

Best Book Club with Shanna and Jen Podcast
Season 1, Episode 21 - May 19, 2021

A Court of Mist and Fury by Sarah J. Maas Book Review and Discussion - Part Two

Shanna: Hello Everyone and welcome to the best book club podcast! I'm Shanna

Jen: And I'm Jen

Shanna: And today we are picking up right where we left off last week in our discussion of A Court of Mist and Fury so if you missed that one, don't even bother listening to this one because we are starting right smack dab in the middle.

Jen: Okay, these are long episodes, but before we get into it, I'm gonna need to talk about what I've been reading. Talk as in I need a therapist but, you will suffice for now.

Jen: Okay, now onto the book. We left off with Feyre and Amren stealing the book of breathings from the summer court and we ended the episode talking about the slow burn of love that was happening between Feyre and Rhys. I think this next part is where their relationship takes a bit of a more serious turn?

Shanna:

Yes so far it's pretty much just been Feyre trying really hard to suppress the huge lady boner she has for Rhys.

Jen: Which she still feels quite a lot of guilt for! She mentions a little later on that Tamlin had been so kind to her and had given her so much and helped her family so much and the way that she repays him is by wanting another male. She still doesn't really see how bad it was with him or at least she doesn't know that she deserves better than that - which makes sense, she still hasn't forgiven herself for what she was forced to do under the mountain.

Shanna: They are at the town house and Feyre is about to fall asleep when the house lets out a groan and darkness is leaking into her room. It's a darkness that she recognizes instantly as Rhys's and she runs to his room. On the way pain, despair, guilt and fear wash over her.

Jen: I really loved the visuals in this scene. Actually I really love all the visuals of the night court and of Rhysand's power. I love the thought of opening a door and night and stars and wind pours out.

Shanna: Yeah that's super pretty.

Shanna: Rhysand is having a nightmare and Feyre manages to pull him out of it. Feyre asks him how often it happens to him and he says that it's as often as it happens to her, but he doesn't want to talk about it.

Jen: Yeah this scene isn't super important to the plot but I really enjoyed it. It was quite intense as far as nightmares go and it was good to see Rhys be a little bit more vulnerable and I especially think that it helped set up for the next part of the book.

Shanna: It's very much another example of how Rhys and Tamlin are exact opposites. You remember that they are looking for the other half of the book of breathings? Well, the Queens have finally responded to them but they don't believe them because Rhys is the high lord of the night court and he pretends to be a super villain basically. They want proof that they would be helping the good guys and not the bad guys. Rhys decides to tell them about Velaris but he won't take them there, he is just going to show them, but to do that he needs this special orb called the Veritas that has been in Mors family forever. But they don't want anyone to know what they are planning so they can't just ask for it. They have to go to the court of nightmares and take it.

Jen: Okay, I have a question. It's been a little while since I've read this book, so maybe it was explained somewhere but...Rhys is the most powerful high lord, he is the high lord of the night court, he is daemati, he can control minds. I just feel like he should be able to use those powers for pretty much every problem in this book

Shanna: He kind of does? I mean, he's not not using them anyways. And he's pretty nice considering he could just mind fuck everyone into doing whatever he wants. I think maybe it's a case of great power and great responsibility? He's basically spider man is what I'm saying.

Jen: Basically, but also...I feel like he could do more...I feel like Rhys is Peter Parker but he should be able to be Spider Man or even SuperMan.

Shanna: Here is one point where Rhys doesn't really want to take Feyre with him. The mask that he has to wear as high lord of the night court isn't one that he wants Feyre to see him wearing because she only just recently started looking at him like he wasn't a monster and also he can't stomach the thought of anything she sees putting her right back under the mountain. Not only does he not want her to see him like that, he doesn't want to trigger her pain. Regardless, Feyre wants to help wherever she can and with Rhys, she isn't scared.

Jen: So, off to the city of nightmares they go!

Shanna: Oof yeah. Yep. I know what's coming and I remember messaging you here ...

