

Chapter 17: Feyre

The chapter opens with Feyre waking up on Solstice morning, her birthday, to the bright sunlight reflecting off the snow. She is groggy from the previous night's celebrations, but her discomfort is quickly overshadowed by the discovery of a beautifully wrapped gift beside her. Rhys, her mate, watches her with amusement, having placed the present there as a birthday surprise. Their playful banter sets a warm and intimate tone, highlighting their deep connection and Rhys's thoughtfulness.

Feyre unwraps the first gift—a luxurious black leather sketchbook monogrammed with her initials. The present is perfectly suited to her artistic nature, and she is deeply touched by Rhys's attention to detail. Their affectionate exchange continues as Rhys reveals more gifts: a soft sky-blue scarf to replace the one she often borrowed from Mor, and a new satchel for her painting supplies. Each gift reflects Rhys's understanding of her preferences, emphasizing his devotion and the simplicity of their love.

The chapter takes a playful turn as Feyre decides to draw Rhys as a birthday gift to herself. Their flirtatious interaction escalates when Rhys, with a hint of mischief, poses nude for her, basking in the sunlight. Feyre fills several pages of her sketchbook with detailed drawings of him, capturing his wings, tattoos, and other intimate features. The scene underscores their mutual admiration and the joy they find in each other's company, blending romance with lighthearted humor.

The chapter concludes with Feyre and Rhys joining the rest of their companions for breakfast. The quiet morning is interrupted when Cassian and Azriel, dressed in Illyrian leathers, drag Rhys away for what promises to be a rowdy adventure. Feyre, amused but unconcerned, continues her meal, trusting them to return Rhys unharmed. The ending leaves a sense of camaraderie and anticipation, hinting at the lively dynamics of their close-knit group.