

Chapter 39

In this chapter, the narrator visits Amren at her apartment, a unique, spacious space atop a three-story building with views of the Sidra and a city square. The environment reflects Amren's personality—disorganized yet functional, with scattered furniture and a large bed. The conversation begins with a focus on decoding a mysterious language, which Amren aims to relearn before tackling an elusive Book. The setting emphasizes her independence and disdain for ornate living, preferring her simple riverside apartment free from social obligations, highlighting her preference for solitude and practicality over grandeur.

The narrative shifts to a personal exchange involving messages between the narrator and Rhys, revealing a playful and intimate connection. Rhys' cryptic note about a tattooed star and mountain on his knees hints at his defiance and pride, emphasizing their bond and shared understanding. The narrator's curiosity about Rhys' message and their banter underline the closeness of their relationship. Meanwhile, Amren's fascination with blood and her casual consumption of lamb blood underscore her mysterious, predatory nature, contrasting with her sharp intellect and independence. Her taste for lamb and goat blood symbolizes her refined yet primal nature.

Amren's discussion extends to her past experiences with wealth and power, revealing her disdain for hosting parties and her preference for a simple life by the river. Her scattered jewelry and fine clothes suggest a history of high status and wealth, yet she chooses a modest, unassuming life. Her contentment with her current living situation reflects her desire for autonomy and disdain for societal expectations. The dialogue also touches on her relationships with others, including Cassian's concern and her own complex feelings about her world and past, adding depth to her character.

The chapter concludes with updates on the ongoing efforts to communicate with the mortal queens and infiltrate their courts. Azriel's covert operations continue with little

success, and the narrative hints at the frustration and uncertainty faced by the characters. Meanwhile, Amren's possession of a blood ruby and her interactions with Varian reveal her strategic alliances and her resilience in a world filled with danger and political intrigue. The chapter paints a picture of a complex, layered world where personal history, magic, and political machinations intertwine, setting the stage for future developments.