

Chapter Forty-Five

The chapter opens with Nesta, Gwyn, and Emerie enduring a grueling Valkyrie training session under Cassian's watchful eye. The trio struggles through painful exercises, with Gwyn humorously comparing their ordeal to the legendary toughness of Valkyrie warriors. Cassian, amused by their suffering, reveals he had already tested the exercises himself at dawn, earning a mix of admiration and exasperation from the group. The dynamic between the characters is playful yet competitive, showcasing their camaraderie and shared determination to push their limits.

As the training continues, Cassian unexpectedly asks Nesta what she would name a sword, sparking a lighthearted debate among the group. Gwyn and Emerie offer whimsical suggestions, while Nesta's blunt response—"Killer"—draws a bemused reaction from Cassian. The conversation hints at a deeper purpose behind his question, though Nesta remains skeptical. The playful banter underscores the growing bond between the characters, even as Nesta senses an underlying tension in Cassian's persistence.

Later, Cassian reveals the true reason for his question: the blacksmith has crafted three magical blades imbued with Nesta's power from the Cauldron. These weapons, forged during a previous visit, possess ancient magic unseen for centuries. Cassian explains that Nesta has unknowingly created a new Dread Trove, a revelation that stuns her. However, her shock quickly turns to anger when she realizes that Cassian, Rhys, and Feyre have known about this for some time without telling her.

The chapter ends with Nesta confronting Cassian about the secrecy, her voice sharp with betrayal. Cassian attempts to deflect, but Nesta demands answers, refusing to let the matter drop. The tension between them escalates, leaving their relationship at a precarious point. The scene highlights Nesta's growing assertiveness and her refusal to be sidelined, setting the stage for further conflict and revelations.