

System 761

Chapter 761: Direct Execution

Some timid soldiers felt Janet's gaze and hastily diverted their eyes.

They dared not meet her eyes.

After scanning around, Janet opened her mouth and said to the soldiers in a deep voice.

"I know you all have your doubts."

"It is clearly late at night, so why have you been awakened and gathered from your sleep?"

The soldiers made no response, but they couldn't help nodding.

After a day of physical training, they were already exhausted.

They needed rest for recovery.

Transforming her words, Janet called out loudly.

"That's because Frank Manor is facing a life-and-death crisis!"

"I need to inform you that Morgan Town is currently under enemy attack!"

"I know many of you are from Morgan Town."

"If we don't aid the Blade Wind Corps in Morgan Town."

"The enemy's next target will be Frank Manor!"

The soldiers' eyes widened, their breath involuntarily held.

Janet's voice grew louder and more passionate.

"Therefore."

"For Morgan Town, and for Frank Manor."

"I, Janet Frank, need you to set out right now for Morgan Town to provide aid!"

"Who is willing to join me? To aid Morgan Town?"

Listening to Janet's final words, the soldiers' faces were full of surprise.

They were shocked that Janet, both Manor Lord and a woman, would personally go to the battlefield?

Apparently, they were infected by Janet's words.

A few soldiers raised their longswords and responded vocally.

"Yes!"

"Yes..."

The abrupt voices appeared and then quickly vanished.

The soldiers who spoke up bowed their heads awkwardly under the gaze of their peers.

In the next moment.

With uniform loud responses, echoes resonated in Frank Manor Castle.

"Yes!"

"Yes!"

"..."

Seeing the soldiers exultantly raise their weapons, seeing their excited faces.

Janet's previously tense heart slightly relaxed.

She loosened her sweaty right hand and turned to Joao.

"Uncle Joao, it's up to you next!"

Joao quickly replied, "Of course."

"Joao will definitely not betray your trust, Janet."

Janet nodded and said no more.

Joao took two steps forward, drew his two-handed greatsword from his waist, and shouted to the soldiers.

"Set out!"

With Joao's order.

Under the leadership of the captains, the soldiers orderly moved towards the exit of the Manor Castle.

Clang~ Clang~

With a series of chain-loosening sounds, the huge drawbridge slowly lowered.

Bang!

At last.

The heavy drawbridge fell to the ground with a loud crash.

The soldiers either rode on horseback.

Or marched in orderly steps over the drawbridge.

They held torches and walked on the gravel road, heading into the darkness ahead.

At the front of the troops.

Were the heavy cavalry wearing chain armor and riding horses.

Listening to the constant echo of footsteps, the sound of chain armor clashing, and looking into the darkness ahead.

Janet's face was full of seriousness.

Joao, riding on horseback, glanced at Janet.

He comforted her, "Janet, there's no need to be overly tense."

"Marching at night has always been like this."

"While our vision is limited, the enemy can't see beyond a few hundred meters either."

"Even if the enemy's heavy cavalry wishes to launch a surprise attack, they need sufficient distance for the horses to gallop and accelerate."

"At that time, we can clearly hear sounds and organize defensive formations!"

Janet nodded in response.

"And, I've already sent scouts ahead to Morgan Town to gather intelligence."

"You can rest assured."

"Besides, even if unexpected things happen, I will spare no effort to protect you comprehensively!"

Despite Joao's assurances.

Her heart was still filled with tension.

The distance between Frank Manor and Morgan Town was only a few miles.

As the soldiers continued advancing.

They watched the flames that were coloring the sky in red-orange tones.

The burning smell in the air became increasingly noticeable and pungent.

Even strands of light gray ashes landed on their cheeks.

Whether it was the soldiers or Janet and Joao.

They knew.

They were getting closer to Morgan Town!

As the troops gradually approached.

Joao, Janet, and the others on horseback.

Could now see the silhouette of Morgan Town from afar.

Under the night sky.

Buildings stood in dark shapes ahead of them.

Perhaps because someone in the town was organizing firefighting.

The raging flames were already reducing.

The sky returned to a pitch dark.

Looking at the peaceful Morgan Town from afar, there was no chaotic scene of widespread warfare.

Both Joao and Janet felt relieved.

As long as Lynn doesn't lead an army to Morgan Town.

Then they still have the opportunity to employ Free People and strengthen military power in Frank Manor!

While cutting off the supply line entering Lynn Territory!

Without merchants from beyond the territory exchanging goods.

Just relying on three mines, how fast can Lynn's development speed truly be?

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As long as Frank Manor is given enough time.

They still have a chance to confront Lynn head-on!

Clop~Clop~

At this moment.

The sound of galloping hooves arose ahead of them on their march.

And quickly approached from afar.

Joao squinted his eyes following the torchlight, staring straight ahead.

When he recognized the cavalry's attire, Joao's heart relaxed slightly.

He explained to Janet beside him.

"Janet, the spy I sent out has returned."

"It seems the fire in Morgan Town was just an accident."

Janet nodded upon hearing this.

She was about to speak.

But noticed the spy rushing towards them, stumble.

Directly falling off the horse, landing about ten meters in front of them.

Joao and Janet's eyebrows instantly furrowed.

Two manor soldiers holding torches strode forward to check the fallen spy's condition.

When they saw the sharp arrow piercing the spy's chest, blood flowing continuously.

The spy had already lost signs of life.

The two manor soldiers looked shocked and quickly looked up, loudly alerting Joao and Janet.

"Dead!"

"The spy was shot dead!"

Listening to the manor soldiers' shouts, Joao's face changed dramatically.

He quickly spoke to Janet: "Not good, Janet, we've fallen into an ambush!"

"We must retreat immediately!"

Janet already understood the reason, "Blade Wind Corps... were completely wiped out by Lynn?"

From the time they saw the flames at Frank Manor Castle and decided, to gathering more manor soldiers, rushing to Morgan Town.

The total time was just about half an hour.

The Blade Wind Corps with thousands of mercenaries, such a weak defense?

Joao's mouth opened slightly, about to respond.

In front of them.

