

System 501

Chapter 501: Such a Wicked Body (Part 2)

Lynn did not speak, waiting for Grayson's continued words.

Grayson continued to explain, "After driving the slaves off the longship, she took one of them towards Triumph City."

"However, Audrey did not tell me what she was going to do."

"It's not just this time, Audrey has always liked to act independently, never telling anyone her plans and purposes..."

Grayson tentatively guessed, "But I feel it might be related to the Karedi Empire's struggle for imperial authority!"

Lynn began to ponder in his mind.

Audrey, with the identity of a merchant, had already gotten involved in the Portlands Empire's imperial authority battle.

She became the manipulator behind Chronos.

She had reached a presence that can be admired but not reached.

Could it be that Audrey also wants to intervene in the Karedi Empire's struggle for imperial authority?

Grayson continued speaking, "Audrey said that if she has time, she will come to your territory and wants to see your Glazed Workshop."

"If she doesn't have time, she'll return directly to the Portlands Empire."

Lynn responded, "Lady Audrey is always welcome to come."

After Grayson poured out all the things he'd been wanting to tell Lynn.

Lynn and Grayson engaged in a casual chat.

From the reclaimed wasteland, to the armor and weapons being forged in the workshop, and then to the well-figured and beautiful Kari, who had just come of age.

Until two hours later.

All the goods were unloaded from the carts, heading towards the Glass Workshop.

Grayson stood up from his chair and went to the Glass Workshop to start selecting glazed glass.

With Beo and Layla in the Glass Workshop, and Grayson left to choose at will, he naturally didn't need accompaniment.

Lynn walked out of the castle, towards the Lord's Square in front of the town.

The originally pale and weak faces of the eight hundred slaves, after having food and a good rest in these two hours.

Their complexions visibly improved a lot.

However, their expressions on their faces remained bewildered.

Mere ordinary free people from the lord's city, they hadn't even been in combat before being captured by a group of soldiers!

Lynn didn't care what they thought now.

He directly handed each of them a farm tool and instructed Red to arrange the guard to drive them to the wasteland being reclaimed.

Seeing the guards in composite armor, wearing full face helmets, and holding war spears.

They, already scarred by war, looked and felt intimidated, not daring to resist.

They obediently joined the group reclaiming the wasteland.

No matter their backgrounds, skills, or strengths.

Lynn needed them to get familiar with this land underfoot, to get acquainted with the way of life and work here.

After they became familiar, he would sort the positions according to the slaves' skills and strengths!

Watching the slaves begin to reclaim the land, Lynn called forth Rose, who was ready to return to the mountain forest walls.

Coming in front of Lynn, Rose bowed, speaking respectfully, "Master."

Lynn responded, "Tonight during dinner, I will expand the army again."

"You should summon Wesley as well since I have something to announce."

Rose's somewhat thick eyebrows twitched, "Yes, Master!"

Lynn originally planned to expand the army after the spring planting ended.

But Grayson returned faster than he imagined and brought back eight hundred slaves.

He could completely hold the expansion ceremony ahead of time.

Let Rose lead and train the soldiers!

Sending Rose away with instructions to bring the soldiers back to the walls and watching as Rose led a hundred soldiers away in the distance.

Lynn withdrew his gaze.

At this time.

The wheels of carriages rolled over the ground from behind.

Lynn turned and looked, only to see Grayson leading a convoy of carriages emerging from the handicraft workshop.

Grayson's face was full of satisfied smiles as he approached Lynn, "Master Lynn, the three hundred pieces of glazed glassware have been selected."

"Not one more — you can count them!"

Lynn glanced at it and spoke, "That won't be necessary, Mr. Grayson's character is one I trust."

Grayson spoke gratefully, "Then Master Lynn, I will take my leave first?"

Lynn nodded, accompanying Grayson to the end of the Lord's Square before halting his steps.

Winter has passed, spring has arrived.

Merchants successively transported goods to his territory.

Boer with his agricultural products, Hunter with oxen and draft horses, Grayson with slaves, Alan with warhorses, Kari with goods, and Zed with special merchandise...

His territory will once again enter into rapid development.

Time swiftly passed by.

In the blink of an eye, it had reached dusk.

One by one, the townsmen finished their work from their respective posts and came back to the small town.

Ultimately, they gathered in the canteen.

After all the townsmen returned, Lynn with Red entered the canteen.

Returning from the castle, Rose, Wesley, and Earl followed behind.

The townsmen, who were waiting to receive dinner, saw the figure of Lynn.

Their eyes widened involuntarily.

From these few times, the townsmen knew that whenever Master Lynn appeared in front of them, it was always to announce something important!

Lynn stood at the forefront of nearly six thousand townsmen, his gaze scanning over them.

Chapter 502: Such a Wicked Body (Part 3)

Unlike before.

They did not dare to meet Lynn's gaze at all.

In their eyes were anxiety, shyness, fear, and even terror.

But now, when they looked at Lynn, their eyes were filled with bright admiration.

That kind of feeling... with just one word from Lynn, they would unhesitatingly lay down their lives for him!

Lynn took a deep breath and said in a deep voice, "Ladies and gentlemen, I am the lord of this territory—Lynn!"

The faces of the townsmen were full of seriousness.

"This time, I've gathered you here to announce two things that need to be informed."

"The first matter!"

"Starting today, a military merits promotion garrison system will be implemented on the territory!"

The faces of the townsmen showed confusion.

Lynn directly explained, "The military merits promotion garrison system is, simply put, a military system that integrates military defense and agricultural production!"

"The responsibilities and functions of the system are divided into two major parts: military merits promotion and military defense, agricultural production."

"In terms of military merits promotion, whether it is soldiers stationed on city walls or going out to battle."

"Farmers engaging in agricultural planting within the territory, blacksmiths performing forging in the blacksmith workshop."

"Or workers extracting minerals on mineral deposits, and so on..."

"Everyone can, based on their contributions, earn military merits. Based on the amount of military merits, everyone will have the opportunity for promotion and land rewards!"

"Promotion will lead to official positions; land rewards mean land privatization, requiring only minimal tax or grain payments."

