Thomas Covenant 8 - The Fatal Revenant

In *Fatal Revenant*, Stephen R. Donaldson shatters expectations as **Thomas Covenant**—long believed dead—returns to the Land in a shocking, enigmatic form. Reunited with **Linden Avery**, Covenant and his former companion **Jeremiah** (now mysteriously healed) bring urgent warnings: the **Worm of the World's End** is stirring, and **Lord Foul's** final victory is imminent.

But nothing is as it seems. Covenant's resurrection defies the Land's laws, his motives are inscrutable, and his presence fractures Linden's fragile trust. As she races to unlock the secrets of **Andelain** and the **Theomach's** cryptic guidance, Linden must confront an agonizing question: *Is this Covenant her salvation—or Foul's most vicious trick?*

With prose as dense as obsidian and twists that recalibrate the entire series, *Fatal Revenant* is a masterclass in metaphysical suspense.

Chapter 1: What Has Gone Before

Thomas Covenant, a once-happy novelist, is devastated when he contracts leprosy, leading to the amputation of two fingers and the collapse of his personal life. His wife abandons him to protect their son, and society shuns him as an outcast. Struggling with impotence and writer's block, Covenant experiences episodes of unconsciousness where he is transported to a magical realm called the Land. There, his leprosy and impotence vanish, but he dismisses the Land as a hallucination, clinging to "Unbelief"

to preserve his survival mindset in the real world.

In the Land, Covenant is revered as the reincarnation of the legendary Berek Halfhand, wielding a white gold ring with immense power. Despite his initial hostility—including an act of violence against a young girl named Lena—the people of the Land refuse to judge him, believing he is destined to save or doom their world. Covenant is torn between the Land's beauty and his refusal to accept its reality, fearing that embracing it would undermine his ability to cope with his leprosy. Meanwhile, the Land's inhabitants, including the Lords of Revelstone, vie for his allegiance in their struggle against the malevolent Lord Foul.

Covenant's internal conflict deepens as he learns more about the Land's plight. Lord Foul seeks to destroy the Arch of Time, while the Lords, lacking the full power of their ancestors, rely on Covenant's wild magic. His daughter, High Lord Elena, emerges as a tragic figure, her sanity frayed by her unnatural origins. Covenant's bargains—attempting to aid the Land without fully committing—lead to catastrophic consequences, including the loss of the Staff of Law and Elena's death. His Unbelief is further shaken by the presence of Hile Troy, a man from his own world.

By the end of his second journey to the Land, Covenant's dilemmas remain unresolved. His attempts to balance his survival instincts with his growing connection to the Land result in devastation, leaving him more isolated and conflicted than ever. The chapter underscores the tension between Covenant's denial and the undeniable impact of his choices, setting the stage for further struggles in the series.

Chapter 2: Part One - 1. Reunion

Linden Avery stands atop Revelstone’s watchtower, surrounded by companions who have sacrificed much for her—Stave, Liand, and the Ramen—yet she is oblivious to them. Her focus is entirely on the approaching riders fleeing the Demondim horde. Among them, she recognizes Thomas Covenant, her lost love, and her adopted son Jeremiah, whose mind has inexplicably been freed from its former prison. Overwhelmed by this revelation, Linden’s past struggles—her flight from the Masters, her journey with the Ramen, and her quest for the Staff of Law—suddenly seem meaningless in the face of this miraculous reunion.

Driven by urgency, Linden rushes to descend the tower, but her path is blocked by Masters preparing for battle. Undeterred, she dashes across a precarious bridge into Revelstone’s labyrinthine passages, guided by Stave and Mahrtiir. Her friends follow closely, including the unstable Anele and the enigmatic Humbled, who shadow her with ambiguous intentions. As she navigates the darkness, Linden summons light from her Staff, her desperation growing with each step. She fears the Demondim may have already overtaken Covenant and Jeremiah, but she clings to hope that they will reach safety.

Linden’s health-sense strains to perceive the Demondim’s proximity, but the stone walls of Revelstone obscure her vision. She reflects on the Demondim’s recent withdrawal, questioning their motives. Their sudden retreat the previous day, after Anele’s confrontation, suggests a calculated move—perhaps to herd Covenant and Jeremiah toward her rather than destroy them. This realization fuels her determination, yet it also raises unsettling questions about the forces manipulating events.

The chapter culminates in Linden’s frantic race against time, her emotions oscillating between joy and dread. The reappearance of Covenant and Jeremiah redefines her purpose, but the looming threat of the Demondim casts a shadow over their reunion.

Her journey, once driven by defiance and survival, now centers on reaching her loved ones before it’s too late—even as the larger forces at play remain shrouded in mystery.



Chapter 3: Part One - 2. Difficult Answers

Linden Avery, accompanied by Mahrtiir, emerges from Revelstone onto a sunlit plateau, freed from the oppressive presence of the Humbled Masters thanks to Stave's intervention. She grapples with the emotional turmoil of reuniting with Thomas Covenant and her son, Jeremiah, only to find them altered and distant, refusing her touch. Compounding her distress, Covenant warns that using the Staff of Law—her source of power—would erase their presence. Despite her doubts, she believes them, torn between her love for them and the impossibility of acting on her deepest desires.

The landscape around her contrasts starkly with her memories of the Sunbane-ravaged land she once traversed with Covenant. Now, the plateau thrives with lush grass, trees, and fertile fields, a testament to the work of Sunder and Hollian centuries earlier. This restoration offers a bittersweet reminder of the Land's resilience, yet Linden remains preoccupied with her grief and the enigmatic behavior of Covenant and Jeremiah. She seeks solace in Glimmermere, a mystical lake tied to cherished memories of Covenant's forgiveness and love.

Linden reflects on her failures: her inability to heal Jeremiah, her reckless actions that brought the Demondim to Revelstone, and her powerlessness against the Masters. Shame and Kevin's Dirt sap her strength, but she clings to the hope that Glimmermere's waters might renew her resolve. The lake symbolizes redemption, a place where she once forgave herself for past transgressions. Now, she hopes it will help her navigate the contradictions of Covenant's return and Jeremiah's transformation.

