Oathbringer

Oathbringer is the third epic installment in Brandon Sanderson’s acclaimed *Stormlight Archive* series. Set in the richly detailed world of Roshar, the novel follows Dalinar Kholin as he strives to unite a fractured world threatened by ancient enemies. As secrets of the past come to light and new powers awaken, the characters must confront their inner demons and the true cost of leadership. With intricate world-building, complex characters, and sweeping action, *Oathbringer* delivers a powerful, emotional, and thrilling fantasy experience.

1. Broken and Divided

The chapter opens with a provocative quote from the preface of *Oathbringer*, hinting at the contentious and transformative nature of the revelations to come. Dalinar Kholin, a central figure, finds himself in a vision standing beside the memory of a dead god, Honor, amidst the ruins of Kholinar, his home city. This vision occurs shortly after Dalinar’s forces arrive at Urithiru, seeking refuge from a devastating storm. Despite their escape, Dalinar feels overwhelmed and uncertain, struggling to comprehend the forces at play, including the storm’s significance and the return of the ancient enemies known as the Voidbringers. His quest for understanding drives him to seek divine insight through visions.

Dalinar’s visions serve as a cryptic form of divine communication, offering fragmented insights into the past, present, and possible futures. In this particular vision, he witnesses Kholinar in ruins, destroyed by an unknown destructive force. Dalinar, bonded with the Stormfather—an immensely powerful spren—uses his ability to

traverse these visions at will to investigate the aftermath of the city’s destruction. He perceives the chaos of shattered buildings, smashed storm formations, and claw marks suggesting a monstrous force. Despite the divine monologue he receives, Dalinar seeks concrete details, especially about the impending threats, and questions the nature of the destruction, which is linked to the return of the Voidbringers and the ominous Everstorm.

The narrative emphasizes the urgency of Dalinar’s warnings about the approaching storm and the impending catastrophe. Though he has shared his concerns with leaders across Roshar, most dismiss his warnings, underestimating the storm's destructive potential. Dalinar recognizes that the Everstorm, which appeared suddenly and with unprecedented power, will return and devastate the land further, awakening the Parshendi and transforming them into Voidbringers. The storm’s destructive cycle and the failure of political leaders to heed his warnings leave Dalinar feeling isolated and desperate, as he attempts to piece together divine clues to prevent catastrophe while confronting the reality that traditional defenses and alliances are faltering.

In the final analysis, Dalinar reflects on the broader implications of the visions and the impending conflict. The ruined Kholinar symbolizes the coming destruction, not only of cities but of the entire world order. He perceives signs of a monstrous force capable of tearing through stone and flesh, hinting at the chaos that will ensue. The divine message suggests that the storm is merely a precursor to even greater calamities—an apocalyptic conflict driven by inscrutable enemies and ancient powers long thought dead. With the gods silent and the Knights Radiant diminished, Dalinar faces the overwhelming burden of preventing the ultimate desolation, knowing that hope hinges on fragile divine guidance and his own resolve to confront the encroaching darkness.

2. One Problem Solved

The chapter opens with a vivid depiction of the chaos and logistical challenges faced during the aftermath of a conflict. Adolin Kholin finds himself supervising the unloading of supplies in a vast, dark cavern that has been converted into a staging area for refugees and soldiers. Despite the disorder, Adolin is focused on ensuring that the supplies, including alcohol and water, are distributed according to orders from his aunt Navani. His observations reveal the strain on both the infrastructure and the people, many of whom are weary from recent battles. Adolin’s sense of duty compels him to manage the situation with a mixture of authority and concern for the well-being of the displaced.

Amidst the logistical chaos, Adolin’s personal struggles surface as he grapples with guilt over recent violence, particularly the possibility that he may have killed Torol Sadeas. His physical injuries—an aching wrist and a bruise—mirror his internal turmoil. The chapter emphasizes his desire to stay busy and avoid dwelling on his actions, which weigh heavily on his conscience. His focus on minor details and the day-to-day operations serve as a distraction, yet the shadow of doubt about his morality persists. This internal conflict underscores the emotional toll war and leadership exact on individuals like Adolin.

Meanwhile, Dalinar Kholin’s storyline unfolds with a tense scene of political and physical conflict. Dalinar arrives at a scene of a violent confrontation between soldiers, where a highprince’s body has been discovered in the tunnels. The scene is charged with suspicion and chaos, as accusations fly about the circumstances of the death. Dalinar’s authoritative presence manages to restore some order, and he quickly deduces that the body has been left untouched for hours, indicating that the death was either accidental or staged. His investigation reveals the complex and dangerous political landscape, where loyalty and treachery are intertwined with the brutal

realities of war.

The chapter concludes with Dalinar’s somber reflection on death and violence, highlighting his familiarity with the sight of fallen men. As he examines Sadeas’s mutilated body, he recognizes the wounds as the work of an assassin—an act that signals deeper intrigue and treachery within the ranks. Navani’s disapproval underscores the gravity of the situation, emphasizing that the political tensions are escalating. The chapter’s tone underscores the brutal, often grisly nature of leadership during wartime, where death is both a familiar and a feared presence, and where every event could have far-reaching consequences.

3. Momentum

The chapter opens with a vivid flashback to a battle fought thirty-four years prior, highlighting Dalinar’s leadership and combat prowess. He leads a diverse elite force across a scorched battlefield, demonstrating confidence and strategic acumen. The environment is chaotic, filled with smoldering rockbuds and flamespren, emphasizing the intensity of the conflict. Dalinar’s tactical approach involves a classic hammer-and-anvil formation, aiming to trap and crush the enemy. His readiness to engage directly and push forward exemplifies his aggressive and fearless nature, setting the tone for understanding his combat philosophy rooted in momentum and relentless pursuit of victory.

Dalinar’s combat style is characterized by raw physicality and a focus on maintaining momentum. As he charges into the enemy ranks, he relies on instinct, strength, and overwhelming force rather than finesse or hesitation. His actions are brutal but calculated, designed to intimidate and break the enemy’s morale quickly. The scene captures the chaos of close-quarters combat, with Dalinar smashing through enemy lines, killing with primal ferocity, and disregarding fear or mercy. His approach underscores a belief that in battle, relentless forward motion is essential to destabilize foes and secure victory, emphasizing the importance of not stopping or overthinking in the heat of combat.

The narrative then shifts to a specific engagement where Dalinar encounters a group of enemy soldiers led by a commanding officer on a horse, who appears to be a high-ranking lighteyes. Dalinar’s desire for a challenge drives him to attack fiercely, seeking to test his strength and resolve. The fight is depicted as brutal and unrelenting, with Dalinar using quick, powerful strikes to dominate his opponent. The scene underscores his need for adrenaline and the thrill of combat, illustrating how momentum and aggression are central to his fighting style. This confrontation also hints at political or

social tensions, as Dalinar considers the significance of his opponent’s status.

In the climax of the chapter, Dalinar demonstrates tactical ingenuity by using a shortbow to shoot the horse, causing chaos and creating an opening to engage the enemy leader directly. His focus remains on maintaining momentum, pushing forward with relentless energy. The battle becomes a frantic, life-or-death contest, with Dalinar fighting fiercely to control the fight’s flow. His physical and mental resilience shine through, as he refuses to yield or be turned aside by the storm of combat. The chapter concludes with Dalinar’s continued drive to dominate his opponent, illustrating his core belief that momentum is the key to victory in war and life alike.

4. Oaths

The chapter "Oaths" opens with a reflective tone, quoting Dalinar’s preface from *Oathbringer* that hints at his perceived heresy and the weight of his beliefs. It sets a somber mood, emphasizing themes of faith, doubt, and the burden of leadership. The narrative then shifts to a pivotal moment: Dalinar’s awareness of an unnatural, ominous storm—the reappearance of the Everstorm—signaling impending chaos. His connection with the Stormfather underscores the mystical relationship between the Storms and the world of Roshar. Dalinar’s internal feelings of dread and the storm’s strange, vengeful nature foreshadow a coming catastrophe that threatens the land and its people.

The scene vividly describes the storm’s destructive power and its eerie, almost sentient presence. Dalinar observes the storm’s ominous approach, feeling its unnatural cold and inner chill, which signifies something more sinister than a typical highstorm. The Stormfather’s distant voice confirms this, revealing that the storm is a new, unknown force—an enemy riding the storm itself, intent on destruction. Dalinar perceives visions of devastation—cities razed, fields destroyed, and people fleeing—highlighting the storm’s malevolence and the threat it poses to Roshar’s stability. This portrayal underscores the storm as a symbol of an emerging, vengeful adversary that aims to sow chaos and death.

Further introspection reveals Dalinar’s understanding that the storm’s wrath is targeted at the vulnerable—small towns, fields, and unprepared populations—rather than just large cities. The storm’s deliberate attacks and the red lightning hint at a calculated assault, not just a natural phenomenon. The imagery of glowing red eyes and the storm’s anger evoke a sense of an active, intelligent enemy. Dalinar recognizes that this storm’s purpose is to weaken and destabilize, possibly to facilitate the rise of the Voidbringers and turn parshmen into tools of destruction. The chapter

emphasizes that this is a new level of threat, reminiscent of the Desolations, with a focus on bloodshed and chaos.

In the closing sections, Dalinar’s personal struggles and relationships come into focus. Navani’s support and her attempt to comfort him reveal the emotional toll of leadership and the burden of responsibility. Their intimate exchange underscores Dalinar’s internal conflict—his desire for control and stability versus the chaos threatening to engulf them. His resolve to find a solution through oaths symbolizes a commitment to unity and binding promises, vital in facing the impending darkness. The chapter concludes with Dalinar’s determination to act decisively, recognizing that the path forward involves firm commitments and unwavering resolve, even amid uncertainty and peril.

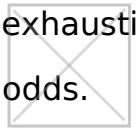
5. Hearthstone

Kaladin’s journey in this chapter highlights his deep sense of responsibility and the emotional toll of his efforts to prevent catastrophe. As he trudges through a landscape that contrasts sharply with the familiar, fertile fields of Hearthstone, he reflects on his recent struggles, including his failed attempt to reach his home before the arrival of the Everstorm. His awareness of the storm’s destructive power and its unnatural origin intensifies his sense of urgency and despair. Despite traveling over a thousand miles in a short time, exhaustion and the storm’s threat weigh heavily on him, emphasizing the relentless pressure he faces as a protector and warrior.

The chapter vividly depicts Kaladin's environment, emphasizing the contrast between the lush, vibrant landscapes and the desolation caused by the storm. He notices debris from human constructions, such as a broken churn and a roof’s edge, revealing signs of recent destruction. These remnants serve as tangible evidence of the storm’s ferocity and the ongoing danger. Kaladin’s observations also reflect humankind’s resilience, as the buildings are designed to withstand storms, though the arrival of the Everstorm—blowing from an unexpected direction—poses an unprecedented threat that heightens his anxiety. His internal struggle is compounded by memories of previous battles and the storm’s unnatural, almost horrific nature.

Kaladin’s inner conflict deepens as he approaches his destination, feeling the emptiness of being without Stormlight, which leaves him drained and vulnerable. His thoughts turn to the significance of symbols and identity, noting the change in his appearance and the absence of the Bridge Four insignia—an emblem of his past. Syl’s playful interactions contrast with his somber mood, providing moments of levity amid tension. Her curiosity and lightheartedness underscore her role as both companion and reminder of the innocence he longs to protect. Their dialogue reveals Kaladin’s longing for home and the emotional weight of the storm’s threat to Hearthstone.

As Kaladin nears Hearthstone, his focus shifts to the impending danger posed by the Everstorm. He recognizes the landscape and the signs of recent destruction, feeling an urgent need to reach his loved ones and ensure their safety. The chapter ends with his realization that he has failed to beat the storm, fueling his anxiety and sense of guilt. Syl’s innocent questions and her attempt to cheer him up highlight the contrast between her carefree nature and the gravity of his mission. Kaladin’s determination to continue despite exhaustion underscores the core theme of perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds.



6. Four Lifetimes

The chapter opens with Kaladin navigating the aftermath of a harrowing battle, stepping into Roshone’s manor amidst a landscape of destruction and chaos. As his visions of death fade, he recognizes familiar faces among the townspeople, indicating that they have survived the Voidbringer assault. Despite the outward appearance of fatigue and dishevelment, the town is alive, suggesting resilience and survival. Kaladin’s internal struggle is palpable as he searches for his parents, driven by a desire for connection and closure. His initial hope for a triumphant reunion contrasts sharply with the reality of his appearance and the tense atmosphere, highlighting the emotional distance and the scars of his experiences.

Kaladin’s interaction with the guards and townspeople reveals a stark social divide and the lingering stigma attached to his past as a slave and deserter. The soldiers treat him with suspicion and hostility, framing him as a dangerous outsider. Kaladin’s instinctive defiance, exemplified by his “old sergeant’s trick,” underscores his resilience and refusal to be subdued by authority figures. Meanwhile, the townspeople’s fearful whispers about him—calling him “deserter” and “dangerous”—illustrate how his past actions and current state have marginalized him. Despite the hostility, Kaladin’s core identity remains intact, and his internal resolve begins to surface amid the external rejection.

As Kaladin advances through the manor, memories flood his mind—familiar locations and painful recollections of his childhood and past conflicts. The estate’s portraits and rooms evoke a sense of personal history, contrasting sharply with his current ragged appearance. His concern about confronting his parents over Tien’s fate reveals lingering guilt and emotional turmoil. His internal conflict intensifies as he contemplates the possibility of facing his family, haunted by fears that they may no longer want him or that he might be unable to reconcile his past with his present. This

emotional tension underscores the chapter’s exploration of identity, loss, and the longing for acceptance.

The chapter culminates in a poignant reunion with his father, Lirin, who is wounded but alive. The emotional intensity peaks as Kaladin finally sees his father, and they share an embrace filled with relief and unspoken pain. Kaladin’s apology for failing to protect Tien reveals his deep guilt and remorse, highlighting the heavy burden he carries. His mother’s shock and subsequent tenderness deepen the scene’s emotional resonance, emphasizing the importance of family bonds amid chaos. The chapter ends with Kaladin among the wounded, contemplating his struggles and newfound hope, even as the scars of his past remain a powerful reminder of the cost of his sacrifices and the possibility of healing.

7. A Watcher at the Rim

The chapter opens with a reflection on survival and resilience, referencing the preface of *Oathbringer* and emphasizing that experiencing something worse than death can be a profound and harrowing ordeal. This sets a tone of inner struggle and growth, highlighting the emotional and psychological toll faced by the protagonist, Kaladin. The narrative then shifts to a tense confrontation in Roshone’s manor, where Kaladin’s actions escalate from a physical altercation to a display of authority. Despite the chaos, Kaladin demonstrates restraint and a desire to act morally, recognizing the importance of maintaining his integrity even when provoked, which underscores his evolving sense of responsibility and self-awareness.

Kaladin’s leadership qualities come to the forefront as he attempts to de-escalate the situation with the guards and Roshone. His commanding presence and sharp wit help him regain control, ordering the soldiers to stand down and questioning what happened to the parshmen. His interactions reveal a deeper understanding of the political and social tensions at play, while also exposing his internal conflict about violence and justice. Kaladin’s ability to balance assertiveness with restraint illustrates his growth from a former slave to a leader trying to uphold moral principles amidst chaos and hostility.

The chapter also explores the mysterious nature of the parshmen and their recent transformations following a strange storm. Kaladin investigates the scene, discovering that the parshmen appeared more monstrous and formidable, resembling Voidbringers. Despite their increased size and aggression, they did not attack, which raises questions about their motives and the larger threat they pose. The guards’ reports of the storm’s destruction and the parshmen’s behavior hint at a new and more dangerous phase of the conflict, compelling Kaladin to consider the strategic implications for the ongoing war and his own role within it.

Finally, Kaladin’s focus shifts to gathering intelligence on the Voidbringers’ movements and potential threats. He recognizes the importance of maps and detailed information to understand their plans and predict their next moves. His concern about the kingdom’s food supply and the refugees underscores the broader human stakes involved in the conflict. As he prepares to report to Elhokar, Kaladin’s determination to uncover the enemy’s intentions and to find a way to protect his people demonstrates his commitment to leadership and the pursuit of justice, even amid uncertainty and danger.



8. A Powerful Lie

The chapter opens with Shallan reflecting on her long-standing inner struggles, revealing that her creative process and emotional turmoil have been intertwined since her youth. Her act of drawing becomes a form of expression and a means to cope with her complex feelings. As she sketches with agitation, Pattern's presence introduces a confession of guilt, acknowledging his role in her past trauma—specifically her mother's death. Shallan's determination to focus on her art amid the chaos illustrates her desire to find calm and clarity amidst her inner conflict, emphasizing the importance of her creative outlet as a form of healing.

Shallan's sketches serve as a window into her mind, capturing her attempts to understand the towering city of Urithiru and its significance. Her frustration with her inability to fully grasp its scale reflects her struggle to comprehend the monumental truths surrounding her and her environment. She is aware of the weight of her responsibilities as a Knight Radiant, especially the need to control her powers and confront her past. Her artistic efforts symbolize her desire to impose order on her chaos, but her internal conflict persists, especially regarding her use of the sword and the truths she must face.

The narrative then shifts to her interaction with the scout and her participation in military life. Shallan's sketches attract admiration from the scout, revealing her talent and the surreal quality of her art, which hints at her subconscious mind processing her fears and uncertainties. Her attempt to act more composed in front of soldiers signifies her awareness of her public image and the pressure to embody the ideals of a Knight Radiant. Her thoughts about the reputation of her order highlight the ongoing struggle to restore trust and honor in a world wary of the ancient Knights Radiant's legacy.

Finally, the chapter underscores the political and social tensions present in Urithiru and the broader war effort. Dalinar's leadership and the efforts to rebuild the Radiants'

reputation are contrasted with lingering skepticism among the populace. Shallan’s internal dialogue about her art, her role, and her identity encapsulates her ongoing journey towards self-understanding and acceptance. Her resolve to carry herself with dignity despite the chaos around her demonstrates her commitment to her path, even as she grapples with the profound truths and lies that define her existence.



9. The Threads of a Screw

The chapter opens with Shallan reflecting on her new status as Brightness Radiant, which grants her a sense of inclusion in significant events, contrasting her previous outsider status. Amidst the chaos of an investigation into a murder, she observes the scene with a mixture of curiosity and exhaustion, especially after using her Stormlight supply on a map that disintegrated. Her perspective offers insight into her feelings of being both a participant and an outsider in the tense environment of the palace and the ongoing political and military turmoil.

As the investigation progresses, the scene shifts to the discovery of a murdered lighteyed officer, Vedekar Perel, found in a chamber with peculiar structural features resembling a screw thread. The body bears signs of a brutal fight, with a precise and disturbing kill—stabbed through the eye—mirroring the earlier death of Highprince Sadeas. This pattern suggests a deliberate and methodical killer, raising fears that the murders are interconnected and possibly orchestrated by a single perpetrator, which alarms the characters and complicates their understanding of the threat.

Dalinar, Navani, and their guards examine the crime scene, noting the similarities in the method of murder and the room’s unusual architecture, which includes stone sculptures resembling spouts and a bathing chamber. Navani’s detailed observations underscore the meticulous nature of the killer’s work, hinting at a level of intelligence and intent behind the murders. The scene highlights the unsettling precision with which the killer operates, adding a layer of menace to an already tense political landscape, and emphasizing the difficulty of uncovering the perpetrator amidst ongoing chaos.

The chapter concludes with Dalinar’s leadership focus shifting to the broader threat facing Roshar, as he orders the withdrawal of troops and the dissemination of warnings to potential allies. Meanwhile, Shallan’s interactions with Renarin and Adolin reveal her

internal tension and her awareness of the dangerous environment around her. Dalinar’s somber reflection on the loss of most investigative personnel underscores the gravity of the situation, where the murder investigation becomes just one facet of a much larger, existential conflict that demands their full attention and resilience.



10. Distractions

The chapter begins with Kaladin reflecting on childhood influences and his evolving perspective on heroism and heresy, setting a tone of introspection. He demonstrates his mastery of Windrunning by leaping from a hilltop, using Stormlight to lift himself and navigate through a rain-drenched landscape filled with dense vivim trees. His movements are fluid and practiced, reminiscent of disciplined training, and are accompanied by internal musings about his past and present responsibilities. Kaladin’s physical agility and mental focus are intertwined as he prepares to face the ongoing threat of Voidbringers, emphasizing his role as a warrior caught between duty and personal history.

The narrative shifts to Kaladin’s interaction with Syl, who appears as a playful, surreal raindrop and then as a young woman, providing comic relief and companionship amid the bleak weather. Their banter reveals Kaladin’s tendency toward seriousness, counterbalanced by Syl’s lightheartedness and her role in uplifting his spirits. Their conversations touch on themes of family, creation, and the nature of spren, illustrating the bond between them and highlighting Syl’s playful, nurturing personality. Kaladin’s reflections on his family and Syl’s imagined potential as a mother deepen the chapter’s exploration of identity, purpose, and the intangible bonds that sustain him in difficult times.

As Kaladin journeys outward, he assesses the villages he encounters, noting the damage inflicted by storms and lightning but finding hope in the absence of widespread attack. His spiral route from Hearthstone to Hornhollow demonstrates his diligent efforts to warn communities about the returning storm and the threat of Voidbringers. The scene underscores the ongoing struggle of rebuilding and survival in a ravaged land, with Kaladin acting as a messenger and protector. His observations about the land’s geography and the resilience of the villagers serve as a reminder of

the persistent danger and the importance of vigilance.

In the final scene, Kaladin arrives at Hornhollow, where signs of life and community resilience emerge despite the destruction. He prepares to address the villagers as a Knight Radiant, symbolized by his blade and his reputation. The villagers' enthusiastic reception, despite the relentless rain, underscores their hope and faith in Kaladin's leadership. The chapter concludes with Kaladin's resolve to deliver his message, embodying his role as a protector and leader amid adversity. This scene encapsulates themes of hope, duty, and the enduring human spirit in the face of relentless storms and threats.

11. The Rift

The chapter opens with a flashback to thirty-three years earlier, capturing Dalinar’s triumphant moment of obtaining his own Shardplate through combat. As he revels in the newfound power, he experiences a surge of energy and confidence, feeling that the world will never be the same. His sense of achievement is tinged with the lingering doubts he once harbored about whether he would ever attain such power. The vivid imagery emphasizes the significance of this milestone in his life, marking a turning point that elevates him beyond mere soldier to a formidable warrior clad in divine armor, symbolizing strength and honor.

Dalinar’s camaraderie with Sadeas and Gavilar is portrayed amidst the morning mist, revealing political tensions and personal ambitions. While Dalinar remains more focused on the battlefield, the others discuss political alliances and strategic marriages as tools to consolidate power. Sadeas suggests that Dalinar’s marriage could forge vital alliances, yet Dalinar dismisses the idea, preferring to focus solely on fighting. The dialogue underscores the contrasting priorities—military valor versus political maneuvering—that define their relationships and the larger power struggles within their kingdom, Alethkar.

The narrative shifts to their military campaign against the city of Rathalas, also known as the Rift. As they prepare for battle, Dalinar questions the presence of a Shardbearer among their enemies, revealing his desire to claim that power for himself. Gavilar’s teasing response about a rival Shardbearer named Tanalan adds a personal rivalry element. The scene intensifies as the army launches an assault, with rocks, arrows, and catapults hurled against them. Dalinar’s resilience and the strength of his Plate are highlighted as he dodges projectiles and advances toward the fortifications, embodying the chaos and brutality of war.

The chapter culminates in a fierce melee atop the city wall, where Dalinar’s combat prowess is vividly depicted. He leaps over defenses, fights through defenders, and destroys enemy equipment with brutal efficiency. The scene emphasizes the visceral nature of battle, with Dalinar experiencing a surge of the Thrill—an adrenaline-fueled rush that heightens his combat abilities. The camaraderie and chaos of the fight reflect his unwavering focus on the fight itself, embodying the warrior’s code. The chapter ends with Dalinar feeling almost invincible, overwhelmed by the violence and power he wields in this relentless confrontation.



12. Negotiations

The chapter begins with a reflection on the grandeur and symbolism of Urithiru, a city built above the storms, exemplified by its towering glass windows. Dalinar, standing in an upper chamber, contemplates the Radiants' legacy and their defiance of worldly limitations. An internal dialogue reveals his idealization of the Radiants, contrasted with a voice that reminds him of their betrayals and human flaws. This internal conflict underscores Dalinar's struggle to reconcile his admiration for their nobility with the darker realities of their history, emphasizing themes of leadership, legacy, and the burdens of memory.

Dalinar prepares for diplomatic negotiations with the emperor of Makabak, represented through a formal, layered communication process involving a spanreed and detailed titles. As he and his team await responses, they strategize how to approach the Azish government, which is characterized by its complex bureaucratic and religious structure. The narrative highlights the political intricacies of Azir, with its layered clerics and the hybrid religious-political roles, illustrating the delicate balance Dalinar must navigate to foster alliances and influence regional power dynamics.

The diplomatic exchange reveals a subtle game of diplomacy, where politeness and formality mask underlying intentions. Dalinar extends an invitation to the Azish emperor to visit Urithiru, emphasizing the city's magnificence and the potential for future cooperation. However, the response from the Azish court is cautious and non-committal, expressing mourning for shared losses rather than engaging directly with Dalinar's proposal. The dialogue showcases the difficulty of diplomatic persuasion, with the Azish avoiding direct commitments and maintaining a reserved stance, reflecting their cultural tendency to avoid offense and their strategic patience.

Throughout the chapter, Dalinar's frustration grows as he perceives the diplomatic exchanges as evasive and insincere. His team recognizes the political nuances at play,

understanding that the Azish are skilled in subtlety and indirect communication. The narrative underscores the challenge of leadership in a fractured world, where alliances must be forged carefully amid mistrust and cultural differences. Dalinar’s determination to unite the various factions remains central, even as he grapples with the complexities of diplomacy and the weight of history, illustrating the ongoing struggle to bring stability and unity to Roshar.



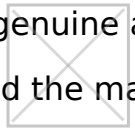
13. Chaperone

The chapter begins with an introspective tone as Shallan reflects on her transformation into Veil, a persona she has been cultivating to navigate her complex circumstances. She feels the enveloping Stormlight as a symbol of her growing powers and her desire for independence, choosing a new living space in Sebarial’s section of Urithiru that offers her a semblance of freedom and a view of the mountain peaks. Her focus on her appearance and disguise highlights her ongoing efforts to master her Lightweaving abilities, emphasizing her determination to control her identity and conceal her true self from those around her.

Shallan’s meticulous preparations for her covert activities reveal her dedication to her dual life. Dressed in her nightgown and practicing her Veil persona, she works on perfecting her disguise, including her voice and mannerisms, to become more fluid and instinctive. Her sketches serve as a visual record of her progress, capturing the various environments and her evolving understanding of Veil’s physicality. These drawings also reflect her internal struggle to reconcile her true self with the persona she projects, as she strives to become more confident and effective in her clandestine endeavors.

The narrative then shifts to a humorous and somewhat awkward encounter with Adolin, who unexpectedly enters her chambers with a plate of food. Her reaction underscores her embarrassment and the delicate balance she maintains to keep her secret life hidden. Her quick efforts to dress and conceal her safehand reveal her awareness of the importance of maintaining her disguise, even in moments of vulnerability. Their banter adds a layer of intimacy and familiarity, illustrating their relationship's complexity, with Adolin’s lightheartedness contrasting her guarded demeanor.

The chapter concludes with playful exchanges between Shallan and Adolin, emphasizing their familiarity and the teasing nature of their relationship. Despite her efforts to remain discreet, Shallan's flirtation and their humorous dialogue reveal a deeper connection and mutual understanding. Adolin’s insistence on revealing personal details humorously underscores their bond, even as she navigates her secret life as a Knight Radiant. The scene encapsulates the tension between her need for secrecy and her genuine affection for Adolin, highlighting the chapter’s themes of identity, trust, and the masks people wear.



14. Squires Can’t Capture

The chapter begins with Kaladin stealthily observing a group of Voidbringers, monstrous enemies from mythological origins, whom he expects to be dangerous and destructive. Instead, he finds them engaged in mundane activities like playing cards in the rain, which surprises him and challenges his preconceived notions of their brutality. The scene is set with Kaladin hiding near their camp, noting their simple living conditions, such as tarps and a single enclosed tent, and their seemingly relaxed demeanor, which contrasts sharply with their feared reputation. This moment prompts a reflection on the disparity between appearances and reality, especially regarding the enemy’s true nature.

Kaladin’s detailed observation reveals that the Voidbringers are more human-like than expected—they speak like common villagers, wear simple clothing, and have features that differ from the mythic monsters he anticipated. Their skin tones vary, and they display no overt signs of the terrifying traits associated with their kind. The dialogue between the male and female parshmen hints at their familiarity with games and social interactions, further humanizing them. Kaladin is struck by how much his assumptions about their ferocity might be misplaced, as they seem more like ordinary people caught in difficult circumstances rather than monsters intent on destruction.

The narrative then shifts to a moment of realization for Kaladin, as he contemplates the apparent disconnect between what he has been told about the Voidbringers and what he is witnessing. He begins to question his understanding of the ongoing conflict, pondering the absence of the expected destructive beasts and red-eyed monsters. This sense of confusion and doubt grows as he considers the possibility that his previous knowledge might have been incomplete or inaccurate, emphasizing a theme of misjudgment and the importance of seeing beyond surface appearances to understand the true nature of the enemy.

The chapter concludes with a sudden alarm, revealing that Kaladin’s presence has been detected. As chaos erupts, the parshmen scramble with makeshift weapons, displaying fear rather than combat readiness. Kaladin, recognizing their lack of true combat skill and seeing their vulnerability, hesitates to attack. Instead, he chooses to surrender, signaling a shift in his perception of the enemy and highlighting the complex, nuanced reality behind the conflicts he faces. This moment underscores themes of empathy, the unpredictability of war, and the importance of understanding one’s foes before rushing into violence.



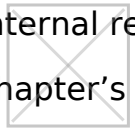
15. Brightness Radiant

The chapter opens with a stark declaration of honesty from a character reflecting on their actions and the costs associated with them, setting a tone of raw truthfulness. The narrative then shifts to a discussion between Shallan and Adolin, who analyze recent murders within a tower, noting similarities in the method and positioning of the victims, Brightlord Perel and Sadeas. They contemplate whether these killings are connected or coincidental, considering the motives and backgrounds of the victims, while the setting emphasizes the ongoing investigation and the darkness settling outside. Pattern’s presence and the use of spheres for light add to the mysterious, tense atmosphere.

Shallan considers the implications of the murders, pondering whether the victims’ prominence influenced their attention and whether lesser-known individuals might also be victims of unexamined violence. She debates the possibility of multiple perpetrators, each acting independently or collaboratively, and questions whether the murders are random or orchestrated. Her analytical mind weighs the evidence, recognizing that high-profile deaths are rarely coincidental, yet struggles to find conclusive proof. She recognizes that the murders might be part of a larger, more complex pattern that she needs to uncover.

As the conversation shifts, Adolin introduces a personal concern: he hints at a deeper issue regarding Shallan’s mysterious abilities and her possession of a Shardblade. She reveals her secret—she has a Shardblade, which she feels conflicted about, given her traumatic past involving her parents' deaths. Adolin’s excitement about her newfound power contrasts with her internal turmoil, highlighting her emotional struggle. Their dialogue reveals underlying tensions about identity, secrecy, and the significance of her abilities, emphasizing the broader theme of hidden truths beneath surface appearances.

The chapter concludes with a poignant exchange about gender roles and expectations. Adolin encourages Shallan to learn how to wield her Blade, dismissing traditional notions of femininity, and urging her to embrace her power confidently. Shallan’s internal conflict intensifies as she contemplates her past actions and the weight of her secret—her killing of her parents. The scene ends with Adolin’s attempt to normalize her possession of the Blade, illustrating his desire to support her despite societal prejudices. Her internal resistance and the looming threat of her concealed truths underscore the chapter’s exploration of identity, power, and concealment.



