

Her Graceful War Song

Chapter 1651

Carissa and the others were sent to wait outside while the generals held a private

meeting, weighing their options and maybe coming up with other plans.

Bun squatted in the corridor and glanced up at Travis. "You're an official now. Tell

me, what chance of success do we really have if we go?"

Travis looked at Carissa. "What do you think?"

"It will be difficult, no doubt. But this plan stands a better chance than sending a

whole troop, and it carries less risk. Even if we fail, at least we can retreat safely,"

Carissa answered.

Cynthia nodded in agreement. "That's right. Running away is our specialty."

Violet shot her a sharp look. "Running away is our specialty? You mean our Lightfoot Skill. We're the best at that."

Cynthia grinned. "That's what I said! If not us, then who else? This mission's made

for us."

Just then, a guard approached and reported that Barrett and Aurora were requesting an audience. Carissa straightened instantly, her eyes wary. They

couldn't be allowed to repeat past mistakes in Fawnrun City.

From inside the study came Dominic's voice: "Have them wait outside for now."

The guard nodded and took Barrett and Aurora to wait just beyond the door. When the two of them saw Carissa and the others, their expressions grew complicated.

Aurora nudged Barrett with her elbow and sneered. "Your old friend is here, yet you won't even go say hello?"

Barrett looked embarrassed, glancing uncertainly at her before stepping aside to wait.

Aurora chuckled and gave him a friendly punch on the shoulder. "Why so shy all of a sudden? She's only an acquaintance. There's no harm in a proper greeting."

Cynthia eyed Aurora curiously. "Madam, is that your son or your brother? And is he truly close to Cari? How can you say they're old friends?"

"Who are you calling madam?" Aurora asked sharply, her expression turning dark.

Cynthia looked at her carefully, a little confused. She hadn't meant to insult Aurora. It was just that ever

since the latter arrived at Victory Pass from the capital, she had looked worn and weary from the long, difficult journey. Her face had grown sallow and drawn, and the past two days of battle had left her exhausted and looking older than her years.

Aurora also had rather high cheekbones, which made her eyes look more sunken than they truly were. Her hair, flattened and greasy from wearing a helmet for days on end, added even more to the impression of age.

In truth, Carissa and the others looked little better, but Cynthia had known them since childhood. In her eyes, they were all still young, which was why she wouldn't mistake their age.

"Then... Miss?" Cynthia tried again.

"I'm not much older than any of you! Stop making it sound as though I'm ancient! I

can't stand your snide looks and tone. Since we don't see eye to eye, there's no

need to speak further. Hold your tongue!" Aurora snapped, still angry.

Cynthia was about to argue that Aurora had spoken first, but Violet tugged at her sleeve.

"Enough. Listening to them is like hearing madness. Let's keep our distance," Violet whispered sharply, then looked at Aurora coolly, folding her arms as she waited calmly.

Cynthia nodded and kept quiet.

Aurora was fuming, biting back a retort to Violet. Having already told them to be silent, it would be embarrassing if she argued further.

She moved toward Barrett, speaking in a low voice but clear enough for Carissa and the others to hear.

"How could a lady of noble birth ever look twice at rough soldiers like us, soaked in blood and battle?"

Her words sounded half like self-deprecation but carried a proud edge. However, no one paid her any mind. It was nonsense to speak of nobility here. Everyone here had

risked their life on the battlefield.

Who wasn't a soldier covered in

blood?

Carissa felt a little dazed. She hadn't heard such words from Aurora in some time,

and hearing them again made her feel awkward for the woman.

Barrett didn't respond either. He had already heard once from the matchmaker that Carissa had no interest in him. Hearing it again now still left a bitter taste, but

this wasn't the place to argue, nor was there any need.

If she didn't like him, then she didn't like him. To press the matter would only make

him look foolish.

Her Graceful War Song #Chapter 1652 - Read Her Graceful War Song Chapter 1652

After standing there for a moment, it was Aurora who first thought of something. She pushed aside her earlier sarcasm and stepped forward to ask, "Have you come to volunteer for the mission to burn the enemy's supply depot as well?"

"You too?" Travis replied, raising a brow.

Aurora nodded. "I've noticed your skills in battle. You all move swiftly and strike true. If you and your group wish to come, very well. But know this: all orders will come from me and General Warren."

Aurora had taken note of how they fought with grace and courage on the battlefield. Though they had fought in two fierce battles at the front lines, not one of them bore a wound. Had their skills been anything less, they would have died long ago.

She also knew that Carissa was Dominic's granddaughter. If Carissa joined the mission, the Grand General would surely send more troops with them. That would halve the danger and

increase their chances of success. No matter how she looked at it, this was an excellent chance to gain merit.

When Tyler first mentioned the plan, Aurora had been hesitant. Sneaking into Fawnrun City was dangerous. One false step could mean death without hope of rescue. But after careful thought, she saw it as a golden opportunity.

She was a female general praised by the queen dowager herself! If she could change the tide at Victory Pass, the credit would be hers alone. With that, a promotion to a third-rank general would be well within reach.

