

Eragon: Inheritance Book One Study Guide

Eragon: Inheritance Book One by Christopher Paolini

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Plot Summary

A boy named Eragon finds a dragon egg in the wilderness one day, and once his dragon hatches, it sets him off on a journey that will take him across the land of Alagalsia and beyond. Eragon acquires magical powers and a teacher named Brom, but he becomes wanted by the king for his powers as a Dragon Rider. Eragon and Saphira travel outside the boundaries of their land to fight on the side of the Varden, the enemies of the king. Eragon is able to kill a powerful wizard, the Shade named Durza, and save the Varden and the dwarves.

Eragon finds a rock while hunting in the wilderness in the Kingdom of Alagalsia. He brings the rock home to his uncle's farm, near the village of Carvahall, and asks everyone for their opinions about the rock, but no one knows what it is.

One day, the rock finally begins to crack open, and a dragon is born. Eragon puts his hand on the newborn dragon and a bolt of energy racks his body, making a silver, oval-shaped scar on the palm of his hand. Eragon hides the dragon from his uncle and cousin, and it grows quickly.

There are strangers in the town questioning the villagers about the egg, and Eragon flees. Saphira the dragon and Eragon flee, and when they return, they find Eragon's farmhouse in ruins and his uncle mortally wounded. After Eragon recovers from the shock, he decides to leave Carvahall with Saphira and Brom, who knows about Saphira's existence.

Brom and Eragon set out to search for and kill the Ra'zac, the beings responsible for killing Garrow. Brom teaches Eragon the magical knowledge from the secret elven language that will make Eragon and Saphira together very powerful.

Eragon finds a poisonous oil, so he and Brom decide to journey to the coastal city of Teirm to trace its destination. At Teirm, the witch, Angela, tells Eragon his fortune. She tells Eragon that he will live a long time, but he will have to leave Alagalsia. Eragon develops more of his magical powers while at Teirm.

Brom and Eragon travel to Dras-Leona. They find that the Ra'zac are hiding there, but their enemy finds Eragon first. Although Eragon and Brom are able to escape their enemies initially, the Ra'zac in Dras-Leona surprise Eragon and Brom, holding them hostage. The two are rescued by Murtagh, but Brom is mortally wounded by the Ra'zac. Brom dies, and Eragon buries his teacher and mentor.

Murtagh and Eragon travel on to the town of Gil'ead where they are ambushed by Urgals, and Eragon is captured while Murtagh and Saphira escape. In captivity, Eragon is drugged and confronted by the Shade, who also holds the elf woman. Murtagh and Saphira break Eragon out of the prison, and they bring the unconscious elf with them.



On the run from Urgals and soldiers, Eragon, Saphira, and Murtagh make their way through a small part of the massive Hadarac Desert. Eragon learns the Varden are located there. They are chased by Urgals to the entrance of the Varden and pulled into the mighty mountain of Farthen Dyr, which contains the marble city of Tronjheim.

Eragon meets with the leader of the Varden Ajihad and with King Hrothgar, the leader of the dwarves. Later, he tests his abilities with Arya the elf after she recovers from her poisoning by the Shade Durza. The Urgals invade at Farthen Dyr, and Eragon and Saphira are enlisted to fight off the monsters. The Shade Durza appears with the invading Urgals, and Eragon fights him to his death. Wounded and scarred in his fight, Eragon is visited by a vision that instructs him to go to Ellesmyra, the land of the elves, and he makes a promise to do just that.



Prologue: Shade of Fear

Prologue: Shade of Fear Summary

A Shade is a being that is not human, and it senses danger with extra senses and glowing eyes while in the woods. Nearby, 12 Urgals, heavily armed monsters with horns on their heads and bowed legs, search for an unseen enemy.

The monsters shiver while they search in the dark and cold forest. The Shade unsheathes his sword and continues to wait, hissing at the Urgals for quiet. Three white horses are cantering into the area. Atop the horses sit three elves, two males and a female with raven hair. They are all armed with powerful bows, and the female also possesses a sword.

The Shade and the Urgals spy the elves, and the foul-smelling monsters take down the two male elves with powerful strikes from their bows. The female elf escapes, with the Urgals in pursuit. The Shade cries out in a magic language from atop a rock, and the forest explodes into flames as he watches with satisfaction.

The female elf is still loose, and the Shade jumps and appears in front of her. With the Urgals behind her, she is trapped. As they move in to apprehend the elf, she produces a large sapphire stone and holds it in the air. They stop as the Shade screams out a magic word to take what she holds, but it is too late; the stone has vanished.

The Shade is enraged by the loss of the stone, so he kills the Urgals instantly and approaches the elf. He ties her to his horse, and they gallop away.

Prologue: Shade of Fear Analysis

The Prologue to the story begins in the woods, with foul-smelling brutes called Urgals and a person who seems human but is not, a vengeful, magically powered being called a Shade. The Shade tolerates the Urgals because they serve a purpose, which is to do the brute work of the mission. Beyond brutal, the Urgals smell horrible and are bow-legged. They do not seem to think; they are more like killing machines built merely to serve an evil purpose.

The reader is served notice in the Prologue that this story will involve magic. Not only magic, but also magical beings populate it as well. Elves enter the picture as the three riders canter into the forest only to be met by the arrows of the Urgals, which kill two of the three elves.

The remaining elf flees, but she is caught by the Urgals. She pulls a sapphire stone from her bag, and as the Shade screams a word, she releases the rock, and it is gone. The reader knows that this rock holds special importance to the story, and that it will revisit it soon.



It is also clear that the elf and the Shade will appear again. Other magical characters may appear, since the reader is introduced to such characters in the Prologue. There is also a foreshadowing of brute violence in the Prologue. Will there be wars and the violence that comes with such scenes?



Discovery

Discovery Summary

Eragon, a 15-year-old boy is alone in the wilderness in the land of Alagalsia. He is a year away from becoming a man, and he is hunting for food for his family in an area called the Spine. He is hunting for a doe with a bow in the moonlight. He spots the doe and creeps slowly to her. As he is about to strike, an explosion rips through the forest.

Where the explosion hits, the grass smolders in a circle, and the trees are bare of their needles from the blast. Eragon releases the tension on his bow and slowly walks to the site of the explosion. He sees that the cause is a stone. He carefully looks at the stone, touching it with his bow. Finding that it is not dangerous, he picks it up.

The rock is polished and dark blue with thin white veins that spread throughout. It is hard, but smooth to the touch. Eragon is unsure about what to do with this stone or where it came from. Thinking that the stone may be worth money, he puts it into his pack. In the glen, Eragon parks his pack and sleeps for the night.

Discovery Analysis

The reader meets Eragon, a 15-year-old boy as he hunts for deer. As he is about to shoot one with his bow, an explosion rips through the forest. What caused this explosion? He approaches it warily and pokes at the rock that has landed in the clearing between the now-charred trees.

The rock is blue "except for thin veins of white spider webbed across it." (Page 7) This must be the sapphire stone with which the elf had fled before she was taken by the Shade. The Shade had been eager to gain custody of the stone, and he was very angry at losing it. Now Eragon has it, but he does not know what he possesses.

An air of foreboding hangs about Eragon. He is young at 15 and brave because he hunts in the Spine, a place where few would dare to go. He must be a responsible person as well because his family depends on him to bring home meat.



Palancar Valley

Palancar Valley Summary

The following day, Eragon must return home empty-handed. He hikes his way out of the Spine, a place where not even King Galbatorix would send his army. Eragon is one who, unlike most, does not fear the Spine, although he knows it is a place in which he must be careful because unexpected things, like his finding the stone, happen there.

Eragon takes 2 days to hike out of the Spine and to find his way to reach the ridge above the Palancar Valley. He sees smoke rising above Carvahall, his isolated village. He descends the mountain, making his way to the butcher shop to buy meat for his family. Sloan, the butcher, welcomes him with derision, asking if he has brought back any meat from his hunt.

Eragon answers that he failed in his hunt, but that he wants to purchase meat instead. Sloan asks to see Eragon's money, but the boy has none. Eragon replies that he will pay with the rock he found, but neither of them knows how much the blue rock is worth. Sloan offers three crowns, and Eragon rejects the offer. Sloan tells Eragon to wait until the traders arrive, so that a merchant specializing in gems will be able to determine its value.

Frustrated, Eragon decides to take the small amount of coin for the rock. Turning to retrieve the meat, Sloan asks Eragon where he found the rock, and Eragon tells him that he found it in the Spine. Sloan then orders Eragon out of his shop. Sloan refuses to accept anything brought from the Spine. They are growing angrier as Sloan brandishes his carving knife threateningly.

Into the shop comes Katrina, Sloan's 16-year-old daughter, with a large man named Horst, who is the village's blacksmith. Horst commands Sloan to be quiet. Horst hears both sides of the dispute, and Sloan refuses to take the trade of the stone for meat. Katrina appeals to her father, but he rebuffs her and commands her to go back to their house.

Horst then asks for Sloan's best roasts and steaks, enough to fill Eragon's pack. Sloan hesitates, but then he chops the meat and packs it for Eragon. Out of the shop, Eragon thanks Horst, but the smith is happy that he was able to humiliate Sloan. Eragon is still puzzled as to Sloan's reaction to him, and Horst tells him to ask his uncle who knows more about the situation. Horst tells Eragon to come by the smith's shop to work as an assistant to work off the debt for the meat.

As he is leaving, Eragon remembers that he must pass on a message to Katrina from his cousin, Roran. Roran will be coming to town when the merchants pass through Carvahall, and Eragon was to relate from his cousin that Katrina "is the most beautiful girl in the world and that he [Roran] thinks of nothing else." (Page 15)



After delivering his cousin's message, Eragon makes his way to his uncle's farm 10 miles outside the village. Eragon arrives there, and his Uncle Garrow greets him in his usual sullen manner. Garrow questions Eragon about the meat given to him by Sloan. Garrow becomes angry because he assumes Eragon received the meat through charity. Eragon tells him that Horst agreed to take Eragon on as an assistant in the spring.

Eragon assures his uncle that he will try to find the time to work for the smith, even with the great amount of work to be done on the farm. Eragon shows Garrow the stone he found in the Spine, and his uncle examines it curiously. Eragon asks Garrow why Sloan had been so angry, and Garrow explains that Sloan's wife, Ismira, died in the Spine, but Garrow also acknowledges that it has to be more than that to make the butcher refuse payment.

Palancar Valley Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon descends from the Spine into the Palancar Valley, the valley where his village, Carvahall, lies. He heads to the butcher shop to try to buy some meat from Sloan, the butcher. Sloan meets him with disdain and sarcasm. Eragon takes out the stone to see whether Sloan will take it for as much meat as he can get.

Once Sloan learns that Eragon found the stone in the Spine, he grows angry and demands that Eragon leave the shop at once. He even brandishes one of his knives at Eragon as Sloan's daughter, Katrina, and the blacksmith, Horst, enter. Katrina is on Eragon's side, but her father dismisses her and commands that she go home. Horst orders Sloan to give Eragon his best meats on Horst's credit.

Sloan reluctantly gives in and chops up roasts and steaks and gives them to Eragon. Eragon thanks Horst profusely, and they come to an agreement whereby Eragon will work as an assistant for Horst in the man's blacksmith shop. Eragon then gives Horst a message meant for Katrina from Eragon's cousin, Roran. Eragon blushes as he gives the big burly man the love note.

Eragon makes his way home, and as he expected, his Uncle Garrow is not happy that Eragon had seemingly accepted charity. Eragon explains, however, the understanding he and Horst had made. Then he shows Garrow the rock he found in the Spine and his uncle becomes more than curious: "The hungry look on his face became ravenous, and his finger moved with a strange twitch." (Page 17)

Garrow tells Eragon that Sloan's wife died in the Spine, but there still must be more to Sloan's anger than that. Sloan is a merchant, and merchants are not likely to refuse payments. Why did Sloan refuse the rock? Does Sloan know something Garrow and Eragon do not?

The reader is unsure whether there is a conspiracy of some sort that Sloan is aware of and Eragon is not, but there is certainly something extraordinary about the rock. Sloan's reaction when hearing that it comes from the Spine shows that he has something to hide.



Dragon Tales

Dragon Tales Summary

Eragon adjusts to life back at his family's farm with his cousin, Roran, and his uncle. Roran asks whether Eragon was able to give the message to Katrina. Roran becomes upset when Eragon tells him that he told Horst to give the girl the message. Eragon assures his cousin that Horst will not tell the whole village.

The three men work to harvest the crops of squash, beets, and peas. Days later, a blizzard blows in and covers the land in snow. Garrow grows worried that the traders and merchants who annually visit the village will not be able to make their visit. Days after the blizzard, Eragon spots tracks made by the traders on their way to the village. They pack their things excitedly to sell to the traders and make their way for the village.

Arriving at the village, Roran gives Eragon coins to spend, and the uncle sets off to do his business. Eragon intends to speak with a merchant about the value of the stone, and he notices that the traders look less prosperous than they did the year before. The children seem scared, and the adults look wary. He searches for Merlock, a trader specializing in jewelry.

Merlock takes Eragon and Garrow to a private tent where he is able to examine the stone without others' noticing. Merlock examines the stone, and he is unable to tell Garrow and Eragon what it is or how much it is worth. He tells them that it is harder than any rock he has ever seen. Then the trader tells Garrow and Eragon that the stone is hollow. He takes out a blade and slaps the stone, and the sound is harmonious and fills the tent.

Merlock reiterates that he does not know the value of the stone, and he then proceeds to inform both Eragon and Garrow about the troubles that have befallen the traders: "Chaos seems to rule Alagalsia. We could not avoid illness, attacks, and the most cursed black luck." (Page 25) Because there were attacks by the enemy, the king has been forced to send out his army to combat foes, such as the Urgals in the desert. The Urgals are sacking whole villages, and many people have been forced to flee.

Upon leaving the tent, Eragon asks his uncle whether he believes Merlock's tale. Garrow is unsure, and he sets off to find more information. Eragon is able to go and enjoy a free day. Inside a tavern, he hears more tales of what is happening in the kingdom. He hears that rebels, the Varden, have aligned with the Urgals to fight against the king. Traders are loudly speaking about how much the king is protecting all his people, much to the disdain of many villagers in the tavern.

