

Chapter Ten

In Chapter 10 of *A Court of Silver Flames*, Nesta indulges in a meal provided by the enchanted House, including a chocolate cake that sparks a playful yet tense exchange with Cassian. Their banter reveals Nesta's growing connection to the House, which responds to her needs, while Cassian teases her about her isolation in the library. The interaction highlights their combative dynamic, as Cassian challenges her to take back the cake, subtly encouraging her to embrace physical training. Nesta's reluctance and sharp retorts underscore her resistance to his guidance, yet the scene hints at an underlying tension between them.

Later, Nesta loses herself in an erotic novel before collapsing into bed, only to wake freezing in the night. The House, attuned to her discomfort, initially lights a fire at her request but extinguishes it when she protests. Moments later, the bed warms magically, and Nesta murmurs gratitude, showcasing her begrudging acknowledgment of the House's care. This quiet moment contrasts with her earlier defiance, revealing a softer side as she accepts comfort, even as she struggles with vulnerability.

The chapter takes a darker turn as Nesta is haunted by a nightmare of her sister Elain's abduction and her father's death, memories that trigger her trauma and self-blame. The visceral dream forces her to confront her suppressed power, which writhes within her, demanding release. Nesta violently suppresses it, reinforcing her pattern of avoidance and self-loathing. The nightmare leaves her shaken, desperate to escape the pain, and she dresses hastily, driven by the need for distraction.

Determined to flee her torment, Nesta descends the ten thousand steps, her hands trembling as she relives the horrors of the Cauldron and her father's murder. The cyclical descent mirrors her emotional spiral, emphasizing her unresolved grief and power struggles. The chapter closes with her relentless pursuit of numbness, foreshadowing her ongoing battle with trauma and the destructive coping mechanisms

that define her journey.



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