

Chapter 17

The chapter opens with Feyre reflecting on the name Jurian, which resonates deeply within her even after the dinner with her friends. As Rhysand and Feyre prepare to visit the Prison the next day, they fly over Velaris, with Rhysand subtly probing Feyre's connection through their bond. Their silent flight underscores the unspoken understanding and the complex emotional layers between them. Rhysand reveals that their bond is a living, adaptive entity shaped by their needs and powers, hinting at the depth of their connection and the uncharted territories of their shared psychic link. Feyre's curiosity about the bond's nature and Rhysand's protective instincts are central to this segment.

Rhysand confesses that he has felt Feyre's emotions through their bond, despite her efforts to shield herself. Their conversation reveals the nature of their relationship—one built on mutual dependence, trust, and unspoken sacrifices. Rhysand admits that he is still learning about the bond's mysterious feelings, including what Feyre experienced during their recent connection. Their exchange underscores the emotional complexity of their relationship, with Feyre questioning Rhysand's hidden sacrifices and the extent of his sacrifices for his people. The chapter emphasizes the theme of concealed pain and the costs of leadership and protection.

Rhysand's past actions are disclosed, illustrating the extent of his sacrifices and the moral ambiguities he has navigated. He describes how, after losing his powers under Amarantha, he resorted to controlling the minds of his citizens to shield Velaris from her reach. His decision to become a puppet ruler—using his remaining powers to keep the city safe—came at a personal and moral cost, including living in secrecy and isolation. His willingness to become a “monster” to protect those he loves highlights the sacrifices made for the greater good, even if it entails terrible actions. This revelation adds depth to his character, exposing his internal struggles and the weight

of his choices.

The chapter concludes with Rhysand's dramatic departure, emphasizing his unwavering commitment to protecting Velaris and its secrets. Feyre's reflection on his wings and the sacrifices he made to keep her safe reveals the hidden truths about his identity and the extent of his sacrifices. Her acknowledgment of his sacrifices contrasts with her awareness of the falsehoods others believe about him. As Rhysand disappears into the night, the chapter ends with Feyre awakening from a vivid, disturbing dream—an intense memory of her time under Amarantha's control—highlighting the ongoing trauma and emotional scars. The scene underscores the ongoing battle between her past trauma and her present resilience.

