

Chapter 7

The chapter opens with a vivid depiction of the opulence and disparity between the human protagonist and the High Fae, Tamlin, and Lucien. The lavish setting, characterized by golden goblets and fine food, starkly contrasts with the protagonist's feelings of poverty and her sense of being out of place. She observes their effortless grace and wealth, recognizing her own vulnerability and the stark difference in their worlds. Her internal struggle is palpable as she contemplates her situation—trapped in a place of luxury but driven by urgent motives such as escaping, protecting her family, and understanding her captors.

The narrative then shifts to the tense interaction at the dining table, where Tamlin and Lucien display a mixture of politeness and underlying threat. Tamlin, with his primal, animalistic presence, approaches her with a mix of authority and restraint, offering her food and subtly asserting his dominance. Lucien's teasing remarks about her appearance and their subtle hints about her status create an atmosphere of suspicion and unease. The protagonist remains cautious, aware of the danger lurking beneath their civility, and struggles to maintain composure amid their predatory demeanor.

As the conversation progresses, the protagonist questions her role and future within this High Fae realm. Her inquiries about her freedom, her responsibilities, and her place in this society are met with dismissiveness or vague responses. Tamlin's blunt declaration that she can do whatever she wants, coupled with his assertion that he does not keep slaves, leaves her uncertain about her prospects. Her desperation becomes evident as she pleads for release, emphasizing her family's suffering and her desire for an escape from the constraints imposed by the treaty and her captors.

The chapter concludes with a tense exchange about guilt, obligation, and the possibility of atonement. The protagonist's apology to Lucien hints at her internal conflict and lingering remorse, while Tamlin's curt instructions to stay out of trouble

underscore her lack of agency. Her plea for freedom and her recognition of her precarious position highlight her vulnerability and the complex power dynamics at play. The chapter ends on a note of unresolved tension, emphasizing her urgent need for escape and her uncertain future in this unfamiliar world.

