A Court of Frost and Starlight

A Court of Frost and Starlight is a novella that bridges the gap between *A Court of Wings and Ruin* and the next chapter in the *A Court of Thorns and Roses* series.

Set during the Winter Solstice festival in the Night Court, this story offers an intimate look at Feyre, Rhysand, and their friends as they heal and rebuild after the devastating war.

Filled with warmth, hope, and quiet moments of magic, the novella explores the characters' personal growth, their bonds, and the simple joys of life between battles.

Perfect for fans who want to catch up on their favorite characters and get a glimpse into their lives before the new adventures begin.

Chapter 1: Feyre

The chapter opens with Feyre observing the first snowfall in Velaris, marking the arrival of winter. She reflects on how her relationship with snow has transformed—once a source of dread, it now reminds her of the pivotal winter that led her to her current life and happiness as High Lady of the Night Court. As she enjoys breakfast, she notes Rhysand's absence, a common occurrence due to their busy schedules. The snow stirs her latent winter powers, hinting at her connection to all the courts, but she pushes aside the urge to explore them, focusing instead on her daily routine.

Feyre's thoughts drift to the upcoming Winter Solstice, a holiday she is still learning to navigate in her new role. She recalls the trauma of the past year, including Rhysand's

temporary death and the war with Hybern, which left deep emotional scars. These memories often resurface during quiet moments, making her grateful for the distraction of work. The chapter highlights her struggle to balance her responsibilities with the lingering pain of loss, as well as her determination to rebuild and strengthen the Night Court and its alliances.

In the kitchen, Feyre interacts with Nuala, one of the half-wraith twins who serve as spies and cooks. Their conversation turns to the Solstice traditions in Velaris, which are more intimate and warm compared to the grand celebrations in other courts. Feyre realizes she needs to prepare gifts for her friends and family, who have endured immense suffering alongside her. This thought triggers another painful memory—Nesta and Cassian's near-death experience—but she pushes it aside, focusing on the hope that the Solstice will bring them all together.

The chapter closes with Feyre's resolve to embrace the holiday as a chance to celebrate and heal. Despite the weight of her duties and the shadows of the past, she looks forward to the joy and unity the Solstice represents. The narrative underscores her growth from a fearful hunter to a resilient leader, while also acknowledging the fragility of her happiness and the ongoing process of recovery for her and her loved ones.

Chapter 2: Rhysand

The chapter opens with Rhysand observing the harsh winter conditions of the Illyrian Mountains, contrasting the bustling Windhaven camp with his peaceful, snow-covered city of Velaris. He reflects on his mate, Feyre, and their brief mental conversation, longing to show her the beauty of their home. Meanwhile, the Illyrian camp thrives despite the brutal weather, with warriors training and others performing daily chores. Rhysand notes the rigid gender roles, where females are confined to domestic tasks under strict expectations, a tradition unchanged for centuries despite the recent war and world-altering events.

Rhysand and Cassian confront Devlon, the camp-lord, over the exclusion of females from combat training under the pretext of Solstice preparations. Cassian insists on a compromise: two hours of training before domestic duties, highlighting the ongoing struggle to challenge Illyrian traditions. Devlon resists, appealing to the warriors' sacrifices in the recent war, a tactic that visibly affects Cassian, who carries the weight of his soldiers' losses. Rhysand intervenes, reducing the training time to ninety minutes, asserting authority while acknowledging the delicate balance of power and the need for gradual change.

The tension underscores deeper issues within Illyrian society, where post-war losses have bred resentment and potential instability. Rhysand recalls how some Illyrians previously sided with Amarantha, hinting at the lingering threat of rebellion. Despite the need for a permanent presence to enforce reforms, the demands of rebuilding and political tensions elsewhere make it impractical. The chapter reveals the fragile state of the Illyrian camps, where tradition clashes with the inevitability of progress, and the scars of war fuel underlying hostility.

Devlon's manipulative reference to disabled warriors strikes a nerve, exposing Cassian's guilt over his soldiers' suffering. Rhysand's internal struggle with his dark

power reflects the moral boundaries he refuses to cross, even to expedite change. The chapter closes with a sense of unresolved conflict, emphasizing the slow, arduous path toward reform in a society resistant to change. The dynamics between Rhysand, Cassian, and Devlon illustrate the broader challenges of leadership and the cost of maintaining order while pushing for equality.

Chapter 3: Cassian

Cassian, struggling to contain his frustration with Devlon and the Illyrian warriors, chooses to leave rather than risk escalating tensions. He reflects on his brothers Rhysand and Azriel's unique abilities, such as winnowing, but prefers his own method of travel: flying. As he stretches his wings, he deliberately ignores the warriors below, using their resentment as a tool to assert dominance. Taking to the skies, he embraces the biting cold, finding solace in the freedom of flight and the familiarity of the mountainous terrain.

The chapter delves into Cassian's connection to the Illyrian homeland, a place of both beauty and danger. He notes the presence of ancient, hidden threats lurking in the mountains, far worse than the Illyrians themselves. These creatures, though mostly vanquished, still emerge under cover of darkness, a reminder of the land's untamed nature. Cassian's thoughts briefly turn to Feyre, wondering if she knows the true dangers of the region, before he focuses on his destination: the sacred mountain, Ramiel.

Ramiel stands as the heart of Illyria and the Night Court, a place of reverence and ritual. Cassian recalls his participation in the Blood Rite, a brutal competition where he and his brothers triumphed centuries ago. The Rite, though controversial, serves as a necessary outlet for Illyrian aggression, preventing larger conflicts. Cassian muses on its enduring significance, hoping this year's Rite might ease the growing discontent among the warriors, especially after the recent war.

As Cassian soars toward Ramiel, he reflects on its timeless presence and the symbolism it holds for the Night Court. The mountain, both beautiful and isolated, embodies the strength and resilience of Illyria. Cassian's journey underscores his deep ties to his heritage and his role as a leader, balancing the need for discipline with the understanding of his people's fierce nature. The chapter closes with a sense of

foreboding, hinting at the challenges ahead for Cassian and the Night Court.

Chapter 4: Feyre

Feyre walks through the bustling Rainbow district of Velaris, where High Fae and faeries prepare for Solstice amidst the first snowfall. The lively scene contrasts sharply with her memories of the same street months earlier, stained with blood and chaos during the war. She pauses outside a newly restored art gallery, its fresh paint and decorations masking the destruction it once endured. The weight of the past lingers as she observes her reflection in the window, momentarily lost in thought before noticing the curious gazes of patrons inside.

