Chapter 20: Part Two - Twenty: The Sun-Sage

The chapter opens in the aftermath of a climactic battle in Kiril Threndor, where the cavern is now quiet and dimly lit by remnants of rocklight. Linden Avery cradles the lifeless body of Thomas Covenant, her grief palpable as she reflects on his sacrifice. His face bears an expression blending defeat and victory, a testament to his final act. Covenant's spirit, now a revenant, hovers near her, radiating empathy and sorrow. He apologizes for his actions, explaining he had no choice but to stop Lord Foul, though Linden understands and mourns his loss deeply.

Covenant's spirit urges Linden to pick up his white gold ring, which lies powerless on the dais. He insists the Land is still in peril, as the Sunbane persists and Foul's influence lingers. Linden resists, fearing her own capacity for darkness and the corrupting effects of power. She clings to Covenant's body, unwilling to let go, and questions the purpose of the ring now that its wielders are gone. Covenant presses her, emphasizing that only she can heal the Land, as he is no longer physically alive and can be dismissed by those who know how.

As Linden's connection to the world begins to fade, Covenant warns her that she is being pulled back to her own reality. He implores her to act before it's too late, revealing that Foul could return through the Sunbane. Despite her despair, Linden resolves to honor Covenant's plea, though she moves slowly, weighed down by grief. Just as she prepares to reach for the ring, an unexpected voice interrupts—a commanding presence that dismisses Covenant's spirit against his will.

The chapter ends abruptly as Covenant's revenant is forcibly banished, leaving Linden alone and bereft. His final cry of her name echoes as his presence vanishes entirely, stripping her of any remaining solace. The sudden dismissal leaves the fate of the

Land uncertain, with Linden now facing her next trial without Covenant's guidance. The unresolved tension sets the stage for the next phase of her journey.