In a lifetime, chances that truly belonged to oneself were few and far between. She had to seize every single one with both hands.

She shared her thoughts with Barrett, who agreed without hesitation. That was why they had come to Dominic that very evening to ask for permission to lead the mission.

Travis glanced between the two of them and quietly said, "We don't answer to you. We only follow Cari."

Aurora pointed toward Carissa, confused. "Her? Has she been promoted?"

Aurora knew Travis was a centurion and that any operation would normally be led by him. Surely, that meant Carissa and their group took orders from him. From what Aurora had heard, Carissa went by the name Jo in the army. She held no official rank and was merely a common soldier.

But she quickly caught on and glanced at Carissa coolly. "Oh? Is it because she is General Dominic's granddaughter that she is given special treatment? Having a Grand General as a grandfather does make things easier, doesn't it? One can do as they please."

Cynthia bristled at her tone, retorting, "You're really something else, always speaking with such sarcasm. Whether we follow her or not is our own business. What's it got to do with you?"

"Why would you listen to her?" Aurora shot back.

Violet crossed her arms and gave her a lazy look. "Because Cari has the skill and the ability. Do you?"

Aurora sneered. "No matter the skill, a common soldier must obey orders. Military discipline is strict. No one is above the rules or may act on their own."

"Then, we follow the orders, of course. Why should we listen to you?" Violet replied.

Aurora lifted her chin proudly, eyes gleaming with a certain haughty disdain. "I am here to volunteer. If you are to go, you must obey my commands."

Before anyone could reply, the door opened. Otis came out and said, "Come in, all of you."

Inside the dimly lit study, Dominic sat in his chair. As they all saluted in greeting, he motioned for Wyatt to speak.

"General Dominic has agreed to the mission at Fawnrun City. After discussion, a plan has been made."

When Wyatt paused briefly, Aurora quickly dropped to one knee and said, "Sir, humbly ask for your permission to lead the troops

alongside General Warren to el

on Fawnrun City and burn

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Westhaven's supply depots. I vow that General Warren and will do everything in our power to complete this mission."

Wyatt looked at them. "You two also wish to go? How is your Lightfoot Skill?"

Aurora blinked. "Lightfoot Skill?"

She glanced at Barrett, who also knelt and replied, "My Lightfoot Skill is acceptable, General Wyatt."

Wyatt nodded. "Very well. If your Lightfoot Skill is fine, then you two may join. I had thought five alone were too few for such a risky mission. Seven makes success more likely."

Five or seven-it made little difference as long as their Lightfoot Skill was good. They wouldn't draw much attention and would have the benefit of two extra people.

Aurora's expression shifted slightly. "Only seven of us are going?"

Her Graceful War Song #Chapter 1653 - Read Her Graceful War Song Chapter 1653

Aurora was in disbelief. It was such a difficult mission, yet they were only planning on sending seven people?

Earlier, she had said she would bring Carissa and her friends along on this mission. That was because she hoped that including Dominic's granddaughter would persuade him to appoint more

soldiers to the mission. With more men, Aurora could keep herself safe while making sure she completed the mission and earned merit.

But now, hearing that only seven people would go, she thought less of glory and more of survival. The risk far outweighed the reward. She was no fool and didn't wish to volunteer.

Yet Aurora didn't refuse at once. Instead, she rose and looked at Carissa. "You initially intended to go with only five people, right? Are you certain you can complete the task without fail?"

Carissa met her gaze steadily. "Nothing is ever without risk. We can only do our best."

Aurora frowned. "And how sure are you?"

"Probably a sixty or seventy percent chance. But even if we fail, we plan to return unharmed," Carissa replied.

She had no wish to answer Aurora, but with her grandfather and the other generals present, she spoke not only to the other woman but to all of them as well.

Aurora shook her head. "The supply depot will surely be heavily guarded. With just five people, how can you claim a sixty or seventy percent chance? And to boast you'll all come back safe? If this fails, the enemy will be warned, and such a plan can never be used again."

She turned to Dominic with a respectful bow. "Sir, this is no small matter. We must send a skilled and strong force if we are to succeed. I ask to lead an elite troop, alongside General Warren, to Fawnrun City..."

Before she could finish, Tyler interrupted sharply: "General Dominic has already made his decision. The surprise attack will proceed."

Aurora pressed on: "Sir, seven is too few. Even carrying the oil to light the fire will be difficult. If the attack fails, the enemy will be alerted and reinforce their defenses. This plan cannot succeed twice. I beg you to reconsider."

Dominic then looked at Carissa. "Explain your plan. How do you justify such confidence?"

Otis spread out a map on the table, and Carissa stepped forward. The map was vague, showing only the general direction of the supply depot. It provided no details about the nearby lands, nor did it specify the size of the supply depot.

"The supply depot was not originally built for the Westhaven troops. It was only being used temporarily.

Before that, it was a lumber yardnet

Timber cut from the mountain was brought there to be stored briefly before being shipped elsewhere. Content

"Because of that, there must still be stacks of wood around the supply depot. That means we won't need much oil, just need one barrel each. Once the wood catches fire, it will burn fiercely and the supply depot will be impossible to save, Carissa explained.

