

System 1061

Chapter 1061: Betrayal Against Lord Lynn? _2

Bending slightly, the fair roundness and deep cleavage in front of him were once again displayed before Lynn's eyes.

Helena bent slightly and spoke respectfully.

"My Lord, due to the dominance of Connelly Manor, many lands in Alba Town are occupied."

"As a result, our three manors do not possess much land."

"Each manor roughly has only 24,000 acres."

"By the end of July to early August, the harvest in our manors was completed."

"Now, in the manors, the peasants are managing the land, clearing straw and weeds, performing shallow plowing to prepare for the next planting of peas."

"Once the land management ends, entering September, we can proceed with autumn planting..."

Brick and Alex nodded in agreement, indicating that their manors were the same.

Helena continued, "Apart from the peasants' agricultural production, some recruited craftsmen are simultaneously weaving linen, producing cloth."

"Then, the produced linen cloth is cut and sewn into linen garments..."

"However, due to limited scale, production efficiency isn't very high."

"As Helena previously mentioned, only about five thousand sets can be produced annually."

Lynn acknowledged, waiting for Helena to continue reporting.

Helena paused for two seconds and continued.

"In addition, to address external dangers, our manors are recruiting free people as guards in Alba Town."

"So far, Wells Manor has a total of 1,400 people."

"Among them, 400 are guards, and there are 20 armored soldiers... the rest are either in leather armor or unarmored soldiers."

"Responsible for protecting the manor's safety, maintaining, and ensuring the manor's order."

"1,000 peasants are in charge of agricultural production in the manor."

"There are also 200 hired craftsmen, performing dew retting and spinning in the manor..."

"Brick's Orlando Manor and Alex's Kennedy Manor are similar to my Wells Manor."

Listening to Helena's orderly narration, Lynn nodded.

The grain output of Alba Town is roughly similar to that of Morgan Town.

However, Lynn thought it fit.

The two towns are adjacent, and even if the manor lords or free people rarely interacted.

It's impossible to have huge differences in agricultural production and planting techniques.

Lynn said in a deep voice, "I understand."

"Continue the agricultural production planting with the labor force in your three manors."

"When there is a need, I will inform you."

Helena raised her eyebrows slightly in surprise.

"Lord Lynn, you don't need us to gather the guards and peasants from the manor to respond to your call?"

"To engage in the final battle with Viscount Jon Zack and his supporting manor lords?"

Brick and Alex also looked at Lynn on the throne with some surprise.

They came to Morgan Town with carts full of goods to meet with Lynn.

Firstly, the best scenario was to establish equal diplomatic relations with Lynn.

Collaborate in agricultural production, economic trade, and military activities with each other.

But they also understood.

To establish equal diplomatic relations, there must be equal military strength on both sides.

Now submitting and pledging allegiance was within their anticipated range.

Even if the cost was somewhat huge.

From now on, at least, they could obtain Lynn's military protection.

Secondly, naturally, it was to discuss how to handle the crisis from Viscount Jon Zack of Kasong City.

Looking at Helena's wide amber eyes, and the confusion in Brick and Alex's eyes.

Lynn asked in return, "When did I say I needed to gather the guards and peasants from your manors?"

Their faces were filled with astonishment.

They pondered slightly in their minds.

It seemed that from start to finish, it was all their own imagination.

Imagining gathering the guards and peasants from the manor.

To unite with Lord Lynn's armored soldiers.

And wage the final war against Viscount Jon Zack!

However.

As the main decision-maker of this war.

Lord Lynn surprisingly had no intention to gather the guards and peasants from their manors?

Lynn said calmly, "No need for you to gather."

"With my fully armed soldiers, it's sufficient to fight head-on with Jon Zack and his supporting manor lords."

Bland but confident words came from the young lord on the throne.

Yet it caused waves of shock in the hearts of the three manor lords, Helena included.

Lord Lynn intends to single-handedly confront the entire armed group of Viscount Jon Zack!

This...

Then how many armored soldiers does Lord Lynn possess?

Three thousand?

Four thousand?

Or maybe five thousand?

Even with their doubts, they dare not have the courage to inquire about Lord Lynn's military strength.

Because that belongs to Lord Lynn's military power secrets.

Especially at this critical moment before war!

Thinking of this.

Their hearts filled with gratitude.

With Lynn's military strength.

It could completely choose not to require their submission and allegiance.

Opt to send a military force into Alba Town, like the extermination of Connelly Manor and Louis Manor, and annihilate all manors.

Plunder everything in Alba Town and return it to Morgan Town!

Thinking of this.

Helena suddenly understood why Lord Lynn didn't need them to gather guards and peasants.

Their manors' military strength was simply too weak.

It simply couldn't catch Lynn's attention.

Chapter 1062: Betrayal Against Lord Lynn? _3

Not to mention, playing a supportive role in the upcoming war.

Even if summoned, sending guards and peasants into the battlefield would only result in increased casualties.

It might be more meaningful to involve these limited guards and peasants in the agricultural production of their manors.

Pushing down the shock and complexity in the heart.

Helena raised her head and asked.

"Lord, is there anything you need us to do?"

"As your supportive manor lords, we cannot just curl up in the manors indifferent while you lead the soldiers into war."

In Helena's view,

Lord Lynn's battle with Viscount Jon Zack's military group,

is not solely Lord Lynn's affair!

If Lord Lynn can achieve a decisive victory, then all is well.

But if Lord Lynn and Viscount Jon Zack are locked in a tug of war or a protracted battle...

Or worse, suffer a direct defeat!

Then the manors in Alba Town will have to face the ensuing crisis!

You could say,

Brick and Alex nodded in agreement.

Lynn paused for a few seconds and then spoke.

"In this case, you can lead the guards from the manor to assist in the battle."

"But one thing, I need to obtain command over the guards!"

Helena promptly nodded, respectfully responding.

"Of course, Lord."

Lynn glanced at the three and spoke,

"If there's nothing else, then the three of you may leave."

"If the manor encounters a crisis, you can send someone to the manor castle to report in advance."

"As for the advanced cultivation tools and planting techniques I mentioned before... decisions can be made once the situation stabilizes!"

Helena and the others' eyes lit up, they bowed and spoke respectfully.

"Thank you for the generosity, Lord, we shall take our leave."

