

Chapter Seventy-Eight

The chapter opens with Nesta reuniting with her friends Gwyn and Emerie after their harrowing experience in the Rite. Despite their injuries and torn clothing, the trio shares an emotional embrace, with Gwyn initially expressing anger but quickly melting into the moment. Nesta celebrates their victory, revealing she also gained a crown, though the powerful Trove artifacts are being returned. The group reflects on how the magical stone healed them and brought them to safety, hinting at deeper bonds and unspoken truths they'll carry forward.

Nesta's concern for Emerie's safety after Bellius's death highlights her protective nature, but Emerie dismisses the worry, confident the Illyrians will accept the official story. The friends laugh about the chaos their victory will cause among the Illyrians, who will be outraged by their triumph. Nesta basks in the joy of their camaraderie, feeling hopeful for the first time about the future, especially with her mate, Cassian, waiting for her. The scene underscores her growth from isolation to finding belonging.

The narrative shifts to the introduction of Nyx, Rhys and Feyre's newborn son, described as radiant with starlight and tiny wings. Cassian, holding the baby, jokes about the trouble Nyx will cause, while Feyre and Rhys beam with pride. Nesta joins them, and her silent exchange with Cassian leads them to a private conversation outside. They discuss her sacrifice—giving up most of her magic to the Cauldron to save her friends—and her decision to alter her body for future compatibility with childbirth, though she insists she's not ready yet.

Cassian is moved by Nesta's selflessness and asks what she truly desires. Her simple answer—"You"—reveals her emotional vulnerability and acceptance of their bond. Their playful banter about a lavish mating ceremony contrasts with the depth of their connection, showcasing Nesta's newfound happiness. The chapter closes with a sense of closure and anticipation, as Nesta looks forward to a future filled with love,

friendship, and the promise of shared adventures.

