# Rhythm of War (9781429952040)

*Rhythm of War* delves deeper into the cosmic war between **Odium** (the god of hatred) and the forces of **Roshar**, with a focus on **science, trauma, and the cost of power**. Key arcs include:

- **Kaladin**: Struggles with severe depression and PTSD while protecting prisoners in a **singer** (Parshendi) war camp.
- **Shallan & Adolin**: Navigate marital strain and secrets in **Shadesmar**, uncovering truths about the **Deadeyes**.
- **Navani**: Takes center stage with groundbreaking **fabrial science**, bonding the **Sibling** (a slumbering spren) to save Urithiru.
- **Venli & Eshonai** (flashbacks): Explore the **singer** perspective and their path to rebellion.

The book expands the **Cosmere** (Sanderson's universe) with revelations about **Investiture, spren bonds, and the Dawnshards**.

## Prologue: To Pretend

The chapter opens seven years in the past, depicting Navani Kholin managing the chaotic preparations for a grand feast hosted by her husband, King Gavilar. Despite the last-minute addition of Parshendi drummers and an overwhelming guest list, Navani remains composed, directing staff and repurposing soldiers to assist. Her calm authority contrasts with the panic of the kitchen staff, highlighting her role as the stabilizing force behind Gavilar's impulsive decisions. The scene underscores the tension between Gavilar's grand visions and the practical challenges of execution, with

Navani seamlessly bridging the gap.

As Navani navigates the kitchens, she reflects on earlier crises, such as contaminated grain stores, which she resolved by securing supplies from Brightlord Amaram. Her attention to detail extends to the palace gardens, where she ensures lanterns are prepared for the evening’s festivities. The narrative emphasizes her meticulous planning and adaptability, traits that make her indispensable to Gavilar’s rule. However, her frustration simmers beneath the surface, particularly when she discovers unexpected guests, like the renowned artifabrian Rushur Kris, whom Gavilar failed to inform her about.

A chance encounter with her daughter-in-law, Aesudan, reveals further tensions. Aesudan dismisses Rushur Kris as a bore, oblivious to his significance, while Navani is eager to engage with him about his groundbreaking fabrials. The interaction exposes their contrasting priorities—Aesudan’s focus on social status versus Navani’s intellectual curiosity. Navani’s suppressed anger at Gavilar’s oversight bubbles up, manifesting as angerspren, but she quickly regains control, demonstrating her disciplined demeanor even in moments of personal frustration.

The chapter concludes with Navani’s attention divided between the kitchens’ latest crisis and her desire to speak with Rushur Kris. Aesudan’s indifference to the artifabrian’s presence underscores her superficiality, while Navani’s irritation at Gavilar’s lack of communication hints at deeper marital strains. The prologue sets the stage for Navani’s complex role as both a behind-the-scenes orchestrator and an intellectually stifled figure, foreshadowing themes of duty, resentment, and unfulfilled potential that may unfold in the narrative.

# 1. Calluses

The chapter opens with an epigraph from Navani Kholin, discussing the mechanics of attracting spren by using gemstones and familiar elements. This sets a thematic tone for the chapter, which then shifts to focus on Lirin, a surgeon calmly treating a child for scurvy amidst a refugee crisis. Lirin’s training helps him remain composed as he assists the child’s mother, offering a token for juice and promising to help locate her missing children. The scene highlights the dire conditions in Hearthstone, where refugees from Herdaz crowd the town, living under makeshift tarps and facing scrutiny from armed parshmen, now called "singers."

Lirin observes the overwhelmed town, noting the fog-shrouded streets and the influx of refugees, many fleeing the destruction of Herdaz after a year of conflict. The town’s resources are stretched thin, with stormshelters inadequate for long-term housing. Lirin’s role as a medic forces him to triage the refugees, inspecting each for health issues while navigating the political tensions under the new parshmen-led regime. The chapter underscores the cyclical nature of power and violence, as Lirin reflects on how little has changed despite the shift in leadership—ordinary people still suffer, and he remains tasked with healing their wounds.

The narrative follows Lirin as he treats a one-armed Alethi man traumatized by brigands who killed his wife. Lirin’s clinical detachment is evident as he directs the man to a tent for mental health support, though he internally notes the man’s hollow stare. His pragmatic approach is challenged when Abiajan, the parshwoman citylady, questions his seemingly emotionless condolences. Lirin defends his demeanor as a necessary professional boundary, revealing the emotional toll of his work. The interaction hints at their shared history, as Abiajan recalls Lirin setting her broken arm in childhood, though her current role and experiences remain enigmatic.

The chapter closes with a sense of unresolved tension, as Lirin continues his work amid the chaos, anticipating the arrival of a figure responsible for much of the suffering. The juxtaposition of Lirin’s stoicism and the refugees’ despair paints a grim picture of a world in upheaval, where survival hinges on resilience and detachment. The epigraph’s theme of attracting spren through familiarity mirrors Lirin’s own reliance on routine and training to navigate the unfamiliar and brutal realities of war and displacement.

# 2. Severed Cords

The chapter opens with Kaladin, a Surgebinder, engaging in combat with a new variety of Fused, formidable enemies with unique abilities. As he flares with Stormlight, his spren companion Syl transforms into a silvery spear, forcing back the encroaching singers. Kaladin avoids looking at his father, anticipating disappointment, while refugees scatter in panic. The Fused, a hulking figure, smiles at Kaladin, setting the stage for a tense confrontation. Syl's telepathic banter adds a layer of urgency as Kaladin assesses the unfamiliar foe, noting its ugliness and unknown capabilities.

Kaladin reflects on the increasing diversity of Fused appearing on the battlefield, each with distinct powers akin to the Radiants. He recalls Jasnah's theory of ten varieties, countered by Dalinar's insistence on nine. This encounter marks the seventh type Kaladin has faced. Attempting to draw the Fused away from civilians, he uses his Lashing ability to maneuver through the air, but the dense fog limits his mobility. Syl warns him to be cautious, hinting at the unpredictability of the new Fused's powers, foreshadowing the danger ahead.

The battle takes a dramatic turn when the Fused collapses into a streak of red-violet light, reforming instantly in front of Kaladin. The creature grabs him by the throat and slams him to the ground, demonstrating terrifying strength. Despite Kaladin's Stormlight-enhanced resilience, the Fused's grip is unyielding. Syl shifts forms to adapt, but the Fused's relentless assault—repeatedly stabbing Kaladin's neck to sever his spine—leaves him paralyzed and struggling to heal. The Fused's precision suggests experience fighting Surgebinders, pushing Kaladin to the brink as his Stormlight depletes rapidly.

In a desperate move, Kaladin exploits a brief moment of mobility between stabs to headbutt the Fused, disrupting its grip. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger as Kaladin, vision swimming, feels the Fused cling to his coat. The intense combat highlights

Kaladin’s resilience and tactical ingenuity, even as he faces overwhelming odds. Syl’s frantic concern underscores the gravity of the situation, leaving readers eager to see how Kaladin will overcome this life-threatening encounter.

# Navani’s Notebook: The Fourth Bridge

The provided chapter excerpt from *Navani’s Notebook: The Fourth Bridge* appears to be a title page or introductory section, as it primarily consists of structural HTML markup and an image reference. The chapter does not contain substantial narrative or analytical content, but the inclusion of the book's title image suggests a focus on visual or thematic elements central to the work. The HTML formatting indicates a digital or multimedia component, possibly hinting at an interactive or enhanced reading experience.

Given the lack of textual content, the chapter likely serves as a transitional or decorative element within the book. The image titled *Navani’s Notebook: The Fourth Bridge* implies a connection to the broader themes of the book, such as innovation, engineering, or bridging divides, which are often associated with Navani Kholin’s character in the *Stormlight Archive* series. The meticulous HTML structure suggests a deliberate presentation style, possibly reflecting Navani’s methodical and detail-oriented nature.

The absence of substantial prose in this excerpt makes it challenging to summarize its narrative or thematic depth. However, the chapter’s placement and design may serve to orient the reader, emphasizing the importance of visual and structural elements in the book’s overall composition. This aligns with Navani’s role as a scholar and inventor, where notebooks and diagrams play a critical role in her work.

In conclusion, while this chapter does not provide explicit content for analysis, its design and title image suggest it functions as a symbolic or thematic anchor. The emphasis on the *Fourth Bridge* could foreshadow key plot developments or conceptual explorations in the book, such as technological advancements or ideological connections. The chapter’s minimalist approach underscores the significance of visual storytelling in the broader narrative framework.

# 3. The Fourth Bridge

The chapter opens with an epigraph from Navani Kholin’s lecture on fabrial mechanics, detailing the challenges of capturing spren by removing Stormlight from gemstones. She mentions the near-extinct larkin as a potential solution, hinting at the political conflicts over these creatures. This sets the stage for the chapter’s focus on technological innovation and the delicate balance of power in the world of Roshar.

Navani, aboard her flying platform, reflects on the lush landscape of Alethkar, contrasting it with the barren Shattered Plains and Urithiru. Her playful defiance of Velat’s motherly warnings showcases her bold personality and the freedom her authority affords. The scene highlights her excitement and pride as she oversees the landing of her groundbreaking creation, a flying ship powered by advanced fabrial technology.

The chapter delves into the mechanics of the flying platform, explaining how it operates through paired gemstones and pulleys controlled from Urithiru. Navani’s team uses spanreeds to communicate with engineers on the ground, coordinating the ship’s movements. The innovation lies in using aluminum to isolate and redirect forces, allowing the ship to soar despite the limitations of distance and resistance. This technical achievement underscores Navani’s brilliance and the collaborative effort behind the project.

Navani’s personal reflections add emotional depth, as she wistfully remembers her son Elhokar, who would have cherished the view from the ship. The project served as a coping mechanism after his death, though she humbly acknowledges that the breakthrough came from collective discovery rather than her alone. The chapter blends technological marvel with personal triumph, capturing Navani’s resilience and visionary leadership.

# 4. Architects of the Future

The chapter opens with Radiant, one of Shallan’s personas, awakening to find herself captured and being carried by an unknown assailant. Despite the disorientation, she remains composed, relying on her Lightweaving abilities to maintain her disguise. Radiant assesses the situation, noting her captor’s scent and the lack of physical restraints, while internally coordinating with her other personas, Veil and Shallan. Her primary focus is evaluating the danger, though she feels a sense of satisfaction from Veil, as their mission to infiltrate the Sons of Honor seems to be progressing.

Radiant reflects on the group’s suspicions that Ialai Sadeas has taken control of the Sons of Honor following Amaram’s death. The cult is believed to be plotting to seize the Oathgate on the Shattered Plains, though Radiant lacks concrete evidence. She resolves not to act against Ialai without proof, a stance supported by Dalinar. The internal conflict between her personas surfaces briefly, with Veil expressing frustration over past missed opportunities to neutralize Ialai, but Radiant dismisses these thoughts as unproductive.

The scene shifts as Radiant’s captors arrive at their destination—a hidden chasm—where she is roughly deposited on wet rock. Veil takes over, feigning confusion and fear as she observes her surroundings and the robed figures surrounding her. The Sons of Honor, adorned in ceremonial garb, question her allegiance, testing her commitment to their cause. Veil plays the role of Chanasha Hasareh, a loyalist seeking to overthrow Dalinar, while secretly searching for signs of Ialai’s involvement.

The chapter concludes with Veil’s disappointment as she realizes Ialai is not present, indicating her disguise may not have garnered the high-profile attention they hoped for. The cult members, including Ulina, a rising figure in Ialai’s circle, expound on their mission to restore the Heralds and the Almighty. Veil maintains her facade, but the

absence of Ialai suggests their plan may need adjustment. The tension builds as the cult’s rhetoric hints at broader schemes, leaving Veil—and the reader—anticipating the next steps in their dangerous infiltration.

# 5. Broken Spears

The chapter opens with Kaladin and his Windrunners poised defensively in the sky, their motionless formation drawing awe from refugees below. The Heavenly Ones, ancient Fused warriors, advance with unnatural grace, their flowing robes and lances marking them as formidable foes. Kaladin reflects on their origins—ordinary singers sacrificed to host these ancient souls—and envies their innate mastery of the winds, which contrasts with his own hard-won skills. The stage is set for a confrontation, with Kaladin hoping to face Leshwi, a Fused leader he has battled before.

Kaladin organizes his Windrunners, sending less experienced squires to guard civilians while seasoned knights prepare for combat. He notes the growth of his forces, with many original members now bonded to spren, but laments the scarcity of honorspren for new recruits. The Windrunners and Fused engage in one-on-one duels, a practice Kaladin has come to respect despite its archaic nature. The battlefield becomes a chaotic dance of paired combatants, leaving a few Fused unengaged—among them, Kaladin spots Leshwi.

Leshwi, recognizable by her distinctive skin pattern and demeanor, signals Kaladin for a duel. As they ascend, a surge of Stormlight from Dalinar’s perpendicularity revitalizes the Radiants, granting them a tactical advantage. Kaladin pursues Leshwi, their spears leveled, as the chapter highlights the Windrunners’ superior speed and maneuverability. The clash between the two leaders symbolizes the broader conflict, blending honor and brutality in the skies above the battlefield.

The chapter underscores the evolving dynamics between Kaladin and the Fused, particularly his grudging respect for their combat traditions. Leshwi’s reappearance adds personal stakes to the battle, while the strategic use of Stormlight emphasizes the Radiants’ growing prowess. Kaladin’s leadership and the Windrunners’ discipline shine through, even as they face an enemy that seems born to the skies. The tension

between ancient honor and modern warfare drives the narrative forward, leaving readers anticipating the outcome of this high-stakes duel.

# Navani’s Notebook: The Arnist Method

The provided excerpt appears to be a title page from "Navani’s Notebook: The Arnist Method," featuring an image of the book's cover. This suggests the chapter serves as an introduction or opening section, setting the stage for the content to follow. The technical markup indicates a carefully formatted digital publication, with attention to metadata and styling.

The XML and HTML structure reveals this is part of a professionally produced ebook, complete with page breaks, alt text for accessibility, and linked stylesheets. The inclusion of a UUID in the metadata suggests this book is part of a larger digital library system, possibly using Adept's resource management framework.

While no substantive narrative content is present in this excerpt, the title "The Arnist Method" hints at a systematic approach or methodology that will be explored in subsequent chapters. The visual presentation through the cover image implies the book may blend practical techniques with theoretical foundations, characteristic of instructional or philosophical works.

This title page serves as a formal gateway into Navani's work, establishing the digital book's structure before delving into its core concepts. The meticulous formatting suggests the author or publisher places high value on technical precision, which may reflect the methodical nature of the Arnist Method itself.

# 6. A Loose Thread

The chapter opens with Radiant, hooded and disoriented, hearing Adolin's voice as he attempts to rescue her. Despite considering immediate action, she hesitates, aligning with Veil and Shallan's plan to confront Ialai Sadeas directly. The scene shifts as Radiant is forcibly led through a hidden tunnel, its smooth walls suggesting Shardblade craftsmanship. The tension escalates as the conspirators, including Ulina, guide her upward, their urgency hinting at their desperation to evade capture. Radiant's internal monologue reveals her strategic patience, even as she remains alert for any opportunity to act.

The group emerges into what appears to be a cellar, likely part of the Sadeas warcamp's hidden infrastructure. Radiant notes the conspirators' disarray as they remove their disguises, their muttered plans reflecting their fraying coordination. The narrative underscores the warcamp's history of political instability, with Ialai's foresight in constructing escape routes highlighting her cunning. Radiant's forced march through the streets, hood still intact, is punctuated by Shallan's keen directional sense, mapping their winding path to a fortress-like building near the eastern edge of the camp.

Inside the sparse, utilitarian room, Veil takes over, removing the hood and assessing her surroundings. The setting—a bare stone chamber with minimal comforts—mirrors the Sadeas family's pragmatic brutality. Veil reflects on Ialai's rise to power, recalling how she eliminated rivals like Thanadal and Vamah, consolidating control over the warcamps. The conspirators' frantic arguments in the adjacent room reveal their fear of failure, further emphasizing Ialai's grip on the situation. Veil's cautious entry into Ialai's shadowed domain sets the stage for their confrontation.

The chapter culminates with Veil stepping into Ialai's presence, the room's oppressive atmosphere underscoring the gravity of the encounter. Ialai, shrouded in darkness,

embodies the remnants of Alethkar's fractious past. Veil's internal deliberation—weighing Radiant's discipline against Shallan's instincts—hints at the psychological complexity driving her actions. The hutch nearby adds an air of mystery, suggesting hidden tools or secrets. The chapter leaves the reader anticipating the clash between Veil's resolve and Ialai's calculated dominance.

# 7. The Rarest Vintage

The chapter opens with an epigraph detailing fabrial mechanics, explaining how zinc and brass wires can manipulate spren manifestation within gemstones. This technical introduction contrasts sharply with the ensuing scene, where Veil confronts Ialai Sadeas, a cunning but visibly diminished noblewoman. Ialai’s gaunt appearance and hollow demeanor surprise Veil, who expected a more formidable opponent. Their tense exchange reveals Ialai’s political maneuvering, as she claims to support the rightful child heir while subtly challenging Dalinar’s rule. Veil wrestles with her conflicting personas—Radiant’s honor, Shallan’s caution, and her own violent impulses—before opting for diplomacy.

Ialai’s dialogue exposes her calculated rhetoric: she frames her rebellion as a patriotic effort to restore the "correct" Alethi lineage. Veil remains skeptical, noting Ialai’s haunted demeanor and suspecting her motives. The confrontation escalates as Ialai reveals a collection of rare wines, offering Veil a clear, sweet vintage—a symbolic gesture that hints at hidden truths. Their verbal sparring grows more pointed when Ialai alludes to prior assassination attempts, implying she knows Veil’s lethal intent. The wine’s clarity, Ialai notes, mirrors the need to "reveal what was truly inside," a veiled challenge to Veil’s disguise.

Veil’s internal conflict intensifies as she covertly summons her Shardblade to signal Adolin, aware that direct action against Ialai’s fortified position would be perilous. Ialai’s probing questions—about poison, past attacks, and the wine’s origins—force Veil to reassess her approach. The chapter masterfully blends political intrigue with psychological tension, as Ialai’s weariness belies her sharp mind, and Veil’s fractured identity complicates her mission. The rare vintage becomes a metaphor for the deceptive surfaces both women navigate.

The chapter culminates in a standoff where power dynamics shift subtly. Ialai’s deliberate movements and cryptic remarks suggest she is several steps ahead, while Veil’s hesitation underscores the moral ambiguity of her task. The unresolved tension—Will Veil kill Ialai? Does Ialai have an escape plan?—leaves the reader anticipating the next confrontation. The prose balances action with introspection, weaving together themes of loyalty, deception, and the cost of power through vivid character dynamics and rich symbolism.

# 8. Surrender

Kaladin navigates a burning manor, deeply unsettled by a recent loss of his Stormlight powers, which he had come to rely upon like a trusted weapon. He discusses the threat of enemy fabrials that can nullify their abilities with Syl, his spren companion, who describes the experience as feeling "faded." The fire around them is described with vivid, almost sentient malevolence, consuming the delicate wooden structure. Kaladin pushes forward, using his Stormlight to heal minor burns as he searches for a way to the cellar, ultimately dashing through the flames to reach a dark tunnel leading underground.

Upon entering the cellar, Kaladin discovers two prisoners manacled to the wall, one of whom is Jeber, a familiar face from his youth. Both are dead, their eyes burned out by a Shardblade. Syl alerts Kaladin to a hidden alcove where Moash, a former ally turned traitor, stands with Roshone—a man who once tormented Kaladin's family—held at knifepoint. Before Kaladin can react, Moash slits Roshone's throat, leaving him to bleed out on the stone floor. Kaladin is paralyzed by the surgeon's instinct that the wound is fatal, unable to save Roshone despite their bitter history.

Moash coldly observes Kaladin's futile attempt to rescue Roshone, mocking his willingness to save even his worst enemies. The scene triggers Kaladin's memories of Moash's betrayal in Kholinar, where he killed King Elhokar. The confrontation is charged with unresolved anger and grief, as Kaladin grapples with Moash's twisted justification for his actions. The chapter highlights the moral complexity of vengeance and mercy, as Kaladin's instincts to protect clash with his personal wounds.

The chapter ends with Kaladin roaring in fury, leaping to his feet as Roshone's death echoes the trauma of Elhokar's murder. Moash's taunts and the Bridge Four salute—a gesture now tainted by betrayal—deepen Kaladin's anguish. The scene underscores the themes of loss, betrayal, and the struggle to uphold one's principles in the face of

personal pain. The fire, both literal and metaphorical, serves as a backdrop to the emotional inferno consuming Kaladin as he confronts the consequences of Moash's choices and his own unresolved past.

# 9. Contradictions

The chapter opens with Kaladin aboard the *Fourth Bridge*, watching his abandoned hometown of Hearthstone shrink below. Despite once envisioning a triumphant return, he feels little pain at leaving it forever, recognizing it ceased being his home long ago. His attention shifts to the expanded ranks of Bridge Four, now hundreds strong, which feels overwhelming compared to its original tight-knit camaraderie. Exhausted and battered, Kaladin reflects on his physical and emotional state, noting how Stormlight—usually invigorating—now feels insufficient to lift his spirits.

Kaladin’s inner turmoil deepens as he grapples with past failures, particularly the deaths of Tien and King Elhokar. These memories haunt him, overshadowing any sense of wonder at flying. His guilt and self-doubt resurface when Syl, his spren, appears and informs him of Laran’s achievement in speaking the Third Ideal. Kaladin’s muted response hints at his emotional detachment. He then fixates on his confrontation with Moash, questioning why he hesitated to kill him and ruminating on Moash’s taunts about inevitable loss and despair.

Syl expresses concern over Kaladin’s worsening mental state, noting his exhaustion and emotional numbness seem tied to his Stormlight depletion. She struggles to comprehend his pain, pleading for guidance on how to help him. Kaladin initially deflects, claiming he just needs rest, but eventually admits Moash’s manipulation triggered old wounds, including memories of the Honor Chasm—a place where he once contemplated suicide. The chapter underscores his inability to reconcile past camaraderie with Moash’s betrayal.

The chapter closes with Kaladin’s silent struggle, as Syl’s desperation to understand his despair highlights their deepening disconnect. His trauma manifests in recurring visions of fallen comrades and bridge runs, symbolizing his unresolved guilt. Syl’s helplessness mirrors Kaladin’s own sense of isolation, leaving him trapped in a cycle of

exhaustion and self-reproach. The narrative paints a poignant picture of a hero grappling with the weight of his past and the erosion of his resilience.

# 10. A Single Casualty

Kaladin, feeling rejuvenated after hours of flying, leads his Windrunners across the Shattered Plains. His spren companion, Syl, informs him that Yunfah, an honorspren who lost his previous Radiant, wishes to speak with him. Kaladin, confident in his role, signals for Yunfah to approach. The spren arrives, appearing as an elderly figure on a cloud, and Kaladin observes his unique resilience in coping with loss compared to other spren. The chapter highlights Kaladin’s authority and the complex dynamics between Radiants and their spren.

Kaladin presses Yunfah to bond with Rlain, a capable but unconventional candidate, despite the spren’s initial reluctance. Syl acts as an intermediary, conveying Yunfah’s anger at the suggestion. Kaladin, leveraging his position as highmarshal, issues a direct order: Yunfah must either bond with Rlain or risk fading away. The tension between Kaladin’s command and Yunfah’s independence underscores the chapter’s exploration of leadership and loyalty. Yunfah eventually agrees to consider Rlain, though grudgingly, revealing his attachment to the physical realm.

The narrative shifts to Kaladin’s arrival at Narak, a fortified outpost on the Shattered Plains. Navani’s engineers have transformed the ruins into a strategic stronghold, complete with storm-resistant walls and lightning rods. Kaladin reflects on how such fortifications could have altered past conflicts with the Parshendi. His musings blend admiration for modern engineering with a hint of irony, as Syl reminds him of their earlier, less strategic victories. The scene emphasizes the evolving tactics and resilience of Kaladin’s forces.

As the chapter concludes, Kaladin and his Windrunners land at Narak, delivering Dalinar and other key figures. The description of Navani’s experimental flying vehicle, with its fin adjustments, adds a touch of technological curiosity. Kaladin’s satisfaction with the progress at Narak contrasts with the ongoing challenges of leadership and

spren bonds. The chapter balances action, introspection, and world-building, setting the stage for future developments in the conflict and Kaladin’s personal journey.

# Folio: Contemporary Singer Fashion

The chapter "Folio: Contemporary Singer Fashion" explores the intersection of traditional Alethi clothing with innovative fashion trends embraced by singers in occupied Kholinar. It highlights a folio page depicting a warform malen and a nimbleform femalen, showcasing how these figures reinterpret Alethi sensibilities through modern attire. The imagery underscores a cultural shift, where singers blend historical aesthetics with contemporary flair, reflecting their adaptability and creativity. This fusion serves as a visual testament to the evolving identity of Alethi fashion under occupation.

The folio page captures the distinct styles of the warform malen and nimbleform femalen, each representing unique adaptations of traditional garb. The warform malen's attire likely emphasizes strength and structure, while the nimbleform femalen's clothing suggests agility and fluidity. These designs illustrate how singers reimagine Alethi traditions to suit their roles and personalities. The chapter suggests that such innovations are not merely aesthetic but also symbolic of broader cultural resilience and reinvention.

By blending novel fashions with Alethi heritage, the singers create a hybrid style that challenges conventional norms. The folio serves as a historical record, documenting how occupation influences cultural expression. The chapter implies that fashion becomes a medium for both preservation and subversion, as singers navigate their identity under foreign rule. This dynamic interplay between tradition and modernity reflects the broader societal tensions of the era.

Ultimately, the chapter positions fashion as a powerful lens through which to examine cultural change. The folio's depiction of singer attire reveals how clothing can embody resistance, adaptation, and creativity. Through these sartorial choices, the singers assert their agency while honoring their roots. The chapter invites readers to consider

fashion not just as adornment but as a narrative of survival and transformation in occupied Kholinar.

# 11. Passion and Courage

The chapter opens with Venli, a Regal singer in envoyform, commanding servants to prepare for the arrival of Leshwi, a high-ranking Fused. Venli's role requires her to maintain authority, though she avoids harsh punishments common among other Regals. The scene highlights the hierarchical structure of singer society, where forms of power like envoyform grant elevated status but come with the influence of Voidspren. Venli's internal conflict is hinted at, as she secretly harbors a Radiant spren, Timbre, which shields her from the Voidspren's control.

The narrative delves into the complex social stratification of the singers, from common forms like workform to the powerful Regals and the ancient Fused. Venli reflects on the mysterious higher beings like thunderclasts and the Unmade, whose nature remains unclear. The precarious tower room in Kholinar, built under the Fused's direction, symbolizes the unstable and often illogical authority they wield. Venli's envoyform, while not suited for combat, grants her linguistic abilities and an imposing presence, which she uses to navigate the dangerous political landscape.

Leshwi's arrival underscores her elite status among the Fused, as servants rush to attend to her needs. Her sanity and battle prowess set her apart from other Fused, who often succumb to madness over centuries. The detailed description of her attire and the servants' subservience emphasizes the rigid power dynamics. Venli's calm demeanor hides her fear of discovery, as she stands ready to serve while concealing her true allegiance to Timbre and the Radiant cause.

The chapter concludes with Leshwi's indifferent attitude toward mortal customs, as she undergoes grooming rituals that defy traditional singer norms. Venli's ability to perceive Shadesmar grants her hidden insights into the true nature of those around her, a dangerous secret she must guard closely. The tension between her outward compliance and inner rebellion sets the stage for future conflicts, as she navigates the

treacherous world of the Fused and their dominion over singer society.

# 12. A Way to Help

The chapter opens with Kaladin's internal struggle as he arrives at Urithiru, burdened by his emotional turmoil. Despite being surrounded by his former Windrunner squires—now jovial and progressing in their Radiant journeys—Kaladin feels isolated and pained by his recent "relegation" from active duty. His attempts to mask his distress with a forced smile fail to convince his companions, particularly perceptive friends like Rock and Syl, who sense his true state. The contrast between the group's laughter and Kaladin's inner despair highlights his sense of displacement and loss.

Kaladin reflects on the changes within his circle: most of his former squires have advanced to higher Ideals, while others like Dabbid and Rlain remain in limbo. His friends, including Lopen and Skar, try to cheer him up with jokes and sparring invitations, but their efforts only deepen his anguish. Sigzil's tactful avoidance of work topics underscores how visibly affected Kaladin appears. Rock's deliberate distance and Syl's anxious hovering further emphasize Kaladin's struggle to maintain a facade of strength for their sake, even as he grapples with the idea of a "clean break" from his former life.

The group dynamics shift as they approach Urithiru, with squires dispersing into their own teams, leaving Kaladin increasingly alone. A fleeting moment of genuine amusement arises from Rock's banter with Kara, but it quickly fades. Kaladin's internal conflict intensifies as he questions whether he can fulfill Dalinar's request to lead the Windrunners from a administrative role rather than the battlefield. His prideful demeanor—offering dismissive nods to invitations—masks his longing for someone to insist he stay, but his companions, now preoccupied with their own lives, respectfully let him go.

The chapter closes with Kaladin retreating to his spartan quarters, a stark contrast to the bustling life of Urithiru. The emptiness of his highlord's chambers mirrors his

emotional void, underscoring his isolation despite his legendary status. His brief pride in maintaining composure in public collapses as he confronts the reality of his situation—a leader adrift, disconnected from the camaraderie that once defined him. The chapter poignantly captures Kaladin's struggle with identity, duty, and the weight of his perceived failures.

# 13. Another Hunt

The chapter opens with Shallan recovering from a hangover caused by her alter ego, Veil, after a wedding celebration. Despite her discomfort, she manages her duties as a highprince’s wife and Lightweaver, overseeing finances and governance in Urithiru. With trusted advisors handling day-to-day affairs, she audits accounts but feels the weight of her responsibilities. Adolin, her husband, encourages her to rest, though he spends his free time riding horses, leaving Shallan alone to confront her thoughts and unanswered correspondence.

While sorting through letters, Shallan discovers a cryptic message about an arranged deal involving spren, which unsettles her. Seeking distraction, she visits her brother Jushu, where she finds solace in drawing by the hearth. Her sketches evoke nostalgic memories of her childhood home in Jah Keved, though these recollections are bittersweet. The creationspren around her mimic objects from her past, including a chilling necklace chain, hinting at darker undertones beneath the surface of her idealized memories.

