

# **Deep Wizardry Study Guide**

**Deep Wizardry by Diane Duane**

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# Plot Summary

Deep Wizardry by Diane Duane is the second of a series of stories that follows two young wizards as they discover their abilities and work toward the betterment of all mankind. The Earth and the preservation of all the species on it is the primary goal of wizards worldwide, and as young wizards are at their most powerful in their youth, Nita and Kit are called upon to take on assignments that are perilous and have consequences that ripple throughout space and time.

In this episode, Nita and her family are on vacation on the Eastern Coast, taking Kit along with them. While at first it appears that they are simply on a break, Nita meets a dolphin while swimming who tells her about a whale in distress. Having been attacked by a whaler, S'reee is badly injured, beaching herself to keep the sharks in the area at bay, but the tide is coming in and the situation is getting desperate. Nita and Kit go to her, healing her and in the process, hear a story that is frightening and desperate. The Lone Power (responsible for creating the concept of death and then expelled by the other powers as a result) is causing upheaval deep down in the ocean. His efforts are the cause of tremors, underwater lava spumes and left unchecked, a situation similar to the one that destroyed Atlantis is on the horizon. S'reee explains that to secure the Lone Power once more, the Song of Twelve must be sung, but having recently lost her mentor, S'reee is struggling to take the steps necessary to orchestrate the event. Nita offers to help by singing one of the parts required, as only wizards may do so, and commits herself to being the 'Silent One', believing that it will be the easiest part to perform.

She soon discovers that her assessment was way off. In fact, the wizard who performs the part of the 'Silent One' is required to willingly Sacrifice themselves at the end to bind the Lone Power. Unfortunately, once Nita agrees to her part, there is no way that she can get out of it. The rehearsals, and preliminaries are so extensive and time consuming that Nita finds herself having to reveal the truth of her wizard status to her parents for the first time. Incredulous at first, they are only convinced when Nita and Kit create the spell together that has them all standing on the moon near Apollo 16. Then, when Nita admits the assignment is dangerous, they forbid her to participate. Rather than take the simple exit provided by her parents, she and Kit gently remind them that as wizards, they would be hard pressed to stop them. It is the first time that Nita has ever directly defied her parents. Nita talks to Senior Wizard and adviser, Carl, still seeking a way to avoid the end Sacrifice, who tells her only that there is little he can do. Her part must be played, and the more willingly the Sacrifice is given, the more powerful it will be. In an explosive turn of events, Master Shark Ed'Rashtekaresket takes her place, giving himself up for Sacrifice. His willing substitution is accepted and the Eastern Coast is saved from the fate of Atlantis. Nita's parents await them on the beach, tired but successful. The next day they return the whalesark to S'reee and discover that 'Ed' is now in Timeheart, his soul forever alive in this place where spirits who are loved go after death. Recognizing him and sensing his peace and contentment, Nita and Kit no longer regret his passing and instead, celebrate his gift to them all. They are ready for their next assignment.



# Chapter 1: Summer Night's Song

## Chapter 1: Summer Night's Song Summary

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Nita slips out of the beach house, intending to head to the beach. Her mother stops her, asking where she is going and almost stops her, but Nita promises to take Ponch with her for protection and gets permission to go. In the living room, her parents are watching the ball game, and Nita hurries across the yard before her mother changes her mind. Calling Ponch, she sees him on the dune playing and heads towards him, calling his name. He bowls her over, washing her face excitedly. She asks him where Kit is, but Ponch doesn't know. He tells her that he chased a stick for a while, but doesn't know where his master is now. She bribes him with the promise of two dog cookies if he will go find him, and Ponch bounds away. Nita heads for the water, discarding her windbreaker on the way, revealing the bathing suit she is wearing underneath. She dives in, enjoying the brightness of the stars above. Ponch barks with excitement, but Nita is sure he couldn't have found Kit that quickly. As she contemplates, something pushes her hard from behind. At first, fears of a shark enter her mind, but then she turns to see the dolphin's sleek shape. She greets him in wizard's tongue and is surprised when instead of a squeak in return, it looks back at her shocked and exclaims, "A wizard!", before swimming off. Kit arrives at that moment and tells her that Ponch was yelling about whales, but Nita corrects him, telling him about the dolphin. Kit is convinced that something was going on in the ocean, and tells Nita that even the rocks are upset. Nita asks why but Kit isn't sure beyond that they were remembering something that bothered them. Then it dawns on him - an earthquake. Nita tells him that Long Island doesn't have them, but Kit disagrees, assuring her that the rocks remember one. Nita starts down the beach, telling Kit that the game was almost over, and they should get back. When they are asleep, she says as Kit mutters something, vanishes and in a clap of air reappears beside her. Ponch barks, left behind, and runs to catch up with them, irritated by the spell Kit used. Kit tells her that he was also practicing another spell and promises to show her later. They race up the dune to the beach house.

## Chapter 1: Summer Night's Song Analysis

Nita tries to leave the beach house quietly, but her mother hears the screen door open and asks where she is going. Hopeful, she says the beach, but her mother is reluctant to let her go. Ever since she'd seen the movie Jaws, her mother was reluctant to let her go to the beach for fear of sharks. When Nita promises to take Kit's dog, Ponch with her,



her mother relents, telling her to bring Kit back with her. She didn't want Kit's parents to think they weren't looking after him, since they were good enough to allow him to join Nita on vacation to begin with. Thankfully, both sets of parents are happy that their children had found a good friend, although neither of them had any idea as to what was really going on, which was probably best anyway. She finds Ponch on the dune and bribes him with cookies to find his master. She thinks about the day she found the book, *So You Want To Be A Wizard*, in the library that led to her ability to hear and understand the animals. Now, she discovered that everything talked back if you only learned how to listen. She is almost positive that if she did come across a shark, she could talk it out of eating her. She leaves her clothes above the high water line and goes in, partially distracted by Ponch's enthusiastic barking. When the dolphin bumps her from behind, she has a momentary vision of a shark, but turning, she greets it in Wizard's tongue, relieved. It is surprised and whistles 'A Wizard' before leaving, just as Kit arrives on the beach. She wades back out and Kit tells her that Ponch is yelling about whales. Nita tells him about the dolphin and he shares his own curiosity. He had been on the jetty listening to the rocks who were upset. Something in their memory bothered them, and Nita is surprised as always that Kit can communicate with seemingly inanimate objects as well as she could talk to Ponch. Kit could talk to anything from telephone poles to car doors. They make plans to return to the beach after Nita's parents are asleep, and head back. Ponch runs along with them, barking loudly about dog biscuits.



## Chapter 2: Wizard's Song

### Chapter 2: Wizard's Song Summary

Nita waits for sounds of silence from upstairs, her Wizard's manual on her lap. She pages through to the regional directory where she notes that her friends Tom Swale and Carl Romeo were now shown as 'on sabbatical' following their recent promotion to Senior Wizards, and her own name, which earlier had shown her as 'vacationing/emergencies only' now showed her as on assignment - location 38 Tiana Beach. The book updated itself regularly, and on all pages to reflect any recent developments. She hears Kit calling her, and they race across the dune to find the dolphin and see what is going on. Kit says something in Wizard speech as they approach the breakers, and ran onto the water without sinking. Several paces later, he slips and falls over, amusing Nita no end. It takes Nita a bit to get the hang of it and then Kit leads them at a trot out to the open waters of the Atlantic. They stop, standing on top of about eighty feet of water, and wait for the dolphin who arrives shortly after. Then, each grabbing a fin, the dolphin takes them to S'reee - a wizard who is being pursued by hunters. Hurt, she is beached and the approaching tide is about to return her to the sharks who are circling in the water anxiously waiting. Kit freezes the sharks, which sink to the bottom giving Nita and Kit a chance to get to S'reee. The spell had to be released shortly afterward, once they realized that the sharks would drown if left there, but not before a wizard's wall was erected to keep them safe. S'reee introduces herself and Nita tells her she can heal her to a degree, but some of the injuries will take time to repair themselves. The spell is complex, and an exchange of blood is required, so Nita allows the single remaining dolphin, Hotshot, to nip the outside of her palm leaving her with two crescent shaped toothmarks. Grateful, S'reee tells Nita that now, having exchanged blood, they are sisters and she is in her debt. As the only candidate Senior Wizard for the Waters, she requests their assistance, telling them that the difficulty level is described by the manual as 'dangerous.' Despite their reservations, they agree to meet back the following day.

### Chapter 2: Wizard's Song Analysis

Nita waits for her parents to sleep, paging through her manual and thinking about where she had been led since its' discovery. The manual had helped her through the first spells - those that required materials, and those that were simply accomplished by speaking the correct words. Those spells had led her to other wizards such as Kit, and more experienced ones as well, working in secret around the world. From there, the spells had launched her out of her familiar world and thrust her into one of the ones 'next door,' launching her into a conflict that raged since time began throughout all the worlds that existed. In a place that resembled New York City, but was also distinctly different, she and Kit had managed to survive the ordeal that all new wizards must undergo. The educations of Kit and Nita continue as they find themselves on active status with reference to a dolphin contact. Further investigation that night leads them to



an acting Senior Wizard of the Water that is beached and severely injured. S'reee provides them with the background of their kind, increasing their understanding and while Kit helps to keep the sharks at bay, Nita heals S'reee well enough to survive the incoming tide. The story comes around to the Lone Power, and S'reee is amazed that the two young beings in front of her had fought and beaten him already once. It is obviously the reason that they are now coming across her path again. Events recently have convinced them that they must reenact the Song of Twelve to bind the Lone Power. The ten existing whale wizards were to be contacted by Ae'mhnuu to that end in three days time. Each whale wizard must be selected for each part and S'reee had little confidence in herself. Her feelings about it improved when Kit and Nita agreed to help out - Nita even offering to take the part of the Silent One. They would have to shape-change and they agree to meet the following day once they've had some rest.



## Chapter 3: Senior's Song

### Chapter 3: Senior's Song Summary

Dairine turns off Nita's alarm at six the next morning and Nita is surprised to discover that their parents are already up. When Dairine adds that they got up to surprise their children with a fishing trip, Nita is almost ill. Nita hates lying to her parents, telling Dairine that she can't possibly tell them that she had planned to be turned into whales who are on a mission to save Long Island. Dairine is silent, as what Nita told her sinks in. Then she tells Nita to have breakfast, and be happy. Kit is already, her Dad tells her, and she lets him think it is to go fishing, like her. When Dairine comes down, she is flushed and manages to convey the fact that she is ill without letting on that her intention is to avoid the fishing trip. She acts disappointed when she is told she will have to stay home, and Nita will have to remain behind to ensure she is okay. Keeping a straight face, Nita agrees, inwardly thanking her younger sister profusely. Later, Dairine admits to Nita that she climbed under an electric blanket on high, and drank a quart of hot water to accomplish it. Nita leaves shortly after Dairine tells her that Kit went to the general store to make a call. When Nita reaches him, he is already talking to Tom and Carl, hoping the Senior Wizards will be able to help. In the background, their macaw, Peach, makes her presence known. They get the rundown on the area they will be working in, and then Nita hurries back to the house before her parents leave. They ask Peach for the odds of success, and Peach simply tells them to do what the night tells them and not be afraid to give themselves away. It does not register as helpful to either Nita or Kit.

