

Chapter 7

In Chapter 7 of "Crown of Midnight," Celaena Sardothien awakens with a throbbing headache, immediately aware that her mysterious encounter in the tomb was not a dream. She reflects on the presence of an enchanted talking door knocker and Elena's ongoing meddling in her life, which continues to complicate her tasks. The chapter reveals her growing awareness of a dangerous secret connected to the king's plans, which Elena hints at uncovering. Celaena recognizes the importance of understanding this threat, even if it means risking her safety, and contemplates the necessity of confronting her fears to prevent a catastrophe.

Celaena's internal struggle intensifies as she considers her next moves. She admits to herself that her initial visit to the tomb was motivated by a desire to offload her worries onto Elena, rather than directly confronting the danger herself. She understands that Elena's warning about her plans suggests something far more sinister—potentially worse than past atrocities committed by the king, such as slavery and rebellion. Celaena realizes that uncovering the source of the king's power is crucial, even if she must face lethal enemies or make difficult alliances to do so.

To gather intelligence, Celaena decides she must approach Archer, an acquaintance who might be part of a resistance movement aware of the king's true intentions. She plans to fake Archer's death to keep him safe while gaining his trust. This risky strategy signifies her willingness to navigate dangerous political waters, knowing that once she involves Archer, her actions will become even more perilous. She prepares herself mentally and physically, dressing in her finest clothes, and calls upon Chaol to assist in her scheme, emphasizing her determination to proceed cautiously.

The chapter also vividly depicts the bustling city of Rifthold on a cold winter day. Celaena and Chaol walk through the vibrant streets, with the city's lively commerce

contrasting her inner turmoil. She wishes for summer's warmth but endures the cold, keeping close to Chaol, who is eager to help her with Archer. They head toward the Willows, a prestigious tea house where Archer is known to dine daily, and where Celaena plans to subtly gather information. Her careful planning underscores her strategic mindset and her resolve to manipulate social settings to her advantage, despite the risks involved.

Finally, Celaena's interaction with Chaol highlights her resourcefulness and wit. She instructs him on how to behave discreetly and how to blend into the social scene, emphasizing her desire to remain covert. Their banter and her calculated approach to infiltrating Archer's circle reveal her sharp instincts and her readiness to take on complex political espionage. As she waits for Archer's meal to end, she continues to plot her next move, fully aware that every step she takes could lead to deadly consequences, but determined to uncover the truth behind the king's sinister plans.