The chapter delves into Feyre's dual role as both a witness to Velaris's recovery and its High Lady. She reflects on her weekly audiences with Rhys, where they address citizen concerns ranging from trivial repairs to complex economic issues. Though initially unsure, Feyre has grown into her responsibilities, learning from Rhys's patient leadership. The paperwork piles up, but she takes pride in contributing to the court's governance. Her thoughts also drift to the city's less fortunate areas, including the rundown neighborhood where her sister lives, hinting at unresolved social challenges.

Feyre's introspection reveals her gratitude for the life she now leads—far removed from her impoverished human past. She marvels at her ability to wander the artists' quarter freely, a privilege she once could only dream of. Yet, the scars of war remain visible in the city's damaged buildings and empty lots. She notes Rhys's efforts to support the community through Solstice donations, to which she adds causes close to her heart, such as aid for human refugees and Illyrian war widows.

The chapter closes with Feyre confronting a half-crumbled, grayish building, a stark reminder of the war's devastation. This physical decay mirrors her internal struggle to reconcile Velaris's vibrant present with its traumatic past. Her observations underscore the ongoing work of rebuilding—both the city and her own sense of purpose—as she continues to navigate her role as High Lady. The juxtaposition of festive preparations

and lingering ruins highlights the delicate balance between celebration and remembrance.

Chapter 5: Feyre

The chapter opens with Feyre lounging comfortably in bed, sensing Rhysand's return through their shared bond before he even enters their home. Despite an upcoming meeting in the Hewn City, Feyre has avoided paperwork in favor of reading, though she barely makes progress before Rhys arrives. His exhaustion is evident, but he deflects her concern with playful banter, revealing his plan to surprise Eris at the Court of Nightmares. Feyre insists on feeding him, noting his neglect of basic needs, and leaves to prepare a meal despite his protests.

Upon returning with food, Feyre finds Rhys still undressed and the room cluttered with important documents. Their interaction shifts between tenderness and teasing, with Rhys attempting to pull her into his lap while she prioritizes his nourishment. His voracious appetite confirms her suspicion that he hasn’t eaten all day, sparking a familiar argument about his self-care habits. The exchange highlights their dynamic—Feyre’s nurturing nature clashes with Rhys’s tendency to prioritize duty over personal needs, yet their love and mutual concern remain undeniable.

The conversation turns to Feyre’s recent struggles with her Fae physiology, particularly her biannual cycle of excruciating pain, a stark contrast to her human experiences. Rhys’s overprotectiveness during these episodes becomes a point of contention, though Feyre acknowledges his unwavering support. The topic subtly transitions to their unspoken thoughts about children, with Feyre reflecting on the Bone Carver’s vision and her desire to enjoy life with Rhys before starting a family. The chapter underscores the challenges of their new reality, blending mundane moments with deeper emotional undercurrents.

Ultimately, the chapter captures the intimacy and complexity of Feyre and Rhys’s relationship, balancing humor, affection, and underlying tensions. Their banter and care for each other reveal a partnership built on mutual respect and deep connection,

even as they navigate the physical and emotional demands of their roles. The narrative weaves together personal struggles, shared history, and future aspirations, offering a poignant glimpse into their lives beyond the larger conflicts of their world.

Chapter 6: Morrigan

The chapter opens in the Hewn City, a place shrouded in perpetual darkness, distinct from the comforting shadows Morrigan associates with Rhys. The oppressive atmosphere is filled with decay, mirroring the malevolence of its inhabitants. Amidst Solstice decorations that fail to pierce the gloom, Morrigan stands with Rhysand, facing Keir and Eris in the throne room. The tension is palpable as Rhysand's diplomatic words mask the underlying hostility, setting the stage for a confrontation steeped in centuries of animosity.

Morrigan's internal monologue reveals her deep-seated resentment toward Keir, who dismisses her with deliberate indifference. Her voice, cold and controlled, reflects the persona she adopts in the Hewn City, a stark contrast to her true self. Rhysand intervenes, maintaining a facade of courtesy while subtly asserting their presence. The arrival of Eris, the High Lord of Autumn's son, adds another layer of tension, as Morrigan's memories of past trauma resurface, hinting at a painful history between them.

Flashbacks reveal the brutal suffering Morrigan endured centuries ago, pinned and nailed to the forest floor by unseen assailants. Eris's cold detachment during her agony underscores his cruelty, as he refused to help her, leaving her to bleed and suffer. These memories fuel Morrigan's present anger, as she struggles to maintain composure in his presence. The chapter vividly contrasts the beauty of the Autumn Court's landscape with the horror of her past, emphasizing the depth of her trauma.

The chapter culminates in a tense standoff, with Morrigan's hatred for Eris simmering beneath the surface. Her desire for vengeance is palpable, yet she remains restrained, relying on Rhysand's leadership. The unresolved tension between the characters hints at deeper conflicts to come, as the Solstice gathering becomes a battleground of old wounds and unspoken threats. The dark, oppressive setting mirrors the emotional

weight of the scene, leaving readers anticipating the next clash in this fraught dynamic.

Chapter 7: Rhysand

The chapter opens with Rhysand reflecting on a sleepless night, troubled by Eris's warning about Tamlin and the Spring Court borders. Despite returning home with Feyre, he avoids discussing the issue, choosing instead to brood alone. Seeking solace, he flies to the House of Wind at dawn, where Azriel presents him with unsettling reports about growing discontent among Illyrian clans. The tension between Rhysand’s duty as High Lord and his personal frustrations is palpable as he grapples with the implications of the unrest.

Azriel’s report reveals widespread dissent within the Illyrian camps, particularly among families of fallen warriors who blame Rhysand and his allies for their losses. The shadowsinger’s calm demeanor contrasts with Rhysand’s growing unease, as the latter acknowledges the potential for rebellion. Their discussion highlights the fragile balance of power in Prythian, with Rhysand adamant that disbanding the Illyrians is not an option, despite Azriel’s disdain for their hypocrisy. The tension between them underscores the complexity of leadership in a post-war world.

