

# Chapter 22

In this chapter, the narrative centers around the characters preparing for a journey to the mortal realm, with Rhysand taking the lead due to the lack of communication from the Summer Court. The scene depicts a mix of anticipation and casual banter among the characters, especially Mor, who questions the customs and attire of humans compared to the faerie world. The discussion highlights differences in societal norms, emphasizing practicality in clothing and the contrasting roles women play in different courts. The chapter sets a tone of curiosity and transition, illustrating the characters' readiness to confront new environments while reflecting on their cultural backgrounds.

The chapter delves deeply into Mor's complex backstory, revealing her traumatic experiences and the dark realities of her upbringing in the Court of Nightmares. Mor recounts her early life, marked by her exceptional strength and the subsequent exploitation of her power once she reached maturity. Her family's reaction to her abilities was driven by political motives, viewing her as a prize to forge alliances through marriage. Mor's narrative exposes the brutal and oppressive nature of her society, where female virginity and power are commodities, and her personal struggles with the expectations placed upon her are vividly portrayed.

As Mor chooses not to accompany the others into the mortal realm, her reasons stem from her disillusionment with the treatment of women in her world. She expresses a desire to observe the queens at court, hoping to recognize past friends, but admits her inability to behave appropriately among others due to her past experiences. Her decision reflects her internal conflict and desire for a form of connection, despite the oppressive environment she escaped. Rhysand's influence and her friendship with Cassian provide her with some support, but her reluctance underscores the ongoing trauma she endures.

The chapter concludes with a moment of intimacy and reflection, as the protagonist prepares to meet her sisters and introduce Mor. The act of dressing and the exchange of words reveal her attempt to reconcile her identity and her past with her current circumstances. She acknowledges her own struggles and expresses a desire for her sisters to see Mor's strength and resilience. The chapter ends on a note of vulnerability, with the protagonist apologizing for her earlier coldness and affirming her commitment to growth and understanding, emphasizing themes of healing, trust, and the importance of human connection amidst dark trials.

