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Vin awakens in Clubs's shop, still suffering from the lingering effects of "pewter dragging," a taxing Allomantic technique Kelsier insists is necessary for her training. Despite her skepticism about its benefits, she acknowledges its potential usefulness, recalling how it enabled her and Kelsier to reach the battlefield in record time. The return journey, however, took two weeks, leaving her exhausted and grateful for the comfort of a real bed. Her bath provides some relief, though she remains irritated by the impracticalities of her growing hair, a stark contrast to the court women's elaborate grooming habits.

Downstairs, Vin joins the crew—Clubs, Dockson, Ham, and Breeze—who are grappling with the aftermath of their army's destruction. The men seem uncertain about the future of their mission, with Breeze bluntly declaring the plan unfeasible. Vin, still nursing her headache, responds with weary honesty, pointing out that the crew's roles have become redundant without the army. Her blunt assessment silences the room, highlighting the crew's growing disillusionment and the apparent collapse of their rebellion.

The conversation shifts briefly to Ham's update on the Luthadel Garrison's pursuit of surviving rebels, but the mood remains somber. Vin's grumpy demeanor and demand for ale underscore her physical and emotional fatigue, while the crew's forced humor fails to mask their underlying tension. Their uncertainty is palpable as they await Kelsier's arrival, unsure how he will respond to their collective despair.

Kelsier enters with his usual cheer, but the crew's silence prompts Dockson to confront the elephant in the room: the army's loss and the apparent failure of their plan. Breeze reiterates this bluntly, forcing Kelsier to pause and reconsider. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, leaving readers wondering whether Kelsier will concede defeat or rally the crew with a new strategy, setting the stage for a pivotal moment in their rebellion.