

Chapter 32

In Chapter 32, the protagonist surveys the aftermath of a violent confrontation within a shattered manor, meticulously examining the scene for clues about Tamlin's condition. Despite the chaos—broken glass, blood splatters, and damaged furniture—the absence of bodies and gore suggests Tamlin and Lucien are alive. The protagonist's cautious movements and careful analysis of footprints and blood patterns reveal that the intruders likely surrounded the house and forced their way in. Her focus on the trail indicates her hope that Tamlin and Lucien escaped without a fight, fueling her determination to uncover the truth amidst the wreckage.

As she hides from an approaching figure in the dining room, the protagonist recognizes the presence of someone familiar—Alis—who is injured but alive. Their tense reunion reveals that Tamlin and Lucien are safe, though Alis warns her that Tamlin has been taken to Under the Mountain by Amarantha. This revelation confirms the protagonist's fears: Tamlin is now in the clutches of a powerful and dangerous adversary. The urgency of the moment heightens as Alis emphasizes the severity of the situation, underscoring the stakes involved in rescuing him from Amarantha's grasp.

Alis provides critical context about Amarantha, explaining that she is the High Queen of Prythian and has seized Tamlin as part of her cruel plans. Her presence in the land is a result of her long-standing resentment towards the High Lords and her assertion of dominance through a curse that the protagonist had previously overlooked. The chapter details how Amarantha, once an emissary from Hybern, has manipulated political dynamics by positioning herself as a powerful ruler, charming the High Lords and claiming to make amends for her past actions. Her goal appears to be consolidating power and breaking the existing balance of the realm.

The chapter concludes with Alis revealing that Amarantha has been traveling between courts, gaining influence under the guise of fostering trade and reconciliation. Her

moniker, the Never-Fading Flower, symbolizes her deceptive charm and persistent presence. As Alis gathers supplies and reflects on her own history, the protagonist contemplates the broader political landscape—an intricate web of alliances, betrayals, and power struggles. The chapter sets the stage for a perilous rescue mission, emphasizing the urgency and complexity of confronting a formidable enemy who now holds Tamlin hostage.