The argument continues in the tavern as the two traders try to make the case for the empire, but the villagers are very suspicious about their intentions. Eragon challenges the men to prove what they say is correct. They chide him for speaking without respect,



but they only partially answer his question. The people of Carvahall have a deep hatred for the king and his empire. It is a hatred going back for generations. As the tension rises in the tavern, Eragon leaves to meet his uncle.

Later, Eragon listens to the storyteller, Brom, who tells of the nearly immortal Dragon Riders. Their mission was to protect the king, and they made allies of the elves and dwarves. The people prospered and were happy, but it did not last. A rider named Galbatorix became very powerful, but one day his dragon was slain. He became mad, and he wandered the land searching for another dragon to regain his greatness. The Riders saw him as evil and denied him a dragon.

Galbatorix, however, persuaded one Rider to assist him and another Rider, Morzan, to leave a gate open. Galbatorix rode through the gate and made off with a young dragon. Galbatorix rode with Morzan and fought the Riders for power. Others joined the two, and they became the Thirteen Forsworn. They fought and slew the Riders and many elves, and finally after defeating King Vrael, Galbatorix took the throne and anointed him king of Alagalsia.

Dragon Tales Analysis

The long-awaited day arrives when the traders finally come to Carvahall. It is a day to do business and to have fun, but is also a day when Eragon attempts to determine the value, if any, of his stone. Merlock tells Garrow and Eragon that the stone is hollow and not made by people. He does not know its value, however.

Eragon learns from Merlock all the trouble that is afoot in Alagalsia. He then heads for the tavern and hears more tales from two men who seem to be there to spread propaganda. They tell the assembled villagers that the Empire is there to protect them, but the villagers are having none of it. They sneer at the men, and a fight nearly breaks out in the tavern. There is much tension between the men who promote the king and the people of Carvahall.

Even Eragon chimes in and demands proof that the men are not lying. They decline to provide any more details and insult Eragon for his seemingly rude manner. Eragon is unafraid to speak up, even in the tensest of moments with adults. He has not achieved adulthood, and yet he speaks to men in this manner. The villagers do not seem to mind, however.

Later, Eragon ventures to listen to the storyteller, Brom, tell about the origination of the Dragon Riders and of the king, Galbatorix. He tells of Galbatorix nearly getting killed and his dragon dying in his arms. The death of his dragon drives him insane, and he plots to regain power within Alagalsia.

Galbatorix slays other Riders and their dragons and plots to become king. He convinces Morzan, who is weak of mind, to open the dragon hold he is guarding, and Galbatorix steals a dragon. He later kills the king and assumes the throne.



Galbatorix came to power in an evil manner and by using magic of the mind. There must be more to the story than just horses and villages. The reader hears about the golden time when humans were at peace with the elves and dwarves and when everyone prospered and was happy. Will the characters in this story seek to return to that time?

At the close of the chapter, Garrow mentions to Eragon that Brom would be imprisoned if people from the Empire learned that he was telling the story of the Riders and of King Galbatorix. It is a forbidden story probably because it tells of the king's madness and his cunning.



Fate's Gift

Fate's Gift Summary

As they return from Carvahall to the farm, Eragon decides to test the stone by hitting it with a mallet, a heavy hammer, and a chisel. All three produce various sounds. As the sound dies away, Eragon hears a squeak from within. He remembers that Merlock told him that it is hollow, but he hears nothing.

That night he jolts from sleep and is alarmed another squeak that breaks the quiet of the night. He lights a candle to see where the sound is coming from. He sees nothing that could possibly make such a noise. Then he looks down at the stone and hears another loud squeak. Deciding that he will deal with it in the morning, Eragon places the stone under his bed and climbs back in to sleep.

Waking with another start, Eragon feels the stone rocking beneath the bed. Deciding to bury it in the forest before it becomes more trouble, Eragon picks it up, but it abruptly drops out of his hands and cracks. More cracks appear, and soon a dark head appears, followed by an oddly shaped body. Finally, the creature breaches the stone altogether: "Eragon recoiled in shock. Standing in front of him, licking off the membrane that encased it, was a dragon." (Page 37)

Fate's Gift Analysis

In this brief chapter, Eragon ponders the stone. He knows it is hollow, so he tries hitting it with various tools. He tries a hammer and a chisel. Finally, he hears a sound that is different than merely the sound of stone - he hears a squeak. The squeak becomes louder through the night.

Eragon is awoken during the night by the sound of the stone, but he is unsure at first from where it is emanating. He decides he would rather sleep, though, so he puts the stone under his bed and goes back to sleep. Later, he wakes up with a start at the sound of the rocking stone. This time he picks it up to examine it, and it cracks. The cracks multiply, and finally, out pops what shocks him - a dragon.

The reader has just heard the tales from Brom, the Storyteller, about the Dragon Riders and out pops Eragon's very own dragon. Is the adventure he is surely to have in the story going to happen with his dragon? Will he reveal the beast to his uncle and cousin?

The dragon will bring problems to young Eragon, no doubt, and surely the king, who stole his own dragon, will want to hear about the boy in far off Carvahall who came by a dragon egg while hunting in the Spine. This dragon is sure to take him on many dangerous adventures.



Awakening

Awakening Summary

It is a small, yet beautifully colored dragon, with blue sapphires covering it. Eragon now realizes that it was not a stone that landed in the forest; it is an egg. The dragon has sharp fangs and claws and spikes running down its back. The dragon watches Eragon closely, and then decides to explore the room in which it was born.

Eragon reaches out to the dragon slowly, and as he touches it, he feels a blast of energy inside his body. He recoils with pain and agony, a scream ripping through his mind. A moment later an oval shape appears on his hand, in the middle of his palm. Eragon thinks about what occurred, and he realizes that something touched his mind, but he does not know what.

Eragon touches the dragon again, but this time nothing violent occurs. He feels a slight electric jolt when touching it, and he can feel an emotion that does not belong to him. He feels a hunger that must belong to the dragon. He brings it meat, which it devours. Eragon lies next to the dragon and thinks about what it means for him to have one. He could never kill it because dragons are sacred animals. Having one could get him and his family in trouble. He decides that he must raise the dragon in secret, away from his uncle and cousin.

In the morning, Eragon takes the dragon outside to find a place to keep it. He builds a small enclosure in the forest for it to have shelter. In his mind, Eragon tells the dragon to stay, and he feels its consciousness respond. Soon, Eragon sees that the dragon is able to survive on its own in the wilderness. Days go by, and Eragon spends much time with the dragon.

The dragon is growing quickly, and Eragon worries about its safety alone in the woods. As it continues to grow, Eragon lets it roam on its own. With the growth of the dragon comes the expanding silent communication between the two of them. Their contact with each other can be maintained over long distances. The dragon grows and becomes fierce, with teeth like daggers and scales like armor.

Eragon worries that his cousin and uncle will discover the dragon's tracks and large claw markings, so he labors to hide them. He walks to the woods to see the dragon, and he sees it soaring through the air. It is high in the sky, and he feels its connection with his mind, and it is calling him by name. He feels the dragon is not just an animal, but a part of who he is.

Awakening Analysis

Eragon is shocked that the rock he had puzzled over is not a rock at all; it is an egg. The dragon claws its way out of the egg and begins life with Eragon. Eragon touches



the dragon and a massive jolt surges through his body. It knocks him down and leaves a scar shaped like an oval on his hand. He feels something touch his mind during this moment, and perhaps it is the dragon's mind that he felt.

The dragon's growth is rapid. He takes the dragon out to the forest where he makes a place for it. He is nervous that his uncle and cousin may discover it or the fact that he is taking food away from his family to where it is tied up.

The dragon is growing by leaps and bounds, and with every bit of growth, its communication with Eragon improves. Soon, they are able to speak with each other silently, even when they are three leagues apart.

Eragon labors to hide his growing dragon. It is becoming fiercer with teeth like daggers and scales that protect it like chain-mail armor. The dragon is soon able to survive on its own by hunting small animals. This is a relief for Eragon because he is afraid of being caught bringing it food. It flies to the Spine to hunt, where it will not be seen by villagers.

Eragon walks to the forest one day and sees the dragon soaring high in the air. The connection between them seems to be strengthening to the point where he considers it not as an animal, but a magical creature who is an equal.

The reader learns how important the dragon will be to Eragon. It is not a pet or a mere animal that he must take care of, it is a creature of magic, with a virtually unbreakable connection to him.



Tea for Two

Tea for Two Summary

Seeking answers about dragons, Eragon heads to Brom the Storyteller's house. Brom has a white beard and a hooked nose and is gruff and impatient with Eragon's many questions. They sit by the fire to have their conversation. Eragon asks about the Dragon Riders and while puffing on his pipe, Brom begins to tell.

The Riders once ruled all the lands of the Empire. Dragons began at the creation of Alagasia itself; they have been around since the beginning. Elves are truly alive, Brom tells Eragon after the boy interrupts the storyteller and are often called the fair folk because they are more graceful than people.

Once, the elves and dragons had fought against each other, and the war lasted for 5 years until one day, an elf called Eragon found a dragon egg. Brom looks at Eragon, who has a surprised look on his face. Eragon has never heard of his namesake. The elf, Eragon, raised his dragon in secret, and eventually, they traveled together and convinced the dragons to live in peace with the elves.

Brom and Eragon discuss what became of the dwarves, and Brom tells Eragon that none of the dwarves have been seen in years and that they have sealed themselves underground to avoid the reach of the Empire. The dragons have hidden themselves as well. Eragon asks Brom about the size of dragons, and he tells Eragon that some became as large as a house with wingspans of 100 feet.

Eragon is taken aback by this knowledge. He is unsure how he will hide his dragon if it becomes that large. Eragon tells Brom that he has heard that the scales that cover a dragon are gem-like. Brom asks who told him this, and Eragon answers that a trader told him. Brom demands to know, but Eragon pretends not to remember.

Brom tells Eragon that dragons can live for hundreds of years and that they are magical enough to affect the living beings around them. A Rider will also acquire pointed ears and be stronger and quicker of mind than humans who are not dragon riders. Eragon persists in asking how the dragons could be as smart as people.

Eragon asks Brom about dragon names. He is searching for a name for his dragon and Brom offers names of some ancient dragons. The last name Brom gives to Eragon is Saphira. Eragon then leaves Brom's house, having gained much valuable information about dragons and their history.

Tea for Two Analysis

Eragon and his uncle head into town. Eragon goes to Brom the storyteller's house to quiz the old man about dragons and their history. The old man is gruff, he grows



impatient with Eragon's incessant questioning, but he is also very learned and a good teacher.

Brom tells Eragon about how elves and dragons were enemies after an elf had hunted a dragon. This event plunged the elves and dragons into years of bloody war. The war went back and forth until an elf named Eragon found a dragon's egg. He raised the dragon, and together they convinced the elves and dragons to live in peace. Eragon was taken aback by the knowledge that not only had an elf shared his name, but, like him, the elf had found a dragon's egg.

Eragon queries Brom about other magical figures, like the dwarves. The dwarves are no longer seen because they buried themselves in a mountain somewhere so they did not have to fight. Dragons can grow to be as large as houses, Brom tells Eragon. Their wingspans can be 100 feet long. Eragon reels at this information, and he is worried that he will not be able to hide any dragon this large!

As Eragon is pondering the size to which his dragon may grow, Brom tells him that the Riders and their dragons sometimes lived to be hundreds of years old. Eragon wonders how a human could live to be so old, and Brom reminds him that dragons are magical creatures, and around them supernatural events take place.

It is becoming increasingly apparent to Eragon that owning a dragon will change his life forever. Before leaving, he asks Brom about dragon names. The last name on the list Brom gives him is Saphira, a name that appeals to Eragon.



A Name of Power

A Name of Power Summary

As Eragon and his cousin Roran leave Carvahall, Eragon's cousin tells him that a factory owner named Dempton has offered Roran a job in his mill. The job will take Roran far away from Carvahall, his own father, and Eragon. Roran informs Eragon that he is going to propose marriage to Katrina.

Eragon is surprised and taken aback by Roran's decision. Roran says the decision is final. Eragon worries that his uncle will not accept his cousin's decision because they need Roran to work at the farm.

Eragon realizes he must accept Roran's decision, and his cousin must work at the mill to support a wife. When they arrive at the farm, Eragon visits the dragon. He feels differently now that Brom has told him that dragons are as intelligent as humans. As he approaches, he senses the dragon reaching out to him, calling his name. He is in a foul mood as he sees it, and he snaps at the dragon. It senses he is upset, but he rants about Roran anyway.

Eragon tells the dragon that it needs a name, and he begins by naming the great dragons of the past. His dragon rejects the names. Then he realizes that it is rejecting every name he offers because they are male names. His dragon is a female. He gives her some female names, but she does not accept them.

Finally, Eragon asks about the last name Brom had mentioned, "Are you Saphira?" She looked at him with intelligent eyes. Deep in his mind he felt her satisfaction. Yes. Something clicked in his head and her voice echoed, as if from a great distance. He grinned in response. Saphira started humming." (Page 59)

A Name of Power Analysis

Roran and Eragon walk to the farm, and Roran tells his younger cousin that he is going off to work in a new mill. Eragon is incredulous and cannot believe his cousin would leave. Then Roran tells Eragon that he is going to marry Katrina. It is difficult for Eragon to believe, but he begins to accept the changes of getting older.

Eragon is upset that Roran will be leaving the farm to marry and work in the new mill, but he begins to accept the coming changes. He is afraid of the reaction of his Uncle Garrow. He goes to see his dragon when he is upset. It senses he is upset, and he snaps at it.

Eragon decides he must name the dragon, so he recites possible names, but the dragon rejects all of them until Eragon realizes that it is not accepting male names. The

dragon is a female, so Eragon begins to recite female names that she will accept. The final name he gives her is Saphira, and she accepts.

The relationship between the dragon and the boy has now evolved from a master/pet relationship to a bond of equals. Eragon realizes that he must treat Saphira as if she were as smart as he. She understands him, and he can talk to her when he is feeling upset. Saphira even reveals a dry sense of humor.



A Miller-to-Be

A Miller-to-Be Summary

Eragon's Uncle Garrow accepts his son's plan for moving to work in the new mill and marry Katrina, much to Eragon's shock. Roran will be leaving in 2 weeks. Garrow accepts this by saying that it is a part of life. Over the next few days, Eragon struggles with the coming changes. He is able to talk to Saphira about this problem, and she listens to him daily.

