

Dragons of Autumn Twilight Study Guide

Dragons of Autumn Twilight by Margaret Weis

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Plot Summary

Dragons of Autumn Twilight by Margaret Weis is the story of a set of companions that meet for the first time in five years after going their own way. They are quickly drawn into a war that they didn't even know existed. They struggle to find the truth of the long forgotten gods and the way to free their land of the dragons that threaten to destroy them all.

Tanis, a half-elf, is the unofficial leader of a band of friends that meet up after five years of searching for answers about the once true gods. The companions meet in a town called Solace that used to be their home. When they reunite they find that there are two tribal people, Riverwind and Goldmoon, that have a magical blue staff capable of great healing. Through an odd series of events, the companions are suddenly associated with the tribal people and all of them must run for their lives. They decide to travel to Haven to see if someone knows something about the staff but are attacked by strange lizard like creatures and forced into a haunted forest called Darken Woods. While in Darken Woods, they are guided by ghosts to the Forestmaster, a unicorn. The Forestmaster tells the group that they must travel to the ancient city of Xak Tsaroth to find something there that will help them in the battle that is coming.

The companions reach Xak Tsaroth only to find that the items that they are looking for, holy disks, are being guarded by a dragon. The companions are able to get the disks and kill the dragon, but when they head away from Xak Tsaroth they see that the dragons and the creatures that serve them, draconians, all of these serving the Queen of Darkness, have started attacking. Much of Krynn, including Solace, has been burned. The companions are taken captive and sent on their way to the slave mines but are rescued by elves before they get there.

In the elven village there is a plan made to rescue the men, women, and children that are being held captive there. Tanis and the others reach the palace where Verminaard, the cleric of the Queen of Darkness, lives and keeps the men, women, and children prisoner. Once there they are able to get the families to agree to an escape and they plan out their moment.

Too late in the plan Tanis realizes a member of his group has betrayed them, but they must go through with the plan. Tanis and several members of his group face off with Verminaard and kill him as his dragon is killed by a old dragon who had gone crazy. The Queen of Darkness's cleric was defeated, but it is noted that the Queen herself has not left the world and there will be more dragons and the dragon lance must be found.



The Old Man, Book 1: Chapter 1-5

The Old Man, Book 1: Chapter 1-5 Summary

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In the section titled The Old Man, a young woman named Tika Waylan is working in the Inn of the Last Home talking with Otik, the bartender, about how the people that live in the town of Solace are being mistreated under the rule of the new Theocrat, Hederick. An old man comes in and begins rearranging furniture, getting it ready for that night, and acts strangely.

In book one, chapter one, Flint, a dwarf, is nearing his home of Solace. Flint is talking with himself when he sees Tanis, the half-elf. It has been five years since they have seen each other. Tanis explains that the Highseekers in Haven appointed Hederick to govern in Solace, and that Hederick has caused Solace to become very unfriendly. Tanis, Flint and several others had gone off on a quest many years earlier. It's been five years since they had seen any of their group. Tanis says that his attempt to find the ancient true gods failed.

Another member of their group, Tasslehoff Burrfoot, shows up. Tasslehoff is a kenderkind. While they talk, Tanis hears something behind him and they are suddenly surrounded by five hobgoblins. The leader of the hobgoblins tells Tanis that it is against the law to be out on the road in Solace after dark and that they are under arrest. The leader turns to the other hobgoblins and tells them to look for the staff with the blue crystal on it and to kill them if they give any resistance. When the hobgoblin leader is gone, Tanis, Flint and Tasslehoff begin to fight with the hobgoblin guards. All but one of the hobgoblins are killed and Tanis and his companions head on to Solace.

Book one, chapter two, begins when Tanis and his friends enter the Inn of the Last Home. Flint and Tanis are looking around for the rest of the group. They had made an oath five years earlier to meet in five years. As the three of them enter the inn, Tanis spots their old friend, and a giant of a man, Camaron. Beside Camaron is his twin brother Raistlin. Camaron warns them that Raistlin has changed, but Tanis is shocked to see Raistlin's face. Raistlin's skin is a gold color and his skeleton seems to show as if the skin has been eaten away and the eyes are a black color. Raistlin tells Tanis and the others of the test he took that did this to him, but Raistlin says that although the test nearly killed him it gave him great power. Tika comes to the table to bring drinks and gives Tanis a message that had been left for him earlier that day. Tanis opens the letter and finds that it is from Kitiara, who explains that she can't come to meet them.



In chapter three in book one it is explained that Kitiara is the older half sister of the twins, Camaron and Raistlin. In Kitiara's letter, she says that the duties to her new lord have kept her from coming and that she sends her love to her brothers and to Tanis. While Tanis is talking to Tika, Tanis sees Sturm walking in. Sturm is a knight and wears the look proudly, although knights had long ago been severely disgraced. When their group had parted five years earlier, Sturm had headed out to find his father but was unable to locate him. Tanis listens but only slightly as he keeps thinking about Kitiara. Tanis had fallen in love with her although he was half elf and she was human. There is a man and a woman that had walked in the same time with Sturm. They are from a plains tribe. Tanis tells Sturm about the battle with the hobgoblins. Sturm and Raistlin both say that they were also questioned about a staff with a blue gem on it.

Tasselhof notices that there is an old man in the room that Tika had pointed out as the man that had been in the inn that day. The old man asks the plains woman to sing a song. The woman, Goldmoon, sings a song about a princess who fell in love with a poor man's son. In her song the man returns for the princess and uses a staff with a blue gem on it to whisk her and the woman away, but they cannot go home because of their forbidden love. Behind the old man, Hederick has been sitting and drinking, and he now stands up and demands that the old man, Goldmoon and her companion all be thrown in jail. Hederick is drunk and falls into the fire and his head catches on fire. Tasselhoff is the first one there and the old man hands Tasselhoff Goldmoon's plain looking staff and commands him to knock Hederick down so that they can put out the flame. Tasselhoff grabs the staff before Goldmoon can stop him and instantly Hederick is healed of all his wounds. The staff that Tasselhoff is holding no longer looks plain but has a glowing blue orb on the top of it. The old man begins shouting for the guards, saying that this is the item the hobgoblins have been looking for. As the companions run out, Tanis notices that the old man is smiling and winking at him. Tika tells the companions and Goldmoon they can go hide in her house. Tanis notices that the staff Goldmoon is holding has already changed back to its plain brown color. As they head to Tika's, Goldmoon explains that she hasn't had the staff long and doesn't know how it healed Hederick.

As book one, chapter four begins, the group makes its way to Tika's house. Once there, Raistlin asks to see the staff but is struck by it when it touches his hand. Raistlin forces Camaron to take the staff and nothing happens. The staff can only be wielded by one who is pure of heart. There is a house-to-house search being conducted. Two hobgoblins come to Tika's house, and Camaron kills them while trying to knock them out. They leave Tika's looking like there was a large fight and head into the woods. Goldmoon and her friend, Riverwind, agree to come with them but Riverwind isn't happy with the arrangement and clearly doesn't trust them.

In book one chapter five, Tasselhoff says that it would be best if they headed to Crystalmir Lake and go find a cave to get shelter in. Raistlin is frail and looking sick as Camaron tries to help his brother. When they get to the lake, Riverwind is trying to convince Goldmoon not to go with Tanis and his group. She orders him on the boat. Goldmoon explains to Sturm that she had been worshiped as a goddess in her village and she loved it until she fell in love with Riverwind. The story she told at the Inn had been about her and him. They are able to get everyone on the boat as the hobgoblins



reach the shore. They are far out on the lake when Raistlin and Goldmoon realize that two of the constellations are missing. Raistlin explains that the Queen of Darkness and Valiant Warrior are both gone from the sky. She has come to their land and he has come to fight her.

The Old Man, Book 1: Chapter 1-5 Analysis

Most of the characters that will be pivotal to the story have been introduced at this point. Although Goldmoon and Riverwind were not part of the original group, they will continue on together for the rest of the story. Kitiara will be spoken of often throughout the story but she will never be seen. Despite the fact that Kitiara won't make an appearance in the story, she will be at the front of Tanis' thoughts very often. This will become more obvious when Tanis comes face-to-face with Laurana later in the story, since Laurana still has feelings for Tanis.

Tanis is the leader of the companions, although he obviously wishes he were not at times. The others follow and respect him. As the story continues, Riverwind and Goldmoon will also come to depend upon Tanis's leadership and friendship. Raistlin also takes orders from Tanis. In many respects Tanis will be what keeps the group together since many of them, such as Sturm and Raistlin, don't trust each other.

