

Chapter 18: Feyre

In Chapter 18 of *A Court of Frost and Starlight*, Feyre engages in a tense yet civil conversation with Lucien during the Solstice festivities. The chapter opens with Lucien visiting Feyre and Elain, bringing gifts as part of the tradition. The atmosphere is awkward, particularly due to Elain's silent and distant demeanor. Lucien's presence seems to unsettle her, and Feyre attempts to mediate the interaction, offering Lucien a place to stay for the night, which he declines. The dialogue hints at unresolved tensions, especially regarding Elain's past engagement and Lucien's unspoken feelings as her mate.

Lucien reveals that he has been spending time with Jurian and Vassa at a manor in the human territories, a detail that piques Feyre's interest. He shares updates about their efforts to stabilize the region, though the conversation briefly touches on the broader political instability in Prythian. Lucien's admiration for Jurian's leadership and Vassa's resilience is evident, but the discussion shifts back to Elain when she abruptly leaves the room. This moment underscores the emotional strain between Lucien and Elain, which becomes the focal point of the latter half of the chapter.

Once alone with Feyre, Lucien openly expresses his frustration and concern about Elain's lingering attachment to her former fiancé, Graysen. Feyre acknowledges Elain's heartbreak but urges Lucien to be patient, emphasizing that healing takes time. Lucien's reaction reveals his inner conflict as a mate torn between his instincts and the reality of Elain's feelings. The tension between them highlights the complexities of their bond and the challenges of moving forward when emotions remain raw and unresolved.

The chapter concludes with Feyre suggesting that Lucien stay at the town house after Solstice to spend more time with Elain, an idea he dismisses due to her apparent aversion to him. Their exchange underscores the painful distance between Lucien and

Elain, as well as Feyre's role as a mediator. The chapter leaves readers with a sense of lingering melancholy, reflecting the broader themes of love, loss, and the struggle to rebuild relationships in the aftermath of trauma.

