Chapter 6: Morrigan

The chapter opens in the Hewn City, a place shrouded in perpetual darkness, distinct from the comforting shadows Morrigan associates with Rhys. The oppressive atmosphere is filled with decay, mirroring the malevolence of its inhabitants. Amidst Solstice decorations that fail to pierce the gloom, Morrigan stands with Rhysand, facing Keir and Eris in the throne room. The tension is palpable as Rhysand's diplomatic words mask the underlying hostility, setting the stage for a confrontation steeped in centuries of animosity.

Morrigan's internal monologue reveals her deep-seated resentment toward Keir, who dismisses her with deliberate indifference. Her voice, cold and controlled, reflects the persona she adopts in the Hewn City, a stark contrast to her true self. Rhysand intervenes, maintaining a facade of courtesy while subtly asserting their presence. The arrival of Eris, the High Lord of Autumn's son, adds another layer of tension, as Morrigan's memories of past trauma resurface, hinting at a painful history between them.

Flashbacks reveal the brutal suffering Morrigan endured centuries ago, pinned and nailed to the forest floor by unseen assailants. Eris's cold detachment during her agony underscores his cruelty, as he refused to help her, leaving her to bleed and suffer. These memories fuel Morrigan's present anger, as she struggles to maintain composure in his presence. The chapter vividly contrasts the beauty of the Autumn Court's landscape with the horror of her past, emphasizing the depth of her trauma.

The chapter culminates in a tense standoff, with Morrigan's hatred for Eris simmering beneath the surface. Her desire for vengeance is palpable, yet she remains restrained, relying on Rhysand's leadership. The unresolved tension between the characters hints at deeper conflicts to come, as the Solstice gathering becomes a battleground of old wounds and unspoken threats. The dark, oppressive setting mirrors the emotional

weight of the scene, leaving readers anticipating the next clash in this fraught dynamic.