

Epilogue: "The soul in which the flower grows"

The epilogue follows Thomas Covenant, Linden Avery, and Jeremiah as they journey through the tranquil woods of Andelain, bathed in a serene, silver glow that marks their transition between realms. The natural beauty of the landscape—stately trees, murmuring streams, and fragrant flowers—provides a soothing contrast to their past struggles. Clad in ghostly sendaline robes, they move effortlessly, their luminous presence reflecting their newfound peace. The trio walks without urgency, content in each other's company, their earlier battles now behind them.

Jeremiah breaks the silence, questioning whether they succeeded in their mission. Covenant and Linden reassure him, though Covenant acknowledges the ambiguity of their victory, given the heavy losses endured. Their conversation shifts to a starlit glade, where they marvel at the celestial display above. Infelice, the Elohim leader, joins them, praising their efforts in renewing the world despite the devastation caused by Linden's actions. She absolves Linden of guilt, recognizing that their sacrifices were necessary to thwart greater evil.

Infelice turns to Covenant, expressing awe at his ability to endure the ongoing struggle against the Despiser, who now resides within him. Covenant explains that confronting such darkness strengthens their resolve and defines their purpose. He reflects on the paradoxical nature of the Despiser, whose malice stems from corrupted hope, and emphasizes the importance of resistance. Infelice, humbled, acknowledges the wisdom in his perspective before departing, leaving the trio to their quiet communion.

As dawn approaches, the companions continue their walk, savoring the beauty of Andelain and the simple joys of their renewed senses. Covenant shares his newfound ability to feel the grass beneath his feet, symbolizing his healing. Linden's affection for

him shines through, and even Jeremiah's playful exasperation underscores their bond. The chapter closes with the arrival of Wraiths, their dancing lights a tribute to the trio's triumph, as the world begins to awaken around them, full of hope and renewal.

