

Chapter 7

The chapter opens with a tense scene where the protagonist experiences a surge of fear and urgency as the threat of war looms. The word "War" rings loudly, emphasizing the gravity of the situation. The protagonist pleads with Rhys, the High Lord of the Night Court, to avoid invasion, highlighting her concern for the defenseless mortal lands and her own exhaustion. Rhys, calm but firm, reveals that he does not intend to invade the mortal territories but warns of an impending threat that could escalate into war. The scene underscores the emotional toll and the mounting tension as the characters grapple with the reality of an approaching conflict.

Rhys then discloses critical intelligence about the ongoing threat posed by the King of Hybern, who has been planning his campaign for over a century. The King's goal is to reclaim the land south of the wall and potentially seize Prythian and the faerie lands, with Prythian standing as the primary obstacle. Rhys explains that Hybern's strategy involves stealth, trickery, and weakening their defenses, including the wall, which has only small holes allowing limited passage. The threat is imminent, and the urgency to prepare for an attack is palpable, setting the stage for the strategic and political complexities that lie ahead.

The narrative delves into Rhys's past, revealing his involvement in the war and his aversion to large-scale slaughter. His military experience in the south, where he witnessed brutal fighting, has left a lasting impact, and he emphasizes that Hybern's initial attack will likely come through covert means rather than outright force. The chapter explores the fragile state of alliances and the internal divisions within Prythian, with broken courts and power struggles among High Priestesses. Rhys's insights underscore the danger of internal treachery and the importance of vigilance in the face of external threats.

In the final segment, Rhys confides in the protagonist, emphasizing her unique skills and the trust he places in her. He seeks her assistance in tracking down crucial information, hinting at her ability to catch a Suriel and trap formidable creatures. Rhys's strategic motives are clear: he needs her talents to gather intelligence and strengthen their defenses. The chapter concludes with a subtle acknowledgment of her potential powers, hinting at the importance of her role in the looming conflict. This exchange underscores themes of trust, strategic alliance, and the weight of responsibility borne by the protagonist.