

# Chapter 50

In this chapter, the narrator describes a tense and perilous night beside Rhys, who lies unconscious with a barely healed wound poisoned by arrows coated with a mysterious toxin. The narrator vigilantly monitors him through the night, feeling helpless as Rhys's condition worsens, with his skin turning pallid and his breaths becoming shallow. Recognizing the danger posed by the poison and their distance from aid, the narrator makes a decisive choice to leave Rhys temporarily in hopes of finding a cure. The urgency of his deteriorating state underscores the dire circumstances they face, emphasizing the narrator's growing sense of desperation and resolve.

Early in the day, the narrator ventures into the forest to set a trap, determined to find a solution for Rhys's poisoning. As they prepare, an ominous silence descends, hinting at an impending threat. The narrator spots the Suriel, a creature of bone and tattered robes, which they recognize from past encounters. The Suriel's appearance is as horrific as ever, and its cryptic manner of speaking signals that time is running out. The narrator approaches with caution, knowing that the creature holds crucial knowledge about the poison and its cure, but also aware of the delicate balance of trust and coercion in their interaction.

The Suriel reveals that the poison afflicting Rhys is called Bloodbane, and that the cure lies within the forest—specifically, in the narrator's own blood, which is imbued with the healing power of the High Lord of the Dawn. The creature instructs that a few mouthfuls of the narrator's blood will be enough to save Rhys, but it also hints at a deeper bond. In exchange for this vital information, the Suriel demands a favor—namely, that the narrator frees it, acknowledging their past kindness. This exchange emphasizes the complex dynamics and moral dilemmas involved, as the narrator grapples with the necessity of sacrifice and the weight of their decisions.

In the final moments of the chapter, the narrator realizes that the Suriel has revealed a significant truth: Rhysand is their mate. This revelation shocks the narrator, who had not previously understood the full extent of their connection. The Suriel's words confirm that Rhysand is more than just a lover—he is a bonded mate, a deep and permanent bond that surpasses ordinary relationships. The narrator's feelings of jealousy, anger, and possessiveness surface as they process this new understanding, recognizing the profound implications for their identity and future. The chapter concludes with the narrator contemplating the significance of this bond and the potential for a new chapter in their life, marked by love, loyalty, and the complexity of their destiny.