

Chapter 4: Part One - Four: Sea of Ice

The chapter "Sea of Ice" opens with the Giantship *Starfare's Gem* battling a violent storm in the frigid Soulbiter Sea. The wind tears through the sails, threatening to destroy the vessel, but the sturdy dromond withstands the onslaught and begins to outpace the danger. As the ship navigates thinning ice floes, the immediate peril recedes, but Covenant remains oblivious to the chaos around him, consumed by his desperate attempt to save Linden's life.

Linden lies near death, her body pale and unresponsive, as Covenant frantically tries to revive her. Ignoring offers of help from the Giants, he rubs her limbs and demands warm water, his fear driving him to near hysteria. When Pitchwife attempts to administer diamondraught, Linden fails to swallow, prompting Covenant to resort to desperate measures, including mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. His efforts are fraught with tension as he battles his own vertigo and the ship's violent movements.

A breakthrough comes when the cooks prepare a stone stewpot filled with warm water. Covenant channels his wild magic to heat it, carefully controlling his power to avoid harming Linden. The intense heat revives her, and she begins coughing, regaining consciousness. As she recovers, she weakly strips off her wet clothes and drinks the diamondraught, her strength slowly returning. Covenant, overwhelmed with relief, hides his face against Pitchwife, his emotions raw.

Linden's first words upon waking reveal her lingering anguish over their inability to help others in the Soulbiter. Covenant explains that the figures they saw were illusions, and aiding them would have led to damnation. The chapter closes with Covenant and Linden grappling with the moral weight of their choices, their survival tempered by the haunting consequences of their decisions.