

System 601

Chapter 601: Inviting the Wolf Into the House (10,000 Words) (Part 4)

At least.

With the guidance of the [Ore Vein Detector], they don't need to wander around aimlessly like headless flies.

At this moment.

The sound of footsteps reached Lynn's ears.

He turned his head and saw Kuisi walking towards him.

As she approached, Kuisi reminded him, "Sir, the hot water is ready. You can soak now."

Lynn responded, "I'll go right away."

He stood up from the recliner and headed towards the private room.

With Kuisi's assistance, he took off his robe and stepped into the bathtub.

As Lynn slowly lay back, the comfortable and warm water gradually enveloped him.

Lynn glanced at Kuisi standing beside him, "Come to help me with a massage after I've soaked for ten minutes."

Recently, he had been involved in continuous labor of cutting down trees.

The muscles on his body felt indeed somewhat sore and swollen.

Kuisi bent slightly, "Yes, sir."

With her words, she walked out.

Leaving the private room with Lynn soaking alone in the bathtub.

Wisps of white mist slowly rose from the water surface and eventually dispersed into the air.

...

Elsewhere.

In Frank Manor.

Teams of soldiers in chain armor were continually patrolling the Manor Castle.

Since the family upheaval last time.

The defense power of the Frank Manor Castle had obviously seen a huge enhancement.

Even the soldiers who had always guarded the territory had returned to the Manor Castle.

Nevertheless.

The entire Manor Castle remained silent.

Then.

The sound of galloping horses broke the night's serenity.

Charging from the distant darkness towards the Manor Castle.

The soldiers stationed on the castle dragged the torch and light from the oil lamp at the gate and saw the burly middle-aged man leading the way.

The soldier hurriedly shouted, "Open the gate, it's Master Joao returning!"

Following the soldier's words, a series of busy running sounds arose.

Accompanied by the sound of chains loosening, until finally, a low thudding sound as the castle gate settled onto the ground.

Joao led over a dozen chain armor cavalry, streaming in.

Entering the castle.

Joao agilely dismounted from his horse.

Handing the reins to the soldier behind him, he spoke to the people, "Everyone, go rest."

The soldiers' faces stiffened, and they responded promptly, "Yes, Master."

Joao acknowledged, threw the cloak drifting to his face, and strode towards the stairs leading to the second floor.

Mounting the stairs, he reached the second floor, greeted respectfully by several patrolling soldiers.

His gaze settled on the two maids in the hall, and he asked.

"Where's Lady Janet?"

One maid quickly replied, "Master, the Manor Lord should be in her room."

Joao wasted no words, he walked through the hall straight towards the corridor at the back.

Turning through a series of corridors, shortly, Joao arrived before a double door.

Without hesitation, Joao raised his right hand and knocked on the door.

"Lady Janet, Joao has matters to report."

His voice fell, as seconds ticked by, yet no response from Janet came.

Joao's brows furrowed, he raised his hand again and knocked.

"Janet?"

"Janet!"

The shouted calls rang out, still Janet gave no response.

Joao's expression changed, raising his right foot, he kicked heavily at the double wooden doors.

With his thick-legged strike, the double wooden doors couldn't withstand.

The latch behind the door broke with a loud crack.

Joao immediately stepped inside, entering Janet's room.

The next second.

A terrified shriek sounded from within the room.

Joao heard the sound and quickly scanned for the source.

In a large wooden tub, the snow-white Janet was soaking.

Her wet long hair, glistening water droplets on her skin, cheeks flushed with moisture akin to that after intense exercise...

Especially the rounded fullness of creamy whiteness before her which reflected in Joao's eyes.

Joao's eyes widened, quickly turning away, hurriedly explaining, "Sorry, Janet."

"I knocked several times but received no response; I thought you were in danger."

"I'll... I'll wait for you outside the door!"

Having said that, Joao stepped out of the room.

As soon as he closed the door.

The sound of running footsteps came from the distance down the corridor.

A few seconds later.

Several soldiers in chain armor with scimitars at their waists arrived.

The squad leader glanced at the door kicked open by Joao and the ruined double wooden door.

He hesitated.

Joao spoke in a deep voice, "Continue to patrol; everything is fine here."

Upon hearing this, the squad leader promptly replied, "Yes, Master!"

Without any hint of hesitation, he led the soldiers away immediately.

Watching the soldiers leave, Joao's mouth slightly opened, exhaling a breath of warm air.

Yet for all that, the scene in his mind wouldn't fade.

Not until a moment later.

Janet's voice called from the room.

"Uncle Joao, you can come in now."

Joao hesitated momentarily, finally stepping forward, pushing the door open.

His gaze slightly shifted.

Chapter 602: Inviting the Wolf Into the House (10,000 Words) (Part 5)

Soon.

He saw Janet sitting on a high-backed wooden chair.

Her hands were clasped in front of her, draped in animal fur over a thin silk robe.

The robe was overly loose, and the hem fell onto the carpet on the floor.

The pair of long crossed fair legs was directly exposed to Joao's gaze.

Joao glanced briefly and then shifted his eyes away.

Standing a few meters in front of Janet, Joao spoke calmly, "Lady Janet, I have urgent matters to report to you!"

Perhaps due to the recent bath, Janet's skin was flushed red, and even her breathing was slightly hurried.

Janet spoke, "Uncle Joao, please go ahead."

Joao acknowledged with a sound and began to explain.

"A few days ago, Manor Lord Banaby invited Theodore and Will to his manor."

Janet furrowed her brow, "Will went too?"

Joao confirmed, "Yes, he also went."

"According to the information from my informant, their meeting was to discuss one issue."

Janet did not speak, waiting for Joao to continue.

"They discussed—how to destroy our Frank Manor!"

Janet's brow furrowed even deeper.

However, she did not react and instead continued to ask Joao, "Uncle Joao, what was the outcome?"

"Did they reach an agreement?"

Joao shook his head, "No, Janet."

"From what I know, they reached a disagreement over the final distribution of benefits."

"Because Manor Lord Will said that dividing Frank Manor into three was unfair!"

Janet fell silent.

She had asked Will directly whether he would stand with Frank Manor.

Initially, Janet thought Will would consider the favor Jonas did for him in helping him become a Manor Lord and stand on the same side as Frank Manor.

