

61. Nightmare Made Manifest

The chapter opens with a reflection on the nature of secrets and their potential to be uncovered, exemplified by a character's casual attitude toward recording confidential information without concern for discovery. This sets a tone of clandestine activity and underlying tension. The narrative then shifts to a strategic military situation, where Kaladin and his allies observe the city of Kholinar from a concealed position outside the walls. They notice the enemy army's unusual tactic of allowing refugees to approach, seemingly to drain the city's resources, indicating a complex and deceptive siege strategy. This reconnaissance underscores the importance of careful planning and deception in wartime.

As dawn breaks, the group continues their covert surveillance, with Shallan utilizing her Lightweaving abilities to maintain illusions and conceal their presence. The narrative highlights her skill in creating realistic disguises, which are vital for infiltration. The characters discuss the possibility of entering the city disguised as refugees, a plan that hinges on deception and the illusionary skills of Shallan. Meanwhile, they observe the palace, which appears shadowed despite the clear weather, hinting at a sinister influence—specifically, the presence of the Unmade, a dangerous and corrupting entity. This observation raises the stakes, emphasizing the threat lurking within the city.

The story then focuses on the characters preparing for their infiltration, with Shallan designing disguises for Kaladin, Adolin, and Elhokar. The group adopts new identities, including Kaladin as an old man and Elhokar as a noblewoman, to avoid recognition and suspicion. The transformation process demonstrates Shallan's mastery of Lightweaving and her practical approach to deception. Elhokar's willingness to become a woman underscores his commitment to caution, and the scene underscores the importance of disguise and perception in their mission. This segment explores themes

of identity, strategy, and the necessity of adaptability in dangerous situations.

The chapter concludes with a humorous yet tense interaction involving Kaladin and Shallan, highlighting the psychological nuances of their disguises. Kaladin's concern about the illusions' authenticity and Syl's playful reactions add depth to their characters. As they prepare to move into the city, the narrative emphasizes the importance of concealment and the characters' readiness to face the perils ahead. The scene ends with a sense of cautious anticipation, illustrating the delicate balance between deception and danger in their covert operation, and setting the stage for the imminent confrontation within Kholinar.



Summary