As Shallan reflects, she grapples with fragmented memories of her traumatic past, particularly the death of her mother when she was just eleven. She struggles to reconcile her younger self—who once summoned a Shardblade—with her present identity, fearing the person she once was. Her alter ego, Veil, insists the memories are buried deep within her, but Shallan resists confronting them, terrified of being unlovable or monstrous. Her research into fragmented personas offers little comfort, as historical cases were often treated as aberrations.

The chapter closes with Jushu interrupting Shallan’s reverie, noting the disturbing imagery in her sketch—burning souls in the fireplace, resembling her family members. This moment underscores Shallan’s unresolved trauma and the fragile stability of her mental state. Despite her attempts to convince herself she is improving, the chapter

leaves her psychological struggles unresolved, hinting at deeper conflicts yet to surface.

# 14. Voice

The chapter opens with Venli observing the transformed palace at Kholinar, a striking blend of organic and architectural design. The once-boxy human fortress has been reshaped into a grand, conical structure with sweeping arcs and ridges, resembling a plant or crown. Venli reflects on the history and artistry of her people, imagining cities filled with such designs. The palace, rebuilt by the Fused known as the Altered Ones, stands as a testament to the cultural achievements of the singers.

Venli's recent days have been chaotic, accompanying Leshwi to investigate the awakening of new Fused spirits. Leshwi's unease suggests something ominous about this group. Amidst the turmoil, Venli is summoned to a conclave of singers at the palace, where she is expected as the Voice. As she walks, she grapples with mixed emotions—admiration for the Fused's immortality and wisdom, but also a growing awareness of their flaws and her own past mistakes.

Inside the palace, Venli encounters the eerie presence of the Fused, some of whom are lost to the endless cycle of rebirth. She ascends to the pinnacle room, where the Nine—leaders of the Fused—are entombed in stone pillars. The chamber fills with Voices, each attending to their masters. Venli takes her place beside Leshwi, who hovers among the Heavenly Ones, signaling her readiness for the conclave.

The chapter delves into Venli's internal conflict: her longing for the honors she once believed she deserved, contrasted with her realization of the destruction she helped unleash. Timbre, her spren, warns her against these cravings, reminding her of Odium's deception. Venli resolves to find a balance between her heritage and her desire to escape the Fused's rule, even as she marvels at the remnants of her people's lost culture.

# 15. The Light and the Music

The chapter opens with an epigraph detailing Navani Kholin's lecture on logicspren, highlighting their unique behavior when imprisoned in gemstones. Unlike other spren, logicspren don't manifest tangible attributes but instead vary their light emission in response to stimuli, leading to innovations like fabrial clocks and complex mechanisms. This scientific insight contrasts with the personal narrative that follows, where Kaladin grapples with his post-retirement uncertainty after stepping down from leading the Windrunners.

Kaladin struggles with the transition, feeling humiliated as Dalinar announces his reduced role to the command staff. Though he appoints Sigzil and Skar to manage Windrunner operations, the experience leaves him adrift, fearing the emptiness of purposelessness reminiscent of his bridgeman days. His internal conflict is tempered by moments of clarity, recognizing his improved circumstances while still wrestling with discomfort over his newfound lack of direction.

Seeking distraction, Kaladin engages in lighthearted banter with Syl, who humorously critiques human hair and their shared divine origins. Their exchange underscores Kaladin's need for grounding as he resolves to visit the sparring grounds, despite his discomfort with the reverence shown to him as "Stormblessed." His decision reflects a tentative step toward finding new purpose, guided by Hav's leadership principle to commit to choices once made.

The chapter closes with Kaladin observing the martial ardents, a group he once misunderstood but now relates to as fellow seekers of escape. Their presence at the sparring grounds mirrors his own journey—soldiers turned inward, grappling with identity beyond battle. The setting reinforces Kaladin's internal struggle to redefine himself, leaving the reader with a sense of his unresolved but determined path forward.

# 16. An Unknown Song

Navani Kholin examines a mysterious dark sphere, comparing it to a Voidlight-infused diamond. She notes the sphere’s unique properties, including its strange purple-on-black glow, which defies conventional understanding of color. The Voidlight sphere dims the surrounding air, but the new sphere exhibits an even more unsettling effect, warping the air and evoking a sense of disorientation. Navani is troubled by the implications, especially since her late husband, Gavilar, possessed similar spheres years before the Everstorm, raising unanswered questions about their origin.

The chapter shifts focus to Szeth, the Assassin in White, who remains imprisoned but armed with a dangerous Shardblade that leaks black smoke. Despite Navani’s reservations, Dalinar insists on leaving the weapon in Szeth’s possession, believing it the safest option. Szeth, now sworn to Dalinar as his "Ideal," explains his past actions as a Truthless, obeying without question. Navani finds his blind loyalty unsettling, viewing him as an unpredictable threat despite Dalinar’s faith in redemption.

Navani presses Szeth for details about the night he killed Gavilar, seeking clarity about the mysterious sphere. Szeth recounts Gavilar’s dying moments, revealing that the king entrusted the sphere to his assassin rather than his allies—or even Navani herself. This revelation stirs buried anger and betrayal in Navani, forcing her to confront unresolved emotions about her husband’s secrets and the trust he placed in a stranger over his own wife.

The chapter underscores Navani’s dual struggle: unraveling the enigma of the sphere’s nature and origin while grappling with personal grief and mistrust. Her scientific curiosity clashes with emotional turmoil, and Szeth’s presence serves as a constant reminder of unresolved violence and unanswered questions. The narrative leaves tensions simmering, hinting at deeper mysteries surrounding the spheres, Gavilar’s past, and Szeth’s precarious role in the unfolding events.

# 17. A Proposal

The chapter opens with an epigraph detailing a unique metal used by the Fused, which is lightweight, resistant to Shardblades, and interferes with Radiant powers. Navani Kholin notes its scarcity, as the Fused reserve it for themselves rather than their soldiers. This sets the stage for the ongoing conflict and the technological disparities between the factions. The epigraph underscores the strategic challenges faced by the coalition of monarchs in their war against the Fused.

Navani observes Shallan and Dalinar collaboratively summoning a luminous, interactive map of Roshar using their combined Radiant abilities. Shallan’s Lightweaving merges with Dalinar’s Bondsmith powers to create a detailed, topographical representation of the continent. The Mink, a paranoid newcomer, reacts with awe and curiosity, testing the map’s boundaries. Navani, ever the scholar, focuses on the mechanics behind the phenomenon, sensing an almost dreamlike quality to the Light’s transformation.

The map’s capabilities are demonstrated as Dalinar zooms in on Azimir, revealing troop numbers and strategic details. The Mink meticulously examines the data, while Navani observes his reactions. Queen Jasnah Kholin arrives with her enigmatic Wit, adding a layer of tension and intrigue. The Wit’s changed demeanor and cryptic behavior hint at deeper mysteries, contrasting with Jasnah’s practical and commanding presence. Their dynamic suggests underlying political and personal complexities.

The chapter concludes with the Mink analyzing the war’s two main fronts, particularly the stalemate in Emul. The coalition’s cautious advances are complicated by the lurking threat of Tezim, the mad Herald Ishar, who remains a wildcard. Navani’s reflections on the Mink’s potential conclusions highlight the precarious balance of power and the uncertain future of the conflict. The interplay of magic, strategy, and

personality drives the narrative forward, leaving readers anticipating the next developments.

# 18. Surgeon

Kaladin stands on an Oathgate platform, reflecting on the snowy landscape and his concerns for Rock’s family, who departed weeks ago. He uses the Oathgate to teleport to the Shattered Plains, where he soars through the sky with his Windrunner abilities, contemplating his future. Though his comrades assume he’ll transition to a strategic role, Kaladin is uncertain about becoming an ambassador, fearing his discomfort in political settings. His internal conflict is punctuated by moments of flight, where he savors his powers but grapples with the impending change in his life.

Navani’s flying platform arrives, carrying refugees, and Kaladin greets them, apologizing for the delay. Later, he guides his parents through Urithiru’s labyrinthine halls, explaining how the tower’s organization has evolved from princedom-based sections to neighborhood-focused living spaces. The tower’s design is both majestic and perplexing, with strange architectural features that hint at a deeper, unfathomable purpose. Kaladin notes his parents’ awe and reflects on the challenges of maintaining community in such an immense and disorienting structure.

The chapter also includes an epigraph from Navani’s lecture on fabrial mechanics, discussing the Fused’s use of a unique metal that conducts Stormlight. She theorizes that the Fused employ an Investiture differential to extract Light from Radiants, though this remains unproven. This scientific curiosity contrasts with Kaladin’s personal struggles, highlighting the intersection of technological advancement and individual introspection in the narrative.

Kaladin’s tour of Urithiru with his parents underscores the tower’s enigmatic nature, from its impractical outcroppings to its seemingly intentional yet cryptic design elements. His thoughts drift to Laral, who is adjusting to life without her husband, and the broader implications of Jasnah’s new inheritance laws. The chapter weaves together Kaladin’s personal journey, the tower’s mysteries, and the broader world’s

scientific and political developments, creating a rich tapestry of introspection and discovery.

# 19. Garnets

Navani Kholin, a scholar and leader, opens the chapter by advocating for transparency among the coalition of monarchs, urging Thaylenah to share their secret fabrial techniques for the greater good. Her plea underscores the escalating dangers their world faces and the need for collective knowledge. Meanwhile, Navani and her team, including the ardent Rushu, study a crystalline pillar in Urithiru, focusing on four garnets that resemble the suppression fabrial's design. Despite initial excitement, their research hits a dead end, leaving Navani frustrated but determined to uncover the pillar's secrets.

Rushu reveals a troubling discovery: the spren powering the suppression fabrial in Shadesmar is corrupted, akin to Renarin's enigmatic spren, Glys. This raises concerns about the spren's loyalty and whether it willingly aids the enemy. Navani argues that spren, like humans, have individual allegiances, though she privately questions Glys's nature. The discussion highlights the ethical dilemma of imprisoning sapient spren for fabrials, a practice condemned by an anonymous spanreed message accusing Navani of monstrous behavior. Navani ponders whether ancient fabrials, like the Oathgates, treated spren more humanely.

Navani redirects her team's efforts toward activating the garnet cluster in the pillar, theorizing it once protected Urithiru from the Fused. She also tasks Rushu with resetting the suppression fabrial to reverse its effects, potentially disabling the Fused's powers. As she contemplates the tower's vulnerabilities, Navani grows uneasy about the possibility of Masked Ones—Fused with Lightweaving abilities—infiltrating Urithiru undetected. She orders Rushu to assemble a team to devise protocols for identifying hidden enemies, emphasizing the need for vigilance against the Fused's unpredictable capabilities.

The chapter closes with Navani entering an ancient library room, once filled with Radiant messages encoded in gemstones. This space, now repurposed for ongoing research, symbolizes her relentless pursuit of knowledge amid mounting threats. Her reflections on the tower’s defenses, the ethics of fabrial creation, and the enemy’s cunning strategies underscore the chapter’s themes of innovation, trust, and survival in a world teetering on the brink of chaos.

# I-1. Sylphrena

Sylphrena, the honorspren bonded to Kaladin, senses the approaching highstorm with childlike excitement, comparing its energy to distant music. She moves invisibly through Urithiru, preferring the company of children who treat her with casual familiarity rather than reverence. Finding few people awake, she visits Cord, Rock’s daughter, who acknowledges her with a respectful gesture and leaves an offering of food. Syl playfully transforms into a tuber in response, though she doesn’t eat, showcasing her whimsical nature. The chapter highlights Syl’s dual personality—both playful and deeply caring—as she anticipates the storm’s arrival.

Syl examines Cord’s Shardplate, noting its difference from Shardblades; while both are made of spren, the Plate feels content rather than pained. She reflects on her own divided nature: one side is responsible, driven by her bond with Kaladin and larger concerns like Honor’s ideals, while the other is childlike, easily distracted by noises, shapes, and curiosities. Her thoughts race with questions about names, sensations, and the world around her, revealing her unique perspective as an honorspren. This duality sets her apart from others of her kind, except perhaps Rua, another spren who shares her restless curiosity.

As Syl flits through the tower, she recalls faint memories of Urithiru’s vibrant past, contrasting it with its current dormant state. She checks on Kaladin, who sleeps peacefully, and worries about his inner struggles, comparing his “dark brain” to her own chaotic thoughts. She hopes his new role as a surgeon will bring him peace but fears it may not address his deeper turmoil. Despite her playful exterior, Syl’s concern for Kaladin underscores her deep bond with him and her desire to help him find solace.

The storm’s arrival pulls Syl back into her exuberant side as she joins windspren in the chaotic winds. Yet, even in her joy, she clings to her worry for Kaladin, determined to find a solution for his pain. The chapter ends with Syl pondering the origins of

intelligent spren like herself, hinting at larger mysteries about their creation and purpose. Her character embodies a blend of lightheartedness and profound empathy, making her a compelling narrator who bridges the whimsical and the weighty themes of the story.

# I-2. Sja-Anat

Sja-anat, the Unmade known as the Taker of Secrets, revels in her role of collecting and hoarding knowledge—even from Odium himself. Existing between the Physical and Cognitive Realms, she moves as a shadowy presence, barely perceived by singers or Fused. Unlike other Unmade, she avoids manifesting fully, preferring her liminal state. She dreams of a realm perfectly suited for her and her "children"—the spren she transforms, which humans mistakenly call "corrupted." Sja-anat views her actions as enlightenment, granting spren new possibilities, though this defiance risks Odium's wrath.

The chapter explores Sja-anat's self-awareness as neither the cleverest nor the most mindless of the Unmade. She acknowledges Odium's intellectual superiority but still schemes against him, carefully hiding her true intentions behind layers of deception. The Everstorm’s arrival revitalized her, allowing her to plan despite Odium’s dominance. Her philosophy mirrors nature’s harsh laws: sacrificing some children to protect others. This is exemplified when she sends an enlightened spren to bond with a human, Mraize, as a distraction while shielding her more valuable creations.

Tension escalates as Odium confronts Sja-anat, his presence overwhelming. They engage in a delicate dance of lies: she pretends loyalty, while he feigns ignorance of her rebellion. Their dynamic reveals deeper cosmere lore, hinting at Odium’s dual nature as both Vessel and Shard, with conflicting desires. Sja-anat’s defiance is subtle—she saved Shallan’s life in Kholinar, an act Odium suspects but cannot prove was deliberate. Their interaction underscores her precarious autonomy, balancing obedience and subterfuge.

The chapter concludes with Sja-anat embracing her identity as Odium’s creation yet asserting her independence. She manifests as a smoky figure with white eyes, embodying his essence while hinting at her evolved will. The final exchange with

Odium—a veiled interrogation about her "corrupted" spren—reinforces their mutual deception. Sja-anat’s resilience and strategic sacrifices position her as a rogue element in Odium’s forces, setting the stage for future rebellion.

# I-3. Into the Fire

Taravangian reflects on his impending fate, acknowledging that his path was never meant to end peacefully. He has accepted that his death will come as a consequence of his deal with Odium, ensuring the survival of Kharbranth at the cost of his own life. The Diagram, once his guiding tool, has served its purpose, and he prepares to disband the organization built around it. His focus remains solely on protecting his city, even as he faces betrayal and execution by the Alethi.

In a poignant farewell, Taravangian gathers his closest friends—Adrotagia and Mrall—for a final meeting. He instructs them to dismantle the Diagram’s operations and disperse its members, emphasizing that their mission is complete. Adrotagia, understanding the necessity, agrees to leave, while Mrall struggles to accept Taravangian’s sacrifice. The king reassures them that his death will divert attention from Kharbranth, allowing it to remain safe.

Taravangian reveals his role as a diversion in Odium’s larger plan. By accompanying Dalinar and Jasnah to Azir, he will draw the Alethi’s focus when Jah Keved’s armies betray them. This strategic move ensures Odium’s true objectives remain hidden. Despite Mrall’s protests, Taravangian insists his sacrifice is necessary, as Odium no longer has use for him. His fate is sealed, and he accepts it with a mix of resignation and sorrow.

The chapter closes with Taravangian staring out at the mountains, contemplating the weight of his choices. He acknowledges the pain of his impending death but finds solace in knowing Kharbranth will survive. His legacy, marked by both cunning and sacrifice, underscores the tragic cost of his deal with Odium. The scene is a somber reflection on mortality, loyalty, and the price of power.

# A Portion of the Southern Sea of Souls

The chapter presents a detailed map titled *A Portion of the Southern Sea of Souls*, featuring a series of poetic and enigmatic locations such as the *Basin of the Veiled Sun*, *Nohadon’s Stairways*, and *The Radiant Depths*. These names evoke a sense of grandeur and mystery, suggesting a realm steeped in myth and history. Accompanying annotations by a figure named Nazh add a layer of casual commentary, contrasting the lofty place names with humorous or mundane observations. For instance, Nazh quips about a lighthouse with "grouchy attendants" and praises the quiche, blending the fantastical with the everyday.

Nazh’s notes provide a personal and irreverent perspective on the map’s landmarks. He remarks on the monotony of *Perpetual Sobriety* and the outdated naming of *Ageless Beauty*, implying a disconnect between the grandeur of the locations and their actual experience. The inclusion of *Urithiru in the Physical Realm* hints at a broader cosmological context, while Nazh’s mention of a "strange storm brewing" introduces an element of impending danger or intrigue. These annotations serve to humanize the map, offering a grounded counterpoint to its otherwise ethereal and imposing geography.

The chapter also traces *The Path of Adolin and Shallan’s Voyage*, suggesting a narrative thread connecting these locations. A place called *Nameless* is dismissed as little more than a rest stop, further emphasizing the contrast between the map’s grandiosity and the reality of travel within this world. Nazh’s casual tone and witty asides—like his complaint about unreturned maps—add a layer of relatability, making the fantastical setting feel more accessible. The mix of awe-inspiring landmarks and mundane details creates a rich, layered portrayal of the *Southern Sea of Souls*.

The chapter concludes with Nazh’s playful banter about borrowed items, underscoring the informal tone that permeates the annotations. Despite the grandeur of the

locations—*The Oathbound Spires*, *Brilliance Eternal*—the focus remains on the quirks and imperfections of the journey. This approach invites readers to engage with the world as both a place of wonder and a backdrop for human (or otherwise) foibles. The map and its annotations together paint a vivid picture of a realm that is as much about the people navigating it as it is about the mythical landscapes they traverse.

# 20. The Unseen Court

The chapter opens with Radiant, one of Shallan’s personas, navigating the depths of Urithiru while grappling with the complexities of their mission. Shallan has agreed to visit the honorspren in Shadesmar, a task that aligns with Mraize’s demands from the Ghostbloods. Radiant distrusts Mraize but respects the agreement between Shallan’s personas—Veil’s enthusiasm for the Ghostbloods and Shallan’s desire to uncover their secrets. This internal harmony is crucial for their functionality, even as Radiant acknowledges the risks of their dual objectives.

Radiant’s internal conflict mirrors Shallan’s deeper fears. She reflects on Shallan’s terror that loved ones like Dalinar and Jasnah will reject her if they learn the full extent of her past crimes. Radiant views this as a necessary truth to confront, likening it to the pain required to break through a plateau in strength training. Meanwhile, Veil’s perspective emphasizes the need to uncover Mraize’s interest in Restares, a secret they believe could be leveraged. Radiant balances these priorities, focusing on preparing for the Shadesmar mission while ensuring the official diplomatic efforts remain intact.

The setting shifts to Radiant overseeing Lightweaver training in a secluded chamber beneath Urithiru. She wears traditional Veden warrior attire, a deliberate choice that challenges Alethi norms and asserts her identity. The rushing water in the reservoir symbolizes control and mastery, a theme paralleled in Radiant’s efforts to guide her trainees. She critiques Beryl and Darcira for over-relying on Lightweaving disguises during combat, urging them to prioritize swordplay and maintain focus. Their tendency to adopt aggressive personas when disguised highlights the Lightweavers’ struggle between performance and self-control.

Radiant’s leadership underscores the tension between deception and authenticity. While she acknowledges the Lightweavers’ role as spies, she insists on combat

proficiency as a last resort for survival. The chapter closes with Radiant reinforcing the importance of discipline, a reflection of her own journey to harmonize Shallan’s fractured personas. The training session encapsulates the broader themes of identity, control, and the sacrifices required for growth, setting the stage for the impending mission into Shadesmar.

# 21. The Seething Knot

The chapter opens with Adolin Kholin grappling with the seemingly trivial yet deeply personal decision of choosing an outfit for an important mission into Shadesmar. He compares the process to dueling, where instincts honed through practice guide his choices. Despite his usual confidence, he hesitates between a traditional Kholin blue jacket and a bold yellow one, reflecting his internal conflict between duty and self-expression. His struggle highlights the tension between societal expectations and individuality, as he seeks to balance practicality with his desire to make a statement.

Shallan enters, teasing Adolin about his indecision and suggesting his meticulousness stems from a deeper concern beyond impressing the honorspren they will meet. Their playful banter reveals their close relationship, with Shallan’s patience contrasting Adolin’s perfectionism. The scene underscores Adolin’s need to project confidence and control, even in seemingly minor choices, as he prepares for the mission. Shallan’s remark about jealousy humorously hints at their mutual affection, while also emphasizing Adolin’s awareness of how others perceive him.

After Shallan leaves, Adolin finally settles on a hybrid uniform he designed years ago—a blend of tradition and personal flair that his father, Dalinar, once disapproved of. The choice symbolizes Adolin’s growing independence and willingness to defy expectations, even as he acknowledges his father’s lingering influence. The uniform represents a compromise between his identity as a Kholin and his creative instincts, marking a subtle but significant moment of self-assertion.

The chapter concludes with Adolin visiting a clinic before departure, where he encounters a line of patients awaiting treatment. This detour reveals his compassion and sense of responsibility, contrasting his earlier focus on appearances. The brief interaction with Kaladin’s family hints at the broader societal challenges and the interconnected lives of the characters, grounding Adolin’s personal journey in the

larger narrative of their world.

# Shallan’s Sketchbook: Mistspren

The chapter from *Shallan’s Sketchbook: Mistspren* provides a detailed observation of mistspren, enigmatic beings characterized by their porcelain masks. These masks shimmer translucently in the light, yet remain expressionless and motionless even when the spren speak. The description emphasizes their ethereal and unchanging nature, suggesting a disconnect between their appearance and communication. This portrayal highlights the mistspren’s otherworldly qualities, setting them apart from more familiar, expressive beings in the Physical Realm.

Shallan notes that many mistspren are found working aboard mandra ships, their attire and equipment reflecting their maritime roles. This practical aspect contrasts with their mystical appearance, grounding them in a specific cultural and occupational context. The juxtaposition of their mundane duties with their surreal features adds depth to their characterization, blending the ordinary with the extraordinary. This detail suggests mistspren are integrated into the world’s societal structures despite their alien nature.

The chapter reveals that mistspren have agency over their appearance in Shadesmar, often choosing humanoid forms though they are not bound to them. This flexibility underscores their adaptability and the fluidity of their existence across realms. Their ability to shape their presence in Shadesmar hints at a deeper complexity, implying they are more than mere spectral entities. This autonomy contrasts with their fixed, mask-like visage in the Physical Realm, creating a intriguing duality.

In the Physical Realm, mistspren manifest as reflections of light, akin to sunbeams passing through crystals, regardless of actual light sources or surfaces. This phenomenon emphasizes their intangible and ephemeral nature, blurring the line between reality and illusion. Their appearance defies conventional physics, reinforcing their mystical origins. The chapter concludes by leaving readers with a sense of

wonder, inviting further contemplation of these enigmatic beings and their place in the world.

# 22. No Use Talking

Adolin and his soldiers prepare to enter Shadesmar, a surreal realm with a black, starless sky and a distant, frail sun. The control room they expected is replaced by two towering spren—one marble white, the other onyx—who serve as gatekeepers. Adolin thanks them, and the marble spren explains they now obey the Stormfather after the death of their parent, the Sibling. This shift in allegiance allows the group to enter, as the Sibling had previously forbidden passage. The scene sets the stage for the strange and otherworldly nature of Shadesmar.

The platform they stand on is one of ten, each atop tall pillars resembling the Oathgates of Urithiru. Below lies a vast bead ocean, while above looms a shimmering, radiant tower of light and color, swarming with emotion spren. These spren, drawn by human emotions, appear more organic and beast-like here. Despite their potential danger, the tower’s nature offers protection, leaving them calmer. The group takes a moment to absorb the breathtaking vista, a blend of beauty and mystery unique to Shadesmar.

Adolin surveys the Radiants and their personal spren, each with distinct forms and personalities. Pattern, Shallan’s spren, stands out among the Cryptics with his lively demeanor. Zu’s spren, Ua’pam, resembles a molten mountain, while Godeke’s cultivationspren is composed of delicate vines. The most enigmatic is Arshqqam’s mistspren, a feminine figure made of fog with a porcelain mask for a face. Her playful yet probing questions unsettle Adolin, highlighting the spren’s curiosity about human perceptions.

The chapter underscores the complexities of the Radiants’ bond with their spren and the ever-shifting dynamics of Shadesmar. Adolin’s awe and uncertainty reflect the realm’s unpredictable nature, where ancient orders clash with new allegiances. The vivid descriptions of the tower, the spren, and the gatekeepers immerse readers in a

world where light, emotion, and mystery intertwine. This journey into Shadesmar promises both wonder and peril as the group navigates its enigmatic landscape.

# 23. Binding Wounds

Kaladin tends to a young boy named Adin, who dreams of becoming a Windrunner to "float down steps" and playfully stick friends to walls. The boy’s admiration for the Radiants, particularly a Herdazian Windrunner, brings a moment of levity. Kaladin, now wearing a surgeon’s white apron, advises the boy to rest his injured ankle and reflects on his father’s medical wisdom. The scene highlights Kaladin’s transition from warrior to healer, a role that feels both familiar and strangely comforting despite his lingering doubts about his place in the world.

As he treats patients in the clinic, Kaladin contemplates his emotional state. Unlike the exhausting demands of being a Windrunner, medical work—though busy—lacks the crushing immediacy of battle. He acknowledges he isn’t sad, a small but significant improvement. The chapter subtly contrasts the weight of leadership in war with the quieter, more manageable stresses of healing, suggesting Kaladin may be finding a fragile equilibrium in this new role.

His next patient, an older man named Mil, suffers from chronic headaches. With Hawin absent, Syl—Kaladin’s spren—surprisingly assists by reading medical texts, albeit with humorous difficulty. Kaladin diagnoses Mil and offers practical advice, recognizing the value of simply validating a patient’s pain. The interaction underscores Kaladin’s skill as a surgeon and his growing appreciation for the small but meaningful impact of his work.

The chapter closes with Kaladin and Syl sharing a lighthearted moment as she reveals she recently learned to read. Their banter contrasts with the heavier themes of the chapter, offering a glimpse of Kaladin’s tentative steps toward contentment. The narrative weaves together his past as a soldier, his present as a healer, and the quiet hope that he might yet find peace in this unexpected path.

# 24. Full of Awe

The chapter delves into the internal dynamics of Shallan's fractured psyche as Radiant, Shallan, and Veil navigate their shared consciousness during a voyage in Shadesmar. Radiant takes charge of daily routines, assigning tasks to companions while grappling with Shallan's withdrawal and Veil's recent violation of their compact. Tensions rise as Shallan insists on uncovering a suspected spy among their group, but Radiant feels ill-suited for espionage and focuses instead on documenting their surroundings and studying Ialai's book for clues about the Ghostbloods and the mythical spren Ba-Ado-Mishram.

Radiant's research reveals that the Ghostbloods, led by the enigmatic Thaidakar, are obsessed with Ba-Ado-Mishram—an Unmade spren imprisoned in a gemstone. This artifact, believed to be Mraize's true objective, may hold the key to transporting Stormlight offworld. Shallan intermittently emerges, urging action to find the spy, but Radiant remains hesitant, prioritizing their collective stability over immediate investigation. The chapter highlights the trio's struggle to reconcile their individual strengths and flaws while maintaining their fragile balance.

Veil unexpectedly regains control, relishing the opportunity to act in Shadesmar's mysterious environment. Despite Shallan's demands to hunt the spy, Veil deliberately avoids the task, instead provoking Shallan by creating poorly drawn sketches—a symbolic act of defiance and apology for her earlier transgression. This passive resistance forces Shallan to confront her own rigidity, while Radiant observes with cautious relief as Veil acknowledges her mistake and seeks reconciliation.

The chapter culminates in a tense but pivotal moment of unity among the three personas. Radiant and Veil align in their decision to delay the spy hunt, emphasizing the need for collective agreement over impulsive action. Veil's apology and Radiant's mediation hint at potential growth in their dynamic, though Shallan's unresolved anger

lingers. The interplay of guilt, responsibility, and forgiveness underscores their ongoing journey toward self-integration amidst the larger mysteries of Shadesmar and the Ghostbloods' machinations.

# 25. Devotary of Mercy

Kaladin and Teft continue their search for Noril, a refugee who lost an arm and suffered severe shock. After being cared for by Kaladin’s father, Noril was sent to the ardents for rehabilitation. However, the ardents reveal they couldn’t fully help him due to his mental state, catching him attempting suicide before transferring him to the Devotary of Mercy. Kaladin reflects on the challenges of triage, struggling with the emotional toll of prioritizing some lives over others.

The ardent assisting Kaladin initially doesn’t recognize him, only realizing his identity when he uses his Radiant abilities to levitate cushions. She explains that Noril’s psychological wounds were beyond their capacity to treat, leading to his transfer. Teft criticizes the ardents for not sending Noril to the Devotary sooner, but Kaladin defends their efforts, acknowledging his father’s role in the decision. The chapter highlights the limitations of physical rehabilitation when deeper trauma is involved.

Guided by the ardent’s directions, Kaladin and Teft journey through the sprawling, often-unexplored corridors of Urithiru to reach the Devotary of Mercy. The tower’s vast, dimly lit interior evokes a sense of unease, with most inhabitants preferring the well-lit outer rim. Kaladin notes the oddity of the monastery’s secluded location, emphasizing the eerie atmosphere of the tower’s central sections. The setting underscores the isolation faced by those with mental struggles, mirroring Noril’s unseen suffering.