### Chapter 3: Senior's Song Analysis

Dairine is more than just a little bit curious when her sisters alarm goes off at six the following morning. She stops by her sister's bedside long enough to turn it off and ask her before letting her know about the surprise her parents have planned for them. The fishing trip is one they've planned, and intend to take both girls and Kit along on, but of course have no way of knowing that Kit and Nita are otherwise engaged for the day. They have an appointment to become whales. When Nita anxiously admits half as much to Dairine, Dairine suggests she concoct a story for their parents, but Nita doesn't like lying to them and there is simply no way she can tell them the truth! Dairine, seeing her distress, tells her big sister to go downstairs and play along - pretend she is thrilled with the planned events of the day. Only a short time later, she wanders listlessly into the kitchen, flushed and warm to the touch. Though Dairine expresses remorse that she won't be able to go fishing, her parents feel even worse about the fact that they'll have to ask Nita to stay behind to watch her. As such, they promise to take them next time, never catching on that inside, Nita was doing cartwheels of relief. As soon as she can do so without being obvious, she follows Dairine upstairs, telling her she owes her and her sacrifice has been duly noted. When she admits that as soon as her parents leave, she will have to find Kit, Dairine is helpful there as well. Kit had gone to the general





store to make a call. Nita hurries out to join him, knowing the call is to their friends and Senior Wizards, Tom and Carl. The Senior Wizards are already well aware of the events unfolding, and give Kit and Nita some background on the Song of Twelve they've offered to help with, and the location it will be performed. Both now really nervous, they say goodbye and go back to the house to wait for her parents to leave. As soon as they do, and before Dairine can do anything more than express her interest in what is going on, Kit and Nita are gone.



# Chapter 4: The Blue's Song

## Chapter 4: The Blue's Song Summary

Kit and Nita make their way down to the beach and can see Hotshot leaping out of the water several hundred yards out. They make their way out to him, and he then tows them to a fishing platform, leaving them with S'reee. S'reee encourages Nita to change first, telling her that with their shared blood, the change will come easier to her. She tells them that shapechanging is simply a matter of believing, and wizardry. Nita gets into the water, and shucks her bathing suit, asking Kit to create a warding spell to keep the seagulls from it as she tosses it up onto the platform. Nita hangs just under the surface of the water, thinking about being a whale. She feels sure that she can accomplish it the next time she gets air, but when she breaks surface, she is surprised to find the world looks quite different. The transition is so smooth that it surprises her. Then S'reee gives Kit a sperm-whalesark, unfolding it so that it billows in the water, and instructing him to simply wrap it around himself. She instructs him to take a long breath so that they can get out of the bay unnoticed. S'reee leads them out, swimming south by west. As they swim along, Kit and Nita realize that they have absorbed the knowledge of the ocean, able to name the animate and even inanimate life. Watching the abundance and variety of fish, Nita realizes how hungry she is. She sees a school of bluefish and has lunch. When she returns to Kit and S'reee, Kit points out the number of cars that are down among the corrals and S'reee educates them as to how fish use the scrap to create a reef. They surface for air at S'reee's suggestion and Nita is stunned to see how far they have already come. The harbor of New York is so noisy that they are eager to pass it by in a hurry. At first, they surface often just for relief from the cacophony, but then S'reee warns them that they will have to dive deep to get under the shipping lanes. Hotshot arrives and they head for Sandy Hook where Arooon is waiting. S'reee introduces Kit and Nita as land wizards, adding that they were the ones who after the Naming of Lights went into the Dark High-And-Dry. She calls them calves, but Arooon corrects her, telling her that anyone who came back from that place is no calf. Arooon warns Nita to be careful how she enacts her part and tells her that the Lone Power knows their names. S'reee administers the Celebrant's Oath, giving Arooon the lawful right to call the others together. Once she is done with Arooon, S'reee continues to do the same for Hotshot, and for Nita. Kit has to wait until they know which part he will play. Relieved, Arooon asks S'reee to give him the remaining names and suggests they clear the area so that he can begin to call them. When he does, S'reee explains the significance of his call, and reminds Nita that she has to return home. When Nita sees that it has gotten dark, she panics and S'reee reminds her and Kit that she had informed them of the difference in passing time. Kit had assumed that time slowed, but in actuality, it had sped up. Nita is even more distressed when she discovers that the Song of Twelve will take about two days in 'Above' time. Luckily for Nita and Kit, Nita's father is too tired from fishing and her mother is preoccupied with cleaning the catch to pay much attention to the time. Something feels incomplete to her as she climbs into bed exhausted and falls asleep.



## Chapter 4: The Blue's Song Analysis

Kit and Nita are towed to where S'reee waits for them by Hotshot who promises to see them later. S'reee wants Nita to change first, but Nita has no idea how to. S'ree tells her that the reason wizardry works so well for them is because they already know that wizardry works and as such they do not have the lingering doubt that simple belief. She claims that there would be a good deal more wizards if more people were able to let go of doubt. The only thing they had to guard against was becoming so convinced in their new shape that they couldn't get back. S'reee helps Kit with his change by giving him a sperm-whalesark, unfolding it so he can wrap himself in it. He struggles, alarmed as the wizardry comes alive around him and as Kit's eyes widen in panic, he and the whalesark sink. A sound resembling muffled thunder announces the change and Nita can see a massive shape that was not there moments earlier. Easily a hundred feet in length, he dwarfs Nita's humpback size. His first words to S'reee are that he wishes she'd warned him. She tells him she couldn't because he would simply have struggled harder, and had the whalesark rejected him, he would never have been able to use it. As they swim along, S'reee reminds them of the dangers of becoming too comfortable in their current form. For Nita, the danger is that she forgets how to be human, and gets stuck in the whale shape forever. For Kit, the danger is more that he forget he is now a whale, and while down in the Crushing Dark, returns to his human form. It would mean death for him. They continue on to meet with Aroooon, the Blue whale who will call the others to the Song of Twelve. Once he has had completed the Oath required, Aroooon asks S'reee for the names of the others who will sing with them. They leave Aroooon quickly, and when he begins to call, Nita stops to listen. Kit finds it hard to believe that all Aroooon has to do is call their names to have them come, but S'reee reminds him that his name is a part of him, and as such, it has power all it's own. By knowing the way a being thinks about himself or herself, you have a certain amount of power over them. Listening, Nita begins to worry about how she thought of herself. She wondered if it meant that there were others who had power over her or could control her, and realizes that even just the thought makes her nervous. The water around Aroooon grows darker as the notes rumble. Entranced, Nita would have continued watching had S'reee not reminded her that she had other commitments. Looking around, Nita realizes that it is already dark, and knows her parents will be unhappy. The swim as fast as they can and getting back they are relieved to discover that Nita's parents are exhausted. Too tired, in fact to make a fuss about how late she and Kit were, and Nita gratefully finds her way into bed.



## Chapter 5: Ed's Song

### Chapter 5: Ed's Song Summary

Before Nita manages to leave the house the next morning, her mother stops her. She is hesitant at first, but finally comes right out and asks Nita what she and Kit are doing all day long. Specifically, she is concerned as to whether or not they are having sex. Nita blushes furiously as she assures her that they are not, and when questioned further, tells her mother that they swim, explore, hike, talk, and generally just hang out. Nothing more. She finally is able to leave, but little has been resolved for either one of them. Kit is already waiting for her, and conveys his irritation that she is late. They quickly strip, and get into the water, finding the change easier to make this time. S'reee tells them that answers to Arooon's Calling are already coming in and it appears that Kit won't have to play an active role, but S'reee assures him that his presence is more than welcome. Kit of course accepts. S'reee takes them to the Pale One. On the way, she assures them while they may think of the Pale One as just another shark, and while he may not have magic, he is still a force to be reckoned with. She warns them to show no fear and to be mindful of rocks. Bleeding now, she tells them, would not be a good idea. S'reee guides them slowly and Nita hears Kit call out to her and thrash once. The water ahead is red with the blood of a school of tuna that fell victim to a feeding frenzy. He drifts down to her, lazy and confident, his size and manner cause enough to strike fear in any who see him. Ed'Rastekaresket, S'reee's candidate for Master Shark, greets them and after sorting out the outstanding issues of attack on S'reee, he agrees to sing the part of the twelfth member in the Song of Twelve, as he had done many times before. He goads that S'reee gently as he insists that until he actually manages to see the Timeheart S'reee talks about, he cannot acknowledge its existence. He does however agree that the Song of Twelve is called for, adding that without it, Manhattan would soon be his new swimming hole. The high and dry will be low and wet, he tells them ominously.

### Chapter 5: Ed's Song Analysis

Nita is cornered by her mother in the morning before she can slip out to meet Kit and S'reee. She asks Nita what exactly she does with Kit when they are out all day together. It is obvious from her intonation that her mother fears she and Kit are having sex. Embarrassed, she tells her mother that they aren't, and haven't, and more embarrassing still, that she would have likely talked to her about it first. Not convinced, her mother asks her what she and Kit do all day. Nita lamely cites swimming, hiking, talking, exploring.....and runs out of things to add. Nita's mother looks at her, saying nothing, letting the silence drag on. When Nita was finally able to leave, she didn't feel as though she and her mother had worked anything out or come to any kind of an understanding. When she reaches Kit, he begins by berating her about being late, but one look at her face changes his mood. Nita glosses over it, and they get into the water. This time, the change feels more natural. S'reee is waiting, and immediately sets off in the direction of



Montauk Point. On the way, she warns the wizards to guard against showing fear, and to resist the urge to tell a lie of any kind when they are dealing with Ed'Rashtekaresket as he feeds on fear and will know a lie immediately. When they get to Montauk Point, they must swim through a recent feeding frenzy, surrounded by blood and pieces of tuna. Disgusted, they sink below the blood and wait as S'reee greets him courteously. They spend a moment discussing the recent attack on her, and he solicitously asks as to the condition of her wounds. She assures him she is fine, and the matter is dropped to Nita's surprise, without so much as a cross word or thought. The great white shark swims circles around them, talking to Nita first, after learning she will play the part of the Silent One, and then to Kit. Ed'Rashtekaresket takes great pleasure in telling Kit how those of his kind enjoy the delicacy of tongue of blue whale. Then he tells S'reee that while he isn't convinced that Timeheart actually exists, having never seen it himself, he will as usual be willing to play the role of the Twelfth.



