

The Warlord's Lovely Prize

Chapter 9

Sebastian, who usually stood tall, found himself shrinking slightly under Rodger's intimidating gaze.

He instinctively glanced at Kaelyn beside him.

Catching the unspoken dialogue, Rodger shifted his attention to Kaelyn and inquired, "You hold the details?" Pausing, as though a memory was surfacing, he narrowed his eyes subtly. "We've met before, haven't we? Are you Landen's wife?"

"Yes," Kaelyn replied, disregarding Landen's desperate gestures to remain silent, her voice steady. "But we've already decided to divorce."

"Decided to divorce?"

Rodger's eyebrow arched as he was taken aback by her revelation. That slight lift of his brow led Landen to envision numerous troubling outcomes.

Seething with irritation, Landen interjected, "Uncle Rodger, pay no mind to her. It's merely a minor squabble, hardly grounds for divorce."

Rodger's response was a measured silence.

Unable to decipher his thoughts, Landen persisted, "Before we married, my wife had no known family or background. Surely she has no connections to Egret. She's merely trying to tarnish my reputation out of spite. Don't let her deceive you!"

"Indeed, Kaelyn is quite the manipulator. Uncle Rodger, take her words with a grain of salt," added Verena.

Witnessing the siblings unite against Kaelyn, Claire decided to add fuel to the fire. She approached Kaelyn and said, "Kaelyn, this isn't wise. Quarreling with Landen is one thing, but making a fuss over a trifle is another. You should apologize to Commissioner Barnett."

"Hmm," Kaelyn chuckled, unphased by the accusations. "I haven't even mentioned knowing Egret, and yet here you are, ready to blame me."

Claire was momentarily speechless, her expression one of sympathy toward Landen.

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Just as Landen opened his mouth to rebuke Kaelyn, Rodger's icy tone cut through the tension, addressing him directly. "I remember that after your accident, Kaelyn devoted three years to your care. Regardless of your current grievances, such disdain is unwarranted, especially while you entertain the company of another woman during your marriage."

A shiver ran through Landen. He was left speechless, absorbing the admonition in silence.

Rodger's stern demeanor softened as he turned to Kaelyn. "When Landen awoke, it was nothing short of a miracle. Perhaps you do have a connection to Egret. I have a close associate who's been comatose since an accident. Name your price — if you can arrange a meeting with Egret, I will pay it."

Kaelyn's eyebrow arched, amused by the offer.

As expected of the leader who held the reins of global military power, he was indeed wealthy. It seemed the mysterious force Sebastian mentioned earlier was likely backed by him.

Though the proposal was enticing, Kaelyn was reluctant to deepen ties with the Barnett family. She pondered briefly before responding, "A hundred and fifty million dollars. If you agree to that sum, I'll make the introduction to Egret, though I can't promise their cooperation."

As soon as these words were uttered, shock rippled through the crowd, leaving only Rodger unfazed.

Verena was quick to condemn, her finger jabbing in Kaelyn's direction as she spat, "Are you so desperate for money that you'd risk everything? Go ahead and destroy yourself, but don't drag us into your mess!"

"No problem."

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