Jen: Hahaha! Yes you did. I loved this part. I love the stuff of nightmares. I loved this whole scene. Everyone is there waiting for Rhys to come in and when he does, it's pretty cool. He

strolls in, the entirety of his power fully unleashed. He was so cool. The scene I have playing in my head is so great.

Shanna: So Feyre is there to continue on with the role that she had played under the mountain. "The high lord's whore." Her words, not ours! She is there to distract the night court while Azriel goes off to steal the veritas and it is very effective. Kier who is Mor's father and - what's his job? He has an official night court job - I dunno - He is very aware that Feyre is supposed to be Tamlin's...property? So he is wondering what statement Rhysand is trying to make by bringing her there. Feyre and Rhys sit up on the throne and put on quite the show.

Jen: Wow. The sexual tension in this scene was intense. Those two tease each other and us almost to death. I did love that they still managed to have some sweetness injected in there. They communicate through their bond and at one point she comforts him and says "You are good. You are kind. This mask does not scare me. I see you beneath it." I just love them.

Shanna: Yes it was ok. I mean, yes very sexy. I am not against the sexiness. It's just ... didn't you find this scene a little ... long? It felt a little like wank material after awhile which was only strange because I am reading a fantasy novel, not an erotic novel. I dunno lol maybe I'm the prude here, it just felt like a bit much. This will not be the last time I say this though ...

Jen: I remember you saying that and I'm so glad that you get to be the prude for once! And when I got to that part of the book again, it was about 5 pages from the time she sat down on his lap until the time she got off it so it was a bit long, but I didn't find it to be too long for myself. I would much rather read a book that I'm really enjoying and be surprised with some great erotic parts rather than read a crappy erotic novel that sucks and from what very little experience I have with erotica...they've all sucked haha. But if you aren't looking for some spice in that moment I could see it being a little much for sure.

Shanna: I guess when you add cleaning the kitchen while kids are running around it may also detract from the overall sexiness yes.

Jen: Yeah that's not a time when you really want to feel sexy. It makes it a bit awkward actually. Also, I have read the next book so I might be a little used to it by now too. It doesn't get.. less. Azriel gets the veritas and Rhys tells Feyre to leave and as she walks by Kier, he says, "You'll get what's coming to you, whore." And Rhys flips out and demands that he apologize to her. When he doesn't right away, Rhys starts to break many of his bones and says that he is not to see a healer and that if he does, he will basically rip him to pieces.

Shanna: I mean, I don't know what he expected really.

Jen: So bad ass. I love bad boy Rhys.

Shanna: When they leave the court of nightmares, they end up in a fight.

Jen: They were pretty amped up after all that. It's pretty much inevitable. They don't talk for a while but eventually apologize. It's not super important to the story but I think shows that they aren't perfect but also that they have the ability to make up and cope with conflict in a healthier way than Feyre and Tamlin. Obviously.

Shanna: It's a pretty low bar, but yes they clear it spectacularly. Then we have Starfall.

Jen: Okay. I know I mentioned it in the last episode that Feyre and Rhys's relationship is so the complete opposite of Feyre and Tamlin's, but I actually think that this entire book is written that way. It's almost a complete retelling of the first book. Think about it, Feyre gets taken away from her home against her will. It turns out that it's not so bad and she falls in love with her "captor". There is technically even an "under the mountain" scene that we just saw that obviously went much different for her. In this particular moment we have an annual faerie festival. In the first book we have Calanmai which was a primal, anamistic sex ritual that made everyone crazed with the scent of women. And then here we have Starfall which is a beautiful migration of spirits over the night sky. Instead of being attacked and man handled, Feyre has a lovely time and though there are vulnerable moments, it's overall light and fun. I was a little confused when the spirits started splattering all over them like a broken glow stick....but that's a whole other thing.

Shanna: Oh yeah everything is totally the opposite. Even the two guys' appearances are night and day. Or should I say night and spring?

