

## War Song 831

### Chapter 831

The next day, Barret didn't manage to buy the Evergreen Pills after finishing his shift. So, he asked Amelia to buy eight Evergreen Pills at Arcane Sanctum the next day, as well as to look for a wet nurse and a midwife.

Amelia agreed. After all, she needed to get Snowdrop Pills for Rebecca as well. Though Amelia had been neglecting the household duties due to her illness, she understood that there wasn't much money left in the family, though their estate remained looking as grand as ever.

Before heading out to buy medicine the next day, she went to the accounts room to withdraw some money, only to find that there were only ten silver coins left in the account.

She knew they were low on funds, but was shocked to discover that such a small amount was all that remained. She had thought there would be at least two or three hundred silver coins left, especially since the second branch of the family hadn't split off yet, and most of their funds had been turned over to the family fund.

Adding her husband's, father-in-law's, and Barrett's salaries, plus the 100 gold coins they had received as a reward, surely they should still have two or three hundred silver coins remaining

Yet, there were only ten silver coins.

As Amelia went through the accounts, she realized that some of the dowry for Serena had been paid out, Aurora had withdrawn some, and Viola had considerable monthly expenses. On top of that, Rebecca needed medicine, and the household staff had their monthly allowances. Each entry in the books was accounted for, with not a single coin unrecorded.

However, Viola's spending was quite excessive. She consumed a pound of royal jelly every month, not to mention other supplements. The household had a stock of nourishing foods—many had been sent over after Barrett's injury, including a generous supply from Viola's family.

So, why did Viola feel the need to buy more when there was so much in the estate already?

Determined to get to the bottom of it, Amelia went to Grace Mansion to ask Viola. Amelia was known for her timid nature, and she didn't mean any offense by asking the question. But when she asked, Viola misunderstood.

She believed Amelia was criticizing her for spending so much during her pregnancy. In a fit of anger, Viola scolded her. She even handed Amelia a pair of scissors, urging her to stab her abdomen to terminate the pregnancy and save some money.

Horried, Amelia rushed out of Grace Mansion. She could hear Viola's sobs behind her. Just as Amelia was trying to regain her composure, a maid came to say that Rebecca was calling for her, saying that she was feeling unwell and needed Amelia to fetch a physician immediately.

"If she has ordered it, then you should go and get one! Why do you need to tell me?" Amelia snapped, frustrated.

The maid was startled by Amelia's sudden outburst, as the latter was usually so kind.

Quickly, the maid explained, "Madam Rebecca says it's serious this time. She wants Sebastian from Arcane Sanctum and insists you fetch him personally."

"What right do I have to summon Sebastian?" Amelia felt like she was on the verge of breaking down." Even when I go to buy medicine, I have to watch my tone. You all know that!"

The maid fell silent, her face pale as she stood awkwardly to the side.

Amelia pressed her palm to her forehead, trying to collect her thoughts, but each passing day felt like torture. When would this nightmare end? They had no money and no dignity, and the problems just kept piling up.

Remembering Barrett's request for Evergreen Pills and to find a wet nurse and a midwife, she felt the weight of it all. Each of these necessities required funds, not to mention the Snowdrop Pills for Rebecca.

Setting aside everything else, Amelia had to buy those Snowdrop Pills first. Gritting her teeth, she withdrew the ten silver coins, then pulled out what little personal savings she had left. She also took some of her more valuable jewelry to pawn off.

When she emerged from the pawnshop, it felt like her heart was bleeding. She hardly had any decent jewelry left. The finer pieces had all been gifts from Carissa, and Amelia had already sold some of those. Now, all that remained were a few trinkets that she couldn't bear to part with. Regardless, she was left with no choice but to pawn them for quick cash. She intended to redeem them back later.

As Amelia made her way to Arcane Sanctum, tears streamed down her face. The only piece of gold jewelry left in her hair was a single hairpin given to her by her mom as part of her dowry when she got married.

Now, her jewelry box contained only gold-plated pieces. Here she was, the mistress of the grand Valor Estate, reduced to living like an ordinary commoner. The thought broke her heart.

How could she not feel sorrow over this?

Chapter 832

With her maid in tow, Amelia arrived at Arcane Sanctum and quickly inquired about the price of the Evergreen Pills. They were far from cheap—five silver coins each, and she needed eight of them. In the frigid weather, she felt the sweat on her forehead and struggled to hold back tears, unable to make a

decision.

The shop assistants at Arcane Sanctum recognized her by now and were aware of her situation.

One of them, Paul, spoke up. “Madam Amelia, these Evergreen Pills are intended for women who are weak and anemic after childbirth. If you're looking to replenish energy and blood, you can brew the medicine yourself, which is much cheaper. Besides, one pill is usually sufficient for childbirth. There's no need to buy so many. It's not like eight women are giving birth at the same time.”

Wiping away her tears, Amelia hurriedly asked, “One is enough? Really?”

“Absolutely. If you're still worried, you could buy two. The pill isn't a guarantee for easy childbirth. It's mainly for those who are severely depleted. If the labor is prolonged and tiring, one pill can help give them the strength to continue.”