Lynn replied with a nod, "You may leave."

Receiving Lynn's affirmative response, Helena and the others withdrew.

However.

Lynn noticed, as the three walked out of the manor castle doors, Helena secretly turned back to glance at him.

When agreeing to the allegiance and loyalty of the manor lords.

Lynn had already considered whether to have the three manor lords gather the guards and peasants from their manors to fight together.

After all, there is strength in numbers.

But in an instant.

Lynn discarded this thought.

Not every war requires large numbers.

The soldiers' quality matters more than quantity, and strategy matters more than bravery!

Without metal armor for protection and defense,

Without undergoing intensive systematic training,

No matter how many guards and peasants are present, they are merely a band of rabble equipped with weapons!

From the last time Wesley led archers and heavy infantry to attack Connelly Manor,

slaying more than 380 guards and peasants,

only several unarmored Pan Rock Iron Guard suffered varying degrees of injury.

3,800 soldiers entered Alba Town, destroying two manors,

without a single soldier lost!

It's clear to see the terrifying gap between armored soldiers and unarmored soldiers.

Let Helena and the others lead guards to assist in battle.

The greatest purpose is to let them see the powerful strength of the lord they pledged allegiance to.

To instill fear, to make them despair, to prevent any thoughts of rebellion.

Only in this way can he control Alba Town!

...

Led by Earl.

Helena and the others walked in sequence along the steps of the city wall.

Perhaps due to Earl's presence, they spoke no words.

But Brick's eyes kept shifting, clearly wanting to express something.

Walking down the steps of the city wall, crossing the bluestone path, they arrived at the open square where guards and carriages awaited.

The three guard captains saw their manor lords return safely.

Their tense hearts relaxed slightly.

In the brief half-hour that the three manor lords went to meet the lord of Morgan Town,

they saw the number of armored soldiers, easily exceeding five hundred!

Even though these armored soldiers merely passed by the carriages,

the standard armor they wore glowed a black-gray under the light,

emanating a stern aura that filled them with dread!

Fortunately.

Their manor lord returned.

It seems they did not anger this powerful lord!

Under the gaze of the armored soldiers,

with the support of the guards, Helena and the others climbed agilely into the carriage cabins.

Mounted on the warhorse waiting, Earl confirmed there were no anomalies and drove the horse.

Leading this team of carriages, they proceeded out of the manor castle.

Amidst the sounds of driving horses, amidst the curious gazes of farmers in the fields.

The carriage convoy traveled along the gravel and mud path through the fields, leaving Morgan Town's borders.

At the border between Morgan Town and Alba Town.

Riding the warhorse, Earl watched the convoy depart.

Until the convoy disappeared at the horizon, Earl retracted his gaze.

Turning to the rider beside him, Earl commanded gravely.

"Increase patrols, report any anomalies immediately!"

"We must ensure no further espionage infiltrations happen!"

The riders beside Earl responded in unison.

"Yes!"

...

In the densely flourishing mountains and forests.

Gigantic trees, each requiring several people to embrace, grew abundantly, their lush canopies covering the sky.

Chapter 1063: Betrayal Against Lord Lynn? (Part 1)

Even though it's only noon,

in the convoy of carriages.

Helena, leaning in the carriage cabin, was constantly replaying the scene of meeting Lynn in her mind.

After a while.

Helena moved her right hand, pulling open the curtain covering the carriage door, and looked at Lorenzo who was following alongside the carriage.

Helena said in a deep voice, "Go inform the two Manor Lords, I have important matters to discuss with them."

"Invite them to go to Wells Manor together!"

Lorenzo didn't hesitate, quickly responding, "Yes, Lady Helena."

Without any hesitation, Lorenzo squeezed the horse's belly with his legs, increasing the speed of the horse beneath him, heading towards the front of the carriage convoy.

A few minutes later.

Lorenzo returned to Helena's carriage.

Even with the curtains covering the cabin, Lorenzo still reported.

"Lady Helena, the Brick and Alex Manor Lords accepted your invitation to head to Wells Manor together!"

The curtain remained drawn, but Helena's magnetic voice responded.

"I understand."

Lorenzo dared not make any further disturbance.

He continued riding, scanning around, ensuring their safety...

As the carriage convoy progressed.

Time quickly advanced.

Until nightfall, the convoy stopped at the entrance of Wells Manor.

Under Lorenzo, Helena dismounted from the carriage.

She glanced around, noticing the familiar guard overseeing the manor residence.

The light from oil lamps lit inside the residence shone through the windows, illuminating the outside of the manor.

Everything at Wells Manor appeared normal.

Helena looked to her left, and Brick and Alex were just disembarking from their carriages.

Perhaps due to the long carriage ride, feeling weary and tired.

Brick frowned and constantly complained.

"Even though Morgan Town is right next to Alba Town, this road is far too rugged."

"Good thing the flesh on my backside is thick enough to buffer, otherwise, my bones would shatter!"

Alex remained silent, focusing on twisting his neck and waist.

A series of joint stretching sounds echoed in succession.

Helena ignored Brick's words, straightforwardly saying,

"Gentlemen, shall we discuss this in my study?"

Alex nodded in response.

Brick looked at the increasingly darker sky with some confusion.

"What is it that's so important? Making it so mysterious?"

"If it isn't particularly critical, let's talk here?"

"I've just gathered two young maids, waiting for me to return and enjoy..."

Helena gazed directly at Brick, stating in a low voice.

"The ownership of land in Alba Town, does it seem important to Manor Lord Brick?"

Brick was just about to speak when he suddenly thought of something, looking at Helena with surprise.

"You... no, do you mean the entire land ownership in Alba Town, Lady Helena?"

Alex's eyes were equally filled with astonishment.

Helena replied, "To be precise, it concerns the land ownership formerly held by the now-destroyed Connelly and Louis Manors by Lord Lynn!"

A bright realization flashed across Brick's and Alex's eyes.

Brick quickly spoke, "Important, of course, it's important."

"You can enjoy gathered maids anytime."

"But land ownership isn't something you can obtain just because you want it."

Helena glanced at Brick, turned, and began to walk towards the manor residence.

Helena didn't need to remind them again.

Brick and Alex, understanding the situation, followed her.

Helena led the two Manor Lords and Guard Captain Lorenzo into the manor residence.