One sharp sound of breaking through the air followed another.

Swish swish swish~

This sound was both unfamiliar and extremely familiar to Joao and Janet.

It seemed so familiar.

The next second.

Joao's face changed suddenly, he shouted loudly to Janet and the soldiers behind him.

"Arrow rain!"

"Defense, quickly find obstacles to hide behind!"

As soon as his words fell.

Arrow after arrow sketched a beautiful arc in the air.

Falling like rain down upon the Frank Manor soldiers on the clearing.

Regardless of whether the Frank Manor soldiers wore chain armor.

Under the triangular armor-piercing arrows, they were instantly penetrated!

One after another hit the flesh bodies.

Even.

Soldiers hit at fatal points couldn't even cry out in pain before falling lifeless to the ground.

Not just the soldiers.

Even the horses were relentlessly hit amid such a massive arrow rain.

Letting out sharp and painful cries...

Joao atop his horse exerted force in his legs, leaped off the horse, and lunged towards Janet beside him.

In Janet's terrified expression, Joao held her tightly in front of him.

Just before hitting the ground, Joao twisted his body.

Using his body as a lower cushion to lessen Janet's injuries.

Joao didn't hesitate, grabbing a nearby standing soldier.

He didn't care about the soldier's gaze, using him as a human shield.

Swish swish swish~

Several arrows shot down fiercely, covering and hitting the soldier's body in front of Joao.

The soldier originally full of fear, was directly shot into a sieve from behind.

After doing all this.

Joao then turned his head and looked at Janet in his arms.

He breathlessly asked: "Janet, are you alright?"

This sudden change made Janet, already pale, even more so.

She checked herself, confirmed nothing abnormal or painful, and responded.

"Uncle Joao, I think I'm okay."

Joao heard this, relaxed his words, "That's good!"

The next second.

Janet's eyes widened, staring at Joao's abdomen.

Her voice broke briefly: "Uncle Joao... you've been hit by an arrow!"

Joao followed Janet's gaze.

Only to see.

An arrow had penetrated his chain armor, embedding within.

One strand after another of blood flowed out.

Staining his chain armor and inner garments red.

Joao directly reached out his left hand, under Janet's gaze, forcibly pulled it out.

"It's nothing, just a minor arrow wound."

"It won't be the end of Joao!"

Janet's eyebrows furrowed tightly.

She clearly saw, in Joao's withdrawal of the arrow, blood flow notably increased!

Joao didn't discard the arrow, instead carefully examining it.

Watching the arrowhead stained with blood, holding three sharp edges.

Joao muttered in a deep voice: "Triangular Armor-Piercing Arrow!"

Both he and Janet were familiar with such arrows.

Exactly the terrifying arrows shot by Lynn's archers.

Faced with triangular armor-piercing arrows, their ordinary armor was like paper!

Simply unable to withstand the arrow's damage!

Discarding the arrow.

Joao turned to look behind Janet.

Under the cover of the arrow rain.

The manor soldiers he had just recruited, each riddled with arrows.

Their eyes wide open, staring at the sky, fallen to the ground.

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Scarlet blood flowed from their wounds, seeping into the already parched soil.

Staining the ground a deep crimson.

Some of the luckier manor soldiers,

at this moment, were trembling in hiding behind makeshift barricades of piled-up corpses.

Though they survived, they could not suppress the fear of death in their hearts.

Joao's gaze swept around, his face full of solemnity.

Just two or three volleys of arrows.

The soldiers he brought from Frank Manor, at least two to three hundred had died!

If it weren't for purchasing some round shields at a high price from the weapon merchant before,

the death count would surely be higher!

Joao felt a chill in his heart.

This is the prowess of having archers!

Even at night, they could cover the area with a rain of arrows, weakening the enemy's forces.

With a glance,

Joao listened carefully to the dense whooshing of arrows in the sky and the number of arrows hitting the ground.

Confirming a drastic reduction in the number of arrows,

Joao's expression showed no signs of relaxation.

He said nothing, helping Janet to stand up.

Under Janet's puzzled gaze, he strode towards a horse that had luckily survived not far away.

Without needing Janet's consent, Joao lifted her, placing her on the horseback.

With Joao's physical strength, Janet, weighing less than a hundred pounds, was easily manageable.

Joao looked directly at Janet, speaking in a deep voice.

"Hold the reins tight, leave quickly!"

"If you're late... it will be too late!"

Janet's brow raised, just about to speak,

when Joao slapped the horse's haunch.

Feeling the sting from behind,

the horse neighed a few times and galloped into the darkness from where they came.

Watching Janet's silhouette fade into the distance,

Joao turned around, scanning the battlefield once more.

He shouted loudly to the soldiers, "Is anyone still alive?"

"Quickly gather and form a defense formation!"

Even though the arrow rain had completely stopped,

Joao knew well,

the arrows only served to kill the living forces of the enemy.

The cavalry charge and infantry advance are what truly finish a war!

If the Frank Manor soldiers don't form a defensive formation,

what awaits them is Lynn's heavy cavalry charge and the ruthless lash of long spears.

Amid Joao's loud shouts,

manor soldiers with panicked expressions emerged from behind corpses and shields.

They lifted their weapons, stepping through gaps in the heaps of bodies.

Under the captain's assembly, the Frank Manor soldiers gathered once more.

Joao glanced around.

He found that under this rain of arrows, far more manor soldiers had died than he had estimated.

The dead soldiers numbered at least three to four hundred!

Thundering~ Thundering~

Joao was just about to speak.

A rumbling sound like rolling thunder arose behind him.

Roars followed one another, quickly closing in from afar.

Even the dry clods and stones on the ground trembled and shook!

Joao hurriedly turned to look back.

Several hundred meters away, a cloud of dust, like a line, was rushing towards them at speed.

Joao understood naturally.

That line of dust was Lynn's heavy cavalry, in a single file, charging at full speed.

Joao hesitated not a bit, continuing to shout to the manor soldiers.

"All shield soldiers, move to the outermost!"

"Join shields tightly to form a shield wall!"

At Joao's command, a hundred or two shield soldiers sprang into action.