16. Wrapped Three Times

In this chapter, Dalinar Kholin examines a legendary and mysterious weapon known as the Blade of the Assassin in White, claimed to be forged during the shadowdays by divine intervention. The blade appears ordinary at first glance—elegant, small, and curved—yet it bears unusual characteristics, notably the absence of a gemstone typically used to bond men to Shardblades. Dalinar's inspection, illuminated by Stormlight, reveals that the blade is distinct because it was crafted directly from Honor's soul, making it a unique artifact that does not scream when touched, unlike conventional blades bonded through oaths and spren. This indicates a different form of oath and connection, rooted in Honor's divine essence.

The Stormfather explains the significance of this blade, emphasizing that it is a mark of a different kind of oath—one directly linked to Honor's own soul rather than the spren-based bonds of regular Shardblades. The conversation touches on the nature of oaths and their importance, as well as the contrast between Honor's blade and the other weapons associated with the dead spren. Dalinar reflects on the implications of Honor's death, considering that if Honor's essence still exists in this form, perhaps Odium's power can also be challenged or broken. The Stormfather suggests that Odium, being a force rather than a person, cannot break his own rules, which offers a faint hope for eventual victory.

Dalinar also discusses the strategic potential of the Honorblade and his visions of a future confrontation with Odium, who is depicted as a relentless, ageless force driven by unyielding rage. The Stormfather advises that Odium is unlikely to agree to a direct contest unless presented with the right opportunity—specifically, a champion chosen by Dalinar. This approach might persuade Odium to accept a challenge, as it would give him a chance to fight without risking a direct assault that could leave scars or weaknesses. The concept of time emerges as a crucial element, as the Stormfather

reveals that patience and timing are vital to overcoming such an ancient and powerful adversary.

The chapter concludes with Dalinar securing the Honorblade in a hidden location within the tower, carefully concealing it from others. He reflects on the weapon’s immense power and the importance of using it wisely, contemplating its potential beyond mere weaponry—perhaps as a means to achieve Windrunning and other extraordinary feats. The Stormfather humorously suggests that he cannot see all things, but hints at the blade’s significance and the risks involved. As Dalinar prepares to leave, he considers the strategic advantages it offers, including swift travel via Oathgates. The chapter underscores the delicate balance of power, patience, and divine influence in Dalinar’s ongoing quest to confront Odium and protect Roshar.

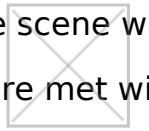
17. Trapped in Shadows

In this chapter from "17. Trapped in Shadows," the narrative centers around Kaladin, who finds himself tied to a tree after being captured by a group of parshmen. Despite his bindings, he remains calm, observing his captors' discussions and assessing their intentions. The parshmen are debating whether to kill him, fearing he might reveal their location, but they lack a clear leader. Kaladin is aware of his surroundings, noting the weather changes and the presence of Syl, the spren, which signifies the return of Stormlight. His reflections reveal a mixture of hope and resignation as he endures captivity under uncertain circumstances.

The dialogue among the parshmen reveals their internal conflicts and motivations. Khen, one of the captors, strongly advocates for killing Kaladin, fearing the threat he poses if freed. Others question the necessity of violence, emphasizing that Kaladin’s ability to find them indicates they are not particularly safe. The conversation hints at a fragile, disorganized group without a strict hierarchy, united mainly by their desire to avoid recapture. As they prepare to move, Kaladin observes the minimal possessions they carry and notices the presence of children, which surprises him given the usual dehumanization of parshmen in stories.

Kaladin’s captivity takes on a more personal tone as he recognizes the children among the parshmen, noting their distinct appearance and the light orange-pink carapaces. Their innocence and laughter contrast sharply with the harsh reality of their situation, prompting Kaladin to reflect on the brutal truth of parshmen breeding and their treatment as animals. The scene deepens his understanding of their circumstances, challenging his preconceptions and stirring complex feelings about their humanity. This moment also triggers memories of his past escape attempts, revealing his long history of resistance and the emotional toll of his failures.

As the group prepares to leave, Kaladin is led through familiar terrain, evoking memories of previous escapes and moments of desperation. His captors discuss strategic matters, including the significance of certain powerful cards like the king, illustrating their understanding of game-like tactics that mirror their own survival struggles. Kaladin’s subtle observations and comments about the game serve as metaphors for his situation—fragile, strategic, and fraught with danger. The chapter ends with a tense scene where Kaladin’s words about the parshmen’s true nature as runaway slaves are met with hostility, underscoring the ongoing conflict between perception and reality in this world.



18. Double Vision

The chapter opens with a reflection on perception versus experience, emphasizing that true understanding comes from direct engagement rather than description. This theme underscores the narrative’s exploration of identity and deception, as characters manipulate appearances and personas to achieve their goals. The protagonist, Shallan, transforms into her alter ego Veil, adopting a more hardened, pragmatic persona. This change involves physical alterations and a deliberate shift in behavior, highlighting her need to conceal her vulnerabilities and navigate dangerous political and social landscapes. The act of becoming Veil is both a protective measure and a burden, illustrating the complex relationship between self-perception and external roles.

Shallan’s transformation is detailed through her preparations and self-presentation, including her attire, demeanor, and the subtle internal doubts she harbors. She carefully constructs Veil’s image—more rugged, intimidating, and experienced—while internally questioning whether her portrayal is convincing enough. Her interactions with Pattern, her spren, reveal her internal struggles and her attempts to master her voice and presence. Pattern’s comments about her slipping in and out of her personas reflect the challenge of maintaining a convincing facade, and their dialogue hints at deeper psychological tensions and her ongoing efforts to find stability amidst chaos.

As she ventures into the night, Veil’s movements through the tower’s corridors and fields reveal her cautious approach to espionage and her awareness of the danger posed by Mraize and the Ghostbloods. Her careful navigation of the tower’s architecture and her awareness of watchful eyes underscore the pervasive threat and her need for discretion. Her interaction with Pattern, including their humorous and philosophical exchanges, provides insight into her mental state—balancing her pragmatic espionage efforts with her emotional vulnerabilities. The chapter emphasizes her internal conflict and the importance of maintaining her cover in a

hostile environment.

The narrative concludes with Veil reaching the bustling market called the Breakaway, a stark contrast to the controlled plans she had envisioned for the city. The rapid emergence of this makeshift market symbolizes the unpredictable and chaotic nature of the political landscape she inhabits. Her focus shifts toward ongoing investigations into Adolin’s efforts to find the murderer, illustrating her continued involvement in complex political intrigues. Overall, the chapter intricately explores themes of identity, deception, and the delicate balance required to survive in a world rife with danger and hidden agendas.

19. The Subtle Art of Diplomacy

The chapter opens with a reflection on a past event, set thirty-one years ago, where Dalinar recalls a feast amidst a stormy environment. The scene highlights the contrasting elements of opulence and chaos, with a lavish feast hall filled with political figures and a raging storm outside. Dalinar observes the grandeur of the gathering and the political tensions at play, emphasizing the importance of alliances and military strategy in their society. The setting reveals a world where diplomacy and power are intertwined, and the storm outside symbolizes the tumultuous nature of their political landscape.

Gavilar, a central figure, discusses military logistics and the strategic use of their resources, such as Soulcasters and high ground, to withstand sieges and storms. The conversation with the Westerner Toh provides insight into the technological and magical advantages of their kingdom, emphasizing the wealth and power contained within the Vorin kingdoms. The dialogue also touches on the legacy of historical figures like the Sunmaker, linking past achievements to present ambitions. Dalinar, meanwhile, observes the political maneuvering and the pomp surrounding Gavilar’s regal demeanor, feeling somewhat disconnected from the celebration.

As the feast progresses, Dalinar's mood shifts from the politeness of the event to a more introspective state. He reflects on the changing nature of warfare and the loss of the simpler joys of battle, contrasting the current political focus with the earlier days of fighting and riding into combat. His discomfort is compounded by practical issues, such as the absence of a knife to eat his food, symbolizing his sense of being an outsider amid the formalities. The chapter underscores the tension between duty and personal desire, illustrating Dalinar’s internal conflict within the political hierarchy.

The scene concludes with Dalinar stepping outside into the storm, seeking clarity amid the chaos. The highstorm’s fury mirrors the turbulent political and personal struggles

he faces. His search for a missing knife and subsequent confrontation with armed men in a bunker reveal his ongoing responsibilities and the dangerous, unpredictable nature of his environment. This ending emphasizes the recurring theme of facing external chaos while grappling with internal conflicts, highlighting Dalinar’s resilience and sense of duty in a world rife with political intrigue and natural fury.



20. Cords to Bind

The chapter opens with a reflection on the importance of caution when dealing with dangerous elements, drawing a parallel to the use of spices and the pain of lessons learned through hardship. The quote from *Oathbringer* emphasizes the painful yet necessary process of growth and understanding. This sets the tone for a narrative centered on survival, learning, and the complex emotions tied to freedom and captivity. The author explores how pain and caution serve as guides in life, highlighting the importance of experience in shaping resilience and wisdom amidst adversity.

Kaladin’s practical approach to injury and survival is demonstrated through his careful treatment of Khen’s wound. He emphasizes cleanliness and infection prevention, reflecting his practical knowledge and leadership. As the characters tend to their wounds and gather resources, the scene shifts to their makeshift camp, where resourcefulness is evident—using metal buckets for boiling water and crafting tools from available materials. This setting underscores their struggle to adapt and survive in the wilderness after fleeing captivity, emphasizing their resilience despite limited resources.

The narrative deepens with a dialogue between Kaladin and Sah, a parshman who resents the authority Kaladin exerts. Sah’s frustration with their situation and feelings of lost autonomy are palpable. He questions the legitimacy of Kaladin’s leadership, expressing anger about the return to a hierarchy that resembles slavery. Kaladin’s silent response reflects his understanding of their shared pain and the complexities of leadership in a fractured world. Their exchange reveals underlying tensions—between trust, authority, and the desire for true freedom—highlighting the emotional toll of their escape and the uncertain future ahead.

In the concluding part, Syl’s warning of an impending highstorm introduces an external threat, forcing Kaladin to confront the reality of their precarious situation. His internal

struggle surfaces as he grapples with the possibility of inevitable conflict and war, recognizing that the parshmen’s desire for freedom may lead to violence. Kaladin’s reflection on the nature of war, freedom, and the consequences of past injustices underscores the chapter’s core themes: the moral ambiguity of rebellion, the costs of survival, and the difficult path toward true liberation. The chapter leaves readers contemplating the balance between peace and conflict in a fractured world.



21. Set Up to Fail

The chapter opens with a humorous and candid portrayal of Shallan’s morning after a night of reckless behavior, highlighting her disoriented state and the chaos of her recent actions. She wakes up in a disheveled bed, confused about the time and her whereabouts, reflecting her internal turmoil and the consequences of her night of drinking and clandestine investigations. Her interactions with Adolin reveal her discomfort and vulnerability, contrasting her usual composed demeanor with her current fragile state. The scene sets a tone of lightheartedness mixed with underlying tension, emphasizing her struggle to balance her responsibilities and personal vulnerabilities amidst the chaos.

Shallan’s conversation with Adolin delves into her physical and emotional state, particularly her frustration with the stereotypical blame placed on women for their biological cycles. Her sharp wit and humor serve to critique societal attitudes toward gender and health, revealing her frustration with being misunderstood or dismissed. The dialogue also explores her sense of independence and resilience, as she dismisses her physical discomfort as minor compared to her broader challenges. Her banter with Adolin underscores her wit and ability to find humor even in difficult circumstances, while subtly hinting at her deeper concerns and internal conflicts.

Throughout the chapter, Shallan reflects on her recent reckless actions, including her solo investigation into her murderer and her excessive drinking. She recognizes the dangers of her behavior, especially given her responsibilities as a Radiant and her need to practice with Stormlight. Her concern about the depletion of her infused spheres reveals her awareness of her limits and the importance of managing her powers carefully. The conversation with Adolin also highlights her resourcefulness and her tendency to push boundaries, which could jeopardize her safety and mission. Her internal monologue exposes her growing realization of the risks involved in her current

lifestyle and the need for restraint.

The chapter concludes with a mix of humor and introspection, as Shallan contemplates her reckless choices and their implications. Her gratitude toward Adolin and Palona is tinged with guilt and concern, especially regarding her use of Stormlight and her recent activities. The scene emphasizes her desire to maintain her composure and responsibility, despite her impulsive tendencies. Her awareness of her dwindling resources and the mysterious persistence of Stormlight in her environment deepen the sense of urgency and uncertainty. Overall, the chapter combines humor, vulnerability, and introspection to portray Shallan’s complex character as she navigates her perilous world with wit and resilience.

22. The Darkness Within

The chapter opens with a vivid depiction of Mraize, a scarred soldier dressed in Sadeas’s uniform, accompanied by an unusual pet chicken that appears more predatory than typical farmyard fowl. This scene sets a tone of intrigue and subtle menace, emphasizing the strange and layered nature of Mraize’s character. The setting is tense, as Shallan and Adolin observe Mraize’s demeanor and the environment, hinting at underlying political and military tensions. The presence of the chicken and Mraize’s appearance suggest a deeper symbolism, possibly reflecting hidden threats or the predatory nature of the characters involved.

The dialogue shifts to a political confrontation, where Ialai discusses the behavior of whitespines and the dangers they pose, metaphorically linking this to the ongoing political machinations. Adolin and Ialai exchange veiled accusations and accusations, revealing the fragile alliances and mistrust among the highprinces. Adolin’s earnest declaration that he does not believe his father is responsible for a recent murder underscores the chapter’s focus on loyalty, suspicion, and the high stakes of court intrigue. Shallan observes these exchanges, recognizing the complex web of deception and truth that underpins their interactions.

Shallan’s interaction with Mraize in the side room exposes the clandestine nature of their relationship and the larger conspiracy at play. Mraize’s calm, calculating manner and his revelations about the interest in Shallan’s actions highlight the covert operations and the presence of powerful, secretive factions. Mraize’s assertion that morality is irrelevant compared to loyalty and power underscores the ruthless philosophy guiding these characters. Shallan’s defiance and her insistence that she is not one of them reveal her internal conflict and her resistance to being fully drawn into their schemes.

The chapter concludes with Mraize issuing a clandestine task: to secure Urithiru and investigate the source of the darkness within it. This mission is presented as vital for controlling the emerging threat of the Voidbringers, with Mraize offering information about Helaran as a reward. His departure, marked by a seemingly bumbling gait, leaves the reader with a sense of foreboding and the understanding that the characters’ actions are intertwined with larger, ominous forces. The chapter emphasizes themes of loyalty, secrecy, and the struggle for power amid looming chaos.



23. Storming Strange

The chapter begins with Kaladin and his parshmen seeking refuge during a storm, highlighting the tense atmosphere and the ongoing threat posed by the unpredictable weather phenomena. Kaladin negotiates with a merchant for shelter and supplies, emphasizing the importance of secrecy regarding his group’s movements. The merchant mentions strange disappearances of caravans from Revolar, adding an element of mystery and foreboding to the setting. Kaladin's concern about the storm's recurrence and its potential implications underscores the unpredictable nature of the environment they are navigating, setting a tone of uncertainty and danger.

As they prepare for the storm, Kaladin arranges for shelter and supplies, emphasizing the need for discretion and security. He instructs the merchant to keep their arrival hidden from the army, reflecting the covert nature of their mission and the importance of maintaining secrecy. The chapter reveals Kaladin’s strategic mindset, balancing immediate survival with the larger goal of protecting his group. The parshmen, led by Khen and others, gather anxiously, demonstrating their reliance on Kaladin’s leadership and the ongoing urgency of their situation amidst the storm's fury.

The narrative then shifts to the parshmen’s arrival at a bunker, where they hunker down as the storm intensifies outside. Kaladin reflects on his feelings toward the storm, feeling both a kinship and wariness due to its destructive power, which has repeatedly threatened his life. The storm is depicted as a force that renews the gemstones carrying Stormlight, symbolizing both danger and potential power. Kaladin’s internal conflict about how long he can remain in this isolated position, and his growing awareness of the broader world’s chaos, adds depth to his character and hints at the larger stakes beyond their immediate survival.

In the final moments, Kaladin considers the need to send a message to his allies and retrieve his spanreed, indicating his desire to stay connected to the wider conflict. He

notices a strange flicker of color from Syl, who appears different in appearance and demeanor, hinting at new developments or transformations. This encounter underscores the ongoing mystery surrounding Syl and the larger forces at play, leaving the reader with a sense of anticipation about the unfolding events and Kaladin’s next moves in this tumultuous landscape.



24. Men of Blood and Sorrow

The chapter opens with Dalinar reflecting on his past, specifically recalling his relationship with Evi, a woman of striking pale yellow hair whom he courted out of political necessity rather than love. These memories surface amidst the chaos of his current duties, prompting questions about why he is only now remembering her and the painful years after her death. Dalinar’s introspection hints at deeper, unresolved grief, and his dealings with the Nightwatcher, which he believes may have taken some of his memories as part of a bargain, leaving him haunted by fragmented recollections. This introspection sets a tone of internal conflict and the lingering impact of his past.

As Dalinar stands on the Urithiru plateau with his guards, he observes the ongoing efforts to harness Stormlight through technological devices and the unpredictable weather patterns that threaten their stability. The Weeping storm has disrupted centuries of record-keeping, complicating their understanding of climate and impacting vital aspects like agriculture and trade. Despite these challenges, the focus remains on maintaining the city’s defenses and technological advancements, emphasizing the precariousness of their situation amid the Everstorm and the Voidbringers’ threat.

The scene shifts to a diplomatic meeting at Urithiru, where Dalinar welcomes representatives from other kingdoms, notably Taravangian of Kharbranth and Adrotagia, the head scribe. The political dynamics are evident as Dalinar navigates alliances and reconfirms relationships. Taravangian’s appearance reveals a figure affected by illness, now more subdued and less sharp than before, while the introduction of a new Knight Radiant, Malata, signifies the ongoing evolution of their military and spiritual strength. The interactions highlight the fragile yet strategic alliances forming in the face of external threats.

In the final scene, Taravangian and Dalinar ascend the tower, with Taravangian expressing genuine curiosity about the technological marvels around him, such as the lifts powered by Stormlight. Their conversation exposes Taravangian’s admiration for the engineering and the mysteries behind it, contrasting with his usual political cunning. The chapter underscores the political complexity of their alliance, Taravangian’s personal struggles, and the technological innovations that symbolize hope and resilience. Overall, the chapter blends personal reflection, political diplomacy, and technological progress, illustrating the multifaceted efforts to confront impending calamities.

25. The Girl Who Looked Up

The chapter opens with a stark, haunting confession from an unnamed narrator, admitting to murders, including one involving someone who loved them dearly. This preface sets a tone of darkness and moral complexity that permeates the story. It hints at themes of guilt, remorse, and the weight of past actions, inviting readers to contemplate the deeper emotional and ethical layers within the narrative. The tone is introspective, emphasizing the gravity of the narrator’s deeds and establishing a somber mood that contrasts with the vivid world of Roshar where the story unfolds. This opening underscores the chapter’s exploration of human flaws and the burden of truth.

The narrative then shifts to Shallan exploring the ancient, abandoned city of Urithiru, depicted as a skeletal, cavernous structure beneath the surface. The imagery of veins and strata emphasizes the city’s organic, almost alive, but decayed state, with corridors that have never seen sunlight. Despite the grandeur of the ruins, there is a pervasive sense of emptiness and darkness, symbolizing the lost knowledge and the futility of mankind’s conquest over nature and time. Shallan’s wandering through these silent halls reflects her desire to connect with history and understand the mysteries of the past, even as disappointment looms over her expectations of discovering advanced technology or significant artifacts.

As she ventures deeper into the city, Shallan encounters a large, theater-like chamber and perceives it as a space for storytelling and shared imagination. Her reflections on plays and stories reveal her longing for human connection and the comfort found in shared lies—stories that create meaning and unity amid chaos. Pattern’s curiosity about these “lies” underscores a recurring theme of storytelling as a form of understanding others and oneself. This scene highlights the importance of narrative in shaping identity and offers a glimpse into Shallan’s inner world, where imagination and

memory serve as anchors amid the unknown.

In the final part of the chapter, Shallan visualizes a childhood scene involving a girl with a scarf and a wall that symbolizes barriers and mysteries of the past. She constructs a vivid, symbolic tableau using her sketches and Stormlight, illustrating the contrast between innocence and the fears of the unknown. The wall represents both physical and metaphorical obstacles—barriers that protect yet imprison. Through her storytelling, Shallan emphasizes themes of curiosity, exploration, and the human tendency to seek understanding beyond what is visible. The chapter concludes with the girl’s persistent gaze at the wall, embodying hope and wonder in the face of uncertainty.

26. Blackthorn Unleashed

The chapter begins with a flashback to twenty-nine years earlier, depicting Dalinar's spiritual and cultural practices amid a warcamp. He observes Evi performing her unique prayers with burning glyphs, highlighting her heretical beliefs and her divergence from traditional religious customs. Dalinar’s simple prayer for strength reveals his pragmatic mindset, while Evi’s words about the One and her heretical faith contrast with the orthodox Ardents' teachings. Their interaction underscores Dalinar's internal conflict regarding his faith and his relationship with Evi, emphasizing the tension between personal beliefs and societal expectations in their world.

As the narrative transitions to the present, Dalinar prepares for an upcoming battle, donning his Shardplate and mounting his horse amid the gathering army. The scene captures the scale of the conflict, with soldiers, cavalry, and archers readying for combat. Dalinar’s thoughts reveal his focus on the strategic importance of this confrontation, not just as a military engagement but as a pivotal moment for the kingdom’s future. The atmosphere is tense, filled with anticipation for the impending clash, symbolizing a critical turning point in the ongoing war and political struggles.

Dalinar’s interaction with his brother Gavilar introduces political intrigue and military strategy. Gavilar’s plans to eliminate Highprince Kalanor and solidify control through the death of Kalanor, a Shardbearer, highlight the ruthless tactics employed to consolidate power. Dalinar’s disdain for certain leaders and his skepticism about their motives reflect his own moral code and desire for decisive action. Gavilar’s confidence in his plans and his subtle manipulations reveal the complex political landscape, setting the stage for a confrontation that could dramatically alter the power dynamics within their realm.

The chapter concludes with Dalinar contemplating Gavilar’s desire for him to bring Kalanor into battle to "unleash" him, symbolizing the need to provoke Kalanor into

action. Dalinar’s internal suspicion about Gavilar’s true intentions—whether they aim to control or destroy Kalanor—adds layers of complexity to their relationship. The narrative underscores the overarching theme of power, control, and the unpredictable nature of leadership within a war-torn society. Dalinar’s resolve to act decisively reflects his role as the Blackthorn, poised to influence the course of events with strength and strategic insight.



27. Playing Pretend

The chapter opens with Shallan observing the political tension within Urithiru, where leaders debate the strategic movements of the enemy and the threat posed to various kingdoms. Despite her presence at the meeting, she finds herself distracted by her surroundings and her own artistic pursuits, sketching the scene rather than participating in the discussion. Her discomfort with the political atmosphere and her desire for solitude are evident as she prefers the light and quiet of the upper levels, away from the watchful eyes of others. Pattern, her spren, inspects her drawings, revealing a mysterious, ancient spren linked to Odium, hinting at long-forgotten histories that still influence current events.

The narrative shifts to the ongoing military and diplomatic concerns, with Dalinar and other highprinces discussing enemy movements and the threat to key locations like Azir and the Oathgates. The enemy’s strategic focus appears to be on gaining control of these critical gateways, with reports indicating enemy armies gathering in Marat and a mysterious blackout affecting major cities. The loss of spanreeds, essential for communication and navigation, raises fears of enemy interference, possibly locating and disabling these vital tools. Kaladin’s safety is acknowledged, but uncertainty remains about the enemy’s capabilities, fueling the urgency of the coalition’s strategic planning.

As the meeting continues, the focus turns to internal tensions and the lingering effects of past conflicts. Shallan sketches various figures, including former and current leaders, as she contemplates the pattern of violence and impersonation by a spren mimicking previous attacks. Her observations suggest a deeper, possibly malicious influence behind the recent violence, hinting at an entity that is mimicking the violence from past days to sow chaos. The chapter underscores the fragile state of trust and the importance of understanding the enemy’s methods, as well as the

lingering trauma inflicted by the ongoing desolation and violence.

The chapter concludes with a personal interaction between Shallan and a Thaylen merchant named Malata, who questions the current state of the Radiants and the possibility of rebuilding. Their conversation reflects the uncertainty and cautious hope for renewal, emphasizing that reliance on past strengths might be crucial in facing the present crisis. Shallan’s reflections on the past and her cautious optimism highlight the tension between hope and despair, illustrating the complex emotions of the characters as they navigate a world torn by war, political strife, and ancient mysteries that continue to influence their fate.

28. Another Option

The chapter opens with a candid reflection on human nature, as the narrator admits to being labeled a monster and acknowledges the fears that many of us harbor about the potential for darkness within. This introspective preface sets a tone of vulnerability and self-awareness, suggesting that the true monster may be not an external force but an aspect of human capacity for both good and evil. This acknowledgment frames the broader themes of moral ambiguity and inner conflict that permeate the story, emphasizing that even those who seek righteousness can harbor fears and flaws, making the struggle for virtue complex and ongoing.

The narrative then shifts to a political and strategic context, where Dalinar Kholin faces a setback as Azir's decision to seal off the Oathgate signifies a major diplomatic failure. The rejection from Azir underscores the fragile nature of alliances and the delicate balance of power in this world. Despite the disappointment, Dalinar remains resolute, focusing on forging alliances with other nations like Thaylenah and Kharbranth. His strategic efforts aim to unite the Eastern states into a coalition, hoping to create enough strength to influence Western nations later. The chapter highlights the importance of diplomacy, persistence, and adaptability in the face of diplomatic rejection.

Amidst the political turmoil, the story explores the mysterious underground tunnels within Urithiru, which are filled with strange phenomena and potential dangers. Dalinar's curiosity about these tunnels, especially the strange hole at the ceiling, hints at hidden threats lurking beneath the surface of the city. His attempt to investigate using Stormlight demonstrates both his resourcefulness and the uncertainty of what lies within the tunnels. The presence of a creature like a mink and the circulating air suggest complex, possibly supernatural or fabrial-related, mechanisms at work. This subplot adds a layer of intrigue and foreshadows potential threats that could challenge

the city’s stability.

The chapter concludes with Dalinar receiving a tense and final communication from Queen Fen of Thaylenah, who firmly rejects his overtures for alliance. Her stark refusal and the tone of finality reveal the deep-rooted mistrust and political complexities that hinder unity. Dalinar’s frustration and sense of helplessness are palpable as he reflects on the barriers to diplomacy and the personal toll of leadership. His internal struggle is compounded by the realization that in this fractured world, alliances are fragile, and the path forward remains uncertain. The chapter ends with Dalinar retreating into the corridors, contemplating his next move amid the ongoing chaos and the weight of leadership.

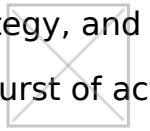
29. No Backing Down

The chapter opens with a reflective tone, quoting from *Oathbringer* to set a contemplative mood. Veil, a covert operative, moves through the bustling Breakaway market, sensing an unseen threat that only she can hear. Despite the lively trade and highstorm activity signifying a period of stability, Veil remains alert to a lurking predator beneath the surface of the festivities. Her heightened awareness contrasts with the apparent normalcy, emphasizing her role as a watcher and protector amid chaos. This sense of underlying danger underscores the tension between the vibrant market life and the silent menace she perceives, hinting at an imminent confrontation.

Veil’s investigation intensifies as she monitors the market and the activities of her team, aiming to detect signs of the threat she senses. Dalinar’s increased patrols and strategic measures reflect the ongoing effort to maintain security, yet Veil believes the real danger requires more targeted surveillance. Her team’s fatigue and the mundane routines of her allies, such as Shallan’s unremarkable training and sketches, highlight the contrast between superficial appearances and underlying threats. Veil’s focus on hunting the hunter reveals her determination to identify and neutralize the predator before it strikes, emphasizing her role as a vigilant guardian operating in the shadows.

The narrative shifts to a scene in a tavern where Veil’s team, Gaz and Red, are stationed, waiting for signs of trouble. The atmosphere is tense but casual, with the team discussing their expectations and sharing light banter, demonstrating their camaraderie. Veil’s strategic planning is evident as she anticipates an attack based on recent violence—a bottle fight that resulted in a man’s death. Her careful distribution of sketches and instructions illustrates her meticulous approach to surveillance. The scene underscores her patience and confidence that the attack will occur soon, revealing her hope that her efforts will finally bear fruit.

As the chapter progresses, Veil’s attention is drawn to a disturbance in the market, and she prepares herself for action. Her assessment of the crowd’s behavior and her readiness to confront the emerging threat highlight her sharp instincts and dedication. The scene captures her multifaceted nature—simultaneously observing, analyzing, and preparing to intervene. Her interactions with her team and her internal reflections on the nature of Radiants and her own role deepen the narrative, emphasizing the blend of vigilance, strategy, and personal insight that define her character. The chapter culminates in a burst of activity, signaling that the anticipated confrontation is imminent.



30. Mother of Lies

The chapter opens with a reflection on vulnerability and the willingness to expose oneself to danger, exemplified by Shallan’s readiness to confront a malevolent entity. Her openness allows the spren Re-Shephir to sense her presence, revealing its own confused fascination with humanity. The creature is depicted as an ancient, chaotic being born from a shattered soul, created to sow destruction and confusion. Its nature is instinctual and alien, driven by curiosity and a compulsive attraction to violence, with no capacity for love or attachment. This sets the tone for the intense, dangerous confrontation that follows, highlighting the complex relationship between humans and spren.

As Shallan engages with Re-Shephir, she perceives its terror and desperation, understanding that it is a creature long imprisoned and terrified of being trapped again. The spren’s history is marked by its origins as a fragment of a greater, terrible entity, and its current state is one of fear of recurrence. It had been subdued by a Lightweaver—Shallan—who recognized its true nature, which makes it fear her as a formidable and understanding foe. This revelation adds depth to her role as a Lightweaver, emphasizing her unique ability to connect with and manipulate these ancient, chaotic spirits.

During the confrontation, Shallan taps into her darker, more ferocious instincts, drawing strength from her past trauma and anger. She pushes herself physically and mentally into Re-Shephir’s essence, battling not only the creature but also her own fears and secrets. Her attack is fueled by a mixture of hatred for her perceived weakness and a desire to break free from the constraints of her previous self. The act of confronting Re-Shephir becomes a symbolic struggle for her identity and power, with her determination wavering as she faces the creature’s primal, terrified response.

In the aftermath, the creature’s scream of pain and fear signals its retreat, and the scene shifts to the physical aftermath of the battle. Shallan, weakened and exhausted, is helped by Adolin and others, while her mind races with the implications of what transpired. She recognizes that the entity fled into a deeper part of the mountain, but chooses not to pursue it, wary of further danger. The chapter concludes with a focus on the mysterious pillar of gemstones in the room, symbolizing wealth and power, and hinting at the ongoing significance of this confrontation within the larger narrative. The chapter underscores themes of fear, identity, and the complex interplay between chaos and control.

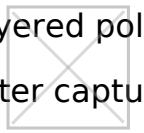
31. Demands of the Storm

The chapter begins with a reflection on hope and foolishness, quoting from *Oathbringer*, setting a tone of resilience amidst chaos. It then follows Kaladin’s journey from his childhood dreams of joining the military to his current reality, where he observes the stark differences between his expectations and the actual state of the world. His experiences in various warcamps and the city of Revolar reveal a landscape that is chaotic and unorganized, contrasting sharply with his idealized notions of cities. The city’s sprawling, haphazard layout underscores the unpredictability and disorder that define the current environment, emphasizing the contrast between perception and reality.