## Chapter 6: A Song Of Battles

### Chapter 6: A Song Of Battles Summary

When Kit asks Ed'Rashtekaresket if the krakens are responsible for the dire predicament Manhattan faces, the great shark is surprised. As they swim along, they discuss the Song and Ed'Rashtekaresket recalls a time ten thousand years before when first the Killer and then the Blue lost control at the critical moment and the spell collapsed. As a result, the Lone One was freed and caused the disruption that humans know as the sinking of Atlantis. Called Afallone in wizardly Speech, the entire island plate was submerged and pushed into the lava at the mantle of the Earth. Nita gets permission to call the great white shark Ed, and he tells them that he is headed for the Northern Rips where there is trouble in the water. First, he agrees to see them home as darkness is falling. Nita and Kit look around, astonished that the day is already over. The trip back is interrupted by a sharp warning from Ed just before an attack by five huge Krakens. Ed and Kit use their considerable size and ferocity to even the stakes, and when they are done, the Krakens are dead. Later now then ever, they finally get to their home beach only to discover Nita's mother and father, as well as many of the neighbors out looking for them. A shriek from Nita's mother tells them that Ed has been spotted, and half hysterical, she calls for help. Ed shows himself, taking their attention away from the beach where Nita and Kit come ashore. They swim in as far as is possible before changing back, and climbing out of the water, Nita sees Dairine on the shore, staring open mouthed at them. She can't believe it is all true. Both her sister and Kit are really Wizards and were just whales!!! The enormity of it is staggering. She insists that they fill her in on all of it later, and races up the beach calling her parents to announce their arrival. Before they manage to return, Kit and Nita arrange to meet before dawn as requested by S'reee, although they both know how difficult it will be. Nita's father hugs her tight, tears streaming before he thunders at her, asking them where they were. Kit tries to tell him that they simply lost track of time, but before all is said and done, they are both grounded until further notice. It is one of the few times that Nita is forced to lie to her mother, promising to stay out of the water, and adhere to the grounding. Nita is glad for the moment that Ed is unable to come out of the water, her guts churning.

### Chapter 6: A Song Of Battles Analysis

Ed is surprised that the humans already know what is happening in the depths of the ocean. They talk about the Krakens, and Ed comments that someone or something sure seems eager to throw a wrench into their plans for the Song of Twelve. It reminds him of the incident ten thousand years previously, when concentration and the spell was lost midway through the Song by both the Killer and the Blue. As a result, the island of Atlantis was lost. When they realize how late it is, having their attention brought to the fact when Ed insists that he should probably see them home, Nita realizes they are in trouble. Ed doesn't understand why her dam and sire impose these kinds of restrictions



on them, in light of the fact that they are wizards of such caliber. Nita tells him that the world is different, and that people are overall not as accepting of magic and wizardry as they are in the ocean. Nita resolved to call Tom for help just as Ed gives out a warning. It doesn't register immediately, and when it does, they are under attack. Kit responds to deep seated instinct and attacks with as much ferocity as Ed does, and soon the five Krakens are dead and gone. They continue on to Tiana Beach where the next challenge must be met. Nita's parents are combing the beach, looking for them. Ed takes himself to the surface, making sure that all on the shore see him in all his glory, diverting their attention from Kit and Nita so that they can get out of the water. Panic is the response on the beach, as Nita and Kit beach themselves and change back. Dairine is staring open mouthed as they get out of the water. Kit quickly teleports to the rock where their bathing suits were hidden. There is no denying the truth now, and Dairine insists that later she will want an explanation. Then she runs off, calling their parents. Nita's mother and father get past their fear swiftly, and move on to anger. Nita tries not to cringe as her mother tells her how disappointed she is, and adds that they are both grounded. Nita agrees, knowing full well that she is lying to her parents - something she tries hard not to do.



# Chapter 7: Fearsong

## Chapter 7: Fearsong Summary

Despite how tired she is, Nita has trouble sleeping. To make matters worse, after everyone was asleep, Dairine came into her room and went through her wizard's manual, but instead of seeing the child's book that everyone else saw, she saw the book for what it was. From there, she calmly read through it, and is entranced by it. Finally, she gives up on sleep and decides to study her part for the Song of Twelve. She skims through some parts, and is reading through the section regarding the Sacrifice when she hears Kit call her name from outside. She quietly speaks the last word of the spell she'd prepared earlier, and walks through the wall to join him. They undress and Nita changes first, towing Kit to deeper water where he can change as well. She feels normal in her whale form, remembering the warning that S'reee gave them, but shrugs it off. They meet up with Ed and S'reee and head for Nantucket Rips. Ed talks to her on the way, telling her more about himself and his survival. When she suggests that he enjoys the killing too much, he responds that he will certainly enjoy her when the time comes. Shocked, she exhibits distress and Ed warns her. Trying to remain calm, she asks him if he actually intends to eat her, and he tells her that he will the day after tomorrow. He can't understand why that surprises her. Suddenly, a dozen little things poke at her memory and the pieces fall into place. She realizes that her part is played by someone who is sacrificed, and Ed agrees that there is always blood in the water at the end of the Song. Nita begins to swim away, gathering speed, ignoring calls from Kit. S'reee's voice interrupts her flight, and she turns back to her, screaming more than singing. S'reee begs her to control herself while the Master Shark is around, but Nita is losing her composure. She insists that S'reee should have told her. S'reee reminds her that she told her she already knew. Nita realizes with sickening understanding that S'reee is right, but tells S'reee she should have made sure. S'reee is beside herself, realizing the extent of the problem this could cause, and reminding Nita that once she took the Oath, she obligated herself to playing the part to its conclusion. Even if someone else could be found to take her place, the fact that she doesn't complete will sabotage the entire song and give the advantage to the Lone Power. Since the song began when the first Oath was taken, there is no leaving now. Ed swims over, sensing her distress, and Nita calms herself with effort. She turns and resumes their journey to Nantucket Rips, knowing she is going to die.

## Chapter 7: Fearsong Analysis

Nita has several issues plaguing her and keeping her from sleep. First, her relationships with everyone she knows are changing. She's been forced to deceive her parents, making her feel as though she is ruining what she thought of as a perfect relationship with them. Kit seemed to be changing as a result of his time under the whalesark, and Nita wasn't sure she liked the violent streak she had seen in him as a sperm whale. To make matters worse, Dairine, keeping her word, had shown up as soon as everyone





was in bed and proceeded to read the manual as easily as she could - something that wasn't possible for non-wizards. It meant that this one thing that she excelled at, her sister would likely be better at also. All in all, as her mind circled around the issues, sleep wouldn't come. She reads about the sequence and stage directions and is skimming the part where the Pale Slayer accepts the sacrifice when she hears Kit outside. She walks through the wall to where he is, knowing that the doors and windows are all locked and hoping that will distract her parents from being as angry as she knows they will be when they discover her and Kit gone again. On their way to Nantucket Rips, Nita talks to Ed, learning more about him and his survival. She comments that he seems to enjoy the feeding process a little bit too much, and he agrees, saying that it is better that he enjoys his work. He explains that when he catches food, it is because they are either slow, ill, or stupid. Either way, he is weeding out the chaff from the wheat, leaving behind a more intelligent species, and Nita has to reluctantly agree. When he tells her that he will enjoy eating her as well, Nita falters, and asks him if he means it. He reminds her that he will do exactly that in just forty-eight hours. Suddenly, several things come clear to Nita. She recalls comments made by S'reee and her extreme relief when Nita offered to be the Silent One in the Song. She remembers S'reee asking her if she is sure, and suggesting that she think about it. She also recalls how adamant she was that she would do it. Realizing that her part required her death changed everything. She swam away, gaining speed and distance until she heard S'reee calling to her. She turns and confronts her, but nothing changes the awful truth. She took the Oath. She willingly agreed to die, and there is no backing out as the song has already begun. Even though she knew all of this, having S'reee confirm it takes her breath away. Ed cruises over, sensing the distress in the water, and Nita calms herself with effort, telling him everything is fine - for now. She starts out towards Nantucket Rips again, her mind whirling with the ramifications of what she has done.



# Chapter 8: The Gray Lord's Song

## Chapter 8: The Gray Lord's Song Summary

When they get to the waters around the Old Man Shoals, they find the whale who will sing the part of the Gray. Nita is lost in her own thoughts, knowing she only has two days left when a voice interrupts her thoughts, telling her to stop sniveling. Shocked, Nita begins to back up as the angry sperm whale closes the distance between them. Nita tries apologizing, but the sperm whale is in no mood to be placated. Nita continues to retreat while the sperm whale advances. She identifies herself, revealing that she is a human wizard. The sperm whale rushes at her suddenly, crying out in anger and calling her a Spy and a Murderer. The sperm whale's spell catches her off guard, throwing her backwards, head over tail. Enraged, she sang only three notes with clarity and strength that sends the sperm whale backwards with even more force. The others gathered around her, Kit complimenting her shot, and Ed commenting on the 'teeth' she has. Areinnye insists that Nita was in breach of protocol when she came in without singing, but S'reee argues, insisting that they came as a group. Areinnye is not placated until Kit swims forward and quietly reveals the part that Nita will be playing in the Song. Knowing that she is going forward willingly takes some of the strength from Areinnye's anger, but her grief is still too fresh to be mollified. S'reee administers the Oath after ensuring that Areinnye can sing her part and leave her anger behind. As soon as the third question is asked, and answered, Areinnye leaves them with hardly so much as a goodbye. By the time Kit and Nita get back, the moon is high. They get dressed and on the way back to the house, Kit asks her what she is going to do. She explains that she has no choice, she is committed to be in the Song. She still can't bear to hear the consequences spoken aloud, however. The house is quiet and her mother and father are waiting for her in the living room. Her father begins immediately, insisting that they begin to explain themselves before he decides to separate them for good. Kit remains silent, ready to follow Nita's lead, wherever it leads. Finally, she realizes what she has to do. She begins by telling her mother that she had been right the previous morning when she suspected that something else was going on. It is, she tells her, but not what she thinks. She asks her if she recalls the day in the Spring when she and Kit went into the city and later the same night, the sun went out? Her parents stare at her without answering. She looks them straight in the face, and tells them that they had a great deal to do with that.

## Chapter 8: The Gray Lord's Song Analysis

The sperm whale recruited to sing the part of the Gray in the Song is angry and unhappy. Recently having lost her calf to whalers, she is filled with hatred for humans, and lets some of that out on Nita when they first meet. Ed and Kit both intervene on her behalf. Kit tells the sperm whale that Nita is the Silent One being sacrificed in the Song, and Ed warns her that her disparaging comments are unbecoming and unwelcome, offering to silence her if she is unable to silence herself. When they leave, Nita comments on the bravery of that move, but Ed tells her that if his blood had been shed,



the waters would have filled with every shark in the ocean, predisposed to come to his aid should his blood be spilled. Nita wonders aloud as to whether her attendance is even necessary, but S'reee assures her by rights, Areinnye should have been Ae'mhnuu's apprentice, not S'reee. S'reee insists that Ae'mhnuu agreed that she was a much more powerful wizard, and yet he refused repeated requests from her to study under him. S'reee had no idea why. When they reach the beach once again, they get dressed and talk about the reception they are likely to get. Kit is worried about Nita and her part in the song, but Nita insists that she has given her word and has to keep it. She really doesn't want to discuss it further. Her father greets her as she and Kit go into the living room, and tells her to sit down. His cold sarcasm is something she wasn't expecting, and had no idea how to deal with. He tells them that unless they come up with a satisfactory explanation, Kit will be sent home the next morning, and Nita will be banned from seeing him. Nita decides that her best defense is the truth. She goes over it in her head, thinking about the last two months and all that they had done. She has no idea even where to begin. Finally, she starts by telling her parents to recall a day in the spring when she and Kit had gone into the city. It was a day that the sun went out, she reminds them, and then adds that they had something to do with that when her parents say nothing.