Having Saphira is the best part of his life. She is wise and demonstrates it by sparing an eagle after she catches it. Saphira cautions Eragon about letting his uncle and cousin see her. He is apprehensive about their reaction to her and thinks his uncle will accuse him of being selfish. He decides to wait until the time is right.

The night before Roran is to leave, Eragon walks to his cousin's room to talk to him about Saphira, but after he watches his cousin roll up his clothes and handle the items on his shelf that they have acquired together, Eragon thinks twice about telling Roran and leaves his cousin to his packing.

A Miller-to-Be Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon and Roran sit down to dinner with Garrow, and Roran tells his father of the plan to move to work in the mill and marry Katrina. Garrow takes the news philosophically, and this surprises Eragon. He thought that his taciturn uncle would react negatively, but instead Garrow takes the news in stride. This only frustrates Eragon.

Eragon will miss his cousin, but he does not tell him. Eragon is able to comfort himself by spending time with Saphira. He is able to share his problems with the dragon, and Saphira is wise enough to give the boy counsel. She warns him against revealing her to Garrow and Roran for fear of their reactions.

Eragon watches as Roran packs his things to leave. Will he ever see his cousin again, or will fate have other plans now that he has Saphira? Fate seems to be working in Eragon's favor because Saphira has matured without anyone discovering her, but will his good fortune hold?



Strangers in Carvahall

Strangers in Carvahall Summary

On the morning that Roran is to leave, Garrow hands him coins that Roran says he will save for his new life. Garrow gives him his blessing, and his son says he will be honored to receive it. Garrow then turns to Eragon to offer him words of wisdom: "First, let no one rule your mind or body. Take special care that your thoughts remain unfettered. One may be a free man and yet be bound tighter than a slave. Give men your ear, but not your heart. Show respect for those in power, but don't follow them blindly. Judge with logic and reason, but comment not." (Page 64)

Roran leaves with Eragon, accompanying him to Carvahall. They watch as Garrow waves a bony hand at them in parting. They meet Roran's boss, Dempton, at the smith's workshop, and Eragon harbors a dislike for the friendly man because he is taking Roran away. Horst pulls Eragon aside to ask whether he still has the blue stone he had tried to unload at the butcher's shop. Eragon answers that he still has the stone, and Horst urges him to get rid of it immediately because two strangers had come to town asking the villagers if a stone like Eragon's had been found.

Not one of the villagers told the strangers that Eragon had the stone, Horst reassures him. Eragon attempts to remain casual during the conversation, but inside he is panicking. The strangers give Horst a bad feeling, and he urges Eragon to leave Carvahall as soon as he can, and Eragon agrees. Eragon hugs his cousin goodbye, and he walks out into the street.

As Eragon stands in the shadows, he hears a voice hiss a question concerning when something happened. The other voice is one he recognizes - it is the butcher, Sloan, saying that it happened 3 months ago. Then a third person speaks and threatens Sloan with a certain death if the butcher is not telling the truth. Sloan reassures the last voice, a voice that sounds like "creeping decay," that he is sure. The person seems happy with Sloan's cooperation, and he turns to leave.

Suddenly, just as they were leaving, the two figures turn to face Eragon. He is unable to see their faces, but their eyes lock on to each other. Eragon struggles but is unable to move. They begin to walk toward him while drawing their swords when Eragon hears a voice call him, and someone walks into view. It is Brom. The strangers leave, and Eragon collapses, drenched with sweat.

Eragon tells Brom that he was dizzy when he collapsed, and Brom asks whether he is ill. Brom tells Eragon that home is where he should be and urges Eragon to go there. Brom asks again whether Eragon remembers the name of the trader who had given him so much information about dragons, but Eragon's mind goes blank.



Brom reminds Eragon to travel home quickly. As Eragon turns to leave, Brom shakes his hand, and Eragon's glove comes off his hand. Brom grabs his hand, turns the palm upward, and sees the silvery oval mark made by Saphira. Annoyed by this, Eragon quickly turns to go.

Strangers in Carvahall Analysis

It is time for Roran to leave the farm. Garrow gives his blessing to his son, and then he turns to Eragon, who is not leaving, and delivers a speech about living independently. He intones that Eragon should not let another take possession of his mind or body. He reminds Eragon not to give too much of himself away to others and to respect and listen to others. It is a speech that sounds like either Eragon is leaving or Garrow is dying.

The two cousins leave for Carvahall where Eragon will see Roran off. When they arrive, Roran meets with his boss, and Eragon sees Horst, who inquires about the stone. Eragon tells Horst that he still has the stone and with that, Horst urges Eragon to go home. Horst tells Eragon that there are strangers in town asking about the stone and whether anyone has possession of it.

Horst reassures Eragon that no one in town revealed Eragon's secret, but he still tells Eragon to go home quickly. After he hugs Roran goodbye, Eragon walks into the street and into the shadows where he can observe the village. While standing there, Eragon overhears a conversation among two voices and Sloan. Sloan is reassuring the odd voices that something happened 3 months ago, and he was sure of it.

The voices seem satisfied with Sloan's reassurances, and they turn to leave when they spot Eragon. This freezes Eragon, and he is unable to move as they fix him with their stares. They walk toward Eragon slowly while unsheathing their swords when he hears Brom's voice interrupt the trance. The two strangers disappear, and Eragon collapses. Brom also urges Eragon, who regains his senses, to go straight home.

Before he leaves, Brom asks about the trader who gave Eragon information about dragons. Eragon forgot he had invented a trader, and his mind went blank when Brom asked him the question. Then Brom shakes Eragon's hand and turns it over and sees that Eragon has the silver oval on his hand.

Brom must know Eragon has a dragon because of the questions he asks and the way he takes Eragon's hand to look for the mark. Will Brom be an ally or an enemy? He urges Eragon to leave and tells him not to delay his journey, and Eragon leaves quickly.



Flight of Destiny

Flight of Destiny Summary

Eragon bolts for home, as fast as he is able. On his way he wonders what he will say to Garrow and whether he will have to reveal Saphira to his uncle as well. As he arrives, he sees Garrow standing near the barn. He then chooses to go to Saphira in the forest so his uncle will believe him.

Eragon arrives in the forest while silently communicating to Saphira. He tells about the strangers in town, and she becomes agitated, smelling blood and growing angry. As Saphira's emotions grow, Eragon attempts to calm her. Her mind is agitated as he climbs on her back, shouting at her to remain calm. At that moment, Saphira flies off with Eragon on her back.

Saphira is flying high above the trees with Eragon holding on in terror. He tries not to become sick as she banks right and left. Then she climbs so high that frost forms on his face from the cold air. He pleads with her to fly back to the farm, but she is frightened and angry at the same time. Eragon holds on as they fly far away to the Spine. His body is racked by pain from the scales on Saphira's back as he lands face-first in the snow.

Eragon asks why Saphira has taken him on the journey, and she tells him the people are killers. "Garrow is in danger and you kidnap me on this ridiculous journey! Are you unable to protect me?" (Page 73) His legs are stripped of skin as he chides Saphira for taking them on the journey, but the dragon answers, "Death is a poison." (Page 73)

The day grows dark, and Eragon must sleep in the Spine with Saphira's wings surrounding him like a blanket. He realizes that he may be too late to help his uncle as he falls asleep in Saphira's grasp.

Flight of Destiny Analysis

Eragon runs as fast as possible the 10 miles to the farm from Carvahall. When he arrives, he decides it is time to reveal Saphira to Garrow, so instead of going to his uncle, he heads straight to the forest where he talks to the dragon. He tells her about the strangers who may be on their way to the farm. Saphira explodes in fear and rage. Eragon is unable to control her, and so he climbs on her.

Saphira takes flight with Eragon clutching to her back. She is frightened and in a rage at the strangers who may be arriving. She says that death is toxic, and seems to have a collective memory of dragons being killed from the past. She flies far away from the farm and for a long time. Eragon hangs on, his legs gripping the scales.

They arrive in the Spine in the dark. Eragon tells Saphira that his legs are stripped of skin and angrily asks why she has taken him on the journey. This is the first time he has



been angry with Saphira. She answers only that death is poisonous, and she had to take him out of the situation.

Saphira's memory must be very strong for her to react as violently as she does. She is scared and angry, but her instinct is protection of Eragon first. He must sleep in the Spine, and Saphira spreads her wings and surrounds him like a blanket. Her warmth strengthens him, and even with his hunger, he must sleep knowing that he was not there to protect Garrow.



The Doom of Innocence

The Doom of Innocence Summary

Eragon wakes in the Spine with gnawing hunger and burning pain on his legs. They are in the spot where Saphira's egg had appeared. Eragon asks her whether she will take him home, yet she is still frightened of what awaits them. Eragon accuses her of being scared and running away, and she gets angry with him.

Eragon rips his shirt into pieces and uses them to protect his thighs as Saphira flies lower and faster than her flight to the Spine. She flies like a blur, and when they arrive, he tells Saphira to land in the fields next to the house. The house has been blasted apart. Saphira senses the sorrow that has occurred as Eragon searches for Garrow.

Eragon blames Saphira for what has happened, but she tells him that he would be dead if they had not left. Eragon tears apart the rubble of his house searching for Garrow. He lifts things more easily than he ever could before. Finally, Garrow's hand reaches out from the rubble. He is underneath a collapsed beam, and Eragon appeals to Saphira to lift it off and she does, revealing Garrow with deep burns that ooze white liquid.

Saphira lifts both Eragon and the wounded Garrow, who is strapped to a wooden board, and she flies them to Carvahall. Saphira asks about being seen by villagers and Eragon responds that he does not care. She drops them off near the town, and he must drag Garrow the rest of the way. After struggling for a few moments, Eragon looks up to see Brom running toward him. At that moment Eragon faints, his head meeting the ground.

The Doom of Innocence Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon challenges Saphira to face her fear of the strangers. He tells her that she is hiding in the forest like a scared rabbit, and this rouses her anger. His legs are scabbed and bleeding, so he stuffs shirt into his pants to stifle the pain caused by the dragon's scales.

Saphira flies back to the farm from the Spine at a great speed. They race through the countryside with Eragon holding on and fearing the worst. Finally, they arrive at the farm only to find it destroyed. His worst fears are realized, and Eragon blames Saphira, but she responds that he would be dead if she had not taken him away.

The farm house is destroyed, and Garrow is nowhere to be seen. Eragon searches for his uncle frantically. He lifts parts of the house easily. He finds that he has more strength than he ever has had. Finally, a hand reaches out from beneath a beam. Saphira lifts the beam off Garrow. He is burned badly, and his burns ooze a white liquid.

Eragon rigs a board on which to place his uncle and asks Saphira to lift them both to the village. She strains to do so. Eragon is unconcerned that villagers may see her, but she



still sets the two of them down before the town. Eragon tells Saphira to wait outside of town, and she agrees. They are working as a team.

Eragon strains to drag his wounded uncle to the village. It is a very difficult job, and Eragon wonders whether the town still exists when he looks up to see a familiar face - Brom. The old man is running toward Eragon. Eragon faints when Brom arrives; the strain and stress of the last 2 days have finally taken their toll.



Deathwatch

Deathwatch Summary

Eragon dreams of people on horses who arrive at a river to board a ship. They have silver hair and carry tall lances. One of the people lets out a long cry into the air, and in the dream, Eragon can see dragons in the sky.

Eragon wakes to find himself in a hut with the healer, Gertrude, asleep nearby. Eragon asks about Garrow, and she tells him that the wounds are not healing. Gertrude insists that Eragon eat and tells him that his fever broke the night before. He asks her how long he has been in the hut, and she tells him that he has been there for 2 days. Eragon worries that Saphira has been on her own for this long.

Gertrude and Eragon talk further, and she tells Eragon that the entire village wants to know what happened. He tells her that he was not there when the attack on Garrow occurred. She asks about the scar on his palm, and he lies to her. Eragon is determined to visit Garrow, and the healer realizes she will not be able to stop him.

Eragon walks with Gertrude to the house where Horst and his family live. It is there where Garrow lies. Elain, Horst's wife, greets him. Katrina is also there to help. Eragon sees Garrow, and the burns that will not heal. Eragon feels helpless that he is unable to do anything about his uncle's condition. Eragon leaves the room and eats a little food. Horst begins talking to him, wondering what happened and how the house was blown apart.

Eragon sits quietly thinking when he begins to hear shouting in his mind. He looks around to see who has shouted when he realizes that it is Saphira. She had tried to contact him but was unable to while he was ill. She had been hunting. Eragon tells Saphira that they will have to leave home and not come back for a long time.

Deathwatch Analysis

Eragon dreams of faraway places and people that he does not recognize. Perhaps they are elves. Eragon wakes 2 days later to find himself in a hut with the healer. He is disoriented by his experience and asks about Garrow. Garrow is gravely ill with burns that will not heal.

Eragon gingerly walks to Horst's house to see Garrow. Garrow looks terrible, and his fever burns to the touch. Horst corners Eragon to ask him about what happened, and Eragon is evasive. He will not reveal to anyone the details of what occurred. He does not tell Gertrude about the scar on his palm, either.

While he sits in Horst's house, Eragon's thoughts are interrupted by a distant shouting. He thinks it is coming from nearby. Then he realizes that it is Saphira calling from



outside of the village. He tells Saphira about Garrow and the fact that they may have to leave for a long time. Saphira is sad about this, but she will have to get used to being away from him.

The reader by now is well aware that Eragon's life will never be the same. There is someone who has attacked his home and family, intending to kill him and Saphira, and they are probably working for an authority, perhaps the King. He is beginning his journey, and the theme of a hero's journey begins.



The Madness of Life

The Madness of Life Summary

Eragon bolts upright in bed in the dark. He feels there is something wrong, so he gets out of bed, dresses, and walks to Garrow's room. Garrow is lying in clean clothes and his hair is combed - he is dead.

Tears flood Eragon's eyes, and he thinks about all he has lost in his life: "Mother, aunt, uncle - he had lost them all. The weight of his grief was crushing, a monstrous force that left him tottering." (Page 90) Eragon continues to sob as he is led back to his room, where he shouts out in his grief and is comforted by Elain.

