

Chapter 19: Part Two - Nineteen: Hold Possession

The chapter depicts Linden Avery's harrowing possession by the Raver, moksha Jehannum, which strips her of autonomy and forces her to endure its malevolent laughter and memories. Though the laughter emanates from her body, it is not her own; the Raver has fully usurped her will, leaving her a prisoner within herself. The violation is profound, as the Raver's evil permeates every aspect of her being, exposing her to its ancient hatred and corrupting influence. Linden's past vulnerabilities and traumas, including her father's suicide and her mother's death, resurface, reinforcing her sense of complicity in the evil now controlling her.

The Raver's history merges with Linden's consciousness, forcing her to relive its atrocities as if they were her own. She recalls its manipulation of Marid, its betrayal of Nassic, and its role in leading the Despiser's armies as Fleshharrower. These memories blur the line between her identity and the Raver's, plunging her into guilt and despair. The chapter underscores the Raver's relentless hunger for retribution, with Linden's suffering serving as a small but satisfying token of its vengeance. Despite her helplessness, she remains acutely aware of Covenant's presence, witnessing his broken yet defiant state as he offers to surrender the ring to Lord Foul.

Linden faces a critical choice: to retreat into unconsciousness and escape the torment or to cling to her identity and endure. The Raver encourages her to let go, as her resistance only amplifies its pleasure. Yet Linden refuses, drawing strength from past moments of agency, such as her defiance in the cavern of the One Tree and the Hall of Gifts. She recognizes that even in powerlessness, her awareness matters—especially for Covenant, who now stands on the brink of madness. Her refusal to surrender becomes an act of defiance, though she lacks the means to intervene directly.

The chapter culminates in Linden's resolve to remain conscious, despite the agony, because Covenant still needs her—even if only as a witness. Her internal struggle highlights the themes of choice and resilience in the face of overwhelming evil. Though the Raver's control is absolute, Linden's refusal to relinquish her identity underscores her growth from past helplessness to a tenuous but determined resistance. The chapter leaves her trapped in a nightmarish duality, caught between the Raver's dominion and her unwavering, if futile, commitment to fight.

