

System 1081

Chapter 1081: Strategy to Break the Deadlock (Part 4)

"A simple 'divide the minerals in Morgan Town according to contribution,' and you want me to empty my home reserves to go into a decisive battle with a lord who possesses a large number of armored soldiers?"

"What other manor lords will do, I don't know."

"But I, Devant Benitez, am no fool."

"Fighting armored soldiers with guards and soldiers without armor is courting death!"

"The Benitez Manor was once the weakest in Boxi Town and could have been destroyed at any time."

"It was to survive and pass down under the oppression of other manor lords in Boxi Town that we had to swear allegiance to the Zak Clan and become supporters."

"Even though the Zak Clan has provided a lot of resistance to my Benitez Manor over the years."

"However, Benitez Manor has also paid a huge price for the Zak Clan."

"Fifty percent of the manor's total yield is a tribute! A substantial part of Benitez Manor's earnings."

"Delivered on time and in full each year to the Viscount's Castle in Kakasong City, handed over to Viscount Jon Zack."

"If Viscount Jon Zack wants to audit and settle with my Benitez Manor over this matter..."

"Then my Benitez Manor is not just a soft persimmon for anyone to squeeze!"

Seeing Callum still bent over, with his head down, Devant's tone slightly relaxed.

"Summon five hundred guards tomorrow morning, and draft a thousand peasants from the farmland to stand by."

"As for the other guards and peasants, they will continue to stay in the manor, doing farming work."

"Meanwhile, arrange for patrol guards at the edges of the manor's territory, and report back immediately if any anomaly is found!"

Callum responded with a solemn expression, "Callum will obey the master's instructions!"

Devant acknowledged with a sound, speaking no further words, and turned to walk towards the stone stairs deep in the reception hall.

Meanwhile, in Devant's mind, thoughts were racing quickly.

Based on his understanding of Jon Zuck.

He couldn't believe that after Jon Zuck led his force to conquer and obliterate Lord Lynn of Morgan Town.

Jon Zuck would distribute significant mineral earnings to them, the supporting manor lords!

Let alone a significant portion.

If each supporting manor lord could receive ten percent of the earnings, they would have to be deeply grateful.

He even felt that they, the supporting manor lords, couldn't even receive a total of ten percent!

As a viscount, as the largest lord in Kakasong City, and possessing numerous armored soldiers.

Why would Jon Zuck agree to allocate the mineral earnings to others?

Therefore.

No matter how many guards and peasants he gathers to join the battlefield in Morgan Town, the ultimate earnings would be extremely limited!

Even worse, fighting against Lord Lynn's armored soldiers in Morgan Town.

Could result in most of his dispatched guards and peasants being killed or wounded!

Even though his manor has fifteen hundred guards and five thousand peasants.

Such a price is something he cannot bear.

Benitez Manor currently owns a vast farmland, nearly eighty thousand acres.

This means.

It requires a large workforce to cultivate and plant those lands!

Most crucially.

In Boxi Town, Benitez Manor has a close rival!

Just like Benitez Manor, McKinley Manor is also a supporter of Viscount Jon Zuck!

If Benest Manor deploys a large number of guards and peasants to Morgan Town for warfare.

Even if victorious in the end.

McKinley Manor suffers minor casualties.

While Benest Manor's guards and peasants suffer heavy losses.

Then, after the battle is over.

Benest Manor will definitely be pressured by McKinley Manor at every step!

More likely, it could directly rely on the difference in military strength and forcibly seize Benest Manor's farmland...

Ultimately, destroying the entire Benest Manor!

The three mines in Morgan Town certainly tempt Devant.

But Devant is more self-aware!

Compared to verbal promises, so illusory and controlled by others.

Devant is more willing to invest his guards and peasants in the manor's cultivation and planting!

On the contrary.

If the master of McKinley Manor, Broo, sends a large number of guards and peasants to the Morgan Town war, resulting in major casualties.

Then his Benitez Manor could indeed start to pressure and encroach on McKinley Manor's land.

For him, or for Benitez Manor, this is an opportunity!

Suppressing the thoughts in his mind, Devant quickened his pace climbing the stairs.

In his mind, he was already imagining the scene of frolicking with two young maids on the large bed in the study.

Callum still stood in the reception hall.

Until the corner of his eye saw Devant's back disappear around the corner of the stairs.

Only then did Callum slowly straighten, turn around, and walk towards the manor's exterior, gradually relieving the tension and tightness in his heart.

...

Under the cover of night.

The silhouettes of cavalymen were advancing at a steady pace.

Large masses of clouds slowly drifted across the sky, floating just above the cavalry队伍.

Completely enveloping the torchless cavalry team in the shadow cast by the dark curtains.

At the forefront of the cavalry.

Wesley rode atop a warhorse, scanning his gaze ahead.

Perhaps because it was late at night.

A vast farmland that had been harvested and cultivated lay shrouded in darkness ahead.

Chapter 1082: Strategy for Breaking the Deadlock (Part 1)

The sound of birds and insects chirping through the night echoed continuously in the fields.

The night breeze blew in, perfectly cooling the armored cavalrymen.

Confirming there were no anomalies, Wesley withdrew his gaze and looked at Tim Jones beside him.

"From here, how far is it to Benest Manor and McKinley Manor?"

Earl also turned his gaze to Tim Jones.

Feeling the gaze of the two lords, Tim Jones felt slightly tense and quickly responded.

"Lords, this was once the territory of Cole Manor."

"However, not long ago, it was destroyed and taken over by Benest Manor."

"From here, it's about twenty miles to Benest Manor."

"The distance to McKinley Manor is a bit farther, about thirty miles..."

Wesley nodded slightly.

Whether it's Benitez Manor or McKinley Manor,

with a distance of twenty to thirty miles, a full-speed charge on horseback would take just over half an hour to reach.

But to launch a successful attack, he needed to refine the tactics previously reported to Lord Master Lynn!

Thoughts raced through Wesley's mind.

Earl waited quietly, not interrupting.

Wesley was the commander of this expedition; his ideas and decisions were the highest commands.

He simply needed to wait for Wesley to finish considering his decision and then execute Wesley's orders.

A few minutes later.

With a slight turn of his body, Wesley spoke to Earl.

"Earl!"

