

# 16. An Unknown Song

Navani Kholin examines a mysterious dark sphere, comparing it to a Voidlight-infused diamond. She notes the sphere's unique properties, including its strange purple-on-black glow, which defies conventional understanding of color. The Voidlight sphere dims the surrounding air, but the new sphere exhibits an even more unsettling effect, warping the air and evoking a sense of disorientation. Navani is troubled by the implications, especially since her late husband, Gavilar, possessed similar spheres years before the Everstorm, raising unanswered questions about their origin.

The chapter shifts focus to Szeth, the Assassin in White, who remains imprisoned but armed with a dangerous Shardblade that leaks black smoke. Despite Navani's reservations, Dalinar insists on leaving the weapon in Szeth's possession, believing it the safest option. Szeth, now sworn to Dalinar as his "Ideal," explains his past actions as a Truthless, obeying without question. Navani finds his blind loyalty unsettling, viewing him as an unpredictable threat despite Dalinar's faith in redemption.

Navani presses Szeth for details about the night he killed Gavilar, seeking clarity about the mysterious sphere. Szeth recounts Gavilar's dying moments, revealing that the king entrusted the sphere to his assassin rather than his allies—or even Navani herself. This revelation stirs buried anger and betrayal in Navani, forcing her to confront unresolved emotions about her husband's secrets and the trust he placed in a stranger over his own wife.

The chapter underscores Navani's dual struggle: unraveling the enigma of the sphere's nature and origin while grappling with personal grief and mistrust. Her scientific curiosity clashes with emotional turmoil, and Szeth's presence serves as a constant reminder of unresolved violence and unanswered questions. The narrative leaves tensions simmering, hinting at deeper mysteries surrounding the spheres, Gavilar's past, and Szeth's precarious role in the unfolding events.