Amelia handed over the money. “Then, I’ll take two. And please get me two Snowdrop Pills as well,”

Paul nodded, weighed the items, and made the calculations before returning with some copper coins. Just a heads-up, the price of Snowdrop Pills is going to increase next month. Some of the herbs are becoming harder to find, which is driving up the cost. Sebastian used to treat your mother-in-law’s condition, and with a daily dose of Snowdrop Pills, she improved significantly. With a couple more of treatment, she would have been back to normal. But now...”

Paul shook his head sadly.

e years

Amelia forced a smile, holding back her tears. “It’s just how it is. We can’t even afford to call Sebastian anymore. We can’t rely on the same prescription forever. We need to adjust the medicine according to her condition. When we can afford Snowdrop Pills, we’ll buy them, and if we can’t, there’s nothing we can do.”

Paul fell silent and handed Amelia the medicine, advising her on how to take the Evergreen Pills.

He reiterated, “Make sure to space the doses at least four hours apart—don’t take two at the same time. If the fatigue is due to prolonged labor, one pill will suffice. But if there are other complications, like difficult labor or heavy bleeding, this won’t help. The extra pill can be taken two weeks after delivery.”

“I’ll remember that. Thank you so much!” Amelia said as she left the shop, her maid by her side.

When she returned home, Amelia first administered the Snowdrop Pills to Rebecca before sending someone to give the Evergreen Pills to Viola. She was genuinely afraid

of Viola’s unpredictable temperament and didn’t dare to go in person. So, she gave detailed instructions on how to use the medicine to be passed along

The physician had already seen Rebecca but had only prescribed some remedies to help stabilize her condition. The key lay in taking the Snowdrop Pills. Although it wasn’t time for her to take them yet, Rebecca was feeling so unwell that Amelia had no choice but to let her start early.

Seeing her daughter-in-law's woeful expression, Rebecca's temper flared. "What's wrong with you now? You look like you're mourning! I'm still alive!"

Amelia felt a swell of frustration but didn't dare to retort.

Instead, she spoke softly. "Mother, Barrett has put me in charge of the household, but there's no money left in the accounts. I just pawned all my jewelry and spent the last of the money on medicine. There's nothing left for household expenses, and it's time to pay the staff their monthly allowances. What are we going to do?"

"Didn't you just pawn your jewelry? How is there no money left?" Rebecca asked, her displeasure evident.

Gathering her courage, Amelia replied. "That money went to buy medicine, and I also bought two Evergreen Pills for Viola, which weren't cheap—five silver coins each. The remaining money isn't much, but our daily expenses for food and lamps are also considerable. I was wondering if you or Viola might consider pawning some jewelry so we would have money for emergencies?"

Rebecca was nearly speechless in disbelief, her anger flaring. "What did you just say? You want me to pawn my jewelry? Are you trying to rebel? You think you can run this household while asking your mother-in-law to pawn her jewelry?"

"Mother, please calm down," Amelia begged as she knelt beside the bed. "I know times are tough now, but the men will receive their salaries soon. Once they do, we'll have funds again. This is just a temporary solution. The jewelry that can be pawned..."

Slap!

A powerful blow landed on Amelia's face, leaving her momentarily stunned.

Having just taken her Snowdrop Pills, Rebecca was gradually regaining her strength. The slap, fueled by her humiliation, was delivered with all her might.

"You can't manage this household? Then, get out! I'll write you a letter of divorce and throw you out of our family!"

## Chapter 833

Amelia stared wide-eyed at Rebecca's furious and twisted face. The words "divorce" and "get out" left her feeling dazed and empty-headed. Confused and helpless, Amelia slowly stood up and began to walk out.

"Come back here! I'm not done yelling at you! How dare you? How dare you?! Asking your mother-in-law to sell her things—you have no shame, you filthy wretch! You dirty little thing! Rebecca shouted, her intensifying as she saw Amelia trying to leave, "Come back here! Someone grab her!"

rage

Perhaps it was due to Amelia's trembling body and unsteady steps that resembled a fragile vase on the verge of shattering but no one dared to physically restrain her.

Instead, they urged, "Madam Amelia, please wail!"

It was as if Amelia couldn't hear them. She continued walking,

step by step, back toward her own. courtyard. However, at the end of the corridor, she caught sight of Viola, heavily pregnant and supported. by Poppy

Instinctively, Amelia took a step back, remembering how Viola had once handed her a pair of scissors. A shiver ran through her as she felt a surge of fear.

"What's the meaning of this? Why did you only buy two Evergreen Pills? Didn't I tell you to get seven or eight?" Viola asked, her dissatisfaction clear. "Don't even try to tell me you don't have the money. I discussed it with Barrett last night. You'll be managing the household from now on, and Barrett will contribute 30 percent of his salary to the family fund. We'll handle the rest of his salary ourselves."

"30 percent?" Amelia began to regain some of her rationality, only to feel a sharp sting on her cheeks as she instinctively covered them. "30 percent? Why is it 30 percent? Everyone else is contributing nearly all of their salary. How can we make ends meet with just that?"

"Why can't we make it work? We've always managed before, haven't we? Even when Barrett's salary was lower, we still made do," Viola retorted.

