

Chapter Forty-Two

The chapter opens with Cassian being summoned to Rhys's office after a night of intense passion with Nesta. Despite their physical connection, their relationship remains undefined, leaving Cassian conflicted yet unable to resist her. The tension is palpable as he joins Rhys, Amren, and Azriel, aware they can scent Nesta on him. The meeting takes a serious turn when Rhys reveals a blacksmith delivered three weapons, claiming they are cursed. The weapons—a sword, dagger, and great sword—were forged with Nesta's involvement, hinting at a deeper, unintended consequence of her power.

Rhys explains the blacksmith's panic, prompting Amren to question Cassian about Nesta's role in crafting the blades. Cassian confirms she hammered each weapon, unknowingly infusing them with her magic. Amren and Rhys exchange wary glances, recognizing the significance: Nesta has inadvertently created magical weapons, a feat lost to their world for millennia. The discussion shifts to the historical context, referencing the legendary sword Gwydion, which was imbued with power by ancient High Fae. Nesta's raw, uncontrolled abilities have seemingly replicated this lost art.

Amren warns against handling the blades, comparing them to the dangerous Dread Trove—objects of immense power tied to the Cauldron. She theorizes Nesta's emotions during the forging may have shaped the weapons' nature, making them unpredictable. Cassian, however, sees potential in using them as tools of war, while Azriel voices concerns about the threats Nesta could face if her power becomes widely known. The group grapples with the implications of her abilities, weighing the risks of exploitation against the strategic advantages.

The chapter concludes with Amren insisting Nesta must remain unaware of her power's true extent, fearing the consequences of her knowledge. Cassian reluctantly agrees, though his thoughts linger on the weapons' potential. The discovery leaves the

group uneasy, foreshadowing future conflicts as they navigate the delicate balance between harnessing Nesta's power and protecting her from those who would seek to control or destroy her.

