

Chapter 18

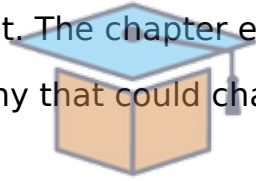
In this intense and visceral confrontation, Manon faces her grandmother in a brutal fight that reveals deep-seated tensions and the history of their violent relationship. The scene begins with Manon attacking her grandmother with Wind-Cleaver, only to be met with fierce resistance as her grandmother counters with iron nails and teeth, embodying her formidable combat skills. The fight is charged with emotion, as Manon struggles to buy time for the Thirteen to escape, highlighting her resolve and the stakes involved. The violence underscores the brutal nature of their world and the personal history that fuels their conflict, emphasizing themes of loyalty, power, and legacy.

Throughout the battle, Manon's grandmother reveals her intentions to uphold an ancient, savage tradition, asserting her dominance and claiming Manon's life as her own. The dialogue exposes the bitter history between them, including accusations of weakness and betrayal, as well as her grandmother's view of herself as a warrior trained for brutality. Manon's injuries and her desperate attempts to defend herself showcase her resilience and determination to survive, even as her grandmother's relentless assault causes her pain and blood loss. The physicality of the fight reflects the internal struggle between tradition and personal morality, with Manon fighting not just for her life but for her future.

As the fight escalates, Manon's grandmother delivers a devastating blow, slashing her in the abdomen and causing her to bleed profusely. Despite her agony, Manon maintains her focus, fueled by her desire to protect her wyvern, Abraxos, and to outlast her opponent. Her grandmother's threats to kill her wyvern and her assertion of Manon's new identity as "Manon Kin Slayer" serve as a brutal reminder of her loss of status and the harsh realities of their world. The chapter explores themes of sacrifice, identity, and the brutal rites of passage that define their culture, emphasizing the high

cost of defiance and strength.

In the final moments, Manon's grandmother reveals a secret about Manon's true parentage, hinting at a rare-born Crochan prince who could hold the key to breaking a curse that has plagued their people. This revelation introduces a new layer of complexity to Manon's identity and destiny, suggesting that her bloodline is intertwined with powerful, ancient magic. As her grandmother's threat looms and her injuries threaten her life, Manon's resilience and the secret of her origins foreshadow a pivotal turning point. The chapter ends with a sense of foreboding and the potential for her to fulfill a destiny that could change everything.



Summary