As Kaladin and his team of parshmen enter Revolar, he notes the stark differences in their appearance and equipment compared to the city’s other inhabitants. Kaladin’s pride in teaching the parshmen survival skills highlights his sense of purpose and hope amid turmoil. The city teems with life—markets, workers, and various crowds—yet beneath this vibrancy, signs of violence and looting suggest recent conflict and instability. Kaladin’s observations hint at the aftermath of a battle or invasion, with broken windows and signs of forced entry, indicating that the city has recently been conquered or ravaged.

The narrative then shifts to the deeper political and moral questions surrounding the city’s occupation. Kaladin’s concern about the fate of the humans and the parshmen grows as he witnesses the aftermath of violence. Dialogue with Sah reveals differing perspectives on the conflict—Sah’s desire to prevent further oppression and Kaladin’s moral dilemma about the true nature of justice. Syl’s presence and her observations about the highstorm approaching add a sense of urgency, emphasizing the impending natural danger that could further complicate the situation. The chapter explores themes of oppression, justice, and the possibility of unity beyond racial divides.

Finally, the chapter depicts the process of integration and the complex interactions between parshmen and humans. Kaladin’s group encounters a processing station where parshmen are being sorted and assigned roles, illustrating the ongoing efforts to organize the displaced and newly freed. The dialogue about the parshman who wishes to fight alongside humans underscores the nuanced relationships forming amid chaos. The mention of Fused and the need for permission to declare someone free introduces the layered political structure and the uncertain future for both races. Overall, the chapter captures a moment of transition, tension, and the search for hope amid destruction.



32. Company

The chapter opens with Shallan settled in Sebarial’s lavish sitting room, a space marked by its unusual architecture and opulent furnishings. Despite the grandeur, the room features a hole covered with splintery boards, hinting at ongoing construction or hazards. Shallan’s physical state is fragile, still chilled from her recent encounter with Re-Shephir, a formidable spren linked to the Voidbringers. She finds comfort in Palona’s company and a warm cup of citrus tea, reflecting her desire for normalcy amid the chaos of her recent experiences. Her discomfort underscores the emotional and physical toll of her journey, emphasizing her vulnerability despite her outward composure.

Shallan’s conversation with Palona shifts to her recent, harrowing encounter with Re-Shephir, a being of ancient lore and one of the Unmade. She describes Re-Shephir as a beautiful yet terrifying spren, driven by a desperate desire to understand humans, which manifests in violence. Shallan’s insights reveal that Re-Shephir is more than a myth; she is a creature seeking something lost, perhaps her own humanity. This interaction reveals the deep mystery surrounding the Unmade, whose true nature and origins remain elusive. Shallan’s reflections highlight how little is understood about these entities, even by scholars, emphasizing the enduring enigma that surrounds them.

The narrative delves into the history of Re-Shephir, revealing she was once captive and has been waiting in hiding for centuries. Shallan ponders the possibility that she and others like her might still be present, lurking undetected. Her concern about the whereabouts of other captives and the potential danger they pose adds a layer of tension, hinting at larger threats looming beneath the surface. Despite her fears, Shallan’s thoughts also reveal her hope that these entities might be indistinguishable from ordinary people—an unsettling idea that complicates her understanding of the

world. Her exhaustion and emotional strain are palpable as she grapples with these revelations.

The chapter concludes with a sense of impending change as Adolin announces the arrival of someone significant at the tower—Jasnah Kholin. The atmosphere shifts from introspection to anticipation, signaling the end of Part One. Shallan’s internal struggle with her fears and her emerging sense of stability are contrasted by the external events unfolding. Her realization that she is beginning to feel like an adult, capable of handling her circumstances, marks a pivotal moment of personal growth. The chapter ends with a mix of relief and anticipation, setting the stage for new developments and challenges as the story moves forward.

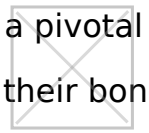
33. A Lecture

The chapter begins with an exchange of correspondence, revealing that Jasnah Kholin is alive, a fact that profoundly impacts Shallan. This news shifts her emotional state, bringing a mix of relief and urgency. Despite her recent trauma and the chaos surrounding her, she is consumed with questions about Jasnah’s survival and her mysterious absence. Shallan reflects on her own ordeal with the Unmade, noting her attempt to understand and analyze her experiences through her sketches. The chapter emphasizes the importance of Jasnah’s return, which signifies a turning point, altering the course of her investigations and her understanding of the unfolding events.

As Shallan seeks out Jasnah in Urithiru, her feelings are conflicted—she is both eager and anxious to see her. The narrative details her journey through the tower, describing the atmosphere and her internal struggles. She notices the change in her own emotional state, feeling a sense of liberation from fear and wrongness that had haunted her. Her cautious approach underscores her admiration and insecurity toward Jasnah, highlighting the complex dynamics of their relationship. The chapter also hints at the tower’s mysterious and oppressive aura, which dissipates once the source of darkness is confronted, symbolizing her growing confidence.

Upon finding Jasnah, Shallan observes her in her element—confident, composed, and strikingly beautiful. The scene captures Jasnah’s physical and intellectual strength, emphasizing her resilience after her apparent ordeal. Their interaction reveals Jasnah’s scientific curiosity about the unusual phenomena and her interest in the ancient technology behind the magical artifacts, such as fabrials and Shardblades. Jasnah’s explanations about spren and fabrial creation deepen the reader’s understanding of the lore, and her pragmatic, yet somewhat dramatic, manner of discourse underscores her character’s brilliance and flair. This moment also underscores the contrast between Jasnah’s composed exterior and the dangerous situations she endures.

The chapter concludes with Jasnah’s instructive attitude toward Shallan, urging her to document her observations and sketches accurately. Their exchange reveals underlying tensions—Shallan’s initial sense of subservience clashes with her desire for independence. Jasnah’s apology for past mistakes and her recognition of Shallan’s progress serve as a catalyst for the younger woman’s growth. The narrative ends on a note of mutual respect, with Jasnah’s leadership and wisdom inspiring Shallan. The chapter portrays a pivotal moment of revelation, intellectual curiosity, and the strengthening of their bond amid the larger mysteries of their world.



34. Resistance

The chapter opens with Dalinar recognizing the presence of an intruder and the Stormfather indicating that it is time for a significant event. Dalinar finds himself transported into a surreal, liminal space characterized by a black sky and an endless, bone-white rocky landscape. Here, shapes of smoke and familiar objects appear and dissolve, emphasizing the ethereal and intangible nature of the vision. The Stormfather’s voice reveals a focus on a crucial figure—Her—and hints at a tumultuous event unfolding in her city. Dalinar’s role is to observe and facilitate a vision that will reveal the past and the true nature of the Knights Radiant, emphasizing their righteousness and protective purpose.

Dalinar’s interaction with the Stormfather reveals a layered understanding of visions and the metaphysical realm. The Stormfather explains that the visions are not places but manifestations of the soul of everything—objects and beings alike—capable of a form of remembrance after death. Dalinar learns that all things, even broken vases, possess a soul that can remember their original form, which is a profound philosophical insight into the nature of existence and memory. This explanation surprises Dalinar, as it suggests that even the most mundane objects have a form of consciousness that persists beyond their physical destruction. The Stormfather’s musings deepen the mystical tone of the vision, blending philosophy with the supernatural.

The scene shifts to Dalinar flying through a vivid vision, initially experiencing panic and disorientation. He is immersed in a Skyward flight, glowing with Stormlight, and observes a radiant Windrunner leading a rescue mission. Dalinar recognizes the Windrunner as a fellow Radiant, flying to save a village from a monstrous threat. The vision emphasizes the protective role of the Knights Radiant, showcasing their valor and the use of Lashings to maneuver in the sky. Dalinar’s confusion about his own

appearance and equipment highlights his unfamiliarity with the ancient radiant armor and the differences from modern Shardplate, prompting questions about the evolution of their technology and the nature of the radiant powers.

In the final segment, Dalinar’s practical concerns emerge as he interacts with his environment within the vision. He notices anomalies in his armor and equipment, questioning why his helm won’t retract and why he lacks the glowing amber armor seen in the past. His questions reveal a curiosity about the differences between the ancient and current Radiant gear, hinting at deeper mysteries about their origins. Dalinar also contemplates the limitations of these visions, understanding that they are re-creations without true memories of the past, created by Honor’s will. He considers involving scholars like Navani and Jasnah to analyze these visions further, aiming to uncover truths that may lie hidden within these crafted realities.

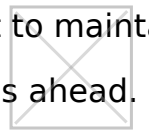
35. First into the Sky

The chapter opens with Sigzil reflecting on his dreams and past ambitions, contrasting his current life with his aspirations of passing government service exams in Azish. His memories evoke a sense of longing and disappointment, emphasizing how far he has strayed from his original goals. Despite the hardships and his modest background, Sigzil still harbors hopes for a better future, though he is acutely aware of the barriers he faces as a son of laborers. His introspection reveals a deep internal struggle between his past ambitions and his present reality, set against the backdrop of a disciplined military environment.

Sigzil’s morning routine highlights the camaraderie and chaos among the soldiers of Bridge Four. Lopen’s antics, such as practicing upside-down eating and attempting to walk on the ceiling, inject humor into the narrative, showcasing the men’s resilience and lightheartedness despite their circumstances. The interactions reveal their close bonds and individual personalities, especially Lopen’s cheerful bravado and Sigzil’s pragmatic attitude. The scene also underscores the challenges of discipline and order within their group, contrasting their efforts with the strict expectations of Azir’s culture, where orderliness is highly valued.

As Sigzil prepares for the day, he observes the diverse physical and cultural traits of his fellow soldiers, including their tattoos and unique features. This reinforces the theme of diversity within the group and the importance of Stormlight healing, which has transformed some but not all. Sigzil’s thoughts turn inward again, contemplating how his life might have been different if he had succeeded in his studies and avoided trouble. His moment of self-doubt and reflection underscores the ongoing struggle for identity and purpose amid the chaos of military life and the lingering shadows of past failures.

The chapter concludes with Sigzil seeking out Kaladin, who is engaged in morning exercises, and discussing the state of their battalion. Their conversation highlights the administrative chaos and logistical difficulties they face, emphasizing the burden of leadership in a military setting. Sigzil’s role as a scribe and assistant underscores the importance of organization and structure, even amidst the physical and emotional hardships. The dialogue also hints at the broader themes of duty, responsibility, and the ongoing fight to maintain order and morale within their ranks, setting the stage for further challenges ahead.



36. Hero

The chapter opens with a reflection on Dalinar's past, set twenty-four years earlier, revealing his struggles and the domestic scene in his household. Dalinar is dealing with a malfunctioning fireplace, symbolizing perhaps his ongoing battles and imperfections. Despite the hardships, there is a warmth in his family life, especially in his relationship with Evi, who is pregnant. The scene emphasizes a moment of quiet intimacy, contrasting Dalinar’s external conflicts with his internal longing for peace and stability amidst a turbulent world. His observations of flamespren and their playful, almost sentient dance evoke a mystical element intertwined with his contemplations on the nature of spren and emotion.

Throughout the chapter, Dalinar's internal dialogue and conversations with Evi reveal his philosophical musings about the nature of the spren, emotions, and the divine. Evi’s gentle encouragement to enjoy life and accept what the One has granted contrasts with Dalinar's tendency to brood over his responsibilities and past conflicts. Their dialogue explores themes of transformation, faith, and the mystical aspects of their world, with Dalinar pondering whether spren embody the emotions they represent—anger, glory, or fire—raising questions about the essence of these spirits and their connection to human experience. Evi’s calm demeanor and her advice to seek peace through self-awareness highlight her role as a grounding influence in Dalinar's turbulent mind.

Dalinar's reflections also touch on his personal limitations and societal expectations, especially concerning his aging and the diminishing importance of duels as a form of honor or strength. His concern about how others perceive his vitality and purpose underscores his internal struggle with identity and legacy. The conversation about the divine and the mystical, including references to the Nightwatcher and the Old Magic, indicates ongoing tensions between traditional beliefs and the more mystical, perhaps

forbidden, knowledge that lurks beneath the surface of their society. Evi’s mention of traveling to the Valley to meet the One or the divine avatar hints at deeper spiritual pursuits and the potential dangers of delving into old magic.

The chapter concludes with Dalinar’s interaction with his brother Gavilar, who arrives dressed regally, symbolizing his status and authority. The scene underscores the contrast between Dalinar's internal doubts and Gavilar’s commanding presence as a king. Gavilar’s mention of Rathalas and the ongoing political or military concerns points to larger conflicts looming on the horizon. Dalinar’s disdain for superficial appearances and his memories of past victories, like those in the Rift, contextualize his ongoing internal and external battles. The chapter ends with a sense of anticipation, hinting at future challenges while emphasizing the complex interplay between personal faith, honor, and political power.

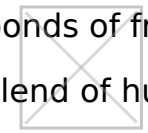
37. The Last Time We March

The chapter begins with a reflection on loyalty and the consequences of foolishness, as Lunamor dismisses concerns about Rayse and criticizes Aona and Skai for breaking their pact. The narrative emphasizes the importance of understanding one's enemy, a lesson that remains relevant even amid ongoing conflicts. Lunamor draws a parallel between warfare and the art of making stew, highlighting his practical approach to strategy and survival. This opening sets a tone of resilience and pragmatic wisdom, illustrating Lunamor’s perspective on the chaos surrounding him and the importance of staying focused on one’s goals despite setbacks.

Set on the Shattered Plains, Lunamor, also known as Rock, is depicted stirring a stew on a plateau, surrounded by the stark, windswept landscape. Despite his initial surprise at feeling nostalgic for this barren terrain, he acknowledges the unique beauty of the plains—the open sky, the scent of baking stones, and the life within the chasms. These elements symbolize renewal and purpose for Lunamor, who finds solace and a sense of belonging in this harsh environment. His appreciation for the plains contrasts with the extreme conditions of his homeland, emphasizing his complex relationship with this landscape and what it represents for him.

The scene shifts to a training session led by Kaladin, with members of Bridge Four and other soldiers learning to harness Stormlight. The focus is on the challenge of teaching others to draw Stormlight into themselves, a difficult but essential skill for becoming Windrunners. Kaladin’s leadership and the camaraderie among the trainees are evident, with moments of humor and determination. Lunamor observes these efforts, reflecting on the importance of perseverance and the shared goal of mastering this new power. The scene underscores the ongoing effort to build strength and unity among the soldiers amidst the backdrop of impending conflict.

Meanwhile, everyday life continues on the plateau, with Lunamor assisting in the kitchen alongside Huio, who unexpectedly adds spice to a drink, surprising Lunamor. This moment of camaraderie and humor offers a glimpse into the characters' personalities and their attempts to find normalcy amid chaos. Lunamor's appreciation for the unexpected flavor highlights the theme of adaptation and finding joy in small moments. The chapter concludes with Lunamor's recognition of Huio's ingenuity, reinforcing the bonds of friendship and resilience that sustain them through their struggles. This blend of humor and resolve encapsulates the chapter's core message of enduring hope and unity.



38. Broken People

The chapter opens with a reflection on human limitations and the notion that even skilled individuals are vulnerable. A quote underscores this theme, suggesting that true potential is often hindered by personal choices. Dalinar, the protagonist, finds himself immersed in a vision, which initially he perceives as a nightmare but later seeks to understand more deeply. The narrative then shifts to a vivid depiction of his past, where he is transported to a brutal battlefield setting. Here, Dalinar is dressed in primitive clothing, fighting alongside ragged soldiers against a seemingly insurmountable enemy force, emphasizing themes of struggle, resilience, and the relentless nature of war.

The detailed combat sequence reveals Dalinar’s strategic and physical challenges. Armed with a spear and a pouch of gemstones, he confronts enemies with ferocity, showcasing his combat skills. However, the chaos of battle quickly exposes his vulnerabilities—his allies do not support him, and the enemies fight with unyielding brutality. During the fight, Dalinar sustains a severe injury, losing his forearm in a sudden, brutal blow. This moment is pivotal, forcing him to confront his mortality and the harsh realities of battle, while also highlighting his determination to survive despite overwhelming odds.

The narrative then explores Dalinar’s internal struggle and his connection with the Stormfather, a divine figure. Despite the pain and the loss, Dalinar contemplates healing himself with Stormlight, but he resists, feeling it would be cheating since he has not made an oath to do so. His resilience is rooted in a sense of purpose—he believes his enemies made a mistake by turning their backs on him, and this fuels his resolve. His decision to continue fighting, even with a missing arm, underscores a core theme of perseverance and defiance against despair.

In the final moments, Dalinar’s leadership shines through as he urges his battered squad to retreat down the cliff to avoid annihilation. He demonstrates tactical awareness by directing them to safety, even risking his own life in the process. As they descend, the scene emphasizes the bleakness of their situation—their bloodied, exhausted state contrasted with the ominous presence of their enemies and a monstrous figure observing from above. Dalinar’s declaration that they will win the war, despite the apparent hopelessness, encapsulates the chapter’s overarching message of hope, resilience, and the unyielding human spirit amid chaos and destruction.

39. Notes

The chapter begins by emphasizing the peril of multiple Shards occupying the same location, highlighting an agreement among the Shards to avoid interference, which has been largely broken. This sets a tone of tension and caution, underscoring the fragile balance of power and the potential consequences of discord among these powerful entities. The narrative then introduces Shallan, who is tasked with taking notes during a crucial meeting, reflecting her evolving role within the group and her ongoing recovery from past trauma. Her observations reveal her internal struggle with her identity and the surreal nature of her current circumstances, as she navigates a world where her sense of self is shifting amidst the larger conflict.

The scene shifts to a strategic discussion among key characters—Dalinar, Jasnah, Navani, Kaladin, and others—concerning the threat posed by the Voidbringers and the parshmen. Jasnah advocates for a defensive approach, emphasizing the importance of containing the Voidbringer threat and understanding the true nature of the parshmen, which she suggests are bonded with hostile spren or spirits. Kaladin’s perspective introduces a more empathetic view, recognizing that the common parshmen are not inherently enemies, though their leaders pursue destruction. The dialogue reveals a complex debate about morality, strategy, and the necessity of war, with each character weighing the risks of confrontation against the potential for negotiation and understanding.

The chapter explores the deeper implications of the conflict, emphasizing the historical enmity and the strategic importance of defending their homeland. Dalinar’s leadership is portrayed as pragmatic yet burdened by the moral dilemmas of war, acknowledging the tragic reality that innocent soldiers often bear the brunt of violence. Kaladin’s willingness to assist in opening the Oathgate signifies a proactive stance, while Jasnah remains skeptical about the possibility of peaceful resolution given the ancient

enmities. The discussion reflects the overarching tension between the desire for peace and the necessity of warfare to protect their people, highlighting the difficult choices faced by the leaders.

In conclusion, the chapter underscores the urgency of gathering intelligence and preparing for imminent conflict, with a focus on the uncertain status of Kholinar and the threat of a coordinated attack. The characters consider infiltration and strategic deployment to gather crucial information, recognizing the high stakes involved. Dalinar’s cautious optimism about potential negotiations contrasts with Jasnah’s skepticism, illustrating the divergent approaches to resolving the crisis. The chapter ends on a note of anticipation, emphasizing the ongoing struggle to balance morality and strategy in a world teetering on the brink of war, with each character playing a vital role in shaping the coming battles.

40. Questions, Peeks, and Inferences

The chapter begins by highlighting the complex political and mystical landscape on Roshar, emphasizing the presence of secretive groups involved in the resurgence of ancient threats. It introduces Uli Da as a problematic figure and discusses the broader implications of her actions, setting a tone of intrigue and suspicion. The narrative explores the existence of two major institutions—the Sons of Honor and the Skybreakers—that are linked to the potential return of the Voidbringers and Desolations. These groups have different motivations: while the Sons of Honor seek the Desolations to revive the Knights Radiant and restore power, the Skybreakers, led by Nalan’Elin, remain loyal to their oaths and are wary of the return of chaos.

The chapter delves into the historical and ideological differences between these groups, revealing their secret agendas. The Sons of Honor, under Gavilar’s influence, are believed to have worked towards rekindling Desolations, potentially leading to chaos and chaos that could serve their ends. Conversely, the Skybreakers have maintained their oaths through the ages and are suspicious of any activity that might hasten the return of the Voidbringers. Nale, a Herald, is particularly cautious and believes that any breach of oaths, such as speaking the Words of other Radiant orders, could accelerate destructive forces. These groups’ covert operations, including Nale’s dispatching of agents like Helaran, are central to understanding the ongoing conflict and hidden alliances.

The narrative shifts to focus on Shallan’s internal reflections and her discovery of a dangerous letter. She contemplates the implications of the information it contains, questioning the involvement of her family and the possible connections to Gavilar’s death. Pattern, the spren, warns her about the lies within the letter, emphasizing the danger of exposing such secrets. Shallan recognizes that the letter hints at a Surgebinder within Amaram’s army and suspects that powerful forces are

manipulating events from behind the scenes. Her cautious approach to the information underscores the peril of uncovering truths that could threaten her life and the fragile peace on Roshar.

The chapter concludes with scenes of Veil, who is undercover and engaging with soldiers amidst the chaos. Her interactions reveal the tense atmosphere among the troops and hint at underlying dissatisfaction and unrest. Veil's observations about Shallan's erratic behavior and her own struggles provide insight into the personal toll of the ongoing conflicts. The soldiers' conversations about their promises, medals, and the sense of purpose they seek reflect the broader theme of loyalty and disillusionment. Overall, the chapter weaves together political intrigue, secret societies, and personal struggles, illustrating the complex web of deception, loyalty, and hidden agendas shaping the fate of Roshar.

41. On the Ground Looking Up

The chapter opens with a tone of detachment and resignation, emphasizing a sense of forsaking divinity and moral concern, as reflected in the dismissive attitude towards Rayse and potential consequences. The protagonist, Teft, awakens in a state of physical and emotional pain, haunted by memories of past usefulness and current shame. His surroundings—a dark alley and the bustling market—highlight his disconnection from societal norms, as he struggles with feelings of worthlessness and addiction. The narrative underscores his internal conflict, illustrating a man who is deeply fractured, battling both external circumstances and inner demons.

Teft’s physical state is fragile; he is battered, disheveled, and visibly suffering from substance abuse. His interactions with other market-goers and soldiers reveal a man on the fringes, unnoticed and unimportant to most. The presence of Sadeas’s soldiers and the confrontation with a Kholin soldier serve as reminders of ongoing conflicts and his own marginalization. Amidst this chaos, Teft’s reflection on his internal pain—an unrelenting need—becomes central, revealing his descent into despair and reliance on alcohol or substances to numb his suffering.

The narrative delves into Teft’s internal world, where a spren’s whisper about oaths signifies his moral failings and the weight of unfulfilled promises. Seeking refuge, he finds temporary solace in a dimly lit tavern, where a bowl of firemoss offers brief relief from his torment. The moss’s pain, both physical and emotional, symbolizes his attempt to reclaim a sense of vitality and control. His memories of past euphoria contrast sharply with his current state, emphasizing how addiction and guilt have eroded his sense of self and purpose.

Ultimately, the chapter portrays Teft’s ongoing struggle with addiction, shame, and the remnants of his former life. The firemoss provides fleeting comfort, but it also highlights his brokenness and inability to escape his internal suffering. Despite

moments of clarity and a desire to return to duty, Teft’s dependence on substances and his self-loathing threaten to trap him in a cycle of despair. The chapter ends with a sense of impending collapse, illustrating the profound toll of his internal battles and the pervasive darkness that consumes him.



42. Consequences

The chapter opens with a commanding dialogue from Cephandrius, warning against presumption in approaching them, setting a tone of tension and authority. Dalinar finds himself immersed in a recurring vision, witnessing a brutal battle where he skillfully uses a bow to defend a young ruler, Yanagawn of Azir. This vision provides Dalinar with visceral insights into the chaos and violence of ancient conflicts, emphasizing the importance of understanding the stakes involved in these prophetic experiences. The vivid imagery of battle, the sensory details, and Dalinar’s measured actions highlight his attempt to grasp the significance of these visions beyond mere images, seeking deeper meaning and clarity.

As the vision unfolds, Dalinar observes the aftermath of the fight, noting the emotional and physical toll on those involved. Yanagawn, despite his youth and apparent inexperience, is portrayed as a figure of leadership, rallying others and asserting victory against the Voidbringers. Dalinar reflects on the historical and spiritual implications of this scene, recognizing the recurring themes of war, sacrifice, and divine intervention. The vision underscores the ongoing struggle between good and evil, illustrating how even victorious moments are fraught with horror and loss, reinforcing the importance of understanding the true consequences of these battles.

The narrative then shifts to a pivotal moment where a figure claiming to be Jezerezeh’Elin, the Herald of Kings, declares victory over the Voidbringers, attributing the triumph to the collective effort of humanity. Dalinar recognizes this figure as the Herald of Kings, a significant and revered entity, but notices something unsettling—the Herald’s dark eyes and the faint sense of unfamiliarity. Yanagawn’s reaction to the vision reveals a mixture of awe and suspicion, hinting at the complex relationship between divine figures and mortal kings. Dalinar's role as an observer and guide becomes clearer as he attempts to interpret the meaning of these divine revelations

for Yanagawn.

In the final section, Dalinar confronts Yanagawn with the reality that these visions are not random but are instigated by his own actions and mental state. Dalinar’s explanation about suffering visions during storms and his belief in their prophetic nature aims to legitimize his experiences, despite rumors of madness. Together, they examine the aftermath of the battle, with Yanagawn visibly shaken by the sight of the dead and the chaos of war. The chapter ends with a sobering reflection on the cost of victory and the ongoing spiritual and moral questions that these visions evoke, emphasizing the importance of understanding the true consequences of divine and mortal actions in their world.

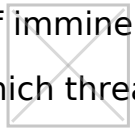
43. Spearman

The chapter begins with a tone of mystery and communication beyond understanding, as a voice mentions speaking to someone who cannot respond, hinting at a deeper, perhaps mystical connection. The scene shifts to Moash, who is eating a bland stew and observing the tense arguments among the group, highlighting the harsh conditions of their journey through the Frostlands. Graves, Febrth, and Fia are engaged in a disagreement over navigation and guidance, illustrating differing beliefs—rational map reading versus reliance on the Passions—reflecting underlying tensions and contrasting worldviews within the group. The setting emphasizes their struggle to survive in a relentless winter, with the characters enduring discomfort and frustration.

As the narrative progresses, Moash’s internal conflict becomes more apparent. He reflects on past affiliations, notably his connection to Bridge Four and his previous loyalty to Graves, contrasting it with his current circumstances. His act of removing the Bridge Four patch symbolizes a rejection of former allegiances and a struggle with identity, guilt, and remorse. Moash’s memories of his former camaraderie and the violent events surrounding Kaladin evoke a sense of loss and internal turmoil. His thoughts reveal a character torn between his past actions and present reality, deepening the story’s exploration of loyalty, betrayal, and the cost of survival.

Suddenly, the tone shifts from introspection to chaos as Moash witnesses a terrifying attack by Voidbringers. These enemies, unlike the Parshendi, possess a more sinister, predatory appearance, with red eyes and dark, swirling armor. The attack is sudden and brutal, killing Graves and others in the camp with ruthless efficiency. Moash’s quick reflexes and training kick in as he fights to defend himself, clutching his Shardblade. The scene underscores the threat posed by these mysterious, formidable foes and heightens the tension, revealing that the characters are caught in a conflict far larger than their immediate struggles, with ominous implications for their future.

The chapter concludes with a vivid and intense combat scene. Moash battles a Voidbringer, whose grace and power surpass his own, emphasizing the danger and alien nature of these creatures. The Voidbringer’s appearance—deep red eyes and a multicolored, swirling pattern on her skin—symbolizes the chaos and darkness they bring. As Moash fights desperately, the scene underscores the unpredictability and brutality of this new threat, leaving the reader with a sense of foreboding. The chapter ends on a note of imminent danger, hinting at further conflicts and the larger cosmic forces at play, which threaten to engulf the characters in chaos.



44. The Bright Side

The chapter opens with Veil reflecting on the hidden nature of the information she seeks, acknowledging how easily such secrets can be concealed within vast, seemingly insignificant realms. She is depicted relaxing in a lively tavern tent, observing the bustling human activity around her, which contrasts with the daunting scale of the tower she contemplates. Veil’s thoughts reveal her awareness of the importance of subtlety and discretion, emphasizing that espionage often requires operating beneath the surface of distractions and superficial interactions to uncover valuable intelligence.

The narrative then shifts to Veil’s training session with her team, led by Ishnah, a seasoned spy. The focus is on developing observational skills and the art of gathering information quietly. Red, Gaz, and Vathah practice memorization and assessment techniques, such as describing their surroundings without direct observation. Ishnah stresses that espionage is less about violence and more about blending in, making oneself unremarkable so others will confide in them or forget their presence, highlighting the importance of perception and subtlety in intelligence work.

Veil’s acute observational abilities come to the forefront as she meticulously notes the details of the tavern’s occupants, including the bartender and patrons, demonstrating her skill in quick assessment and memory. She also notices a woman discreetly taking notes and deduces her role as an information gatherer, potentially linked to high-princes or political factions. This scene underscores how spies must be vigilant and interpret even the smallest clues, understanding that many individuals in the environment are engaged in similar covert activities, often blending into the crowd.

The chapter concludes with Ishnah imparting advanced memory techniques and tips for filtering relevant information amidst the chaos of social settings. She emphasizes listening for key words and tone, recognizing that effective espionage relies on the ability to focus and interpret conversations with precision. While some trainees

become overwhelmed by the complexity, Veil remains engaged, illustrating her dedication and the intricate mental discipline required for successful spying. This segment encapsulates the nuanced, meditative nature of intelligence gathering, rooted in patience, observation, and strategic thinking.



45. A Revelation

The chapter opens with a poignant reflection on resilience and solitude, emphasizing the necessity of unwavering resolve despite adversity. The narrative then shifts to Moash’s arrival in Revolar, a city under the oppressive control of Voidbringers, where he is abandoned outside the city and herded by parshmen. The environment is bleak, with humans exiled to the outskirts and the city overrun by the Voidbringers’ influence. Moash’s observations reveal a landscape transformed by war and conquest, highlighting the stark power imbalance and the loss faced by the displaced inhabitants.

As Moash waits in a storm bunker, he contemplates his own status and the hostility he faces from the other refugees. Despite his past experiences in Sadeas's army, he feels estranged and judged, recognizing that he is now perceived as dangerous and untrustworthy. His internal struggle is compounded by a sense of alienation, yet he also recalls the bond with Bridge Four, which symbolizes a rare connection of acceptance and camaraderie in his life. This reflection underscores his complex identity shaped by hardship and survival.

The chapter details Moash’s observations of the parshmen and their roles in the city’s labor system, which is organized into stations offering various forms of work—ranging from farming and crafting to heavy military support. Despite their appearance and the alien nature of the Voidbringers, the parshmen seem as bewildered by their new circumstances as the humans. The narrative highlights the forced labor and the oppressive control exerted over the populace, with some work being particularly grueling, like pulling wagons for the approaching army, which nobody volunteers for, underscoring the harsh realities of wartime mobilization.

Toward the end, Moash’s curiosity leads him to interact with caravaneers, revealing a glimpse of the local economy and the ongoing movement of supplies and people. His

inquiry about Guff, a familiar figure, situates him within this community of travelers, hinting at ongoing networks of support and survival amid chaos. This scene also emphasizes the theme of resilience and the enduring human spirit, even in the face of totalitarian control and relentless hardship, setting the stage for future conflicts and alliances.



46. When the Dream Dies

The chapter begins with a tone of defiance and resilience, highlighting a sense of containment and independence from external interference. The characters express a hardened attitude toward their enemies, particularly Rayse, emphasizing their indifference to his imprisonment and their focus on their own autonomy. This sets a tone of gritty determination amidst ongoing conflicts, underscoring the themes of perseverance and resistance in the face of adversity.