The conversation shifts to broader threats, including the lingering presence of the human queens and the unrest in Hybern. Rhysand emphasizes the precarious nature of the current peace, fearing that other Fae territories might exploit the absence of the Wall to invade human lands. Azriel’s role as spymaster is critical in monitoring these threats, but Rhysand’s strategic patience is evident as he prioritizes stability over immediate action. The chapter reveals his calculated approach to leadership, balancing urgency with restraint.

Rhysand decides to withhold the full extent of the Illyrian unrest from Cassian until after the Solstice holiday, aiming to spare his brother additional stress. The unspoken tension around Nesta’s situation lingers, hinting at unresolved personal dynamics within their inner circle. The chapter closes with Rhysand reaffirming his commitment

to vigilance, particularly regarding the human queens, while Azriel’s silent compliance underscores their deep mutual trust. The interplay of political strategy and personal loyalty defines the chapter’s tone.

Chapter 8: Cassian

The chapter opens with Cassian anticipating an approaching storm in Windhaven, disrupting the usual Solstice preparations. He halts training exercises and limits patrols to only the most skilled warriors, aware that enemies might strike despite the harsh weather. The camp braces for being snowed in for days, prompting Cassian to visit the craftsman center to procure winter supplies. The scene sets a tone of urgency and practicality, highlighting Cassian’s leadership and foresight in protecting his people.

Cassian enters Emerie’s clothier shop, noting its relative newness and the warmth inside. He is immediately struck by the scars on Emerie’s wings, evidence of the brutal Illyrian tradition of clipping females’ wings. Despite this, Emerie meets his gaze with defiance, reminiscent of Nesta’s unyielding demeanor. Cassian learns that her father, Proteus, died in the war, leaving her to inherit the shop—a rare occurrence in Illyrian society, where females seldom hold such roles. Their interaction reveals Emerie’s resilience and Cassian’s respect for her strength.

Cassian observes the well-stocked shop, realizing Emerie’s business struggles due to the camp’s biases. He decides to buy all her winter gear, offering payment without condescension. Emerie initially resists charity but accepts the transaction on her terms, meticulously calculating the cost. Cassian’s gesture reflects his understanding of Illyrian pride and his desire to support those marginalized by their own culture. The exchange underscores the tension between tradition and progress in Illyrian society.

In a final act of generosity, Cassian pays Emerie to distribute the winter supplies to those most vulnerable in the camp before the storm hits. Emerie, though wary of her unpopularity, agrees to the task, showing a willingness to help her community. The chapter closes with Cassian’s quiet admiration for Emerie’s courage and a sense of hope for change in Illyrian attitudes. Their partnership hints at potential future collaboration, bridging divides within the camp.

Chapter 9: Feyre

Feyre approaches Ressina’s studio with nervous anticipation, weighed down by both her art supplies and her unease. The streets are alive with festive energy as Solstice approaches, but her focus remains on the daunting prospect of painting in a group for the first time. Despite the merriment around her, she hesitates, unsure of what might emerge when she faces a canvas again. Her internal struggle is compounded by thoughts of Rhys’s upcoming meeting with Tamlin, a confrontation she avoids, leaving her emotionally unsettled.

As Feyre pauses outside the studio, her anxiety peaks, and she communicates with Rhys through their bond. His playful teasing and reassurance momentarily distract her, but the decision to enter or leave remains hers alone. The chapter highlights their intimate connection, as Rhys’s humor and support provide comfort, yet Feyre’s independence shines through. She ultimately chooses not to join the group, instead seeking solitude to confront her creative fears on her own terms.

Feyre winnows into an abandoned gallery nearby, a space frozen in time since the attack. The cold, boarded-up studio still carries the lingering scent of paint, a reminder of its former life. She kindles faelight and flame to warm the space, symbolically reigniting its creative energy. The quiet solitude allows her to breathe deeply, finding solace in the emptiness and the remnants of art that once filled the room. This setting becomes her sanctuary, away from prying eyes and expectations.

Determined to paint alone, Feyre prepares the space, her resolve firm despite the lingering guilt over skipping Ressina’s gathering. The chapter closes with her searching for a stool, ready to begin her work in isolation. This moment captures her journey toward reclaiming her artistry on her own terms, free from external pressures. The abandoned gallery, like Feyre herself, is poised for renewal, marking a quiet but significant step in her personal and creative healing.

Chapter 10: Feyre

Feyre immerses herself in a intense painting session, driven by an urgent need to express the vision in her mind. Her heart races as she works, likening the experience to a racehorse freed from its pen, struggling to keep up with the image unfolding before her. Despite initial fear and physical discomfort, she persists, finding the process both terrifying and liberating. The act of painting becomes a cathartic release, akin to a first stitch closing a wound, as she confronts the raw emotions and truths within herself.

As the painting takes shape, a sense of quiet settles over Feyre, compared to a layer of snow cleansing the earth. The creative process proves more soothing than her efforts to rebuild the city, offering a different kind of fulfillment. She paints until midnight, finally stepping back to examine her work. The painting reveals her true form from the Ouroboros—a beast of scale, claw, and darkness embodying her rage, joy, and coldness. Feyre does not shy away from this reflection of her inner self, embracing it as part of her healing journey.

After completing the painting, Feyre contemplates what to do with it. She decides to leave it in the gallery overnight to dry, unwilling to risk damaging it by taking it into the damp night air. She also avoids bringing it home, not wanting anyone, including Rhys, to discover it. The anonymity of the piece comforts her, as she hasn’t signed her name and no one would know she created it. Her plan is to return the next day to retrieve the painting and find a hidden place for it in the House of Wind.

The chapter concludes with Feyre’s resolve to reclaim her artwork the following day, marking a pivotal moment in her emotional and artistic journey. Through painting, she confronts her deepest self and begins to heal, finding solace in the act of creation. The unfinished business of the painting symbolizes her ongoing process of self-discovery and acceptance. This chapter highlights the transformative power of art and the

courage required to face one’s inner truths.

Chapter 11: Rhysand

The chapter opens with Rhysand arriving at Tamlin's dilapidated Spring Court estate, noting the stark contrast to its former glory. The once-vibrant manor is now a desolate ruin, with withered roses, dry fountains, and claw-marked doors hinting at Tamlin's unchecked rage. Rhysand reflects on Tamlin's temper and the possibility of provoking him further, though he maintains a casual demeanor as he knocks on the door. When Tamlin answers, his haggard appearance and lifeless eyes reveal a male broken by loss and isolation, setting the stage for their tense encounter.