There have been many moments of foreshadowing in the story. There will be some moments that will appear to be foreshadowing although there won't be a conclusion in this part of the series. The fact that the constellations are missing from the sky is very important. The constellations missing show that the deities they represent have actually come to Krynn. There has been a lot of talk of dragons at this point in the story. There are many people, including many of the companions, that believe that the dragons are only fables and don't exist. Sturm seems to believe more than most that the dragons are only legend. Although Sturm has a large amount of doubt in things such as the dragons later on in the story, it will be Sturm that is chosen to follow a white stag that no one else can see.

The old man in the inn is never actually introduced. Later on in the story there will be another old man that intervenes and helps the companions. It appears that this man may be the same person, although this is never fully revealed. This will be another piece of the story that will be left to other books in the series to answer.



Book 1: Chapter 6-10

Book 1: Chapter 6-10 Summary

In book one chapter six, the companions reach a cave on the far side of the lake where they sleep for the night. The next day they decide on the route to take in order to take the blue crystal staff to the Highseekers in Haven in the hopes that they will know the truth of the staff. Some of the companions don't want to take the road suggested because of the paths of Darken Wood, but it is the best way. Riverwind continues to try to talk Goldmoon out of going with the companions but is unable.

In book one chapter seven, the companions are traveling toward Haven when they come upon a group of oddly dressed clerics. Sturm steps out to talk to them while the others stay hidden. The clerics speak a strange language and tell Sturm that they are looking for their blue crystal staff that was stolen and that they have a brother that will die without the touch of the staff. Goldmoon steps out of hiding to offer help to the clerics if they can prove any of their story since she knows that Riverwind didn't steal the staff. Riverwind and Goldmoon go over to the strange clerics along with Camaron, although Flint, Tas and Raistlin stay hidden.

In book one chapter eight, Goldmoon goes over to look at the ill cleric but is suddenly ambushed by a strange creature. The clerics pull off their cloaks and reveal that they are strange lizard-looking men that have wings. There is a battle and Raistlin uses his magic, but the creatures can withstand it to some small degree. Soon there are other winged creatures landing to block off the roads. Tanis urges his group back into the woods in an attempt to escape the snare the creatures are creating. None of them want to go to Darken Wood where the dead roam, but they have little choice now.

In chapter nine of book one, the companions realize that they aren't being chased. They don't have a map of the wooded area and are worried about becoming lost when Sturm sees a magnificent white stag and begins to follow the creature. None of the others can see the stag, but they decide to follow Sturm and soon they come to a path that seems to close up behind them after they have entered. Soon they come to the top of a mountain where Tanis can see afar off in the distance. It is here that the companions can see the great number of fires made by the armies readying for war. They follow the stag until they come to a place that Raistlin says is Darken Woods.

As the story continues in book one chapter ten, the companions are in Darken Woods. They are still for only a moment when ghosts surround them. Raistlin is able to communicate with them and the ghosts take them out of Darken Woods to a centaur who is waiting for them. A group of centaurs allow the companions to ride them to meet the Forestmaster. The group arrives in pitch black and can see nothing, but the Forestmaster speaks to them and explains that the staff that Goldmoon carries is intended to battle disease and illness in the war that is coming.



Book 1: Chapter 6-10 Analysis

Tas shows much of his curious nature when he is surrounded by the dead in Darken Woods. The others seem to be speechless, but Tas has questions for the ghosts and assumes if he doesn't ask he might never get another chance. Tas has a different set of emotions than the other creatures and so often he will do things that seem to be viewed as rude or ill mannered. In truth, Tas is very considerate of others but just doesn't seem to think the same as they do. Tas has a deep sense of friendship with Tanis and many of the others, but it is clear that he is only going to listen to Tanis as long as it is something that Tas wants to do. Tas might easily be looked at as the comic relief in the story.

The Forestmaster is a character that is only seen for a brief period of time in the story. It seems that she is hinting to things later in the story when she speaks, but it is not something that will come to pass in this book.

Goldmoon and Riverwind are under a lot of stress with each other although they love each other. The fact that she is strong willed appears to cause Riverwind much trouble since he knows that he should be listening to her. It is her decision to stay with the companions. Riverwind will eventually realize that it is the right decision, but not until much later in the story. Riverwind and Tanis will develop a friendship later in the story and they will save each others' lives.

Sturm and Raistlin have a mutual distrust and dislike for each other. There was no reason for the group to agree to follow Sturm when he saw the white stag. Sturm had a head wound and there were no tracks and no one else could see the creature. Despite this, Tanis seems to realize that there may be forces at work that none of them can understand at this point. Sturm had been thinking of the white stag in reference to Huma. The story of Huma is told in completion at the end of the story. It is unclear what became of Huma, but later in the story it is hinted at by the Forestmaster that Sturm might die fulfilling his destiny.

The dead in the Darken Woods were only seen for a moment. Later in the story there will be other creatures that are seen that are dead as well. There is a lot of the story that will seemingly have a much longer explanation, although one is not given in this book.



Book 1: Chapter 11-16

Book 1: Chapter 11-16 Summary

Book one chapter eleven begins with the Forestmaster, a unicorn, introducing herself. They eat with the Forestmaster and Tanis notices that when the Forestmaster talks about those that will die fulfilling their destiny, she looks at Sturm. This frightens Tanis for a moment. She explains that the lizard creatures are called draconians and are of the order of Draco but they are not of the world of Krynn. The Forestmaster explains that they must go to Xak Tsaroth in order to find the answers to their questions and that flying horses will take them there. Xak Tsaroth is a temple of the ancient gods but it is unknown what they will find there. Riverwind says they will go alone, but Tanis and the others all agree to go.

In chapter twelve book one, the flying horses arrive to take the companions toward Xak Tsaroth. The flying horses are forced to land soon because of a danger that they cannot name. The companions begin to walk the rest of the way when suddenly they come to Goldmoon and Riverwind's village. They find that something hot enough to melt stone has burnt the village to the ground and there are bodies everywhere. There is a sign in the middle of the death and decay signed by Verminaard, although Tanis and the others don't know who Verminaard is. The group traveled as far as they could that night trying to escape the gruesome scene before stopping to rest for the night.

In book one chapter thirteen, the group travels towards Xak Tsaroth and they come to a deadly swamp. Riverwind cannot tell them why, but he knows the place as if it is from a dream. As they travel, Flint and Tas are ahead of the group when suddenly they are attacked by draconians. Tas knocks Flint off into the murky water and yells at Tanis that it is an ambush before he dives off after Flint. Tanis and the others begin to ready themselves to fight but are suddenly covered in a sticky substance and can't breath or move.

In book one chapter fourteen, Tas and Flint are hidden on a bank watching their friends being captured. Tas and Flint follow to find a huge camp of draconians with a giant black dragon in the middle. Tas goes up to the creature as Flint goes to find Tanis. The dragon calls Camaron forward and says to give the warrior his weapon so that the dragon can have some sport before his death. Tanis yells for Flint to leave because of the dragon, but Flint says that the dragon is Tas. The black dragon is a hollow tube and Tas is inside speaking through it. The draconians are shocked to see the dragon move and they all gather around it as Tanis and the others begin to make a getaway. The wicker dragon catches on fire and the draconians leave in a frenzy to get away. The companions take advantage of the hectic state of the draconian camp and are able to get away back into the swamp.

As book one chapter fifteen continues, the companions travel through the swamp until they reach a ruin that marks the first of Xak Tsaroth. There are many draconian tracks



and Riverwind explains that he is afraid although he cannot remember why. They suddenly see a draconian by a well in the city. Before they can reach it, it flies down a well. They stand and watch for a moment when suddenly there is a real dragon that comes up out of the well. Khisanth, the dragon, speaks a magic word and covers the companions in blackness. She had lost the staff and Verminaard had been upset. She get ready to kill the companions. Tanis feel drops of liquid hit his hand and horrible pain. He hears Riverwind cry out. When the dragon is gone the companions go to look for Riverwind and find him with his skin and eyes melted off but still alive. Tanis and Sturm are about to end his pain when Goldmoon calls for Riverwind to be brought to her.

In book one chapter sixteen, Goldmoon tells them to bring Riverwind into the temple. Goldmoon had been spoken to in the temple by the goddess Mishakal while the dragon was attacking. Goldmoon has been made Mishakal's cleric and can heal and knows to look for the Disks of Mishakal. Now Goldmoon holds the staff out to the charred body of Riverwind and he is suddenly made whole again. Riverwind explains to the companions that she needs to find the disks and that the dragon that just attacked watches over them in her lair. The companions agree that they must go after these disks.