Dominic looked to Wyatt, who confirmed, "That place was indeed used for storing timber."

Dominic nodded and asked, "And how do you intend to get there? Riding horses with barrels of oil would attract attention. There must be guards nearby. How will you avoid them?"

Carissa answered calmly, "We'll ride into the mountains and tie up our horses out of sight. Then, we'll disguise ourselves as mountain workers gathering pine resin and carry the barrels down on foot-

Before she could continue, Aurora sharply interrupted, "On foot? Do you realize how far Fawnrun City is from the mountain? How long will that take?"

Annoyed by Aurora's sharp tone, Violet replied coolly, "It's easy to descend the mountain. After that, the path is flat. We have trained with inner force, so it'll be an easy task for us. When no one's around we can run at full speed. When others are near, we walk quickly. Even then, we'll still be faster than an ordinary person sprinting."

Aurora looked at Violet as if she were crazy. "Do you understand what you're saying? No matter how skilled you are, walking is slow. If the guards spot you, they'll chase you on horseback. Are you saying you're faster than a horse?"

Violet returned the look with equal disbelief. "Then, it's simpler still, isn't it? Just kill the guards."

"Madness! Killing the guards would alert everyone. You'd be walking right into a trap." Aurora shook her head. "This plan is nothing but a childish game. General Dominic, I must say I think it's doomed to fail."

"Then, don't come. Five of us are enough," Carissa said firmly.

Aurora hesitated a moment, then said, "To knowingly do what is impossible... General Dominic, forgive me, but I cannot make such a grave mistake. Consider that I never came tonight."

Barrett, who had been silent, finally spoke up: "General Dominic, I am willing to go."

Her Graceful War Song #Chapter 1654 - Read Her Graceful War Song Chapter 1654

As they left Stormwatch Keep, Carissa could hear the voices of the two people arguing ahead.

"I don't understand what you're trying to prove. Do you truly believe this will succeed? You trust Carissa in everything she says, but ignore me entirely. Why must you be so stubborn? Don't forget, your family once produced great generals. If they could see you now, groveling before a woman like this, I doubt they would rest in peace," said Aurora in an irritated tone, clearly angry.

Barrett's patience was also wearing thin. "Why must you always speak so harshly? I don't trust her blindly. However, the truth is that our forces are no match for Westhaven's. After two days of fighting, we're barely holding on, and many of our comrades have fallen. If we pull away any of our best men tomorrow, it will only get worse. Her plan to ambush them is the best chance we have—"

Aurora cut him off angrily: "Best chance? Have you thought at all about what will happen if it fails? You'll lose your life in Fawnrun City."

"If I don't go, I'll still face the battle tomorrow. If we keep fighting like this, is there any guarantee we'll survive? If I'd reacted even a second slower today, the enemy's blade would have taken my head. And if not for your cousin stepping in to save you, you'd be dead or worse. He's still lying in the infirmary," said Barret, his voice growing quieter, but with clear resolve.

Aurora said nothing more, perhaps still wrestling with her thoughts.

Carissa urged her friends to quicken their pace, determined to rest for two hours before setting out. Whether the other two chose to come or not wouldn't stop the mission.

She believed Barrett would come. After all, he had completed this mission in her past life. Sure enough, both of them appeared when the time came to leave. It seemed that Barrett had convinced Aurora to join.

Tyler had already prepared barrels of oil for them. These barrels were the same kind used by mountain folk when collecting pine resin. They were light enough to carry on their backs without being too heavy or conspicuous.

Sickles, maps, rations, flintboxes, horses, and light weapons were packed. Carissa also tied a long whip to her waist.

Dominic himself came to send them off. The dim light caught the worry on his face as he sighed deeply. "Complete the mission and come back alive."

Carissa nodded solemnly. "As you command."

Aurora stepped forward and asked, "General Dominic, who is leading this mission?"

She held military rank, so command should have fallen to her. But she was worried that Carissa and the others might not listen to her, so she deliberately asked Dominic that question. It was just so he would be the one to tell them who they were supposed to follow.

Dominic glanced at her, then pointed toward Travis. "You may discuss the plan amongst yourselves. But if you cannot agree, you will follow Travis' orders."

Aurora bristled. "This is his first time in battle. I don't think it is wise."

"Prepare to depart!" Dominic ordered firmly, ignoring her objection.

Aurora was upset, but knew the mission was about to begin. Arguing now might get her left behind, so she said no more.

They checked their supplies, then led their horses forward under the cover of the night.

To reach Fawnrun City, they had to cross mountain after mountain. The highlands were dense with forests, and there were no roads in sight. Also, wild beasts and venomous snakes roamed the area. It was no place for an army to march.

The Westhaven army avoided this

route for good reason. The thick

forests were perfect for hiding traps,

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and heavy weapons could not be carried through. Even horses struggled to pass, which meant that commanders and soldiers had to climb on foot.

And even if one managed to climb down safely, they would be utterly exhausted

by the time they reached the foot of the mountain, where the alert and well-rested Sullivan Army would be waiting.

