

Chapter Fifty

Nesta, overwhelmed by guilt and grief, collapses by a mountain lake, unable to contain her anguish any longer. She relives the moment she revealed a painful truth to Feyre, her sister, and the hatred she harbored toward her father before his death. The weight of her actions and her inability to change the past consumes her, leaving her sobbing uncontrollably. When Cassian appears beside her, his presence—steady and warm—only intensifies her emotional turmoil, as she feels unworthy of his kindness.

Nesta confesses her deepest regrets to Cassian, admitting she allowed her father to die with hate in her heart despite his love for her. She spirals into self-loathing, convinced she can never atone for her actions or undo the pain she's caused. The sound of cracking logs in a fire torments her, reminding her of her father's neck snapping—a trauma she cannot escape. Cassian listens quietly, offering no immediate comfort, as Nesta unravels, her voice breaking under the weight of her despair.

Cassian finally intervenes, pulling Nesta into his arms despite her protests. He reassures her that her father's death was not her fault, sharing his own struggles with guilt and loss to show her she's not alone. Nesta, however, remains trapped in her self-recrimination, unable to see past her failures. She reveals how her anger and resentment toward her family led to their suffering, and how those memories haunt her relentlessly. Cassian's steady presence and gentle touch offer a fleeting sense of solace, though Nesta still believes she deserves none of it.

In the chapter's closing moments, Cassian refuses to dwell on his own pain, instead focusing on Nesta's healing. He assures her that her tears are a necessary step toward confronting her past and finding a way forward. The wind and sunlight seem to respond to his words, symbolizing a glimmer of hope. Though Nesta remains broken, Cassian's unwavering support hints at the possibility of redemption, leaving the reader with a sense of cautious optimism for her emotional journey.