Earl immediately urged his warhorse forward to be alongside Wesley, riding side by side.

Earl nodded and responded, "Lord Wesley, Earl is present."

Wesley, acknowledging the response, asked.

"If you were the commander of this manor assault campaign, how would you command these 1,700 heavy and light cavalry?"

Hearing Wesley's inquiry, Earl naturally understood the implication.

Grateful, Earl gave Wesley a quick glance, pondering for a moment.

"Lord Wesley, if I were the cavalry commander, I would immediately order the cavalry to launch a surprise attack on the manor residence!"

Wesley acknowledged again, "Go on."

Earl continued, "First, it's nighttime now, and under cover of darkness, the cavalry can easily approach the manor castle!"

"Even if they have manor patrol guards, by the time they see or hear the cavalry and ride back to the manor residence to report,"

"our cavalry can take advantage of the returning patrol route to charge straight into the manor residence."

Wesley nodded approvingly.

After a brief pause, Earl continued.

"Secondly, it's already late at night!"

"Even if the patrol guards report the situation, the resting guards or peasants will find it very difficult to organize a defense line."

"Even if they join the fight, they would just be a disorganized mob..."

Wesley asked, "Anything else?"

Earl considered briefly, responding without fear.

"Lord Wesley, this is all Earl can think of for now."

Wesley responded, "Your offensive idea is correct, but somewhat one-sided."

Earl looked at Wesley curiously.

Wesley didn't mind explaining, "As you said, the cavalry can utilize the high mobility and flexibility of their warhorses to launch a night raid on the manor residence under cover of darkness, charging straight in."

"But this only works for an unprepared manor residence!"

"Information about the destructions of Connelly and Louis Manors in Alba Town has already reached Jon Zuck in Kasong City."

"Therefore, Devant Benitez and Broo, who held the manor lord meeting, would certainly be wary of a cavalry night raid."

"It's very likely they've already erected chevaux-de-frise around the manor residence, dug trenches and spike pits..."

"If that's the case, leading the cavalry into the manor residence would surely mean men and horses flipping over, falling into the enemy's encirclement."

"Even if the manor were filled with unarmored guards and peasants, the cavalry, even with armor protection, would inevitably suffer significant losses!"

"Especially, Lord Master Lynn's cherished Badan Empire warhorses..."

Earl nodded heavily.

If Wesley hadn't informed him of this, he certainly wouldn't have considered it.

Earl hesitated slightly and asked, "Lord Wesley, in such a situation, what would be the best way to break the deadlock?"

Wesley said in a deep voice, "When it's unknown whether the manor residence has set ambushes or constructed defensive fortifications..."

"The best strategy to break the deadlock is to draw out the enemies from the manor residence and fight them outside!"

Wesley stared directly at Earl, speaking in a deep voice.

"This is exactly what I need you to do next!"

Earl, with a solemn expression, promptly responded.

"Please give your orders, my lord!"

Wesley replied, "I need you to lead a detachment of two hundred light cavalry to the territory of Benitez Manor."

"Slay all the patrol guards you encounter."

"The same goes for peasants."

Wesley's words paused briefly, then continued.

"But there's one thing you need to be careful about."

"You must let a few escape to return and report to the manor."

"Only then can the manor lord organize guards and peasants to sortie for suppression!"

"If they send out only a small force of guards and peasants, you can easily lead the light cavalry to cut them down."

"If it's a large force, then I, hidden in the darkness, will lead fifteen hundred cavalry to charge and slaughter them all."

Chapter 1083: The Strategy to Break the Deadlock (Part 1)

"In this way, we can perfectly utilize the advantage of the cavalry while avoiding the cavalry being restrained by the manor's defensive fortifications!"

Earl's eyes were full of brightness, and he couldn't help but praise aloud.

"Perfect tactics!"

Listening to Earl's praise, Wesley smiled calmly and said.

"This tactic, I learned when Lord Lynn attacked Frank Manor Castle."

"Lord Lynn ordered the cavalry to attack Morgan Town, drawing out the guards of Frank Manor."

"This avoided the disadvantage of the soldiers attacking the Manor Castle and prevented large-scale casualties!"

"In the end, victory was achieved with the loss of only a dozen soldiers..."

Earl nodded; when attacking Morgan Town, he and Rose were the first to charge, driving the warhorses and leaping over the barriers.

But being fully immersed in killing the enemy, he didn't think about the significance of attacking Morgan Town.

Now hearing Wesley's recount, Earl's admiration for Lord Lynn increased once again.

Wesley spoke to Earl again, "Now that you understand..."

"You can lead the two hundred light cavalry to set out now!"

Earl did not hesitate and respectfully responded.

"Yes, Lord Wesley!"

With a movement of his right hand, he pulled the reins in his hand, turning the direction of the warhorse beneath him, and went to the rear to count and dispatch the light cavalry.

A few minutes later.

Amidst the clatter of hooves.

Earl led two hundred light cavalry galloping into the darkness ahead.

After a short while.

The cavalry disappeared into the darkness, vanishing from Wesley's sight.

From Wesley's perspective, this dispatched two hundred light cavalry.

Are both the advance force of the cavalry, ensuring that the fifteen hundred heavy cavalry behind do not suffer a nighttime ambush by the enemy.

And also the bait to harass and lure the enemy out.

Such a strategic tactic naturally bears risks!

Once these two hundred cavalry lure out the main force of the enemy's guards and peasants, they can easily fall into an encirclement!

Even with his fifteen hundred cavalry charging to break the encirclement, there's still a risk of death!

Despite all this.

Wesley had no regrets about issuing such orders.

Because they are now waging war!

War inevitably leads to casualties!

Whether it's him, Earl, or the cavalry they lead!

As long as soldier casualties can be minimized.

Ultimately, fulfilling the orders given by Lord Lynn.

Then it will all be worth it!

...

In a harvested field, on a road of pebbles and mud.

Four guards in linen robes drove their horses, moving forward constantly.

Holding the reins in their right hand, keeping their mounted bodies steady, and holding a torch in their left, lighting the dark road ahead.

The night breeze, with a comforting coolness, gently brushed over.

Lovingly touching their cheeks, stirring their greasy long hair.

Maybe it's from the jostling of the horses or the late night.

Snores filled with drowsiness and fatigue incessantly sounded from their mouths.

