

Chapter 31

The chapter opens with a vivid depiction of a lively ball attended by aristocrats, where Feyre is surrounded by socializing guests, wine, and dancing. Despite the festive atmosphere, her mind remains troubled by her thoughts about Tamlin and the looming threat he faces. She reflects on her own past actions, acknowledging her failure to seek out answers or actively try to save him, feeling a mix of guilt and regret for not expressing her love and for her passivity during critical moments. The party highlights the stark contrast between the superficial gaiety and the deep internal conflict she experiences regarding her responsibilities and feelings.

The narrative shifts to the morning after the event, where Feyre contemplates her family's situation and her own fears. Her father discusses potential land investments, but Feyre's attention is drawn to a tragic incident involving the Beddor family, whose house burned down with everyone inside, including their daughter Clare—a friend of Feyre's. This coincidence triggers a visceral reaction, as Feyre recognizes the name Clare Beddor and recalls her connection to Rhysand, raising suspicions about the true nature of recent events. Her instincts tell her that something sinister is afoot, possibly linked to the faeries and the dangerous blight affecting Prythian.

Feyre's concern deepens as she recognizes signs of a larger threat. She urges her family to remain vigilant, advising them to hide and prepare for potential invasion or danger from the faeries. She emphasizes the importance of secrecy and caution, instructing her sister Nesta to keep silent and to be ready to flee at the first sign of trouble. Feyre's sense of urgency underscores her growing awareness that the threat is more imminent and severe than her family realizes, and her instincts push her toward action rather than complacency.

In the final part of the chapter, Feyre prepares to leave her family's estate, aware of the peril that looms over Prythian. She recognizes that her past warnings and the

danger posed by the faeries are interconnected, and she makes plans to seek safety and gather intelligence. Her resolve is reinforced by her understanding of faerie deception—knowing they can lie and that iron is ineffective against them—yet she trusts that ash wood and her skills can protect her. Her departure signifies her determination to confront the threat head-on, even if it means risking everything to uncover the truth and attempt to save those she loves.

