

Chapter 15

The chapter opens with a tense confrontation between the protagonist and four naga—nightmarish, serpentine creatures with humanoid features and deadly talons. These beings, known for tormenting mortals, fixate on both the protagonist and the captured Suriel, viewing them as prey. As the naga taunt and advance, the protagonist calculates her limited options, armed with only a bow and nine arrows. The scene crackles with danger as she backs away, her trembling arm drawing the bowstring while the creatures savor the anticipation of the hunt.

In a split-second decision, the protagonist screams to distract the naga and fires an arrow to free the Suriel. The creature escapes in a blur, momentarily disorienting the attackers. Seizing the opportunity, the protagonist shoots one naga, causing blood to spray, but the remaining three quickly refocus on her. She flees toward the stream, hoping to reach Lucien, though uncertainty lingers about whether he'll aid her. The naga give chase, their snarls and crashing footsteps closing in as she navigates the treacherous forest terrain.

Cornered and outnumbered, the protagonist fights desperately, using her bow as a makeshift weapon and managing to incapacitate one naga with a crushing blow. However, the others surround her, mocking her defiance. When they snap her bow and pin her to the ground, the situation seems hopeless. Yet, driven by rage and terror, she stabs one naga with a hidden knife, momentarily turning the tide. Bloodied but unbroken, she continues to resist, even as the remaining attackers overwhelm her.

The chapter climaxes with the protagonist's brutal struggle for survival. Despite her injuries and the naga's taunts about her impending mutilation, she refuses to submit. The narrative underscores her resilience as she wields Lucien's knife, determined to fight until the end. The unresolved tension leaves readers on edge, wondering whether she will escape or succumb to the creatures' savagery, setting the stage for the next

chapter's developments.



Summary