Among the bowing and greeting maids, they ascended the staircase into the third-floor study.

Helena, stepping forward, approached the main seat.

With Lorenzo's attentive adjustment of the wooden chair, Helena sat on the main seat.

Following her, Brick and Alex sat opposite Helena.

However.

Helena didn't start speaking immediately.

She skillfully picked up the smoke pipe from the desk.

Her slender fingers pinched a pinch of wormwood leaves from a linen bag, placing and pressing it into the pipe.

Lorenzo, standing aside, had already prepared a fire striker.

He opened the wooden cover, blowing gently, causing the embers of the fire striker to glow red and erupt into flames.

Lorenzo reached out, lighting the filament leaves in Helena's pipe.

Helena's arm moved, placing the pipe mouthpiece into her slightly parted and moist red lips.

As Helena inhaled, the filament leaves in the pipe rapidly burned, glowing even brighter.

Sss~

Perhaps because her lips left a gap around the pipe mouthpiece, a faint inhaling sound continuously arose...

Inhaling the smoke from the pipe for five continuous seconds.

Allowing the smoke entering her body to roll and shift.

Helena leaned her head back on the wooden chair of the main seat, once again parting her thin lips.

A stream of white smoke burst from Helena's mouth, drifting towards the study's ceiling.

Sitting opposite Helena, Brick and Alex.

Upon smelling the aroma of the smoke, only furrowed their brows slightly.

Neither spoke, quietly waiting.

Just as Brick enjoyed collecting young maids and Alex liked exercising,

smoking was Helena's only hobby!

Waiting for the smoke within her to fully disperse, Helena looked at Brick and Alex and began to speak.

Chapter 1064: Betrayal of Lord Lynn? _5

"So, my two Manor Lords, what are your thoughts?"

"The fallen Connelly Manor and Louis Manor, with a total of 90,000 acres of land..."

"How should we divide it?"

Hearing Helena's words, Brick and Alex instantly became interested.

Brick's eyes flickered with some doubt.

"Setting aside whether Lord Lynn can achieve victory against Viscount Jon Zuck."

"Even if he does win, how can you be sure that Lord Lynn is willing to let us manage the lands in Alba Town?"

Brick's tone shifted, "Or has Lady Helena forgotten..."

"We have already pledged our allegiance to Lord Lynn?"

Helena's delicate eyebrows furrowed slightly as she stared directly at Brick and said solemnly.

"Of course, I haven't forgotten!"

"However, the reason we agreed to pay Lord Lynn fifty percent of our manor's total output as tribute..."

"Isn't it because of the land resources in Alba Town?"

"Whether we pledge allegiance or not, whether we cultivate and plant ourselves or manage it for Lord Lynn."

"We need a large workforce to manage the agricultural land once owned by Connelly Manor and Louis Manor."

Brick and Alex's eyes showed a look of surprise.

No wonder Helena so quickly agreed to Lynn's nearly outrageous conditions.

It turns out.

Helena wanted to have the production management rights of both manors!

If the farmland of Connelly and Louis Manors could be divided.

The annual agricultural production would be more than enough to cover the tribute demanded by Lord Lynn...

And there would even be plenty left over!

Thinking this, Brick agreed and said.

"Indeed, Lady Helena is meticulous."

The next second.

Brick's tone became hesitant.

"But Lady Helena, how do we get Lord Lynn's permission?"

"If we divide and use the land of the manors he conquered without his permission and hide the resulting yield..."

"Does it count as..."

Brick's words paused.

Helena exhaled a puff of smoke and asked.

"Does it count as what?"

Brick hesitated, "Does it count as betrayal of Lord Lynn?"

As Brick finished speaking.

The originally four-person meeting room fell instantly silent.

Silent enough to hear Helena's breathing as she exhaled smoke.

Helena said solemnly, "It does!"

Brick and Alex were startled.

Seeing their expressions change, Helena continued.

"That's why I fervently asked Lord Lynn to let us join in the war against Viscount Jon Zuck."

"To obtain the usage rights for Alba Town, we must earn Lynn's approval."

"Charge into battle and earn war merit."

"Besides, to gain the rights to use the land of the two manors, we must defeat Viscount Jon Zuck!"

"Otherwise, what awaits us... is retribution from Viscount Jon Zuck and Zock Connally monopolizing the entire Alba Town!"

Brick and Alex nodded seriously with grave expressions.

They naturally understood the importance and key points in Helena's words.

Brick stared directly at Helena, who continued to breathe out smoke, and asked.

"If we win this battle..."

"How does Lady Helena propose we allocate the land of the two manors?"

Alex too looked at Helena.

Helena pondered for a moment and said, "Divide the 90,000 acres of land from the two manors into 40,000, 30,000, and 20,000 acres."

"Based on the number of enemies killed, the manor with the highest count will receive 40,000 acres."

"The next will get 30,000 acres, and the least will receive 20,000 acres."

"Our manors have roughly the same number of guards, so it can be a fair competition!"

Brick and Alex nodded again.

They couldn't think of a better way of allocation besides this mutually beneficial method.

Seeing Brick and Alex had no words, Helena asked.

"Do you two have any objections?"

Brick thought for a few seconds and replied.

"I have no objections."

Sitting next to him, Alex nodded and said.

"I have no objections either."

Helena said with satisfaction, "Then it is decided in this way."

"The amount of land obtained will depend entirely on our efforts!"

Brick and Alex nodded once more.

Afterward.

When Helena brought out the map of Alba Town.

They roughly divided the land of the two manors into sections of 40,000, 30,000, and 20,000 acres.

After confirming some details, the discussion meeting ended late at night.

Standing by the third-floor window, Helena exhaled smoke while watching.

Two carriages, escorted by guards holding high torches.

Rumbled away into the darkness, far from the manor residence.

Until the light of the burning torches was completely swallowed by the darkness.

A voice of reminder sounded behind Helena.

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

Helena did not turn around and said solemnly, "I see."

"Prepare dinner, I'm a bit hungry."

In order to rush to Morgan Town at the earliest opportunity to meet Lynn.

From before dawn till late night, Helena had barely eaten a thing.

Despite a day of exhausting travel.

Despite the fact that the future of Wells Manor, including herself, would be under Lynn's control...

Chapter 1065: Betrayal Against Lord Lynn? _6

But fortunately, all this is worth it.

