

System 871

Chapter 871: Making You a Commander_4

The guard lightly knocked on the door and explained, "Marquis, an edict from Triumph City."

The guard's voice had just fallen.

From behind the closed wooden door, a man's voice emerged.

"Enter."

The guard responded and gently pushed open the door, stepping into the room.

As he entered, a faint fragrance of incense wafted into his nose.

Without looking around, the guard headed straight toward Marquis Mark Duca at the desk.

Coming to about four or five meters from the desk, the guard bowed slightly and said, "Marquis, an edict from Triumph City."

Mark continued reading a document without raising his head.

"Put it down."

The guard quickly complied.

Mark continued, "Go and summon Knight Commander Godfrey to the study."

"Tell him I have important matters to discuss with him."

The guard responded and quickly withdrew.

Until the door, which was opened, was closed again.

Only then did Mark put down the document he was reading and tossed it aside.

With a motion of the arm, he picked up the edict the guard had just placed down and slowly opened it.

With the help of the burning candle on the desk and the light from the oil lamp on the wall, he carefully examined it.

As Mark continued to read.

His initially slightly furrowed brow gradually became tightly knit.

A moment later.

A series of footsteps sounded outside Mark's study.

"Marquis, Godfrey..."

After the footsteps stopped, a man's voice sounded.

Before the man's words could finish, Mark interrupted him directly.

"No need for pleasantries, come in directly."

Godfrey outside naturally heard Mark's words.

The closed wooden door was slowly pushed open with a creaking sound.

Godfrey glanced at Mark ahead and strode forward.

Looking at the documents piled up like a mountain on the desk, Godfrey asked, "Marquis..."

With a motion of his arm, Mark tossed the newly obtained edict towards the desk in front of Godfrey.

"Take a look first."

Without further words, Godfrey stepped forward and picked up the edict from the desk with both hands.

Upon seeing the golden lion crowned crest, Godfrey's brow raised.

He naturally knew it was the emblem of the Carolingian Clan.

His gaze scanned the symbols on the edict.

Suddenly.

Godfrey's eyes widened in surprise and said, "His Highness Mitchell instructs the soldiers stationed at Windmill Ridge Canyon to attack Spirit Reef Port?"

Mark made no reply, just stared straight at Godfrey.

Godfrey's mind spun rapidly.

As if contemplating the implication.

A moment later.

Mark leaned back into the comfortable and soft leather seat.

He asked Godfrey, "Knight Commander Godfrey, tell me, what do you think?"

Upon hearing Mark's inquiry, Godfrey snapped back to attention.

He bowed slightly to Mark, speaking respectfully, "Marquis, if I may be frank."

"Mitchell Carolin is using the Ducas Clan as a pawn!"

Mark waited for Godfrey to continue.

Godfrey didn't hesitate to continue narrating.

"The first directive was to send troops into the Duchy of the Red Dragon."

"To incite hostility between the Duke of Red Dragon and Duke Cangyu."

"The end result was far from effective."

"In fact, nothing changed."

Godfrey's tone shifted, "However..."

"This led to the loss of over three thousand Sword and Shield Corps soldiers from the Ducas Clan!"

"Three thousand Sword and Shield Corps soldiers were forever lost in the Duchy of the Red Dragon."

"They couldn't even have their names, only being labeled as rebels within the Feiyu Army of Duke Cangyu!"

"Of course, I know that a command from those in power often requires countless soldiers to march forward unwaveringly."

"If it were from someone else, it would be dismissed."

"However, such futile directives, leading to soldier's senseless deaths, are meaningless."

Godfrey took a deep breath, his tone slightly softened.

"If it were only once, it would be forgivable."

"But, Marquis!"

"Mitchell Carolin has issued such an edict again to the Ducas Clan..."

"Spirit Reef Port—that is the territory of Marquis Polk!"

"Leo Polk has long been closely connected with Caesar Carolin."

"It's not an exaggeration to say that Leo Polk is one of Caesar Carolin's confidants."

"If you, Marquis, were to deploy a large army to attack Spirit Reef Port per the edict."

"That would certainly attract attention from all factions!"

"Given Marquis Polk owns dozens of warships and troops, even if you can capture it, your military strength would suffer greatly."

"Moreover, Marquis Polk can rely on the defenses of Spirit Reef Port, delaying until the arrival of reinforcements!"

"With Marquis Polk's army ahead, reinforcements coming behind..."

"By then, despite the strength of the Sword and Shield Corps soldiers, they'd face total destruction..."

Mark murmured.

"Knight Commander Godfrey, I've also considered what you said."

"You know the Ducas Clan has already joined His Highness Mitchell's ranks."

"The Ducas Clan has no choice but to execute the orders from His Highness Mitchell!"

"Otherwise, it would be disobedience!"

"The most critical aspect is that the current Empire's situation, with Caesar identified as the one who killed Charlemagne VI and his withdrawal from Triumph City..."

Chapter 872: Making You the Commander

"The wind of public opinion has already shifted towards His Highness Mitchell."

"Moreover, those wavering Noble Lords have also begun to pledge allegiance to His Highness Mitchell..."

Godfrey's expression became serious.

Neither he nor Mark, sitting opposite him, were oblivious.

They both knew that the death of Emperor of the Empire, Charlemagne VI, was not as simple as it appeared on the surface.

However.

The evidence before them was undeniable.

Caesar had entered the bedchamber of Charlemagne VI alone.

The Dagger of Judgment that Charlemagne VI had bestowed upon Caesar pierced the Emperor's heart.

Charlemagne VI was thus slain!

If it were simply a normal imperial power struggle,

The last throne of the Karedi Empire could have fallen to either Mitchell or Caesar, it was hard to say.

But now.

Clearly, Mitchell has a greater advantage.

Compared to a murderer who killed both his king and father,

The majority naturally preferred to support the renowned 'Spear of the Empire', who had previously suppressed a rebellious marquis!

After thinking briefly, Godfrey spoke to Mark sitting in front of him.

"My Lord Marquis, I believe before deploying our forces and launching an attack,"

"We need to clearly understand the purpose of His Highness Mitchell instructing the Sword and Shield Corps to attack Spirit Reef Port."

Mark seemed to have already considered this issue.

He spoke directly, "Spirit Reef Port is located on the edge of Marquis Leo Polk's territory."

