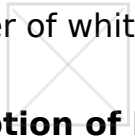
White Gold Wielder

In *White Gold Wielder*, the devastating conclusion to *The Second Chronicles of Thomas Covenant*, the fate of the Land hangs by a thread. **Thomas Covenant**, wielding the apocalyptic power of white gold, must finally confront **Lord Foul**—but at what cost?



- **The Corruption of Power**: Covenant’s wild magic threatens to destroy the very world he seeks to save.
- **Linden Avery’s Choice**: Torn between love and duty, Linden must decide whether to stop Covenant or trust his impossible plan.
- **The Despiser’s Endgame**: Lord Foul’s final gambit forces Covenant to face the unthinkable—*surrendering his power* to achieve victory.

As the **Sunbane** ravages the Land and time itself fractures, Donaldson delivers a climax of biblical proportions, where salvation demands not strength, but sacrifice.

Chapter 1: Part One - One: The Masters Scar

The chapter opens with the Giantship *Starfare's Gem* struggling northward after the tragic loss of the One Tree and the death of Seadreamer. The crew, including Sevinhand and Galewrath, labor mechanically, their grief palpable. Grimmand Honninscrave, the ship's Master, cradles his dead brother, surrounded by the First of the Search, Pitchwife, Findail, Vain, and Linden Avery, each grappling with despair. Thomas Covenant, however, isolates himself in his cabin, consumed by guilt and defeat, unable to face the consequences of his failures or the pain of his companions.

Covenant's internal turmoil dominates the chapter as he reflects on his catastrophic mistakes. He realizes his blindness to Lord Foul's manipulations, which turned his past

victories into tools for the Despiser's triumph. Linden's intervention saved the Earth, but Covenant feels irredeemable, having selfishly withheld critical truths from her. His love for her is now tainted by his deceit, and he cannot bring himself to seek solace in her presence. The weight of his actions—and his refusal to surrender his ring—leaves him paralyzed, trapped in a cycle of self-loathing and futility.

The narrative underscores Covenant's isolation, both physical and emotional. He compares his cabin to past prisons, emphasizing his sense of entrapment. Memories of warnings from figures like High Lord Mhoram and the Elohim haunt him, reinforcing his belief that he has become Foul's unwitting servant. His stubborn insistence on bearing the blame alone reflects his flawed understanding of redemption, as he clings to his ring as the last vestige of his identity, even as it symbolizes his downfall.

The chapter closes with Honninscrave entering Covenant's cabin, carrying a lantern that pierces the darkness but fails to dispel Covenant's despair. The Giant's grief over his brother's death mirrors Covenant's own anguish, yet Honninscrave's presence hints at a shared burden. Covenant remains motionless, locked in his torment, as the chapter leaves their confrontation unresolved, emphasizing the depth of his emotional and spiritual crisis.

Chapter 2: Part One - Two: Leper's Ground

The chapter opens with Honninscrave, the Master of the Giantship *Starfare’s Gem*, responding sluggishly to a summons, his awareness dulled by despair. Covenant, the Unbeliever, remains in his cabin, paralyzed by guilt and fear. He reflects on the threat of the Nicor, serpentine sea beasts linked to the Worm of the World’s End, and his own dangerous potential for destruction. Despite his friends’ peril, Covenant feels unworthy to act, haunted by past failures and the consequences of his selfish love. His internal struggle highlights his sense of defeat and isolation.

Covenant’s anguish deepens as he grapples with his inability to help. He tries to retreat into himself, but the silence of the ship and the looming danger of the Nicor gnaw at him. Memories of Honninscrave’s suffering and the loss of his friend Foamfollower intensify his torment. Eventually, his concern for his companions overrides his despair, and he calls for Cail, the last remaining Haruchai in his service. Cail’s isolation, a result of Brinn’s departure, adds another layer of tension to the scene.

Covenant requests his old clothes, symbolizing a return to his former, more honest self, though he resents the idea. Before he can act, Pitchwife arrives with news: Linden Avery, the Chosen, has saved the ship by communicating with the Nicor. Using her unique senses, she and Galewrath rhythmically pounded the hull, calming the creatures and diverting their wrath. Pitchwife’s excitement contrasts sharply with Covenant’s inner turmoil, underscoring Linden’s growing significance.

Covenant’s reaction to the news is mixed—pride in Linden’s accomplishment wars with his sense of irrelevance. Pitchwife’s account of her heroism highlights her resourcefulness, but Covenant feels overshadowed and powerless. The chapter closes with Covenant’s silent struggle, torn between admiration for Linden and his own self-loathing, as the ship sails on, temporarily safe but still burdened by unresolved

tensions.



Chapter 3: Part One - Three: The Path to Pain

The chapter opens with a vivid depiction of the Giantship *Starfare's Gem* sailing under a crimson sunset, its sails bathed in ominous red light, foreshadowing disaster. Despite the unsettling atmosphere, Honninscrave, the ship's Master, commands with unwavering precision, embodying the resilience of his Giant heritage. Covenant, accompanied by Cail, approaches Honninscrave to apologize for his perceived inadequacies but is met with shared sorrow rather than blame. The scene underscores the weight of recent losses, particularly the death of Cable Seadreamer, and the unspoken grief binding the characters.

