

Chapter Sixty-Two

The chapter opens with the arrival of spring in Velaris, bringing a temporary respite from the looming threats of Briallyn and Beron. Despite the calm, Cassian warns that their enemies may be secretly amassing forces, leaving the group in a tense state of uncertainty. A rare red star appears in the sky, interpreted as an ill omen, further unsettling Rhys and the others. Nesta channels her growing anxiety into rigorous training with the priestesses, though she questions whether they will ever face real battle or if their preparations will remain theoretical.

Nesta's focus shifts when she receives an urgent letter summoning her and Cassian to a forest clearing in the Middle, where Eris awaits them. The sight of the sacred mountain, a remnant of Amarantha's reign, unnerves Nesta, prompting a discussion about its history and the mysterious trio of barren peaks. Eris reveals that these mountains, including the Prison and Ramiel, may hold ancient secrets beneath their surfaces. The conversation hints at deeper lore, but Cassian impatiently redirects the discussion to Eris's reason for summoning them.

Eris discloses that his father, Beron, has been secretly meeting with Briallyn on the continent, raising suspicions of an impending conflict. He warns that the world seems to be holding its breath, waiting for Nesta to find the Harp—a revelation that catches Eris off guard when he realizes the Night Court already possesses it. Tensions escalate as Eris accuses them of hoarding the Trove's power for their own gains, reflecting his ingrained distrust of their court's intentions. Cassian deflects with a courtier's cool demeanor, further intriguing Nesta.

The chapter concludes with Eris's skepticism unresolved, as he questions whether the Night Court will next seek the Crown. Cassian's evasive responses and Nesta's internal reactions highlight the political maneuvering and underlying tensions between the courts. Nesta's private admiration for Cassian's diplomatic prowess adds a layer of

personal intrigue, contrasting with the broader stakes of power and trust. The encounter leaves the reader anticipating the next steps in their precarious alliance and the looming threats on the horizon.

