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The chapter opens with Vin soaring above Kredik Shaw, the ominous spires reminding her of Kelsier's death. The mists swirl around her as dawn approaches, while below, a massive skaa army converges on the palace with torches, sealing their fate by attacking the Lord Ruler's stronghold. Vin observes the throne tower, illuminated by bonfires, and senses the Lord Ruler's presence. Determined to use the Eleventh Metal as Kelsier believed, she prepares for a desperate attack, clinging to hope despite the overwhelming odds.

Meanwhile, the Lord Ruler announces the Inquisition's dominance over the Ministry, shocking the obligators. Inquisitor Kar revels in his newfound power, savoring the fear and discomfort of the priests. His enhanced Allomantic senses allow him to perceive the world through metallic traces, and though exhausted, he stays behind as the others depart. The Lord Ruler remarks on the Inquisitors' victory, hinting at his desire for peace, but their conversation is abruptly interrupted by an unexpected assault.

A barrage of coins shatters the throne room's stained-glass window, and Vin bursts through the debris, mistcloak billowing as she lands with daggers drawn. The mists swirl around her, enhancing her eerie presence as she charges directly toward the Lord Ruler. Kar, caught off guard, reacts too slowly, while the Lord Ruler remains eerily calm, watching Vin with detached interest. Vin burns the Eleventh Metal, summoning a shadowy past version of the Lord Ruler, but her focus remains on the present threat.

The chapter builds toward a climactic confrontation, blending Vin's resolve with the Lord Ruler's unsettling composure. The tension escalates as Vin's daring plan unfolds, leaving readers uncertain of its success. The juxtaposition of the skaa rebellion's futility and Vin's lone assault underscores the themes of sacrifice and defiance. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, setting the stage for a pivotal battle between Vin and the seemingly invincible Lord Ruler.