

Chapter Four

The chapter begins with Celaena acknowledging her persistent efforts to improve her skills, particularly her running, which she does more frequently to avoid the Master's scrutiny. Despite her attempts to stay ahead, her progress is slow, and she remains frustrated by her inability to seek out the Master directly, as she perceives his authority as distant and dismissive. Her focus shifts towards training with Ansel and the other assassins, where she receives rudimentary guidance on posture and technique from seasoned fighters. Throughout these sessions, she becomes increasingly aware of the silent, disciplined nature of the Silent Assassins, contrasting sharply with the brutal, cutthroat environment she was accustomed to under Arobynn's rule.

The narrative explores the unique culture of the Silent Assassins, emphasizing their collective approach to learning and their reliance on shared wisdom. Unlike her previous experiences, where weakness was punished and betrayal rewarded, these assassins foster a sense of unity and mutual growth. Many of them are mute from birth, which adds an air of mystery and secrecy to their training. Celaena perceives the fortress as a place of hidden truths, where silence is a form of strength and a key to unlocking deeper knowledge. Despite her reservations, she recognizes the importance of demonstrating her competence, hoping that her dedication and skill will earn her the coveted letter of good behavior, which she believes could elevate her standing with the Master.

The chapter takes a tense turn with the night of the attack by Lord Berick's soldiers. Celaena is caught in the midst of a covert operation that reveals the assassin's strategic use of stealth and deception. From her vantage point atop the battlements, she observes the silent communication among the assassins, orchestrating a plan to defend the fortress without provoking an outright battle. The plan involves igniting a

line of oil-soaked ropes to create a wall of fire, designed to intimidate and scare off the enemy rather than kill outright. Celaena's role in this operation underscores her desire to prove herself capable and resourceful in dangerous circumstances, aligning her actions with her goal of gaining recognition and respect.

In the climax of the chapter, Celaena participates in the fiery attack, firing flaming arrows into the night sky as part of the defensive maneuver. The scene is chaotic and intense, with flames erupting and arrows raining down on the enemy soldiers. Despite the danger and the risk of injury, Celaena maintains her composure, exemplifying her resilience and determination. The successful execution of the plan results in a dramatic display of fire and light, serving as a powerful symbol of her growing skill and her commitment to earning her place among the assassins. The chapter concludes with the aftermath of the attack, highlighting her resolve to continue honing her abilities and to navigate the complex, perilous world of the Silent Assassins.