

# The Warlord's Lovely Prize

## Chapter 19

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Landen's brow furrowed deeper as he replied, "She called Rodger yesterday, claiming she could reach out to Egret. Perhaps that's why he intervened so decisively on her behalf."

"I understand." Claire's voice dropped to a whisper, laden with anxiety. "With Commissioner Barnett so determined to find Egret, won't he be outraged when he learns Kaelyn has been misleading him? Since you and Kaelyn are still legally married, might you be dragged into this mess?"

Her words jolted Landen from his reverie.

Nobody had ever manipulated Rodger this way before!

What did it matter if Kaelyn really was Lilian?

Once he found out Kaelyn was a liar, Rodger wouldn't easily forgive her; the disparity in their status was too significant. Rodger had the power to obliterate her with minimal effort.

Not just her, but he could also bring down the entire Barnett family. A mere divorce wouldn't rectify the situation now. Landen realized that he needed a more robust plan to sever ties entirely.

Claire might not have thought as strategically as Landen, but when she observed the shift in his demeanor, a trace of satisfaction briefly crossed her features.

She had long foreseen Kaelyn's downfall.

Facing off against someone as formidable as Rodger, Kaelyn stood little chance of emerging without consequence.

When the inevitable happened, Claire was ready to step back into the role of Mrs. Barnett, solidifying her position once again.

Kaelyn paused after walking a short distance, sensing she wasn't alone. Turning, she offered a faint smile to Rodger.

"Commissioner Barnett, I appreciate your intervention today. I owe you one. So, what is it you want from me?"

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It was unusual for anyone to address Rodger so directly. Caught off guard, he responded in a low tone, “Last time, you brought up Egret.”

“Sorry,” Kaelyn cut him off before he could continue. “Egret’s terms for assistance are non-negotiable. Since you refused her treatment, perhaps we should consider a different arrangement.”

Rodger’s lips tightened, and he dipped his head slightly. “I was presumptuous earlier. My apologies, Ms. Gordon. I’m willing to meet any terms, as long as Egret agrees to help.”

Surprise flickered through Kaelyn’s eyes.

Was Rodger actually apologizing to her?

It appeared the formidable international military chief had a softer side than she had expected.

Initially reluctant to entangle herself further, Kaelyn reconsidered, influenced by Rodger’s earnest demeanor and his support earlier. It seemed only fair to reciprocate. “Alright, I’ll contact Egret for you. You can go now.”

As she resumed walking, Rodger’s expression softened, but he hesitated before reaching out to stop her.

“Commissioner Barnett, I’ve agreed to help you reach Egret, and I will. Please, respect my boundaries,” Kaelyn said, her patience thinning.

Rodger, unfazed by her stern tone, offered calmly, “Let me drive you back.”

“Thank you, but I have my own transportation,” Kaelyn declined promptly, leaving no room for further discussion.

Beyond the medical issue, she had no desire to entangle herself further with the Barnett family.

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