Upon arriving at the Devotary, marked by religious glyphs, Kaladin and Teft prepare to confront the next phase of their search. The chapter delves into themes of responsibility, the intersection of physical and mental health, and the challenges of navigating Urithiru’s imposing structure. Kaladin’s internal conflict—balancing his duties as a surgeon with the emotional weight of individual cases—adds depth to his character, while the eerie setting reinforces the novel’s atmospheric tension.

# 26. A Little Espionage

The chapter opens with a reflective moment, as the narrator expresses deep concern over the deaths of Devotion and Dominion, highlighting the fragility of power they once believed unbreakable. Meanwhile, Shallan enjoys a relatively peaceful journey on a barge, interrupted only by a distant sighting of Fused, which causes brief alarm. Her primary activity is drawing, often observed by Cryptics—spren fascinated by her art. Though she has grown fond of Pattern, her bonded Cryptic, the presence of multiple Cryptics begins to unsettle her, evoking past trauma when their appearances in her sketches once threatened her sanity.

Shallan struggles to maintain her composure as the Cryptics crowd around her, their humming and excitement amplifying her anxiety. She attempts to relax by sketching sunlight around Ua’pam, but their intense scrutiny makes her pencil strokes rigid and unnatural. When she mistakes Ua’pam’s arm in her drawing, the Cryptics misinterpret it as a lie, sparking a chaotic exchange. Their alien behavior and overlapping chatter overwhelm her, triggering memories of her past breakdown. Radiant, one of Shallan’s alternate personas, steps in to restore calm, allowing Shallan to retreat and recover by the barge’s stern.

After regaining her equilibrium, Shallan shifts focus to the mission: uncovering a spy among their group. Veil, another persona specializing in espionage, insists on coaching Shallan through the process rather than taking over. Despite Shallan’s reluctance, Veil emphasizes the need for her to learn these skills firsthand. Radiant interjects, urging them to first verify whether the communication device could have been moved without a spy’s involvement, a point Veil reluctantly concedes. This pragmatic approach delays their immediate plans but ensures thoroughness.

The chapter concludes with Shallan preparing to investigate the spy, starting by examining the tent on the barge’s deck. The tension between her personas—Shallan’s

creativity, Veil’s cunning, and Radiant’s discipline—reflects her internal struggle to balance her roles. The narrative underscores her growth as she navigates past trauma while embracing the complexities of her mission and her evolving identity as a Lightweaver.

# 27. Banners

The chapter opens with Navani reflecting on the symbolic and practical nature of war banners as they flutter in the cold wind of Urithiru. The banners, emblazoned with Dalinar’s glyph, serve both as markers of organization and as glaring targets for the enemy. Navani muses on the paradox of banners: they instill discipline and unity but also draw attention to key leaders, making them vulnerable. This introspection sets the tone for the chapter’s exploration of symbolism and strategy in warfare.

Dalinar and Navani share a tender moment amidst the preparations for battle, highlighting their personal connection despite the stoic Alethi culture that discourages public displays of affection. Their conversation shifts to concerns about Taravangian, a cunning adversary whose motives remain unclear. Dalinar has taken precautions, including stationing Taravangian’s forces away from the command post and secretly assigning Szeth, disguised as a soldier, to guard him. Navani, however, worries they might still be falling into Taravangian’s traps.

The focus then turns to Gav, a young boy eager to join Dalinar in war, though Dalinar assures him he will only be involved in strategy, not combat. Navani expresses her anxiety over Gav’s youth, but Dalinar insists it’s important to include him, reflecting on his past mistakes of distancing himself from his own children. This subplot underscores themes of mentorship, legacy, and the emotional burdens of leadership.

The chapter concludes with Navani bidding farewell to her daughter and observing the contrasting behaviors of Jasnah and Taravangian. Jasnah’s use of a palanquin projects strength, while Taravangian’s refusal of one masks his vulnerability. Navani recognizes these as calculated displays, reinforcing the chapter’s emphasis on perception and manipulation in politics and war. The scene leaves readers pondering the blurred lines between appearance and reality in the struggle for power.

# 28. Heresies

Navani, a prominent figure, engages in a tense communication via a spanreed—a magical device that allows distant written conversation. The mysterious correspondent accuses her of heresy for experimenting with fabrials, which trap spren (spiritual entities) to harness their power. The correspondent condemns these actions as cruel and unnatural, comparing it to imprisoning a storm. Navani remains composed, seeking to understand the theological objections while her team of scholars and engineers meticulously measures the spanreed’s decay to determine the correspondent’s location.

The engineers, led by the animated Falilar, use precise scales and instruments to gauge the distance of the spanreed’s other end. Their initial measurements suggest the correspondent is alarmingly close—possibly within the same tower. Navani and her scribe, Kalami, speculate whether the correspondent is a singer (a non-human race) or someone posing as one. The correspondent’s rhetoric frames Navani’s experiments as a moral violation, insisting that spren must remain free and accusing humans of inherent violence.

Navani attempts to buy time by pretending to consult a theological advisor, while her team relocates to triangulate the correspondent’s position. The group rushes to the plateau outside the tower, setting up the spanreed again for a second measurement. The correspondent, seemingly aware of their movements, questions their actions, revealing possible surveillance. Navani deflects, asking for clarification on the moral objections, but the correspondent grows impatient, threatening to withdraw if the suffering of the spren continues.

The chapter culminates in a race against time as Navani’s team seeks to pinpoint the correspondent’s location. The tension escalates with the implication of a spy within their midst, possibly the same person who planted the spanreed ruby. The

correspondent’s silence after Navani’s probing questions leaves the situation unresolved, heightening the mystery and stakes. The chapter underscores themes of ethical experimentation, theological conflict, and the blurred lines between technological advancement and moral responsibility.

# 29. A Cage without Bars

Adolin and his companions finally spot land after a tedious journey by barge, which he likens to a "cage without bars" due to its confinement. Eager to disembark, Adolin remains cautious, recalling past dangers in Shadesmar and insisting on scouting the obsidian-outlined town ahead. Despite assurances from their guide Ua’pam that the area is free of threats, Adolin organizes a disguised reconnaissance mission, highlighting his responsible leadership and wariness born of experience.

Shallan volunteers to scout, disguising herself and Vathah as cultivationspren. Meanwhile, Adolin reflects on the trip’s rare moments of relaxation, including bonding with Shallan and her alternate personas, Veil and Radiant. However, concerns linger about their dwindling Stormlight reserves, as even larger gemstones are fading. The group’s gifts for their destination—books, puzzles, and weapons—are chosen for their cultural value rather than practicality, underscoring their precarious resource situation.

Adolin ponders Jasnah’s theories about near-flawless gemstones, which could retain Stormlight longer but are suspiciously absent in circulation. This leads him to suspect a deliberate hoarding scheme. As they wait for Shallan’s return, Godeke prepares to trade their remaining Stormlight for supplies, emphasizing the group’s strategic planning. The tension builds as Adolin grows increasingly anxious, sensing unseen dangers despite the apparent safety of the town.

The chapter blends introspection with action, showcasing Adolin’s leadership and the group’s resourcefulness in a hostile environment. Themes of confinement, trust, and preparation dominate, as the characters navigate both physical and metaphysical challenges. The unresolved tension foreshadows potential conflicts, leaving readers anticipating the next developments in their journey to Lasting Integrity.

# 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.

# 31. Daughter of Traitors

The chapter follows Venli, a Regal serving under the Fused Raboniel, as she accompanies a strike team through treacherous mountain passes toward the hidden human fortress of Urithiru. The group includes the enigmatic *makay-im*, or Deepest Ones, a brand of Fused with unique abilities to meld with stone. Venli is fascinated by their smooth, patterned bodies and their Surge of liquefying stone, observing their aloof demeanor and unnatural movement. Raboniel, a formidable and ancient Fused, pushes the group at a relentless pace, eager to reach their destination undetected by Windrunner patrols.

Venli’s role as Raboniel’s Voice is complicated by her status as the "daughter of traitors," a label she carries despite Leshwi’s trust in her. The harsh, storm-scarred landscape of the highland valley reflects the peril of their mission, with barren rock and resilient flora offering little shelter. Venli’s curiosity about the Deepest Ones draws Raboniel’s attention, raising her anxiety as she fears her bond and true loyalties might be discovered. Raboniel, however, seems intrigued rather than suspicious, praising Venli’s curiosity as a worthy Passion.

Raboniel’s cryptic remarks suggest she suspects Venli’s role as a spy for Leshwi, though the extent of her knowledge remains unclear. She probes Venli about her interest in the Deepest Ones, hinting at a deeper understanding of the Surges and the nine brands of Fused. Venli treads carefully, avoiding outright lies while concealing her true intentions. The tension between them grows as Raboniel’s satisfaction with Venli’s "irregular" nature hints at a dangerous game of deception and trust.

The chapter culminates in a quiet but charged exchange, with Raboniel acknowledging Leshwi’s cunning and Venli’s precarious position. Venli’s internal struggle with Anxiety and Agony underscores the stakes of her mission, as she balances her loyalty to Leshwi with the need to survive Raboniel’s scrutiny. The looming threat of exposure

and the unknown dangers of Urithiru cast a shadow over the group’s progress, setting the stage for a high-stakes confrontation.

# 32. Of Three Minds

Adolin and Zu, a Stoneward with scouting skills, observe a persistent Tukari caravan following their group through Shadesmar. Despite the uneven terrain making tracking difficult, the Tukari maintain a steady pace without overtaking them. Zu suggests confronting the group, leveraging her abilities, but Adolin hesitates due to their dwindling Stormlight reserves. The chapter highlights their strategic dilemma and Adolin’s cautious leadership as he balances risk and resource management.

Adolin reflects on their dwindling Stormlight, a critical resource in Shadesmar, as their borrowed gemstones begin to dim. He considers the Tukari’s behavior, noting their lack of aggressive pursuit, and consults Notum, an honorspren, who advises vigilance but no immediate action. Adolin’s leadership is further emphasized as he organizes the group’s march, checks on Maya—a deadeye spren cared for by his horse, Gallant—and seeks out Shallan, showcasing his multifaceted responsibilities.

Shallan, meanwhile, grapples with her own challenges, focusing on Beryl, a suspected spy within their group. Under the guise of mentoring her in Lightweaving, Shallan observes Beryl’s struggles and apparent sincerity, which conflict with their suspicions. Veil, one of Shallan’s alternate personas, doubts Beryl’s guilt due to her convincing demeanor, while Radiant suggests further interrogation of Beryl’s spren, Ornament. The internal conflict underscores Shallan’s psychological complexity and the ambiguity of their evidence.

The chapter weaves together Adolin’s external struggles with the Tukari and resource scarcity, and Shallan’s internal conflict over Beryl’s loyalty. Both narratives explore themes of trust, leadership, and the tension between perception and reality. The juxtaposition of their challenges enriches the chapter’s depth, leaving readers questioning the true nature of the threats they face—both seen and unseen.

# 33. Understanding

The chapter opens with a reflection on Odium's destructive ambition to eliminate all other Shards, setting a dark and urgent tone. Kaladin, the protagonist, grapples with the difference between knowing and feeling, a theme central to his character. He takes on the challenge of helping patients in a sanitarium, focusing on those with battle-induced trauma, following his father Lirin's advice to start small. Kaladin's approach contrasts with the ardents' generalized treatments, as he seeks to understand and address the specific struggles of each individual.

Kaladin's efforts center on six men with similar symptoms, whom he releases from confinement and guides toward mutual support. By fostering open discussions on a sunlit balcony, he creates a space for shared healing. His mother observes the positive impact, noting how the men uplift rather than drag each other down—a stark contrast to the ardents' warnings. Kaladin attributes this success to the power of collective strength, drawing parallels to his past experiences with bridge crews, where unity was key to survival.

The narrative delves into Kaladin's internal conflict as he reflects on his traumatic past, which he shields from his mother to spare her pain. Though she claims to understand his struggles, Kaladin believes true understanding can only come from those who have endured similar suffering. This emotional distance highlights the isolation of trauma, even among loved ones. The chapter emphasizes the transformative power of shared experience, as the men begin to heal by realizing they are not alone in their pain.

Ultimately, the chapter underscores the importance of empathy and community in overcoming mental anguish. Kaladin's method—rooted in connection and sunlight—offers a glimmer of hope, though he acknowledges it is only a beginning. The chapter closes on a poignant note, balancing the fragility of progress with the resilience found in mutual understanding. Kaladin's journey reflects both his growth as

a healer and the lingering scars of his own unspoken battles.

# 34. A Flame Never Extinguished

The chapter delves into the philosophical and strategic discussions among Adolin and the Radiants as they prepare to negotiate with the honorspren. Odium’s destructive nature is highlighted, emphasizing his preference for annihilation over assimilation to maintain his purity as a god. Meanwhile, Adolin stands as a striking figure, clad in a black uniform, leading the council with a mix of warmth and authority. The cold, symbolic fire contrasts with his demeanor, setting a tone of tension and urgency as the group debates their approach to the honorspren.

Veil, pretending to sketch while observing the meeting, struggles to coax Shallan out of her shell, sensing her resentment over past conflicts. The Stump, an outspoken Truthwatcher, critiques Adolin’s proposals, arguing that guilt and threats will not sway the honorspren. Her pragmatic wisdom and fearless demeanor stand out, as she challenges Adolin’s strategies and urges a more honorable appeal. Veil admires her depth, noting how others reduce her to her age, while she sees the richness of her character.

The Radiants, including Godeke and Zu, weigh in on the debate, with Zu dismissing the honorspren’s stubbornness with blunt honesty. Adolin’s uncertainty grows as the group nears Lasting Integrity, and Veil worries about the mission’s success. The stakes are high: if the delegation fails, Veil may need to infiltrate alone to find Restares. Adolin’s lack of confidence in his plans becomes evident, and the group’s skepticism further undermines his resolve, leaving him visibly disheartened.

Radiant attempts to rally Adolin by seeking input from Beryl, a knight-in-training, but her inexperience leaves the question unanswered. The Stump reiterates the need to appeal to the honorspren’s sense of honor, a point Adolin slowly considers. Radiant reflects on Jasnah’s scholarly but impractical approach, realizing that honor must be the cornerstone of their appeal. The chapter ends with Adolin dismissing the group for

breakfast, still grappling with how to craft a compelling argument that resonates with the honorspren’s ideals.

# 35. The Strength of a Soldier

Adolin finds solace in reconnecting with Shallan after their encounter with the starspren, appreciating Ua’pam’s suggestion for alone time. Despite their bond, he reflects on their differing strengths—Shallan excels in deception and artistry, while politics should be his domain as a former heir to the throne. As he prepares for their journey, Adolin loads Gallant, his Ryshadium, musing on the simplicity of a horse’s life compared to human complexities. His thoughts shift to strategy, recalling Arshqqam’s advice to appeal to honor when negotiating with the honorspren, though he struggles to formulate a concrete plan.

The group sets out, with Adolin leading and Godeke scouting ahead despite their depleted Stormlight reserves. Adolin’s initial calm fades as he grapples with the pressure of diplomacy, nearly snapping at Felt, a reliable scout. Felt reports that the mysterious Tukari, who had been trailing them, have abruptly turned southward. Adolin questions their motives, sensing something off about their behavior. Climbing an obsidian outcrop to observe, he remains uneasy, unable to shake the feeling that the Tukari’s departure is suspicious, even as they visibly retreat.

Adolin’s suspicion deepens as he realizes the Tukari may have been observing rather than pursuing them. He orders Felt to keep watch during their break, though the group’s immediate threat seems to dissipate. Meanwhile, Veil—one of Shallan’s personas—checks the communication cube, using a trick learned from Tyn to detect tampering. Finding it undisturbed, she contemplates using it as bait to expose the spy among them. Her focus on the mission contrasts with Adolin’s diplomatic anxieties, highlighting their shared tension.

The chapter underscores Adolin’s internal conflict between his warrior instincts and diplomatic responsibilities, as well as the group’s vulnerability in Shadesmar. His care for Maya, a deadeye spren, reflects his empathy, while Veil’s vigilance underscores the

lurking threat of betrayal. The shifting dynamics—between Adolin and Shallan, the Tukari’s odd behavior, and Veil’s spy hunt—create a sense of unease, setting the stage for impending challenges in their quest to win the honorspren’s alliance.

# Shallan’s Sketchbook: Honorspren

The chapter from *Shallan’s Sketchbook: Honorspren* provides a detailed exploration of the honorspren, a group of Radiant spren distinguished by their humanlike societal structure and hierarchy. Among all spren, they are noted for their organized ranks, which mirror human civilizations. However, their population suffered greatly during the Recreance, leaving only a fraction of their original numbers. Many deadeye honorspren now wander the bead seas, their presence a haunting reminder of their diminished state. Despite their ethereal nature, their forms and clothing possess a tangible quality, blending the mystical with the physical.

Honorspren are composed of a softly glowing light, yet their appearance is remarkably lifelike, with hair, skin, and clothing that feel as real as those of humans. Their attire, fashioned from the same luminous substance as their bodies, varies widely, ranging from military uniforms to flowing robes. Interestingly, their clothing choices often reflect their personal beliefs more distinctly than human fashion might. Additionally, they wield actual steel swords, further blurring the line between their spiritual essence and physical manifestations. This duality highlights their unique position between the Cognitive and Physical Realms.

In the Physical Realm, honorspren typically appear as smaller, blue-white versions of their Shadesmar selves, though they can assume any shape they desire. Their forms are fluid, changing on a whim, and they often mimic windspren, appearing as ribbons of light drifting on unseen currents. This adaptability underscores their connection to the natural world and their playful, whimsical nature. Despite their ability to transform, their core identity remains tied to their honor-bound principles, which define their culture and interactions.

The chapter emphasizes the honorspren’s resilience and adaptability in the face of historical devastation. Their humanlike organization and tangible presence set them

apart from other spren, while their fluid forms and luminous nature remind readers of their otherworldly origins. The juxtaposition of their structured society and their capacity for whimsical transformation paints a vivid picture of a civilization both familiar and fantastical. Through this exploration, the chapter deepens the reader’s understanding of the honorspren’s role in the broader cosmere and their enduring legacy.

# 36. The Price of Honor

The chapter opens with Radiant observing the distressed honorspren Notum, who is deeply troubled by an unprecedented attack on spren by humans. The scene highlights the cultural shock and confusion among the spren, as such violence contradicts their understanding of honor. Radiant and Adolin’s group are recovering from the skirmish, with Adolin’s soldiers keeping watch while Shallan’s agents search the dead for clues. The absence of Stormlight complicates their situation, as Adolin’s wound and Notum’s weakened state could benefit from its healing properties. The attack leaves Notum questioning the motives behind the humans’ actions, emphasizing the chapter’s theme of honor’s fragility.

Adolin insists on bringing the exiled Notum to Lasting Integrity despite the potential political repercussions, showcasing his commitment to protecting others. Notum warns that his presence may harm Adolin’s standing, but Adolin remains resolute, prioritizing safety over diplomacy. Meanwhile, Radiant and her agents continue their investigation, with Beryl’s visceral reaction to the corpses casting doubt on her potential involvement with the Ghostbloods. The group’s dynamics are strained by the aftermath of the battle, blending tension with moments of camaraderie, such as Adolin’s lighthearted remark about repairing his bloodied uniform.

Godeke, an Edgedancer, takes time to honor the fallen Tukari soldiers, reflecting her order’s ethos of remembering even enemies. This contrasts with Adolin’s pragmatic focus on survival, underscoring the differing perspectives within the group. Shallan and Adolin share a tender moment, where Adolin admits his struggle to find purpose, revealing his vulnerability beneath his confident exterior. Their conversation hints at deeper emotional currents, as Shallan resolves to revisit the topic later. The chapter balances action with introspection, exploring the characters’ moral and emotional dilemmas.

As the group travels back to camp, they encounter the Cryptics and the Stump, signaling a return to their larger mission. Notum, recovering slightly, questions Adolin about Maya’s unexpected aid in battle. Adolin’s response—that Maya acted of her own will—hints at the evolving relationship between humans and spren. The chapter closes with a sense of cautious optimism, as the characters regroup and reflect on the day’s events, leaving readers to ponder the broader implications of honor, loyalty, and identity in their world.

# 37. Silence from the Dead

Navani continues her efforts to uncover the identity of the mysterious spren that contacted her, but her triangulation attempts yield only vague results near a monastery on the tower's fourth floor. Despite this unresolved mystery, her attention is divided by the demanding responsibilities of governing Urithiru. Amidst the constant needs of merchants, lighteyes, and ardents, she finds rare moments to retreat to the tower's basement, where she oversees her scholars' work. During one such visit, she is intercepted by Tomor, an ardent working on a lifting fabrial project she had commissioned.

Tomor presents Navani with an unconventional glove-like fabrial, a deviation from her original vision of a portable lift mechanism. The device, designed to be worn on the hand, allows the user to be pulled upward by conjoined weights in the tower's central shaft. While Navani admires Tomor's creativity, she questions the practicality and safety of the design, imagining the absurdity of someone like Dalinar dangling midair. Tomor, however, is enthusiastic about the glove's flexibility, arguing it eliminates the need for traditional lifts.

Despite her reservations, Navani agrees to test the device under Tomor's guidance. After donning the glove and activating it, she is lifted several feet into the air, much to the amusement of the observing scholars. However, the demonstration reveals a critical flaw: the glove lacks a straightforward method for descent, requiring a stepstool to safely return to the ground. Navani acknowledges Tomor's ingenuity but remains skeptical about the design's viability for widespread use.

The chapter highlights Navani's dual role as a leader and innovator, balancing administrative duties with scientific curiosity. While she appreciates Tomor's youthful creativity, she recognizes the importance of practicality in engineering solutions. The interaction underscores the tension between imaginative experimentation and

functional design, a recurring theme in Navani's work. Her patience and encouragement of Tomor's efforts reflect her leadership style, even as she subtly steers him toward more practical applications of his ideas.

# 38. Rhythm of the Terrors

Navani arrives at the scene of a devastating explosion in the tower, which claimed the lives of two expert scholars, Nem and Talnah, and destroyed their laboratory. The blast also obliterated Szeth’s mysterious Voidlight sphere, a relic Gavilar had deemed highly significant. Overwhelmed by guilt, Navani suspects her request to study the sphere may have triggered the catastrophe. As she surveys the wreckage, the gruesome aftermath—including dismembered bodies under five sheets—deepens her unease. She orders Rushu to meticulously document the scene, sensing the explosion’s unnatural nature, as fabrials typically don’t detonate.

Meanwhile, Navani’s investigation leads her to question the voiceless prisoner who delivered the ruby, seeking possible links between the explosion and recent cryptic communications. Determined to uncover the truth, she summons Radiants for assistance, reflecting her growing frustration with the tower’s unexplained disturbances. The chapter underscores Navani’s resolve to confront the mounting mysteries, even as the weight of responsibility for the scholars’ deaths weighs heavily on her.

The narrative shifts to Venli’s perspective, detailing her grueling ascent with Raboniel’s forces through Urithiru’s tunnels. Exhausted but driven, Venli relies on Timbre’s comforting rhythm to endure the march. The tension escalates as they near the tower’s basement, where Deepest Ones have silently eliminated human guards. The glowing eyes of Voidspren-infused soldiers pierce the darkness, heightening the sense of impending invasion. Venli’s internal conflict—balancing her Radiant identity with her deceptive role—adds layers to the scene.

The chapter culminates in a pivotal moment as Raboniel’s forces prepare to breach Urithiru’s heart. The door ahead opens, signaling the invasion’s critical phase. Venli’s anxiety mirrors the high stakes: if Radiants rally to defend the tower, the assault could

fail. The juxtaposition of Navani’s investigative turmoil and Venli’s physical and emotional strain creates a gripping parallel, emphasizing the converging threats to Urithiru’s stability.

# 39. Invasion

The chapter opens with a philosophical reflection on the nature of Odium's power, suggesting that its Investiture can develop a will of its own when uncontrolled. This sets a foreboding tone as Teft suddenly collapses in a winehouse, exhibiting symptoms resembling a seizure or stroke. Kaladin, despite grappling with his own mental turmoil, springs into action, assessing Teft's condition with medical precision. The scene is tense as bystanders, including Rlain, react with alarm, while Kaladin remains outwardly calm, drawing on his surgeon's training to stabilize his friend.

Kaladin suspects Teft's collapse could be linked to past firemoss addiction or a stroke, though Teft had claimed to be clean for months. As he prepares to transport Teft to a clinic, he attempts to use Stormlight to Lighten him, but the power fails inexplicably. Meanwhile, Rlain helps clear a path through the crowd, highlighting the urgency of the situation. The chapter underscores Kaladin's internal struggle with his mental health, as he fights to compartmentalize his own darkness to aid his friend.

In a parallel scene, Navani interrogates a mute Windrunner named Dabbid, who exhibits erratic behavior. Red, a Lightweaver, identifies him as a former Bridge Four member but confirms he lacks a visible spren bond. The interrogation reveals the challenges of navigating Urithiru's radiant energy, which interferes with Shadesmar perception. Dabbid's frantic gestures and repeated Windrunner salutes add to the mystery, leaving Navani puzzled about his true nature and intentions.

The chapter weaves together two narratives: Kaladin's desperate attempt to save Teft amid supernatural interference with Stormlight, and Navani's investigation into a seemingly unhinged Windrunner. Both threads hint at larger, unseen forces at play—Odium's influence and the tower's peculiar energies. The unresolved tension in both scenarios builds anticipation for the next developments, leaving readers questioning the connection between these events and the overarching conflict.

# 40. In for All

The chapter opens with a reflection on the nature of Odium's power, suggesting it corrupts its Vessel and drives destructive impulses. Navani Kholin arrives at the map room in Urithiru to find it bustling with activity as officers and soldiers prepare for an imminent attack. The tower is under siege by enemy forces, including Stormform Regals and Heavenly Ones, who have infiltrated multiple floors. With the Radiants incapacitated and fabrials malfunctioning, the defenders are at a severe disadvantage, and Navani quickly assesses the dire situation.

Navani takes charge, proposing strategic barricades to hold key floors despite the overwhelming odds. She interacts with Battalionlord Teofil, a darkeyed officer promoted for merit, who provides a grim assessment of their tactical weaknesses. The enemy controls critical areas like the Oathgates and the basement, where the crystal pillar—potentially linked to the Radiants' collapse—is located. Tension rises as officers debate the feasibility of holding their ground, with some expressing despair at facing the Fused without Radiant support.

Teofil advises Navani to consider surrender, given the hopelessness of their position, but she refuses to yield. Instead, she hypothesizes that reclaiming the crystal pillar room could reverse the Radiants' condition. This sparks a shift in strategy: a risky counterattack to retake the basement. Teofil and the officers weigh the near-suicidal odds, but Navani’s determination and potential solution rally them. The chapter highlights her leadership under pressure and the stark reality of their dwindling options.

The scene closes with Navani and Teofil planning a desperate assault, underscoring the themes of sacrifice and resilience. The tower’s oppressive silence contrasts with the earlier chaos, amplifying the gravity of their decision. Navani’s internal resolve—to avoid micromanaging while still providing direction—reflects her growth as a leader.

The chapter sets the stage for a pivotal confrontation, blending tactical urgency with deeper questions about power, control, and hope in the face of annihilation.

# 41. The Most Dangerous

The chapter opens with Venli, a listener, reflecting on her role in the invasion of the tower city. Though she feels drawn to seek guidance from Leshwi, a fellow Fused, she remains with Raboniel, the Lady of Wishes, in the basement. Raboniel appears unconcerned about the ongoing battle, instead focusing on inspecting the murals in the hallway. Venli realizes she has been brought along merely as a servant, highlighting Raboniel's detached and calculating demeanor. The contrast between the chaos above and Raboniel's calm scrutiny sets the tone for the chapter.

Raboniel critiques the human-made murals, dismissing their artistic approach as overly forceful and impermanent compared to the natural methods of the singers. Her disdain for human creativity reflects her broader contempt for their culture and connection to Honor. Meanwhile, the sounds of battle echo through the hallway, signaling the arrival of the Fused forces. The tension escalates as the Pursuer, a fearsome Fused, appears and seeks permission to hunt down a specific Windrunner. Raboniel grants his request but insists on restraint, emphasizing her larger goal of ending the war permanently.

The interaction between Raboniel and the Pursuer reveals her strategic brilliance and newfound power. She hums a unique, dangerous rhythm, hinting that Odium has granted her her own rhythms—a sign of her elevated status. Venli recognizes that Raboniel, not the Pursuer, is the true threat. Raboniel's cold determination to break the endless cycle of war contrasts with the Pursuer's single-minded obsession with vengeance. When Venli challenges the Pursuer's lack of honor, he dismisses her, clinging to tradition as justification for his actions. His madness, though subtle, underscores the toll of the Fused's prolonged existence.

The chapter concludes with Venli reflecting on the Fused's rigid mindset, comparing it to her own past stubbornness. Raboniel's final remarks about humans as "children of Honor" reinforce her belief in their inherent flaws. As she moves deeper into the tower,

the stage is set for her ominous plans. Venli's growing unease and Timbre's uncertain pulses foreshadow the moral and physical conflicts to come. The chapter masterfully blends introspection, dialogue, and action, deepening the reader's understanding of the characters' motivations and the looming confrontation.

# 42. Armor and Teeth

Navani and her team navigate the dim, labyrinthine corridors of Urithiru, a once-grand tower now marred by theft and neglect. The atmosphere is tense, with distant screams and thunder underscoring the urgency of their mission. Guided by the Sibling’s instructions, they search for a hidden garnet vein, a clue to unlocking the tower’s secrets. The group’s unease grows as Navani orders them to extinguish their lights, plunging them into darkness, where a faint garnet spark leads them to a concealed gemstone embedded in the wall.

The discovery of the topaz gemstone marks a critical turning point. Navani realizes it must be infused with Stormlight to activate a hidden mechanism, a task complicated by the absence of Radiants. She instructs her scholars to use small infused topazes to transfer Stormlight, a slow and meticulous process. Meanwhile, tensions rise with the Thaylen scholars, who resist sharing their guild’s secrets despite the dire circumstances. Navani’s frustration peaks as she confronts their stubbornness, emphasizing the existential threat facing their homeland.

