

# Chapter 38

In Chapter 38 of "Crown of Midnight," Celaena Sardothien spends a contemplative morning in a familiar, snowy field near the palace, accompanied by her loyal dog Fleetfoot. The scene underscores her feelings of loneliness and resignation, as Fleetfoot patiently waits for someone who will never return. Celaena's internal struggle is evident as she grapples with the realization that a loved one, likely her friend Nehemia, is gone forever. Her act of throwing the stick symbolizes her frustration and despair, while her quiet acknowledgment that "She's never coming back" reveals her deep sense of loss and emotional numbness.

Meanwhile, Dorian Havilliard is engaged in a fruitless search through the library for any magical texts, reflecting his growing frustration with the limited knowledge available. His discovery of Celaena in the library, dressed in a new outfit, marks a moment of subtle tension and familiarity between the two characters. Celaena's presence in the library appears casual but carries underlying emotional weight, as she seeks a simple walk amid her complex feelings. Their interaction hints at a layered relationship, with Dorian sensing her emotional state and trying to maintain a delicate balance of conversation and support.

The chapter also explores Fleetfoot's mischievousness as she causes chaos in the library, retrieving a scroll and running off, which adds a touch of levity amidst the darker themes. Celaena's quick thinking and her attempt to divert attention demonstrate her resourcefulness and her desire to maintain normalcy despite her inner turmoil. Dorian's concern over the lost scroll underscores the importance of trust and the potential consequences of their actions, highlighting the tension between their personal struggles and their roles within the palace.

Toward the end, Celaena's moment of genuine smile and her apology for recent behavior reveal her attempt to reconnect with her true self, despite the emotional

scars she bears. Dorian's understanding and silent support emphasize the deepening bond between them, hinting at mutual understanding and unspoken feelings. The chapter concludes with a sense of quiet resilience, as both characters confront their inner conflicts while navigating the complexities of loyalty, loss, and the search for hope in a turbulent world.

