

# Chapter Seventy-Two

The chapter opens with Nesta Archeron fighting desperately to hold off Bellius, a formidable opponent, as dawn approaches. Though exhausted and battered, she takes solace in knowing her friends Emerie and Gwyn have survived the brutal "Breaking" trial. Nesta's power remains temporarily suppressed, leaving her to rely solely on her combat skills. Bellius attacks relentlessly, fueled by irrational hatred, while a violent storm obscures the battlefield. Despite her fatigue, Nesta dodges and blocks his strikes, though the slippery terrain and his superior speed put her at a severe disadvantage.

As the fight intensifies, Bellius disarms Nesta, leaving her vulnerable. He mocks her before launching another assault, landing precise cuts that weaken her further. A powerful blow sends Nesta crashing into a boulder, leaving her breathless and bloodied. Bellius discards his weapons, intending to kill her with his bare hands. Though her body screams in protest, Nesta forces herself to rise, driven by sheer willpower. The storm rages around them, mirroring the chaos of the battle as she faces near-certain defeat.

In her darkest moment, Nesta finds renewed determination. Despite her injuries, she refuses to surrender, clinging to her desire to live happily and reunite with loved ones. As Bellius prepares to deliver the final blows, Nesta steels herself for one last stand. He scoffs at her defiance, but she surprises him by blocking his punch and countering with a crushing blow to his nose. The tables turn as Nesta reveals her hidden advantage—the combat training from her mate, Cassian.

The chapter culminates in Nesta's triumphant reversal of fortune. Her resilience and training allow her to gain the upper hand against Bellius, proving her strength even without her powers. The confrontation highlights her growth from a broken warrior to a determined survivor. Though physically overwhelmed, Nesta's mental fortitude and

connection to her mate empower her to fight back, setting the stage for a potential victory as dawn—and her full power—approaches.