The Madness of Life Analysis

Garrow is dead as Eragon wakes in his bed and walks in to see his uncle dressed and lying in state. Eragon breaks down after a moment when he realizes that his mother, uncle, and aunt are dead and gone. Death haunts him, and he may be setting out to avenge it. The reader senses the plot may turn, and Eragon will not be staying in Carvahall for too much longer.

Except for Saphira, Eragon is alone in the world. This knowledge is too much for him, and he breaks down. Elain comforts him as Eragon cries out into the night. Life will never be the same for Eragon. He knows he is on his own with only a dragon to guide him, and his emotions erupt.



A Rider's Blade

A Rider's Blade Summary

Eragon wakes with a realization that he must do something about Garrow's death. He is sure what he must do. "*Nothing is more dangerous than an enemy with nothing to lose*, he thought. *Which is what I have become.*" (Page 93) Eragon creeps out of the house and he hears Horst talking about him. Horst says that Eragon is not telling him everything.

Eragon is set to leave in pursuit of Garrow's killers, but he must first have a saddle for Saphira, so he steals pieces of leather from the nearby tannery. Then he steals meat from Sloan's shop. As he leaves the shop Brom calls his name. Brom accuses Eragon of running away, and then Brom says, "I hope you have enough meat to feed your dragon." (Page 95)

Brom knows from the mark on Eragon's scar on his hand that he has a dragon. They talk further about the dragon and Brom tells Eragon that he already talked to Saphira. Brom and Eragon argue for a moment, and Brom tells the young man that Brom should go with him. During the discussion Saphira does not speak with Eragon, and when the two agree that Brom will go with Eragon, Saphira begins to communicate with Eragon again.

Eragon and Brom leave Carvahall together, and they are careful so that they will not be seen. When they are alone, Eragon demands answers from Brom, and the old man asks Eragon whether he is able to accomplish revenge on his own. Eragon accepts Brom's presence, and Brom then gives Eragon a sword called Zar'roc, which was once a Rider's blade. Brom is evasive about Zar'roc's origin, but Eragon accepts the great gift anyway.

Brom offers to train Eragon in certain ancient ways of dealing with dragons and other magical creatures. He tells Eragon who the strangers were who attacked and killed Garrow. They are called Ra'zac and they are not human. Eragon recounts all the events from the time he had found Saphira's egg. Brom tells Eragon that the Ra'zac had attacked him, and he drove them away. Eragon is awed by this and wonders how the old man could have driven away the powerful non-humans.

Eragon presses Brom to tell him who he is. He is not the storyteller that Eragon grew up listening to, but he is someone with powerful secrets.

A Rider's Blade Analysis

Eragon silently leaves Horst's house, stealing leather and meat. As he is taking his leave from the village, Brom catches up with Eragon. Brom reveals that he knows about Saphira and that he and the dragon have communicated with each other.



Brom and Eragon argue about what to do next, and Brom convinces Eragon that the old man should accompany him when he flees to seek his uncle's killers. The killers are well protected and not human. They are Ra'zac, and they hunt the enemies of the king. Eragon demands that Brom tell him more about who he is. Brom is evasive but reveals a little more.

Then Brom presents Eragon with a gift of the sword Zar'roc. The sword is a very special gift, "a princely gift," according to Eragon. (Page 102) Eragon demands more information out of Brom. He now knows Brom is not just the storyteller whom Eragon always knew. He has knowledge that Eragon will need. This is why he must travel with Eragon.

It is settled. Brom will travel with Eragon to kill the Ra'zac who attacked and killed Garrow. Eragon harbors a mistrust of Brom because he does not reveal all of himself to the young man, but Brom promises that he will, little by little. He will train Eragon in as much magic as he can to give Eragon an advantage whenever there is a battle. There is a magic language Eragon will begin to learn, and he will access this as time goes on.

The reader is aware that Brom will have plenty to teach young Eragon. The young man is impatient but probably a good student, for he will be motivated by revenge to learn as much as he can as quickly as he can.



Saddlemaking

Saddlemaking Summary

Brom and Eragon wake up, and Brom offers to make the saddle with the leather Eragon stole from the tannery. As Eragon watches, Brom measures and cuts the material to make a soft saddle for Saphira. By the time Brom finishes with the saddle and Eragon finishes reorganizing their supplies, their day is over. They will leave the next day and they discuss the need for horses in which to travel swiftly. Saphira is not large enough to carry them both.

Brom reminds Eragon that the Ra'zac is a servant of the king and laws will not stop him. He will come and go as he pleases, unlike Eragon and Brom, who must travel in secret with Saphira. Brom tells Eragon: "The longer you evade the Ra'zac, the more desperate he'll become. He'll know that every day you'll be growing stronger and that each passing moment will give you another chance to join his enemies. You must be very careful, as you may easily turn from the hunter to the hunted." (Page 109)

Saddlemaking Analysis

On their first day together, Brom and Eragon turn to the strips of leather that Eragon took from the tannery in Carvahall. Brom offers to make the saddle that Eragon will wear atop Saphira and Eragon accepts, grudgingly. Eragon is upset that the old man does not reveal his whole past to him.

Their first day passes, and it is filled with drudgery of tasks Eragon and Brom must accomplish to travel quickly. Brom mentions that they would travel quicker if they had horses. He is very knowledgeable and convincing. Eragon is a very young farm boy still, and Brom is just revealing knowledge that shows he is much more than people knew about him.

The reader starts to understand that the layers of the character of Brom are beginning to peel away. There is much more than meets the eye to the old man. Eragon must learn from the man's experience if he is to accomplish what he has set out to do, which is to kill a magical and very powerful creature that has the full backing of the king.

A moment of foreboding arrives with the speech by Brom when he tells Eragon that "the hunter" may become "the hunted." (Page 109) The odds are stacked against Brom and Eragon, and there may come a time when they will be on the run from powerful enemies such as the Shade or the Ra'zac.



Therinsford

Therinsford Summary

Eragon and Brom leave the outskirts of the village the next morning. They follow the Ra'zac's footprints in the snow, but it is difficult for them to follow because the road forks. Eragon continues to be frustrated with Brom's secrets, and their travel is slow without horses.

Brom and Eragon continue to disagree about what Brom is willing to tell him. Eragon looks up and Brom hollers for him to defend himself. They engage in mock battle with sticks and Eragon is untrained and slow against Brom. In a moment of hesitation, Brom knocks Eragon out momentarily. Eragon is defeated and drained and falls asleep.

Soon Eragon, Brom, and Saphira reach Therinsford. At the town they buy horses. Brom buys a prized animal named Snowfire. Moments after their purchase, Brom learns that the Ra'zac have been through the same town. People inform Brom that the strangers have been through and bought horses and left quickly. Then they traveled on past the mountain peak of Utgard and the sentinel turret that looks out over the Palancar Valley.

As Eragon and Brom pass the mountains, the vast plain comes into sight. They camp at the edge of the plain, knowing that they have far to go to get to the villages that lie beyond. Before sleeping, they engage in sword fighting once more.

Therinsford Analysis

Now that Eragon and Brom are truly on the road together, Eragon is still angry with his elder. Brom reveals only what he chooses to reveal and no more. They make their way to Therinsford and meet a bridge keeper. They pay him, and then Brom cuts his purse to steal all of his coins.

Brom makes a deal with a young man to buy the best horse, Snowfire. After purchasing the horses, they leave town knowing that the Ra'zac have been through, bought horses, and fled quickly. Where are they going that they have to be gone so fast?

At night Brom and Eragon spar with wooden sticks. Brom is teaching Eragon how to defend himself and attack as well. He tosses a stick to a surprised Eragon and attacks immediately. Eragon is worn out by their sparring because Brom is a tough teacher, and his student leaves their battles bruised.

Eragon and Brom pass the mountains and emerge into the plain. It is a dangerous area with enemies lurking in every direction. They will have to be extremely careful, and yet Eragon is training and learning at the same time. Will he be able to manage this and still catch and kill a vicious and powerful enemy?



Thunder Roar and Lightning Crackle

Thunder Roar and Lightning Crackle Summary

Eragon and Brom leave and travel on the open plains. Saphira tells Eragon that she will fly above them because there is nowhere for her to hide. When the trail forks, they decide to travel to Yazuac, a small village next to a river days away.

Their travel is uncomfortable in the dry wind of the plains. Eragon's eyes and mouth become dry and chapped, and the sun is very bright.

On their third day out, Brom and Eragon reached a storm front. As they look at it, a vast wave rolls toward them. As they prepare for it to land, Eragon remembers that Saphira is airborne. He shouts for her to land, but she is unable to land in time. The storm hits them like a hammer.

Eragon spots his dragon, and she is thrown by the force of the winds. She is able to land, but she is thrown again, this time over Eragon, and he is nearly punctured by her scales.

After another moment, Eragon and Saphira are able to collect each other. She is all right with nothing broken. Before long, another cloud hits them, and this one brings stinging rain. Lightning strikes ignite numerous fires, and soon the clouds and storms are gone.

Thunder Roar and Lightning Crackle Analysis

While traveling through the plains, Eragon and Brom continue to follow the trail of the Ra'zac. After taking a fork in the road, they head down the plain and run headlong into a terrible windstorm. After ducking from the wind, Eragon realizes that Saphira is still in the air. He calls for her, and she dives for the ground.

Saphira lands and is tossed like a small bird. She nearly hits Eragon with her scales. In the end, she is unhurt. They shrink from the wind together, and finally, it subsides. They then look up to see a thundercloud headed their way. Sheets of rain lash them with thunder crashing and lightning setting numerous fires.

It is dangerous on the plains, and not all the enemies are animal or man. Nature's power demonstrates how helpless and exposed Eragon, Brom, and Saphira are on the plains. This storm is symbolic of the dangers they will face on this journey, and the reader is left with the feeling that events will get much worse than a sandstorm.



Revelation at Yazuac

Revelation at Yazuac Summary

Eragon and Brom continue on their travels, and they are headed for a village called Yazuac. As they near the town, they decide to have Saphira wait nearby so she will not be seen. Saphira objects to being hidden away, but they go on anyway. They arrive at the entrance of the town cautiously. Eragon hears no dogs barking, and they are wary, so they decide to enter Yazuac via the side.

The town is shuttered, and as they walk to the center, they are stunned to see that at the center of the square, a mountain of dead bodies is piled up. Eragon gasps and cries as he spots a dead baby speared by a blade. Eragon kills a crow that was eyeing the dead child's body, and then he vomits.

Brom utters his thoughts about the killers of the people: "Those who love the pain and suffering of others. They wear many faces and go by many disguises, but there is only one name for them: evil. There is no understanding it. All we can do is pity and honor the victims." (Page 131) Brom decides that the killers are the Urgals, not the Ra'zac.

Brom examines a footprint and is startled. He shouts for Eragon to ride, and they bolt to the end of the town. They are almost outside of Yazuac when a fist smashes into Eragon, knocking him from his horse. He is holding on to his bow as he sees an Urgal standing over him. Another Urgal is menacing Brom. Brom strikes at his foe and shouts for Eragon to run. The Urgal standing in front of Eragon swings and nearly connects with a short sword.

Eragon runs from the Urgal, who gives chase. Eragon shoots an arrow from his bow, but the Urgal snaps it in mid-air. They collide with each other and collapse on the ground. Eragon is able to run away again, and as he approaches he sees Brom, who is astride Snowfire, battling a different Urgal. At this moment, Brom is hit in the arm, and the Urgal looks as if it is going to kill Brom when Eragon attacks it, saving Brom. In a rage, the Urgal chases Eragon down an alley - a dead end.

Faced with two Urgals who are blocking his way to escape, the emotion of what he has seen in Yazuac begins to overwhelm Eragon. The rage, like fire, builds up within Eragon, and he raises his bow at the two Urgals who laugh at him. Eragon raises his bow, and with the rage rising, lets it go and shouts a word that came to his mind, "Brisingr!" (Page 133)

The arrow scorches the air and strikes straight into the head of the lead Urgal. A wave of fire erupts from its head, and it crashes and kills the other Urgal. Then the fire dissipates over Eragon harmlessly. After these final events, Eragon is exhausted, and he nearly collapses.



Revelation at Yazuac Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon and Brom arrive at the outskirts of the village of Yazuac. They are cautious. It is understandable because they could easily be trapped in a strange town. They decide to make Saphira wait nearby, which does not please her at all. She feels she is being treated as a criminal, but they cannot be too careful.

They enter Yazuac from the side and immediately spot strange signs. The windows on houses and shops are shuttered. Eragon points out that he does not hear any dogs barking. There does not seem to be any life to the village. They enter the center of town warily when they see a horrible sight. The bodies of the townspeople are stacked in a mountain of humanity.

Eragon is overwhelmed by the sight and by seeing a dead infant at the top of the pile of people. Brom quickly concludes that it was not the Ra'zac who killed the villagers, but the Urgals. At that moment, Brom realizes that the Urgals have not left, and he shouts to Eragon to ride.

They ride to the end of town when they are both overtaken by two Urgals. Eragon battles with one who snaps Eragon's arrow like a twig. He ducks and dives from the monster, and they wrestle with each other to the ground. Eragon runs away again to where Brom is. Brom is battling the other Urgal, who crushes Brom's arm.

Eragon runs again to lead the Urgals away from an injured Brom. The two Urgals corner Eragon in an alley. Eragon draws his bow, and the heat of anger builds up inside him, and the thought of what the Urgals have done to the innocent people living in Yazuac erupts from him as a strange word. He lets go of the arrow. The arrow bursts into flames as it flies and pierces the Urgal's forehead. The fire then leaps from the first one and consumes the second one. The fire dissipates when it touches Eragon.

After uttering the magic word that kills both Urgals, Eragon is exhausted. Using the magic saps his energy and debilitates him. Eragon possesses a power that he must learn to harness. Brom must teach him how to use the power wisely.



Admonishments

Admonishments Summary

Eragon limps out of the alley where he destroyed the two Urgals. He finds Brom, who is bleeding profusely from his arm. The wound is not mortal, but it needs attention. At that moment, an angry Saphira lands and demands to know who has attacked Brom and Eragon. Eragon tells the dragon about the events in the alley. They decide to leave the empty village immediately, fearing any more lurking Urgals.