However, Will told her he would stand with the victors.

Now, Will had gone to Banaby's manor and attended the gathering.

To outsiders, it seemed he was closer to Manor Lords Banaby and Theodore.

Yet, Will also raised such concerns, subtly blocking the alliance among the Three Great Estates.

For a moment, Janet did not know how to determine Will's stance.

Her gaze turned towards Joao opposite her, enquiring, "Uncle Joao, what do you think we should do now?"

Joao's gaze swept over Janet, hesitating for a few seconds.

"Banaby and Theodore have always coveted Frank Manor for long."

"Previously, they were restrained due to the old man's balance, so they dared not attempt anything."

"But now, the old man has passed away, and the Ducas Clan's relationships in Kasong City and Bordeaux City have been severed."

"The Frank Clan can hardly gain the blessed favor of past nobility and Lords..."

Joao continued, "Even if the current military strength of Frank Manor surpasses each estate."

"But if they unite, Frank Manor will have no defense!"

Janet nodded in agreement.

Joao's tone shifted.

"But Janet, luckily, Lawrence is still staying in Morgan Town."

"You know the Ducas Clan has never liked internal conflicts among vassals."

"Even if it's just a minor Manor Lord!"

Janet nodded again, "We can find a way to break the stalemate while Lawrence is still in Morgan Town."

"As soon as Lawrence leaves, immediately launch an attack on the Three Great Estates."

"Bring the entire Morgan Town under control!"

"Since they want to destroy the Frank Clan, they must be prepared to be annihilated!"

Feeling the ambition and boldness in Janet's words, Joao slightly nodded.

Looking at the young Janet before him, he showed an approving look.

Generations ago, Frank Manor has always balanced the entire Morgan Town and the four major estates.

Moreover.

It has always nurtured five hundred full-time cavalry, ready to charge for the manor.

Horses, chain armor, and lance!

Except for responding to Marquis Donovan Ducas's summons for one battle before.

These five hundred cavalry have been routinely training, patrolling daily, guarding the territory.

Five hundred cavalry, considered a terrifying weapon in the whole Morgan Town.

But such a weapon has never been used by several generations of Frank Manor Lords.

They have always relied on strategy to balance and handle issues occurring in Morgan Town.

However.

Joao saw ambition and dominance in Janet!

Just as Janet said.

Since the Three Great Estates want to destroy Frank Manor.

They must be prepared for annihilation!

Joao looked at Janet opposite him and asked, "Janet, what do I need to do?"

Janet replied, "Uncle Joao, if I need you to charge bravely, I will inform you immediately."

"Now, you can go back to rest, it's late."

"By the way, call the carpenter, I need some repairs on the door."

Listening to Janet's words.

Joao nodded, stepped back a few steps, then turned and left the bedroom.

Watching Joao thoughtfully close the door for her, Janet withdrew her gaze.

But her brow never relaxed.

In her mind, she thought about breaking the stalemate.

In Janet's mind, there were two ideas.

First, offer benefits and continue to win over Will.

Even if Will doesn't want to stand on the same side as her, he can't stand with Banaby and Theodore.

Chapter 603: Inviting the Wolf Into the House (10,000 Words) (Part 6)

Relying on the cavalry and light infantry led by Joao, along with the armed forces of Banaby and Theodore, to charge forward.

There is a great possibility of winning.

However, the armed forces of Frank Manor would suffer great losses.

Secondly, seek external reinforcements!

Go to Kakasong City to find a suitable mercenary corps, have them act as hitters, and launch an offensive.

Then have Joao lead the cavalry and light infantry to finish the harvest.

This idea was quickly abandoned by Janet.

The Storm Mercenary Corps, well-known in Kakasong City, has disappeared, and the Iron Thorns Mercenary Corps suffered heavy losses in the last war and fled.

Kakasong City no longer has large-scale mercenary corps for her to hire.

The remaining small mercenary corps of a dozen people have little effect.

But soon.

Another option appeared in Janet's mind.

The mysterious lord behind the city walls!

Although Morrison Manor is the weakest estate in Morgan Town.

But this mysterious lord was able to nearly blitzkrieg it to extinction without anyone knowing.

And plundered all the resources.

The armed forces he possesses are naturally not to be underestimated!

If she could contact this mysterious lord and join forces with him to deliver a fatal blow to Banaby and Theodore.

Then she would naturally be able to unify the whole of Morgan Town.

But then, reflecting, Janet hesitated again.

If the armed forces of Frank Manor and this mysterious lord were equally matched, it wouldn't be too bad.

They could balance each other equally.

But if the armed forces of this mysterious lord far surpass those of Frank Manor.

How should they respond?

Very likely, after jointly wiping out other manor lords in Morgan Town.

The mysterious lord might outright turn and wipe out Frank Manor too.

Such a strategy would be bringing a wolf into the house!

The next second.

An even more terrifying thought emerged in Janet's mind.

This mysterious lord bizarrely appeared within the power sphere of Morgan Town.

And in an unknown way to them, rapidly growing stronger.

Even if she doesn't unite with this mysterious lord.

Soon, this mysterious lord will develop fully and charge with his army out of the city walls.

Exterminating all the manors in Morgan Town!

A lord must constantly develop and grow stronger.

Surely expanding territory, adding land resources, strategically deploying specific locations or controlling resources.

At the same time, plundering wealth!

The accumulation of several generations of the enemy, livestock, grain, peasants, and other supplies.

If they occupy Morgan Town, they can completely control the trade routes near the whole town.

Collecting tolls and participating in trade to gain substantial profits from traders.

This is also why she wants to unify Morgan Town.

Only by mastering the entire town can she gain more monetary profit.

To continually expand the armed forces in the manor!

Thinking this.

Janet already had her decision in mind.

...

Early the next morning.

After breakfast, Lynn, riding Mo Ying, left the castle early.

Among the townsmen paying their respects, he, along with Red, passed through the small town and Lord's Square.

Galloping on the lime road amidst the fields.

The sound of horse hooves pattering made the townsmen walking along the road look away, they voluntarily opened up a path.

Let their Master Lynn pass smoothly.

On a May morning.

Riding his warhorse, the cool breeze blowing moved Lynn's hair and the robe on his body.

