

# Chapter Four

Celaena continues her training with the Silent Assassins, pushing herself to improve under Ansel's guidance. Despite her progress, she grows frustrated by the Master's absence and the lack of direct instruction, receiving only basic corrections from older assassins. Ilias, the Master's son, often trains nearby, his presence hinting at a possible interest in her. Celaena observes the Silent Assassins' unique fighting style, noting their quiet movements and less brutal approach compared to the cutthroat environment of Adarlan, where Arobynn fostered competition and rewarded ruthlessness.

The chapter highlights the stark contrast between the Silent Assassins' communal learning and the adversarial training Celaena experienced under Arobynn. Here, seasoned assassins willingly share knowledge, and camaraderie binds the group, creating a sense of collective purpose. Celaena, however, struggles to adapt, resisting their corrections and clinging to her pride as Adarlan's top assassin. Despite her disdain, she recognizes the value of their methods and the fortress's mysterious allure, which seems to offer answers to its members. Her primary goal remains obtaining a letter of recommendation from the Master, even if it requires force.

The narrative shifts when Lord Berick's soldiers launch a surprise attack on the fortress. Celaena joins the assassins in defense, taking position on the battlements with Ansel. Ilias coordinates their response using silent signals, and the assassins prepare to ignite a hidden oil trench to deter the invaders. Ansel explains the plan to Celaena, who realizes the strategic brilliance behind the trap. The assassins fire flaming arrows, creating a massive wall of fire to scare off the attackers without engaging in direct combat.

As the flames erupt, Celaena ducks for cover amid enemy arrows, witnessing the efficiency and discipline of the Silent Assassins. The chapter ends with the attackers

repelled, leaving Celaena to reflect on the group's unity and skill. The encounter reinforces her determination to prove herself to the Master, even as she grapples with the differences between her past and this new, enigmatic order. The attack also raises questions about potential betrayal, hinting at deeper conflicts to come.