Saphira lifts the injured Brom onto her back. They travel on warily, while Eragon realizes what has happened. He thinks about the magic he used in Yazuac to kill the enemy. When they land later, they talk about the mistakes they made, and Saphira is angry she was not with Eragon. Brom asks Eragon whether he had used any magic before, and the young man says he never has. Eragon asks Brom whether he knows anything about the power, and Brom answers that he knows a little.

Eragon is impatient and demands more answers from Brom. Brom objects to what he sees as the young man's insolence. Eragon vents his frustration: "I feel as though I've been thrust into a world with strange rules that no one will explain." (Page 139) Brom understands his frustration and hints that there are words Eragon will need to know in order to understand.

Eragon tells Brom the word he said that killed the Urgals. The word, "brisingr," means fire in an elfin language. The words in the language are the basis for power and magic. Brom further explains the concept of the language Eragon tapped while Saphira tells him that Brom must be a magician. He asks the old man, and Brom admits that he can use some magic.

Brom then discourages Eragon from trying to experiment with magic on his own. He warns Eragon that the energy it takes to use magic will wear out his body. Brom explains that using a word that is too powerful will kill the user. The information is much to take in, and Saphira feels confident that between Eragon and her, they are becoming nearly invincible.

Admonishments Analysis

Brom has a wounded arm, which is bleeding profusely. Eragon finds him and starts to bandage it when Saphira finally lands in Yazuac. Having missed the Urgals and the chance to defend Eragon and Brom, Saphira is in a rage. She is angry because of the missed opportunity and upset because she was so far away. She vows to stay closer to them both from now on.

Soon it occurs to Eragon what happened in the alley in Yazuac. He realizes he used magic there, and he can barely grasp what this will mean for his life. When they



eventually stop to rest, Eragon questions the old man about what transpired. Brom is his usual secretive self, but Eragon pushes him to answer about what happened. Brom asks him what word he used to kill the Urgals, and Eragon tells him.

The word, "brisingr," is not a word for fire. It means fire. (Page 140) They are one and the same, and summoning the word takes energy. If a person summons a word that is overwhelming in its deed, the magic can kill the summoner. This is the admonishment Brom gives to Eragon.

Saphira seems confident with the knowledge that Eragon has a capability, even a slight one, to use magic. She says to him, " We are becoming more powerful, Eragon, both of us. Soon no one will be able to stand in our way. (Page 142) Eragon responds, "Yes, but which way shall we choose?" (Page 142) Saphira responds that they can choose whichever way they desire.

Eragon barely grasps the magic he has tapped. What will it mean for his future? Brom tells him that he knows some words, and he will be able to teach them to Eragon, but as for now, it is time to sleep. Magic is a theme Eragon is going to revisit throughout his journey and beyond. He has touched only the tip of his power.



Magic Is the Simplest Thing

Magic Is the Simplest Thing Summary

Eragon and Brom are traveling through a spot with a small area of trees near a river. Eragon wonders where the Ra'zac have fled and whether there are any more Urgals in the area. Eragon asks Brom how the Urgal wounded him, and Brom blames his wound on bad luck and an error by Snowfire.

Brom tells Eragon that there used to be formal training for Dragon Riders, but Brom will have to teach the young man as they go. Students were given tasks that seemed impossible but were solvable with magic. Brom informs him that no rider so young has ever used magic before. He tells Eragon that the correct word must be summoned at the correct time, or there will be no magic. The power to do magic is innate, Brom goes on, and there is no way to practice deceit while speaking in the magic language.

Eragon further quizzes Brom on the nature of the magic language. The elves speak the language, and they find it a gift to know one's true name in the language. It can be a "terrible knowledge" to know one's true name, however, because of the power it manifests. (Page 147) Eragon asks whether he would be able to heal wounds with a magic word. Brom responds that he will be able to do it, but it would be exhausting. Eragon asks whether he would be able to bring someone back from the dead, and Brom reminds Eragon of his admonishment, and that doing this could kill Eragon.

Eragon realizes that the magic is very complex. Brom gives him a pebble that Eragon must attempt to keep afloat using magic. Eragon utters the words, and after practice, the pebble lifts into the air. The scar on his hand glows when magic is uttered, and he asks Brom about it. Brom tells him that only riders have the scar. He also informs Eragon that magic is affected by distance, so if a rider utters a magic word from a long distance, the magic will fail.

Eragon practices lifting the pebble the whole day, and by evening, he is exhausted. After working with the pebble, Brom instructs him about many other words to memorize, and then they spar with sticks. Brom uses one hand but is still very skillful. The following days are filled with the same activities: traveling, training, and sparring.

Eragon is becoming more adept in all of his areas of practice and study. Saphira is growing larger and more powerful as well. In a dream, Eragon sees his Uncle Garrow again, and he informs his uncle that he is following Garrow's killers. Garrow asks Eragon whether he looks dead, but a moment later he turns into a Ra'zac who leaps at him.



Magic Is the Simplest Thing Analysis

In this chapter magic has become a real option for Eragon, but he must be trained to use it effectively. It occurs to him that it is really a complex proposition, and he asks Brom to teach him as much as he can. Brom tells him that his knowledge is not total, but he will teach Eragon what he knows.

Eragon's mind seems to be racing as he thinks about the possibilities of magic. He asks Brom whether he will be able to heal wounds with magic. Brom says that upon learning the correct words, he will be able to. Eragon blurts out the question about whether he will be able to make the dead rise.

Brom cuts Eragon short and reminds him of his previous admonishments. Performing such a magical task would kill him as it has to others who have tried to bring the dead back to life. Brom makes Eragon practice, and he hands his student a small rock and tells him words that will lift it. Eragon practices hard until he is exhausted from the work. Then they spar with sticks. Brom is a tough teacher who works his student hard at every facet of the learning required to become a powerful and magical rider. With all the admonishments, Eragon, who acts rashly at times, is sure to test what Brom has told him.

Brom and Eragon's days continue like this as they travel along. Eragon practices his the words that Brom teaches him and the tasks that go with the words. He improves his sparring to the point where he is becoming much more adept at it. The Ra'zac stay ahead of them as they travel along the Ninor River.

Eragon becomes frustrated at not running into the enemy, and then he dreams of his uncle. His uncle turns into the Ra'zac who attacks Eragon in his nightmare. The magic that he has learned taxes Eragon's mind, and the reader can only speculate that it can take a toll in the long run.



Daret

Daret Summary

Eragon and Brom cautiously approach a village on the Ninor River called Daret because they do not know what to expect after Yazuac. They enter the village and find that it is empty. Moments later, they decide to leave, and they are riding out when a man from the village jumps in front of them. He commands Brom and Eragon to halt and informs them that there are 60 archers ready to shoot.

Brom tells the man that he and Eragon are on their way to a relative's house and are in need of supplies. Brom agrees that they will buy supplies and then leave town. The man's name is Trevor, and he tells Brom that Urgals have forced his village into these measures to protect themselves. Trevor asks Brom to carry a message saying that the town is in danger from Urgals, and they need protection from the Empire.

After leaving Trevor, Brom mentions to Eragon that it is possible for him to enter the minds of people to read thoughts. Brom is able to read thoughts and he feels that they are not in great danger in Daret. Brom suggests to Eragon that he try listening to others' thoughts. Eragon has the ability to listen to any other being's thoughts, and Brom suggests that Eragon try listening to what a cat is thinking.

If he can read other beings' minds, Eragon reasons, what will stop others from reading his own? Blocking is another skill that Eragon will have to learn. Brom reiterates that it will take much practice for him to hone the skill. When they reach the place where Saphira waits, the dragon leaps on Eragon. She growls at him and scolds him for being in peril every time he is out of her sight. Eragon retorts that he is much older than she, and he is able to take care of himself. He promises her that he will ride her the next day.

Brom pronounces Eragon ready for sparring with swords. Eragon questions the wisdom of doing this, and Brom informs him that there is a magic spell they can use to blunt the swords. Then he teaches Eragon how to put the spell on his sword, Za'roc. The two then spar with each other, the young man receiving more welts than the teacher.

Daret Analysis

The process of entering a town has become a very dangerous one after Yazuac. Brom and Eragon enter cautiously, and they become increasingly wary as they see there is nobody in town. Brom decides they should leave quickly when a man jumps in front of them. He threatens them both by saying there are archers pointing their weapons at them. The reader is not sure whether the man is telling the truth, but Brom takes his word for it.

The man becomes friendlier as Brom talks to him, and Brom tells him that they are traveling to a relative's house. The man, whose name is Trevor, tells Brom that they may



purchase supplies from him and leave as quickly as possible. When they leave, Brom asks Eragon whether he had tried to read Trevor's mind. Eragon did not know he could read minds. This leads to another lesson in which Brom exposes Eragon to some concepts of mind reading.

Eragon asks Brom whether he is able to block others, and Brom tells him that it takes practice but is possible. Eragon is able to read and listen to the mind of any sentient being. Some are too strong and might block him, as Saphira has already done. For her part, Saphira is getting irritated that every time she is not nearby, Eragon is in danger. She vaults onto him, holds him to the ground, and informs him that he will be riding her the next day.

Later, Brom teaches Eragon how to put a spell on his sword that will blunt it and let them use the real swords to spar. It is still a dangerous game though, because the swords can break bones even if they are not sharp. Day in and day out, Eragon is improving his magical skill.



Through A Dragon's Eye

Through A Dragon's Eye Summary

Eragon rises the next morning and prepares to ride Saphira. He is queasy at the thought of riding her after his first experience when she took him to the Spine. Brom tells him to keep low and hold on with his knees. Eragon will be able to guide Saphira with his thoughts.

Saphira is stronger now than the first time Eragon rode her. In the air Saphira drops into a roll, and Eragon tells her not to do it, but she informs him that he must get accustomed to her different maneuvers. She tells him to relax and not be frightened. When he does, he begins to enjoy the experience and to feel what Saphira is feeling. Their thoughts meld together as she rises to great heights and dives down near the ground.

After a while Eragon does not want to land, but Saphira reminds him that she has to land to eat. In the air, Eragon feels a buzzing sensation as if someone is trying to contact him. He blocks out the buzzing feeling. When they land Brom is irritated and says there is something important for Eragon to see. Brom is also annoyed that Eragon blocked his mind to the old man. Brom tells Eragon that he has tracked the Ra'zac's footprints to an area where the prints stopped.

Brom realizes that the Ra'zac has taken off on dragons or other birds from the spot. He spots gouged areas where an animal has taken off. As Eragon seeks answers in the woods, he finds a silver, engraved, water canister. The canister does not hold water, but rather a liquid that burns the skin. Eragon discovers this by touching it. Brom informs him that he was lucky he did not drink it because there would be nothing left of him.

The liquid is oil derived from a special plant and is normally used for preserving pearls, but when a magic word is said above the oil, it becomes deadly. Eragon thinks about the burns on Garrow's body and realizes that the oil was used to kill his uncle. It is rare oil and needs to be shipped from far away. Eragon suggests that they head to a coastal town through which the oil may have been shipped. Brom rewards Eragon's thoughts by exclaiming that it is genius.

Brom concludes that they must journey to Teirm, a town on the coast, and after telling Saphira of the plan, she suggest that Eragon can ride on her on alternate days or days when he is not receiving instruction from Brom.

Through A Dragon's Eye Analysis

Eragon wakes and prepares for his ride on Saphira. He is nervous about it since his first ride to the Spine. Brom instructs him to lie low and he will be fine as long as he communicates with the dragon. They begin to ride, and Eragon is tense. She tells him to



relax as she dives and takes a barrel roll. He settles in and feels the joy emanating from his dragon.

The joy that Saphira is feeling is overwhelming, and Eragon begins to share it. He begins to love every moment of exhilaration as they glide through the air. He asks her how she can stop, and she replies that she does have to return to the ground to eat.

Eventually, Brom summons Eragon to land, but Eragon has blocked the thoughts from entering his mind. When he finally lands, he finds an irritated Brom. Brom is frustrated from having tried to communicate with Eragon but the young man blocked the incoming thoughts. Brom shows Eragon the Ra'zac's footprints. The footprints have disappeared as if the Ra'zac has taken off on a dragon or a bird.

Eragon then finds an engraved silver canister in the woods. The flask contains no water, but instead a deadly oil that melts skin on contact. Eragon and Brom discuss the oil, and Brom tells him that the oil must be imported from far away. Eragon suggests that they head to the nearest coastal town to check shipping records.

They will be able to trace the shipments all the way to the Ra'zac, Eragon says. Brom exclaims his young companion's genius and says they will travel to the town of Teirm on the coast. Eragon uses his intellect to solve a problem, and Brom is very impressed. Have his newly gained abilities given him a power to solve problems? This action of Eragon's is symbolic of his growing abilities. Will he be able to be on his own one day?



A Song for the Road

A Song for the Road Summary

Eragon wonders about the sea to Brom as they trek for days to the sea town of Teirm. Brom translates a song about the sea for Eragon. Eragon learns how to use magic to kill game by shooting a rock toward his target. He is also learning the elfin language and how to care for Saphira. The reader can sense the feeling that Eragon may meet the elves, the people responsible for the magical song and symbolic of the magical realm.

After 2 days of traveling through the wild areas of the Spine, Brom and Eragon approach the coast. They are days away from arriving in Teirm, and Eragon queries Brom more about the coastal city. The ground becomes mossy and muddy as they approach the coast. Brom tells Eragon about the mild climate of the coast as Eragon admires the green countryside.

Brom instructs Eragon in more secrets of magic. He also tells Eragon to ride the horse Cadoc rather than riding Saphira, who is now visible as they approach Teirm. Eragon asks Brom whether they are going to use assumed names when they arrive, and Brom decides that he will be called Neal and Eragon will go as Evan. They will be meeting an old friend of Brom's, Jeod, when they arrive.

A Song for the Road Analysis

This journey is taking Eragon to a place he has never been, the coast. He and Brom have decided to go to Teirm, a city where Brom's old friend, Jeod, lives. Eragon's skills are improving daily. He is learning magic and how to care for Saphira. He is growing stronger every day as well.

It is a long way to get to the coast, and Eragon is eager and impatient to get there. He asks about Teirm, and Brom tells him that there is a belief that the elves arrived on their land through Teirm. Eragon sees, as they leave the wild areas of the Spine, that they still have many leagues to go.

As they make their way closer to Teirm, Brom decides that they must assume other identities. They rename themselves as Neal and Evan. Eragon asks about the muddy terrain and the mossy ground because he is on unfamiliar ground.