A breakthrough occurs when one of the Thaylen scholars, Ulvlk, reluctantly reveals a trade secret: sound vibrations can accelerate the infusion process. This revelation opens new possibilities, and Navani quickly deduces the use of tuning forks to achieve the required frequency. The chapter highlights the clash between tradition and necessity, as Navani’s determination to save Urithiru overrides the scholars’ reluctance to share guarded knowledge. The urgency of their task is palpable, with the invading forces drawing nearer.

The chapter culminates in a race against time, as Navani and her team work to infuse the gemstone before the tower falls. The interplay of ingenuity, collaboration, and desperation underscores the stakes of their mission. Navani’s leadership shines as she balances technical challenges with interpersonal conflicts, driven by the conviction

that saving Urithiru is key to winning the war. The chapter leaves readers on the edge, anticipating the consequences of their efforts and the looming battle ahead.

# 43. Men and Monsters

The chapter opens with Kaladin and his family exhausted after a grueling night tending to patients in the clinic, as news arrives of Queen Navani’s surrender to the Fused. The messenger, Alili, reveals the queen’s failed attempt to restore the Radiants, resulting in the deaths of those involved. The surrender means living under singer rule, a prospect met with mixed reactions—Kaladin’s father, Lirin, downplays the impact, while his mother, Hesina, worries about the tower’s collapsing infrastructure without functional fabrials. Kaladin, however, is visibly agitated, recognizing the dire implications of losing control of the Oathgates and the Radiants’ diminished powers.

Kaladin’s frustration grows as he grapples with the war’s sudden turn. He argues that the surrender isolates their forces and questions whether the enemy can replicate their suppression of Radiant abilities elsewhere. The messenger points out that Kaladin is the only Radiant still standing, a fact that surprises him. His thoughts drift to his patients, particularly those suffering from battle shock, who now face renewed trauma. The weight of the night’s events and his concern for others leave him emotionally and physically drained, though he resists his mother’s urging to rest.

The conversation shifts to the broader strategic implications of the surrender. Kaladin reflects on how warfare has evolved, with traditional tactics rendered obsolete by the Fused’s abilities. The messenger suggests Kaladin might help other Radiants recover, but he is uncertain what sets him apart. His anxiety peaks as he anticipates the inevitable consequences of the enemy’s victory, comparing it to waiting for the thunder after a lightning strike. The tension is palpable as the group struggles to reconcile their new reality.

The chapter closes with a moment of unease as a Regal-form singer briefly inspects the clinic, hinting at the increasing surveillance under the new regime. Syl’s warning of the approaching enemy soldier underscores the loss of freedom they now face.

Kaladin’s family realizes their open discussions may soon be impossible as the singers tighten their control. The chapter ends on a somber note, emphasizing the uncertainty and fear gripping the tower’s inhabitants as they brace for the fallout of the surrender.

# I-4. Vyre

The chapter follows Vyre, formerly known as Moash, as he reflects on his newfound freedom from emotional chains. Having surrendered his pain and guilt to Odium, he now perceives his past life as constrained by unseen bonds. While working in a quarry outside Kholinar with his singer companions, Vyre experiments with his Shardblade, attempting to replicate Prince Adolin's throwing technique. His inability to master the maneuver highlights the limitations of his Honorblade, yet he feels no frustration—only curiosity and determination. Vyre embraces his unchained state, free from the burdens of anger and disappointment.

Khen, a singer in Warform, announces her intention to leave, expressing a desire to experience life beyond violence. Vyre responds with indifference, explaining that she remains bound by her emotions, unlike him. When she questions his obsession with Kaladin, Vyre admits his old friend is the last tether to his former self. Though Odium suppresses most of his emotions, Kaladin still stirs remnants of their shared past. Vyre sees himself as offering Kaladin two paths: liberation through Odium or the peace of death, though he doubts Kaladin would choose the former.

As Vyre hauls marble to Kholinar, he contemplates the city's transformation under singer rule. The fused enforce order, compelling humans to adopt the singers' disciplined ways. The physical labor grounds Vyre, allowing him to reflect on his paradoxical fixation with Kaladin. Despite his proclaimed freedom, he acknowledges that Kaladin's rejection of his philosophy represents the last chain binding him. Until Kaladin admits Vyre's righteousness, this lingering connection persists.

The chapter underscores Vyre's twisted liberation, portraying his emotional numbness as both power and void. His interactions with Khen reveal the cost of his "freedom"—the loss of authentic relationships. Meanwhile, his unresolved conflict with Kaladin exposes the fragility of his transformation. The quarry becomes a metaphor for

Vyre's existence: methodically chiseling away humanity, yet unable to fully escape its echoes. The singers' enforced harmony in Kholinar mirrors Vyre's hollow peace, achieved through submission rather than growth.

# I-5. Lift

Lift, a skilled thief, finds herself dangling from a rope in Urithiru, attempting to steal a basket of food. Despite her expertise, she no longer feels the same thrill from stealing as she once did. She clings to the act out of habit, hating change, and enjoys the panic on her victims' faces when they discover their food is gone. However, their fond reactions when they realize it’s her ruin the experience, leaving her frustrated and conflicted.

After successfully snatching the basket, Lift retreats into the hidden tunnels of Urithiru, where her spren companion, Wyndle, awaits. The basket contains food seemingly left out for her by a Horneater boy, which irritates her because it undermines her self-image as a feared shadow. She grudgingly admits the food is good but feels humiliated by the kindness. Wyndle, oblivious to her turmoil, cheerfully comments on the bounty, further annoying her.

As Lift navigates the tunnels, she reflects on the eerie atmosphere of Urithiru during the Everstorm, sensing something is wrong. She uses her abilities to slip through tight spaces, eventually reaching a small intersection where she inspects her stolen goods. The discovery of a jar of jam with a loving symbol forces her to acknowledge the boy’s intentions, though she resists accepting his affection. Her frustration grows as she struggles to maintain her identity as a mysterious thief.

Back at her nest, Lift vents her frustrations to Wyndle, insisting she should be feared, not liked. Wyndle’s attempts to engage in metaphor only irritate her further. Despite her complaints, she admits to liking the tower’s hidden passages, which she considers her domain. The chapter ends with Lift surrounded by her stolen treasures, still grappling with her conflicting emotions about change, identity, and the unexpected kindness of others.

# I-6. A Boon and a Curse

The chapter delves into Taravangian’s internal conflict as he grapples with his fluctuating intelligence and compassion. Isolated in a stormwagon, he reflects on his dual nature: his brilliant but emotionally detached self and his current, more empathetic but intellectually limited state. He hesitates to execute Odium’s orders to betray the coalition, clinging to the faint hope that his intervention might not be needed. His physical frailty mirrors his emotional turmoil, as he struggles with the weight of his past decisions, particularly his failed attempt to break Dalinar Kholin.

Taravangian retrieves a hidden fragment of the Diagram, a cryptic plan he created during a rare moment of intelligence. As he reviews the notes, he confronts the moral ambiguity of his actions—preserving Kharbranth at the expense of humanity. The document, intended to dismantle Dalinar, now fills him with shame and regret. He questions whether his brilliance was truly a boon, as it lacked the compassion to understand the human cost of his schemes. The exhaustionspren and shamespren surrounding him symbolize his inner exhaustion and guilt.

The chapter highlights Taravangian’s paradoxical existence: his intelligent self sees solutions but lacks empathy, while his compassionate self feels the pain of his choices but lacks the intellect to change them. He mourns the lives sacrificed for his pragmatic, yet flawed, vision of salvation. His earlier confidence in Odium’s inevitability wavers as he confronts the limitations of his own genius. The fragment of the Diagram, once a source of pride, now serves as a painful reminder of his moral compromises.

In a moment of introspection, Taravangian fixates on a cryptic note about Renarin Kholin, whom the Diagram could not foresee. This anomaly, dismissed by his intelligent self, now intrigues his more emotional counterpart. The chapter ends with Taravangian’s unresolved tension between his roles as a strategist and a remorseful

leader, hinting at deeper mysteries surrounding Renarin and Odium’s plans. His struggle epitomizes the tragic duality of his existence—caught between brilliance and compassion, neither fully reconciling the other.

# 44. Tinder Waiting for the Spark

Kaladin carries an unconscious Teft through the dark tunnels of Urithiru, fleeing from his past decisions and the consequences of defying the queen's orders. Each step feels like a fracture in his life, leaving behind metaphorical stains of guilt and failure. Despite his exhaustion, he pushes forward, relying on Stormlight to sustain him, though he worries about running out of energy. Syl, his spren companion, scouts ahead, guiding him through the labyrinthine tower, now an enemy stronghold rather than a sanctuary. Kaladin's thoughts oscillate between determination and despair as he grapples with the weight of his choices.

As they navigate the unfamiliar floors, Kaladin reflects on his past as a soldier, drawing parallels between carrying Teft and the burdens of bridge runs. The physical strain is familiar, but the emotional toll is heavier, haunted by memories of lost comrades and his recent failures. Syl suggests moving to higher, less inhabited floors for safety, though she admits her limited knowledge of this section of the tower. Kaladin's resilience is tested as he alternates between relying on Stormlight and his own strength, clinging to the hope of finding refuge.

Their journey takes a dangerous turn when Kaladin senses an unseen threat and instinctively hides, covering his sphere's light to avoid detection. A Fused, a deadly enemy he had previously defeated, appears in the hallway, its crimson glow illuminating its terrifying form. Kaladin remains motionless, praying Teft's murmurs don't betray their hiding spot. The Fused pauses but moves on, leaving Kaladin to confront the reality of being hunted by a vengeful foe. He knows a direct confrontation would be perilous, especially without the element of surprise.

The chapter captures Kaladin's internal struggle as he balances duty, guilt, and survival. His physical journey through Urithiru mirrors his emotional turmoil, with each step deepening his isolation. Syl's presence provides guidance, but the looming threat

of the Fused underscores the precariousness of their situation. Kaladin's resolve is tempered by fear and regret, yet he presses on, driven by loyalty to Teft and the need to escape the consequences of his rebellion. The chapter ends with tension unresolved, leaving readers anticipating the next confrontation.

# 45. A Bold Heart, A Keen and Crafty Mind

The chapter follows Eshonai, a listener with a bold and inquisitive spirit, as she explores a lush forest beyond her people's usual boundaries. Unlike her cautious peers, who believe mapping the wilderness steals its mystery, Eshonai embraces discovery, attuning to emotions like Awe and Joy as she charts the river and forest. She defies tradition by venturing alone, determined to uncover the forest's true scale and secrets, viewing exploration as a way to honor their ancestors' legacy of freedom. Her journey reflects her frustration with her people's narrow focus on conquering the ancient cities, as she yearns to experience the wider world's wonders.

Eshonai's meticulous mapping process highlights her dedication and ingenuity, using handmade paper and careful measurements to document the river's path. She dismisses her family's skepticism, believing their fear of exploration stems from a desire to shrink the world into manageable conflicts. Her encounters with unique creatures, like a green cremling, fuel her curiosity, reinforcing her belief that nature's secrets are meant to be uncovered. The chapter contrasts her vibrant, forward-thinking mindset with the listener society's stagnation, as she embodies the question, "What will I discover next?"

The narrative shifts when Eshonai hears unnatural, rhythmless shouts—a stark contrast to the listeners' melodic speech. Her initial excitement turns to alarm as she stumbles upon humans, a species she had only imagined in stories. This encounter marks a pivotal moment, blending wonder and dread, as the chapter foreshadows the profound impact this discovery will have on her people. The scene underscores the theme of exploration's dual nature: it can reveal both beauty and unforeseen dangers.

A brief interlude introduces Venli, Eshonai's sister, who recites a traditional song with precision, seeking her mother's approval. Though praised, Venli is urged to practice further, hinting at the listeners' rigid cultural expectations. This segment contrasts with

Eshonai's rebellious spirit, emphasizing the tension between tradition and progress. The chapter closes with Eshonai's discovery of humans, leaving the reader to ponder how this encounter will challenge the listeners' insular worldview and reshape their future.

# 46. The Weight of the Tower

The chapter opens with Navani Kholin adapting to life under Fused occupation in Urithiru, demonstrating resilience despite being denied servants. She maintains her dignity by presenting herself impeccably, even without access to functioning fabrials for warm water. Summoned to the library, Navani encounters Raboniel, the Fused leader, who reviews her research notes. Their interaction is tense yet measured, as Navani bows with calculated deference and agrees to continue her scholars' work under Raboniel's supervision—a decision she views as both dangerous and necessary for survival.

Raboniel questions Navani about the missing schematics for her flying machine, prompting Navani to strategize. Recognizing she cannot conceal the technology indefinitely, Navani decides to feign cooperation by offering to reconstruct the designs from memory. She begins sketching conjoined fabrials, explaining their vertical lift mechanism while withholding full details. Raboniel proves surprisingly knowledgeable, pressing Navani on how lateral movement is achieved, which leads to a pivotal exchange about fabrial mechanics and aluminum's role in disrupting Connection.

The conversation takes a revelatory turn when Raboniel mentions Voidspren's reluctance to manifest as devices, unlike spren of Honor or Cultivation. This insight stuns Navani, helping her realize that Soulcasters are not containers for spren but spren themselves—manifesting physically like Shardblades. Awespren erupt around her as the implications unfold, exposing gaps in modern Rosharan understanding compared to ancient knowledge. Raboniel observes Navani's astonishment with amusement, highlighting the irony that Navani's innovations surpass ancient achievements yet overlook foundational truths.

The chapter concludes with technical discussions about fabrial limitations, including the challenge of simultaneous vertical and lateral motion. Navani shares her team's

workarounds while Raboniel speculates about applications for mobile spanreeds. Their dialogue blends scholarly collaboration with underlying tension, as Navani probes Raboniel about Fused weaponry—only to be dismissed. The exchange underscores their uneasy alliance, with Navani balancing deception and genuine scientific curiosity amid the occupation's constraints.

# 47. A Cage Forged of Spirits

The chapter opens with Dalinar Kholin and his allies under attack by Skybreakers on a flying platform used to oversee the battlefield. As the platform lurches violently, Windrunners led by Sigzil engage the attackers, driving them away. Dalinar observes the enemy’s reliance on Skybreakers rather than the expected Heavenly Ones, suggesting a strategic shift. The Mink, tethered to Dalinar, remains unfazed by the danger, displaying a mix of paranoia and recklessness. Below, the battle rages between Dalinar’s forces—augmented by disciplined Azish troops—and Taravangian’s traitorous Vedens, who are beginning to falter under the coordinated assault.

Dalinar and the Mink analyze the battlefield dynamics, noting the Azish soldiers’ exceptional discipline and how their pike formations complement Alethi flexibility. The Mink orders a flanking maneuver with light cavalry, further destabilizing the Veden lines. Despite the chaos, the platform provides a strategic vantage point, though the Mink expresses concerns about their shared vulnerability. Dalinar reassures him, revealing a contingency plan involving an escape route through Shadesmar using Jasnah’s prepared boat and Dalinar’s ability to open a perpendicularity—a plan the Mink distrusts due to its unpredictability.

As the battle progresses, Dalinar briefly opens the perpendicularity to replenish the Windrunners’ Stormlight, forcing the Skybreakers to retreat. The Mink receives casualty reports, including the loss of two Windrunner squires. A scribe then delivers urgent news from Urithiru: Navani reports a mysterious defensive aura disrupting Radiant powers and fabrials, explaining the Oathgate malfunction. Despite the setback, she assures Dalinar of their safety and requests updates on his situation. Dalinar instructs the scribe to inform Navani of Taravangian’s betrayal while emphasizing their imminent victory.

The chapter highlights the tension between strategic innovation and the unpredictability of supernatural warfare. Dalinar’s leadership is tested as he balances battlefield command, trust in his nascent powers, and concern for his family’s safety. The Mink’s tactical brilliance contrasts with his aversion to relying on Dalinar’s abilities, underscoring the theme of control in the face of chaos. Meanwhile, the disruption at Urithiru hints at a larger threat, leaving Dalinar to grapple with the broader implications of the conflict beyond the immediate battle.

# 48. Scent of Death, Scent of Life

The chapter opens with Eshonai, a listener, reflecting on the arrival of humans and their peculiar ways. Unlike the listeners, humans lack the ability to change forms or hear the rhythms of Roshar, and they wear metal carapaces as armor. Eshonai is fascinated by their single, unchanging form and their accompanying dullform creatures, who resemble listeners but lack speech or song. The humans settle across the river, and initial interactions are cautious, with only a few listeners permitted to engage with them. Eshonai, however, is eager to learn from the humans, who possess forgotten knowledge like metalworking and writing.

Eshonai and a small group of listeners begin collaborating with human scholars to bridge the language barrier. Drawing on phrases preserved in listener songs, Eshonai quickly becomes proficient in the human tongue, spending evenings practicing with them under the glow of their bright gemstones. The humans express interest in exploring the Shattered Plains, and Eshonai guides them, avoiding the ancient listener cities. As they cross a rickety bridge, the humans' nervousness contrasts with Eshonai's familiarity with the land. The scent of rotting plants in the chasms symbolizes the cycle of life and death, a concept Eshonai finds natural.

During the expedition, Eshonai converses with a human surgeon's assistant about their differing perceptions of spren. While Eshonai sees windspren as long, white lines with trailing tails, the human's description of sentient, talking spren strikes her as fanciful. The exchange highlights the cultural and perceptual gaps between the two species. Meanwhile, the human king and his brother join the group, with the latter embodying a warlike demeanor that Eshonai likens to a listener's warform. The king's erratic behavior further puzzles her, as humans lack the rhythmic consistency of listeners.

The chapter concludes with the king inquiring about hunting grounds on the Shattered Plains, signaling the humans' growing curiosity about the listeners' world. Eshonai's

interactions with the humans underscore her role as a bridge between their cultures, blending fascination with skepticism. The encounter reveals both the potential for mutual learning and the deep-seated differences that may shape future relations. Through Eshonai’s perspective, the chapter explores themes of exploration, cultural exchange, and the inherent tensions between tradition and discovery.

# 49. Soul of Discovery

Navani Kholin carefully orchestrates her scholars under the watchful eyes of singer guards, balancing the need to appear productive while withholding critical knowledge from their captors. She assigns mundane tasks—cleaning, recalculations, and schematic reviews—to maintain a facade of normalcy and avoid arousing suspicion from Raboniel, the Fused overseeing them. The scholars work in a tense environment, constantly monitored by armed soldiers and a distracted Fused who exhibits erratic behavior. Navani observes this Fused closely, questioning Raboniel's choice of such an unstable overseer and strategizing how to exploit potential weaknesses.

Amid the controlled chaos, Navani secretly communicates with the Sibling, the tower's ancient spren, through whispered conversations. The Sibling reveals that Raboniel mistakenly believes the tower's protective shield was triggered by ancient Radiant fail-safes, unaware of Navani's role or the Sibling's survival. The Sibling, indifferent to human concepts of time and identity, contrasts itself with Radiant spren, emphasizing its detachment from mortal concerns. Navani refrains from pointing out the Sibling's reliance on her help, instead focusing on how to leverage this misinformation to their advantage.

Navani formulates a multi-pronged plan to reclaim control: securing the Sibling's shield, contacting Dalinar and the outside world, reversing the enemy's suppression of Radiant powers, and ultimately turning their weapons against the invaders. Though the situation seems dire, she draws confidence from past achievements, like the creation of flying ships, and resolves to tackle the problem methodically. Her analytical mindset drives her to break down the overwhelming challenge into manageable steps, seeking order in the midst of captivity.

The chapter underscores Navani's resilience and strategic brilliance as she navigates a high-stakes game of deception and survival. Her ability to maintain composure under

pressure, coupled with her clandestine alliance with the Sibling, hints at the potential for a daring escape or counterattack. The tension between outward compliance and hidden rebellion sets the stage for future confrontations, leaving readers anticipating how Navani’s calculated risks will unfold against the occupying forces.

# 50. Queen

Two days after thwarting Taravangian's betrayal, Dalinar strategizes with his coalition in the war tent, preparing for the larger conflict against the singers in Emul. Accompanied by Szeth in disguise, Dalinar reflects on his evolution from a frontline warrior to a strategic leader who now sees war as a necessary but unexciting duty. His focus shifts from battlefield glory to the broader question of achieving lasting victory, as he reviews troop movements and supply logistics on the war table. The chapter highlights his growing detachment from the thrill of combat and his deeper commitment to a higher purpose.

Dalinar receives reports from his generals detailing the successful containment of Taravangian's traitors. The coalition’s forces avoided significant losses thanks to Dalinar’s foresight, with Thaylen ships supporting retreats and blockades neutralizing Veden threats. The Mink and Jasnah commend his leadership, while Azish representatives acknowledge their misjudgment of Taravangian’s loyalty. Despite these victories, Dalinar remains unsettled, sensing something amiss in Taravangian’s abrupt and uncharacteristic capture. The chapter underscores the tension between outward success and Dalinar’s lingering suspicions.

As Dalinar studies the war table, he questions Taravangian’s motives. The Veden highprinces’ quick alignment with the singers and Kharbranth’s neutrality suggest a calculated move rather than a collapse. Dalinar wonders why Taravangian risked his carefully built empire for a seemingly futile betrayal. Meanwhile, updates from Urithiru via Navani’s messages reveal ongoing challenges, including a mysterious device suppressing Radiant powers. The chapter builds suspense around Taravangian’s true intentions and the broader implications for the coalition’s survival.

The chapter concludes with Dalinar’s internal speculation that Taravangian’s betrayal may have been a desperate gambit to destabilize the coalition, allowing the singers to

exploit the chaos. Despite holding Taravangian captive, Dalinar recognizes the need to interrogate him directly for answers. The narrative leaves readers pondering the hidden layers of the conflict and Dalinar’s role in navigating both military and political complexities. His leadership is tested not just on the battlefield but in deciphering the deeper game at play.

# 51. To Sing Hopeless Songs

The chapter opens with Raboniel questioning Venli about the literacy of her staff, criticizing their adherence to human customs. Venli defends her team, explaining their Alethi cultural background and lamenting the loss of the listeners, who were taken by Odium. Raboniel probes Venli’s loyalty, asking why she serves so eagerly despite Odium’s actions against her people. Venli responds with a rehearsed answer, praising Odium’s selectivity, while internally reflecting on her past aspirations for immortality.

Raboniel observes the chaotic scene in the hallway, where Venli’s staff and human scribes are sorting through notes and equipment. She interprets the human queen’s actions as a deliberate stalling tactic and an attempt to eavesdrop. Venli agrees, noting the queen’s cleverness, but expresses skepticism about the humans’ ability to understand Raboniel’s language. The tension between the Fused and the humans is palpable, with both sides maneuvering for advantage.

Venli privately confides in her spren, Timbre, about her lack of desire to become a Fused, despite her past ambitions. She meets Dul, a trusted member of her inner circle, to discuss their escape plans. Dul reports progress in covertly preparing supply packs for their eventual flight. Venli remains determined, believing that an opportunity to escape will arise during the inevitable upheaval in Urithiru.

The chapter concludes with Venli and Dul strategizing their escape route through the mountains, emphasizing Venli’s meticulous planning and memorization of the path. Their conversation underscores the precariousness of their situation and their readiness to seize any chance to flee. The interplay of loyalty, survival, and hidden motives drives the narrative forward, setting the stage for future conflicts and revelations.

# 52. A Path Toward Saving

The chapter opens with Venli observing her mother, Jaxlim, struggling to remember the songs she once recited flawlessly. Venli, who is experimenting with human writing systems, is deeply unsettled by her mother's lapses, which hint at a deeper decline. Jaxlim dismisses her forgetfulness as fatigue from the stress of recent events, particularly the arrival of humans in their city. Venli helps her mother to bed, noting how Jaxlim's physical strength contrasts with her growing fragility, a troubling change for a woman who was once the family's unwavering foundation.

Venli leaves her home in the ancient city, now occupied by her family after their victory on the Shattered Plains. She searches for her sister, Eshonai, who is fixated on the humans' return, eager to explore their world and prove their existence to skeptical families. Eshonai's enthusiasm contrasts with Venli's anxiety, as she struggles to voice her fears about their mother's condition. When Eshonai announces her plan to scout the humans' campfires, Venli is left alone, unable to articulate her need for solidarity in facing their family's uncertain future.

The humans' return brings frustration for Venli, who finds their incessant demands for songs and translations tedious. Their inability to grasp the rhythms of her culture irritates her, and she resents their condescending attitude. The presence of the mute "parshmen" further alienates her, as they embody a distorted reflection of her people. Despite the crowds of listeners drawn to the humans, Venli feels isolated, caught between her disdain for the outsiders and her growing unease about her mother's decline.

The chapter highlights Venli's internal conflict as she navigates familial duty, cultural pride, and personal ambition. Her mother's fading memory symbolizes the erosion of tradition, while Eshonai's fascination with the humans represents a disruptive force of change. Venli's struggle to reconcile these tensions underscores the chapter's themes

of identity, loss, and the inevitable transformation brought by external influences. Her silent plea for her sister’s support reflects her fear of facing these challenges alone.

# 53. Compassion

The chapter opens with Venli reflecting on her past choices, particularly the moment she hid a gemstone from her sister and mother out of fear of losing glory. Despite her initial selfish motives, she now lives the destiny meant for her sister, becoming a Radiant and surviving against the odds. As she moves through the tower, she observes the logistical challenges of occupation, including the need to relax confinement for humans running low on supplies. Raboniel's strategic leniency in sparing Radiants surrendered willingly hints at her deeper, unsettling plans—possibly tied to her infamous attempt to exterminate humanity.

Venli's role as a Voice grants her authority among the singers, and she collects reports on the tower's occupation. The discovery of unconscious Radiants hidden by humans reveals a tension between Raboniel's stern justice and Timbre's horror at the executions. Venli suspects Raboniel's leniency is strategic, as she likely needs the Radiants for experiments. This foreshadows a darker purpose behind Raboniel's actions, echoing her ruthless reputation. Venli's internal conflict grows as she balances her loyalty to Raboniel with her hidden allegiance to Leshwi.

A critical revelation emerges when Venli learns of a human surgeon—likely Kaladin Stormblessed—who killed a singer and fled with an unconscious Windrunner. The Pursuer's involvement and the surgeon's Stormlight-infused escape suggest Kaladin's unique resilience amid the tower's occupation. Venli recognizes the urgency of informing Leshwi, hinting at her divided loyalties. The chapter underscores the escalating stakes as both sides maneuver for control, with Venli caught between her duties and her conscience.

The chapter closes with a chilling disclosure: the Pursuer plans to interrogate and exact revenge on Kaladin's family, who are locked in a nearby clinic. Venli's muted reaction and Timbre's silent dread highlight the moral weight of the situation. This

impending confrontation sets the stage for further conflict, emphasizing the brutal realities of war and the personal toll on Venli as she navigates her precarious position. The chapter masterfully blends introspection, political intrigue, and looming violence, deepening the narrative tension.

# 54. The Future Become Dust

The chapter opens with a poignant moment between Dalinar and his young grandson, Gavinor, as they discuss the bravery of Gav's deceased father. Dalinar reassures the solemn child that his father died heroically, not because of him, but due to the actions of evil forces. The conversation turns to Gav's mother, with Dalinar explaining that she was controlled by an enemy but truly loved him. The scene highlights Gav's maturity beyond his years and Dalinar's determination to be more present in his grandson's life than he was with his own sons.

Dalinar reflects on the challenges of parenting as he observes Gav's unusual behavior, such as willingly going to bed without protest. The boy's somber demeanor contrasts with typical childhood exuberance, hinting at the trauma he has endured. Meanwhile, Dalinar navigates political tensions following Jasnah's near-execution of Ruthar, smoothing over concerns with Alethi highlords and Azish officials. He ensures Ruthar's dignified treatment while assessing the loyalty of Ruthar's son, Relis, demonstrating his diplomatic acumen.

The narrative shifts to Dalinar's observations of the war camp, where Alethi and Azish forces collaborate uneasily. Engineers and Shardbearers work together to fortify defenses, while Dalinar notes the scars of war on the landscape—burned buildings and abandoned possessions. His thoughts return to Jasnah's controversial vision for Alethkar's future, which troubles him. He disagrees with her proposal to weaken the monarchy, believing Alethi culture requires strong, decisive leadership akin to military command.

The chapter concludes with Dalinar visiting the Windrunner camp, where communal stews foster camaraderie among soldiers, including displaced Thaylens. Despite initial attempts to regulate this tradition, Dalinar ultimately accepts its value, recognizing that good soldiers' disobedience may signal flawed orders. This moment underscores

his growth as a leader who balances discipline with understanding, even as he grapples with larger questions about governance and Alethkar's future.

# 55. Kinship With the Open Sky

In this chapter, Kaladin tends to an unconscious Teft in a hidden shelter, using Stormlight to improve their conditions. He carefully administers water to Teft with a makeshift syringe, hoping for his recovery, while Syl watches solemnly. Their conversation shifts to mortality as Syl expresses her fear of losing Kaladin, contrasting her immortal nature as a spren with human fragility. Kaladin deflects her concerns with distractions, but Syl’s unease lingers, revealing unresolved grief over her former knight’s death. The exchange highlights their bond and the emotional burdens they share despite their differing existences.

Syl’s introspection deepens as she questions whether her human-like emotions make her "broken." Kaladin reassures her, framing her grief as a sign of life and personhood rather than a flaw. He suggests that their capacity to care defines them more than their origins, whether as humans or spren. Syl finds comfort in this idea, embracing her identity as a "person" rather than a being bound by predetermined purpose. Their dialogue explores themes of self-determination and the universality of loss, bridging the gap between mortal and immortal experiences.

The chapter also touches on Syl’s evolving abilities, as she experiments with changing her form and colors, reflecting her growing connection to the physical world. Kaladin observes her progress, suggesting practical applications like transforming into tools, which Syl considers possible through their shared belief. This interplay between imagination and manifestation underscores the symbiotic relationship between spren and humans, hinting at deeper metaphysical truths within their world.

Ultimately, the chapter balances intimate character moments with philosophical musings. Kaladin’s pragmatic care for Teft contrasts with his vulnerable conversation with Syl, revealing his own struggles with grief. Syl’s emotional growth and acceptance of her personhood mark a significant development, while their mutual support

reinforces the chapter’s themes of resilience and choice. The interplay of action, dialogue, and introspection creates a poignant exploration of kinship—both with each other and with the broader mysteries of their existence.

