

32. Company

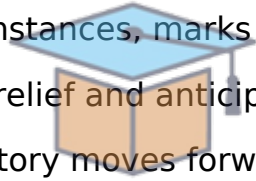
The chapter opens with Shallan settled in Sebarial's lavish sitting room, a space marked by its unusual architecture and opulent furnishings. Despite the grandeur, the room features a hole covered with splintery boards, hinting at ongoing construction or hazards. Shallan's physical state is fragile, still chilled from her recent encounter with Re-Shephir, a formidable spren linked to the Voidbringers. She finds comfort in Palona's company and a warm cup of citrus tea, reflecting her desire for normalcy amid the chaos of her recent experiences. Her discomfort underscores the emotional and physical toll of her journey, emphasizing her vulnerability despite her outward composure.

Shallan's conversation with Palona shifts to her recent, harrowing encounter with Re-Shephir, a being of ancient lore and one of the Unmade. She describes Re-Shephir as a beautiful yet terrifying spren, driven by a desperate desire to understand humans, which manifests in violence. Shallan's insights reveal that Re-Shephir is more than a myth; she is a creature seeking something lost, perhaps her own humanity. This interaction reveals the deep mystery surrounding the Unmade, whose true nature and origins remain elusive. Shallan's reflections highlight how little is understood about these entities, even by scholars, emphasizing the enduring enigma that surrounds them.

The narrative delves into the history of Re-Shephir, revealing she was once captive and has been waiting in hiding for centuries. Shallan ponders the possibility that she and others like her might still be present, lurking undetected. Her concern about the whereabouts of other captives and the potential danger they pose adds a layer of tension, hinting at larger threats looming beneath the surface. Despite her fears, Shallan's thoughts also reveal her hope that these entities might be indistinguishable from ordinary people—an unsettling idea that complicates her understanding of the

world. Her exhaustion and emotional strain are palpable as she grapples with these revelations.

The chapter concludes with a sense of impending change as Adolin announces the arrival of someone significant at the tower—Jasnah Kholin. The atmosphere shifts from introspection to anticipation, signaling the end of Part One. Shallan's internal struggle with her fears and her emerging sense of stability are contrasted by the external events unfolding. Her realization that she is beginning to feel like an adult, capable of handling her circumstances, marks a pivotal moment of personal growth. The chapter ends with a mix of relief and anticipation, setting the stage for new developments and challenges as the story moves forward.



Summary