Book 1: Chapter 11-16 Analysis

After seeing the wicker dragon that Tas was able to climb inside of, it seemed for a time that perhaps the dragons were mythical. The thought that they might not be real is proven wrong when Khisanth arrives. Although she is obviously a very powerful dragon she is not the most dangerous dragon that will be seen in the story. Much of what concerns Goldmoon and Riverwind's past has been explained at this point in the story. Riverwind doesn't truly remember all the events that happened when he was given the blue crystal staff, but he vaguely remembers the way to Xak Tsaroth and the city itself. When he sees the statue of Mishakal he knows that she is the one that gave him the staff, although he won't speak about it with any of the companions. It is unclear if he speaks about it to Goldmoon or not. Riverwind seems to have a smaller part in the story to some extent and seems only be there to help Goldmoon along, but his story must have been long and arduous in itself when he first began.

There is something at Xak Tsaroth that Raistlin desires, although it is unknown what it is at this point. Some of Raistlin's darker side has been seen at this point when he talks to Tanis about the fact that some day they will all look to Raistlin and how their physical strength and good looks won't be enough to save them. Despite this, in the next few chapters there will be a softer side to Raistlin seen, although it is short lived and not seen very often.

It is explained by the Forestmaster that the draconians are not of this world. This is another part of the story that will be left to another book to answer, if it is ever fully explained. All that is known about them at this point is that they are not a race of Krynn. Later in the story there will be other draconians seen. There are more than one kind of these creatures and they will prove to be deadly even when they are dying.



Goldmoon heard her mother's voice while she was in the temple and the goddess and her mother told her a lot of information that is shown. There are things that Sturm's mother says, and it may not be important, but he is the only other character whose experiences in the temple are revealed. Sturm obviously has a destiny that will take up a large portion of the series. It may be later on that this is important but it will remain a mystery for this book.

The disks are explained to be important but the actual reason and what they do, if anything, is unknown. It is a possibility that the disks are simply a powerful talisman or they may be a map, or instructions to something greater. This also will remain unknown for this book.



Book 1: Chapter 17-22

Book 1: Chapter 17-22 Summary

In book one chapter seventeen, the companions awake and get ready to head to the dragon's lair. The companions are traveling down staircases deep within the city when they suddenly come upon a band of gully dwarfs. Tanis and the others decide that the gully dwarfs are being used as slave labor and could probably help them find the dragon's lair. They find a small group traveling down a corridor and Raistlin casts a spell of friendship over them. The gully dwarfs show the companions what they do for the draconians. There is a large chain that goes from the bottom of Xak Tsaroth to the top. The gully dwarfs get in one basket and it goes down and brings up a basket full of draconians as the chain moves. One of the gully dwarfs, a female named Bupu, makes her way to Raistlin. He asks her where the dragon sleeps. Bupu admits that she doesn't know, but says that their great leader Highbulp will know. They head down in a big pot to find the Highbulp, the leader of the gully dwarfs.

Book one chapter eighteen continues, with Bupu showing them a secret passage and taking them deep into Xak Tsaroth to see the Highbulp.

In book one chapter nineteen, they reach the inner city of Xak Tsaroth. While traveling to the Highbulp they are stopped when they see several draconians and the dragon. The dragon is certain that the mortals up top couldn't have gotten away from her but knows that they must be after the disks. She has tried to destroy the disks but they have been unable to find a way to destroy them. The dragon tells the draconian that she can handle the intruders but to be careful of the staff if the intruders are found. When the companions reach the Highbulp he is excited to see them. The Highbulp cannot rule his kingdom the way he wants because of the dragon and he hopes that these men will kill the dragon. He agrees to help them, although they say they don't want to fight the dragon. When they leave, the Highbulp tells one of his men to go see the dragon and give her a message.

Book one chapter twenty begins with the companions working out their plan for getting in and out of the dragon's lair. Raistlin tells Camaron that while they are looking for the disks, Camaron must get a spell book for him that is supposed to be in the dragon's lair since Raistlin has to wait outside and work his magic to give the rest of them time to find the disks without being found. Bupu and Raistlin head to their position when Raistlin suddenly realizes that something has gone wrong, but there is no way to get to Tanis or the others. Tanis and the others are getting into position themselves when Tanis realizes that his elven sight has left him and the dragon is waiting for them in the magically created darkness.

Book one chapter twenty-one continues as the companions decide they have no choice but to enter the dragon's lair. When they enter, the dragon calls forth light and they see that Raistlin is under the dragon's giant claw on the altar and that Bupu is cowering on



the floor in fear. The dragon demands to have the blue crystal staff and Goldmoon begins to bring it to the dragon. Goldmoon has Sturm go with her and demands a promise to do exactly as she says. In front of the dragon, Sturm pretends to comfort Goldmoon and says that he has spotted the disks. Goldmoon strikes the dragon with the blue crystal staff and the crystal shatters, throwing a bright light over the dragon that burns it and consuming Goldmoon. Sturm dives for the disks in the confusion. The dragon falls into a pile of ash but the city of Xak Tsaroth is falling in around them. Raistlin is desperate to find the spell book but cannot. Riverwind refuses to leave with Goldmoon dead and Tanis orders everyone else out. Tanis stays by the tribesman and the others outside wait for them, knowing that they may not come out. Suddenly Riverwind comes out carrying the body of Tanis, who was hit with a falling rock, and they escape to the surface.

In book one chapter twenty-two, the companions make their way to the temple of Mishakal. Here they find that Goldmoon is in the temple and that the staff is back with the statue and that around Goldmoon's neck she wears a necklace with the goddess' emblem on it. The group leaves out, hearing horns signaling the start of the war. In the night while the group camps, Raistlin hears crying and wakes to find Bupu sobbing to herself. She misses her people but cannot stand to leave Raistlin. He assures her that he will be happier if he knows that she is safe and happy with her people. Bupu tries to give Raistlin a gift and he starts to refuse, but finds that Bupu has the magical spell book in her bag that he had been looking for. Bupu kisses Raistlin's hand and runs off. Raistlin stares off toward his home and wakes Tanis up. From where they are camped they can see the fires that are burning the town of Solace.

Book 1: Chapter 17-22 Analysis

Raistlin borders on being cruel to his brother Camaron often. Raistlin is the opposite of his brother in many ways and hates the fact that he has to lean on Camaron for anything. In chapter twenty-two, it appears that Raistlin truly has compassion on Bupu who is a small, unintelligent creature. Bupu won't be seen again in the story, but the fact that Raistlin was so kind to her shows a much softer side of the mage than when he is dealing with any other person in his traveling group.

Goldmoon allows Sturm to go with her to face the dragon but not Riverwind. What she is being told isn't made clear, although it seems that she had a plan from the beginning. Riverwind made sure that Sturm was willing to follow her very explicit instructions before allowing him to continue with her. The fact that she ruled a people for so long may be much of the reason that Goldmoon is able to put aside her fear and do what is needed to be done. If it had been Riverwind or Tanis that had gone with her to talk to the dragon, it is almost certain that they would have tried to have helped Goldmoon rather than go find the disks. Sturm holds his vows very seriously. It is unclear if Mishakal told Goldmoon to take Sturm or if the barbarian princess realized on her own that he would be one of the only ones to help her.



With the destruction of the staff, Goldmoon has proven herself as a faithful steadfast servant of Mishakal and there is no longer a need for the staff. Goldmoon wears the emblem of the goddess now, but it will be seen later in the story that all Goldmoon has to do is pray over a person and they will be healed. Goldmoon has seemingly become the weapon for good and healing by becoming the cleric of Mishakal.

The companions know that Solace is burning. Nothing could compare them for the destruction that they will see when they return home. The sight that Tanis and the others endured when they saw Goldmoon's village was horrible because of the loss of life, but they didn't know those people and it wasn't their home. When the companions return to Solace it will affect them differently because it is their homes and their families. When they return to the burned Solace, they will find much more information about Verminaard and more tales of the dragons that are attacking Krynn.



Book 2: Chapter 1-5

Book 2: Chapter 1-5 Summary

In book two chapter one, Tika is at the Inn of the Last Home scrubbing down the soot-covered counters. When the dragons had started attacking other places, Hederick had told the people that Solace would be safe because of his agreement with Verinaard. The dragons attacking had started without warning and the Inn had only been spared because the draconians enjoyed strong drink. Most of the people in the town had been either killed or taken as slaves to Verminaard's mines.