"Yet, besides Iron Anchor Bay, it's the dock closest to Triumph City."

"If we don't capture Spirit Reef Port, the forces supporting Caesar can easily board warships and gather there."

"Simply put, if Spirit Reef Port falls into the enemy's hands, it would be a fatal blow to Triumph City."

"Its importance even surpasses that of the Sword and Shield Corps stationed at Windmill Ridge Canyon!"

Godfrey nodded, "So, His Highness Mitchell's plan is for you, my Lord Marquis, to capture Spirit Reef Port and take control..."

"This can be understood in three intentions!"

Mark raised an eyebrow, looking at Godfrey, he said.

"Let's hear it, Knight Commander Godfrey."

Without further ado, Godfrey spoke, "Firstly, the Ducas Clan is only a marquise; neither in status nor military strength can it compare to the Duke Cangyu or Duke Heiyao."

Speaking of which, Godfrey apologized to Mark, "Apologies, my Lord Marquis, my words might be harsh..."

Mark was indifferent, "Go on."

Godfrey continued, "Therefore, His Highness Mitchell has issued a decree for you, my Lord Marquis."

"To send you, whose strength is limited and also a marquis, to launch the attack."

"Soldiers against soldiers, generals against generals!"

"Because this way, the entanglements will be minimal!"

Mark nodded slightly.

Godfrey went on, "Secondly, with the Ducas Clan's Sword and Shield Corps attacking Spirit Reef Port, it inevitably leaves Windmill Ridge Canyon vacant."

"This is beneficial, not only to you, my Lord Marquis but to the entire Sword and Shield Corps!"

"For with the strength of the Sword and Shield Corps, if faced with a Red Dragon Rider offensive, it will be unsustainable."

"The ultimate result would merely be trampled by the charge of the Red Dragon Riders' cavalry."

"As before, over 3,000 sword and shield soldiers faced in the Duchy of the Red Dragon."

"Unless supported by other Lords, defeat is inevitable!"

"But going to attack Spirit Reef Port is different."

"At least there is a chance of victory."

Mark hummed softly, nodding in understanding.

Godfrey continued, "If victory is achieved, then it leads to the third point!"

"If the sword and shield soldiers can seize Spirit Reef Port and occupy it,"

"Then you, my Lord Marquis, would gain the port closest to Triumph City."

"Whether for future maritime force development or using warships for transportation and military operations, it's an extremely advantageous condition."

"Following this imperial power struggle, you can even rely on Spirit Reef Port to collect taxes from passing merchant ships!"

Godfrey shifted his tone, "The imperial struggle is merely the Empire's power switching hands."

"Ultimately it will conclude."

"In essence, it's a reshuffling of imperial powers."

"As long as the Ducas Clan survives this war and secures crucial towns and ports from this campaign."

"The Ducas Clan will continue to have the potential for growth!"

Listening to Godfrey's words, Mark Ducas' eyes lit up slightly.

Though he hadn't spoken any word, Godfrey had essentially voiced all his thoughts.

No matter how this war turns out,

The throne of the Emperor of the Empire will not be seized by someone else!

Because with Charlemagne VI's recent demise, those Lords who pledged allegiance to him remain loyal.

If someone else takes the Emperor's position, it will undoubtedly be met with collective opposition.

This is why several Grand Dukes strongly support the two Princes!

To become a Grand Duke, even if not the first generation,

They are by no means lacking astuteness!

It is known that.

A Grand Duke often has many offspring.

To emerge among many blood relatives and obtain the duke's position,

Is not as simple as it seems.

Between the Princes, Dukes, and a host of Lords, apparent allegiance exists.

In truth, it's merely mutual exploitation.

Mark understands this principle.

As Princes, both Mitchell and Caesar surely understand it too.

Just as Godfrey said.

Chapter 873: Appointing You as Commander _6

What the Ducas Clan must do in this battle is to simultaneously fulfill the edicts issued by Mitchell.

Preserve the Ducas Clan's military strength as much as possible.

And gain as much profit as possible from this battle!

Because.

The ultimate purpose of war is profit!

Mark looked at Godfrey and asked, "According to what you said, deploying the Sword and Shield Corps to attack Spirit Reef Port is the best choice."

"Even if this battle will damage the Ducas Clan's military strength?"

Godfrey sighed lightly: "If to preserve the Sword and Shield Corps, we don't attack Spirit Reef Port, it would be disobeying orders."

"Once His Highness Mitchell obtains victory in the war, he will definitely settle scores with you."

"But even if you continue to have the Sword and Shield Corps stationed at Windmill Ridge Canyon,"

"They still wouldn't be a match for the Red Dragon Riders..."

"Marquis, do you think you still have a choice now?"

Mark's face froze.

A few seconds later.

Mark solemnly said, "There's no choice."

Godfrey nodded and said, "Therefore, weighing the pros and cons, in the end, you can only choose to attack Spirit Reef Port!"

"Marquis, I even feel that His Highness Mitchell has already foreseen all of this."

"It's an open strategy, one that everyone can predict!"

Mark fell silent once more.

Until after a short while.

Mark straightened up, looked directly at Godfrey, and asked.

"Knight Commander Godfrey, if I appoint you as the commander of this military operation, what would you do?"

"You've also seen the instructions as per the edict; the Ducas Clan only has half a month."

Godfrey's eyebrow instantly arched, "Me as the commander?"

...

In the following three days.

Lynn spent all his time in the kitchen of the cafeteria.

While continuously cooking and preparing food for the townsmen.

His [Cooking] skill experience quickly rose.

After casually having lunch in the cafeteria.

Lynn went to Lord's Square, sitting under a transplanted tree, enjoying the shade under its canopy.

A breeze with the earthy scent blew over from the river surface of the Aladia River.

After being full and satisfied, leaning on the bench, feeling the river breeze, listening to the cicadas chirping from the forest...

Such an afternoon carried its own kind of comfort and leisure.

Not only for Lynn.

The townsmen felt the same way.

Each found a comfortable spot for a brief rest.

It's already late June.

The average daily temperature has already reached twenty-seven to twenty-eight degrees.

Working indoors is still fine.

But if it's cultivation work in overgrown fields without any shade.

If the townsmen are made to work under scorching sun and high temperatures, it would easily lead to massive heatstrokes.

