

Chapter 25

The chapter opens with a tense and symbolic conversation between a queen and a princess, centered around the metaphor of "breaking" to initiate a pivotal event. The queen emphasizes that for change or transformation to occur, someone must be the first to fracture, suggesting a necessary sacrifice or decisive action. The princess, aware of the gravity, recognizes that the person who must "break" is not yet prepared, implying a delicate balance of timing and readiness. This dialogue sets a tone of foreboding and anticipation, hinting at underlying themes of sacrifice, change, and the difficult choices that accompany moments of transition.

The princess's response reveals her awareness of the stakes involved. She believes that the person who must undergo this breaking is not the prince, as might be assumed, but rather a different individual—"her"—whose role is crucial in the unfolding events. Her soft acknowledgment indicates her internal conflict and sense of responsibility. The conversation underscores the importance of timing and the understanding that certain actions, though painful, are necessary to move forward. The chapter emphasizes that these decisions are often made under emotional strain, with the future hanging in the balance.

As the dialogue progresses, the princess prepares to leave the tomb, a symbolic space representing tradition, secrecy, or a hidden past. Her pause at the threshold signifies her internal struggle and the gravity of what she is about to undertake. She questions whether the other person will truly understand the risks involved, acknowledging that once the process begins, there may be no turning back. The mention of someone "going over the edge" alludes to a potential loss of innocence or stability, highlighting the perilous nature of the act that must be performed.

In the closing moments, the queen offers reassurance, asserting that the individual who falls "over the edge" will ultimately find her way back. The princess, tearful yet

resolute, hopes the queen is right—reflecting her hope for redemption and recovery despite the darkness of the situation. Their exchange encapsulates themes of hope amid despair, the necessity of sacrifice, and the enduring belief that even in the darkest moments, there is a possibility of return and renewal. The chapter leaves an impression of emotional weight and the quiet strength required to face difficult transitions.