# Chapter 9: Truthsong

## Chapter 9: Truthsong Summary

Nita starts the story from the beginning, telling them about the book from the library filled with instructions about wizardry, and continues on through to the first trial and the night when darkness was loosed on Manhattan. She tells them that had she and Kit not intervened, eternal night and darkness might have been the future. She tells them about Advisory and Senior wizards; about places where there is either only day, or only night; and when Nita's memory fails, Kit takes over. Her parents never say a word. Frustrated, Kit decides a demonstration is in order. Without moving, he levitates until he is about two feet above the chair he was sitting in. After a minute, Nita's father concludes that somehow he has been hypnotized. Six feet above the floor, Kit disagrees. He suggests that they talk to each other about what they are seeing, and ask themselves if it is feasible. Nita's mother admits that Kit is no longer in the chair and her father still insists hypnosis is at the root of it. Nita decides it's time for something more impressive and asks them to come outside. Nita goes outside and runs to the beach. Selecting a spot, she waits for them. Her parents climb the dune and Kit appears beside them in a thunderclap, making them both jump. He apologizes, still sitting in the air, his legs crossed. They look up to see Nita standing on top of the water, some distance from the shore. When even that is unsuccessful in convincing them, she and Kit decide that something really drastic is called for. She opens her hand and calls for her book which appears almost instantly. She asks Kit if he remembers where they had gone two weeks earlier - the place with the view. Kit grins and in a clap he is gone to retrieve the items necessary. Kit's popping in and out is unnerving but Nita tries to explain that they are pressed for time as she is committed to being somewhere first thing in the morning again. Her father begins to argue, but she stops him, asking him just to trust her. Kit begins to create the circle, asking for particulars, and reminding them not to leave the circle or step on anything he writes. Using a string as a compass, he creates a circle, closing it with a wizard's knot. She warns them not to move or speak, and then she and Kit begin to read the now familiar spell together. Nita barely needs to refer to her book now, and as she accelerates her recitation of the spell, so does Kit. They arrive and Nita tells them to look around, but to stay in the circle. Kit adds his caution that they only weigh one sixth of their normal weight and should be careful not to bounce off the surface. The silence is deafening. Her father stares at the unfamiliar ground beneath him while her mother looks up at the sky with something approaching rapture on her face. Tears are streaming down her face as Nita directs her attention to the left where on the far side of a chasm Apollo 16's platform and the first Lunar Rover sit, looking as new as the day they arrived. Nita's mother calls her husband's attention to the rising Earth. She tries to explain that what they are looking at is the reason they choose to do what they do. Then, knowing the kind of day that waits for them, she suggests they return. With one short word, they are returned to the beach where they started. Her father isn't ready to let the subject go yet and asks her about the task ahead of her the next day. When she admits that there is a degree of danger, he forbids her from going. Her mother joins his sentiment, adding her restriction as well. Nita argues ineffectively



for a few minutes before Kit draws their attention to the fact that they can't really stop them. Knowing they are beat, they relent, grudgingly, asking her when she has to be up. Finally, Nita and Kit head to bed, but for Nita there is no rest yet. She is no sooner in her room when Dairine comes in, asking where they went. Dairine is unhappy that she hadn't been invited, but Nita and Kit promise to take her soon. Then Nita thanks her for the good advice. Tell the truth or say nothing, she had told her sister the day before. Even Picchu had told her to listen to the knight, Nita realizes. She tells Dairine that she is going to be an incredible wizard one day, and is asleep before Kit and Dairine leave the room.

## Chapter 9: Truthsong Analysis

Nita tells the story as best she can, seeing the looks of disbelief on their faces as she goes along. Her father's face reflects anger, and incredulity. Finally, having explained the whole story from the beginning when she first found the wizard's book, she falls silent. After a moment, her mother tells her quietly that she doesn't have to make up stories to get herself and Kit out of trouble. Nita can't believe it. Even her father tells her that her story is lame and that she managed to convince Kit only because of his youth and inexperience. Kit and Nita both realize that demonstrations are in order. Kit begins with a simple levitation spell. Sitting cross legged, his body rises from the chair and floats in the air. Nita's father is convinced that he has been hypnotized, but can't explain why his wife is seeing the same thing. When that fails to convince them, Nita tells Kit it is her turn and asks her parents to join her outside. Somehow, even walking on water isn't convincing enough. Frustrated, they decide to take her parents off planet. Minutes later, after issuing safety instructions, her parents are looking down onto Earth. While her father is barely able to look up, her mother is staring into space, tears streaming down her face at the wonder of it. They aren't able to stay for long, both Kit and Nita aware that the following day will be a tough one. The trip back to Earth is faster, and Nita's parents are filled with questions. Exhausted, all Nita wants is to go to bed, but she tries to give her father the kind of answers that will satisfy him. Mostly, he wants to know if her appointment the following day is potentially dangerous. When she admits that it could be, Nita's parents forbid her to go. Citing his authority, her father becomes angry, insisting that she obey him. For the first time in her life, Nita defies her parents. She reminds them that she made a commitment, and her participation is not optional. Millions of lives depend on it. Still, her father refuses to listen to reason. Finally, frustrated, Kit reminds them that they really can't stop her if she decides she has to go. After a moment, they reluctantly relent, asking her what time she needs to get up. She tells them, and finally heads to bed, exhausted, but before she can sleep, she has to deal with Dairine who is furious that she wasn't taken to the Moon as well. Kit and Nita placate her, telling her that they will take her soon, and Nita thanks her for her advice to be truthful. Finally, she drifts off, asleep even before Dairine and Kit leave the room.



# Chapter 10: Foregathering Song

## Chapter 10: Foregathering Song Summary

After a fitful night, Nita sits on the beach gathering her thoughts. Nita goes to call Tom but there is no answer. She is surprised to see Carl walking towards her on the beach with a towel around his neck. He tells her that Tom is in a meeting with ABC and he is taking his calls. It takes Nita a while to fill him in, and the shocked expression on his face when she tells him about agreeing to be the Silent One doesn't bring her any comfort. His response is not what she expects at all. Instead of giving her a way out, he reminds her that she willingly agreed, and reminds her of the incident that caused this situation. By calling out for an open ended request in Manhattan when she and Kit got into trouble, she created a vacuum of energy that has to be replaced. It must have taken a great deal of energy.... he muses.... but there is nothing he can do but present her options to her. After he has, Carl reminds her of Timeheart - the place where only wizards are able to gain entry while still alive - where all things that are loved are preserved and live on. The air slams shut behind him as he leaves and Nita walks back to the house to say goodbye. She tells them that they may return that night, after the rehearsal, but she isn't sure. Monday morning is more likely. They head to the beach and once again Nita changes, finding it easier to be a humpback for reasons she can't quite put a fin on. She blows a goodbye to her parents and again tows Kit out. He changes so quickly that the movements appear angry. From the southwest, a cacophony of sounds break through her thoughts, and she can hear the mournful portions of the Song of Twelve being practiced. She realizes that there are a great many more than ten whales singing, and they head for the Hudson Canyon and the abyss below. Hundreds of whales are gathered and a quiet descends as they approach. A single note is taken up, held by all in attendance, that Nita soon recognizes as praise for her. Stunned, she drifts, just listening until Kit nudges her back to reality. S'reee makes the introductions and T!h!ki is shocked that Nita is a human wizard. As the rest of the introductions are being made, S'reee learns from the Beluga whale that a storm is approaching, and because they have no idea how it will affect the Song of Twelve, S'reee makes the decision to push the timetable ahead. Nita realizes that she will not be able to go home to say goodbye. As soon as she finishes with the introductions, S'reee swims off to her position and begins the rehearsal. Nita tries to listen, but is distracted by her part in all of it. Ed swims close and invites her to swim with him. They go just far enough to talk without losing track of the progress of the Song. Ed asks her why she is so angry, unable to understand and reminding her of Timeheart. Still, Nita is having trouble accepting that she will make that transition. He tells her that he has helped with the Sacrifice in the Song many times, and will likely continue to do so for a long time to come. He asks if she still plans to make the Sacrifice and she tells him she will. He promises to make the transition quick, and tells her the Song will be well sung. S'reee calls them down to do their parts, ending their conversation. Nita sings her part and when she gets to the part where she would make herself a sacrifice, she swims to the surface. Kit joins her there, and tries to tell her how he feels. They change back into human form and for a long time, they float on the surface, until a note from the depths



tells them that they are ready to begin. Changing back, they head down into the abyss once more.

## Chapter 10: Foregathering Song Analysis

Nita's parents are up with her in the morning, alternating between insatiable curiosity and boundless fear of the unknown. For the first time, she realizes she is stronger than they are, but would trade it all in an instant for one of her father's bear hugs or even her mother's Donald Duck voice. Kit eats his breakfast, quietly handling all of their questions about wizardry. Nita is grateful, and heads to Friedman's story to call Tom. He calmly asks her what is wrong, knowing from the strength of her call that she was in distress. He tells her that he heard the 'call' for Tom even though it wasn't for him. She tells him everything and the whole thing has her so disturbed that she is crying when she finishes. Carl doesn't know what to say to her, and admits it. Calmly professional, he tells her that she could just run and give up her life of wizardry (as she would lose all of her powers by doing so); she could keep her word, sing, experience brief pain and die, but save millions of people in the process; and the third option is to sing the song willingly thereby ensuring fewer wars, less crime and the decrease of death overall for many years. Nita doesn't know what to say. He tells her how sorry he is, and makes her promise to call before she starts the Song. She hugs him hard, and he thanks her in advance in case she decides to go through with it. He tells her that the millions that live may never know, but wizards will and they will never forget. He leaves, and Nita goes home to say goodbye. Once in the water deep enough, Kit changes and Nita asks him if he is okay. He isn't but Nita is in no frame of mind to hear his distress over what she knows is coming, and begs him to just not talk about it. When they reach the others, things don't go as Nita hoped they would. During the introductions that S'reee makes, they learn that a storm of large proportions is coming. There is no time to waste, and the schedule for the event is moved up. After the rehearsal and a small rest, the Song will begin, so there will be no opportunity for Nita to go home and say goodbye to her family. Filled with regret, knowing she is going to die soon, she hardly hears the rehearsal as it continues around her. Ed swims near, and asks her to join him. He leads her away from the others, just far enough that they can talk, and he asks her if she is angry. She admits she is. She is headed for her death without so much as having lived first. She has never been in love, and she is too young to end her life. Bitter, she conveys all of this, heedless of the Master Shark's possible reaction to her distress. He asks her about Timeheart, and reminds her that she knows where she is going. At least, as a wizard, she knows what happens next. For him, there is no such comfort, nor is there the knowledge that pain will end someday soon. Sounding wistful, Nita feels sorry for him, even though he will be the one who takes her life. S'reee calls, telling Nita it is her turn. She swims down, and sings her part up until the place at which her sacrifice is made. Then she swims to the surface, with Kit following behind her. Together they talk on the surface, waiting for the actual Song to begin. She asks Kit what he will tell her parents, and Kit says he will simply tell them he is hungry and leave the explanations to her. Nita asks Kit to change back to his human form and they talk until S'reee calls them back down to begin. They change back to whale form, and return to the depths to begin.



