The Assassin and the Pirate Lord

The Assassin and the Pirate Lord is a thrilling novella in the *Throne of Glass* universe that takes place before the events of the main series. It follows **Celaena Sardothien**, a deadly teenage assassin, as she embarks on a mission on behalf of the Assassin's Guild.

Sent to the remote Pirate Lord's stronghold on a supposed mission of business, Celaena quickly discovers the Guild's true intentions: human trafficking. Outraged and unwilling to be a pawn in such cruelty, she defies orders and plots a daring rescue.

Fast-paced, witty, and full of the fierce spirit that defines Celaena, this story sets the stage for her legendary journey—and reveals the heart behind the blade.

Chapter One

The chapter opens with Celaena Sardothien in the clandestine setting of the Assassin's Keep, where she is summoned for an urgent and secretive meeting by her mentor, Arobynn Hamel. Despite her exhaustion and her awareness of the importance of the gathering, she remains composed, aware of her role as one of the most trusted assassins. The atmosphere is tense and guarded, with the older men in the room avoiding her gaze, emphasizing the dangerous and secretive nature of their work. Celaena's awareness of her beauty as both a weapon and vulnerability underscores her cautious approach in a male-dominated environment where trust is scarce.

The meeting's primary focus is the capture of Gregori, a fellow assassin who has been caught in a trap and is now imprisoned in the royal dungeons. Arobynn reveals this

critical intelligence, prompting discussions on how to handle Gregori’s interrogation and potential threats he might pose if he reveals secrets. Celaena suggests a quick, discreet kill to silence him before he can talk, reflecting her pragmatic, ruthless attitude towards threats. The conversation also exposes underlying tensions, especially between Celaena and Sam, a young assassin who resents her and tries to undermine her position within their hierarchy.

As the discussion progresses, Celaena questions the protocol and the decisions made by Arobynn, hinting at her confidence and familiarity with the dangerous world they inhabit. Her sharp wit and assertiveness are evident as she proposes practical solutions, showing her competence and understanding of assassination tactics. The atmosphere shifts when Arobynn’s demeanor turns serious, indicating that something more troubling has occurred—Ben, a trusted member of their circle, has been killed, and his body has not been recovered. This revelation introduces a new layer of danger, betrayal, and mystery, heightening the stakes for all involved.

The chapter concludes with Celaena’s shock and grief over Ben’s death, coupled with her frustration over the lack of evidence and the circumstances surrounding his murder. Arobynn’s grief and the suspicion of betrayal deepen the intrigue, as the assassins grapple with the implications of the loss and the potential breach of their secretive world. The conversation hints at underlying treachery and the perilous nature of their alliances, setting the stage for further conflict and investigation into the circumstances of Ben’s demise and the broader threats lurking within their clandestine society.

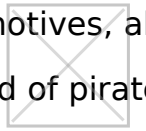
Chapter Two

The chapter begins with a sense of anticipation and tension as Captain Rolfe, the Lord of the Pirates, is late for a crucial meeting, highlighting the importance of punctuality in their clandestine dealings. Celaena Sardothien, an assassin disguised behind a mask and dark attire, is also waiting, reflecting her professionalism and readiness for the dangerous task ahead. Their meeting is set in Skull’s Bay, a rough port city within pirate territory, emphasizing the gritty, perilous environment that surrounds their covert operations. The delay underscores the unpredictable nature of their world, where time and trust are commodities that can be easily lost or gained.

Celaena’s role as an assassin is underscored by her sharp observations and discreet curiosity about her surroundings. She is tasked with seeking retribution for the murder of three fellow assassins, a duty she approaches with a mix of professionalism and underlying emotional strain due to recent personal losses. Her concealment behind her mask signifies her desire to protect her identity and maintain her mystique, which also grants her an intimidating presence. Her interactions with Sam reveal a layered relationship rooted in mutual trust, yet tinged with frustration over the delays and the dangerous environment they navigate.

As the chapter progresses, Celaena’s curiosity leads her to scrutinize the pirate lord’s office, revealing her resourcefulness and her tendency to pry into her surroundings despite the risks. Her casual demeanor, such as inspecting documents and sampling the pirate’s supplies, contrasts with her underlying seriousness about the mission. The setting, a humble tavern rather than a grand fortress, reflects the rough-and-tumble nature of pirate life and the unpredictability of their operations. Celaena’s disguise and her strategic probing demonstrate her skill in blending into her environment while remaining alert to potential threats or opportunities.