Cail unexpectedly seeks Honninscrave's pardon for the unintended consequences of Brinn's actions, which led to Seadreamer's death. Honninscrave, though pained, responds with stoic acceptance, emphasizing the inevitability of the Earth-Sight and the necessity of hope. His words reveal a deep internal conflict—while he outwardly rejects blame, his eyes betray unresolved anguish. Covenant observes the fading sunset, symbolizing decline, as Honninscrave grapples with the need to vindicate his brother's death, even as he admits to feeling hopeless.

Covenant, struggling with his own doubts, questions Honninscrave's motivation to continue despite despair. The Giant replies that his duty as Master and his oath to the First of the Search sustain him—a response reminiscent of Covenant's past conversations about hope. Cail, embodying Haruchai philosophy, accepts this rationale, valuing action over hope. Covenant, however, feels alienated, burdened by his perceived failures and the lies he has told in Linden's name. The chapter highlights his internal turmoil and sense of isolation among beings who endure through duty or sheer will.

As night falls, lanterns illuminate the ship, creating a fragile beauty against the darkness. Covenant resolves to seek out Linden, recognizing her earlier insight about

Vain's significance. The Demondim-spawn's enigmatic presence, marked by the remnants of the Staff of Law, reinforces Covenant's belief that understanding Vain is key to their quest. The chapter closes with Covenant's determination to confront the unresolved mysteries, driven by a need for truth and redemption amid the encroaching shadows.



Chapter 4: Part One - Four: Sea of Ice

The chapter "Sea of Ice" opens with the Giantship *Starfare's Gem* battling a violent storm in the frigid Soulbiter Sea. The wind tears through the sails, threatening to destroy the vessel, but the sturdy dromond withstands the onslaught and begins to outpace the danger. As the ship navigates thinning ice floes, the immediate peril recedes, but Covenant remains oblivious to the chaos around him, consumed by his desperate attempt to save Linden's life.

Linden lies near death, her body pale and unresponsive, as Covenant frantically tries to revive her. Ignoring offers of help from the Giants, he rubs her limbs and demands warm water, his fear driving him to near hysteria. When Pitchwife attempts to administer diamondraught, Linden fails to swallow, prompting Covenant to resort to desperate measures, including mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. His efforts are fraught with tension as he battles his own vertigo and the ship's violent movements.

A breakthrough comes when the cooks prepare a stone stewpot filled with warm water. Covenant channels his wild magic to heat it, carefully controlling his power to avoid harming Linden. The intense heat revives her, and she begins coughing, regaining consciousness. As she recovers, she weakly strips off her wet clothes and drinks the diamondraught, her strength slowly returning. Covenant, overwhelmed with relief, hides his face against Pitchwife, his emotions raw.

Linden's first words upon waking reveal her lingering anguish over their inability to help others in the Soulbiter. Covenant explains that the figures they saw were illusions, and aiding them would have led to damnation. The chapter closes with Covenant and Linden grappling with the moral weight of their choices, their survival tempered by the haunting consequences of their decisions.

Chapter 5: Part One - Five: Landward

The chapter opens with the Giants hauling sleds across the icy wilderness, driven by urgency to distance themselves from their damaged ship, *Starfare’s Gem*. Covenant, burdened by guilt and responsibility, watches as the vessel disappears behind them, finding solace in the defiant pennon flying atop its mast. Linden observes Covenant silently, aware of his inner turmoil but unable to voice her concerns amid the harsh conditions. The group presses westward, though Covenant worries about the unstable ice and the possibility of being forced northward, where unknown dangers may lurk.

As the journey continues, the physical toll on the companions becomes evident. The First leads the way, while Pitchwife struggles to keep pace, and Honninscrave and Mistweave demonstrate remarkable endurance. Vain and Findail, seemingly unaffected by the cold or fatigue, remain enigmatic figures. The barren ice plain stretches endlessly, the sun glaring mercilessly as Covenant endures the biting cold, jostled by the sled’s movements. The harsh environment amplifies his sense of helplessness, as he reflects on his reliance on others and the sacrifices they’ve made for him.

The tension escalates when the First suddenly falls into a hidden fissure, nearly dragging Pitchwife down with her. Honninscrave and Mistweave react swiftly, rescuing the pair from the treacherous crack, which reveals the sea beneath the thinning ice. Pitchwife’s relief is tinged with humor, but the incident underscores the peril of their path. The First proposes a detour northward, but Honninscrave argues against it, citing longer travel time and greater dangers. Despite reservations, the group decides to continue west, prioritizing speed over safety.

Linden, sensing Covenant’s unease, quietly questions him about the northern peril, but he admits his ignorance, having never ventured that far north. The chapter closes with Covenant’s growing dread of the unknown, both in the landscape and his own journey. The physical challenges of the ice mirror his internal struggles, as the group presses

on, bound by determination and the unspoken weight of their mission. The chapter highlights themes of resilience, camaraderie, and the ever-present threat of the unknown.



Chapter 6: Part One - Six: Winter in Combat

The chapter opens with Covenant and his companions finding temporary respite on a coastal shingle, where the milder climate offers a brief reprieve from the harsh winter. Covenant awakens to the unsettling sight of a growing ice spit extending from the glacier they had left, signaling the relentless pursuit of the arghuleh. The First confirms the threat, estimating they have until the next day before the creatures reach them. Despite their exhaustion, the company quickly prepares to depart, with the Giants showing resilience and determination, while Linden remains visibly strained by the journey's toll.

