

Chapter Thirty-One

The chapter opens with Nesta noticing Cassian's injuries as he enters the dining room. He reveals that he sparred with Rhys to help him release tension, hinting at deeper concerns. Their conversation shifts when Cassian discloses that Feyre's unborn child has wings, a rare and dangerous condition for High Fae females. Nesta reacts with shock, and Cassian explains the high mortality rate for mothers during such births due to anatomical incompatibilities, leaving both characters visibly distressed.

Cassian elaborates on the grim realities of Illyrian-winged births, noting most mothers and babies perish during labor. Nesta's initial hostility fades into genuine concern for Feyre's survival. Cassian mentions Rhys's plans to seek alternative solutions, including consulting healers from other courts like the Dawn Court's Peregryns. The weight of the situation hangs heavily between them, with Nesta quietly offering to assist through her scrying abilities despite the risks involved.

The tension momentarily shifts as Nesta and Cassian engage in flirtatious banter, distracting from the earlier heavy topic. Nesta provocatively references their previous intimate encounter, challenging Cassian's restraint. Their exchange reveals underlying sexual tension and unspoken desires, contrasting sharply with the life-and-death stakes of Feyre's pregnancy. This interplay serves as both a coping mechanism and a continuation of their complex relationship dynamic.

The chapter concludes with Nesta asserting control over their intimate relationship, teasing Cassian about his hesitation to initiate further encounters. Their charged interaction underscores the emotional and physical connection simmering beneath their practical concerns about Feyre's fate. This juxtaposition of personal intimacy with looming tragedy creates a poignant contrast, highlighting how characters navigate both private desires and collective crises in their world.