The Westhaven army would lose without even a fight.

When Carissa and the others began their climb on horseback, there were paths to follow. But when the trail disappeared, they had no choice but to dismount and proceed on foot. The mountains were thick with thorns and brush, and there was no clear trail. So, they used their Lightfoot Skill to leap from tree to tree.

At first, Barrett and Aurora managed to keep up. But gradually, the effort wore on them. Their hands and legs shook, and the lamps they carried did little to light the way. More than once, they nearly missed their grip when jumping.

"Slow down!" Aurora shouted at Carissa and the others.

Carissa looked back. "We'll scout ahead. You follow at your own pace. Meet us at the mountain's base at dawn."

"Are you mad?" Aurora clung to a tree, struggling to catch her breath. "We haven't even left the mountain after two days. How can we reach the base by dawn?"

"We must descend the mountain before dawn," Carissa said firmly, allowing no argument. "If you can't make it, then turn back the way you came."

Her Graceful War Song #Chapter 1655 - Read Her Graceful War Song Chapter 1655

In the end, Bun and Travis carried Barrett, while Cynthia and Violet carried Aurora. The seven of them hurried through the night. When they came upon thick brambles and thorns that blocked their path, they used sickles to clear the way, not wanting to waste too much inner force.

The hours passed in a blur of darkness and exhaustion. Aurora and Barrett had lost all pride. They wished they had wings to fly, instead of being dragged along like this. They had truly lost all sense of dignity.

And the thing they thought was impossible? By morning, they found themselves at the foot of the mountain outside Fawnrin City.

And they had not even come down the easiest mountain. Instead, they had descended from the mountain where the city's resin trees grew, which meant they had crossed one extra mountain.

Carissa was not unkind. After reaching the base of the mountain, she let them sit boldly by the roadside to eat their dry rations.

Though their clothes were changed to look like the mountain folk of Fawnrin City, Aurora thought their behavior was far too bold, almost reckless. However, she was utterly spent. Her stomach growled, her throat was parched, and she longed to lie down and rest.

After the battle yesterday, Aurora had only gotten two hours of rest. Even then, she hadn't been able to fall asleep. Her mind kept turning over the chances of success for their mission.

At first, she hadn't wanted to come on this mission. But after returning to the barracks last night, a thought struck her. All the men of the Sinclair family had fallen during the war, leaving Carissa

as Melanie's only living child. And with Dominic being Carissa's grandfather, there was no way he would watch her face such danger alone. More likely, he would spare no effort to help her win glory.

With those thoughts in mind, Aurora was sure that Dominic would send more than just five of them on this mission, confident in assuming that another group would surely follow behind. Yet, she had seen no one else up till now. She had to accept the harsh truth: it was only the seven of them.

She cursed Dominic's cold cruelty in her heart. How could he be so heartless to his own granddaughter?

Now that the matter stood as it was, Aurora knew she could only rely on the others. She could see that though Travis was a centurion, he obeyed Carissa in all things. She dared not show Carissa any hostility. After all, she needed the latter's protection.

After a brief fifteen-minute rest, they lifted their barrels of oil and pressed onward. As Carissa led the way, she never once consulted the map.

Aurora could not help but ask, "Do you know the way? Are you certain this path is the right one?"

It was still early, and the narrow, winding path below the mountain was deserted.

"If you don't speak Westic, it's best to keep silent and follow me closely. I know these roads near Fawnrun City well," Carissa said quietly.

"You know them? You've actually been to Fawnrun City?" Aurora asked. Her curiosity was piqued, sensing something unusual.

Violet shot her a sharp glance. "Didn't you hear her? Keep quiet!"

Aurora saw the slight irritation on Violet's face and dared not say anything else. All night long, Violet and Cynthia had carried her swiftly along of danger arose, they would be the ones to protect her, so it was wise not to offend them.

In any case, Aurora soon ran out of breath to ask anything else, as she had to use all her strength just to keep going. The others didn't seem to be walking fast and looked completely at ease, yet she had to push herself with everything she had just to barely keep up.

Though tired himself, Barrett noticed Aurora's exhaustion and offered his arm to support her. By midday, she could bear it no longer.

"We must rest a moment," she pleaded.

Carissa looked up at the sky. "We can't rest yet. We must reach the supply depot today. Once we find a place to hide, we will rest for two hours, then move again."

Aurora sighed inwardly.

Two hours of rest before moving again, and then surely they would have to flee. How could she endure such strain?

Seeing Aurora falter further, Travis took her oil barrel to lighten her burden.

Along the way, they did run into a few people, but they were all just ordinary townsfolk. Their tanned skin and swift steps made them seem at home in the hills, so Carissa and her group didn't stand out.

Barrett noticed they kept to remote trails, avoiding villages and winding carefully around every mountain edge.

At first, he wondered how Carissa

could know the area so well. But little by little, he noticed that they were following a trail, each turn marked by a single azalea bloom casually dropped by the roadside. If he

hadn't seen Carissa stop a few times to look around, he might not

have noticed at all.

