

Chapter 58

The chapter begins with a pivotal moment in the ongoing war, highlighting Kaltain Rompier's unexpected triumph, which shifts the tide of conflict. Dorian reflects on his own shortcomings and feelings of shame, recognizing that all involved should have anticipated better outcomes. The scene then shifts to a tense observation of Aelin and her allies examining a mysterious chest in a ruined temple, as they prepare for a crucial step in their quest. The gathering of powerful characters, including Lady Elide, Manon, Lysandra, and others, underscores the significance of the moment, as divine influences subtly guide their actions and hint at the larger forces at play.

As the group investigates the contents of the chest, they discover it contains a witch mirror instead of the anticipated Lock. This revelation raises immediate questions about the true nature of the artifact and its purpose. Aelin's calm yet tense demeanor reveals her awareness of the dangerous potential of such magic items. Manon provides insight into the mirror's capabilities, explaining that it can reveal the past, present, and future, and serve as a communication device, making it a powerful tool—possibly even a weapon—if used correctly. The discussion underscores the threat posed by Erawan's forces, who are constructing massive towers lined with similar mirrors to unleash devastating magic on their enemies.

The chapter then delves into the strategic implications of the witch mirror and the larger war effort. Manon confirms that the towers are designed for mass destruction, capable of incinerating armies with raw power channeled through these mirrors. The characters piece together that Erawan's side is developing a formidable arsenal, including weapons that harness the mirrors' destructive potential. The discovery that the chest contains a witch mirror, but not the Lock they seek, shifts their focus and raises new questions about the true objective. Aelin's emotional exhaustion is evident as she prepares to rest, knowing the coming days will demand further strategic

planning and understanding of the magical artifacts.

The final part emphasizes the logistical efforts underway, as the Fae carry the mirror across the land, and the group attempts to piece together the scope of Erawan's military build-up. They learn that multiple towers are being constructed in the Ferian Gap, with unknown numbers elsewhere, and questions remain about their transportation and operational methods. Aelin, drained of her magic, contemplates the daunting task ahead, recognizing that she needs rest to face the challenges coming.

The chapter ends with her resolve to understand the witch mirror and the larger threat, acknowledging that her current strength is insufficient but trusting that clarity will come after she sleeps and regains her focus.

