

Chapter 62

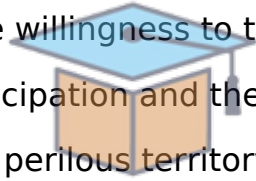
In Chapter 62, the scene opens with Dorian storming into Manon's chamber unexpectedly before dawn, commanding her to follow him without explanation. Despite her curiosity and reluctance, Manon complies, and they proceed to Aelin's chamber. There, Dorian observes that the queens are already awake and dressed, hinting at the urgency of their situation. He then leads them to the cargo hold, where preparations for battle are underway. Dorian's internal conflict is evident as he reflects on Manon's warning and the complex emotions stirred by their recent interactions, especially the dangerous allure of her touch, which leaves him contemplating the limits of his magic and control.

Dorian's focus shifts to a mysterious witch mirror, which he believes holds knowledge rather than brute power. As he carefully examines the mirror, he considers its potential to reveal how to safely wield the three keys needed to control the gate, a crucial element in their strategy against Maeve's armada. Aelin and Manon are skeptical about its true purpose, with Aelin questioning how the mirror might be used in their immediate battle. Dorian emphasizes that the mirror's power lies in its knowledge, suggesting it can guide them to use the keys without risking catastrophe. The conversation underscores the urgency of understanding the mirror's true nature and the importance of strategic planning amid ongoing warfare.

The chapter then delves into the concept of the mirror as a traveling tool that can transport its user to a specific location. Dorian explains that by entering the mirror, they could potentially learn essential information about controlling the keys and, consequently, the gate. Manon quickly recognizes the significance of the mirror's symbolic connection to fire and iron, hinting at their own roles in this knowledge transfer. Aelin remains cautious, worried about the risks involved, especially the possibility of being taken to dangerous places like Morath. Dorian reassures her that

the mirror's purpose is to help her return safely with the knowledge needed to defeat their enemies, emphasizing the importance of this risky but potentially decisive action.

As the chapter concludes, Aelin prepares to use the mirror, joining hands with Manon in a symbolic act of trust and determination. Just as they activate the mirror, Aedion arrives, alerting them to the danger. Despite the tension, Aelin's resolve is clear, and she steps into the mirror with Manon, leaving behind the others to face the uncertain future. The scene highlights the stakes of their mission, the reliance on ancient knowledge, and the willingness to take risks for the greater good. The chapter ends with a sense of anticipation and the understanding that this journey may lead them into uncharted and perilous territory, possibly even Morath, where the true battle awaits.



Summary