

Chapter Sixty-Eight

Chaol Westfall and Yrene Towers, now married as the Westfalls, are aboard a ship traveling north along the continent's coast after their delayed departure from Antica. Despite initial seasickness, Chaol has adapted to the voyage, aided by Yrene's healing skills. The couple reflects on their recent wedding, a small but joyous ceremony followed by a lavish feast hosted by Princess Hasar. Their journey is part of a larger mission, though there is no sign of Aelin's armada yet. The chapter highlights their tender relationship, with Chaol often teasing Yrene about her new title, "Lady Westfall," which she finds amusing yet endearing.

Yrene and Chaol's physical and emotional healing journeys are intertwined. After Yrene's successful treatment of Chaol's spinal injury, he has regained the ability to walk with minimal discomfort, though he keeps his cane nearby. Their shared resilience is evident as they cherish each small victory, from Chaol's improved mobility to their playful banter. The chapter underscores their deep connection, with Yrene recognizing Chaol's footsteps and leaning into his embrace without hesitation. Their love is portrayed as a source of strength, especially as they face the uncertainties of war ahead.

The couple's lighthearted moments contrast with the looming conflict. Chaol recalls bringing a shredded gold couch aboard the ship, a whimsical yet meaningful gesture, while Yrene teases him about his attachment to it. Their horses, gifts from Princess Hasar, add a touch of humor—Farasha, Chaol's fiery mare, is a handful for the crew. Amidst the warmth of their relationship, Yrene reflects on her past, symbolized by a locket containing a note that once gave her courage. She no longer feels alone, having found her purpose and partner in Chaol.

The chapter culminates in a poignant revelation when Chaol recognizes the handwriting on Yrene's locket note—it matches his own. The note, which reads, "For

wherever you need to go—and then some. The world needs more healers," hints at a deeper connection between their pasts. Yrene's journey from a frightened healer to a confident wife and ally is mirrored in Chaol's growth from a disabled warrior to a man embracing love and hope. The moment is charged with emotion, leaving the reader curious about the implications of this discovery for their future and the war ahead.