Even so,

despairing thoughts floated in Joao's heart.

It's over!

All is over!

A fifty-centimeter diameter round shield simply cannot form an effective shield wall.

It can't even cover the entire body of a shield soldier!

If in complex terrain,

he could organize soldiers to use narrow passages and valleys to break the heavy cavalry into smaller units.

Then concentrate forces to encircle and attack.

If there were long spear soldiers,

he could arrange them into a dense hedgehog-like spear formation to repel the heavy cavalry.

But...

He had no long spear soldiers,

and worse, he was in a vast open farmland!

An ideal position for both the archers' arrow rain and the cavalry charge.

Joao suddenly understood.

Why there was a fire in Morgan Town!

It was to inform those in Frank Manor that something had happened in Morgan Town.

It was to plant seeds of doubt, making them decide whether or not to reinforce Morgan Town.

If they chose not to reinforce, Lynn could easily take Morgan Town into their grasp.

If they did reinforce, it would be like now.

Trapping the Frank Manor soldiers in this farmland.

Using the double advantage of archers and heavy cavalry to annihilate the living forces of Frank Manor completely!

Nonetheless,

Joao did not give up in the slightest.

He turned, facing the units in front wearing black plate armor, wielding exotic long spears, riding tall horses of the heavy cavalry.

He lowered the mask on his iron helmet, his arm moved, gripping the hilt of the two-handed greatsword at his waist with his right hand.

A screeching sound of metal scraping, Joao drew out the greatsword from his waist.

Gripping the hilt tightly with both hands, the blade pointed diagonally to the sky, waiting for the heavy cavalry charge to draw near.

Compared to Joao's calmness and steadiness,

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The soldiers behind the shield bearers, their faces and eyes filled with tension and fear.

This was their first experience in battle.

Having survived the rain of arrows just now, they were already drenched in sweat.

Even the palms gripping their longswords or scimitars were slick and sticky.

Watching the cavalry teams getting closer and closer, their hearts pounded even more.

If it weren't for Joao standing firmly in front of them, providing them confidence,

they would have already fled in panic.

...

Under the night sky.

Riding on warhorses, Rose and Earl were still at the forefront of the charging heavy cavalry.

Rose's cold gaze pierced through the eye slits of the full face helmet, staring directly at that tall and burly figure!

His eyes narrowed slightly, with a surge of battle intent.

Rose naturally knew that the sturdy figure clad in chain armor was Joao Frank!

Without any fear, Rose again clamped the warhorse beneath him tightly, pushing its speed to the peak.

Behind Rose and Earl were nearly three hundred heavy cavalry, along with light cavalry and heavy and light infantry, closely following.

Rumble~

Rumble~

As the warhorses continued to accelerate.

The heavy cavalry galloped across the vast field.

Getting increasingly closer to the infantry of Frank Manor.

Fifty meters!

Rose stared intently at the foremost Joao Frank.

Thirty meters.

Rose tightened his grip on the winged spear in his right hand once more.

Twenty meters.

Rose clamped the winged spear handle under his arm even tighter.

Ten meters!

Rose's eyes widened.

Five meters!

Rose maneuvered the long spear in his right hand, aiming the spearhead directly at Joao!

At the moment of imminent collision.

What Rose imagined didn't happen...

Joao wasn't pierced by the charge acceleration of his warhorse and the impact of the winged spear, penetrating his chain armor, ripping through his body, and being sent flying.

The seemingly burly and clumsy Joao clad in chain armor.

Yet his body was exceptionally nimble and agile.

With just a step of his foot, Joao directly dodged the winged spear in Rose's hand.

At the same time.

Joao swung the two-handed greatsword he held tightly in his hand, slashing fiercely at Rose on horseback.

With Joao's height of two meters and the two-meter-long greatsword.

Even standing on the ground, he could still slash at Rose's neck.

Buzz!

The weight of the two-handed greatsword, when swung rapidly, produced a heavy whooshing sound.

Watching the blade's cold gleam enlarging in his eyes.

Rose's eyes widened, without any hesitation, his body originally riding on horseback leaned backwards, lying on the horse's rump.

The two-handed greatsword in Joao's hand similarly grazed past his cheek.

With the speed of the warhorse at this moment.

Rose and Joao just brushed past each other after a quick encounter.

Quickly straightening his body from horseback, Rose, tightly gripping the winged spear, charged towards the shield wall formed by Frank Manor.

However.

The round shield, after all, is not a kite shield!

Without the height of one and a half meters, nor a shield face wrapped by iron plates.

Unable to provide protection from shoulder to squad.

Under the charge led by Rose and Earl with the heavy cavalry.

The shield wall formed by round shields was instantly broken apart.

The shield bearers at the outermost, additionally, were forcibly pierced and sent flying by the power of the winged spear.

Finally, crashing into the crowd of manor soldiers behind them.

Rose tightly gripped the winged spear with both hands, continually swinging and thrusting, as one by one, the manor soldiers fell dead.

In merely a few seconds.

More and more heavy cavalry charged, continuously pushing the formation of manor soldiers in front further.

With a pull of his right arm, Rose withdrew the winged spear impaled in the chest of a manor soldier.

In an instant.

A splash of blood flew.

Rose pulled the warhorse under him, turning his body to look back.

Only to see.

Surrounded by a dozen heavy infantry.

The entirety of Joao Frank, drenched in blood, madly swung the two-handed greatsword in his hand.

Thus.

Trying to fend off the winged spears in the hands of the heavy infantry.

Rose glanced at Joao's feet.

There were even three warhorses and four or five bodies of soldiers wearing heavy armor with their necks severed!

Rose's eyebrows furrowed tightly.

Just as he was about to drive the warhorse, charging towards Joao.

His gaze traveled over the heavy infantry, looking further back.

There.

Lynn rode on a warhorse, approaching with Red and Wesley.

Without hesitation, Rose drove the horse to Lynn's side.

Rose said to Lynn, "Master..."

Lynn raised his right hand to signal, and Rose instantly understood, shutting his mouth and waiting.

Watching Joao Frank surrounded by heavy infantry, like a beast at bay.

