13. Chaperone

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

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

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

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