The chapter delves into Linden's internal struggle as she balances her love for Covenant and Jeremiah with the constraints placed upon her. Covenant's cryptic warnings about the Staff of Law and white gold's inherent imperfection hint at deeper mysteries. Linden's journey to Glimmermere becomes a quest for clarity, both about

her own identity and the true nature of the forces at play. Her determination to find answers underscores her resilience, even as she battles despair.



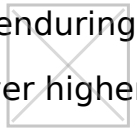
Chapter 4: Part One - 3. Love and Strangers

Linden Avery watches as the ur-viles and Waynhim disperse after Esmer’s departure, leaving her alone with her unresolved dilemmas. A storm gathers in the west, but it lacks the malevolence she previously encountered, suggesting it is a natural phenomenon. Despite the beauty of the Land around her, Linden feels no solace, consumed by the rejection of Thomas Covenant and her son, Jeremiah. Their refusal to let her touch them and their unexplained changes haunt her, leaving her with a profound sense of loss and unanswered questions about their transformation and motives.

Linden grapples with the paradoxes surrounding Covenant and Jeremiah. Covenant claims to manipulate time, yet his abilities defy comprehension, leaving her uncertain of his true nature. Jeremiah, once lost to his own mind, now exhibits knowledge beyond his years, but he too rejects her. Their insistence on keeping their distance—despite her desperate love—fuels her anguish. Esmer’s cryptic behavior has left her without answers, forcing her to confront Covenant and Jeremiah directly. She resolves not to wait for Covenant’s readiness, determined to uncover the truth behind their actions and her own role in their plans.

Seeking solace, Linden decides to speak with the Mandoubt, hoping for clearer guidance than Esmer provided. As she ascends the hill toward Revelstone, she notices the beauty of the Land but remains too distraught to appreciate it. She spots Manethrall Mahrtiir and Stave waiting for her, their demeanor suggesting they sense a change in her. Mahrtiir, unaware of her encounter with Esmer, bows in reverence, mistaking Glimmermere’s healing effects for her own exaltation. Linden reassures him, explaining the lake’s restorative powers and urging him to experience it himself, despite the challenges posed by Kevin’s Dirt.

Stave, too, acknowledges Linden’s transformation, his single eye seeming to perceive deeper truths. Linden briefly considers whether Glimmermere has granted her a sacramental insight, but she dismisses the thought, focused on her immediate goals. She informs Mahrtiir and Stave of her encounter with Esmer, hinting at the larger mysteries at play. Determined to act, Linden prepares to confront Covenant and Jeremiah, unwilling to remain passive in the face of their secrecy. Her resolve underscores her enduring love and her refusal to be sidelined, even as the stakes for the Land grow ever higher.



Chapter 5: Part One - 4. A Defense of Revelstone

Linden Avery emerges from Thomas Covenant’s rooms in Revelstone, emotionally shattered by his and her son Jeremiah’s cold rejection. Stave, a Haruchai, supports her as she struggles to process their altered behavior, which feels manipulative and false. Despite her grief, she clings to the Staff of Law for strength, though Revelstone’s stone walls offer no comfort—only memories of distrust and violence. She allows Stave to guide her to her quarters, recognizing she has nowhere else to go, as a storm brews both outside and within her heart.

Linden grapples with the possibility that Covenant and Jeremiah are being controlled by external forces, their words and actions distorted. She questions whether their strange behavior stems from Jeremiah’s unexplained powers or if both are puppets of greater, unseen entities. Anele’s cryptic warning about Covenant’s son seeking havoc adds to her turmoil. Though devastated, Linden refuses to surrender, drawing on her past experiences to resist despair. She resolves to gather her allies—Stave, Mahrtiir, and Liand—to strategize before Covenant’s planned demonstration the next day.

Returning to her rooms, Linden finds them prepared with firewood, lamps, and food, a small kindness amid Revelstone’s hostility. She drinks springwine for solace and gazes at the encroaching storm, sensing danger in the gathering darkness. Closing the shutters, she builds a fire, but the light cannot dispel the echoes of Covenant and Jeremiah’s painful words. Haunted by their voices, she lies on her bed, clutching the Staff of Law, seeking reassurance in its Earthpower and her own resolve to uncover the truth.

As Linden drifts into sleep, she reflects on the Staff’s origins, comparing it to Berek’s but acknowledging its unique creation through her own desperation and love for the Land. Though exhausted, she trusts it will guide her in confronting the Despiser and rescuing Jeremiah. The chapter closes with her slipping into unconsciousness, still

burdened by uncertainty but determined to face the challenges ahead with her allies' support.



Chapter 6: Part One - 5. "I know what to do"

Exhausted and emotionally drained, Linden Avery is supported by Stave and Liand after her intense efforts to protect Revelstone. Despite her success in extinguishing the Fall and thwarting the Demondim, she grapples with a sense of loss, having missed opportunities to uncover truths about Jeremiah and Covenant. The aid of the ur-viles and Waynhim, brought by Esmer, leaves her questioning their motives, yet she acknowledges their unwavering trust in her. Their assistance has left them vulnerable, but Linden no longer doubts their loyalty, even as she anticipates Esmer’s inevitable betrayal.

Liand expresses awe at Linden’s power, comparing her actions to a pivotal moment in the Land’s salvation. Stave confirms her success, noting the Demondim’s rage and the impending battle for Revelstone. Though weakened, Linden resolves to meet Covenant near Furl Falls, relying on her friends and the Staff of Law for support. She hopes Revelstone’s ancient defenses will hold against the Demondim, but her immediate focus shifts to recovering her strength and preparing for the challenges ahead.

The Waynhim return, offering Linden a potent restorative brew that revitalizes her physically and mentally. Grateful, she reflects on their selfless aid despite the risks they face. Their artificial nature makes it difficult to discern their condition, but she senses no lasting harm. Linden thanks them, acknowledging their enigmatic motives, but the creatures depart without response, leaving her to ponder their unwavering support.

Revitalized, Linden turns her attention to her companions, receiving praise from Mahrtiir and the Ramen for her deeds. Liand and Pahni share a quiet moment, while Anele speaks cryptically in an unfamiliar voice. Linden resolves to focus on her next steps, trusting the Masters to defend Revelstone as she prepares to reunite with Covenant and Jeremiah, uncertain of what their meeting will demand of her.