So, someone had already gone ahead to scout the path. Could it be that Dominic

had actually sent someone in advance?

Aurora had been right. Dominic was using all his power to make sure his granddaughter would succeed.

Her Graceful War Song #Chapter 1656 - Read Her Graceful War Song Chapter 1656

While Barrett and Aurora were walking behind the group, he quietly said,

"Perhaps you were right that General Dominic truly wants to support Carissa."

"How so?" Aurora's eyes brightened. "Have you found someone secretly escorting us?"

Barret continued in a low tone, "The supply depot is in Fawnrun City. Normally, we'd have met sentries on patrol along the way, but we haven't seen a single one. We took small mountain paths and passed many villages. How could any of them know the way? I watched closely and found marks left on the trail. That means someone went ahead to scout. They might even be hiding near the supply depot now."

Aurora had already doubted Dominic would let his granddaughter risk so much without a plan. Hearing Barrett's words only confirmed her suspicions. She felt a bit disdainful, but also relieved she had come. If she had stayed behind, she would have missed the chance to win glory.

"You were wise to insist on coming," Aurora said with a note of approval.

Barrett shook his head. He wanted to say that he hadn't known the truth at first, and had only realized it along the way. But after seeing the praise in Aurora's eyes, he simply smiled and stayed silent.

They thought they spoke too softly to be overheard by the five ahead, but every word reached Carissa and the others.

"All about personal gain, huh?" Violet muttered under her breath.

None of them knew if Carissa had arranged helpers or backup. Still, because she asked them to come, they came. And since they were here, they would do their best.

By nightfall, they reached the small town near the supply depot. They didn't stay at an inn but found a shabby house to rest in.

Outside that house, Barrett noticed another azalea flower left carelessly on the ground. He was now certain someone was quietly managing the whole operation. Those helpers would probably appear when the time came.

Carissa and the others sat down and took out their dry rations, drinking water from their leather pouches. Aurora ate with them. Knowing there were more than just the seven of them eased the tight knot in her chest. She dared to hope their mission would succeed.

When they finished, Carissa said, "We may rest for four hours. We will move out at around two in the morning, but we can't all sleep the whole time. We must take turns keeping watch."

Aurora spoke up at once: "Barrett and I aren't as skilled as you guys, and we're already exhausted from the journey. It's only a few hours, so we'll skip the night watch. The five of you can work out the shifts among yourselves."

Violet sneered. "And what right do you have to say that? If you two are tired, what about us? Dragging you along has been nothing but a burden. If your Lightfoot Skills weren't up to the task, you shouldn't have insisted on coming. And now you want credit for the mission? Let me warn

you: if you slow us down when the time comes, we'll leave you behind without a second thought."

"What's that supposed to mean?" Aurora snapped back, clearly angry. "It's not like

it's only the five of you on this mission. General Dominic sent others ahead long

ago. So, you can get all the glory, but we're not allowed any? Is that it?"

Carissa leaned against the wall with her eyes closed. "General Dominic didn't send anyone to help. It was my guild senior who left those marks along the way. It was to help us avoid sentries as well as to keep us from wasting time by getting lost. That is all. No one will step forward to assist us when we're at the supply depot. If you're afraid, then stay here when we move out and find your own way back to Victory Pass."

Aurora didn't believe her, but chose not to argue.

She quietly said, "So what if it's just the seven of us? There's nothing to be afraid of. As for whether I'm here to earn merit? Yes, I am. Why shouldn't I be? Which soldier doesn't want that?

"Every soldier dreams of making a name for themselves, and I'm willing to risk my life for that. Barrett and I weren't born into privilege like you. We must earn every scrap of honor through sweat and blood. You wouldn't understand how hard that

is."

Barrett gave her a long, steady look,

a faint sting rising in his nose. Aurora understood him well, and she knew the humiliation his family now faced of the Warren family wanted to restore its former glory, there was no shortcut. The only way was for Barrett to fight on the battlefield and earn his merits the hard way.

"I'm hardly from some noble background myself. Fine, you want to prove yourselves, I get it. You've made your point. Go to sleep. No need for you to take a night shift. With skills like yours, you wouldn't notice if trouble came anyway," Cynthia replied.

Her Graceful War Song #Chapter 1657 - Read Her Graceful War Song Chapter 1657

Aurora was very angry at Cynthia's words, but she knew her own skills were indeed not as good as the others'. To argue would only make her look foolish. Since they didn't need her to keep watch, she could bear a little insult without complaint.

Travis and Bun had originally planned to take turns keeping watch between just the two of them. But Carissa thought everyone was tired, and with five people sharing watch duty, they could all rest a bit more.

Carissa was the first to stand guard. She sat by the door, leaning against the wall with whip in hand. The broken door could not be locked, so it was left slightly ajar. Outside, the night was pitch black and deathly silent.

Dust covered the floor of the old house, which had not been lived in for some time. Still, they were prepared for hardship, so even Violet didn't complain. She simply lay down on the floor and fell asleep.

Though tired, Carissa was not sleepy. Her mind was sharp, and she stayed very alert.

