

Chapter 1: Feyre

The chapter opens with Feyre observing the first snowfall in Velaris, marking the arrival of winter. She reflects on how her relationship with snow has transformed—once a source of dread, it now reminds her of the pivotal winter that led her to her current life and happiness as High Lady of the Night Court. As she enjoys breakfast, she notes Rhysand's absence, a common occurrence due to their busy schedules. The snow stirs her latent winter powers, hinting at her connection to all the courts, but she pushes aside the urge to explore them, focusing instead on her daily routine.

Feyre's thoughts drift to the upcoming Winter Solstice, a holiday she is still learning to navigate in her new role. She recalls the trauma of the past year, including Rhysand's temporary death and the war with Hybern, which left deep emotional scars. These memories often resurface during quiet moments, making her grateful for the distraction of work. The chapter highlights her struggle to balance her responsibilities with the lingering pain of loss, as well as her determination to rebuild and strengthen the Night Court and its alliances.

In the kitchen, Feyre interacts with Nuala, one of the half-wraith twins who serve as spies and cooks. Their conversation turns to the Solstice traditions in Velaris, which are more intimate and warm compared to the grand celebrations in other courts. Feyre realizes she needs to prepare gifts for her friends and family, who have endured immense suffering alongside her. This thought triggers another painful memory—Nesta and Cassian's near-death experience—but she pushes it aside, focusing on the hope that the Solstice will bring them all together.

The chapter closes with Feyre's resolve to embrace the holiday as a chance to celebrate and heal. Despite the weight of her duties and the shadows of the past, she looks forward to the joy and unity the Solstice represents. The narrative underscores

her growth from a fearful hunter to a resilient leader, while also acknowledging the fragility of her happiness and the ongoing process of recovery for her and her loved ones.