Book two chapter two explains that Hederick had been rewarded for his support of Verminaard by being one of the first from Solace to go to the slave mines. That night at the Inn a stranger comes in and Tika is serving him when the companions come in. Tika gives Camaron a frown and calls them strangers. Tika gives them an explanation as to what happened in Solace. Tanis and the others are keeping quiet when the stranger gets up to walk over to them. He trips and his hood reveals that he is an elf. The draconians have a deep hatred for the elves and get up debating on whether to kill or arrest him. Tanis and the others intervene along with Tika. Before long they are surrounded by hobgoblins and draconians. They demand to have the things that the travelers carry, including the disks. Raistlin hands them all over but puts a protection spell on them that frightens the guards enough that none are willing to touch the companions' various items.

Book two chapter three has the companions imprisoned in a cage heading toward Pax Tharkas, where Verminaard and the mines are located. The elf from the Inn is named Gilthanas and knows Tanis. Gilthanas explains that Verminaard has sworn to exterminate all the elves. Theros Ironfeld was a man who was helping the elves escape Verminaard. Theros is thrown into the cage with the companions. His right arm is missing and he is bleeding to death. Goldmoon comes over to the man and lays her hand on him and prays to Mishakal. The stump heals over and the wound closes itself. The many different cages of prisoners heading to Pax Tharkas travels through towns that have been destroyed by the dragons. After traveling for days, the caravan comes to a man who is arguing with a tree. He is an old man and is thrown in the cage with the companions. The old man identifies himself as Fizban. Raistlin is ill but opens his eyes to look at the man. There is immediate fear in Raistlin's eyes but the old man passes his hand over Raistlin's face and Raistlin suddenly only looks confused.

In book two chapter four, the caravan suddenly comes under rain of arrows from the woods. A gully dwarf named Sestun who was working with the draconians decides to help the companions because Tas had been kind to him over the past several days. Sestun tries to knock the door open on the cage that holds the companions, but it is Fizban and a fireball spell that melts the door. They are able to escape into the woods after gathering their weapons and items that had been taken from them. Once in the woods the draconians did not follow. Gilthanas tells the others about how Goldmoon



healed Theros. The others from the caravan are free to go where they want but all that were with the companions in their cage are taken to Qualinost, the elven city, as honored guests, although Flint says it is more like honored prisoners.

As book two chapter five continues, the companions reach Qualinost. It is beautiful, just as Tanis remembers it. Gilthanas explains that they are in danger there and all the elves are leaving Qualinost. Tanis and the companions are taken to the Tower to hear the Speaker of the Suns, who is Laurana and Gilthanas's father and the one who raised Tanis after his mother's death. Gilthanas explains to his father how Goldmoon healed Theros. Goldmoon is brought forward and reveals her medallion given to her by Mishakal. The Speaker is angered to see it, crying out that it is blasphemy. The Speaker tries to rip the medallion off her neck. When he touches the medallion it shocks him and throws him to the ground. Fizban steps forward and reprimands the Speaker. The Speaker apologizes, saying he did not recognize hope when he saw it. Laurana comes out to take the companions to where they will sleep and all are entranced by her great beauty. As she walks by she glances only at Tanis.

Book 2: Chapter 1-5 Analysis

There is a large amount of past between Gilthanas and Tanis. It isn't explained until after they are in the cage together. It is there that Tanis recalls the words that he and Gilthanas had over the love that had developed between Gilthanas and Laurana. Even though the elves were willing to accept Tanis as one of their own, in many ways it seems that they were not willing to let him marry one of their own. This rift between Tanis and the other elves, Gilthanas particularly, will continue as the story goes on.

Fizban is an interesting character. It seems that he may be the same old man that was at the Inn at the beginning of the story that made sure that Tanis and the others were certain to be involved with Goldmoon and Riverwind. There is no way to be certain of this, but there are moments that allude to this fact. Fizban acts feeble and foolish but Tanis and Raistlin both know that there is something more about the old man. As the story continues, it will be seen that there is much more to Fizban than is explained.

Tanis has said that he is worried about the relationship developing between Camaron and Tika. There will be other characters that intervene later on in the story. Tanis and Camaron have both thought about the rumors that have been said about Tika. It will never be fully known what these rumors were. Later on in the story, however, Goldmoon and Tika will have a discussion about the fact that Tika has never known a man. It also been seen that Tika knows nothing more about what happens between a man and a woman than what she has heard from the old women that talked in the Inn. Although Tika and Camaron do seem to have a growing affection for each other, the result of these growing feelings will not be expanded on in this book.

The attack on Solace is hard for the individual characters to accept, but the fact that there were so many refugees coming to the town from all over Krynn helped the companions to fit in easily for a short period of time. The draconians are taking



everyone to the slave mines to work. That will eventually be where the companions head and where Verminaard will first be seen.

When Laurana walked past Tanis she glanced at him and only him. This seems to have worried Tanis. He has been gone for an extended period of time from Qualinost. Tanis stated earlier on that it never was home, but simply a place that he lived for a while. It will surprise Tanis in some ways how much he is saddened when he realizes that Qualinost is being abandoned by the elves. Tanis had loved Laurana when he was younger but he had decided that he would go and tell Kitiara that he loves her. Although Tanis has a lot to deal with while on his quest, it won't stop the turmoil that is in his life from coming to the surface.



Book 2: Chapter 6-10

Book 2: Chapter 6-10 Summary

In book two chapter six, Laurana leads the companions to a place to rest. Tanis walks into the woods and Laurana follows him. Tas decides to sneak off and find out what is going on between Tanis and Laurana. In the wooded clearing, Laurana professes her continued love for Tanis. Tanis pushes her away and explains that he is in love with a human woman and that his heart is as divided as his blood is. Laurana is tearful and points out that Tanis is still wearing the ring that she gave him many years ago. Tanis gives the ring back to Laurana and she throws it into the woods as she leaves crying. Tas picks up the ring and quickly makes his way back to the clearing.

As book two chapter seven continues, the elves have a meeting. It is at the meeting that it is explained that while the elves seek to escape that Gilthanas and several other elves are going to the slave mines in an attempt to save some of the men and their families that Verminaard is holding captive. It is believed when the mines are empty of their valuable ores that the men and their captive wives and children will all be killed. Tanis agrees to go with Gilthanas to help him, but insists that the others of his group go with the elves to safety. One by one, each member of the group informs Tanis that their intentions are to follow him regardless of the peril. When Fizban informs Tanis that he will follow Tanis, Tanis suddenly senses a large amount of power around the old man.

Camaron comes to talk to Tanis and says that some of them don't trust Gilthanas. They don't believe Gilthanas's story of escaping the draconians. Tanis dismisses their accusations. That night while Tanis is sleeping, Laurana comes to him to tell her how she feels and begs him to go with her people to safety. Tanis becomes angry and tells Laurana that she must leave and not come to see him again acting like a foolish child. He tells Laurana that there comes a time when you can find something you believe in enough to risk your life for it. Laurana goes back to her room crying.

In book two chapter eight, the elves and the companions get ready to depart. Gilthanas and the companions haven't traveled far when Fizban says that someone is following them in the woods and Sturm stays behind to see. Before long they come to a clearing and find a battle scene with a human, covered in blood and unconscious, in the center of it. The human is Eben and he and Gilthanas had fought together before. They have only a moment to speak when they are surrounded by several draconians. There is a short battle and some of the draconians are able to escape. The companions have Eben come with them. Gilthanas doesn't think Eben can be trusted. As Tanis and Gilthanas are discussing it, Sturm comes up and verifies that they are being followed.

Book two chapter nine has the companions almost to the secret pass they are to take. Sturm comes up and announces that whoever is following them knows enough of the forest to stay clear of Sturm and the others and he has been unable to catch a glimpse of the person. They continue and soon come to a cave where Gilthanas puts in a key



and a stone is moved away, allowing the companions in. It is a burial chamber of a long dead elven king. Once inside, they leave the door open just enough to entice the person following them to enter as well. The companions go into the cave and soon come to a burial chamber. There is a skeletal king on a throne holding a sword. Raistlin says a few words over the sword and determines that it is enchanted and that none should touch it. They are exploring the cave when suddenly they are attacked by a giant slug. It slings paralyzing saliva at each of the humans in an attempt to slow its prey, but they are able to avoid the ooze. Tanis and the others are trying to get out when suddenly Laurana is there running to Tanis. Tanis and Laurana are quickly trapped. Tanis is reaching for a weapon when suddenly he has a sword. He is able to injure the slug enough to get him and Laurana out. Tanis yells at Laurana, though she says that she is in love with him and couldn't bear to lose him again. Tanis puts the new sword on his belt when Raistlin asks Tanis how he got the enchanted sword. Tanis suddenly stops and says that the dead king handed it to him when he was searching for a weapon.