As the group moves southwest, Covenant and Linden walk alongside the sleds, taking advantage of the bare ground. Covenant attempts to gauge Linden's condition, but their progress is soon interrupted by heavy snowfall, forcing them to ride the sleds. The First navigates the treacherous terrain with ease, leading the company through the storm. When the snow clears, Covenant reflects on their mission to stop the Clave and extinguish the Banefire, a goal that fuels his anger and resolve. The thought of the Ranyhyn, now lost to the Sunbane, deepens his determination to confront the Land's corruption.

Days pass as the company traverses a desolate, snow-covered plain, haunted by an unshakable sense of being hunted. Linden's health-sense detects an unnatural unease in the winter landscape, though she cannot pinpoint its source. Eventually, they ascend into a mountain range, where the terrain becomes less severe, offering hope for faster progress. Covenant identifies the area as the Northron Climbs, a familiar landmark that suggests they are nearing Landsdrop, the boundary between the Lower and Upper Land—and the edge of the Sunbane's influence.

The chapter concludes with the company gaining elevation and optimism, despite the lingering threat of the arghuleh and the unknown dangers ahead. Covenant's

recognition of the Northron Climbs renews his sense of purpose, as the group presses onward toward Landsdrop and their ultimate confrontation with the forces of the Sunbane. The mixture of hope and foreboding underscores the chapter’s tension, as the companions brace for the challenges that lie beyond the mountains.



Chapter 7: Part One - Seven: Physician's Plight

The chapter "Physician's Plight" follows Covenant and his companions as they resume their journey after the death of Hamako, a Stonedownor. Despite exhaustion, the Giants press on, guided by Waynhim, while Covenant struggles with nightmares and guilt. Linden tends to his injured arm, forcing him to drink diamondraught, which leaves him drowsy but unable to escape haunting dreams. His remorse over past decisions, particularly his refusal to heed High Lord Mhoram’s call, weighs heavily on him, and he grapples with the belief that he could have saved Hamako and Seadreamer if he had acted differently.

Covenant’s internal turmoil is compounded by the cold, desolate landscape as the company camps at the foot of Landsdrop. He reflects on his companions’ silent grief, particularly Pitchwife’s morose demeanor and Findail’s refusal to offer guidance. Covenant recognizes that Linden, despite her own trauma and self-doubt, has a stronger claim to the wild magic than he does, as her ability to perceive the truth gives her a clarity he lacks. Yet, her emotional wounds and contradictions hinder her, leaving Covenant feeling isolated and uncertain of how to bridge the gap between them.

The company awakens to a somber morning, each member processing loss in their own way. The First dreams of battle, Honninscrave carries a grim resolve, and Mistweave remains emotionally adrift. Linden’s raw grief mirrors Covenant’s, but their shared pain does not bring them closer. Covenant’s self-reproach deepens as he acknowledges his corruption and the fire he both fears and needs. The chapter underscores his relentless determination, even as he questions the cost of his choices.

Pitchwife’s poignant song encapsulates the group’s collective sorrow, mourning lost loved ones and the difficulty of moving on. His melody resonates with the cliffside, symbolizing the weight of their shared grief. The chapter ends on a note of unresolved tension, with Covenant and his companions standing on the brink of the Sunbane’s

horrors, burdened by past failures and uncertain of the path ahead. The emotional and physical toll of their journey leaves them vulnerable yet stubbornly persistent.



Chapter 8: Part One - Eight: The Defenders of the Land

The chapter opens with Covenant and his companions reuniting with Sunder and Hollian amid a violent storm. Covenant is overwhelmed with relief at finding them alive but is immediately burdened by the news that their quest has failed, resulting in the death of Cable Seadreamer. Sunder’s grim response, “You will find none here,” underscores the bleakness of their situation. Despite the emotional weight, Hollian’s brief embrace offers Covenant a moment of solace, symbolizing forgiveness and the importance of their return.

The group follows Sunder to a shallow, damp cave, where they take shelter from the relentless rain. The cave, though imperfect, provides a temporary respite, and Covenant tries to warm himself by the fire. As the company gathers, Covenant notices the absence of Stell and the villagers Sunder and Hollian were supposed to recruit, raising alarming questions about the fate of their allies. The Haruchai’s presence offers some stability, but the unanswered questions deepen Covenant’s unease.

Sunder’s transformation is stark; once conflicted and remorseful, he now radiates a honed, almost violent intensity. His anger is palpable, though not directed at Covenant, suggesting deeper unresolved struggles. In contrast, Hollian appears resilient and warm, her luminosity a counterpoint to Sunder’s rage. Their differing reactions highlight the emotional toll of their journey and the Sunbane’s horrors, with Hollian’s warmth offering a fragile hope amid despair.

The chapter closes with Covenant grappling with shame and uncertainty, unable to articulate his feelings to Sunder and Hollian. The storm outside mirrors the turmoil within, as the group faces the grim reality of their failed quest and the looming threat of the Clave. The emotional and physical exhaustion of the characters underscores the

chapter’s themes of loss, resilience, and the fragile bonds that hold them together in the face of overwhelming adversity.