Inside the darkened manor, Rhysand observes the extent of Tamlin's decline—shattered furniture, empty halls, and a pervasive silence. The library, one of the few intact rooms, becomes the setting for their confrontation. Tamlin's bitterness is palpable, but Rhysand resists the urge to gloat outright, instead probing Tamlin's lack of border enforcement and the absence of his sentries. Their exchange is laced with veiled barbs, particularly when Rhysand mentions Feyre's role in Tamlin's downfall, igniting a flicker of anger in the broken High Lord.

The tension escalates as Rhysand deliberately references Feyre as his mate, a pointed reminder of what Tamlin has lost. Though Rhysand acknowledges Tamlin's past actions in saving Feyre's life, he takes cruel satisfaction in Tamlin's suffering, believing it to be deserved. The chapter underscores Rhysand's internal conflict between his desire for peace and his lingering resentment toward Tamlin, who remains a shadow of his former self, trapped in self-inflicted misery.

Ultimately, the encounter highlights the stark contrast between the two High Lords: Rhysand, empowered by love and victory, and Tamlin, consumed by regret and isolation. The chapter leaves their unresolved animosity hanging, with Rhysand's taunts and Tamlin's subdued reactions painting a poignant picture of fallen pride and the consequences of past choices. The Spring Court's decay mirrors Tamlin's inner

turmoil, serving as a metaphor for his irreversible decline.

Chapter 12: Feyre

The chapter opens with Cassian arriving at the townhouse, bringing pine boughs for Solstice decorations. Feyre teases him about his lack of manners, and their playful banter sets a lighthearted tone. Cassian’s infectious energy and Feyre’s sarcastic retorts highlight their close friendship. The scene transitions into a cozy, festive atmosphere as they share wine and attempt to decorate, though their drunken efforts result in a haphazard display.

Azriel arrives to find the decorations in disarray and immediately begins fixing them, much to Cassian and Feyre’s amusement. The trio’s dynamic is warm and humorous, with Azriel’s exasperation contrasting their carefree attitudes. Rhysand joins them, teasing Feyre about her artistic skills while secretly sending her a flirtatious mental message. The group’s camaraderie is palpable, emphasizing their deep bonds and shared history.

The mood shifts slightly when Mor and Amren arrive, bringing their own brand of chaos. Amren’s sharp tongue and Cassian’s quick temper clash, particularly when she mentions Nesta’s upcoming visit. The tension surrounding Nesta is evident, hinting at unresolved conflicts within the group. Feyre defends her sister, showing her protective side, while Rhys remains contemplative.

The chapter concludes with Feyre seeking out Elain in the kitchen, inquiring about Nesta’s absence. The contrast between the festive atmosphere and Nesta’s looming presence underscores the family’s fractured dynamics. Despite the joy of Solstice preparations, the unresolved tension with Nesta casts a shadow, leaving readers curious about her eventual arrival and the potential for confrontation or reconciliation.

Chapter 13: Feyre

Feyre enters the Wolf’s Den tavern to confront her sister Nesta, who is seated with three wealthy High Fae males. The chapter opens with Feyre reflecting on Nesta’s solitary habits and her tendency to bring companions home, though she avoids asking for details. Nesta’s physical appearance is striking—her sharp features and regal bearing contrast with the dingy tavern, earning her the mental moniker "a queen without a throne." Despite the lively atmosphere, Nesta’s cold demeanor and the lingering trauma from the war with Hybern cast a shadow over the scene.

The interaction between the sisters is tense, with Nesta barely acknowledging Feyre’s presence. The males at the table, however, show deference to Feyre, recognizing her status as High Lady. Rhysand’s telepathic commentary adds a layer of humor and intimacy, contrasting with the strained sibling dynamic. Feyre dismisses Nesta’s companions to speak privately, but Nesta remains aloof, her indifference a clear barrier. The power struggle between them is palpable, with Feyre determined to break through Nesta’s icy facade.

Feyre confronts Nesta about skipping a family dinner with Elain, highlighting Elain’s discomfort in such settings. Nesta deflects with sarcasm, implying that Elain’s struggles are a consequence of Feyre’s choices. The unspoken accusation—that Feyre’s actions have irrevocably changed their lives—hangs heavily between them. Nesta’s refusal to engage or compromise underscores her emotional withdrawal, while Feyre’s frustration grows. The chapter captures the sisters’ fractured relationship, with Nesta’s trauma and resentment manifesting as detachment.

The standoff between Feyre and Nesta reveals deeper tensions, including Nesta’s unresolved grief and Feyre’s guilt over their shared past. Nesta’s sharp retorts and Feyre’s restrained responses reflect their conflicting coping mechanisms. The chapter ends on an unresolved note, emphasizing the emotional distance between them.

Through vivid imagery and sharp dialogue, the scene underscores the complexities of family bonds strained by trauma and transformation.

Chapter 14: Rhysand

The chapter opens with Rhysand reflecting on the slow reconstruction of Velaris, particularly along the Sidra River, where Hybern's forces caused the most destruction. The once-grand estates now lie in ruins, their gardens overgrown and boathouses partially submerged. Rhysand recalls his childhood memories of these homes, filled with parties and summer boat races, and laments their unexpected demise. The families who once lived there have no immediate plans to return, with some considering selling their properties rather than rebuilding.

Mor joins Rhysand for a walk through the snow-dusted ruins, marking a rare moment of solitude between them. Their relationship remains strained, with unspoken tensions lingering from the war and past traumas. Rhysand observes the emotional toll on Mor, particularly after her recent encounters with her father, Keir, and Eris. He acknowledges her pain but respects her autonomy, recognizing that some wounds are hers alone to address.

The conversation shifts to Keir's impending visit to Velaris, a prospect that fills Mor with dread. Rhysand reveals that Keir is likely to arrive in spring, and while he offers to shield Mor from the encounter, she refuses to hide. Rhysand reassures her of his support and mentions that Cassian and Azriel have been preparing extensive security measures. Despite the tension, their dialogue reveals a deep mutual trust and understanding.

