Chapter 67

The chapter opens with Rowan revealing to Enda the depth of his love for Aelin and the peril posed by Maeve and Erawan, emphasizing the urgency of their situation. Rowan pleads for his cousin's help, urging her to avoid attacking Terrasen's armada directly, and instead focus on Maeve's forces to prevent further darkness from spreading. Enda's response, a cautious "I will consider it," underscores the high stakes and the delicate balance of loyalty and treason involved. Rowan's desperation leads him to seek allies among his cousins, risking everything to gather a formidable army for Aelin's cause, driven by loyalty and a desire to protect their land.

As the battle intensifies, Rowan's efforts culminate in a daring and treasonous assault on Maeve's fleet, orchestrated with the help of his cousins. Despite the risks of betrayal and destruction, they launch a surprise attack, turning the tide of the sea battle with a combination of magic, arrows, and sheer determination. Rowan's leadership and the collective courage of his allies result in a chaotic yet strategic engagement, with the Whitethorn line fighting fiercely against Maeve's forces. The scene captures the chaos and heroism of wartime, highlighting the sacrifices made to secure a chance at peace and to oppose Maeve's oppressive regime.

Meanwhile, Lorcan observes the battle with disbelief as Maeve's fleet unexpectedly turns on her own ships, revealing her treacherous plans. The banners bearing silver insignia confirm that Whitethorn's influence and tactics are working, but Lorcan's focus shifts when he notices Gavriel and Fenrys vanish in the midst of the chaos. Their sudden disappearance signals that Maeve's true game is not on the sea but inland, on the shore where Elide is waiting. Lorcan's internal conflict deepens as he realizes that his priorities must now shift from the battle to the urgent rescue of Elide, whom he promised to protect, even at the cost of abandoning the fight temporarily. Elide remains hidden among the sand dunes, listening to the distant sounds of battle and feeling the tension in the air. She prays for guidance from Anneith, her celestial guide, asking for Lorcan's safety and Maeve's retreat from their lives. As she observes the landscape, she becomes acutely aware of the strategic movements and the dangerous game Maeve is playing. Lorcan's decision to leave the battlefield and head toward the shore underscores his unwavering commitment to her and signifies the personal stakes involved amid the larger conflict. The chapter concludes with a tense anticipation of what lies ahead, as Elide's fate hangs in the balance and the chaos of war continues to unfold around them.