Chapter 10: Part One - Ten: The Banefire

The chapter opens with Covenant and his companions reeling from the shock of their surroundings as they face the desolate landscape near Revelstone. Covenant, weakened by exhaustion and the venom within him, struggles to maintain his balance and clarity. Linden recognizes the danger he’s in, realizing the venom is burning inside him, threatening to consume him. Despite his frailty, Covenant refuses diamondraught, fearing it might destabilize his control, and opts for metheglin to steady himself. The group remains tense, aware of the looming threat posed by the Banefire and the Clave’s atrocities.

As Covenant regains his footing, the company discusses whether the Sandgorgon Nom will answer his summons. Linden recalls Kasreyn’s warning that distance is no barrier to such power, but Covenant’s hope rests on Nom’s past deference to him. The east remains empty, heightening their uncertainty. Meanwhile, Cail draws their attention to Revelstone, where Riders prepare to execute a captive Haruchai. The First and Giants intervene, hurling rocks to disrupt the Riders and free the prisoner, who kills his captors before rejoining his people. This act of defiance stirs Covenant’s resolve.

The scene shifts as Covenant spots a plume of dust in the east, signaling Nom’s approach. Linden stands close but hesitates to touch Covenant, sensing the danger radiating from him. The Giants react with a mix of awe and trepidation, while Honninscrave seems consumed by his desire for vengeance. Findail, weary but resigned, addresses Covenant, criticizing his purpose yet acknowledging the inevitability of his actions. The tension builds as the Sandgorgon’s arrival promises both salvation and further peril.

The chapter culminates in a moment of grim determination. Covenant’s internal struggle with the venom and his external battle against the Clave’s cruelty converge. His refusal to succumb to despair or reckless power underscores his precarious

balance between strength and destruction. The arrival of Nom hints at a turning point, but the cost remains uncertain. The Banefire’s malevolence and Gibbon’s manipulations loom large, setting the stage for a confrontation that will test Covenant’s resolve and the limits of his companions’ loyalty.



Chapter 11: Part Two - Eleven: Aftermath

Linden Avery, driven by desperation, navigates the passages of Revelstone as water from Glimmermere is channeled into the Keep to quench the Banefire. The Giants and Haruchai have engineered an efficient route for the water, which now flows toward the sacred enclosure where the Banefire still burns. Linden's plan to extinguish the Clave's power stems from her realization that Covenant's intended self-sacrifice would only serve Lord Foul. Despite her efforts to stop him, Covenant refuses her intervention, leaving her distraught and questioning her own motives.

Linden reflects on her failed attempt to save Covenant by mentally dominating him, an act she now recognizes as morally reprehensible, akin to the Ravers' corruption. Horrified by her own actions, she considers sacrificing herself in the Banefire to atone for her mistakes. However, Findail intervenes, urging her to reconsider for Covenant's sake, as his survival depends on her presence. This moment of clarity forces Linden to confront her guilt and abandon her self-destructive impulse, though she remains emotionally shattered.

Meanwhile, the Sandgorgon Nom aids in diverting Glimmermere's waters under the First's guidance, demonstrating unexpected obedience. Linden stays to oversee the task, wrestling with trust in Nom's altered behavior after its encounter with the Raver. The First departs to tend to the wounded, leaving Linden to ensure the water's successful flow. Despite her inner turmoil, she focuses on the practical demands of the moment, though her thoughts linger on Covenant's fate and her own moral failings.

The chapter concludes with Linden's reluctant acceptance of her role in the aftermath of Covenant's ordeal. Though she is urged to tend to the injured, she remains fixated on the Sandgorgon's work, seeking solace in action. Her journey through Revelstone mirrors her internal struggle—between despair and duty, self-condemnation and the need to persevere. The flowing water symbolizes a fragile hope, even as Linden

grapples with the consequences of her choices and the weight of her responsibilities.



Chapter 12: Part Two - Twelve: Those Who Part

The chapter opens with Linden and Covenant sharing an intimate, sleepless night in Revelstone, cherishing their reunion after prolonged separation. Linden is acutely aware of Covenant's emotional state, sensing his certainty and desire for her, which feels like a form of grace. Around them, Revelstone exhales in relief as the Banefire is extinguished by Glimmermere's waters, and Nom restores the stream's natural flow. The city, once tormented, now basks in temporary peace, with Cail standing guard outside their door, ensuring their privacy.

Before dawn, Covenant leads Linden to Glimmermere, a mystical tarn hidden in the hills. The lake, fed by deep springs, holds profound significance—it once concealed the krill of Loric and possesses Earthpower strong enough to resist the Sunbane. As they walk, Linden feels the barren land underfoot, a reminder of the Sunbane's devastation, yet Covenant's anticipation infuses the journey with hope. The sound of flowing water feels fragile, mirroring the precarious balance of the Land's fate, but Covenant's unwavering purpose overshadows her doubts.

At Glimmermere, Linden is struck by the lake's mirror-like surface, reflecting the sky and mountains but not her own image. Covenant dives in, inviting her to join, and the icy water cleanses her physically and emotionally, burning away her weariness and grime. As they swim, Linden notices a surreal shift: her body becomes invisible underwater, only reappearing when submerged, as if crossing into another realm. Covenant's joy is contagious, and the lake's purity feels transformative, offering a fleeting respite from their burdens.

