

Chapter 25: Part Two - 12. You Are Mine

Thomas Covenant stands frozen in shock and fury at Kiril Threndor's chamber, confronting his son Roger, who has been possessed by Lord Foul. Despite knowing anger is counterproductive, Covenant cannot control his rage as he witnesses Roger's transformation—his body wracked by malice, his eyes reflecting the Despiser's corruption. Covenant's fury ignites into a physical manifestation of wild fire, his entire being alight with incandescent wrath. Branl, the Humbled, observes that Lord Foul's evil is now unmistakable, shielded by Roger's flesh, making it impossible to attack one without harming the other.

Covenant advances, demanding Lord Foul release Roger, but his son mocks him, blaming Covenant and Linden for his predicament. Roger claims his alliance with the Despiser was his only choice after being denied the croyel and Jeremiah, his original targets. He revels in his newfound power, insisting Lord Foul will grant him eternity once the Arch of Time collapses. Covenant, however, sees through Roger's bravado, recognizing the hollow despair beneath his son's defiance. The pain in Roger's voice momentarily halts Covenant's fury, forcing him to confront the grim reality: harming Lord Foul means killing Roger first.

Covenant attempts to reason with Roger, arguing that Lord Foul's promises are lies—eternity is unattainable for a mortal, and the Despiser is merely using him as a vessel. Roger, consumed by fear and desperation, refuses to listen, insisting his pact with Lord Foul will spare him from pain and mortality. Covenant counters that Roger's physical nature makes him a prison for the Despiser, who cannot escape Time's collapse without abandoning him. The chamber trembles as their confrontation intensifies, mirroring the instability of Roger's resolve and the Worm's encroaching

destruction.

As the debate reaches its peak, Roger's voice suddenly shifts, signaling Lord Foul's direct intervention. Covenant's warnings go unheeded, and the chapter ends with a surge of power from the dais, leaving the outcome unresolved. The confrontation underscores the tragic stakes: Covenant must choose between his son's life and the world's survival, while Roger clings to the false hope of salvation through servitude. The emotional and physical turmoil reflects the broader collapse of reality, setting the stage for the final clash between Covenant and the Despiser.