

Chapter 24: Morrigan

Morrigan reflects on her decision to delay her trip to the Winter Court, keeping her true destination—Athelwood, her private estate—a secret from even her closest friends. She cherishes the solitude and freedom of this hidden retreat, where she can ride her beloved horse, Ellia, across the snowy hills. The estate, purchased centuries ago for its tranquility and horses, offers her a rare sense of peace and connection to the land. Riding allows her to feel truly alive, contrasting with the instantaneous but detached experience of winnowing.

As Mor rides through Athelwood, she contemplates Rhysand's request for her to embark on a dangerous mission to the continent. While the adventure calls to her adventurous spirit, she hesitates due to the implications of her father's bargain with Eris. She wrestles with feelings of cowardice and guilt, particularly regarding Azriel, whose protective nature she knows would clash with her desire for independence. The weight of her unspoken decision lingers, casting a shadow over her otherwise rejuvenating retreat.

During her ride, Mor and Ellia sense an unsettling presence in the nearby woods—a mysterious, watchful darkness unlike Azriel's shadows. Though her power warns her against approaching, she observes it from a distance, feeling an eerie familiarity. Choosing caution, she decides to return home, unsettled but intrigued by the encounter. The incident adds to her internal conflict, mirroring the unknown dangers she might face on her potential journey.

The chapter closes with Mor's contemplation of the uncharted lands beyond the Night Court, her heart torn between the call of adventure and the comfort of home. The rhythmic gallop of Ellia echoes her restless spirit, as the unanswered question of whether to go or stay lingers in the air. The chapter captures Mor's complex emotions, blending her love for freedom with the weight of duty and unresolved personal

tensions.



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