

Chapter Sixty-Three

The chapter opens with Chaol experiencing excruciating pain as his spine is brutally attacked by Duva's dark magic, leaving him paralyzed once more. Despite his agony, his primary concern is Yrene's safety as she faces imminent danger from the possessed princess. Duva taunts them, revealing her intent to either kill Chaol or force Yrene to wear a cursed ring. Yrene, desperate and unarmed, grabs Chaol's sword but quickly realizes its futility against Duva's power, leading her to flee into the treasure-filled labyrinth with Duva in pursuit.

Yrene's escape is fraught with peril as Duva's magic shatters the environment around her, sending debris flying. Though Yrene manages to grab a short-sword, she is outmatched and eventually cornered. A blow to the head disorients her, but she fights to stay conscious. When Duva captures her, Yrene is forced to witness Chaol's agonizing attempt to crawl toward her, his body failing him. Duva sadistically offers them a choice: watch each other die or submit to the ring's curse, heightening the chapter's tension.

In a moment of defiance, Yrene fights back, stomping on Duva's foot and striking her with her elbow, momentarily stunning the princess. Seizing the opportunity, Yrene grabs Chaol's dagger and prepares to kill Duva, wrestling with her oath to preserve life versus the need to save Chaol. The internal conflict is palpable as she hesitates, aware that Duva's unborn child complicates the moral dilemma. Chaol, bleeding and near death, pleads with her, adding to her turmoil as she weighs the consequences of taking a life.

The chapter ends on a cliffhanger as Yrene, dagger poised over Duva's throat, grapples with her decision. Her tears and Chaol's deteriorating condition underscore the dire stakes. The narrative leaves readers questioning whether Yrene will break her oath to save Chaol or if another solution will emerge. The emotional and physical

battles intertwine, highlighting the characters' desperation and the brutal choices they face in this life-or-death confrontation.