In book two chapter ten, they quickly come to a room where the guards whose spirits protect the king's rest abide. As Goldmoon walks past each one, the spirit is released from its prison. The group goes through several more rooms when they open a door to find the image of a dark elven ghost. As the dark elf materializes, Raistlin has the group run and is able to shut a door soundly behind them with magic. Only after the door is sealed do they realize they are missing both Fizban and Tas.

Book 2: Chapter 6-10 Analysis

Fizban has brief moments where he lets the companions know that he is much more than he pretends to be. It will seem later on in the story that it was necessary for Fizban and Tas to become separated from the group, although at this point the companions believe it to be more from mistakes than forethought that this happened.

Flint continually acts upset with Tas and talks about his immense dislike of Tas. His true feelings regarding Tas will be shown in the following chapters when it is thought that perhaps Tas died at the hands of the dark elf spirit. Raistlin also will seem to feel a loss for Fizban.

Eben is trying very hard to convince Tanis that there is legitimate reason to distrust Gilthanas. Later on in the story it will be confirmed that there is a real traitor in the group. It will also be Tas and Fizban that first discover who this traitor is.

Laurana listened to what Tanis told her but she came up with her own deductions from it. Tanis told her he didn't want to have a relationship with her because of the effect that it would have on her family, among other things. This in some small way seems to have created a small mend in the relationship between Tanis and Gilthanas. It is unknown how Gilthanas reacts when Laurana follows the group. Gilthanas's father obviously thought that there was no chance that his son would come back alive. Laurana states that her father is mourning Gilthanas before he even leaves. In this story there will be no



mention of whether Laurana or Gilthanas are able to get word to their father or their people about how the mission went or who survived or not.

Since this is the first book in the series, there are many different pieces of the conflict that are still being added. It wasn't until half the book was over that Goldmoon knew she was supposed to find someone that is going to lead the people to give the disks to. Fizban is another interesting character that didn't show up until well into the story. Kitiara also seems as though her character could show up later on in the series. There will be many more things introduced in the last few chapters that will seemingly be building blocks for the next books in the series.



Book 2: Chapter 11-15

Book 2: Chapter 11-15 Summary

In book two chapter eleven, Fizban and Tas are working their way up a chain mechanism away from the dark elf. Tanis and many of the others are grieving on the loss of Fizban and Tas, not being sure that they made it out alive. Tanis and the others quickly begin to look over a map. Gilthanas has spies that have told him that the women are kept separate from their children to keep the women in line. The men are kept separate from their families because they won't leave or revolt if their families are kept captive. The children are guarded by a dragon, but there was something odd about the dragon, although the spies did not know what it was.

Meanwhile, Tas and Fizban come to a place where they can spy on Verminaard's quarters. There they see the great dragon Verminaard rides, Pyros, transform into the form of a human to fit easier in the room. Pyros had a secret mission that Verminaard didn't know. Pyros was to search Krynn for a man the dragons called Green Gemstone Man. Two prisoners are brought in. One is the gully dwarf Sestun and the other is the Green Gemstone Man. Pyros has a draconian send word to the traitor traveling with the companions that he is to come and see Pyros without saying anything to Verminaard.

In book two chapter twelve, the companions have dressed themselves as women and have managed to get into the women's cell. The women are eager to help and they say their men will be as well. One of the women explains that the children are being watched by a dragon named Flamestrike. Flamestrike lost her children many years ago in an ancient battle and now believes that the human children she is watching are hers. The women are allowed in groups to go see their men and children each day. This is done to reassure everyone that nothing has been done to their loved ones. Tanis and many of the companions go to the men's cell to convince them to help with an escape. One old Seeker there is ill and Goldmoon heals him. Upon seeing this, the majority of the men agree to the escape plan.

Pyros meets with the traitor in the group but the identity is hidden. Tas and Fizban are hidden far above the dragon and Tas sees who it is that is betraying the group. Pyros tells the traitor about the Green Jeweled man and where to get the man but tells the traitor to not tell Verminaard any of this. Tas listens and then decides that they are going to do something even if it doesn't seem like a very big thing. Tas and Fizban decide to rescue Sestun, the gully dwarf when he is set to be fed to Pyros.

Book two chapter thirteen begins with Tanis realizing that someone has betrayed his group although he doesn't know who. Tanis also realizes that even if their plan has become a trap for them, they cannot back out now because the people are too excited and they won't get another chance. Meanwhile, Fizban and Tas are able to rescue Sestun. They have Sestun safely with them when Verminaard comes in to inform Pyros that the slaves are planning a riot. Before Pyros can say anything, both of them notice



Fizban's hat laying on the floor. Verminaard orders Pyros to capture the spies alive but Pyros knows that they have heard the spy and the news of the Green Jeweled man and therefore must die. Pyros chases them back to the great chain that Fizban and Tas climbed up. Fizban is able to shield Sestun and Tas from the flame of the dragon but not the chain. The links at the top of the mechanism slowly turn white and melt away as the chain and everything on it plummeted to the ground.

In book two chapter fourteen, Tanis and the others, dressed as women, go in to give the children their breakfast and take them out for exercise. When they enter the room they find the dragon, Flamestrike, that is watching the children, to be old and blind. She realizes that Sturm and the others are men there to take the children and begins to cry out that they are to fight her and leave the children alone. Raistlin and Tanis are able to keep Flamestrike busy while the children get out with the other women. When they are outside there is a great crash from a neighboring tower and Flint realizes that it must be something that Tas is responsible for.

When Tas landed at the bottom of the tower he landed in soft feathers. Tas and Sestun are unharmed, but Fizban had died in the fall. Tas deducts that Fizban's spell went wrong. Outside the tower the mechanism once held by the chain is causing the towers to tremble, with the wheels spinning freely. Tanis and the others realize that Pyros and Verminaard have managed to set a trap and Tanis frantically tries to get everyone to the mines to get them to the mountains before they are all killed by Pyros. Suddenly they see Eben running for the mines with no explanation. It is then that Tanis realizes that Eben is the traitor.

Eben goes to the mines and retrieves the man that Pyros had asked for. The man sighs and nods as he runs out of the mine with Eben. Eben and the man arrive at the castle gates and the companions gasp at the green jewel embedded in the man's chest. Just then the mechanism that has been turning freely causes the wall to crumble and Eben and the strange man are buried under large pieces of granite. Pyros and Verminaard fly out to kill the slaves and Pyros screams that he will kill the children. Flamestrike rises from her chamber and goes out to defend her children. When Pyros dodges to miss Flamestrike's attack, Verminaard is thrown from his seat and lands safely on the ground and faces four of the companions.

As book two chapter fifteen begins, the companions are battling Verminaard as Pyros and Flamestrike are engaged in the sky. Verminaard touches Raistlin and Raistlin is engulfed in pain. Camaron rushes to his brother's side, but Verminaard touches him and Camaron is blind. Verminaard is about to kill Sturm when his hand is touched by Goldmoon. Verminaard's prayers to his Dark Queen falter. It is here that the Dark Queen looks up and sees another god that has come to challenge her. The Dark Queen isn't strong enough to withstand this attack yet and so she leaves Verminaard to his own fate. One by one the companions are able to get up with the unholy power of the Dark Queen gone. They each strike Verminaard until he is dead. Overhead Flamestrike and Pyros continue fighting. Pyros flames his breath and melts away Flamestrike's eyes and face but she ignores it, intent on saving her children, and slams Pyros into a mountain



with enough force that it splits the mountain and kills Pyros. It is said that Flamestrike died while talking of her children.

Book 2: Chapter 11-15 Analysis

Verminaard was introduced and ended in just a few short chapters. He never even took off his helmet. Verminaard says that it seems that he knows these people but the reason for this isn't explained. It may have simply been that Verminaard was realizing his destiny when he saw it. Destiny seems to have a strong grasp on the story. However, since the story is part of a series it may be that there is another explanation for this brief remembrance that Verminaard seems to have.