Jen: Alright so everyone goes off to one of the Illyerian war camps. Why? I don't remember and I tried reading for the answer but got none. So who knows, but they stay there for a little while and Feyre trains and learns more about Rhys's family. Turns out that the relationship between Tamlin and Rhys is a bit more complicated.

Shanna: I mean it HAD to be. I was so glad to start getting a bit more background in their beef.

Jen: Basically, Rhys and Tamlin were almost friends for a while but Tamlin's family was threatened by the power of Rhys's family. So, Tamlin's family brutally killed Rhys's mother and sister and then Rhys and his father went to the spring court and killed Tamlin's whole family. Rhys managed to save Tamlin though but that only gave Tamlin time to kill Rhys's father. So that is bound to mess them up for sure.

Shanna: Yeah. Yeah that's one way to end a friendship for sure. Feyre is out in the woods getting ready to train when she is suddenly surrounded by spring court sentinels which include Lucian. I was actually so pumped to see Lucian. Obviously it was bad news but also like I said I want him to have a bigger role in the story so I was glad he was at least getting some page time.

Jen: He got a tip that she was here and he has come to take her home. She says no and Lucian tells her about how sorry Tamlin is.

Shanna: Cry me a river Tamlin.

Jen: Feyre knows that if Lucian touches her, he will be able to winnow her way. Just as he lunges for her though, she is gone. She manages to winnow away from him for the first time. She tells him not to look for her again, she will never go back, but Lucian is convinced that Rhys has done something to Feyre to make her this way. The Feyre uses the shapeshifting power that she got from Tamlin and she sprouts Illyerian wings from her back which is enough to get Lucian and the others to back off and leave her be.

Shanna: So then they fly off to stay at an Inn.

Jen: Why? Again, I don't really know but considering what happens next, we can only assume that an Inn is an okay place to start doing it..

Shanna: Lol oh yeah, I call this part of the book "Just the Tip"

Jen: Well it's probably more so that they can get dry and warm and have food. The doing it is just a bonus. If you haven't guessed, this is where they finally get together. Well kind of. They start making out and Rhys keeps asking her what she wants. Obviously he wants her to say that she wants him but she lies and says that she just wants some fun and a distraction which breaks Rhys's heart but he still goes along with it anyways. Here is something that doesn't happen very often in any kind of storytelling, Rhys gives Feyre immense pleasure and then says, nah I don't need any reciprocation, maybe next time. And then they go to sleep. If you are looking for the steamy stuff, I highly recommend Feyre and Rhys's steam instead of that Tamlin guy's. Tamlin who?

Shanna: Co-signed. As they are flying back to the camp, they are attacked by Hybern soldiers.

Jen: Okay, now I remember. Earlier they were also attacked by someone shooting ash arrows at them but they managed to get away unharmed. Since then, Rhys hasn't been using his magic, including winnowing, so that he can't be traced. Okay got it. When Lucian appeared the day before, Rhys used some magic to hide his wings and that now allowed him to be tracked.

Shanna: Okay so yeah, so he is flying with Feyre in his arms when he is hit with ash arrows right through the wings. The ash is sucking his power, he can't do anything so they are falling. Feyre manages to put a shield around herself but Rhys is lost and she can't find him. She finds a cave where the attackers are hiding and she kicks their asses. Literally it says "blood sprayed - winnow, strike; winnow, strike" Once they are all dead, she finds Rhys and he's not doing well. He is riddled with arrows and even worse, the arrows were poisoned. I loved full blood lust Feyre! I want more of her please!

Jen: While she does this, to distract him from the pain, she tells him a story about how she used to paint - flowers and plants for Elaine, flames for Nesta and then Rhys asked what she

painted for herself and she said -the night sky. WAAAAA. I know that I said before that I don't enjoy the fact that Feyre paints, and luckily she is too depressed to do much painting talk in this book but I loved this. She didn't have any reason to paint the night sky but she thinks that maybe a part of her knew what was waiting for her. Love it.

Shanna: It's so sweet, and the hindsight on this moment later when we learn more makes it even sweeter!