Chapter 7: Part One - 6. Interference

Linden Avery experiences a sudden, disorienting transition to an unfamiliar winter landscape, leaving her stunned and overwhelmed. The sensory overload is far more intense than her previous journeys to the Land, leaving her momentarily unable to process her surroundings. Clinging to the Staff of Law as her only anchor, she struggles to regain her bearings while Thomas Covenant, enraged and impatient, berates her for nearly disrupting his fragile manipulation of time. Linden’s fear and confusion deepen as she realizes her son, Jeremiah, and her companions are nowhere to be found.

Covenant’s anger shifts focus when he detects the presence of an unseen entity, demanding it reveal itself. A mysterious stranger emerges, speaking with calm amusement, and reveals he has interfered with Covenant’s plans to redirect their path. The stranger claims his actions are necessary to avert greater peril, though Covenant vehemently disagrees, accusing him of meddling. Linden, still visually impaired by the blinding snow, strains to understand the confrontation, her mute desperation growing as she fails to locate Jeremiah or comprehend their new circumstances.

The stranger, revealed to be at odds with the Elohim, taunts Covenant about Linden’s potential power, suggesting she could one day wield forces beyond her current limitations. Covenant dismisses this as arrogance, mocking the stranger’s people for their divisiveness and self-interest. The tension between them underscores a larger conflict about control, destiny, and the risks of unchecked power. Meanwhile, Linden’s senses gradually adjust, allowing her to perceive the icy wasteland around her, though her questions about Jeremiah’s fate remain unanswered.

As the chapter concludes, the stranger’s motives remain ambiguous, blending smug satisfaction with a cryptic warning about the consequences of their altered path. Covenant’s frustration highlights the precariousness of their situation, while Linden’s

physical and emotional vulnerability leaves her isolated in the face of forces she cannot fully grasp. The chapter sets the stage for further confrontation, weaving themes of interference, power, and the unpredictable consequences of meddling with time and fate.



Chapter 8: Part One - 7. Taking the Risk

Linden Avery, accompanied by Thomas Covenant and her son Jeremiah, finds herself on a frigid hilltop, overwhelmed by the lethal beauty of the cold. Though the freezing temperatures threaten her survival, she is struck by the pristine, almost sacred quality of the snow-covered landscape. Covenant, seemingly oblivious to her struggle, continues discussing the Elohim’s refusal to intervene in their quest due to their disdain for altering time. Linden, however, is preoccupied with her son’s perilous situation, as Jeremiah’s physical body remains trapped by Lord Foul, despite his presence beside her.

Covenant explains that using the EarthBlood’s Power of Command will halt Lord Foul’s actions but will also cause him and Jeremiah to vanish, returning to their original time. He assures Linden that she can then use the same power to reunite with Jeremiah, offering her a glimmer of hope. However, Covenant’s tone shifts to frustration when Linden questions his motives, insisting his actions are for her and Jeremiah’s benefit as much as for the Land. The Theomach’s sudden laughter and cryptic remarks add an unsettling layer to the conversation, hinting at deeper complexities.

Linden questions why they must travel so far into the past to reach Melenkurion Skyweir, where the EarthBlood resides. Jeremiah explains that the passages to the EarthBlood were destroyed in their own time, and Damelon’s ancient wards make it inaccessible without her abilities. Covenant’s plan involves sealing Lord Foul in their original timeline to avoid destabilizing the Arch of Time. Despite the urgency, they remain on the hilltop, leaving Linden confused and shivering, her patience wearing thin.

The chapter culminates with the Theomach’s enigmatic return, his presence blurring the boundaries of reality. Jeremiah, visibly uneasy, defers to Covenant as the Theomach approaches, heightening the tension. Linden’s physical discomfort and

emotional turmoil underscore the precariousness of their mission, as the group’s dynamics and unspoken conflicts simmer beneath the surface. The chapter leaves readers questioning the true motivations of Covenant and the Theomach, while Linden’s determination to save her son remains the emotional core.



Chapter 9: Part One - 8. The Stuff of Legends

Linden Avery, riding a frail horse, distances herself from her companions, Thomas Covenant and Jeremiah, to approach Berek’s vast encampment. Using Earthpower from her Staff, she strengthens her mount and warms herself as she gallops toward the camp. The encampment, though not large, looms under the night sky, its fires illuminating tents, wagons, and the suffering of wounded warriors. Linden’s focus is drawn to three large pavilions where the most severely injured are housed, and she directs her horse toward them, determined to help despite the risks.

As Linden nears the camp, her presence and the fiery display of her Staff attract attention, prompting warriors to intercept her. Shouts erupt, and riders mobilize to block her path, mistaking her for a threat. She attempts to assert her purpose as a healer, invoking Yellinin’s and Berek’s names, but skepticism and hostility meet her claims. With time running out, she uses the Staff’s power to create a tremor, spooking the horses and creating an opening to rush toward the wounded. Her urgency underscores her desperation to reach those in need.

Despite her progress, Linden faces a final barrier: a wall of armed warriors blocking her path to the pavilions. She dismounts, extinguishes the Staff’s fire, and appeals to them calmly, emphasizing her role as a healer and the dire need of the dying. The warriors, hardened by battle and fear, hesitate but ultimately relent, parting to let her pass. Their decision reflects a grudging recognition of her sincerity, though their apprehension lingers. Linden, moved by their concession, expresses gratitude as she steps into the camp.

The chapter highlights Linden’s unwavering commitment to healing, even at personal risk, and the tension between her outsider status and her mission. Her use of Earthpower and her appeals to authority reveal her resourcefulness, while the warriors’ reluctant trust underscores the camp’s weariness and hope. The scene sets

the stage for her confrontation with the suffering within the pavilions and the broader challenges awaiting her in Berek’s camp.



Chapter 10: Part One - 9. Along the Last Hills

Linden, Covenant, and Jeremiah journey northwest along the Last Hills for three days, battling extreme cold and harsh sunlight. Linden, clad in a fur-lined robe and swaddled hands, endures the misery without using her Staff of Law, fearing its power might harm her companions. Covenant and Jeremiah, seemingly unaffected by the cold, remain close to her, their restless horses unnerved by an unseen presence. The group relies on meager supplies from Berek, with Covenant and Jeremiah appearing indifferent to physical needs, their silence and wakefulness adding to Linden’s growing unease.