Fizban allowed Tas to know that there are good dragons to fight against the evil dragons, but then Fizban hid the knowledge from Tas's memory. It isn't clear why Fizban works in such odd ways. It appears that Fizban had the power to have saved his own life and to have destroyed Pyros, but for whatever reason chose not to. It is important to note that chicken feathers is what Tas and Sestun landed in when getting away from the dragon when Fizban died.

Eben and the Green Jeweled Man seemingly were killed. There is no explanation given as to why the Dark Queen wanted him but it seems that perhaps the Green Jeweled man is the same man that Goldmoon was supposed to be looking for. The light that came from his chest was described as an unholy light, although this is only mentioned once in the story and if it is explained further it will be in another book. There is a chapter at the very end of the book called 'Song of Huma'. Huma was the knight that had originally followed the great stag, just as Sturm had. Much about Huma is thought to be legend and myth, but in the song of Human it tells about a green light and seems to allude to the fact that this Green Jeweled man might be some form of Huma. There is no answer to this in this story; however, all the companions saw the man die with Eben and the strange man will show up once more in the story.

A lot of things in the story stop at this point and are not explained any more. In the following chapter it will be seen that just because the Dark Queen withdrew from her servant doesn't mean she was defeated. It will be noted that her constellation does not return to the sky.



The Wedding; The Song of Huma

The Wedding; The Song of Huma Summary

In the section titled The Wedding, the old Seeker that Goldmoon healed marries her and Riverwind. There is a celebration and Sturm and Tanis see the man that had died with Eben that had the green jewel in his chest. They go to talk to the man but he disappears. That night Tanis talks with Raistlin. Raistlin sees no hope and sees death and war coming to the land. Raistlin says that if you look at the constellations you will see that the Dark Queen has not returned to where she should be. Raistlin laughs at Tanis when Tanis asks if there is no hope. Raistlin says that there is no hope, that it is unattainable. Tas has been listening and is disheartened to hear that there is no hope and to see that Tanis believes it. Tas decides that there is hope and that the trying and the small things are what matters. Tas thinks of Fizban's sacrifice and the importance of trying and hoping, and a small white chicken feather lands on his nose.

In 'The Song of Huma' it tells the story of what happened to Huma and the dragonlance so many years ago.

The Wedding; The Song of Huma Analysis

Raistlin believes that there is no hope. The reasons that Raistlin says that there is no hope is because they don't have the dragonlance and because more dragons will come. Raistlin has no way to know at this point that Tas has the knowledge that Fizban lead him to. Tas knows that there are good dragons to battle the evil dragons. It is unclear if Raistlin is able to see the positive side of anything.

When Tanis thought that Tas might be dead and they were separated, Tanis explains the importance of Tas. Tas never gives up and is always willing to do something, even if it isn't right. It seems that Tas is what keeps Tanis's spirit up. Raistlin has wise council that Tanis often depends on but it is clear that Raistlin has the capability of bringing Tanis's spirit and hope down to nothing. It is at moments like these that it is easy to forget that Raistlin has any compassion or love within him at all. If it were not for the moment with Bupu when Raistlin was honestly concerned for her happiness it would be easy to assume that Raistlin has no good in him.

The wedding between Riverwind and Goldmoon was important in many ways. It is this union that seems to start something new and gives the people a legitimate reason to rejoice. It is clear that they have a lot to battle still but that there are good and wonderful things still left in their shattered world. Goldmoon's ring, given to her by Riverwind, was made from the wood of Solace. The rings are important symbols as are the things that they are made of. The one ring that the reader doesn't see again is the ring that Tas picked up when Laurana and Tanis argued.



Fizban died from the fall, but the fact that the chicken feather drifted down to Tas's nose so much later may have been something to give Tas hope. The reason for this single chicken feather is unknown. The true identity of Fizban is also unknown. The reason that Sturm and Tanis saw the green jeweled man is also unknown.

The song of Huma is a song that gives the reader information about the dragonlance and the story of Huma. These are events that happened long ago but clearly will be important to the series.



Characters

Tanis

Tanis is seemingly the leader of the companions and often is the character that the point of view comes from during the story. Tanis is half-elf, half-human. His mother had been raped by a human soldier during the chaotic times that occurred after the cataclysm. Tanis had been raised by the elves for many years during his youth and fell in love with Laurana but left when it became apparent that the marriage between her and a half-human was not acceptable. When the story starts, he has decided to tell Raistlin and Camaron's half sister, Kitiara, that he is in love with her, but she never shows up. When Tanis is face-to-face with Laurana, she tries to kiss him, but Tanis explains that his heart is divided just like his blood. Although he obviously has feelings for Laurana, he tries to keep her pushed away because he doesn't want to cause her or her family any more trouble.

Tanis in many respects is the glue that holds the companion group together. This role is thrust upon him, and although some of the others might be able to lead, they all appear to look to Tanis for leadership and direction. Tanis is the only member of the group that is able to talk to Raistlin and knows the darkness that the mage has in his heart. Sturm notes that it is odd that he should follow Tanis so willingly, but realizes that Tanis lives a code that Sturm believes in. Tanis will often want to be shed of his responsibility but cares too much for his friends to let the task fall to anyone else.

Goldmoon

Goldmoon is the chieftain's daughter of her village. Although she and her people are considered barbarians, her beauty is noted by everyone that looks at her. Goldmoon had been forced to care for her people when her father fell ill. She had fallen in love with someone beneath her station, and so the man had been banished on a journey to prove himself and his family. During his absence, Goldmoon was faithful in waiting for him but her role as ruler changed her in some respects. This causes her much grief. She feels bound to the man by her love but he is bound to her by her title. When she marries her love at the end of the story, she renounces her title as chieftain's daughter, although it may not be necessary. Goldmoon finds later in the story that her village and seemingly everyone it was attacked by a dragon and killed.

Goldmoon is chosen to be a cleric of Mishakal. Goldmoon can perform healing and does so often throughout the story. It is her presence and serving Mishakal that balances out the Queen of Darkness and her servant. Although Goldmoon has been a chieftain's daughter for many years and has grown to be strong in many ways, it is clear that she is still frightened and will need the help of the companions.



Raistlin

Raistlin is a mage who is sickly and frail. He sacrificed his own health in order to gain great magical powers. The toll that this has taken on his body is clear for everyone to see and it has had other effects on Raistlin as well. He sees everything around him through eyes that show him the way that things are decaying and dying. Raistlin is forced to depend on his twin brother Camaron's physical strength. This angers Raistlin and he often is snide and hurtful to Camaron. Raistlin craves more magical powers although he is already very powerful. Raistlin isn't trusted by everyone in the group but Tanis seems to believe that Raistlin will be loyal to them, at least as long as it is beneficial to Raistlin.

The only person that Raistlin is kind to during the story is a dim-witted gully dwarf named Bupu. Raistlin had cast a spell on the gully dwarfs so that they would be forced to be friends with him, but he seemed to grow attached to Bupu. Raistlin is very wise in many ways but sees nothing but the negative in the situations around him, presumably because he sees everything in terms of its death.

Camaron

Camaron is Raistlin's twin brother. Camaron isn't always very smart but is very strong and described as a giant of a man. Camaron is protective of his brother and Raistlin's safety is Camaron's first concern. Camaron eventually develops feelings for Tika.

Tasselhoff Burrfoot

Tasselhoff, or Tas, is a kender. They are a small people that look perpetually childlike. Tas is always taking things that don't belong to him because he finds them interesting. He is incapable of feeling fear and often is the comic relief in the story. Flint pretends to hate Tas, but when Tas's life is in danger, Flint and many of the other companions become worried for Tas. Tas always has a map on him of different places and carries a hoopak stick. It is Tas that climbs inside a wicker dragon and helps to free Camaron and the others when they are captured the first time by the draconians.

Flint Fireforge

Flint is a dwarf. He is deathly afraid of water because of a near drowning experience involving Camaron. Flint is grumpy and pretends to hate Tasselhoff; however, when Tas is in danger, Flint shows the depth of his emotion for the kender. Flint feels that he is old but Tanis assures Flint that he needs him along.



Sturm Brightblade

Sturm is a knight, although the order had been disgraced many years ago. Sturm has sworn that he will spend his life restoring the knights, although he does not do so in this book. Sturm has a strict code of honor that he tries to live by and he follows Tanis because Tanis lives such a code, although Tanis is not a knight. Tanis notices that when the Forestmaster speaks about the loss of those that die fulfilling their destiny, that the Forestmaster seems to be looking at Sturm with sadness. Tanis often has to trick Sturm by using the knight's code.