Jen: I love all the little hindights that we get that stitch the entire story together! The next day, although Feyre has removed all the arrows, Rhys's condition has worsened and she needs to find out how to cure him from the poison so she heads out to catch the Suriel, which is supposed to be hard to do but she does it...again

Shanna: Yeah I've had a hard time buying this whole Suriel nonsense with her. It's just a strange thing for her to always get right exactly when she needs to and first try. Fishy.

Jen: Right? Especially since the first time she did it, she was still human. Although, I think something is coming to me...I think that this time, the Suriel got caught on purpose or something? Because in the first book, she saved him from another faerie? I can't remember but I'm pretty sure it was explained. But, I do think that the Suriel makes everything just a little too easy. I mean, I love the Suriel and I love this book but it's one thing that I'm a little...something about. It's that information dump thing that I'm always complaining about. Need to know some information? Don't worry, we have creepy being who will tell you everything you need to know! And if Feyre was so good at catching it, maybe she should have asked it way more stuff. I don't know. It's fine but also...easy.

Shanna: But anyways, the Suriel tells her that to save Rhys, he must drink her blood because it contains the healing power taken from the high lord of the Dawn Court. Then the Suriel also lets it slip that Rhys and Feyre are mates!

Jen: Wanna hear something surprising? I had NO idea that this was coming. Hahah. Omg. Obviously when I look back, it was... obvious. But I was completely shocked. And then I was stoked.

Shanna: I actually also didn't see this coming. But, I also get such ick vibes from the term "mate" so maybe I was just ignoring it. Something about the way she uses "Male", "Female", and "Mate" in these stories is just ... I dunno yucky feeling to me.

Jen: Me too! I feel the same way. Looking back throughout the book at the few times where "mates" were mentioned. I definitely glossed over it. They talked about Rhys mother and father being mates and Feyre was waiting for her mating bond to snap into place with Tamlin but it didn't. I didn't really pay attention to these parts because yeah...Mate...ew. Also, not so much in this book but definitely in the next one "my mate:" almost replaces Rhys's name which gets to be really annoying.

Shanna: I am sure it's an "othering" kind of thing because they aren't human, but yeah. I dunno. Maybe I said something in the last book. I still don't like it.

Jen: Yeah that makes sense. The only reason I can forgive it is because they aren't human. In a human story it would be really really gross. Feyre, though is not super forgiving, she is pissed because the Suriel also lets her know that Rhys has known about it for quite awhile. After giving Rhys her blood she makes him talk and it turns out that not only did he suspect it for quite a while but knew for sure when Amarantha killed her and that he felt the bond snap into place when they were all released from under the mountain in the first book which was six months before.

Shanna: She was SO MAD. And, I dunno ok, feel your feelings Feyre, but freaking out isn't going to change it I guess? Since, it's like a magic involuntary thing it's not like Rhys chose it either. He maybe could have mentioned it though. Why didn't he? Because she would freak out maybe? Oh, or the weird sex frenzy, maybe that was why.

Jen: It was a little bit much to be honest. I don't know, from my perspective, I saw it as Rhys wanting her to have the choice to be with him and not have it be something that's forced on her and I thought was pretty nice but also, it would be good to be told really important information about yourself. I can see both sides, but really I'm on Rhysand's side.

Shanna: Grumpy Feyre decides she needs some time away to be mad at everyone, so luckily the gang has a winter ski cabin that she can go to. I thought this was so funny. Maybe I was imagining it wrong, but I totally imagined a remote ski cabin where the group of them would laugh and be wearing 80's style ski gear and laughing all cheezy around a fireplace. It was so human and didn't fit in with the rest of the story at all but I also kind of loved it.

Jen: Right? I feel like that was almost exactly how they described it too so I don't think that we are imagining anything. It's funny because everything at the spring court is SO formal. And then the night court is...again the complete opposite. It definitely felt out of place but I was cool with it. Eventually she does cool down enough to let Rhysand come and hang out with her and explain his side.

