

# Chapter 20

The chapter opens with Feyre unsettled after a tense dinner with Tamlin and Lucien. Seeking distraction, she paints a terrifying creature resembling the Attor, which unnerves her so deeply that she abandons her art to help with Fire Night preparations. The atmosphere grows increasingly eerie as the day of Calanmai arrives, marked by the absence of Tamlin and Lucien and the distant sound of summoning drums. Feyre feels an inexplicable pull toward the festivities despite not being invited, hinting at the primal magic surrounding the event.

As dusk falls, Feyre observes the bonfires lighting the distant hills and senses the rising tang of magic in the air. The drums grow louder, compelling her toward the celebration, but she hesitates until Tamlin suddenly appears, armed and shirtless. He warns her to stay in her chamber and lock the doors, revealing he must participate in the Great Rite as High Lord. His urgency and the glimpse of his lengthening canines heighten the tension, leaving Feyre both fearful and curious about the ritual's nature.

Despite Tamlin's stern warnings, Feyre's curiosity overwhelms her, and she sneaks out to follow the drums. Riding her mare to the bonfire-lit hills, she encounters a masked crowd of High Fae, their features blurred by glamour. The intoxicating rhythm of the drums and the smoky, magical atmosphere draw her deeper into the celebration, though she remains cautious, keeping her hood up and knives ready. The chapter builds toward a climax as Feyre moves toward the heart of the ritual, defying Tamlin's orders.

The chapter masterfully blends suspense and allure, emphasizing Feyre's growing connection to the faerie world and her defiance of boundaries. The drums, the masked figures, and Tamlin's cryptic warnings create a sense of danger and mystery, setting the stage for the Great Rite's revelation. Feyre's internal conflict—between fear and fascination—mirrors the chapter's tension, leaving readers eager to discover the

secrets of Calanmai and its consequences for her relationship with Tamlin.