Under Mo Ying's rapid galloping, Lynn had already crossed the fields and the woods within tens of minutes.

The city walls standing ahead had already entered his sight.

Ahead, squads of soldiers in armor holding winged spears, were stepping in synchrony, undergoing daily weight endurance running training.

Swish swish swish~

The sound of standard plate armor pieces colliding and footsteps on the ground blended together.

Such a large group, such sounds, even from afar, were terrifying.

At the front of the group was Earl.

Earl naturally saw Lynn first, he shouted deeply.

"Lord!"

The three hundred fully armed soldiers behind him shouted in unison.

"Lord!"

The voices thundered, uniform and harmonious, echoing throughout the forest.

Lynn glanced at them and then withdrew his gaze.

It was their physical training time.

He would not, for the sake of showing his lordly status, make all the soldiers stop to hear his motivational speech.

These soldiers, even more than him, knew that their training was for themselves, for their families, and for this land.

Lynn didn't slow his horse's pace, continuing to ride Mo Ying, toward the city walls.

A few minutes later.

Lynn arrived near the city walls.

A few soldiers saw him and immediately ran up to greet.

When their Master Lynn and Red dismounted, they promptly took the reins.

Leading the horses to the roadside to tether the reins.

This was the only entrance to the territory, with trade caravans passing through.

At the same time, it was a barrack, a defensive fortification!

Naturally, they couldn't let the horses roam freely.

Lynn looked forward, scanning the area.

The buildings before him were, naturally, the newly constructed Weng City!

After Avery and Colin informed him that Weng City was completed, he only viewed it via the [Holographic Map].

It was a bird's-eye view.

Now standing beneath Weng City, looking up.

He once again felt the grandeur of this fortification.

The visual sensation was vastly different from [Holographic Map].

Though the height of Weng City and the previously constructed city walls were the same, both at ten meters.

But to increase the difficulty of attacking Weng City, it was much more complex compared to the city walls.

Heavy traps, parapets, arrow towers, reserve tunnels, corner towers, and more.

At the side of Weng City's iron gate, sat that Semen Knife Car!

Lynn nodded in satisfaction.

Without saying a word, he stepped towards the corner tower of Weng City.

There were stone steps leading up to Weng City.

Walking up the steps, Lynn scanned for a moment.

A nearly three-meter wide walkway, enough for four soldiers to simultaneously climb the walls in formation.

Compared to the hurriedly constructed walls lacking some considerations, Weng City's walkway made up for these deficiencies.

Climbing the walkway, Lynn reached the top of Weng City.

He once again took in the entire Weng City and city walls.

It looked no different from when he viewed it using the [Holographic Map], the overall layout was 'square' shaped.

The walls interconnected, forming effective unified defense.

But unlike before, now Weng City and the walls were installed with siege equipment!

Chapter 604: Construction of the Mutated Wild Boar Farm

Lynn walked on the Weng City, his gaze sweeping across.

Like the city wall, the Weng City was also constructed using quarried stones.

Between the stones, river sand and lime served as adhesives, fitting seamlessly.

Almost no visible gaps were too large.

Even just walking on it gave him a sense of solidity and stability.

However.

Lynn discovered that there were still gaps in defense mechanisms on both the Weng City and city walls.

Colin's Woodworker Workshop needed to continue the rush production.

Walking along the pathway on the Weng City, Lynn stood at the very edge of the city wall.

He propped his hands on the parapet, gazed into the distance, looking beyond the city wall.

A stretch of grass-covered wasteland came into his view.

Near the city wall were cheval de frise, crafted by Colin and his Carpenter Apprentices from the workshop.

Behind the cheval de frise were horse traps used to obstruct the enemy.

Further away.

There stood a towering structure, its height surpassing the city walls!

It was also constructed from blocks of stone.

That was the lookout tower built by Avery leading the stonemason workers.

The [Holographic Map] offered a view limited to within the city perimeter.

Seeing it now with his own eyes still gave him an unrealistic feeling.

To establish a thirty-meter-high structure in the wasteland...

Just as Avery said.

The lookout tower was at most four or five miles away from the city wall.

No need for a telescope.

As long as the weather was slightly better.

Soldiers on the lookout tower could clearly signal with flags as a warning.

If either of the outpost fortresses on both sides was attacked or breached by the enemy.

The lookout tower could promptly alert the city wall for preemptive soldier deployment in defense.

At the entrance of the city wall, there was a red brick and lime road leading into the distance.

Lynn glanced a few times, feeling a surge of satisfaction in his heart.

However.

Lynn felt.

While the outpost fortress and lookout tower indeed provided protection and warning for the city wall and territory.

He still wanted to construct an Outer City in his mind!

To attack his territory, one must seize the outpost fortresses several miles from the city wall.

During the attack, it would certainly be detected by his lookout tower and prompt a warning.

Building an Outer City would not only broaden the battlefield perspective for the defending soldiers.

It would also increase the layers of defense!

The enemy would need to breach the Outer City, the city wall, and then the Inner City to enter his territory.

Coupled with the large-scale defense mechanisms on the city wall, the Wolf Fang Club, Semen Knife Car, Rolling Logs and Stones, Catapult, etc...

Only then would it be considered impregnable!

Unless there was an extremely terrifying Extraordinary, or elite soldiers outnumbering his tenfold.

They should not think they could bypass this defense!

As Lynn was deep in thought, footsteps sounded from his right.

Lynn turned his head, it was precisely Avery, the foreman from the stonemason workshop.

Avery approached Lynn's side, bent slightly, and respectfully called out: "Master."

Lynn responded, "Foreman Avery, report the progress."

Avery slightly bowed his head and directly began to speak.

"Master, as you can see."

"The lookout tower has been completed, and Lord Rose has arranged for soldiers to take turns guarding it 24 hours a day."

"The road paving project is underway, and will take at most another three to five days to reach the forest edge dozens of miles away!"

"Once the red brick road is completed, the outpost fortress can be established at the forest edge!"

"But there is a problem that hasn't been solved..."

Lynn asked, "What problem."

Avery didn't hesitate: "Lack of tools for warning."

"Of course, Master, a smoke-producing stove has been installed on the lookout tower."

