

Chapter Eleven

The chapter opens with Nesta frustrated as the House refuses to unlock the private library doors, seemingly punishing her for ignoring the food it provided earlier.

Exhausted from a day of shelving books for the priestesses, she demands entry but is met with silence. Her hunger eventually drives her to the dining room, where she finds Cassian and Azriel mid-meal. The House grudgingly provides her with food, but tension is palpable as she joins them in silence, her unresolved anger simmering beneath the surface.

Azriel reveals concerns about a dangerous situation involving Queen Vassa, hinting at a looming threat. Nesta's curiosity is piqued, but she suppresses it, along with her lingering resentment toward her late father, who showed courage for Vassa but failed his own family. The conversation shifts when Azriel notices Nesta's fading black eye, prompting Cassian to joke about her falling down the stairs. Azriel's probing questions about her lack of training ignite a familiar clash between Nesta and Cassian, highlighting their fraught dynamic.

The tension escalates as Cassian warns Nesta to comply with her training mandate or face consequences from Rhysand. Nesta retaliates by mocking Rhysand, calling him an arrogant asshole, which provokes Cassian's fierce defense of his High Lord. Their argument reaches a boiling point when Cassian declares he's "done" with her, a statement that shocks both Nesta and Azriel. The chapter captures the raw animosity and unresolved emotions between Nesta and Cassian, underscoring their strained relationship.

The confrontation leaves Nesta reeling, though she masks her surprise. The chapter ends with the unresolved tension hanging heavy in the air, foreshadowing further conflict. Nesta's defiance and Cassian's frustration reflect their deeper struggles—her resistance to authority and his inability to reach her. The scene sets the stage for

potential reckoning, whether through confrontation or reluctant cooperation, as both characters grapple with their roles and emotions.