Face Lynn, submit and pledge loyalty to Lynn.

Helena saw an opportunity for Wells Manor to continue its legacy.

Even though now, the Wells Clan has only her as its bloodline descendant.

Even though until now, she remains unmarried and childless.

Even though now she is already thirty years old.

As long as she is alive.

The manor still has the chance to continue its inheritance!

Lorenzo, waiting at the rear, quickly responded.

"Lady Helena, I already instructed the chef, in a moment we can dine!"

Helena answered with a word, as a response.

Helena's right hand still held that cigarette holder, her crimson lips still held the mouthpiece.

Through continuous inhaling and exhaling, puffs of smoke wafted from Helena's mouth.

The wispy smoke drifted out through the open window, dissipating into the night sky under the gentle breeze.

...

Inside the manor castle.

After dinner, Lynn still sat on the manor lord's throne carved with a soaring eagle.

The only three remaining manor lords of Alba Manor submitted and pledged loyalty to Lynn.

There's no downside, only benefits!

At least under the current lack of management talents.

Lynn's current focus remains on the territory, on the manor castle in Morgan Town.

He is unable to divert more capable managers to Alba Town.

Rather than this.

It's better to let the manor lords of Alba Town self-manage for now!

As long as they submit the prescribed annual tribute.

No need for management, no need to invest any labor force...

It can completely serve as extra income outside the territory!

Why not?

As for whether Helena and the three manor lords harbor ill intentions...

Lynn does not care at all.

With the armored soldiers he currently possesses, he can completely crush any schemes of the three manor lords.

Strong military power is everything!

While Lynn was pondering.

The sound of footsteps charging from outside the manor castle echoed, crossing through the main gate, coming from afar to near.

Lynn looked up, it was Rose, Wesley, and Tyrone.

The three came to the foot of the throne staircase where Lynn sat, halting their steps.

Bowing with reverence, they greeted, "Master!"

Lynn nodded and said, "In the manor castle and Morgan Town, are there any personnel familiar with Boxi Town?"

"Regardless of soldiers or farmers."

Their eyebrows slightly raised.

The Master called them over to inquire about Boxi Town?

Tyrone, having not long arrived in Morgan Town and not very familiar with the current situation, stood dutifully still.

But Rose and Wesley had an inkling, exchanging glances.

Even if Lynn hadn't stated the reason, the two already understood its nature.

Their master intends to attack Boxi Town!

Besides this, Rose and Wesley couldn't think of any possibility.

Rose recalled for a few seconds, then responded.

"Master, I need to arrange for soldiers to inquire so we can know..."

"Please wait a moment, I'll go right now!"

Just as Rose was about to turn away, Lynn called him back.

"Wait until after the others withdraw, then inquire."

Rose promptly stopped his steps, nodding towards Lynn.

Looking at Rose and Wesley standing there, Lynn said.

"With the obliteration of Connelly Manor and Louis Manor, it's inevitable that Jon Zack will be enraged."

"When he gathers all the supporting manor lords, in no more than ten days or half a month, he'll surely deploy his army to attack Morgan Town."

Rose and Wesley nodded slightly.

Lynn asked, "I want to discuss with the three commanders how to respond to Viscount Jon's army?"

As a lord, Lynn.

Naturally must have a deep understanding of the territory, Morgan Town, Kakasong City, Marquis Duca, and even the entire Karedi Empire's situation.

And respond differently to different situations.

Lynn can consider all aspects thoroughly.

But only on major directions!

For matters like water irrigation and weeding in farmland.

Division of positions between small banner and general banner in the army, wearing standard armor, soldiers riding warhorses...

Naturally, Lynn doesn't have the time to arrange and handle such minor matters.

Rather than painstakingly handling these, it's better to delegate the powers of these minor matters.

Entrust it to personnel with high loyalty value, worthy of trust, and certain management ability.

For major matters like how to respond to external attacks.

They naturally need to hear opinions from military talents like Rose and Wesley with combat experience.

An individual's cognition is always limited.

The most crucial point is.

Lynn can fully leverage the act of soliciting advice.

In the eyes of commanders and soldiers like Rose, establish the image of wise and discerning, skilled in employing talents, and open-minded and magnanimous.

Listening to Lynn's inquiries, Rose and the others were deeply moved.

They were appointed commanders by Master Lynn.

They were also slaves Master Lynn purchased with fine salt.

They are part of Lynn's property.

But now.

Master Lynn, who could have decided by himself, unexpectedly invites them to discuss the future battle plans...

How could they not be moved?

Rose and the others exchanged glances, and Rose spoke first.

"Master, if my words are inappropriate, I hope Master forgives."

Lynn nodded.

Rose directly said, "Master, with the intelligence we currently have, we can completely rely on the city walls to hold strong!"

"Unless Viscount Jon Zack's side has a large army with extensive siege equipment."

"With the height and solidity of the manor castle walls, it will surely be difficult to breach."

"Plus, with the heavy infantry and archers you possess, Viscount Jon Zack's side attempting to breach is nothing short of fantasy."

"At the final stage, dispatching cavalry to perform the final sweep can surely annihilate Viscount Jon's side in a single stroke!"

Then Rose's speech turned, "The most critical point is, this method can minimize soldier casualties!"

Lynn approvingly nodded, "Well said."

Even though Rose was once deputy captain of the cavalry squad, needing to lead cavalry charges.

Rose belongs to the steady, cautious type.

This character naturally outweighs its disadvantages!

It reduces errors in military actions, reinforcing battle achievements step by step.

In complex battlefields, it allows for situational awareness and seizing opportune moments!

It further instills a strong sense of safety and trust in the soldiers!

Because the soldiers know, Rose would never easily put them in perilous situations.

Thus, it strengthens soldiers' trust in Rose and their confidence in victory, unleashing greater power!

Upon hearing Lynn's praise, Rose quickly bowed in thanks.

Lynn shifted his gaze to Wesley and asked.

"Commander Wesley, what are your thoughts?"

Chapter 1066: Taking the Initiative

Rose and Tyrone's gaze equally shifted, landing on Wesley.

Feeling the gaze of several people, Wesley's expression slightly tensed.

"Master, my thoughts slightly differ from Lord Rose's..."

Lynn nodded, "Now is the time to discuss countermeasures, naturally, everyone should hold their own views to show the value of discussion."