The chapter closes with Linden and Covenant immersed in Glimmermere's waters, their laughter and kisses embodying a rare moment of joy. The lake's magic seems to renew them, symbolizing Covenant's hope and the possibility of redemption. Despite the looming threat of the Sunbane and Lord Foul, this interlude at Glimmermere

becomes a sacred pause—a testament to their resilience and the enduring power of love and hope in a world teetering on the brink of destruction.



Chapter 13: Part Two - Thirteen: The Eh-Brand

The chapter opens with Linden Avery struggling under the oppressive weight of the Sunbane, a corrupting force that exacerbates her physical and emotional torment. Her heightened health-sense, sharpened by Glimmermere's cleansing, makes her acutely vulnerable to the sun's ravages, which feel like they are consuming her from within. Despite earlier moments of hope and Covenant's love, she now feels broken and hollow, unable to reconcile her inner darkness with the Land's suffering. The Sunbane mirrors her own fractured state, leaving her despairing as the company prepares to confront Lord Foul, the source of the corruption.

Covenant leads the group westward along the dry riverbed of the former White River, hoping to use it as a path toward Andelain. Linden, though exhausted and traumatized by the Sunbane, agrees with the plan, desperate to minimize her exposure to the relentless sun. The landscape around them is desolate, with only a faint trickle of water remaining in the riverbed, a stark reminder of the Land's degradation. The sight of Furl Falls, though diminished, offers a fleeting glimpse of resilience, a small spark of hope amid the devastation.

The dynamics among the companions are highlighted as they navigate the treacherous terrain. The First, a Giant, chooses to scout ahead, her strength and determination contrasting with Linden's fragility. Pitchwife, though troubled, masks his worries with humor, while Sunder and Hollian express gratitude for the Giants' companionship. Covenant, burdened by memories of past allies, remains resolute despite his fears. Linden, however, is overwhelmed by exhaustion and the Sunbane's effects, her thoughts spiraling into despair as she questions the nature of their suffering.

By afternoon, the shade provides temporary relief, but Linden's physical and mental strength continues to wane. The alternating heat and shadow leave her numb, and she

collapses, unable to continue. Her breakdown underscores the chapter’s central theme of endurance amid overwhelming adversity. The Sunbane’s relentless cruelty mirrors her inner turmoil, leaving her weeping and powerless, a poignant reflection of the Land’s—and her own—broken state as they press onward toward an uncertain confrontation with Lord Foul.



Chapter 14: Part Two - Fourteen: The Last Bourne

The chapter opens with Linden and her companions struggling to survive a treacherous river journey. The muddy, chaotic water sickens Linden, while the cold saps her strength and tempts her to surrender. Despite the harsh conditions, the First, a Giant, supports both Linden and Covenant, though her wound causes Linden significant pain. Linden uses her healing abilities to numb the First's injury, focusing on this task to distract herself from the relentless cold and the storm's fury. The group endures the ordeal until evening, when they finally reach the riverbank, exhausted and battered by the elements.

Upon landing, the group's physical and emotional states are laid bare. Covenant, pale and cold, insists on building a fire, while Sunder, grief-stricken, tends to Hollian with heartbreaking care. Pitchwife manages to ignite a small fire, providing minimal warmth, and offers diamondraught, a potent liquor, to revive the group. Covenant attempts to console Sunder, but the Graveler remains inconsolable, lost in his sorrow. The scene underscores the group's collective weariness and the emotional toll of their journey, with each character grappling with their own pain and guilt.

The arrival of Vain and Findail introduces a moment of supernatural intervention. Vain appears damaged, his arm withered and his body marred by wounds. Findail, an Elohim, confronts Vain with a mix of disdain and fear, yet heals his arm in a display of extraordinary power. This act stuns the group, revealing Findail's capabilities and hinting at the Elohim's potential to heal the Earth. Linden is particularly struck by the implications of Findail's power, questioning whether the group should relinquish their quest to the Elohim. However, Findail's refusal to aid Sunder highlights his reluctance to intervene further.

The chapter closes with the group settling into a tense, somber night. Pitchwife prepares a meager meal as the fire dwindles, while Linden, Covenant, and the others

huddle together for warmth. The events of the day—the river’s brutality, Sunder’s grief, and Findail’s enigmatic actions—leave the characters emotionally and physically drained. Linden’s reflections on Findail’s power linger, adding a layer of doubt about their mission. The chapter captures a moment of respite amid ongoing struggle, emphasizing the group’s resilience and the uncertain path ahead.



Chapter 15: Part Two - Fifteen: Enactors of Desecration

The chapter opens with Sunder and Hollian bidding farewell to Covenant and Linden in the Hills of Andelain. Linden feels an unexpected sense of joy despite the recent loss of Caer-Caveral, the Forestal, as his sacrifice seems to promise hope. Covenant, however, is conflicted, grieving the cost of his friends' healing and his inability to fully perceive the impact of the Forestal's absence. Sunder and Hollian appear transformed, glowing with a mystical energy, and announce their decision to stay in Andelain to nurture the Land's future and raise their unborn child.