## **Chapter 11: The Song Of The Twelve - Pages 286 - 314**

### **Chapter 11: The Song Of The Twelve - Pages 286 - 314 Summary**

The Hudson Channel is a graveyard of human existence, filled with wrecks on top of wrecks, abandoned buoys, unexploded ordnance as well as bombs and torpedoes, and a thick ooze of untreated sewage. The bed of the Channel is shallow at first, though it was much deeper once. For miles now it is almost impossible to see that a channel exists, but twenty miles down the Channel an indentation can be seen. The bottom is covered with an ooze of dark sludge that years of human waste has become. Fish are few, and krill are non-existent. In this region, the water is still too foul. Then the rut becomes a broad and shallow depression which leads to the Continental Shelf and beyond, the abyss. They all stop above the abyss and discuss the amount of air each will require so that the magical circle they create has enough to get them all to the surface. Warning them to stay within the lighted area, S'reee leads them down further and further, until there was no light from the surface at all. A sea quake takes them by surprise, and as Nita regains her balance, she sees Areinnye struggling as a rock the size of a city block falls from above on top of her. She initiates a shield spell to try to protect her, already knowing that the rock is heavier than she can manage. Areinnye flounders until Kit rams her, sending her almost forty feet back but leaving himself partially under. Nita throws everything she has into maintaining the spell long enough for Kit to get out. She feels the shock as the spell collapses and is relieved to discover Kit escaped in time. The rock hit the bottom, throwing up a thick fog of dust and ooze. Areinnye moves weakly, a testament to how hard she was hit by Kit and she thanks Nita for helping her, despite her earlier attitude. Again and again the Kraken assault them, disturbed by the quake, and still they continue downward. The Sea's Tooth is at least sixteen thousand feet down. She begins to feel another presence and the water warms as they descend the last of the distance. They finally reach Caryn Peak, five Empire State Buildings in height, and all of the Celebrants are dwarfed by it. They take their places and begin immediately.

### **Chapter 11: The Song Of The Twelve - Pages 286 - 314 Analysis**

After S'reee has confirmed that they have all calculated their air requirements carefully, she warns them to stay within the circle and begins the descent. The deeper they go, the more uncomfortable Nita becomes. The walls are taller and go deeper than anything she could ever have imagined. Five or six hundred feet tall already, Nita's sonar tells her just how small she is in relation to the loose rocks ready to fall on them at any time. Kit can feel the event that occurred here many moons before, and Nita correctly guesses





that this is where Atlantis vanished into the ocean. Kit tells her that a couple of million years previously, the area they were in now was all open ocean. They keep descending - the walls now three miles apart and almost a mile high. A sea quake frightens them all for a time, but they continue their descent after Nita and Kit rescue Areinnye from a certain death by rockfall. The quake also disturbs a group of Kraken and Kit plunges in to assist Ed, Fang and Areinnye as they attack the giant squid. At first Areinnye blames Nita for their presence, but S'reee sets her straight, reminding her that the giant Kraken are there because the lone power hopes they will use up their air fighting them instead. Thankfully, S'reee had anticipated the need and allowed for it, but it would be close nevertheless. Nita can't stop thinking about how eagerly Kit seems to be attacking and killing the Kraken. Fighting leaves Nita fatigued, and the continuing descent feels surreal now and her tenuous grasp on reality isn't helped by the kinds of creatures that live at that depth. Kit seems less and less like himself, and though she knows she has only a short time left to be with him, she can't help but worry that he was losing himself in his whale form. They finally reach the bottom and all such thoughts are dwarfed, as are the Celebrants, by the sheer size of Caryn Peak.



# Chapter 11: The Song Of The Twelve

## Pages 314 - 348

### Chapter 11: The Song Of The Twelve Pages 314 - 348 Summary

Despite her awareness of the Song, and the parts all must play, Nita is still surprised when the Lone Power begins to sing his part. She listens more closely as the next segment begins when the Lone Power manages to convince the Wanderer, the Killer and the Forager to succumb to his temptations. Finally, the Lone Power turns his attention to the last three whales who are the Undecided. They argue with him - first Sounder and then T!h!ki. Lastly, Areinnye begins to sing. When the Lone Power turns Areinnye's attention to the calf she lost, Nita realizes with a start that they have strayed from the script. He offers her a life for a life, and in a flash, she leaps at Nita. Fang pulls in front of Nita and takes the force of her teeth as they rake gashes down his side. Nita turns just in time to see Kit hit Areinnye hard enough to drive her into Caryn Peak. She screams and then leaves the wizard's light. Kit steps in to finish her part, and the Lone Power offers to let him sacrifice himself for Nita. He looks at her, and then continues with his part. Arooon encourages them to sing for their lives as the sea bed changes and the water heats up, encouraging Nita to be quick. She selects an outcropping of rock and hears a cry from two directions. Areinnye had returned with a group of Kraken that now attacked. One grabs Nita and she hits it in the eye until it leaves her be. In the seconds that follow, she hears Kit's anguished scream, and she turns, remembering Carl's words, and flukes with all her strength. Something intercepts her and Nita sees his great white shape. As she tumbles, he tells her to give him her power. He asks her to trust him, and to do it quickly. She can't understand at first, but he tells her he needs it to call for help. He turns and takes a bite out of Areinnye who is still being kept busy by Kit. She turns and scores Ed's side, leaving a huge gash from his gills to his tail. The sea floor heaves and something moves beneath the surface. A huge snake's head reveals itself, savoring the fear Nita feels, knowing her. She backs up, staying out of reach of his massive jaws. Their protective spell is fading and she draws what she is sure will be her last breath. Kit is battling to maintain the whalesark, while still ramming the great Snake to distract it long enough for Nita to do what she had to. In that moment, Areinnye streaks toward Nita, but is intercepted by Ed who takes the gash meant for her. She thanks him and he surprises her again by ramming her close to her head, leaving her stunned and unable to continue singing. Through her confusion and pain, she hears Ed singing the words to her part of the Song offering the Sacrifice that would bind him for all time. Then he dives straight for the neck of the great Serpent, biting it with all his strength, it's hide searing his mouth and destroying his teeth. He never makes a sound as the Lone Power reaches down to crush Ed in his jaws just as the sharks arrive. Using her wizardry, he'd called them and they had come by the tens of thousands. Areinnye disappears in their frenzy. Tasting blood, and wild with the awareness of their master's blood, they attack the Lone Power. Eventually, the frenzy



slows and the sharks disappear when no new game reveals itself. There is no sign of Ed, the Lone Power, or Areinnye. She calls out to Kit and the return echo tells her he is safe and headed for the surface. She follows, breaking surface finally to see that it is Monday morning. She swims to Kit and they spent time just lying on the surface next to each other. He admits after a time that he got a bit carried away. S'reee surfaces and Nita tells her that the Lone Power is gone and the Sacrifice had been accepted. Kit wants only to go home, and S'reee tells him they will be in the water for a couple of days to rest. She is unable to find the words she wants to say to Nita, who tells her to save it as they would see her later. Nita's parents are waiting for them on the beach, and her father asks her if everything will be okay. Nita's mother holds her shivering body, wrapped in a towel and asks her if she is alright. She tells her honestly that she isn't. After a long look at Kit, and a hug that speaks volumes, they go back to the house. They both ate, and before going to sleep, Nita checks the manual for all blank-check wizardry's done in the past six months. Her incident is listed and reveals that it was paid by willing substitution. She puts the book under her pillow and cries.

## **Chapter 11: The Song Of The Twelve Pages 314 - 348**

### **Analysis**

Nita is lost in a world of her own as the Song is begun. Knowing that her life can be measured in minutes is distracting her. She looks for the best place to end her life and sees an outcropping of sharp rock that will suit her purpose. As the Song continues, she hears the Lone Power work on Areinnye. He changes the Song to suit her situation, promising her revenge against those who took her calf from her. Reminded of her hatred for humans in general, she is blinded to the big picture and launches herself against Nita. Luckily, Kit sees the danger and uses his mass and weight to push her into Caryn Peak and away from Nita. Injured, she speeds out of the circle of light protecting them. Kit finishes her segment and the Lone Power immediately works on his weak spot as well, knowing instinctively that chivalry is the way to get to him. Kit almost agrees to sacrifice himself in Nita's place, but Nita mentally pleads with him not to give in. Reluctantly, he finishes as the water begins to heat up even more. Nita sings her part, and thinking about the conversation she had with Carl, she is overcome with a sense of purpose and well being. Knowing her life will have meaning, she flukes with all her might towards the rocky outcropping. Just as she believes the end is imminent, a warning interrupts her. Kit comes to her rescue as a Kraken attacks. Areinnye has returned, bringing the Kraken into the protective circle with her. Now, they attack with abandon. Kit and the others fight them off as Ed approaches her, and asks her to give him her power while there is still time. Nita is reluctant. She has only ever given her power to Kit, trusting him with her life. Now, Ed is increasingly frantic, telling her he needs the extra power to call for help. Nita makes a decision and as Areinnye streaks toward her again, Ed intercepts. His side is opened from fin to tail - the injury that would have been sustained by Nita, and then to her surprise, he rams her hard. She is rattled - too stunned to argue or reply for the moment. Shocked, she hears Ed continuing her portion of the Song, giving himself as a Sacrifice to the Lone Power. Ed never utters a sound. The Lone Power, in his current incarnation as a Serpent, bites Ed almost in half



just as the sharks that he summoned arrive. Frenzied by the blood in the water, both from Areinnye and their master, the sharks consume everything - attacking the Lone Power with a vengeance. The others back away as Areinnye disappears. Nita sends out sonar, finding Kit on his way to the surface already, and relieved, she follows. Exhausted, they lay on the surface, just touching. S'reee surfaces and tells them that the Sacrifice was accepted, and Nita and Kit swim for home. Nita's family is on the beach waiting for them, and exhausted they climb out, accepting the towels offered. Nita can hardly speak from exhaustion, and when her mother asks, she admits that at the moment, she is not okay, but that they had been successful in their assignment. They eat, and climb into bed where Nita looks at the book before succumbing to sleep. The blank check wizardry that she and Kit owed is shown as paid in full - the substitute willing and accepted. She finally cries until she is able to sleep.



# Heartsong

## Heartsong Summary

Neither Kit, nor Nita rose until long after nightfall. Kit eats a bowl of cereal, and tells her that he is going for a swim shortly, asking her if she wants to join him. He has to return the whalesark. Nita comments on the intensity of their most recent assignment, and the fact that each one appeared to be just a little more difficult each time. Kit agrees, asking her if she wants to give the wizardry up, but after thinking about it briefly, she admits that she doesn't. It is late when they head out and the Moon is one day past full, shining brightly. They walk into the surf, listening to the sound of the whales singing. Again, Nita changes first and tows Kit to a depth where he can change. They swim, listening to the sounds of the Songs being sung. S'reee joins them, telling them this is how it is supposed to be. Kit draws her attention to a light deep beneath the surface. He dives and Nita joins him. As they get closer, Nita descends into a timeless wonder of light so bright that everything around her appears to be lit from within. Shapes swim as though the light were water and their inner glory is almost too much to look at. As they swim near Nita, she becomes aware that they were successful. It hurt, she sings, and they acknowledge her pain, telling her she is not the same person she was a week ago. Both she and Kit have to agree, and when asked if they would do it again, they both say yes without hesitation. Something huge passes over them, burning fiercely and with a deadly grace that Nita would have recognized anywhere. Her heart fills with joy as she realizes that the Pale Slayer, loved, will never really die. She turns to Kit who is as filled with wonder and delight as she is. Both are now ready for the next job.