Pierre Nique raised his right arm, wiping away the tears at the corners of his eyes, and spoke to the middle-aged man at the head of the team.

"Captain Sai De, how about ending today's patrol here?"

"The crops in the field have long been harvested, who would be bored enough to sneak in at this hour?"

"With that energy, might as well hug your wife a few more times, it's really..."

Listening to Pierre's plain yet truthful words, the other two guards on horseback nodded in agreement.

Sai De at the forefront turned back, glaring at Pierre, and scolded.

"All you think about every day is sleeping, either with your wife at home or the town's prostitutes!"

"The daily salary you earn as a guard is all spent on your lower half, don't you know your kids are going hungry at home?"

"Now you're still trying to shirk..."

"If Guard Captain Callum found out, he would surely strip you of your rank, demote you to a peasant, and whip you severely!"

"Not just you, because of the food shortage, your wife with limited labor capacity would have to go to the town's brothel, making a living by selling her body."

"Your children might even be sold to Kakasong City, becoming drug testers for a pharmacist..."

Listening to Sai De's words, Pierre quickly shrank his neck.

He never dreamed.

He only wanted Sai De to end today's patrol early, but it brought a barrage of Sai De's harsh words.

The guard beside Pierre, waiting for Sai De to turn around, leaned in quietly and whispered.

"Captain Sai De lost all his salary for the next few months playing dice with the other captains."

"At this time, you're still daring to provoke him..."

Before the guard could finish speaking, Sai De's low voice rang out again from the front.

"Fenrir Leiden!"

The guard whose name was called looked alarmed, and quickly cried out.

"Captain, I know nothing about you losing money, nor did I tell Pierre anything!"

As he spoke, a few chuckles erupted from Pierre and another guard.

Fenrir Leiden was momentarily stunned, realizing he had given himself away.

Sai De continued, "Once the patrol is over, you'll treat us to a drink in town, do you have any objections?"

Feeling the solemn tone in Theron's words, Fenrir Leiden's expression grew bleak, and he said helplessly.

"Captain Theron, Fenrir has no objections."

Theron's satisfied words rang out again, "That's more like it!"

Fenrir Leiden sighed and was about to speak when he noticed.

The horse he was riding began to grow restless.

The steady pace started to sway back and forth, and it also let out a series of neighs.

Fenrir Leiden frowned and immediately called out to Sai De at the front, his voice serious.

"Captain Sai De, something seems amiss!"

...

Chapter 1084: A High-Stakes Gamble

Before Fenrir's solemn reminder.

Sai De had already sensed the unease of the horse beneath him.

His gaze turned, looking at the dirt road illuminated by the torches.

On the ground.

Thumb-sized stones were gently undulating.

Accompanied by.

A rumbling sound like thunder rolling from the distant darkness.

From afar to near, rushing toward their location!

Sai De's brows furrowed tightly.

The next second.

Sai De's eyes widened, he hurriedly shouted at the four guards in front of him.

"It's an enemy attack! Hurry and retreat!"

"Return to the manor residence and inform the Devante Manor Lord, a large force of cavalry has entered the Benitez Manor territory!"

Listening to Sai De's shout, the eyes of Fenrir and the four shrunk.

Daring not to hesitate or waste words, they quickly snapped the reins in their hands, their legs clamped the sides of the horse.

Driving the horse beneath them, they ran towards the road ahead.

Such a thunderous sound, such a strange sight...

Even if Sai De said nothing, they could feel the intense sense of crisis!

Riding on horseback, Fenrir slightly turned his head to look at the large farmland cloaked in darkness behind him.

Perhaps due to the clouds in the sky drifting by just at that moment.

Making it hard for Fenrir to see the scene in the darkness behind.

However.

The thunderous rumbling sound drew closer.

That feeling was like they were prey, watched by beasts in the darkness!

Fenrir instantly thought of something.

Without hesitation, he quickly threw the torch in his hand to the ground.

Fenrir loudly called out to Sai De and his four men ahead.

"Captain Sai De! The torch!"

"It's the torch that attracted them!"

Naturally, Sai De's three men, riding along, heard Fenrir's words and also tossed their torches down.

Allowing the torches to fall onto the tilled soil, slowly burning and gradually extinguishing.

However.

Fenrir had no time to breathe a sigh of relief.

The thunderous sound behind grew closer, echoing like a bone-chilling echo at his back.

Fenrir turned his head suddenly, disbelief and dread on his face.

In Fenrir's eyes.

Cavalrymen dressed in dark gray armor, iron helmets on their heads, riding large horses emerged from the dark.

Like ghost riders from the abyss, piercing through the darkness.

The visual impact was so intense, the scene so stunning.

Combined with the drum-like thunderous galloping sound...

Oppressive enough to leave Fenrir breathless.

Fenrir wanted to speak out to Captain Sai De ahead, to give a warning.

The armored cavalry team, due to their speed advantage, chased to within twenty meters of him in less than half a minute.

And as each second passed, the distance grew even closer.

Fenrir's chest rose and fell rapidly, his breathing accelerated.

To the extent that breaths continually rushed from his opened mouth.

Pant~ Pant~ Pant~

Fifteen meters.

Ten meters.

Eight meters...

Despite Fenrir frantically snapping the reins in his hand, his legs continuously kicking the horse's sides, urging it to run faster.

Yet he could not shake off the armored cavalry following closely behind.

Moreover.

Fenrir saw through the sight holes of the foremost armored cavalryman's iron helmet a peculiar gaze.

Like a beast seeing prey, emitting excitement and anticipation...

Five meters.

Four meters!

Perhaps sensing the life-and-death crisis, Fenrir abruptly turned his head, looking behind him.

He saw the foremost vigorous and robust cavalryman suddenly move his right arm, taking down the long spear hanging by his saddle.

Under Fenrir's gaze, that strangely shaped weapon, spear-like, axe-like, gleamed coldly, thrusting towards him.

Fenrir was horrified, quickly trying to draw the scimitar that dangled at his waist.

However.

Fenrir's right hand had just grasped the hilt when a wave of agony suddenly struck him from behind.

Before Fenrir could react, a spearhead stained red with blood pierced straight through his chest.

Countless scenes and images flashed through Fenrir's mind in an instant...

