

# Chapter Twenty-One

The chapter opens with a tense confrontation between Nesta and Elain, as Elain declares her intention to seek out the Cauldron despite Nesta's vehement objections. Nesta, haunted by past trauma, argues that Elain's safety is at stake, recalling how the Cauldron once abducted her. Elain, however, asserts her autonomy, refusing to let Nesta dictate her choices. The exchange grows heated, with Amren intervening to explain that Nesta, as someone "Made" by the Cauldron, is uniquely suited to track it without being influenced by its power. Nesta's fear for her sister clashes with Elain's resolve, exposing deep-seated tensions between them.

Nesta's desperation escalates as she tries to dissuade Elain, accusing Feyre of encouraging her to take unnecessary risks. Elain retaliates by pointing out Nesta's hypocrisy—resenting her quiet life while also refusing to let her pursue anything greater. The argument turns personal when Nesta cruelly mocks Elain's past passivity, landing an emotional blow. Elain's response is cutting, highlighting how Nesta has centered her own trauma while dismissing Elain's experiences. The confrontation ends with Elain storming out, leaving Nesta to grapple with the weight of her harsh words.

Amid the fallout, Feyre reveals she is pregnant, shifting the room's energy from tension to celebration. Cassian's exuberant reaction lightens the mood, and Rhys's overprotectiveness becomes a source of amusement. The group's joy contrasts sharply with the earlier conflict, underscoring the duality of their lives—moments of familial strife intertwined with profound happiness. Feyre's pregnancy also explains her reluctance to pursue the Cauldron herself, adding another layer of complexity to the group's dynamics.

The chapter closes with a bittersweet tone, as Nesta remains isolated in her guilt and fear, while the others revel in Feyre's news. The unresolved tension between Nesta and Elain lingers, hinting at deeper emotional wounds yet to be addressed. Meanwhile,

the revelation of Feyre's pregnancy introduces new stakes, as the group must balance their quest for the Cauldron with the need to protect their growing family. The chapter masterfully intertwines personal conflict with broader narrative stakes, setting the stage for future challenges.