## Heartsong Analysis

When Nita gets up, well after nightfall, she finds Kit eating breakfast and her parents watching television. The sounds are normal, and comforting. Kit tells her he has to take the whalesark back, asking her if she wants to come. Nita asks him if he notices that the jobs seem to be getting harder but Kit observes that apparently they like it that way. Reluctantly, Nita has to agree. They both recognize that this trend will continue until they either die or fail, and yet still, neither is willing to give up life as a wizard. They go back to the water and meet with S'reee after changing. The whales are all singing now, but their songs are filled with a combination of wonder, but also of sorrow and loss. Nita asks how things are below, and S'reee assures them that it appears they will have peace for some time, and thanks them again. Kit assures her that they would gladly do it again if the need arose. They swim together and Nita notices that the water appears to have a luminosity that is unusually strong. She descends with Kit, hearing other things in the Songs being sung now. A timelessness surrounds her until there is nothing but the bright intensity and shapes moving in and around the light, almost as though they are a part of it. At that moment, she knows that they accomplished the job they'd been given, and their accomplishment was acknowledged and appreciated. She shares the pain she felt, and they acknowledge the changes in both her and Kit as a result.



Still, she would do it again, she assures them. Something large passes over them, and swimming with a deadly grace, he identifies himself. She would know that shape and movement anywhere. Though he wasn't a wizard, and in fact had trouble grasping the concept of Timeheart, their love for him and his sacrifice, combined with Nita's borrowed power, allowed him to come to this place. Nita knew he would live on forever and turning to Kit, she sees that he is as astonished and overjoyed as she is. They agree they are ready now for the next assignment.



# Characters

## Juanita (Nita) Callahan (aka Neets; hNii't, the Silent Lord)

Nita is thirteen years old - a year older than her best friend Kit. She had only found the book "So You Want To Be A Wizard", which had started her adventures two months previously, and since then has begun to learn the rudimentary wizard's language that allows her to talk to animals. Nita and her family decide to vacation in Long Island, taking her best friend, Kit, along with them. What begins as a vacation quickly evolves into an assignment where Nita and Kit are once again called upon to save millions of lives.

Nita is an honest young lady who hates telling even half truths to her parents. As a result, her activities as a Wizard are becoming increasingly difficult to keep secret. Long hours out past curfew with Kit make her mother wonder if she is experimenting sexually, and Nita is confronted by her one morning before she leaves. Nita makes excuses, trying to convince her mother that her activities with Kit are not physical in the way that she believes, but her mother is unconvinced. The entire issue comes to a head shortly afterward when another broken curfew forces Nita's parents to act in a parental manner, grounding them both until further notice - a situation that is simply untenable. Nita and Kit reveal their skills, taking her parents to the moon and showing them the site where Apollo 16 landed before they are finally convinced. Having volunteered to perform a part in the Song of Twelve which is necessary to restore balance and bind the Lone Power, she inadvertently signs her own death warrant, unaware at first that the role she agreed to play concludes with a sacrifice - her life. Though she manages to come to grips with the value of her Sacrifice, and approaches it willingly, the Master Shark intercedes and takes her place. The Song is successful and the Master Shark loses his life, but their love and appreciation for his Sacrifice allows him to dwell in Timeheart where spirits who are loved dwell forever.

## Christopher Rodriguez (aka Kit; K!t)

Kit is a year younger than Nita, and a bit smaller as well. He has dark hair and deep brown eyes that look out from a sharp mind and face, and is definitely more intelligent than the average twelve year old.

Kit is given a whalesark from a sperm whale who died named Aivaaan, and the memories of being a sperm whale are so easily accessed that he worries he will not remember how to be Kit at the end of the experience. Nita promises to help him. Together, they join ten other wizards of the ocean and the Master Shark as they journey to Caryn's Peak to perform the Song of Twelve. Kit is all but frantic when he discovers that Nita's part in the Song of Twelve requires her to physically sacrifice herself. He stays by her side, protecting her from attacks by Kraken (giant squid) that attack without



warning, and Areinnye, a whale wizard who recently lost her calf to whalers and blames all humans, attacking Nita without warning twice. Becoming more and more comfortable in his whalesark, Kit is asked to finish Areinnye's part in the Song, and does so despite the Lone Power's tempting offer to save his friend. The outcome is more than satisfactory however as Kit and Nita both survive the ordeal and manage to complete the assignment and bind the Lone Power once more.

## The Lone Power

Appearing in many guises, the Lone Power appears as a huge snake when the Song of The Twelve is sung. His neck and head reveal themselves, huge, fringed and fanged. He has a hide that is dark with burning lava and his eyes are black - violet. They are the kind of eyes that could follow a person into their nightmares for years to come. He adopts this form as it is the form he revealed himself in to the whales so long ago, after the betrayal in the very beginning. Sometimes called the Old Serpent, he had waited for all those long years, coiled around the foundations of the Earth itself, waiting for the day when it could use it's massive coils to crush the world.

The Lone Power recognizes Kit and Nita from their previous encounter and as the Song of Twelve develops, he changes it to suit the current situation. He manages to convince Areinnye that she can exact revenge on the human species for the death of her calf, and she attacks Nita without warning, allowing him to gain strength in the process. She is unsuccessful, largely due to the efforts of Kit and Ed. Then he works on Kit, telling him that he can save his best friend, but he manages to finish Areinnye's part of the Song. The Lone Power is finally bound by the willing Sacrifice of Ed, the Master Shark, and his snake like form is devoured by the sharks called in by their Master. Bound by the Song of Twelve once more, the Lone Power is silent and the ocean floor calms.

## Dairine Callahan

Dairine is Nita's younger sister. Called 'runt' by her big sister often enough to be irritating, Dairine nevertheless is still willing to do what she can to help further her sister's cause. Knowing her sister is a wizard is like a cruel joke to Dairine, who has been interested in magic and magical events for as long as she can remember. Recently, having watched Star Wars, Dairine announced her decision to become a Jedi Knight when she grew up, much to Nita's amusement, and the teasing had ramped up a notch as a result. Still, Dairine makes it possible for Nita to escape the planned fishing trip her parents surprise them with, ingeniously making herself appear ill so that they would be 'forced' to stay home this time.

Dairine is an intelligent and precocious young lady who excels at everything she tries. Her ability to read her sister's wizard's manual reveals that she is also a wizard, and will likely turn out to be an even stronger wizard than her sister when the time comes. Dairine is upset when her sister takes their parents to the moon without inviting her, and Nita is forced to promise her that they will make the trip soon as well.





## Ed'Rashtekaresket

The chief of the Unmastered in the waters around Montauk Point where S'reee takes Nita and Kit. With a mouth that is at least fifteen feet across and an overall body length of no less than ninety feet, this great white shark is nearly as long as Kit as a Blue Whale. Ed'Rashtekaresket is the twelfth member to join in the Song of Twelve. His part in the Song is to aid in the Sacrifice by ensuring that the suffering of the Silent One is kept to a bare minimum. Ed is confused by Nita's reluctance to perform her part once she realizes the extent of the contribution required, and asks her why she feels the way she does. She explains that she is too young to die, and has yet to so much as fall in love. Ed admits that they are a perfect pair as he is yet to feel loved. Together, the Song they perform should be one of the best he has ever participated in. When the time comes for Nita to make her Sacrifice, Ed manhandles her out of the way, and takes her place in the Song, sacrificing himself in her place. Since he borrows her powers to call as many sharks as he can, he has the power of a wizard and his death, along with the love and respect that the others feel for him allow him to enter the Sea's Heart or Timeheart at the moment of his death. His soul, loved and respected by the others, will live on forever.

## Tom Swale

Senior Wizard (recently promoted from the Advisory Wizard level), spends most of his time doing development and research. His efforts with incantations and complex spells are then used in his efforts as a writer. Tom is the Senior Wizard that Nita tries to reach when she discovers that she has agreed to sacrifice herself to save the Eastern Coast, but because Tom is in a meeting, he is unable to respond and Carl comes in his place.

## Carl Romeo

Senior Wizard (recently promoted from the Advisory Wizard level), Carl sells commercial time for a major television network, and on the side has also been known to sell time of a more unconventional manner (such as a piece of Wednesday for example).

## S'reee

S'reee is a wizard and she is also a whale. S'reee is out with Ae'mhnuu (the Senior Wizard for the area) and is about to be promoted to Advisory Wizard when they are attacked by a fishing vessel. Ae'mhnuu is killed instantly and S'reee is badly injured by one of the explosive spears now being used by hunters. Nita is called upon to heal her. Only two years old, S'reee is unhappy about having to become the Senior before she is ready.

S'reee is going to play the part of one of the Untouched in the Song of Twelve.



## **Ae'mhnuu**

Ae'mhnuu is the Senior Wizard for the entire region. He is out with S'reee, who is about to be promoted to Advisory Wizard, and in the process of doing a wizardry when a ship arrives. Unnoticed at first, Ae'mhnuu is hit first, dying right away.

## **Hotshot**

The dolphin who nips the outside of Nita's left hand so that she can complete the spell that will help her to heal S'reee. Hotshot is cocky and a bit of a show off, and is put in his place by Kit while he is in his sperm whale form.

## **Peach**

Tom and Carl's Machu Picchu - an intractable macaw who is getting rather eccentric with increasing years spent in the two wizards' company.

## **Mr. Friedman**

Storekeeper of the shop at Tiana Beach. He and 'Dog' ensure that the store is open twenty four hours a day.

## **Aivaaan**

The name of the sperm whale whose whalesark is used by Kit.

## **Aroooon**

The Eldest Blue about the Gates, Aroooon is about one hundred and twenty feet in length from nose to tail and has a voice that is deep, sober and sorrowful. His eyes are the size of tennis balls and reveal great age and wisdom, as well as understanding, sadness, and tolerance. His flukes are in tatters and his steering fins are scarred and punctured - a testament to the hunger of sharks. The stump of a broken harpoon is protruding from far down on his tail, the wood rotting and the metal being consumed by rust.

Arooon is selected to play the part of one of the Untouched in the Song of Twelve.

## **Ponch (Pancho)**

Ponch is Kit's dog. He is a mix of German shepherd, Border collie, and mutt who is fiercely loyal to Kit and his master's best friend, Nita. He hunts gulls and water rats, and



can talk to Nita. He loves to play, chasing sticks or mangling seaweed as he shakes it in his jaws like a rope. His breath smells like dead fish to Nita when he washes her face. Nita's ability to talk to creatures of all descriptions also allows her to talk to Ponch.