As the armored cavalryman behind him pulled his right arm back, extracting the long spear.

As if drawing out all of Fenrir's strength.

Fenrir's body went limp, helplessly falling toward the ground.

In mere moments.

The fallen body was engulfed by the horse hooves of the chasing armored cavalry force behind.

Driving the horse at full speed, Sai De glanced at the armored cavalry behind.

Of course, he saw the slain Fenrir.

Although Sai De's heart was full of anger at that moment.

It was only frustration.

With their strength alone, they had no choice but to flee!

Sai De's mind was also racing with thoughts.

This type of standard armored cavalry was something Sai De had never encountered before.

Around Kakasong City, besides Viscount Jon Zack who had armored soldiers.

Could any other lord have such powerful military force?

The next moment.

Sai De instantly recalled what Master Devant had said before.

Lord Lynn, who recently rose in Morgan Town, possessed a large number of armored soldiers!

Lord Lynn had even sent armored soldiers to Boxi Town, destroying Connelly Manor and Louis Manor!

Now.

This armored cavalry force has come to Boxi Town, to the territory of Beltes Manor...

Clearly targeting Beltrans Manor.

They must quickly return to the manor residence to inform the Guard Captain and the Manor Lord!

Chapter 1085: A High-Stakes Gamble (Part 1)_2

Sai De glanced at the darkness ahead, then at the armored cavalry relentlessly pursuing from behind.

Sai De spoke in a deep voice to Pierre and the three men behind him.

"With the power of the three of us, we're definitely not a match for this group of armored cavalry."

"If we split up and retreat, perhaps we can return to the manor and have a chance to survive."

"No matter who returns to the manor, report the current situation immediately!"

"I'll take the far right fork, Pierre in the middle, and you two take the far left."

Pierre and the three men felt a heaviness in their hearts.

They naturally knew that the situation was urgent and, without any nonsense, responded.

"Yes, Captain Sai De!"

Sai De pondered for a moment, looking at the fork in the road ahead.

"Disperse at the fork ahead!"

Pierre and the three men responded again.

After giving instructions.

Sai De stared straight at the right fork ahead, pulling the reins with his right hand, driving his horse toward the edge.

Sai De chose the furthest fork for a personal reason.

The furthest fork is the closest road to the manor.

Which means,

Sai De is the most likely to survive the pursuit of the armored cavalry from behind!

Sai De knew, and Pierre and the three guards also knew.

But because of Sai De's captain status.

Even though Pierre and the three knew, they wouldn't protest or question.

In such a critical moment, there was no time for discussion, so they could only act according to Sai De's instructions.

Behind.

Earl, clad in standard plate armor, rode at the forefront on his warhorse, chasing the four manor guards ahead.

Under Earl's observation through the iron helmet visor hole.

The four manor guards ahead split into two, one, one, three squads and raced down the fork.

Earl didn't hesitate, waving his left arm to the left.

The armored cavalry behind him instantly understood.

Immediately, a squad split off and chased the two guards who had separated into one fork.

Earl led the remaining cavalry, chasing the lone manor guard ahead.

Riding alone toward Benitez Manor, Sai De.

Listened to the thundering of hooves behind him, his emotions sinking to the lowest point.

Even though he arranged for Pierre and the three to split into three groups to retreat.

But clearly, the armored cavalry weren't planning to let them go!

Sai De turned his head back to look, and sure enough, a team of armored cavalry was rapidly pursuing him.

The horses ridden by the armored cavalry were very fast.

In just a few minutes, they could catch up with him!

Sai De's gaze shifted towards the distant fork.

Pierre rode alone, galloping on the gravel road.

No armored cavalry were chasing him from behind.

Comparing like this,

An inexplicable anger rose in Sai De's heart.

Clearly, the right fork he chose was the narrowest, also the hardest to turn the horse around.

Why didn't the armored cavalry give up on chasing him but let Pierre go?

If only the split cavalry had chased Pierre.

He could safely return to Benitez Manor and report to Devont Manor Lord.

Perhaps,

He would be rewarded for providing timely and effective information to Devont Manor Lord.

But now, everything would turn to dust.

Low, self-questioning whispers emerged from Sai De's mouth.

"Why?"

"Why chase me?"

"Why not let me return to the manor?"

"Why am I the only one losing?"

Sai De forcibly suppressed the increasingly intense anger within him, frantically shaking the reins in his hand.

His legs kept kicking at the horse's belly.

Possibly due to the intense pain.

The horse kept letting out pained whinnies, its head continuously tossing...

Realizing the horse's movements, Sai De harshly said.

"What? At a time like this, even you, beast, want to rebel against me?"

With these words, Sai De shook the reins more forcefully.

Pa~

The reins made a crisp sound and landed on the horse's neck.

Whee~

Urgent and pained cries once again sounded from the horse's mouth.

Instantly, it went from running steadily to a series of uneven jumps.

Trying to shake Sai De off its back by bouncing.

Feeling the horse's movements, Sai De was aghast, clamping tightly onto the horse's belly with his legs.

However,

Sai De's continuous fast flipping of the reins and relentless kicking had already angered the horse.

With an urgent cry,

The halted horse leaped up on its hind legs, its entire body nearly standing upright.

With this sudden movement, Sai De lost his balance and fell heavily to the ground.

The intense pain throughout his body made Sai De grimace.

Sai De was about to curse when the sound of pounding hooves from behind got closer, entering his ears.

Sai De was about to turn his head to look,

In the midst of 'whoa' sounds to halt the horses, armored soldiers had already reached his side.

Surrounding him, circling around.

Looking at the armor of the cavalry before him, with only visor holes in their full face helmets, Sai De was filled with tension.

Ignoring the pain, Sai De shifted from lying to a kneeling position.

Clasping his hands together, Sai De quickly pleaded for mercy.

"Sir, sirs... I'm just a guard from Benitez Manor."

Chapter 1086: A High-Stakes Gamble

"Please, my lords, forgive me..."

Upon the warhorse, Earl moved his right hand, pushing the full mask from his face up to his forehead.

From above, Earl looked down at Sai De kneeling on the ground and asked in a deep voice.

"How many guards does Benitez Manor arrange for nighttime patrols?"

Currently, in Bo Xi Town, there are only Benitez Manor and McKinley Manor.

In other words.

