

Chapter Thirty-Three

The chapter opens with Cassian and Nesta flying through a mist-covered bog in search of Azriel, whose blue Siphons signal his location. Cassian navigates treacherous terrain, dodging spike-like trees, until they spot Azriel surrounded by two dozen Autumn Court soldiers. An ash arrow has pierced Azriel's wing, limiting his powers, and Cassian immediately retreats to ensure Nesta's safety. Despite her protests, Cassian deposits her on a high tree branch, instructing her to stay put before rushing back to aid his brother. Nesta, aware of her limitations in combat, reluctantly obeys, left alone in the eerie silence of the bog.

Cassian returns to the fray, his Siphons pulsing with power as he descends silently upon the unsuspecting soldiers. The mist obscures his approach, allowing him to strike with lethal precision. Azriel, weakened by the ash arrow, fights valiantly but is outnumbered. The sight of Azriel's injury ignites Cassian's fury, and he unleashes his full strength, cutting down enemies with ruthless efficiency. The battle is brutal, with Cassian's rage driving him to eliminate every threat, while Azriel's Siphons continue to flicker as a beacon amidst the chaos.

Meanwhile, Nesta remains perched on the tree branch, her body stiffening from the strain of holding on. Time stretches as she waits, her anxiety mounting with each passing moment. She recalls Cassian's past near-death experiences, fearing the worst as the bog's oppressive silence amplifies her dread. Despite her helplessness, she scans the mist for any sign of Cassian or Azriel, her mind racing with scenarios of their potential injuries or capture. The isolation and tension weigh heavily on her, highlighting her vulnerability and frustration.

The chapter culminates in a tense standoff, with Cassian and Azriel battling against overwhelming odds while Nesta grapples with her inability to assist. The Autumn Court's presence raises unanswered questions—whether Eris betrayed them or if

Beron discovered their plans. The action is intercut with Nesta's internal turmoil, emphasizing the emotional stakes. The chapter leaves readers on edge, anticipating the resolution of the conflict and the repercussions of the Autumn Court's unexpected involvement.