Shanna: OH! This part also made me laugh because I remember you talking in the last book about how she just paints on everything and she totally did it again here. If someone came to my cool ski cabin and just decided to paint all over my walls I would be like Ok well I guess it depends who and what it was actually. But still, what a weird thing to do. It is nice she rediscovered her painting again. Not nice for you, but for her.

Jen: OMG! I hated this so much! Why is she painting people's eyes all over their ski chalet!? It makes no sense and I would be totally weirded out if I let someone use my place and they just painted me all over the walls.

Not only does she paint them but okay listen to this, "I'd painted nearly every surface in the main room with decorations, little images. Some were basic: clusters of icicles drooping down the sides of the threshold. I'd painted a ring of flowers round the card table by the window; leaves and crackling flames around the dining table. I hate it so much. The only person I would maybe want to paint my walls would be Jolene Mackie and even then...I would probably still be annoyed.

Shanna: I was also thinking of her! I just was buying one of her prints as a gift for my mom today!

Jen: Anyways, not that I want Feyre to be depressed but depressed Feyre didn't paint and that was better for me. Not that there's anything wrong with painting, I just thought it was a really annoying part of her character.

Shanna: Rhysand tells her everything here. He tells her about under the mountain for him. He says he has been dreaming of her for years before they had even met, and that makes her whole thing about painting the night sky so sweet and extra special.

Jen: Aw yah! He dreamt of her and then the first time he met her was at Calamnai but he didn't pursue her at all because he knew that Amarantha would come after her. Then when he found her at Tamlin's he couldn't let her go again without knowing her name. Obviously this is where she gave Claire Better's name instead of her own and Rhys knew that she was lying but he didn't realize that she hadn't just made up a fake name. So when Amarantha took Claire hostage and killed her family, Rhys felt pretty guilty about that. This is also something that Feyre feels guilty for...as she should...but Rhys tells her that went into Claire's mind and made sure that she didn't feel anything that was done to her. So at least there is that.

Shanna: Yes that was nice of him. A weird amount of this book feels like it's about undoing stuff from the first book... Don't get me wrong I still like it, a lot of it feels like a redo though.

Jen: Yes I can see what you mean. This book spends a lot of time in the first book but that's one of the things that I actually like about it. The first book felt really limited in perspective, I think because we spent so much time in the spring court and because Rhys was putting on a show. I liked having everything explained and wrapped up in this one, but that is just what I prefer as a reader. Also, remember when you said that Rhys was extra gross to her under the mountain and it didn't seem necessary if he was actually a good guy?? Well, it turns out that he did it all so that Amarantha wouldn't suspect who Feyre was to him. He kept her as his "slave" so Amarantha wouldn't have her but he was supposed to be a total jerk so he couldn't be nice to her and he gave her the fairy wine so that she at least wouldn't remember any of it. It's still gross but it was the best that he could do to protect her.

Shanna: I guess I just still thought it was weird that he took her out of her cell at all? I don't know, still weird, but less shitty?

Jen: I think it was like...if he didn't take her out then Amarantha would have? I don't know.

Shanna: Also, he explains that even knowing who she was to him, he was going to let her out of the bargain because he wanted her to be happy even if that was with Tamlin. But, when he found that she wasn't happy at all, that whole plan went out the window. Once they had that whole thing discussed and out of the way, it was time to complete the mating bond... Omg for real tho I guess I am an old pregnant lady, but still I was like, lord have mercy. She must be a walking bruise.

Jen: Oh I thought you were going to mention the soup. But I see.. The sex. Yes. They had to consummate the mating bond but also, Feyre was holding back giving him any food to eat after his journey because if a female offers the male food, it means that she accepts the bond. So in the end she offers him some canned soup and then yes they do it. A lot. Like I think about fifteen pages or so!

Shanna: Ahh yes the soup. Of course. How could I forget the soup. They FINALLY hear back from the mortal queens, so they go back to Feyre's sisters place to meet with them. They are shown Velaris through the Veritas but they still refuse to help them by handing over the other half of the book. This is a pretty huge bummer for everyone, until they realize that one of the mortal queens doesn't totally suck and LEFT THEM THE BOOK secretly.