Wesley lowered his head to indicate, no longer hesitating.

"Master, my idea is... to take the initiative!"

Rose and Tyrone's eyebrows couldn't help but rise, nodding in approval.

Seeing Lynn had no intention of speaking, Wesley continued.

"Any military action is destined to have both advantages and disadvantages."

"The initiative is no exception."

"First, when the supporter manors are unprepared, it's often difficult for them to quickly organize effective resistance, making it easier to conquer and destroy their manors."

"Second, it can disrupt Viscount Jon Zack's plans and deployments to rally supporter manors!"

"Manor Lords who have summoned Guards and Peasants to gather in Kakasong City, upon learning that their manors are being attacked by you, Master, will certainly find themselves passive and in a dilemma."

"For example, whether to continue waiting for the gathering of other supporter manor lords or to return to the town and defend."

"Third, in the entire Morgan Town or the entire Kakasong City, only you, Master, have such a large cavalry force."

"At the time when Viscount Jon Zack is gathering supporter manor lords."

"Utilizing the high mobility and flexibility of the cavalry, dispatch them directly to the supporter manors to destroy them."

"As long as there is enough time, you can completely eliminate all the manor lords before they enter Kakasong City."

Wesley's speech paused, his eyes staring at Lynn on the throne, saying decisively.

"In this way, not only can you, Master, acquire a large amount of labor and grain."

"It can also make Viscount Jon Zack's military group difficult to form, even disintegrating without attack!"

"According to the previous intelligence, Viscount Jon Zack has only two thousand armed soldiers."

"One thousand armored soldiers and one thousand ordinary soldiers."

"Without the support of the supporter manor lords, relying solely on these soldiers poses no threat to you, Master!"

Wesley's speech paused.

"Master, the above is Wesley's personal opinion."

Lynn responded, "A brilliant insight, very well said."

Wesley quickly bent down and bowed his head, responding respectfully.

"Thank you for your compliment, Master."

Lynn's gaze turned to Tyrone.

"Commander Tyrone, do you have any thoughts on this battle?"

Upon hearing Lynn's inquiry, Tyrone's body slightly shook.

He had come to Master Lynn's territory for not even a month.

Master Lynn not only appointed him as the Commander of the Pan Rock Iron Guard.

He entrusted him with leading the Pan Rock Iron Guard in the manor's attack campaign.

Now, he is further involved in discussing future combat actions!

It's important to know.

Whether him or the Pan Rock Iron Guard.

They were previously just prisoners of war.

Even though Master Lynn knows he's not very familiar with the current situation.

Master Lynn still consulted him.

In Tyrone's heart, it's clear.

This is Master Lynn's high regard and trust in him!

Tyrone dared not slack, promptly responding respectfully.

"Lord, Tyrone is new and not familiar with the situation, I dare not presumptuously express an opinion."

"However, as long as Lord gives an order, Tyrone will unhesitatingly lead the Pan Rock Iron Guard to the battlefield, with no regrets of life or death!"

Rose and Wesley glanced at Tyrone, without saying a word.

However, the words in their responses were full of appreciation.

Lynn nodded, "Very well, looking forward to Commander Tyrone and the Iron Guard's performance."

Applauding words, sufficient and complete.

As Tyrone bowed, Lynn's gaze again turned to Rose and Wesley.

"Relying on the defense of the Manor Castle to hold the fort and reduce soldier casualties is indeed a good strategy."

"But always holding the fort will lose control over Morgan Town."

"If Viscount Jon Zack takes Morgan Town, relying on Morgan Town to dig trenches, make chevaux de frise, and construct fortifications."

"The advantages of cavalry will vanish entirely."

"Furthermore, Jon Zack's army might change direction and directly attack the territory!"

Lynn continued, "When facing a large-scale army that can't be defeated head-on, holding fort is indeed the best choice."

"But the military group led by Jon Zack... I think it hasn't reached the point where the armored soldiers should shrink into holding fort!"

Rose's brows were tightly knit, nodding knowingly.

Apparently, in Lynn's narrative, Rose realized the drawbacks of the hold-fort strategy.

Lynn's gaze turned to Wesley, "Taking the initiative, in my view, is the optimal decision!"

Wesley's eyes lit up.

As one of the lord's commanders, Wesley naturally hopes to receive the master lord's appreciation and recognition.

Lynn shifted the subject in his words, continuing.

"However, just as I previously asked if anyone was familiar with Bo Xi..."

"I need to accurately grasp the military strength of the supporter manors to be attacked, to ensure no unexpected situations before making attack plans!"

Whether it's what Rose mentioned, relying on the Manor Castle to hold fort.

Or what Wesley said, to take the initiative.

Chapter 1067: Taking the Initiative (1W)_2

Lynn had already been turning it over in his mind.

Obviously.

At present, there were only these two ways to deal with Jon Zuck and the great host of Manor Lord soldiers backing him.

Rose answered again, "Please rest assured, Master. Once the crowd disperses, Rose will make inquiries at the first possible moment."

Lynn nodded. "If there is nothing else, the three Commanders may withdraw."

The three of them, Rose included, bent at the waist in salute, then backed away a few steps before turning to leave.

Only when the three of them had left the Manor Castle and their footsteps had faded into the distance

did the audience hall fall once more into silence.

Only Lynn remained, seated upon the Manor Lord's throne.

Red stood by his side, waiting in attendance.

At the main gate of the Manor Castle, armored soldiers kept their watch.

And on the walls, the lamplight, swaying and flickering in the night wind.

In stark contrast to the quiet within Lynn's Manor Castle,

on the other side under the night sky,

Knight Commander Godfrey stood atop the city wall, his gaze sweeping over Spirit Reef Port, which was now nearly laid to waste.

The tall, majestic walls that had once loomed so high were now riddled with gaping wounds after the savage Attack of Marquis Polk's siege engines.

The wall was caved in, stone blocks scattered and loose.

Great cracks ran across it in jagged lines, a sight that made the heart lurch!

There was even a section where the wall had been blasted into a breach several meters high.

The city gate—iron plates riveted with huge nails onto heavy planks—was on the verge of collapse.

The iron-plated gate was covered with dents left by the pounding of the siege engines.

Above the gate, the towers on either side had been struck by stones from Marquis Polk's Catapults.