Lynn felt somewhat surprised.

Despite Joao possessing Level 3 skill in [Horsemanship] [Archery] and [Hunting].

Having the [Guard] talent to reduce damage, and the [Precise Block] skill.

Yet, with just one person, slaying three cavalry along with their horses.

Moreover, forcing about a dozen heavy infantry clad in standard plate armor and wielding winged spears, unable to approach!

Such comprehensive strength was somewhat overly powerful.

Sitting on Mo Ying, Lynn looked directly at Joao, asking, "Disarm and surrender, I can spare your life!"

Being surrounded, Joao naturally saw Lynn.

He grinned, revealing bloodstained teeth, laughing grimly.

"I, Joao Frank, vow to never surrender!"

Lynn wasn't too surprised, and said to Wesley beside him, "Shoot him directly."

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"One arrow is not enough, then ten!"

Wesley did not hesitate at all, quickly responding, "Yes, master!"

Upon his command being given, Wesley waved his arm, and a squad of archers swiftly moved forward.

They did not hesitate at all and directly set up and drew their bows.

The fully drawn longbows produced a series of subtle 'buzzing' sounds.

Looking behind the heavy infantry, the archers held triangular armor-piercing arrows, aiming at him.

Joao shouted, "Lord Lynn, I, Joao Frank, challenge you to a fair duel!"

Surrounding Joao, the soldiers, as well as Rose and Wesley, all stared wide-eyed at Lynn.

Lynn's expression remained calm.

"Shoot him directly!"

Listening to Lynn's ongoing unwavering orders, Joao continued to provoke.

"Lynn, is this your demeanor as a lord?"

"Now I am a trapped beast, with no escape."

"You still don't dare face me?"

This time.

Lynn said nothing.

Nor did he need to give Wesley any more orders.

Wesley directly spoke, "Aim!"

A dozen archers aimed at Joao.

Wesley spoke again, "Shoot!"

His voice had just fallen.

A sharp sound rang out, shooting towards Joao, surrounded by heavy infantry.

Joao's eyes widened, unable to continue provoking Lynn, lifting his two-handed greatsword to block the arrows.

In just two seconds.

The first round of arrows ended.

Joao wanted to speak, but he seemed to feel the pain in his body.

Joao slightly lowered his head and glanced down.

His body was already pierced with five or six arrows.

Joao released his grip on the sword hilt, one by one, pulling out the arrows in his body.

Each time he pulled one out, blood gushed from the wound.

When all the arrows were pulled out by Joao, his right hand moved, taking off the iron helmet.

A face covered in blood, whether his own or the enemy's, came into view of everyone.

Joao sneered again, "Ha~ ha~"

"This alone cannot kill me!"

Wesley's brow furrowed, ordering again.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh~

Joao no longer had his two-handed greatsword to defend.

All fifteen arrows plunged into his body.

This time.

Joao had no more taunting words, his body stiffening, falling backward.

His massive, bloodshot eyes stared straight at the night sky above.

Even in death, they did not close.

Lynn withdrew his gaze from Joao's corpse, speaking to Rose and Wesley.

"Combine cavalry, infantry, and archers."

"Advance swiftly with minimal casualties!"

"Inform them that Joao Frank has been shot dead by a hail of arrows!"

Rose and Wesley responded promptly, "Yes, master."

Responding with a word.

The two retreated, continuing to lead and command their soldiers in combat.

News of Joao Frank's death spread quickly among the soldiers.

Whether the heavy cavalry charge, the heavy infantry advance, or the archers' rain of arrows!

Or using various tactics and strategies!

All of it was to win the battle with minimal loss!

All the soldiers and warhorses were gathered through a lot of effort or money.

Lynn would certainly not raise his soldiers' mortality rate for the sake of so-called 'honor'!

These soldiers were willing to become soldiers for their families, for the homes behind the walls, for their lord.

To train, enter the battlefield, and fight the enemy head-on.

Though they were soldiers.

They were also husbands to wives, fathers to children, and sons to parents.

As a lord, he brought these soldiers out.

He naturally would do everything possible to bring them back!

As for Joao Frank's 'fair duel'.

He paid it no heed.

Why bring uncertainty and even life-threatening danger close for the sake of demonstrating strength?

That would be ignorance!

Even if he had copied Joao's [talents] and [skills], exceeding Joao in power.

He had no intention to show off.

His drive to grow stronger was mainly for self-preservation!

Moreover.

Fairness won't sprout from someone's words.

Only by possessing absolute power does one have the qualification to demand fairness!

Lynn continued riding on Mo Ying's back, gazing forward at the battlefield.

When Rose and Earl, led the heavy cavalry into Frank Manor's soldier ranks.

He realized.

This war wouldn't last long.

Frank Manor's soldiers, before the heavy cavalry, were like lambs to slaughter, utterly powerless.

The reason for this.

Obviously, because of the previous attack by the united Three Great Estates, which weakened Frank Manor.

They need substantial time to train up a qualified armed force.

He originally planned to use Frank Manor to keep Morgan Town's townsmen on this land.

Frank Manor chose to kill the goose that laid the golden eggs.

He had no choice but to wage war against Frank Manor!

The arrival of Blade Wind Corps was indeed a bit unexpected.

Fortunately.

His prior development, step by step, had paid off.

The armed force he possessed was strong enough.

Everything was under control!

Before Lynn.

The battlefield, once dominated by slaughter, saw Frank Manor's soldiers learning of Joao Frank's death.

Realizing that surrendering disarmed would make them prisoners.

The remaining two or three hundred manor soldiers didn't hesitate to drop their weapons.

Their involvement in Frank Manor was naturally for work, for future life.

But the current situation made them understand survival was more important!

Several minutes later.

Rose led his warhorse to Lynn's side.

"Master!"

"The remaining manor soldiers have all disarmed and surrendered."

"However, I didn't find Manor Lord Janet Frank among them."

"A prisoner claimed she rode off alone on horseback..."

Lynn nodded, speaking to Rose.

"Lead five hundred soldiers, escort these prisoners back to Morgan Town for detention."

"And tally up the current people and property in Morgan Town."