The tens of thousands of acres of land in the entire town are divided into territories of the two manors.

With such a vast area of land, naturally, only one team of guards couldn't possibly patrol it all.

Even in Master Lynn's Morgan Town, the nighttime patrol team consists of over a hundred people.

Listening to Earl's inquiry, Sai De dared not conceal anything and quickly responded.

"My lord, there are a total of twenty patrol guard teams."

"Each team consists of five, led by a guard captain, ensuring patrol in specific areas."

After answering, Sai De quickly pleaded.

"My lord, I humbly beg you to spare me?"

"Rest assured, as long as you spare me, I will never return to Benitez Manor to inform Devont Manor Lord!"

Earl directly ignored Sai De's words.

His gaze shifted to a nearby armored cavalryman and said deeply.

"Take him and encounter the remaining patrol guard teams."

The armored cavalrymen immediately responded, "Yes, my lord!"

Two cavalrymen dismounted from their horses and bound Sai De tightly with rope.

Listening to Earl's words, Sai De felt slightly relieved.

No matter what, at least for now, he wasn't in immediate danger.

As to why the lord wanted him to lead the way to find other patrol guard teams...

Once found, what would happen to those patrol guard teams...

Sai De didn't care!

As the armored cavalymen bound Sai De, the sound of cavalry charging echoed from afar.

Earl's expression tensed, pulling the reins in his hand to turn his warhorse, his right hand gripping the handle of the winged spear beside the saddle.

Ready for battle at any moment.

The other armored cavalymen similarly heard the approaching sound of charging cavalry.

Like Earl, they were prepared for action.

Until a few minutes later.

The distant cavalry broke through the darkness, appearing in the eyes of Earl and the other cavalymen...

Seeing the familiar standard armor, Earl's heart slightly relaxed.

If a large-scale cavalry appeared now.

Charging at them would be unimaginable!

It's important to remember, this is Bo Xi Town!

Fortunately.

Approaching them was the cavalry team he dispatched.

With the constant sounds of horses being reined in and stopped, the cavalry team halted.

A middle-aged man slightly squeezed his horse's belly, driving it closer to Earl.

Upon reaching Earl's side, the middle-aged man quickly reported.

"Earl, the two escaping patrol guards have been slain."

"As per your orders, only one patrol guard remains, returning to the Benitez Manor mansion."

Earl nodded with satisfaction, expressing praise: "Well done."

"Continue to search for the next batch of patrol guard teams."

The middle-aged man promptly lowered his head and responded, "Yes, my lord!"

Bound Sai De listened to their dialogue, furrowing his brows.

The other two guards being slain and him being captured to lead the way didn't surprise him.

However, could there be a guard who escaped from this cavalry team's grasp?

Instantly, Pierre came to Sai De's mind!

But Sai De grew puzzled.

This cavalry team was clearly mounted on warhorses!

In terms of agility and mobility, they're far superior to the ordinary horses they ride.

If the cavalry team desired, even from a distance of several hundred meters, they could catch up.

Adding to that, the number of armored cavalry seen here.

A separate cavalry team could easily be dispatched to chase down the fleeing Pierre.

However.

This figure called Earl didn't do so.

Not only didn't they intend to silence, hiding the information of their cavalry team's arrival.

They directly targeted other patrol teams?

In the next instant.

Sai De realized something!

This armored cavalry team specifically came to hunt down the patrol guards of Benitez Manor.

Yet allowed one patrol guard to return to the manor mansion.

Once the patrol guard reached the mansion, they would certainly inform Devont Manor Lord of the cavalry invasion.

The manor's territory was invaded, the manor's patrol guards hunted.

Then Devont Manor Lord would surely dispatch guards for suppression!

If a large-scale guard and peasants were mobilized, they might suppress this armored cavalry team.

If only hundreds of guards left the manor mansion to reach this vast field...

They would still not be a match for a few charges from this armored cavalry!

Thinking of this.

Sai De seemed to understand why this armored cavalry appeared at Benest Manor!

But Sai De reconsidered.

Even if he guessed the armored cavalry's purpose now, what meaning does that have?

He couldn't possibly escape before a near fully armed cavalry team.

The only thing he could do now was to guide this cavalry team.

Perhaps.

There might be a chance for survival!

...

Under the night sky.

Pierre continuously drove his horse forward into the darkness.

Perhaps it was, witnessing the might and terror of the cavalry like the shadow itself.

Or perhaps, feeling the threat to his life...

Pierre's chest heaved rapidly, heavy breaths pouring out from his mouth one after another.

Chapter 1087: A High-Stakes Gamble (Part 1)

Amidst the vast expanse of empty farmland, only the sound of galloping hooves and his breathing remained.

Slightly turning his body, Pierre glanced back into the darkness behind him.

The thunderous sound from before had long disappeared.

He knew that the armored cavalry had not pursued him.

Even so.

Pierre's nerves remained tense.

Until a dozen minutes later.

He saw a black silhouette of a building in the distance.

The light of oil lamps shone through the windows of the building, illuminating the exterior.

In the open space outside the building, there were clearly a dozen guard figures sitting around a bonfire.

There, that was where the Benitez Manor was located!

Pierre's tense mood slightly relaxed.

He urged his horse to gallop faster toward the direction of Benitez Manor.

The horse galloped across the gravel and mud road, entering the open square in front of the manor.

Before Pierre could leap off the horse, several guards surrounded him.

Voices of inquiry, tinged with confusion, came from the guards.

"Pierre? Weren't you out on a night patrol with Sai De?"

"Why are you back so suddenly?"

"What's going on? Why do you look so pale and covered in sweat?"

"..."

Pierre ignored their questions, leaping off the horse and quickly asked in return.

"Where is Guard Captain Callum? I have an urgent matter to report to him."

Seeing Pierre's panicked expression, the guards frowned slightly.

"It's so late, the Guard Captain should be resting in his room, right?"

"I advise you to think carefully before going to him."

"Yes, the Guard Captain dislikes being disturbed when he's resting..."

After extracting a few key phrases, Pierre walked directly toward the manor and entered the reception hall.

Leaving a few guards standing there, puzzled, looking at each other.

Upon entering the reception hall, Pierre headed straight to the deep end of the hall.

Arriving at the wooden door of the lone bedroom where the Guard Captain lived, Pierre was about to knock.