Eragon is growing leaner and smarter. He is not fully matured, but he has done much since leaving Carvahall, and there is much more ahead of him. He will have to use all the skills Brom has taught him, and maybe he will have to learn some more.



A Taste of Teirm

A Taste of Teirm Summary

Eragon and Brom arrive at the outskirts of the coastal city Teirm. It is heavily walled and guarded. The white wall is 100 feet tall and 30 feet wide. Above everything, a citadel guards against invaders. Saphira is unhappy because while Eragon and Brom are in Teirm, she will have to hide outside of the city.

Brom and Eragon arrive at the gates of Teirm, and the guards impatiently ask why they are entering the city. Eragon takes the lead in talking to the guards, and he quickly concocts a story that Brom or "Neal" is touched with brain fever and needs him to guide him through the city.

Walking through the gates of Teirm, Eragon marvels at the city's size and beauty, but he also notices people appear to be experiencing rough times. Possibly, the city is threatened with attacks by Urgals. They enter a tavern to gather information about the whereabouts of Brom's old friend. Brom means to bribe the bartender to gain the information, but before the bartender is able get his hand around the coins, another man speaks up.

The identity of Jeod is common knowledge, the other man tells Brom. The man, Martin, tells Brom and Eragon that the townspeople are tense because someone has been attacking shipping vessels. Shipping provides Teirm's main source of income, and business is falling on hard times. The attackers leave no evidence and nobody alive. Teirm's sailors have said that there is magic involved in the attacks.

After leaving the tavern and their conversation with Martin, Brom and Eragon head toward the better part of Teirm. The people here dress in more expensive clothing and wear fine jewelry. Eragon feels like he stands out, but the travelers continue on. He is still a farm boy, and he is symbolic of a life he will never have.

A Taste of Teirm Analysis

In this chapter Brom and Eragon finally arrive at the gates of the walled city of Teirm. Eragon feels like a farm boy arriving at the big city as he beholds the walls and turrets of Teirm. It is a heavily guarded city. The sentries there eye Eragon and Brom suspiciously.

Eragon quickly assumes another identity when he admits to the guards that he is there to guide Brom or "Neal" because the old man's brain has suffered from a fever. Brom plays along and lets his head dangle. After entering the city and promising not to cause trouble in Teirm, the two walk around and notice that the city seems deserted in some spots. Grass grows between the cracks of houses, and there are no children playing.



Brom and Eragon enter a tavern seeking information, and Brom means to bribe the bartender, but he puts his coins away as a patron of the tavern, Martin, supplies him with information about Brom's friend, Jeod, and the situation in Teirm. Martin details the attacks that have plagued the shipping lanes and the fact that the attackers leave no one alive and no evidence of their attack. These are not normal pirates.

Leaving the tavern, Brom and Eragon walk to the more affluent part of Teirm. They notice the architecture improves, as well as the clothing and jewelry worn by the people. Naturally, Eragon feels out of place after traveling for as long as he and Brom have.

Here the reader wonders whether the trip all the way to the interesting city is worth it. Will the information about the oil they found in the canister prove useful, or will it be a journey taken for nothing?



An Old Friend

An Old Friend Summary

Brom and Eragon make their way to Jeod's neighborhood. Between the houses that possibly belonged to Jeod an herbalist named Angela sits in her shop. She holds a frog in one hand and writes with the other. She banters back and forth with Brom for a moment and then tells him which house belongs to Jeod.

Eragon thinks the herbalist is insane after she tells Brom and him that she is attempting to disprove the existence of toads. They arrive at Jeod's and the man's wife answers the door and tells them that her husband is too busy to see them. After commenting on the woman's rudeness, Eragon is silenced by Brom. Finally, Jeod appears, emerging from the house in rumpled clothing.

Jeod is stunned when he sees Brom because he had thought Brom was dead. Brom has not communicated with Jeod for years. They go inside so they can talk where no one can overhear their conversation. Brom describes what separated him and Jeod 20 years before when Brom fled during their adventure to hide out in Carvahall.

As the two old friends talk, Eragon is silently eager to find out information about Brom's history, but the two men speak vaguely, talking about their "friends" who protected something that was stolen. Then Brom reveals the main reason that he and Eragon have come to Teirm, to identify the person received the deadly oil.

Brom tells Jeod that they will need a few days of rest before they try to find the shipping records. Jeod contemplates Eragon's name and says that it is unusual because his namesake was the first Dragon Rider. Jeod knows of just one other person who was named Eragon. The two older men send Eragon outside to check the horses, and the young man knows they are going to exchange secret information while he is out.

Sulking for a moment, Eragon remembers that he has magical ability to make his ears keen enough to hear conversations from far off. He utters the magical words and begins hearing what Brom and Jeod are saying. They speak about Jeod's business as a shipping merchant. The business is a front for getting goods into a place called Surda, but his shipments have not been going through, and a place called Tronjheim is in need of supplies.

Brom and Jeod talk on further, and to Eragon's dismay, Brom mentions Saphira in his conversation. Jeod communicates that Brom is needed for his wisdom by the people Jeod works with. Brom concludes that there must be a traitor who is telling the Empire about the shipments of supplies to Tronjheim, where the dwarves live. They decide to get word to Ajihad to inform them that there is a traitor.

Eragon hears the whole conversation, but he is confused by what Brom and Jeod spoke about. When the two men appear, Eragon does not reveal his eavesdropping. Jeod



comments that his wife is unhappy because less money is coming in since the shipments have been sabotaged. She is accustomed to a certain lifestyle that she will not be able to maintain.

The three men then go to a tavern where they sit for hours and eat roast pig. Eragon is happy as music plays in the background. Later, he leaves the confines of the city to see Saphira. She counsels Eragon on the trustworthiness of Jeod and scolds Eragon for not coming to see her earlier. She does not want to be left outside, but there is no other way.

Eragon re-enters Teirm as it is locking down for the evening, and he returns to Jeod's house, where a butler shows him in. As they talk about the tasks ahead, Brom mentions that he will need Eragon to help with reading the shipping files. Eragon replies that he cannot, because he is unable to read. Brom is shocked that Eragon's uncle never taught him how to read. Eragon does not know that Garrow knew how.

Brom decides he will teach Eragon how to read in the time they are spending at Teirm. Eragon looks around Jeod's library and finds a black leather volume in which he becomes interested. The book is called *The Dominance of Fate*, and it is a history of Alagalsia. It is Jeod's most costly possession. The book contains elfin poems that detail the Dragon Wars.

Later, as they are retiring for the evening, Eragon asks Brom whether it is possible to conjure images that one is unable to see. Brom tells Eragon that this magical skill is called "scrying." It lets a person see what is happening in a place that the person has seen before. Even though they are both very tired, Brom tells Eragon the words to scry because Eragon wishes to see how his cousin Roran is doing.

Eragon wants to distract the Ra'zac away from Roran to himself, but Brom warns that this would be foolish. The Ra'zac will want to kill Roran anyway. Brom concludes that Roran will have to learn to defend himself on his own. Brom suggests that King Galbatorix will not want to hurt Roran because the Empire will want Eragon on its side.

Brom poses the situation to Eragon: "Galbatorix wants your willing cooperation. Without that, you're worse than useless to him. So the question becomes, if you are ever faced with this choice, are you willing to die for what you believe in? For that is the only way you will deny him." (Page 197) The real bravery, Brom decides, is shown by people who live and suffer for their beliefs.

An Old Friend Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon and Brom settle into Teirm for their short stay. They start their visit by knocking on Jeod's door. Jeod's wife greets them in an unfriendly manner. She is not expecting them and not happy. Jeod is mystified when he sees Brom because he had thought that Brom was dead. After their reunion, they discuss Jeod's situation at Teirm.



Brom sends Eragon out of the room so the two older men can speak. At first, Eragon pouts about this but then he remembers the words that will let him eavesdrop on Brom and Jeod's conversation. Jeod was once a scholar, but now he is a merchant concerned with shipping goods. Unfortunately, his ships have disappeared, and he can no longer deliver his goods to his secret allies.

Brom concludes that there must be a spy or a traitor who has revealed the shipping schedules. They decide that they must send a messenger to Tronjheim where the dwarves live, to inform them that a traitor has compromised their shipping schedules. Eragon's magical skills are growing so quickly that he is able to conjure words as he needs them.

Brom also reveals Saphira's existence to Jeod, and Eragon is taken aback that Brom is speaking so freely. Later, they visit a tavern, and Eragon is able to eat a real meal and hear music. For the first time in a long time, he and Brom are able to relax. Afterward, he visits with Saphira, who seems jealous and frustrated that she is unable to participate.

Later, in Jeod's library, Eragon reveals that he does not know how to read. Brom decides that he will teach Eragon how to read during their stay in Teirm. Eragon fingers a very valuable book in Jeod's library called *The Dominance of Fate*, a complete history of Alagaglsia that was written by the elves. The elfin poems are long enough that it takes 3 days to recite them properly. Fate appears again as a theme. , Is Eragon living out an important fate?

Eragon realizes the importance of books and the fact that he must be able to read to partake of their knowledge. They also discuss a new skill called "scrying" that Eragon wishes to learn. Scrying is the ability to see a place where one cannot be. The individual must have visited the place in question at one time, so Eragon will not be able to see a place that he has not visited personally. He desires to see his cousin, Roran, and he also suggests that he can lure the Ra'zac away from Roran. Brom dissuades him from pursuing that plan.

Eragon is more valuable alive, Brom intones. Brom suggests that while it is admirable to die for a cause, remaining alive is preferable. It is a bittersweet moment for one as old as Brom.



The Witch and the Werecat

The Witch and the Werecat Summary

Eragon wakes in Jeod's house and finds that Brom and Jeod have left. He wanders Teirm on his own. After hours of exploring, he is hungry and penniless. He decides to visit the shop of Angela, the herbalist. The shop is dark, and there are plants in all the windows. There are rocks and piles of scrolls and many other objects piled around Angela's shop.

Suddenly, Eragon feels a pair of eyes staring at him from the counter. The eyes belong to a large cat that inspects Eragon warily and then dismisses him with a flick of her tail. Eragon speaks to the cat with his mind, and it responds to him immediately. At first, Eragon thinks Saphira is speaking to him, but it is a warning. Eragon does not realize this and speaks again, but after a moment he reels back and collapses in pain, writhing on the floor.

Eragon rises and realizes he has been speaking with the cat. The cat tells Eragon that he is not very smart for a rider. Eragon cannot believe that a cat is able to talk to him, but the cat responds that it is not a "normal" cat. It is, instead, a werecat, a magical creature that lives longer than humans and possesses special powers.

The werecat's name is Solembum, and he grows friendlier as Angela enters. Angela eagerly offers to read Eragon's fortune and although he declines, she produces some rune-inscribed bones. Angela believes Eragon is special because he is able to speak to Solembum. Angela reveals that she has offered to read bones for only two other people, and only one person accepted: a woman named Selena. Selena was Eragon's mother's name, and Eragon is overcome with sadness by the thought that Angela could have read his mother's fortune.

Angela rolls the bones out and studies them carefully. She admits finally that it is a difficult thing to read since Eragon's future seems cloudy to her. She tells Eragon that he will live a very long life, possibly forever. She sees great battles ahead for him. "Countless possible futures await you - all of them filled with blood and conflict - but only one will bring you happiness and peace. Beware of losing your way, for you are one of the few who are truly free to choose their own fate. That freedom is a gift, but it is also a responsibility more binding than chains." (Page 204)

Angela also senses danger in Eragon's future and warns him that death is awaiting him. The words frighten him, but she lightens his mood by telling him that an epic romance also awaits him. There is another ominous sign, though, and Angela informs Eragon that there will be a betrayal from within his family. He immediately doubts that his cousin Roran would ever betray him, but Angela tells him that the bones have never lied.



After his fortune is told by Angela, Eragon receives a message from the werecat, Solembum. He tells Eragon that to find a weapon, all he has to do is look under the roots of a Menoa tree. Also, if he has lost his power, he should go to the rock of Kuthian to speak his name at the Vault of Souls. Eragon notes the mysterious advice and after thanking Angela, goes on his way.

Later, Saphira advises that it is important to remember the words of the werecat because they sound important to her. When he returns to Jeod's house, he finds Brom in an angry mood because he failed to persuade the official in charge of the shipping records to let Brom or Jeod look at the records. Brom vows to go back surreptitiously with Eragon, but he first must teach Eragon how to read in one week.

The Witch and the Werecat Analysis

In this chapter Eragon is left on his own in Teirm as Brom goes to speak with the official in charge of shipping records. Eragon spends a long day walking around town, taking in sights, and experiencing Teirm. As his day is coming to a close, Eragon curiously walks into the shop of the fortuneteller, Angela.

He pokes around for a moment until he feels two eyes staring at him. The owner of the eyes leaps on to the counter, and it is a large cat. Eragon immediately hears a voice speaking to him, and thinking that it is Saphira, he responds. It is not his dragon, but he again replies to Saphira, and a moment later he is thrust to the ground from a powerful force emanating from the cat. The cat is actually a werecat, and he warns Eragon before striking him. The magical world intrudes into Eragon's real world again with the introduction of the werecat.

Solembum, the werecat, and Eragon talk to each other for a moment before Angela enters. She offers to read Eragon's fortune by rolling dragon bones. He is unsure about what to do. Angela tells him that she has offered to read only two others' fortunes with dragon bones, and one of the people was named Selena - Eragon's mother's name. Eragon blanches when he hears this, and he asks about whatever became of Selena, but Angela does not know.

Angela rolls the bones and takes a moment to read them because they are very complex and show multiple events. She says Eragon will live a long life, possibly forever. This does not surprise Eragon because he is a Dragon Rider. She goes on to say that he will have to leave this land. Although he will enjoy an epic romance, someone in his family will betray him.

Solembum then offers him advice about finding a weapon beneath a Menoa tree, and that if he finds his power at low ebb, he should speak his name at the rock of Kuthian. These are mysterious words to Eragon, and when he tells Saphira about it, she posits that it must be important advice because the words sound important.

What role will fate play in Eragon's life? Foreshadowing is important here as Angela predicts important events in Eragon's future, including leaving Alagalsia, a romance, and



familial betrayal. Does learning one's fate make a self-fulfilling prophecy inevitable? How will her forecast interfere with Eragon's actions and the plot of the story?