Rose responded without hesitating, "Yes, master!"

Lynn turned his gaze towards the distant darkness and continued.

"Everyone else, follow me to Frank Manor!"

Behind him, Wesley and Red, along with all the soldiers, responded.

"Yes, Lord!"

As the voices fell.

A group of people marched mightily towards the distant Frank Manor.

Chapter 766: The Fall of Frank Manor

A mighty army grasped their weapons tightly, either riding on warhorses or marching on foot.

Heading into the distant darkness.

A dozen light cavalry wearing composite armor rode ordinary horses, spurred their mounts, and galloped ahead first.

They were scouts, utilizing the speed and agility of horses.

Capable of quickly investigating the surrounding enemy situation and terrain on a large scale.

Serving as the "eyes" and "ears" of the marching army behind.

Preventing the army from suffering a surprise attack.

Especially here at night!

Lynn rode atop Mo Ying, in the middle of the army.

Wesley, from the rear, sped up his warhorse to approach Lynn.

Red, who had been following Lynn, turned a glance back.

Realizing it was Wesley, he withdrew his gaze.

Wesley reported: "Master, we captured Keith. Under our severe interrogation, he has confessed."

"The Blade Wind Corps looted three thousand eight hundred Gold Pounds."

"But it was all taken away by his brother Wyatt, who fled."

Wesley quickly explained as his words shifted.

"However, he says he's willing to lead us to retrieve the wealth."

"His only request is to spare their lives..."

Listening to Wesley's explanation, Lynn nodded and said in a deep voice.

"Request... he's not in a position to negotiate with me."

"Arrange a cavalry unit to retrieve the wealth."

"Expose Keith's corpse on the gallows at the town entrance to appease the people's anger!"

Wesley responded with a solemn expression.

"Yes, Master."

Wesley called over a soldier captain to begin issuing and arranging the instructions the lord just gave.

Clatter~

Clatter~

Amidst the sound of soldiers' orderly footsteps, under the illumination of the torches, on the marching on the gravel road...

A black castle outline had already appeared in front of everyone.

At first glance, though not as grand as Master Lynn's castle.

It still gave off a towering feeling.

That.

Of course, was the Frank family's manor castle.

The army led by Lynn marched straight ahead without any pause.

The sound of galloping hooves echoed from the front.

Drawing nearer, galloping closer.

The heavy cavalry at the forefront tightened their grip on their winged spears.

Under the night sky, with obstructed vision, they couldn't discern the attire and appearance of the approaching ones.

Unable to tell friend from foe.

Naturally, they couldn't help but feel tense.

A few seconds later.

Several cavalry silhouettes appeared ahead.

Upon recognizing the composite armor worn by the cavalry, the soldiers felt a slight relief.

Under the watchful eyes of the soldiers, the scouts bypassed the front troops to reach Lynn in the middle.

The scouts reined in their horses abruptly, and amid the neighing of the horses, quickly reported to Lynn.

"Lord, the gates of Frank Manor are wide open."

"On the walls, aside from burning torches, there's not a single guard."

"We fifteen riders circled a lap, not even a single presence was seen!"

"Frank Manor now looks like an empty city!"

Lynn acknowledged, then spoke: "Scout and report again."

The scouts promptly replied, "Yes, Lord."

Without any wasted words, the scouts flicked their reins.

Driving their mounts forward into the darkness again.

Wesley, who had finished arranging matters, listened to the scout's report and furrowed his brows, saying.

"The gates are wide open, no defense?"

"Master, could Frank Manor have set up an ambush?"

Lynn replied calmly, "No."

"If Frank Manor still had other armed soldiers, they could have launched an overwhelming attack to destroy us."

"Why send nearly two thousand soldiers to their deaths?"

"Especially including the fierce Joao Frank?"

As for whether it was Janet using his hand to eliminate Joao Frank.

Or if there were any other schemes.

Lynn no longer cared.

Absolute strength can crush all schemes and conspiracies.

Wesley nodded in understanding.

An open gate, an undefended castle...

This kind of situation was the first he had encountered.

As the army advanced steadily, after two rounds of the scouts' reports, they arrived two hundred meters in front of the manor castle gate.

Lynn scanned the manor castle ahead with his gaze.

Just as the scout described.

The gate was open, not a single figure on the walls.

Only the torches were burning, emitting the glow of flames.

Cold and silent.

Lynn shouted, "Enter the castle!"

As soon as the words fell, the soldiers' resounding response echoed.

The sound was loud and full of energy.

Forming a sharp contrast with the castle's atmosphere.

Under the leadership of Earl, who led by example, the cavalry urged their warhorses towards the manor castle gates.

The heavy infantry followed closely behind.

The sound of clashing armor parts persisted without pause.

Until the soldiers entered, no sounds of fighting erupted for a long time.

The robust Earl returned to Lynn's side on horseback.

He reported with a lowered head: "Master, there's no enemy within the castle!"

"Only some sleeping maids and peasants..."

Lynn responded, "Wake everyone, gather and guard them, and await further instruction."

Earl replied with a lowered head, "Yes, Lord."

Turning his gaze to Wesley.

Without even needing to be instructed, Wesley immediately spoke.

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"Master, I will arrange for personnel right away to confiscate all the money and grain from the Manor Castle!"

Wesley has found his role after the war's end.

Ransacking!

He is in charge of ransacking homes for Lynn, reporting and recording details, then handing them to Kuisi for storage!

Lynn nodded, reminding him, "Be careful."

Wesley's eyebrows twitched, he quickly replied, "Yes, Master!"

Summoning several squads of light infantry, Wesley led them in large strides into the Manor Castle.

Watching squads of soldiers busy at work, Lynn nudged Mo Ying beneath him, urging it toward the Manor Castle.

With several soldiers guarding the gate, saluting.

Lynn entered the gate, arriving inside the Manor Castle.

His soldiers had already taken over the entire Manor Castle.

Holding torches, they stood at intervals of three to four meters, monitoring every move inside the Manor Castle.

Arriving at the staircase to the left, he dismounted Mo Ying and walked up.

Taking three steps at a time.

Very quickly.

