

## 30. The Betrayal

The chapter opens with a discussion about the perceived threat of Odium, who is dismissed by many as harmless while confined to the Rosharan system. Meanwhile, Veil interacts with a mysterious glowing cube, experiencing a disorienting sense of déjà vu. She recalls fragmented memories from her past, including training with Pattern and the traumatic event of killing her mother. The cube seems to trigger these memories, leaving her unsettled and struggling to focus on her current mission.

Veil communicates with Mraize through the cube, reporting on her journey with fellow Radiants to a coastal town. Their conversation reveals a tense dynamic, as Mraize reinforces hierarchical principles within their organization, warning Veil against overstepping her role. Despite his strict demeanor, Mraize concedes some flexibility, hinting at underlying power dynamics. Veil, however, remains distracted by the cube's effects, which blur her perception of reality and memory.

The dialogue shifts to Veil's observation of corrupted spren, which Mraize identifies as agents of Sja-anat, a rogue spren allied with Odium. He tasks Veil with monitoring these spren, emphasizing their importance in their broader strategy. Veil's curiosity about the cube and her past lingers, but she refrains from pressing Mraize for answers, recognizing his reluctance to share information. The chapter highlights her internal struggle between duty and the pull of unresolved trauma.

As the conversation concludes, Veil grapples with the cube's lingering effects, forcing herself to stay present. The chapter ends with her contemplating whether to ask Mraize about her past, though she doubts he would provide answers. The tension between her mission, her fragmented memories, and her complex relationship with Mraize leaves her in a state of emotional and psychological turmoil, setting the stage for further exploration of her character and the unfolding plot.