

## CHAPTER 82: JAMESON

The chapter opens with tension as Jameson Hawthorne reacts to Avery Grambs' removal from the Game by the Factotum, Rohan. Zella claims ownership of Avery's key, citing her status as the attacked party, while Jameson demands answers about Avery's whereabouts. Rohan dismisses their arguments, announcing the Game will restart with the striking of a bell, hinting at a new challenge involving heights. Jameson remains wary of Rohan's motives, sensing deception beneath his composed demeanor.

Jameson shifts focus to the silver chest in his possession, refusing to relinquish it despite Katharine's taunts. She questions his worth without the Hawthorne name or Avery's support, provoking him with comparisons to his more accomplished brothers. Branford intervenes, but Katharine's words linger, forcing Jameson to confront his insecurities about being perceived as ordinary. The chest becomes symbolic of his determination to prove himself independently.

Katharine's relentless psychological attack dredges up Jameson's past doubts, including his grandfather's harsh assessment of his abilities. She frames him as a typical third-born son—driven by unmet ambitions. Though Jameson recognizes her manipulation, her words strike a nerve, making him question his achievements and identity outside the family legacy. Branford's attempts to shield him only partially deflect the emotional onslaught.

As the chapter concludes, Jameson steels himself against Katharine's barbs, clinging to the chest as his sole advantage. He reflects on his brothers' strengths and his own unresolved potential, vowing to rise above comparisons. The ringing bell signals the Game's resumption, leaving Jameson poised to confront the next challenge—both externally and within himself—as he fights to redefine his place in the Hawthorne dynasty.