# 56. Nodes

Venli examines an intricate model of the ancient Radiant tower, marveling at its design and pondering its original purpose. The model, split to reveal a cross-section, emphasizes the tower's vast scale. She reflects on the fallen Radiants housed in a guarded chamber, noting their surprising resilience despite their inexperience. The Fused expected weakness, but the Radiants' lack of traditional training may have granted them unexpected adaptability, as suggested by Timbre, her spren companion.

Venli observes a stirring Windrunner among the unconscious Radiants, noting Raboniel’s interest in their awakening. She discusses with Dul the possibility of waking a Windrunner to aid their escape, though Dul is skeptical. Venli argues that their suppressed powers would minimize danger, and their potential rebellion could provide a distraction. Despite her lingering instincts of dominance, she suppresses them, recognizing the need for cooperation to survive.

Dul reluctantly agrees to test the Windrunners but raises concerns about their deteriorating health, suggesting the need for a surgeon. Venli recalls a hidden human surgeon who might assist their cause, proposing to bring him into the tower. Dul approves, and Venli leaves to arrange this, passing Regals guarding the model chamber. The chapter ends with her navigating the atrium as curfew approaches, hinting at the tension between secrecy and survival.

The chapter explores themes of adaptation, alliance, and the clash between old and new powers. Venli’s internal conflict—balancing her past instincts with her newfound pragmatism—drives her decisions. The Radiants’ unexplained resilience and the potential alliance with a human surgeon underscore the unpredictability of their struggle against the Fused. The tower’s mysteries and the Radiants’ latent power create a sense of impending upheaval.

# 57. Child of Odium

The chapter opens with Eshonai, a listener, reflecting on her fascination with humans during their second visit to her land. Despite organizing expeditions to locate their homeland, she only found a small outpost. As the humans prepare to leave, she observes their peculiar behaviors—their lack of rhythmic awareness and their tendency to ignore her presence. Eshonai finds their world silent and lonely without the rhythms that guide her people, yet she remains deeply curious about their culture and longs for more interaction before their departure.

Eshonai notices the humans packing with unusual urgency, signaling their imminent departure. She expresses disappointment at the brevity of their visit and contemplates joining them, though they remain secretive about their homeland. Her attention shifts to Dalinar Kholin, who stands apart from the others, gazing eastward with his Shardblade. Unlike the other humans, Dalinar immediately notices her approach, engaging her in a conversation about the unexplored Plains and the listeners' reluctance to venture beyond familiar territory.

Their dialogue reveals a cultural divide: Eshonai struggles to articulate complex thoughts in the human language, while Dalinar speaks cryptically about the power of places and memories. He warns her to be cautious with her people's openness, hinting at the dangers of human ambition. Eshonai senses his sincerity but finds his advice contradictory—urging strength yet caution. Dalinar’s tone suggests that humans are more perilous than they appear, and his brother’s interest in the listeners could bring both opportunity and peril.

The chapter concludes with Eshonai grappling with Dalinar’s ominous warning. She interprets his words as a plea for her people to guard themselves against human exploitation. His mention of burned cities underscores the threat humans pose, leaving Eshonai with a sense of unease. Despite her desire for connection, she begins to

question the true cost of engaging with these enigmatic visitors, setting the stage for future tensions between their cultures.

# 58. Spanreeds

Kaladin stealthily infiltrates a tower occupied by enemy forces, aiming to steal a Voidlight spanreed to aid Navani. Using Stormlight to conceal himself, he navigates the darkened corridors with Syl's guidance, avoiding patrolling singers and laundry workers. The chapter highlights the tension of his mission as he hides in a laundry room, narrowly avoiding detection by frustrated singers attempting to enter. Kaladin's internal struggle with fatigue and traumatic memories surfaces, adding depth to his character as he pushes forward despite his exhaustion.

Syl scouts ahead and discovers a central spanreed hub guarded by senior femalen singers, complicating their plan to acquire a single spanreed. Kaladin realizes the hub system means the reeds are stored collectively rather than individually, requiring a new strategy. The chapter emphasizes the logistical challenges of the tower's occupation, including the singers' adaptation to Voidlight and the disruption of normal functions like laundry services. Kaladin's determination to proceed despite setbacks underscores his commitment to the mission.

A mysterious red lightning-like Voidspren appears, revealing potential interference with spren invisibility in the tower. Syl notes that guards can see the spren's trail, raising concerns about their own visibility. Kaladin weighs the risks but decides to press on, recognizing the strategic value of the spanreed hub. This encounter introduces a new layer of danger, as the tower's altered mechanics could expose their presence to the enemy.

The chapter concludes with Kaladin preparing to confront the guarded hub, acknowledging that stealth alone may not suffice. His resilience in the face of physical and emotional strain, coupled with Syl's unwavering support, drives the narrative forward. The discovery of the hub and the anomalous Voidspren set the stage for further conflict, blending tactical intrigue with the psychological toll of Kaladin's

ongoing battles. The chapter masterfully balances action, world-building, and character development.

# 59. The Lattice of a Growing Crystal

Kaladin grapples with doubt as he risks revealing himself to aid the tower’s spren, despite his exhaustion and lingering trauma from battle. Though mentally and physically drained, he pushes forward, relying on Stormlight and sheer determination to suppress his fatigue. His internal conflict is evident as he questions whether he can ever truly abandon the spear, a symbol of both his strength and his struggle. The garnet light guiding him reflects his precarious trust in the unknown, as he balances his instinct to protect with the fear of being consumed by his warrior identity.

The chapter highlights Kaladin’s tactical prowess as he swiftly disables four guards using clever infusions of Stormlight and precise maneuvers. His combat skills, honed through training and experience, allow him to outmaneuver his opponents despite their numbers. However, his proficiency with the spear also underscores his deeper conflict—his reliance on violence as a coping mechanism. The weapon becomes a metaphor for his inability to escape his past, as he acknowledges his addiction to the role of a soldier, even as it weighs heavily on him.

Kaladin’s strategic thinking shines as he navigates the tower’s corridors, avoiding direct confrontations and using the environment to his advantage. He improvises routes, swings from balconies, and disrupts guard formations, demonstrating his adaptability. The garnet spren’s guidance is both a lifeline and a puzzle, as Kaladin must interpret its path while staying ahead of pursuing enemies. His quick decisions and physical agility keep him one step ahead, but the constant chase reinforces the tension of his mission.

The chapter culminates in a tense standoff as Kaladin faces a more organized group of guards armed with nets, forcing him to rethink his approach. Without his usual gravitational Lashings, he must rely on raw skill and Syl’s support to break through. The scene underscores his resilience but also his vulnerability, as the toll of his choices

becomes increasingly apparent. The narrative leaves readers questioning whether Kaladin’s strength will be enough to sustain him—or if his inner turmoil will eventually catch up to him.

# 60. Essai

Venli experiences a profound moment of realization upon discovering Rlain, another surviving listener, imprisoned in a cell. The encounter disrupts her perception of being the last of her kind, and she senses an unfamiliar "pure tone" beyond the rhythms. Rlain's hostile reaction, marked by human-influenced expressions, shatters the brief peace, leaving Venli uncertain if he recognizes her in her Regal form. The scene underscores the tension between their shared past and their current divided loyalties.

The chapter reveals Raboniel's unexpected reaction to the recent incident involving Stormblessed and the destroyed node. Despite the chaos, Raboniel appears amused and deliberately slows the corruption process, hinting at hidden motives. Venli, exhausted from interpreting for the Fused, finally visits Rlain after learning of his survival from Mazish. The prison, originally built by humans, now holds Rlain under the accusation of being an "essai"—a traitorous "human lover."

Venli confronts the direform jailer, who dismissively explains Rlain's imprisonment as punishment for his alliance with the Radiants. The jailer's use of the Rhythm of Executions signals a lethal intent, but Venli asserts her authority as Raboniel's Voice to speak with Rlain alone. Before their conversation, she detects a Voidspren hiding in a cremling, heightening her anxiety. The spren's presence suggests surveillance, forcing Venli to carefully maintain her composure while ensuring it leaves.

When Venli finally addresses Rlain in their native language, he remains wary, revealing he was never executed but used as an experiment by the humans. His distrust mirrors the broader conflict between listeners and Regals, as both navigate a world where old alliances and identities are fraught with danger. The chapter ends with Venli's determination to uncover the truth, even as shadows of betrayal and surveillance loom over their fragile reunion.

# 61. Oil and Water

Navani finally connects with Kaladin through the Sibling after a tense delay, reassuring him that his efforts to protect the tower have not been in vain. Despite his self-doubt, she emphasizes that his role is to buy time for her to reverse the enemy's corruption of the tower's Light. Kaladin reports on the worsening conditions, including slower healing due to the Sibling's corruption, and the challenges of navigating the tower without his usual abilities. Navani remains determined to find a solution, focusing on understanding the nature of Stormlight and Voidlight to reclaim the tower's defenses.

Kaladin updates Navani on his failed attempt to reach the Oathgates, explaining his inability to use Lashings and the need for alternative methods like climbing. He also delivers crucial news about the corrupted spanreeds, confirming Navani's suspicion that Voidlight-powered fabrials rely on corrupted spren. This revelation complicates their efforts, as acquiring such spren would alert Raboniel. Despite the setbacks, Navani urges Kaladin to rest and prepare for further challenges, while she strategizes how to warn Dalinar and regain control of the tower's systems.

The conversation shifts to the possibility of Kaladin escaping the tower to deliver a message, though both acknowledge the risks of leaving Navani unprotected. Kaladin expresses concern over his limited mobility, particularly if nodes on higher floors are discovered. Navani agrees to explore solutions, and they plan to reconvene the next day. Meanwhile, she continues to feign cooperation with the enemy, secretly working on a plan to secure their freedom, with step one being maintaining their current position and step two involving communication with Dalinar.

Navani's internal resolve strengthens as she reflects on her next steps, determined to move beyond mere stalling tactics. She recognizes the urgency of understanding the Sibling's mechanisms and the nature of the enemy's corruption. With Kaladin's help and the newly acquired spanreeds, she aims to devise a way to reverse the tower's

takeover. The chapter underscores the tension between their immediate survival and the larger goal of reclaiming the tower, highlighting Navani’s strategic mind and Kaladin’s unwavering dedication despite overwhelming odds.

# 62. Keeper of Forms

The chapter opens with Eshonai examining a trapped painspren in a topaz gemstone, noting its unnatural orange glow and pondering the spren's distress. Her sister Venli, who has grown increasingly confident, reveals she learned this technique from humans. Venli sits among the elders, suggesting the trapped spren could unlock warform, a controversial but potentially useful form. The elders debate the implications, with Klade noting it aligns with their rights, while Gangnah expresses frustration over the humans' perception of their fragmented society as a unified nation.

Eshonai, recently returned from an unsuccessful expedition to locate human settlements, shares her observations about human advantages, such as technology and sheltered lands. She reports the human king's desire to formalize relations, referring to them as "Parshendi." Venli's newfound knowledge and confidence contrast with Eshonai's efforts, sparking tension. Eshonai proposes uniting the listener families by sharing her maps, but Venli dismisses the idea with amusement. The elders, while appreciative of Eshonai's work, remain skeptical of her plan.

After the meeting, Eshonai reflects on her frustration but forces herself to attune to Peace, acknowledging her post-expedition anxiety. She walks through the city, engaging with listeners who now show interest in her explorations—a stark change from her earlier struggles to inspire curiosity. Climbing a watchpost, she observes increased activity among other listener families, hinting at potential conflict. The chapter underscores the listeners' internal divisions and the looming threat of violence, even as they grapple with human diplomacy.

The chapter highlights the cultural and political tensions among the listeners, exacerbated by human influence. Eshonai's role as an explorer and mediator contrasts with Venli's ambition, while the elders weigh tradition against progress. The trapped

spren symbolizes both opportunity and ethical dilemmas, mirroring the listeners' broader struggles. The narrative sets the stage for future conflicts, both internal and external, as the listeners navigate a rapidly changing world.

# 63. Practice

The chapter opens with Kaladin struggling through vivid nightmares of his friends' deaths, leaving him emotionally shaken. Syl, his spren companion, tries to ground him in reality as he wakes, but the lingering horror of his visions mirrors the aftermath of battle. Kaladin finds a small bag of glowing gemstones left by Dabbid, hinting at the mysterious ways the tower's inhabitants move and interact. He proceeds with his morning routine, tending to Teft, who remains unconscious, finding solace in the repetitive, caring act of feeding his friend.

Syl shares her recent conversation with Dalinar, revealing her desire to experience human emotions like sadness to better understand Kaladin. She reflects on how Dalinar may have reconnected her to memories of her past, allowing her to feel pain and change—something spren traditionally believe they cannot do. Kaladin, grappling with his own emotional turmoil, feels ill-equipped to help her, wishing his brother Tien were there to offer guidance. Their dialogue highlights themes of change, choice, and the shared struggles of both humans and spren.

Kaladin recognizes the signs of his deepening battle shock, exacerbated by the tower's occupation, loneliness, and relentless stress. The chapter vividly portrays his mental exhaustion as he zones out while caring for Teft, only to be brought back by Syl's concern. Their mutual agreement to support each other through their darkest moments underscores the chapter's emotional core. Kaladin's internal struggle reflects the broader toll of war and responsibility on his psyche.

The chapter concludes with Dabbid returning with a mysterious fabrial, likely sent by Navani. The device, resembling a time-telling bracer but with unusual modifications, piques Kaladin's curiosity. Dabbid's silent communication and the Sibling's involvement hint at larger machinations at play. This moment of intrigue offers a brief respite from Kaladin's emotional turmoil, suggesting that external forces may soon

intervene in his struggle.

# 64. Personal Reminder

The chapter opens with an epigraph reflecting on exotic artifacts from other worlds, setting a tone of wonder and mystery. Jasnah Kholin, though experienced in battle, realizes she has never truly "gone to war" until now. Despite her extensive scholarly knowledge of warfare, she confronts the visceral reality of facing an endless enemy force—transforming abstract numbers into an overwhelming tide. Dalinar’s advice echoes in her mind, emphasizing the irreplaceable understanding gained only through firsthand experience on the battlefield.

As Jasnah stands at the front of the coalition armies, the sheer scale of the enemy forces unnerves her. The Drunmu Basin, chosen for its strategic advantages, becomes a backdrop for her internal struggle between logic and instinct. Though the Mink’s plan favors their side, the physical distance to the enemy and the impending assault under arrow fire make her feel small and vulnerable. The mechanical advance of her troops, shields raised, contrasts with her heightened alertness and the chaotic reality of war.

The battle begins with a disciplined march, interrupted by enemy arrows and a counterattack by Azish cavalry. Jasnah notes the singers’ adaptability, their formations more refined than those of the Parshendi. Her Shardplate, deliberately dimmed to avoid recognition, offers little comfort as she ascends the shallow incline toward the enemy pike block. The tension builds as she prepares to engage, aware of the hidden threats among the enemy ranks—Fused and Regals lying in wait.

Jasnah charges the pike block, wielding Ivory to break the enemy lines. Despite her efforts, the singers hold their formation, forcing her to fight defensively with her honor guard. The chaos of battle surrounds her as other coalition forces clash nearby. The chapter captures her transition from scholar to warrior, highlighting the dissonance between theoretical knowledge and the brutal, unpredictable nature of war. Her resolve remains firm, but the experience leaves her emotionally and physically

drained, underscoring the chapter’s theme of war’s transformative power.

# 65. Hypothesis

Navani, confined and under surveillance, immerses herself in the study of light, a subject she finds endlessly fascinating. Surrounded by texts gathered from various sources, she deciphers ancient theories about light's nature—whether it has weight or is defined by its force. Her curiosity leads her to conduct experiments, splitting light into its spectral components using prisms. She discovers that different types of light, such as Stormlight and Voidlight, produce distinct patterns, hinting at deeper complexities.

Her experiments take a pivotal turn when she examines Towerlight, a fusion of Stormlight and Lifelight. Unlike other lights, Towerlight splits into two separate rainbows, which she cannot recombine. This anomaly sparks her suspicion that Lifelight might have been present during Gavilar's death, a event she revisits through her journals. The emotional weight of Gavilar's betrayal lingers as she recalls his cryptic words and the mysterious spheres he displayed.

Navani's reflections on Gavilar's death reveal a painful duality: her public glorification of his legacy contrasts with her private grief and unresolved questions. She rereads her account of his final moments, where he accused her of being "a thing that destroys light." This accusation haunts her, intertwining with her scientific inquiries. Her experiments and memories converge, suggesting a connection between the light she studies and the enigmatic events surrounding Gavilar's demise.

The chapter culminates in Navani's struggle to reconcile her scientific pursuits with her emotional turmoil. Her discoveries about light's properties parallel her unresolved feelings about Gavilar's betrayal. The juxtaposition of her intellectual curiosity and personal pain underscores the chapter's central theme: the search for truth, both in the natural world and in the shadows of the past. Her work becomes a metaphor for her own journey—splitting apart complexities to uncover hidden truths, even when

they cannot be neatly reassembled.

# 66. Bearer of Agonies

Dalinar Kholin experiments with his Bondsmith abilities, discovering he can perceive thin white lines of Connection radiating from a young soldier. The Stormfather, his spren companion, reveals this power was once known to the last Bondsmith before the Recreance. These Connections link all beings—people, spren, and even time itself—though their practical utility remains unclear. The Stormfather shares an allegory about two brothers and colored cloth to illustrate how Connections exist but may not always be exploitable, hinting at Bondsmiths' unique potential to manipulate them.

Frustrated by his slow progress, Dalinar reflects on his inability to aid his wife Navani and son Adolin despite their shared fates. He resolves to focus on mastering his powers to confront Odium on a grander scale, drawing parallels to Jasnah's years of solitary research. Meanwhile, he prepares to fulfill another duty: confronting Taravangian, the imprisoned former king whose betrayal still weighs heavily on him. The makeshift prison, with its bricked-up windows, symbolizes the uneasy balance between confinement and humanity.

Dalinar enters Taravangian's cell with Szeth as his sole guard, noting how others underestimate the elderly man's danger. Taravangian greets him with unsettling calm, having anticipated this meeting. Dalinar admits he delayed their confrontation to avoid manipulation, though privately acknowledges his own emotional reluctance. The tension between them is palpable, with Dalinar approaching the encounter as cautiously as a battlefield engagement.

The chapter underscores Dalinar's dual struggles: mastering cosmic Connections while navigating human treachery. His scientific curiosity about the metaphysical web contrasts sharply with the visceral challenge of facing Taravangian. The narrative weaves together themes of destiny, power, and responsibility, positioning Dalinar at

the intersection of divine capability and profoundly mortal dilemmas.

# 67. Song of Stones

Venli, a Regal tormented by guilt over her past actions, wanders the halls of Urithiru, haunted by memories of her deceased mother, Jaxlim. A stranger’s song triggers her grief, reminding her of simpler times before her betrayal. She reflects on her culpability in her mother’s death during a catastrophic flood, acknowledging that while her choices were influenced by her form’s power, she alone bears responsibility. Timbre, her spren companion, offers consolation, reminding Venli that she has grown stronger and more resistant to Odium’s influence, though the weight of her past remains heavy.

Determined to explore her newfound path as a Radiant, Venli prepares to experiment with both Stormlight and Voidlight. She selects a secluded area on the tower’s eighth floor, away from prying eyes, to practice her abilities. As she attempts to use Stormlight, she finds herself blocked by the tower’s defenses, unable to channel its power effectively. Timbre encourages her to try Voidlight instead, despite Venli’s reservations about relying on Odium’s power. The pragmatic spren insists that using available resources is necessary for their goals.

Venli’s internal conflict deepens as she grapples with the moral implications of wielding Voidlight. She recalls how her past ambitions led her to embrace destructive forms of power, contrasting her experience with her sister Eshonai’s complete transformation. Unlike Eshonai, Venli retained more of her identity, which now fuels her guilt but also her resolve to resist Odium. Timbre’s presence has been pivotal in strengthening her resistance, and Venli expresses gratitude for the spren’s unwavering faith in her, despite her self-perceived unworthiness.

The chapter culminates in Venli’s cautious experimentation with Voidlight, symbolizing her fraught journey toward redemption. As she prepares to test her Radiant abilities, the tension between her past allegiance to Odium and her current desire for liberation

remains palpable. The setting—a silent, stone-walled space reminiscent of the chasms where her mother died—underscores the cyclical nature of her grief and determination. Venli’s story is one of painful accountability, tentative hope, and the complex interplay of power and identity in her quest for atonement.

# 68. One Family

Eshonai and her mother, Jaxlim, brave a violent storm together, carrying a glowing gemstone meant to facilitate a transformation. Eshonai shields her mother from the harsh winds and rain, observing others in the tempest who also carry similar gemstones. The storm is filled with mystical elements like windspren and rainspren, adding to the otherworldly atmosphere. Despite the danger, Jaxlim reminisces about her past experiences with Eshonai’s father, teasing her daughter about grandchildren and the importance of adopting a new form.

The chapter delves into the cultural significance of transformation for the listeners, a race that must adopt a specific form during puberty to avoid being trapped in "dullform." Eshonai reflects on her own childhood transformation into "workform" and worries about her mother’s frailty. Jaxlim struggles to attune the proper rhythm to initiate the change, while Eshonai remains determined to protect her. The storm’s intensity mirrors the emotional and physical stakes of the ritual, emphasizing the bond between mother and daughter.

In a sudden twist, the gemstone’s energy is absorbed by Eshonai instead of her mother, overwhelming her with a pure, resonant tone of Honor. The transformation reshapes her body, covering her in thick carapace and granting her newfound strength. Eshonai embraces the change, feeling it as a restoration of something vital for her people. The moment is transcendent, as if all of Roshar pauses to acknowledge the return of Honor’s long-lost note.

After the storm, Eshonai awakens to find herself transformed, her clothing torn and her body now armored. She stumbles from the unfamiliar strength but is filled with awe. A stranger calls out to her, revealing that others have also undergone changes. The chapter ends on a note of curiosity and anticipation, leaving Eshonai—and the reader—to wonder about the implications of her unexpected transformation and what

it means for her future.

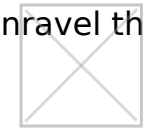
# 69. Pure Tones of Roshar

Navani conducts experiments with Stormlight and Voidlight, exploring their unique properties and interactions. Using a tuning fork, she transfers Stormlight between gemstones, observing its fluid-like behavior. She hypothesizes that Stormlight is neither purely liquid nor gas but a distinct form of energy. To test the dangers of mixing Lights, she works within a protective steel box, cautiously preparing for potential explosions while maintaining her cover under enemy supervision. Her goal is to uncover whether combining Voidlight and Stormlight produces a new Light, similar to Towerlight.

The chapter delves into Navani’s discovery of the "pure tones of Roshar," which correlate to the three ancient gods: Honor, Odium, and Cultivation. Stormlight responds to the first tone, while Voidlight reacts to the third. Navani learns these tones from ancient three-note scales, a revelation unknown to Alethi scholars but familiar to Raboniel. Though Navani attempts to replicate Raboniel’s ability to manipulate Light through singing, she finds success only with tuning forks. This discovery hints at deeper connections between music, theology, and the fundamental nature of Light on Roshar.

Navani’s experiments progress as she crosses streams of Stormlight and Voidlight, observing their resistance to merging. She attempts to refill a Voidlight gemstone with Stormlight, leveraging principles from fabrial science. However, the Voidlight diamond extinguishes the tuning fork’s tone, preventing the transfer. Her efforts highlight the challenges of manipulating these opposing forces, suggesting that their interaction is more complex than a simple pressure differential. The chapter underscores her meticulous and innovative approach, even in the face of limited resources and hostile conditions.

The chapter concludes with Navani’s unresolved questions about the nature of Light and its ties to Roshar’s deities. Her work bridges science and spirituality, as she contemplates the implications of the three pure tones and their alignment with Honor, Odium, and Cultivation. Despite setbacks, her experiments lay the groundwork for future discoveries, emphasizing her role as a pioneering researcher in a world where science and magic intertwine. The narrative leaves readers anticipating the next steps in her quest to unravel the mysteries of Light.



# 70. Well

The chapter opens with Kaladin trapped in a harrowing nightmare, assaulted by shadowy figures that torment him with laughter and phantom pain. He awakens to find Syl, his spren companion, watching over him as he struggles to shake off the lingering terror. Disoriented and sweating, Kaladin realizes his spear and Navani’s fabrial are missing, prompting panic. Syl reveals that the Sibling—a sentient spren—has alerted them to an urgent threat: the enemy has located another node inside the market well, demanding immediate action.

Kaladin rushes to confront Dabbid, a bridgeman who had taken his spear and fabrial, intending to face the Fused alone. Touched by Dabbid’s rare spoken words—“Life before death”—Kaladin reaffirms their bond before sprinting toward the well. He resolves to destroy the node to buy Navani time, opting for a risky descent through the atrium. Meanwhile, the nightmare’s echoes haunt him, but he pushes forward, determined to fulfill his duty despite his inner turmoil.

Parallel to Kaladin’s urgency, Navani attempts to distract the Fused by claiming a groundbreaking discovery for the Lady of Wishes. However, the guards and a Deepest One seem prepared for her ploy, deliberately slowing her efforts. The Fused’s amused tone suggests they anticipated Navani’s ruse, turning her distraction into a reversed trap. Navani’s frustration grows as she realizes her plan has been compromised, leaving her with limited options to aid Kaladin’s mission.

The chapter highlights the escalating tension as both Kaladin and Navani race against time, each facing psychological and tactical obstacles. Kaladin’s nightmare reflects his deepening trauma, while Navani’s failed diversion underscores the enemy’s cunning. Their intertwined struggles emphasize the high stakes of their rebellion, with the Sibling’s fear and the node’s corruption looming as dire threats. The narrative builds toward a climactic confrontation, leaving readers eager for the next chapter’s

resolution.

# 71. Rider of Storms

Dalinar Kholin reflects on his transformed relationship with highstorms, no longer fearing them as he once did. Instead, he feels a surge of excitement and energy during storms, a stark contrast to his past anxiety. The Stormfather confirms their shared connection, explaining how the storm energizes Dalinar while tiring him. Despite this newfound clarity, Dalinar grapples with mounting concerns about Navani and the situation at Urithiru, sensing something is amiss despite her reassuring letters. His frustration grows as he contemplates limited options to intervene, including a risky expedition through Shadesmar.

Dalinar struggles with his inner conflict, torn between his duty as a Bondsmith and his lingering desire for the Thrill of battle. He acknowledges his past bloodlust and the danger of reverting to old habits if he returns to combat. To avoid temptation, he forces himself to stay in Laqqi, focusing on strategic solutions rather than physical confrontation. His thoughts drift to his Bondsmith powers, wishing he could access a shared map with Shallan to uncover the truth about Urithiru. The Stormfather, however, warns that even this might not reveal the tower’s secrets due to an unknown force suppressing their abilities.

The Stormfather offers Dalinar a unique opportunity: to ride the storm’s front and witness the land from a divine perspective. Intrigued, Dalinar prepares for the experience, instructing his scribe Martra to assist him. As he settles into a chair facing east, he merges with the storm, his consciousness soaring across the landscape. The view is overwhelming yet exhilarating, revealing unfamiliar terrain and the storm’s immense shadow. This transcendent experience contrasts sharply with his earlier frustrations, offering a momentary escape from his earthly concerns.

The chapter culminates in Dalinar’s awe as he embraces his role as the Stormrider, symbolizing his growth and acceptance of his Bondsmith destiny. His journey reflects

both personal and cosmic scales—balancing his human struggles with the divine power he wields. The storm becomes a metaphor for his turbulent emotions and the broader conflicts facing Roshar. By the end, Dalinar’s perspective shifts, hinting at new possibilities for understanding his powers and the challenges ahead, particularly the mystery of Urithiru and the war’s unfolding stakes.

# 72. Outmatched

Navani, trapped in her makeshift library cell, endures hours of tense waiting under the watchful eyes of her captors. Despite her anxiety and guilt over betraying the Sibling's trust, she maintains composure, recognizing the need for information. When Raboniel finally arrives, dressed in Thaylen attire, Navani bows, suppressing her anger and humiliation. Raboniel reveals she has been eavesdropping on Navani's conversations with the Sibling, exploiting the latter's naivety. Navani realizes with horror that she inadvertently revealed critical secrets, playing directly into the enemy's hands.

Raboniel dismisses Navani's self-reproach, shifting blame to the Sibling's innocence and lack of awareness. She explains her strategy of patience, comparing it to nurturing multiple seeds to see which one grows. Navani, still reeling, confronts Raboniel about the surveillance, questioning how the Sibling could have been unaware. Raboniel deflects, urging Navani to focus on studying Light instead of resisting her. The exchange underscores Raboniel's cunning and Navani's desperation as she grapples with the consequences of her actions.

The conversation turns to Kaladin's fate, with Raboniel revealing he fled into the storm after destroying a node, his powers unreliable due to the Sibling's transformation. She coldly speculates about his survival, expressing interest in studying his corpse. Navani, sick with guilt and worry, burns a prayer for his protection. Raboniel's detached demeanor contrasts sharply with Navani's emotional turmoil, highlighting the moral divide between them.

The chapter closes with Navani alone, overwhelmed by the magnitude of her failure. Her physical and emotional exhaustion mirrors the broader stakes of the conflict, as Raboniel's manipulations leave her feeling outmatched and isolated. The chapter underscores themes of trust, betrayal, and the relentless pressure of war, setting the stage for the next phase of Navani's struggle.

# I-7. Szeth

Szeth, tasked with guarding Dalinar Kholin and his grandnephew Gavinor, struggles to appear relaxed despite his innate intensity. Dalinar advises him to adopt a more casual demeanor, but Szeth finds it difficult to balance vigilance with the appearance of ease. As he watches over the clearing, memories of his childhood in Shinovar surface, contrasting sharply with his current role as a protector. The peaceful setting reminds him of his father’s teachings about creation over destruction, yet he remains acutely aware of the threats surrounding Dalinar.

Szeth’s sentient sword, Nightblood, engages him in conversation, attempting to lighten the mood with its playful yet ominous remarks. Despite its insistence that no danger is present, Szeth remains uneasy, convinced that Dalinar’s enemies must be lurking unseen. His paranoia is compounded by his past experiences and the weight of his duty. Meanwhile, Dalinar bonds with Gavinor, whose laughter and playfulness evoke a mix of joy and sorrow in Szeth, who fears the child’s happiness will inevitably be shattered again.

