

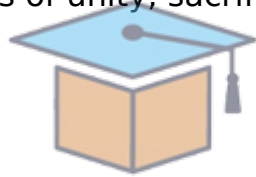
Chapter 35

The chapter opens with Aelin perched on the rail of the Sea Dragon, feeling the refreshing spray of the sea as the ship advances toward a formidable chain barrier. Rowan has utilized his wind magic to speed the vessel, signaling a crucial moment in their covert operation. The scene captures her awareness of the looming danger and her focus on the mission ahead, emphasizing the importance of stealth and precision. As they move forward, she reflects on the strategic significance of their passage, aware that their success hinges on drawing the enemy's attention while remaining undetected. The imagery underscores the tension between serenity and impending conflict.

As the ship approaches the island, Aelin senses the presence of corruption in the wind, indicating the proximity of their enemies, including Lysandra's absence but her ongoing presence. Rowan's magic slows their pace, allowing them to glide toward the island's peaks, signaling that the time for action is near. Aelin prepares herself mentally and physically, feeling the Wyrdkey's whisper and her magic's response to the dark forces at play. The scene underscores her heightened awareness and the ominous atmosphere as they close in on their target, emphasizing the dangerous and unpredictable nature of their mission.

When they reach the ship's deck, Aelin and Rowan coordinate their plan with Rolfe, the captain. She signals to draw the enemy ships closer, instructing Rolfe on maneuvering to set up an advantageous position for the attack. Rowan helps her secure her manacles, a reminder of the constraints she faces even as her magic intensifies. Their exchange reveals the underlying trust and readiness for the impending battle, with Rowan encouraging her to harness her power steadily. The scene captures the strategic planning and the emotional focus required to execute their daring assault.

In the climax, Aelin and Rowan share a deeply intimate moment, blending their magic through a symbolic gesture of blood and union. This act unleashes a surge of ancient, formidable power within her, pushing her into the depths of her magical potential. As she dives into her abyss, she feels the full force of her magic—ice, wind, lightning—melding with Rowan’s strength. The chapter concludes with her profound connection to her power, the chaos of battle echoing around her, and her recognition of the critical importance of mastering her strength to achieve their goal. The scene underscores themes of unity, sacrifice, and the unleashing of inner power amid chaos.



Summaryer