as tribute.

Could Lynn be greedier than Jon Zack?

An inexplicable revulsion and anger instantly arose in Helena's heart.

Despite Lynn's youthful and handsome appearance.

Chapter 1059: Submission or Death _6

Although Lynn was one of the youngest Lords she had ever seen...

He never showed any kindness to those greedy people who had no limits and only knew how to make outrageous demands.

Helena asked nearly word by word.

"Lord Lynn, how much do you want?"

Lynn naturally sensed the change in Helena's tone.

It wasn't just Helena.

Both Brick and Alex looked at him with a trace of resentment in their eyes.

Lynn directly ignored the gazes of the three, and said calmly.

"I need fifty percent of your Manor's output!"

As soon as he said this.

Before Helena could speak, Brick, who stood still, immediately spoke.

"That's absolutely impossible!"

The voice was so loud and urgent.

Even Helena and Alex were surprised, quickly turning their heads to look over.

Brick's face was ashen, disregarding the gazes of the few, he continued to speak.

"My Orlando Manor owns no more than 20,000 acres of land."

"Every year we cultivate using the two-field system, with only 10,000 acres available for farming."

"Even if it's all planted with barley, in a good year with favorable weather, producing around 120 pounds per acre, it's just 1.2 million pounds!"

"In my Manor, there are a total of 1,200 people, plus poultry and livestock, consuming an average of 3 pounds of grain per person per day..."

"Over the course of 365 days a year, it requires nearly 1.1 million pounds for consumption!"

"And accounting for other outputs in the Manor."

"We can barely gather thirty percent of the output to contribute, while ensuring daily consumption."

Helena and Alex nodded slightly.

What Brick described was roughly the same for their Manors.

Brick looked directly at Lynn, continuing his words.

"If Lord Lynn insists on demanding fifty percent of the tribute..."

"Then pardon my rudeness, I choose to refuse to submit to you."

Helena's eyes widened instantly, her face full of surprise.

As fellow Manor Lords in Alba Town, although not familiar, Helena knew Brick's character quite well.

Obsessed to the core!

Particularly his fondness for young girls had reached a peculiar level known to everyone.

Helena never thought, in the face of Lynn's greed and outrageous demand...

Brick would dare to stand up so decisively and say no to Lynn.

Alex's face also showed disbelief.

On the throne.

Lynn's eyes narrowed slightly, looking down at Brick below.

Brick naturally felt the gaze from everyone around him.

Perhaps because his heart was overly excited and angry.

Or maybe due to the pressure from everyone's gaze.

Beads of sweat the size of beans covered Brick's chubby face and neck.

Even the silken robe he wore was drenched in sweat.

Perhaps due to the fury within him being entirely consumed.

Brick's subsequent words became somewhat hesitant.

"If... if I can't even meet the Manor's daily needs..."

"A Manor barely surviving is no different from being overhauled by Viscount Jon Zack, what's the difference?"

Lynn stared directly at Brick, speaking in a deep voice.

"Is that so?"

"If Manor Lord Brick is unwilling, you can leave now!"

Hearing Lynn issue the order to leave.

Brick's previously exhausted anger surged again.

Brick slightly bent over, after a formal gesture, turned to step behind him.

However.

After just one step, Brick's anger was replaced by regret.

Brick realized Helena and Alex were still standing in place.

With no intention of leaving!

Lynn's gaze shifted, sweeping over the still-standing Helena and Alex.

His deep voice resounded from his mouth again.

"If the two Manor Lords feel that fifty percent of the Manor's total output as tribute is unacceptable, you can leave as well."

"And you can take your transported goods back to Alba Town!"

Helena's heart was full of indecision.

Because of Lynn's status, and because of his unquestionable tone, Helena felt pressured and couldn't breathe.

Helena's already ample chest rose and fell rapidly.

After hesitating for two seconds.

Helena quickly raised her head, looking at Lynn, and spoke earnestly.

"Lord Lynn, your demand is truly too high!"

"Could... could it be..."

"Could the tribute we submit be a bit less?"

"If possible, should there be any conflicts, upon your summoning, Helena is willing to gather all the Peasants and Guards in the Manor to respond."

"Even, Helena is willing to personally lead them into battle!"

Alex also looked at Lynn with anticipation.

Lynn maintained a calm demeanor, shaking his head twice, refusing.

"Fifty percent of the Manor's total output!"

"Not one bit less!"

Despair engulfed Helena, her originally fair face turning even paler.

Her bright amber eyes dimmed.

Helena bent slightly, unconcerned with the view of her voluptuousness and the deep cleavage revealed before Lynn.

Helena was just about to express her thanks and take her leave, when Lynn's voice suddenly rose.

"However..."

Helena's mood, which had sunk to the bottom, instantly lifted her head.

Her eyes full of hope looked at Lynn on the throne.

Standing beside was Alex.

And Brick, who was deliberately walking slowly.

All rotated their gaze towards Lynn, waiting for his next words.

Lynn glanced at the three of them, then continued.

"Fifty percent of the Manor's total output, not one bit less!"

"However, as the Lord whom you pledge your allegiance to, I can provide you with advanced farming tools and planting techniques."

Helena, a little unsure, repeated Lynn's words.

"Advanced farming tools and planting techniques?"