The chapter concludes with a lighter moment as they discuss Solstice preparations and gifts, including Rhysand's mysterious present for Feyre. Mor's brief laughter and their shared banter provide a respite from the heavier themes, highlighting the enduring bond between them. The interplay of past trauma, present challenges, and fleeting moments of warmth encapsulates the complex dynamics of their relationship.

Chapter 15: Feyre

Feyre struggles to find a meaningful Solstice gift for Rhysand, feeling conflicted about indulging in shopping while others in the city have so little. Her sister Elain joins her for a walk through Velaris, offering a distraction from Feyre’s earlier tension with Nesta. The festive atmosphere of the city contrasts with Feyre’s guilt over excess, as she admires the decorated streets and bustling vendors. Elain’s presence provides comfort, though both sisters seem to be seeking an escape from the household’s unresolved dynamics.

In a weaver’s shop, Feyre is drawn to a striking tapestry depicting the Night Court insignia, woven from an unusual fabric called Void that absorbs light. Elain gently challenges Feyre’s guilt, suggesting that celebrating Solstice traditions honors those who fought for peace. Her wisdom resonates with Feyre, who begins to see the holiday differently. The tapestry’s dark beauty captivates her, though she remains unsure who it would suit as a gift.

Feyre approaches the weaver, a High Fae woman with a quiet, sorrowful demeanor, to inquire about the Void fabric. The weaver explains that she created it after her husband died in the war, channeling her grief into the experimental material. Her honesty strikes a chord with Feyre, who recognizes the depth of loss behind the artistry. The encounter adds weight to Elain’s earlier words about honoring sacrifices, deepening Feyre’s reflection on the meaning of Solstice.

The chapter closes with Feyre still contemplating the tapestry, its symbolism intertwining with her own experiences of war and loss. Elain’s perspective helps her reconcile her discomfort with celebration, framing it as an act of remembrance. The weaver’s story underscores the lingering scars of conflict, even in a city now at peace. Feyre’s internal conflict shifts toward acceptance, hinting at a growing appreciation for the resilience and traditions of Velaris.

Chapter 16: Rhysand

The chapter opens with Cassian and Azriel settling into a small bedroom in Rhysand's townhouse for the Solstice celebrations. Cassian humorously defends bringing weapons as gifts, contrasting them with the jewelry females might bring, sparking playful banter among the brothers. The cramped accommodations highlight their lower priority in the household hierarchy, with Mor and Elain occupying better rooms. The conversation shifts to Lucien's potential arrival, with Cassian teasingly suggesting a wager, which Azriel declines on ethical grounds, referencing past bets about Cassian's injured wings.

Rhysand reflects on the earlier meeting with Illyrian commanders, where Devlon presented a training schedule for girls—a small victory amid ongoing tensions. Azriel and Rhysand withhold full details about brewing unrest in the Illyrian camps to spare Cassian stress during the holiday. The chapter underscores Cassian's strained relationship with his people, who still challenge his authority despite centuries of leadership. The brothers' camaraderie shines through their teasing, particularly about the child-sized beds, which Rhysand jokingly attributes to their "Illyrian baby" tendencies.

Pride swells in Rhysand as he recalls Feyre's progress in flying, a testament to her determination. The lighthearted mood continues with Cassian complaining about the House of Wind's boredom, prompting Rhysand to suggest he get his own place in Velaris. Cassian dismisses the idea, content with a simple room, though he mockingly laments Azriel's shadowy disappearances. The exchange reveals their deep bond and Cassian's preference for companionship over luxury.

Beneath the humor, undercurrents of unresolved conflict linger. Rhysand worries about a potential Illyrian revolt and its emotional toll on Cassian, who yearns for acceptance from his people. The chapter balances festive preparations with hints of future strife,

ending on a note of reluctant postponement—problems to address "after Solstice." The blend of brotherly dynamics, political tension, and seasonal cheer creates a rich, layered narrative.

Chapter 17: Feyre

The chapter opens with Feyre waking up on Solstice morning, her birthday, to the bright sunlight reflecting off the snow. She is groggy from the previous night's celebrations, but her discomfort is quickly overshadowed by the discovery of a beautifully wrapped gift beside her. Rhys, her mate, watches her with amusement, having placed the present there as a birthday surprise. Their playful banter sets a warm and intimate tone, highlighting their deep connection and Rhys's thoughtfulness.

Feyre unwraps the first gift—a luxurious black leather sketchbook monogrammed with her initials. The present is perfectly suited to her artistic nature, and she is deeply touched by Rhys's attention to detail. Their affectionate exchange continues as Rhys reveals more gifts: a soft sky-blue scarf to replace the one she often borrowed from Mor, and a new satchel for her painting supplies. Each gift reflects Rhys's understanding of her preferences, emphasizing his devotion and the simplicity of their love.

The chapter takes a playful turn as Feyre decides to draw Rhys as a birthday gift to herself. Their flirtatious interaction escalates when Rhys, with a hint of mischief, poses nude for her, basking in the sunlight. Feyre fills several pages of her sketchbook with detailed drawings of him, capturing his wings, tattoos, and other intimate features. The scene underscores their mutual admiration and the joy they find in each other's company, blending romance with lighthearted humor.

The chapter concludes with Feyre and Rhys joining the rest of their companions for breakfast. The quiet morning is interrupted when Cassian and Azriel, dressed in Illyrian leathers, drag Rhys away for what promises to be a rowdy adventure. Feyre, amused but unconcerned, continues her meal, trusting them to return Rhys unharmed. The ending leaves a sense of camaraderie and anticipation, hinting at the lively dynamics of their close-knit group.

Chapter 18: Feyre

In Chapter 18 of *A Court of Frost and Starlight*, Feyre engages in a tense yet civil conversation with Lucien during the Solstice festivities. The chapter opens with Lucien visiting Feyre and Elain, bringing gifts as part of the tradition. The atmosphere is awkward, particularly due to Elain's silent and distant demeanor. Lucien's presence seems to unsettle her, and Feyre attempts to mediate the interaction, offering Lucien a place to stay for the night, which he declines. The dialogue hints at unresolved tensions, especially regarding Elain's past engagement and Lucien's unspoken feelings as her mate.

Lucien reveals that he has been spending time with Jurian and Vassa at a manor in the human territories, a detail that piques Feyre's interest. He shares updates about their efforts to stabilize the region, though the conversation briefly touches on the broader political instability in Prythian. Lucien's admiration for Jurian's leadership and Vassa's resilience is evident, but the discussion shifts back to Elain when she abruptly leaves the room. This moment underscores the emotional strain between Lucien and Elain, which becomes the focal point of the latter half of the chapter.