Jen: It was the "golden queen" which doesn't really matter until it does. You'll see soon.

Shanna: Those queens really are just the worst. The fact that they care so little about the people of their lands is so gross and sad.

Jen: Right, I was glad that they were Queens instead of Kings, but why did they have to suck so much? Luckily one of them didn't totally suck but it doesn't really work out in her favor in the end...This was another point where I thought it was a little too easy. Like no you can't have the book and then one of them just leaves it in a box under their chair...okay.

Shanna: Amren has been translating the books because luckily they are written in her secret creature language that only she knows and she gets right down to business when she gets the second half.

Jen: Convenient.

Shanna: Quite.

Jen: Unfortunately, not long later, while Rhys is away...somewhere...Hybern uses the Cauldron to knock out the wards set to protect it and invades Velaris.

Shanna: NOOOO! I was so bummedddd. I actually stopped and was like Whaaaaaaat when that started happening because even though I knew showing them Velaris had to come back to bite them somehow, I didn't see it coming so fast.

Jen: I know! It felt like it happened super fast, which I guess makes sense but it was pretty upsetting. I loved though how when it became clear what was happening Cassian immediately tells Feyre to go back to the townhouse and her response was "I mostly certainly would not go". I laughed at her, but then things stopped being funny pretty fast.

Shanna: The attackers are horrible winged creatures who have armour made of a special blue stone that breaks and repels magic so everything they try to throw at them doesn't work.

Jen: I mean, of course.

Shanna: And then. The Golden Queen.

Jen: Ugh. I was so upset!

Shanna: She was impaled on a lamp post, her golden hair cut close to her skull and her golden eyes plucked out.

Jen: It was pretty gruesome. The Attor - who is a horrible evil faerie that has popped up a few times in the books, but I don't think we've mentioned them before, - tells them that the Golden Queen is basically a gift from the mortal queens. So they not only wouldn't help them before but they also betrayed them to Hybern. Remember when we said that the mortal queens suck?

Shanna: They suck so bad. Also the Attor, I am really wishing they had just killed that bastard when they caught him last time. Despite the advantage that the Hybern soldiers have, Feyre and the rest are super powerful and they manage to fight back and kick butt. Feyre sees that the Attor is escaping and winnows up to them in the air, grabs onto them so their wings are immobilized, and as they free fall to the earth, she stabs them repeatedly and then winnows away seconds before the Attor splatters on the road.

Jen: So cool.

Shanna: So. Cool. All the while, the citizens of the city are being slaughtered, the city is in ruin. It is awful. Rhys returns and reinstates the wards but he feels so guilty for exposing the city.

Jen: I don't really know what he could have done differently, but I guess obviously the mortal queens weren't on their side so they should have been a little over prepared that something could happen. I guess they really relied on them not knowing where the city was..I don't remember if it explains how Hybern actually found it. The next day, Amren cracked the code in the book of breathings. To nullify the Cauldron, you had to touch it and say a spell. So they make complicated plans to sneak into Hybern. If Rhys goes anywhere near the castle, the King will sense him so he has to let Feyre go without him and wait for her to do it and then use their bond to alert him that it's time to get them out. What could go wrong?

Shanna: I guess Feyre is pretty competent at this point so hopefully not too much ...

Jen: Rhys is not thrilled about this but he still gives Feyre the choice. He says that she might be his mate but she also remains her own person.

Shanna: Rhys also gives her a wedding ring - the very one that she had to steal from the Weaver. It had been his mothers and Feyre says that once they are done in Hybern, once the

Cauldron is nullified, she wants everything - she wants to get married, have the bond declared - everything. And Rhys asks if she wants to take it one step further.

Jen: Yes, and here they make it seem like what he meant was sexy time but. Tricky tricky. That's not what he meant. But we will get to that in a little bit. They're so cute though.

Shanna: I hope it's more soup. Amren stays behind to guard the city because although they have strengthened the wards, they cannot risk leaving Velaris unguarded.