Lynn reached the walls of the Manor Castle.

Though he wore Scale Armor with Chain Liner.

With his current physique, he could completely disregard the weight.

A gentle, cool night breeze blew in; his black cloak behind him swayed gently.

"Hurry up!"

"Thought she had escaped, didn't expect her to hide in the castle!"

"Take her to the Lord and let him handle it."

"..."

A burst of urging calls and heavy footsteps rang behind Lynn.

He turned to look.

Six or seven heavy infantry in Standard Plate Armor were escorting a young woman toward him.

The Heavy Armor Soldier Captain stepped forward quickly, reaching Lynn first.

He bent slightly, lowered his head, and spoke respectfully, "Lord."

"We found Janet Frank in a room deep within the castle!"

Lynn responded, his eyes sizing up the young woman in front of him—Janet Frank.

She wore brown tight Leather Armor, her form delicate, the armor outlining her curves perfectly.

Her white chest was tightly bound, a deep gorge faintly visible.

Her slim waist and the rounded curve of her raised behind formed an alluring arc.

With her fair, delicate face, she was hard to ignore.

However, Lynn noticed.

At this moment, Janet no longer possessed her former ambition.

Her eyes were filled with despondency.

Despite Lynn's unabashed scrutiny of Janet.

Janet remained expressionless.

Suddenly.

Janet, who had kept her head down, looked up at Lynn.

She spoke firmly, "Kill me."

"If you kill me, the Frank Clan will be utterly destroyed."

"This Manor... no, the whole Morgan Town will belong to you."

"Fulfilling your wish."

Sensing the coldness in Janet's words, Lynn smiled faintly.

"Ms. Janet, even if I don't kill you, Morgan Town will eventually come under my control!"

Janet's expression darkened.

She naturally understood the truth in Lynn's words.

With an army like the Steel Corps.

Neither the former Three Great Estates, Blade Wind Corps, nor their Frank Manor.

Could possibly be a match.

Janet lifted her head again, staring directly at Lynn, "Kill me!"

"You've destroyed Frank Manor, dashed my hopes for the future."

"If you don't kill me, once I escape, I will stop at nothing to rally all powers and annihilate you and your domain!"

"Only by killing me can you eliminate future threats."

Lynn smiled calmly.

"Ms. Janet, is this a request from you?"

"Or perhaps you wish to use my hand to put a final end to Frank Manor?"

"Thus letting the residents of Morgan Town believe Frank Manor never compromised to me, Lynn?"

"To obscure the fact that it was you, Janet, who led Frank Manor to its demise?"

"To hide your incompetence with your loyal death?"

Hearing Lynn's words, Janet's expression finally changed.

"What nonsense are you talking?"

"It was I who wiped out the remaining Manor Lords of Morgan Town!"

"It was I who incorporated all of Morgan Town's lands into the Frank Manor's territory!"

"It was I who achieved what previous Manor Lords of the Frank Manor could not!"

"You dare call me incompetent?"

"You..."

Janet's words were cut off.

Lynn extended his left index finger, directly interrupting her speech.

"Ms. Janet!"

"I think you may have always misunderstood."

Janet frowned: "What?"

Lynn continued: "First, it was I who personally led the soldiers to annihilate Morrison Manor."

"Under the joint attack of Morgan Town's Three Great Estates, if not for my arrival, your Frank Manor would have been destroyed."

"How could it be that you led Frank Manor to destroy all the Manor Lords of Morgan Town?"

Janet's brows furrowed deeply.

Lynn spoke, "Next, all the lands of Morgan Town were given to you by me, Lynn."

"So that while digesting thousands of peasants, there would be farmers to tend and care for the land."

"Not just the land, but Morgan Town follows the same logic."

Janet's fair complexion turned stern.

Indeed, just as she had previously guessed.

All this has been under Lynn's calculations.

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Lynn continued, "Finally..."

"You have indeed achieved something that the manor lords of Frank Manor throughout history have never accomplished."

"You have led Frank Manor to its downfall!"

Janet's entire body suddenly stiffened.

She widened her eyes, looking at Lynn in disbelief.

"Am I the one leading Frank Manor to its downfall?"

Lynn took a few steps back, leaning against the edge of the courtyard wall.

His body slightly shifted backward, leaning against the wall.

Only then did he speak slowly.

"Of course, there's one point that needs to be mentioned first."

"Unless Frank Manor chooses to submit, it will inevitably fall sooner or later."

"Regardless of whether the Manor Lord is you or someone else."

"Your actions merely accelerated the downfall of Frank Manor."

Janet's eyes wavered, wanting to retort.

Yet she found herself completely at a loss for where to start.

Lynn's words were piercing!

Lynn looked playfully at the roundness in front of Janet.

"And one last point, Miss Janet."

"If you wish to die along with the downfall of Frank Manor."

"You are welcome to commit suicide before my soldiers enter the Manor Castle."

"But you did not do so."

"Because you fear death!"

"Unlike Joao Frank, who chose not to surrender and died after being hit by dozens of Arrows."

"You, Janet Frank, don't even have the courage to take your own life!"

Janet's eyes narrowed, her entire being frozen in place.

Lynn's words kept echoing in her mind.

"Because you fear death..."

"Don't even have the courage to take your own life..."

These words seemed to touch Janet's last nerve.

Her face flushed red, as she began to stride towards Lynn.

However.

Before taking a step, she was restrained by two heavy infantry in Armor holding her shoulders.

Janet struggled frantically, trying to escape the physical restraint.

But no matter how hard she tried, she couldn't break free.

Janet's face was almost contorted, and she shouted loudly at Lynn, "Preposterous!"

"Do you know how I've gotten through life from childhood till now?"

"I've never feared death!"

"Even if you are the victor of Morgan Town, you cannot morally stand above me, look down on me, condemn me!"

Lynn, looking at Janet's ferocious face, remained indifferent.

He calmly said, "Oh, really?"

"Prove it to me!"

Lynn looked at the two heavy infantry behind Janet and said, "Release her and give her a sword."

The captain of the heavy infantry did not hesitate and responded, "Yes, my Lord."