Once alone with Feyre, Lucien openly expresses his frustration and concern about Elain's lingering attachment to her former fiancé, Graysen. Feyre acknowledges Elain's heartbreak but urges Lucien to be patient, emphasizing that healing takes time. Lucien's reaction reveals his inner conflict as a mate torn between his instincts and the reality of Elain's feelings. The tension between them highlights the complexities of their bond and the challenges of moving forward when emotions remain raw and unresolved.

The chapter concludes with Feyre suggesting that Lucien stay at the town house after Solstice to spend more time with Elain, an idea he dismisses due to her apparent aversion to him. Their exchange underscores the painful distance between Lucien and

Elain, as well as Feyre’s role as a mediator. The chapter leaves readers with a sense of lingering melancholy, reflecting the broader themes of love, loss, and the struggle to rebuild relationships in the aftermath of trauma.

Chapter 19: Feyre

The chapter opens with Feyre and Mor relaxing in a cabin after Azriel, Rhys, and Cassian return from a snowy outdoor competition, victorious and exuberant. The men retreat to a cedar-lined steam shed, a traditional Illyrian practice called the "birchin," which Mor explains with amused disdain. Feyre and Rhys engage in playful mental banter, with Rhys teasing her about joining them and Feyre coyly deflecting. Their flirtation escalates as Feyre sends him a provocative memory, leading to Rhys being abruptly kicked out of the shed, much to Mor’s delight. The scene highlights the close, teasing dynamic between the characters.

The narrative shifts to a Solstice celebration at the town house, where the group gathers in formal attire. Rhys offers a toast to the darkness, a nod to their shared heritage, before the mood lightens with casual teasing among the friends. Feyre, wearing her Starfall gown, exchanges affectionate, private remarks with Rhys, who pinches her playfully. The warmth of the gathering is palpable, with Elain observing the snowfall and Azriel approaching her with a quiet "Happy Solstice." The interactions underscore the familial bonds and lighthearted camaraderie of the group.

The celebration takes a heartfelt turn as Rhys presents Feyre with a towering birthday cake, revealing that her sisters and friends had conspired to surprise her. The cake’s tiers are decorated with symbols representing each sister—flowers for Elain, flames for Nesta, and stars for Feyre—mirroring a painted chest from her past. Elain explains that the design honors Feyre as their foundation, moving her deeply. The moment is punctuated by Mor’s boisterous demand for presents, blending emotional sincerity with the group’s characteristic humor.

The chapter closes with a sense of unity and celebration, emphasizing the themes of family, love, and tradition. Feyre’s birthday becomes a symbolic occasion to reflect on her journey and the bonds she shares with her mate, sisters, and friends. The blend of

playful teasing, intimate moments, and heartfelt gestures captures the essence of their relationships, leaving the reader with a warm, uplifting conclusion to the chapter.

Chapter 20: Feyre

The chapter opens with Feyre and Nesta facing each other across a threshold, the tension palpable as snow clings to Nesta's hair. Despite the festive atmosphere inside, Nesta hesitates, her cold demeanor mirroring the winter night. Feyre attempts to bridge the gap by offering to take her coat, while Elain intervenes with a cheerful invitation to join by the fire. Nesta's wary gaze lingers on Feyre before she finally steps inside, marking a fragile moment of connection between the sisters.

Inside the sitting room, the group's forced conversation highlights their unease around Nesta. Cassian's relaxed posture contrasts with his watchful attention as Nesta enters, while Amren's blunt remark about Nesta's appearance sparks a brief but tense exchange. Nesta's subtle smile at Amren's earrings momentarily diffuses the tension, revealing a glimmer of her former self. The absence of gifts for Nesta underscores her strained relationship with the group, though Elain's quick thinking presents her with a box of novels, a gesture that elicits a stiff but genuine thanks.

The chapter shifts focus to the group's Solstice celebrations, with Mor gifting Azriel embroidered towels and Cassian receiving red silk undershorts, lightening the mood. Feyre observes these interactions from the doorway, torn between her concern for Nesta and the need to maintain the festive spirit. Rhysand's deliberate change of topic to Summer Court celebrations provides a temporary distraction, while Feyre distributes her own thoughtful gifts, including a puzzle carrier for Amren and a gardening cloak for Elain, showcasing her attention to their individual preferences.

The chapter closes with Feyre preparing to present paintings to Cassian, Azriel, and Mor, hinting at deeper connections and unspoken emotions. Nesta's presence lingers in the background, her isolation and tentative steps toward reconciliation remaining a central theme. The juxtaposition of festive joy and underlying tension captures the complexity of family dynamics, leaving the reader with a sense of both hope and

unresolved conflict as the Solstice gathering continues.

Chapter 21: Cassian

Cassian, frustrated by Nesta's cold demeanor and emotional distance, confronts her after a tense gathering at the house. Despite her sharp rebuffs and refusal to engage, he insists on walking her home through the snowy streets, revealing his lingering concern for her safety. Their exchange is charged with unresolved tension, as Cassian struggles to reconcile the fierce, vulnerable woman he once knew with the closed-off stranger she has become. Nesta, meanwhile, remains defiant, rejecting his attempts to bridge the gap between them.

The chapter delves into Cassian's internal conflict as he grapples with his feelings for Nesta. He recalls her bravery during the battle with Hybern, where she shielded him at great personal risk, contrasting it with her current isolation and self-destructive behavior. Though he claims indifference to her choices, his actions—like carrying a carefully chosen Solstice gift—betray his deep investment in her well-being. Nesta, however, remains unyielding, dismissing his gestures with biting remarks.

Their walk becomes a battleground of wills, with Nesta repeatedly demanding Cassian leave her alone. He provokes her with teasing grins and stubborn persistence, refusing to abandon her despite her hostility. The tension escalates when he reveals the gift, which she outright rejects. Cassian's frustration peaks as he accuses her of playing games, while Nesta defends her right to autonomy, blaming their world for her suffering.

The chapter culminates in a heated confrontation where Nesta orders Cassian to stop interfering in her life. Her venomous words underscore her resentment toward the forced camaraderie of the court, while Cassian's wounded pride and unspoken care create a poignant stalemate. The unresolved dynamic between them—marked by trauma, pride, and unacknowledged connection—leaves both characters at an impasse, setting the stage for further emotional reckoning.

