

Chapter Thirty-Seven

The chapter opens in the Court of Nightmares, where Rhysand, Amren, Feyre, Cassian, and Azriel interrogate two captured Autumn Court soldiers in a gruesome dungeon. The room, feared even by Keir's Darkbringers, houses a pit of ravenous beasts awakened by the prisoners' blood. Despite Azriel's brutal methods, the males remain unresponsive, their vacant expressions suggesting they are under an enchantment. Rhysand questions their motives for attacking his court in the Bog of Oorid, but the soldiers only react with mindless violence, leading the group to suspect external manipulation by forces like Briallyn or Koschei.

Feyre raises ethical concerns about torturing the soldiers if they are not in control of their actions, prompting Rhysand to agree. Amren confirms the males' minds are shrouded in fog, reinforcing the theory of magical coercion. The group decides to seek Helion's help to break the spell, prioritizing the soldiers' families and the need for swift resolution. Cassian reflects on the weight of their actions, acknowledging the ripple effects of violence, while Azriel remains stoic. The chapter highlights the moral ambiguity of their methods and the urgency to uncover the truth behind the attack.

The scene shifts to Rhysand's palace, where Nesta is discovered in the room housing the Mask, despite the heavy wards. Her unexplained presence unsettles Rhysand, who questions how she bypassed his protections. Nesta's detached demeanor and searching gaze suggest she is grappling with unseen forces or trauma. The encounter hints at her growing connection to the Mask and the potential for her powers to defy even the High Lord's magic, setting the stage for future conflicts.

The chapter underscores themes of control, morality, and the consequences of power. The interrogation scene reveals the characters' conflicting approaches to justice, while Nesta's mysterious actions introduce an element of unpredictability. The narrative balances tension and introspection, leaving readers questioning the true nature of the

soldiers' enslavement and Nesta's role in the unfolding events. The chapter effectively bridges action and intrigue, deepening the stakes for the story's progression.