"The ratio to be paid is merely one-tenth!"

The townsmen, who were originally filled with confusion and misunderstanding, upon hearing this, their faces were full of astonishment.

Even their mouths opened unconsciously.

Not only the townsmen.

Those standing beside Lynn—Red, Rose, Kuisi, were also filled with surprise.

These words, even as Lynn-appointed managers, were being heard for the first time.

Lynn continued, "I will establish a range of management roles on top of the garrison system."

"On the territory, a Governor's Mansion will be set up, governing various garrisons outside of the territory."

"Each garrison will generally consist of 5,600 people, establishing positions such as Commander."

"Under each garrison there will be five Thousand Households, each consisting of 1,120 people, establishing positions like Thousand Households."

"Under each Thousand Households, there will be ten Hundred Households, each consisting of 112 people, establishing positions like Hundred Households."

"Below Hundred Households, positions such as General Banner, Small Banner, and others will be established."

Even if someone does not wish to be drafted as a soldier, they can learn various skills for different positions, never missing the chance for promotion and land rewards!

For example, those skilled in carpentry can become carpenter workers; those skilled in blacksmithing can become blacksmiths..."

"More detailed content will be posted by Steward Kuisi in a notice board."

All who are unclear can go to the notice board to check.

While complicated, it's actually quite simple.

Just like how he divided tasks for different positions before.

Level 1 manages Level 1, forming a complete and strict military management system.

The combination of military merits promotion and the garrison system can overcome the drawbacks of the garrison system and also motivate all soldiers and townsmen to show their positivity and combat effectiveness.

The only downside is the evaluation of military merits, which has disparities.

For example, in a battle where multiple armies converge for a large-scale assault,

it's hard to determine whether the main attacking force's role is more significant or the logistics support and flank cover unit's credit is greater...

It might lead to internal conflicts.

However.

Lynn understands, there may never exist a perfect system in this world.

Listening to Master Lynn's explanation, even the townsmen who have never received any education have become excited at this moment.

They know that after the promulgation of this system by Master Lynn, as long as they work diligently and earn military merits, they will gain their own land!

Although they still need to pay taxes or grain, it's private land!

That is to say.

After receiving the land reward, they will own their land.

They can cultivate any crops they wish to plant.

The harvested crops can be sold to other townsmen.

Thus improving their living standards!

Compared to the arable land previously rented from manor lords which required a tax and grain ratio as high as one-half.

Master Lynn's one-tenth proposal is simply a drop in the ocean!

Although he has only briefly outlined the system to the townsmen.

Their faces are already full of eagerness.

Lynn nodded with satisfaction.

Previously, the territory always adhered to a mode of large-scale production, communal living, and shared resources.

Initially, there were indeed significant benefits.

All free people or slaves who came could eat and be full, increasing their loyalty to the lord.

But now, Lynn needs to change the operational mode of this territory.

He wants to tell these townsmen, he can continue providing food and shelter.

But that's the limit.

If they want to acquire land and live a better life, it depends entirely on their future efforts!

Lynn paused for a moment and continued to speak.

"The second matter."

"I need to select 400 strong and robust men from among you to expand the territory's army!"

Chapter 503: Such a Wicked Body (Part 4)

"After becoming soldiers, you will receive instruction from Instructor Ross."

"Physical training, instruction training, actual combat training..."

"Perhaps you will be injured, perhaps you will die on the battlefield."

"But if we want this territory to survive better, I need a band of iron-blooded soldiers who can gallantly give up their lives for the territory."

"Who is willing to become my, Lynn's, soldier?"

As Lynn's words fell, his gaze, like a knife or sword, swept across the crowd before him.

The next moment.

A burly man, over 1.8 meters tall, stepped out from the ranks.

"My Lord, I am willing to become your soldier!"

Lynn nodded, his gaze shifting, asking loudly, "Who else is willing?"

Two or three men stepped forward.

"I am willing."

"I'm willing too!"

"..."

With the initial brawny man leading, one man after another stepped forward.

Lynn said with satisfaction, "Very good, you are all warriors of this territory!"

"No matter what, you will all be remembered by this land!"

Lynn's gaze shifted, looking at Ross and the others.

Ross Wesley and Earl, the three of them, strode into the crowd.

Under the expectant gazes of the men, one by one, they were selected.

They left the crowd, standing at the very edge of the cafeteria, distinguishing themselves in this way.

Until half an hour later.

The three of Ross returned from the crowd, coming to stand beside Lynn.

Among the six thousand townsmen, there were at least over four thousand male townsmen.

Excluding some who were thin or not whole-bodied, there were at least over three thousand burly men.

The men who were not selected as soldiers had eyes full of disappointment.

They yearned to become Lynn's soldiers.

Not only because of the favorable treatment after becoming soldiers.

But more because they wanted to establish merits and achieve great things!

Ross bent down slightly, respectfully saying, "Master, the selection is complete."

Lynn responded and began to address everyone: "Everyone!"

"This recruitment and expansion of troops is not the first, nor will it be the last."

"This land will need more soldiers!"

"But before that, I need you to hold your respective posts, whether it's planting crops, mining coal..."

"Understood?"

The faces of the previously disappointed burly men lit up again.

A neat and powerful response echoed in the cafeteria.

"Understood!"

Lynn nodded with satisfaction, allowing the townsmen to start dining as he walked out of the cafeteria.

Ross and the other two, clad in armor, followed right behind.

Lynn turned back to glance at the three, saying, "Anything you want to ask?"

After exchanging glances, Ross was the first to speak, "Master, how is the military merit promotion system you mentioned calculated now?"

Wesley and Earl also looked at Lynn with curiosity.

Lynn explained, "Killing an enemy grants one point of military merit; accumulating ten points promotes one to Small Banner, managing ten soldiers!"

"Killing fifty grants fifty points of military merit, promoting to General Banner, managing five Small Banners."

"Above General Banner, Hundred Households, Thousand Households, and Commander are nominated and recommended by superior military, and appointed by me!"

"Nominations and recommendations are comprehensively evaluated based on their ability and battlefield performance."

Hearing this.

Ross and the others understood.

