

Chapter Fifty-Nine

Chaol receives news about a pivotal naval battle between Aelin and Maeve, delivered by the smug Princess Hasar. Though initially furious and half-dressed, he controls his temper as Hasar reveals that Maeve's forces were decisively defeated. A third of Maeve's armada, flying Whitethorn banners, switched sides to join Terrasen's fleet. Dorian fought alongside Rowan, and wyverns led by Manon Blackbeak unexpectedly aided Aelin's forces. Chaol is relieved but remains tense, piecing together the implications of this victory for the war's trajectory.

The battle's details emerge: Dorian and Rowan wielded ice, wind, and water magic, while Lysandra's shape-shifting abilities were also noted. Notably absent were Aelin's flames and Maeve's dark powers, though fleeting sightings of both were reported onshore. Chaol deduces that Aelin likely drew Maeve away from the fleet to minimize casualties and unleash her full power. Hasar confirms Aelin's survival and her armada's northward journey, possibly toward Terrasen. Chaol offers silent gratitude to the gods for sparing Dorian and Aelin, though the uncertainty of Maeve's whereabouts lingers.

Hasar drops another bombshell: Aelin has called in debts from the Silent Assassins of the Red Desert and Wendlyn, the latter sending its entire armada under Crown Prince Galan. Chaol is overwhelmed by the scale of Aelin's alliances, his emotions raw as he exchanges a hopeful glance with Yrene. Hasar muses on the widespread belief in Aelin's vision, hinting at the queen's ability to inspire loyalty across kingdoms. The revelation underscores Aelin's strategic brilliance and the growing coalition against their enemies.

The chapter closes with Hasar revealing Aelin's message to her: a promise of "a better world." This simple yet profound statement encapsulates Aelin's rallying cry and the hope she represents. Chaol, though shaken, recognizes the magnitude of Aelin's

influence and the unity she has forged. The chapter highlights pivotal victories, strategic alliances, and the enduring theme of hope amidst war, setting the stage for the conflicts and collaborations to come.