She knew Arthur was somewhere in Fawnrun City, but didn't know exactly where. She had to avoid meeting him at all costs. His fate should not be tied to the people of Starhaven.

Carissa understood well that Arthur's presence in Fawnrun City was part of a tangled web of court politics and plots. She had to ensure she didn't get involved. To do so would anger one side or the other and bring trouble to Starhaven.

She kept watch for an hour but didn't grow sleepy. So, she didn't wake Travis for his turn and instead stayed on guard herself. When she thought the time was up, she woke everyone up.

"Why didn't you wake us to keep watch?" Travis rubbed his eyes, only realizing she had been on watch the entire time when she said it was time to go. "You didn't sleep at all? How is that okay?"

"I wasn't tired. I was meditating earlier to clear my mind and relax, so now I feel wide awake and full of energy," Carissa said.

Aurora yawned and rolled her eyes, then muttered quietly to Barrett, "Always trying to be so strong, as if she's so great."

Her voice was soft and unclear, and even Barrett barely caught the words. So, she thought no one else heard her. But those who practiced martial arts could hear even the slightest sounds outside. There was no way Carissa missed her words.

Violet took a deep breath. After the mission was done, she would teach Aurora a lesson. If she didn't, she would be bringing shame on the entire Spencer family!

Carissa gave her a reassuring pat on the shoulder, then looked around at the others. "Let's talk about the plan. It will take about an hour to get to the supply depot from here. This is the time when the guards are most tired, so our chances of success are much better."

She lit a lamp and found a dusty patch on the floor. With her finger, she drew lines representing the four corners of the supply depot.

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"Split into three teams of two, and I'll go alone. We'll enter from the southeast, northwest, northeast, and southwest corners. Both the east and west sides have piles of wood. You pour the oil on the wood and set it on fire, then retreat immediately sneak into the supply depot with two buckets of off. Once I set fire to the grain, I'll leave quickly too. After we're all out, meet back on the mountain. Don't linger in Fawnrun City, and don't wait for me."

"You're going alone? That's far too dangerous. We'll leave together," Violet protested, shaking her head.

"No need," Carissa replied calmly. "When the fire starts, most of the guards will rush to put it out. That's the best time for you to escape in the confusion. I'll slip inside then. Don't worry. I'll leave at once after setting the fire. They won't catch me."

Violet frowned. "So, we wait here in this old house for you?"

Running back up the mountain was too far. If anything went wrong, they would be too late to help.

"No. Once the grain is burning, the whole town will be searched. We cannot stay here. Trust my plan." Carissa blew out the lamp, leaving only a few glowing sparks to light her determined eyes. "Believe me."

"It's too dangerous," Travis said after a moment. "I'll go into the supply depot. You all leave first."

"No. Your skills are not as good as mine," Carissa refused.

Aurora couldn't help but chuckle. "Sounds like you've got everything planned perfectly. But if that's the

only one

case wont you be the ne

getting the credit? After all, you'll be the one burning the supply depot. But are you really going alone? I wouldn't be surprised if some others show up to help once we're gone."

Carissa was not amused this time. "Fine, then. You can burn the supply depot and earn merit."

Aurora didn't dare reply to Carissa's words.

Instead, she swallowed her pride and quietly said, "Barrett, I'll go with you."

Barrett cast a cool glance at Carissa and said, "Let's follow orders. Earning merit

or not isn't the point. The important thing is to finish the task and get back alive."

He didn't truly believe Carissa was going into the supply depot alone. After all, once the wood nearby was set aflame, the supply depot would become the most

dangerous place of all. If she were to light the fire inside, how could she escape

the roaring flames?

Most likely, while they set fires outside, someone already hidden inside the supply

depot would start the blaze, while Carissa would simply go through the motions.

At first, Barrett felt a bitter sense of injustice. Such was the way of official life.

Great families passed down their rank and influence through generations.

With

the support of the family's older generation, one could rise quickly, gain honor, and preserve the family's legacy.

But then, Barret thought of his own father, who was a mediocre man. If it weren't

for Barrett's grandfather's military achievements, Jonathan would never have been an official, let alone kept control of Valor Estate.

And wasn't that what Barrett was fighting for? To one day provide his own children

and grandchildren with the same blessings, to bring honor to the Warren family

name.

Besides, Carissa was indeed skilled in martial arts. She was capable. A person

with family backing, personal talent, and a little help from others was bound to succeed. Even if she was a woman.

Once he understood this, Barrett stopped dwelling on it. With his status and skills,

he was grateful just to share in some of the glory.

Each member of the group hoisted their barrel of oil and set out under the cover

of night. Fawnrune City was under curfew from mid-morning until dawn, so they had to be careful. They didn't use their Lightfoot Skill, for there were watchtowers

with sentries scanning the city. Using such speed would only draw attention.

Instead, they moved quickly but quietly. They hugged walls when possible and crossed open spaces swiftly when there were none.

Stars twinkled in the sky, and the crescent moon appeared and disappeared now

and then. Under that vast sky, it was dark, but not completely. There was just enough light to make out the direction they needed to go.