## **Sea's Heart (aka Timeheart)**

Called when the need arises by the Song of Twelve, Timeheart is where S'reee insists that all wizardry initiates from.

## **Ten Lords of the Humors**

Each rules a variety of fish and boasts a particular temperament. The Killer is the patroness of laughter; the Gazer looks at all but seldom says what is seen; the Silent Lord rules the seas with no songs; the Singer, who opens the song and sings the first part; the Listener; the Wanderer; the Forager; the Gray Lord; the Blue; and the Sounder.

## **Areinnye**

The sperm whale that is playing the part of the Gray in the Song, Areinnye is a cantankerous and angry whale who recently lost her calf, M'hali, to a whaler. As such, she is resentful and fearful of humans of any kind. Areinnye is one of the whales playing the part of one of the three Undecided in the Song of Twelve. Areinnye is swayed by the Lone Power, convinced that she is entitled to take the life of a human and attacks Nita during her part in the Song of Twelve. She is intercepted by Kit and Ed, with Ed taking the brunt of her attack.

## **T!h!ki**

The 'right whale' who was chosen to sing the part of the Listener in the Song of Twelve.

## **Roots**

The beaked whale that was chosen to sing the part of the Forager in the Song of Twelve.

## **Singer**

Singer is the first of the Untouched in the Song of Twelve.



## **Iniihwit**

Playing the part of the Gazer in the Song of Twelve, Iniihwit is going to be the third of the Untouched. Iniihwit is a male Beluga whale

## **Fluke**

Fluke is a small pilot whale who is the Sounder in the Song of Twelve and will be playing the part of one of the three Undecided. Fluke was the smallest of the triplets born in his family, and to protect himself and hold his own where his sister and brother were concerned, he became a wizard.

## **Fang**

Fang is a killer whale who came down from Baffin Bay to be part of the Song of Twelve.



## Objects/Places

### Beach House

This is a small house located in Long Island that sits across a narrow, paved road from the dunes on the opposite side. It is also the place where Nita's family had decided to spend their two week vacation.

### Dai'stiho

This is wizard's greeting used by Nita to say hello to the dolphin she met in the water.

### So You Want To Be A Wizard

This is a book bound with buckram library bindings with a Dewey decimal number at the bottom of the spine, and inside, the words "Instruction and Implementation Manual, General and Limited Special Purpose Wizardries, Sorceries, and Spells: 933rd Edition". The printing is done in Arabic-looking script that can only be read by a wizard.

### Nassau County

This is where Nita and Kit live.

### Ni'hwinyii

These are the Lords of the Humors.

### Tiana Beach

This is the one-story structure that stands off the main road at the end of a side road that runs to the river. There is a dock, and a store that is open twenty four hours a day, although not manned that long, by Mr. Friedman.

### Sohm Abyssal Plain (The Crushing Dark)

This is the Sohms Abyssal Plain is a region of the ocean that is seventeen to eighteen-thousand feet deep located past the edge of the Continental Shelf.



## **Hudson Canyon (The Gates of the Sea)**

The Hudson Canyon is the largest and oldest undersea canyon that exists on the East Coast. Cutting directly through the Shelf, its walls are sometimes as high as four thousand feet and can only be matched in size by some of the Moon's or Mars' canyons. The Gates are the traditional approach used by whale wizards to access the Crushing Dark and the Great Depths.

The Hudson Canyon has long been a dumping ground for the city of New York, leaving behind unexploded depth charges and raw sewage, among other things. As a result, some species simply died off while others are changed entirely.

## **Caryn Peak (The Sea's Tooth)**

The western most peak of the undersea range known as the Kelvin Seamounts, the peak is six thousand feet high - a third as high as Everest. It has also been used as a meeting place and landmark as well as the site of great wizardries by whales for longer than even they can remember. The area is so saturated with residual magic that and spells used there are more dangerous.

## **Song of Twelve**

A lovely and powerful wizardry that's magic is conducted on a regular basis, the Song of Twelve leaves the participants forever altered for the better, unless one of the rules is broken by a participant and the magic fails.

## **Krakens**

These are giant squid that Kit and Nita can expect to encounter while on this assignment. This is a breeding year, a break in their normal eleven year cycle. They are larger than usual and in deep water they are a fearsome lot.

## **Sandy Hook (Westernmost Shoals)**

The stopping point that S'reee wants to make before they are ready located near New Jersey. The waters in this area are alive with krill and at night their swarming luminescence reveals each finstroke and every current in a blue-green light.

## **Whalesark**

A rare item, a sark can only be made when a whale dies. It is the shadow that remains of the nervous system of a whale, created by wizardry at the whale's death. Contact with the sark is enough to change the one who wears it into the donor whale.



## **Ambrose Light (The Speaking Tower)**

This a huge, black structure with white lettering that is on four steel pilings. On top, a white building with a red tower, flashing lights, and horns that blare short-LONG over and over again.

## **Celebrant's Oath**

Administered by S'reee to Arooon, she swims to him, looking him in the eye, and sings in a formal and careful tone, asking for his consent to her request that he sing the 'Song that is the Sea's shame and the Sea's glory. He responds by promising to weave his voice, his will, and his blood if necessary with the others who sing. The oath is asked three times in total, before Arooon's consent is accepted.

## **Montauk Point**

This is where S'reee takes Kit and Nita in whale form to see the Pale One.

## **Blue Whales**

Blue whales simply seldom initiate action, preferring to allow the smaller and faster species to do that for them. The exception is during the Song of the Twelve, when they become a force to be reckoned with. The largest of all whales, they have a stately, somber voice that is mournful and eyes the size of tennis balls.

## **Dolphins**

Most dolphins are playful and affectionate, sometimes to the point of being show offs. They can execute an incredible range of acrobatics and vocalize in a chattering sound.

## **Atlantis (aka Afallone)**

As a result of a problem with the performance of the Song of Twelve ten thousand years previously, Atlantis sank into the sea, taking its inhabitants with her. The resulting earthquakes were so strong that they tore through the earth's crust and down into the mantle itself. For years afterward, volcanoes spewed ash into the air. The resulting cold and lack of food killed many land creatures and it was many years before things improved.



## **Nantucket Rips**

Treacherous waters filled with hidden rocks and sudden shelves, as well as broken ships where uneasy forces linger.

## **Old Man Shoals**

Where Nita, S'reee, Ed, Kit, and Hotshot find the whale who will sing the part of the Gray in the Song. The area is littered with boulders, and the current goes through the shoals swiftly, leaving portions of those who didn't make it behind.

## **Wizard's Knot**

This is a figure-eight design used to close circles created by wizard's for travel.





# Themes

## Seeing Is Believing

At its very core, this is a tale of good against evil at the most basic level. Kit and Nita are wizards, powerful because of their youth, and effective because of their fearlessness. Their predisposition to wizardry allows them to find the manual that quickly becomes their bible. In the beginning, their activities are kept secret, but when Nita's mother begins to question the inordinate amount of time that she is spending with Kit, believing that perhaps they are becoming physically involved. When Nita and Kit become entangled in an undersea assignment that keeps them from making their curfew on more than one occasion, Nita's parents decide the best course of action is to ground them both until further notice. The evil that lurks in the ocean's depth won't wait however, and there is no one else who can take over in their place once the commitment to be there had been made. As such, the issue of honesty is pushed to the forefront, and Nita is forced to tell her parents everything. Of course, at first they believe that Nita is simply fabricating an excuse that will get her out of trouble, but when Kit quietly levitates himself from the chair and hovers several feet above them, they are forced to reassess. Then Nita's father is sure that they have been hypnotized, but can't explain how he and his wife are sharing the same illusion without a word being spoken to either one. Still, they refuse to believe what their eyes are telling them. With growing frustration, Nita takes them back outside and down to the beach where she stands on the surface of the water out past the breakers. Kit adds to their confusion by popping in and out of the space around them rather than walking from the house to the beach. Unnerved, they still require convincing. Nita decides that the best thing to do would be to eliminate all doubts. She tells Kit that they should return to a site they had been to recently, and grinning, he agrees, popping out of space to return to the house to get what they need. He returns the same way, and after setting up the conditions and instructing Nita's parents to remain within the circle he has drawn (and not step on the writing in the sand), he and Nita speak the words of the spell together that takes them to the moon. They arrive within site of Apollo 16, and at first her father is unable to so much as look up. Her mother does however, and stands there with tears streaming down her face, overwhelmed by the sheer beauty of the sight in front of them. When they return to the beach, they are no longer denying the truth, but they still don't grasp the reality that their daughter and her best friend are no longer the children they believed they brought on vacation. Though exhausted from the day's ordeal, Kit and Nita still answer a few questions and try to alleviate some concerns. Honesty gets Nita into trouble one more time when her father asks her if the next day's assignment will be dangerous. When she admits the truth, her parents try to insist that she is not allowed to go. It is the first time that Nita is forced to disobey her parents, and they finally realize that they are no longer in control of her destiny.



## Good vs Evil

In the timeless battle of good vs evil, two adolescent children must do what most adults would cringe at the mere thought of. Kit and Nita, young wizards with only minimal experience, will have to face the consummate evil of the Lone Power for the second time. This time, the evil is awakened under the ocean's bed, recreating the conditions that led to the demise of Atlantis. Located past the Hudson Canyon (the largest undersea canyon on the East Coast) is the Sohm Abyssal Plain - a region of the ocean that is up to eighteen thousand feet deep and is located just past the edge of the Continental Shelf. The walls are as high as four thousand feet in places, called the Crushing Dark and the Great Depths by those who dare enter. It is in this region that the battle between good and evil will play out again. The site of the gathering for the Song Of Twelve is Caryn's Peak, located on the very bottom of the abyss.

Nita and Kit first learn of the disaster facing the world after meeting a dolphin while out for a swim. Assuming whale forms, they meet with S'reee (the Senior Wizard for the area after her mentor dies unexpectedly) and learn of the impending disaster. As had happened during the time of Atlantis, the sea floor deep beneath the ocean is becoming unstable. The only recourse that exists is for the wizards of the oceans to gather and perform the Song of Twelve to once again bind the Lone Power, rendering him harmless for many years again. Hearing the desperate circumstances, Nita offers to perform the part of the Silent One, unaware of the scope of the Sacrifice she is offering. When she discovers the extent of the personal sacrifice involved, she tries to back out, but is soon made aware that her actions would have grave consequences. After much soul searching, she agrees to go through with her part, but at the last moment, the Master Shark - Ed'Rashtekaresket, also taking part in the Song takes her place in the Song and offers himself as the Sacrifice. He is quickly killed by the Lone Power, his Sacrifice accepted. Hearing the call of their Master, and smelling the blood in the water, sharks gather from miles around and engage in a feeding frenzy that removes most traces of the Lone Power, their master and Areinnye, who had started it all when she attacked Nita. The ocean quiets. Good triumphs over evil once more, largely as a result of the selfless contributions of Kit, Nita and Ed.

