

Chapter Sixty-Three

The chapter begins with Nesta's bargain, which stipulates that she must stay at the House of Wind for a night and can only speak to Cassian once she initiates contact or after a week. Cassian, determined to resolve their tension, plans to confront her after the required time, reflecting on the complexities of their relationship and his desire to clarify his feelings. His thoughts reveal a mix of confidence and vulnerability, especially regarding the mating bond and her possible rejection. Cassian's internal struggle underscores his hope that Nesta will accept what they share, despite her hesitation and the emotional barriers she has erected.

As dawn approaches, Cassian seeks Rhys to be winnowed into Windhaven, eager to find Nesta and resolve their issues. He learns from Mor that Nesta was brought there the day before, fueling his resolve to confront her and settle their unfinished business. His feelings are conflicted—his fear of rejection and losing her battles with his confidence in their bond. Cassian's determination to speak honestly and openly about his feelings, including the apology and declaration he still needs to make, highlights his commitment to their potential relationship, even amid uncertainty.

The scene shifts to a tense, ominous atmosphere as Cassian senses the presence of Gwyn and Nesta near Emerie's back door. Their attempt to comfort Nesta moves Cassian deeply, but Rhys's sudden pallor signals danger. Cassian's immediate action to break into Emerie's shop reveals his suspicion that something is terribly wrong. The discovery of an empty room, marked by male scents and signs of a struggle, indicates that Gwyn and Nesta may have been taken. The chapter builds suspense, emphasizing the urgency of their disappearance and hinting at a larger, threatening force at work.

The chapter culminates with the revelation that the Blood Rite has begun, confirmed by Devlon. The scene depicts a scene of chaos and fear—Nesta, Gwyn, and Emerie have been snatched from their beds to participate in this ritual. The signs of violence

and the scent of male blood deepen the sense of peril, suggesting that the abductees are in grave danger. Rhys and Cassian's shared dread underscores the gravity of the situation, as they realize the full extent of the threat they face and the urgent need to rescue those taken before it's too late.

