Chapter 2

The chapter opens with Feyre returning exhausted from a hunt, carrying a deer carcass through the chilling dusk to her family's impoverished cottage. The vivid descriptions of the fading light and the worn cottage highlight the harshness of her life. Inside, her sisters' frivolous chatter contrasts sharply with Feyre's weariness, emphasizing her role as the family's sole provider. The faded ward-markings around the door, a futile attempt at protection against faeries, underscore the family's vulnerability and her father's helplessness.

Feyre's strained relationship with her family becomes evident as she enters the cottage. Elain's immediate focus on the food, rather than Feyre's well-being, reveals their dependence on her. The dynamics grow clearer as Feyre notes her father and Nesta's indifference by the fire. Nesta's disdain for their father and Feyre's resentment of their lack of assistance paint a picture of a fractured family. Feyre's internal reflections reveal her bitterness, yet also her reluctant acceptance of her burdensome role.

Flashbacks to better times, such as Elain's gift of paint and Feyre's efforts to beautify their home, provide glimpses of tenderness amid the hardship. These memories contrast with the present reality of hunger and struggle, highlighting how far the family has fallen. Feyre's father's feeble attempt at praise and Nesta's scorn further illustrate the family's dysfunction. The chapter delves into their shared trauma, particularly the violent incident that left their father crippled and Nesta permanently resentful.

The chapter closes with Feyre resignedly planning the division of the deer meat and the sale of its hides, tasks she knows will fall entirely on her. Her father's passive presence and Nesta's cruelty underscore Feyre's isolation. The family's unspoken reliance on her, paired with their emotional distance, leaves Feyre trapped between

duty and resentment. The chapter masterfully sets the stage for her internal conflict and the broader struggles she will face in the story.