

## HER GRACEFUL WAR SONG

### War 4

Rebecca forced a smile. "How can I decide that after meeting her only once? But since the king has arranged the marriage, it's a done deal. In the future, she and Barrett will earn military merits together, while you manage the household and enjoy the benefits of their hard work. Isn't that nice?"

"Yes, I'm sure," Carissa replied with a smile. "But it's quite unfair to make General Yates a concubine."

Rebecca laughed. "You silly child, how could she be a concubine? The king's edict makes her Barrett's legal wife. Also, she's a military officer who holds an official rank. Officials can't be concubines. She'll be a legal wife like you. There won't be any distinction between ranks for the two of you."

"No distinction? Is there such a custom in our kingdom?" Carissa asked.

Rebecca's expression grew a bit colder. "Carissa, you've always been sensible. Now that you've married into our family, you should prioritize us. According to the Defense Minister, Aurora's contributions in this battle were greater than Barrett's. With you managing the household, they'll be able to work together as husband and wife and focus on their military service. In the future, they'll surely become famous generals like his grandfather."

Carissa's tone remained chilly as she said, "If they're husband and wife, then I have no role here."

"How can you say that? Aren't you still in charge of the household?" countered Rebecca, displeased.

"I only managed the household because Amelia was unwell. Now that she has recovered, she should resume her duties. I'll go over the accounts tomorrow

and hand everything back to her," Carissa replied. Amelia quickly interjected, "I'm still not fully recovered. Besides, everyone is satisfied with how you've been managing things. You should continue doing it."

Carissa smiled mockingly. Everyone was satisfied because she had spent her own money to support them. Most of it went towards Rebecca's medical expenses.

Sebastian Dalton was a renowned physician, and his medicine was costly. Only a few could afford his services. Rebecca's medicine cost over a hundred coins a month, amounting to more than a thousand coins a year.

As for the other household expenses, Carissa occasionally subsidized them. For example, she would sometimes use fabrics and silks from her family's business to make new clothes for everyone throughout the year.

She didn't mind it before, as she had really wished to spend her life with Barrett.

However, circumstances had changed. She no longer wanted to be a fool.

Carissa stood up and said, "That's settled, then. I'll hand over the accounts tomorrow and won't be involved in household matters anymore."

"Stop right there!" Rebecca's face darkened with anger. "Carissa, you're being unreasonable. Men having multiple wives and concubines is normal. If you can't accept that, people will say you're narrow-minded and jealous."

Carissa's compliance over the past year had made the Warren family think she was easy to manipulate. They believed a few harsh words would always keep her in line.

Carissa's expression was calm, a stark contrast to her usual docility. "People can say whatever they want. I'm not concerned about their opinions."

Rebecca was so angry that she struggled to breathe and coughed harshly for a long while. In the past, Carissa would have rushed to help her. She would pat the older woman's back and try to soothe her. But now, Carissa remained where she was. The soft evening light from the doorway highlighted her delicate, almost ethereal beauty.

"Carissa, look how badly you've upset Mom," Serena said as she stepped forward.

Her round, youthful face puffed with anger as she glared at Carissa. "This isn't even about you. Do you think your family is still as prestigious as it once was? Your parents and brothers are gone; you're the only one left. Aren't you afraid that Barrett will divorce you if you keep putting on airs like you're a young lady from a prestigious family?"

Carissa looked at her sister-in-law, who was dressed in a pale yellow outfit that Carissa had procured for her in early autumn. Now, wearing the clothes Carissa had provided, Serena dared to question her authority.

How utterly... unsensible of her.

"Take off that dress you're wearing before you try to lecture me," Carissa said coolly.

Serena's cheeks flushed with anger. "I didn't beg you to get this dress for me. You can have it back if you don't want me to have it."

"Fine. And don't forget the jewelry you're wearing. I expect it all to be returned to me."

After Carissa said that, her gaze swept across the room. The only one who seemed pleased with the situation was Charlotte. Everyone else looked grim.

"If there's nothing else, I'll be leaving."

With that, Carissa turned and walked out decisively.