The towers had fallen in, leaving only broken walls and shattered ruins.

Godfrey's brow was knitted tight. He shifted his gaze, looking down into Spirit Reef Port within the walls.

Building after building of wood and stone had collapsed beneath stone shot and fire shot from the Catapults, turning into fields of rubble.

The ruins, ignited by the fire shot, burned in patches of flame while clouds of choking smoke billowed upward into the night sky.

Wails and cries of grief echoed again and again within Spirit Reef Port, rising and falling without cease.

Fortunately, squads of figures were racing through the streets within the city, fighting the fires.

They had effectively halted the further spread of the flames.

Godfrey's nostrils twitched faintly.

The stench of charred flesh like roasted meat and the rusty, rotten reek of dried blood rushed straight into his nose.

Godfrey turned his eyes outward, beyond the walls.

Layer upon layer of corpses carpeted the ground outside the city wall.

Those bodies were all soldiers summoned by Marquis Polk to launch the Attack!

Though a detail from the Sword and Shield Corps was out cleaning the battlefield and clearing away the corpses,

there were simply too many bodies!

Even with soldiers hauling them off, it would be impossible to finish in a short time!

The rusty, fetid tang in his nose came from those soldiers' corpses lying beyond the wall.

Godfrey's gaze passed over the battlefield, looking toward the farther distance.

In the darkness beyond, clusters of torchlight flickered clearly.

That was where Marquis Polk, having failed to take Spirit Reef Port after repeated assaults, had chosen to pull back for the moment and erect his army's camp!

From the height of the wall, Godfrey could see clearly.

The camp sprawled over an area of at least a hundred thousand square meters!

Under the glow of brazier fires, tents stood packed thick as a forest, stretching into the farther darkness beyond sight.

Godfrey's heart was weighed down and heavy.

He knew that Marquis Polk intended to wage a war of attrition against the Sword and Shield Corps inside Spirit Reef Port.

For the Sword and Shield Corps soldiers garrisoned within Spirit Reef Port, this was a dire prospect.

Spirit Reef Port was, after all, a city on the lands of the Marquisate of Polk.

Marquis Polk could fully exploit the advantage of terrain, continuing to summon the various great and lesser Vassal Lords of his domain, and even the Manor Lords.

Armed men would converge on him in an unending stream.

Whereas, even if reinforcements came for the Sword and Shield Corps, they would be forced to march for a long time.

On the road, they would be all too likely to run into blocking positions and ambushes laid by other Great Lords!

Put simply,

the Sword and Shield Corps who had marched long and hard to take Spirit Reef Port and occupy it were now in a state of complete isolation.

They could only wait for Marquis Polk to gather enough soldiers to launch another assault on Spirit Reef Port.

When that time came,

the Sword and Shield Corps soldiers, having already repelled two waves of Attacks, would have no strength left to defend!

As these thoughts churned through Godfrey's mind,

heavy footsteps, accompanied by the clatter of Armor plates grinding and knocking together, sounded on the stairway behind him.

They drew nearer from a distance and finally stopped a few meters at his back.

Danke looked at Godfrey's slightly bowed back and spoke in reminder.

"My lord, the personnel tally for this round of the city's defense has been completed..."

Godfrey did not turn his head. He answered, "Speak."

Danke did not hesitate and began his report at once.

"My lord, in this defensive battle, all fifteen Sword and Shield Corps echelons suffered grievous casualties!"

"The total number of dead soldiers is close to eight thousand!"

"When the wall was blasted down and a breach opened, a great many of Marquis Polk's soldiers flooded into Spirit Reef Port."

"Once the Sword and Shield Corps lost the advantage of holding the walls and were forced into close combat with Marquis Polk's men,"

"the casualty rate began to climb in a straight line!"

"Especially the Ninth Echelon—after two engagements, that echelon of two thousand has now been reduced to fewer than eight hundred..."

Listening to Danke's account, Godfrey's furrowed brows drew tighter still.

Danke continued his report. "Aside from the dead, the number of soldiers suffering various wounds is at least over three thousand."

Chapter 1068: Taking the Initiative _3

"I've also tallied the soldiers who can continue the city defense."

"Including the logistics personnel, there are about fifteen thousand people in total."

"And I've also tallied the expenditure on arrows, rolling wood and stones, armor, and weapons used in the city defense campaign..."

Before Danke could finish speaking, Godfrey, who had his back to him, suddenly spoke.

"In this city defense campaign, how many enemies have been slain?"

Sensing the tone in Godfrey's voice, Danke did not dare to hesitate and quickly responded.

"My lord, we have slain a total of twelve thousand soldiers of Marquis Polk!"

As the words fell, and seeing that Godfrey was silent, Danke tentatively asked.

"My lord, the losses of Marquis Polk are far greater than ours!"

Godfrey pondered for a moment and responded.

"I understand."

"Assign personnel to clean up all the corpses outside the city walls to prevent them from rotting and causing an outbreak of plague."

"At the same time, mobilize the residents inside the city to gather materials to repair the city walls, gates, and other defensive structures."

"After such a battle, without gathering enough soldiers, they certainly won't launch another attack."

Danke lowered his head and quickly agreed, "Yes, my lord!"

Godfrey's gaze remained on the darkness in the distance as he asked.

"Have the messenger soldiers been dispatched back to Bordeaux City?"

Danke immediately responded, "My lord, as soon as I received your instructions, I dispatched a cavalry unit back to Bordeaux City at once."

"And I specifically instructed them to deliver the letter you wrote to Marquis Mark Ducas at all costs."

Godfrey nodded without saying a word.

Currently, Marquis Polk is gathering the vassals from his territory, amassing more troops.

If they cannot receive strong military aid.

Then.

The next time the Marquis of Bordeaux launches a siege.

It will be the time when Spirit Reef Port falls!

And also when the Sword and Shield Corps soldiers perish!

Just as Godfrey was about to dismiss Danke behind him, something instantly came to his mind.

Godfrey turned around and looked at Danke, whose armor and cheeks were stained with blood, and asked in a deep voice.

"Lawrence... Is Lord Lawrence still in the Siren's Nest?"

Danke hesitated a bit, but still responded.

"My lord... since the Sword and Shield Corps soldiers took Spirit Reef Port, Lord Lawrence has not left the Siren's Nest..."