The tightly closed wooden door suddenly opened from within.

Callum's burly figure appeared before Pierre's eyes.

Looking at the panting Pierre in front of him, Callum asked in a deep voice.

"What's the matter?"

Feeling the displeasure in Callum's words, Pierre quickly explained.

"Guard Captain Callum, something terrible has happened!"

"While Captain Sai De was leading us on a night patrol."

"An armored cavalry unit invaded Master Devant's manor territory!"

Callum's brow instantly furrowed, he continued to ask.

"An armored cavalry unit?"

"Where is Sai De? Where did Sai De go?"

Pierre continued, "There are countless armored cavalry, Captain Sai De ordered us to split up and retreat so we could have a chance to return to the manor and report."

"Captain Sai De said, no matter who returns to the manor, they must report the situation immediately."

"Until now, Captain Sere and Fenrir have not returned."

"They might... they might have already fallen."

Callum stared at Pierre, asking again in a deep voice.

"Are you sure you saw armored cavalry?"

Pierre said firmly, "Of course, Guard Captain Callum."

"I saw with my own eyes an armored cavalry unit galloping out of the darkness."

"I even saw one armored cavalryman use a long spear to kill Fenrir!"

Callum pondered, "Come with me, I need you to report everything you saw in full detail to Master Devant."

Pierre nodded, "Yes, Guard Captain."

Callum said no more, he walked out from the bedroom and headed toward the stairs not far away.

Pierre followed closely behind.

Climbing the stairs to the third floor of the manor.

Callum and Pierre stopped before the double wooden doors of the study.

Callum raised his right hand and knocked on the door.

Thud~ Thud~

Two low sounds echoed in the manor, breaking the silence.

However.

As the knocking ceased, there was no response from behind the double doors.

Callum hesitated for two seconds and then knocked again.

Thud~ Thud~

Callum, almost speaking through the crack in the door, said.

"Master, Callum has an urgent matter that needs reporting."

Just as Callum finished speaking, a displeased rebuke came from behind the door.

"Don't you know what time it is?"

"No matter what it is, we'll talk tomorrow! Now get lost immediately!"

Standing behind Callum, Pierre naturally heard the rebuke from the Devon Manor Lord, and his heart couldn't help but grow tense.

Callum didn't give up, continuing to say, "Master, this concerns the life and death of the Benitez Manor."

"Callum needs to report immediately."

An armored cavalry unit appeared within the lands of Benitez Manor.

Upon hearing those words, Callum immediately thought of Lord Lynn of Morgan Town.

It is known that.

Throughout Kakasong City, besides Viscount Jon Zack, only Lord Lynn possesses armored cavalry!

Viscount Jon Zack could not have sent armored cavalry to attack Master Devant's manor.

That leaves only one possibility!

Lord Lynn of Morgan Town dispatched an armored cavalry unit under the cover of night.

Aiming to take action against Master Devant's Benitez Manor.

This is why, after confirming the news from Pierre.

Chapter 1088: A High-Stakes Gamble (5)

Callum, without hesitation, took Pierre upstairs to find out the reason from Master Devant.

Should Lord Lynn merely send a small squad of armored cavalry for a demonstration and harassment.

That would be tolerable!

But if there is a large troop of armored soldiers.

Then Benitez Manor is facing life and death!

Devant seemed to hear Callum's words.

After a silence in the study, the sound of barefoot steps on the wooden boards came from behind the double wooden doors.

In just a few seconds.

After the sound of a latch being pulled, the tightly closed double wooden doors were opened.

Devant's face, worn and sleepy, appeared in front of Callum and Pierre.

Devant coldly glanced at the two, opening his mouth to ask.

"What's the matter?"

Callum quickly bowed and relayed the words Pierre had just reported to him, reporting them to Devant.

As Callum continued to speak, the sleepiness on Devant's face disappeared, replaced by seriousness.

Devant looked at Pierre behind Callum and said in a deep voice.

"Come in and speak!"

Callum and Pierre followed Devant into the study.

Callum's gaze slightly shifted.

With the light from the oil lamp on the study's walls, Callum clearly saw.

On a large bed not far away, two fair bodies were lying upon it.

Perhaps due to intense labor, they were too exhausted.

Even when they entered the study, the two maids did not awaken.

With just one glance, Callum quickly withdrew his gaze.

Devant sat in the wooden chair behind the desk.

Callum and Pierre promptly stood to the side, lowering their heads in waiting.

Devant leaned back in the chair, his eyes sweeping over Callum, asking.

"How many armored cavalry did you see?"

Callum said nothing, his steps slightly shifting.

Revealing Pierre, who was hidden behind him, to Devant's view.

Pierre showed a troubled face, hesitantly said.

"Master, since it was night and covered by clouds, I truly didn't clearly see how many armored cavalry there were..."

Upon seeing Devant's face grow even more somber, Pierre quickly continued.

"But, Master, I can assure you that the number of armored cavalry is certainly over a hundred."

"They are all wearing dark gray armor, riding swift horses!"

Listening to Pierre's slightly hurried explanation, Devant calmly responded.

"I understand, you may leave now."

Pierre raised his eyebrows slightly, hesitantly looked at Callum.

After seeing Callum give him a signal, Pierre immediately responded.

"Yes, Master, Pierre is taking leave."

Callum retreated a few steps, then turned to leave the study, gently closing the opened door.

Devant still leaned against the wooden chair, his gaze turning to Callum, asking.

"Guard Captain, according to what he said..."

"That squad of armored cavalry is most likely sent by Lord Lynn of Morgan Town."

"What do you think Benitez Manor should do now?"

Callum furrowed his brow slightly, his mind rapidly pondering.

Devant remained silent, patiently sitting in the wooden chair awaiting.

Half a minute later.

Callum bent over, responding.

"Master, I think, since Lord Lynn of Morgan Town has already dispatched armored cavalry to Boxi Town, intruding into your manor."

"It means that Lord Lynn has declared war on you!"

"The urgent task is to know how many armored cavalry Lord Lynn has dispatched to invade your manor lands!"

Devant's voice hummed in contemplation, signaling a response, waiting for Callum to continue speaking.

"If it's only a small squad of armored cavalry, Master, you can entirely gather and organize guards to drive or suppress this squad of armored cavalry."