Yellinin, an outrider sent by Berek, accompanies them with supplies but remains distant, obeying orders to avoid questions. Her unspoken grief and isolation weigh on Linden, who struggles to communicate. Covenant hides his right hand, likely to conceal his resemblance to Berek Halfhand, while Jeremiah’s missing fingers hint at future legends. The slow progress—only twenty-five leagues in three days—fuels Linden’s anxiety, as the horses weaken and the journey’s impossibility becomes clear. The cold and exhaustion push her toward a breaking point.

By the third night, Linden confronts her failures: her choices have led to suffering, and the journey’s demands exceed her strength. Two horses die overnight, underscoring the futility of continuing without change. Realizing she must trust Covenant despite her doubts, Linden resolves to use her Staff to send Yellinin back, hoping to lighten their burden. Covenant, impatient, warns against trusting Yellinin, accusing Berek of sending her as a spy. Linden’s yearning for the Covenant she remembers clashes with her suspicion of his motives.

The chapter culminates in Linden’s decision to act. She asks Covenant and Jeremiah to ride ahead, planning to demonstrate the Staff’s power to convince Yellinin to leave. Covenant’s cryptic warnings and Jeremiah’s alarm deepen her inner conflict, but she

prioritizes survival over unraveling their secrets. The cold, both literal and metaphorical, forces her to confront her limitations and rely on uncertain allies, setting the stage for a pivotal shift in their journey.



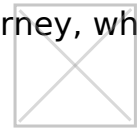
Chapter 11: Part One - 10. Tactics of Confrontation

Linden and her companions, Covenant and Jeremiah, emerge from Bargas Slit into the sunlight near Garroting Deep, an ancient and ominous forest. The towering trees, both evergreen and barren, exude a sense of timeless menace, their whispers carrying millennia of outrage against past slaughter. Despite the absence of immediate danger, the forest’s oppressive aura unsettles Linden, who had hoped to glimpse the distant mountains but finds her view blocked by the dense canopy. The group’s journey through the ravine has been arduous, marked by the loss of their horses and the weight of their dwindling supplies, reinforcing Linden’s sense of impending doom.

Covenant reveals that Garroting Deep, guarded by the ruthless Caerroil Wildwood, is both a threat and a strategic advantage. The forest’s inherent dangers are offset by its ability to shield them from surveillance, as the Last Hills’ stone and the trees’ rage disrupt external scrutiny. Covenant plans to travel swiftly along the hills’ edge, using short, line-of-sight movements to avoid detection. Linden, however, remains uneasy, questioning the risks of drawing the Forestal’s attention or provoking unseen adversaries. Covenant’s cryptic responses and Jeremiah’s unsettling revelation—that the trees crave human blood—deepen her apprehension.

The tension escalates as Covenant and Jeremiah prepare to use minimal magic to traverse the terrain, emphasizing stealth. Linden’s attempts to understand their strategy are met with evasion; Covenant dismisses her questions about the trees’ communications, while Jeremiah warns that naming their potential foes could attract unwanted attention. Despite her frustration at being manipulated, Linden recognizes the necessity of compliance, given her dependence on Covenant’s knowledge and her son’s safety. She reluctantly agrees to follow their instructions, though the lack of transparency fuels her distrust.

The chapter culminates in a tense standoff between Linden’s desire for clarity and her companions’ insistence on secrecy. Jeremiah assures her that their plan requires only her stillness and avoidance of physical contact, but Linden’s internal conflict reflects broader themes of agency and deception. The forest’s malevolent presence looms as a metaphor for the unknown dangers ahead, while Covenant’s ambiguous motives and Jeremiah’s erratic behavior leave Linden isolated in her uncertainty. The stage is set for a perilous journey, where the line between survival and betrayal grows increasingly blurred.



Chapter 12: Part One - 11. Melenkurion Skyweir

Linden Avery and her companions arrive at the towering Melenkurion Skyweir, a majestic peak that dominates the landscape with its sheer cliffs and glacial slopes. The mountain exudes an aura of timeless grandeur, standing as a sentinel over Garroting Deep. Despite her disorientation and the biting cold, Linden is struck by the mountain's imposing presence, which seems almost sacred, like a temple to the Earth's beauty. Hidden within its depths lies the EarthBlood, a power Covenant promises will end Lord Foul's tyranny and free Linden's son, Jeremiah, though it may cost Linden her life.

As Linden surveys the plateau surrounding the Skyweir, she senses an underlying warmth beneath the icy stone, hinting at the EarthBlood's presence. However, her health-sense also detects a distant, growing tremor—a natural but catastrophic earthquake building within the mountain. Covenant and Jeremiah, seemingly unaffected by the cold or fatigue, urge Linden to press on, prioritizing their mission over her physical needs. Despite her exhaustion, Linden complies, driven by Jeremiah's apparent concern and the urgency of their quest.

The group transports to the plateau's center, where Linden kneels to connect with the mountain's essence. She perceives the EarthBlood's latent power but also the impending quake, which Covenant casually confirms will split the Skyweir open. His indifference to the looming disaster contrasts sharply with Linden's alarm, highlighting their differing perspectives on the Land's fate. The earthquake, while natural, symbolizes the immense forces at play, mirroring the upheaval in Linden's own life as she grapples with sacrifice and loss.

Linden's realization of the coming cataclysm underscores the chapter's tension between hope and despair. The Skyweir's impending destruction mirrors her inner turmoil, as she faces the likelihood of her own death to secure Jeremiah's freedom.

Covenant’s detached attitude suggests a deeper, perhaps calculated, understanding of events, leaving Linden to navigate her grief and suspicion alone. The chapter ends with a sense of inevitability, as the group stands on the brink of both geological and personal upheaval.



Chapter 13: Part One - 12. Transformations

In this chapter, Linden Avery, empowered by Earthblood, uncovers the horrifying truth about Roger Covenant and her son Jeremiah. Using her Command, she strips away the illusions disguising Roger, revealing him as Thomas Covenant’s son, not the man she believed him to be. Roger’s right hand, replaced by a monstrous construct of magma and magic, mirrors the destructive power of the skurj, creatures of lava and hunger. The revelation shocks Linden, as she realizes Roger has been transformed into a weapon of chaos, aided by the deranged Elohim Kastenessen, whose own pain and insanity fuel his malice.