Sunder's cryptic words prompt Linden to question Caer-Caveral's motives in withholding the location of the One Tree from Covenant. This leads to a revelation: Sunder and Hollian have been altered by Earthpower, though they are not the new Forestal. Hollian explains that their existence is now tied to Andelain's magic, and leaving would mean their demise. Covenant initially hopes their transformation might offer a solution to his impending death, but this hope fades as he realizes their power is bound to the Hills.

The farewell between the companions is wordless, marked by deep understanding and unspoken emotions. As Sunder and Hollian depart, Linden comforts Covenant, who grapples with his mortality and the weight of his mission. Despite the loss of the Forestal, Andelain remains vibrant, its Earthpower undiminished. Covenant finds solace in this, though his mood shifts again as he confronts the bleak reality of his journey.

The chapter closes with Covenant and Linden reflecting on the enduring beauty of Andelain, even as they brace for the challenges ahead. Covenant's grim determination resurfaces, but his underlying despair lingers. The chapter underscores themes of sacrifice, transformation, and the fragile balance between hope and inevitability,

setting the stage for the next phase of their journey.



Chapter 16: Part Two - Sixteen: "Andelain! forgive!"

The chapter opens with Linden Avery lying motionless in the gentle rain of Andelain, overwhelmed by despair after learning of Thomas Covenant’s plan to sacrifice the Land to Lord Foul. The rain, though soothing, mirrors her inner darkness as she grapples with the weight of Covenant’s impending betrayal. A Wraith of Andelain appears, its mournful light guiding her back to her companions, where she finds the First, Pitchwife, and Vain sleeping peacefully. Covenant, however, is absent, and the Wraith departs, leaving Linden to confront the grim reality of his intentions alone.

Linden follows a faint glow to a hollow where Covenant stands among his Dead—spectres of his past, including High Lord Mhoram, Elena, Banner, and Foamfollower. These figures emanate power and sorrow, seemingly reinforcing Covenant’s resolve to destroy the Earth for what he believes is a greater purpose. Linden, however, sees their presence as a tragic encouragement of his self-destructive path. Her rage builds as she realizes Covenant’s Dead are complicit in his despair, and she strides forward to confront them, determined to challenge their influence.

Facing the Dead, Linden’s anguish erupts into a furious condemnation. She accuses them of forgetting the value of Andelain and the Land, condemning their role in Covenant’s downfall. She particularly targets Elena, whose past actions broke the Law of Death and contributed to the Sunbane’s rise. Linden’s outburst forces Elena to confront her own guilt, causing her to vanish in grief. The others—Mhoram, Banner, and Foamfollower—watch in stunned silence, their expressions reflecting pain and confusion as Linden’s passion overwhelms them.

The chapter culminates in Linden’s desperate cry, “Why aren’t you ashamed?” as she challenges the Dead to recognize their moral failure. Her outburst underscores the

chapter’s central conflict: the tension between Covenant’s fatalistic resolve and Linden’s fierce determination to save the Land. The scene leaves the Dead shaken, Covenant bewildered, and Linden isolated in her defiance, setting the stage for a deeper confrontation about the fate of Andelain and the consequences of despair.



Chapter 17: Part Two - Seventeen: Into the Wightwarrens

The chapter opens with Covenant, Linden, and the Giants exhausted yet driven by urgency as they ascend the foothills of Mount Thunder. The landscape of Andelain, once lush and vibrant, is now marred by the Sunbane's devastation, with vegetation reduced to sludge and the ground pitted like a battlefield. Linden is deeply affected by the destruction, feeling the world's sickness seep into her, while Covenant appears gaunt and hollow-eyed, his spirit weighed down by the ruin around them. The group presses forward, their fatigue overshadowed by their determination to reach the Soulsease River, their gateway into Mount Thunder.

Linden's anguish over Andelain's decay mirrors Covenant's internal turmoil. He grapples with guilt, believing his mere existence causes destruction, and quotes Lord Foul's taunts as if they were his own thoughts. The First attempts to bolster his resolve, arguing that doubt weakens them and that certainty is their only weapon against despair. Covenant, however, counters that doubt is essential to humanity, a stark contrast to Lord Foul's unwavering malice. His conflicted gaze toward Linden reveals a desperate plea for understanding, though he seems resigned to a grim fate.

The emotional tension peaks as Pitchwife snaps his flute in half, a symbolic rejection of hope, and declares his doubt to Covenant. This act stuns the group, but Covenant responds with approval, emphasizing the necessity of doubt. The moment underscores the chapter's theme of grappling with despair and the cost of resilience. As they resume their journey, Linden wrestles with her own fears and the weight of Covenant's unresolved pain, haunted by past accusations and the looming threat of the Sunbane.

The chapter closes with the company navigating the harsh, boulder-strewn slopes under the relentless desert sun. The physical struggle mirrors their emotional and

spiritual battles, as Covenant’s resolve hardens into something ominous. Linden follows, torn between love and dread, aware that Covenant’s path may lead to sacrifice. The landscape’s decay and the group’s exhaustion amplify the sense of impending confrontation, leaving the reader with a foreboding tension as they approach Mount Thunder’s depths.