Rather than letting these townsmen fall ill from heatstroke, slowing down their work efficiency.

It's better to let them rest for an hour after lunch.

Thus.

Not only can it ensure their daily work efficiency and prevent massive heatstrokes, but it can also boost these newly arrived townsmen's loyalty value!

It's a win-win situation.

However.

Lynn also understood.

Even if he didn't arrange for these townsmen to rest at noon.

Their loyalty values would still quickly rise.

The living conditions offered by the territory were just too generous for them.

Especially when the red brick houses were allocated.

The loyalty values of these townsmen visibly skyrocketed!

As you should know.

Most of these townsmen were peasants in manor estates!

They had never owned their residence.

Let alone brand new red brick houses complete with furniture.

Taking advantage now of the leisure time.

Lynn thought for a moment, opened the [Profession System and Reassignment], and continued assigning different professions to the townsmen in the territory.

In other words.

The features unlocked in the [Heavenly Artifacts] mode were linked together.

He could project the characters from the [Holographic Map] and then assign roles to residents in the [Profession System and Reassignment].

Otherwise.

With over 22,000 residents in the territory, assigning each one wouldn't be easy.

Because, in Lynn's view.

Except for those in special regions, who have obvious differences in body size and skin color.

The other townsmen didn't seem much different to him.

As Lynn was doing the assignments.

Red, standing behind him, scanned the surroundings with his eyes.

A moment later.

Red's gaze fixed beyond the Lord's Square.

Under a sunlit area.

Several fully-loaded carriages, being drawn by draft horses, were approaching the Lord's Square.

Seeing this scene.

Red reminded Lynn, who was on the bench: "Master."

"There are carriages approaching."

Upon hearing Red's words, Lynn turned his gaze over.

Moments later.

The carriage team stopped on the open space of the Lord's Square.

A young woman dressed in white leather armor dismounted from a white warhorse at the front of the team.

The young woman's eyes quickly scanned Lord's Square.

Soon.

Her gaze landed on Lynn sitting on the bench.

The young woman's long, beautiful eyebrows noticeably arched upwards.

Stepping forward with her long, exposed legs, she strode towards Lynn.

In front of Lynn, the young woman bent her waist, extending her equally exposed long arms and palms.

"Master Lynn, long time no see, have you missed me?"

The young woman before him was graceful and athletic, her leather armor tightly wrapped, outlining a waist that could be encircled with one hand in a lean forward moment.

Her snowy white bosom appeared faintly, almost emerging.

Lynn extended his right hand, lightly grasped the young woman's.

A silky, soft yet unusually smooth sensation instantly hit him.

"Miss Kari, indeed it has been some time since we last met."

"I thought Miss Kari had already forgotten our previous agreement."

Feeling the warmth from Lynn's palm, Kari couldn't help but reveal a sly smile.

Retracting her palm, Kari argued mischievously: "Master Lynn, how could that be?"

"Kari is still waiting for Master Lynn to become the future great lord."

Lynn rolled his eyes directly at Kari.

Since Kari last came to his territory, it had been several months.

If Kari were trading commodities nearby, she could have returned long ago.

But Kari hadn't.

However, Lynn didn't ask much.

Even though Kari had a merchant partnership agreement with him,

It was only verbal.

And there were no explicit constraints on trade intervals in the agreement.

Chapter 874: Mistress

Lynn shifted his body, moving from the middle of the bench to the right side.

In doing so, he made ample space for Kari to sit down.

Kari didn't mind.

She took a few steps and sat down next to Lynn.

Instantly.

A faint fragrance wafted from Kari's body, drifting into Lynn's nose.

Kari seemed to notice the slight sound of Lynn sniffing.

The corners of her mouth noticeably curved upward.

Lynn looked towards the truck convoy not far away and asked.

"Miss Kari, what kind of goods did you bring for me this time?"

Kari followed Lynn's gaze and explained.

"Leather, a large batch of leather."

"On ten wagons, totaling fifty thousand pounds of leather."

"Master Lynn, you may not know, but to get this batch of leather, I even had disputes with other merchants!"

"Fortunately, I finally invoked the name of the Brown Clan, and that merchant slinked away."

Lynn slightly turned his head to look at Kari and said.

"It seems I owe Miss Kari a thank you."

Just as he finished speaking.

A glimpse of the snow-white cleavage outlined by the leather armor in front of Kari instantly caught his eye.

His height was already above Kari's; even sitting on the bench, there was a height difference.

The view was almost fully captured by Lynn's eyes.

Young, with a devil-like figure.

As a merchant, Kari would naturally showcase her inherent advantages.

If it was just once or twice, Lynn might not think much of it.

But every time Kari came to his land, she dressed like this.

The key is.

Even in the scorching sun now, Kari still took no precautions.

Unashamedly displaying her figure in his eyes.

Lynn couldn't help but suspect.

Was Kari doing this on purpose?

Bright light gleamed in Kari's eyes.

She said to Lynn, "Of course, Master Lynn."

"Imagine... it took me several months just to purchase this batch of leather!"

"If it were other goods, I could have easily purchased them from traveling merchants in Kakasong City or nearby docks."

"Within the same time, I could have made at least three trips to your place."

"The profits earned would be at least two or three times higher than leather!"

Lynn nodded, "Miss Kari, I certainly understand that."

"That's why I previously mentioned I could offer you prices higher than the market rate!"

"The current market price for leather is five pence per pound; I can offer six pence!"

Even though he had constructed a ranch on his land.

The number of poultry and livestock in the ranch was increasing.

But it had not yet reached the scale for mass slaughter.

Within the territory, there was almost no fixed source of leather production.

While the sewing labor in the weaving workshop required large amounts of leather for each set of composite armor.

Used for making linings.

Or used to string together pieces of armor plate.

Even some large-scale equipment in the woodworker workshop and the crossbow production in the bow and arrow workshop required leather as a component.

Kari's ability to go outside the territory.

To find and purchase leather was naturally beneficial to him.

But for Kari, finding goods required more time and effort.

Brightness shone in Kari's eyes, her words full of praise.

"Master Lynn, you are indeed the most generous lord I know!"

Lynn was noncommittal.

The market price of five pence was not Kari's wholesale purchasing price!