Jeremiah’s condition proves even more devastating. Once hidden by glamour, he now stands vacant and unresponsive, his body marked by brutal wounds and bruises. A sinister creature, a croyel, clings to his back, draining his life while exuding a malevolent force reminiscent of the Viles’ dark magic. Linden recognizes the croyel as a parasitic demon that enslaves its hosts, though she insists Jeremiah is an innocent victim, not a willing participant in this corruption. The sight of her son, possessed and bleeding, pushes her to the brink of despair, amplifying her fury and desperation.

Empowered by the Earthblood, Linden unleashes a torrent of fire against Roger, only to be met with a devastating counterattack. Roger’s magma hand hurls scorching brimstone, extinguishing her flames and nearly killing her. The force of the assault leaves her vulnerable, teetering on the edge of the Earthblood trough. As her power fades, she collapses to her knees, her vision blurring, leaving her exposed to Roger’s taunts and threats. His smug cruelty underscores his intent to destroy her, relishing the opportunity to finally crush her resistance.

The chapter culminates in Linden’s overwhelming grief and helplessness. Stripped of her power, she faces Roger’s looming attack, too stunned by the revelations to defend herself. The dual horrors of Roger’s transformation and Jeremiah’s possession leave

her emotionally shattered, emphasizing the chapter’s themes of betrayal, loss, and the brutal consequences of unchecked power. The tension escalates as Linden’s fate hangs in the balance, setting the stage for a dire confrontation.



Chapter 14: Part Two - 1. From the Depths

Linden Avery emerges from the depths of Rivenrock into Garroting Deep, physically and emotionally shattered. The cold winter air and her soaked, exhausted body are the least of her burdens—her son, Jeremiah, is lost to Lord Foul and the croyel, leaving her heart hardened like stone. Despite her overwhelming grief and fatigue, she presses forward, driven by a grim determination that refuses to surrender. The Staff of Law in her hand has transformed into a dark, unrecognizable form, mirroring her own inner desolation, yet she no longer cares about its changes or her own survival.

Her journey through the mountain’s ruins was a blur of instinct and Earthpower, as she navigated collapsing stone and raging waters without awareness of time or the devastation around her. Now, in Garroting Deep, she trudges beside the Black River, guided only by its faint trickle under the starlit sky. The Ranyhyn’s earlier warnings about Jeremiah’s fate haunt her, but she had failed to grasp their full implications, distracted by Roger’s manipulations and the croyel’s cruelty. Her love for her son has been twisted into a tool for Despite, leaving her adrift in confusion and despair.

Linden’s resolve is unbroken, but her options are bleak. She cannot create a caesure to reach Jeremiah without risking the Arch of Time, nor can she rely on the Staff of Law to transcend time’s barriers. The Theomach’s silence and Roger’s treachery have left her isolated, yet she clings to a sliver of hope tied to Thomas Covenant. His enduring spirit represents a defiance against Lord Foul’s victory, a belief that the Land’s story is not yet over. Even in her numbness, she recognizes that the world’s laws still hold—proof that the Despiser has not yet triumphed.

As she stumbles deeper into the Forestal’s domain, Linden’s actions are mechanical, her mind stripped of fear or ambition. She expects death from Caerroil Wildwood but continues moving, her Staff and Jeremiah’s racecar the only remnants of her past life. The chapter closes with her grim acceptance of her fate, yet a faint spark persists—the

possibility that Thomas Covenant’s legacy might still offer redemption, not just for her, but for the Land itself.



Chapter 15: Part Two - 2. In the Care of the Mandoubt

Linden Avery awakens disoriented, burdened by the weight of time and exhaustion, unsure of her surroundings. She notices the absence of her health-sense, a perceptual ability she had grown accustomed to, leaving her feeling diminished. Despite her confusion, she finds comfort in the warmth and cleanliness of her environment, recognizing the Mandoubt's care. The realization that Kevin's Dirt has returned reassures her that she has been returned to her rightful time, though she remains uncertain of the exact circumstances.

As Linden gathers her thoughts, she reflects on her recent mistakes, particularly her misplaced trust in Roger Covenant and the manipulation involving her son, Jeremiah. Anger and grief overwhelm her as she acknowledges her vulnerability to Lord Foul's schemes. Determined to avoid repeating her errors, she resolves to focus on her immediate priorities: understanding her situation and reclaiming her Staff of Law to counteract Kevin's Dirt. Her night with the Mandoubt in Garroting Deep has taught her the importance of taking one step at a time.

Surveying the room, Linden recognizes it as the same chamber she occupied before her displacement, though it feels distant and dreamlike. The Staff of Law leans nearby, and the Mandoubt sits watching her, offering water from Glimmermere to ease her thirst and restore her senses. Linden drinks eagerly, feeling the water's lingering healing properties. The Staff's touch reignites her connection to the Land, restoring her perception of the living stone of Revelstone and the warmth of her surroundings.

With her senses renewed, Linden clings to the Staff, seeking solace and strength. The Mandoubt, ever attentive, brings more water, symbolizing both physical and spiritual replenishment. Linden's focus shifts to her next actions, determined to reclaim her

agency and confront the challenges ahead. The chapter closes with her poised between recovery and resolve, ready to face the uncertainties of her mission with renewed clarity and purpose.



Chapter 16: Part Two - 3. Tales Among Friends

Linden Avery, recovering from her ordeal, is interrupted by Liand, who bursts into her room with palpable relief and joy. He is quickly followed by Mahrtiir and the Ramen, who greet her with deep respect and evident concern for her well-being. Stave enters with Anele, whose erratic behavior contrasts with Stave's composed demeanor. Despite his stoicism, Stave's unspoken emotions hint at the toll of his exile from the Haruchai. Linden is moved by her friends' loyalty but notices the presence of the Humbled, Galt and Clyme, whose watchful stance signals lingering distrust.

The tension escalates as Linden confronts the Humbled, questioning their motives for surveilling her. Stave explains that he has learned to shield his thoughts from the Masters, denying them insight into Linden's plans. This revelation surprises her, highlighting Stave's resilience and strategic acumen. She praises her companions, acknowledging their courage, but refuses to speak openly while the Humbled remain. Her demand for privacy underscores her growing assertiveness and distrust of the Masters' interference.