The chapter concludes with the arrival of Captain Rolfe, whose entrance shifts the atmosphere from cautious curiosity to a more immediate sense of confrontation. His confident demeanor and commanding presence suggest that he is a formidable figure, capable of both diplomacy and danger. Celaena’s composed yet guarded attitude indicates her awareness of the delicate balance she must maintain in this encounter. The scene sets the stage for a tense, layered interaction that will reveal more about the characters’ motives, alliances, and the complex web of loyalties binding them in this perilous world of pirates and assassins.



Chapter Three

The chapter opens with a tense scene where Celaena and Sam meticulously search their cramped quarters for any signs of espionage or danger, indicating the covert nature of their mission. They quickly secure the room by checking for spy-holes, sealing gaps, and covering windows, emphasizing the need for stealth. Once assured of their safety, Celaena removes her mask and confronts Sam, revealing their shared uncertainty about the true purpose of their assignment. Their dialogue highlights the suspicion and mistrust surrounding Arobynn’s motives, especially regarding their presence at a mysterious meeting involving a man who is overly self-absorbed and manipulative.

As the conversation deepens, Celaena questions Arobynn’s involvement in the slave trade, revealing her moral conflict with such dealings. She reflects on her past, her wealth, and her belief that Arobynn’s riches were limitless—spent on her upbringing and appearances—yet now she doubts his motives. Sam suggests that Arobynn’s interest might be driven by greed rather than loyalty or honor, hinting at darker secrets behind his wealth. Her frustration grows as she considers the implications of Arobynn’s actions, especially in contrast to her own moral code, and her regret over being involved in such a corrupt enterprise.

Later, the scene shifts to a formal dinner where Celaena struggles with her inability to eat properly due to her mask, which adds to her discomfort and frustration. The dinner serves as a backdrop for her to observe the pirates and Rolfe, whose mocking remarks and insinuations reveal the dangerous, gritty environment she is entangled in. Despite the luxurious setting, her guarded demeanor and her sharp retorts underscore her defiance and mistrust of Rolfe’s intentions. Sam’s quiet presence and their shared glances hint at a complex relationship of mutual understanding amid the chaos, as Rolfe probes into her past and her connection to Arobynn.

The chapter concludes with a tense reveal about Celaena’s history and her training. Rolfe’s interest in her origins and the mention of a static continent map symbolize the unchanging, rigid power structures she is up against. Sam’s wary demeanor and the mention of the banishment of the Fae and the loss of magic underscore a world in upheaval, where secrets and hidden agendas threaten to unravel. The chapter ends on a note of foreboding, suggesting that beneath the surface of their interactions lie deeper political and personal stakes that will influence their future actions.

Chapter Four

In Chapter Four, Celaena Sardothien grapples with her moral dilemma regarding her involvement in a slave shipment. Despite her reputation as a skilled assassin, she is deeply troubled by her role in retrieving slaves who are innocent victims fighting for their freedom. Her insomnia and emotional turmoil are compounded by her loss of her moral compass after Ben’s death, whom she considered a compassionate ally. The chapter reveals her internal conflict and growing resolve to find a way to thwart the deal, highlighting her desire to avoid complicity in such cruelty while navigating the dangerous world she inhabits.

Celaena’s interactions with her surroundings and the characters around her emphasize the gritty, harsh environment of Skull’s Bay. She recognizes the city’s dilapidated state, marked by ramshackle buildings and a reputation defined by the Ship-Breaker, a massive chain that controls the harbor’s access. Her journey through the streets underscores the chaos and lawlessness of the city, where pirates, orphans, and prostitutes coexist amidst danger and disorder. Her observations serve to deepen the reader’s understanding of the city’s perilous landscape and the risks involved in her clandestine plans.

Her meeting with Rolfe reveals the mechanics of the slave trade and her strategic mindset. Rolfe’s brisk walk and guarded responses illustrate the clandestine nature of their dealings. Celaena’s questions about inspecting the slaves and her suspicion of Rolfe’s honesty demonstrate her intent to gather intelligence and undermine the deal from within. Her focus on the logistics of the shipment, including the inspection process and the size of the shipment, highlights her determination to find a loophole or exploit in the system that will allow her to derail the operation without directly confronting her enemies.

