## **Chapter Nine**

In Chapter Nine, Celaena Sardothien observes the still-anchored slave ships in the bay, aware that her actions have drawn attention from the Pirate Lord Rolfe. She remains cautious, expressing her reluctance to involve herself directly in the chaos unfolding around her. Rolfe, perceptive and suspicious, confronts her about her intentions, noting her recent behavior and her apparent readiness for conflict. The tension escalates as the dawn light reveals the ships' movements and preparations for attack, prompting Celaena to carefully strategize her next move amidst the brewing confrontation.

As the situation intensifies, Celaena must maintain her cover while subtly disrupting Rolfe's plans. She feigns innocence and confidence, even as Rolfe's suspicion grows. Her quick thinking leads her to shed her disguise, revealing her true identity and intentions to distract Rolfe and buy precious time for her allies. Sam, her companion, seizes the opportunity to escape, urging her to flee while she engages Rolfe in a fierce and calculated combat. Celaena's agility and combat skills are on display as she fights to keep Rolfe occupied and prevent him from alerting his men, aiming to disable the ships and free the enslaved people.

The battle between Celaena and Rolfe is brutal and strategic. She deftly dodges his attacks, using her sword and dagger to keep him at bay while attempting to incapacitate him. Rolfe, experienced and cunning, manages to land a few strikes, inflicting a wound that slows her down but does not stop her resolve. Their fight is punctuated by rapid exchanges, with Celaena trying to undermine Rolfe's plans by destroying the ships' rudders and disrupting their escape routes. Her goal remains clear: to free the captives and prevent Rolfe from profiting from their suffering, even as she faces the danger of being overwhelmed.

In the chaos, Celaena successfully manages to incapacitate Rolfe, knocking him out with a swift blow. She quickly takes cover amid the crowd of pirates, disguising herself to avoid detection. Her focus shifts to the broader mission—disabling the ships and ensuring the escape of her allies. Despite her injuries and the relentless pursuit of the pirates, she remains determined to complete her task. The chapter concludes with her leading the pirates away from the docks, with Sam already ahead, working to release the chain and free the enslaved. The tide of battle and daring escape highlight her resourcefulness and unwavering resolve.