From now on, military merit earned in the army was the foundation for promotion.

Ability or battlefield performance determined the upper limit of promotion.

The system was simple and clear.

Seeing Ross's hesitant expression, Lynn continued, "Even with the newly recruited soldiers, the soldiers on our territory number only fifteen hundred."

"Ross will temporarily serve as Standard Thousand Households, Wesley as Deputy Thousand Households, and Earl as Hundred Households."

"Subsequently, adjustments will be made based on your abilities!"

"Now, for the Small Banners and General Banners under your command, you can select and appoint based on prior soldiers' performance in the city defense battle and the assault on Morrison Manor."

"One thing I need you to remember."

"As leaders of the soldiers, what they do is all within your sight."

"I need you to do everything possible to ensure the fairness of grassroots promotions."

"Because no matter who you are, going to the battlefield means life or death struggle!"

"Don't let them down, both their lives and their trust!"

On hearing this, Ross and the others shivered slightly.

Not because Lynn's words were so stirring.

But because they heard a sense of reluctance in Lynn's words.

Ross and the others replied respectfully, "Yes, Master."

Even Roswell and Wesley, who have a foundation and experience in combat.

To continue advancing, Lynn still needed to see their abilities and performance.

Lynn didn't care how long they had served as instructors.

If they have the ability, they are promoted; if not, they honestly remain ordinary officers!

It's that simple.

Lynn looked at Ross, saying, "These four hundred soldiers will be led by you for continuous training."

"Then select two hundred from those who have undergone physical training and assign them to Wesley for archery training to become archers."

During the last incursion into Morrison Territory, this issue was discovered.

Excluding the one hundred archers remaining on the walls, the dispatched two hundred archers were simply too few.

They could not achieve a large-area arrow rain cover!

To significantly weaken the enemy's living force before the two armies clash, the number and scale of archers must be increased.

Chapter 504: Such a Wicked Body (Part 5)

Rose and Wesley slightly bent over and answered, "Yes, master."

After announcing two major matters, Lynn had the three of Rose step back and conveyed the promotion system to all the soldiers.

He walked towards the castle.

Back in the castle.

After dinner, Lynn stopped Kuisi.

He explained in detail the promotion system on the territory.

Overall, from now on, the entire territory will implement a merit-based military promotion.

After explaining it once, Lynn said, "That's basically it. If there's anything you still don't understand, feel free to ask me anytime."

Kuisi nodded, "Yes, master."

The merit-based military promotion in the garrison system is essentially a way to consolidate his power, achieving centralized control through layered management.

Although the system he drafted is not as complete as the real garrison system, lacking various military departments.

Missing the Six Ministries, the Five Armies Commander's Mansion, the Inspectorate, and other departments.

But considering the current conditions and situation on his territory, even a simple merit-based military promotion system is enough to efficiently boost the townsmen's enthusiasm and the soldiers' combat strength.

After all, it's land!

Nearly completely privatized land!

Whether for the Free People or for the peasants, privatized land has always been something they can only dream of.

But now, the system drafted and issued by Lynn has given them hope.

Moreover, the missing departmental positions can be supplemented and added as needed.

Thinking of this.

Lynn couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

Now, it's just a matter of time, waiting for the townsmen to understand and become aware of the system, and then implementing it.

The labor efficiency on the territory might see a significant increase.

...

Under the night sky.

In front of a two-story high castle gate.

One cart after another loaded with goods, heading towards the darkness outside the Manor Castle.

On either side of the carts, guards on horseback held torches, lighting the way for the cart drivers.

At the gate of the manor.

Four figures stood.

Boer, Holland, Janet, and Guard Boger.

Watching as each cart passed by, Boer's eyes were filled with delight.

The carts were naturally loaded with barley.

This barley had been stored for years in the warehouse beneath the castle.

The warehouse environment was dry, with no signs of mold.

The only flaw was that quite a bit of the barley had been chewed by rats.

But it didn't really matter.

Janet's face seemed to bear a hint of nervousness.

Her gaze scanned the surroundings from time to time.

Only after confirming there were no unusual circumstances did Janet look at Boer.

Her words were full of praise, "It seems Mr. Boer is indeed quite capable!"

"In just a few days, you managed to gather One Thousand Gold Pounds..."

"That's not a small amount, is it?"

Boer said helplessly, "Miss Janet overpraised."

"To gather the funds to purchase your grain, I've emptied the coffers of every merchant in the guild."

Janet nodded calmly, without continuing the conversation.

Time passed swiftly.

Until the last cart drove out of the manor, Janet spoke, "The remaining five hundred thousand pounds of grain are in the warehouse in Morgan Town."

"You can wait until you've transported this batch, and then continue with the next!"

"Shall we set a time, how about five days later?"

Boer agreed, "In that case, that would be best, Miss Janet."

Transporting this batch of barley from the Manor Castle to Master Lynn's territory, at full cart speed, would take at least two to three days.

Five days would be enough time for a round trip!

Janet said, "I wish you a safe journey, Mr. Boer."

After bidding farewell to Janet, Boer and Holland climbed into the cart.

As the driver drove the horses, the horses followed at the rear of the convoy, disappearing into the darkness.

It wasn't until then.

Janet's somewhat tense body slightly relaxed.

Boger's voice sounded beside her, "Miss, isn't this too blatant?"

Janet turned her head and glanced at Boger, speaking calmly, "Blatant? So what?"

"I am acting on orders to handle and sell the barley stored in the warehouse for years."

"The price is according to market terms, at five pounds per pence, all accounted for in the Frank Clan's ledger."

Boger hurriedly bowed down, daring not to ask further questions.

Janet's tone changed, and she said to Boger, "Did you do what I asked you to?"

Boger replied, "It has been arranged, Miss."

"After he returns, he'll tell us the destination the convoy is heading to."

Janet responded with a sound, without speaking further.

She started walking, returning towards the castle.

For her, selling the barley in the warehouse was just one of the goals.

The second was that she wanted to know where the unknown forces lurking in the Kakasong City area were hiding!

Walking through the manor, she entered the castle.

Arriving on the second floor, Janet walked with Boger down the hallway.

