

11. The Rift

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

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

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

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



Summaryer