

37

The chapter opens with Dockson reflecting on Kelsier's absence, channeling his grief into managing the rebellion's logistics. As Kelsier's second-in-command, he adjusts the plan to maintain order, distributing resources strategically and securing key locations before chaos erupts. A messenger arrives with troubling news: Vin has been captured and taken to the palace dungeons by an Inquisitor. Despite his concern, Dockson prioritizes the larger mission over a risky rescue, demonstrating his pragmatic leadership style.

Hammond (Ham) reports the fall of Keep Elariel while Lekal Hold remains contested, prompting Dockson to prepare for an assault on the palace. He wrestles with the tension between urgency and caution, knowing Vin's survival is uncertain but refusing to divert forces prematurely. Their exchange highlights the crew's dynamics—Ham's physical prowess contrasted with Dockson's strategic restraint. The rebellion's momentum grows, but Dockson's focus on disciplined execution underscores the stakes of their uprising.

A surprising interruption occurs when skaa rebels bring Elend Venture, a nobleman, as a captive. Elend offers a truce, arguing that the nobility's survival is essential to prevent economic collapse and unchecked violence. Dockson initially dismisses him, but Elend's earnest plea about maintaining post-rebellion order gives him pause. This encounter forces Dockson to consider the long-term implications of their revolution beyond immediate military victories.

The chapter closes with Dockson weighing Elend's unexpected proposal against the rebellion's goals. Elend's transformation from perceived fool to persuasive strategist adds complexity to Dockson's decisions. The narrative underscores themes of leadership, sacrifice, and the blurred lines between idealism and pragmatism. As the rebellion reaches a critical juncture, Dockson's choices will determine whether chaos

or cohesion defines their new world.