Laurana

Laurana is a very beautiful elf. She and Tanis had promised themselves to each other years ago but Tanis left realizing the trouble with her family and loved ones it would cause. Laurana refuses to accept Tanis's decision, although Tanis tells her he is in love with another woman. Laurana follows Tanis and the others to go and battle the dragons.

Riverwind

Riverwind was in love with the chief's daughter, Goldmoon. Riverwind had been sent on an impossible journey to separate him from Goldmoon. Riverwind found the blue crystal staff and brought it back to Goldmoon and the staff transported them to an area close to Solace where they met with Tanis and the other companions. Riverwind is not quick to trust people but he and Tanis soon come to depend on and trust each other.

Kitiara

Kitiara is not seen in the book but is the half sister of the twins, Camaron and Raistlin. Tanis is in love with Kitiara and is saddened when she sends a letter explaining that she cannot meet with the companions after their five-year separation. Kitiara is a mercenary.

Khisanth

Khisanth is the dragon that injures Riverwind when they arrive at Xak Tsaroth. Khisanth is destroyed by the blue crystal staff that Goldmoon carries.

Fizban

Fizban is a seemingly addle minded old wizard that joins up with the companions. Although he pretends to be simple, it is clear that there is something more to Fizban and he has great power. Fizban dies falling down a shaft with Tas and Sestun, although he does a spell that allows Tas and Sestun to land safely in a pile of feathers.



Bupu

Bupu is a gully dwarf that Raistlin befriends. Although Raistlin acts harsh and hateful to everyone else, he is kind to Bupu and seems to genuinely care for her. Bupu gives Raistlin a magic spell book he had been looking for when she leaves him.

Verminaard

Verminaard is the cleric of the Queen of Darkness. It is him that is giving most of the orders to the draconians and attacking and enslaving all of Krynn. Verminaard is abandoned by his god when Goldmoon touches him and the Queen of Darkness comes face to face with Mishakal.

Pyros

Pyros is the name of the dragon that Verminaard rides. Although the dragon seems to be under Verminaard's control, Pyros has a hidden agenda and is working to accomplish things that Verminaard knows nothing about. Pyros dies when attacked by an older dragon who thinks that Pyros is trying to kill her children.



Objects/Places

Solace

The town where the Inn of the Last Home is located. It is here that many of the refugees come from all over Krynn when the dragons begin attacking. This is the town where Tanis and the others first meet up after five years, and where they are kidnapped after they return from the city of Xak Tsaroth. Much of Solace is destroyed in an attack, although the Inn of the Last Home and several other useful places are spared.

The Inn of the Last Home

This is where the companions go to meet after being apart for five years. It is here that the companions first meet Riverwind and Goldmoon. Tika works here. When the companions return here after going to Xak Tsaroth, they are arrested.

Chicken Feathers

Fizban tries to let down himself, Tas and Sestun while they are escaping the dragon, but instead of making them feather fall he creates a pile of feathers. Fizban dies here, but at the very end of the story while Tas is thinking of Fizban, he sees a single chicken feather float down out of nowhere.

Blue Crystal Staff

The blue crystal staff is being hunted by those that serve the Queen of Darkness so that she can banish it from the world. Goldmoon wields the staff as a cleric of Mishakal. The staff has the power to heal mortal wounds.

Solamnic Knight

Sturm's father was a Solamnic knight. This group of knights had fallen into disgrace long ago. Sturm vows he will restore the knights' honor if he has to give his own life in the process.

Draconians

Draconians are scaly creatures that look like human sized lizards. Some have wings and some can do magic. There are many different kinds and some turn to stone when killed, sealing a weapon in their body if they are impaled. Others will explode or give off



a poisonous gas when killed, thus taking out several people even after they are dead. The Draconians are servants of the Queen of Darkness.

Constellations

The constellations are the first indication that the Queen of Darkness has come to Krynn. Raistlin notices that the Queen of Darkness and the Warrior of Virtue are both constellations missing from the night sky. At the end of the story, after they have killed Verminaard, Raistlin says that the constellation, the Queen of Darkness, has not returned to the sky and she has not yet been defeated.

Herbal Mixture

Raistlin has a terrible cough that causes him to spit up blood. Raistlin will eat no food but will drink this foul smelling liquid. He refuses to let anyone know what goes in it. He got the recipe from an old mage after Raistlin had been so badly hurt while gaining his magical knowledge.

Dragonlance

The dragonlance is the weapon that Huma was said to have used to defeat the dragons so long ago. There is no read indication as to what the dragonlance looks like. The dragonlance was lost when Huma and his dragon fell according to legend.

The Disks of Mishakal

These are the disks that Goldmoon must go to find. They are circular disks made of gleaming platinum. They find the disks in the lair of the dragon. It is unknown what the disks do, although the group knows they are important.

Themes

The Struggle for Power

The struggle for power is a very central theme in the story. Although they are only described together once in the story, the majority of the struggle will come from the two gods that the different sides serve. The two gods are first mentioned when Raistlin realizes that the two constellations are gone from the sky. These two constellations are called the Queen of Darkness and the Valiant Warrior. It seems that the main god that is working against the dragons and the Queen of Darkness is Mishakal. It is unclear what the specific goals of the Queen of Darkness are, but it is known that she wants to have rule and power over all of Krynn and that she works to destroy anyone that might stand in her way of that. When Goldmoon is faced with the cleric of the Queen of Darkness, Verminaard, it is the only time that the gods are seen together and the actual battle seem to be between them.

The struggle for power can be seen in other characters and places in the book as well. The race known as the draconians are after power, as is Verminaard. There is even power struggles that go on between Verminaard and the dragon that he rides, Pyros. A more humorous struggle for power is seen through the actions of the gully dwarfs, although they are capable of helping or hindering Tanis's group as they continue on their journey. There is also a struggle for power that is going on with Raistlin. Raistlin spends much of the time in the story looking for magical books and spells. There seems to be a specific something that Raistlin is looking for, but this will remain a mystery. Raistlin's brother has physical strength which seems to translate to power from Raistlin's point of view. The magic that Raistlin has acquired has taken a toll on Raistlin's physical body to the point that he is forced to depend on his brother. Raistlin is angry because he has to lean on his brother's physical strength, despite the fact that Raistlin has great power. It is unknown what the spell or book that Raistlin is looking for will give him, but it appears that Raistlin believes it will give him power to the point that he won't have to depend on his brother.

Love

There is a theme of love found in the story throughout the various characters. There is the theme of love found between the companions in the form of friendship. While there are some that don't care for each other, they still have a friendship that keeps them together. Flint and Tas often argue, although it is clear that Flint has a deep love for his friend. The depth of Flint's love for Tas is seen when they are separated after the dark elf spirit attacks them. Flint is brought to tears at the thought that Tas might be dead. This same devotion is seen through many of the companions.

Another kind of love seen in the story is the love of family. Tanis has no family and so the author uses Tanis's point of view to show the depth of devotion shown from



Camaron. Although Raistlin seems to hate his brother, it is clear that Camaron is driven by his devotion to Raistlin. There is also a theme of family seen when the companions go into the elven village, and there is a depth of family love that is seen in regards to the old dragon Matafleure when she is attacking Pyros trying to protect the children, remembering the death of her own children.

In addition to these two kinds of love there is a romantic love that is also seen. The first romantic love that is mentioned in the story is between Tanis and Kitiara. Kitiara is never seen in the story but the romance between her and Tanis becomes a focus for Tanis and his behavior. Tanis is in love with Kitiara and intends to tell her he wants to be with her, although she never shows. Later Tanis will also revive feelings that he had for Laurana. Laurana loves Tanis but it is clear that Tanis cares for her family and the impact that their relationship would have on those around them enough to refuse her feelings. While Tanis's romantic relationships are talked of often, it is the love of Goldmoon and Riverwind that will be looked at closely. These two are new to the companion group and so there will be much of their past that is explained to the others. There is a full chapter towards the end of the book that is focused largely on the wedding between Riverwind and Goldmoon.

The Importance of Belief

There is a lot of focus on the importance of belief in the story. Tanis, and many of the other companions, have spent their time looking for the gods of old that are no longer worshiped. There is constant talk of the gods that people serve and the belief that goes along with them. When Goldmoon is spoken to by the goddess, Mishakal, Goldmoon is told it will be important that her faith not fail. There are also others that worship other gods and goddesses. The beliefs that their servants have in them is important for the plot and drive of many of characters in the story.