"Especially after acquiring two sea sirens, he hasn't stepped out of the room even half a step..."

Listening to Danke's explanation, Godfrey's expression instantly turned extremely cold.

The Sword and Shield Corps soldiers have gone through two city defense campaigns, fighting bravely and fearlessly.

All just to help the Ducas Clan protect this Spirit Reef Port beneath their feet!

But now.

As the bloodline heir of the Ducas Clan, and currently the highest commander-in-chief of Spirit Reef Port.

Lawrence Ducas has been lost in the embrace of two women of alien bloodline, unable to extricate himself!

The soldiers holding the line on the city walls.

Those who died defending the city.

What was it for?

Godfrey, knowing Lawrence well.

Godfrey naturally knows what kind of character Lawrence has.

But if these soldiers of the Sword and Shield Corps fighting would know.

It would certainly cause their morale, slowly dwindling after experiencing a life-and-death battle, to completely collapse!

Moreover.

Marquis Polk doesn't even need to launch another attack.

All the Sword and Shield Corps soldiers in Spirit Reef Port would break and flee!

Godfrey said nothing, taking steps toward the nearby stairs.

Seeing Godfrey's back, Danke was slightly surprised in his heart and quickly asked.

"My lord, you are..."

Godfrey made no response, not slowing his pace as he walked down the city wall.

Seeing this, Danke quickly called a squad of soldiers to follow behind Godfrey.

Descending from the city wall, walking on the streets of Spirit Reef Port.

Godfrey's eyes shifted.

Squad after squad of soldiers were still transporting water from all directions, putting out the fires consuming the buildings.

The figures running, pushing two-wheeled carts, and the sound of chaotic footsteps.

Perhaps because they came down from the city walls into the city itself.

Godfrey could clearly see.

Amidst rubble and collapsed house ruins, beneath bricks and wooden debris.

There lay bodies that had already lost signs of life...

People who lost their blood relatives knelt on the ground, wailing in agony...

Even.

Some people no longer had the strength to wail, only able to weep silently, lying prone on the ground...

Looking at these shapes, Godfrey, who had experienced many wars, had no change in expression.

For the lords, waging war is nothing more than the exchange and replacement of land and city sovereignty.

But for these residents living in the city.

Every war is a farewell of life and death, a torment of the soul!

This is also why so many people choose to become Church believers.

They yearn for God's protection amid such a difficult living environment!

Even if they have never seen the true God.

Even if they know they are just deceiving themselves.

Yet they still continue, one after another, eagerly pursuing it.

Because that is their only spiritual solace!

With Danke leading the soldier squad escorting him.

In the darkness of the still-standing houses, under the cold gaze of beastly eyes watching them.

Chapter 1069: Taking the Initiative _4

Godfrey once again came to a three-story building.

He raised his head slightly and looked at the plaque hanging above the gate.

On the plaque, the symbols were twisted and distorted.

Siren's Nest!

A group of armored soldiers from the Sword and Shield Corps stood guard vigilantly at the entrance.

Upon seeing Godfrey, they hurriedly bent over in salute.

Godfrey moved forward, not yet entering the Siren's Nest.

The unfamiliar yet familiar sounds of men and women frolicking, the pounding of bodies in motion...

Entered Godfrey's ears unmasked.

In the air.

The sweat stench from vigorous exercise lingered heavily.

The scent of perfume and balm used by the prostitutes to mask their body odor...

Godfrey's brows instantly knitted together.

In his view.

The smell permeating the brothel was more nauseating than the stench of decay and blood from corpses!

Walking through the first-floor hall, Godfrey's gaze swept over the patrons and prostitutes.

They hurriedly stopped their physical actions, not bothering with their nakedness, fleeing as if to escape.

The memory of Godfrey severing the brothel owner's arm with one stroke was still vivid.

Even the bloodstains on the floor had not completely faded.

Moreover, they already knew Godfrey's identity as the Knight Commander of the Sword and Shield Corps.

Naturally, they dared not defy him in any way.

Withdrawing his gaze, Godfrey strode towards the staircase deeper in the hall.

Danke followed without a word.

Amid heavy footsteps, Godfrey and Danke climbed the stairs to the third floor.

Turning the staircase's handrail, they walked through several corridors.

In front of them came into view the armored soldiers guarding the double doors of a room.

Godfrey strode toward them.

Before reaching the room.

The keen-eared Godfrey heard rhythmic body thumping sounds resonating behind the door.

Accompanied by suppressed noises from a woman's throat.

As Godfrey approached the room, the sounds became increasingly distinct and clear.

Upon arriving at the doorway.

A guard, looking nervous, immediately extended his right hand, speaking in warning.

"Lord Lawrence specifically instructed that no one is to disturb his rest!"

Seeing the guard's action, Danke frowned and promptly said.

"Presumptuous, are you newly joined to the Sword and Shield Corps?"

"Do you not recognize this as Knight Commander Godfrey?"

The guard quickly bowed in salute, continuing to speak.

"Apologies, Knight Commander, please forgive my offense."

"But Lord Lawrence specifically instructed that no one, including you, the Knight Commander!"

"If we fail to prevent you from disturbing his rest."

"The fifty-man guard team assigned to protect Lord Lawrence will all be executed by beheading for dereliction of duty!"

Standing by Godfrey's side, Danke frowned, looking at Godfrey, waiting for instructions.

Godfrey, with a calm expression, looked directly at the guard and asked.

"Are these Lord Lawrence's exact words?"

The guard's eyes shifted, and after a brief moment of thought, he replied.

"Knight Commander, these are indeed Lord Lawrence's exact words!"

Godfrey nodded slightly, saying nothing more, and turned to retrace his steps back the way he came.

Just a few steps away, behind the guarded wooden double doors, Lawrence's low, liberating voice sounded.

Godfrey's pace did not halt for a moment.

Following behind Godfrey, Danke hesitated.

But seeing Godfrey's cold face, he dared not ask any questions.

Until in the fearful eyes of the patrons and prostitutes, they exited the Siren's Nest.

Danke tentatively asked, "Sir, are we just leaving like this?"

Walking ahead, Godfrey didn't pause for an instant.

Only a cold voice reached Danke's ears.

"Lord Lawrence specifically instructed, no one is to disturb his rest."