As the group neared the supply depot, the number of patrols increased. Additionally, there were two rows of lamps on both sides of the path leading to the supply depot, each placed about ten feet apart.

They weren't very bright, but anyone walking by them would definitely be noticed.

The group hid in a narrow alley flanked by mud-brick houses. At the far end was a messy stack of firewood. They crouched beside it, waiting for the patrol to pass.

Once the coast was clear, they climbed over the wall and slipped through to the other side.

The supply depot itself was brightly lit. Although the building showed signs of age, a heavy iron door had been recently installed. There were also small stacks of

wood piled on either side of the entrance.

The supply depot was surrounded by open ground, with stacks of wood piled on

both the east and west sides. The wood had been sitting there for some time, and

with the weather being so dry lately, it would catch easily once it was doused in

oil.

Carissa took note that there were fewer guards on the east and west sides. Most

of the two hundred or so soldiers were gathered outside the supply depot. They

hardly moved, often sitting or lying on the open ground, weapons held close.

These soldiers were scattered about and far less disciplined than the patrols outside. After all, Fawnrun City belonged to Westhaven, and there were soldiers

patrolling outside. It was natural that the soldiers within the city would be somewhat relaxed.

Logically, if Starhaven intended to

raid the supply depot, they would

send a proper force and not just a

handful of people. So, Carissa

understood that the real threat the

guards feared was not the

Starhaven army, but rather Liam or Arthur. But regardless of which of them found the supply depot, they wouldn't destroy the food stored here.

Currently, the political strife and internal power struggle in Westhaven had reached a critical stage. Liam and Leroy were fighting over military authority and merit, which had become the core of the power struggle.

"Go set the fires first," Carissa ordered, keeping her voice low. "Once the flames are burning strong, I will move."

Aurora tried to speak but was stopped when Violet grabbed her wrist and used her Lightfoot Skill to drag her toward the east side of the supply depot. The others followed, each heading to a different side as planned. Carissa had told Violet to keep Aurora close, so she chose to bring her along.

After about 15 minutes, fire flared on the east side. Chaos broke out among the

Westhaven soldiers as they rushed toward the flames. Just then, the wood on the west side also caught fire, the roaring blaze lighting up the sky with a fierce red glow.

Her Graceful War Song #Chapter 1659 - Read Her Graceful War Song Chapter 1659

Carissa saw that the others had already escaped. After waiting for the fire to burn a little longer, she flew towards the supply depot with her Lightfoot Skill.

Though most people were busy fighting the fire, the supply depot was of the utmost importance. Around a dozen guards stood watch there. When they saw Carissa, who was dressed like a mountain villager, they moved forward to question her.

Quickly, Carissa raised the oil barrel high and shouted loudly in Westic, "Fire! We need to help put it out!"

As she shouted, she hurried toward the fire on the east side and pretended to join the effort to extinguish it. At the same time, nearby villagers soon arrived to help fight the flames. Running ahead of them, Carissa didn't seem out of place.

The scene was chaotic. Some smothered the flames with thick cloth, others carried buckets of water, while some shoveled sand. Everyone tried every method they could. But the fire fed on the wood, growing too fierce. They had to stop it from spreading to the supply depot, which proved to be no easy task.

Carissa circled the fire with her barrel of oil. When the moment was right, she slipped past the guards and entered the supply depot. Inside, sacks of grain were piled high, filling nearly every inch of the space. It was clear Leroy was determined to break through Victory Pass.

Carissa poured the oil over the grain. Just as she lit a match and threw it, she heard footsteps behind her.

"Stop!" someone shouted.

Her heart skipped a beat. Had she been caught so quickly?

Seeing the fire had already started, she didn't hesitate and ran. Ready to fight the guards if needed, she gripped her whip tightly. But after only a few steps, she saw the guards chasing a panicked Aurora into the supply depot.

Carissa was stunned. Hadn't everyone escaped? Had they got caught and turned back?

She glanced around. Except for Aurora, no one else was there-only a dozen guards had come in.

She rushed forward, whipping at the guards and shouting to Aurora, "Run! Why did you come back?"

"Where is everyone? Why are you alone?" Aurora asked, looking nervously at the burning supply depot.

Seeing no one else, she started to panic. She had broken free from Violet to come back, not wanting to miss the chance to win credit for the deed. She was confident there would be people coming to assist Carissa. There was no way Dominic would let his granddaughter handle the mission alone.

When Carissa heard the question, she instantly grew angry. Cracking her whip, she snapped, "What the hell is wrong with you? Are you that crazy for merit?!"

Seeing that no one was actually coming to help and more guards were pouring in, Aurora panicked. She had no choice but to draw her weapon and prepare to fight. Her martial arts skills were average, but after two years of fighting bandits under Tyler, she had plenty of experience.

The few guards who had come after her couldn't get close to her. But then, more surrounded her, and it was only a matter of time before she would be wounded. Panicked, she tried to dodge their attacks.

When she saw Carissa leap into the air, she thought the other woman was abandoning her.

Desperately, she lunged toward her, shouting, "Don't leave me behind!"

