

## Chapter 22: Feyre

The chapter opens with Feyre observing the late-night dynamics of her inner circle. Cassian returns home brooding and drinks before retreating upstairs, followed by a concerned Mor. Meanwhile, Azriel remains with Elain, who shares her garden plans with him. Feyre silently appreciates Azriel's kindness before she and Rhys slip away. Rhys stops her from removing her diamond cuffs, hinting at a surprise, and winnows them to a secluded cabin—a space he's arranged for privacy. The intimate setting, with its candlelight and fire, sets the stage for a tender moment between them.

As they settle in, Rhys admires Feyre's gown, sparking a deeper conversation about its origins. He reveals that the dress—and all her favorite gowns—were handmade centuries ago by his mother, a skilled seamstress, as part of a trousseau for his future bride. Feyre is deeply moved by the revelation, expressing her honor at wearing such meaningful garments. Rhys shares his belief that his mother would have loved her, and the emotional weight of the moment binds them closer. Their connection is palpable as they linger in quiet understanding, breathing each other in.

The tone shifts slightly as Feyre broaches another significant topic: she asks Rhys to alter the markings on her palms, replacing the eye symbols with the Night Court insignia—a mountain and three stars. Rhys cautions her that the change is permanent, but Feyre confidently affirms her commitment to their future together. Their playful banter about his past snooping lightens the mood, yet the gravity of the decision underscores their deepening bond. Rhys agrees, and the new markings appear on her palms, symbolizing her unwavering loyalty to him and their court.

In the chapter's closing moments, Feyre reveals a final Solstice gift to Rhys through their mental connection, though its nature remains unspecified. His emotional reaction—shaking hands and ragged breathing—hints at its profound significance. When he asks if she's sure, she reaffirms her certainty, and he responds that the gift is

“beyond measure.” The chapter ends with a sense of anticipation and mutual devotion, leaving their future open to possibilities while solidifying their unbreakable partnership.