Amelia swallowed hard. “So, you’re saying that from now on, if you contribute 30 percent, you will take care of your own living expenses, food, and travel?”

Viola sneered. “Are you out of your mind? If I’m managing my own expenses, then why would I contribute. 30 percent to the family fund?”

Amelia felt a buzzing in her ears but still tried to speak to Viola as if they were having a normal conversation,

“But the biggest expenses in the household are yours! Your royal jelly and supplements, and then there’s Aurora. Do you have any idea how much it costs each month for all the maids and servants you keep? 30 percent won’t even cover your expenses, not to mention Mother’s medicine. Are you saying Barrett won’t help with that?

“And what about you? You’re raising children, but I don’t have to? I’ve sold all my jewelry, and yet you can still eat royal jelly every day

...”

Viola sneered coldly. “Ah, so that’s it! You’re jealous of me eating royal jelly. You want a taste too? Fine, I’ll set some aside for you every day. I’ve never seen someone so greedy—trying to snatch royal jelly from a pregnant woman. Aren’t you afraid of embarrassing yourself if word gets out?”

Amelis felt a mix of anger and shame as she looked at Viola, who radiated confidence and wealth, starkly contrasting her own meager state

Suddenly, she felt that no words would suffice

Silently, she returned to her room and sat there for a long time. She didn’t touch her food or water, lost in thought until her husband, Benjamin, came home.

He was fuming. As soon as he stepped through the door, his mom’s servants had called for him and launched into a scathing recap of events. It was only after he pieced together the situation that he learned his wife had actually suggested selling Rebecca’s jewelry to make ends meet.

Wasn’t that a slap in his face? Wasn’t that a direct indidation of his ability to provide?

“What kind of madness is this?” Benjamin exploded as soon as he entered the room. “You, as my wife, have the audacity to tell my mom to sell her jewelry to support the family? Is there anyone more disrespectful than you?”

Amelia raised her pale face. Ever since she returned to the room, she had been wrestling with the thought that her life felt utterly miserable. But as long as her husband understood her, she could bear it all,

Yet, she didn’t receive a word of comfort from him. Instead, he launched into a tirade without bothering to understand the full story. Amelia felt her heart sink to the depths of despair.

Benjamin grabbed her arm harshly. “What are you spacing out for? Hurry up and apologize to my mom! The servants said you were out for half the day and didn’t bother to attend to her when you got back. Is this how a daughter-in-law behaves? You’re so disrespectful—what good are you to me?”

#### Chapter 834

The last flicker of hope in Amelia’s heart vanished.

The exhausting days and nights pressed down on her, making it hard to breathe. Her harsh mother-in-law and sister-in-law, the inaction of the men, and that wicked woman, Aurora, who occasionally emerged from her hiding place in Blessed Haven to snatch things away—it all added up.

as a cage.

This house no longer felt like a home. It was

Dragged to Rebecca’s chamber, Amelia was forced to kneel beside the bed. She looked up blankly at her father-in-law and Barrett, both wearing expressions of blame. Her gaze shifted to her husband, whose eyes burned with fury

He slapped Amelia hard, then turned to his mom and said, “Mom, please calm down. I’ve already taught her a lesson. She won’t dare do that again.”

Seeing her son’s devotion, Rebecca finally relented, “Fine. She’s not from a prominent family, so it’s not surprising that she’s a bit stingy and shabby in her ways.”



Amelia's cheek throbbed with pain, but it was nothing compared to the ache in her heart. After the heartache came a numbness that wrapped around her.

The next day, before dawn, the servants preparing to go out to buy meat and vegetables noticed the back door was wide open, letting in a chilling wind.

"Why wasn't the back door closed last night? Who was so careless?" one of the servants grumbled. "If something goes missing, we'll have to blame someone. There are enough problems to deal with as it is."

He wrapped his coat tighter around himself as he stepped out the back door, shutting it against the cold breeze. "It's getting colder. Why hasn't the winter clothing been issued yet this year?"

As he muttered, he moved to the side yard to fetch a cart and head out into the alley.

When Benjamin woke up and didn't see Amelia in their room, he didn't think much of it. She usually got up early to attend to Rebecca. After the punishment he had given her last night, she would likely be even more attentive. Feeling slightly reassured that he had his wife under control—unlike his brother, who was at the mercy of two women—he thought nothing of it.

The men returned to their duties, each going about their business.

Meanwhile, Rebecca was furious. "What time is it? Why isn't someone here to give me my breakfast? Go find her!"

Rebecca's maid, Tara, hurried off to look for Amelia but couldn't find her..

When she asked Amelia's maid, the latter replied, "Isn't she already with Madam Rebecca? Madam Amelia has been going over early lately."

"She's not there! That's why Madam Rebecca is in a rage. Hurry and find her. Is she in the kitchen? Otherwise, she'll be scolded again when she returns!"

“It’s not like there’s no one attending to Madam Rebecca. Why does Madam Amelia have to wake up so early to serve her?” said Amelia’s maid, Beth, who couldn’t help but feel sorry for her mistress.

“Be quiet,” Tara shot back, glaring at her. “What family doesn’t do this? When the parents are ill, it’s the duty of the daughter-in-law to care for them. If people learn of this, Madam Amelia will earn a reputation for being a devoted daughter-in-law.”