Linden negotiates with the Humbled, proposing a compromise: Stave will later share relevant information with them, ensuring transparency without immediate intrusion. She appeals to their sense of duty, reminding them of the Land's need for unity. The Humbled, however, challenge her, questioning whether Stave's judgment aligns with theirs. Linden stands firm, invoking her experiences and allies to justify her stance. Her confidence reflects her transformation into a decisive leader, unafraid to confront authority.

The chapter culminates in a tense exchange about the term "halfhands," with the Humbled probing Linden's interpretation of the Elohim's warning. She clarifies that she does not equate them with the true threat, distinguishing their rigid ideology from the malevolence of figures like Kastenessen. The unresolved tension lingers as the

Humbled deliberate, leaving Linden and her friends in a precarious balance between cooperation and conflict. The scene underscores themes of trust, sacrifice, and the struggle for autonomy in the face of oppressive oversight.



Chapter 17: Part Two - 4. Old Conflicts

Linden Avery, wielding the Staff of Law, grapples with the aftermath of a mysterious stranger’s annihilation of the Demondim horde. Her companions—Liand, Stave, the Ramen, and the disturbed Anele—react with varying degrees of confusion and apprehension. Stave reveals that the stranger waits outside Revelstone’s gates, neither eating nor sleeping, beside an inexplicably enduring fire. Linden’s mind races with possibilities, but the Masters of the Land refuse to engage with the stranger, citing uncertainty about his power and motives. Stave hints at undisclosed concerns, deepening Linden’s suspicion that the Masters are withholding critical information.

Determined to act, Linden delegates tasks to her allies, urging Liand and the Ramen to prepare for an impending journey while she seeks clarity. She instructs Stave to share her revelations about Roger Covenant and the croyel with the Humbled, despite the potential repercussions. As her companions disperse, Linden paces restlessly, torn between the need to strategize and her urgency to confront the stranger. She fears her enemies—Roger, the croyel, and Lord Foul’s other minions—are already advancing their schemes, and the stranger’s presence could signify either a new threat or an unforeseen ally.

Stave returns after informing the Humbled, revealing their guarded reaction to Linden’s account. The Masters, unable to conceal their thoughts like Stave, suspect her intent to confront the stranger and resent her secrecy about the Mandoubt. Linden probes Stave’s reluctance to discuss the stranger or the Mandoubt, but he deflects, citing unconfirmed speculations. His evasiveness fuels her frustration, yet she refrains from pressing further, recognizing the need for patience.

As the fire in her hearth dims, mirroring the growing cold outside Revelstone, Linden steels herself for the challenges ahead. The Humbled’s presence at her door underscores the Masters’ distrust, but she remains resolved to uncover the truth. The

chapter closes with Linden poised on the brink of action, her mind racing with unanswered questions about the stranger’s identity, the Mandoubt’s role, and the looming dangers threatening the Land. Her determination to defy passive acceptance sets the stage for her next decisive move.



Chapter 18: Part Two - 5. Departure from Revelstone

Linden Avery returns to Revelstone in a somber state, haunted by the death of the Mandoubt and the weight of her perceived failure. The night is silent, and the absence of light from the Keep's extinguished lamps and torches underscores the Masters' unspoken judgment. Using her Staff of Law, Linden illuminates her path, defiantly confronting the darkness and the cold reception from the Haruchai. The atmosphere is heavy with tension as she enters the Keep, sensing the Masters' collective decision about her, though they remain silent and unmoving.

Linden focuses on Stave and the Humbled, noting their injuries but recognizing their resilience. She offers to heal Stave, acknowledging his pride but emphasizing the dangers ahead. Stave's acceptance of her help is a significant moment, as it symbolizes his willingness to set aside Haruchai stoicism for her sake. Linden's healing fire restores his wounds, a small but meaningful act amid her grief. The other Masters watch in disdain, reinforcing the cultural divide between Stave and his kin.

Seeking solace, Linden decides to visit the Hall of Gifts, a place tied to past struggles and losses. Stave accompanies her without objection, and the Masters do not interfere, as the Hall holds little significance to them. The journey through Revelstone's cold, labyrinthine passages mirrors Linden's internal turmoil. She draws warmth from her Staff, clinging to the hope that remembering past sacrifices might help her endure the Mandoubt's death and prepare for the challenges ahead.

The Hall of Gifts, a vast and solemn space, stands as a testament to the Land's history and the Giants' craftsmanship. Though its original purpose was to celebrate beauty and prophecy, Linden now seeks it as a refuge for her sorrow. The raw, unfinished stone and dusty silence evoke a cathedral-like reverence, offering her a moment of

reflection. Here, surrounded by echoes of past victories and losses, she steels herself for the impending dawn and the uncertain path forward.



Chapter 19: Part Two - 6. Sons

The chapter begins with Linden Avery and her companions, including the Ramen and Haruchai, paying homage to the Ranyhyn before setting off toward Andelain. Despite her impatience, Linden respects the ceremonial delay as Manethrall Mahrtiir introduces the horses to the Masters. The Humbled—Branl, Galt, and Clyme—join the group, likely seeking redemption. As they depart Revelstone, Linden feels a shift in her agency, no longer merely reacting to her enemies but taking control of her fate. The company rides southeast, traversing a battlefield and entering a region of gentle hills, where they remain vigilant against potential threats.

As the journey progresses, Linden notices the absence of villages, speculating that the Ramen are avoiding encounters to prevent delays or conflicts with the Humbled. She also watches for the Harrow, but he remains unseen. Despite the slow pace, Linden finds solace in Hyn’s strength and the support of her friends. However, the first night’s camp on rocky terrain leaves her restless, haunted by the fear of attacks from Kastenessen, Roger, or other foes. Kevin’s Dirt weighs on her, sapping her resolve, while the Haruchai’s unwavering vigilance both comforts and unsettles her.

The next day brings relief as Liand uses his orcrest to counteract Kevin’s Dirt, restoring health-sense to the group. This lifts Linden’s spirits, and the landscape opens into grasslands, easing her anxiety. By evening, they camp in an arroyo with a stream, a safer spot for Anele. Linden plans to rest better here, trusting her companions and the Ranyhyn to guard them. As twilight falls, she reflects on their journey, feeling a tentative hope amid the dangers.

Stave later recounts the Harrow and Mandoubt’s mysterious conflict, as well as the Vizard and Theomach, though he withholds details about the Haruchai’s past. Linden observes the curiosity of Liand and the Cords, but Stave’s stern demeanor discourages questions. Mahrtiir, however, seems determined to seek answers, hinting at

unresolved tensions within the group. The chapter closes with Linden balancing newfound determination against the ever-present threats lurking in the Land.



