

Chapter 16

Chapter 16 opens with the protagonist, after enjoying a long bath, sitting by the fireplace in her room, enjoying the comfort of Alis brushing her damp hair. Alis serves her molten chocolate, which she finds exquisitely delightful. The peaceful moment leads to a discussion about the increasing faerie attacks and the looming threat of war, revealing the protagonist's concerns for her family and the human world. Alis warns her not to dwell on such thoughts and shares a personal story of loss, emphasizing her dedication to her nephews, hinting at the complexities of faerie life and how precious their young are.

As the protagonist contemplates warning her family about the potential dangers, she questions the faeries' aging process and learns from Alis about the rarity and preciousness of faerie children. Alis advises the protagonist to trust Lord Tamlin with the matter, highlighting his sole capability of addressing the issue. The conversation shifts to the protagonist's futile attempt to gather information about faerie politics and the implication of her actions as per Alis's reprimands, stressing the protagonist's naivety and recklessness in trying to navigate faerie affairs.

Later, at dinner, interactions with Lucien and Tamlin reveal that faeries can indeed lie, contradicting previous beliefs held by the protagonist. This revelation forces her to question the authenticity of everything she's been told since her arrival. Amidst these revelations, Tamlin confirms that her family is safe, with their memories altered to protect them from the truth, illustrating his protective measures despite the manipulative nature of faerie magic.

The chapter concludes with a deeper connection forming between Tamlin and the protagonist, as they discuss family, sacrifices, and the blurred lines of friendship and alliance between faeries and humans. The protagonist requests painting supplies from Tamlin, wishing to pursue her interest in art, marking a shift to finding personal solace and expression despite the overarching tension of faerie politics and looming threats. This request symbolizes a moment of vulnerability and a step towards embracing her new life among the faeries, indicative of her gradual adaptation and the potential for growth amidst uncertainty.