The chapter delves into Szeth’s internal conflict as he grapples with his fractured identity and lingering trauma. He feels a kinship with Gavinor, recognizing the boy’s haunted past and his own unresolved pain. Szeth’s fragile soul, visibly trailing his movements, symbolizes his unstable existence. Nightblood’s attempts to understand human emotions, particularly laughter, highlight the sword’s curious yet detached nature, while Szeth’s fear of his own presence near the child reveals his deep-seated self-doubt.

Szeth’s trust in Dalinar as a moral anchor is tested by moments of uncertainty in the Blackthorn’s leadership. He contrasts Dalinar’s occasional doubts with the unshakable confidence of Taravangian, a figure from his past who still looms as a threat. The chapter ends with a surreal moment as reality seems to split open, hinting at

impending danger or a supernatural event. Szeth leaves Nightblood to guard the clearing, stepping into the unknown as his past and present tensions converge.

# I-8. Chiri-Chiri

The chapter follows Chiri-Chiri, a unique cremling who is larger and more intelligent than her kind, capable of thought, growth, and flight. She struggles to understand the verbal communication of the "soft ones" (humans), finding their sounds chaotic compared to her preference for expressing moods and needs through clicks and rhythms. Despite her discomfort, she begins to discern patterns in their speech, particularly with Rysn, whom she understands better. The chapter highlights Chiri-Chiri's internal conflict between her desire for simplicity and the growing awareness of a looming threat.

Chiri-Chiri observes a tense conversation between Rysn and an older man, Babsk, about the presence of non-human entities called the Sleepless. Babsk is confused and fearful, while Rysn appears thoughtful but resolute. The dialogue reveals Rysn's need for guidance in dealing with these mysterious beings, hinting at a larger, unseen danger. Chiri-Chiri senses the emotional undercurrents of the discussion, though she struggles to fully grasp the implications. The chapter underscores the theme of hidden threats and the weight of secrets.

The interaction between Rysn and Babsk delves into their shared history, with Babsk blaming himself for Rysn's past recklessness. Rysn reassures him, emphasizing her own agency in her mistakes. Chiri-Chiri, attuned to their emotions, senses sadness and tension, though she finds comfort in Rysn's scratches. The chapter explores themes of guilt, mentorship, and the burden of knowledge, as Babsk reluctantly agrees to help Rysn while keeping her secrets.

As Babsk leaves, the chapter shifts back to Chiri-Chiri's perspective, with her sensing a warning rhythm from the environment—a reminder of impending danger. Despite her preference for easy comforts, she feels compelled to act. The chapter ends with Rysn distracted and Chiri-Chiri attempting to mimic human speech, signaling her growing

connection to Rysn and the world beyond her instincts. The narrative leaves a sense of unease, foreshadowing darker times ahead.

# I-9. The Sword

Taravangian awakens to another day of physical and mental struggle, caught between the pain of movement and the anguish of staying still. His cognitive abilities are diminished, making even simple tasks like reading his own notes laborious. He notices sunlight streaming through a window he didn't open, realizing Dalinar must have ordered it—a small kindness in his confined existence. Despite his foggy mind, Taravangian forces himself to follow a routine, copying instructions into a notebook, though their meaning eludes him in his current state.

The chapter delves into Taravangian's internal conflict as he grapples with his diminished intellect and the frustration of forgetting simple things, like checking for fresh food before eating stale bread. He reflects on how others perceive his struggles, feeling isolated and misunderstood. His emotional vulnerability is palpable, especially when he recalls how people's anger at his mistakes often reduced him to tears. The narrative highlights his loneliness and the weight of living with a mind that betrays him.

A sudden interruption comes when a guard announces a visitor, sparking Taravangian's hope that it might be Szeth, the person he's been preparing to meet. Instead, he's confronted by Renarin, Dalinar's son, who speaks cryptically about seeing darkness in Taravangian's future with a flicker of light. Renarin's awkward attempt to offer comfort—extending his hand—leaves Taravangian emotionally raw but unable to accept the gesture. The encounter underscores Taravangian's isolation and the moral ambiguity of his chosen path.

The chapter closes with Taravangian questioning his certainty about his decisions, juxtaposed against the guard's grim assertion that not everyone can return from darkness. Renarin's words linger, suggesting hope even in Taravangian's self-imposed exile. The tension between Taravangian's resolve and his lingering doubts creates a

poignant ending, leaving the reader to ponder whether his path is one of necessity or folly.

# 74. A Symbol

The chapter opens with Venli struggling to attune the Rhythm of Conceit as she navigates the tense halls of Urithiru, instead finding herself drawn to the Rhythm of Anxiety. Her spren, Timbre, offers comfort, but Venli grapples with guilt over her past actions, acknowledging her complicity in the manipulations of the Voidspren Ulim. Despite Timbre's reassurances, Venli believes she must atone for her role in the events that unfolded. She maintains a facade of confidence, walking with purpose alongside Rlain, who carries a mysterious crate, as they work to quell rumors and maintain their cover.

The tension in Urithiru is palpable, with the Fused spreading false narratives about Kaladin Stormblessed's recent actions. Venli doubts the effectiveness of their propaganda, noting the lack of subtlety in the Pursuer's leadership. The tower teeters on the brink of violence, with frequent clashes between singers and humans. Venli and Rlain's mission becomes increasingly urgent as they navigate the volatile environment, their crate holding potential keys to their survival. Venli's nerves are frayed, but she steels herself, attuning Joy only when they reach the safety of the Radiant infirmary.

Inside the infirmary, Rlain reveals the contents of the crate: meticulously mapped floor plans of Urithiru's upper levels, which he stole during the chaos of the occupation. His daring actions, though risky, were driven by a desire to undermine the Fused. The human surgeon, Lirin, questions the practical value of the maps, but Venli is more interested in the potential of the tunnel complex beneath the tower. The group's shared goal of resistance and survival binds them together, even as they face overwhelming odds.

The chapter underscores the themes of guilt, resilience, and covert resistance. Venli's internal conflict mirrors the external turmoil of Urithiru, as both she and the tower

struggle to find stability. Rlain’s bravery and quick thinking highlight the resourcefulness of the oppressed, while the humans’ care for the comatose Radiants reflects enduring hope. The maps symbolize both the fragility of their plans and the possibility of escape, leaving the reader with a sense of cautious anticipation for what lies ahead.

# Shallan’s Sketchbook: Peakspren

The chapter from *Shallan’s Sketchbook: Peakspren* introduces the unique characteristics of peakspren, a type of spren inhabiting Shadesmar. Like many other spren in this realm, peakspren are depicted wearing human clothing, with their fashion and features bearing a resemblance to the Unkalaki people. Their stone-like forms exhibit intricate cracks that sometimes resemble glyphs or symbols, though these imperfections do not seem to hinder them. The text highlights the diversity in their appearance, with colors and textures ranging from polished marble to rough basalt, showcasing their geological variety.

Peakspren’s physical forms are described in vivid detail, emphasizing their adaptability and connection to stone. Their cracked skin, while visually striking, appears purely aesthetic, with no apparent functional impact. The chapter notes the potential significance of the crack patterns, which may hint at deeper cultural or mystical meanings. This attention to detail reflects the author’s fascination with the spren’s unique biology and their role in the broader ecosystem of Shadesmar, where even their fashion choices mirror human customs.

The chapter also explores the peakspren’s abilities in the Physical Realm, where they can seamlessly disappear into stone to evade detection. This camouflage is not limited to large rock formations; they can emerge from even the smallest pebbles, demonstrating their versatility and mastery over their environment. This ability underscores their deep connection to stone, making them elusive and enigmatic beings. Their reappearance from seemingly insignificant objects adds an element of surprise and wonder to their nature.

Overall, the chapter paints a vivid picture of peakspren as both culturally and physically intriguing entities. Their blend of human-like attire and stone-based physiology creates a striking contrast, while their abilities highlight their mystical ties

to the natural world. The detailed observations suggest a broader narrative about the diversity and complexity of spren in this universe, inviting readers to appreciate their unique place within the lore. The sketchbook format enhances the immersive experience, blending visual and textual storytelling.

# 75. The Middle Step

Adolin, accompanied by his honorspren guards, explores the surreal landscape of Shadesmar from the towering walls of Lasting Integrity. The fortress defies physical laws, allowing him to walk vertically up its interior before stepping onto the battlements with a disorienting shift in gravity. From this vantage, he observes the unique "weather" of Shadesmar—crystalline hazes and spren behaviors—rather than traditional climatic patterns. The view reveals a breathtaking seascape of shimmering beads and distant lights reflecting the Physical Realm, alongside glass forests with synchronized lifespren blinking in rhythmic waves.

Despite the mesmerizing scenery, Adolin's focus remains on his imprisoned circumstances and his team camped nearby. His allies, including Godeke and Felt, await the outcome of his delayed trial while trading supplies with passing caravans. The honorspren's meticulous nature has prolonged proceedings, though Adolin hopes to use the extra time to sway them. Meanwhile, an unsettling gathering of deadeyes—hundreds of silent, motionless spren—has formed on the coast, puzzling the honorspren who traditionally care for such beings.

Adolin's primary jailer, Vaiu, expresses disbelief at the deadeyes' unprecedented behavior, as they typically wander aimlessly rather than congregate. The honorspren, though stubborn, show compassion by housing and tending to fallen spren like Maya, whom Adolin is permitted to visit daily. However, the sheer number of arriving deadeyes has strained their resources, forcing them to close the fortress gates to newcomers. The phenomenon raises unanswered questions about what has drawn them to Lasting Integrity.

The chapter underscores the tension between Adolin's diplomatic mission and the honorspren's rigid traditions, set against the eerie backdrop of the gathering deadeyes. Their silent presence hints at deeper mysteries in Shadesmar, while Adolin's

perseverance and adaptability shine through his captivity. The juxtaposition of Lasting Integrity's grandeur and the haunting deadeye assembly creates a vivid contrast, emphasizing the Cognitive Realm's uncanny beauty and unresolved enigmas.

# 76. Harmony

Navani struggles with guilt and failure as she attempts to communicate with the Sibling, the soul of Urithiru, through a garnet vein in the wall. Despite her heartfelt apologies, the Sibling remains silent, leaving her feeling hollow and defeated. Surrounded by unfinished experiments and notes, Navani loses motivation, seeing her efforts as futile. Her despair is compounded by the presence of Raboniel’s daughter, a silent and unsettling reminder of the Fused’s control over the tower.

Raboniel arrives, dressed in an Alethi havah tailored to her imposing frame, and offers Navani a bottle of Shin wine, revealing she has read Navani’s journals. The two engage in a tense conversation, with Raboniel reflecting on the ancient history of their conflict. She shares memories of humanity’s arrival on Roshar, hinting at the devastation caused by unchecked Surgebinding. Navani is unnerved by Raboniel’s firsthand account of events predating recorded history, emphasizing the Fused’s weariness after millennia of war.

The discussion turns to the possibility of combining Stormlight and Voidlight, a goal Raboniel is desperate to achieve. She admits her own biases and the need for Navani’s scientific insight, suggesting that the war’s outcome might hinge on this discovery. Navani, however, remains resistant, expressing her lack of interest in continuing the experiments. Raboniel challenges her, urging Navani to embrace her potential to outthink the Fused, as humans have done in past conflicts.

The chapter ends with Raboniel’s plea for Navani to reconsider, highlighting the cyclical nature of their struggle. Navani’s internal conflict mirrors the broader tension between humans and Fused, as both sides grapple with exhaustion and the desire for resolution. The exchange underscores the themes of legacy, innovation, and the weight of history, leaving Navani at a crossroads between surrender and defiance.

# 77. The Proper Legality

The chapter opens with Venli, a listener, sneaking through the human palace of Kholinar while avoiding guards. She is there to sign a treaty but has ventured into forbidden areas under the guidance of Ulim, a spren who promises her people will one again build grand structures. Venli struggles with fear and doubt, questioning the risks she’s taking. Ulim’s absence from her gemheart leaves her feeling dull and disconnected from the new rhythms she craves, which once made the world feel more coherent.

Venli’s internal conflict deepens as she reflects on Ulim’s plans, which involve gathering gemstones for her scholars. She initially sought to expose human dangers but now feels trapped in a scheme she no longer fully understands. Ulim’s urgency and dismissive attitude unsettle her, especially when he reveals that his agent, Axindweth, has gone silent. Despite her misgivings, Venli continues, fearing the consequences of abandoning the plan now that it’s in motion.

The tension escalates as Ulim leads Venli to a foul-smelling privy room, where they expect to find the gemstones. Instead, they discover a ciphered note from Axindweth, revealing she’s been discovered and has fled the palace. Ulim’s frustration and Venli’s anger clash as she realizes the precariousness of their mission. The note hints at a rival agent in the palace, complicating their already dangerous situation.

The chapter concludes with Venli’s growing distrust of Ulim and her frustration at being kept in the dark. She resents his human-like form and his condescending tone, yet feels powerless to deviate from the path they’ve set. The discovery of Axindweth’s departure leaves Venli questioning the entire plan, but with no clear alternative, she remains entangled in Ulim’s schemes, her fate uncertain.

# 78. The High Judge

Shallan returns to her room after a troubling encounter with Sixteen, determined to avoid dwelling on a cryptic deadeye spren. She plans to contact Mraize secretly while Adolin is occupied, revealing her ongoing internal struggle to maintain control over her personas—Shallan, Veil, and Radiant. Pattern, her spren companion, expresses concern about her erratic behavior and admits to betraying her trust by using a communication cube to seek Wit's advice. This revelation complicates Shallan's already fragile mental state, as she grapples with whether to believe Pattern or suspect deeper deception.

Pattern confesses that his conversations with Wit were overheard by a Ghostblood spy, explaining how Mraize obtained sensitive information. This absolves Shallan's other allies of treachery but leaves her questioning her own perception of truth. As she wrestles with self-doubt, her darker persona, Formless, warns her that trust is dangerous. Overwhelmed, Shallan retreats mentally, allowing Veil to take control. Veil reassures Pattern while acknowledging the complexity of the situation, though she remains wary of her own fractured psyche.

Veil contacts Mraize to report her failure to locate Restares in Lasting Integrity, suggesting he may have disguised himself or never been there. Mraize remains composed, admitting the possibility of faulty intelligence but pressing Veil to consider alternative explanations. Their conversation reveals tensions over withheld information, particularly regarding Honorblades and Lightweaving capabilities beyond Roshar. Mraize warns Veil to prepare for danger, hinting at Restares' lethal potential if cornered.

The chapter underscores Shallan's psychological turmoil as she navigates trust, deception, and identity fragmentation. Pattern's honesty offers a rare moment of clarity, yet the overarching mystery of Ialai's murder and Restares' whereabouts

looms. Veil’s pragmatic approach contrasts with Shallan’s instability, but neither persona can fully escape the shadows of doubt and betrayal. The unresolved threads leave the reader anticipating further revelations about the Ghostbloods, Wit’s role, and Shallan’s precarious mental balance.

# 79. Open Wound

The chapter opens with a reflection on Jezrien's death, sensed by the narrator despite being far away in Lasting Integrity. The Oathpact's lingering Connection allowed awareness of his demise, which initially felt like death but is now understood as something more complex. This sets a somber tone, hinting at broader consequences for the remaining figures tied to the Oathpact.

The focus shifts to Rlain, a listener navigating the tense atmosphere of Urithiru under singer occupation. As he enters a laundry room, he faces stares and whispers from both humans and singers, highlighting his isolation. Despite his Bridge Four resilience, he feels increasingly alienated—viewed as a traitor by some singers and a threat by fearful humans. His internal struggle underscores the chapter's theme of identity and belonging.

Rlain's interactions reveal deepening divisions. A human foreman provokes him with assumptions about his newfound power, while washerwomen spread baseless rumors of his treachery. His attempt to humanize himself by sharing his love for card games backfires, as the women twist it into more sinister speculation. These encounters emphasize how prejudice reduces him to a symbol rather than an individual.

The chapter closes with Rlain moving through Urithiru's crowded halls, caught between human fear and singer suspicion. His longing for simple acceptance contrasts with the constant surveillance by a Voidspren-inhabited cremling. The final lines hint at ongoing scrutiny from Odium's forces, leaving Rlain trapped between warring factions—a poignant exploration of marginalization in a fractured world.

# 80. The Dog and the Dragon

The chapter opens with Kaladin trapped in a nightmarish realm where the wind, once his ally, now torments him with relentless hatred. Disoriented and broken, he recalls fragments of his past—climbing a tower to avoid abandoning his friends, hearing Dalinar’s voice, and ultimately succumbing to despair. The wind’s repeated whispers of "Hate" shatter his spirit, as it physically batters him against rocky crags. Kaladin’s anguish is compounded by visions of loved ones pleading for help, amplifying his guilt over leaving Syl, his spren companion, to suffer alone.

Kaladin struggles to navigate the desolate landscape, which resembles the Shattered Plains but is far more treacherous. The environment shifts unpredictably, with flashes of angry light and oppressive darkness disorienting him further. He searches desperately for shelter, but the wind’s violent reversals thwart his efforts, hurling him down slopes and scraping him against rocks. Despite his exhaustion, Kaladin refuses to give up, driven by an ingrained sense of duty. Yet, his resilience wanes as he questions how much longer he can endure.

A turning point occurs when Kaladin is blown into a chasm, where he glimpses a pure white light radiating warmth and peace. This vision reignites his will to survive, and he crawls toward it, defying the wind’s fury and his own broken body. The light represents hope, a stark contrast to the hatred surrounding him. However, as he nears his goal, the ground liquefies, pulling him down into crem—a cruel twist that threatens to consume him just as salvation seems within reach.

The chapter poignantly captures Kaladin’s internal and external battles, blending physical torment with psychological despair. His journey reflects themes of perseverance, guilt, and the search for redemption. The wind’s betrayal symbolizes his fractured connection to the world, while the fleeting light offers a glimpse of salvation. The cliffhanger ending leaves his fate uncertain, underscoring the relentless

challenges he faces in his struggle to survive and reclaim his purpose.

# 81. Trapped

The chapter opens with Eshonai reflecting on her return to warform after a long period in workform, acknowledging its familiar yet aggressive nature. She reunites with her friends Thude and Rlain, who share mixed feelings about the form—Thude embraces its vitality, while Rlain finds the rhythms unsettling. The trio explores the Shattered Plains, leaping across chasms with effortless strength, their warforms granting them heightened physical capabilities. Eshonai marvels at the landscape, drawing parallels to the vast oceans she's only heard of in songs, though the thought evokes both awe and anxiety.

As they traverse the Plains, Eshonai recalls her journey to Kholinar, where she encountered human markets filled with steel weapons and exotic goods—a stark contrast to the listeners' reverence for such items. The memory shifts to the Alethi's sudden hostility, forcing her people to flee. The chapter juxtaposes her earlier wonder with the grim reality of the Alethi's impending invasion, their armies now camped near listener territories. Eshonai clings to hope, arguing that warforms and the Shattered Plains' terrain could give them an advantage in battle.

Thude voices his doubts, questioning Eshonai's role in King Gavilar's assassination. She defends her decision, explaining that Gavilar's plan to revive the listeners' ancient gods left no alternative. Her conviction underscores the listeners' desperation to avoid a return to subjugation, even if it means provoking war with the Alethi. The tension between their camaraderie and the looming conflict lingers, as the chapter highlights the listeners' precarious position—caught between their love for freedom and the threat of annihilation.

The chapter closes with a sense of foreboding, as Eshonai and her friends gaze at the Alethi camps' smoke-filled horizon. Their playful exploration of the Plains contrasts sharply with the grim reality of their situation, emphasizing the listeners' trapped

state—both physically and ideologically. The chapter masterfully blends action, introspection, and impending doom, setting the stage for the struggles to come.

# 82. Knife

Radiant confronts Mraize through a communication cube, furious that he withheld critical information about Restares—revealed to be the Herald Kelek. She expresses frustration over wasted weeks searching the fortress blindly, while Mraize defends his secrecy, claiming it prevented alerting Kelek. The conversation highlights Radiant's anger and Mraize's calculated manipulation, as he downplays the significance of the omission. The tension escalates when Radiant shifts into her alter ego, Veil, who demands clearer answers about their mission's true purpose.

Veil challenges Mraize's authority, questioning the value of their arrangement and accusing him of deceit. She emphasizes her accomplishments, including gaining access to the remote fortress, and insists on transparency. Mraize remains evasive, prompting Veil to threaten abandoning the mission unless he provides explicit reasons for targeting Kelek. The exchange underscores Veil's growing distrust and her resolve to protect her own interests, contrasting with Mraize's detached, strategic demeanor.

Mraize instructs Veil to open a hidden compartment in the cube, revealing a dagger designed to trap Kelek's essence in a gemstone. He rationalizes the act by comparing it to using spanreeds with trapped spren, claiming it won't harm Kelek. Veil remains skeptical, citing the presence of other Heralds in the tower who could provide knowledge. Mraize dismisses this, arguing that the Heralds are either insane or uncooperative, making Kelek a more reliable source of information.

The chapter culminates with Veil pressing Mraize for specific reasons behind capturing Kelek, unsatisfied with his vague justifications. Mraize hints at their master's broader goals but is cut off before revealing crucial details. The confrontation leaves Veil torn between her mission and her moral reservations, setting the stage for a pivotal decision. The chapter masterfully blends tension, intrigue, and character dynamics, leaving readers eager to see how Veil's conflict will unfold.

# 83. The Games of Men and Singers

Venli, a listener, kneels in the ancient tower of Urithiru, communing with the sentient stones that remember its origins as the mountain Ur. The stones whisper memories to her, not in words but in impressions, urging her to recall forgotten truths. As she sinks her hands into the stone, she reflects on her childhood—listening to her mother's songs, her love for family, and how ambition under Odium's influence overshadowed these bonds. The stones remind her of the love she once cherished, contrasting sharply with Odium's hollow promises of passion.

In a moment of clarity, Venli recognizes Odium's deception, realizing his rhythms have stifled her capacity for love. She seeks the tone of Cultivation, a melody older than Odium's influence, and blends it with his power to awaken her Surgebinding. The stones respond, rippling and reshaping into a miniature sculpture of her ancestors walking away from war—a symbol of their rejection of conflict and embrace of freedom. This act reconnects Venli to her heritage, reinforcing the enduring power of her people's songs and choices.

Later, Venli meets secretly with Leshwi, a Fused leader, to discuss the Pursuer's discovery of the Windrunner's parents. Raboniel's strategic placement of Regals hints at a political game, but Leshwi assures Venli that her authority can protect the humans for now. The encounter underscores the delicate power dynamics among the Fused, with Raboniel's actions serving as both a threat and a move in a larger, more enigmatic scheme.

The chapter juxtaposes Venli's spiritual awakening with the political intrigue of the Fused. Her rediscovery of ancestral love and Cultivation's tone contrasts with the manipulative games of Odium's forces. Through the stones' whispers and her ancestors' example, Venli finds strength to resist Odium's corruption, while the Fused's machinations remind her that her journey is far from over. The chapter highlights

themes of memory, identity, and the struggle for autonomy amid larger cosmic conflicts.

# 84. Scholar

Navani, isolated from her scholars and barred from administrative duties, finds herself with an unexpected opportunity to fully immerse herself in scholarly pursuits. Though she has long lamented the distractions of politics and leadership, she now confronts the reality of her own tendency to involve herself in such matters. With Raboniel monitoring her progress, Navani turns her attention to scientific experimentation, driven by the tantalizing possibility of discovering a way to end the war by creating a weapon capable of destroying Odium. Her curiosity is piqued by the potential of "negative Light," inspired by a mysterious sphere she once saw that seemed to contain anti-Voidlight.

To begin her research, Navani orders supplies and gemstones, focusing initially on creating disguised weapons and traps as a practical warm-up. She constructs hidden painrials, alarms, and spring-loaded traps, using Voidlight and conjoined rubies to arm them. These devices are strategically placed among other scholars' projects to avoid suspicion. Navani also collaborates with Raboniel to produce Warlight, though neither can create it alone. As she refines her ability to hum the tone required for Warlight, Navani becomes increasingly fascinated by the connection between sound, waves, and Investiture, seeing deeper scientific possibilities in these phenomena.

Navani's central question revolves around the nature of opposites in Investiture, particularly how to create the opposite of Voidlight. She critiques Raboniel's assumption that darkness is the opposite of light, arguing that darkness is merely the absence of light. Drawing parallels to symmetrical concepts in Vorin theology, she seeks a measurable model for Investiture, eventually settling on magnets as a tangible example of polarity. Her experiments lead her to request stronger magnets and even the metal used by the Fused to drain Stormlight from Radiants, much to the annoyance of her guards.

Despite the constraints of her captivity, Navani embraces her role as a scholar, driven by the potential to unlock world-changing discoveries. Her work is a blend of practical ingenuity and theoretical exploration, as she balances the immediate need for defensive measures with the grander ambition of understanding Investiture's fundamental laws. The chapter highlights her intellectual resilience and growing obsession with Light, sound, and the secrets they hold, setting the stage for groundbreaking revelations that could alter the course of the war.

# 85. Dabbid

The chapter delves into the perspective of Dabbid, a character who has always been "different" due to cognitive and developmental challenges. From childhood, he struggled with speech, memory, and social understanding, often misunderstood by those around him. His mother's death exacerbated his isolation, leading to mistreatment and eventual conscription into war. Despite his struggles, Dabbid finds solace in Bridge Four, where Kaladin Stormblessed accepts him without judgment, offering a sense of belonging he had never experienced before.

Dabbid reflects on his past, including his attempts to understand his own differences, such as mimicking the umbilical cord incident from his birth. He grapples with societal labels like "stupid," rejecting the term as a choice rather than an inherent trait. His silence in Bridge Four becomes a way to blend in, masking his true nature to avoid further alienation. However, his inability to attract a spren like his peers reinforces his feelings of otherness, even as he finds purpose in helping his newfound family.

The narrative shifts to Dabbid's present actions, as he guides Rlain through the tower's tunnels to rescue Kaladin. His internal monologue reveals guilt over past failures and deception, but he focuses on contributing where he can. The arrival of Lift, a quirky and resourceful ally, adds levity to the tense mission. Her casual demeanor contrasts with Rlain's urgency, highlighting the diverse dynamics within their group.

The chapter concludes with Dabbid's quiet determination to prove his worth, despite his insecurities. His interactions with Lift and Rlain underscore his desire for acceptance and his struggle to reconcile his identity. The tower's mysterious communication with him hints at untapped potential, leaving room for growth. Dabbid's journey is one of resilience, illustrating how difference can be both a burden and a source of strength.

# 86. The Song of Mornings

The chapter follows Venli, a listener scholar, as she reflects on her decision to align with the mysterious spren Ulim during the war against humans. Convinced that her people need greater power to survive, she observes the returning warband led by Eshonai, noting their exhaustion and losses with hidden satisfaction. Venli believes the listeners are nearing a breaking point, making them more receptive to the transformative stormform she plans to introduce. Her motivations, however, are not purely altruistic—she seeks personal power and freedom, determined to never be dependent on others again.

Venli maneuvers through the ancient city, meeting with Denshil, a farmer secretly aiding her by stockpiling gemstones. She pressures him to increase their reserves, using the threat of human annihilation and the safety of listener children as leverage. Denshil reluctantly agrees, though he expresses concerns about the long-term consequences of their deception. Venli reassures him that their actions are preparatory, framing it as a necessary step to present to the listener leadership, the Five. Her manipulation highlights her growing cunning and willingness to exploit others' fears for her goals.

The chapter reveals Venli's collaboration with Ulim, a spren from Shadesmar, who informs her that a catastrophic storm—Odium's essence—is nearing their world. This storm contains mindless stormspren, which Venli must capture to grant her people stormform. Ulim's cryptic explanations about the storm's origins and purpose underscore the larger, cosmic stakes at play. Venli's impatience and ambition clash with Ulim's elusive assurances, hinting at tensions in their alliance.

As Venli prepares for the storm's arrival, her internal monologue reveals her dual priorities: saving her people and securing her own dominance. She no longer masks her desire for power, seeing stormform as a means to both survival and supremacy.

The chapter ends with a sense of impending transformation, as Venli stands on the brink of unleashing a force that could reshape her people’s destiny—and her own.

# 87. Trial By Witness

Adolin Kholin approaches his trial with palpable nervousness, feeling unprepared despite his political training. The atmosphere in Lasting Integrity is charged, with honorspren appearing more energetic and chatty, though Adolin remains unable to perceive their mood. Blended, his inkspren companion, notes the upbeat energy, but Adolin’s focus is on the daunting crowd of honorspren, many dressed formally or in flowing attire. The stakes are high: failure could mean imprisonment or exile, with dire consequences for the war effort, as Radiants depend on spren support.

The trial begins under the unpredictable judgment of Kelek, the ancient and imposing High Judge. Kelek’s erratic behavior offers Adolin a slim hope, as the honorspren are uniformly opposed to him. The proceedings start with a clash over the trial’s terms—Adolin insists he should be judged as an individual, not for the sins of his ancestors, while the honorspren argue he must answer for all humankind. Kelek reluctantly sides with the honorspren but promises to consider Adolin’s perspective, setting the stage for a contentious trial by witness.

The first witness, Amuna, steps forward—a graceful honorspren tasked with caring for the "deadeyes," spren scarred by past human betrayals. Her presence underscores the honorspren’s deep mistrust of humans, rooted in the historical Recreance. Adolin recognizes her as the spren who took custody of his own deadeye, Maya, heightening the personal stakes. The scratched-out eyes of the deadeyes beside her serve as a stark visual reminder of the trauma Adolin must overcome to prove his worthiness.

As the trial unfolds, Adolin resolves to stand confident despite the overwhelming odds. The crowd’s subdued reaction—hushing rather than booing—hints at their decorum but also their disapproval. Shallan, seated nearby, offers silent encouragement, reminding Adolin of the broader mission. With three witnesses set to testify against him today, Adolin braces for the toughest day of the trial, knowing his ability to sway Kelek and

the crowd will determine not just his fate, but the future of human-spren alliances.