“Madam Amelia is managing the household now. She barely sleeps for three hours a night, working from dawn till dusk. Please, Tara, say a few kind words for her in front of Madam Rebecca so she can catch her breath,” Beth pleaded.

With a sigh, Tara relented, “Fine. Go check the kitchen. Is she brewing medicine? Madam Rebecca has been in a foul mood these past couple of days and won’t let her off easily. I’ll talk to Madam Rebecca about it in a few days.”

“Thank you, Tara.” Beth rushed off toward the kitchen.

However, after searching the entire Valor Estate, she still couldn’t find Amelia. Filled with panic, she reported back to Tara.

Rebecca overheard and snapped, “Where could she be? Isn’t she just hiding with the second branch of the family and daydreaming there? Go and tell the second branch that if they aren’t going to handle the household affairs, they shouldn’t pretend to care.”

Tara made the trip herself, but Charlotte frowned and said, “Didn’t someone just come looking for her? We already said she wasn’t here. Why would you think I’m hiding her? If Rebecca wants to send someone to search, let her do it. If they find her, I’ll kneel and apologize. Is that good enough?”

Chapter 835

timedia

Hearing Chardones remarks Tara concluded that deal was wely not with that side of the family and

Recalling The events from to

monday Deteccan help but rear it's probably because of 1 fealing for are fre soled her too much  
Forget about her. Where

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saving

"No need to look for her if I do that, the think too highly

Hids of herself she was the wrong from the start for mismanaging the household, and she even had  
the audacity to ask me to sell my jewelry to make ends meet Where has all the money gone? Tarsem  
Pecerca was in a foul mood, but she couldn't help defending Amelia.

There are few days Madam Amelia has been hard-working and hasn't complained. She attended to  
you daly while as caring for the children."

herry to serve me? Shoulant she care for her own children? Why do you make it sound like I'm  
being farn to heas she ever gone without food or bothing since marrying into our family? She's been  
pretending to de ill to avoid ner responsibilities, and I've turned a blind eye to her antics. Once  
Benjamin

tonight, I teach her a proper lesson and see if she dares to act out again.”

Tare could only say “We’ll wait and see if she comes back

“She’ll definitely return Didn’t you see how she looked when I mentioned divorce? She was completely weeecca sad confidently

Recents de qved that some people were like birds, delicately hiding their wings. They seemed ccedent and gente but the moment things didnt go their way, they would fly off and never return, like

Omers were we crickers whose wings had been clipped, unable to fly away for life, like Aurora And some were born without wings or even without proper legs, unable to fly or walk far, like Amelia.

if Rebecca couldnt control the first two types she certainly wouldn’t struggle with the last. She had no

At Northwatton Estate, the gatekeeper swung open the front gate early in the morning and was startled to find a woman curled up next to the stone lion. Wrapped in a blue cloak, she was shivering from the cold.

From the way she was dressed, she didn’t appear to be an ordinary commoner.

“Excuse me, ma’am, who are you? What are you doing here? the gatekeeper asked.

The woman pulled down her collar slightly, revealing her face.

The gatekeeper blinked in surprise. “Wait Aren’t you Madam Amelia? Why are you here? Are you looking for our mistress? She’s at Hell Monarch Estate”

It

t was indeed Amelia

She had left Valor Estate in the early hours of the morning but had no idea where to go. All she could think about when she left was her desperate desire to escape that place, even if it meant dying outside rather than within its walls.

As she wandered aimlessly, she found herself standing at the gates of Northwatch Estate. She knew Carissa wouldn't be there, but somehow, it felt right to come. Perhaps Carissa was the only person in this city who had ever offered her warmth.

Leaning against the stone lion for support, Amelia stood up as she shook her head. Her lips were turning purple from the cold, and her voice trembled as she spoke, "N-no... I'm not looking for her. I just I was just tired and needed to sit for a moment... I'll be going now."

With that, she wrapped her cloak tighter around herself and turned to leave.

Finding her behavior strange, the gatekeeper hurried inside to inform the steward, Frederick, who rushed out upon hearing the news. But by the time he got to the entrance, she had vanished. Though Frederick held a grudge against the Warren family, he recognized that while Amelia might be foolish, she wasn't malicious.

"Was she already freezing when you found her?" he asked the gatekeeper.

"Yes, sir. She must have been sitting there for quite some time. It looked like even standing up was a struggle for her, and her lips were purple. I think she must have arrived in the middle of the night."

Frederick pondered for a moment before saying. "In the middle of the night? The troubles of the Warren family aren't our concern, but if she came here at such an hour and something happened, it could easily land us in trouble. I need to go to Hell Monarch Estate and inform Lady Carissa."

## Chapter 836

Previously, due to Salvador's focus on the Eleanor treason case, Carissa had not attended court. Today marked her first time in court after the case was wrapped up, so by the time Frederick arrived at Hell Monarch Estate, Carissa and Rafael had already left.

As he couldn't meet with Carissa, Frederick informed Jacob about the situation.

Jacob didn't dismiss the matter just because it involved the Warren family. He invited Frederick in for coffee, chatted briefly with Lily, and then sent for Violet to ask her opinion.