The price at which she bought from other merchants or lord's slaughterhouse ranches was at most around four pence or so.

Even if Kari didn't transport this batch of leather to his land but instead transported it to the market, she could still earn the profit from the price difference.

However,

She naturally couldn't obtain a profit like exchanging six pence per pound of fine salt with him, priced nearly half the market price.

The profit from such an exchange was not simple!

If it weren't for his open-pit salt mine.

If it weren't for his salt factory producing four thousand pounds daily.

He wouldn't have so much capital to 'splurge'!

Considering the price of fine salt transactions alone, Lynn naturally took a loss.

However.

He used nearly unlimited fine salt to trade for any items he needed.

Such an exchange would never be a loss for him.

Thoughts churned quickly in Lynn's mind for the exchange.

"Fifty thousand pounds of leather, six pence per pound, that is One Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Gold Pounds."

"Exchange it for fine salt, or give you One Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Gold Pounds."

Kari's rosy lips stretched into a smile, "Master Lynn, of course, it's the fine salt."

Having traded so many times, Kari naturally knew that converting the transported goods into fine salt was most profitable.

Lynn nodded: "No problem, then it is sixty thousand pounds of fine salt!"

The light in Kari's eyes became even more apparent.

Before Kari could speak, Lynn's gaze shifted to George in the distance.

George, who had overheard the conversation between Master Lynn and Kari, nodded in understanding.

Without needing instructions from Lynn, he stepped forward towards the convoy of wagons.

Preparing to lead these wagons to the warehouse by the workshops for unloading.

Among the continuous rolling sounds of wagon wheels, the wagons departed from Lord's Square one by one.

On the wooden bench.

Lynn and Kari remained seated.

Chapter 875: Mistress (Part 2)

The two said nothing, only gazing at the distant horizon beyond the town.

There.

The sunset, like molten gold, dyed the entire sky's clouds into orange-red silk.

Under the watchful eyes of Lynn and Kari, it slowly descended.

The strands of twilight draped the earth in a warm veil.

Until the entire orange-red sun completely sank below the horizon, the twilight dispersed, and the sky turned dim.

Kari's face showed a trace of rapt attention.

In her words, there seemed to be admiration and jealousy, "It would be wonderful if I could see such a sunset every day!"

Lynn calmly said, "That's easy."

"From now on, just stay in my domain."

Upon hearing this, Kari's pretty eyebrows instantly raised.

She quickly turned her head to look at Lynn, surprised, "Master Lynn, are you serious?"

Lynn nodded, "Of course, it's just adding one more person."

"Besides, my castle happens to need some maids!"

Kari's face, which was originally full of surprise, immediately turned disdainful.

"Master Lynn, I am Kari Brown! A descendant of the Brown Clan!"

"How could I possibly become someone else's maid?"

After she finished.

Kari mumbled, "Even if I stay, I want to be the mistress!"

Listening to Kari's unclear mumbling, Lynn asked, "What did you say?"

Kari's heart tightened slightly, and she immediately changed her words.

"I meant... it's already dark, isn't Master Lynn going to let me stay and rest in the domain?"

Lynn's eyes squinted slightly, scanning up and down at Kari, continuing to ask.

"Miss Kari, what I heard doesn't seem to be this."

"It seemed like something about being the mistress?"

Naturally, Kari felt Lynn's unabashed gaze sweeping over her from front to back.

The tension in her heart became more apparent, she hurriedly said

"Master Lynn, you heard wrong."

Lynn nodded, "As long as the merchants come to my domain, they can stay as long as they don't mind and rest."

"Not to mention, it's my partner, Miss Kari."

Lynn's body moved, rising from the bench.

"Leave the loading and unloading of goods to George."

"To show hospitality, I have arranged for the chef to specially prepare dinner in the castle."

Lynn extended his arm, making a gesture of invitation.

"Let's go, Miss Kari."

Kari also rose from the bench, smiling with satisfaction.

"Master Lynn, then Kari will accept the invitation graciously."

Lynn nodded.

The two walked side by side across the Lord's Square, heading towards the distant castle.

Walking on the road lined with red brick houses.

Watching as townsmen stopped and paid respects to Lynn, bowing as they greeted him.

Kari's curiosity grew stronger.

She hadn't come to Master Lynn's domain many times.

Adding them up, it shouldn't be more than the number on her fingers.

Moreover, each visit was always rushed.

Transporting goods to the domain, waiting for unloading and loading, then hastily leaving with the carriage team.

Until now.

She slowed her pace, carefully observing Master Lynn's domain, only to find it very different from others.

Whether it was the townsmen returning from work in the square.

Or the townsmen walking along the roadsides in the town.

Their gazes at Lynn were full of admiration and adoration for the Lord.

If in other domains...

The townsmen would avoid the Lord or the Lord's heirs upon sight.

They wouldn't want to inadvertently offend the Lord through accidental gaze.

Or even have.

Their newly grown daughters directly taken by the Lord back to the castle, for occupation...

Master Lynn's domain townsmen can do this.

It must be a sincere, heartfelt action by the townsmen.

It certainly stemmed from Master Lynn's reasonable governance deeply rooted in this domain.

Just this point.

Kari gave Lynn, walking beside her, a peculiar look.

Passing through the red brick houses, returning to the castle.

Upon reaching the reception hall on the second floor of the castle, Kuisi immediately greeted them.

Having received instruction from the guard, Kuisi.

Glanced at Kari, who was wearing only leather armor...

The leather armor tightly fit her body, revealing her long straight legs and arms.

Coupled with her slender waist, and the fullness above the waist that seemed ready to burst forth...

Kuisi's eyes couldn't help but show a slight hint of envy.

However.

This envy flickered away in an instant.

Kuisi smiled at Lynn and Kari, explaining.

"Master, dinner is ready, and you can dine with Miss Kari."

Lynn acknowledged, taking steps, crossing the reception hall, arriving at the dining table.

As Janet pulled back the main seat for him, and the maid pulled back the wooden chair for Kari.

Lynn sat directly.

Kari hesitated for two seconds, then sat in the wooden chair to Lynn's right.

Looking at the center of the table, at the massive river fish, her eyebrows slightly raised, and she couldn't help but swallow.

From Kakasong City to Lynn's domain, although not very far.

But due to road restrictions, the carriage speed wasn't fast.

At least a few days were needed.