# 88. Falling Star

The chapter opens with Venli arriving at her sister Eshonai's door during a violent storm, clutching a mysterious gemstone she has captured. Despite their mother Jaxlim's distracted state, Venli is consumed by excitement, revealing that the gemstone contains a rare spren attracted by lightning. Eshonai, though intrigued, is wary of the dark, smoky glow within the gemstone, sensing its potential danger. Venli argues that their people, the listeners, must embrace this discovery to survive, challenging Eshonai's reluctance to deviate from tradition.

Eshonai's internal conflict deepens as she grapples with Venli's proposal. She questions whether her resistance to change has hindered their people's survival against the encroaching humans. The gemstone represents a possible path to power, but Eshonai fears it could cost the listeners their identity and freedom. Their debate escalates, with Venli accusing Eshonai of clinging to outdated traditions while Eshonai counters that some values are worth preserving. The tension between innovation and tradition is palpable, mirroring the storm's fury outside.

Overwhelmed, Eshonai storms out into the tempest, seeking clarity. She confronts the storm itself, demanding answers from the mythical Rider of Storms, but receives only silence. Her soliloquy reveals her desperation to protect her people's autonomy, even as she acknowledges the inevitability of change. The storm's relentless force mirrors her internal turmoil, as she wrestles with the impossible choice between survival and cultural integrity.

The chapter concludes with Eshonai hearing an ominous sound—rock scraping against rock—as the plateau beneath her seems to shift. This unsettling moment underscores the precariousness of the listeners' situation, both physically and ideologically. Eshonai's journey reflects the broader struggle of her people, caught between the destructive advance of humans and the seductive but perilous power offered by Venli's

discovery. The chapter leaves readers questioning whether the listeners can navigate these forces without losing themselves in the process.

# 89. Voice of Lights

Navani immerses herself in scientific research, finding solace in meticulous experimentation amid the chaos of her circumstances. She embraces the structured process of science, reveling in precise measurements and orderly charts, free from distractions and societal expectations. Her collaboration with Raboniel, though fraught with underlying tension, yields fascinating discoveries—particularly with the black sand that measures Investiture. The sand's behavior reveals new insights about Light and spren, captivating Navani as she loses track of time in her work.

Raboniel introduces Navani to the concept of other worlds, casually mentioning her knowledge of offworld travel and the limitations imposed by their planetary system. Navani is astounded by the revelation that humans originated from another planet, aligning myth with reality. Raboniel explains the dangers of traveling to Braize (Damnation) and the necessity of using Shadesmar for interplanetary journeys. Navani struggles to reconcile these vast ideas with her current focus on their experiments, yet the conversation expands her understanding of the cosmere.

Their scientific partnership continues as they test a makeshift fabrial designed to alter the polarity of Voidlight-infused gemstones using stormform lightning. Navani cautions Mizthla, her stormform guard, to control the energy output, reflecting her meticulous approach. Despite their collaborative work, Navani remains wary of Raboniel, aware of their opposing allegiances. She discreetly plans to conceal future discoveries, balancing cooperation with self-preservation.

The chapter concludes with Navani observing the darkened shield around the Sibling, a silent reminder of the high stakes of their research. Though she finds joy in the scientific process, the underlying tension with Raboniel and the looming threat of their larger conflict linger. Navani's dedication to her work provides temporary escape, but the weight of her responsibilities—and the secrets she keeps—remains ever-present.

# 90. One Chance

Adolin prepares to address the honorspren in their stronghold, knowing this is his one chance to argue for humanity’s worth. He arrives early to project control, avoiding the appearance of a prisoner walking to execution. The audience is stacked against him, with sympathetic spren absent and uniformed honorspren filling the seats. Despite the hostile atmosphere, Adolin remains composed, determined to make his case about the larger question: whether humanity deserves the spren’s trust and partnership.

Adolin begins his speech by appealing to the honorspren’s ideals, contrasting human grudges with their supposed higher nature. He acknowledges human flaws but challenges the spren to prove their own honor by joining Radiants, as the Stormfather has endorsed. His words resonate with some in the crowd, particularly those standing at the top of the forum. However, his progress is interrupted by an aggressive honorspren who demands to know if Adolin was aware of his father’s near-fatal confrontation with the Stormfather.

The confrontation escalates as Adolin tries to stay on message, emphasizing the mutual growth possible through bonding. He argues that Radiants represent the best of both humans and spren, embodying Honor and Cultivation. The honorspren, however, remain fixated on the Stormfather incident, questioning Adolin’s knowledge and the risks of bonding. Kelek, the presiding Herald, intervenes to maintain order, reminding the audience that they are only permitted to ask questions, not make statements.

Despite the disruptions, Adolin holds his ground, refusing to let the honorspren derail his argument. He reiterates his belief in the potential of human-spren bonds, urging the honorspren to rise above their grievances. The chapter ends with tension unresolved, as Adolin’s plea for unity clashes with the spren’s deep-seated distrust. The trial’s outcome remains uncertain, but Adolin’s determination to advocate for

humanity’s redemption is clear.

# 91. Worth Saving

The chapter opens with a haunting reflection on mortality and the consequences of meddling with unknown powers, setting a somber tone. Teft, a central character, awakens disoriented and initially assumes he has relapsed into his old addiction, only to realize he has remained sober for seven months—a personal milestone. His self-loathing begins to fade as he sees the joy in his friends Dabbid and Rlain, reinforcing his commitment to his oaths. Despite physical pain, Teft finds strength in the love and support of those around him, vowing to uphold his promises for their sake.

Teft’s resilience is tested as he learns the grim state of their world: the queen is captive, Radiants have fallen, and the tower’s spren is nearly corrupted. His friend Kaladin is also struggling, having lost his spren, Syl, and grappling with diminished Surgebinding abilities. The group’s initial joy at reuniting dampens as they confront the dire circumstances. Teft, however, refuses to succumb to despair, drawing strength from his sworn Ideal and the bond he shares with his companions, including his honorspren, Phendorana.

The dynamics among the characters reveal deeper layers of their relationships. Dabbid, who has chosen silence, is respected for his autonomy, highlighting the group’s acceptance of individual struggles. Lift, a young Radiant with unique healing abilities, provides Teft with Stormlight, symbolizing hope amidst adversity. The chapter underscores the theme of personal battles and the importance of camaraderie, as each character navigates their own challenges while supporting one another.

The chapter closes with a sense of grim determination. Despite the overwhelming odds, Teft and his friends continue to persevere, finding small comforts in shared meals and fleeting moments of warmth. The arrival of Lift and Rlain brings a brief respite, but the shadow of their collective struggles looms large. Teft’s resolve to stay strong for his friends and uphold his oaths encapsulates the chapter’s central

message: even in the darkest times, bonds of loyalty and personal growth can provide a path forward.

# 92. A Gift

The chapter opens with a philosophical reflection on the fragility of bonds, warning that severing them leads to a loss of connection between realms, reducing beings to mere souls that fade into oblivion. Venli, serving as Raboniel's interpreter, stands beside her during military reports, translating for Regals who speak Azish. The setting—a throne at the base of a stairwell—evokes grim memories of human casualties from a recent battle, underscored by the scent of burning flesh and the hastily repaired steps. Venli suppresses her emotions by attuning to Odium's rhythm of Indifference, though it leaves her feeling uneasy.

Raboniel, a commanding yet scholarly Fused, transitions from her role as a general to a contemplative researcher after dismissing the reports. Venli observes the duality in Raboniel's nature, sensing her true self lies in scholarly pursuits rather than warfare. Raboniel reflects on Venli's unique position as the last of the Listeners, a group that once defied Fused rule, and probes Venli's regrets about her past betrayals. Venli admits her shame and grief over the deaths of loved ones, revealing her inner conflict and longing for redemption.

Their conversation delves into the motivations behind their relentless war efforts. Raboniel justifies the suffering as a sacrifice for future generations, claiming they endure pain to secure peace for those who come after. Venli, however, questions whether they will ever experience peace themselves, to which Raboniel offers no clear answer. The dialogue exposes Venli's growing disillusionment and Raboniel's pragmatic yet grim perspective on their cause. Timbre, Venli's spren, provides silent comfort, but she rejects it, wallowing in her guilt.

The chapter concludes with Raboniel acknowledging Venli's divided loyalties, particularly her allegiance to Leshwi, another Fused. Raboniel dismisses any resentment, praising Leshwi's unwavering dedication to their cause despite her

distrust of Raboniel. The exchange highlights the complex dynamics among the Fused and Venli's precarious position as she navigates her shifting loyalties and moral dilemmas. The scene leaves Venli grappling with her identity and the weight of her choices, while Raboniel remains an enigmatic figure, both mentor and manipulator.

# 93. Strong Enough

The chapter opens with Formless, a composite persona of Shallan, Veil, and Radiant, preparing for Adolin’s trial day. As she dresses in Veil’s clothing, Adolin notices her unusual demeanor and requests Shallan’s presence, praising her hidden strength. Formless dismisses Shallan as weak, but Adolin counters with metaphors about strength, arguing that overcoming adversity—like a one-armed swordsman or a legless man—demonstrates true resilience. His words hint at a deeper message: Shallan’s struggles don’t define her weakness but her capacity to endure.

Formless remains dismissive, focused on her mission to secure Adolin’s victory in the trial. She ignores Veil’s internal protests, believing she has locked away both Veil and Radiant. However, Veil’s persistent voice challenges her, accusing Formless of self-deception. As Formless sketches the judge’s home layout, Veil’s insights unsettle her, suggesting that Formless isn’t a new identity but a fractured version of Shallan. The tension between her personas escalates, raising questions about her true desires and loyalties.

Adolin’s earlier words about strength linger as Formless grapples with her actions. She steels herself, suppressing doubts, and uses Lightweaving to disguise herself as Lusintia, an honorspren. Pattern voices concern, but Formless rebukes him, referencing his past betrayals. The chapter highlights her internal conflict: Veil’s truth-telling clashes with Formless’s determination to sever ties with her past selves. The Lightweaving’s success momentarily convinces her of her superiority, but Veil’s final whisper—*“Lies, Shallan”*—undermines her resolve.

The chapter closes with Formless poised to execute her plan, yet the unresolved tension between her personas foreshadows a reckoning. Adolin’s wisdom about strength contrasts with Formless’s denial, emphasizing the theme that true power lies in embracing one’s fractured self. The mirror reflection of her flawless disguise

symbolizes her external control, but Veil’s persistence suggests an inevitable collapse of her façade. The stage is set for a pivotal confrontation, both externally in the trial and internally within Shallan’s fractured psyche.

# 94. Sacrifice

Adolin approaches the final day of his trial with a heavy heart, burdened by the weight of judgment from the honorspren. Despite his reluctance, he recognizes this as his last opportunity to defend himself and his people. He grapples with self-doubt, questioning whether accepting imprisonment might serve as a testament to human honor. As he arrives, he notices Shallan’s absence and the replacement of the High Judge, Kelek, with the stricter Sekeir, signaling a shift in the trial’s tone.

The situation grows more dire when Sekeir reveals that Shallan attempted to influence Kelek and is now detained. Adolin feels a fleeting hope but is quickly reminded of the stakes. Sekeir’s authoritarian approach contrasts sharply with Kelek’s leniency, and Adolin senses division among the honorspren. Some seem willing to listen, while others regard him with hostility. The trial begins with Sekeir delivering a lengthy, accusatory speech, which Adolin interrupts, only to be threatened with a gag.

The proceedings take a cruel turn when Maya, a deadeye, is brought forth as a witness. Adolin is outraged by her exploitation as a spectacle, though he notes discomfort among some honorspren. Maya’s confusion and distress amplify his anger, yet he restrains himself, maintaining a disciplined stance. The crowd’s mixed reactions hint at underlying tensions, offering a glimmer of hope that not all honorspren support Sekeir’s harsh methods.

As the trial resumes, Adolin is permitted to speak but questions the legitimacy of Maya’s testimony. The chapter underscores his internal struggle between defiance and sacrifice, as well as the broader conflict between humans and spren. The honorspren’s rigid judgment contrasts with Adolin’s resilience, setting the stage for a pivotal confrontation. The chapter leaves readers questioning whether Adolin’s integrity can sway his judges or if he will be forced to accept an unjust fate.

# 95. What She Truly Was

The chapter opens with Venli navigating a chaotic battlefield where listeners and humans clash under a darkened sky. The Everstorm, summoned by the listeners' collective song, looms ominously, but the scene is far from the organized triumph Venli had envisioned. Instead, she witnesses disarray and death, with many listeners consumed by their new stormform, their eyes glowing red as they sing. Venli, resisting the form's overwhelming pull, flees through the rain-soaked terrain, desperate to escape the violence and questioning the promises of glory she had been given.

As Venli seeks refuge, she encounters listeners who are unresponsive to her warnings, lost in their transformed state. She reflects on her inability to control stormform's power, which had left her weakened and ineffective in battle. Nearby, humans slaughter listeners, their screams punctuating the relentless rain. Venli hides, trembling, as she grapples with the reality of her situation—far from the safety and leadership she expected. A human soldier spares her life after she pleads for mercy, leaving her conflicted between derision for his foolishness and a fleeting sense of gratitude.

The chapter delves into Venli's internal struggle as she questions her choices and the person she has become. The Rhythm of Appreciation briefly surfaces, reminding her of her past vulnerability and contrasting it with the hollow "strength" of her current form. Despite her doubts, she forces herself to embrace Conceit, a rhythm of pride and determination, to justify her role in the conflict. She moves across the battlefield, witnessing the carnage and the prowess of stormform-wielding listeners, including her sister Eshonai, now a terrifying Shardbearer.

The chapter culminates in Venli observing Eshonai's duel with a human Shardbearer near a chasm. Initially, Venli convinces herself that Eshonai doesn't need her help, but her resolve wavers as Eshonai is pushed to the brink. The scene underscores Venli's

moral ambiguity and the fractured relationship between the sisters, set against the backdrop of a war that has spiraled beyond their control. The Everstorm's approach symbolizes both salvation and destruction, leaving Venli to confront the consequences of her ambitions.

# 96. A Thousand Lies

The chapter opens with Venli in emotional turmoil, having discovered a map revealing that thousands of her people, the listeners, survived by fleeing the Shattered Plains. Overwhelmed by guilt and grief, she confesses to Rlain her role in their near-destruction, admitting she would have had them killed if not for Eshonai's intervention. Rlain reacts with shock and anger, calling her a monster, but acknowledges the enemy might have succeeded without her. Despite her remorse, Venli insists on leaving immediately to find the survivors, even if it risks leading the Fused to them.

Rlain urges Venli to stay and help rescue the captive Radiants, arguing that her actions now could redeem her past betrayals. However, Venli, consumed by the need to see her people, refuses. Their confrontation highlights the tension between her desire for atonement and her desperation to confirm the survival of the listeners. Rlain's final words underscore the depth of her betrayal, leaving Venli isolated as she resolves to depart.

Venli prepares to leave, gathering supplies and allies among the remaining listener refugees. She reveals Raboniel's writ, which grants her authority to travel through the Oathgates, potentially bypassing Fused scrutiny. Her companions, Dul and Mazish, express cautious optimism but question their next steps after reaching Kholinar. Venli's determination to reunite with her people overrides practical concerns, showcasing her single-minded focus on redemption through reunion.

The chapter closes with Venli's departure, symbolizing her break from the Radiants' cause and her embrace of a personal quest. Her actions reflect a complex mix of guilt, hope, and recklessness, leaving her future uncertain. Meanwhile, Rlain's condemnation lingers, emphasizing the moral ambiguity of her choices and the unresolved tension between her past sins and potential for change.

# 97. Freedom

The chapter opens with a plea to find and release Mishram, a being whose confinement has caused profound harm to Roshar and its spren. This sets the stage for Navani’s intense and obsessive research into the nature of Voidlight and its opposite. Driven by a feverish need to uncover a hidden truth, she abandons her usual orderly habits, embracing chaos as she delves into music theory and mathematics. Her goal is to discover a tone that can repel Voidlight, a quest that consumes her entirely, blurring the lines between sanity and madness.

Navani’s research leads her to explore the concept of destructive interference, where a sound wave can be negated by its opposite. She experiments with metal plates and tuning forks, meticulously adjusting the tones to achieve the desired effect. Despite the theoretical challenge—that a tone and its opposite sound identical—she persists, relying on her intuition and intent. Her breakthrough comes when she successfully creates a tone that pushes Voidlight away, a moment of triumph that leaves her in stunned silence rather than jubilation.

After her initial success, Navani methodically tests the parameters of her discovery, ensuring its reliability while concealing her progress from her guards. She realizes that intent is crucial; the tone must be hummed with the specific purpose of repelling Voidlight. This revelation underscores the interplay between science and belief in her world, as even measurable phenomena are influenced by the researcher’s mindset. Her ability to hum the opposite tone validates her theory, blending empirical evidence with the mystical.

The chapter concludes with Navani’s quiet confidence in her findings, despite the surreal nature of her journey. Her research bridges the gap between human ingenuity and the inherent magic of Roshar, proving that even outsiders can harness its secrets. The discovery not only advances her understanding of Voidlight but also hints at

broader implications for the conflict engulfing her world. Navani’s transformation from a meticulous scholar to a visionary researcher highlights the chapter’s themes of obsession, innovation, and the pursuit of freedom—both personal and cosmic.

# I-10. Hesina

Hesina examines maps of Alethkar, focusing on Tomat, her hometown, which has been occupied by the singers. She notes the city's repaired walls—a long-standing ruin from her grandfather's era—and finds no signs of destruction, suggesting a peaceful surrender. Her husband, Lirin, joins her, and their conversation shifts to her father's likely stubborn resistance. Lirin jokes that her father would haunt him if dead, but Hesina worries about his safety. Their banter reveals underlying tensions about family and survival during the invasion, hinting at deeper unresolved conflicts between them.

The discussion turns to their son, Kaladin, exposing Lirin's guilt over past failures and his strained relationship with his son. Hesina accuses Lirin of hypocrisy, pointing out that he would treat other wounded soldiers without imposing his beliefs but refuses to extend the same grace to Kaladin. Lirin defensively questions whether his convictions need reevaluation, but Hesina challenges him to appreciate their son rather than cling to rigid ideals. Their argument highlights Lirin's internal struggle between his principles and his love for his family.

Hesina confronts Lirin about his inability to move past their son Tien's death, blaming his stubborn defiance of local authority for the tragedy. She warns that his unresolved guilt and rigid mindset risk driving Kaladin away permanently. Lirin briefly considers her words but retreats into his usual stubbornness, prompting Hesina to escalate her frustration. Their emotional exchange underscores the weight of past trauma and the difficulty of reconciliation in the face of ongoing war and personal loss.

In a final plea, Hesina reminds Lirin that she chose him out of love and demands he confront his emotions rather than retreat into isolation. She refuses to let him leave, insisting they face their struggles together. The chapter ends with their unresolved tension, emphasizing the broader themes of family, forgiveness, and the cost of unwavering principles in a world torn by conflict.

# I-11. Adin

Adin, a thirteen-year-old potter's son, dreams of becoming a Windrunner despite his humble origins. He believes spren choose Radiants based on bravery, not status or age, and takes every opportunity to prove himself—even glaring at invading soldiers in Urithiru’s halls. His determination is fueled by stories of young Radiants and his own observations, like a girl leaving food for a widow. Adin’s defiance is tempered by caution, as he avoids outright confrontation but remains resolute in his aspirations, convinced that spren value courage above all else.

Adin’s father, though outwardly compliant with the occupying forces, embodies quiet bravery by tending to fallen Radiants under the watch of the Fused. Adin admires his father’s subtle resistance and hopes spren will recognize such qualities in him. Despite his eagerness to fight, Adin reluctantly obeys his father’s warnings to avoid drawing attention, though he continues to seethe inwardly. The chapter highlights the tension between Adin’s youthful impatience and his father’s measured, practical courage.

The routine of pottery-making feels absurd to Adin amidst the occupation, but he channels his frustration into his work, believing even mundane tasks can demonstrate strength to potential spren. His father reinforces this, arguing that pride in craftsmanship reflects the discipline needed to fight Fused. Adin begrudgingly accepts the lesson, though he remains fixated on his goal. Their interactions reveal a deeper dynamic: Adin’s father may have hidden knowledge or experience with Radiants, adding intrigue to his advice.

The chapter closes with a sense of impending upheaval as rumors of disturbances in Urithiru spread. Master Liganor, the shop owner, decides to close early, hinting at unrest. Adin’s father remains unshaken, focusing on his pottery, while Adin’s curiosity and anticipation grow. The juxtaposition of their reactions underscores the chapter’s themes: bravery takes many forms, and Adin’s journey to becoming a Radiant is as

much about patience and perseverance as it is about defiance.

# I-12. Vulnerable

Taravangian grapples with his declining intelligence, recognizing that his once-variable mental acuity has settled into a frustrating mediocrity. Despite his diminished capacity, he feels an urgent need to act, as the world cannot wait for his fleeting moments of brilliance. His attempts to recruit Szeth and communicate with Dalinar have failed, leaving him paralyzed by indecision and fear for Kharbranth's safety. Time slips away as he battles exhaustion and pain, forcing him to confront his mortality and the limitations of his aging body.

Struggling to devise a plan without the godlike intelligence he once possessed, Taravangian pores over his notebook, searching for hidden insights. He reflects on the nature of intelligence, realizing it is more about speed and memorization than raw capacity. His unique perspective—having experienced both extreme brilliance and stupidity—gives him an edge, as he understands his own limitations better than others. Determined to craft a plan as bold as the Diagram, he focuses on leveraging his remaining strengths, including his knowledge of Nightblood and Odium's vulnerabilities.

As Taravangian scribbles notes by the dim light of a ruby sphere, he uncovers a chilling revelation: his reflection in the mirror is replaced by the shadowy figure of Sja-anat, one of the Unmade. Terrified but composed, he engages with the entity, which questions his altered state. Sja-anat speculates that the Nightwatcher's blessings might have been a centuries-long ruse by Cultivation to manipulate key individuals, including Taravangian. This encounter forces him to confront the deeper implications of his past choices and the unseen forces shaping his destiny.

The chapter culminates in Taravangian's realization that his struggles are part of a larger cosmic game. Sja-anat's probing questions hint at Cultivation's hidden influence, leaving Taravangian to wonder whether his actions are truly his own or part

of a divine scheme. Despite his fear and physical frailty, he resolves to press forward, determined to outmaneuver Odium and protect his people. The encounter with the Unmade underscores the precariousness of his position, as he balances mortal vulnerability against the weight of godly machinations.

# 98. An Unwholesome Shade

The chapter opens with Dalinar surveying the aftermath of a brutal battlefield, where the mingled scents of smoke and blood evoke memories of past conflicts. He analyzes the patterns of fallen soldiers, noting how their positions reveal the battle's progression—broken lines, desperate river defenses, and fleeing troops marked by arrows. The scene is painted in grim detail, with blood creating an "unwholesome shade" and smoke from burning corpses hanging heavy in the air. Dalinar's reflections are tinged with personal guilt, particularly recalling a catastrophic failure from his past that still haunts him.

Amid the carnage, Dalinar grapples with the moral weight of war and the haunting logic of surrender proposed by Taravangian. He considers whether continuing to fight serves his people's survival or merely prolongs their suffering. While he trusts the Fused's intentions to some degree, he remains wary of Odium's unpredictable and destructive nature. Accompanied by generals and allies, including the perceptive Mink, Dalinar masks his inner turmoil, projecting the stoic demeanor expected of a leader despite his growing revulsion for violence.

The Mink provides a strategic assessment, noting the enemy's calculated retreat from Emul to preserve resources elsewhere. He emphasizes the delicate balance of their war efforts and secures Dalinar's promise to prioritize liberating Herdaz after Alethkar and Urithiru. Their exchange highlights the political and tactical complexities of the conflict, as well as Dalinar's reliance on allies like the Mink, whose insights prove invaluable. Yet, even in victory, Dalinar feels adrift, his thoughts consumed by the unresolved siege of Urithiru and Navani's captivity.

The chapter closes with Dalinar alone in a command tent, staring at a goblet of rubies—a stark reminder of bloodshed—and wrestling with uncharacteristic emotional exhaustion. His internal monologue reveals a leader burdened by the cost of war, no

longer the bloodthirsty Blackthorn of legend but a man struggling to reconcile duty with his growing aversion to killing. The victory feels hollow, overshadowed by larger strategic threats and personal losses, leaving Dalinar in a state of uneasy contemplation.

# 99. Not Bound

Jasnah Kholin reflects on the recent military victory in Emul while grappling with the weight of leadership and personal vulnerabilities. Despite the coalition's success, she remains acutely aware of ongoing threats, particularly with Urithiru under enemy control. Her meticulously prepared safehouse—boasting fabrial traps, Stormlight reserves, and a Shadesmar escape route—reveals her paranoia and determination to avoid past mistakes. This physical security allows her to confront deeper frustrations about her life's work as a historian, now challenged by living witnesses to history like the Heralds Ash and Taln.

The chapter explores Jasnah's intellectual crisis as firsthand accounts from the Heralds upend her historical research. Where she once painstakingly reconstructed events from fragmented records, she can now ask direct questions—only to find her theories often wrong. This shakes her core belief that understanding the past is key to navigating the future, especially when facing an enemy like Odium, who can allegedly see what’s to come. The Heralds' incomplete knowledge, particularly about the Sibling, adds to her unease, leaving her questioning her preparedness.

Jasnah's relationship with Wit provides both solace and complexity. Unlike past partners, he embraces her analytical nature, though his evasiveness and ancient origins make him an enigma. Their banter reveals mutual intellectual respect, even as Jasnah remains wary of his motives. Wit’s anecdote about a gambler who lost despite rigging the game offers a cryptic counterpoint to her despair over Odium’s foresight, hinting that predictability may not guarantee victory.

The chapter culminates in Jasnah’s existential dilemma: how to fight an enemy with divine foresight. Her scholarly rigor clashes with the limitations of human knowledge, while Wit’s storytelling suggests there may be cracks in Odium’s omniscience. Jasnah’s vulnerability—rarely shown—underscores the tension between her strategic brilliance

and the cosmic scale of their war, leaving her to ponder whether history, for all its lessons, can truly prepare her for what lies ahead.

# 100. Watchers at the Rim

Kaladin awakens in distress, his hands bound as a precaution against his violent nightmares. Struggling with inner turmoil and exhaustion, he calms himself enough to free his hands and assess his surroundings. A faint light from a garnet on the wall catches his attention, revealing a desperate plea from the tower spren, who warns of imminent danger. The spren reveals that the final node has been found near the infirmary’s tower model, where the Radiants—and Kaladin’s parents—are located, and hints at a graver threat: the planned execution of the captive Radiants.

Kaladin quickly formulates a plan with Teft, recognizing the urgency of the situation. They decide to rescue the Radiants, with Kaladin creating a diversion to lure guards away while Teft and Lift prepare to infiltrate and awaken the captives. Kaladin emphasizes the need for speed and adaptability, instructing Teft to escape through the window if necessary. The gravity of their mission weighs heavily on Kaladin, who acknowledges the risks but resolves to act despite his fatigue and emotional strain.

Dabbid arrives with news that Rlain is shaken by events involving Venli and agrees to relay the plan to him and Queen Navani. Kaladin stresses the importance of contacting the queen and ensuring Rlain reaches the Sibling, as requested by the tower spren. The group’s solidarity is reaffirmed with the Bridge Four salute, though Kaladin worries about leaving Dabbid and Rlain vulnerable. The chapter underscores the tension between their limited options and the dire consequences of inaction.

As Kaladin and Teft prepare to execute their plan, the chapter closes with a sense of impending confrontation. Kaladin’s hesitation when Teft questions his willingness to flee hints at his self-sacrificial tendencies. The urgency of their mission—to save the Radiants and thwart the Fused—leaves little room for error, setting the stage for a high-stakes rescue attempt. The chapter masterfully blends personal struggle with broader conflict, highlighting Kaladin’s resilience amid despair.

# 101. Undertext

The chapter opens with Dalinar entering the Prime’s opulent warcamp home, which starkly contrasts his own austere Alethi sensibilities. The space is overcrowded with ornate furniture, tapestries, and servants, creating a maze-like environment that baffles Dalinar. He reflects on the cultural differences between Alethi and Azish traditions, noting the Azish preference for excess and display. Despite his initial discomfort, Dalinar acknowledges the strategic advantage of such clutter in deterring potential threats, revealing his pragmatic mindset even in unfamiliar settings.

Dalinar proceeds to witness the Prime, Yanagawn, engaged in a highly ceremonial breakfast ritual. Surrounded by attendants and camp followers, the young emperor eats with deliberate precision, embodying the grandeur of his position. Jasnah is already present, and Dalinar joins her in observing the spectacle. He contrasts this Azish display of power with Alethi indulgence, recognizing that the Azish extravagance serves to elevate the office of Prime rather than the individual, a distinction he finds less objectionable than Alethi arrogance.

The narrative delves into Dalinar’s internal reflections on the challenges of being Prime, particularly given the recent assassinations of previous rulers. He muses on the irony that the position’s burdensome pomp might deter power-hungry individuals, contributing to the stability of the Azish scholarly republic. As the ceremony concludes, Dalinar and Jasnah are seated for their meeting, with Dalinar noting the efficiency brought by Navani’s timekeeping innovations. His thoughts briefly turn sentimental as he recalls her affection, hinting at his personal growth beyond his warrior persona.

The chapter closes with Yanagawn shedding some formality, removing his headdress and engaging in casual conversation with Dalinar and Jasnah. The Prime’s vizier, Noura, maintains decorum, but Yanagawn’s relaxed demeanor suggests growing comfort in his role. Jasnah’s diplomatic response to the Prime’s apology for not

providing them food highlights her understanding of Azish customs. The interaction underscores the evolving dynamics between the monarchs, blending cultural respect with personal rapport.

# 102. Highstorm Coming

The chapter opens with Venli and her group of fifteen singer companions waiting in line at the Oathgates, disguised as workers returning to Kholinar for respite. Venli, grappling with the cold wind and her unarmored form, contemplates her mission to find her mother among the listener remnants, authorized by Raboniel’s writ. She debates the extent of Raboniel’s influence, wondering if she can secure transport via a Heavenly One, and acknowledges the manipulative nature of her task. Despite her doubts, Venli resolves to proceed, driven by urgency and personal stakes, even as Timbre, her spren companion, silently judges her choices.