When the two turned a corridor corner.

A burly middle-aged man walked towards them.

The original cold expression on Janet's face instantly gave way to a gentle smile.

As she walked up to the middle-aged man, Janet hurriedly bowed, "Uncle Krueger, it's so late, and you haven't rested yet?"

Seeing Janet's bow, causing the fullness and whiteness of her chest to reveal itself.

Chapter 505: Such a Wicked Body (Part 6)

Krueger raised an eyebrow.

He said without looking away, "Has the transaction entrusted by the old man been completed?"

Janet nodded and said, "Yes, uncle."

"In total, it's one million pounds, and we've transacted five hundred thousand pounds; the other party has paid five hundred gold pounds, which have already been deposited to the accounts."

"The remaining five hundred gold pounds will be paid after the barley transaction in Morgan Town's warehouse is completed."

Krueger acknowledged and generously praised, "Very well done, Janet, your ability is not even inferior to my elder brother!"

Janet showed a trace of trepidation on her face and quickly replied, "Uncle, you overpraise me."

"I am only acting according to grandfather's instructions, merely supervising and collecting money, that's all."

Hearing this, Krueger stepped to Janet's side.

He moved his right hand, placing it on Janet's shoulder.

The hand that naturally fell landed just in front of Janet.

Krueger seemed oblivious, gently touching from time to time.

A smile appeared in his words as he spoke, "Niece Janet, no need to be so nervous."

"My elder brother is your father, so you are my niece, praising you is only right."

Amid these words, Krueger's right hand greedily squeezed lightly in front of Janet.

Janet remained composed, "Then... thank you, uncle, for your praise."

"If uncle has nothing else, may I return to grandfather's room to report?"

Upon hearing the word 'grandfather,' Krueger somewhat restrained his actions.

"Go ahead."

Janet slightly bowed, "Uncle, please rest early."

Krueger nodded with satisfaction, "Alright."

Watching Janet's gracefully swaying round and full hips gradually retreat.

Krueger's eyes were reluctant to withdraw.

Murmuring whispers came out of his mouth, "What an evil body..."

"Wait, just wait..."

"When I become the head of the family, see how I tear off the mask on your face, and those thin shame coverings!"

At this point.

Krueger couldn't help but press his right hand to his face, gently sniffing.

...

In the blink of an eye, two days passed.

On Lord's Square.

Lynn watched the townsmen transporting the soaked barley seeds, sending the last dozens of bags to the fields.

Standing beside him, Kuisi explained, "Master, excluding the ten-day barley reserve, the rest has all been transported to the fields for planting..."

"Shall we continue?"

Lynn glanced at the [Resource Management] panel.

The remaining barley was only two hundred and fifty thousand pounds!

Calculating now with a population of nine thousand, each person consumes at least three pounds of food daily.

Combining barley, wheat, peas, meat, vegetables, and others.

The remaining two hundred thousand pounds of barley can sustain the townsmen for only ten days.

Even with last year's peas, it can only last twenty days at best.

If they continue to invest the barley for planting, townsmen will start to go hungry!

Lynn spoke, "Stop for now."

Kuisi nodded in understanding and said no more.

Lynn's gaze turned to the distance.

The dozens of bags of barley seeds just transported were not even enough for five thousand townsmen united in reclamation and planting to have a feast.

In just an hour, five thousand townsmen would have to stop working.

Lynn felt a sense of helplessness and lamentation in his heart.

Before stabilizing the food harvest in the fields, the more laborers there are on the territory, the greater the food pressure!

Yet despite this, Lynn still needed Grayson to continuously send slaves to his territory.

Labor is the foundation of everything!

Even if he gains various technologies through experience, without enough labor and population, he cannot implement them.

While pondering the breakthrough solution.

Beside him, Kuisi reminded, "Master, there's a convoy of carriages!"

Lynn raised an eyebrow and quickly turned to look.

Not far away on the lime road, four to five miles from the town, carriages resembling trains were coming towards the town.

Such a vast scale, such a large number.

Even exceeding the carriage convoy Boer used to transport grain last time.

Even without opening the [Holographic Map], Lynn could tell that Boer had acquired a large amount of grain and brought it to his territory.

After ten minutes.

The carriages stopped at Lord's Square.

Boer, riding on a horse, dismounted and strode to face Lynn.

Boer bent slightly, speaking respectfully, "Master Lynn, I did not disappoint!"

"Boer has found and procured a large quantity of barley seeds for you!"

"The barley seeds on the carriage weigh a total of five hundred thousand pounds."

"Another five hundred thousand pounds are prepared for the next trip to transport to Master Lynn..."

Lynn expressed admiration, "Indeed, Mr. Boer."

One million pounds of barley seeds!

Plus the seeds previously stored and transported, it is entirely enough for townsmen to cultivate and plant fifty thousand acres of fields.

The remaining four to five hundred thousand pounds of barley can even be used as reserve grain for transitioning from spring to the summer harvest.

Lynn looked at Kuisi behind him, needing no further instructions.

He started arranging the townsmen to begin unloading and continue to sift and soak the seeds.

Boer came to Lynn's side, explaining, "Master, I need to tell you in advance."

"These barleys have been stored in the warehouse for two years. If used for planting, it may affect the survival and germination rate of the seedlings."

Lynn acknowledged, "Thank you for the reminder, I will have Kuisi monitor this."

The germination rate of barley seeds decreases over time, leading to a decline in vitality.

However, with saltwater immersion, vitality can be maximized.

A yield reduction might occur.

But given the current conditions of the territory, Lynn has no alternatives.

He can only rely on post-planting fertilization and irrigation for later compensation.

Boer nodded, "As long as you, Master Lynn, are aware."

"I just worry that this issue might affect our cooperative relationship, which would not be worthwhile."

Lynn smiled calmly, "Of course not, Mr. Boer."

"But I am indeed curious, Mr. Boer, you mentioned before that due to the snowfall, no manor lord was willing to sell grain."

"Yet in just a few days, Mr. Boer, you have found over a million pounds of barley?"

Hearing this, Boer hesitated for a few seconds.