The chapter concludes with a tense scene at the bustling docks, where the storm approaching symbolizes the brewing conflict. Rolfe’s dismissive attitude and the imagery of ships, catapults, and the Ship-Breaker emphasize the perilous environment and the scale of the slave operation. Celaena’s resolve to use her wit and resourcefulness to prevent the shipment from reaching Rifthold sets the stage for her upcoming plans. The chapter combines vivid world-building with her internal struggle, portraying her as a complex character caught between her moral convictions and the dangerous world she must navigate.

Chapter Five

The chapter opens with a tense scene as Celaena and Sam are taken to a large, ominous holding facility by Rolfe, with Sam displaying a quiet resignation and Celaena instinctively sensing danger. Inside, the warehouse is filled with the stench of unwashed bodies and the sight of countless prisoners from various lands, including women and children, all crammed into small cells. Celaena’s sharp instincts and her awareness of the slave trade’s brutality highlight her internal conflict and her growing outrage at the systemic cruelty inflicted upon these captives, especially the children, whose vulnerability she cannot ignore.

As they move through the facility, Celaena observes the prisoners’ suffering and the dehumanizing conditions they endure. Rolfe’s casual attitude toward their plight, coupled with his detailed knowledge of the slave trade, reveals the extent of the exploitation and corruption fueling the system. The land of Eyllwe, despite its resistance and history of rebellion, now suffers under Adarlan’s oppressive control, which profits from the slave trade and the exploitation of its resources and people. Celaena’s empathy deepens as she recognizes the widespread injustice and the brutality inflicted upon her homeland’s people.

The chapter also exposes the brutal realities of the slave trade, with Rolfe describing how prisoners, including children, are auctioned off to the highest bidder—whether for labor, domestic service, or even more sinister purposes like prostitution. The mention of slaves being sold to the Salt Mines of Endovier underscores how deeply intertwined slavery is with Adarlan’s economy. Celaena’s confrontation with Rolfe about the fate of the children reveals her moral outrage, especially when she learns they are at risk of being sold into brothels or forced labor, igniting her resolve to oppose these atrocities.

The emotional core of the chapter lies in the personal histories of the characters, particularly Sam’s, whose mother was sold into a brothel. His visceral reaction to the

mention of children being sold into such environments underscores the deep scars left by the slave trade. Celaena’s determination to prevent such suffering from continuing, combined with her understanding of the political and economic forces at play, drives her to confront the corrupt system. The chapter ends with her resolve to act, recognizing that mere opposition is insufficient—she must find a way to dismantle the oppressive trade and bring justice to those suffering under Adarlan’s rule.

Chapter Six

In Chapter Six, Celaena and Sam spend a day in Skull’s Bay meticulously planning their covert operation. They walk through the bustling streets, gathering intelligence from various sources, including fishermen, harlots, and a drunken pirate. Their observations reveal crucial details about the slave ships, guard shifts, and the ships’ defenses, all of which are vital for executing their rescue mission. Celaena’s focus remains on the logistics of their plan, ensuring they understand the timing, security measures, and the layout of their target, while maintaining a cautious and strategic mindset.

The narrative shifts to the inspection of the slave ship, where Celaena and Sam observe the slaves being loaded onto the vessel. They note the number of captives, their ages, and the conditions they endure. Rolfe, a key antagonist, provides information about the ship’s defenses and the guards’ routines, emphasizing the unpredictability of slave losses during the journey. Celaena’s disdain for the brutal trade is evident, yet she remains calculated, gathering intelligence to inform her next steps, including the potential for language barriers to increase the slaves’ value.

Later, the chapter details a clandestine nighttime operation as Celaena and Sam slip into two rowboats, approaching the offshore slave ships under the cover of darkness. Their goal is to infiltrate and free the captives. Celaena’s physical exertion is palpable as she rows through the night, mindful of the watchtower guarding the bay. The scene underscores the high stakes of their mission, with the threat of detection looming from the fortified defenses, including the chain across the bay and the watchtower’s fire. Their silent approach highlights the tension and precision required for a successful rescue.

Overall, the chapter combines strategic planning, detailed reconnaissance, and tense action to portray Celaena and Sam’s dangerous effort to dismantle the slave trade.