On Reading and Plots

On Reading and Plots Summary

Eragon begins his reading instruction with Brom by starting at the beginning of the alphabet. Day after day, Brom teaches him the alphabet and then the letter sounds, and at night, he and Brom spar.

All during their stay in Teirm, reports continue to surface regarding more lost ships and the mysterious murders of wealthy people. While Brom and Jeod quietly discuss the events between themselves, they never do so when Eragon is present. After a week of learning, Eragon is able to read slowly, so Brom decides they are ready to seek the shipping information, but it will have to be done in secret.

As Eragon waits for their operation to begin, he wishes that he did not have to keep traveling. He wants to settle into a place like Teirm. He settles in bed and falls asleep. In his dream, he sees a young woman who is chained in a prison cell. She weeps slightly with a tear rolling down her cheek. Eragon wakes from the dream, and he is crying hard before he falls back to sleep.

On Reading and Plots Analysis

In this chapter Eragon begins his reading lessons. Brom starts with the alphabet and teaches his student all the letters and the sounds they represent. They settle into a routine in which Brom teaches Eragon his reading and writing lessons during the day and spars with him at night.

Brom and Jeod are withholding information about the attacks by mysterious forces on the shipping of Teirm. There are also wealthy people from the town who are being kidnapped and killed. The two do not want to reveal what is happening to Eragon. Eragon senses this, especially after previously overhearing their conversation.

One decision Brom does make is that after a week, Eragon is ready to help them in their secret operation. Eragon's reading skills have risen to the point where he is able to read the books and scrolls in Jeod's library. He reads slowly, but he still will be able to help.

By himself, Eragon daydreams of living in Teirm. He does not wish to leave the beautiful town. He knows that with Saphira, it is impossible to think of not leaving. When he sleeps, he sees a woman who is imprisoned. She weeps, a crystal tear falling from her eye. Eragon wakes after seeing the helpless young woman and lapses into a fit of uncontrollable sobbing. Who is the young woman and why has she tapped into his emotions so quickly?



Thieves in the Castle

Thieves in the Castle Summary

Upon waking, Eragon prepares for their trip to Teirm's government castle. Jeod, Brom, and he make their way to the castle. On their way, Eragon senses a presence that he dismisses. When they arrive, the guard asks them what they need. Jeod lies to the guard, and they are admitted to a small room that contains a large pile of scrolls.

Brom instructs Eragon to begin at the top of the pile of scrolls and work his way to the bottom. They are looking for information about the shipping of Seithr oil, the liquid they had found in the canister that brought them to Teirm. As he examines the scrolls, Eragon feels his neck prickle, and he looks up a moment later to see a small boy sitting crouched on the windowsill. It is the werecat, Solembum, asking whether they need any help. Eragon cannot believe his eyes, but the child smiles, revealing the same teeth Eragon saw in Angela's shop.

Solembum reveals that the guard who led Jeod, Brom, and Eragon to the room has told others they are there, and now there are soldiers coming to look for them. Eragon tells Jeod but does not truthfully reveal how he found out. Brom presses on with their work. They hear the guards coming and turn to leave. Brom sees that the door of the room does not lock, so he puts his hand against it, and it locks just as the guards come into view. They question him about being close to the record room, and Brom says they are lost.

The guards then escort Jeod, Brom, and Eragon out of the castle, much to Eragon's relief. They have taken a map from the room and hope that it will bring them relevant information. The map is of Alagalsia, with the tiny village of Carvahall and a huge wild area called Du Weldenvarden to the north and the Beor Mountains dominating the south. In between the two large areas lies the Hadarac Desert.

The three men pore over the map, and Brom and Jeod try to determine where the Seithr oil might have been sent. The cities they cite may have Ra'zac living there under the protection of the king. Jeod reasons that the city of Dras-Leona would be a good place for the Ra'zac to hide, and the records they obtained shows that Seithr oil shipments were made there. It is a city with dark, forbidding gates called Helgrind at its front.

Thieves in the Castle Analysis

In this chapter Jeod, Brom, and Eragon head to the castle to find documents to trace shipments of Seithr oil. On their way, Eragon senses a fleeting presence that he dismisses. When they arrive, Jeod lies to the guard, and they enter the castle and sneak to the small record room. The room contains piles of scrolls, and they begin looking through them.



After searching through the records and using his newly learned reading skills, Eragon senses a presence again, and he looks up to see a small boy sitting on the ledge watching them. He talks to the boy, and after a moment, he realizes it is Solembum, the werecat. The werecat gives Eragon a warning that the guards have spoken to each other and now there are suspicious soldiers coming their way.

Jeod does not believe Eragon at first, and Eragon has to lie to him. They quickly finish their business, and they leave the room just as the soldiers spot them standing outside the door. Brom locks the door magically, and the soldier barks at him to stand away from the record room. Jeod lies to the soldiers saying that they are lost, and the soldiers escort them out of the castle. The thought that the guards are helping them get away amuses Eragon.

Later Brom and Jeod pore over a map and records they stole from the room. The map is of Alagalsia, and they discuss the geography of the land. There are mysterious areas, great mountains, small villages, and huge cities. Eragon marvels over the map while Jeod and Brom think through the likely destinations of the Seithr oil.

Brom and Jeod finally conclude that the Ra'zac must be hiding in Dras-Leona, and they find the shipping record that shows the Seithr oil was shipped there. It is a city with the foreboding Dark Gates of Helgrind inside of which the Ra'zac would hide because of the security of the gates.

A foreshadowing of all the dangers that lie ahead for Eragon emerges as he hears about the features of the map. There are many dangers ahead with Ra'zac and heavily fortified cities waiting for them on their perilous journey. The plot has turned here as Brom and Jeod decide on their next destination.



A Costly Mistake

A Costly Mistake Summary

In the morning, Brom and Eragon depart Teirm, saying goodbye to Jeod. As they ride along the walls of the city, Eragon sees Solembum watching them as they leave. Eragon calls out to Saphira, and she arrives, swooshing down from the sky where she picks him up, and they fly away.

Later on, Eragon asks Brom about some of the mysterious "friends" Brom and Jeod had spoken of in Teirm. Brom realizes Eragon had eavesdropped and is annoyed. Eragon points out the coincidences that have occurred since he found Saphira's egg and how Brom appeared at every turn. Brom says that he has been trying to protect Eragon, and that the knowledge could be deadly.

Finally, Brom opens up: "Very well: there is a war raging in Alagalsia between the Varden and the Empire. Their conflict, however, reaches far beyond any incidental armed clashes. They are locked in a titanic power struggle...centered around you....The Varden and the Empire aren't fighting to control this land or its people. Their goal is to control the next generation of Riders, of whom you are the first. Whoever controls these Riders will become the undisputed master of Alagalsia." (Page 224) Brom's words seem incredible to Eragon, and he takes them in slowly.

Brom tells Eragon that there are still two dragon eggs left, and they are in the possession of King Galbatorix. There were three, but one was Saphira's. Brom says that there will be two future riders who will be loyal to the king. He explains that with Jeod's help, the Varden stole Saphira's eggs, but they were able to steal only one. The search for the lost egg was a perilous adventure that sent Brom and the Varden battling the Ra'zac and Morzan, last of the Forsworn, servant to the king.

Brom tells Eragon of his battle with Morzan, a battle in which Brom killed Morzan to take possession of the egg. Brom brought the egg to the Varden, and the Varden elicited a promise from Brom that he would train the future Rider. Eragon asks how the egg ended up in the Spine, and Brom speculates that the Varden had sent it there by magic, hoping it would end up in Carvahall.

Eragon asks about the Varden, and Brom tells him that he has sent a message to them telling the Varden of Eragon's existence. He does not plan to bring Eragon to them, however, because he worries that they will use Eragon as a political pawn. Then Brom tells Eragon that the young man will have to make a choice about whether to join the Varden. If he does kill the Ra'zac, escaping to the Varden may be his only choice to escape the king.

Later, Eragon asks about his mother, whom Brom knew. He tells Eragon that she was like Garrow, dignified and prideful, but these traits were her downfall. Later, while they



stop for water, Eragon is separated from Brom for a moment as he looks into a stream, jumps across it, but he slips, hits his wrist against a rock, and hears the bone crack. In blinding pain, he calls out for Saphira, and she comes rapidly to help him.

As he is gathering himself, Eragon sees an Urgal's footprint in the dirt. Saphira arrives with Brom in her grasp, and Eragon tells him about the Urgal footprint and his broken wrist. As they gather their belongings and continue their journey, Brom hears the Urgals pursuing them. A horn blows as the monsters spot the campsite Brom and Eragon had used. Eragon climbs aboard Saphira, and she takes off while Brom takes the horses.

The Urgals are catching up to Brom as Eragon watches from the air. He tells Saphira to land in front of the Urgals. Saphira lands in front of the alarmed Urgals, but they do not flee at the sight of the dragon. Instead, they begin talking to Eragon, telling him that their master must speak with him. When Eragon asks who the Urgals' master is, they say Eragon is not worthy of knowing. In response, Eragon says that he will never go with them or any fiend like their master, whoever it is. Then he adds an insult: "Keep your offer and tell your master that the crows can eat his entrails for all I care!" (Page 232)

This insult enrages the Urgals, and they attack. Eragon responds with a magic word, which sends a beam of light from his hand that knocks every one of them to the ground. Unfortunately, the beam also drains Eragon's energy completely. As he lies on the ground, one of the Urgals rises slowly to attack, but at the last moment, Saphira notices him and kills him. Before the others rise, Saphira takes Eragon and flies to safety. It is a frightening moment, and the reader realizes that this will not be the last time that Eragon must fight the Urgals.

A Costly Mistake Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon and Brom leave Teirm to continue their journey. As they make their way, Eragon demands more specific details about what Eragon overheard in Teirm. Brom is understandably annoyed that Eragon has eavesdropped on him and Jeod, but they talk about the secrets Brom has kept from him.

Brom tells Eragon about how the Varden hid the dragon's eggs after he stole them from the Empire. Brom killed the king's servant, Morzan, and secured Saphira's egg. After many bloody battles, Brom was able to secure the egg for the Varden. Brom promised the Varden that he would train the Rider. He is fulfilling that promise with Eragon. Eventually, the egg was sent to the Spine magically by the Varden.

Brom reveals more about the Varden, who are in a war against the king's army and others the king employs, such as the Urgals. It is not merely a war for land, but it is also a war for the future. Eragon represents the future because he is a Rider, and whoever controls the Riders will be victorious. Eragon has a difficult time accepting that there is a war being fought over him.

While visiting a stream and leaping across it, Eragon slips and breaks his wrist. While he is in tremendous pain, Eragon notices an Urgal footprint and alerts Brom. They



gather everything and take off, Eragon on Saphira, and Brom with the horses. From the air, Eragon sees the Urgals catching up with Brom, and he and the dragon land in front of the monsters.

Eragon goads the Urgals into attacking. He uses magic, but the Urgals are only knocked down as if they are punched in the stomachs. One of the Urgals attacks, and Saphira tears him in half. She picks up Eragon, who is barely conscious from losing nearly all his strength, and flies away with him. He overreached trying to kill a dozen Urgals with his magic, and it nearly killed him.

Eragon has exposed himself and Saphira to the Urgals who escaped. The Empire will be aware of his existence and will be searching for him and Saphira. He is in more danger now because he forgot the warnings Brom gave him when he learned the words of power.



Vision of Perfection

Vision of Perfection Summary

Eragon wakes up after sleeping for a long time. After his short battle with the Urgals, he feels sore and weak. He is alone in the woods and waits for Brom and Saphira to return. After waiting for hours, he attempts to see Brom and Saphira by scrying, and he can see Saphira flying with Brom on her back.

After scrying Brom and Saphira, Eragon searches for an image of his cousin, Roran, who seems to be in a strange, unrecognizable place. He then attempts to see the image of the young woman in his dream. He finds her image and says the words but only sees a candle in the darkness. Then the darkness lifts, and he sees a stone cell in which the woman is lying. Their eyes lock, and then she collapses after seeing him for a moment.

Moments later, Eragon hears Saphira's wings and sees Brom, who carries a bloodied sword. After asking him what happened, Brom roars at him, telling him he has been out cleaning up the mess Eragon made. Brom shouts that he was nearly killed by what he did and that he chased the Urgals down, but three escaped. Eragon responds that he did not want to kill them, but Brom answers that the Urgals would never show Eragon any mercy, so he should not have any on them.

Brom continues with his angry words, and Eragon tries to say he is sorry, but Brom tells him that feelings will not change what happened. Then Eragon mentions that the Urgals had been specifically looking for Eragon on their master's orders. This is news to Brom, who gets angrier upon hearing that Eragon had insulted their leader. Brom, however, is also curious to know who would be in charge of the Urgals.

He further scolds Eragon for not using discretion with his newly developed power. Brom vows to teach Eragon when he should use magic, not just how to use his special power. He questions Eragon concerning various situations in which he would have to decide when to use magic and when not to.

Vision of Perfection Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon wakes up in a clearing in the woods alone and unsure of how long he had been unconscious. After waiting for hours, he decides to try scrying, the ability to see other people and places, to see whether he can see what Brom and Saphira are up to. He sees Brom riding on Saphira, and he relaxes. Then he looks for his cousin, Roran, and sees him in an unfamiliar place.

Finally, Eragon tries to look for the young woman whom he has seen only in his dreams. After moments of darkness, Eragon sees a lit candle and then a prison cell. He comes face to face with her in the cell, and their eyes lock for a moment. She faints, and he releases the vision.



Moments later, Brom and Saphira arrive. Brom is furious with Eragon, and he tells the young man that he could have been killed by using all of his power on 12 Urgals. He realizes that he has not taught Eragon about when to use his power. He vows to teach him discretion. Brom learns that the Urgals were working for a master, and he becomes very curious about whom they were discussing and whom Eragon insulted.

Eragon is feeling sullen because he was castigated by Brom. Brom called him "boy" and questioned whether he is ready for any journey or battle. Eragon must feel like he has taken steps backward after he made a rash decision to attack the dozen Urgals. He could have been killed either by the monsters or by misusing his power. The Urgals have now scattered, and the plot twists here because Brom learns that they are fighting in the service of the Empire and are not merely fighting for their clans.



