

Chapter Fifty-Eight

Yrene and Chaol spend a leisurely morning together, discussing the ancient books Hafiza may provide and their potential significance in understanding the Valg. Chaol reflects on Aelin Galathynius's past discoveries and the possibility that divine intervention shielded these texts from the king's purges. Their conversation shifts to the Valg's nature, with Yrene drawing parallels between the demons and parasites, hinting at a deeper connection yet to be explored. The relaxed atmosphere contrasts with the weight of their shared history and the unresolved mysteries surrounding the Valg threat.

Chaol opens up about his past, recounting Aelin's true identity and the tragic events involving Dorian and the Valg prince. Yrene's admiration for Chaol grows as she witnesses his vulnerability and growth. Their discussion turns to the king's fate, revealing how Aelin and Dorian used fire to purge the Valg from him, though the king did not survive. This leads Yrene to ponder the mechanics of Valg possession and the potential for healing, drawing from her medical knowledge and observations of Chaol's own struggles with the darkness.

Yrene shares her groundbreaking theory: the Valg are parasitic entities that infect their hosts, much like tapeworms. She explains how her own emotional struggles mirrored this parasitic relationship, leading her to confront and expel her inner darkness. Chaol listens intently as Yrene describes her healing process, emphasizing the role of light and purification. The conversation takes a hopeful turn as Yrene suggests that her healing gifts could potentially free those possessed by the Valg, offering a new weapon against Erawan's forces.

The chapter concludes with Chaol and Yrene considering the implications of her discovery. While excited by the possibility of saving infected individuals, they acknowledge the risks involved, especially given Erawan's interest in eliminating

Yrene. Chaol speculates that Aelin's previous actions may have alerted Erawan to this vulnerability. The pair recognizes the need for further testing and collaboration with Aelin and Dorian, setting the stage for a potential turning point in their battle against the Valg.