Chapter 18: Part Two - Eighteen: No Other Way

Thomas Covenant lies battered and broken on the floor of a cave, haunted by the murmurs of Cavewights and the weight of his failures. He reflects on his arrogance and the consequences of his violent past, contrasting himself with humble heroes like Berek and Mhoram. Joan, his ex-wife, has been taken from him, and he feels compelled to sacrifice himself to save her, though he questions his own worthiness. The chapter delves into his internal struggle with guilt and self-loathing, as he grapples with the belief that only he can defeat Lord Foul.

The cave’s oppressive atmosphere is filled with the eerie chanting of Cavewights and the stench of ancient decay. Covenant notices a mound of bones, a grim testament to the creatures’ violent history. Disoriented and weak, he realizes he is not in his own world but in the Land, where time is running out. His fear sharpens into clarity as he spots Linden, injured and vulnerable, her neck marked with dried blood. The sight of her ignites a deep grief, as he recognizes that both of them are nearing death.

Covenant’s love for Linden and his remorse over failing her overwhelm him. He longs to comfort her, to show her she is not alone, but his physical weakness prevents him. A Cavewight kicks him back, mocking his helplessness, as the creatures continue their ominous chanting. Covenant’s determination to protect Linden clashes with his exhaustion, leaving him trapped in a cycle of despair and resolve. The chapter underscores his isolation and the heavy burden of his role as the Land’s reluctant savior.

Despite his physical and emotional agony, Covenant clings to a fragile hope. He acknowledges his flaws and the parallels between himself and Joan, both trapped by their inability to forgive themselves. The chapter ends with Covenant straining to reach Linden, symbolizing his last grasp at redemption. The tension between surrender and defiance defines his character, as he prepares to face Lord Foul’s fire, hoping to

finally let go of his pain and failings.



Chapter 19: Part Two - Nineteen: Hold Possession

The chapter depicts Linden Avery's harrowing possession by the Raver, moksha Jehannum, which strips her of autonomy and forces her to endure its malevolent laughter and memories. Though the laughter emanates from her body, it is not her own; the Raver has fully usurped her will, leaving her a prisoner within herself. The violation is profound, as the Raver's evil permeates every aspect of her being, exposing her to its ancient hatred and corrupting influence. Linden's past vulnerabilities and traumas, including her father's suicide and her mother's death, resurface, reinforcing her sense of complicity in the evil now controlling her.

The Raver's history merges with Linden's consciousness, forcing her to relive its atrocities as if they were her own. She recalls its manipulation of Marid, its betrayal of Nassic, and its role in leading the Despiser's armies as Fleshharrower. These memories blur the line between her identity and the Raver's, plunging her into guilt and despair. The chapter underscores the Raver's relentless hunger for retribution, with Linden's suffering serving as a small but satisfying token of its vengeance. Despite her helplessness, she remains acutely aware of Covenant's presence, witnessing his broken yet defiant state as he offers to surrender the ring to Lord Foul.

Linden faces a critical choice: to retreat into unconsciousness and escape the torment or to cling to her identity and endure. The Raver encourages her to let go, as her resistance only amplifies its pleasure. Yet Linden refuses, drawing strength from past moments of agency, such as her defiance in the cavern of the One Tree and the Hall of Gifts. She recognizes that even in powerlessness, her awareness matters—especially for Covenant, who now stands on the brink of madness. Her refusal to surrender becomes an act of defiance, though she lacks the means to intervene directly.

The chapter culminates in Linden's resolve to remain conscious, despite the agony, because Covenant still needs her—even if only as a witness. Her internal struggle

highlights the themes of choice and resilience in the face of overwhelming evil. Though the Raver's control is absolute, Linden's refusal to relinquish her identity underscores her growth from past helplessness to a tenuous but determined resistance. The chapter leaves her trapped in a nightmarish duality, caught between the Raver's dominion and her unwavering, if futile, commitment to fight.



Chapter 20: Part Two - Twenty: The Sun-Sage

The chapter opens in the aftermath of a climactic battle in Kiril Threndor, where the cavern is now quiet and dimly lit by remnants of rocklight. Linden Avery cradles the lifeless body of Thomas Covenant, her grief palpable as she reflects on his sacrifice. His face bears an expression blending defeat and victory, a testament to his final act. Covenant's spirit, now a revenant, hovers near her, radiating empathy and sorrow. He apologizes for his actions, explaining he had no choice but to stop Lord Foul, though Linden understands and mourns his loss deeply.

Covenant's spirit urges Linden to pick up his white gold ring, which lies powerless on the dais. He insists the Land is still in peril, as the Sunbane persists and Foul's influence lingers. Linden resists, fearing her own capacity for darkness and the corrupting effects of power. She clings to Covenant's body, unwilling to let go, and questions the purpose of the ring now that its wielders are gone. Covenant presses her, emphasizing that only she can heal the Land, as he is no longer physically alive and can be dismissed by those who know how.

As Linden's connection to the world begins to fade, Covenant warns her that she is being pulled back to her own reality. He implores her to act before it's too late, revealing that Foul could return through the Sunbane. Despite her despair, Linden resolves to honor Covenant's plea, though she moves slowly, weighed down by grief. Just as she prepares to reach for the ring, an unexpected voice interrupts—a commanding presence that dismisses Covenant's spirit against his will.