Ultimately, without any reservation, he began to explain.

"Master Lynn, this batch of grain was purchased from Jonas Manor in Morgan Town."

"Moreover, the price for this batch of barley far exceeds the market price."

"Two pounds per penny!"

Chapter 506: Massacre

Lynn nodded slightly, showing no surprise.

The time since Boer last came to his territory wasn't long.

To be able to purchase such a large amount of barley in such a short time and deliver it quickly to his territory,

the only possibility is that he traded with the manor lords in Morgan Town.

Only large manor lords could have stored so much barley for several years.

Lynn roughly calculated in his mind.

One million pounds of barley, at a price of two pounds per penny, if converted to five pence per pound of fine salt.

He needs to exchange one hundred thousand pounds of fine salt with Boer!

With a thought, Lynn opened the [Resource Management] panel.

Fortunately, after a month of salt mining and production, the storage of fine salt has more than one hundred twenty thousand.

Otherwise, he really couldn't afford these one million pounds of barley!

Lynn spoke, "No problem, I can compensate you for this price difference!"

Hearing Lynn's response, Boer looked delighted, feeling somewhat relieved.

"Thank you for your generosity, Master Lynn."

Fortunately, Master Lynn is willing to cover the price difference.

Otherwise, this barley price could directly bankrupt him and all the merchants under his association, costing them everything.

That's one million pounds of barley at double the price!

Boer thought to himself.

Perhaps, it's only because someone urgently needed barley seeds for planting.

And has a salt mine, like Master Lynn, willing to purchase a large amount of barley at double the price.

Lynn responded with a nod and said to Boer, "Mr. Boer, I remember you mentioned before that many manor lords are unwilling to sell barley."

"Why is Jonas willing to sell you a hundred pounds now?"

Boer, hearing this, didn't think much, "Master Lynn, a merchant under my association named Holland is the eldest grandson of the Zion Clan, one of the former manor lords of Morgan Town."

"The Zion Clan has always been on good terms with Jonas Manor."

"Through Holland's recommendation, I went to Frank Manor and met Jonas's oldest granddaughter, Janet Frank."

"She sold me this one million pounds of barley overnight."

Lynn said nothing, quietly listening.

Boer continued, "These five hundred thousand pounds of barley come from the warehouse at Jonas Manor."

"And another five hundred thousand pounds are stored in the grain warehouse of Morgan Town. Once unloading is complete, I will return to Morgan Town to transport them to you, Master Lynn..."

Suddenly Boer changed the subject, curiously saying, "However, Master Lynn..."

"What I can't understand now is a sentence Janet mentioned."

"She said, 'I can replace Jonas to agree to the trade with me'!"

"And Janet's tone seemed to imply a lack of Gold Pounds..."

Lynn still said nothing, pondering in his mind.

One million pounds of grains, for an ordinary manor lord with ten thousand acres of farmland, is nearly a year's entire grain production.

According to Boer's words, Janet Frank is merely Jonas's eldest granddaughter.

Above Janet, there must be her father or uncles.

How could a granddaughter bypass her elders to make decisions for her grandfather?

Thinking of this, Lynn couldn't help frowning.

The information he had was still too little.

Seemingly sensing Lynn was deep in thought, Boer quickly said, "Right, Janet's biological father, Jonas's eldest son, passed away a long time ago."

"The reason is still unknown."

Upon hearing this.

Lynn's eyebrows immediately raised.

Jonas's eldest son, Janet's father, is deceased?

So that's it, Lynn instantly understood.

Janet being able to say, 'I can replace Jonas to agree to the trade with me'.

Clearly, she got Jonas's permission!

The reason for the permission is naturally because Jonas wants to support his eldest granddaughter, Janet, to become the next manor lord of the Frank Clan.

Other than that, Lynn couldn't think of any possibility.

As for Jonas's fourth son Eduardo, who was intercepted and killed by bandits sometime ago...

Lynn looked at Boer, "Does Jonas have many bloodline descendants?"

Boer thought for a few seconds and explained, "It seems he has twelve sons!"

"Six of them are adults..."

Listening to Boer's explanation, Lynn couldn't help but nod.

Lynn felt that if he guessed right, the death of Jonas's fourth son, Eduardo.

Must have a great connection with Janet.

In a world where the law of primogeniture prevails, even if the eldest son dies, there are other sons.

It wouldn't fall to a granddaughter to inherit.

For a granddaughter to inherit, there's only one possibility—all her uncles must die!

So, Eduardo isn't likely to be the last son of Jonas to die!

Thinking of this.

Lynn's heart was filled with anticipation.

What kind of woman is Janet to have such a snake-like heart?

He was more curious.

As a manor lord and biological father, does Jonas know his eldest granddaughter is killing his son?

If he doesn't know, that's one thing.

If he knows and allows it...

Even a tiger doesn't eat its own cubs.

This would be too cruel!

Lynn thought for a moment.

It's not just the Frank Clan, how is the Ducas Clan any different?

Withdrawing the thought.

Lynn said to Boer, "Mr. Boer, if possible, try to stay away from Frank Manor."

Chapter 507: Massacre (Part 2)

Boer responded, "Thank you for your guidance, Master Lynn."

Lynn nodded.

Under the transport of two hundred townsmen who had been mobilized, bag after bag of grain was stored in the warehouse.

The townsmen team responsible for sorting barley seeds was busy once again.

They rotated the handles of their windmills, using the rotation of the blades to blow out the hollow and shriveled grains mixed in the barley from the back of the windmill.

Not to mention the fifty thousand cattles that Boer had promised.

The fifty thousand cattles of barley currently being unloaded are enough to plant fifty thousand acres of farmland.

The remaining barley can completely serve as reserves for the transition into summer!

Looking at those bags filled to the brim with linen barley sacks.

Lynn, who originally worried about not having enough grain, couldn't help but exhale hot air.

Lynn found that every time development reached a certain level, different predicaments and crises would appear.

From the initial lack of grain when development began, to facing wolf packs, to a lack of labor, bandit invasions, and now again facing a grain shortage...

But regardless of anything.

This piece of land is still developing rapidly!

