

# Chapter 65

The chapter opens with Elena kneeling beside an obsidian sarcophagus, a creation of the Lock, which was carved from the mountain itself to contain the Dark King, Erawan. The sarcophagus's symbols, once glowing with power, have now faded, signifying the sealing of Erawan within. Elena reflects on the immense effort it took to forge the Lock and her unanticipated understanding of its true power. She recognizes that her act of stealing the Lock from her father was driven by a desperate need to save her companions and prevent Erawan's resurgence. Her internal conflict revolves around the sacrifices made and the consequences of wielding such destructive power.

Gavin, injured and exhausted, observes Elena's actions, recognizing the significance of the Lock and the extent of her sacrifice. His injuries are a testament to the price they paid during their confrontation with Erawan, and his concern underscores the gravity of Elena's decision to manipulate the Lock's power. Elena's declaration that Erawan is sealed and cannot escape signifies her belief that she has contained the threat, but the lingering doubts and the weight of her actions cast a shadow over her confidence. The scene underscores the fragile victory and the uncertainty of whether the danger has truly been eradicated.

The narrative then shifts to a spectral assembly of immortal figures, representing a collective consciousness that observes Elena's actions with a mixture of judgment and disappointment. These beings, manifestations of wind, rain, and memory, reveal that the Lock was originally forged for their purpose—to send Erawan and the Wyrddkeys back through the gate, restoring balance. Their critique highlights Elena's perceived mistake in wasting the Lock's potential, suggesting her father's true plan was to use it to seal the Wyrddkeys permanently and banish Erawan forever. The revelation about her father's intentions introduces a new layer of complexity and betrayal, challenging Elena's understanding of her family's motives.

In the final segment, Elena's emotional turmoil intensifies as she confronts her memories of her mother, Mala Light-Bringer, who sacrificed herself to forge the Lock. Elena pleads for mercy, desperately asking the spectral beings to refrain from unleashing Erawan again, fearing the consequences of awakening the Dark King. The beings, acknowledging her plea, hint that Erawan will inevitably rise again, and they emphasize that her actions have delayed but not prevented this outcome. Elena's final appeal is a plea for others to inherit her burden, revealing her deep sense of responsibility and the tragic awareness that the true fight is far from over. The chapter concludes with a sense of eternal waiting, as these higher beings, trapped in this world after wandering through a Wyrddgate, contemplate their eventual return home, leaving Elena to confront the ongoing war and her own sacrifice.