"However, from detecting the enemy to soldiers igniting the smoke takes time."

"If the enemy advances fiercely and with many troops, they could detach a portion to assault the outpost fortress while dispatching cavalry directly to the city wall!"

"Igniting the smoke to issue a warning would be too late."

Lynn nodded.

Normally, a small outpost fortress garrisoned about fifty soldiers.

Mainly responsible for monitoring the surroundings, raising alerts when detecting enemies.

The outpost fortress under construction at the forest edge was only a medium-sized fortress.

The maximum number of soldiers that could be stationed there was around two hundred.

While they also watched for threats and alerted, they needed to intercept incoming enemies.

However, even fully armed, two hundred soldiers would seem insignificant against a large-scale enemy offensive.

They would be quickly overwhelmed.

Thus, the most critical defensive structures remained the city wall and Weng City beneath his feet.

Both the outpost fortress and lookout tower served primarily as warnings!

Qualifying prominent warning tools were needed.

Lynn pondered for a moment and said, "I understand."

"Researchers in the town are developing telescopes."

"The telescope will allow visibility for dozens or even hundreds of miles."

"Effectively resolving the problem you've mentioned."

Avery's brows raised.

A telescope?

To see dozens, even a hundred miles away?

That sounds too miraculous?

Lynn continued, "Build beacons in the outpost fortresses, and if enemy forces attack, immediately ignite the beacon to raise a smoke signal for warning."

Chapter 605: Construction of the Mutated Wild Boar Farm

"A batch of fuel was just delivered by merchants, and I will arrange for personnel to dye a batch of vibrant-colored linen cloth to make flags."

"Let the soldiers stationed in the watchtower wave the flags to give a warning."

Rose and Avery, summoned by Lynn's guard, responded in unison.

"Yes."

Lynn dismissed Avery, letting him continue with his tasks.

Lynn's gaze turned to Rose.

"Lord Rose!"

Rose's expression turned solemn, and he quickly replied, "Here, Master."

Lynn continued, "How many sets of armor and weapons do the soldiers under your command still lack?"

Rose's eyebrows raised slightly; he naturally understood the implication in Lynn's words.

He hurriedly replied, "Master, we are still short of four hundred and eighty sets of armor, and there is a greater lack of weapons."

"Four hundred winged spears, three hundred and eighty longswords!"

"Vice Thousand Households Wesley's archers are barely equipped with enough bows and arrows, but still lack one hundred standard longswords for close combat."

The shortage of armor and weapons is clearly for the five hundred soldiers recruited after the spring planting season.

Lynn nodded and said, "I have already arranged for the blacksmith workshop and the textile workshop to work overtime and rush production."

"When the time comes, I will have you lead the soldiers to receive them in batches."

Rose's face showed a hint of delight, "Yes, Master."

They are soldiers, they are warriors, true.

If they have not yet entered the battlefield, engaging in ordinary training, the lack of armor doesn't matter much.

But if war suddenly breaks out and they need to charge onto the battlefield,

Without armor, they are just a little better than ordinary people after training.

In the face of enemies clad in armor and wielding long spears, they would be skewered in an instant!

Lynn thought of something and continued, "A while back, merchants delivered a hundred warhorses; arrange for someone to ride them at your discretion."

"However, there's one thing you must tell them,"

"Bring back the warhorse along with the rider!"

Rose felt a chill in his heart and immediately bent down, "Yes, Master."

Lynn acknowledged and let Rose step back.

He continued to stand on top of the city wall, gazing out beyond it.

Time slowly passed by.

Just as Lynn was preparing to step down from the city wall, a series of carriages approached rapidly in the distance.

Lynn stood on the city wall waiting.

When the carriages were about to arrive at the foot of the city wall, he finally saw the leader in front of the carriages.

It was Hunter, the owner of the Riverside Rest Tavern in Kakasong City.

Lynn walked down the city wall.

Hunter, undergoing inspection from the soldiers as he entered the city gate, shifted his gaze.

Soon, Hunter spotted Lynn ahead.

Hunter jumped down from the carriage and quickly ran towards Lynn.

He came before Lynn and performed a merchant's bow, speaking respectfully.

"Master Lynn, I didn't expect to meet you here!"

Lynn nodded and said, "Indeed, quite a coincidence, Mr. Hunter."

Hunter visits his territory roughly every seven to eight days.

However.

The trades mainly involve the liquor on his estate, as well as delivering grains for him.

He, who had been engrossed in grinding experience, handed everything over to George for trading and exchange.

Hunter bowed once more.

At this moment.

The soldiers in charge of checking Hunter's convoy had completed their inspection.

Hunter quickly looked at Lynn, asking.

"Master Lynn, are you returning to town? I wonder if I have the honor of accompanying you?"

Lynn laughed and said, "Of course, Mr. Hunter."

As the guards brought over Mo Ying, a warhorse, Lynn mounted it and took the reins, gently nudging Mo Ying's belly with his heels.

Mo Ying understood and started moving forward.

Hunter saw this and also mounted a horse, riding beside Lynn.

A little behind them, Guard Red and a convoy of carriages followed at a leisurely pace.

After walking for a short while.

Hunter was the first to speak, "Master Lynn, Mr. George mentioned that you are buying grains in significant quantities."

"Therefore, this time I brought thirty thousand pounds of barley for you."

Lynn glanced back; ten two-horse carriages were all fully loaded.

Even with the linen cloth covering, the shapes of the grains underneath were still visible.

Those were the outlines of barley.

Lynn nodded and said, "Thank you, Mr. Hunter."

"The price of barley now must not be cheap, I assume?"

These words came out, unlocking Hunter's box of words.

He agreeably said, "Indeed, Master Lynn!"

"The price of barley in Morgan Town has actually reached three pounds for one penny!"

"Wheat has even come to two pence per pound."

"Even some miscellaneous oats and rye have seen their prices doubled."

"What's more bewildering is that at such prices, there are still people scrambling for them!"

"Many merchants who transport grains from elsewhere find their stocks emptied the moment they hit the market!"

Lynn's mind was alerted, and he opened [Market and Prices] for a look.

Just as Hunter had said, it is not only Kakasong City.

The grain prices in other towns have surged significantly as well.