Despite having pauses and rests along the way, it could still be described as braving the elements.

Now seeing an array of enticingly delicious food on the table, a slight 'gurgle' arose in her stomach.

Chapter 876: Mistress (Part 3)

The voice wasn't loud, yet it clearly reached the ears of everyone near the dining table.

Lynn and Kuisi, along with a few others, looked over simultaneously.

Kari's face instantly flushed with a hint of red.

She was about to say something.

Standing beside her, Kuisi stepped forward and began pouring wine for Lynn and Kari.

As she poured the wine, Kuisi spoke.

"Master Lynn, today the fishermen caught this twelve-pound carp."

"Since Miss Kari came by, she went ahead and cooked it."

"I'm just not sure if it suits Miss Kari's taste..."

Sitting on the wooden chair, Kari heard this and immediately cast Kuisi a grateful look.

Kuisi responded with a slight smile.

With Kuisi and Janet, along with several maids attending to them, Lynn and Kari enjoyed their dinner.

Despite Kari's best efforts to hold back, judging by her eating speed, she was indeed very hungry.

A dozen or so minutes later.

After finishing dinner, Lynn and Kari moved to the open-air balcony on the second floor.

The two leaned back on the wooden chairs, enjoying the night breeze and sipping the gin poured by Janet.

Lynn raised his glass, clinked it lightly with Kari's, and downed his gin in one gulp.

With a blush on her cheeks, Kari also didn't hesitate and gulped down her gin.

Letting the fiery feel of the gin spread and diffuse within her.

Kari gazed through the darkness, observing the teams of townspeople in Lord's Square.

She couldn't help but ask curiously, "Master Lynn, since we have some free time."

"Could you tell me how you developed this territory?"

Lynn turned to glance at Kari.

As if sensing Lynn's gaze, Kari quickly explained.

"Of course, Master Lynn, if it's inconvenient, you don't have to say anything."

Standing behind Lynn and Kari, Janet's eyes also showed a hint of curiosity.

Lynn replied, "There's nothing inconvenient about it."

"It's just that it was a long process..."

Starting with making flint tools, building wooden houses, saving Kuisi and Red, reclaiming overgrown wasteland, and planting.

Then making fishing nets, catching river fish, and going to Kent Village to sell them.

Then to using barley to start brewing beer...

However, just as Lynn spoke of a small band of Iron Blood Brotherhood raiders invading his territory.

A soft snore reached his ears.

Lynn turned his head slightly.

What he saw.

Kari, clutching a Lex Gin Bottle, had already fallen asleep.

Her head lowered, resting against the chair back, strands of hair falling carelessly against her fair cheeks, adding a touch of laziness.

Her eyes closed, long eyelashes gently trembling with her breath.

The corners of her mouth slightly upturned, as if she encountered something amusing in her dreams.

Looking at Kari in this state, Lynn felt a bit curious.

On his territory, in his castle, Kari dared to drink herself to sleep without even a guard with her...

Was it out of trust in him?

Or was this woman deliberately showing a weakness to him?

Kari certainly was a stunning beauty, but Lynn would never take advantage of such a situation.

Lynn's gaze shifted, looking at Janet who was still waiting behind, he spoke.

"Call a few more maids to take Miss Kari to her room and let her wash up and rest."

Janet immediately responded, "Yes, Master."

After answering, Janet turned and headed towards the reception hall.

In less than half a minute.

Janet returned to the open-air balcony with two maids.

The three worked together to lift Kari from the wooden chair and carried her into the reception hall.

After settling everything.

Lynn moved his arm.

He picked up the glazed cup from the coffee table and drained its contents in one go.

With a thought, he reopened the [Profession System and Reassignment] to classify the remaining townsmen into specific professions.

The existence of the [Profession System and Reassignment] essentially established clear demarcations of roles.

Simply put.

Townsmen, once professionally classified, could only achieve extra work efficiency by engaging in the corresponding profession.

Night gradually deepened.

After several days of continuous classification, Lynn had finally categorized the townspeople in his territory into professions.

After closing the [Profession System and Reassignment] panel, Lynn let out a warm sigh.

Lynn's gaze shifted, looking at Red, who was still standing by, he asked.

"Red, have you ever heard of the existence of a [Ranger]?"

The normally stern Red showed a hint of curiosity on his face and couldn't help but ask, "Ranger?"

Lynn nodded, "Exactly!"

"I have an ancient book here that records how to promote an archer to become a ranger."

"A ranger, with keen senses, agile skills, and immense stamina..."

"Proficient in archery, can hit distant targets accurately, even in a storm, can take down an enemy hundreds of meters away with a single arrow using just a faint glimmer."

"Even stronger rangers can gain the ability to communicate with nature, summoning animals to assist in combat!"

"If you're interested, I can give you the ancient book."

Red's eyes widened.

Master Lynn's explanation was plain.

But he could clearly understand its meaning.

Storm, faint glimmer, take down an enemy hundreds of meters away with a single arrow!

Chapter 877: Mistress _4

This... is not something an ordinary archer can achieve.

Only an extraordinary!

Master Lynn is actually going to give him an ancient book that allows him to be promoted to a [Ranger]!

Despite wearing composite armor, Red still bent his right knee and knelt to salute.

"Master, Red is willing!"

Seeing Red's actions, Lynn replied, "Stand up."

With a movement of his hand, Lynn took out the [Special Promotion Book (Ranger)] from his backpack and handed it to Red.

Lynn originally thought the [Special Promotion Book] worked like the [Talent Duplication Book].

That it could be used directly on townsmen.

But he found that.

It could only record the knowledge of promotion in written form in the book.

Allowing the person needing promotion to learn and comprehend on their own.

And, as if enchanted by magic, it burns after reading.

It can only be watched by one person.

Otherwise, he thought of transcribing the entire [Special Promotion Book] for everyone's promotion.

However, Lynn also understood.

If that were possible, each skill upgrade wouldn't just be rewarded with one [Special Promotion Book].

Red stood up, looking at the ancient book in Lynn's hand, without any hesitation, stepped forward and took it with both hands.

The book's weight was lighter than he imagined.

Lynn stood up from the wooden chair, stretching his lazy waist comfortably.

A series of cracking bone sounds kept ringing.

After finishing this, Lynn spoke to Red.

