

Chapter Sixty

The chapter opens with Cassian returning after a five-day absence, noting a significant shift not only in his relationship with Nesta but also among Nesta, Emerie, and Gwyn. The trio is found training together in the practice ring, wearing matching braided bracelets with silver charms. Gwyn prepares to cut a ribbon with a blade, encouraged by Nesta and Emerie, while Cassian and Azriel observe from a distance. The scene is charged with tension and camaraderie, hinting at a deeper bond forming among the three females.

Gwyn's determination shines as she whispers a mantra of strength before executing a flawless cut, severing the ribbon in half. Nesta crowns her with the fallen ribbon, declaring her a Valkyrie—a title later earned by Emerie and Nesta as well. This ritual marks a pivotal moment, symbolizing their transformation into a united force. Cassian reflects on the profound significance of this moment, sensing a shift in the world's trajectory, while Azriel also seems to recognize its weight.

Despite their triumph, Nesta struggles with her unresolved desire for Cassian, who avoids her after the training session. The next day, Cassian and Azriel introduce an obstacle course designed to test the females' teamwork, emphasizing the Valkyries' historical strength as a unit. The challenge is met with skepticism and determination, particularly from Gwyn, who vows to prove the males wrong. The course proves grueling, with the trio making it only halfway before time runs out.

The chapter closes with the group nursing their injuries but undeterred, pledging to try again. Their resilience and growing unity underscore the chapter's themes of transformation and solidarity. Cassian and Azriel's role as mentors is highlighted, pushing the females to embrace their potential as Valkyries. The chapter leaves readers anticipating the next steps in their journey, both as warriors and as individuals forging unbreakable bonds.