The narrative emphasizes the complexity of their mission, the importance of timing and intelligence, and the risks involved in challenging powerful enemies. It sets the stage for a daring infiltration, balancing careful preparation with the imminent threat of discovery, all within the perilous environment of Skull’s Bay and its fortified defenses.

Chapter Seven

Celaena demonstrates her agility and stealth as she infiltrates the ship, quickly subduing guards with precise, quiet strikes. Her actions reveal her expertise as an assassin, balancing efficiency with restraint to avoid unnecessary killing. Moving swiftly through the ship’s rigging and decks, she signals her accomplice, Sam, to confirm that her targets are incapacitated. Her focus is on executing the plan swiftly before the guards can recover or raise an alarm, emphasizing her resourcefulness and determination to complete her mission under the cover of darkness.

After ensuring the guards are unconscious, Celaena infiltrates the captain’s quarters, where she successfully captures Captain Fairview. She then ventures into the cramped cargo hold, where chained slaves are held in dire conditions. Using stolen keys, she frees Dia, a key character, and a woman chained nearby, instructing them to remain in the room and not leave. Her goal is to gather intelligence and facilitate the escape of the captives, all while maintaining her cover and avoiding detection by the ship's crew or guards.

Celaena’s interaction with Dia and the other prisoners reveals her strategic approach—she communicates through translation, ensuring that the captives understand the plan to escape. She explains that the guards are unconscious and the captain is secured, with plans to use the chaos to lead the slaves to safety via the Dead Islands. Her instructions include strict warnings about staying hidden and avoiding the watchtower, highlighting her awareness of the risks and her focus on orchestrating a covert escape. This segment underscores her leadership and her commitment to rescuing the oppressed.

In the final part, Celaena discusses the upcoming escape plan with Dia and the others, emphasizing the importance of timing and caution. She reveals that her ally is already on another slave ship, ready to create a distraction at dawn, allowing the captives to

sail out undetected. She addresses logistical concerns, such as disabling the chain blocking the harbor entrance and ensuring they can navigate the ship out of the area. Her careful coordination and strategic planning showcase her role as a cunning and determined figure working against formidable odds to free the captives and thwart their captors.

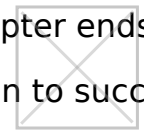
Chapter Eight

The chapter opens with Celaena Sardothien observing a clandestine operation in a lively, crowded tavern filled with pirates, peasants, and revelers. Disguised behind a mask, she and her companions, Rolfe and Sam, pretend to be intoxicated to blend into the chaotic environment. Despite the oppressive heat and the raucous atmosphere, their goal is to gather intelligence without revealing their true identities. Rolfe, seemingly eager to see Celaena's face, hints at a deeper secret involving a tattooed map and a deal to reveal her identity once certain conditions are met. Their interaction is laced with playful deception, emphasizing the covert nature of their mission.

As the night progresses, Celaena engages in a game of cards with Rolfe and Sam, using humor and camaraderie to mask their true intentions. The tavern's lively, raucous ambiance provides an ideal cover for their activities, with music, storytelling, and drunken revelry filling the hours. Amidst the revelry, Celaena's focus remains on her mission, subtly trying to gauge Rolfe's intentions while maintaining her cover. The scene highlights her wit and resourcefulness as she navigates the dangerous environment, balancing the need for secrecy with the desire to gather crucial information about her enemies and their plans.

However, the mood shifts as the evening descends into chaos. Rolfe's mood deteriorates after a series of unfortunate losses at the card game, and the atmosphere erupts into a full-blown tavern brawl. Celaena's training comes into play as she fights through the tumult, demonstrating her combat skills by injuring opponents without killing. Her objective is to keep the fight going long enough to distract the crowd and prevent anyone from noticing her true purpose. The chaos intensifies as pirates draw swords, throw punches, and leap from balconies, transforming the tavern into a battleground that tests her agility and resolve.

In the midst of the violence, Celaena faces physical assaults and setbacks, including being thrown against a pillar and struck by a pirate’s fist. Despite these injuries, she maintains her composure, fighting her way toward the exit while clashing blades with unskilled opponents. Her focus remains on escaping the chaos and ensuring her mission continues undetected. As she finally breaks out into the streets, she observes that the violence has spilled into the city streets, with fights erupting across multiple taverns. The chapter ends on a tense note, emphasizing the perilous environment and her determination to succeed in her covert endeavor.



