

# Chapter 40

In Chapter 40 of "Crown of Midnight," Celaena Sardothien cautiously approaches a traveling carnival, seeking information from Baba Yellowlegs, a reputed witch. Disguised and blending in with carnival workers, she values her anonymity to gather intelligence without attracting undue attention. Her observation of the bustling scene and her careful preparation underscore her strategic mindset as she navigates this dangerous environment. Her intent is to uncover truths about the tomb's riddles and potentially gain insight into the mysterious magic at play, all while maintaining her cover amidst the lively chaos of the carnival.

Celaena's interaction with Yellowlegs is tense and layered with subtle threats. The witch, known for her prophetic gifts, recognizes Celaena's true identity and questions her real name, implying that her abilities are well-known and feared. Celaena, guarded and wary, offers a false name and attempts to steer the conversation toward more meaningful questions. The exchange reveals the high stakes involved—Yellowlegs's reputation for revealing secrets and the potential danger of her knowledge—prompting Celaena to negotiate payment for her questions, especially concerning Prince Dorian and the prince's secrets.

Yellowlegs's response is shrewd and opportunistic, hinting at her ability to see into the prince's future and her willingness to barter with Celaena for information. Celaena, aware of the risks, pays her six gold coins, knowing that revealing or concealing certain truths could have serious consequences. She carefully inspects the witch's caravan, noting the traps and defensive measures in place, which reflects her meticulous nature and readiness for any threat. Her decision to pay for the answers underscores her pragmatic approach to acquiring vital intelligence while safeguarding her own secrets.

Inside the caravan, the atmosphere shifts to one of illusion and deception. The room is filled with mirrors of various shapes and sizes, creating a disorienting maze that blurs reality and illusion. Celaena's suspicion that the environment is a trick is confirmed as she notices the strange, shifting reflections and the labyrinthine layout. Despite the carnival's superficial tricks, she recognizes that the knowledge Yellowlegs claims to possess is genuine and potentially dangerous. Her cautious curiosity drives her to proceed carefully, aware that the mirrors and illusions serve as both a physical and mental barrier to uncovering hidden truths.



Summaryer