The narrative then shifts to Skar the bridgeman, who is engaged in a physically demanding run up to Urithiru, illustrating his dedication and the physical toll of training. The scene depicts the rigorous training environment of Bridge Four, with characters testing their Stormlight abilities and pushing their limits. The scene also reveals the camaraderie among the team members, their shared struggles, and the ongoing efforts to master their powers, emphasizing the importance of discipline and perseverance in their growth.

The chapter further explores the characters' personal histories and motivations. Skar reflects on his past as a rocksplitter and his aspirations for battlefield glory, revealing his desire to prove himself and rise through the ranks. The dialogue exposes their vulnerabilities, frustrations, and the reality of their previous lives, contrasting their current hardships with their former ambitions. This personal backstory deepens the reader's understanding of their motivations, highlighting themes of redemption and the desire for recognition.

Finally, the chapter provides a glimpse into the social dynamics and tensions within the group. Discussions about leadership, trust, and personal struggles reveal underlying conflicts and differing perspectives. Characters like Teft and Skar express skepticism and frustration over delays and leadership decisions, while also sharing candid insights into their past struggles with addiction, discipline, and camaraderie.

Overall, the chapter underscores the complex human emotions and relationships amid a backdrop of ongoing conflict and personal growth.



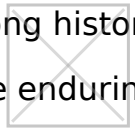
47. So Much Is Lost

The chapter opens with a reflection on the importance of approaching the right individuals with crucial information, hinting at the significance of strategic communication. It then shifts focus to a prophetic message from Talenel’Elin, Herald of War, who warns of an impending period of upheaval called the Desolation and the Return. Talenel emphasizes the necessity of preparation, recalling lost knowledge and skills, such as metalworking and leadership, which must be relearned to face the coming challenges. His words reveal a sense of urgency and a hope that, through training and cooperation, humanity can survive the chaos ahead, despite the overwhelming odds.

The scene then transitions to Jasnah, who is deeply disturbed by a series of cryptic, obsessive writings from a madman claiming to be Talenel’Elin. She recognizes the words as the true voice of a Herald, confirming suspicions that the Heralds are still active and that one remains fallen and dangerous. Jasnah’s concern drives her to consider the necessity of tracking down this Herald, believing that their presence and influence could be pivotal in the ongoing conflict. Ivory, a spren in corporeal form, corroborates her suspicions, asserting that the Heralds are indeed alive and that their souls can be detected even when hidden from sight.

The narrative then explores Jasnah’s meticulous efforts to gather intelligence, including her secure, secretive environment and the extensive use of spanreeds and encrypted notes. She reflects on the vast loss of knowledge and her frustration at how quickly her research has been compromised or rendered obsolete. Despite the technological and magical tools at her disposal, she recognizes that much of her accumulated expertise is now outdated or lost. Both Jasnah and Ivory acknowledge the gravity of the situation, emphasizing the need for swift action to recover what has been lost and to confront the enemy who stirs with destructive intent.

In the final section, Jasnah contemplates the psychological toll of her investigations and the potential madness of the Heralds, who have endured centuries of suffering and memory loss. Their mental stability and the fear of losing her own rationality weigh heavily on her. She reflects on her own vulnerabilities, contrasting her desire for control with the Heralds' potential descent into chaos. Ivory and Jasnah discuss the fragile line between sanity and madness, highlighting the profound psychological scars inflicted by the long history of war and loss. The chapter closes with a somber recognition of the enduring cost of their struggles, both mental and physical, as they prepare for the battles ahead.



48. Rhythm of Work

The chapter opens with Moash reflecting on his current situation, emphasizing a sense of resignation and a desire for simplicity. He is tasked with pulling a sledge in a march led by the Voidbringers, a stark contrast to his previous life, where he was burdened by political scheming and concern over the kingdom’s fate. His new role as a worker pulling a broken-wheeled cart provides a rare sense of physical relief and mental quietude, offering him a temporary escape from his past worries. The environment around him is fertile and alive, and the scene is painted with a mixture of hardship and a surprising note of order and fairness in the treatment of the workers.

As the march progresses, Moash observes the human caravan and the soldiers’ preparation for war. He notes the strength and discipline of the Voidbringers’ forces, including their use of warform parshmen, who are being trained for combat. Despite their lack of experience, their approach is efficient and purposeful, and Moash begins to question the morality of the conflict. His thoughts drift toward the city of Kholinar, which is the ultimate destination, and he reflects on its history and the corruption he perceives there. His disillusionment with humankind’s leadership deepens as he considers the cycle of violence, betrayal, and the false gods that have dominated their history.

Moash’s internal reflections turn darker as he contemplates the return of the Voidbringers and their apparent effectiveness. He recognizes their strategic intelligence and the disciplined nature of their armies, which contrasts sharply with the disorganized and corrupt human armies he has known. His admiration is tinged with a sense of despair, as he believes humankind’s downfall is inevitable due to their own failures. Despite this, he notices an unsettling disparity: a small group of parshman slaves pulling a sledge, treated with contempt and brutality. This observation raises questions about the supposed egalitarian nature of the Voidbringers’ forces and hints

at underlying divisions and injustices within their ranks.

The chapter concludes with a moment of pause as Moash and the others rest during the march. He observes the burned village nearby, contemplating the reasons behind its destruction—whether it was to send a message or to prevent enemy flanking. The scene emphasizes the brutal reality of the ongoing conflict and the suffering inflicted upon innocent civilians. Moash remains detached yet contemplative, aware of the cruel realities of war and the complex moral landscape in which he now finds himself. His internal conflict continues as he grapples with the harsh truths of the world around him, questioning the nature of justice and loyalty amidst chaos and destruction.

49. Born unto Light

The chapter opens with a flashback to twenty-three years earlier, where Dalinar reflects on a moment of personal relaxation amidst political turmoil. He is in a dim, gritty tavern, seeking solace from the burdens of his highprince responsibilities. The scene emphasizes his desire to escape the pressures of rebellion reports and military duties, even if just temporarily, through camaraderie and alcohol. The vivid description of his physical sensations and the smoky environment conveys his need to live in the moment, as his mind constantly grapples with the looming responsibilities and the memories of war that haunt him.

Dalinar’s interactions with his companions reveal a blend of camaraderie and underlying tension. Havar, Bashin, and others engage in banter, betting on a wrestling match and joking about Bashin’s fashionable hat. These light-hearted exchanges serve as a contrast to Dalinar’s internal struggles and remind the reader of the social dynamics and hierarchy among the characters. Despite the carefree atmosphere, Dalinar remains contemplative, feeling the effects of the firemoss and reflecting on his past, particularly the near-violent consequences of his obsession with combat and the thrill of battle.

The narrative shifts to a scene of a competitive match, with parshmen setting up a ring and men betting excitedly. Dalinar observes the fight closely, noting the techniques and weaknesses of the wrestlers, which subtly echoes his own internal reflections on strength, strategy, and past conflicts. His observation of the fighters’ stance and form mirrors his own experience in warfare, underscoring the persistent connection between his past as a warrior and his current state of mind. The scene emphasizes the visceral, almost primal excitement of combat, which continues to resonate deeply within him.

The chapter concludes with political undertones as Havar mentions the potential for conflict in the Rift, and Dalinar dismisses the idea of going there, citing personal reasons and his upcoming fatherhood. The discussion exposes tensions about regional allegiances and the balance of power, hinting at larger political machinations. Dalinar’s internal conflict surfaces again as he questions whether his interest in the Rift is driven by duty or a longing for the thrill of battle. The chapter ends with a sense of foreboding, as an announcement about the cancellation of the feature match signals an interruption in the evening’s entertainment, leaving Dalinar and others contemplating the uncertain future.



50. Shash Thirty-Seven

The chapter opens with a directive not to return to Obrodai, as a new manifestation of a powerful entity is emerging there. This warning emphasizes the ongoing spiritual and cosmic upheaval affecting their world. The young girl associated with this new avatar harbors an intense and deliberate dislike for Dalinar, underscoring the complex political and personal tensions at play. These revelations highlight the shifting allegiances and the dangerous, unpredictable nature of the emerging powers, setting a tone of cautious foreboding about the future of Obrodai and the broader conflict.

Dalinar’s experience of flying with Kaladin evokes the sensation of being on a ship at sea, emphasizing the natural yet unnerving nature of this form of travel. The wind and currents make it a perilous journey, mirroring the unpredictable chaos of the ocean. Despite the breathtaking view of the Shattered Plains and the strategic insight it offers, Dalinar finds the act of flying deeply unnatural and disconcerting, especially with the winds buffeting them. His reliance on Navani’s guidance underscores the importance of support and control amid this unfamiliar, high-altitude environment.

As they traverse the skies, Kaladin demonstrates exceptional mastery of flying, contrasting sharply with the less skilled soldiers. This control symbolizes Kaladin’s growing expertise and confidence, which he seeks to refine through practice, especially in preparation for a storm-fueled journey to Kholinar. The aerial reconnaissance reveals the layout of the warcamps and the strategic positions of allied forces, providing crucial intelligence. The scene underscores the urgency and tactical considerations of their military campaign, as well as the technological advancements in their transportation methods.

The chapter concludes with Dalinar and the others arriving at a well-preserved warcamp, where discussions focus on logistics and strategic vulnerabilities. The camp’s state offers a sense of stability amidst chaos, but concerns remain about the

long-term sustainability of their operations. Navani’s vision of establishing a new kingdom on the Shattered Plains contrasts with others’ cautious outlook, reflecting divergent visions for their future. The chapter ends with Dalinar reflecting in his former residence, contemplating the ongoing challenges and the uncertain road ahead, emphasizing the fragile balance between progress and peril in their war effort.



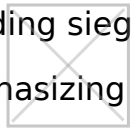
51. Full Circle

The chapter begins with a cryptic message hinting at the importance of seeking knowledge firsthand and proving oneself through tests to earn respect. This sets a tone of challenge and hidden truths, emphasizing that understanding and trust are only gained through effort and perseverance. The narrative then shifts to Moash’s perspective, revealing his detachment from the parshmen and his internal struggles. Despite their disdain for him, Moash remains indifferent to their opinions, reflecting his hardened attitude and complex emotions stemming from previous trauma and personal experiences.

As Moash and his crew traverse the landscape, they encounter a transformed environment of cultivated hills, stone barricades, and orchards, illustrating the ongoing efforts to defend and reclaim land. The scene describes the landscape’s gradual change, with the orchards and fortifications symbolizing a hardened society adapting to ongoing threats. Moash observes a Fused—a powerful, flying enemy—whose appearance and behavior suggest something beyond mere Lashings, hinting at their unique and dangerous nature. His insights reveal an awareness of the enemies’ capabilities and limitations, contrasting their apparent power with their vulnerabilities.

Moash’s interactions and observations deepen as he reflects on the nature of the Voidbringers and their supposed destructive purpose. He notes the discrepancy between their expected relentless destruction and their actual behavior, such as sparing some towns and farming the land. His casual mention of killing a Fused underscores his familiarity with violence and his complex attitude toward these enemies. The conversation with Sah, a parshman, highlights the danger these creatures pose, but Moash’s tone suggests a mix of caution and skepticism. His thoughts reveal a nuanced understanding of the enemies’ tactics and the unpredictable nature of the conflict.

The chapter concludes with the army’s strategic movement into a suburb near Kholinar, illustrating the buildup to an impending siege. Moash’s surprise at the army’s diversion from the direct route signifies the tactical planning behind the attack. The scene depicts the initial phases of the siege, with the Voidbringers positioning themselves for a prolonged assault. Moash’s reflections on the empty landscape and the preparation for war convey a sense of foreboding. His assignment to work in a lumberyard, building siege equipment, symbolizes the beginning of the next phase of the conflict, emphasizing the brutal, methodical approach to capturing Kholinar.



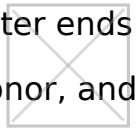
52. After His Father

Dalinar Kholin reflects on his extensive military campaigns, recounting years of hard-fought battles across the land. After crushing the Herdazians and securing key territories, he moves southward to confront the Vedens, emphasizing the strategic importance of patience and maneuvering over outright extermination. His fatigue and weariness are palpable as he returns to his camp, stripped of his armor and exhausted from the relentless campaign. Despite the physical toll, Dalinar’s focus remains on the broader military objectives, contemplating the ongoing war effort, logistics, and the complexities of fighting a mobile enemy in challenging terrain.

The chapter delves into Dalinar’s leadership style and strategic mindset, highlighting his careful planning and respect for the enemy’s tactics. His conversation with Kadash, a seasoned officer, reveals the importance of avoiding overly aggressive tactics that could backfire. Dalinar’s experience and shrewdness are evident as he considers the long-term implications of their victories, acknowledging that the war will continue for years. His awareness of the enemy’s shrewdness and the limitations of their resources underscores his cautious yet determined approach to warfare, emphasizing the importance of patience, intelligence, and strategic patience.

Amidst the chaos of war, Dalinar’s personal life intrudes on his thoughts. His exhaustion is interrupted by the arrival of Evi, his wife, whose presence surprises him and sparks a mixture of irritation and shame. Their interaction underscores the tension between his responsibilities as a military leader and his domestic life. Evi’s unexpected visit and her comments about women at war reflect societal expectations and the strain of maintaining personal relationships amidst ongoing conflict. Dalinar’s reaction reveals his internal conflict—his duty to his soldiers and land versus his desire for privacy and normalcy in his personal life.

The chapter concludes with Dalinar’s internal struggle to balance leadership, war, and personal obligations. His response to Evi’s visit shows his frustration with the intrusion into his military environment, yet he also recognizes the importance of family and connection. The scene emphasizes the toll of leadership and the constant pressure to perform both as a warrior and a husband. Despite the exhaustion and challenges, Dalinar’s resolve remains firm, driven by the thrill of battle and the hope of a future victory. The chapter ends on a note of introspection, highlighting the complex interplay between duty, honor, and personal life in times of war.



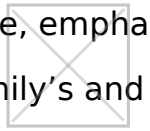
53. Such a Twisted Cut

The chapter begins with Jasnah reflecting on a letter that hints at hidden truths about ancient Veden history, specifically focusing on the tumultuous reign of King NanKhet. The historical account, penned by Natata Ved, details NanKhet's brief rule, marked by relentless assassination attempts from family members and rivals. Despite her dramatization, the story underscores how internal family conflicts and treacherous power struggles threaten stability within royal lines. Jasnah's fascination with these tales reveals her concern about the internal dangers that threaten leadership, especially in a time of crisis, and prompts her to consider how such internal threats could undermine her own family's stability.

Jasnah then shifts her focus to the current state of her environment in Urithiru, where scholars and scouts are exploring the underground tunnels and caverns. These tunnels, discovered after a prolonged search, offer a vital alternative escape route and supply line, reducing dependence on the Oathgates. The scene emphasizes the strategic importance of these tunnels and highlights Navani's efforts to turn the basement into a research hub. Jasnah's observations reflect her desire to leverage knowledge and technology in the face of looming threats, demonstrating her belief that intelligence and innovation are crucial tools for survival and defense.

The narrative then delves into Jasnah's interactions with the scholarly and political figures present in the room, revealing her keen insight into the political landscape and her skepticism of those who claim to predict the future through mystical means. Her strategic monitoring of conversations, combined with her cautious communication via spanreeds, underscores her role as a calculated leader who values information and discretion. Her concern about her relatives' internal conflicts and her determination to protect her family from internal discord reveal her understanding that stability within her lineage is vital for the broader survival of her people.

Finally, Jasnah’s focus on secure communication and her efforts to connect with trusted contacts underscore her reliance on intelligence networks and strategic alliances. Her careful management of information, including her use of intermediaries to maintain confidentiality, demonstrates her pragmatic approach to gathering and safeguarding critical intelligence. The chapter concludes with her awareness of the importance of trust and secrecy in her efforts to navigate the complex political and military landscape, emphasizing her resolve to use knowledge and strategic planning to ensure her family’s and her kingdom’s future amidst chaos.



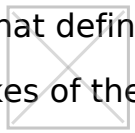
54. An Ancient Singer’s Name

The chapter begins with a reflection on divine omniscience, where the narrator considers whether a deity could be truly surprised, ultimately accepting that even gods can experience naivety or surprise. This philosophical musing sets a tone of introspection and vulnerability, contrasting divine omnipotence with human limitations. The narrative then shifts to the harsh realities faced by the characters, particularly Khen and Sah, who express their frustration over their continued enslavement—first under the Alethi and now under the Fused—highlighting the cyclical nature of oppression and the characters’ deepening sense of despair. Their dialogue reveals their feelings of betrayal and helplessness in a brutal war-torn world.

The story transitions to Moash’s perspective as he observes the preparation for an imminent battle. The scene depicts soldiers and workers, including parshmen and Fused, engaged in constructing ladders and training, emphasizing the militarized environment and the urgency of the conflict. Moash’s internal thoughts reveal his disillusionment with the ongoing violence and the sense that the army’s organization is driven by necessity rather than strategy. The narrative underscores the brutal logic of war, where the most expendable are sent to face the enemy first, and the characters grapple with the grim reality of their roles in the impending assault on Kholinar.

Amidst the chaos, personal grievances and suspicions surface, notably Khen’s accusations of betrayal and the sense that they have been deliberately set up for slaughter. Sah’s emotional outburst about his daughter’s loss deepens the chapter’s exploration of grief and rage, illustrating how personal pain intertwines with the larger war effort. The characters’ conversations reveal their feelings of powerlessness and their questioning of divine justice, emphasizing themes of suffering and the search for meaning amid chaos. The chapter captures the psychological toll of war, where hope is fragile and questions about divine will remain unanswered.

Towards the end, Moash’s pursuit of authority leads him into dangerous encounters with the Fused and other void entities. His confrontation with a malen and subsequent arrest by Lady Leshwi illustrate the perilous nature of his quest for information and control. The chapter concludes with Moash being lifted into the air by a Fused, highlighting the overwhelming power disparity and the looming threat posed by the Voidbringers. This sequence underscores the pervasive danger and the complex, layered conflict that defines this chapter, leaving the reader with a sense of foreboding and the high stakes of the ongoing war.



55. Alone Together

The chapter opens with Rlain reflecting on his internal conflict and feelings of inadequacy, emphasizing his sense of being ill-equipped to assist others due to the turmoil within himself. Sitting alone on the Shattered Plains, he listens to the rhythms—subtle, tonal beats that he perceives as echoes of his lost people. These rhythms, though faint and imperfect, serve as a connection to his heritage and a source of solace. Rlain’s awareness that humans might respond to these rhythms, despite their supposed deafness, highlights his longing for understanding and belonging, as he hopes that someday they might truly hear what he hears, easing his loneliness.

Rlain’s musings deepen as he considers the destruction of his homeland, Stormseat, now turned into Narak by the humans. The ruins, once a sacred gathering place for his people, are now repurposed, symbolizing both loss and resilience. He mourns the disappearance of his entire race—the listeners—and recognizes that his parshman kin have either fallen or been transformed into something unrecognizable. As the last of his kind, Rlain bears the weight of extinction, feeling a profound sense of grief and isolation. His internal conflict is compounded by the awareness that his people’s legacy is fading into history, leaving him as a solitary remnant.

Despite his solitude, Rlain is integrated into the human military and forms bonds with the Bridge Four crew. He admires their camaraderie and feels a mixture of affection and frustration—fond of them yet sometimes wishing he could distance himself due to fears about his own potential power. His unique physical form, marked by carapace armor and protrusions, sets him apart, and he is painfully aware of how others perceive him. The unspoken suspicion about his ability to wield Stormlight and the concern that it might turn him into a monster weigh heavily on him, influencing his interactions and self-perception.

The chapter concludes with scenes of active training and patrols among the bridge crew, highlighting the ongoing struggle to defend against Voidbringer raids. Rlain’s thoughts shift to the military efforts and the strange pattern of the attacks, which seem deliberate and testing of their capabilities. The humans, including his friends, seek answers and reassurance, but Rlain feels the burden of understanding that they lack the context about the true nature of the Voidbringers and his own people. His internal reflections reveal a profound sense of alienation and the complex dynamics of trust, loyalty, and identity amidst the chaos of war.



56. Always with You

The chapter opens with Dalinar experiencing a vision filled with uncertainty and intrigue, questioning the identity and knowledge of a mysterious figure who seems to possess insight about Adonalsium. This figure’s subterfuge and concealment evoke a sense of mystery, prompting Dalinar to grapple with the implications of this knowledge and its connection to broader cosmic forces. The narrative then shifts to a detailed scene set in an ancient fortress, where Dalinar observes a civilization characterized by classical architecture, bronze weapons, and Soulcast armor, suggesting a time over two thousand years in the past. This vision hints at a complex history of conflicts and alliances, emphasizing the layered history of Roshar.

Dalinar, Navani, and Jasnah analyze the vision, attempting to contextualize the historical events they witness. They identify the scene as a multiethnic coalition engaged in battle, possibly during the aftermath of the Desolations, with signs pointing to a period after the loss of the Radiants and the Recreance. Jasnah hypothesizes that the fighting could involve remnants of Voidbringers or parshmen, and the scene indicates a significant conflict that occurred long after the Voidbringers' initial departure. Navani expresses a determination to locate the site, Feverstone Keep, to uncover clues about the past and the mysterious events that led to the Radiants’ retreat.

The narrative then shifts focus to Dalinar’s interaction with Yanagawn, the young emperor of Azir, who is shown observing the vision from a vantage point. Yanagawn’s frustration with the visions’ emotional toll highlights the burden of knowledge and the uncertainty that accompanies Dalinar’s revelations. As the vision unfolds outside the fortress, soldiers and Radiants abandon their Shards and armor, symbolizing a profound moment of sacrifice and despair. Dalinar reflects on the haunting nature of these scenes, emphasizing the inexplicable act of men willingly relinquishing their

powers amidst a tragic battlefield.

In the final part, Dalinar discusses the significance of these visions with Yanagawn, stressing their importance for future strategy and survival. Dalinar perceives Yanagawn’s potential as a leader who might hold the key to understanding Roshar’s history, despite his self-doubt. The chapter concludes with a tone of cautious hope, as Dalinar recognizes the importance of sharing this knowledge, even if the full meaning remains elusive. The visions serve as a reminder of the deep mysteries and enduring struggles that shape their world, underscoring the importance of wisdom, leadership, and the pursuit of truth amidst chaos.

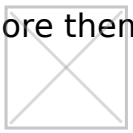
57. Passion

The chapter explores a tense confrontation between Dalinar and Odium, a powerful and ancient entity embodying passion and emotion. Odium’s presence is overwhelming, and his words reveal a complex understanding of the nature of emotions, bonds, and the destructive potential of passion. He advocates that emotion is the core of humanity, contrasting himself with other divine figures like Honor and Cultivation, who prioritize bonds and growth respectively. Odium’s perspective suggests that passion, though often leading to chaos and loss, also fuels greatness and the human spirit. The chapter emphasizes the duality of passion as both a source of strength and a catalyst for destruction.

Dalinar’s reaction to Odium’s presence reflects his internal conflict and unpreparedness for the revelations he faces. Odium’s calm demeanor and paternal tone mask his true nature as a force of chaos and destruction. The dialogue reveals Odium’s belief that he embodies the true essence of emotion, and that his influence is vital to understanding human nature. Odium hints at the destructive consequences of releasing him, including the death of Cultivation and upheaval across Roshar. Dalinar’s discomfort underscores his struggle to comprehend and confront the profound implications of Odium’s ideology and power.

The conversation delves into the divine relationships among the gods—Odium, Honor, and Cultivation—and their differing philosophies. Odium claims to be misunderstood, asserting that he represents passion in its purest form, which he believes is essential for vitality and progress. He criticizes Honor’s focus on bonds and Cultivation’s emphasis on transformation, positioning himself as the true embodiment of emotion. Odium’s words suggest that the divine conflicts on Roshar are rooted in contrasting visions of what drives and sustains life, with Odium asserting his role as a necessary, if tumultuous, force.

In the closing moments, Dalinar challenges Odium to a duel, symbolizing his rejection of Odium’s nihilistic view and his desire to protect Roshar from chaos. Odium’s parting words imply that he has robbed Dalinar of memories and that his influence is deeper than it appears. The chapter ends with a sense of unresolved tension, as Dalinar considers the stakes involved in confronting Odium’s passion-driven chaos. This confrontation underscores the ongoing struggle between order and emotion, highlighting the core themes of passion’s power and peril in shaping the fate of Roshar.



58. Burdens

The chapter opens with a reflection on burdens and self-sacrifice, highlighting a Stoneward's internal conflict about whether their lifelong willingness to sacrifice is truly noble or perhaps a form of cowardice. This introspection sets a contemplative tone, emphasizing the emotional and psychological weight carried by those sworn to serve. The narrative then shifts to Dalinar's perspective as he observes the landscape from Urithiru, grappling with the difficulty of visualizing their altitude and the mysteries of the mountain range. His curiosity about the environment underscores his desire for concrete understanding amidst the uncertainties of their situation and the divine visions that continue to trouble him.

Dalinar's internal dialogue reveals his deep concern about Odium, the dark god, and the unsettling interactions he experienced during a vision. While the Stormfather seems confident, Dalinar remains troubled by the reality of his encounter, especially the feeling that Odium's presence was tangible and menacing. Navani and Jasnah's curiosity about his vision contrasts with his own cautious approach, leading to a discussion about the nature of divine interactions and the potential risks involved. Dalinar's fears about exposing others to Odium's influence cause them to suspend the use of visions, though he remains haunted by the possibility that Odium can touch the world in ways beyond their understanding.

The narrative then describes a strategic visit to the control platform of the Oathgates, which are crucial for transportation across their world. The scene highlights the technological and mystical intricacies of these gateways, with Navani and her team working carefully on the mechanisms. The successful activation of a gate to Thaylen City signifies progress, and the characters' relief and excitement are palpable. Kaladin and Shallan's arrival signifies the importance of these developments, with Kaladin's pragmatic approach contrasting with Shallan's eagerness. Dalinar's leadership is

reinforced as he plans further operations, emphasizing the significance of these gateways in their ongoing struggle and mobility.

Finally, Dalinar discusses strategic military and political matters with Kaladin, including the upcoming highstorm and the importance of maintaining control over Kholinar. Dalinar’s decision to grant Kaladin land along the river reflects a recognition of his leadership and the burdens he bears. The conversation underscores the theme of duty and sacrifice, illustrating that burdens are an intrinsic part of leadership and service. Dalinar’s advice to Kaladin about managing his new responsibilities encapsulates the chapter’s core message: that burdens can be a source of strength when accepted with resolve, and that true leadership involves making difficult choices for the greater good.

59. Bondsmith

The chapter opens with a poignant letter from a woman reflecting on her family, emphasizing her love for her husband, Kmakra, and their children, Molinar and Kmakra, whom she considers the true gems of her life. This personal note sets a tone of remembrance and longing, hinting at themes of memory, loss, and the importance of personal bonds amid a backdrop of cultural and spiritual significance. The letter’s tone is intimate, contrasting with the chapter’s broader exploration of the city and its religious sites, suggesting underlying personal stakes in the larger narrative.

As Dalinar and his companions visit the temple of Shalash, Fen provides historical context about the structure, describing its architecture, purpose, and the significance of its carvings. The temple, filled with burning glyphs and damaged statues, symbolizes a once-vibrant spiritual center now scarred by time and the storm’s destruction. Dalinar’s contemplative mood is tinged with discomfort, questioning whether prayers are still reaching their intended deities or if they are lost to a god who no longer exists. The scene underscores the enduring but fragile nature of faith and tradition amidst chaos.

The group’s tour continues through the Royal Ward, where Dalinar observes the city’s battered state, noting the destruction wrought by the Everstorm. Navani comments on the traditional practice of temple visits, meant to reinforce the throne’s piety and authority, but Dalinar perceives underlying political motives and the superficiality of such rituals. Their exchange reveals Dalinar’s internal conflict—his duty to uphold tradition versus his growing doubts about the religious and political institutions. The scene highlights the tension between heritage and the realities of a city ravaged by natural disasters and war.

Finally, the chapter shifts to a poignant scene inside a temple turned makeshift hospital, where wounded civilians lie suffering. Fen explains the improvisation

necessitated by the storm’s devastation, and Dalinar’s concern deepens as he witnesses the extent of the suffering. The appearance of Taravangian, pleading for aid and offering to activate the Oathgate, introduces a subplot of political and humanitarian urgency. Dalinar’s resolve to seek help underscores his leadership role and the overarching theme of unity and compassion amid adversity, setting the stage for further alliances and interventions.



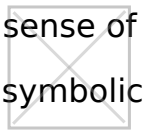
60. Winds and Oaths

The chapter opens with Kaladin reflecting on his concerns for his fellow Truthwatchers, highlighting a sense of unease within the group. The storm, although powerful and awe-inspiring, is not directly associated with Kaladin’s personal domain, emphasizing his lack of authority over natural forces like the highstorm. His recent experience fighting the Assassin in White has taken him close to the stormclouds, giving him a heightened awareness of its presence and significance. The storm's swirling chaos below contrasts with the calm of the sky above, underscoring the duality of nature’s beauty and danger that Kaladin must navigate as he journeys toward Kholinar.

As they traverse the skies, the group is depicted flying amidst the storm’s turbulent patterns, with the vast stormwall receding behind them. Kaladin’s focus remains on his charges, especially King Elhokar and Shallan, whose contrasting attitudes toward the storm reveal their differing personalities. Shallan’s carefree joy and fascination with the wind serve as a stark contrast to Kaladin’s more serious demeanor. Her exuberance, despite her hidden wounds, demonstrates her resilience and ability to find happiness amid chaos. Kaladin’s internal struggle with his duties and his inability to fully embrace such carefree moments is subtly underscored, revealing his inner conflict and sense of responsibility.

The narrative delves into the technical aspects of flying and Stormlight use, illustrating Kaladin’s mastery in manipulating the wind and Lashings. His precise adjustments allow the group to stay coordinated and close, even as they approach Kholinar. Syl’s mental communication and her observations about Shallan’s affinity for the sky add a touch of levity and insight, emphasizing the bond between spren and humans. Kaladin’s efforts to maintain control and safety reflect his leadership and skill, even as he grapples with scientific mysteries like partial Lashings and their effects on weight and movement.

In the final moments, the group nears Kholinar, with the storm visibly receding and their connection to the stormlight diminishing. The characters’ banter about mundane concerns like shoes and lunch injects humor into the scene, contrasting the grandeur of their journey with everyday worries. Shallan’s musings on art and failure serve as a philosophical reflection on the nature of creativity and growth, tying back to her resilience and the broader theme of perseverance amid adversity. The chapter concludes with a sense of anticipation and the acknowledgment of the storm’s power, both natural and symbolic, as the group prepares to face the challenges ahead.



61. Nightmare Made Manifest

The chapter opens with a reflection on the nature of secrets and their potential to be uncovered, exemplified by a character’s casual attitude toward recording confidential information without concern for discovery. This sets a tone of clandestine activity and underlying tension. The narrative then shifts to a strategic military situation, where Kaladin and his allies observe the city of Kholinar from a concealed position outside the walls. They notice the enemy army's unusual tactic of allowing refugees to approach, seemingly to drain the city’s resources, indicating a complex and deceptive siege strategy. This reconnaissance underscores the importance of careful planning and deception in wartime.

As dawn breaks, the group continues their covert surveillance, with Shallan utilizing her Lightweaving abilities to maintain illusions and conceal their presence. The narrative highlights her skill in creating realistic disguises, which are vital for infiltration. The characters discuss the possibility of entering the city disguised as refugees, a plan that hinges on deception and the illusionary skills of Shallan. Meanwhile, they observe the palace, which appears shadowed despite the clear weather, hinting at a sinister influence—specifically, the presence of the Unmade, a dangerous and corrupting entity. This observation raises the stakes, emphasizing the threat lurking within the city.

The story then focuses on the characters preparing for their infiltration, with Shallan designing disguises for Kaladin, Adolin, and Elhokar. The group adopts new identities, including Kaladin as an old man and Elhokar as a noblewoman, to avoid recognition and suspicion. The transformation process demonstrates Shallan’s mastery of Lightweaving and her practical approach to deception. Elhokar’s willingness to become a woman underscores his commitment to caution, and the scene underscores the importance of disguise and perception in their mission. This segment explores themes

of identity, strategy, and the necessity of adaptability in dangerous situations.

