Chapter 56

The chapter opens with Chaol grappling with a cryptic message from Celaena, centered around a significant date linked to her past. This date, a moment when she left the city and experienced personal tragedy, holds deeper meaning than Chaol initially perceives. Celaena's words hint at hidden truths about her history and her connection to the Wyrdkeys, powerful artifacts that explain much about the king's formidable strength and mysterious actions. Chaol's confusion underscores his struggle to understand her motivations and the importance of the secret she has chosen to reveal through this obscure hint.

As Chaol investigates her chambers and belongings, he uncovers a collection of genealogical and historical books, which seem to contain vital clues. Among these, a chronicle from ten years prior reveals the assassination of King Orlon Galathynius and his heir Rhoe, along with a mention of Aelin, Rhoe's daughter. This discovery suggests that Celaena might possess knowledge about the true circumstances surrounding the royal family's downfall and the fate of the lost princess Aelin. The revelation hints at her potential awareness of her own royal lineage and her possible connection to the tragic events of that night.

Further examination of the family trees and related documents reveals a startling truth: Celaena is actually Aelin Ashryver Galathynius, the rightful heir to the throne of Terrasen. The family lineage confirms her identity as a descendant of the Fae Queen Mab, linking her to ancient royal and Fae bloodlines. The discovery is overwhelming for Chaol, as it confirms her true heritage and her identity as a powerful, hidden queen who has been masquerading under her assumed name. This revelation shifts his understanding of her character and her motives, exposing her as a key figure capable of challenging the current power structure. In the final moments of the chapter, Chaol recognizes the full scope of Celaena's true identity and her potential role in the ongoing struggle for power. She is not only the heir to Terrasen but also the last hope for her homeland's liberation. Her connection to her Fae ancestry and her royal bloodline imbues her with formidable strength and purpose. Chaol, overwhelmed by this knowledge, sinks to his knees, acknowledging the profound implications of her true identity and the dangerous, powerful path she now walks. This chapter underscores themes of identity, hidden truths, and the awakening of a rightful ruler destined to change the course of history.