Boer also looked at the townsmen from the small town who were transporting goods, and he suddenly thought of something.

"Master Lynn, I suddenly thought of something..."

Lynn turned his head to look at Boer, "Tell me."

Boer's eyebrows slightly furrowed, "When I met Janet for the first time, she tested me!"

"To negotiate the price, I said that with my and the guild's strength, we couldn't handle two pounds per penny and reach one million catties of barley."

"Then she said, 'What about the person behind you?' That was Janet's exact words."

"That was her exact words."

"Master Lynn, since the first time I began trading with you, I've never revealed your existence and your territory."

"However, I feel that if someone is observant, they will certainly notice the changes in Morgan Town."

One wagon team after another came from Kakasong City, either passing through Morgan Town or bypassing it, heading to more remote and frontier places.

If you want not to attract anyone's attention, that's impossible!

Moreover.

Boer, in the beginning, was just an ordinary local crop merchant.

If he didn't encounter any opportunity, it would be difficult for him to change his identity in his lifetime.

Not to mention accumulate wealth, gather three locals, establish a guild, and become the president of the small guild in Morgan Town within a mere year.

Lynn nodded and said, "Thank you for the reminder, Mr. Boer."

"Speaking of which, Mr. Boer needs to pay more attention to safety."

"I wouldn't want Mr. Boer, who has been my partner for so many years, to suddenly disappear without a trace, forcing me to find a new partner again."

As for Janet's test and the attention of those observant people that Boer mentioned.

Lynn was powerless.

It's impossible to transport with wagons without attracting any attention.

Boer said nothing, only sincerely lowered his head.

He naturally knew that the words Master Lynn spoke seemed to show concern and provide a reminder.

Yet, in reality, wasn't it also a warning?

As long as he encounters an accident or betrays Master Lynn.

Master Lynn wouldn't mind finding a new partner!

For Master Lynn, it might only take a little time.

After all, the price of fine salt at five pence per pound is something that would make any merchant go crazy.

Even if it means being a slave for Master Lynn!

Especially for local merchants like him who have ordinary backgrounds and no sales channels for goods.

This is an opportunity and a chance to change destiny.

Several hours later.

All the barley was transported off Boer's wagon team.

Fifty thousand pounds of fine salt was then loaded onto Boer's wagon team.

After saying goodbye to Master Lynn, Boer, under the cover of night, led his wagon team towards the mountain forest pass to leave the small town.

Janet only gave him five days.

He must quickly head to Kakasong City to sell the fine salt on the wagons.

After obtaining Gold Pounds from the sale of fine salt, he must then go to buy the remaining fifty thousand catties of barley from Morgan Town!

Though it seems cumbersome, Boer has no choice.

Only this way can he have enough capital.

Watching Boer head off into the distance, Lynn began to walk back to the castle.

After dinner, Lynn entered his study and sat at the walnut desk.

The grain problem is temporarily solved.

Lynn needs to continue refining the military merit garrison system.

The system released now is merely rough clauses.

He still needs to continuously detail different positions.

For instance, there are different roles within the Blacksmith Workshop.

Such as Ehrelo, the foreman of the Blacksmith Workshop, blacksmith apprentices, and some miscellaneous workers.

Lynn's initial idea was that a foreman working for one month would earn three military merits, apprentices working for one month would earn two, and miscellaneous workers working for one month would earn one.

Every hundred military merits would reward one acre of farmland!

If completing urgent forging tasks, like previously forging a Wheel Plow within limited time.

Additional military merits could also be awarded.

As townsmen accumulate more military merits, changes in identity and status need to be set.

Such as ranks within the military system like Hundred Households, Thousand Households, Commander...

This allows townsmen to clearly understand that gaining military merits can change their identities and improve their status.

Thereby, enhancing their labor enthusiasm!

Chapter 508: Slaughter _3

However, the military merits of the townsmen must be distinguished from those of the soldiers.

If the soldiers kill one enemy and gain one point of military merit, wouldn't they have to kill a hundred enemies?

For those with skills or extraordinary abilities, it might be possible.

Ordinary soldiers can participate in a few wars and still survive.

That's already something to be grateful for.

Therefore.

The military merits of the soldiers must be adjusted.

Soon, Lynn had an idea in mind.

Promotion to Small Banner, rewards two acres of farmland.

Promotion to General Banner, rewards ten acres of land.

Promotion to Hundred Households, rewards fifty acres of land.

Promotion to Thousand Households, rewards a hundred acres of land!

And so on...

As for later, with more and more wars, more and more soldiers rising through the ranks.

Will there be a situation where the reward of farmland is not enough?

Lynn never worried!

As long as they win battles, there will be endless land!

Not to mention,

The wasteland outside the city walls has at least hundreds of thousands of acres!

Because it's located in a remote area with a lack of people for restructuring and management, coupled with poor soil, no lord has ever thought of coming to cultivate and plant.

Too much farmland, not enough labor, just can't manage it all.

But.

He can completely organize the townsmen to open up tens of thousands of acres of wasteland.

To be used in the future as farmland rewards for military merits!

While expanding the cultivated area, townsmen can also gain their own farmland.

A win-win situation!

...

With the 500,000 pounds of barley sent by Boer.

The processes of sorting and soaking in well water were accelerated.

The cultivation and planting in the farmland never paused, always proceeding at a rapid pace.

To make the progress of cultivation more sequential, Lynn also joined in.

Planting while grinding on [Planting] skill experience.

In the blink of an eye.

A week has passed.

In the afternoon.

Lynn was still grinding on [Planting] skill experience.

[Planting Experience +1]

[Planting Experience +1]

[Planting Experience +1]

...

Lynn straightened up from his bent over sowing posture.

He was just about to open the [Heavenly Artifacts] panel to take a look.

A text panel floated into his view.

[Your Planting has risen to Level 3, unlocking: Merit]

[Reward received: Talent Duplication Book ×1]

[Merit]: Can set corresponding rules and conduct big data statistics based on the actions of residents on the territory.

Seeing the text description in front of him, Lynn couldn't help but raise an eyebrow.

Previously he was worried that the statistics of military merit would face a big problem.

