

Chapter 31

The chapter opens with a scene in the sparring ring atop the House of Wind, where Cassian is instructing Feyre on combat techniques, emphasizing the importance of foot placement and vigilance. Feyre is physically exhausted from days of training, focusing on her progress with summoning fire, while her attempts to winnow remain unsuccessful. Meanwhile, the political tension is subtly woven into the narrative, as she reflects on the lack of communication from the Summer and Spring Courts, hinting at ongoing diplomatic uncertainties. Azriel's covert operations in the human courts are ongoing but have become quieter, indicating the delicate and dangerous nature of his espionage work.

Amidst the training and political musings, the scene shifts to social interactions among the characters. Mor, Amren, Cassian, and Rhysand gather, exchanging banter and teasing each other, revealing underlying tensions and camaraderie. Mor's defiance of Cassian's questions about her whereabouts signifies her independence and possible secrets, while Cassian's concern for Azriel shows his protective instincts. The casual conversations hint at deeper relationships and unresolved conflicts, especially regarding Azriel's loneliness and Mor's mysterious activities outside their usual circles. The characters' interactions reflect a mix of humor, loyalty, and underlying concern.

Rhysand's arrival interrupts the banter, announcing their upcoming trip to the Summer Court. The group's reactions reveal varying degrees of enthusiasm and apprehension about the journey, with Cassian expressing skepticism about the Summer Court's temperament. Rhysand's calm demeanor and decision to include only himself, Feyre, and Amren suggest a strategic move, possibly to avoid unnecessary conflicts or complications. The dialogue subtly underscores the political tension and the importance of this diplomatic mission, hinting at the potential for new alliances or conflicts in the broader narrative.

The chapter concludes with Rhysand's lighthearted invitation for a summer holiday, contrasting the seriousness of their political duties with a moment of levity. Cassian's reluctance and Amren's witty remarks highlight the complex personalities and relationships within the group. Rhysand's mention of the Summer Court's reputation foreshadows challenges ahead, especially considering Cassian's past mishaps there. The scene ends with a sense of anticipation and underlying tension, setting the stage for upcoming diplomatic and personal conflicts, while maintaining the chapter's tone of camaraderie amid ongoing political intrigue.