

# Chapter 13

The chapter begins with an intense and harrowing scene where Chaol is overwhelmed by panic after discovering Celaena on the floor, seemingly wounded. His immediate reaction is to rip open her dress, fearing the worst, only to find that she is unharmed aside from a scratch and a sheathed stiletto. The realization that she was poisoned with gloriella—a toxin that causes temporary paralysis—shifts the focus to her recovery. Chaol's frantic efforts involve summoning healers, securing her safety, and administering the antidote, highlighting his deep concern and the dangerous situation they are embroiled in.

As Celaena regains consciousness, her physical condition reveals her vulnerability, yet she is in her own bed, indicating she has been taken care of. Her first awareness of her surroundings and Chaol's presence underscores their connection and mutual concern. Chaol is visibly exhausted, but his protective instincts surface as he questions her about the circumstances leading to her poisoning. His anger and frustration are palpable, especially when he learns she was investigating Davis and was caught in dangerous circumstances, which she admits to. Their exchange reveals a complex mix of trust, secrecy, and the risks they are willing to take.

Chaol's protective stance is further emphasized as he insists that she keep quiet about what happened, warning her of the consequences if she repeats such risky behavior. His anger is tempered by genuine concern for her well-being, and he threatens to imprison her if she endangers herself again. Despite his frustration, he shows a softer side when he acknowledges how badly she looked and the danger she was in, especially after her ordeal with the poison and the subsequent medical treatment. Their interaction underscores the tension between her independence and the protective instincts that Chaol cannot suppress.

In the final moments, Celaena reflects on her experience, feeling disoriented but safe, having escaped the worst of her ordeal. Chaol's exhaustion and the physical toll of the events are evident, and his vigilance remains as he keeps watch over her through the night. The chapter concludes with a sense of fragile safety, as Celaena's recovery begins and the danger she faced becomes clearer. Their shared vulnerability hints at the ongoing threats and the complex dynamics of trust and loyalty shaping their relationship in the midst of peril.

