

Chapter 9: Feyre

Feyre approaches Ressina's studio with nervous anticipation, weighed down by both her art supplies and her unease. The streets are alive with festive energy as Solstice approaches, but her focus remains on the daunting prospect of painting in a group for the first time. Despite the merriment around her, she hesitates, unsure of what might emerge when she faces a canvas again. Her internal struggle is compounded by thoughts of Rhys's upcoming meeting with Tamlin, a confrontation she avoids, leaving her emotionally unsettled.

As Feyre pauses outside the studio, her anxiety peaks, and she communicates with Rhys through their bond. His playful teasing and reassurance momentarily distract her, but the decision to enter or leave remains hers alone. The chapter highlights their intimate connection, as Rhys's humor and support provide comfort, yet Feyre's independence shines through. She ultimately chooses not to join the group, instead seeking solitude to confront her creative fears on her own terms.

Feyre winnows into an abandoned gallery nearby, a space frozen in time since the attack. The cold, boarded-up studio still carries the lingering scent of paint, a reminder of its former life. She kindles faelicht and flame to warm the space, symbolically reigniting its creative energy. The quiet solitude allows her to breathe deeply, finding solace in the emptiness and the remnants of art that once filled the room. This setting becomes her sanctuary, away from prying eyes and expectations.

Determined to paint alone, Feyre prepares the space, her resolve firm despite the lingering guilt over skipping Ressina's gathering. The chapter closes with her searching for a stool, ready to begin her work in isolation. This moment captures her journey toward reclaiming her artistry on her own terms, free from external pressures. The abandoned gallery, like Feyre herself, is poised for renewal, marking a quiet but significant step in her personal and creative healing.