Grasping Carissa's leg, she pulled her down, and the two fell to the ground together. Carissa angrily kicked Aurora away, then rolled over on the ground to snatch a long sword from one of the guards. She sprang to her feet and began to fight.

Behind them, the fire roared higher, creeping closer by the minute. They had to escape quickly.

Luckily, the guards saw the flames growing fierce and dared not stay inside the supply depot. As they fought they retreated and slowly withdrew once outside, the situation grew worse. The fire

couldn't be put out, so all the guards

gathered to capture the two women.

A dark, menacing crowd of guards surged forward, their sharp spears and long knives aimed at them. Fortunately, the open space gave them room to move. While Carissa could escape on her own, helping Aurora flee was another matter entirely.

Terrified of being left behind, Aurora fought desperately while trying to stay close to Carissa. With her attention divided, one of the guards managed to stab her in the stomach. When another blade swung toward her neck, she screamed and shut her eyes tight.

Yet, the blade didn't strike her, as Barrett appeared just in time to save her. Even so, the shock left Aurora trembling uncontrollably. Violet and the others had also returned.

Violet seized a weapon from an enemy and knocked one man down before turning sharply to glare at Aurora. "I knew you'd be a burden. Barrett, get her out of here!"

None of Carissa's friends wanted to save Aurora. But if she were captured, she might reveal all the military secrets of Victory Pass out of desperation.

Barrett lifted the bleeding Aurora into his arms. With Bun and Cynthia covering their retreat, they fled swiftly from the danger.

Her Graceful War Song #Chapter 1660 - Read Her Graceful War Song Chapter 1660

After escorting Barrett and Aurora safely away, Cynthia and Bun hurried back to help Carissa escape.

Aurora was reckless to risk her life by sneaking back. If Violet and the others hadn't been worried that she would put Carissa in danger, they would never have returned.

Barrett stumbled awkwardly with Aurora in his arms, unable to fend off the attackers surrounding them. It didn't take long for her to be cast to the ground, and before she could regain her footing, a guard slashed her leg with his blade. Her scream echoed through the supply depot as Barrett struggled to hold his ground. He glanced back, paling at the sight of her left leg bleeding freely.

"Barrett, save me!" Aurora screamed, her face pale as death and her whole body shaking violently.

The guard clearly wanted her alive, as he didn't strike to kill. A blade pressed against her throat as someone yanked her up. The furious guard muttered angrily under his breath, while another guard brought a rope to tie her up.

At that moment, a young officer arrived with a few soldiers, dusty and weary from travel. Though tired, his stern countenance and refined bearing marked him as a gentleman of notable birth. Two of the guards immediately dropped to their knees before him.

Seeing this, Aurora knew the young officer was important.

Ignoring the knife at her throat, she shouted, "Barrett, seize him! That's the only way we can escape!"

Though she spoke in Stellish, the young officer seemed to understand her, and his expression darkened.

Barrett was struggling fiercely in the fight, his mind nearly overwhelmed. When he heard Aurora's shout, he instinctively lunged toward the young officer, who drew his blade in a flash, severing Barrett's arm.

Blood poured freely.

"Barrett!" Aurora cried out in horror.

But with the blade pressed to her neck, she couldn't move. She trembled uncontrollably, silently pleading with her eyes as she looked at the young officer.

He gave her a cold glance, then ordered in Westic, "Kill her. Keep the man alive as a prisoner."

Aurora didn't understand the words, but the murderous look in the young officer's eyes was clear enough.

"Carissa, save me! Carissa..." she cried out, trembling with fear.

But in the midst of the fierce battle, no one could hear her desperate voice.

A terrible scream pierced the air before being cut short. Aurora struggled to lower her head, only to see a thin, sharp sword piercing her heart. When the blade was pulled free, she collapsed, blood gushing forth.

Caught in the grip of death, the pain became distant and unclear. All she felt was fear and regret. She shouldn't have come back.

When Carissa and the others finally
escaped the fighting, they found

Aurora lying in a pool of blood. Barrett, with one arm severed, was bound nearby. For a moment, e Carissa hesitated, but then resolved to save them. As long as they were still alive, she couldn't leave them behind.

Whether the battle would end here was still uncertain. If either of them broke under torture and revealed the military defenses of Starhaven or the current strength of Victory Pass, it would pose a grave threat.

"Save them!" Carissa commanded.

Then, she caught sight of the young officer. She blinked in surprise.

Could it be him?

Before she could think further, the fierce battle renewed. With only five of them, they had to both fend off the enemy and rescue their comrades. It was no easy task.

Fortunately, the young officer had only brought a small group and didn't linger to fight Carissa and her party. Instead, he hurried into the fire. At once, half the guards rushed after him to stop him.

"Your Highness!" they shouted.

With that, it was clear. The young officer was indeed Arthur, Westhaven's current crown prince.

Since Leroy was not part of Arthur's faction, the guards under Leroy's command didn't want the prince to learn about the supply depot here.

Seizing the moment, Carissa and the others quickly fled with Barrett and Aurora.