

# Chapter 15

The chapter opens with the protagonist awakening after a period of unconsciousness, reflecting on the emotional and physical exhaustion she feels. Despite her weariness, she recognizes a sense of relief from the constant fatigue that once haunted her. Her thoughts are preoccupied with the recent events at the Spring Court, though she deliberately chooses not to dwell on them for now. The scene sets a tone of tentative recovery and internal conflict, emphasizing her desire to process her trauma in her own time while maintaining a sense of resilience amidst lingering darkness.

As she prepares to leave her residence, she is observed by Rhysand, who notes her appearance and the care taken by others to ensure her comfort. Their exchange hints at underlying tension, with Rhysand appearing strained yet composed. Stepping outside, she is struck by the peaceful, untouched beauty of Velaris, a city seemingly removed from the chaos that has ravaged other parts of Prythian. The scene vividly describes the idyllic setting—luminous streets, diverse inhabitants, and the tranquil river—highlighting Velaris's unique status as a sanctuary that has remained unbreached for thousands of years.

The protagonist's gaze shifts to the surrounding mountains, which serve as guardians of the city. She perceives a latent, almost alive power within the mountains, symbolizing both protection and an ominous presence. Rhysand points out the House of Wind, a significant location within the city, indicating upcoming plans for the evening. Their conversation reveals the city's secretive nature—its preservation through powerful spells and ancestral sacrifices—highlighting the strategic secrecy that has kept Velaris safe from invasions and threats, including the destructive forces of Amarantha.

Throughout the chapter, themes of resilience, secrecy, and the cost of survival are intertwined. The protagonist grapples with feelings of injustice and anger regarding

the selective protection of Velaris, questioning why such luck was not extended to others. Rhysand's explanations about the city's hidden defenses underscore the sacrifices made to preserve this haven. The chapter ends with a sense of unresolved tension, as the protagonist contemplates the complexities of protection and the sacrifices behind Velaris's untouched serenity, setting the stage for further revelations and internal struggles.

