

# Chapter Ten

The chapter opens with a vivid description of a summer storm raging outside the Torre Cesme library, where Yrene is studying late at night. The storm's thunder and lightning create an eerie atmosphere, with wind causing the lanterns to sway and cast colorful patterns on the walls. Despite the unsettling environment, Yrene remains focused on her research, occasionally reacting to the storm's intensity and the distant sounds of fellow acolytes studying for exams. The setting establishes a sense of isolation and determination as Yrene delves into her work.

Yrene is searching for information on mysterious wounds caused by demons or dark magic, prompted by her patient, Lord Westfall. She relies on the expertise of Nousha, the Head Librarian, who is fluent in multiple languages and has access to rare texts. Though their relationship is formal, Nousha proves indispensable, gathering ancient scrolls and books from the library's deepest levels. One scroll, written in an unrecognizable language, is particularly intriguing due to its age—over a thousand years old. Yrene handles it with care, aware of its fragility and historical significance.

The chapter also introduces the library's unique inhabitants: the Baast Cats, revered for their independence and mysterious behavior. These cats, named after a warrior goddess, are said to possess almost supernatural abilities, such as appearing and disappearing at will or even "reading" books. Yrene, though fond of animals, is wary of their unpredictable nature and hopes for their help in keeping the library free of vermin. Their presence adds a layer of mysticism to the setting, reinforcing the library's role as a place of both knowledge and wonder.

Yrene's dedication to her research is evident as she shifts from the ancient scroll to an Eyllwe tome, reflecting her multilingual upbringing. Her efforts to understand Lord Westfall's condition drive the narrative, highlighting her perseverance and the challenges of uncovering obscure knowledge. The chapter blends atmospheric detail

with character development, painting a picture of a determined healer navigating a world of ancient secrets and untamed magic.