In cities like Kakasong City, which have inland river ports, the situation is relatively better.

But cities without inland river ports, devoid of external grain inflow, face exorbitant prices!

Two pounds of barley for one penny.

It even shows a tendency to continue rising!

Moreover.

The increase in the price of cereal grains has even driven up the prices of other commodities.

Chapter 606: Construction of the Mutated Wild Boar Farm

The price of beer has risen from three pounds for one penny at the tavern to one pound for one penny!

The price of meat has also noticeably increased.

All due to the chain reaction caused by the rise in grain prices!

Indeed.

The continuous snowfall that lasted several days in winter has had a significant impact on the entire Karedi Empire!

After the growth period of the wheat seedlings over the past couple of months.

Most manor lords have realized that the crops they planted have suffered severe damage.

What awaits them will be a significant reduction in the summer harvest.

Even the winter barley and wheat planted last year — yielded nothing!

The grain crisis is getting closer!

Lynn nodded, "Mr. Hunter, I know that continuing to purchase grain now is not very reasonable."

"However, I still need you to acquire more grain for me."

There are many people in need waiting to be fed in his domain.

Not to mention those soldiers we just saw!

Their daily physical training and energy consumption far exceed that of ordinary laboring townsmen.

They need more nutritious food intake.

To ensure their daily training!

To ensure that once they charge into battle, they have the strength and stamina to fight the enemy.

According to the daily consumption of three pounds of grain per person, including grains, meat, vegetables, etc.

Nine thousand people, plus the poultry and livestock, consume at least thirty thousand pounds a day!

That is, with the more than one million pounds of barley initially transported by Boer.

And merchants like Grayson Hunt continuously delivering grain to his domain.

Otherwise, his domain would have already run out of food!

However.

Fortunately, the wheat seedlings in the fields are growing vigorously.

As long as they can hold on with the grain brought by the merchants until the summer harvest in July and August!

Then, the shortage of grain his territory faces will be resolved.

Upon hearing this, Hunter hesitantly asked, "Master Lynn, should we still purchase barley priced as high as two pence a pound?"

"Isn't this price too expensive?"

Lynn nodded calmly, "Buy it, Mr. Hunter!"

"As long as there is barley or wheat on the market, if you purchase and deliver it."

"There is no limit to the quantity; I will buy it all!"

Listening to Lynn's determined words, Hunter no longer hesitated and replied, "Yes, Master Lynn."

While Lynn and Hunter were conversing.

The group had already walked out of the forest.

The view suddenly opened up, revealing a vast sunlit plain ahead.

In the distance, by the riverbank, stood a small town.

The sunlight was just right, the temperature pleasant, and the air was filled with the fragrance of grass and soil.

Lynn cast a glance around, finally settling his gaze on Hunter.

"Mr. Hunter, has your tavern had any information or rumors lately?"

Upon hearing this, Hunter quickly recalled.

A few seconds later.

He began to speak, "Master Lynn, there are indeed some rumors, but I can't verify their authenticity."

"I just don't know if this information will be of any use to you..."

Lynn responded, "It's alright, Mr. Hunter, I can determine that myself."

With Master Lynn's affirmative reply, Hunter had no more hesitation.

He started to recount, "The leader of the Iron Thorns Mercenary Corps, Lopez, seems to have returned to Kakasong City."

"And there are rumors about matters concerning Frank Manor in Morgan Town."

"Some say it wasn't the Iron Thorns Mercenary Corps that wanted to invade and occupy Frank Manor."

"But it was Janet Frank hiring him to cleanse the entire Frank Manor."

"It was Janet who killed her uncle and her grandfather!"

"All to remove obstacles, seize power, and become the manor lord of Frank Manor!"

"Just as success was imminent, Janet went back on their agreement."

"She even arranged for the soldiers and guards in Frank Manor to eradicate the Iron Thorns Mercenary Corps."

Lynn slightly nodded, showing no expression.

But he felt.

This rumor was very likely related to what happened at Frank Manor, confirming much of his speculation.

There is a high possibility!

Hunter continued to recall.

"By the way, Master Lynn, there's something else, not sure if you'll find it interesting."

"Some longship merchants who crossed the Vortex Sea said that a sea beast appeared in the Vortex Sea!"

"Not just once, pulling longships crossing the Vortex Sea into the sea."

Lynn's eyebrow raised.

He clearly remembered that when the ice had just melted, Grayson and Audrey, who had come to his territory, had mentioned this.

Grayson had even lost a large number of slaves that could have been transported to his domain because of this.

Lynn spoke to Hunter, "This hadn't happened before, had it?"

Hunter nodded, "Yes, Master Lynn."

"I grew up at the Fisherman's Wharf and have been running the hotel for so many years."

"I've never heard of sea beasts existing on the outskirts of the Vortex Sea!"

"The sea beast rumors I've heard only said that there are countless sea demons and sea beasts in the Dark Abyss Ocean Trench..."

Dark Abyss Ocean Trench!

Lynn heard this name for the first time.

Compared to these.

He was more curious about if there was enough strength and sturdy fishing rods and lines.

Could he fish out the sea beasts in the Vortex Sea!

If possible, what kind of reward would there be?

Lynn's heart filled with anticipation.

Seeing Lynn didn't continue to ask, Hunter fell silent, seemingly lost in thought.

Chapter 607: Construction of the Mutated Wild Boar Farm

Suddenly.

Hunter's eyes lit up, and he continued speaking.

"By the way, there's something I almost forgot to mention..."

Lynn looked at Hunter once more.

Hunter explained, "A few days ago, someone saw Viscount Jon Zuck of Kakasong City leaving the city with a contingent of guards."

"It's said that he was summoned by Marquis Mark Ducas to head to Bordeaux City."

Lynn remained silent, waiting for Hunter to continue.

"The purpose of going to Bordeaux City is still unknown to anyone."

"However, it is speculated that Jon Zuck's departure at this time to Bordeaux City is very likely related to the impending imperial power struggle!"

The imperial power struggle relates to the development and direction of the entire Karedi Empire's situation.

Even the unarmed residents are concerned about it.

After all, a new emperor might change the current tax policies!

Lynn nodded again.

Marquis Duca is the greatest Lord of this territory.

