

Chapter 22

The chapter opens with Feyre waking after a restless night, still unsettled by Tamlin's aggressive behavior during the Rite. She notices a bruise on her neck from where he bit her and initially considers covering it but decides to leave it visible as a silent rebuke. Dressed in her usual tunic, she joins Tamlin and Lucien for lunch, deliberately sitting across from Lucien instead of Tamlin. When Lucien notices the bruise, Feyre pointedly blames Tamlin, sparking a tense exchange where Tamlin defends his actions by citing her disobedience, while Feyre angrily compares him to a predatory wolf.

The confrontation escalates as Feyre calls Tamlin a "faerie pig," prompting laughter from Lucien. Despite her anger, Feyre later finds herself amused while painting caricatures of Tamlin and Lucien as pigs, realizing that Tamlin's return to his usual self brings her unexpected happiness. By dinner, the two reconcile, with Tamlin offering white roses as an apology. Feyre, though dismissive, secretly treasures the gesture and sleeps peacefully for the first time in ages, signaling a shift in her emotional state.

The next evening, Alis helps Feyre into an elaborate golden and turquoise gown for a formal occasion, marking a rare departure from her practical attire. Their conversation reveals Alis's backstory—her move from the Summer Court to care for her sister's orphaned sons. Feyre, nervous about her transformed appearance, hesitates before joining Tamlin and Lucien, fearing their reaction. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger as she pushes open the dining room doors, leaving her confidence and their responses unresolved.

Throughout the chapter, Feyre's emotional journey is central—from anger and defiance to tentative happiness and vulnerability. The dynamics between her, Tamlin, and Lucien evolve, blending tension with humor and underlying affection. The introduction of Alis's past adds depth to the secondary characters, while Feyre's choice to wear a gown symbolizes her gradual acceptance of her place in the faerie world.