The chapter concludes with a humorous yet tense interaction involving Kaladin and Shallan, highlighting the psychological nuances of their disguises. Kaladin’s concern about the illusions’ authenticity and Syl’s playful reactions add depth to their characters. As they prepare to move into the city, the narrative emphasizes the importance of concealment and the characters’ readiness to face the perils ahead. The scene ends with a sense of cautious anticipation, illustrating the delicate balance between deception and danger in their covert operation, and setting the stage for the imminent confrontation within Kholinar.

62. Research

The chapter opens with a tone of resistance and secrecy, highlighting the tension surrounding the abandonment of the tower, which is met with protests and a sense of urgency. The city is depicted as a place overflowing with secrets, so much so that they threaten to spill out. Shallan, the protagonist, grapples with her own internal struggles and the difficulty of confronting these hidden truths. Her internal conflict is symbolized by her attempt to physically hurt herself, a desperate act to feel something tangible amidst the chaos of her thoughts and the surrounding political upheaval.

The narrative then shifts to a detailed scene in a tailor’s shop, where key characters—King Elhokar, Adolin, Kaladin, and a local tailor—are engaged in a tense discussion about recent political turmoil and the mysterious death of an ardent. The conversation reveals the fragile state of the city’s leadership and the widespread unrest caused by the queen’s actions and the influence of dark spren. The dialogue emphasizes the complexity of the political landscape, with accusations of dark spren manipulation and the queen’s disappearance during the riots, illustrating the precarious balance of power and trust.

Shallan’s perspective provides insight into her mental state and her methods for coping with the chaos. She secretly injures herself with scissors to induce pain, a method that allows her to access visions of the spren—twisted, sinewy, and disturbing—symbolizing her confrontation with her own inner darkness and the unsettling truths she seeks to uncover. Her act of self-harm is a desperate attempt to connect with her perceptions and gain clarity, using her ability to heal and her sketching skills to process the trauma and chaos around her.

The chapter concludes with a broader view of the political and environmental turmoil affecting Kholinar, including strange weather phenomena and the retreat of the palace guard. Yokska, the tailor, recounts the escalating unrest, including the queen’s erratic

proclamations and the mysterious absence of the guards. The narrative underscores the pervasive sense of gloom and disorder, with the dark spren’s influence suspected to be at play. Through these details, the chapter paints a vivid picture of a city on the brink, grappling with secrets, betrayal, and the shadows cast by unseen forces.



63. Within the Mirror

The chapter opens with Veil returning to a tower, where she observes a shift from noble knights to squabbling children, symbolizing her disdain for the place. She plans to explore the hidden undersea caverns of Aimia and retrieve her maps from Akinah, hinting at her ongoing quest and the importance of discovery. This sets a tone of dissatisfaction with her environment, emphasizing her desire for adventure and the pursuit of knowledge beyond the confines of her current surroundings. Her return marks a moment of reflection on her motivations and the contrast between her inner world and the chaos around her.

Veil’s enjoyment of being in Kholinar, despite its feral aspects, reveals her complex relationship with urban environments. She perceives cities as precarious, living on the brink of collapse, with an undercurrent of contained chaos stemming from the dense mingling of cultures, ideas, and tensions. She senses the palpable tension in the city’s atmosphere, which she finds invigorating. Her observations highlight her appreciation for the city’s vibrancy and the underlying instability that keeps it alive, contrasting it with the calmer, more harmonious life in rural or less populated areas.

As she navigates the city, Veil employs her Stormlight to disguise herself, shifting her appearance from Shallan to Veil. She observes the city’s lively markets, parks, and the impoverished districts, noting the stark disparities. The city’s architecture and street life reveal both wealth and decay, with ransacked mansions and refugees juxtaposed against the opulence of the palace district. Her keen eye notices the signs of unrest, such as the lack of basic labor and the presence of groups like cultists, indicating societal upheaval. Her cautious approach underscores the danger and unpredictability of her environment.

Approaching the palace, Veil senses an ominous atmosphere, with the wealthy districts feeling disturbingly wrong. She observes soldiers with unsettling movements and a

strange aura, hinting at underlying corruption or infiltration. Using her Stormlight to adopt the guise of Lyn, she explores a nearby park and prepares herself for her next step: investigating the Oathgate. Her strategic disguise and careful observation reflect her intent to gather intelligence discreetly, emphasizing her role as a covert observer amid the chaos and her focus on uncovering critical secrets hidden within the city’s fortified structures.



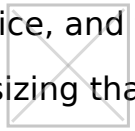
64. Binder of Gods

The chapter opens with a poignant reflection on the escalating conflict between the Skybreakers and the Windrunners, emphasizing the tragic consequences of their disagreements. The narrator urges listeners to recognize the similarities they share, underscoring themes of understanding and unity amid chaos. This sets a tone of introspection and reconciliation, hinting at deeper divisions rooted in miscommunication and prejudice. The message serves as a reminder that even those on opposing sides are bound by common humanity, and that bridging these divides is crucial for the greater good of Roshar.

Dalinar’s discovery of the Honorblade hidden within a dark stone shaft marks a significant moment. As he touches the ancient weapon, he expects a surge of power or a spiritual connection but is met only with his own anger—reminding him of its dark history as the assassin’s weapon and its role in terrorizing nations. He contemplates the blade’s significance not just as a relic but as a symbol of violence and betrayal. The narrative explores the complex legacy of these ancient Heralds’ weapons, contrasting their formidable history with their current spiritual and political implications.

The dialogue between Dalinar and the Stormfather delves into the nature of the Heralds and Dalinar’s own burgeoning powers. The Stormfather dismisses some traditional names and identities, emphasizing that the Heralds’ true nature transcends human labels. Dalinar’s questions about his abilities and the potential for others like him reveal a universe where divine powers are awakening within chosen individuals. The Stormfather’s revelations about Dalinar’s unique connection to the power of Connection—more potent than that of other Radiants—highlight the importance of individual potential and the limitations of seeking power for petty or martial purposes.

In the final segment, Dalinar considers the mechanics of the spiritual realm and the renewal of the Honorblades through Stormlight. The Stormfather explains the concentrated nature of Honor’s power and its manifestation across realms, demonstrating the complexity of these ancient artifacts. Dalinar’s decision to reveal the Honorblade to Bridge Four symbolizes a strategic move to empower his men, offering them a chance to gain Windrunner abilities. This act underscores themes of leadership, sacrifice, and the importance of shared strength in the face of ongoing conflicts, emphasizing that true power lies in unity and trust.



65. Verdict

In this chapter, Dalinar navigates a tense diplomatic encounter outside the Azish control building near the Oathgate in Azimir. Frustrated by the restrictions and rules of the place, he reflects on his dislike for the bureaucracy and the complexities of the political landscape. The scene opens with Dalinar approaching a guarded room, where Azish soldiers and officials, including viziers and ardents, prepare to engage with him. His goal is to forge alliances or at least secure a meeting with the emperor, using subtle tactics rather than force, as he recognizes the importance of diplomacy in this high-stakes environment.

Dalinar’s approach involves strategic use of language and cultural understanding. He presents written messages in Azish, which initially shock the officials, hinting at his effort to communicate beyond mere words. Using Stormlight and a connection of Spiritual Adhesion, Dalinar manages to subtly understand and speak the Azish language, demonstrating his adaptability and determination. His interactions with the soldiers, especially the young guard, reveal his skill in building rapport even in hostile settings, aiming to gather intelligence and influence the outcome of the negotiations.

The core of the chapter revolves around Dalinar’s diplomatic strategy, which hinges on presenting a compelling argument through written communication. He offers an essay from Queen Fen advocating for the economic benefits of the Oathgates, emphasizing trade and political alliances. This move signifies his shift from traditional warfare to a more nuanced approach, leveraging written diplomacy to achieve his objectives. The Azish officials’ reactions highlight the importance of cultural respect and intellectual persuasion in their political dealings, contrasting with Dalinar’s usual martial approach.

In the final moments, Dalinar introduces additional documents, including a treatise from Navani, signaling his preparedness to negotiate on multiple fronts. His willingness to adapt and employ written diplomacy reflects his broader strategy to secure

alliances and influence in Azir. The chapter ends with the officials huddling to consider his proposals, illustrating the delicate balance of power, trust, and negotiation that Dalinar must master to realize his vision. This scene underscores the importance of intelligence, cultural sensitivity, and strategic communication in his efforts to unify and strengthen his position.



66. Strategist

The chapter opens with a reflective scene set eleven years prior, where Dalinar Kholin observes a strategic training exercise with his son Adolin. Through a demonstration of a retractable ledge, Dalinar emphasizes the importance of defensive architecture in warfare, highlighting how such structures could be used against formidable opponents like Shardbearers. The scene underscores Dalinar’s tactical mindset and his interest in fortifications, revealing his foresight in military strategy and his desire to prepare for future conflicts. It also portrays a moment of bonding between Dalinar and Adolin, illustrating Dalinar’s role as a mentor and protector.

As the scene shifts to a later period, Dalinar’s focus broadens from battlefield tactics to political diplomacy. He reflects on recent military successes, including the reclaiming of territory from the Vedens and the securing of trade treaties. Dalinar recognizes that the true victory extends beyond land conquest; it lies in gaining legitimacy and political recognition for Gavilar’s rule. This diplomatic achievement, acknowledged by the Vedens, helps prevent a larger war and consolidates Dalinar’s strategic influence. His satisfaction with these accomplishments reveals his understanding of warfare as both a physical and political endeavor.

The chapter then explores Dalinar’s personal life and ongoing responsibilities. His interactions with his family, particularly his son Adolin, demonstrate his efforts to balance martial training with political duties. Dalinar contemplates the importance of formal education for Adolin, who is soon to leave for specialized training in Kholinar. The scene emphasizes Dalinar’s dedication to shaping his son into a capable leader, as well as his own desire to avoid the frivolous life of Kholinar’s social scene. This personal dimension adds depth to Dalinar’s character, showing his commitment to duty and family amidst the demands of leadership.

In the concluding segment, Dalinar receives and begins to process a message from the king via spanreed, signaling ongoing military and political developments. His wife Evi’s presence highlights the domestic side of his life, and her observations about the cold climate reflect the harsh environment they inhabit. Dalinar’s strategic considerations become more apparent as he plans potential military routes, contemplating an amphibious assault and the need for ships. The chapter ends with the formal sealing of a treaty, illustrating Dalinar’s continuous efforts to secure peace and stability through both military might and diplomatic negotiations, emphasizing his role as a consummate strategist.

67. Mishim

The chapter opens with a reflection on the state of the current generation's leadership, emphasizing that the underlying issue lies in a fundamental change within Honor itself. The quote suggests that the lack of multiple Bondsmiths and divisions among people are symptoms rather than causes, hinting at a deeper shift in the moral and spiritual fabric of their world. This sets a tone of introspection about the evolving nature of leadership and honor, which influences the ongoing political and social turmoil. The chapter underscores that the core problem is not merely external conflicts but a transformation within the very principles that uphold their society.

Following this, the narrative shifts to the immediate aftermath of a brutal murder involving Shallan, who experiences a strange sense of relief despite her trauma. She detects a faint, unsettling presence of the Unmade beyond the reflection, indicating the ongoing influence of dark forces. Her cautious investigation involves checking mirrors and alerting others to the threat, showcasing her growing awareness of the spiritual and supernatural dangers lurking within the city. This segment highlights her resilience and evolving perception of the unseen forces that threaten their safety, emphasizing the importance of vigilance and subtlety in confronting these malevolent entities.

The story then transitions to a strategic planning scene involving King Elhokar, Kaladin, Adolin, and Shallan, as they deliberate on how to rescue the queen and counteract the cult activity around the Oathgate. Elhokar devises a multifaceted plan that includes infiltration, rallying support from local lighteyes, and investigating the Cult of Moments, which is actively guarding the Oathgate platform. The characters discuss potential approaches—either stealth or military force—highlighting the complexity of their situation. The plan reflects their urgency and resourcefulness, while also revealing underlying tensions about trust, identity, and the threat posed by the cult

and its mysterious leader.

In the final section, Veil, operating covertly, explores Kholinar’s ancient market to gather intelligence on the populace and the Cult of Moments. She observes the city’s worn, historical architecture and the subdued atmosphere caused by the siege-like conditions. Veil’s focus on understanding the local sentiment and the movements of soldiers from House Velalant underscores her role in the larger intelligence effort. Her cautious approach and reflections on the city’s haunted streets reveal her determination to infiltrate the cult and uncover its secrets. This segment emphasizes the importance of reconnaissance, cultural awareness, and the personal toll of living undercover in a city under siege.

68. Aim for the Sun

The chapter begins with a reflection on the cognitive behavior of spren at the tower, challenging the assumption that the Sibling had deliberately withdrawn from humans. The narrator, Wit, presents a nuanced view, suggesting that the spren's actions may not be driven by intent but perhaps by other factors. This insight hints at a deeper understanding of the nature of spren and their relationship with the cognitive realm, emphasizing that appearances can be deceiving and that understanding these entities requires careful observation and interpretation.

Wit leads Shallan to a secluded tavern, an overgrown, clay-like structure that appears almost alive with crewm. Inside, the atmosphere is quiet and somewhat eerie, with signs of recent activity and high prices that raise Shallan’s eyebrows. The innkeeper’s hostility contrasts with Wit’s playful, teasing demeanor, as he attempts to secure a private space for their conversation. The scene sets a tone of tension mixed with wit, illustrating Wit’s tendency to defuse conflicts with humor and charm, even in unwelcoming settings.

As they settle into a private room, Wit and Shallan engage in a candid dialogue about identity and purpose. Wit comments on her attempt at a disguise, criticizing her walking style and noting the importance of owning one’s persona. Their exchange reveals Wit’s philosophical outlook on aging, wisdom, and the passage of time, with Wit describing himself as an ancient, curious anomaly—an entity shaped by countless lifetimes and experiences. This introspection underscores the chapter’s theme of identity, aging, and the layers of history that influence one’s present self.

The conversation deepens into reflections on Wit’s past vows and his role in the world, emphasizing his commitment to being present whenever needed, despite the ambiguity of his whereabouts. Wit’s wisdom, humor, and hints of sorrow paint a complex picture of a man who has seen much and remains enigmatic. The chapter

concludes with a playful yet profound dialogue about sincerity and stupidity, highlighting Wit’s disdain for superficiality and his appreciation for genuine honesty, even if it leads to mischief. Overall, the chapter explores themes of perception, identity, and the nuanced nature of wisdom and age.



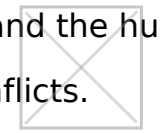
69. Free Meal, No Strings

The chapter opens with a depiction of a tumultuous scene in a city square, where the environment is affected by unnatural phenomena like wilting plants and a cooling atmosphere, yet some functions of the tower persist, such as increased pressure. Kaladin, amidst this chaos, internally grapples with a storm of emotions and power, drawing Stormlight to contain a tempest within himself. His use of Stormlight is subtle but significant, enough to influence his surroundings without attracting attention. This internal struggle highlights the ongoing battle between his desire to control his abilities and the danger of revealing them in a tense, unstable environment.

As the scene unfolds, chaos erupts with screams from twisting spren and the appearance of a Voidbringer descending from the sky. The spren, confused and crackling with energy, scream like wounded animals, illustrating the chaos and supernatural tension of the moment. Kaladin observes the Voidbringer, noting its weapon—a long, spear-like lance—and its dark energy, which signals a formidable foe. The presence of the Voidbringer and the spren’s disorientation underscore the volatile nature of the ongoing conflict and the delicate balance Kaladin must maintain to avoid detection and further chaos.

The narrative then shifts to a more personal tone as characters discuss their strategies and social interactions amid the turmoil. Kaladin comments on the irony of their situation—fighting a city in chaos while also attending a party—highlighting the stark contrast between their dangerous circumstances and the superficial social gatherings. Adolin’s attempt to blend in with a new, fashionable wardrobe underscores themes of appearance versus reality. The scene also reveals social hierarchies and the use of disguises, with characters adopting different personas to navigate the complex political landscape, emphasizing the importance of appearances in their world.

In the final section, the focus is on the preparations for an upcoming social event, with characters dressing in elaborate clothing and engaging in lighthearted banter. Adolin’s efforts to look the part for the party contrast with Kaladin’s more pragmatic outlook. The scene provides a glimpse into the cultural norms and leisure activities of their society, where even amidst chaos, social rituals and entertainment persist. The chapter ends with playful exchanges about food and fashion, illustrating the resilience of social bonds and the human need for normalcy, even in the face of looming threats and ongoing conflicts.



70. Highmarshal Azure

The chapter opens with a reflection on the internal struggles within the Knights Radiant, emphasizing that divisions are not solely due to perceived worthiness but are rooted in deeper issues. A fragment from a secretive drawer hints at the ongoing tensions and hidden truths among the Knights, setting a tone of underlying conflict. This theme of internal discord contrasts with the external chaos in Kholinar, where the city faces siege and upheaval. The narrative then shifts to Kaladin’s arrival at the Wall Guard’s barracks, which feels like a homecoming. The familiar sights, smells, and sounds evoke a sense of stability and order amid the chaos, highlighting the importance of military discipline and camaraderie.

Kaladin’s observations of the barracks reveal a well-maintained and organized military environment. The presence of soldiers, armorers, and the communal atmosphere suggest a unit that is cohesive and resilient despite recent hardships. Kaladin admires Highmarshal Azure’s leadership, recognizing his critical role in securing the city and managing the chaos caused by riots. The interactions with the soldiers, including Syl’s playful movements and the casual conversations, humanize the soldiers and reinforce the idea that effective leadership has fostered a sense of normalcy and trust within the ranks. Kaladin’s appreciation for the structure and discipline of the military underscores his longing for purpose and belonging.

As the soldiers share stories, Kaladin learns about their backgrounds and current circumstances. The mention of the Shash brand and the story of Sadeas’s mark introduces a layer of political and social tension, hinting at the complex hierarchy and loyalties within the army. The soldiers’ casual demeanor masks underlying wounds, as evidenced by their chipped weapons and empty seats—signs of recent losses and ongoing tension. Kaladin’s questions reveal his curiosity and skepticism about the political dynamics, particularly regarding the treatment of lighteyes and the rules

surrounding slavery and branding, illustrating the layered conflicts shaping their society.

In the final part, the narrative emphasizes Azure’s heroic reputation, especially his leadership during the riots. The soldiers’ admiration for Azure’s bravery and strategic acumen contrasts with Kaladin’s initial outsider perspective. The chapter concludes with a sense of hope and respect for Azure’s command, underscoring his ability to inspire and rally his troops even in the face of chaos. Kaladin’s desire to learn more about the highmarshal and his contemplation of rejoining the military reflect his ongoing search for purpose and his recognition of the importance of strong leadership in turbulent times. The chapter ends on a note of cautious optimism, hinting at Kaladin’s potential future role in this fractured but resilient military environment.

71. A Sign of Humanity

The chapter opens with a flashback to eleven years prior, detailing a military campaign led by Dalinar against Rathalas. Facing logistical challenges, Dalinar opts for a conventional approach, coordinating attacks from multiple directions. As he prepares for battle, he reflects on the environment, the campaign’s strategic aspects, and his own internal struggles. The narrative emphasizes the tension between duty and personal feelings, illustrating Dalinar's sense of responsibility and the weight of leadership amidst the chaos of war. His thoughts reveal a man burdened by the demands of command and the sacrifices it entails, setting the tone for the chapter’s exploration of morality and humanity in warfare.

Throughout the journey, Dalinar’s interactions with his wife, Evi, reveal a complex emotional landscape. Evi, earnest and genuinely caring, prays for Dalinar’s heart to soften, highlighting her concern for his moral compass amid the violence. Despite her composed exterior, her tears and heartfelt conversations expose her inner turmoil and love for him. Dalinar, torn between his duties as a leader and his personal feelings, struggles to reconcile the brutal realities of war with his desire for mercy and compassion. Their dialogue underscores the theme of inner conflict—balancing the harsh necessities of war with the human empathy that Evi embodies and hopes Dalinar will embrace.

As the scene shifts back to the present, Dalinar receives updates about the military situation—peaceful progress in securing a camp and the strategic positioning of forces. His internal frustration grows; he longs for the battle to begin and feels the weight of his responsibilities. Despite external calm, he is haunted by emotional unrest, especially regarding his relationship with Evi. His feelings of inadequacy and the desire for her admiration reveal a vulnerability not often associated with his role as a formidable leader. This internal tension underscores the chapter’s exploration of the

human side of leadership—how personal doubts and emotional needs influence even the strongest of men.

The chapter culminates in Dalinar’s decision to communicate directly with Evi, seeking clarity and connection amidst the chaos. Their conversation is intimate, revealing mutual concern and a shared desire for mercy. Evi pleads for Dalinar to hold back violence and show mercy, emphasizing the importance of compassion even in war. Dalinar, moved by her words, reflects on the moral dilemmas of his duty—balancing the need for victory with the necessity of humanity. The scene ends with Dalinar preparing for the next phase of battle, his resolve tempered by personal reflection and a renewed sense of purpose rooted in compassion and morality.

72. Rockfall

The chapter begins by highlighting the displacement caused by the city's upheaval, with the Edgedancers prioritizing relocating their people rather than recording their thoughts in gemstones. The narrative underscores the moral dilemma faced by the Radiants, who are being absorbed by nations, contrasting their fate with that of the ordinary citizens left without homes. This sets a tone of societal imbalance and the difficult decisions surrounding loyalty and responsibility amid chaos. The perspective emphasizes the human cost of political and magical conflicts, illustrating how the broader conflict impacts everyday lives, especially those of the displaced and vulnerable populations.

Veil, a central character, perceives the city’s heartbeat through its ancient stones, sensing a dark presence—a spren that has become an urban disease. Her observations reveal a city scarred by old wounds and ongoing threats, with the populace avoiding the palace and ignoring the ominous signs. Veil’s introspection about the city’s resilience and the silent threat within hints at deeper, unseen dangers. Her cautious exploration underscores the pervasive tension and the presence of a long-standing, corrupting influence that has yet to be fully revealed or confronted.

The narrative then shifts to Veil and her companion Vathah infiltrating a luxurious mansion called Rockfall, which is filled with illusions of waterfalls and grandeur, created through magical means. They adopt disguises to evade detection, moving through the estate’s opulent, transformed spaces. Their mission involves gathering intelligence and assessing the damage from recent storms, including repairs made to the mansion after lightning strikes caused significant destruction. The detailed descriptions of the mansion’s architecture, the artificial waterfalls, and the ongoing repairs reflect a world where wealth, magic, and aesthetics intertwine, yet underlying tensions and dangers persist beneath the surface.

The chapter concludes with Veil and Vathah covertly observing a conversation involving Ishnah and the mansion’s mistress, Brightness Nananav. As they navigate guards and the mansion’s guarded environment, Veil sketches Nananav from memory, demonstrating her resourcefulness and stealth. The scene captures the mounting suspense and the complexity of their infiltration, emphasizing the danger of their covert operation. The characters’ interactions reveal their nervousness and professionalism, illustrating the high stakes of their mission and the constant threat of discovery in a world filled with political intrigue, magical dangers, and hidden agendas.



73. Telling Which Stories

The chapter begins with a tense reflection on the fragility of the tower’s defenses, highlighting the underlying fear of failing to protect against the Unmade. This concern sets a tone of vulnerability and urgency, emphasizing the constant threat faced by the characters. The dialogue introduces a mix of soldiers sharing stories and banter, revealing their camaraderie and contrasting perspectives on their roles and the world around them. The narrative provides insight into their personal experiences, fears, and the informal hierarchy among soldiers, illustrating the human side of their military duties amidst looming danger.

Kaladin’s integration into the Wall Guard is depicted as somewhat superficial compared to his history with Bridge Four, yet he finds camaraderie with the squad. Their banter is lively, with teasing about highborns like Adolin and the social divisions that define their society. Kaladin observes these distinctions with a mixture of curiosity and skepticism, recognizing the stark contrast between the soldiers’ worldview and his own. The dialogue underscores the rigid social stratification in their culture, where lighteyes and middlers occupy vastly different social spheres, often viewed with suspicion or disdain.

The narrative explores the social dynamics and prejudices ingrained in Alethi society, particularly through the perspectives of the squad members. The soldiers’ dismissive attitude toward highborns like Adolin reveals their ingrained class biases and their perception of leadership and privilege. Kaladin’s attempt to see the good in everyone reflects his more compassionate outlook, but he is quickly made aware of the societal divides that influence how people are judged and treated. This contrast highlights the larger societal issues that underpin the soldiers’ daily lives and interactions, illustrating the pervasive nature of stratification and prejudice.

As the patrol continues through the city streets, the chapter shifts focus to the visible inequalities and tensions between the soldiers and the refugees. The guards’ role as protectors is contrasted with the hostility they encounter from those they serve to defend. The refugees’ desperation and suspicion stem from their perception of the soldiers’ privileges, such as access to food and safety, which they lack. This dynamic underscores the broader themes of inequality, survival, and societal division, emphasizing the complex reality faced by those on both sides of the barricades in a city under siege.



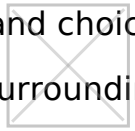
74. Swiftspren

The chapter begins with Veil reflecting on a daring leap from a tower, capturing her sense of freedom and longing for the wind’s embrace. Her thoughts reveal a desire for connection and the bittersweet nature of her actions, emphasizing her complex emotions. As she moves through the city, she visits Grund, an urchin, and other local inhabitants, delivering food and gathering information. These interactions highlight her efforts to maintain relationships and her awareness of the dangerous environment around her, especially with the ongoing threat posed by the Everstorm and the unstable political landscape of Kholinar.

Veil’s observations of the city’s inhabitants deepen her understanding of the suffering and fears that pervade the population. She notes the presence of various spren—particularly hunger and fearspren—signaling the pervasive unrest and emotional turmoil. Her role as a covert operative is underscored by her subtle manipulations, including sending illusions of herself to gather intelligence and spread her reputation secretly. Her internal dialogue reveals her desire to do more than small acts of kindness; she recognizes the limitations of her current efforts but remains committed to making a meaningful difference.

The narrative shifts to Veil’s participation in the Cult of Moments, where she adopts the guise of a Swiftspren, a spren that symbolizes swift movement and change. She transforms herself with Stormlight, blending into the cult’s parade and observing their chanting and rituals. Veil senses the allure of surrender and release that the cultists experience, feeling their collective desire to embrace change, storm, and spren. Her immersion in this scene reflects her strategic attempt to gather intelligence and influence the cult from within, all while grappling with her own doubts and the need to think on a grander scale.

In the final moments, Veil’s internal conflict intensifies as she recognizes her vulnerability to darkness and the seductive power of the cult’s ideology. Her sense of purpose is challenged by the realization that she may have been carried away by the darkness rather than pursuing her original goal of locating the Oathgate. Standing amidst the chanting and illusions, she becomes acutely aware of the importance of maintaining her resolve and clarity. The chapter concludes with her trembling, aware that her actions and choices are critical to her mission and her own sense of identity amid the chaos surrounding her.



75. Only Red

The chapter opens with a reflection on a past military campaign, highlighting Dalinar's strategic mindset and his fascination with the potential of mounted archers and cavalry tactics. The scene vividly depicts his leadership and the elite training of his soldiers, emphasizing their stamina and proficiency in long-distance combat. Dalinar's thoughts reveal his curiosity about warfare innovations, setting the tone for a story deeply rooted in military strategy and honor. The narrative intertwines his tactical considerations with personal resolve, illustrating his dedication to understanding and mastering the art of war on a grand scale.

As Dalinar leads his forces over rugged terrain, the chapter explores his internal struggle with trust and betrayal. The "Thrill," a powerful emotional and mystical force, energizes him but also clouds his judgment, especially as he contemplates the loyalty of Sadeas. Dalinar’s trust in his allies is challenged by suspicions of treachery, creating a tense atmosphere of uncertainty. His focus sharpens as he prepares for what might be a confrontation, driven by a mixture of loyalty, suspicion, and a desire for truth. This internal conflict underscores the complexities of leadership in a treacherous political landscape.

The scene shifts to an intense action sequence as Dalinar’s forces approach a seemingly abandoned caravan. His instincts alert him to danger, prompting him to charge into a camp that appears deserted. However, the situation quickly escalates when he realizes something is amiss—the soldiers wear Sadeas's colors, but their behavior and the environment suggest deception. The chapter builds suspense as Dalinar’s suspicions grow; he orders a retreat, only to be caught off guard by a sudden landslide triggered by enemies. This trap results in Dalinar being buried and injured, leaving him vulnerable and in a perilous situation.

In the final moments, Dalinar’s resilience shines through. Trapped beneath the rocks, he senses betrayal and recognizes the trap set by enemies allied with the Rift and its highlord. Despite his injuries and the overwhelming odds, his determination to survive and fight back is palpable. He uses his armor’s mystical power, the Thrill, to summon the strength needed to escape the rockslide tomb. The chapter concludes with Dalinar breaking free from his rocky prison, ready to confront his enemies and uncover the truth behind the deception. His resolve and strategic mind remain unbroken, setting the stage for future conflict and revelation.



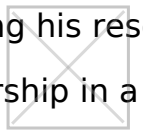
76. An Animal

The chapter opens with Dalinar reflecting on a recent, brutal day of battle, emphasizing his physical and emotional exhaustion. Despite washing up and consulting a surgeon for his wounds, he remains haunted by the red mist in his vision and the persistent inability to sleep. His focus is on military strategy, where he inspects the new plans for taking the city walls, signaling a shift in tactics. Dalinar’s decisiveness is clear as he orders the suspension of plans to march into the city, indicating he has a more calculated and potentially destructive plan in mind, hinting at the brutal nature of his approach to conquest.

Dalinar’s interactions with Sadeas reveal political tension and underlying mistrust. They discuss the delicate balance of power, with Sadeas revealing that he has managed to stall the scribes to keep certain information secret from Gavilar, Dalinar’s brother. Their conversation exposes the complex web of alliances and betrayals, with Sadeas expressing loyalty to Gavilar and Dalinar contemplating the brutal lessons of war. Dalinar’s reflections on leadership, loyalty, and the necessity of doing what must be done underscore the moral ambiguities faced by these military leaders, foreshadowing the devastating actions they are preparing to undertake.

As night falls, Dalinar prepares for an assault on the city walls, ordering his troops to use oil and flaming brands for a nighttime attack. The chapter describes the gritty, relentless assault by ordinary soldiers, with no heroic Shardbearers leading, emphasizing the brutal, unglamorous reality of war. Dalinar’s weariness persists as he waits for the chaos of battle to unfold, passing through the battlefield littered with fallen soldiers. The scene underscores the human cost of war, highlighting Dalinar’s internal conflict—his desire to make a statement through destruction versus the toll it exacts on soldiers and civilians alike.

The chapter concludes with Dalinar’s strategic decision to burn the city of the rebels within the Rift, viewing it as a necessary display of power and punishment for rebellion. Despite concerns about civilian casualties, Dalinar emphasizes the importance of sending a message to the kingdom about obedience and consequences. Sadeas’s remarks about the traitors and the political machinations behind the scenes reveal a landscape of deception and ruthless pragmatism. The chapter ends with Dalinar reaffirming his resolve to enforce his will through force, illustrating the harsh realities of leadership in a time of war and rebellion.



77. Stormshelter

The chapter opens with a reflection on the remnants of Odium’s forces, now called the parsh, who continue their relentless war effort independently of their former masters from Damnation. This highlights the ongoing chaos and unresolved conflicts that threaten the stability of the world. The narrative then shifts to Kaladin, who is rushing through the city streets during an approaching storm, seeking shelter for himself and others. His quick actions, including slipping into a nearby building, demonstrate the urgency and danger posed by the unpredictable weather, emphasizing the importance of stormshelters in this tumultuous environment.