A vassal viscount like Jon Zuck naturally needs to fulfill obligations to the Ducas Clan as the marquis.

Providing military support and paying taxes.

In fact, a large part of the armed forces within the Marquisate of Dukas comes from vassals.

Of course.

Many divided noble lords, by virtue of their strength, the importance of their territories, or alliances with other forces,

possess strong autonomy.

They do not necessarily respond to the marquis's summons and may even seize the opportunity to vie for the marquis's power.

Especially considering the current situation of the Ducas Clan!

Many lords had once had close ties with Donovan Ducas.

They charged forward and fought valiantly together, forging friendships in blood and fire.

Now, a little-known young man, Mark Ducas, has ascended as the marquis.

They naturally would disregard the call of Mark Ducas.

There is another kind.

Just like the rural manor lords of Morgan Town.

Remote location, weak strength.

The main focus is development to expand Marquis Duca's territories and increase tax revenue.

Otherwise.

After a possible battlefield experience, the manor lord's armed forces might be heavily damaged.

Lacking any armed forces to even protect the safety of the manor.

They would then directly face the looting and occupation by bandits!

As Hunter continued narrating.

A team had already crossed a vast field to arrive at the town.

George had already led a team of townsmen, waiting at Lord's Square.

Lynn called George over to arrange for the townsmen to load and unload goods.

Figures began to busy themselves.

During their journey, Lynn had already agreed on the price with Hunter.

Forty thousand pounds of barley, all exchanged for liquor at current market prices.

Three pounds of barley for one penny.

However, Lynn didn't raise the price of gin and beer.

He exchanged for Hunter at the original price.

When hearing this news, Lynn noticed the brightness in Hunter's eyes.

Such prices were naturally not profitable for him.

But.

To ensure Hunter's continued dedication in transporting goods for him.

He didn't mind letting Hunter earn more profit in the sale of liquor.

Only with sufficient profit would Hunter be motivated to transport grains or other goods to his territory.

Driving the convoy from Kakasong to his land, due to the weight of the goods.

It required at least ten days to half a month.

During this period, many risks might occur.

Bandit attacks, though not frequently heard now.

Adverse weather, geographical obstacles, diseases and plagues, and trade rules, religious restrictions, etc...

He transferred these risks to the merchants through the method of low-priced goods exchange!

If these merchants wanted to profit from exchanging fine salts, liquor, or glazed glass items.

No problem.

As long as the goods were safely delivered into his territory.

Merchants could take the exchanged goods away, to sell in the market.

The amount of profit gained depended on the merchants' capabilities.

As for any risks encountered, he was not responsible!

It was that simple!

Lynn left George in charge of hosting Hunter as he strode towards the Handicraft Workshop District.

Entering the Handicraft Workshop District, heading straight for the textile workshop.

Under the watchful eyes of workers, Lynn strode inside.

Seeing Lynn, Yimini immediately approached him.

"Master, you've come, do you have any orders?"

Lynn glanced inside the workshop where workers were still diligently working on stitching and weaving.

However.

Compared to the previous nine-to-six routine, their faces seemed slightly weary now.

Lynn responded, "How many sets of composite armor are there in the warehouse now?"

Yimini recalled a bit and answered, "Master, three hundred sets!"

"According to your request, we are now producing eighteen sets of composite armor daily."

Upon hearing this, Lynn nodded.

There was still a shortfall of two sets from the goal of daily producing twenty sets of composite armor.

But it was only two sets after all.

As long as some stitching workers become more skilled, they can achieve a daily output of twenty sets!

Chapter 608: Construction of the Mutated Wild Boar Farm

Lynn said, "Tomorrow, I will have Lord Rose bring soldiers here to the textile workshop to receive these 300 sets of composite armor."

"You arrange personnel to manage the fitting and adjustment for the soldiers wearing the composite armor."

Yimini responded, "Yes, Master!"

With the prior experience of Red's two hundred guards coming to receive the composite armor.

Adjustment and fitting aren't really a difficult task for Yimini.

The most it would do is slightly reduce the textile workshop's weaving and production time for the day.

After finishing up with the textile workshop, Lynn turned and headed to the nearby blacksmith workshop.

At that moment, the blacksmith workshop was still bustling with activity.

The continuous clanging of iron hammers merged into one harmonious symphony.

Clang, clang, clang~

The sound rang on.

Similarly, after arranging with Ere to prepare the winged spears for Production, awaiting Lord Rose and the soldiers' arrival tomorrow.

Afterward

Lynn found Flint in the neighboring blacksmith workshop.

Looking at the over one-meter-tall Flint, Lynn straightforwardly said, "Master Flint, I need your help!"

Seeing Lynn's serious expression, Flint raised his thick eyebrows.

He immediately glanced at the scale armor with chain liner, newly forged and displayed on the wooden shelf.

With some reluctance, Flint said, "Lord, you're not planning to give that set of armor to another woman, are you?"

"Beauty is a double-edged sword; you absolutely shouldn't be smitten just because of a woman's figure and grace!"

Lynn couldn't help but roll his eyes at Flint.

The guy said so much simply because he couldn't bear to part with the scale armor with chain liner.

Lynn said, "What nonsense."

"I need you to help me build a breeding farm!"

Upon learning Lynn's true intention, Flint visibly breathed a sigh of relief.

Flint said in confusion, "A breeding farm, since when does something like that require my help?"

"Where did those stonemasons you employ go?"

Lynn replied, "If it were just an ordinary breeding farm, there would be no need to trouble Master Flint."

"Because, I need to construct a breeding farm infused with magic power!"

While speaking.

Lynn moved his hand, taking out the construction blueprint for the Mutated Wild Boar Farm, and handed it to Flint.

Flint, knowing how to enchant weapons and armor, would naturally know how to utilize the magic power from magic ores.

It's most fitting to have him build the Mutated Wild Boar Farm.

Flint reached out to take the blueprints, examining them page by page.

The doubt and curiosity on his face gradually gave way to astonishment.

"Ingenious! Marvelous, unbelievable..."

"So this is another way to utilize magic power from magic ores, like unraveling a cocoon!"

After looking over it several times, Flint stared at Lynn in surprise, asking, "Lord, how did you acquire these blueprints?"

Lynn faced Flint with an unchanged expression, saying nothing.

