

# Chapter Twenty-Eight

In this chapter, Prince Kashin arrives promptly after being summoned by the guards in response to a threat against Yrene, who had sensed imminent danger. The scene underscores the urgency and seriousness of the situation, as Kashin quickly assesses the threat and orders heightened security around the palace. Chaol, confined to a chair, reflects on his vulnerability and the desperate measures he considered to protect Yrene, emphasizing his willingness to risk himself for her safety. The chapter reveals the tense atmosphere within the palace, where danger lurks and trust is fragile, highlighting Kashin's dedication to safeguarding those under his protection.

Yrene remains composed despite the peril, subtly deceiving Kashin about her movements and motives. She reveals that she sensed someone lurking behind her, suggesting an assassination attempt or harassment linked to Morath's agents. Her calmness and quick thinking contrast with the chaos around her, illustrating her resilience and strategic mindset. Kashin's fury and subsequent orders for a security sweep demonstrate the gravity of the threat, while his offer to escort her back to the Torre underscores his concern for her safety. Yrene's insistence on feeling safer with Chaol, despite the danger, emphasizes her trust in him and her desire for stability amid chaos.

Chaol's internal struggle is evident as he observes the unfolding events. His focus on Nesryn's absence and the weight of recent revelations about Shen and Nesryn's letter occupy his thoughts. Despite his physical limitations, he remains alert and protective, aware of the potential for further attack. The chapter explores his complex emotions—guilt, concern, and the burden of responsibility—while also hinting at his deeper feelings for Yrene. The scene underscores the precariousness of their situation and the importance of loyalty and courage in times of crisis.

As night falls, Yrene seeks reassurance and safety, asking to stay close to Chaol. Her vulnerability surfaces as she prepares to sleep, haunted by questions about killing and survival. Chaol's reflections on the violence he has witnessed and his own inexperience with taking lives add depth to his character. The chapter concludes with an intimate moment, revealing Yrene's fragile state and her reliance on Chaol's presence. The ongoing threat and the characters' emotional resilience set the stage for continued conflict, emphasizing themes of trust, sacrifice, and the fight for survival in a perilous world.



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