Jen: Smart, but they probably could have used her in Hybern considering how things end up going...

Shanna: Feyre finds the Cauldron quite easily. It was just sitting in the dungeon. Suspicious.

Jen: I said in last weeks episode that the Cauldron stuff didn't really interest me, but I did really enjoy how they described it. I actually really enjoy the way Sarah J Maas describes everything. She does an amazing job. But! The way that Feyre described the cauldron when she sees it is that "it was absence and presence. Darkness and whatever the darkness had come from" It had a throbbing heartbeat. And then she kind of ruins it by saying it's the size of a bathtub, but whatever.

Shanna: I guess she was just covering her butt for when people question what happens next ...

Jen: She is about to speak the words to nullify it when resurrected Jurian appears and almost instantly so does Rhys. His plan is to winnow Feyre and the Cauldron away but Jurian reveals that their powers will not work here. They made sure of that. It was a trap. Then the King of Hybern appears and Jurian shoots Azriel with an ash arrow. They all must go with him or Azriel will die. When they get to the throne room, Hybern says "Now that I've upheld my end of the bargain, I expect you to uphold yours." and who steps out of the shadows but Tamlin and Lucian.

Shanna: I hate him.

Jen: Man, I almost forgot that they existed...Damn Tamlin. Get the hint. Feyre doesn't want to be with you. Okay I guess he probably believes that she is being held captive by someone who controls minds, but still.

Shanna: Sure, but also he has obviously done zero reflection on his actions ...

Jen: Literally zero. He is still convinced that everyone else is the problem here...

Shanna: Tamlin has made a deal that if Hybern hands Feyre over to him and breaks her bargain with Rhys, he will let Hybern's army enter Prythian through his territory and use it as a base to take down the wall between Prythian and the mortal lands.

Jen: Even here Tamlin is the worst! Besides selling them out he summons Feyre to him like a dog, tells her that he's taking her home and then we find out that he also promised that she would work for Hybern once they got there? At every other Tamlin sucks moment, there has usually been another side - he loves her, he is happy to see her, he wants to protect her - Whatever - still shitty but not really black and white. He just sucked here 100% . Oh and don't

forget that he also promised that they could kill Rhysand and his friends. This is not about loving Feyre, this is about feeling like he has lost something that he owns and he will do anything to get it back. Rhys and Feyre love each other SO MUCH and I just feel really confident that they would never sacrifice this much to be together. It's insane. Oh, look! Feyre actually offers to go with him if he just lets everyone go. Like I said.

Shanna: I want Tamlin to get his just desserts so bad. I hope it's brutal. We've got less than 30 pages left in the book at this point and shit is getting real. Tamlin refuses to let them go and instead gets in a fight with Rhys which jostles his scent, revealing their mating bond. GASP. Tamlin is pissed, doesn't believe it and thinks that again, Rhys has done something to her. Feyre threatens that if he takes her away from her mate, she will ruin him but is quieted when the four remaining mortal queens arrive with her sisters bound and gagged behind them.

Shanna: Dunn dunnnnnn dunnnnnn

Jen: The King has offered the mortal Queens immortality in return for helping him. The idea is that if they go into the Cauldron, they will be made into Fae but they want proof that it can be done and that it can be done safely.

Shanna: I was like ahhh perfect yes two more fairy sisters would be helpful cool cool cool. Dunk them! It seems as though Tamlin did not know this was part of the deal. He didn't know that Hybern promised Ianthe a world free of high lords. One where the high priestesses would be free to rule instead. All she had to do was sell out Feyre's family.

Jen: Tamlin is upset about this but I think that he is more upset about the fact that this means Feyre will definitely never forgive him than the fact that his actions have led to innocent humans being abducted and threatened.

Shanna: That tracks, given that he's the worst.

Jen: Then for some reason, Hybern says "brace yourself" and then he explodes with power? Okay Tamlin. But Cassian instinctively opens his wings to protect Azriel who is still very hurt. and in doing so the King's power, shreds his wings. Everyone is begging him to not to touch the sisters. Even Lucian...Hmmm. But he doesn't care what anyone says and his guards shove Elaine into the Cauldron. She goes under and does come back up until it tips over and spills a crap ton of black water and her out onto the floor.