Even if in every workshop, position, and within the army, special personnel were arranged to be responsible for the statistics.

There would still be errors in statistics.

But now with [Merit], it's completely different.

He only needs to input the corresponding rules into [Merit], and it will automatically conduct statistics.

Time-saving and labor-saving!

Handing the wicker filled with numerous seeds to the townsman beside him.

Lynn stepped out of the farmland.

Walking towards the dock of the Aladia River, he spoke to the guard: "Prepare the fishing gear, I want to prepare for fishing."

Two guards heard this and promptly bent over, taking big strides back to the town.

The [Planting] skill has leveled up, he can temporarily set aside working in the farmland for experience.

Besides, with Kuisi, Gavin, and Wilbur, along with two hundred farmers present.

Simple labor like planting barley can totally be left to Kuisi to manage.

Upon arriving at a fixed point distant below the dock.

Amidst the respectful gazes of the dock workers, Lynn sat upon a wooden chair.

Taking the fishing rod and bait brought by the guard from the town, Lynn entered [Fishing] mode after setting them up.

In [Fishing] mode, while gaining Energy Stones by fishing, he opened the [Merit Statistics] to edit rules for gaining military merit.

With previous considerations, Lynn hardly needed much thinking.

Just filling in his ideas one by one was enough.

Army Soldiers: Kill enemy soldier $\times 1 = 10$ military merit, kill enemy knight $\times 1 = 1000$ military merit

Knight, those are extraordinaries with different abilities!

Townsmen: A foreman working on-site for a month = 3 military merits

...

Then.

Lynn supplemented some other ways of gaining military merits.

For example, from a blacksmith apprentice, through diligent study and practice, achieving the blacksmith's graduation standard can directly gain a hundred points of military merit!

That is, directly reward one acre of farmland.

The reward of farmland is far more practical than any gold pounds or food.

After half an hour.

Lynn glanced at [Merit], for the current territory, the military merit acquisition rules he filled in are sufficient.

Even with continuous development, new content may appear.

He can completely amend it again.

As for the consistency of [Merit]'s rationality, Lynn believes he has achieved balance.

No matter if they are townsmen or soldiers, as long as they are hardworking and diligent enough, anyone has a chance to advance and receive land rewards!

As for whether the townsmen can accept it...

Better if they can accept it.

Even if they can't, they have to accept it.

The final right of explanation belongs to him as the lord!

With a thought, he closed the [Merit] interface.

Lynn devoted himself to fishing, his eyes on the surface of the river where an oval soft cork float bobbed.

This was cut and carved by Red for him.

Before, a simple reed rod picked randomly from the riverside, after one winter, was already dried and shrunk beyond recognition.

Suddenly, the cork float on the river sank.

Chapter 509: Massacre [Part 4]

Lynn did not hesitate for a moment, abruptly raising the fishing rod in his hands, suddenly feeling a weight attack.

The magic deer sinew fishing line tightened, and the fishing rod also bent.

However, compared to the previous ten or so pounds of barracuda.

As soon as Lynn got a hold, he could feel that the river fish hooked was not very big.

With his current physical quality and strength, a carp weighing two or three pounds barely required playing the fish.

Relying on the resilience of the rod and the magic deer sinew, he could directly lift it out.

[Tip]: Obtained ordinary fish: carp ×1, reward: 10 energy stones

Looking at the text in front of him.

Lynn raised an eyebrow.

Ten energy stones were also quite good.

Even a mosquito's legs are meat.

After letting the guard take down the carp hooked on the fishhook, Lynn continued to put on chicken guts as bait and tossed it back into the river.

Until nightfall.

When he was almost unable to see the floating cork bobber on the river surface, Lynn finally reeled in and walked back.

A thought flashed through his mind.

Lynn glanced at the energy stones he now possessed, having reached thirty-five hundred.

With his Level 3 planting skills, he could now devote more time to fishing.

For one, with good luck, he might catch big fish and obtain various skill books.

On the other hand, even if he didn't catch big fish, catching some smaller fish weighing a few pounds could yield more energy stones.

Now, aside from the task function not having been released for a long time and the milestone function.

This was his only quick way to obtain energy stones.

Therefore.

He wanted to take advantage of the current spring season and fish more energy stones to exchange for Emperor Potatoes in the Special Seed Store!

Lynn clearly felt that to obtain a large amount of food, he must improve the seeds of crops planted in the soil.

With fertilizer and wheel plowing.

The yield of the already planted winter barley would certainly far exceed that of the originally planted wheat per-acre yield.

But even if he calculated with one hundred eighty pounds per acre.

The hundred thousand acres of farmland could only yield eighteen million pounds of barley.

Calculated with the current population of nine thousand on the territory, consuming three pounds of food per person per day.

Add various poultry and livestock, even with a population of ten thousand.

Eighteen million pounds of barley would only be enough for a year's consumption for ten thousand people!

What if the population reached twenty thousand or thirty thousand?

The population in the territory would definitely continue to grow!

By that time, unless everyone was involved in cultivation and planting labor.

Otherwise, sooner or later, the townsmen on the territory would face hunger again!

The key reason is—the per-acre yield of barley and wheat is too low!

After heavy plowing and fertilization, the maximum yield per acre is only one hundred eighty pounds.

Twenty pounds of seeds are invested per acre for planting.

Calculating by acre, the barley produced from one acre is only enough for one person to consume for three months!

It's really too little.

Lynn also considered using the previous crop variety improvement function to improve these barley seeds.

But.

One thousand energy stones can only improve ten thousand pounds!

For barley seeds now needing hundreds of pounds, he couldn't bring out that many energy stones.

Therefore.

Fishing for energy stones to exchange for Emperor Potatoes was the best option.

They can now adjust the exchange ratio, consuming three thousand energy stones to exchange for three hundred pounds of Emperor Potatoes.

But three hundred pounds are too few.

Moreover, with the method of planting with cut seed potatoes, planting one acre requires at least three hundred pounds of potato seeds!

It's just planting one acre.

He needs to fish more energy stones as potato seeds to expand next year's potato planting scale.

