

The Warlord's Lovely Prize

Chapter 7

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Landen started to step forward, his jaw tightening, but Claire's soft voice stopped him mid-step. She leaned close, her tone dripping with concern. "Landen, there are too many people here. If this turns into a scene, the repercussions will be messy. And don't forget Kaelyn is still upset with you. Even if you step in, she might not acknowledge it. It could backfire."

Landen hesitated, her reasoning cutting through his impulsive anger.

He realized that Claire was right. He rarely brought Kaelyn out, and people here might not recognize her. If he acted rashly, it could drag the Barnett family into a scandal. He had almost lost his head! Taking a deep breath, he forced himself to remain still, though his gaze remained locked on Kaelyn, unable to look away.

He saw a tall, imposing man step forward, placing himself protectively between Kaelyn and Kolton.

Sebastian's commanding presence silenced the nearby murmurs, and with practiced ease, he flicked a business card onto Kolton's chest. "Before you throw threats around, think about whether you're qualified. Not everyone here is someone you can afford to offend, especially those from Starbright Group. I suggest you check yourself."

Kolton caught the card, his hands trembling as he glanced at the sleek, embossed lettering. His face went ashen as realization struck him. "You... You're the vice president of Starbright Group?"

At Kolton's trembling words, a ripple of disbelief spread through the onlookers, including Landen and his companions. They exchanged stunned glances, their shock evident.

Starbright Group wasn't just powerful — it was one of the most influential corporations globally, dwarfing even the Barnett Group in reach and authority.

Landen's chest tightened with a sharp pang of anger and jealousy. How did Kaelyn know someone of such high status? And why hadn't he known about it before?

An ugly thought clawed its way to the surface: was this why she readily agreed to divorce? Had she already found someone better?

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Observing Landen's brooding expression, Claire understood what he was thinking. Her lips curled ever so slightly into a satisfied smile. With a deliberately casual tone, she murmured, "Kaelyn seems to share a close bond with the vice president of Starbright Group. This could be a real opportunity. Maybe she could help the Barnett Group secure a collaboration with them."

"Humph, that shameless woman probably forgot about the Barnett family long ago!" Landen clenched his fists, his teeth grinding together as a surge of jealousy and frustration twisted his insides. Meanwhile, a crowd had begun to gather, murmurs rippling as more people turned their attention to the heated scene.

Kolton, flustered by the growing attention, raised his voice in defiance. "The executives of Starbright Group are notoriously secretive. Just because you claim to be one doesn't make it true. You could be a fraud!" Despite his unease, he refused to back down — this was his turf. Even if the man was genuine, Kolton couldn't afford to lose face.

"I'm telling you, girl, I don't care who stands in my way. I'll have you tonight," Kolton spat venomously, his words dripping with vulgarity. "You'll be begging in bed by the time I'm done—"

Smack!

Kolton's words were abruptly cut off as Kaelyn's hand struck his face with a sharp, resounding slap.

The bar fell into stunned silence, all eyes shifting to Kolton's face, now red with the imprint of her palm. He turned to glare at her, his expression twisted in fury. "You dare hit me?" he snarled, his voice laced with venom. "Seize her!"

The order was like a trigger. Security guards stationed nearby sprang into action, encircling Kaelyn and Sebastian with intimidating glares.

"Kaelyn, should we fight?" Sebastian whispered, his fists already clenched.

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