Inside a private winehouse serving as a stormshelter, Kaladin reunites with friends Shallan and Adolin. They discuss recent political and military developments, including Prince Elhokar’s plans to reveal himself to the lighteyes and bolster the city’s defenses. Kaladin shares his intelligence about the city’s guard potentially possessing a Soulcaster and producing food through mysterious means, revealing ongoing efforts to sustain the population amid shortages. The conversation also touches on Azure, a guarded figure whose abilities and identity hint at the presence of an Honorblade, adding an element of intrigue and suspicion to the unfolding political landscape.

The scene then shifts to a more personal exchange, where Adolin examines Kaladin’s sword, praising its craftsmanship and questioning its origin. This leads to a discussion about the nature of Shardblades and their connection to other powerful weapons within their world. Meanwhile, Shallan presents a new discovery: a copy of Hessi’s *Mythica*, which explores the personalities of the Unmade—ancient, primal spren associated with chaos and destruction. This revelation ties into the larger mythological framework of the story, suggesting that these entities may still be active and influential, potentially linked to recent events and visions experienced by characters like Dalinar.

Throughout the chapter, there is a recurring theme of uncovering hidden truths and preparing for imminent threats. The characters’ discussions about the Unmade, their own weapons, and political maneuvers reflect a complex web of secrets and alliances. The storm outside underscores the urgency and chaos faced by all, symbolizing both literal and figurative upheaval. Overall, the chapter combines character interactions, world-building, and hints of future conflicts, setting the stage for deeper revelations and the ongoing struggle for power and understanding in this tumultuous world.



78. The Revel

The chapter opens with a strategic alliance among scholar Radiants aimed at disrupting the enemy’s supply of Voidlight, which is crucial for their transformations and power. This coalition's goal is to weaken the opposition by denying them vital resources, thereby gaining an advantage in ongoing conflicts. The focus on this clandestine effort highlights the importance of intelligence and covert operations in their broader struggle. It underscores the delicate balance of alliances and the tactical measures taken to ensure their side’s survival and dominance in the ongoing war.

Veil’s character is central to the narrative, revealing her internal conflict as she exposes herself during a covert operation. She is disguised as "Swiftspren," and her presence at a clandestine revel involves navigating suspicion and danger. Veil wrestles with her identity, contemplating whether to adopt a false persona or remain true to herself, knowing the enemy could recognize her. Her internal dialogue reflects her struggle with authenticity and survival, as she suppresses the desire to abandon her true self for a safer, more fabricated identity, emphasizing her resilience and complexity.

As Veil approaches the Oathgate platform, she encounters cult members and guards who are suspicious of her intentions. She maintains her composure, presenting herself as someone seeking enlightenment and answers from the rising orange glow at the top of the platform. Her strategic behavior and careful negotiations reveal her skill in deception and her understanding of the cult’s rituals. Veil’s plan involves climbing the steps to confront the unknown, trusting her allies’ tests and her own resolve, with her safety hinging on her ability to blend in and stay alert to threats.

Meanwhile, the narrative shifts to Kaladin, who is engaged in a routine patrol and reflects on the aftermath of a storm in the city. His observations of the damaged buildings and the strange behavior of the windspren set a tone of unease. The scene

transitions to a formal military inspection led by Azure, showcasing the discipline and morale of the troops. Kaladin’s interactions reveal his aspirations and the respect he garners within the military hierarchy, while also hinting at underlying tensions and the broader political landscape. The chapter ends with a glimpse of Veil reaching a smaller, more refined monastery, hinting at her ongoing mission and the larger mysteries awaiting her.



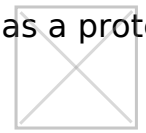
79. Echoes of Thunder

The chapter begins with a mysterious reference to the Unmade and the possibility of capturing it using a special prison, hinting at deeper lore and the significance of Melishi in this endeavor. This sets a tone of urgency and the pursuit of knowledge about formidable entities within the story’s universe. The narrative then shifts to a vivid battlefield scene where Kaladin and Highmarshal Azure lead their troops against a relentless attack by Fused, dark violet creatures wielding lances. The chaos underscores the intensity of the conflict, with soldiers fighting desperately amid falling debris and the destructive assault of the Voidbringers, emphasizing the stakes of the confrontation.

As the battle unfolds, Kaladin demonstrates strategic leadership amidst the chaos, organizing squads and directing their efforts to hold the wall and protect key positions. The scene highlights his discipline and resolve, even as the enemy's assault becomes overwhelming. Kaladin’s inner conflict surfaces as he fights to maintain order without relying on Stormlight, focusing instead on discipline, experience, and instinct. His awareness of the danger posed by the Fused and the destructive power they wield underscores the peril faced by everyone on the wall, creating a tense atmosphere of imminent threat.

The narrative intensifies with Kaladin engaging directly with the enemy, notably a Fused that Lashed him, attempting to topple him from the wall. Kaladin’s quick reflexes and mastery of Windrunner abilities allow him to reorient himself mid-fall, saving himself and his men from certain death. His tactical acumen is on display as he maneuvers through the battlefield, utilizing his environment to his advantage and risking his safety to protect others. This sequence exemplifies his resilience and growing mastery over his powers, even in the face of overwhelming odds.

In the climax, Kaladin confronts a Voidbringer in midair, fighting fiercely to protect his squad and prevent further destruction. Using his agility and weaponry, he manages to land a decisive blow with Syl, the Shardblade, in a dramatic display of combat prowess. The scene underscores his determination to defend his comrades and the importance of his leadership. The chapter concludes with a sense of ongoing conflict and Kaladin’s unwavering resolve, illustrating both the brutal reality of war and his personal growth as a protector and warrior.



80. Oblivious

The chapter opens with a reference to Ba-Ado-Mishram’s connection to the parsh people, highlighting her role in providing Voidlight and empowering certain forces. The narrative then shifts to Veil’s perspective, describing her disquiet and her efforts to aid her community amid the chaos caused by the Everstorm. She navigates a damaged environment, seeking Grund, a young orphan, and reflects on her motivations—primarily driven by her desire to help those suffering from starvation and hardship rather than confront the monstrous threats of Voidbringers. Her cautious movements and covert disguises underscore her ongoing struggle to gather information without attracting attention.

Veil’s interactions with Grund reveal her concern for the boy, who unexpectedly appears tense and guarded. Their exchange hints at underlying secrets and a tense relationship, as Grund’s behavior suggests he is hiding something. Veil’s attempt to gather intelligence is interrupted by her observations of the market and her efforts to remain unnoticed, revealing her skills in disguise and stealth. Her internal thoughts indicate a sense of unease, as she senses that something is amiss beneath her outward calm. The chapter emphasizes her internal conflict—balancing her mission with her empathy for those around her, especially Grund, who seems to be hiding deeper troubles.

The story takes a darker turn when Veil witnesses a group of thugs attacking Grund, revealing her protective instincts. Her anger ignites visibly as she confronts the assailants, but they scatter before she can catch them. She finds Grund injured, bleeding from a head wound, and desperately tries to help him. Her sense of helplessness intensifies as Grund, in pain and disoriented, reveals feelings of hatred and bitterness, possibly rooted in trauma and loss. Veil’s attempts to soothe him are met with further emotional pain, exposing the harsh realities faced by the vulnerable

children in her world and her internal struggle to provide comfort amid chaos.

In the final moments, Veil’s concern shifts to a broader threat—Grund’s mention of others suggests a network or group that may be involved in the violence and suffering around her. Her urgency drives her to seek out Muri, a mother figure who might hold vital information or aid. Disguised once more, Veil races through the market to rally support and uncover the extent of the danger, setting the stage for potential confrontations and revelations. The chapter concludes on a tense note, emphasizing themes of sacrifice, hidden danger, and the ongoing fight to protect the innocent amidst a fractured world.

81. Ithi and Her Sister

The chapter opens with a scene of strategic secrecy and concern over the potential consequences of certain actions, hinting at the delicate balance of power and the risks involved in using mystical artifacts. Melishi expresses confidence about the outcome, but Naze-daughter-Kuzodo warns of unforeseen side effects, emphasizing the tension between intent and consequence in their magical endeavors. This sets a tone of cautious experimentation and highlights the stakes involved in their mystical manipulations, which could impact not only their immediate environment but also broader political or spiritual realms.

The narrative then shifts to Kaladin, who introduces himself in a formal setting within a barrack, where a small group of military personnel and officers are gathered. As Kaladin interacts with Azure and Battalionlord Hadinar, the conversation reveals underlying tensions about the use of a Soulcaster and the secret techniques employed to avoid attracting dangerous spren. Kaladin’s guarded attitude underscores the clandestine nature of their activities, and the scene underscores the importance of secrecy in their efforts to manipulate magical resources without alerting enemies or causing chaos.

Further exploration uncovers a hidden tunnel beneath the city, used by Azure for covert operations. Azure demonstrates her ingenuity by cutting through stone to extract building material without drawing attention, revealing her fears of the city’s instability. The group discovers a concealed chamber where a skilled female ardent uses a fabrial, indicating the presence of a genuine Soulcaster. This discovery raises questions about the true source of their magical power, as Azure’s reliance on the woman suggests a layered approach to magic, blending ancient technology and mystical craft to sustain their defenses.

The chapter concludes with a discussion about the broader strategic situation, focusing on a mysterious ancient device capable of instant teleportation. Kaladin reveals the existence of this device in Kholinar, which could be instrumental in saving the city if activated correctly. The soldiers’ excitement contrasts with Kaladin’s cautious tone, hinting at the complex logistical and magical challenges they face. The chapter ends with a sense of urgency and unresolved tension, as Kaladin hesitates to disclose the location of the device, emphasizing the high stakes and the delicate nature of their plans to save the city from impending disaster.



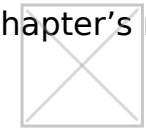
82. The Girl Who Stood Up

The chapter opens with a sense of cautious hope, as a character reflects on the possibility that a recent effort might finally bring an end to the ongoing war promised by the Heralds. This introduces a tone of longing for peace amid chaos. The narrative quickly shifts to a scene where the protagonist, She huddles and loses track of her surroundings, overwhelmed by memories and the faces of those she couldn’t save. Her mind is haunted by visions of death and failure, emphasizing her deep internal struggle with guilt and helplessness as she confronts the devastating consequences of her actions and the harsh realities of her environment.

The story delves into She’s internal conflict, revealing her feelings of inadequacy and the toll of her efforts to help others. She is haunted by vivid memories of loved ones and victims of violence, which serve as a stark reminder of her perceived failures. Her persona as Veil, a guise she adopts to cope, is shown to be a false front—she feels unprepared and inexperienced, realizing that her attempts to aid the city’s suffering have only made things worse. Her despair deepens as she questions whether her presence is truly making a difference, and whether her efforts are worth the lives lost, including a young boy, which leaves her feeling defeated and overwhelmed.

A moment of solace arrives when Wit enters her space, offering silent companionship and gentle reassurance. Their interaction emphasizes the importance of silence and understanding, as Wit encourages her to accept failure as an intrinsic part of life. He gently challenges her self-criticism, reminding her that living involves making mistakes, and that her attempts to help, even if imperfect, are valuable. She confesses her desire to become Veil permanently to escape her painful memories but admits her lack of real-life experience, which hampers her ability to act decisively. Wit’s words serve to comfort her, framing her struggles within a broader perspective of resilience and growth.

The chapter concludes with Wit sharing a story about a girl who looked up at a wall and contemplated the storms beyond it, symbolizing curiosity and hope in darkness. Using illusion, She attempts to recreate the story visually, but Wit guides her to see the deeper meaning—that even in darkness, life persists, and people find ways to endure without light. This reflection underscores themes of perseverance, the importance of perspective, and the human capacity to find hope amid despair, reinforcing the chapter’s message of resilience and inner strength.



83. Crimson to Break

The chapter opens with a ceremonial reflection on the responsibility of guarding the precious gemstone, Honor’s Drop, emphasizing the weight of their duty as the Elsecallers. This sets a tone of solemnity and duty, contrasting the mystical significance of the gems with the serious burden carried by those tasked with their protection. The narrative then shifts to Adolin Kholin, who prepares himself physically and mentally for an impending battle. His morning routine reveals his inner tension and sense of foreboding, as he questions his worth and the traditions he no longer feels connected to, finding solace in the presence of his Shardblade, which symbolizes both his past and his resolve.

Adolin’s introspection deepens as he reflects on his identity and the significance of the weapon he wields. He speaks to the Blade as if it were a living entity, expressing gratitude and a desire to use his power for good. This moment underscores his internal struggle—balancing personal guilt, the trauma of past actions, and his sense of duty. Clad in his Kholin uniform, he walks with a newfound confidence, even as doubts linger about his worthiness. His connection to his family’s legacy and the symbolism of his armor reflect his attempt to reconcile his past with his present responsibilities amidst the chaos approaching the city.

The scene shifts to political and military developments within the palace, where Elhokar and Highmarshal Azure discuss the imminent threat of the Voidbringer army. The narrative details the strategic situation, revealing that the city’s defenses are compromised but that plans are actively underway to confront the invasion. The characters prepare for a daring assault on the palace itself, with key figures like Shallan, Kaladin, and Adolin mapping out their tactical approach. The tension mounts as they acknowledge the dangers posed by the enemy and the uncertainties of their plan, emphasizing the gravity of their mission and the resilience required to face the

coming chaos.

As the attack begins, the focus turns to the collective effort of the defenders and Radiants. Azure’s soldiers are already engaged in a desperate fight on the city walls, highlighting the dire circumstances. The chapter culminates with the decision to march on the palace, despite the risks, to turn the tide of the battle. The signal of the city’s attack underscores the urgency, prompting the assembled forces to mobilize swiftly. This final scene captures the unity and determination of the characters as they face overwhelming odds, underscoring themes of sacrifice, leadership, and hope in the face of impending destruction.

84. The One You Can Save

The chapter begins with a sense of foreboding as the enemy advances toward Feverstone Keep, with uncertainty surrounding their true intentions. The narrative hints at a strategic interest in the region, possibly linked to Rall Elorim, though the specifics remain unclear. This sets a tense atmosphere, emphasizing the ongoing threat and the importance of understanding the enemy’s motives. The excerpt introduces a layered conflict that combines military maneuvers with deeper mysteries, suggesting that the confrontation is not only physical but also tied to broader political or magical stakes. The mood underscores the precariousness of the situation and the need for strategic insight.

Kaladin is depicted leading a daring assault through the palace, energized by stormlight that bolsters his strength and resolve. His movement is purposeful, aimed at confronting the threat within the heart of the enemy’s stronghold. As he ascends the stairs with Elhokar and their soldiers, the narrative details their cautious approach, highlighting the danger of ambushes and the importance of reconnaissance. Syl’s role as a scout demonstrates the layered nature of their efforts, blending magic, strategy, and leadership. Kaladin’s awareness of his powers’ limitations adds tension, emphasizing the stakes of their infiltration and the urgency of their mission to protect the king.

Inside the palace, the scene shifts to a tense confrontation with the palace guards and the discovery of the queen’s location. Kaladin’s team navigates through a lavish but seemingly guarded environment, contrasting the opulence with the underlying threat of violence. The soldiers’ formation and Kaladin’s stormlight preparations reveal a fragile balance between combat readiness and the risk of chaos. The narrative underscores the unpredictability of the situation, with the palace’s interior serving as a battleground not just physically but also psychologically, as the characters grapple

with the threat to the royal family and the political stability of the realm.

The chapter concludes with a tense encounter involving the queen, who is found singing softly amid the chaos. The scene shifts to her perspective, revealing her youthful appearance and calm demeanor, which contrasts with the turmoil outside. Her interaction with Elhokar hints at complex relationships and hidden agendas, raising questions about her allegiance and intentions. Kaladin’s cautious approach underscores the delicate nature of the situation, as he seeks to protect the royal family while uncovering the deeper secrets at play. The scene sets the stage for further revelations, blending political intrigue, magical mystery, and the overarching threat posed by the enemy’s advances.

85. Grieve Later

The chapter opens with a secretive and tense atmosphere, emphasizing the importance of silence and discretion in the midst of chaos. A character whispers a forewarning, hinting at a deeper knowledge of impending events, setting a tone of urgency and unseen danger. The narrative quickly shifts to Adolin, who suppresses his grief over Elhokar’s death, recalling his father’s battlefield lessons to "grieve later," highlighting the importance of resilience in the face of loss. This establishes the emotional gravity of the situation, where personal sorrow must be momentarily set aside to focus on survival and strategic response amidst the devastation.

As the battle intensifies, Adolin leads a retreat from the city, guiding Kaladin and others toward the Oathgate platform, where Azure’s soldiers and surgeons are working tirelessly to aid the wounded. Despite their efforts, the scale of destruction is overwhelming, with tens of thousands of parshmen flooding through broken gates and walls, forming ominous formations for an impending assault. Adolin’s realization that the city is lost underscores the gravity of the situation, prompting him to command a strategic retreat to Urithiru. His decisive leadership reflects the brutal necessity of abandoning the city to preserve the remaining forces and civilians, emphasizing themes of sacrifice and strategic foresight.

Inside the control building, the narrative introduces a critical complication involving the Oathgate device, which appears to be malfunctioning or compromised. Adolin’s urgency is compounded by Shallan’s discovery that the heart of the device was a trap, and that the Voidbringers intentionally left the area unguarded to lure them into a disaster. This revelation raises doubts about trusting the device or the spren Sja-anat, who warns of potential catastrophe if they attempt to activate it. Shallan’s internal conflict and her interactions with Pattern highlight the tension between trust and suspicion, as she faces a dilemma that could determine the fate of their escape and

the broader battle against the Voidbringers.

The chapter concludes with a tense engagement between trust, deception, and survival. Shallan, uncertain of whom or what to trust, prepares to activate the Oathgate despite the warnings, symbolizing her internal struggle to reconcile her instincts with her responsibilities. Her conversation with Pattern and Sja-anat emphasizes themes of deception and the difficulty of discerning truth in a time of chaos. As she engages the device, the narrative leaves her with a haunting awareness of the risks involved, encapsulating the overarching tension between hope and despair, trust and treachery, in their fight for survival and the future of their world.

86. That Others May Stand

The chapter opens with a reflection from a character who is contemplating their impending commitment to the Fourth Ideal and the armor that comes with it. They express doubt about their worthiness, questioning whether they truly want to help others, and reveal a sense of internal conflict. This introspective moment highlights the burden of the ideals and the pressure to live up to heroic standards, even when personal doubts and fears threaten to overwhelm. The character’s internal dialogue sets a tone of vulnerability and the struggle to reconcile their sense of duty with feelings of inadequacy.

Dalinar Kholin, the chapter’s central figure, stands solemnly on his balcony at Urithiru, observing the vast, empty landscape. His physical posture and mental state reflect deep inner turmoil. Despite efforts by others to convince him to rest, Dalinar is haunted by memories of past atrocities, particularly the cries of children and the horrors of war. His emotional restraint masks a profound pain rooted in guilt and grief over his role in violence and destruction, especially during the Rift conflict. His internal conflict underscores the heavy toll of leadership and the moral weight he bears.

The narrative delves into Dalinar’s spiritual and moral crisis as he converses with the Stormfather, questioning the justice of his own actions. Dalinar’s memories and feelings of guilt threaten to overwhelm him, and he grapples with the idea that his bond with the Stormfather might be a mistake. The Stormfather acknowledges his own dark past, hinting that even divine beings have committed acts of destruction. Dalinar’s desire to ignore or forget these memories reveals his longing for redemption, yet he recognizes that confronting these truths is necessary for genuine growth and leadership.

In the final section, Dalinar joins others in a war council, where strategic concerns about the city of Kholinar dominate their discussions. The uncertainty of the battle’s

outcome and the frustration of waiting for news weigh heavily on everyone. Dalinar’s interaction with Taravangian explores themes of leadership responsibility, sacrifice, and moral ambiguity. Both men reflect on the sacrifices required of rulers—bearing guilt and making morally complex decisions—to ensure the survival of their people. The chapter concludes with a somber acknowledgment of the personal costs of leadership and the burden of justice, emphasizing that true strength often involves profound personal sacrifice.



87. This Place

The chapter begins with a serene farewell to Urithiru, the city, and its inhabitants, setting a tone of quiet reflection before the chaos erupts. The narrative quickly shifts to a dramatic disturbance at the Oathgate’s control building, which is violently shaken as if struck by a massive force. Adolin, caught in the upheaval, stumbles and falls, experiencing a disorienting moment of vertigo and intense sensory overload. The sudden burst of light and the ripping sound signal a catastrophic event, leaving Adolin vulnerable as he plunges into an unfamiliar environment, highlighting the suddenness and unpredictability of the crisis.

As Adolin falls, he finds himself immersed in an unsettling landscape characterized by an ocean of tiny, shimmering beads, which are not liquid but resemble countless glass fragments. He struggles to breathe and panic overtakes him, fearing suffocation and death in this strange, endless sea. Miraculously, Azure intervenes, grasping his hand and pulling him back onto a solid platform, providing a moment of relief amid the chaos. The scene emphasizes the surreal nature of the environment, with a dark, ominous sky streaked with strange clouds and a distant, tiny sun, creating an otherworldly atmosphere that underscores the chapter’s sense of disorientation.

The scene expands to reveal towering, sentient spren—spectral beings that resemble elongated human figures—hovering ominously in the air, their presence both awe-inspiring and threatening. Adolin observes these immense spren, which seem to shift and ripple with a life of their own, hinting at their sentient and possibly protective or watchful nature. The environment is filled with a sense of foreboding, as the characters realize they are in a place far removed from their familiar world, trapped in an alien landscape that defies understanding. The appearance of strange, otherworldly creatures and the shifting environment signals a significant, possibly dangerous transition.

The chapter concludes with the appearance of mysterious entities—one with a shifting, complex form resembling a ball of lines where a head should be, and others with unusual, unsettling features. These beings seem to be part of the landscape itself, and their presence intensifies the sense of alienation and threat. The characters, including Adolin, Shallan, Kaladin, and Azure, are confined to a small landing platform, cut off from their previous surroundings, and are left pondering their predicament. Azure’s remark about hating this place underscores the chapter’s overall mood of dread and uncertainty, signaling that they are now in a hostile, incomprehensible realm that may hold unknown dangers and mysteries.

88. Voices

The chapter opens with a reflection on Gavilar’s aging and the toll his responsibilities have taken on him, highlighting Dalinar’s observant stance from the shadows of the king’s den. Dalinar perceives Gavilar as worn and in need of renewal, perhaps through a hunt or some other activity to restore his vitality. The scene underscores Dalinar’s role as a quiet sentinel, watching the political machinations unfold while grappling with his own internal struggles. The atmosphere is tense, filled with unspoken pain and the weight of leadership, setting a somber tone that emphasizes the emotional and physical costs of power and responsibility.

Dalinar’s internal monologue reveals the deep scars inflicted by recent events, particularly the destruction of the Rift and the loss of his wife, Evi. Sadeas’s manipulation of the narrative to blame Dalinar for the city’s destruction adds to his feelings of guilt and isolation. Gavilar’s cautious attitude toward Dalinar’s potential violence underscores the danger he perceives in Dalinar’s strength. Dalinar’s aversion to fire—linked to traumatic memories—symbolizes his struggle to confront his past and the destructive impulses that threaten to consume him, illustrating his internal conflict and sense of helplessness.

The narrative shifts to Dalinar’s interactions with his son, Adolin, revealing a complex relationship marked by pride, concern, and a growing sense of distance. Adolin’s youthful enthusiasm and desire to prove himself in combat contrast with Dalinar’s internal turmoil. Dalinar’s sternness and attempt to maintain discipline reflect his desire to instill strength and honor in his son, even as he battles his own emotional wounds. The scene underscores the generational divide and the lingering impact of loss, with Dalinar’s memories of happier times conflicting with his current despair.

In the closing scenes, Dalinar’s desperation drives him to seek solace outside the palace’s formal settings, leading him to the Beggars’ Porch in the palace’s depths.

Here, he encounters the suffering of the less fortunate, symbolizing his own feelings of helplessness and moral conflict. His interactions with the beggars and the religious statues reinforce themes of guilt, duty, and the search for redemption. Dalinar’s internal struggle with his past, his role as a leader, and his desire for peace and clarity are woven throughout the chapter, illustrating a man torn between his responsibilities and his inner demons.



89. Damnation

The chapter explores the concept of Damnation as a realm beyond mortal comprehension, introduced through a vivid depiction of a surreal landscape filled with monstrous spren and haunting imagery. The narrator, Hessi, reflects on the nature of Unmade spren, emphasizing their immense powers and distinctiveness from mere spirits or shadows. This sets the tone for understanding the deeper, more terrifying facets of the spiritual realm, Shadesmar, which overlaps with the physical world but operates under inverted rules and unfamiliar phenomena. The narrative underscores the mysterious and dangerous nature of these entities, hinting at their significance in the larger cosmology of the story.

Adolin, the protagonist, finds himself in this terrifying domain, initially unprepared for the horrors of Damnation. His attempt to comprehend the landscape reveals a place where the boundaries between life and death blur, with the realm of thought manifesting as a chaotic ocean of shimmering beads and floating flames. The presence of nightmarish spren, some resembling distorted human forms, emphasizes the psychological and existential dread of the environment. Adolin’s realization that they are not dead, yet trapped in Shadesmar, intensifies the sense of peril and the unfamiliarity of this realm, which is both mesmerizing and terrifying.

As the characters navigate this strange realm, they encounter numerous spren and entities that embody their fears and the unknown. Kaladin’s attempt to harness Stormlight attracts predatory spren, highlighting the danger of wielding power in Shadesmar. The appearance of the Unmade beneath the platform, along with the spren representing the souls of the Oathgate, underscores the presence of ancient, malevolent forces lurking beneath the surface. The characters grapple with their vulnerability, understanding that their survival depends on quick thinking and adaptation in a landscape where the rules are inverted and every shadow could

conceal a threat.

The chapter concludes with a tense realization of the scale of the threat posed by the emerging monstrous forms beneath them. An enormous hand and claw rise from the beads, signifying the imminent danger from these colossal entities. The characters' efforts to escape are hampered by the environment's hostility and the unpredictable nature of Shadesmar. This moment underscores the overarching theme of confronting unknown horrors, emphasizing that their journey through Damnation is fraught with existential peril. The chapter ends on a note of suspense, hinting that their survival will depend on their resilience and understanding of this alien realm.

90. Reborn

The chapter begins with Szeth, a former assassin known as the White, who has been miraculously reborn through the intervention of Nin, a Herald of Justice. His resurrection involved the use of a fabrial, which healed his body but left lingering signs of his spirit’s improper reattachment, such as a glowing afterimage. Szeth’s identity and past deeds weigh heavily on him as he prepares to join the Skybreaker order, a group dedicated to justice and law. The narrative explores the blurry line between myth and reality regarding the Unmade and Voidbringers, emphasizing the difficulty in distinguishing fact from fiction in their mythic universe.

Szeth’s inner conflict is palpable as he navigates the training grounds, observing the other hopefuls and contemplating his own readiness. His connection to the spiritual realm is strained, haunted by voices of the dead he has slain, which he fears still have power over him. The black sword he carries, gifted by Nin, symbolizes his ongoing struggle with his past and his new role. Despite the physical and spiritual scars, Szeth is determined to prove himself, driven by a desire for justice and a need to restore his honor, even as doubts linger about his trustworthiness and the true nature of his powers.

The chapter also delves into the formal initiation process of the Skybreaker order, highlighting the significance of the Ideals—moral and spiritual vows that define a Skybreaker’s path. Szeth is instructed on the progression from initial vows to full membership, including the importance of bonding with a highspren. The process is rigorous, requiring him to speak the first three Ideals, with the promise of further ideals like Crusade and Division. The narrative emphasizes the gravity of these vows, which serve as both spiritual commitments and tests of dedication, shaping Szeth’s journey toward becoming a full Skybreaker and seeking justice for his past deeds.

Throughout the chapter, the tone remains introspective and focused on Szeth’s internal struggles and the disciplined, almost ritualistic, nature of the Skybreaker training. Szeth’s questions about the hidden nature of the Ideals and the significance of his vows reveal his desire for clarity and purpose. The chapter underscores the themes of redemption, trust, and the pursuit of justice, as Szeth’s path is marked by both spiritual growth and the lingering shadows of his previous life. The narrative sets the stage for his ongoing transformation and the challenges he must face to fulfill his destiny.



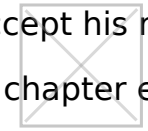
91. Why He Froze

The chapter explores the nature of the Unmade, emphasizing that they are fundamentally spren—manifestations of concepts or divine forces rather than individual beings. This perspective frames them as symbols of larger ideas, which influences how characters perceive and interpret their presence and actions. The author underscores the complexity of these entities, suggesting that understanding them requires acknowledging their divine or conceptual origins, rather than viewing them solely as personal or malicious spirits. This insight sets the tone for a broader discussion on the interplay between divine forces and the characters' struggles within their world.

Kaladin's memories and current situation highlight his internal conflict and emotional struggles. As he cleans crem on the bunker floor, he is reminded of his past experiences in Amaram's army and his relationship with his family, especially his brother Tien. His thoughts reveal a deep sense of frustration and helplessness, compounded by the harsh discipline he faces and his desire to be with his brother. Kaladin's internal dialogue shows his yearning for connection and his fear of losing his familial bonds amidst the chaos and brutality of war, emphasizing his vulnerability and the emotional toll of his circumstances.

The interaction between Kaladin and Sergeant Tukks offers insight into the psychological challenges faced by soldiers. Tukks reassures Kaladin that freezing in battle is a common experience, framing it as a natural part of training rather than punishment. Their conversation delves into the moral dilemmas of war, with Tukks explaining that hurting others is sometimes necessary but still morally complex. Kaladin's confession that his fear is not of injury but of causing harm to others reveals his moral conflict and empathy, illustrating the emotional struggles soldiers endure when faced with violence and the necessity of killing in warfare.

The chapter concludes with Kaladin’s introspection and the revelation of his true fear: not that he could hurt someone, but that he might be capable of killing if needed. This realization terrifies him, highlighting the moral and emotional boundaries he fears crossing. Tukks’s advice to focus on his squad and their survival resonates with Kaladin’s emerging sense of responsibility. The narrative underscores the importance of camaraderie and moral integrity in a brutal world, as Kaladin suppresses his fears and begins to accept his role within the military, even as his internal conflict remains unresolved. The chapter ends with a glimpse into the surreal realm of Shadesmar, hinting at ongoing spiritual and metaphysical themes.



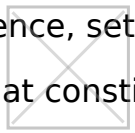
92. Water Warm as Blood

The chapter opens with a reflection on the presence of the Unmade, suggesting that despite their mythic and theological associations, their influence persists subtly in the world. The narrator emphasizes that these entities are still among us, often mistaken for or conflated with spren, highlighting the blurred line between myth and reality. This perspective challenges traditional views, implying that understanding and acknowledgment of such forces are crucial, even if they remain unseen or misunderstood by society. It sets a tone of cautious awareness, urging readers to reconsider the nature of these supernatural influences and their ongoing impact on the world.

The narrative then shifts to the setting of a Skybreaker test in a small town near the Purelake, where Szeth and other hopefuls gather to prove themselves. The test involves locating and executing escaped murderers, with the skybreakers tasked with upholding justice through swift action. The group is diverse, comprising different ethnicities and backgrounds, reflecting the inclusive nature of the order. The scene underscores the importance of discipline, obedience, and the moral dilemmas faced by the Skybreakers, as they balance their duty with underlying questions about justice and mercy in their mission.

As Szeth prepares to undertake the task, he questions the morality behind the execution of the prisoners, especially given the town’s nonviolent stance toward criminals. His doubts are compounded by the knowledge that the convicts are guilty, yet the societal context suggests a complex interplay of mercy and justice. The conversation reveals the political and cultural influences shaping the Skybreakers’ actions, emphasizing that their duties are not merely about punishment but also about maintaining societal order amidst conflicting values. Szeth’s internal conflict highlights his moral struggle with following orders versus his personal sense of justice.