Flint seemed to think of something and asked, "Apologies, Master, it was out of line to ask."

"It's just that some of the small magic arrays on these blueprints are truly ingenious..."

"Though not as refined as some things I've made before, they're still marvelous!"

Lynn nodded and asked, "So, Master Flint, can you build such a unique structure?"

Flint immediately replied, "Of course, Lord."

"I am Flint Fire Furnace, the youngest genius of the Fireplace Race!"

As soon as he spoke,

Flint seemed to realize he had said too much and quickly changed the topic.

"Lord, although the blueprints show no need for some special magic metals or special woods."

"However, it lacks the most basic item—the magic ore!"

As Flint's words fell.

Lynn took out a stone Wuli had picked up from his pocket.

As Lynn opened his right hand, Flint's eyes widened slightly.

Flint reached out and examined it carefully.

He began to murmur to himself.

"Smooth texture, crystal clear, magic power flows within, with a purity of about forty percent, quite decent."

"This is... an intermediate quality magic ore!"

Flint looked at Lynn and explained.

"Lord, it's quite suitable for constructing the Mutated Wild Boar Farm from the blueprints!"

Lynn said, "I need to build a farm capable of breeding at least one hundred wild boars at once."

"How long will it take?"

Flint frowned slightly, pondering for a few seconds, then explained.

"For a breeding farm, if it's just about enclosing the pigs, it doesn't need to be too large."

"But I see from your blueprints... clearly wanting to breed wild boars as rideable mounts!"

Lynn nodded.

Flint continued, "If it's for mounts, then a corresponding training field is certainly needed, with grass and sand areas..."

"The area around needs fences to prevent the boars from running off."

"Similarly, obstacle courses, low walls, hurdles, and rings are also needed."

"As well as some traction devices, sturdy traction ropes, reins, etc., to control the boars' initial movements during training, making them follow the trainer's commands to move, stop, and turn..."

"Considering all these, the required space is quite substantial."

Flint paused for a moment, then said, "However, these are just ordinary construction facilities."

Chapter 609: Construction of the Mutated Wild Boar Farm

"Once the Elder completes the construction of the farm, you can arrange for the construction workers to continue the building work."

"As for the farm, at most one month!"

Lynn nodded and said, "The farm should be built near the pasture outside the town."

"I'll assign a hundred people to assist you in building the farm."

"If you need anything else, just let Steward Kuisi know, she will coordinate the necessary items."

Lynn's gaze turned towards the group of blacksmith apprentices in the workshop.

He asked, "Will your absence affect their progress?"

Flint took a glance as well.

"Among these two hundred apprentices, already a hundred have learned and are skilled in forging techniques!"

"I've already started having them try to forge scale armor with chain liner."

"The quality of what they forge naturally doesn't compare to my craftsmanship."

"But it far surpasses the composite armor with Zha armor plates from your blacksmith workshop!"

Hearing Flint's words, Lynn was a bit astonished.

He couldn't help but sweep his gaze over them again.

Compared to the blacksmith apprentices taught by Ehrelo, Flint's apprentices indeed had different techniques.

They were more adept, more confident!

Lynn withdrew his gaze and couldn't help but praise, "Truly deserving of Master Flint's reputation!"

Upon hearing Lynn's praise, Flint's head instantly raised up.

His face was full of confident pride.

"This is just the beginning! Wait until I've taught you a team of blacksmiths capable of forging high-quality armor, then it won't be too late to praise me again!"

Lynn acknowledged and looked towards Red, "Have Lex deliver a keg of gin to Master Flint's room."

"Just say it's my order!"

Red got the hint and replied, "Yes, my lord."

Standing opposite Lynn, Flint's eyebrows rose upon hearing the words 'gin.'

"Thank you, my lord!"

"I think the construction progress of the farm can be accelerated a bit."

"Twenty days, it should be completed in twenty days."

Lynn gave Flint a surprised look and said to Red again, "Two kegs of gin!"

Flint's face was full of surprise and delight, "Half a month! My lord, I only need half a month!"

"A small farm like this, even with a small magic array, is of little concern to me."

Seeing Flint's confident expression, Lynn couldn't help but smile.

This guy, he definitely has something up his sleeve!

Two kegs of Lexus gin to make Flint speed up, it's certainly worth it!

Lynn nodded and handed over the blueprints of the Mutated Wild Boar Farm and the magic ore to Flint.

"Alright, then let's start tomorrow."

"One hundred construction workers, I'll arrange for them to be at Lord's Square, waiting for your commands."

The hundred construction workers are naturally the carving apprentices from Jode's carving workshop.

Currently, there's a severe labor shortage, so their town carving work has to be paused.

Flint acknowledged.

After finishing with Flint.

Lynn inspected the workshop once more.

He noticed that on the workbenches beside these blacksmith apprentices, there were parts of the scale armor with chain liner.

Just as Flint said.

These blacksmith apprentices have already begun forging scale armor with chain liner.

This is a good beginning!

After a circuit, Lynn left the blacksmith workshop.

With Flint in charge of the farm's construction, he didn't need to worry.

Walking on the red brick road, Lynn's gaze scanned over the red brick houses one by one.

It was still afternoon.

The townsmen working outside were at their respective posts.

This red brick residential area appeared somewhat quiet.

Apart from a few pushing wheelbarrows, transporting various goods.

And the guards on patrol, there were barely any other figures to be seen.

Passing through the town, Lynn arrived at Lord's Square.

Looking at the sky, it was still early.

He stepped towards the edge of the forest outside the town.

Ready to continue gathering skill experience.

...

Meanwhile, on the other side.

A carriage slowly drove in from outside the town.

Under the gaze of the passersby on both sides, the carriage rode on the cobblestone road.

Finally, it stopped in front of a three-story building.

As the carriage came to a halt, Will stepped out slowly from the cabin.

He swept his gaze over the tavern, confirming no mistake, and without hesitation, stepped inside.

Under the gaze of some free people, Will walked through the hall, climbed the stairs.

Soon he arrived at the VIP area on the second floor.

In front of him, Will clearly saw the unfamiliar yet familiar, towering figure over two meters tall.

It was Joao Frank, the Guard Captain of Frank Manor.