"You and Kuisi have been by my side the longest, and are the ones I trust most."

"Otherwise, I wouldn't have appointed Kuisi as the territory steward and you as my personal guard."

Listening to Lynn's calm words, Red's body slightly trembled.

He bent his waist, speaking firmly: "Thank you, Master, Red will surely become stronger!"

Lynn replied softly, taking steps to walk into the guest hall, heading towards the master bedroom.

Pushing open the double wooden doors, he arrived beside the large bed.

Lynn just took off his clothes, his gaze moved.

On the large bed, a body was concealed by a thin blanket.

But it couldn't hide the perfectly contoured silhouette.

With a movement of his left hand, Lynn pulled open a corner of the blanket.

The fair woman's body underneath instantly entered his eyes.

Her skin seemed like snow, under the bedroom's oil lamp light, exuding a charming glow, delicate as if water could drip from it.

The enchanting curves turned away from him, starting from the rounded shoulders, winding down to form a perfect arc.

The waist that could be encircled with a gentle grip and the plump hips formed a visually striking contrast.

Lynn's eyebrows couldn't help but raise.

After this period of interaction, Janet seemed to have become more sensible.

Even without being informed, to provide warm bed service.

She would still actively come to his bedroom.

Lynn moved his body, sitting on the large bed.

Then he adjusted his position, gently lying beside Janet.

After covering the pulled blanket.

He felt no hesitation, spreading his arms, wrapping around the waist of the body beside him.

Perhaps because Janet had been sleeping for a long time.

At this moment, her body was scorching hot.

Feeling this temperature, Lynn placed his right hand on Janet's abdomen, gently moving.

From the flat abdomen without a trace of excess flesh, he gradually moved upward, resting on that elevated curve.

With Lynn's palm slightly exerting force.

Soft sounds like buzzing mosquitoes gently rose.

Gradually.

Lynn's hand movement became more forceful.

A little later.

Lynn's right hand moved down from the elevated curvature, slowly descending, crossing the flat abdomen, continuing to move.

Feeling the body in front showing noticeable changes.

Lynn no longer hesitated, his body moved, pressing down on it.

Instantly, a painful cry sounded.

Upon hearing this unfamiliar sound, along with the feedback of an unusual sensation.

Lynn instantly thought of something.

With an arm movement, he turned the body facing away from him over.

Under the weak oil lamp light on the bedroom wall, Lynn finally saw the woman's face clearly.

This woman, where is Janet Frank?

Clearly, it is Kari Brown!

At this moment, Lynn felt his head was about to explode.

He had instructed Janet—clean the drunken sleeping Kari and send her to rest in the room.

Janet directly sent the clean Kari to his room?

No wonder Kari's body was scorching hot.

Wasn't it obvious she would be hot if drunk?

Perhaps sensing the bodily changes, Kari evidently woke from sleep.

She opened her drowsy eyes, looking at Lynn, who was kneeling opposite her.

As if she hadn't completely shaken off the drunken stupor.

Her lazy eyes full of confusion and puzzlement.

"Master Lynn..."

Before Kari could speak, Lynn quickly explained: "Miss Kari, I, Lynn, swear on my life, it was definitely not..."

Lynn's explanation was cut short.

Kari, lying on the large bed, sat up.

She kneeled on the bed with both knees, opening her arms to wrap around Lynn's neck.

Her face, flushed red, quickly approached Lynn.

In just two seconds.

Lynn felt Kari's warm, moist lips pressed onto his.

Lynn could clearly hear the rapid breathing coming from Kari's nostrils.

In each breath that entered, carrying a thick nasal tone...

Feeling Kari's comfortable softness in front tightly pressed against his chest.

Chapter 878: Mistress (Part 5)

Lynn was no longer reserved, extending his arms to wrap around Kari's slender waist.

Meanwhile.

His right hand began to move swiftly.

A moment later.

He felt a pushing sensation from Kari's arms.

Lynn's body relaxed onto the big bed.

No guiding from Lynn was needed.

Kari climbed up on her own, sitting cross-legged on top of Lynn...

...

The next day, just as dawn broke.

Lynn awoke habitually.

He opened his eyes, scanning the bed around him.

The almost frenetic figure from last night had already disappeared.

Even the warmth from the area where she lay was completely gone.

However, from the traces of bright red left on the bed.

Lynn was very aware that everything from last night was real.

Wearing a comfortable, thin silk robe, Lynn walked out of the bedroom into the banquet hall.

At the dining table.

Kuisi was setting today's nutritious breakfast.

Upon seeing Lynn, Kuisi immediately bent over, speaking respectfully: "Master, breakfast is ready."

Lynn responded with a sound, stepping toward the dining table.

Passing by Janet, Lynn couldn't help but give Janet a glance.

Where he found Janet's face full of confusion and innocence.

Arriving at the head of the dining table, Lynn sat down.

He felt certain that this woman must have done it on purpose!

Seated at the head of the dining table, Lynn glanced at the chicken and eggs on the plate, then turned to Kuisi.

Kuisi quickly explained: "Master, Lady Kari left with her carriage team before dawn, without having breakfast."

Lynn asked, "Did she say anything before leaving?"

Kuisi did not hesitate, directly responding, "Master, Miss Kari asked me to convey to you 'thank you for last night's hospitality.'"

Hospitality?

Was she referring to last night's dinner and drinks?

Or everything that happened in bed last night?

Lynn couldn't help but frown, "Anything else?"

Kuisi shook her head, "No, Master, just that one sentence."

Lynn responded with a sound, "I understand, let's have breakfast together, it's too much."

Even though last night's events were a bit misunderstood and bizarre.

But, between adults, Lynn never regrets mutual fully willing encounters.

If Kari wanted to stay in the territory from then on, he would not refuse.

Now that Kari wants to leave, he likewise won't prevent it.

Kuisi replied, "Yes, Master."

With Lynn's instruction, both Kuisi and Red sat at the dining table to eat breakfast together.

After a dozen minutes.

Lynn, having finished breakfast, left the castle with Red, heading toward the town.

Walking on the red brick road, Lynn glanced back at Red.

"Can you understand the ancient book recording the content of the ranger's job promotion?"

Listening to Lynn's inquiry, Red immediately responded.

"Master, the ancient book you gave me is somewhat... magical!"

