

# Chapter 10

In Chapter 10 of "Crown of Midnight," the narrative opens with Dorian and Chaol seeking refuge in the castle's kennels to escape the cold winter and avoid Hollin, Dorian's young brother who despises animals. Their visit reveals underlying tensions, as Dorian reflects on his family's dynamics and his mother's decision to pull Hollin out of school for protective reasons amidst political unrest. The scene highlights Dorian's discomfort with court life and his desire to avoid obligatory social events, such as the upcoming court dinner, which he considers burdensome and insincere. Their dialogue subtly exposes the strain of familial obligations and the personal conflicts simmering beneath their outward composure.

As they transition from the kennels into the castle's warm interior, the conversation shifts to family tensions and political concerns. Chaol comments on Hollin's possible maturity, hinting at the strained relationship within Dorian's family, especially regarding his disownment by his father. Dorian's resentment toward his family's treatment of Chaol's disownment reveals deeper issues of loyalty and rejection. The dialogue also touches on Dorian's skepticism about the safety of Celaena's upcoming meeting with Archer Finn, hinting at the dangerous and unpredictable nature of her missions. Despite their camaraderie, the conversation underscores the underlying tension about trust, danger, and their personal stakes in the unfolding political intrigue.

Meanwhile, Celaena is preparing to attend a dinner with Archer Finn, aware of the risks involved. Her choice of a daring, scandalous scarlet dress signals her confidence and intent to make an impression. Her interaction with Chaol, who protests her provocative attire, underscores her independence and readiness to challenge conventions.

Celaena's preparation reveals her strategic mindset—she is armed with concealed weapons and plans to assert control over the situation. Her boldness contrasts sharply

with Chaol's cautiousness, illustrating their differing approaches to danger and their complex relationship. Her attire and attitude serve as both armor and statement of her formidable personality.

The chapter concludes with Celaena's departure, emphasizing her resolve and independence. Chaol's concern for her safety reflects the pervasive sense of danger surrounding her activities, while her confident stride and prepared weaponry demonstrate her readiness to face whatever threats lie ahead. The scene encapsulates her fearless attitude and strategic thinking, as she navigates a perilous social setting with calculated boldness. Overall, the chapter intricately weaves personal relationships, political tension, and individual resolve, setting the stage for the dangerous confrontations and revelations to come.