

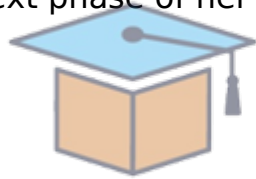
Chapter Eleven

The chapter opens with a tense scene where Celaena, engaged in a covert mission, swiftly hides crucial documents in her suit and takes cover in an armoire as she prepares to evade detection. She plans to use a distraction—a fire set in the cellar—to divert the guards' attention long enough to accomplish her objective. Her focus is on ensuring she can retrieve and escape with the documents before Doneval and his partner realize they're missing. The urgency and precision of her actions highlight her skill and determination to complete her mission under extreme pressure, emphasizing the high stakes involved in this clandestine operation.

As the scene unfolds, Doneval and a mysterious man enter the study, engaged in a tense exchange. Doneval exhibits a mix of charm and nervousness, eager to exchange documents and secure a quick escape. The stranger, calm and composed, is cautious and observant, hinting at his familiarity with dangerous dealings. Their interaction suggests a clandestine transaction involving sensitive information, with Doneval eager to conceal his dealings and the stranger wary of revealing too much. This tense dialogue sets the stage for a confrontation and underscores the dangerous world of espionage and treachery that the characters navigate.

Suddenly, Celaena intervenes with lethal precision, emerging from her hiding spot and killing Doneval instantly. Her swift action is triggered by the chaos of an explosion—likely caused by Sam—disrupting the scene further. In the chaos, the stranger manages to escape, demonstrating remarkable agility and speed. Celaena's pursuit through the house is intense, marked by a violent confrontation with Philip, a bodyguard. Her combat skills are on full display as she fights Philip, ultimately killing him with calculated efficiency. Her focus remains on capturing the fleeing man, highlighting her relentless determination and combat prowess amidst the chaos.

In the aftermath, Celaena quickly escapes the burning house, taking down additional guards and navigating the frightened city streets. Her objective is clear: to track the man who fled, suspecting he holds vital information. She deduces his likely route and sprints through the alleys, her senses sharp and her swords hidden away. Her concern about Sam's fate underscores the ongoing danger and uncertainty surrounding her mission. The chapter concludes with her spotting the man in an alley, emphasizing her unwavering resolve to pursue her target despite the perilous circumstances, setting the stage for the next phase of her quest.



Summaryer