The chapter concludes with Szeth entering the Purelake, contemplating his purpose and the nature of his relationship with his sword, Nimi. The dialogue between Szeth and the sword explores themes of obedience, morality, and the search for higher ideals. Szeth reflects on his past actions, driven by honor and duty, and questions whether he is truly fighting evil or merely fulfilling commands. The interaction reveals his inner turmoil and the philosophical dilemma of distinguishing between true evil and misguided obedience, setting the stage for his ongoing moral journey and the deeper exploration of what constitutes justice and righteousness.



93. Kata

The chapter opens with a reflection on myth and perception, referencing Taxil’s mention of Yelig-nar, also known as Blightwind, highlighting the tension between mythic accounts and their credibility. Jasnah Kholin’s skepticism about certain truths contrasts with the narrator’s belief, setting a tone of questioning what is real versus what is myth. This framing underscores the ongoing theme of deciphering hidden truths in a world filled with legends and mysterious forces, suggesting that understanding may require looking beyond surface appearances and questioning established narratives.

Adolin awakens from a nightmare, still haunted by the events of the previous day, including his violent act against Sadeas. His internal conflict surfaces as he questions his identity—whether he is merely a duelist or something more—shaped by pride, shame, and the brutal realities of war. His thoughts reveal a struggle with morality and the weight of his actions, hinting at deeper issues of guilt and self-awareness. The imagery of his surroundings, including the strange, glassy landscape and ghostly spren, emphasizes his sense of disorientation and the unfamiliarity of his current world.

The narrative then shifts to a scene of camaraderie and routine amid chaos, with Adolin practicing a kata alongside Azure and Kaladin. This shared activity provides a moment of calm and normalcy, reinforcing the idea that familiar disciplines and bonds remain constants even in uncertain times. As they analyze their limited supplies and plan their next move, the characters grapple with the urgency of returning to safety through the Oathgate. The discussion about resources and the dangers posed by the spren of the Oathgate highlights the precariousness of their situation and the complexity of navigating the spiritual and physical realms.

The chapter concludes with a strategic discussion, revealing the layered nature of their world—divided into realms with different characteristics and dangers. Pattern’s warning about the spren of the Oathgate underscores the growing threat and the need for alternative options. Syl’s insights about the spiritual and cognitive realms suggest that understanding and leveraging the multiversal structure could be key to their survival. Overall, the chapter combines introspection, action, and strategic planning, illustrating the characters’ resilience and the layered complexity of their environment.



94. A Small Bottle

The chapter opens with a vivid flashback to seven years ago, depicting Dalinar’s emotional and psychological turmoil. He is shown in a state of distress, violently upheaving his belongings in frustration after discovering that his bottles—likely containing alcohol or treasured keepsakes—have been taken from him. His anguish is intertwined with memories of suffering, including the suffering of children and a plea for life, emphasizing his deep-seated pain and sense of helplessness. This scene sets a tone of internal conflict, illustrating Dalinar’s struggle with addiction and regret amid the chaos of his inner world.

As the narrative progresses, Dalinar’s mental state appears fragmented. He questions whether he needs to be presentable for an upcoming hunt, revealing a disconnect between his responsibilities and his spiraling emotional state. His reflection on a previous successful trip with Gavilar, where he felt like his old self—sober and commanding—highlights a longing for stability and normalcy. However, this fleeting sense of identity is marred by his current despair and self-loathing, suggesting that his past triumphs are overshadowed by his ongoing internal battles.

The scene shifts to a tense interaction with his sons, Adolin and Renarin. Dalinar’s anger and frustration surface when his sons attempt to check on him, leading to a display of hostility and rejection. Despite his outburst, Dalinar’s heart races, revealing the depth of his inner turmoil. The arrival of Renarin, timid and caring, introduces a moment of tenderness—he offers Dalinar a small bottle of wine, a gesture of kindness amid chaos. Dalinar’s reaction to the gift, and his acknowledgment of Gavilar’s concealment of wine, underscores his dependence on alcohol as a coping mechanism, deepening the portrayal of his fragile mental state.

In the concluding moments, Dalinar’s emotional vulnerability becomes painfully apparent. He is overwhelmed by feelings of guilt, shame, and self-hatred, believing he

deserves to be hated by his sons. Renarin’s words, defending him as a noble and honorable man, evoke tears from Dalinar, illustrating his profound internal conflict between self-perception and external praise. As he clings to Renarin, Dalinar’s plea for help and his tears reveal a man desperately seeking redemption and relief from his inner darkness, highlighting the tragic complexity of his character and the pervasive sense of despair that engulfs him.



95. Inescapable Void

The chapter begins by referencing Yelig-nar’s formidable powers, possibly embodying the combined strength of all Surges, with legends suggesting that ingesting gemstones could activate his transformative abilities against Voidbringers. This mythological detail sets a tone of ancient, mystical power intertwined with the ongoing struggle against the Void and its agents. Such legends highlight the significance of Surges in shaping the lore and the dangerous potential they hold, emphasizing the peril faced by those who wield or encounter such forces. This backdrop underscores the chapter’s exploration of power, myth, and the darkness lurking within and beyond the physical realm.

Kaladin and his companions traverse Shadesmar, the spiritual realm, grappling with internal turmoil and the mounting pressure of their mission. Kaladin’s internal conflict manifests as frustration and a sense of helplessness, compounded by the oppressive presence of angry spren and the dangerous entities they encounter. The group’s journey along the narrow landmass over the bead ocean symbolizes their fragile progress through a landscape filled with threats and uncertainty. Their physical and emotional struggles reflect the broader theme of navigating a perilous world where emotions and fears threaten to overwhelm them, illustrating the psychological toll of their quest.

The chapter delves into the characters’ emotional states, especially Kaladin’s, who is haunted by memories of Kholinar and the feeling of abandoning his people. As they face the terrifying angerspren and the dark, endless landscape, Kaladin’s inner darkness intensifies, revealing his fears of failure and despair. The narrative emphasizes how darkness—both literal and metaphorical—feeds on pain, loss, and doubt, threatening to consume him entirely. Despite moments of hope and determination, Kaladin’s struggle with his inner demons highlights the pervasive

presence of despair and the ongoing battle to maintain hope amid overwhelming darkness.

In the concluding sections, the group’s physical journey continues through the bleak, seemingly infinite peninsula, with the landscape reflecting their inner turmoil. They camp and resume travel, with Kaladin’s internal thoughts shifting toward survival and remembrance of the fallen. The landscape’s strange, vibrant plants and the eternal darkness above evoke a dreamlike, otherworldly atmosphere that mirrors Kaladin’s mental state. The chapter ends with a sense of ongoing struggle, emphasizing the importance of perseverance and the fragile hope of reaching safety, even as the darkness remains all-encompassing and relentless.

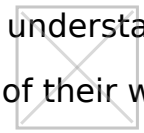
96. Pieces of a Fabrial

The chapter begins with a reflection on the mythic figure Yelig-nar, who is said to consume souls, though the lore remains ambiguous and uncertain about its accuracy. This sets a tone of mystery and the importance of myth in understanding the world's history and powers. The narrative then shifts to a pivotal political gathering at Urithiru, where Navani ensures that all monarchs and leaders carry their own chairs, symbolizing their wisdom and equality in the council. This tradition emphasizes the significance of shared knowledge and the collective effort needed to forge alliances amid a tense atmosphere of political maneuvering.

As the meeting progresses, the focus centers on Dalinar and Navani’s concerns about the stability of the coalition. Dalinar, visibly troubled and silent, appears haunted by recent events, including the fall of Kholinar and the possible survival of Elhokar and Adolin. Navani, aware of Dalinar’s fragile mental state, remains determined to maintain the alliance, even as personal grief and uncertainty threaten to derail their efforts. Her resolve underscores the importance of hope and perseverance in the face of chaos, as she grapples with her own losses and the hope that Elhokar might still be alive.

The chapter vividly describes the arrival of various representatives, highlighting the political landscape of Roshar. The Azish Prime’s ornate throne and the delicate balance of respect among the kingdoms reflect the complex diplomacy at play. The arrival of the Alethi delegation, including individuals like Renarin and Jasnah, introduces a mix of vulnerability and strength. Notably, Ialai Sadeas’s defiance in not carrying her own chair signals her confidence and potential for underlying political motives. The interactions among the highprinces reveal the underlying tensions, alliances, and rivalries shaping the ongoing efforts to stabilize the fractured realm.

The scene concludes with the arrival of other key figures, such as Queen Fen, Taravangian, and the Natan ambassador, each bringing their own agendas and allegiances. Navani’s observations of these diverse leaders underscore the complexity of the political fabric on Roshar. The chapter ends with a sense of overwhelming scale and intricate diplomacy, as Navani contemplates the multitude of factions, allegiances, and the delicate balance required to forge a lasting coalition. The narrative emphasizes that understanding and navigating chaos is central to leadership and the uncertain future of their world.



97. Riino

The chapter opens with a reference to Sja-anat, a feared entity among the Radiants, known for her ability to corrupt spren, especially the lesser ones, highlighting her dangerous and malevolent nature in the mythic landscape. This sets a tone of darkness and the looming threat of corruption within the world, emphasizing the mystique and peril surrounding certain powerful entities. The narrative then shifts to Kaladin’s memories of his past as a slave, vividly recounting a harrowing escape attempt that ends in tragedy when Nalma is caught in a trap and dies. This flashback underscores the brutal realities of slavery and Kaladin’s personal history of survival amidst violence and loss, shaping his character and motivations.

In the second part, the scene transitions to Kaladin in Shadesmar, the spiritual realm, where he employs his skills in stealth to scout a lighthouse. His cautious approach, aided by Lashings and his experience as a runaway, reveals his strategic mindset and familiarity with danger. The lighthouse, with its enormous bonfire and strange creatures like anticipationspren, symbolizes the mysterious and unpredictable nature of Shadesmar. Kaladin’s observations of the lighthouse’s interior and the old Shin man he glimpses through the window hint at deeper mysteries and potential threats, emphasizing his role as a vigilant scout navigating an unfamiliar and perilous landscape.

The narrative then shifts focus to Shallan and her companions, who are waiting in the shadows near an unusual, slow-moving growth that resembles a mushroom. She reflects on her feelings of vulnerability and the burden of her new role as Radiant, with her insecurities compounded by her recent trauma in Kholinar. The group's quiet anticipation, combined with her artistic attempt to understand the spren around them, illustrates her ongoing struggle to find stability and purpose amidst chaos. Syl and Pattern contribute their perspectives, highlighting the surreal and uncanny nature of

their environment, which blurs the line between the ordinary and the extraordinary.

The chapter concludes with a sense of cautious hope and introspection. Kaladin’s reconnaissance and the group's observations underscore the theme of vigilance in the face of unknown dangers. Meanwhile, Shallan’s internal dialogue about pain, acceptance, and her role as Radiant reveal her ongoing emotional journey. The blend of mystical elements, personal memories, and strategic planning creates a layered narrative that explores both external threats and internal struggles, emphasizing the complexity of navigating a world filled with danger and uncertainty.

98. Loopholes

The chapter opens with a reflection on the behavior of spren and their perceived personalities, highlighting how some, like Sja-anat, are viewed as individuals, whereas others are seen as forces. This distinction underscores the mysterious nature of spren and their influence within the world, setting a tone of curiosity and uncertainty about these entities. Lore suggests that leaving a city might be necessary if spren behavior becomes strange, hinting at underlying tensions or disturbances that could threaten the social or spiritual fabric of the setting. This introduction establishes the theme of unseen influences and the importance of understanding spren as part of the larger mythos.

Szeth of Shinovar is introduced as he departs a Skybreaker fortress alongside other squires, preparing for a training exercise on the Purelake. The scene depicts a peculiar setup involving poles embedded in the lakebed, each topped with colored powder bags. The exercise is designed as a martial test, emphasizing discipline and adaptability in the face of potential threats like the Desolation. The instructor, Master Warren, explains the rules of the game—throwing powders at opponents within a designated area—creating a competitive environment that challenges the squires' agility and strategic thinking. This training exercise serves as a metaphor for readiness and the importance of martial competence in uncertain times.

Szeth's participation in the game reveals his adeptness with Stormlight and Lashings, showcasing his skill and comfort in the air. Unlike the others, Szeth relishes the challenge, enjoying the freedom of flight and the precision of his maneuvers. His interaction with his sword underscores his internal conflict—while he finds joy in the physical challenge, he remains haunted by the violence and destruction he has caused in his past. The chapter explores Szeth's complex character, torn between moments of exhilaration and guilt, illustrating his struggle to reconcile his abilities with his moral

and emotional burdens.

As the contest progresses, Szeth faces increasing difficulty as more experienced squires coordinate their attacks, forcing him to rely on strategic Lashing and quick reflexes. His Stormlight reserves dwindle as he attempts to outlast the sunset and the other competitors, emphasizing the physical and mental toll of such combat. Despite his skills, Szeth is reminded of his limitations and the reality that his existence is driven by necessity rather than joy. The chapter concludes with Szeth’s determination to endure, understanding that his survival is a pragmatic goal amid the chaos, and that every action is shaped by his troubled past and uncertain future.

99. Reachers

The chapter opens with a mythic reference to Nergaoul, a spren known for inciting ferocity in both sides of a conflict, illustrating the complex nature of spren and their influence on mortal and spiritual realms. This sets a tone of deep lore and the ambiguous morality of these beings, emphasizing their often unpredictable and dual-sided nature. The narrative then shifts to Kaladin’s awakening in Shadesmar, where he reflects on his restless sleep filled with worries about his friends and the ongoing battle. His mental state is weighted with guilt and concern, highlighting his emotional burden and the toll of leadership and responsibility.

The story transitions to the depiction of the ship and its unique crew of Reachers, spren with metallic, statue-like appearances that resemble humans. Kaladin observes their behavior, clothing, and the ship’s operation, noting their calm, methodical handling of the vessel. The Reachers’ appearance and demeanor contrast with Kaladin’s own turmoil, and their use of advanced yet peculiar technology, like fireless lamps and gemstones for stormlight, underscores the blend of mysticism and innovation in their world. Kaladin’s curiosity about their technology hints at the broader technological landscape and cultural differences within this universe.

As Kaladin joins Captain Ico and explores the ship’s hold, he contemplates the significance of perfect gemstones that can indefinitely store stormlight—an essential resource for Radiants. The captain’s brief discussion about foreign technology and the dangers of stormlight manipulation reveals the importance of these artifacts and the potential for their misuse. Kaladin’s thoughts drift toward the implications of such technology, recognizing its potential impact on survival and warfare, especially during the Weeping. This moment underscores the importance of understanding and acquiring powerful tools that could change the course of their struggles.

The chapter concludes with a tense exchange as Ico introduces Kaladin to a mysterious fabrial device, which appears to be a device designed to harness stormlight for life or death. Ico’s demonstration with a “soul” of ice and the partial draining of a diamond mark illustrate the dangerous and rare practice of manifesting souls—an act tied to deep magic and forbidden knowledge. The scene emphasizes the peril and complexity of stormlight manipulation, hinting at the broader themes of power, control, and the unknown forces at play in this world. Kaladin’s awareness of these dangerous technologies foreshadows significant challenges ahead.



100. An Old Friend

The chapter begins with Dalinar reflecting on the lingering influence of Nergaoul, the ancient and malevolent force on Roshar, which aligns with historical accounts of the Alethi “Thrill” of battle. This connection underscores the persistent presence of old, dark powers that continue to shape the current conflicts and memories. Hessi’s mythica references serve to deepen the sense of an ongoing struggle between ancient evil and the present, hinting at the unseen forces that influence the world’s history and the characters’ destinies.

Dalinar’s internal struggle becomes more evident as he recalls his encounter with the Nightwatcher, revealing the profound psychological scars inflicted during that meeting. His memories have been altered and fractured, leaving him feeling exposed and vulnerable. This loss of mental wholeness symbolizes the emotional toll of his past decisions and the ongoing burden of guilt, especially as he tours Vedenar, a city scarred by war and catastrophe, reflecting the physical and emotional devastation wrought by conflict.

The narrative then shifts to Dalinar’s observations of Vedenar’s battered state, emphasizing the city’s destruction and the remnants of its former splendor. As he surveys the ruins and the ocean beyond, Dalinar’s thoughts turn to his fears for his loved ones—Adolin and Elhokar—whose fate remains uncertain. The memories of Evi’s death and the persistent smoke evoke feelings of despair and helplessness, illustrating his deep internal conflict and the recurring trauma from past losses and failures.

Finally, Dalinar’s interaction with Taravangian introduces a philosophical dimension about the nature of power, sacrifice, and moral choices. Their discussion about fabrials, spren, and the remnants of ancient legends highlights the complex interplay of technology, magic, and morality in their world. Dalinar’s introspection about his own decisions and his critique of his ancestor, the Sunmaker, reveal his ongoing struggle

with his identity and legacy. Despite the outward calm, he grapples with the profound weight of his past and the uncertain future, seeking clarity amidst chaos.



101. Deadeye

The chapter begins by exploring the mythological and theological significance of Moelach, comparing it to Nergaoul but highlighting its unique role in granting visions of the future, which is linked to the Unmade and perceived as an enemy force. This sets a tone of mystical intrigue, emphasizing the dangerous and mysterious nature of these entities and their influence on human lore. The narrative then shifts to Adolin, who is preparing for a social engagement, fashioning an outfit that reflects old Thaylenah styles. His efforts to craft a suitable appearance reveal his desire to blend tradition with practicality while also hinting at his internal conflicts about leadership and identity.

As Adolin interacts with Captain Ico, the conversation delves into themes of leadership, nobility, and trust. Ico perceives Adolin’s regal bearing and questions his past as a ruler, implying that highborn status is significant to humans but also dangerous due to inherent betrayal. This exchange underscores the tension between societal expectations and personal integrity, with Ico’s observations prompting Adolin to reflect on his own potential future as a king amidst the fallen Alethkar. The dialogue reveals Adolin’s internal struggles with his sense of duty, self-doubt, and the implications of inheriting the throne, which he has long wished to avoid.

The narrative then broadens to include the group’s journey, with characters like Shallan, Kaladin, and Azure adjusting to their new environment and attire, purchased with trade goods. Their reactions to their clothing and the mention of sewing skills highlight their adaptation to unfamiliar circumstances and the importance of appearance in this new context. The scene is punctuated by a dramatic highstorm, whose iridescent clouds suggest a mystical or supernatural phenomenon feeding off the storm, adding a layer of tension and mystery to their voyage. The characters’ interactions and observations reveal their personalities and relationships, emphasizing

themes of adaptation and curiosity.

Finally, the chapter concludes with reflections on duty, responsibility, and personal choices. Azure’s story about a royal who abandoned her throne to prioritize personal happiness contrasts with Adolin’s sense of obligation and the societal expectations placed upon him. The dialogue explores the complex nature of leadership and the importance of duty, while also hinting at the personal sacrifices involved. Adolin’s internal conflict about his potential kingship and Azure’s perspective on duty and enjoyment deepen the exploration of leadership’s moral and emotional dimensions, leaving the reader contemplating the true meaning of responsibility.

102. Celebrant

The chapter opens with a reflection on Moelach, a figure said to grant visions of the future, especially at pivotal moments between realms, such as when a soul approaches the Tranquiline Halls. This sets a tone of mystical foresight and the importance of transitions in the spiritual and metaphysical realms. The narrative then shifts to Kaladin and his companions—Adolin and Syl—navigating a new city filled with a remarkable diversity of spren, each with unique forms, colors, and behaviors. The city’s architecture and atmosphere evoke a sense of chaos and improvisation, with buildings constructed from a patchwork of materials, reflecting a society that is both vibrant and unstructured.

As they explore, the group observes the unusual behaviors and appearances of the spren, noting their ancient origins and infrequent acts of raising children, which Syl explains are rare and involve the spren coalescing from power. This discussion highlights the complex relationship between spren and the passage of time, emphasizing that spren are immortal or ageless beings whose aging and change are unlike humans. The city’s central towers, used for timekeeping, and the bustling market stalls, reinforce the transient and ephemeral nature of this environment, where goods and materials seem to appear and disappear with ease, hinting at the influence of Shadesmar and the magical fabric of the city.

The narrative then details the characters’ interactions with their surroundings, including shopping for clothing and weapons, and negotiating prices in a marketplace filled with strange, spren-managed stalls. Syl’s playful commentary on clothing and her ability to change appearances using Stormlight underscores the fluidity of identity and form in this realm. The group's discussions about clothing, cost, and practicality reveal their adaptation to this unfamiliar environment, emphasizing their need to blend in and prepare for upcoming challenges. The scene also hints at the economic and magical

peculiarities of the city, where prices vary based on the longevity of items in Shadesmar.

In the final part, Kaladin’s focus shifts to the art stall across from them, illustrating a moment of quiet contemplation amid the bustling market. This subtle detail underscores his evolving perception of beauty and utility in art, contrasting with his previous indifference. Throughout the chapter, the narrative weaves themes of transition, the mystical nature of spren, and the characters’ adaptation to a strange, dynamic world. The chapter concludes with a sense of anticipation and curiosity about what lies ahead, as they continue their journey toward Dalinar and the unfolding mysteries of this enigmatic city.

103. Hypocrite

The chapter opens with a reflection on the cultural phenomenon of Death Rattles, which some traditions attribute to divine influence, but the narrator suggests they may be linked to the effects of Moelach, the Unmade, manifesting regionally across Roshar. This perspective introduces a theme of interpreting phenomena through a mystical lens, hinting at deeper, unseen forces at play in the world. The narrator’s contention challenges traditional beliefs and sets a tone of questioning accepted explanations, emphasizing the complex relationship between myth, prophecy, and reality in the story’s universe.

Dalinar awakens in an unfamiliar room, disoriented and recalling recent tumultuous events, including his excommunication from the Vorin church and his struggles with grief, frustration, and alcohol. His physical state reflects inner turmoil, and his memories hint at a period of intense suffering and self-medication. The scene underscores his vulnerability and the emotional toll of his recent experiences, establishing a backdrop of internal conflict that influences his perceptions and decisions. The environment’s details, such as the sunlight and the mural, hint at a place of significance—possibly a vision or a memory—integrating his spiritual and psychological struggles.

As Dalinar explores the room, he recognizes its connection to a vision involving Nohadon, the legendary figure who authored *The Way of Kings*. The vision’s surreal nature reveals Dalinar’s ongoing struggle to interpret divine messages, as he questions why the Stormfather’s warnings are manifesting in unpredictable ways. Encountering Nohadon in a youthful and aged state, Dalinar witnesses a scene that blurs the line between past and present, suggesting a deeper connection between his visions and the historical figure’s life. This interaction raises questions about fate, divine guidance, and Dalinar’s role in the unfolding destiny of Roshar.

The scene shifts to a vivid depiction of a bustling ancient city, contrasting sharply with Dalinar’s previous perceptions of history as dull and weathered. Nohadon, now portrayed as lively and energetic, takes Dalinar on a journey through the city, emphasizing themes of vitality, movement, and the importance of experiencing life’s simple joys. Dalinar observes the vibrant clothing, architecture, and customs, recognizing elements of his own past and the significance of understanding history not just as static relics, but as living, breathing parts of the world. The chapter concludes with Nohadon’s confident independence, reinforcing the idea that true strength lies in resilience and embracing life despite hardships.

104. Strength

The chapter begins with a reflection on Ashertmarn, one of the Unmade, emphasizing his influence on human decadence rather than prophecy or combat. His gift to humanity is a desire for indulgence, which historically contributed to the collapse of dynasties such as Bayala. This sets a tone of underlying chaos and the presence of powerful, mindless forces that shape the world’s history. The narrative then shifts focus to Navani Kholin, who is navigating the turbulent political landscape of Urithiru amid her husband's decline. Her experience in maintaining stability is highlighted, as she balances her duties with the delicate political alliances and the precarious state of her kingdom.

Navani’s leadership is portrayed against the backdrop of Gavilar’s strange behavior and the growing uncertainty within the kingdom. Jasnah’s writings reflect the complexity of her family’s situation, revealing her scholarly mind and the broad scope of her interests. As Gavilar’s mental state deteriorates, Navani works with a loyal group, including the Bridge Four Windrunners, to keep the kingdom intact. Her role is increasingly critical, as her authority begins to extend beyond mere governance to encompass broader political and strategic decisions necessary to face impending crises.

The chapter then details a tense council meeting where Navani consults with the highprince and brightladies, emphasizing the fragile state of leadership and infrastructure. They discuss the challenges of maintaining the tower’s facilities, dwindling resources, and labor shortages, which threaten the stability of their society. The political tension is palpable, with concerns over the delayed proclamation of Dalinar as highking and the potential for rebellion or external threats. Navani’s efforts to conceal sensitive information underscore the fragile balance of power and the importance of strategic silence in times of crisis.

In the final section, Navani reflects on her husband’s true intentions, which are rooted in unity rather than domination. Despite the chaos and internal conflicts, her conviction is that Dalinar’s goal is to forge a stronger, united world. The chapter concludes with a sense of cautious hope, acknowledging the immense challenges ahead but reaffirming her belief in her husband's leadership and the collective effort needed to preserve stability. The narrative underscores themes of resilience, political intrigue, and the complex interplay of power, love, and duty in a world teetering on the edge of chaos.



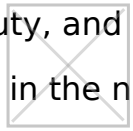
105. Spirit, Mind, and Body

The chapter opens with a somber scene six years prior, at Gavilar’s funeral in the royal catacombs of Kholinar. Dalinar Kholin stands among a select few witnesses, reflecting on the significance of death and the separation of spirit, mind, and body. The ardent’s speech emphasizes the divine purpose of Gavilar’s life and death, framing it within the ongoing spiritual war against the Voidbringers. Dalinar’s inner turmoil surfaces as he grapples with grief, anger, and a sense of inadequacy, feeling the weight of his failure to protect his brother. The scene sets a tone of reverence intertwined with personal loss and the spiritual duties that define their society.

Throughout the chapter, there is a focus on the religious and philosophical views surrounding death and the afterlife, particularly the concept that the spirit returns to the divine, the body is reused, and the mind is rewarded in the Tranquiline Halls. The ardents’ ritualistic speeches and burning of poetic keteks reinforce the importance of divine service and adherence to the Codes. Dalinar’s internal conflict is heightened by these teachings, as he questions whether victory in the war against the Voidbringers will bring true peace or merely another conquest. His doubts contrast with the outward displays of faith and duty, illustrating the tension between personal grief and societal expectations.

Dalinar’s personal struggles are intertwined with the political and familial dynamics of the Kholin family. His efforts to control his vices, especially alcohol, reflect his desire to be a better leader and father. Yet, memories of his drunkenness and failures, especially during Gavilar’s final days, haunt him. His frustration with himself and the loss of Gavilar’s vision deepen his sense of inadequacy. The chapter explores his complex character—his sense of responsibility, love for his family, and the burden of leadership. These inner conflicts underpin his motivations and foreshadow future struggles.

The chapter concludes with a vivid depiction of Gavilar’s transformation into a mortuary statue by a Soulcaster, symbolizing the permanence of memory and the idealization of leadership. The detailed process of the resurrection and the display of Gavilar’s frozen form evoke themes of legacy, the desire for vengeance, and the power of memory. Young Elhokar’s whispered vow for vengeance underscores the ongoing cycle of grief and the relentless pursuit of justice. Overall, the chapter blends themes of death, faith, duty, and personal remorse, setting the stage for Dalinar’s internal and external conflicts in the narrative.



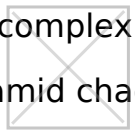
106. Law Is Light

The chapter begins with a reflection on Ba-Ado-Mishram, highlighting her as a notable figure among the Unmade, described as a high-princess and a commanding presence during the Desolations. The narrative hints at her intelligence and significance within the enemy forces, drawing a mysterious connection to the ancient god Odium. This sets a tone of deep history and mythic resonance, emphasizing the importance of understanding these ancient entities and their roles in the ongoing conflicts on Roshar. The mention of her as “most interesting” underscores her pivotal role in the lore and the complex web of divine and demonic influences shaping the world.

Szeth of Shinovar embarks on a journey with the Skybreakers, traveling southward over several days and stopping amidst storms, which reveal the ancient nature of the creatures and the land itself. As they reach Marat, Szeth reflects on its unique political structure—loosely connected cities led by a highprince, functioning as a cultural hub rather than a true nation. The stop at Marat underscores the interconnectedness of the world’s geography and politics, serving as a strategic waypoint between major kingdoms. Szeth’s observations reveal a landscape rich in culture but seemingly insignificant on the broader political stage, emphasizing the layered complexity of Roshar’s societal fabric.

The narrative shifts to a scene of destruction in a coastal town, where Szeth and Nin investigate the aftermath of violence. They find a ruined courthouse, bloodstains, and remnants of civilian life, illustrating the chaos wrought by invading forces. Nin’s discussion about justice raises questions about morality and the justification of violence, especially when ordinary people are caught in the crossfire. Nin’s perspective suggests that justice can sometimes be a matter of perspective—what appears unjust to one may be deemed necessary or justified by others—highlighting the moral ambiguities faced by those enforcing or interpreting justice in wartime.

Finally, Nin confesses to a failure in his long-standing mission to prevent another Desolation, revealing the death of Honor and the destabilization of previous divine safeguards. Szeth witnesses Nin’s regret and the emergence of a missing Honorblade, symbolizing the fractured state of divine power. The chapter concludes with a somber reflection on the difficult path ahead, as Nin prepares to pursue justice in a world where traditional notions of righteousness are challenged. The chapter emphasizes themes of moral complexity, the weight of divine authority, and the ongoing struggle to restore order amid chaos and loss.



107. The First Step

The chapter begins with a reflection on the obscure history of Ba-Ado-Mishram, suggesting that she either returned to Damnation or was destroyed during the events of Aharietiam. This historical ambiguity sets a tone of mystery and loss surrounding ancient entities and their significance. Dalinar, the protagonist, awakens to a surprisingly peaceful morning, cared for meticulously by Navani, indicating a moment of relative stability in his turbulent life. His routine of grooming and dressing reveals a ritualistic aspect of his character, emphasizing his desire to maintain a sense of order amid chaos. Memories of his brother Gavilar and the funeral surface, hinting at unresolved grief and the weight of past traumas that continue to influence his present.

Dalinar’s internal thoughts reveal a complex mixture of memory, doubt, and hope. He questions the origins of recent visions and dreams, particularly one involving Nohadon, contemplating whether these are mere illusions or hold deeper significance. His connection to the Stormfather remains vital, providing reassurance and a sense of companionship in moments of doubt. Dalinar’s reflections on the first step—taking that initial move toward change—highlight the chapter’s central theme: the importance of beginning, even when the path ahead is unclear. His struggles with the Thrill and the temptation of past excesses underscore the ongoing battle within himself, emphasizing that recovery is fragile and incomplete.

The narrative shifts to a political scene, where Dalinar encounters Taravangian, the aging king, in a moment of unexpected camaraderie. Their conversation reveals the ongoing political tensions and strategic considerations, such as the deployment of troops and questions about the fate of key figures like Adolin, Elhokar, and the Radiants. Taravangian’s physical decline contrasts with his sharp mind, and Dalinar’s concern for his friend’s health adds a layer of personal connection to the broader political landscape. The mention of a possible storm-related sign and hope reflects the

chapter’s recurring motif of faith amid uncertainty, emphasizing that hope remains a vital force.

Finally, the chapter culminates in a strategic meeting within the Tower’s “Gallery of Maps,” where military plans and political alliances are discussed. Dalinar’s leadership is challenged subtly by political rivals like Ialai and Ruthar, whose silences and opposition hint at underlying tensions. The detailed descriptions of the setting and characters underscore the gravity of the situation—preparing for upcoming conflicts and navigating political intrigue. Throughout, the chapter underscores the importance of resilience, memory, and hope in the face of adversity, illustrating that the first step toward change is often the most difficult but also the most essential.