Immediately, he had the two heavy infantry release her and step back.

He threw a standard Longsword in front of Janet.

Listening to Lynn's words.

Feeling the grip on her shoulders disappear, Janet did not rush madly towards Lynn as she had just now.

She stood dazed, full of indecision.

Lynn remained leaning against the thick wall, staring at Janet six or seven meters away.

"What's the matter, Miss Janet?"

"Didn't you say you never feared death?"

"Didn't you say I'm condemning you, looking down on you from the posture of a victor?"

"Now I'm giving you a chance!"

"I can even inform all the soldiers, all the Free People and Peasants of Morgan Town."

"You, Janet Frank, died defending the Manor Castle."

Janet looked bewildered, her body feeling weak, and she collapsed to the ground.

She stared straight at the ground, at the standard Longsword still stained with blood.

Lynn's voice continued to speak in her ears.

"Is Miss Janet afraid?"

His voice was not loud.

Yet in Janet's ears, it felt like the Demon's whisper, urging her towards the Abyss of death.

A nameless fury rose within Janet.

She steeled herself and crawled on her knees towards the Longsword, grabbing it.

Red and several heavy infantry moved cautiously.

They shielded their Lord behind them.

Janet raised the standard Longsword, resting it on her shoulder.

The weight of the Longsword in her hands.

The metallic and bloody smell coming from the blade.

And Lynn's scrutinizing gaze!

Janet's breath gradually became rapid, the white of her chest heaving quickly.

She wanted to drag the Longsword across her neck.

But Janet found that no matter how resolved she was, her arms wouldn't move.

Consequently.

Her arms, indeed her entire body, began to tremble.

This time.

Lynn did not urge Janet further.

A clatter!

With a crisp sound, the Longsword slipped from Janet's hands, falling on the courtyard's cobblestone floor.

Moments ago, full of resolve, she felt as if half of her was suddenly hollowed out.

Her previously upright slender body.

Sitting bent, with hands on the ground...

Her face was full of despair and defeat.

Seeing Janet like this, Lynn's gaze shifted to the heavy infantry and he spoke.

"Take her back to the territory! Take care of her!"

The captain of the heavy infantry quickly responded, "Yes, my Lord."

As Janet sat on the ground, she seemed to hear Lynn's command.

She suddenly snapped back to reality, glaring at Lynn, her voice full of questioning shouts.

Taken away by two heavy infantry, she headed towards the distant stairs.

"Lynn, what do you want to do?"

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"Go ahead and kill me; I will never submit to you!"

Watched as a few figures gradually walked away into the distance.

Lynn directly withdrew his gaze.

Perhaps due to her figure, perhaps due to her age, or perhaps due to her mentality.

Janet considered herself superior, to the point of seeing everything and everyone as beneath her.

If that's the case.

Lynn didn't mind using his strength to crush Janet, completely shattering her ambitions!

A night assault on Morgan Town, swiftly annihilating the Blade Wind Corps.

Soldier troops were arranged in advance, hidden under the cover of night, waiting for the soldiers from Frank Manor to fall into the trap.

Utilizing the advantages of heavy cavalry and archers, the soldiers of Frank Manor were completely wiped out!

It wasn't just in terms of military power.

Lynn also intended to thoroughly break Janet Frank's spirit.

Bring her back to his territory and degrade her to a slave, or even a bed maid!

Lynn's gaze shifted, looking at the Frank Manor Castle, which was becoming quieter from the previous hustle and bustle.

He couldn't help but let out a breath.

Whether it was Frank Manor or Morgan Town.

Until this moment.

All the manor lords in Morgan Town, all threats and dangers, had been completely cleared by him.

Now, all of Morgan Town would be under his control!

Large tracts of arable land, woodland, grassland, and pastures, as well as a vast number of laborers, and so on.

However, Lynn also understood.

After taking over the entire Morgan Town, there would be a multitude of matters waiting for him to plan and organize.

Strengthen military defenses to consolidate his rule over Morgan Town and surrounding areas.

Develop the economy, improve Morgan Town's planting techniques, and increase grain yield.

Build infrastructure, repair and expand roads from his territory to the town.

Even provide basic education for the residents of Morgan Town.

And so on.

A long time ago, Lynn had thought about this.

If he just wanted to occupy the land and be king, holding sway over a region.

He could rely on the land behind the current walls, continuously developing and expanding.

Clear land for planting, recruit an army, develop industries, research technology, accumulate capital.

But the area of land he possessed was ultimately limited.

The wasteland that could be cleared for planting amounted to about three hundred thousand mu.

Even if the forested areas were later converted to arable land.

The area would still be limited.

With the population he currently had, the grain soon to be planted in his territory, and after the switch to planting Emperor Potatoes.

After the summer harvest, there would naturally be no worry about going hungry.

However!

If he wanted to look further ahead.

He would need to continuously increase the population on his land.

From ten thousand to twenty thousand, twenty thousand to fifty thousand, fifty thousand to a hundred thousand.

Even hundreds of thousands, millions!

Then convert the population to soldiers, transforming them into combat power.

By that time.

He would need more land to be cleared and cultivated to feed more residents.

Therefore.

It was necessary to plan the land of Morgan Town in advance.

Lynn also understood that this was not easy.

But he still needed to try to do it.

As Lynn's gaze looked far into the distant night, pondering in his mind.

Time was quickly passing by.

A few hours later.

Footsteps sounded from the nearby stairs.

Wesley strode quickly up from the stairway below.

Under Red's watchful eyes, he came to a stop a few meters behind Lynn.

Wesley bowed slightly, speaking respectfully, "Master, everyone belonging to the Manor Castle has been fully assembled."

"All the money, grain, poultry, livestock, metal tools, and even some daily necessities have all been packed up."

"The exact numbers will need to be tallied later..."

Lynn turned to look at Wesley, nodding, "Very good."

"Arrange a troop of fifty soldiers, leaving enough grain."

"Have them stand guard, awaiting further orders."

"All other soldiers, lead and transport personnel and goods back to the territory in batches."

All manor lords in Morgan Town had been thoroughly cleaned out.