Chapter 22: Feyre

The chapter opens with Feyre observing the late-night dynamics of her inner circle. Cassian returns home brooding and drinks before retreating upstairs, followed by a concerned Mor. Meanwhile, Azriel remains with Elain, who shares her garden plans with him. Feyre silently appreciates Azriel's kindness before she and Rhys slip away. Rhys stops her from removing her diamond cuffs, hinting at a surprise, and winnows them to a secluded cabin—a space he's arranged for privacy. The intimate setting, with its candlelight and fire, sets the stage for a tender moment between them.

As they settle in, Rhys admires Feyre's gown, sparking a deeper conversation about its origins. He reveals that the dress—and all her favorite gowns—were handmade centuries ago by his mother, a skilled seamstress, as part of a trousseau for his future bride. Feyre is deeply moved by the revelation, expressing her honor at wearing such meaningful garments. Rhys shares his belief that his mother would have loved her, and the emotional weight of the moment binds them closer. Their connection is palpable as they linger in quiet understanding, breathing each other in.

The tone shifts slightly as Feyre broaches another significant topic: she asks Rhys to alter the markings on her palms, replacing the eye symbols with the Night Court insignia—a mountain and three stars. Rhys cautions her that the change is permanent, but Feyre confidently affirms her commitment to their future together. Their playful banter about his past snooping lightens the mood, yet the gravity of the decision underscores their deepening bond. Rhys agrees, and the new markings appear on her palms, symbolizing her unwavering loyalty to him and their court.

In the chapter's closing moments, Feyre reveals a final Solstice gift to Rhys through their mental connection, though its nature remains unspecified. His emotional reaction—shaking hands and ragged breathing—hints at its profound significance. When he asks if she's sure, she reaffirms her certainty, and he responds that the gift is

“beyond measure.” The chapter ends with a sense of anticipation and mutual devotion, leaving their future open to possibilities while solidifying their unbreakable partnership.

Chapter 23: Rhysand

The chapter opens with Rhysand reflecting on the profound emotional and physical connection he shares with Feyre, emphasizing how their intimacy has left him utterly devoted to her. He cherishes the memory of her joy upon seeing the riverfront estate he gifted her, a stark contrast to the somber task that brings him to Tamlin’s decaying manor. Upon arriving, Rhysand senses Tamlin’s presence in the kitchen, where he finds the Spring High Lord in a state of despair, staring at a dead elk. The scene is grim, with blood pooling on the floor, symbolizing Tamlin’s emotional and physical deterioration.

Rhysand attempts to engage Tamlin, noting the eerie silence and the High Lord’s lack of response. He mentions his arrangement with Varian to send Summer Court soldiers to Spring’s border, a gesture of uneasy alliance. Tamlin’s eventual question—whether Feyre will forgive him—reveals his guilt and brokenness. Rhysand’s internal conflict is palpable; he harbors deep resentment for Tamlin’s past actions, particularly the harm done to his family, yet he recognizes the necessity of cooperation in their post-war world. The tension between personal vendetta and political pragmatism underscores their interaction.

The dialogue delves into themes of forgiveness and redemption, with Tamlin questioning whether he deserves absolution. Rhysand’s blunt response—that an apology would never suffice—highlights the irreparable damage between them. Despite this, Rhysand’s actions hint at a reluctant compassion. He uses his magic to prepare the elk for cooking, urging Tamlin to eat and survive, not out of kindness but out of necessity. This moment reflects Rhysand’s pragmatic understanding that Tamlin’s leadership is still needed, even if their personal wounds remain unhealed.

The chapter closes with Rhysand departing, leaving Tamlin to his solitude. His final act—preparing food for Tamlin—is a paradoxical blend of cold practicality and fleeting

empathy, driven by Feyre’s influence and the broader needs of their world. The encounter underscores the complexity of their relationship, torn between past animosities and present obligations. Rhysand’s actions, though devoid of forgiveness, suggest a reluctant acknowledgment of their shared stakes in the fragile new order they must navigate together.

Chapter 24: Morrigan

Morrigan reflects on her decision to delay her trip to the Winter Court, keeping her true destination—Athelwood, her private estate—a secret from even her closest friends. She cherishes the solitude and freedom of this hidden retreat, where she can ride her beloved horse, Ellia, across the snowy hills. The estate, purchased centuries ago for its tranquility and horses, offers her a rare sense of peace and connection to the land. Riding allows her to feel truly alive, contrasting with the instantaneous but detached experience of winnowing.

As Mor rides through Athelwood, she contemplates Rhysand’s request for her to embark on a dangerous mission to the continent. While the adventure calls to her adventurous spirit, she hesitates due to the implications of her father’s bargain with Eris. She wrestles with feelings of cowardice and guilt, particularly regarding Azriel, whose protective nature she knows would clash with her desire for independence. The weight of her unspoken decision lingers, casting a shadow over her otherwise rejuvenating retreat.

During her ride, Mor and Ellia sense an unsettling presence in the nearby woods—a mysterious, watchful darkness unlike Azriel’s shadows. Though her power warns her against approaching, she observes it from a distance, feeling an eerie familiarity. Choosing caution, she decides to return home, unsettled but intrigued by the encounter. The incident adds to her internal conflict, mirroring the unknown dangers she might face on her potential journey.

The chapter closes with Mor’s contemplation of the uncharted lands beyond the Night Court, her heart torn between the call of adventure and the comfort of home. The rhythmic gallop of Ellia echoes her restless spirit, as the unanswered question of whether to go or stay lingers in the air. The chapter captures Mor’s complex emotions, blending her love for freedom with the weight of duty and unresolved personal

tensions.

Chapter 25: Feyre

Feyre stands before Polina’s abandoned studio, now cleaned and open, holding a brass key gifted to her by Polina’s family. Despite her attempts to pay for the space, the family refuses her money, leaving her stunned and emotional. Ressina, a fellow artist, finds her there and greets her warmly, noticing Feyre’s bewildered expression. Feyre reveals the unexpected generosity of Polina’s family, who handed her the deed and key without accepting payment, leaving her grappling with the weight of their kindness.

