

Chapter 17

In Chapter 17, the protagonist awakens abruptly from a disturbing nightmare filled with ominous visions and a sense of foreboding. The dream's imagery, including the Suriel's bone-fingers and a faceless woman demanding her name, sets a tone of unease and hints at deeper, unseen threats. As she regains her composure, she hears unusual sounds—shouts and screams—from the manor's front hall, prompting her to investigate. Her instinct to understand what is happening drives her to leave her room, revealing her growing concern about the safety and mysteries surrounding her surroundings.

Upon reaching the hall, she witnesses a harrowing scene: Tamlin carrying a severely wounded faerie, whose injuries are devastating and graphic. The faerie, almost as large as Tamlin, is bleeding profusely from the stumps where his wings once were, torn off in a brutal act. The scene underscores the violence inflicted by an unknown enemy, and Tamlin's urgent commands to tend to the injured highlight the severity of the attack. The description of the faerie's injuries, with jagged wounds and raw tissue, emphasizes the cruelty of the assault and the high stakes involved.

The chapter reveals that the attacker, a mysterious female figure, has not merely injured but has deliberately ripped off the faerie's wings, leaving him in a state of shock and imminent danger of death. Tamlin's attempt to treat the wounds with magic is thwarted, as he admits that he cannot heal such major damage anymore. The scene intensifies as the faerie's condition deteriorates rapidly, blood flowing uncontrollably and his life hanging by a thread. The protagonist's empathetic response, holding the faerie's hand and trying to comfort him, underscores her growing awareness of the violence and peril that permeate their world.

By the chapter's end, the grim reality becomes clear: the faerie's injuries are fatal without immediate intervention. The sense of impending death is palpable, with Tamlin

recognizing that the wounds won't clot and that the faerie is unlikely to survive. The protagonist's attempt to reassure the dying faerie, despite the bleak circumstances, highlights her compassion amid a brutal and uncertain environment. The chapter leaves a lingering sense of dread, emphasizing the dangerous forces at play and the devastating consequences of the unseen enemy's ruthless attack.

