

Chapter Six

The chapter opens with Nesta observing Cassian's training, captivated by his lethal grace despite her attempts to appear indifferent. Her internal conflict is evident as she recalls a past moment of vulnerability when she refused to leave his side as he lay dying. Even as she distracts herself by watching the mountain scenery, her awareness of Cassian's every movement underscores their unresolved tension. Morrigan's arrival interrupts Nesta's thoughts, and her admiring comments about Cassian provoke a defensive reaction from Nesta, hinting at their strained dynamic.

Morrigan confronts Nesta about her lack of effort in training, openly expressing her disapproval and implying Nesta doesn't deserve the chances Cassian gives her. The tension escalates as Morrigan references her own traumatic past, drawing parallels to Nesta's behavior. Cassian's interruption diffuses the confrontation, but the underlying hostility lingers. Nesta's internal monologue reveals her resentment toward Morrigan, whom she dismisses as a "self-righteous busybody," while also acknowledging her own isolation and defiance.

Later, Nesta retreats to the library beneath the House of Wind, where she reflects on past horrors, including Hybern's assassins and her own traumatic experiences. The setting triggers memories of Cassian's protective rage during a life-threatening encounter, which she quickly suppresses. Her interaction with Clotho, the mute high priestess with a tragic past, forces Nesta to confront her own unresolved trauma, though she struggles to compartmentalize the haunting memories.

Clotho assigns Nesta the task of shelving books, providing a structured distraction from her turmoil. Nesta's compliance is less about obedience and more an escape from her suffocating thoughts. The chapter ends with her preparing for the mundane task, yet the weight of her past and the tension with Morrigan and Cassian linger, setting the stage for further emotional and interpersonal conflicts. The library, a place

of both refuge and painful memories, becomes a symbolic battleground for Nesta's internal struggles.