Polina’s sister suggests Feyre donate the money she offered to the Brush and Chisel, a charity supporting struggling artists. Ressina explains the organization’s purpose—providing financial aid to artists so they can focus on their work without hardship. Feyre is deeply moved, recalling her own past struggles with hunger and the scarcity of art supplies. The revelation of such a supportive community overwhelms her, highlighting how far she’s come from her days of deprivation.

As Feyre processes the studio’s newfound potential, she hears the Suriel’s echoing words: a plea to leave the world better than she found it. This moment solidifies her resolve to use the space for a greater purpose. She turns to Ressina, proposing a partnership to transform the studio into something meaningful. The chapter captures Feyre’s emotional journey from shock to inspiration, as she contemplates how to honor Polina’s legacy and her own values.

The chapter concludes with Feyre’s determination to create a positive impact through art, symbolized by her offer to collaborate with Ressina. Her growth is evident as she shifts from uncertainty to purposeful action, embracing her role as both an artist and a benefactor. The studio, once abandoned, now represents hope and opportunity, mirroring Feyre’s own transformation and her commitment to fostering a better world for artists like herself.

Chapter 26: Rhysand

The chapter opens with Rhysand observing a group of young Illyrian girls reluctantly participating in combat training under Devlon’s supervision. Though their numbers are small and their enthusiasm lacking, their presence marks a significant step toward challenging traditional Illyrian gender norms. Rhysand notes the symbolic taunt of Illyrian bows placed nearby—a weapon many males struggle to wield—and privately vows to personally train any girl who dares to attempt mastering them. The scene is set against the stark backdrop of Windhaven camp, freshly covered in snow, emphasizing the harshness of both the environment and the societal barriers the girls face.

Rhysand, Cassian, and Azriel discuss the sparse attendance of female trainees, attributing it to families being away for Solstice. The conversation shifts to the growing dissent within Illyrian camps, particularly from the rival Ironcrest clan led by the troublesome Kallon. Cassian’s restrained reaction to Kallon’s provocations reveals his respect for Illyrian traditions like the Rite, despite Azriel’s darker suggestions for dealing with the agitator. The tension underscores the broader struggle to reform Illyrian culture while navigating its deeply ingrained hierarchies and rivalries.

The dynamics between the three leaders take center stage as Rhysand attempts to reassure Cassian about the progress represented by the girls’ training. Azriel’s presence, met with fear by the camp’s women, highlights his complex relationship with his Illyrian heritage. Cassian’s stoic demeanor hints at unresolved personal wounds tied to their mission of fostering change. Rhysand’s internal reflections reveal his understanding of Cassian’s emotional stakes, emphasizing the slow, arduous nature of their efforts to transform Illyrian society.

The chapter closes with a moment of solidarity as Rhysand offers Cassian encouragement, acknowledging the incremental nature of their progress. Cassian’s

insistence on long-term commitment over quick wins reflects the depth of his investment in empowering Illyrian females. The final lines—"Our world might very well depend on it"—elevate their personal mission to a cosmic scale, suggesting that societal reform is intertwined with the survival of their world. The chapter masterfully balances intimate character moments with broader themes of resistance and cultural evolution.

Chapter 27: Feyre

Feyre and Ressina prepare for the inaugural class at their newly gifted art studio, a space they have spent weeks readying. Dressed in practical work clothes splattered with paint, they anxiously await the arrival of their students. The studio's design reflects careful consideration—bright white walls for the front room to showcase art, while the back room bursts with vibrant colors. A tapestry depicting the Void and Hope hangs as a poignant reminder to create through loss, symbolizing the studio's purpose.

Ten children, accompanied by hesitant yet hopeful parents, arrive for the class. Feyre and Ressina's initiative aims to provide a creative outlet for children affected by the war, offering free art classes as a therapeutic escape. The response from the community has been overwhelming, with inquiries pouring in from families and volunteer instructors alike. The studio becomes a beacon of healing, where art serves as a balm for trauma, mirroring Feyre's own journey of coping through creativity.

The chapter highlights the collaborative effort behind the studio, with Ressina's design expertise and Feyre's leadership shaping its vision. The space is not just a physical location but a symbol of resilience and community. Feyre's nervous excitement reflects her deep investment in the project, as she steps into her role as a mentor. The presence of the children and their guardians underscores the shared hope for healing and expression.

As the class begins, Feyre and Ressina exchange a relieved glance, marking the start of a meaningful endeavor. The studio represents more than art—it's a sanctuary for those grappling with loss, a place where creativity fosters connection and recovery. Feyre's smile as she addresses the families encapsulates the chapter's theme: art as a transformative force, offering light amid darkness. The studio's success lies not in its aesthetics but in its ability to nurture hope and resilience in its participants.

Chapter 28: Feyre

Feyre concludes a chaotic yet meaningful art session with children, many of whom bear visible and invisible scars from past trauma. Rhysand arrives, offering his characteristic charm and warmth as he observes the paint-splattered gallery and Feyre's disheveled state. The children's creative expressions range from playful mischief—like the paint bubble incident—to heartbreaking depictions of loss, such as a young faerie's painting of her deceased parents. Feyre resolves to keep the latter as a reminder of their purpose, showcasing her growing empathy and leadership.

The couple shares lighthearted moments, laughing at a boy's humorous painting of his imagined future with a dog, while also acknowledging the deeper struggles these children face. Rhysand's playful banter and Feyre's affectionate exasperation highlight their deep bond. As they prepare to leave for lunch, their easy camaraderie with Ressina and the Rainbow's bustling community underscores their integration into the Court's daily life. The scene captures a balance between joy and solemn responsibility.

Walking through the city, Feyre reflects on her newfound happiness and excitement for each day, a stark contrast to her past despair. She acknowledges the challenges ahead—political tensions with Illyrians and human queens—but focuses on the present joy Rhysand brings her. Their emotional exchange, conveyed through their bond and whispered words, reveals their mutual gratitude and love. Rhysand's tears and Feyre's tenderness underscore the depth of their connection.

The chapter closes with a poignant affirmation of their commitment to face the future together, symbolized by their matching tattoos and shared vows. Their playful banter and kisses blend seamlessly with profound declarations of love, as they walk home toward an uncertain but hopeful future. The final lines, echoing their signature promises to the stars and dreams, encapsulate the chapter's themes of resilience, love, and unwavering partnership.