

48

Elend Venture, exhausted and strategizing late into the night, contemplates a plan to undermine his former friend Jastes by counterfeiting the wooden coins used to pay the koloss mercenaries. He hopes to buy time and eventually bribe the koloss away from Jastes' control. As he prepares to retire, Vin bursts into his room, emotionally distraught and physically wounded, revealing she has killed Zane—Straff's Mistborn and, shockingly, Elend's half-brother. Despite her injuries, Vin's primary concern is Elend's reaction to her actions, showing her deep emotional turmoil.

Elend's immediate focus shifts to Vin's well-being as he notices her severe injuries. Ignoring her apology for killing Zane, he insists on fetching Sazed for medical aid, but Vin clings to him, unwilling to be left alone. Her vulnerability marks a shift in their dynamic, as she openly seeks his support. Together, they make their way to Sazed's quarters, where Vin collapses onto the floor, too weak to stand. Elend's worry is palpable as he calls for Sazed's assistance.

Sazed, though weary, quickly assesses Vin's condition and begins treating her wounds with practiced efficiency. He lightens the mood with a gentle reprimand about her habit of ruining clothes, but Elend, tense with concern, dismisses his humor. Sazed calmly explains that while Vin's injuries are serious, they are not life-threatening. As he tends to her, Vin remains conscious but exhausted, her bloodied state a stark contrast to her usual resilience. Elend stays by her side, following her firm instruction to remain.

Vin, despite her pain, insists on sharing a revelation about Kelsier. She reflects that his true greatness lay not in his combat skills or brutality, but in qualities she had overlooked. This moment of introspection hints at a deeper emotional and philosophical shift within her. The chapter ends with Vin poised to reveal more, leaving the reader anticipating her insights and the implications for her character growth.