

Chapter Forty-Seven

The chapter depicts a tense and perilous journey through the treacherous pass between the twin peaks of Dagū, which appears deceptively larger than it seems. Nesryn and Sartaq push forward through a maze of jagged rocks, webs, and narrow passages, desperately seeking an upward route that might lead to rescue. Their immediate goal is to evade the pursuit of the kharankui and the lurking spiders that follow them, knowing that their safety depends on reaching higher ground where their enemies cannot reach them. The environment reflects the danger and urgency of their situation, emphasizing the difficulty of their escape.

As they navigate the narrow, winding pass, Sartaq's condition worsens, his injuries and exhaustion hampering their progress. Nesryn remains alert, prepared to defend herself and Sartaq with her arrow, aware that their pursuers are closing in. The passage is so tight that they are forced to squeeze through almost impossible gaps, heightening the sense of claustrophobia and imminent danger. Nesryn's cautious hope persists despite her doubts about their chances of survival, especially with the darkness approaching and the light fading, signaling that their window for escape is narrowing.

The chapter takes a dramatic turn when Sartaq becomes trapped behind her in a particularly tight section of the pass. Nesryn's efforts to free him are frantic, but the spiders' claws and their predatory voice reveal that they are close and hungry for their prey. Sartaq, in a moment of calm and sacrifice, urges Nesryn to run and escape, revealing his love for her and accepting his fate. His final words are heartfelt, expressing admiration and affection, and he chooses to face death rather than abandon her. This poignant moment underscores themes of sacrifice, loyalty, and the brutal reality of their predicament.

Ultimately, Sartaq's sacrifice leaves Nesryn devastated and tearful, her resolve shattered by grief and loss. As the chapter ends, her tears blur her vision, and she is

left to grapple with the overwhelming pain of losing someone she cared for deeply. The narrative captures the raw intensity of their struggle, highlighting the harshness of their environment, the brutality of their enemies, and the profound emotional toll of their perilous journey. This chapter encapsulates a moment of sacrifice and the tragic cost of their quest for survival.