The walking speed of Benitez Manor's guards.

Naturally cannot match the high flexibility and mobility of armored cavalry.

However.

As long as the numbers are sufficient, even if unable to chase down the armored cavalry, driving them away can completely be achieved!

"But if there are thousands of armored cavalry..."

"Master, I think the only way is to recall all guards and peasants from outside the manor."

"Relying on your number of guards and peasants, defend the manor estate and the constructed defenses, perhaps there is a chance to resist."

"Because the cavalry's advantage is in charging on open ground."

"If fighting dismounted, given the weight of their armor, they certainly cannot battle for long."

"At the same time, Master, you need to send a Messenger Guard immediately to Kakasong City."

"To inform Jon Zuck about Lord Lynn dispatching armored cavalry to invade your manor lands."

"Whether to rally other supportive manor lords for aid to your manor, or to swiftly wage war on Morgan Town."

"Both can resolve the crisis you're currently facing!"

Saying this, Callum bent over, summarizing.

"Master, the above is how Callum believes the armored cavalry should be dealt with."

"Whatever decision, Callum will follow all your instructions!"

Devant said nothing, staring at the candle flame burning on the desk.

Letting the flame flicker endlessly in his eyes.

Half a minute later.

Devant looked towards Callum across the desk, saying.

"Callum, your countermeasures are quite good."

Chapter 1089: A High-Stakes Gamble

"Indeed, it is possible to maximize loss mitigation for the Benitez Manor!"

Callum nodded slightly in response to Devant's praise.

Devant squinted slightly, then shifted the topic and said in a deep voice.

"However, I do not intend to deal with Lord Lynn's cavalry in the way you suggested!"

Callum's eyes widened instantly, looking at Devant with some confusion, he asked.

"Master, then you mean..."

Devant paused for a few seconds before continuing.

"I plan... to collaborate with Lord Lynn!"

Upon hearing Devant's words, Callum's mouth dropped open, and he exclaimed in surprise.

"Ah?"

The sound was so loud and sudden.

It directly woke up two figures lying on the bed in the distance.

A series of muttering sounds came from the noses and mouths of the two maids.

Callum couldn't help but turn his head to look over.

When he saw the maids turning their bodies to sleep on their sides.

The sight of their rounded figures, completely unguarded, entered his view.

Callum quickly withdrew his gaze, feeling a tightness in his heart.

Devant, sitting on the wooden chair, naturally saw Callum's small actions.

Devant seemed unbothered, continuing to speak.

"Lord Lynn dispatching armored cavalry to Bo Xi Town is a crisis for my Benitez Manor, but also an opportunity!"

"Currently in Bo Xi Town, there are only my Benitez Manor and McKinley Manor."

"Brown and I are both manor lords supporting Viscount Jon Zuck."

"Even if there were a merger between the manors, Viscount Jon Zuck wouldn't interfere much."

Callum understood and nodded.

According to what he knows.

From previous generations of Benitez and McKinley manor lords, the relationship was always strained.

The two manors even often gathered people to fight over issues like water source irrigation.

Devant continued: "Moreover, the military strength of our two manors is not significantly different..."

"Which means, Benitez Manor can hardly rely on its own military strength to destroy McKinley Manor."

"Nor can it bring the entire Bo Xi Town under the control of Benitez Manor!"

Devant said in a deep voice: "Therefore, I need to leverage the power of Lord Lynn!"

"By using Lord Lynn's armored cavalry to break through McKinley's guard lines, and tear apart McKinley's peasant forces!"

Callum could clearly feel it.

Devant's calm words were filled with ambition and desire!

An ambition to annihilate McKinley Manor.

A desire to become the sole manor lord of Bo Xi Town!

Callum hesitated slightly and said: "If it is really as you say, Master, it is indeed the best."

"But... aren't you worried that after Lord Lynn destroys McKinley Manor."

"He might then turn his armored cavalry against your manor and destroy it too?"

Devant's expression darkened slightly and fell silent.

Callum continued: "Furthermore, if you unite with Lord Lynn to attack the supporter manors of Viscount Jon Zuck..."

"Isn't that betraying Viscount Jon Zuck?"

Devant said solemnly: "I've thought about the potential consequences for many years."

"Uniting with outsiders to attack Jon Zuck's supporter, McKinley Manor, inherently violates Jon Zuck's interests."

"It not only loses a supporter manor lord but also me, who annually contributes 50% of the manor's total yield as tribute."

"Bo Xi Town would then be beyond Jon Zuck's control, creating a rebellious manor lord who defies his will."

Devant paused in his speech.

"If Jon Zuck manages to lead the remaining five supporter manor lords to defeat Lord Lynn of Morgan Town."

"Then the next target to be annihilated would be my Benitez Manor."

"The Benitez Manor, which has been passed down through generations in Bo Xi Town, would end its legacy there!"

Callum nodded again.

Just as Master Devant said, he had long thought about all the consequences.

Devant's voice gradually grew louder.

"Even so."

"I, Devant Benitez, still want to give it a try!"

"Do you know, each time I respond to Jon Zuck's summons, where I sit in the meeting room?"

"At the very corner of the conference table!"

"Do you know what my experience is like in the meeting room each time?"

"Unless I speak first, Jon Zuck never mentions me!"

"Do you know how much benefit I get when it's time to divide the joint interest of the supporter manor lords?"

"Always! Always! It's the smallest portion."

"Or it's the leftover nobody wants."

"Whenever Jon Zuck calls for support, Benitez Manor has never refused."

"The 50% tribute of the manor's total yield required by Jon Zuck, Benitez Manor has never fallen short by a single pence!"

"I've also heard that only Benitez Manor pays 50% tribute!"

"Other supporter manors only need to pay 30%!"

"Even though Benitez Manor has been so dutiful and responsible."

"Why does Jon Zuck still suppress Benitez Manor?"

"Why does he still trample and humiliate the dignity of Benitez Manor?"

Bam!

Devant spoke the last sentence almost word by word.

His right hand clenched into a fist and slammed hard onto the desk in front of him.

The loud sound instantly woke the two maids on the bed.

The two maids sat up, their eyes filled with confusion and fear, scanning the room.

Upon seeing Callum standing still.