"Yes."

"Indeed, magical."

Lynn raised an eyebrow, asking, "How is it magical?"

Red explained, "Master, you know, I was previously just a hunter, illiterate."

"When I returned to the room, I attempted to read by opening it..."

"If I couldn't understand, I was ready to have Kuisi assist me."

"However, as soon as I opened, a string of strange symbols seemed to come alive, weaving into my mind."

"Some abilities of the ranger were directly instilled into my brain, integrating with my memory."

"I feel that now I am completely different from yesterday!"

"Both physically and in memory and experience in my brain."

"However, Master, to fully master those memories and experiences."

"I still need to undergo extensive training and practice..."

After listening to Red's explanation, Lynn nodded.

"Very good, take your time!"

Compared to directly transferring jobs on Red's personal interface.

This seemingly magical experience indeed aligns more with this fantasy world possessing extraordinary power.

Red lowered his head with gratitude again, saying, "Thank you, Master."

Lynn responded with a sound, retracting his gaze and continuing forward with Red.

Arriving at the Lord's Square.

Batches of townsmen had already left the town, going to their posts to begin today's labor.

He, likewise, immersed himself in the canteen kitchen.

While preparing lunch for the townsmen, he continued grinding the [Cooking] skills.

Experience accumulated rapidly, bit by bit.

[Cooking Experience +1]

[Cooking Experience +1]

[Cooking Experience +1]

...

While Lynn was grinding the experience, three days passed in a flash.

In the afternoon.

A guard sprinted into the kitchen, arriving beside Lynn, who was grinding the [Cooking] skills.

The guard bowed and reported: "Master, Mr. Boer has arrived at your territory."

In the midst of tossing the pan, Lynn casually glanced at the guard, speaking.

"Let George conduct the reception and transaction for now."

"I'll come over as soon as I fry this dish."

Lynn's right hand with the long-handled iron spoon scooped a spoonful of lard, sprinkling it into the iron pot.

The next instant.

A flame engulfed the entire pan.

Under the high-temperature roasting of the flame, a rich aroma spread through the kitchen.

Not only the guard.

Some chefs around Lynn were full of shock in their eyes upon seeing this scene.

They found that Master Lynn's culinary skills were becoming increasingly exquisite.

"Yes, Master."

The guard snapped back to reality, promptly responding and withdrawing.

Chapter 879: Mistress

Feeling the gaze of everyone, Lynn remained focused.

He began adding some ingredients to the stir-fry that was about to be completed...

Then, Lynn lifted the iron pot off the stove and placed it to the side.

He called over a chef, handed over the task of plating the dish.

Only then did Lynn step out of the kitchen.

He walked out of the kitchen, arriving at Lord's Square.

Not far off.

George and Boer were engaged in conversation.

Among the exchanged words, occasional bursts of laughter could be heard.

George, with the keenest eyes, quickly spotted Lynn.

He walked over to greet him.

Boer, nearby, also stepped forward.

Coming before Lynn, George bent slightly at the waist, respectfully saying, "Master."

Boer also bowed his head and said, "Master Lynn."

Lynn glanced at the two and responded, "Has the trade been completed?"

George explained, "It is completed, Mr. Boer has delivered barley and wheat again."

"I have also confirmed with Mr. Boer the amount of fine salt to be exchanged and additional purchase according to market prices."

Lynn nodded, "That's good."

"Mr. Boer is currently the trader with whom I have the longest acquaintance."

"So, I'll speak frankly."

Strictly speaking, George beside him was the first trader he knew.

But now, George had become a household attendant of his domain.

Thus, not counted among them.

Boer replied, "Master Lynn, you need not be polite."

"The success of Boer today is all thanks to your support!"

Lynn began, "Mr. Boer, as you often pass through Kakasong City, you must be aware of the news about Morgan Town, right?"

Boer hesitantly questioned, "Are you referring to Bishop Semo acknowledging Morgan Town's land as part of your domain?"

Lynn nodded.

Seeing Lynn's gesture, Boer firmly said, "Yes, Master Lynn."

"This is already known not only to me."

"Without a doubt, everyone in Kakasong City knows it too."

"Because not long ago, the Church's bells of summoning rang."

"Bishop Semo read out a decree to the congregation in the Church."

"Bishop Semo expressed gratitude to you, Master Lynn, for paying the Tithing to the Church, appreciating your devotion and offering to the God of Light."

"Furthermore, Semo clearly stated that Morgan Town will resume production and development under your notice..."

Listening to Boer's explanation, Lynn felt a bit surprised.

However, he soon understood.

Semo acting to such an extent.

Must be because Samuel informed him of the fine salt production in the Salt Factory after returning to Kakasong City Church.

With a daily production of three thousand pounds of fine salt!

Even paying just one-tenth as a Tithing.

For Semo, it's a significant income.

Rather than offending this emerging lord.

Leading to a strained relationship later.

It's better to act straightforwardly for him.

Lynn nodded, "I need Mr. Boer to recruit Free People for me in Kakasong City!"

Boer's eyebrows raised, repeating Lynn's words, "Recruit Free People?"

Lynn explained, "Yes, just like you recruited Free People for me in Morgan Town."

"However, this time is different...The recruited Free People will be in a cooperative relationship with me."

Boer frowned in confusion.

Lynn continued, "It's already late June, and soon it will be the harvest period in July."

"I want you to hire a large number of Free People in Kakasong City to help me harvest the crops in the fields of Morgan Town!"

"But, you need to inform them."

"This employment is only for the summer harvest, which is two months."

"Moreover, there's no daily wage, nor is food and accommodation provided."

Boer's frown deepened.

No pay, and it's short-term.

No previous benefits offered.

Under such conditions, it's almost impossible for any Free People to accept the job.

Even before Boer could speak, Lynn's words took a turn.

"However, as compensation for harvesting the crops...they can receive one-tenth of the harvested crop weight."

"Simply put, if they harvest five hundred pounds of barley in a day, they can get fifty pounds."

"For a thousand pounds harvested, they can get a hundred pounds."

"If they don't want the crops, they can exchange them for corresponding pence."

"Of course, exchange can only be made at the lowest price."

Boer's eyebrows instantly shot up, his eyes filled with surprise.

One-tenth compensation?

Isn't that too much?

No matter how you calculate it.

