

Chapter Thirty

Nesta awakens from a harrowing nightmare about the Cauldron, where she had been trapped and screaming until Cassian's voice guided her back to safety. Another male voice, later revealed to be Rhysand's, also aids her with unexpected kindness, leading her to a peaceful dreamscape of moonlit hills. She wakes in her room to find Cassian asleep in a chair beside her bed, his presence suggesting he stayed all night to guard her. The sight of him—exhausted yet protective—stirs deep emotions in Nesta, though she fights to suppress her tears, unwilling to show vulnerability.

Cassian wakes shortly after Nesta and greets her with gentle concern, though she deflects his questions about her nightmare. Their interaction is surprisingly easy, marked by Cassian's characteristic humor as he shifts the conversation to breakfast. Nesta responds with a rare smile, their banter lightening the tension. The moment hints at their growing connection, though Nesta remains guarded, unwilling to delve into the trauma that haunts her. Meanwhile, Cassian's unwavering support and unspoken understanding offer her a quiet comfort she struggles to acknowledge.

Later, during training with Emerie and Gwyn, Nesta admits to her recurring nightmares about the Cauldron. Gwyn confides that she also suffers from traumatic dreams, creating a bond between them as they share their burdens. The conversation, though heavy, seems to lift a weight from Nesta, allowing her to push herself harder in their exercises. The chapter highlights the healing power of shared experiences, as Nesta finds solace in the camaraderie of her friends, who understand her pain without judgment.

Elsewhere, Cassian meets with Rhysand, who reveals a troubling discovery: Feyre's unborn child has wings, a rare and dangerous complication due to her Illyrian form during conception. Rhys's distress is palpable, as the news raises concerns about the baby's survival and Feyre's safety. Cassian's initial joy is tempered by the gravity of

the situation, and the chapter ends on a somber note, foreshadowing challenges ahead for the characters. The revelation adds a layer of tension to the story, intertwining personal struggles with larger, looming threats.

