

Chapter 37

The chapter begins with Celaena confronting the aftermath of Nehemia's death, as she finds herself alone in the room where her friend's body was laid. The room has been cleaned of blood and gore, indicating that others are handling Nehemia's remains, but Celaena's grief and rage make her hesitant to let strangers touch her belongings. She contemplates whether to leave Nehemia's possessions untouched or to pack them herself, revealing her deep emotional attachment and her struggle to process her loss. This moment underscores her vulnerability and the weight of her grief, setting the tone for her internal turmoil.

In her grief, Celaena's impulsive destruction of her clothing symbolizes her attempt to purge her pain and memories associated with Nehemia. She burns dresses that remind her of their shared moments, especially the gown from the night of Chaol's birthday, which she destroys in her anguish. Philippa's intervention to help her acquire new clothes highlights a moment of care amidst her chaos. Carefully, Celaena packs Nehemia's belongings, trying to avoid dwelling on the memories attached to each item, emphasizing her struggle to confront her loss and the desire to hold onto her past while moving forward.

As she searches Nehemia's desk and reviews her belongings, Celaena uncovers a collection of scribbled papers, Wyrddmarks, and a damaged book from Davis's office. Her discovery of the writings, especially the cryptic Wyrddmarks and the note that says, "Do not trust," raises suspicions about Nehemia's secrets and her possible involvement with clandestine groups. The realization that Nehemia may have lied about her knowledge of certain matters, including the riddle and the tomb, deepens the mystery surrounding her death and motives. Celaena's curiosity and suspicion grow as she pieces together the potential deception behind her friend's actions.

The chapter culminates with Celaena visiting the tomb, illuminated by moonlight, where she notices another eye-shaped object—Damaris, the Sword of Truth—aligned with the eye in the wall. Her discovery of the sword and the inscription “It is only with the eye that one can see rightly” leads her to realize that the answers she seeks are hidden in plain sight. Using the sword as a tool, she aligns it with the wall and peeks through the eye-shaped pommel, revealing a long poem etched on the wall. This moment signifies her turning point—recognizing that understanding and truth require perception beyond mere sight, and that the clues she needs are intertwined with the mysteries of the tomb and her own journey.



Summary