## Love Never Dies

This story includes a different take on the circumstances that follow death. Wizards are aware of and able to visit a place referred to as Timeheart - a region where spirits that are loved go after the body is discarded after death. There, they are in spirit form, and surrounded by love, light and song. Only Wizards are aware of or able to visit Timeheart. As such, Master Shark Ed'Rashtekaresket has a hard time accepting that it even exists. Having never known love, he is unable to fathom the concept that it can exist after death and never really dies. When Nita first becomes aware that her part in the Song of Twelve will require the sacrifice of her life, she panics, but Ed reminds her of Timeheart, asking her why the prospect of death upsets her so. She complains that she has yet to live, and has never even experienced love. Ed admits that he has



participated in the Song of Twelve countless times, promising that he will be a quick as he can. Part of him is jealous that she can look forward to a meaningful end to her life. When the Song is actually performed, several things go very wrong. The Lone Power manages to convince one of the wizards of the deep that she should have her revenge against the human race that killed her calf. Areinnye, overwhelmed with grief, leads an attack against Nita and would have succeeded had it not been for the unselfish acts of Kit, who intercepts her, and Ed, who takes the blow meant for Nita. Sustaining a mortal wound, and pushing Nita out of the way, he takes her place, offering himself as a Sacrifice in her stead. The love and respect Nita and the others feel for him after his unselfish sacrifice earn him a place in Timeheart. His soul is bright and content when Nita and Kit discover him there, and they are filled with wonder and overjoyed knowing that their love will help to keep his spirit alive in this timeless place.



# Style

## Point of View

Deep Wizardry by Diane Duane is the second book in a series created about young Wizards and their contribution to the continuing well being of mankind. Written entirely in the first-person perspective, the story is told through the eyes of a young wizard named Nita Callahan. Nita and her best friend and fellow wizard, Kit, are pitted against the Lone Power once more as they lend aid to the wizards of the deep in their efforts to once again bind him once again and stop him from wreaking the kind of havoc that rivals that which was responsible for the sinking of Atlantis. The story begins with Kit and Nita accompanying Nita's parents on vacation to the seashore. Nita's special gift is that she is able to talk to and understand animals of all kinds while Kit is able to communicate with inanimate objects. Believing they are on vacation, they head to the beach for a swim but a dolphin. The vacation soon evolves into an assignment where Nita and Kit are called upon to help stabilize the Eastern Coast. Nita and Kit use their abilities to change into whales, (Kit using the whalesark provided by S'reee, the Senior wizard of the region) and they follow her to the deepest depths to gather at Caryn Peak. Nita has agreed to help sing the Song of Twelve to stop the Lone Power from recreating the fall of Atlantis on the Eastern Coast, unaware at the time that the part she chose required her to make the ultimate sacrifice by giving her life. Still, she summons her courage, understanding the importance of the event. The story evolves entirely from her perspective, but the author manages to convey Kit's anxiety over the Sacrifice Nita has agreed to and her parents reluctance to allow her to participate at all.

## Setting

Deep Wizardry begins with Nita, her family and her best friend Kit on vacation in Long Island. The young wizards should know that a wizard is never truly on vacation, as is soon revealed when a dolphin approaches Nita and asks for her help with a whale in distress. The whale, named S'reee, had beached herself after a painful encounter with a whaler, in order to avoid the sharks that were attracted by her injury. Now the rising tide threatens to send her out as a meal unless Nita and Kit can heal her first. They manage to do so, and in the process learn about the plight of the Eastern Coast. New York City is poised to follow Atlantis into the ocean forever. The only solution is to gather eleven whale wizards and the Master Shark, Ed'Rashtekaresket to sing the Song of Twelve and bind the Lone Power once again. Unfortunately, S'reee is facing a daunting task. Facing reluctant promotion after losing her mentor in the same whaling encounter, S'reee must now orchestrate this event alone. Kit and Nita offer their services.

The Song of Twelve is to be performed around Caryn Peak, located in the largest and oldest undersea canyon that exists on the East Coast - the Hudson Canyon (also known as the Gates of the Sea). To reach Caryn Peak, they must journey into the Sohm Abyssal Plain (the Crushing Depths) which is a region of the ocean that is seventeen to



eighteen thousand feet deep located past the edge of the Continental Shelf. There, in the darkest of the ocean, the Song of Twelve is performed. In a surprise ending however, Master Shark, Ed'Rashtekaresket offers himself as the ultimate Sacrifice. His gift is accepted, and the following day Nita and Kit discover to their surprise that 'Ed' now lives where all love goes after the death of the physical form - Timeheart. In the brightest light, 'Ed' swims past them - his huge form now light itself and with great respect for him, Nita and Kit return to Tiana Beach and her waiting family.

## Language and Meaning

Deep Wizardry is a novel filled with adventure, danger, spells and magic. Kit and Nita, young wizards still learning their craft but at the height of their power, are on vacation with Nita's family in Long Beach when the call for assistance comes. Nita, able to talk to all manner of beasts, learns from a dolphin that a whale wizard is in distress and is beached. The story that follows is one of bravery and chivalry as Nita is poised to perform the part of the 'Silent One' in the Song of Twelve which is necessary to bind the Lone Power once more, and prevent him from making New York City into another Atlantis. The story is given authenticity and dramatic effect by way of the use of unusual and creative whale names and communications such as 'Dai'stiho' - the typical wizard's greeting and 'Dai' - the usual response. Whale names that are unfamiliar in normal English language assist in separating the usual world from the world of the deep ocean such as S'reee - who becomes the Senior Wizard for the region when Ae'mhnuu - her mentor is killed by whalers. S'reee must assemble eleven wizards and summon the Master Shark, Ed'Rashtekaresket to perform the Song of Twelve to bind the Lone Power and keep him from causing death and destruction unparalleled since the sinking of Atlantis. References to Timeheart, the place where spirits who are loved go after death, and Caryn's Peak, the site where the Song must be performed, lend meaning and credibility to the tale. The area is well described as is the journey to Caryn's Peak, which is located past the Continental Shelf, seventeen to eighteen thousand feet beneath the surface. Descriptions of humanity's garbage and waste left behind, as well as the resulting death of the living creatures in the area make this an ecological as well as a spiritual journey that is well written.

## Structure

Deep Wizardry is the second in a series that surrounds the adventures and assignments of two young wizards who are just learning the extent of their abilities. At the height of their power now, they are called upon to deal with situations that seem beyond their abilities, but somehow the young wizards manage to combine courage and determination to reach the desired outcome. The book is divided into twelve chapters, each labeled to reflect the main subject within. Chapters range in length from eighteen to sixty two pages with the average length being about twenty pages with rare exception. Chapter 1: Wizards' Song and Chapter 2: A Song of Choice, introduce Kit and Nita as wizards and reveal the end of their 'vacation' and the beginning of their new assignment. They also introduce S'reee, the Senior Wizard for the region, and explain



the plight affecting them all. The next few chapters reveal the other whale wizards who are approached and asked to participate in the Song of Twelve. Chapter 7: Fearsong, reveals Nita's response when she realizes that her part in the song requires her to make the ultimate sacrifice - her life. Chapter 8: The Gray Lord's Song deals with the Master Shark and his conversation with Nita when he senses her discomfort and distress. Chapter 9: Truthsong, is the chapter in which Nita and Kit are forced to reveal themselves as Wizards and convince her parents that they are not lying. The next three chapters cover the gathering of the wizards for the Song of Twelve, the performance of the Song itself and the outcome.



## Quotes

"The stones piled up there remembered something. And they didn't want to think about it anymore." Chp 1, Pg. 9

Kit to Nita as she gets out of the water to meet him on the beach.

"As the only remaining candidate Senior Wizard for the Waters About the Gates, by wizard's Right I request and require your assistance." Chp 2, Pg. 31

S'reee's official request for help from Kit and Nita as they are on active status.

"What does the Walter Cronkite of the bird world have to say about all of this?" Chp 3, Pg.74

Kit asking Carl what Peach predicts regarding their upcoming task.

"You pretend hard enough, and sooner or later what you're pretending to be, you are." Chp 4, Pg.81

S'reee to Kita and Nita as she explains as much as she can about the shapeshifting they will be required to do.

"For if things go on as they're going now, the High and Dry will shortly be low and wet - and those of my Mastery will be eating very well indeed." Chp 5, Pg.141

Ed'Rashtekaresket to S'reee, Nita and Kit when they go to enlist his aid as the twelfth singer in the Song of Twelve.

"As if, someone or something did not care to have the Song enacted just now." Chp 6, Pg.143

Pale One to S'reee, Kit and Nita as he is escorting them back after agreeing to act as the Twelfth in the Song of Twelve.

"Did you get the problem with your dam and sire worked out?" Chp 7, Pg.186

S'reee to Nita, questioning whether or not she managed to resolve the issue with her parents.

"Speared and left to float belly-up, slowly dying, while they hunted me - then hauled bloated out of the water and gutted, his bleeding innards thrown overboard by bits and pieces for the gulls and sharks to eat!" Chp 8, Pg. 201

Areinnye to S'reee, Kit and Nita as they approach her to participate in the Song of Twelve.

"You might want to hang on to each other." Chp 9, Pg. 213

Kit to Nita's parents as they finish preparing the spell to take them to the moon.

"Such a Song the Sea will never have seen." Chp 10, Pg. 280

Ed to Nita as he tells her that they will cause the Sacrifice to be well made - Nita, young and never having loved, and him, old and never loved.



"Is it going to be all right?" Chp 11, Pg 347  
Nita's father to Nita and Kit when they return.

"Looks like we're stuck with being wizards, huh?" Chp 12, Pg. 349  
Kit to Nita the morning after the returned from the performance of the Song of Twelve.





## Topics for Discussion

What do Kit and Nita have in common? Despite this commonality, what is different about them as far as skill and ability goes? How do these skills seemingly compliment each other? Where did these skills/abilities come from?

What is a necessary prerequisite in order for the information or general manual to be made available for reading? Who surprises Nita with the ability to read her manual without having one of their own? What does the uninitiated or unqualified person see when they look at Nita or Kit's manual.

How do Nita and Kit go from being on vacation to being on active assignment again? Where is this information prominently displayed? When is there help first requested? Who requests it and how?

What circumstances force Nita to be honest with her parents about being a wizard? How does Nita try to explain it to them? How many different things does Nita try to convince her parents that she is telling the truth? What does Kit try? What finally convinces them?

Who is beached and in need of Kit and Nita's help? What is significant about the incoming tide? What injuries have been sustained and how were they sustained? What immediate danger is there and from what?

What does Nita offer to do for S'reee? How does S'reee respond to her offer? What significant part of the story does Nita obviously not entirely understand when she willingly agrees? What are the possible consequences if she backs out?

What is the Song of Twelve? Who are the participants? What groups are they divided into? Which participant is in a category all his own? What makes him so much different from the others? Why is he necessary?

What does Ed request of Nita during the performance? Why is she reluctant to give it to him? Who is the only other person that she has given this to in the past?

What events occur during the Song that are unexpected? Who is responsible for each occurrence? What are the consequences of each unexpected event? How does this affect the outcome?

What do Nita and Kit discover the day after the performance of the Song? Why are they both overcome with emotion by the knowledge? What is unusual about this incident and why?