

Chapter 25

In Chapter 25, Gregor finds himself plummeting into a canyon after escaping a rat attack, his leg wounded and his survival uncertain. As he falls, he reflects on his first descent to the Underland, realizing this time is far more perilous. The ground beneath the pursuing rats collapses, sending them tumbling after him in a deadly avalanche. Among them is Henry, a human traitor, whose fate intertwines with Gregor's as the prophecy's final quester. Ares, Henry's bonded bat, swoops in but unexpectedly saves Gregor instead, leaving Henry to perish. The scene is chaotic and tragic, with Gregor narrowly escaping death.

Gregor and the remaining questers regroup, grappling with the aftermath of the battle. Ripred, the rat ally, bids them farewell before fleeing, while Gregor and his companions—Luxa, Aurora, Temp, and his injured father—face new challenges. Ares confesses his ignorance of Henry's betrayal, and Gregor realizes the prophecy's ambiguity: Henry's choice to side with the rats sealed his fate. The group is now lost in uncharted territory, with Aurora's torn wing and Luxa's shock further complicating their situation. Gregor, thrust into leadership, must guide them to safety despite the overwhelming odds.

The chapter highlights Gregor's resilience as he tends to the group's injuries. Luxa is catatonic from trauma, Aurora's wing requires delicate stitching, and Gregor's father remains frail from rat captivity. Gregor's makeshift medical skills are put to the test as he carefully repairs Aurora's wing, though the process is painful for both of them. The emotional toll is evident: Ares grieves Henry's betrayal, Luxa is unresponsive, and Gregor struggles to maintain composure. The group's vulnerability underscores their precarious position, with no clear path back to Regalia.

As the chapter concludes, the questers take refuge on a stone ledge near a waterfall, exhausted and disoriented. Gregor's leadership emerges in the absence of others'

guidance, but the weight of responsibility is heavy. The prophecy's final lines echo in his mind, reminding him of the stakes. With Aurora's wing mended and the group temporarily secure, Gregor faces the daunting task of navigating the unknown. The chapter ends on a note of uncertainty, emphasizing the physical and emotional scars left by their harrowing ordeal and the challenges still ahead.