"Are you questioning the directive given by Lord Lawrence?"

Danke was startled and quickly responded.

"Sir, you misunderstand, Danke does not dare to question anything!"

Godfrey's voice sounded again.

"That's best. We are to follow Lord Lawrence's instructions as they are given!"

Danke nodded submissively and replied.

"Yes, Sir, Danke will heed your teachings!"

In the gaze of the townspeople, Godfrey, with Danke, once again headed towards the Spirit Reef Port's walls.

...

The following morning.

In the reception hall of the Manor Castle.

Lynn sat at the head of the dining table, enjoying the breakfast specially cooked by the kitchen chef.

Beef marinated with fine salt, pepper, and rosemary, then cooked in a simple oven until done.

Soft wheat bread spread with a layer of yellow grease.

And a mutton vegetable soup simmered with fresh mutton and vegetable spices...

Perhaps, compared to those noble viscounts, such a life was nothing.

But compared to Lynn's former life in a simple wooden hut, eating wild rabbit and wolf meat without any seasoning.

Such a life was already an enjoyment.

As Lynn chewed the soft bread in his mouth, a series of footsteps sounded outside the Manor Castle.

Lynn looked up to see Rose striding towards him.

Rose also saw Lynn having breakfast.

Just as Rose hesitated, Lynn swallowed the bread and said.

"Since you're here, join in for breakfast."

Rose responded with a nod and stepped to the side of the dining table.

Chapter 1070: Taking the Initiative _5

Looking at the food on the dining table, Rose couldn't help but swallow.

Seeing Rose's expression, Lynn gave him a sideways glance and asked.

"Sit down, you haven't had breakfast yet, have you?"

Receiving Lynn's instruction, Rose sat down in the seat next to Lynn without saying a word.

Rose nodded and said, "I was busy looking for people and haven't had time to eat..."

"By the way, Master, after searching all night, we've found the personnel you need in Morgan Town."

"He was originally a freeman from Bo Xi Town, employed by McKinley Manor."

"However, due to the oppression of Manor Lord Bruce McKinley, he chose to leave Bo Xi Town and went to Kasong City to sell labor in order to survive."

"By chance, he was hired by a Boer merchant and brought to Morgan Town..."

Noticing the obvious fatigue on Rose's face, Lynn spoke.

"Did you stay up all night looking for people again?"

Instantly seen through by Lynn, Rose's face showed a bit of embarrassment.

"There's no war now, so I can sleep anytime."

"But the tasks you assigned, Master, must be completed immediately."

Lynn responded, "Alright, have breakfast first, and we'll talk after you're done!"

Not daring to say more, Rose picked up the tableware in front of him and began to enjoy the food on the table.

After Lynn had eaten his fill.

Rose devoured the food on the table like a whirlwind.

Lynn raised his eyebrows, looking at Rose with some surprise, teasing.

"I remember the meals arranged at the Manor Castle shouldn't be bad, right?"

"The soldiers have three pounds of food every day, including meat..."

Listening to Lynn's words, the embarrassment on Rose's face became more evident.

He apologized, "Master, you misunderstand, the meals are indeed very good..."

"It's just that I haven't eaten for some time, I was really too hungry."

Lynn nodded understandingly, "That's good; this way, there's no food waste."

"However, there's one thing I need to instruct you on."

Rose instantly stood up, speaking respectfully.

"Master, feel free to instruct!"

Lynn said sternly, "Unless it's a special situation like combat, all commanders must have three meals a day."

"The soldiers too!"

Suddenly, Rose's face showed a look of astonishment.

Seeing Rose's expression, Lynn asked, "Is there a problem?"

Confirming he hadn't misheard, Rose's heart warmed, he quickly replied.

"Master, there is no problem at all, Rose will strictly follow your instructions."

"After leaving, I will immediately convey your orders to all commanders and soldiers."

Rose naturally understood that Lynn was caring for the health of the commanders and soldiers.

Lynn nodded, "Continue about the freemen you found from Bo Xi Town."

After Rose nodded in agreement, he continued speaking.

"The freemen from Bo Xi Town have been led by Gavin Agricultural Officer to harvest the crops."

"It wasn't until this morning, after being informed by Gavin Agricultural Officer, that I found him."

"He is now waiting outside the reception hall, awaiting your summons, Master."

Lynn looked approvingly at Rose.

Whether it was Wesley who worked tirelessly all night to quickly tally the recovered spoils.

Or Rose, who searched all night for people.

After he issued the relevant orders and instructions, both wanted to complete them immediately regardless of anything!

Lynn's thoughts turned, and he opened the [Resident Information Column] for a look.

At some unknown time.

Rose and Wesley's Loyalty Value had already reached 100%!

Lynn responded, "Then bring him in."

Rose replied, "Yes, Master!"

Without any unnecessary words, Rose took a few steps back from the dining table, then turned and walked towards the outside of the reception hall.

Shortly after.

Rose brought in a middle-aged man wearing a linen robe and stopped four or five meters in front of Lynn.

Rose bowed slightly and explained.

"Master, this is Tim Jones, a freeman from Bo Xi Town."

Lynn's gaze fell on Tim Jones, checking his personal attribute panel.

Just an ordinary freeman farmer.

Perhaps feeling Lynn's gaze, Tim Jones's face was full of nervousness.

Tim Jones moved his body, directly kneeling on the ground, his voice full of fear and tension sounded.

"Tim Jones kneels to pay respects to the Lord, presenting greetings to the Lord."

Watching Tim Jones's actions, Lynn spoke.

"Rise."

"In my domain, apart from the allegiance ceremony, no one needs to perform a kneeling salute!"

Perhaps due to having been whipped by a Manor Lord before.

Tim Jones dared not utter a word, and upon receiving Lynn's instruction, immediately stood up.

However, his posture remained in a bowing form.

Standing beside him, Red had a curious look in his eyes.

Red slightly recalled in his mind.

Indeed, as his master said.

Except for allegiances or submission.

His master never demanded anyone to perform kneeling ceremonies!

In the blink of an eye.

Red's gaze towards Lynn was filled with more admiration.

Lynn continued, "Tim Jones, I need to know everything about the manor in Bo Xi Town from your mouth."

"For example, how many Manor Lords are there in Bo Xi Town, how many soldiers or guards are in each manor, and how many peasants are there?"