

Chapter 16: Part Two - Sixteen:

"Andelain! forgive!"

The chapter opens with Linden Avery lying motionless in the gentle rain of Andelain, overwhelmed by despair after learning of Thomas Covenant's plan to sacrifice the Land to Lord Foul. The rain, though soothing, mirrors her inner darkness as she grapples with the weight of Covenant's impending betrayal. A Wraith of Andelain appears, its mournful light guiding her back to her companions, where she finds the First, Pitchwife, and Vain sleeping peacefully. Covenant, however, is absent, and the Wraith departs, leaving Linden to confront the grim reality of his intentions alone.

Linden follows a faint glow to a hollow where Covenant stands among his Dead—spectres of his past, including High Lord Mhoram, Elena, Banner, and Foamfollower. These figures emanate power and sorrow, seemingly reinforcing Covenant's resolve to destroy the Earth for what he believes is a greater purpose. Linden, however, sees their presence as a tragic encouragement of his self-destructive path. Her rage builds as she realizes Covenant's Dead are complicit in his despair, and she strides forward to confront them, determined to challenge their influence.

Facing the Dead, Linden's anguish erupts into a furious condemnation. She accuses them of forgetting the value of Andelain and the Land, condemning their role in Covenant's downfall. She particularly targets Elena, whose past actions broke the Law of Death and contributed to the Sunbane's rise. Linden's outburst forces Elena to confront her own guilt, causing her to vanish in grief. The others—Mhoram, Banner, and Foamfollower—watch in stunned silence, their expressions reflecting pain and confusion as Linden's passion overwhelms them.

The chapter culminates in Linden's desperate cry, "Why aren't you ashamed?" as she challenges the Dead to recognize their moral failure. Her outburst underscores the

chapter's central conflict: the tension between Covenant's fatalistic resolve and Linden's fierce determination to save the Land. The scene leaves the Dead shaken, Covenant bewildered, and Linden isolated in her defiance, setting the stage for a deeper confrontation about the fate of Andelain and the consequences of despair.