The chapter ends abruptly as Covenant's revenant is forcibly banished, leaving Linden alone and bereft. His final cry of her name echoes as his presence vanishes entirely, stripping her of any remaining solace. The sudden dismissal leaves the fate of the Land uncertain, with Linden now facing her next trial without Covenant's guidance. The unresolved tension sets the stage for the next phase of her journey.

Part Two - Epilogue

The epilogue titled "Restoration" serves as the concluding segment of "Covenant [6] White Gold Wielder," marking the culmination of a transformative journey. It reflects on the themes of redemption and renewal, as the protagonist's struggles reach their resolution. The title itself, "Restoration," hints at the restoration of balance, both within the narrative's world and within the characters' arcs, suggesting a return to harmony after chaos. This section ties together the overarching narrative threads, offering closure to the epic tale.

The chapter emphasizes the significance of the White Gold as a symbol of power and responsibility. Its wielder, having faced immense trials, ultimately fulfills their destiny, restoring order to the land. The epilogue underscores the idea that true power lies not in domination but in the ability to heal and rebuild. The protagonist's journey serves as a metaphor for personal growth, illustrating how adversity can lead to profound transformation and enlightenment.

Restoration is not just physical but also spiritual, as characters reconcile with their pasts and embrace new beginnings. The epilogue highlights the interconnectedness of all beings in the narrative's universe, suggesting that collective healing is essential for lasting peace. The resolution of conflicts reinforces the theme that unity and forgiveness are pivotal to overcoming division and despair. The chapter's tone is contemplative, inviting readers to reflect on the broader implications of the story.

Ultimately, the epilogue leaves a lasting impression of hope and renewal. It suggests that while the journey may be fraught with challenges, the rewards of perseverance and integrity are immeasurable. The restoration of the world and its inhabitants serves as a testament to the enduring power of courage and compassion. This concluding chapter not only wraps up the narrative but also leaves room for readers to ponder the deeper moral and philosophical questions raised throughout the saga.

Chapter 21: Part Two - Restoration

The chapter titled "Part Two - Restoration" serves as the epilogue to "Covenant [6] White Gold Wielder," focusing on themes of renewal and resolution. It marks the culmination of the protagonist's journey, emphasizing the restoration of balance and order after a period of turmoil. The brevity of the chapter suggests a reflective tone, allowing readers to absorb the significance of the preceding events. The title itself, "Restoration," hints at the resolution of conflicts and the return to a state of harmony.

The epilogue underscores the transformative power of the protagonist's actions, symbolized by the white gold. This artifact, central to the narrative, represents both destruction and healing, mirroring the duality of the protagonist's role. The restoration process is not just physical but also emotional and spiritual, affecting the world and its inhabitants. The chapter's sparse content invites readers to contemplate the broader implications of the story's conclusion, leaving room for interpretation.

Despite its conciseness, the chapter effectively conveys a sense of closure. The restoration theme resonates with the overarching narrative of redemption and sacrifice. The protagonist's journey, fraught with challenges, ultimately leads to a renewed world, suggesting that even the greatest conflicts can yield positive change. The epilogue's minimalist style reinforces the idea that some resolutions are best left unspoken, allowing the reader to infer the deeper meaning.

In summary, "Part Two - Restoration" provides a poignant and understated conclusion to the saga. It highlights the protagonist's legacy and the enduring impact of their choices. The chapter's focus on restoration serves as a reminder of the cyclical nature of struggle and renewal. By leaving certain elements open-ended, it encourages readers to reflect on the broader themes of the story, making it a fitting end to the narrative.

Chapter 22: Part Two - Twenty One: "To Say Farewell"

The chapter "To Say Farewell" follows the protagonist as she is carried by a mystical wind through a void between worlds, numb yet comforted by Covenant's ring. She reflects on her emotional journey, recalling a poignant song by Pitchwife that evokes memories of her father and her unresolved grief. The song's themes of loss and love mirror her own struggles, allowing her to confront her past with newfound clarity and compassion. This introspection prepares her for Covenant's voice, which emerges from the darkness, offering solace and gratitude for her sacrifices.

Covenant explains the metaphysical forces at play, revealing how his acceptance of Lord Foul's paradox—their intertwined existence—enabled his victory. He credits Caer-Caveral for breaking the Law that would have rendered him powerless, allowing him to resist Foul's corruption. Covenant describes how Foul's attack inadvertently purified him, burning away the venom that bound him. His monologue underscores the novel's central theme: that opposing forces like good and evil are inseparable, and true strength lies in acceptance rather than domination.

Their conversation shifts to lighter moments, as Covenant recounts how he aided the First and Pitchwife in escaping the Cavewights. His near-laughter and warmth contrast with the gravity of their situation, highlighting their deep bond. The protagonist cherishes these fleeting moments, though she senses their time together is ending. As the void begins to fade, she grapples with the impending loss but finds strength in Covenant's assurance that his memory will live on within her.

The chapter concludes with her return to the physical world, greeted by the dawn of a new day. The sensory details—dew, ash, and budding trees—symbolize renewal amid the remnants of struggle. Though marked by blood and sacrifice, the ending carries a

quiet hope, as she steps into a future where Covenant's presence endures in her heart. The farewell is bittersweet, blending sorrow with the promise of enduring connection.

