

## I-5. Lift

Lift, a skilled thief, finds herself dangling from a rope in Urithiru, attempting to steal a basket of food. Despite her expertise, she no longer feels the same thrill from stealing as she once did. She clings to the act out of habit, hating change, and enjoys the panic on her victims' faces when they discover their food is gone. However, their fond reactions when they realize it's her ruin the experience, leaving her frustrated and conflicted.

After successfully snatching the basket, Lift retreats into the hidden tunnels of Urithiru, where her spren companion, Wyndle, awaits. The basket contains food seemingly left out for her by a Horneater boy, which irritates her because it undermines her self-image as a feared shadow. She grudgingly admits the food is good but feels humiliated by the kindness. Wyndle, oblivious to her turmoil, cheerfully comments on the bounty, further annoying her.

As Lift navigates the tunnels, she reflects on the eerie atmosphere of Urithiru during the Everstorm, sensing something is wrong. She uses her abilities to slip through tight spaces, eventually reaching a small intersection where she inspects her stolen goods. The discovery of a jar of jam with a loving symbol forces her to acknowledge the boy's intentions, though she resists accepting his affection. Her frustration grows as she struggles to maintain her identity as a mysterious thief.

Back at her nest, Lift vents her frustrations to Wyndle, insisting she should be feared, not liked. Wyndle's attempts to engage in metaphor only irritate her further. Despite her complaints, she admits to liking the tower's hidden passages, which she considers her domain. The chapter ends with Lift surrounded by her stolen treasures, still grappling with her conflicting emotions about change, identity, and the unexpected kindness of others.