

37. Silence from the Dead

Navani continues her efforts to uncover the identity of the mysterious spren that contacted her, but her triangulation attempts yield only vague results near a monastery on the tower's fourth floor. Despite this unresolved mystery, her attention is divided by the demanding responsibilities of governing Urithiru. Amidst the constant needs of merchants, lighteyes, and ardens, she finds rare moments to retreat to the tower's basement, where she oversees her scholars' work. During one such visit, she is intercepted by Tomor, an ardent working on a lifting fabrial project she had commissioned.

Tomor presents Navani with an unconventional glove-like fabrial, a deviation from her original vision of a portable lift mechanism. The device, designed to be worn on the hand, allows the user to be pulled upward by conjoined weights in the tower's central shaft. While Navani admires Tomor's creativity, she questions the practicality and safety of the design, imagining the absurdity of someone like Dalinar dangling midair. Tomor, however, is enthusiastic about the glove's flexibility, arguing it eliminates the need for traditional lifts.

Despite her reservations, Navani agrees to test the device under Tomor's guidance. After donning the glove and activating it, she is lifted several feet into the air, much to the amusement of the observing scholars. However, the demonstration reveals a critical flaw: the glove lacks a straightforward method for descent, requiring a stepstool to safely return to the ground. Navani acknowledges Tomor's ingenuity but remains skeptical about the design's viability for widespread use.

The chapter highlights Navani's dual role as a leader and innovator, balancing administrative duties with scientific curiosity. While she appreciates Tomor's youthful creativity, she recognizes the importance of practicality in engineering solutions. The interaction underscores the tension between imaginative experimentation and

functional design, a recurring theme in Navani's work. Her patience and encouragement of Tomor's efforts reflect her leadership style, even as she subtly steers him toward more practical applications of his ideas.