The two maids' eyes widened, and they quickly grabbed the silk bedding that had slipped beside them to cover their bare bodies.

Sigh~ Sigh~ Sigh~

Looking at Devant's massive fist on the desk.

Listening to Devant's breathy panting out of anger.

Callum bent slightly, speaking respectfully.

"Callum obeys any orders given by Master."

"Whatever you say, Callum will do!"

Devant, calming his breath, slowly retracted his somewhat numb and swollen right hand, and said in a deep voice.

"Dispatch a messenger guard, find the commander of that armored cavalry."

"I need to meet him face to face for talks!"

"If he fears an ambush from my side, I can go to a location he designates!"

Callum, without any hesitation, bent down in response.

"Yes, Master, Callum will arrange it immediately."

Devant pondered for a moment: "You may withdraw."

Callum bent over in salute again, took a few steps back, then turned towards the wooden door of the study.

As he walked, Callum couldn't help but tilt his head slightly.

The corner of his eye glanced at the right side of the bed.

Because the maids were startled awake, they were still using the bedding to cover themselves.

The whiteness that could be seen upon entering the study was now gone.

Callum felt a slight remorse, then withdrew his gaze, pushed open the wooden door in front of him, and left the study.

After closing the double wooden doors of the study for Devant, Callum walked towards the staircase not far away.

Callum's mind was pondering over the words Devant had just said.

Callum was indeed a bit surprised.

As Devant's Guard Captain.

He naturally knew about the suppression and exclusion Devant faced in front of Jon Zuck.

But he had never thought.

That Devant would want to use Lord Lynn's power to attack McKinley Manor!

Callum even felt.

This was no longer just ambition and desire.

It was an outright gamble!

Because, regardless of whether McKinley Manor could be captured.

Benitez Manor had already betrayed Jon Zuck!

Chapter 1090: Survivors of the Calamity

Callum descended the stone steps and entered the reception hall on the first floor of the manor residence.

Pierre, who had been waiting quietly, immediately stepped forward to greet him.

With an anxious expression, Pierre inquired of Callum.

"Guard Captain, what did the master say?"

Callum's brow furrowed instantly, and he retorted, "Did the master say anything that requires me to report to you?"

Pierre was taken aback, and hurriedly explained.

"Guard Captain, you misunderstand, the conversation between the master and you naturally doesn't need to be reported to a humble servant like me."

"Pierre just wanted to ask if you, sir, were ordered by the master to summon the guards to search for Captain Sai De and his group..."

"They haven't returned yet..."

Callum cast a glance at Pierre.

"Go gather a cavalry guard to accompany me outside."

Pierre's eyes lit up with surprise and joy, "Sir, are we going to rescue Captain Sai De and the others?"

Callum replied coolly, "Gather the guard team to go out and search for the armored cavalry."

"As for Sai De's matter, you need not concern yourself, the master has his arrangements."

By this point, Callum had spoken thus.

Naturally, Pierre did not inquire further, he responded promptly and exited the reception hall.

He went outside the manor residence to convey orders and assemble the guards.

As Callum stepped out of the manor residence, a team of guards standing beside their horses was already waiting.

Stepping through the gate, Callum cast his gaze over the approximately forty to fifty guards, and spoke in a deep voice.

"Gentlemen, this outing is to search for the armored cavalry that entered the master's manor territory!"

"But there is one thing I need to especially instruct you."

"Do not speak disrespectfully to the armored cavalry, and do not engage in any conflict with them."

"Do you understand?"

The guards looked at each other and could discern from Pierre's words.

The armored cavalry had intruded into Benitez Manor and even killed Fenrir.

Captain Sai De and two other guards were missing, their fates unknown.

Despite this, they still responded loudly.

"Understood! Understood!"

Callum nodded in satisfaction, "Everyone mount up and set off immediately!"

Responding loudly, the guards mounted their horses under Callum's lead.

Callum grasped the reins in his hands, changed direction.

With a squeeze of the horse's flanks, the horse neighed and galloped into the distant darkness.

Pierre and the other guards, likewise, mounted their horses, urging them to follow.

In the sounds of thundering hooves.

The glow from torches illuminated the path, gradually receding, finally engulfed by darkness.

The entire manor residence fell back into silence.

But for the guards and peasants living in the manor, even for Devant, the manor lord.

Tonight would be a sleepless night!

Standing by the third-floor window, Devant watched as Callum led dozens of guards away.

He withdrew his gaze and spoke to the two young maids on the large bed.

"Dress me!"

The two maids exchanged a puzzled glance and asked.

"Master, it's so late, why do you need to get dressed..."

Devant glared at the two young maids and said in a deep voice.

"You can comfortably lie in bed and serve me as I sleep."

"Or, like those peasants, toil arduously every day and live in animal pens!"

The two maids were startled, quickly got out of the bed, and began dressing Devant.

Even though they were completely nude, their fair, smooth curves and contours were unhidden.

The maids weren't concerned about exposure.

They feared the harsh life akin to the peasants more than anything.

Devant casually glanced at the scenery of the maids' bodies.

After dressing, Devant stepped out of the study.

Standing in the study, the two maids exhaled a long breath of relief.

Descending the stairs to the reception hall, Devant unabashedly called out.

"Someone! Come to me!"

The loud voice echoed throughout the silent manor castle.

Moments later.

Guards came running from afar, halting before Devant.

The guards looked fearful, asked hurriedly.

"Master, it's so late, what is the matter?"

Devant glanced at the guard captain, speaking in a deep voice.

"Relay this manor lord's orders: whether they are guards or peasants, immediately gather all the men in the manor."

"Assemble on the open square in front of the manor residence!"

Even though they didn't understand why Master Devant was doing this.

Master Devant is the manor lord of Benitez Manor, and his words are the highest directive.

The guard captain promptly responded, "Yes, master."

Without any hesitation, the guard captain and the guards retreated.

They went outside the manor residence, knocking on the doors of simple wooden houses.

Awakening the guards and peasants living inside to gather at the square by the manor residence.

Standing at the manor residence entrance, Devant had a serious expression, staring ahead.

Groups of peasants, led by the guards, arrived at the open square, forming ranks.

Scanning the faces of guards and peasants, Devant clearly saw confusion and fatigue.

Especially those peasants.

After a day's labor, they were already exhausted.