Chapter 20: Part Two - 7. An Aftertaste of Victory

Linden Avery, overwhelmed by exhaustion and the trauma of recent battles, forces herself to tend to the wounded Woodhelvennin despite her emotional and physical depletion. Guided by her horse, Hyn, she focuses on triage, prioritizing those she can save while ignoring the dead and those beyond help. She summons the last remnants of her strength to heal a wounded mother and child, then a man with severe injuries, relying on her fading Earthpower. As she moves among the casualties, she confronts the brutal aftermath of the conflict, including the corpse of a Master surrounded by dead wolves, a testament to his sacrifice.

Despite her weariness, Linden continues her efforts, compelled by Hyn to aid an elderly couple clinging to life. Though initially doubtful, she channels her power into them, and their faint revival offers a fleeting moment of hope. Yet her resolve wavers as she reflects on her identity as a healer, questioning her purpose after the violence she has endured. The sight of Jeremiah’s ruined toy, a symbol of her loss, nearly breaks her, leaving her numb and seated among the carnage, unable to rise until Liand and Pahni arrive with sustenance to revive her.

With their support, Linden resumes her work, treating the wounded villagers while grappling with the scale of destruction. She acknowledges the looming threat of infection but focuses on immediate care. As her strength returns, she turns her attention to her missing companions—Mahrtiir, Bhapa, and the Humbled—determined to aid them as well. Along the way, she encounters Vernigil, a wounded Master who refuses her help, choosing to bear his injuries as a badge of honor. His stoicism resonates with the survivors, reinforcing his authority.

The chapter closes with Linden’s blurred vision and fatigue as she trudges toward the battlefield where her companions may lie. The Sandgorgons loom in the distance, with Stave seemingly engaged in silent communication with them, but Linden lacks the

energy to ponder their role. Her journey underscores the relentless demands of leadership and healing in a land ravaged by conflict, leaving her teetering on the edge of collapse yet driven by duty and unresolved grief.



Chapter 21: Part Two - 8. Salva Gildenbourne

Linden Avery, haunted by the Harrow’s promise to lead her to her son, Jeremiah, retreats from her companions to seek solace with her Ranyhyn mare, Hyn. Despite their deep bond, Hyn refuses to carry her to Jeremiah, unable to pierce the magical concealment hiding him. Mahrtiir, the blind Manethrall, explains that while Jeremiah exists in their time, his location remains obscured. Linden’s attempt reflects her desperation, but she acknowledges the futility, knowing her son’s captors—Roger Covenant and the croyel—would not make it so easy.

The chapter delves into themes of perseverance and despair as Mahrtiir contrasts Linden’s resolve with historical figures like Kevin Landwaster, who succumbed to hopelessness. He argues that continued struggle, even against impossible odds, holds more value than surrender. Linden, though weary, clings to hope, citing allies like Liand, Stave, and even the ur-viles as reasons to keep fighting. Yet she fears her friends might dissuade her from risky bargains, leaving her torn between determination and doubt.

After Liand uses his orcrest to heal traumatized villagers, the group prepares to depart. Linden insists on practicality, rejecting the heavy slate shielding Anele in favor of blankets to block Kastenessen’s influence. The villagers, grateful yet wary, bid them farewell as Mahrtiir bluntly acknowledges the mixed consequences of their aid. The company rides southeast, with the Humbled scouting ahead, ensuring safety while Linden worries about their pride preventing them from replenishing their strength with aliantha.

As they pause to rest, Linden notes the Humbled’s divergent paths, trusting their vigilance. Liand regains some energy from treasure-berries, lightening the mood momentarily. The chapter underscores Linden’s relentless drive to save Jeremiah, balanced by the practical and emotional support of her companions. Yet the underlying

tension remains—her willingness to risk everything, even if it means defying caution or despair.



Chapter 22: Part Two - 9. The Long Journey of the Lost

Linden Avery, stunned and breathless after a fall, encounters a Giant—a race she once considered friends—now consumed by madness and intent on killing her. The towering figure, armored in stone and wielding a massive longsword, attacks without mercy. Despite her shock, Linden recognizes the stark contrast between this deranged Giant and the kind, jovial beings she once knew. As the Giant’s blade descends, Mahrtiir and Stave intervene, with Stave deflecting the lethal strike at the last moment. The scene sets the stage for a brutal confrontation, highlighting the unpredictability and danger of the Land’s altered reality.

The battle escalates as a skurj, a monstrous creature that feeds on earth and rock, attacks the mad Giant, sinking its fiery fangs into his stone armor. Though the Giant’s rage remains undiminished, the skurj’s assault threatens to tear him apart. Linden, despite his attempt on her life, instinctively moves to defend him, wielding her Staff to unleash a blast of Earthpower. Suddenly, a group of female Giants emerges from the jungle, clad in similar stone armor and armed with longswords. They join the fray, attacking the skurj with coordinated precision, showcasing their resilience and combat prowess.

The female Giants demonstrate extraordinary bravery, with one hacking at the skurj’s jaws to free their deranged companion, while another plunges her fist into the creature’s molten innards, enduring searing pain. Linden recalls the Giants’ historical ability to withstand fire, a trait tied to their rituals of grief. Meanwhile, the mad Giant, undeterred by his injuries, renews his attack on Linden, only to be subdued by the female Giants, who shackle him despite his frenzied protests. His cries to kill Linden reveal a deep, irrational hatred, further mystifying his motives and the source of his

madness.

As the skurj writhes in its death throes, the female Giants focus on finishing the creature, with one wrenching a pulsing mass from its core, finally killing it. The chapter ends with Linden reeling from the chaos, grappling with the juxtaposition of the Giants' former nobility and their current fractured state. The encounter underscores the Land's descent into turmoil, leaving Linden to ponder the forces driving these changes and her role in confronting them. The abrupt arrival and actions of the female Giants hint at a larger, unseen conflict, setting the tone for further revelations.