Venli’s internal conflict deepens as she questions her worthiness and courage, confessing her fears to Timbre. The spren, however, remains steadfast in its belief in her, citing her past actions—like saving Lift—as proof of her potential. Their conversation highlights Venli’s self-loathing and Timbre’s unwavering optimism, emphasizing the theme of redemption through small, stumbling steps rather than grand heroics. Meanwhile, the line at the Oathgates stalls due to the absence of a human operator, forcing Venli to take charge and shepherd the singers inside as a highstorm approaches.

As the storm looms, Venli’s thoughts turn to the possibility of using Raboniel’s writ to help others, specifically Kaladin Stormblessed’s family. She proposes the idea to her group, expecting resistance, but they respond with consideration rather than fear. This moment marks a pivotal shift for Venli, as she transitions from self-preservation to altruism, spurred by Timbre’s encouragement and her own growing sense of responsibility. The chapter underscores her internal struggle between cowardice and courage, set against the backdrop of the impending highstorm’s symbolic fury.

In the final moments, Venli entrusts her writ and map to Mazish, preparing to act on her newfound resolve. Her decision to aid Kaladin’s family reflects her tentative steps

toward redemption, even as she grapples with her perceived failures. The chapter closes with Venli and her group humming to Consideration, signaling their collective willingness to embrace risk for a greater good. The highstorm’s approach mirrors Venli’s tumultuous emotions, suggesting an impending climax in her personal journey.

# 103. The Legend You Live

The chapter opens with Teft and Lift blending into a crowd in the atrium, observing Kaladin's dramatic entrance. Teft reflects on how Kaladin naturally commands attention, while he himself remains inconspicuous—a trait he uses to their advantage. Lift, disguised as his daughter, questions Kaladin's delayed arrival, to which Teft jokingly attributes it to grandstanding. Despite his self-deprecating thoughts about his past failures, Teft feels pride in having guided Kaladin, acknowledging the unexpected value of his troubled history with the Envisagers. His spren, Phendorana, offers comfort, reinforcing his sense of purpose.

As Kaladin engages in combat with the Pursuer, Teft and Lift seize the distraction to infiltrate the infirmary. Their plan involves manipulating the crowd's panic and exploiting the guards' divided attention. A stormform Regal initially blocks their path, but Teft cleverly distracts him while Lift slips through the door. When the Regal becomes suspicious, Teft tackles him, enduring painful electric shocks with Lift's healing support. The intense struggle highlights Teft's resilience and teamwork with Lift, culminating in the Regal's unconsciousness and their successful entry into the infirmary.

Inside, Teft seals the door with Stormlight while Lift tends to the unconscious Radiants. Despite his burns and disheveled appearance, Teft remains focused on their mission: reviving the Radiants, rescuing Kaladin's family, and escaping through a perilous window drop. Phendorana's playful remark about his electrified hair lightens the moment, but the stakes remain high. Teft's determination shines as he coordinates their next steps, aware of the looming threat from the Heavenly Ones and the urgency of their precarious situation.

The chapter underscores themes of redemption and camaraderie, with Teft's internal growth mirroring the external action. His ability to confront past regrets and embrace

his role as a mentor and leader is juxtaposed with the physical intensity of the infiltration. The interplay between Teft's humility and Kaladin's heroism creates a dynamic tension, while Lift's irreverent energy adds levity. The stage is set for a daring escape, with the fate of the Radiants hanging in the balance and Teft's resolve tested once more.

# 104. Full of Hope

The chapter opens with Rlain and Dabbid attempting to deliver water to scholars in Urithiru, disguised as ordinary workers. Their mission is interrupted by a singer guard who questions why Rlain, a fellow singer, is performing menial labor. The guard insists he join her squad, revealing the societal divide between singers and humans. When Rlain resists, the guard recognizes him as the listener previously imprisoned by Raboniel's forces, escalating tensions. Despite Rlain's protests, he and Dabbid are detained, their progress thwarted as they're led away from their destination.

Meanwhile, Kaladin engages in a high-stakes battle with the Pursuer in the atrium of Urithiru. Using Navani's device to evade attacks, Kaladin turns the confrontation into a public spectacle, with singers and Heavenly Ones observing. The Pursuer, desperate to end the fight quickly, expends his bodies recklessly. Kaladin capitalizes on this, taunting the Pursuer about his lack of true combat experience and fearlessness in the face of death. The psychological warfare proves effective as the Pursuer panics and flees, materializing before the watching soldiers in a moment of humiliation.

The chapter juxtaposes Rlain's struggle with identity and loyalty against Kaladin's defiance of oppression. Rlain's encounter highlights the internal conflicts among the singers, torn between old prejudices and new alliances. Kaladin's battle, meanwhile, symbolizes resilience and the power of conviction, as he turns the Pursuer's arrogance against him. Both narratives underscore themes of resistance and the cost of defiance in a fractured world.

The closing scenes leave both protagonists in precarious positions. Rlain's mission is jeopardized, forcing him to rely on the Sibling's intervention, while Kaladin's victory over the Pursuer is incomplete, hinting at future confrontations. The chapter masterfully intertwines personal stakes with broader societal tensions, leaving readers eager for the next developments in their journeys.

# 105. Children of Passions

The chapter opens with Kaladin confronting the Pursuer amidst a raging highstorm, using the chaotic backdrop to amplify the psychological battle between them. Kaladin, embodying the relentless force of the storm, challenges the Pursuer's reputation by threatening to hunt him endlessly. The Pursuer, visibly shaken, hesitates as his soldiers and human onlookers watch the confrontation. Kaladin strategically uses Navani's device to overpower him, leaving the Pursuer wounded and humiliated, forcing him to flee—an act that shatters his legendary status. The watching crowd erupts in chants of "Stormblessed," celebrating Kaladin's victory.

As Kaladin regains his composure, his attention shifts to the infirmary, where he expects his allies to emerge. However, his momentary triumph is shattered when Teft's lifeless body is dropped before him. The gruesome sight of his fallen comrade—a mentor and friend—sends Kaladin into a spiral of grief and despair. Moash, observing from a distance, recognizes the emotional devastation as a strategic advantage, remarking that this loss will render Kaladin ineffective. He orders his forces to leave Kaladin undisturbed, confident that the Windrunner's spirit is broken.

Moash then turns his focus to the infirmary, where he locates a hidden fabrial protecting the tower's defenses. Realizing Raboniel may have known its purpose, he destroys it, ensuring the tower's vulnerability. Nearby, he checks on an unconscious Edgedancer and Kaladin's captive family, noting Odium's interest in the young Radiant. Moash's actions underscore his ruthless efficiency and alignment with Odium's goals, contrasting sharply with Kaladin's emotional collapse.

The chapter juxtaposes Kaladin's raw emotional turmoil with Moash's cold calculation, highlighting their divergent paths. Kaladin's victory over the Pursuer is overshadowed by personal loss, while Moash capitalizes on the chaos to further Odium's agenda. The narrative tension builds as Kaladin's resolve is tested, and Moash's manipulations

threaten to tip the balance of power. The stage is set for a deeper exploration of grief, vengeance, and the cost of war.

# 106. A Hundred Discordant Rhythms

The chapter opens with Kaladin in a state of profound despair, clinging to Teft's lifeless body as his sense of purpose shatters. He reflects on his repeated failures to protect those he loves, from Tien to Bridge Four, and concludes that his identity as "Kaladin Stormblessed" was always a lie. Overwhelmed by numbness and self-loathing, he succumbs to the void of hopelessness, lacking even Adolin's intervention to pull him back. Syl's silent presence underscores the gravity of his emotional collapse, marking this as a pivotal moment of personal reckoning.

Meanwhile, Navani engages in a deadly confrontation with Raboniel, using a pain-inducing device to incapacitate the Fused before stabbing her. Though initially believing she’s succeeded, Navani is shocked to find Raboniel still alive, barely clinging to consciousness. Their exchange reveals Raboniel's true motive: she seeks to end the eternal war, regardless of which side prevails. Despite Navani's betrayal, Raboniel admires her cunning and urges her to flee with a notebook containing revolutionary research on permanently killing Fused—a key to ending the conflict.

Navani realizes the notebook's significance: it could tip the balance of the war by making death permanent for both Radiant spren and Fused. As she grapples with the moral weight of her actions, Raboniel's unexpected camaraderie adds complexity to their adversarial relationship. However, their tense moment is interrupted by the arrival of Moash, who strikes Navani with a throwing knife before advancing with his Shardblade. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, with Navani wounded and Kaladin's fate ominously declared as "dead," leaving their survival in question.

The chapter masterfully intertwines two character arcs—Kaladin's emotional disintegration and Navani's desperate gambit—against the backdrop of war’s relentless brutality. Themes of failure, betrayal, and the cost of conflict are explored through intimate, high-stakes moments. The parallel crises highlight how both

characters, though separated, are pushed to their limits, setting the stage for transformative developments in the narrative.

# 107. Uniting

The chapter opens with Navani severely wounded, fleeing from Moash through the halls of Urithiru. Despite her injuries, she presses forward, leaving a trail of blood as Moash taunts her with cruel words about her son’s death. Their confrontation takes a sudden turn when Raboniel, though incapacitated, attacks Moash with a dagger, draining his Stormlight and buying Navani precious time. Navani stumbles into a room with a crystal pillar, whispering to the Sibling, and hears the ominous Rhythm of War—a sign of impending chaos.

Meanwhile, Dalinar is being transported by Lyn the Windrunner to meet the Herald Ishar when the Stormfather delivers dire news: Kaladin is in grave danger within a storm. Dalinar demands to see Kaladin’s situation and witnesses him falling, resigned to his fate, having lost all hope. Syl, his spren, laments her inability to help as Kaladin succumbs to despair, believing he has failed everyone he sought to protect. Dalinar, desperate to intervene, pleads with the Stormfather to slow time and give Kaladin a chance to recover.

The narrative shifts to Venli, who observes the brutal suppression of human civilians by the Pursuer’s forces. Despite being unarmed, the humans, led by a one-armed man, rebel against their oppressors in a futile but defiant struggle. This massacre underscores the escalating violence and the humans’ desperation, even as the Radiants remain incapacitated. The chapter highlights the interconnected crises—Navani’s peril, Kaladin’s fall, and the civilians’ uprising—painting a bleak picture of the war’s toll.

The chapter’s title, "Uniting," reflects the converging threads of despair and defiance. Navani’s resilience, Kaladin’s moment of crisis, and the civilians’ rebellion all underscore themes of struggle and fleeting hope. The Rhythm of War and the Stormfather’s interventions hint at larger cosmic forces at play, setting the stage for

pivotal confrontations. The chapter masterfully intertwines personal and collective battles, leaving the reader anticipating the next turning point in the conflict.

# 108. Moments

The chapter opens with Kaladin disoriented, waking in a small tent on what he recognizes as a battlefield from his youth. Dressed in antiquated leather armor, he encounters a young boy and realizes he is reliving a past battle under Amaram’s command. Confused and exhausted, Kaladin initially believes he is hallucinating, but the vivid details—the sounds of combat, the exhausted soldiers, and the impossible orders—force him to confront the reality of the memory. He recognizes the young squadleader, Varth, and reflects on the futility of sending underprepared men to their deaths for Amaram’s ambition.

As Kaladin moves through the battlefield, he is struck by the youth and inexperience of the soldiers, including himself in this memory. The squadleader’s desperate orders to hold the line resonate with Kaladin’s own experiences of leadership and loss. His frustration boils over when he blames Amaram for sacrificing lives for personal gain, drawing a sharp rebuke from Varth. The scene underscores the cyclical nature of trauma and the weight of command, as Kaladin grapples with the inevitability of death in war.

The emotional core of the chapter emerges when Kaladin encounters his younger brother, Tien, who volunteers to stand with the terrified soldiers. Tien’s selflessness—choosing to comfort others despite his own fear—pierces Kaladin’s despair. Their dialogue reveals Tien’s belief that companionship in suffering gives meaning to life, even in the face of death. Kaladin’s anguish over failing to protect Tien is met with his brother’s reassurance that their time together mattered precisely because it was fleeting.

In the closing moments, Tien comforts Kaladin, now symbolically a child in his brother’s arms, and reframes his grief. He argues that the moments of connection, not the inevitability of loss, are what truly matter. The chapter ends with Kaladin

trembling, on the verge of embracing this perspective, as Tien urges him to "see the colors"—a metaphor for finding hope and meaning amidst pain. The scene poignantly captures the tension between despair and resilience, leaving Kaladin’s emotional resolution unresolved but hinted at.

# 109. Emulsifier

The chapter opens with a powerful moment between Venli and Leshwi, as the latter kneels before Venli in shock after learning she has sworn the First Ideal of the Radiants. Leshwi’s reaction is one of joy and awe, revealing her past connection to honorspren and the Dawnsingers, hinting at a time when humans and singers were allies. Venli, confused and conflicted, struggles with her identity and purpose, while Leshwi’s emotional response underscores the significance of Radiants returning to the singer community. The scene is charged with tension and revelation, as Venli’s spren, Timbre, offers hope for renewed alliances.

Amidst the emotional exchange, the narrative shifts to the ongoing battle in the atrium, where Leshwi abruptly joins the fray, leading her troops against the Pursuer’s forces. The conflict highlights the fractured loyalties among the singers, with some siding with humans to protect the fallen Radiants. Venli, still uncertain, watches as Leshwi takes decisive action, symbolizing a potential turning point in the war. The battle scene is chaotic yet purposeful, emphasizing the theme of unity against a common enemy, even among former adversaries.

Meanwhile, Navani, weakened and injured, communicates with the Sibling, who shares a vision of the fighting in the atrium. The Sibling’s confusion mirrors Navani’s own as she witnesses humans and singers fighting side by side. Navani recognizes the significance of this alliance, dubbing it an “emulsifier”—a blending of opposing forces. Despite her desperate plea to bond with the Sibling, she is rejected, adding to her despair. This subplot underscores the broader theme of reconciliation and the cost of division.

The chapter concludes with Rlain and Dabbid arriving at the atrium, stunned to witness the aftermath of the battle. Leshwi and her faction emerge victorious, having turned against the Pursuer’s forces. Rlain, attuning the Rhythm of Hope, observes the

unexpected unity between singers and humans, signaling a potential shift in the war’s dynamics. The scene leaves readers with a sense of cautious optimism, as characters grapple with the possibility of redemption and new alliances in a world long divided by conflict.

# 110. Reborn

The chapter opens with a vivid depiction of Kaladin Stormblessed’s rebirth amidst a black storm, where he emerges as a beacon of light. Surrounded by windspren, he commands them to find his falling father, Lirin, who is still alive. Kaladin’s powers surge as Syl, his spren, rejoices, and windspren form protective gauntlets around him. The tension builds as he races against time to save Lirin, the ground rapidly approaching. The scene captures Kaladin’s determination and the transformative power of his bond with Syl, symbolizing hope piercing through darkness.

Meanwhile, Navani Kholin confronts her inner doubts as she struggles to bond with the Sibling, the tower’s spren. Voices of inadequacy plague her, but she defiantly rejects them, asserting her worthiness. As Moash advances, Navani hums a chaotic tone, which she inverts to anti-Voidlight, momentarily stunning Moash. The Sibling, intrigued by her resilience, engages in a dialogue about Honor and Cultivation. Navani’s journey reflects her struggle to reconcile her past actions with her desire to create and unite.

Navani’s breakthrough comes as she harmonizes Honor’s structured song with Cultivation’s dynamic rhythm, creating a unified melody. This synergy represents the balance between human ingenuity and spren nature, embodying the Sibling’s purpose. The moment is profound, as Navani and the Sibling find common ground in their shared ideals of unity and progress. The chapter highlights Navani’s growth from self-doubt to self-affirmation, culminating in a powerful spiritual connection.

The chapter concludes with Moash’s abrupt interruption, seizing Navani as she and the Sibling reach their pivotal moment. The tension remains unresolved, leaving readers anticipating the consequences of their newfound bond. The interplay of light and darkness, doubt and conviction, underscores the chapter’s themes of rebirth and resilience. Both Kaladin and Navani embody transformation, whether through physical power or spiritual awakening, setting the stage for the next phase of their journeys.

# 111. Unchained

Dalinar returns from a vision with the Stormfather, disoriented but exhilarated after speaking the Words of his Bondsmith oath. Though he is physically flying with Windrunners, he feels constrained compared to the freedom he experienced in the vision. His focus shifts to the urgent situation at Urithiru, trusting Kaladin to handle it, while he prepares to confront Ishar, the Herald, in Tukar. As his team approaches the desolate camps near Ishar’s pavilion, Dalinar reflects on the stark contrast between the barren landscape and the lush regions of the West, noting the strategic movements of Ishar’s forces.

Upon arrival, Dalinar and his Windrunners observe Ishar’s soldiers, who are prepared but not overtly hostile. Sigzil, the Azish Windrunner, expresses concern about the situation, but Dalinar reassures him, emphasizing their preparedness as Radiants. Sigzil volunteers to speak with Ishar first, landing safely and returning with unsettling news: Ishar claims to be the Almighty reborn and awaits Odium’s champion, likely referring to Dalinar. Despite the Herald’s apparent madness, he is willing to talk, prompting Dalinar to order their descent into the ring of soldiers.

Dalinar and his team land cautiously, with Windrunners forming a protective circle around him. He steps forward to meet Ishar, noting the Herald’s imposing presence and warrior-like demeanor, which defies his expectations of a frail scholar. Ishar addresses Dalinar as Odium’s champion, a claim Dalinar firmly denies, asserting his intent to ally against Odium instead. The tension between them is palpable, as Ishar’s delusions of divinity clash with Dalinar’s pragmatic leadership and mission to unite forces against their common enemy.

The chapter culminates in a tense standoff, highlighting Ishar’s descent into madness and Dalinar’s resolve to navigate the Herald’s instability for the greater good. The encounter underscores the challenges of uniting fractured allies in the face of Odium’s

threat, while also exploring themes of leadership, sanity, and the burdens of power. Dalinar’s determination to reason with Ishar, despite the risks, reflects his unwavering commitment to his cause, even as the Herald’s erratic behavior casts doubt on the feasibility of their alliance.

# 112. Terms

The chapter opens with Dalinar and the Windrunners returning to their Emuli warcamp, exhausted and disheartened after a failed mission. Dalinar grapples with feelings of defeat, questioning his inability to understand his powers, rescue Navani, or reclaim Urithiru. Just as his despair peaks, messengers arrive with unexpected good news: Navani has made contact, and the tower's Oathgates are functional again. Though relieved, Dalinar recognizes his physical and emotional exhaustion, opting to rest before reuniting with Navani and meeting with Jasnah and the Prime after the impending highstorm.

As Dalinar retreats to his quarters, the Stormfather reveals that Urithiru is now secure, thanks to the Sibling's awakening and Navani's bond with a spren. This revelation leaves Dalinar emotionally overwhelmed, longing for solitude to process the implications. However, his respite is abruptly interrupted when he steps into a surreal golden field—a vision unlike any he's experienced before. Confused and wary, he realizes this isn't a typical highstorm vision but a direct confrontation with Odium, who appears before him in a transformed, almost fractured state.

Odium, barely containing his anger, accuses Dalinar of conspiring with Ishar and questions his defiance. Dalinar remains composed, using silence and posture to mask his fatigue. Odium's frustration reveals his fear of Dalinar's growing power and independence, especially after losing control of Urithiru. Dalinar deduces that Odium's sudden appearance stems from his failures and insecurity, realizing that the god fears those who refuse to submit to his will. This insight emboldens Dalinar, who reflects on Cultivation's gift as the source of his resilience.

The chapter culminates in a tense exchange, with Dalinar taunting Odium about his limitations and hinting at the knowledge he gained from Ishar. He asserts that a human wielding a god's power without its restrictions is a threat Odium cannot ignore.

The confrontation underscores Dalinar’s evolving understanding of his role and the shifting balance of power between them. The chapter ends with Dalinar standing firm, embodying the defiance Odium fears, while the god’s vulnerability becomes increasingly apparent.

# 113. Emotion

Navani grapples with the disorienting aftermath of her severed connection to the Sibling, feeling diminished yet retaining a faint awareness of the tower's crystalline veins. The Sibling expresses reluctance about their unusual bond, questioning Navani's intentions regarding fabrials and captured spren. Navani reassures the Sibling, advocating for compromise and collaboration, though the Sibling remains skeptical. Their dialogue underscores the tension between human ingenuity and spren mistrust, setting the stage for their evolving relationship.

The chapter shifts focus as Navani discovers Raboniel, grievously wounded but alive, in the hallway. Raboniel reveals she has succeeded in creating anti-Voidlight, a weapon capable of permanently killing Fused and spren. Despite their adversarial history, Raboniel's final moments are marked by a fragile camaraderie with Navani. Their exchange highlights themes of redemption and the cost of progress, as Raboniel accepts her impending death with surprising clarity and purpose.

In a poignant scene, Navani comforts Raboniel by harmonizing Honor's tone with Odium's, creating a moment of unity before the inevitable. With Raboniel's consent, Navani administers the killing blow using the anti-Voidlight dagger, ending the Fused's life with dignity. The Sibling acknowledges the act as a kindness, though Navani is wracked with guilt. This moment crystallizes the moral complexities of their world, where mercy and violence often intertwine.

The chapter concludes with Navani reclaiming her role as queen, exhausted but resolute. She safeguards the anti-Voidlight dagger and leaves instructions to honor Raboniel's body, recognizing her as a hero despite their conflicts. As she prepares to restore order to the liberated tower, Navani reflects on the weight of her discoveries and the responsibilities they entail. Her actions underscore the chapter's central themes of sacrifice, leadership, and the enduring consequences of innovation.

# 114. Broken Gods

The chapter opens with Rlain, now a Truthwatcher, traveling with Venli and her recruits to the Shattered Plains via the Oathgate. Still processing his recent bonding with the transformed mistspren Tumi—a unique spren touched by both Honor and Odium—Rlain reflects on being chosen for his role as the "Bridger of Minds." Upon arrival, they meet Kaladin and the Fused, including Leshwi, who declares their intent to seek a third path beyond the war, following the listeners' example. Kaladin offers refuge if needed, and the group prepares to journey east to reunite with other listeners.

Rlain shares a heartfelt moment with Venli, encouraging her to embrace her path of Radiance despite her past mistakes. As Venli departs with the others, Rlain remains behind, conflicted about his dual loyalties to both the listeners and Bridge Four. He fears the possibility of humans repeating history by enslaving the singers if they win the war, resolving to stay vigilant. Kaladin reassures him, and they turn their attention to honoring Teft’s memory, symbolizing the bonds of their Radiant brotherhood.

Meanwhile, Taravangian undergoes a profound transformation, ascending to become the new vessel of Odium. Overwhelmed by the godly power of passion and fury, he gains cosmic awareness, realizing his predecessor’s weakness and his own newfound potential. From his elevated perspective, he observes Szeth and the aftermath of Nightblood’s attack, noting how his mortal form is mistaken for Rayse’s corpse. This misconception grants him freedom to operate unseen, as the world believes him dead.

The chapter juxtaposes Rlain’s grounded struggles with loyalty and identity against Taravangian’s godlike ascension. Rlain’s journey highlights themes of redemption and vigilance, while Taravangian’s transformation sets the stage for a darker, more unpredictable future. Both narratives underscore the tension between personal growth and the broader cosmic conflict, leaving readers to ponder the consequences of power

and choice in a fractured world.

# 115. Testament

Shallan and Adolin reflect on the progress of their spren companions, Testament and Maya, in their chamber at Lasting Integrity. Shallan notes Testament’s improved condition, while Adolin expresses uncertainty about their understanding of the healing process. Maya, though still largely silent, has shown remarkable recovery since her pivotal speech at the trial, offering hope that Testament’s restoration is possible. The couple shares a moment of gratitude, with Shallan thanking Adolin for his unwavering support despite her past secrets and struggles.

The chapter shifts focus to a mysterious spren, a seon named Ala, contained within a cube sent by Mraize. The spren behaves timidly, as if conditioned to obedience, hinting at Mraize’s cruel treatment. Shallan attempts to coax Ala out, but the spren resists, reinforcing the Ghostbloods’ sinister reputation. Meanwhile, Shallan grapples with her fragmented past, realizing her bond with Pattern was newer than she remembered and that she possesses two Shardblades. Kelek, a Herald, provides cryptic insights about deadeyes and Mraize’s motives, linking them to ancient events involving the Unmade Ba-Ado-Mishram.

Shallan contacts Mraize using the seon, revealing she has merged with Veil and severed ties with the Ghostbloods. Mraize warns her of consequences, but Shallan remains defiant, confident in her newfound clarity and the safety of her brothers, whom Wit and Pattern rescued. She taunts Mraize with knowledge gained from Kelek, including the Herald’s desire to escape Roshar to avoid Odium’s torment. The exchange underscores Shallan’s transformation from a manipulated agent to an independent force.

The chapter concludes with unresolved tensions, as Shallan and Adolin prepare for an uncertain future. Kelek’s revelations about other worlds and the trapped Unmade hint at larger conflicts ahead. Shallan’s reconciliation with her past and her rejection of the

Ghostbloods mark a turning point, but the shadow of Mraize’s threat lingers. The interplay of personal growth, ancient secrets, and looming dangers sets the stage for the next phase of their journey.

# 116. Mercy

The chapter opens with Kaladin seeking out Dalinar after Teft’s funeral, reflecting on his exhaustion and the emotional weight of recent events. Flying to the top of the tower, he finds Dalinar in a meeting with Navani, where the Bondsmith immediately breaks off to speak with him. Their conversation centers on Kaladin’s decision to step back from command, acknowledging his need for healing and his desire to focus on helping others like Dabbid. Dalinar praises Kaladin’s self-awareness, granting his request and recognizing the strength it takes to seek help.

Dalinar then reveals a critical development: his contest with Odium is set to occur in just ten days, a revelation that shocks Kaladin and Syl. The stakes are high, as the outcome will determine the fate of Alethkar and enforce a treaty. Despite the urgency, Dalinar admits he needs to master his Bondsmith powers and requests Kaladin’s help in an unconventional mission. He explains that the Herald Ishi, now insane, may hold the key to his preparation, but recovering and aiding him will be a daunting task.

Kaladin expresses skepticism about the timeline, noting that healing a Herald’s mind in ten days seems impossible. Dalinar acknowledges the challenge but insists Ishar’s condition may have supernatural solutions. He hints at the unusual nature of the mission, including traveling to Shinovar with “odd company,” though he delays further details. The conversation underscores the dire circumstances and the unconventional strategies Dalinar is willing to pursue to prepare for the impending contest.

The chapter closes with a lighter moment as Dalinar returns Wit’s flute to Kaladin, revealing Lift’s role in its recovery. The exchange hints at unresolved threads, such as Lift’s antics and the potential for reclaiming lost items from the Shattered Plains. The flute serves as a poignant reminder of personal connections amidst the looming crisis, leaving Kaladin—and the reader—to ponder the weight of the ten-day countdown and the uncertain future ahead.

# 117. One Final Gift

The chapter opens with Eshonai, a listener warrior, lying defeated in a chasm after being thrown from the battle above. Disoriented but determined, she struggles to regain her footing in the waist-deep water, her Shardplate providing some protection against the current. Realizing she must climb out, she attempts to scale the chasm wall but is hindered by the darkness and the bulging rock face. Above her, the clash of two storms—the Everstorm and a highstorm—creates a chaotic backdrop, foreshadowing the impending danger.

As the storms collide, Eshonai is caught in a surge of floodwater that tears her from the wall and nearly drowns her. Trapped in the raging current, she battles for survival, her helmet cracking and filling with water. In a moment of clarity, she rejects the Rhythm of Destruction, a symbol of her enslavement, and resolves to die as her true self. This sparks an internal rebellion, as she summons her Blade and fights against the storm’s fury, determined to reclaim her autonomy even in the face of death.

Amid the chaos, Eshonai hears a harmonious tone, a fusion of Honor and Odium, representing her dual nature as both warrior and free spirit. A glowing spren appears, symbolizing hope, and she reaches for it as she gasps for air. Though the current drags her under again, she clings to her Blade and the Rhythm of War, refusing to surrender. Her defiance becomes a declaration of freedom, as she vows to live and continue her journey, no matter the cost.

The chapter concludes with Eshonai exhausted but victorious, her Shardplate anchoring her as the floodwaters recede. Her struggle embodies the themes of identity, resistance, and resilience, as she rejects external control and embraces her own agency. The interplay of storms, rhythms, and her internal conflict paints a vivid picture of a warrior’s transformation, both physical and spiritual, in the face of overwhelming odds.

# Epilogue: Dirty Tricks

Wit, also known as Hoid, strolls through Elhokar’s abandoned palace on the Shattered Plains, performing coin tricks and musing on the art of storytelling. He compares storytelling to deception, emphasizing the importance of making the audience believe in experiences they’ve never had. Through sleight of hand, he demonstrates how illusions rely on misdirection, much like a fight in an alley. His companion, Design, critiques his methods, suggesting he use Lightweaving for more impressive effects, but Wit argues that the charm lies in the audience’s willing participation in the illusion, even when they know it’s fake.

The chapter delves into Wit’s philosophy of performance, where he asserts that the magic of storytelling comes from the audience’s active belief. He explains that when people knowingly engage with a lie, the experience becomes more memorable because they feel complicit in the illusion. Design struggles to grasp his reasoning, dismissing it as nonsensical, but Wit remains steadfast in his approach. Their banter highlights his playful yet profound perspective on art and deception, as well as his preference for traditional tricks over magical shortcuts.

The tone shifts as Wit senses the presence of Odium, the malevolent god he’s been avoiding. He deliberately makes himself visible, anticipating their confrontation. When Odium appears, Wit greets him with sarcasm, mocking his intelligence and revealing his awareness of Odium’s manipulations of a contract with Dalinar. Their exchange is laced with tension, as Odium threatens eternal vengeance, while Wit responds with his characteristic wit, unshaken by the god’s hostility.

The chapter ends with Odium probing Wit for advice on choosing a champion, hinting at deeper strategic games at play. Wit’s evasion and Odium’s frustration underscore the high-stakes conflict between them. The encounter leaves readers with a sense of impending danger, as Wit’s cleverness is pitted against Odium’s wrath, setting the

stage for future confrontations in the series. The epilogue masterfully blends humor, philosophy, and tension, encapsulating Wit’s role as both entertainer and key player in the larger narrative.