He knew that Carissa had instructed Violet's people to keep an eye on Barrett to see if he continued his association with Yuvan. So, she might have some insights into the happenings at Valor Estate.

However, when Violet arrived, she yawned and said, "I don't know. I haven't been watching Valor Estate closely, I just instructed my people to keep tabs on Yuvan's movements. I'm aware of who he's been in contact with, but I really have no ide

about what's going on in the Warren family."

"That's strange," Jacob replied.

"Why would we concern ourselves with the Warren family's matters?" Violet shrugged, appearing unconcerned.

Although she didn't hold any ill feelings toward Amelia, she also didn't have any affection for her.

"We certainly won't get involved in their issues. The problem is that Madam Amelia was seen sitting outside Northwatch Estate for quite a while. If something happens to her or if she stirs up trouble, it would bring unnecessary scrutiny on us," Jacob explained.

Still feeling sleepy, Violet yawned again, her eyes glistening with moisture. "In that case, should we send someone to look for her? From what I've heard, Amelia has been under a lot of pressure. You know how awful Aurora and Viola are—she might have been pushed to a breaking point."

"Let's look for her, then. We wouldn't want anything to go wrong." Jacob shook his head. "Why did she sit outside Northwatch Estate for no reason? She doesn't have any ties with Lady Carissa."

Logically speaking, even though the Warren family and Carissa were not outright enemies, they also weren't on friendly terms. For Amelia to sit outside Northwatch Estate's gates, knowing full well that Carissa wasn't there, clearly indicated that she wasn't seeking her out.

Since she wasn't looking for Carissa and given Amelia's temperament, it was unlikely she was looking to stir up trouble. With Barrett recently promoted, the Warren family had to tread carefully, so it was improbable that anyone from the family had sent her to make a scene.

It seemed Amelia was simply dealing with her own issues and had nowhere else to go, so she ended up sitting outside Northwatch Estate.

“Let’s find her! Get moving!” Jacob commanded as he dispatched people to search. “But keep it low-key. Just stroll around and see what you can find.”

After giving his orders, he turned to Violet and added, “Ms. Spencer, Lady Carissa may be at the Central Command Office after court, or she might be at the Capital Guard headquarters. Check both places just in case something happened to Madam Amelia.”

Violet nodded. “Got it. I’ll take care of it.”

Just as she was about to head back to change, Ivy walked in carrying a medicine box.

“What are you doing here so early with that? Who’s sick?” asked Violet, taken aback..

Ivy rolled her eyes. “Lily’s not feeling well. I came by yesterday. You’re so heartless. It’s a waste that Lily treats you so well.”

“Really? No one told me.” Violet sighed. “I’ll go see her when I get back. Is she going to be okay?”

“It’s nothing serious. Just a minor illness,” Ivy said as she stepped further inside, but suddenly halted. While I was talking to the gatekeeper, I overheard you mentioning Madam Amelia. What’s going on with her? She was buying medicine at Arcane Sanctum yesterday.”

“Really? Did anything seem off with her?” Violet asked, urgency creeping into her voice.

“I wasn’t there, but the shop assistant said she came in looking for Snowdrop Pills and Evergreen Pills. They mentioned her eyes were red and puffy, like she’d been crying.”

“Crying? She must have suffered some grievance.”

Tvy shrugged. “Madam Amelia suffering some grievance is nothing new. She’s probably gotten used to it

by now.”

Violet immediately grabbed Ivy’s arm and pulled her toward Lily’s room. “Let’s not look for Carissa just yet. We need to figure out what’s happening first. How do you know all this? I want to hear the details.”

Chapter 837

Ivy said, “Although my mentor doesn’t want to treat Madam Rebecca, he still keeps an eye on Madam Amelia since she comes in for Snowdrop Pills. Every time she comes to buy medicine, he instructs the shop assistants to ask about her situation. Madam Amelia has become familiar with them and tends to vent a bit.

“Yesterday, she didn’t say much, but they noticed she had been crying. In the past, she would talk about how she handles everything at home and takes care of her mother-in-law. Madam Viola manages the accounts, but Madam Amelia only gets a little money trickling through her fingers. When Madam Amelia can’t cover the household expenses, she has to sell or pawn her own things. It sounds like she’s really been feeling the pressure.”

When they arrived at Lily’s room, Frederick was still there. The two of them were catching up while Lutu sat nearby.

Lily’s complexion was not good, and upon hearing them talk about Amelia, she sighed and said, “Madam Amelia is too weak. She lacks a backbone and can’t stand up for herself. Her family situation is complicated. Her dad’s a minor official out of town, and being sent away is just another way of saying he’s been demoted.

“The Warren family isn’t much better, but she has no support from her natal family. A biological father can’t easily become a stepfather once he marries another woman, you know? So, no matter how difficult things are at Valor Estate, she has to endure. After all, there are children involved.”

“It sounds like she’s used to suffering in silence, Violet said.

Lily shook her head. “Enduring suffering isn’t about getting used to it. When someone has to bear it, there will come a day when they can’t take it anymore. I don’t know what’s happening in the Warren family, but if she can’t manage there, she has no other options—only a dead end. She can’t rely on her family.”