Shanna: Everyone holds their breath, waiting to see if she lives. And she does. But when she stands up it is instantly obvious that it worked. Elaine is high fae right down to the pointy ears. Now it's Nesta's turn, but just as she is about to be pushed under she points a finger at the King of Hybern.

Jen: They said it was a curse, a promise and even Hybern looked unnerved by it...but...I don't know. I know she has a strong personality but I just don't think that Hybern who has taken out everyone would have any kind of reaction to a mortal woman's pointer finger...I'm sure it will make sense three books from now but today..no.

Shanna: Nesta is known for her aggressive RBF. I'd actually go so far as to call it active BF, as there is no resting happening there. She MEANS to look like that at all times.

Jen: Yeah she's awful but I also love that.

Shanna: When Nesta is dumped from the Cauldron she is also changed but it's obvious right away that she is changed in a different way than the others, but it's not clear what that means. As soon as she is able though, she reaches for Elaine, rips Lucian who has been helping her away and Elaine locks eyes with Lucian and he reveals that she is his mate.

Jen: I hate the constant use of the words mate, but I LOVE them being mates. I was so happy. I don't know why, but I was and I loved it; It's pretty obvious that the same thing is happening to Cassian and NEsta at this point too but Nesta is a bit more stubborn so I think there will turn out to be a little bit more to it...I don't know. We shall see.

Shanna: Yes I also liked this. Mostly because it means we should get a better version of Lucian's character in the future. Rhys is about to make a different bargain with Hybern but Feyre can't bare it so she pretends that the spell that's been put over her is broken and she "comes to" not knowing where she is and she yells at Rhys about what he did to her. Everyone is very confused and shocked. Even though Feyre and Rhys's bond is completely blocked by HYbern, he seamlessly goes along with it.

Jen: YAS

Shanna: She then begs Hybern to break their bond, their bargain, their mating bond completely.

Jen: Wait NO!

Shanna: She says that he made her do it. Made her swear. She asks Tamlin to take her home and let them go. She is done with all the killing. All the while she is hurtling "get my sisters out" at their bond hoping that it somehow gets through. And then, Hybern does it. He snaps their bond which is incredibly painful in every way imaginable.

Jen: Everyone who matters understands what Feyre did and why. Mor grabs her sisters and winnows away and Rhys grabs Cassian and Azriel and does the same. The next chapter we get from Rhys's perspective. He arrives back at the townhouse with Azriel and Cassian and Amren is like WHHHAAAATTTTT. Mor takes the sisters somewhere safe. Rhys explains what Feyre did and that they now have a spy to report back on everything that Hybern and Tamlin are up to. He also reveals that the night before, they swore her in as high lady of the night court.

Shanna: Yesssssss. Also NO! but also yes!

Jen: So that is it, we end the book with Feyre being all sweet with Tamlin in the Spring Court but we know that she is going to take them down from the inside and I cannot wait for it to happen.

Jen: Wow, that was a book. I loved it so much. I think that Sarah J Maas is an excellent writer. I love her characters, I love the storylines, the visuals, the dialogue, the sexy time. There are definitely a few flaws, one big one that we will be talking about once you read the next book, but overall, I have very few complaints about this book. I stand by my five stars of love.

Shanna: Next week is book club! We are reading A Thousand Ships by Natalie Haynes and we have started a discussion on our Instagram and it's going on right now and will continue all week, so head over there and chat with us.

Jen: You can find us everywhere at best_bookclub or even just send us an email at best_bookclub@outlook.com to tell us what you thought! Or just tell us anything, we just want to hear from you guys!

Shanna: And if you have an extra 30 seconds and listen on apple podcasts, rate and review this podcast so that other book clubbers can find us!

Jen: Otherwise, we will see you next week for book club!

Shanna: See you next week!

BYEE