

## 13. Another Hunt

The chapter opens with Shallan recovering from a hangover caused by her alter ego, Veil, after a wedding celebration. Despite her discomfort, she manages her duties as a highprince's wife and Lightweaver, overseeing finances and governance in Urithiru. With trusted advisors handling day-to-day affairs, she audits accounts but feels the weight of her responsibilities. Adolin, her husband, encourages her to rest, though he spends his free time riding horses, leaving Shallan alone to confront her thoughts and unanswered correspondence.

While sorting through letters, Shallan discovers a cryptic message about an arranged deal involving spren, which unsettles her. Seeking distraction, she visits her brother Jushu, where she finds solace in drawing by the hearth. Her sketches evoke nostalgic memories of her childhood home in Jah Keved, though these recollections are bittersweet. The creationspren around her mimic objects from her past, including a chilling necklace chain, hinting at darker undertones beneath the surface of her idealized memories.

As Shallan reflects, she grapples with fragmented memories of her traumatic past, particularly the death of her mother when she was just eleven. She struggles to reconcile her younger self—who once summoned a Shardblade—with her present identity, fearing the person she once was. Her alter ego, Veil, insists the memories are buried deep within her, but Shallan resists confronting them, terrified of being unlovable or monstrous. Her research into fragmented personas offers little comfort, as historical cases were often treated as aberrations.

The chapter closes with Jushu interrupting Shallan's reverie, noting the disturbing imagery in her sketch—burning souls in the fireplace, resembling her family members. This moment underscores Shallan's unresolved trauma and the fragile stability of her mental state. Despite her attempts to convince herself she is improving, the chapter

leaves her psychological struggles unresolved, hinting at deeper conflicts yet to surface.

