

## 21. Set Up to Fail

The chapter opens with a humorous and candid portrayal of Shallan's morning after a night of reckless behavior, highlighting her disoriented state and the chaos of her recent actions. She wakes up in a disheveled bed, confused about the time and her whereabouts, reflecting her internal turmoil and the consequences of her night of drinking and clandestine investigations. Her interactions with Adolin reveal her discomfort and vulnerability, contrasting her usual composed demeanor with her current fragile state. The scene sets a tone of lightheartedness mixed with underlying tension, emphasizing her struggle to balance her responsibilities and personal vulnerabilities amidst the chaos.

Shallan's conversation with Adolin delves into her physical and emotional state, particularly her frustration with the stereotypical blame placed on women for their biological cycles. Her sharp wit and humor serve to critique societal attitudes toward gender and health, revealing her frustration with being misunderstood or dismissed. The dialogue also explores her sense of independence and resilience, as she dismisses her physical discomfort as minor compared to her broader challenges. Her banter with Adolin underscores her wit and ability to find humor even in difficult circumstances, while subtly hinting at her deeper concerns and internal conflicts.

Throughout the chapter, Shallan reflects on her recent reckless actions, including her solo investigation into her murderer and her excessive drinking. She recognizes the dangers of her behavior, especially given her responsibilities as a Radiant and her need to practice with Stormlight. Her concern about the depletion of her infused spheres reveals her awareness of her limits and the importance of managing her powers carefully. The conversation with Adolin also highlights her resourcefulness and her tendency to push boundaries, which could jeopardize her safety and mission. Her internal monologue exposes her growing realization of the risks involved in her current

lifestyle and the need for restraint.

The chapter concludes with a mix of humor and introspection, as Shallan contemplates her reckless choices and their implications. Her gratitude toward Adolin and Palona is tinged with guilt and concern, especially regarding her use of Stormlight and her recent activities. The scene emphasizes her desire to maintain her composure and responsibility, despite her impulsive tendencies. Her awareness of her dwindling resources and the mysterious persistence of Stormlight in her environment deepen the sense of urgency and uncertainty. Overall, the chapter combines humor, vulnerability, and introspection to portray Shallan's complex character as she navigates her perilous world with wit and resilience.



Summary