

Chapter Twenty-Seven

Yrene spends her day healing six people in the slums, showcasing her dedication and compassion. She treats a woman with a life-threatening lung growth, three feverish children, and a man with a poorly healed broken leg. The most poignant case is a sixteen-year-old girl with visible injuries from abuse. Yrene heals her internal wounds while leaving superficial bruises intact to protect her from further harm. She offers the girl sanctuary at the Torre, emphasizing her commitment to helping those in need without judgment or cost.

Despite her exhaustion, Yrene feels a restless energy driving her forward. She indulges in a meal and coffee, stalling before heading to the palace. Her anger and frustration resurface as she reflects on her unresolved conflict with an unnamed man, likely Chaol. Determined to confront him, she marches through the palace halls, muttering about his unacceptable behavior. Her internal monologue reveals her resolve to stand her ground, refusing to be dismissed or ignored.

As Yrene navigates the dimly lit corridors, she senses someone following her. The tension escalates when she hears footsteps and a mysterious, urgent voice in her head—reminiscent of her mother’s—warning her to run. Panicked, Yrene sprints toward Chaol’s door, her fear palpable as the pursuer closes in. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, with Yrene desperately reaching for safety, leaving her fate uncertain.

The chapter highlights Yrene’s selflessness as a healer, her emotional turmoil, and the looming threat that disrupts her journey. It blends moments of tenderness with rising suspense, setting the stage for a confrontation or revelation in the subsequent chapters. The mysterious voice adds an element of the supernatural, deepening the intrigue surrounding Yrene’s abilities and past.