Lynn nodded: "Heavy plows for tilling, drilling planting techniques, and the use of a three-field rotation system."

"If you plant according to the tools and techniques I provide..."

"Under equal sunlight and irrigation planting conditions, each acre of barley field can increase its yield by eighty to ninety pounds!"

Helena and the others' eyes widened instantly.

"Increase by eighty to ninety pounds?"

"How is that possible?"

Chapter 1060: Betrayal of Lord Lynn?

Helena looked into Lynn's eyes, filled with curiosity.

Moist and crimson lips parted, and a magnetic voice sounded.

"Lord Lynn, is...is what you said true?"

Not only Helena.

Brick and Alex also widened their eyes, staring straight at Lynn.

Barley yield increased by eighty to ninety pounds?

Such an increase in yield nearly doubles the barley yield from their manor's farmland.

A yield of one hundred eighty to one hundred ninety pounds per acre?

In their view, it's simply a fantasy!

Lynn ignored their gaze and calmly spoke.

"In my territory, the winter barley planted last winter was harvested last month."

"The yield per acre of barley field is over one hundred eighty pounds!"

The eyes of the three of Helena couldn't help but widen again.

The Lynn on the throne wasn't just making baseless claims.

Instead, he had conducted planting experiments and achieved a bountiful harvest!

No!

To be accurate, it's a very bountiful harvest!

As long as the planting area is wide enough, a yield of one hundred eighty pounds per acre of barley.

Could definitely be called a bountiful harvest!

In an instant.

Helena and Alex exchanged a glance.

Although there were no words, both could see the hesitation in each other's eyes.

Such hesitation was only for a few seconds.

Helena's gaze shifted and looked again at Lynn on the throne, speaking respectfully.

"Lord Lynn, Wells Manor is willing to pledge allegiance to you."

"As you requested, contributing fifty percent of the manor's total yield annually."

"In the event of war, Helena is willing to lead all armed forces in the manor to fight, offering military support for you."

"During busy farming seasons, Wells Manor is willing to provide half of the workforce for the planting in your territory."

"In important occasions, Wells Manor is willing to believe in and obey Lord Lynn's instructions..."

Speaking to this point.

Helena slightly bent her knees, crossed her hands in front, bowed her head, speaking humbly.

"Wells Manor is willing to submit to Lord Lynn, sincerely pledging loyalty to Lord Lynn..."

"Please accept Wells Manor."

Standing beside Helena, Alex saw Lynn again respond.

Without any hesitation, he directly knelt on one knee, placing his right fist on his chest, speaking respectfully in an oath of loyalty.

"Kennedy Manor is also willing to submit to Lord Lynn, pledging loyalty to Lord Lynn..."

"Instructions given by Lord Lynn will be Kennedy Manor's highest order!"

"Please accept Kennedy Manor's submission and loyalty."

Unaware of when he stopped, Brick hurriedly came running from behind.

As his bulky body continued to move, Brick knelt on one knee beside Alex.

Brick quickly, with great embarrassment, said, "Lord Lynn, please forgive Brick's abruptness and offense."

"Orlando Manor is also willing to submit and pledge loyalty to you, Lord Lynn."

"Please accept..."

Helena and Alex glanced at Brick without saying a word.

As it reached the current situation, they were all striving to ensure their own manor's survival.

No point in mocking each other now.

Watching Helena and the others pledge allegiance, Lynn nodded satisfactorily.

"I, Lynn Blake, accept the loyalty and submission of the three manor lords."

"From this moment forward, the three manor lords of Alba Town are my supporters as manor lords!"

Listening to Lynn's words, the bodies of Helena and the others sank even lower.

Pledging allegiance to Lord Lynn, contributing fifty percent of the manor's total yield.

In addition to providing various support to Lord Lynn...

Helena doesn't know if it's right or wrong.

What Helena knows is.

If they do not get military protection from Lord Lynn.

What awaits Wells Manor is either destruction by Jon Zuck's army of soldiers.

Or being overtaken by the armored soldiers of Lynn before them.

When Lynn has a sufficiently powerful military, he will surely wage wars to expand his territory.

The weak manor closest to Morgan Town, Alba Town, will definitely become Lynn's top target!

Rather than living in fear every day, it's better to directly submit and pledge allegiance to Lynn, becoming Lynn's supporter as a manor lord.

To ensure the manor's survival, never mind a fifty percent yield contribution.

Even a higher contribution, they would only grit their teeth and silently accept.

The manor's survival, the family's bloodline continuing, upholding the manor's reputation and honor, is the greatest mission for these manor lords!

Watching the three still maintaining their pledge posture, Lynn spoke.

"Rise."

Receiving Lynn's instruction.

Feeling the powerful aura emanating from Lynn gradually dissipate.

Helena and the others stood up, slightly relaxing their tense nerves.

Helena surmised.

Perhaps Lynn himself doesn't know, with such powerful military strength, he can instantly exert considerable pressure on them.

Watching Helena and the others still restrained, Lynn continued.

"Three manor lords, tell me, how is the current production progress of your manors?"

Brick and Alex couldn't help but look at Helena.

Feeling their gaze, Helena rolled her eyes at them.

Helena naturally understood, Brick and Alex intended for her to answer on their behalf.