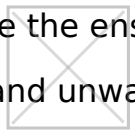
Chapter Nine

In Chapter Nine, Celaena Sardothien observes the still-anchored slave ships in the bay, aware that her actions have drawn attention from the Pirate Lord Rolfe. She remains cautious, expressing her reluctance to involve herself directly in the chaos unfolding around her. Rolfe, perceptive and suspicious, confronts her about her intentions, noting her recent behavior and her apparent readiness for conflict. The tension escalates as the dawn light reveals the ships' movements and preparations for attack, prompting Celaena to carefully strategize her next move amidst the brewing confrontation.

As the situation intensifies, Celaena must maintain her cover while subtly disrupting Rolfe’s plans. She feigns innocence and confidence, even as Rolfe’s suspicion grows. Her quick thinking leads her to shed her disguise, revealing her true identity and intentions to distract Rolfe and buy precious time for her allies. Sam, her companion, seizes the opportunity to escape, urging her to flee while she engages Rolfe in a fierce and calculated combat. Celaena’s agility and combat skills are on display as she fights to keep Rolfe occupied and prevent him from alerting his men, aiming to disable the ships and free the enslaved people.

The battle between Celaena and Rolfe is brutal and strategic. She deftly dodges his attacks, using her sword and dagger to keep him at bay while attempting to incapacitate him. Rolfe, experienced and cunning, manages to land a few strikes, inflicting a wound that slows her down but does not stop her resolve. Their fight is punctuated by rapid exchanges, with Celaena trying to undermine Rolfe’s plans by destroying the ships’ rudders and disrupting their escape routes. Her goal remains clear: to free the captives and prevent Rolfe from profiting from their suffering, even as she faces the danger of being overwhelmed.

In the chaos, Celaena successfully manages to incapacitate Rolfe, knocking him out with a swift blow. She quickly takes cover amid the crowd of pirates, disguising herself to avoid detection. Her focus shifts to the broader mission—disabling the ships and ensuring the escape of her allies. Despite her injuries and the relentless pursuit of the pirates, she remains determined to complete her task. The chapter concludes with her leading the pirates away from the docks, with Sam already ahead, working to release the chain and free the enslaved. The tide of battle and daring escape highlight her resourcefulness and unwavering resolve.



Chapter Ten

In this tense chapter, Celaena faces off against Rolfe, a ruthless pirate lord, in a dangerous confrontation. Rolfe, armed and threatening, taunts her and reveals the extent of her previous efforts to disrupt his operations, including the destruction of ships and the liberation of slaves. Despite her predicament, Celaena remains composed, plotting her next move while enduring Rolfe’s intimidation. Their exchange underscores the high stakes involved, with Rolfe eager to exact revenge for her interference, highlighting the peril she faces in her quest to dismantle his illicit activities.

The encounter intensifies as Rolfe physically assaults Celaena, slicing her and forcing her into a corner. She fights back fiercely, using her agility and quick thinking to turn the tables. With Rolfe on the ground and disarmed, she seizes the opportunity to threaten him further by forcing him to sign important documents. These papers serve as leverage, containing a cease-and-desist order for slave trading and a personal oath from Rolfe to cease his illegal dealings, effectively aiming to dismantle his influence and protect fleeing slaves.

Celaena’s strategic use of intimidation is central to her plan. She manipulates Rolfe into signing the documents by threatening his life and leveraging forged signatures and stolen seals. Her resolve is clear: she intends to use these documents to undermine his authority and ensure he cannot resume his slave trade. Her determination to fight for the enslaved is driven by her moral conviction, and she makes it explicit that she will pursue him relentlessly if he betrays her trust, emphasizing her commitment to justice and her willingness to go to great lengths.

As the chapter concludes, Rolfe, begrudgingly, agrees to sign under duress, recognizing the threat she poses. He warns her against returning to his territory, but her final request—a ship—underscores her ongoing plans and the broader fight she is

engaged in. The chapter ends with a sense of unresolved tension, highlighting Celaena’s resilience and strategic mind, as she prepares for the challenges ahead while subtly asserting her dominance over her enemies.