

# Chapter 15

The chapter opens with a vivid description of the naga, monstrous serpentine creatures born from nightmares. These beings are depicted as terrifying hybrids of human and serpent features, covered in dark scales and equipped with lethal claws. Their legendary reputation as tormentors and killers of mortals is emphasized, setting a foreboding tone. The protagonist finds herself in a perilous situation, facing these creatures in a tense confrontation in the woods. The naga's menacing presence and their greed for blood establish the high stakes and danger that permeate this encounter, illustrating the deadly threats lurking in Prythian.

As the confrontation unfolds, the protagonist attempts to defend herself and the Suriel, a mystical creature caught in a snare. She strategically aims her arrow at the naga in the center, recognizing the threat they pose. The naga taunt her with sinister words, indicating they see her as both a gift and a meal for the Dark Mother. The protagonist's quick thinking leads her to release the Suriel, providing a distraction that allows her to shoot and wound one of the naga. Her desperate, brave act sparks chaos among the monsters, giving her a fleeting chance to escape amidst the confusion and bloodshed.

The chase intensifies as she flees through the woods, pursued by the relentless naga. She navigates through dense forest, dodging their attacks and sustaining injuries from thorns and claws. Her focus remains on reaching Lucien, who she hopes will be nearby to aid her. The narrative conveys her determination and resourcefulness as she leaps streams and fights off the pursuing creatures. Despite her efforts, the naga close in, and her situation becomes increasingly dire, highlighting her resilience amid mounting danger.

In the climax, the protagonist is overwhelmed and captured by the naga. They mock her, threatening to mutilate her, but she fights back fiercely. Using her instincts and a

hidden knife, she retaliates violently, slashing the creature that threatens her. Her struggle is brutal and visceral, culminating in her being thrown to the ground and bloodied. Despite her injuries and the odds stacked against her, her fierce spirit remains unbroken. The chapter ends on a tense note, with her fighting to survive against overwhelming odds, embodying her resilience and determination to escape the deadly trap.

