

Chapter Thirty-Two

The chapter opens with Rhys, Feyre, and Cassian preparing for a dangerous journey to Oorid, an ancient bog, while Nesta silently observes their banter. Despite her lack of combat experience, Nesta arms herself with a dagger, enduring Cassian's teasing as he helps her with the weapon straps. Tensions rise as Feyre expresses concern over Nesta's safety, but Cassian dismisses her worries with his usual irreverence. Azriel's subtle reactions hint at the gravity of their mission, while Nesta struggles with unresolved feelings about her sister Elain's distance.

As the group prepares to depart, Nesta asserts her necessity to the mission, claiming her unique abilities will help locate the Mask in Oorid. Feyre remains uneasy, warning Nesta about the dangers of the Middle, but Azriel swiftly transports them using his shadow magic. The transition is disorienting for Nesta, who clings to Azriel, fearing being lost in the void between places. Upon arrival, the oppressive atmosphere of Oorid immediately unsettles them, its stagnant air and eerie silence amplifying their dread.

Oorid's desolate landscape is described in haunting detail: black, ink-like water, dead trees resembling broken spears, and an absence of life. Azriel and Cassian note the unnatural stillness, with no insects or birds to break the silence. Nesta questions why anyone would bury their dead here, to which Cassian explains the bog was used for water burials. The group's unease grows as Azriel admits the place is evil, and Nesta's fear spikes when she learns of the kelpies—ancient, shape-shifting monsters that lure and drown their prey.

The chapter ends with Nesta confronting her fear, asking about the creatures that dwell in Oorid. Cassian downplays the threat, but Azriel warns of kelpies, describing them as primordial faerie monsters that feast on human entrails. Nesta's heart pounds as the reality of their perilous mission sinks in. The group stands at the edge of the

bog, united yet uneasy, bracing themselves for the horrors that await in the depths of Oorid.

