

Chapter 22

In Chapter 22 of **Crown of Midnight**, Dorian spends hours immersed in his family's genealogical records, contemplating the nature of his own magical heritage. As he examines ancient texts, he considers the possibility that he, like Hollin, might develop magic in the future. His concern extends to his brother, fearing that their father would resort to brutal measures if he discovered their latent powers. Dorian's introspection reveals his struggle with his identity and the fear of what his bloodline might mean for his future and for those around him, especially given the brutal history of magic and power within his family.

The chapter delves into the history of the Havilliard and Galathynius bloodlines, emphasizing their significance in the kingdom's history. Dorian reflects on how the Fae had fled the continent due to the military might and societal fears that arose from their power, which made the Fae and gifted mortals a target of suspicion and violence. He traces the lineage back to Gavin Havilliard, a mortal prince who fought bravely against the Dark Lord Erawan and married a half-Fae princess, Elena. This union brought a powerful bloodline into the family, yet no further Fae magic appeared in subsequent generations, raising questions about divine will and coincidence.

Dorian's exploration takes him to an ancient, well-preserved record of the Galathynius line, revealing its once-mighty magic and its history of keeping peace despite their formidable power. He recognizes the tragic fall of this noble family, noting how their strength and wisdom were ultimately undermined by internal strife and external threats. The stark contrast between their peaceful rule and the violent demise of their house underscores the fragile nature of power and legacy, leaving Dorian pondering his own inheritance and the potential destiny he might face as heir to a fallen throne.

As the chapter concludes, Dorian reflects on the possibility of forming alliances with figures like Aelin Galathynius, whose lineage once held immense power. He considers

her potential as an ally or friend, recalling their brief childhood encounter and her connection to Aedion Ashryver, a fierce warrior and her cousin. The chapter ends with a sudden, uncontrollable magical disruption—books flying off shelves as an invisible force causes chaos—symbolizing the tumult within Dorian and hinting at deeper, hidden forces at work. This incident leaves him questioning the true extent of his own power and the mysteries yet to be unraveled.

