

# CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX

In this chapter, the tension escalates as Xaden and his team observe a mysterious threat in the valley beyond the cliffs. The atmosphere is thick with unease, with Tairn sensing that something is stronger and more sinister than usual. The group's concern deepens when Liam reports seeing figures that resemble the feared venin—corrupted beings with red veins and red eyes—indicating a dangerous enemy potentially linked to dark magic. The chapter emphasizes the uncertainty and danger lurking below, while the characters grapple with the ominous possibility that their enemies are more powerful and corrupt than they initially believed.

The narrative reveals a crucial strategic dilemma: the team receives a coded message that tests their loyalty and command. They are faced with a stark choice—either abandon the village of their enemies or forsake their command and the upcoming War Games at Eltuval. If they choose to leave, the trading post of Resson and its inhabitants will be destroyed by venin forces. The tension is heightened by the ambiguity of the threat, with Liam describing the venin as grotesque and dangerous, and the team understanding that their actions could have deadly consequences for innocent civilians caught in the conflict.

As the team debates their options, the scene shifts to an imminent attack: gryphons have landed near them, and explosions ripple through the valley, indicating active combat and chaos in Resson. The characters are faced with a moral and tactical dilemma—whether to rush into the danger and try to save the civilians or to follow command instructions and retreat. Xaden's leadership is tested as he weighs the risk of death against the moral imperative to protect the innocent, emphasizing the gravity of their situation and the harsh realities of warfare. The chapter underscores the tension between duty, loyalty, and the unpredictable chaos of battle.

The chapter concludes with a focus on strategy and the characters' resolve. Despite the overwhelming odds—fewer in number, with the threat of venom and wyvern legends hanging over them—they consider their resources and the potential to fight back. The characters acknowledge their air superiority and the weapons they possess, but also recognize the peril posed by the venom and the dangerous terrain. The narrative highlights their resilience and the difficult choices they face, setting the stage for a confrontation that could determine not only their fate but also the broader outcome of their campaign. The chapter leaves the reader on edge, contemplating the cost of loyalty and the chaos of war.



Summaryer