Lily sighed again. “That’s why she came to Lady Carissa, asking for Snowdrop Pills for Madam Rebecca. If she hadn’t, she risked being kicked out. Lady Carissa understood her predicament,



which is why she suggested that Madam Amelia go to Arcane Sanctum to kneel for a bit. That way, Madam Amelia could at least gain a reputation for being dutiful, making it harder for the Warren family to simply throw her out.”

Ivy chimed in, “You know, I’ve seen plenty of people like her. They can endure more than anyone else and swallow every grievance. But once they reach their limit, they can react more violently than anyone would

expect.”

Frederick sighed. “So, since she was just sitting outside the estate, does that mean she’s really at her wit’s end? Ugh, we can’t ignore this. Lady Carissa just started her official duties, and now this happens.... Well, Madam Amelia probably didn’t mean any harm. She must be desperate. Let’s focus on bringing her back first.”

Violet added, “Jacob sent people out to look for her. The Warren family hasn’t reported anything, so that is all we can do for now.”

If the Warren family had filed a report, the Royal Citadel, the Capital Guard, and the Garrison Unit could have been mobilized to help search. But as it stood, only the people from Hell Monarch Estate were looking for her. It made Violet wonder if the Warren family had sent anyone out as well.

Before heading to the Capital Guard headquarters, Violet asked Claire to gather any information about

any unusual movements from the people at Valor Estate.

Violet waited at the Capital Guard headquarters until after lunch for Carissa’s return. Thankfully, Carissa’s early morning training at Meadow Ridge under a strict instructor had prepared her for the grueling early court sessions. But still, she realized it had been quite a while since those days, it would take her some time to readjust.

As soon as she spotted Violet, Carissa rushed over and sat beside her, resting her head on her friend’s shoulder as she yawned repeatedly. I’m so tired! Did you come to invite me to lunch? Because I can’t eat a thing—I just want to sleep.”

“Poor thing! You don’t have to keep this job, you know? Morning court sessions are held every day, which means you’ll be waking up early the entire week from now on!” Violet replied.

“Yeah.” Carissa kept her eyes closed. “At least I get one day off after every five.”

“The last time we had a break, we didn’t even get a chance to go out shopping or eat together,” Violet lamented:

After her brief pity party, she shifted the topic to more serious matters, saying, “By the way, you know Amelia from the Warren family? The gatekeeper found her sitting by the stone lion at Northwatch Estate’s entrance this morning. She had clearly been there for quite a while. After the gates were opened, she just walked away, and Frederick couldn’t catch her.”

Carissa opened her eyes. “Amelia? What was she doing sitting outside Northwatch Estate?”

“I have no idea. She probably sat there for a long time, which means she must have arrived before dawn. Oh, and Ivy mentioned that Amelia cried when she went to Arcane Sanctum to buy medicine yesterday. I wonder if she faced some sort of hardship at home,” Violet explained.

#### Chapter 838

Carissa had been Amelia’s sister-in-law for a year and felt she understood the latter’s character fairly well. Cowardly and timid, she was the softest person among the members of the Warren family.

Carissa had some insight into the current situation at Valor Estate. Rebecca had yet to recover, Viola was pregnant and unable to attend to the older woman, and Aurora, who was practically hiding away in Blessed Haven, was even less likely to help.

That left Amelia as the only person who could tend to Rebecca.

When Carissa was in the Warren family, she had taken on that role herself. Though Rebecca had her demands, she didn’t make things difficult for Carissa, especially since her dowry gave her a solid standing.

But Amelia was in a different position altogether.

“Could it be that she suffered some injustice?” Carissa suggested.

Violet nodded. “She’s definitely facing some kind of injustice. It must be pretty severe if it drove her to run

at Valor Estate, she doesn’t

the

middle of the night. I heard from Lily that if Ahnella catt hold a

any other way out. Jacob has already sent people to search for her. I also asked Claire to look into the situation at the Warren family to see if they sent anyone to search—losing a lady of the house should make them anxious too.”

“That’s true. While they don’t value Amelia much, they really can’t afford to be without her right now,” Carissa agreed.

Still, an uneasy feeling lingered in her mind. Why had Amelia gone to sit outside Northwatch Estate? If she had been looking for Carissa, it made more sense for her to go to Hell Monarch Estate.

Though her appetite had waned, Carissa stayed to share lunch with Violet, who was eating heartily. After all, she had skipped breakfast entirely.

After a while, Claire arrived and reported, “The Warren family hasn’t sent anyone out to search, but Madam Charlotte did send some of her maids and servants to inquire outside.”

Carissa understood that Charlotte had stopped involving herself with the affairs of the main household. The fact that she sent someone out to search meant that something must have happened.

After thinking it over, she instructed, “Claire, see if you can find anyone from the second branch of the Warren family. If you do, ask them to return and convey an invitation to Aunt Charlotte to meet at Glimmering Tower. Just say that Violet would like to treat her to a meal. If you can’t find anyone, then forget it. Don’t go to Valor Estate for this.”

“Got it.” Claire took a sip of water before promptly getting up to leave.

Violet chimed in, “Should we head to Glimmering Tower, then?”