Unless there were external forces, bandits, or other lords arriving, whether Morgan Town or the walled Manor Castle.

In the short term, they would be safe.

Apart from the three major mines on his territory.

There was only a large piece of land barely capable of growing crops within these manors in Morgan Town.

Furthermore, given its remote and impoverished location.

How could it possibly be coveted by any powerful lord?

For Lynn, this was naturally a good thing.

He could have more time to plan and develop Morgan Town!

With Lynn's clear instructions received, Wesley quickly responded.

"Yes, Master, I will arrange it right away!"

Lynn acknowledged with a nod.

He once again surveyed the Manor Castle and the large tract of farmland surrounding the castle.

He thought briefly in his mind.

The terrain of this castle has certain advantages, but also some limitations.

Because it's located amidst vast fields, it's convenient for future agricultural production and management oversight.

It allows for unified planting and harvesting to improve agricultural production efficiency.

At the same time, the defense vision is broad.

Except for when he led soldiers to hide in disguise, a large patch of forest in the distance.

There were no tall trees or buildings around to obstruct the view.

Unless it was nighttime.

Otherwise, from afar, one could see enemy troops approaching, sound the alarm early, and prepare for defense.

The Manor Castle was about ten plus li away from Morgan Town, which isn't very far.

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The manor castle can completely serve as the management center for land development and agricultural growth, radiating outwards.

Even.

There's no need to build more red brick houses for the farmers responsible for cultivating and planting on this farmland.

Thinking of this.

Lynn had a preliminary plan for the future development of Morgan Town.

With a flicker in his eyes, he activated the [Holographic Map] to take a look.

Seeing the map scene that still only included the territory beyond the city wall, Lynn couldn't help but frown.

He cleared all forces in Morgan Town and occupied it.

[The Holographic Map] still did not expand its field of view.

Soon.

Lynn thought of something.

The current territory he holds was granted by the original Marquis Donovan Ducas.

And the territory of Morgan Town was seized through war and is not considered a legitimate possession.

Therefore.

That's why the [Holographic Map] doesn't display the scene of Morgan Town.

This was the only reason Lynn could think of.

In other words.

He needs to acquire ownership of this territory!

Following the reasoning.

With the current situation of the Karedi Empire.

With his current status.

Obtaining the grant of Morgan Town from Marquis Duca is more difficult than ascending to the heavens.

Lynn even feels.

It's better to bury himself in developing the territory and enhancing military power.

To overthrow the Ducas Clan and take their place.

That would be much easier!

Lynn glanced at the bottom of the city wall.

Under the supervision of a team of soldiers.

A group of peasants drove carts and ox carts, or carried goods on their shoulders, heading outside the castle.

After watching for a while.

Lynn led Lynn down the steps and came to the entrance of the castle.

The soldiers quickly led up the warhorse.

Lynn reached out to take the reins, placed his left foot on the stirrup, and agilely mounted the horse.

Slightly nudging Mo Ying's horse's belly, Mo Ying understood and began to move toward the outside of the castle.

Red, who also mounted a warhorse, immediately followed.

Riding atop the warhorse, Lynn joined the ranks of the peasants.

His gaze swept over a group of peasants.

On the faces of most peasants, there was numbness and calm.

Apparently.

As peasants, they had long been accustomed to their current life.

The fall of Frank Manor had little to do with them.

It merely meant being transferred from one manor lord to another lord.

Their status as peasants wouldn't change.

After a short walk.

Lynn and the others arrived near Morgan Town.

Rose, who had been waiting, saw Lynn under the torchlight.

Without any hesitation, he urged his warhorse to approach Lynn.

Coming to Lynn's side.

Rose respectfully said, "Master!"

Lynn pondered for a moment and spoke to Rose, "Is the personnel count for Morgan Town completed?"

Rose didn't hesitate, replying, "Yes, Master."

"In Morgan Town, consisting of free people, young and old, there are 3,200 people!"

"The Blade Wind Corps hired mercenaries who surrendered and laid down their arms number three hundred."

"A total of 3,500 people!"

Lynn nodded, "How about the food supply?"

Rose hesitated slightly before speaking, "Master, the food from the ordinary residents of the town has been completely searched."

"There is a large quantity that needs to be weighed and measured after returning to the territory to determine the exact amount."

"However..."

Lynn said, "Speak freely."

Rose nodded, "However, Master, there are some merchants from Mr. Boer's Merchant Guild in Morgan Town."

"Because of your relationship with Mr. Boer, I stopped the soldiers from raiding the merchants."

"And those merchants said they have always assisted Boer in trading activities with you."

"They hope you can return the gold pounds their mercenaries robbed from them."

Listening to Rose's explanation, Lynn instantly understood.

"Is Boer not in Morgan Town?"

Rose shook his head, "The guild merchants said Mr. Boer hasn't returned yet."

Lynn continued, "Ask them to report these matters to Boer and have him come talk to me."

"Exclude the merchants and families from Boer's Merchant Guild."

"All remaining food supplies and free people, bring them back to the territory!"

Rose responded, "Yes, Master!"

As the words fell.

Rose quickly pulled the reins and rode toward the front of Morgan Town.

Shortly after.

Likewise, under the soldiers' escort, groups of free people and prisoners from the Blade Wind Corps began to leave Morgan Town.

Compared to the numbness and calm of the peasants.

The faces of these free people were filled with terror.

They wanted to resist, to argue for the rights free people should have.

However.

When they saw the squads of soldiers in standard armor and the winged spears in their hands.

All the free people chose to give up.

They knew this was a powerful standard army!

Under Lynn's watchful gaze.

The peasant team from Frank Manor and the free people team from Morgan Town moved one after the other in the direction of his territory.

The sheer number of people and the length of the procession was such that he almost couldn't see the end.

Fortunately.

The sky, which was pitch black not long ago, gradually lightened to a grayish hue.

Dawn was breaking.

Summoning Earl, he instructed him to lead a squad of one hundred soldiers to guard Morgan Town.

And instructed him that if faced with a large number of regular troops, he must retreat at the first instance.

Lynn rode his horse, following the long procession back to his territory.