108. Honor’s Path

The chapter begins with a discussion of Chemoarish, the Dustmother, highlighting the complex and often contradictory lore surrounding her. The narrator dismisses rumors that associate her with the Nightwatcher, emphasizing the difficulty in discerning truth from myth. This sets a tone of uncertainty and layered mythic history, illustrating how legends can be muddled and how understanding divine or mystical figures requires careful interpretation. The mention from Hessi’s "Mythica" underscores the importance of questioning accepted stories and recognizing the diversity of interpretations that surround powerful entities in their mythic tradition.

The scene shifts to Shallan and Kaladin aboard the honorspren ship, the *Honor’s Path*. They observe their surroundings, noting the vessel’s impressive design, which resembles a warship with multiple decks and mandras rigging. Their initial confinement in the hold reflects the honorspren’s strict control, with only a brief moment of freedom granted on deck, though Syl remains imprisoned. This confinement highlights the tensions between humans and honorspren, as well as the restrictions placed on the characters, setting up their desire for escape and the dangerous environment they are navigating.

Shallan’s map and observations reveal their strategic understanding of their location and potential destinations, such as Kharbranth and Thaylen City. Kaladin’s insights about their trajectory and the possibility of reaching the coast emphasize their intent to escape the honorspren’s control and find safety. The dialogue exposes their plans to reach an Oathgate, which could facilitate their journey across the world. However, obstacles such as the honorspren’s watchfulness, the threat of pursuing foes, and Shallan’s doubts about her ability to operate the Oathgate create a tense atmosphere of impending risk and uncertainty.

The chapter concludes with a focus on the characters’ internal struggles and covert plans. Kaladin’s desire for Stormlight and the possibility of a mutiny reflect his frustration and hope for rebellion. Shallan’s tentative efforts to retrieve their Stormlight and her concern about the risks involved reveal her growing awareness of her own limitations and the gravity of their situation. The scene underscores themes of resilience, strategic planning, and the ongoing battle between hope and despair as they seek to regain control and escape their captors amid mounting dangers.



109. Neshua Kadal

The chapter begins with a reflection on the mythic figure Re-Shephir, the Midnight Mother, who is believed to have been destroyed at Aharietiam, highlighting the ongoing theme of loss and the remnants of ancient power. Dalinar and Navani explore the mysterious structure of Urithiru, focusing on a vein of red crystal embedded within the walls that suggests the tower might be alive or at least connected to some form of ancient, possibly sentient, power. Their investigation into the tower’s strange features hints at deeper, unresolved mysteries about its origins and purpose, emphasizing the importance of understanding the tower's true nature to harness its potential or awaken it.

The narrative then shifts to Dalinar’s scientific and theological inquiries, where he and Navani discuss the significance of various gemstones used in Soulcasting and other magical processes. Navani explains that garnets, which are associated with blood and the liquefaction of water-soluble substances, are not currently used in Soulcasters. Their conversation reveals a broader quest for knowledge about the ancient technologies and the underlying principles of the magic systems, suggesting that unlocking these secrets could be pivotal in their ongoing conflict and in understanding the tower’s full capabilities. This scientific curiosity underscores the chapter’s theme of discovery amid uncertainty.

As the story progresses, Dalinar prepares for an imminent storm and war, receiving urgent messages about enemy movements and potential invasions. The strategic importance of the upcoming stormwall and the impending naval buildup by the enemy underscore the urgency of their military preparations. Dalinar’s internal conflict about whether to proceed with a dangerous plan reflects his awareness of the stakes involved. His reliance on both ancient wisdom and modern technology, such as his arm device, illustrates his multifaceted approach to leadership in the face of chaos,

emphasizing the delicate balance between knowledge, intuition, and action in wartime.

The chapter concludes with Dalinar’s visions and his confrontation with the enemy’s greater power. He witnesses a scene with Nohadon, which symbolizes wisdom and leadership, but also faces the overwhelming force of Odium, the malevolent god. The Stormfather’s inability to fully assist Dalinar signifies the limits of divine aid and the enormity of the threat. Dalinar’s decision to confront this danger head-on, despite uncertainty and danger, highlights the central theme of courage and the relentless pursuit of understanding and defeating the enemy. The scene underscores the gravity of the war and the importance of strategic foresight, even when clarity is elusive.

110. A Million Stars

The chapter opens with a vivid description of the Midnight Mother’s creation of shadowy, monstrous beings made of oil, emphasizing their mysterious and unsettling nature. These creatures do not resemble any known spren from modern myth, highlighting their unique and ominous origins. This sets a tone of mythic darkness and hints at the deeper, fantastical elements at play within the story’s world. The imagery underscores the theme of creation and the blurred line between reality and myth, establishing a sense of foreboding and mystery that pervades the narrative.

Captain Notum’s command to reveal a section of the ship’s hull introduces the perilous situation faced by the characters. As the ship approaches treacherous waters filled with glass beads resembling a starry ocean, Shallan and her companions prepare for a dangerous escape. Shallan’s choice to wear Veil’s outfit for its practicality reflects her strategic mindset, as she carries precious gemstones that are rapidly losing Stormlight. The landscape beyond the waves, with its dark, glass jungle, symbolizes the threatening environment they must navigate, emphasizing the stakes and the unpredictable nature of their journey.

The narrative shifts to a tense moral dilemma faced by Captain Notum, who must decide whether to surrender captives to their enemies or risk jeopardizing his crew’s safety. As the Fused close in, the characters’ internal conflicts become palpable, especially for Captain Notum, whose expression betrays the weight of his decision. Meanwhile, Syl’s release from captivity and her fragile state highlight her vulnerability. The interactions among the characters, including Azure’s determination to stay behind and her connection to Zahel, deepen the emotional complexity and underline themes of loyalty, sacrifice, and the uncertainty of their fate.

In the climax, the characters leap into the beads, which serve as a mystical, tangible manifestation of their escape route. The beads’ whispering and their ability to form a

protective chamber through Stormlight illustrate the chapter’s blend of magic and symbolism. As Shallan and her allies fight to maintain control and conserve their resources, they confront their fears and physical limits. The chapter ends with a cautious optimism, emphasizing trust in their abilities and the spren’s nature, while reinforcing the overarching themes of resilience and hope amidst chaos and danger.



111. Eila Stele

The chapter begins with a reflection on the mythic significance of the Unmade, highlighting the number nine as an ominous and enemy-associated figure, contrasting with the eight known ones. This sets a tone of underlying mystery and danger that permeates the story. The narrative then shifts to Dalinar’s arrival in Thaylen City, where he encounters Meridas Amaram—a figure embodying military discipline and political complexity. Their interaction reveals tensions rooted in past deeds and current ambitions, as Amaram reports on the city’s reconstruction efforts and emphasizes the importance of rebuilding trust with the Thaylen people, even as underlying discord simmers beneath the surface.

Dalinar’s conversation with Amaram underscores political and military tensions in Roshar. Amaram’s pride in the city’s rebuilding efforts is palpable, but his remarks reveal lingering frustrations and a desire for recognition and authority. Dalinar, meanwhile, remains cautious, aware of Amaram’s ambitions and the delicate balance of alliances. The dialogue also hints at deeper conflicts, such as the strained relations between Kholin troops and the local populace, and the unspoken distrust surrounding Amaram’s past. Dalinar's restraint in response to Amaram’s overtures emphasizes the ongoing struggle to maintain unity amid competing loyalties and the threat of internal discord.

The scene shifts to a more personal tone as Dalinar interacts with his men, who are eager to engage in minor acts of rebellion, like joking about stabbing Amaram. Dalinar’s leadership is exemplified through his discipline and camaraderie, as he prepares for an upcoming strategic meeting. His interactions with Jasnah, Navani, and Renarin show a moment of respite and reflection amid the chaos of war preparations. The narrative explores Dalinar’s leadership style, emphasizing his focus on punctuality, order, and the importance of unity. The scene also introduces the logistical challenges

of war, as Dalinar’s group prepares to meet and strategize for the coming conflict.

The chapter concludes with a glimpse into the broader geopolitical landscape, as Thaylen merchants arrive, bringing news of economic instability and logistical difficulties. The collapse of banking and the withdrawal of merchants threaten the financial stability of the cities, complicating war efforts and resource management. Jasnah’s analysis highlights the fragile state of Roshar’s economy, emphasizing how political and economic instability could influence military strategies and alliances. Dalinar’s concern about the merchants’ departure underscores the interconnectedness of commerce and warfare, illustrating the broader challenges faced by the kingdoms in maintaining stability during a time of escalating conflict.

112. For the Living

The chapter opens with a reflection on mythological concepts, specifically the existence of nine Unmade, mysterious entities from legend. The narrator admits to potential misinterpretations and conflations of these beings, hinting at deeper theories that will be explored later. This sets a tone of inquiry and uncertainty about the nature of these mythic figures, emphasizing their elusive and enigmatic qualities. The mention of Hessi’s *Mythica* suggests a layered understanding of myth, blending folklore with personal speculation, which underscores the theme of seeking truth amid ambiguity.

The narrative then shifts to a personal memory involving Kaladin, who recalls a moment with Tarah, a woman from his past. Their interaction is intimate, revealing their connection through shared routine and subtle affection. Tarah’s personality and background are detailed, emphasizing her resilience and individuality despite her modest appearance. This scene offers insight into Kaladin’s emotional landscape, revealing his capacity for tenderness and the emotional weight of past relationships, which contrast with the broader themes of duty and struggle that define his character.

The story deepens as Tarah announces her transfer to Mourn’s Vault, a decision driven by familial responsibilities and her own career ambitions. Kaladin’s reaction reveals his internal conflict—his wish for her to stay clashes with his understanding of her need to secure a better future. Their farewell is poignant, highlighting themes of sacrifice, change, and the difficulty of letting go. Kaladin’s inability to respond to her letters underscores his emotional turmoil and regret, illustrating the complex interplay between love, duty, and personal growth.

The chapter concludes with a shift to a more fantastical setting, depicting Kaladin and his companions navigating a strange, dangerous forest. Their journey is marked by physical exhaustion and concern about their progress, emphasizing the urgency of

their mission to reach the Oathgate. The imagery of the crimson trees and obsidian landscape reinforces the otherworldly environment, while Kaladin’s determination to succeed reflects his resolve to fulfill his responsibilities. The chapter ends on a note of hope and perseverance, with the appearance of a windspren symbolizing a guiding presence for Kaladin’s ongoing quest for survival and purpose.



113. The Thing Men Do Best

The chapter opens with a reflection on the mysterious nature of the Unmade, particularly questioning if Dai-Gonarthis is truly the ninth and whether their actions could have led to the destruction of Aimia. This sets a tone of uncertainty and investigation into ancient forces and their influence on current events. The narrative then shifts to Dalinar, who is depicted standing alone, contemplating the distant land of Shinovar and grappling with the distrust among the monarchs. His internal conflict revolves around his perceived deception and the complex political dynamics that threaten to undermine his authority and the fragile coalition forming around him.

Dalinar’s introspection deepens as he considers the origins of the humans on Roshar, pondering whether they came from Shinovar and the implications of their migration. His conversations with the Stormfather reveal a growing awareness of the ancient fears that led to the Radiants abandoning their vows during the Recreance. Dalinar is haunted by the possibility that these vows were forsaken out of fear of destroying the world again, a realization that challenges his understanding of morality and duty. Despite this, he remains resolute, vowing not to let history repeat itself and to uphold the Radiants’ oaths, even as doubts and fears surface within him.

Meanwhile, the chapter depicts a scene of practical military and political action as Dalinar intercepts his bridgemen, who plan to return to Urithiru to share their discoveries about the ancient Radiants. Their concern about the ongoing invasion and their desire to fight for a just cause reflect the broader struggle for survival and righteousness amid chaos. Dalinar’s internal fears about the safety of his allies, including Elhokar and Adolin, intensify as he contemplates the possibility that none of them may return. This underscores the personal cost of leadership and the burden of responsibility during times of war and uncertainty.

In the concluding sections, political tensions escalate as Dalinar interacts with various factions and leaders, including Vizier Noura, who warns him about the dangers of manipulation and the risky nature of the Oathgate. The chapter emphasizes the pervasive atmosphere of mistrust and the moral ambiguity faced by those in power. Dalinar’s commitment to truth and unity is challenged by the reality of deception and the dangerous powers at play. The chapter ends with a sense of foreboding, as alliances are tested and the true nature of the threat facing Roshar becomes increasingly clear, highlighting the complex interplay of politics, ancient secrets, and the struggle for survival.

114. The Cost

In this chapter, Dalinar awakens suddenly in a stormwagon cabin, disoriented and questioning the nature of his recent drunkenness and the memories he cannot recall. His mind is troubled by the strange experience, and he is determined to seek out the Nightwatcher, a mysterious entity, despite the risks involved. As he prepares to leave, his soldiers understand his intent, and Felt, a loyal companion, accompanies him. Dalinar’s decision to venture into the unknown reflects his internal struggle, balancing duty, personal beliefs, and a desire for guidance from supernatural forces, even amid the chaos of his circumstances.

Dalinar and Felt travel through a stark, unfamiliar landscape that sharply contrasts with his homeland. The terrain is characterized by wrinkled, crusty ground, sparse and bent trees, and a raw, blasted mountainside. The land’s harshness symbolizes the internal turmoil Dalinar faces, as he contemplates the spiritual and physical challenges ahead. Despite the discomfort, Dalinar remains resolute, determined to reach the place where he hopes to encounter the Nightwatcher, aware that this journey is as much about confronting his fears as it is about seeking answers.

As they approach the valley, Dalinar observes the lush, overgrown nature of the terrain, which is teeming with life and tangled vegetation. The dense, tangled flora resembles a battlefield, symbolizing the ongoing conflict within him and the larger struggles of his world. Felt explains that entry into the valley requires navigating hidden trails and that the environment itself seems alive, almost resisting outsiders. Dalinar’s curiosity and resolve push him to enter the dense, humid valley alone, despite Felt’s warnings about the risks and the potential cost of summoning the supernatural entity.

In the darkness of the valley, Dalinar ventures deeper, driven by a mixture of anticipation and skepticism. The natural sounds and the oppressive atmosphere

reinforce the sense of an otherworldly challenge. He hopes for a spiritual thrill or divine sign but is met with emptiness, leaving him to question the purpose of his quest. The chapter ends with Dalinar reflecting on his actions, contemplating whether his pursuit of the Nightwatcher is a distraction from the urgent political and personal crises he faces, highlighting the tension between faith and duty in his journey.



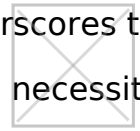
115. The Wrong Passion

The chapter opens with a reference to a mysterious and dangerous power originating from another world, involving spren and Surges that have been forbidden to touch. These powers have led to the destruction of their lands, and now they are seeking aid from others, emphasizing the peril they pose. This sets a tone of high stakes and unseen threats, hinting at the complex mystical forces at play. The narrative introduces a sense of foreboding as these alien powers and their destructive potential threaten the current world, illustrating the gravity of the conflict and the importance of understanding these forces.

Dalinar’s perspective reveals a tense scene amid a brewing storm, both literal and metaphorical. The Everstorm’s fury dominates the sky, with lightning and violent clouds flowing from the west, symbolizing chaos and impending disaster. Dalinar observes ships sailing during the storm, highlighting the enemies’ audacity and strategic boldness. The Stormfather’s voice underscores Dalinar’s limited control over the storm, reflecting the theme of human vulnerability against natural and supernatural forces. The strategic failure of the coalition forces underscores the unpredictable and overwhelming nature of the enemy's plans, emphasizing that the storm and the enemies’ tactics have shattered their defenses.

Meanwhile, the chapter shifts to a tense gathering at the Oathgate, where characters like Shallan, Kaladin, and Adolin confront the reality of their dire situation. They witness the enemy’s forces—Fused and spren—approaching, with ominous visions and the realization that they have been led into a trap. The characters grapple with the threat of Voidbringers and the uncertainty of their next move, contemplating illusions and distractions as potential strategies. Their dialogue reflects a mixture of fear, resolve, and the acknowledgment that their options are limited, highlighting the desperation and urgency of their mission to understand and utilize the Oathgate.

In the final section, Jasnah’s perspective brings a strategic and pragmatic outlook. She recognizes that Thaylen City is already lost and must focus on evacuation and protecting key individuals, such as her uncle. Her calm demeanor contrasts with the chaos around her, as she assesses the battlefield and plans how to mitigate further losses. Lightning and storm imagery reinforce the ongoing turmoil, but Jasnah’s focus remains on what can still be controlled. Her determination to act decisively amidst the destruction underscores the chapter’s overarching themes of resilience, strategic thinking, and the necessity of adaptation in the face of overwhelming odds.



116. Alone

The chapter opens with a reflection on a tragic moral dilemma, quoting the Eila Stele about a people forsaken by their gods and the pity that led to their rescue. This sets a tone of compassion intertwined with guilt and the heavy consequences of mercy. It emphasizes the complex nature of divine justice and the burden of compassion for those considered forlorn or betrayed, hinting at the overarching themes of sacrifice and moral ambiguity that pervade the story. This historical perspective provides a somber backdrop for the personal struggles faced by the characters, especially in their ongoing conflicts and decisions.

Kaladin’s internal journey is vividly depicted as he steps away from his past despair into a renewed sense of purpose. His thoughts reveal how far he has come in the last months—transforming from a man who welcomed death to one who actively defies it. With Syl’s companionship and the camaraderie of Bridge Four, Kaladin has found meaning and strength. His resolve to protect Dalinar signifies his growth and commitment to something greater than himself, highlighting his evolution from a survivor to a protector amid the chaos of war and impending danger.

The scene shifts to Dalinar, who faces the chaos of battle within Thaylen City. The earth trembles with the arrival of a second thunderclast, and civilians scramble for safety as the city is under siege. Dalinar’s leadership is evident as he directs civilians to shelter, despite the absence of his Shardplate and Shards. His internal conflict surfaces as he feels the thrill of battle—an intoxicating mix of passion and danger—yet he struggles to resist the temptation to embrace the thrill of glory, fearing it might lead him down a dark path reminiscent of his past. This internal battle underscores the theme of restraint versus the allure of power.

As the chaos intensifies, Dalinar encounters a colossal stone monster—one of the thunderclasts—ripping through the city walls and attacking the Gemstone Reserve,

which contains invaluable wealth. The scene is filled with destructive fury, with debris and gemstones scattering across the city, symbolizing the loss of riches and stability. Dalinar’s quick thinking and Stormlight healing enable him to survive injuries and continue his efforts to understand the enemy’s motives. The chapter concludes with the realization that the thunderclast’s attack is more than just destruction; it involves a targeted assault on the city’s resources, hinting at deeper, strategic intentions behind the chaos.



117. Champion with Nine Shadows

The chapter opens with a cautionary tone, emphasizing the danger posed by the "otherworlders," traitors who appear charming but harbor bloodlust and destructive intent. These entities, called Voidbringers, are linked to a new god that embodies emptiness and emotional void, symbolizing a profound threat to the world. This ominous warning from the Eila Stele sets the tone for a conflict rooted in deception and treachery, highlighting the importance of vigilance against seemingly benign foes who conceal their true nature and threaten to bring chaos and destruction.

Dalinar is depicted standing amidst the ruins of a city under siege, with tension palpable in the stagnant air and the hesitation of Amaram’s army outside the breach. The soldiers, driven by their bloodlust, display a fierce desire for combat, yet their disorganized ranks and disregard for wealth strewn across the battlefield suggest a chaos-driven mentality. Dalinar perceives their lust for battle as a reflection of the destructive storm looming nearby, emphasizing the chaos and violence that define this confrontation, and his solitary stance underscores his role as a leader facing overwhelming odds.

The narrative shifts to a more personal level as Dalinar interacts with Lift, a young, unconventional soldier who embodies humility and resourcefulness. Lift, untrained and unarmed with a weapon, offers to assist Dalinar by stealing a valuable ruby from a fleeing Fused—a formidable enemy capable of moving with extraordinary power. Their dialogue reveals Dalinar’s reliance on unconventional allies and methods, highlighting Lift’s innocence and confidence in her abilities. This interaction underscores themes of trust, adaptability, and the importance of unconventional tactics in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges.

The chapter concludes with a tense, action-packed scene involving Dalinar’s confrontation with Odium and his Fused followers. Odium’s strategic commands and

the presence of powerful spren and visions heighten the stakes, revealing a complex web of plans to control or destroy critical artifacts like the Oathgate. Meanwhile, Adolin and Shallan are engaged in their own perilous fight against Fused, blending illusions, combat, and wit. The narrative emphasizes the chaos of battle, the importance of mental acuity, and the relentless struggle to safeguard vital resources against enemies who are both cunning and deadly.



118. The Weight of It All

The chapter opens with poetic reflections on the Voidbringers, emphasizing their silence and hardness despite their soft appearance. This sets a tone of ominous mystery surrounding these entities, highlighting their destructive nature and the silence they bring to Roshar. The narrative then shifts to Dalinar, haunted by memories of violence and guilt, as Odium manipulates his consciousness. Dalinar’s mind is flooded with scenes of him killing soldiers, highlords, and civilians, illustrating the depth of his past sins and the emotional weight he carries. Odium’s voice attempts to convince Dalinar that he is responsible for these horrors, offering to share the pain and guilt, which Dalinar vehemently resists.

Dalinar’s internal struggle is intense, as Odium’s influence seeks to manipulate his guilt and shame. The memories he revisits include brutal acts committed during moments of rage and desperation, revealing a man torn between his past actions and his desire for redemption. Odium’s persistent presence tries to convince Dalinar that he is the architect of a better kingdom, yet the burden of pain remains overwhelming. The chapter explores themes of guilt, accountability, and the struggle to reconcile one’s past deeds with the hope for a better future. Dalinar’s refusal to accept Odium’s offer underscores his internal resolve to face his guilt without succumbing to destructive temptation.

Meanwhile, the story introduces Szeth, who finds purpose in wielding his sword in the chaos of battle. Despite the sword’s cries for destruction, Szeth’s moral conflict persists—he is haunted by the realization that he is capable of killing without understanding evil. Trusting in Dalinar’s sense of justice, Szeth fights relentlessly against the Voidbringers, using Stormlight and Lashings to combat the enemy. The narrative emphasizes Szeth’s inner turmoil and his rejection of the bloodlust that the sword urges him to indulge. His movements are precise and deadly, yet beneath the

violence lies a core of guilt and confusion about his role in this brutal conflict.

The chapter also weaves in the perspectives of other key characters, such as Jasnah and Renarin, who grapple with visions and prophetic insights influenced by Odium’s power. Jasnah’s awareness of the looming threat and Renarin’s visions of the future highlight the pervasive sense of foreboding and the importance of understanding what is to come. The narrative concludes with Kaladin in Shadesmar, overwhelmed by loss and the weight of his failed ideals. Despite his despair, he clings to hope, trying to summon the strength to speak his oath and confront the darkness ahead. The chapter masterfully intertwines personal struggles with the larger cosmic battle, emphasizing the heavy burden of duty and the search for redemption amidst chaos.

119. Unity

The chapter begins with an exploration of personal responsibility and inner strength, exemplified through Dalinar’s intense confrontation with Odium. Dalinar’s refusal to relinquish his pain underscores a theme of accepting one’s past actions and burdens as essential to growth. His declaration of responsibility for past atrocities highlights the importance of facing one’s guilt directly. This moment of vulnerability and resolve signals a crucial step in his journey toward unity, emphasizing that true strength lies in acknowledgment and acceptance rather than denial or avoidance.

Dalinar’s internal struggle intensifies as he confronts the weight of his past choices, notably the killing of innocents. His defiance against Odium’s attempt to claim his pain reveals a desire for agency and self-identity. The narrative underscores that growth involves embracing one’s failures and flaws, rather than suppressing them. Dalinar’s declaration that he will take responsibility and strive to become better, even if it means falling again, encapsulates a core message of resilience and continual self-improvement in the face of adversity.

Simultaneously, the chapter shifts focus to Jasnah and Renarin navigating the chaos of the city. Jasnah’s daring escape across rooftops demonstrates her resourcefulness and determination to pursue a vital goal, hinting at a larger purpose connected to the glowing beacon below. Renarin’s self-doubt and physical weakness contrast with Jasnah’s confidence, yet her reassurance and their shared resolve highlight themes of family, trust, and inner strength. The imagery of the gloryspren and the approaching light symbolize hope and the pursuit of truth amid turmoil.

The climax of the chapter reveals Dalinar’s profound act of unity, where he physically and spiritually merges multiple realms, embodying a vision of wholeness and reconciliation. His invocation of the divine and subsequent declaration of “I am Unity” signifies a pivotal moment of spiritual awakening and leadership. The swirling light, the

breaking of barriers, and the collective spren symbolize harmony and the potential for healing. Dalinar’s act emphasizes that true unity requires embracing all aspects of oneself and the world, transcending division and conflict to forge a new path forward.



120. The Spear That Would Not Break

The chapter opens with Kaladin soaring through the sky, revitalized by Stormlight, and observing the battlefield below, where Dalinar approaches the encroaching red mist. Kaladin’s reflections reveal his internal struggle with self-doubt and guilt, especially regarding his perceived failures and the burden of his responsibilities. Syl, his spren, offers a gentle reminder of his tendency toward self-criticism, highlighting Kaladin’s ongoing internal conflict about his worthiness and the Fourth Ideal. Despite these doubts, Kaladin’s renewed purpose is evident as he prepares to protect Dalinar and engage directly in the chaos of the ongoing battle, emphasizing the importance of the journey over the destination.

As the scene shifts to Adolin, he awakens from a near-death experience, feeling a mix of relief and introspection. His injuries are minor, yet the encounter leaves him contemplating his own bravery and worthiness, especially in comparison to his father. Adolin’s humorous remarks about clothing and his gratitude towards those who saved him reveal his resilient spirit and humility. He recognizes his role in the fight, choosing to aid the defenders and support the city’s efforts. His interaction with Shallan and the creation of illusions demonstrate his growth as a Radiant, willing to step into the chaos and contribute meaningfully to the war effort, even without a specific command.

Meanwhile, Szeth’s perspective introduces a darker tone, as he envies Kaladin’s honor and sense of purpose. Szeth is depicted as a conflicted and tormented assassin, bound by his oaths and master’s demands. His interaction with Lift and the mysterious entity within his Shardblade reveals a complex relationship with morality and identity. Szeth’s internal dialogue and the humorous banter of the sword highlight his struggles to reconcile his duty with his own sense of goodness. The narrative explores themes of redemption, moral ambiguity, and the choice to follow one’s oath despite the darkness surrounding him.

The chapter concludes with a tense confrontation between Kaladin and Amaram, exposing the depths of Kaladin’s disdain for his former master’s corruption. Amaram’s manipulative words and actions reveal his true nature as a villain who claims to have forged Kaladin but in reality seeks to dominate and control. Kaladin’s defiant response underscores his resolve to fight against injustice and tyranny, emphasizing the overarching themes of honor, resilience, and the fight for moral integrity amidst chaos. The layered perspectives and intense action underscore the complexity of the characters’ struggles and the larger battle shaping their world.



121. Ideals

The chapter explores themes of ideals and the moral responsibilities tied to the pursuit of truth, as reflected in the quote from "The Way of Kings." It sets a tone of introspection about the nature of justice and personal integrity, emphasizing that individuals must actively seek truth when they recognize their own ignorance. This philosophical foundation underscores the chapter's focus on characters grappling with their roles within a fractured world, where ideals often clash with harsh realities. The narrative introduces a somber mood, highlighting the importance of moral conviction amid chaos, and sets the stage for the characters’ internal and external struggles.

The story centers around Moash, who is involved in the aftermath of a brutal battle in Kholinar. His work in dismantling the palace ruins, including the bloodstained floor where Elhokar was killed, symbolizes a physical and emotional process of destruction and loss. Despite the violence he has committed, Moash feels only numbness rather than satisfaction or relief, illustrating his internal conflict. His mundane work contrasts sharply with the chaos and suffering around him, emphasizing his emotional detachment and the toll of violence. The scene also introduces the presence of Fused and other supernatural entities, hinting at the ongoing conflict between different factions and the spiritual significance of their actions.

Moash’s interaction with Lady Leshwi and the other Fused reveals a complex web of political and spiritual intrigue. Leshwi’s visit and her cryptic comments about Moash’s potential future actions, including the question of killing a god, suggest that Moash is being groomed for a significant, possibly dangerous, role. The mention of Odium’s command and the mysterious dagger with a sapphire hint at deeper plans and divine manipulations at play. This segment underscores the chapter’s exploration of loyalty, power, and destiny, as Moash navigates a world where divine and mortal interests collide and where his choices could have profound consequences.

The chapter shifts focus to Navani and Dalinar, who are depicted amid the chaos of war and destruction. Navani’s urgent escape from Thaylen City, along with Dalinar’s physical and emotional struggles, underscores the toll of the ongoing conflict. Dalinar’s reflections on his memories and his renewed sense of purpose highlight themes of resilience and acceptance. His connection with Navani, marked by a heartfelt embrace and a shared understanding, emphasizes the importance of personal bonds amid chaos. The narrative also introduces a mysterious gemstone linked to the Unmade, symbolizing the intertwining of ancient power and current struggles, and Dalinar’s trust in Navani’s care for it underscores the importance of knowledge and stewardship in their fight against darkness.

In conclusion, the chapter combines personal introspection with grand themes of morality, divine influence, and resilience in the face of chaos. It portrays characters wrestling with their ideals, loyalties, and destinies against a backdrop of war and spiritual conflict. The narrative emphasizes that true strength often lies in perseverance, understanding, and the willingness to confront uncomfortable truths. The intertwining stories of Moash, Navani, and Dalinar serve to illustrate the complex web of choices and consequences that define their world, reinforcing the overarching themes of truth, duty, and the pursuit of ideals amidst a fractured universe.

122. A Debt Repaid

The chapter opens with a reflection on solitude and independence, quoting from "The Way of Kings" to emphasize that while the protagonist, Kaladin, begins and ends his journey alone, he is never truly isolated in his struggles. It highlights his physical journey across treacherous seas and rugged lands, driven by a mission that involves navigating political conflicts and perilous territories. Kaladin’s use of Stormlight and gemstones underscores the ongoing reliance on mystical powers to sustain him, illustrating both his resilience and the exhaustion that accompanies such efforts. His focus remains on locating and aiding those in need, exemplified by his discovery of the refugee camp and the symbol of Bridge Four, signifying hope amid chaos.

Kaladin’s arrival at the refugee encampment reveals a deeper layer of his mission—protecting the vulnerable, including innocents like the young boy who is Elhokar’s son. The reunion with Drehy and Skar, who bear the marks of their escape, underscores the ongoing struggle of those fighting against slavery and oppression. Their act of hiding tattoos and covering scars symbolizes their desire to remain free and unrecognized, yet their camaraderie and shared purpose reinforce the theme of loyalty and sacrifice. Syl’s joyful reaction to the reunion adds a touch of lightness, contrasting the grim reality faced by the characters and emphasizing the importance of hope and companionship in dire circumstances.

Meanwhile, the narrative shifts to the political machinations within Urithiru, where Taravangian grapples with his mental state and the flawed predictions of the mysterious Diagram. His perception of growing weakness and confusion reflects the toll of leadership and the weight of knowledge that he struggles to comprehend fully. The ongoing threat of the Everstorm and the uncertainty of its impact heighten the tension, as Taravangian’s advisors debate the accuracy of the Diagram’s prophecies and the strategic implications of their actions. This internal conflict reveals a complex

web of trust, deception, and the perilous pursuit of salvation amid chaos.

The chapter concludes with Taravangian’s awareness that a significant confrontation is imminent, influenced by the flawed but guiding predictions of the Diagram. His internal resolve to trust in its guidance, despite growing doubts and uncertainties, underscores the overarching theme of fate versus free will. The voices and voices within the narrative symbolize the unseen forces and decisions shaping their destiny. As the storm approaches, the characters face critical choices that will determine their survival and the future of their world, emphasizing the fragile balance between hope, prophecy, and the harsh realities of their environment.