He needs to at least exchange for nine hundred pounds to plant three acres of farmland!

Calculating with a potato yield of three thousand pounds per acre, with careful care, potatoes could be harvested and dug up in September.

Obtain nine thousand pounds of potatoes.

Next year, again use cut seed potatoes as seed method for thirty acres.

By September next year, Lynn would harvest ninety thousand pounds!

Repeating this cycle, in a maximum of three years, the potatoes he owns would multiply.

Though this time is lengthy, Lynn still needs to put the exchange and planting of Emperor Potatoes on the agenda.

Only by having more highly productive crop seeds planted in the soil.

Can he liberate the townsmen from farming!

Five thousand people spending two months to plant the territory's needed food versus five hundred people planting the territory's needed food.

The concept is completely different!

If five hundred people can complete the labor, then the remaining four thousand five hundred people, Lynn can have them continue staying at their posts.

And continue accelerating production labor at their posts.

As he contemplated.

Lynn returned to the castle with Red.

Looking at the food placed on the table, Lynn stepped to the main seat at the dining table.

The maid responsible for pulling out his armchair before—Yaya, was no longer in the castle.

With the ability of transformation disguise, unless Yaya stood in front of Lynn.

Otherwise, even if Lynn opened the holographic map to search, it would be hard to find her.

Now, the town had so many red brick houses, nearly four or five thousand!

Despite the initial planning he had for the entire town's construction.

Chapter 510: Massacre [Part 5]

But the number of Red Brick Houses is indeed overwhelming.

Finding a stranger among them, unless you go by the [Population Register],

otherwise, it is indeed difficult to find them!

Lynn didn't mind much.

Perhaps it's because Yaya only has half succubus blood.

Her abilities focus on charm and transformation, without needing to absorb others' essence qi and life energy.

As long as she doesn't cause a disturbance, letting her lurk in the town doesn't have much impact.

Letting Red and Kuisi sit down, the three of them started their dinner together.

Half an hour later, dinner was finished.

Just as Kuisi was about to leave with the maid, she suddenly remembered something.

"Lord, when you were out, Avery from the Stonemason Workshop came to the castle."

Lynn responded and asked, "Was there anything?"

Kuisi explained, "Foreman Avery said that the main construction of Weng City is nearing completion."

"He asked me to tell you if you need to conduct a preliminary inspection?"

"If not, he would prepare to finalize it..."

Lynn nodded and said, "I understand, I'll handle it myself."

Kuisi bowed and left with the maid.

Lynn still sat in the main seat, as he thought, he opened the [Holographic Map].

At that instant.

The outline of the wall at the mountain pass appeared before his eyes.

Despite it being night now, Lynn could still clearly see the wall's image under the night sky.

On the wall, dozens of soldiers responsible for the night watch stood firm, scanning the wasteland beyond the wall.

Beside them, several fire pits built up swayed and burned under the mountain wind.

Behind the wall was a square Weng City as tall and thick as the wall, connected by the passage atop the wall!

At first glance, it looked like a square 'mouth' shape built behind the wall.

And this was the shape of Weng City.

Beneath the Weng City walls, there is also a gate, but it's not on the same straight line.

This construction method is intended to alter the enemy's attack line after breaking through the first iron gate of defense.

Thus delaying the attack's pace.

On top of Weng City, wall battlements and arrow slits are constructed to protect soldiers from the arrows shot by enemies below.

At the same time, also allowing for defensive combat against the enemy.

Inside the Weng City structure, hidden soldier tunnels were set up.

This greatly strengthened the wall's defense ability!

Under Lynn's thought manipulation, the image in front continued to move and stretch.

After half an hour.

Lynn finally closed the [Holographic Map Projection] with satisfaction.

The main structure of Weng City was already built.

Now what's missing is the gate's production and various defensive machinery installations.

With the current workforce in the Blacksmith Workshop, in three to five days at most, they can make a set of iron sheets to fully cover the city gate!

Once Weng City is fully constructed, the safety level of his territory will increase once again.

Even if the first wall's gate is breached, soldiers stationed on the wall can continue to hold by relying on Weng City.

Thoughts turned in Lynn's mind.

With Avery leading eight hundred construction workers, he can even consider constructing another Outer City!

Yet.

Ultimately, Lynn temporarily abandoned this plan.

After the Inner City was completed.

He needed Avery to lead the construction workers outside the city, to build watchtowers, beacon towers, and outpost fortresses!

Once these guard defensive structures were built.

He could consider further construction.

After all, large structures like city walls and Weng City are indeed too time-consuming and labor-intensive!

...

The next morning.

After breakfast, Lynn left the castle.

He went straight to the Woodworker Workshop in the Handicraft Workshop District.

Though it was still early, the apprentices in the workshop were already engaged in production.

Colin, who was inspecting the workshop, spotted Lynn and went up to greet him.

Facing Lynn, Colin bowed and said, "Lord."

Lynn responded and straightforwardly said, "Report the number of machinery produced in the workshop."

Colin hesitated not a moment and began to explain.

"Twenty wolf fang clubs, fifteen winches for rotating."

"The catapults and semen knife cars, etc., have not yet started production..."

Lynn nodded, "Avery's Weng City is already reaching completion phase."

"You arrange personnel to handle the production of wolf fang clubs and winches, arrange personnel to transport them to the wall."

"Then measure the size according to Weng City's gate, produce iron gates and semen knife cars, then quickly produce the remaining machinery."

"Each of the catapult and crossbow cannons are needed in ten numbers!"

Large machinery like catapults requires much time for production.

Production won't naturally move quickly.

But even now he wasn't planning to start external plundering.

He still needed Colin's Woodworker Workshop to begin research and production.

He doesn't necessarily need to use large machinery, but he can't be without them!

Colin nodded understandingly and responded, "Yes, Lord."

After inspecting the various workshops and receiving reports from foremen.

Lynn strode towards the docks.

Sitting on the wood chair of the breakwater, he invested himself in [Fishing] again.

...

Meanwhile on the other end.

In a bustling town.

Under the shoving and scolding of soldiers in leather armor, team after team of townsmen were gathered into an open space.