

Chapter Thirty-Seven

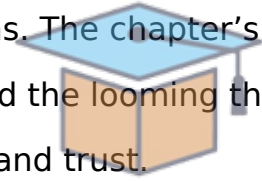
The chapter opens with a description of a forbidden area within the Court of Nightmares, a place so dangerous that even the elite Darkbringers dare not venture there. This ominous chamber is where enemies of the Night Court are condemned, their bodies discarded into a pit of monstrous beasts that consume them infrequently, only once every decade. The gruesome scene sets a tone of peril and darkness, emphasizing the ruthlessness of this hidden part of the court and the lethal consequences for those who enter uninvited. The vivid portrayal underscores the brutal justice meted out to enemies, reinforcing the chapter's themes of danger and punishment.

The narrative shifts to a tense interrogation scene involving Rhysand, Azriel, Cassian, Feyre, and Amren, who are attempting to extract information from two Autumn Court soldiers. These prisoners are chained and appear to be under some form of enchantment, exhibiting violent, mindless behavior and a lack of awareness beyond causing harm. The characters recognize that their mental state is compromised, likely due to spells cast by powerful entities like Briallyn or Koschei. Rhysand's calm but firm questioning aims to uncover how the soldiers ended up attacking members of the court in the Bog of Oorid, though their responses are hostile and uncooperative, reflecting their altered mental state.

Amidst the interrogation, the chapter explores the moral dilemma of how to treat these spell-affected prisoners. Feyre raises concerns about inflicting harm, questioning whether it is right to hurt them if they are under a magical influence. Rhysand agrees that harming them is wrong, acknowledging the possibility of a spell that needs to be broken rather than punishment. The group considers involving Helion to lift the enchantment, illustrating their awareness of the need for compassion despite the violent circumstances. The scene reveals the emotional weight carried by the

characters, who are haunted by their own histories of torture and suffering.

The chapter concludes with a shift back to the palace, where Rhysand and his companions leave the prisoners under guard and head to confront Nesta, who is sitting silently, gazing at the Mask. Rhysand's surprise at finding the door unwarded hints at a breach in security, raising questions about how Nesta managed to enter the palace undetected. The scene emphasizes the ongoing tension surrounding Nesta's mysterious behavior and her connection to the Mask, leaving an air of uncertainty about her intentions. The chapter's closing moments highlight the complex dynamics within the court and the looming threat that unresolved mysteries pose to the characters' safety and trust.



Summary