While religious beliefs seem to be a central theme in the story there are also other beliefs that become important. Often when dragons or other things are mentioned, there is at least one character to talk about how they are nothing more than children's stories. This general lack of belief in the dragons is seen often throughout the story until the beasts are seen and attack much of Krynn. Often the characters don't realize the truth of the stories until they are being told the importance of the belief is easily seen.



Style

Point of View

The story is written in third person point of view in past tense. The companions are often the ones that are shadowed and so the point of view in the story is often told from their point of view. Tanis appears to be the main focus often in the story, but the others will be the ones whose point of view is focused on continually in the story. There will be other characters as well that are shadowed, and so the reader will be able to see the actions and the different motivations that many of the characters have. Some of the characters shadowed will only be seen briefly in the story, but their point of view will add to the overall plot of the story.

The story's point of view is limited to the character being shadowed and while the reader will be able to know many of the character's thoughts, they will be limited so that there are mysteries that the reader won't know until the end of the story. An example of this is when Tas and Fizban are watching the dragon, Pyro, talk to the traitor. Although it is clear that the person has betrayed the companions and that Tas knows who this person is, Tas only comments on the fact that he should not have been surprised. The actual person's identity isn't revealed until a later chapter.

The story has a lot of inner dialogue and description that explains past events since much of what has set the story into motion happened years ago during the cataclysm. In addition to this there is also a lot of character dialogue. All of this will show how the characters have changed in each other's eyes over the past several years and how they deal with the situations that are occurring.

Setting

The story takes place in the fictional world of Krynn. The inhabitants of Krynn include humans, elves, dwarfs, kender and many other mythical creatures. Some of the creatures and things are already known, but others, such as kender and draconians, will have to be explained by the author. The world is fictional but there is a great deal of background given on the world giving it more substance and history. There is also a map included in the book that gives the reader a better understanding of where the characters in the story will travel. There are many different places that the characters will go and the author will give each a detailed description of what the characters are seeing although sometimes the description is limited because of the character's lack of knowledge.

During the story, the group of companions will travel from Solace to other places, including ancient lost cities underground, and even an elven city. Since the characters are on a quest, they will travel through vast portions of Krynn. At the beginning of the chapters, short illustrations are given. Some of these illustrations depict the places that



the companions are going, giving the reader a better understanding of their surroundings.

Language and Meaning

The language in the story is rather straightforward when it comes from the majority of the characters. There are exceptions to this such as the gully dwarfs. These characters are uneducated and looked at to be of low intelligence. When the gully dwarfs are speaking, the main characters have a hard time understanding what the gully dwarfs are actually referring to. Although their language is designed to show their low intelligence, the meaning is easily understood, often with the help of the observations of the other characters. There are differences in the other characters that travel as well. Sturm is a knight and often talks in a more formal manner than many of the other characters.

There are also songs and verses in the story that are used to give the reader background or foreshadowing in regards to the story. The first section in the book is titled 'Canticle of the Dragon'. There is no explanation as to where the song is found or who is relaying it to the reader but it is structured so that it is easily read. In addition to this, there is a short piece at the very end titled 'Song of Huma'. It is much like the 'Canticle of the Dragon' in that it has no explanation given with the song and the structures closely resemble each other. While some of the songs and stories in the book are easily read, they often foreshadow future events and so will be vague. It will be seen that pieces of the songs may make more sense after the reader has already read the story.

Structure

The story consists of 444 pages. It is broken into two books and then each book is further divided into chapters. The books are not named but the chapters will have short sentences or words that indicate what is going to happen in that chapter. There are sections in the book that aren't numbered, only named. These sections are found at the very beginning and the very end. The ones at the very beginning happen before the cast of main characters are introduced and seem to serve the purpose of a prelude. The sections at the end of the story that are not numbered give an end to the story and a hint as to what has happened to the dragonlance. This book is the first in a series and so there are many plots that are left open. Each of the characters has personal conflicts within themselves that will most likely be resolved in other books. At the end of the story it is explained that the Queen of Darkness has not been defeated. While it is unclear what the next plan of the Queen of Darkness is, it is clear that it involves more dragons and that there are perhaps good dragons to help battle the evil. Fizban also appears to be much more than what he pretends to be. Fizban dies in the book, but there is a moment at the end of the story that suggests perhaps he isn't dead after all. There is also a man with a green jewel in his chest. He is seen only for a few moments in the story but it seems that he will be a pivotal character later in the series.

There is also a map in the story to help the reader further understand the fictional land that the companions must journey through. In addition, there is a page that contains the basic information of many of the main characters in the story. Since the story begins with the characters already developed, this will help the reader understand more about the individual motivations of these characters to an extent.



Quotes

"But then Tanis was only half-elven, a child of violence, his mother having been raped by a human warrior during one of the many wars that had divided the different races of Krynn in the chaotic years following the Cataclysm." Book: 1, Chap. 1, p. 13

"The constellation known as the Queen of Darkness and the one called Valiant Warrior. Both are gone." Book 1, Chap. 5, p. 58

"Both of them knew that kendens did not feel the emotion of fear, yet were extremely sensitive to other creatures' natures. Tanis couldn't remember when the sight of any being on Krynn had ever given Tas an "eerie feeling"- and he had been with the kender in some tight spots." Book 1, Chap. 7, p. 76

"It had scaly flesh of a reptile; its large hands and feet were clawed, but it walked upright in the manner of men." Book 1, Chap. 8, p. 83

"Standing in front of his family's ruined castle, Sturm vowed that he would restore the honor of the Knights of Solamnia-if it meant that he must sacrifice his life in the attempt." Book 1, Chap, 9, p. 94

"It seemed to Tanis that the Forestmaster's dark eyes went to Sturm as she spoke, and there was a deep sadness in them that filled the half-elf's heart with cold fear." Book 1 Chap. 11 pp. 120-121

"Tanis, in those first few moments when the blood seemed to drain from his body, leaving him limp and lifeless, looked at the dragon as it burst forth from the well and thought, 'How beautiful...how beautiful...'" Book 1, Chap. 15 p. 169

"The attack on Solace had come without warning." Book 2, Chap. 1, p. 268

"Lord Verminaard had rewarded the High Theocrat's service by placing him among the first to be sent to the slave mines." Book 2, Chap. 2, p. 273

"For an instant it seemed Raistlin knew the old man, then Fizban passed his hand over the mage's eyes. The look of terror subsided, replaced by confusion." Book 2, Chap. 3, p. 295

"Verminaard worships the Queen of Darkness as I worship Mishakal: that is what Mishakal meant when she said we were to restore the balance." Book 2, Chap. 11, p. 378

"There were good dragons in the world, if they could be found, who would help fight the evil dragons, and there was-" Book 2, Chap. 12, p. 391

"Impaled in the man's flesh, in the center of his chest, was a brilliant green jewel!" Book 2, Chap. 14, p. 422



"In later years when the Death of Flamestrike was legend, there were those who claimed to have heard a dragon's voice fade away like smoke on an autumn wind, whispering: 'My children...'" Book 2, Chap. 22, p. 430

"But until now it had never occurred to the kender that all this might be for nothing, that it might not make any difference, that they might suffer and lose people they loved like Fizban, and the dragons would still win in the end." Book 2, The Wedding, p. 439

"That's what's important, the trying and the hoping. Maybe that's most important of all." Book 2, The Wedding, p. 439



Topics for Discussion

Discuss family bonds. In what ways do Raistlin and Camaron seem to have a close relationship? Describe Raistlin's feelings toward Camaron. Describe Camaron's feelings toward Raistlin.

Why does Tanis refuse to return Laurana's feelings when they are reunited? What does this say about Tanis?

What are the differences between Laurana and Kitiara? Speculate on what these two women could have in common that enables Tanis to be in love with them despite their obvious differences.

It says at the end of the story that there was a change that had come over Tas after the death of Fizban although it was unnoticed. Speculate on what this change could have been. Explain what the reason for this change was.

What is hope? Why does Raistlin say there is no hope?

Describe Tanis's personality. Why do all the others seem to follow him so willingly?

What purpose did Fizban have for showing Tas the truth of the fact that there are good dragons to fight the evil dragons and then casting a spell to make Tas forget this information?

Explain the importance of a wedding ring. Why did Riverwind make Goldmoon's wedding ring out of the wood from a branch that came from Solace?

Why was Raistlin able to be so kind to Bupu when he was so angry and sullen with Camaron? What is the importance of Bupu in the story?

Why was Sturm unwilling to accept the thought that dragons might be real? Why were the companions so willing to follow Sturm when he was seeing the white stag although no one else could see it?