“Yeah, they have soft couches in the private rooms. We can rest while we wait.” Carissa—rose, revealing dark circles under her eyes that hinted at sleepless nights.

At Glimmering Tower, seeing Charlotte again stirred something warm in Carissa’s heart. During the most

difficult times in the Warren family, Charlotte had been the only one who truly cared for her

The older woman’s eyes were slightly red as well. She genuinely missed Carissa but couldn’t go over to disturb her, nor did she want anyone to pick apart her motives. She was also concerned about those who would whisper behind Carissa’s back about how she had left Valor Estate yet still kept ties with those who were supposed to be in her past.

As Charlotte was about to curtsy in greeting, Carissa quickly stood up to support her hand.

“How are you feeling?”

Charlotte smiled. “Thank you for your concern, Your Grace. I’m doing well.”

She sized up Carissa, surprised at how natural the latter looked in official robes. Charlotte had never seen a woman wearing an official uniform before, but somehow, it suited Carissa remarkably well. She looked striking and commanding.

“And you? Is everything well?” Charlotte asked.

“Quite well.” Carissa helped her sit down and introduced her friend, “This is my dear friend et Spencer.

I’ve heard of you, Ms. Spencer.” Charlotte smiled warmly. “It’s a pleasure to meet you.”

“Same here, Madam Charlotte!” Violet responded with great respect. Anyone who treated Carissa kindly was a good person in her eyes.

Carissa continued, “Aunt Charlotte, I invited you here to ask about Amelia. This morning, she was found sitting at the entrance of Northwatch Estate. She looked like she had been in the cold for quite some time. What happened?”

Charlotte gasped in surprise. “She went to Northwatch Estate? Where is she now?”

“I don’t know. By the time Frederick found out, she had already disappeared. But he said something was off about her and that she had been crying. He suspected she had come in the middle of the night. That’s why I thought it would be best to ask you what really happened.”

#### Chapter 839

Charlotte sighed. “At first, I had no idea what was happening. I try to stay out of the main household’s affairs as much as possible. I’ve wanted to separate from them for a long time, but have always feared. that outsiders will think the Warren family is divided. So, I held back

“Lately, things at Valor Estate have become chaotic. Since Viola became pregnant, she’s been nominally in charge, but Amelia is still the one managing things. The only thing she needs to clear with Viola is the money she withdraws. With Rebecca’s health fluctuating, Amelia has been by her side, tending to her. You know how Rebecca is—she has nothing but disdain for Amelia and opposes her in everything.”

Carissa nodded. “I can guess Amelia’s predicament.”

“This morning. Amelia disappeared. They searched every corner of Valor Estate and even came to my house looking for her, insisting I was hiding her. I told them I hadn’t seen her, but they didn’t believe me. I had to get angry before they accepted it. I later learned that Amelia had argued with Viola about household matters.

“Viola said Amelia could manage things, but Barrett would only contribute 30 percent of his salary to the family funds. They got into a huge fight, and Viola even shouted that Amelia was trying to drive her to her grave. She even brandished a pair of scissors at Amelia and asked Amelia to stab her in the stomach.

Charlotte recounted everything she had learned to Carissa and Violet, including how Rebecca and Benjamin had slapped Amelia and how they threatened to throw her out of the family.

“After hearing all that, I felt uneasy. But they hadn’t sent anyone out to look for her. Rebecca thinks Amelia wouldn’t go far—just out for a walk. They think she just wants to scare a few people by disappearing for a bit, and figure they’ll deal with her when she returns. But I sense that something is wrong. Amelia would never act like that. That’s why I sent someone out to search for her,” Charlotte added.

“That’s outrageous! Those people went too far!” Violet slammed her hand on the table in anger.

Carissa furrowed her brow. “Is she really living such a life?”

“Yes. It’s quite sad. I’ve advised her to pretend to be ill and not manage anything, but she couldn’t keep up the act anymore. Rebecca was in decent health when Amelia first married into the family, so she didn’t relinquish control to her. Later, you came in, and Amelia didn’t have to worry about anything.

“Now, everything has fallen onto her shoulders. That scoundrel Benjamin thinks only of being dutiful to his parents. He sacrificed his wife’s wellbeing, all while believing he was doing the right thing. None of them respect Amelia, and her temperament is so weak.”

“Just because she’s weak doesn’t mean people can bully her,” Violet said angrily. Her spirited nature couldn’t stand such injustice, and just thinking about it infuriated her. “Weakness isn’t a sin, but bullying is.

Carissa placed a comforting hand on hers. “Let’s focus on finding Amelia first. I’m worried something bad might happen.”

Charlotte rose to her feet. “I’m counting on you, Your Grace. I won’t keep you any longer, I’ll take care of the bill for this meal.”

Violet, who came from wealth, stood up as well. “There’s no need for anyone to pay since I’m here.”

“How can I do that? You shouldn’t…”

Carissa grasped Charlotte's hand. "Don't argue with her. She has more money than she knows what to do with. If you're not in a hurry to head back, why not enjoy some coffee and snacks here? The bill will be taken care of."

"Very well. It's indeed a rare opportunity. Thank you," Charlotte said.

Although Charlotte was worried about Amelia, she understood that Carissa meant well and wanted her to enjoy herself. She was perceptive enough not to reject Carissa's kindness.