Will stepped forward to the door guarded by Joao.

Before he could speak, Joao's deep, powerful voice resonated.

"Lady Janet is waiting for you inside."

Will nodded, and after Joao pushed open the door, he stepped in.

At that moment.

Seated at the head of the table was Janet.

Since the windows of the VIP room were closed, the light relied solely on the candles set in animal-fat candlesticks on the table.

As Will approached Janet, he took a glance around the room.

Apart from him and Janet, there was no one else.

Meaning.

Janet had only called for him for a private meeting.

Seeing Will approach, Janet's face broke into an alluring and charming smile.

"Lord Will, please have a seat."

Will gestured a nod and sat next to Janet.

As soon as he sat down, he glanced over at Janet.

A touch of fair roundness and the deep, bottomless cleavage entered his sight.

Will only took a glance and then looked away.

Watching Janet pour him a glass of wine, he spoke in a calm tone.

"Lady Janet, I wonder what urgent matter prompted this private invitation?"

Janet said nothing.

She simply picked up the wine glass from the table with her right hand and handed it to Will.

Watching Janet's actions, Will maintained a calm demeanor.

Two seconds later.

Will accepted the wine glass from Janet, nodded in acknowledgment, and downed the contents in one go.

Putting down the glass, Will's gaze met Janet's, waiting for her response.

It was only at this point.

Janet spoke softly, "Lord Will, I want to know what your stance is regarding the current situation in Morgan Town?"

"Will you join Banaby and Theodore's side."

"Or will you join me, working together to control the entirety of Morgan Town?"

Chapter 610: Iron Butcher (10,000 Words)

Will remained silent.

Instead, he picked up the wine bottle on the table and poured a glass for Janet and himself.

Seeing this, Janet understood immediately.

She continued, "Barnaby and Theodore's armed soldiers total around two thousand.

"In terms of numbers alone, they are indeed more than my Frank Manor.

"But the majority of their armed forces are merely light infantry bearing round shields, longswords, and scimitars; only a few ride horses wielding long spears."

"They don't even have a few sets of decent armor!"

"Under the charge of my Frank Clan cavalry, they would be overturned in a few rounds at most."

"In terms of armed strength, the two combined are no match for my Frank Manor!"

Will nodded slightly, picked up the wine glass on the table, and downed its contents in one gulp.

Seeing Will unmoved, Janet slightly furrowed her brow.

She suddenly realized, "Perhaps, Lord Will doesn't care about all these."

"Then I won't waste any more words."

"Let's speak of the final allocation of benefits!"

Just as Janet said those words, Will immediately looked at her.

Waiting for her to continue speaking.

Janet went on, "As long as Lord Will is willing to join our side at Frank Manor."

"There is no need for Lord Will to dispatch a single soldier."

"After victory, you can choose freely between either Theodore's manor or Barnaby Manor!"

Janet noticed Will's eyes visibly brighten.

But soon, he disguised it.

Only then did Will finally break his silence.

"Lady Janet, are you so confident in wiping out the two manor lords in one fell swoop?"

Janet's words dripped with confidence, "Certainly!"

Not only because the strength of Frank Manor far surpasses the several other manors.

But also because there is Joao leading five hundred chain armor cavalry in a charge.

The heavy cavalry gives her courage.

Will hesitated for a few seconds and said, "Lady Janet, as thanks for inviting me to drink, I'll share some intelligence with you."

"Not only Frank Manor has heavy cavalry."

"Other manors are also raising heavy cavalry!"

"As for the number, that I do not know."

As he spoke.

Will slowly stood up from the long chair.

He bowed slightly to Janet, glanced at the snowy white, and said, "Thank you, Lady Janet, for the invitation."

Finished speaking.

Will took strides towards the exit.

Janet's eyes narrowed slightly; her tone shifted from its previous gentleness.

"Lord Will, are you just leaving like this? Should I consider you declining my invitation?"

Will's steps suddenly halted.

He didn't turn around but spoke with his back to Janet behind.

"Lady Janet, this comes unexpectedly. I need to think it over."

Finished speaking.

Without further words, he opened the wooden door in front of him and walked out.

He didn't even glance at Joao standing at the door.

Joao, always standing at the door, naturally heard the entire conversation in the room.

Watching Will descend the stairs, his silhouette disappearing.

Only then did Joao turn around and enter the VIP room.

Stride towards Janet and quietly waited beside her.

Janet's brow remained furrowed.

As if pondering something.

Until a moment later.

Janet spoke to Joao, "Will, Arnold is too greedy."

"Balado suggested dividing Frank Manor into three; he might need it."

"Frank Manor holds the largest tract of land in Morgan Town, but divided into three, it's not even comparable to the already fallen Morrison Manor."

"However!"

"I proposed allowing Will to choose freely between Theodore's and Barnaby Manor without deploying his troops."

"He actually told me he still needs to consider?"

"Does he truly believe, relying on Arnold Manor's armed forces, he can play both ends against the middle among the Three Great Estates?"

Joao slightly lowered his head, asking, "Janet, how would you like me to proceed?"

Janet's eyes, tinged with grey, slightly turned.

She spoke, "I need to meet the Merchant Guild president in Morgan Town, Boer Hansen."

Joao responded at once, "I'll make the arrangements!"

Uttering those cold words, Joao left the VIP room in strides.

Listening to Joao's footsteps fade away.

Janet's face was full of determination.

She didn't know if she could interact and connect through Boer with the mysterious lord behind the city walls.

But she realized that if she didn't take action soon.

Frank Manor would sooner or later be wiped out by the Three Great Lords joining forces!

...

On the other side of Morgan Town.

Every few hours, several carriages entered the town from outside Morgan Town.

Due to being on the outskirts of Morgan Town, it's far less prosperous than the market area of the town.

Few people pay attention to which merchant those carriages loaded with goods belong to!

The key factor is, the distance from Morgan Town to Kakasong City is not far.

It's reasonable for traders to occasionally transport goods to the town for sale.

Behind the walls of a three-story building.

Boer stood among them, his gaze sweeping over the carriages entering the warehouse.

Within those carriage compartments were the grains that Master Lynn needed.

This time.

He found a cross-regional trader in Kakasong City who brought barley from other Empires, arriving at Kakasong City.