Such compensation exceeds the cost Master Lynn would incur by paying three to four pence daily to hire Free People for harvesting.

Despite his doubts, seeing Master Lynn's calm and serious expression.

Boer understood.

Master Lynn must have his reasons for doing this.

Boer responded, "No problem, Master Lynn."

"As soon as the goods on the cart are loaded and unloaded, I will head to Kakasong City to announce your employment notice."

"But Master Lynn, regarding the Free People recruited..."

Lynn stated, "Bring all the recruited Free People to Morgan Town by July first."

"I will arrange personnel to organize them!"

With only a few days until the crops in the fields mature in July, the summer harvest.

Waiting for Boer to lead the cart team from his domain to Kakasong City, and then sell this batch of fine salt.

Even if Boer immediately starts hiring Free People during the sales process.

In a short time, no matter how many Free People he can recruit, at least ten days will pass before he brings them to Morgan Town.

By that time, the crops in Morgan Town will have matured.

Perfect for organizing the arriving Free People to harvest!

After nodding, Boer thought for a moment and asked, "Master Lynn, is there a limit to the number of hires..."

Lynn said without hesitation, "No limit!"

"As long as the Free People are willing to come to Morgan Town for the summer harvest."

"Regardless of gender, age, health, or disability, all are welcome!"

For the number of Free People, he naturally wouldn't set a limit.

Because.

For this batch of Free People, he has plans to keep them.

For later, building the garrison of Frank Manor Castle with conscripted soldiers!

Listening to Lynn's words, a bold idea formed in Boer's mind.

Master Lynn intends to draw in the Free People of Kakasong City to Morgan Town!

Chapter 880: Celebrities of Kakasong City

Despite some doubts, standing before him was Master Lynn, whose intentions were unclear.

Boer nonetheless replied, "Everything will be done according to your instructions, Master Lynn."

Lynn nodded, "Then I'll trouble you, Mr. Boer."

Boer quickly shook his head, "Master Lynn, you're too kind."

"Recruiting Free People isn't complicated; you just need to go to the talent market to recruit."

"As long as the Free People find the compensation suitable, they will accept employment."

Kakasong City has at least tens of thousands of Free People.

Moreover, some Free People come from elsewhere.

It is indeed not something a small Morgan Town can compare to.

Besides, it is about to enter July.

Many Free People will take advantage of the summer harvest to find a well-paying, suitable job.

This moment is just the right time for recruitment.

Lynn nodded.

As long as there are Free People willing to come to Morgan Town for the summer harvest,

he has a way to keep them here!

Leaving aside benefits and treatment for now,

just providing food and lodging

is enough to tempt these Free People who worry daily about filling their stomachs.

Of course,

aside from having Boer hire Free People in Kakasong City,

he also needs to dispatch a batch of light cavalry to Morgan Town.

The number of Free People they can hire is yet unknown,

but preparatory guarding and protection must be ensured in advance.

With limited military strength, if a large number of Free People engage in crop harvesting,

they might flee with the harvested crops.

With the oversight and control of the light cavalry, it's a different matter.

Suppressing his thoughts for now,

while waiting for the fine salt to be loaded, Lynn continued chatting with Boer.

Boer's words carried a hint of lament.

"Master Lynn, you might not know yet."

"Right now you are already a renowned figure in Kakasong City."

Lynn looked at Boer with curiosity, waiting for him to continue speaking.

"Paying the Tithing is secondary."

"The most crucial thing is that Bishop Semo of the Church agreed unilaterally to recognize Morgan Town as under your domain."

"It can be said that apart from Viscount Jon Zack of Kakasong City, you are the lord with the most land in the entire Kakasong City area!"

"You've also become a topic of great interest during people's idle conversations."

"Because, everyone is hearing for the first time that a single lord controls a whole town."

"Other towns typically have several to a dozen manor lords collectively balancing and controlling a town."

At this point, Boer suddenly remembered something and changed his tone.

"Of course, excluding Lady Janet from before."

Janet controlled all of Morgan Town at that time.

But within the bounds of Morgan Town, there was still the presence of Master Lynn.

Lynn slightly frowned and said, "Mr. Boer, such fame isn't necessarily a good thing..."

An obscure lord suddenly emerges abruptly,

paying the Tithing that a crowd of manor lords and lords, even nobility, are unwilling to pay.

And even getting unilateral approval from the Church, claiming Morgan Town for this lord.

Such actions are indeed somewhat ostentatious.

One must know,

while Morgan Town is located on the southernmost edge of the Karedi Empire,

it still has a developed farmland area.

With large undeveloped and unexplored forests,

these forests hold abundant animal resources, plant resources...

Even undiscovered mineral resources.

Such a town, even in remote areas,

is still a target of countless lord nobility aiming to seize.

If it's just an ordinary noble lord with limited military power,

he can still rely on cavalry and archers for deterrence and defense.

But if it's like the Viscount Jon Zack mentioned by Boer...

That becomes an entirely different situation.

Thinking about this,

Lynn looked at Boer and asked, "Mr. Boer, the Viscount Jon Zack you mentioned, what kind of military power does he possess?"

Upon hearing this, Boer showed a look of embarrassment and shook his head.

"I'm sorry, Master Lynn, I am not familiar with the lord nobility here in Kakasong City."

It was only during trades with Master Lynn, exchanging fine salt, that he frequently visited Kakasong City this past year.

In the past, he only traded in basic crops.

Usually, the transaction processes could be completed right in Morgan Town.

He didn't need to go to Kakasong City at all.

Considering the time and effort required to go to Kakasong City...

Boer shifted his words and quickly said, "But rest assured, Master Lynn, once I return to Kakasong City, I'll inquire immediately for you."

Lynn replied.

Currently, he indeed has no connection with Viscount Jon Zack of Kakasong City.

So far, no interest conflicts have arisen.

However, just to be prepared,

he still needs to make beforehand preparations.

Considering all scenarios in the worst possible way,

he wouldn't encounter unexpected incidents.

A few hours later,

under George's guidance, all the barley and wheat on the wagon were unloaded.

The exchanged fine salt for Boer and fine salt purchasing were all loaded onto the wagons.

After Boer bid farewell to Lynn, he left with his wagon team.

Watching Boer depart into the distance, Lynn withdrew his gaze.