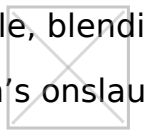
Chapter 23: Part Two - 10. Struggles over Wild Magic

The chapter delves into Linden Avery’s struggles with the implications of her presence in the Land and the mysteries surrounding wild magic. After a night of little sleep, Linden and the Giants discuss the Sandgorgons' actions and the nature of death between worlds. Linden admits she cannot fully explain how she, Jeremiah, and Roger transitioned to the Land, only that their existence there seems permanent until death. The conversation shifts to historical parallels, as Stave recounts the tale of Hile Troy, a man from Linden’s world who became the Forestal Caer-Caveral, suggesting that Joan’s wild magic might offer Linden a way to remain in the Land and save her son.

Stave’s narrative provides hope but also underscores the uncertainty of their situation. The Giants acknowledge the complexity of interdimensional magic, though their immediate concern is the threat of Kastenessen and his skurj. Coldspray warns of the dangers ahead, emphasizing the urgency of reaching Andelain to secure High Lord Loric’s krill, a potential key to countering Kastenessen’s forces. The company faces not only external threats but also internal strife, as Longwrath’s unpredictable violence demands constant vigilance. The Giants rally around Linden, recognizing that her possession of Covenant’s white gold ring may be their only hope.

Linden reveals Covenant’s ring, acknowledging her fraught relationship with its power. She admits her fear of wielding wild magic, citing its uncontrollable nature and her own inadequacy to harness it fully. Despite her past successes, she feels constrained by the antithesis between Law and wild magic, as well as her physical limitations. Her health-sense reinforces her vulnerability, leaving her uncertain of her ability to confront Joan or Kastenessen. The chapter highlights her internal conflict, torn between her responsibility to the Land and her fear of the ring’s destructive potential.

The discussion culminates in a sober acknowledgment of the challenges ahead. Linden’s companions, though supportive, recognize the precariousness of their mission. The Giants’ leader, Coldspray, underscores the necessity of relying on wild magic despite its risks, as conventional means may not suffice against their foes. Linden’s unresolved tension with Esmer and her lingering doubts about her right to wield the ring add layers of complexity to her journey. The chapter sets the stage for a desperate struggle, blending hope with existential dread as the company prepares to face Kastenessen’s onslaught.



Chapter 24: Part Two - 11. The Essence of the Land

After escaping a violent downpour, Linden and her companions pause briefly to tend to their injuries. The Giants, including Kindwind, Galesend, and Coldspray, bear severe wounds from their recent battle, while Linden’s allies—Liand, Stave, and the Ramen—suffer burns from skurj gore. Linden uses her Staff of Law to heal the most critical injuries but avoids treating the Humbled and Anele, respecting their boundaries. Despite her exhaustion, she pushes forward, aware that the skurj could attack again at any moment. The company resumes their flight, carrying the unconscious Longwrath, while the Giants and Haruchai remain vigilant for threats.

The group’s progress is hindered by the dense jungle of Salva Gildenbourne, forcing the Giants to carve a path with sheer strength. Linden’s fatigue clouds her focus, but her determination to reach Andelain and her son Jeremiah drives her onward. The Humbled scout ahead, yet Linden remains uneasy, fearing Kastenessen’s next move. Coldspray takes charge, hacking through the underbrush to improve their pace, but the Giants’ stamina wanes under the relentless strain. The loss of two comrades weighs heavily on them, though there is no time to grieve.

A sudden struggle erupts when Longwrath awakens and attacks the Giant carrying him. Despite her efforts to subdue him, he breaks free and flees to retrieve his abandoned flamberge. Coldspray halts pursuit, reasoning that their enemies will not harm him while he seeks Linden’s death. Latebirth, the Giant tasked with restraining Longwrath, blames herself for Scend Wavegift’s death, vowing to renounce her sword after their journey. Coldspray dismisses her guilt, urging the company to focus on survival. Linden, though sympathetic, remains silent, understanding the futility of recrimination in their dire circumstances.

As the terrain eases into a sloping decline, Coldspray and Latebirth lead the way, channeling their shame and anger into clearing a path. The jungle thins, offering hope

for faster progress, but the threat of the skurj looms. Linden’s thoughts linger on her son and Covenant, guided by the krill’s beacon in Andelain. Despite Esmer’s ambiguous aid and the constant danger, she resolves to press on, aware that her enemies fear her power. The chapter ends with the company’s fragile unity and determination tested by exhaustion and impending peril.



Chapter 25: Part Two - 12. Trust Yourself

The chapter "Trust Yourself" follows Linden Avery as she confronts the enigmatic Harrow in Andelain, a figure who seeks her Staff of Law and white gold ring in exchange for guiding her to her son, Jeremiah. Despite warnings from her companions, including Stave and Liand, Linden grapples with whether to trust the Harrow, who has sworn not to coerce her but whose motives remain unclear. The Wraiths' passive acceptance of his presence suggests he may not pose an immediate threat, yet Linden remains wary, knowing her instruments of power are crucial to freeing Jeremiah from the croyel.

Linden reflects on past miracles and cryptic hints, such as Anele’s mention of Morinmoss redeeming Thomas Covenant, which Stave elaborates on. The tale reveals Covenant’s healing by a Forestal’s power after enduring trauma, offering Linden a glimmer of hope that redemption is possible even in dire circumstances. This historical parallel strengthens her resolve to find her own path forward, though she remains uncertain how it directly relates to her current dilemma with the Harrow. The Giants and Ramen listen intently, underscoring the interconnectedness of the Land’s lore and Linden’s quest.

As tension mounts, Linden weighs the Harrow’s offer against the risks of surrendering her power. She recalls how enemies like Esmer and Roger sought to prevent the Harrow’s interference, hinting at his significance. Yet, Andelain’s protections—such as the Wraiths and the awakened krill—seem to neutralize immediate threats, leaving her to ponder whether bargaining is her only option. Liand’s urgency contrasts with Linden’s cautious deliberation, as she resolves not to commit until she reaches the krill, a source of wild magic that could tip the balance in her favor.

Ultimately, Linden decides to hear the Harrow’s proposal but refuses to agree without further assurance. Her determination to save Jeremiah at any cost is tempered by her

need to retain agency, echoing Covenant’s past resilience. The chapter closes with practical preparations to cross the Soulsease River, as Linden’s companions, including the steadfast Ranyhyn and Giants, rally behind her. Her internal conflict—between trust and suspicion, hope and pragmatism—sets the stage for the next phase of her journey.

