

62. Research

The chapter opens with a tone of resistance and secrecy, highlighting the tension surrounding the abandonment of the tower, which is met with protests and a sense of urgency. The city is depicted as a place overflowing with secrets, so much so that they threaten to spill out. Shallan, the protagonist, grapples with her own internal struggles and the difficulty of confronting these hidden truths. Her internal conflict is symbolized by her attempt to physically hurt herself, a desperate act to feel something tangible amidst the chaos of her thoughts and the surrounding political upheaval.

The narrative then shifts to a detailed scene in a tailor's shop, where key characters—King Elhokar, Adolin, Kaladin, and a local tailor—are engaged in a tense discussion about recent political turmoil and the mysterious death of an ardent. The conversation reveals the fragile state of the city's leadership and the widespread unrest caused by the queen's actions and the influence of dark spren. The dialogue emphasizes the complexity of the political landscape, with accusations of dark spren manipulation and the queen's disappearance during the riots, illustrating the precarious balance of power and trust.

Shallan's perspective provides insight into her mental state and her methods for coping with the chaos. She secretly injures herself with scissors to induce pain, a method that allows her to access visions of the spren—twisted, sinewy, and disturbing—symbolizing her confrontation with her own inner darkness and the unsettling truths she seeks to uncover. Her act of self-harm is a desperate attempt to connect with her perceptions and gain clarity, using her ability to heal and her sketching skills to process the trauma and chaos around her.

The chapter concludes with a broader view of the political and environmental turmoil affecting Kholinar, including strange weather phenomena and the retreat of the palace guard. Yokska, the tailor, recounts the escalating unrest, including the queen's erratic

proclamations and the mysterious absence of the guards. The narrative underscores the pervasive sense of gloom and disorder, with the dark spren's influence suspected to be at play. Through these details, the chapter paints a vivid picture of a city on the brink, grappling with secrets, betrayal, and the shadows cast by unseen forces.