"Well then, we'll be on our way. Try not to worry too much," Carissa said, rising along with Violet as they headed downstairs to settle the bill.

Violet tossed a hundred silver coins onto the table and said, "If there's extra, give it to Madam Charlotte."

Back at the Capital Guard headquarters, Carissa asked Michael to gather some people to help search and to check at the city gates to see if Amelia had left the city earlier that morning.

Just then, Jacob sent word that they still hadn't located Amelia. Since she had visited Arcane Sanctum yesterday, Carissa and Violet decided to go there themselves to inquire with the shop assistant who had spoken to her.

## Chapter 840

The shop assistants at Arcane Sanctum were familiar with Amelia, and Paul recounted what had happened yesterday.

"She must have pawned some jewelry to come here. When she arrived, she looked dazed and was clutching a pawn ticket. I took a quick glance, and it was from a pawnshop called Treasure Exchange.

"Right away, she asked to buy seven or eight Evergreen Pills. I suggested she only needed two—one for childbirth and one for postpartum recovery. There's really no need for more at other times," he said, based on his observations.

"You could tell she had been crying, right?"

"Absolutely. She hadn't even dried her tears when she walked in."

“Thank you,” Carissa said, not wanting to pry further.

She then had the staff member lead her to Treasure Exchange.

As she was dressed in official uniform, the shopkeeper produced the items that Amelia had pawned when asked about them. Carissa recognized them as gifts she had once given Amelia.

“She said she would redeem them, so they’re not permanently pawned,” the shopkeeper informed Carissa.

This meant that at the time of pawning, Amelia still had some hope of getting her jewelry back. It was only after returning home to face scolding and slaps, even threats of being kicked out, that she decided

to leave.

Amelia was timid and scared of the dark, so leaving home in the middle of the night suggested she had suffered a significant blow. There was a real possibility she might consider ending it all.

But where would she go? The capital city was vast, and since no missing person report had been filed, it was unlikely the Capital Guard or Garrison Unit would conduct a widespread search.

Carissa dispatched someone to check Amelia’s natal family’s residence to see if she had gone there. The report came back quickly—the locks on the front gate were rusted, indicating no one had been there for a

while.

Inquiries at the city gates also revealed that no woman had left the city alone that morning.

This meant Amelia was still somewhere in the capital. Given that she could only walk, she couldn’t have gone very far. If she was still wandering around the city or hiding in some alley to escape the cold, it was possible to find her.



Michael and the guards from Hell Monarch Estate searched everywhere. They checked every major and minor inn but found no trace of Amelia. Even the discreet inquiries at Valor Estate confirmed she hadn't

returned

As the sun dipped below the horizon and the wind picked up, the night promised to be even colder. Deciding not to waste any more time, Carissa sent out additional people to search for Amelia, with Violet joining the efforts as well.

After a moment's thought, Carissa ordered someone to summon Barrett to the Capital Guard headquarters. When he arrived, he was unsure why he had been called. All he knew was that Carissa had

requested his presence, leaving him feeling both anxious and vaguely hopeful.

Without beating around the bush, Carissa confronted him directly, asking, "Your sister-in-law is missing. Are you aware of this?"

Barrett blinked in confusion. "Missing? What do you mean?"

He had attended court that day and hadn't heard anything about Amelia's disappearance. Given the family disputes brewing at home, he had planned to stay late at the palace before returning to the estate.

"Exactly what it sounds like. Early this morning, the Northwatch Estate gatekeeper found her sitting outside next to the stone lion. When asked what she was doing, she left. She hasn't returned to Valor Estate since."

Barrett frowned, perplexed.

What was the big deal? Amelia was an adult. She could come and go as she pleased. Why was it strange for her to be out?

"It's only just now getting dark. She'll likely come back later," he said dismissively. "I don't understand why you're worried, Commander Sinclair. Is... there really any reason to panic?"

Carissa shot him a sharp glance. “Clearly, you don’t know your sister-in-law very well. Does she usually stay out late?”

Barrett hesitated. “I... I’m not really aware of her habits.

“Then, you should head back and take some men with you to search for her. She doesn’t have many relatives in the capital, so she won’t have anywhere else to go.” Carissa instructed, her tone leaving little room for debate.

Barrett felt bewildered. “But it’s really unnecessary! Even if she’s out during the day, she’ll naturally come home at night. With my mom’s condition worsening, she’s been at her bedside every evening. There’s no way she wouldn’t come back. Where could she possibly go?”

Carissa’s expression hardened. “I said to find her, so get going.”

Feeling the weight of her authority and sensing her irritation, Barrett instinctively replied, “Understood!”

After a brief pause, he looked intently at Carissa. “Even if I think it’s unwarranted, I appreciate your concern for the people of my family. Thank you.

Carissa’s brow furrowed tighter. “It’s not about them. It’s because Amelia was seen at Northwatch Estate this morning. I’m afraid something has happened to her.”

“Impossible! That can’t be true,” Barrett insisted confidently.

Just then, Michael rushed in, clearly agitated. “Commander Sinclair! We found her, but I’m afraid you’ll need to go check it out in person.”