

Chapter Ten

In this tense chapter, Celaena faces off against Rolfe, a ruthless pirate lord, in a dangerous confrontation. Rolfe, armed and threatening, taunts her and reveals the extent of her previous efforts to disrupt his operations, including the destruction of ships and the liberation of slaves. Despite her predicament, Celaena remains composed, plotting her next move while enduring Rolfe's intimidation. Their exchange underscores the high stakes involved, with Rolfe eager to exact revenge for her interference, highlighting the peril she faces in her quest to dismantle his illicit activities.

The encounter intensifies as Rolfe physically assaults Celaena, slicing her and forcing her into a corner. She fights back fiercely, using her agility and quick thinking to turn the tables. With Rolfe on the ground and disarmed, she seizes the opportunity to threaten him further by forcing him to sign important documents. These papers serve as leverage, containing a cease-and-desist order for slave trading and a personal oath from Rolfe to cease his illegal dealings, effectively aiming to dismantle his influence and protect fleeing slaves.

Celaena's strategic use of intimidation is central to her plan. She manipulates Rolfe into signing the documents by threatening his life and leveraging forged signatures and stolen seals. Her resolve is clear: she intends to use these documents to undermine his authority and ensure he cannot resume his slave trade. Her determination to fight for the enslaved is driven by her moral conviction, and she makes it explicit that she will pursue him relentlessly if he betrays her trust, emphasizing her commitment to justice and her willingness to go to great lengths.

As the chapter concludes, Rolfe, begrudgingly, agrees to sign under duress, recognizing the threat she poses. He warns her against returning to his territory, but her final request—a ship—underscores her ongoing plans and the broader fight she is

engaged in. The chapter ends with a sense of unresolved tension, highlighting Celaena's resilience and strategic mind, as she prepares for the challenges ahead while subtly asserting her dominance over her enemies.