Master of the Blade

Master of the Blade Summary

The next day, Eragon and Brom discuss Eragon's scrying of the young woman in the cell. Brom suggests that it is unusual to be able to scry through a dream and not real experience, and Eragon betrays his eagerness to find the comely young woman by searching in all the prisons or dungeons in the towns they come to.

Brom continues to put Eragon through rigorous testing, even though the young man must use his left hand because of his broken wrist. As they train daily, Eragon grows more skillful than Brom. He is able to execute complex moves with his blade Zar'roc and defeat Brom. Brom realizes that when it comes to the sword, he has nothing more to teach Eragon.

Brom warns Eragon that if he ever has to fight an elf that elves are much stronger than humans. They discuss the use of magic in battle, and how a wizard is able to duel with others by breaking into their opponent's minds. To duel like this requires understanding of who or what the opponent is and what the nature of their powers is because if an opponent is underestimated, the result will be defeat.

Master of the Blade Analysis

Eragon and Brom continue to journey to their next destination, and on their way, they discuss the scrying that Eragon performed to see the young woman in the prison cell. Eragon seems very eager to find her, and he suggests that they search in every prison they encounter.

Later, when Brom and Eragon battle with swords, Eragon shows by using his left hand that he has become superior to Brom. There is nothing Brom can teach his student now when it comes to sword fighting. Brom says that only a few swordsmen have been able to defeat him. Eragon has become great in a short amount of time.

Brom and Eragon further discuss wizards' duels, a battle that takes place in the mind. Brom warns Eragon against attempting such a battle, and he suggests that the best defense would be to run away. One has to know the nature of the opponent's powers to defeat someone like the Shade. It is a dangerous prospect.

Eragon is obviously a quick learner. He is young and strong, and his mental acuity is also improving. Brom is still protective of Eragon because he knows there are so many who would like to have control of the Rider. Brom's training and the discussion about the wizards' duel may foreshadow what might befall Eragon with the Shade or someone of similar power.



The Mire of Dras-Leona

The Mire of Dras-Leona Summary

When nearing the city of Dras-Leona, Eragon is eager to battle the Ra'zac, while Saphira warns him to be careful and watch for spies on their journey. She will not be able to protect them when they are in the city. Dras-Leona is an unplanned city, unlike the planned city of Teirm. It is a city guarded by gates called Helgrind, and it has a foreboding cathedral. Brom tells Eragon that the people worship the Helgrind and that they drink human blood and eat human flesh during their religious offerings.

People are kidnapped, and their body parts are taken to make the offerings. Eragon comments on the horror of such a religion, and Brom warns him against making such observations to a believer. Inside the city, there are beggars and ragged children pleading for coins. Eragon is sickened by the sight.

Brom and Eragon make their way to the center of the city, where the wealthier townspeople live. They find a lodge to rest for the night, and later eat and drink beer before falling asleep. Eragon contacts Saphira to tell her that they will be staying in Dras-Leona for a few days, and she disapproves of his drinking.

The Mire of Dras-Leona Analysis

As they are approaching Dras-Leona, Eragon and Brom discuss the prospect of meeting the Ra'zac. Saphira warns Eragon about spies. She is unable to join them or help them while they are in the city. Soon, they behold Helgrind, which are more than simply gates. They are part of the city's spiritual identity. People worship Helgrind, but the religion calls for people to drink human blood and offer human body parts as sacrifice.

Eragon is clearly sickened by the description of the religion and by the state of the people at the entrance of Dras-Leona. There are multitudes of beggars in rags. Children fight each other over scraps of bread. Brom tells him that the center of town is better after Eragon vows not to stay in the city.

Eragon and Brom find lodging at a dirty inn. They have a meal and decide to rest in the city for a few days. After drinking beer in the tavern, Eragon speaks to Saphira, telling her about their plans, and she clucks her disapproval to him for drinking.

Eragon's eyes are opening to the world. He is no longer an innocent farm boy since he has now seen so much of Alagalsia. He is very idealistic and abhors the suffering he sees. There is no telling how much more suffering and misery he will encounter.



Trail of Oil

Trail of Oil Summary

After waking the next morning, Brom and Eragon are feeling the effects of their drinking the night before. They drink tea and water, and soon they are feeling better and begin their day, searching the city for the Seithr Oil. They see the mansion where the ruler of the city, Marcus Tbbor, lives.

Brom and Eragon separate to search individually, and Brom warns him not to do anything "stupid." (Page 251) Brom discovers information about how the Seithr oil is stored and shipped on their first day of searching. He learns that the king will be visiting Dras-Leona within a few days. Slaves carry the Seithr oil to its destination in Helgrind, the mountain gates of Dras-Leona, from the warehouse. Eragon suggests that he and Brom go undercover and replace the slaves so that they can meet and kill the Ra'zac.

Brom finds Eragon's suggestion of posing as slaves intriguing, but he needs another day to return to the palace for information on how they can begin. As slaves, they will bring the oil to Helgrind and the lair of the Ra'zac. Eragon is very pleased that they have deduced the Ra'zac's location.

Trail of Oil Analysis

In this chapter, Brom and Eragon investigate the location of the Seithr oil and its destination. They separate to investigate individually. Brom pretends to be a storyteller and inserts himself into the palace. There, he learns about the route of the oil. He learns that King Galbatorix will be visiting the city soon. The very powerful ruler of the city has displeased the king.

They use the information that slaves, who are never seen again, are used to bring the oil to Helgrind where the Ra'zac must be hiding. Eragon suggests that he and Brom go undercover as slaves. They will become slaves to bring the Seithr oil to the lair of the Ra'zac.

The plan is a very dangerous one, and it could easily backfire on Eragon and Brom. The slaves who have transported the oil have all been killed, so there will be much danger in assuming their identities. Eragon is very pleased that they have deduced the location of their enemy. He is able to use his heightened mental acuity as well as he uses his sword.



Worshippers of Helgrind

Worshippers of Helgrind Summary

In the morning, Brom leaves early, and he writes a note for Eragon instructing him to avoid notice but still explore the city and enjoy himself. In the city, Eragon watches an auctioneer extolling the qualities of a product - it is a human being up for sale. It infuriates him to watch the auction, and when he sees a small girl taken from her mother to be sold, he must force himself to walk away.

Eragon walks to the cathedral and finds that it is silent and empty inside. Inside, he pays his respects and as he turns to leave, he sees the Ra'zac in the doorway watching him. The anger builds up inside him as he fires two arrows in the direction of the two Ra'zac but they are able to dodge them easily. A moment later, the Ra'zac are joined by a line of soldiers coming into the cathedral.

The Ra'zac chase Eragon, and as he turns to leave, he spots a side entrance. He makes his way quickly through the halls until he comes to a locked wooden door. He uses a magic word, "Jierda!" and the door splinters. (Page 259) He runs through, startling priests and monks inside. The bell of the cathedral is ringing for alarm as he finds himself in a walled garden.

Eragon runs and jumps to the top of the wall. He struggles but finally makes it over while the Ra'zac simply jump over still in pursuit. Eragon is worried that since his whereabouts are now known, Brom will also be found out. Eragon runs for a mile and hides in a busy marketplace. He calls out to Saphira to tell her that they have been found out, and they are in danger. Saphira contacts Brom and then relays that he and Eragon will meet at the inn.

Eragon makes it back to the inn where he packs. Brom arrives asking what happened. They rush to leave the city before the gates close. They ride Cadoc to the gates, and when they arrive the gates are halfway closed and guarded by men with pikes. Brom utters a magical command, and a few men drop to the ground while Eragon gives his command and the gates stop closing. A crowd watches in amazement as they slip through the suspended gates.

Saphira meets Brom and Eragon on the other side of the wall, and she comments that all their chasing of the Ra'zac has come to nothing. Eragon counters that the fight was not a fair one, since the Ra'zac had the soldiers on their side. Later, Eragon struggles to know how the Ra'zac found them. Brom reasons that a spy must have told the authorities about their presence.

That night, Eragon stands in the camp they have made, and as he talks to Brom, he hears a roaring in his head and falls to the ground, unconscious.



Worshippers of Helgrind Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon and Brom separate again. Brom tries to settle the details of their undercover plan. Eragon walks through town, sees an auction in progress, and is enraged to see that it is an auction of humans. He contemplates saving the slaves who are being sold before he forces himself to walk away. He becomes very angry after witnessing the injustice of a little girl being torn from her mother to be sold.

Eragon walks into the silent cathedral. He is taken aback by its majesty and pays homage to the people who have been sacrificed by the believers. He looks up and sees the Ra'zac have entered the cathedral and see him. After shooting a few arrows in the direction of the Ra'zac, Eragon sees that a line of army men have joined the Ra'zac, so he makes for his escape. He runs through the halls passing by stunned priests and monks. He blows a door to bits with magic and then finds himself in front of a high wall that is a dead end.

The wall seems too high but Eragon uses all of his strength and jumps for the top. Slipping and struggling, he makes his way to the top where, with muscles straining, he is able to climb over. Eragon runs through the city until he reaches a crowded market where he hides. He is finally able to contact Saphira and after telling her what has happened, she is able to contact Brom.

Eragon packs their belongings and makes a rendezvous with Brom near the Helgrind gates. Guards with pikes stand in front of the gates, blocking their exit. Brom utters a few magic words, and the guards in their path fall away, but the gates are closing quickly. Eragon then mutters his own words, and the gates stop closing for a moment, long enough for them to slide through.

On the other side of the gates, Saphira is waiting. Now that they have been seen, they travel quickly, fearing that they are being chased. Saphira points out that the reason for their journey was to chase the Ra'zac, but now the Ra'zac are pursuing them. The chapter ends when , Eragon falls unconscious while standing at the campfire after he hears a roaring in his head. The noise does not bode well for Eragon, and the reader knows the plot will twist against him.



The Ra'zac's Revenge

The Ra'zac's Revenge Summary

Eragon wakes only to find himself bound. He turns to see Brom in the same position. Eragon looks up and sees that it is the Ra'zac that have subdued him and Brom. He attempts to use the magic words that Brom taught him, but he is unable to summon any of them. The Ra'zac laughs at his attempts and mentions that the drug is working.

Saphira is also a hostage of the Ra'zac because she stopped fighting when it threatened Eragon. She is wrapped in chains with a muzzle and watches helplessly. The Ra'zac rifles through Eragon's possessions and speaks coldly to Eragon, who finally is able to speak. He threatens the Ra'zac. The Ra'zac talks to another Ra'zac about what to do with Brom and Eragon. They talk about their master's wishes that they bring in both Brom and Eragon alive.

The Ra'zac drags a groggy Brom to the center of the camp and threatens to kill him when a moment later an arrow pierces the Ra'zac's shoulder. More arrows pierce the two Ra'zac in the darkness. They begin to panic because of the unseen invader. One Ra'zac flees but not before kicking Eragon hard in the side. The Ra'zac turns to leave, but before doing so, it turns and throws a knife at Eragon. Brom jumps in front of the flying blade and it strikes him. Eragon screams in horror.

The Ra'zac's Revenge Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon and Brom are held hostage by the vicious Ra'zac. There are two Ra'zac, and they hiss at Eragon and mock him. Eragon tries to use his magic, but he is not able to remember any words. The Ra'zac has drugged him and Brom, but Brom seems far worse.

Brom, Eragon, and Saphira are tied together tightly, and they are all unable to move. Eragon's mind starts to clear long enough to threaten the Ra'zac who only hiss back mockingly. They discuss what to do with their hostages. One Ra'zac wants to kill Brom, but the other says that their master wants them both alive. The reader does not know who their master is, but the Ra'zac seem dedicated to obeying him or her.

Both Ra'zac seem to want to do away with Brom, and they drag him around and brandish Eragon's sword at his throat. It is night but from the dark an arrow whistles into camp, piercing the Ra'zac. The arrow is followed by more until both Ra'zac begin to panic. They have been struck with multiple arrows, but this does not fell them. Before running off, one of them kicks Eragon in the side viciously.

Before fleeing into the night, one of the Ra'zac turns and hurls a dagger at Eragon. Brom jumps in front of the dagger and is struck by it. Eragon screams at seeing his teacher and companion struck. What will become of Brom? Is this the fate that Angela

warned Eragon about at Teirm? The reader is also left to wonder who saved Eragon with the rain of arrows that chased the Ra'zac away.



Murtagh

Murtagh Summary

Eragon wakes from his unconsciousness, and his mind begins to clear. A moment later, he is able to speak to Saphira and ask her whether she is injured and who has started the fire and released her from her chains. Eragon looks up and sees a young man standing in his camp. Wearing ragged clothing and holding a small sword and a bow, the young man watches Saphira closely. Eragon asks him who he is, and he answers that his name is Murtagh.

Murtagh tells Eragon that he was tracking the Ra'zac. Eragon stands up but is felled by the pain in his ribs from the Ra'zac's kick. He asks Murtagh about Brom and learns that Brom is doing very badly. Murtagh looks at Eragon's ribs and tells him that he has two ribs or more broken. After Murtagh's warnings not to, Eragon takes Brom's bandage off and with Saphira's help he tries to heal Brom's wound. In an exhausting process, Eragon and Saphira try to heal their friend, but they can only heal exterior wounds.

Eragon decides that Brom must travel with them, because he fears the return of the Ra'zac. He will make a litter on which Saphira will carry Brom. Eragon tells Murtagh that he should go in another direction and not go with Eragon and Saphira. Murtagh does not accept this suggestion and says he will go with Eragon and he agrees.

Saphira takes Brom while Eragon and Murtagh travel on their horses. Soon, Saphira contacts Eragon and tells him that they must stop because Brom needs attention. They stop for the night at a cave where they can be protected and detect anyone who is following them. They try to give Brom water but are unable to do so, so they go to sleep.

Murtagh Analysis

Waking up in a fog, Eragon struggles to realize that he is hurt and Brom is gravely wounded. He looks up to see a stranger in their camp and finds out that Murtagh was the one who saved Saphira and him. . Murtagh had been tracking the Ra'zac for his own reasons.

Eragon examines Brom's wound, and with Saphira's help, he tries to heal him. Eragon and Saphira combine their powers to heal as many of Brom's wounds as they can. It is an exhausting process, and Brom's internal injuries seem too serious. Murtagh is dazzled by the power Eragon demonstrates. He does not possess any of the magical power that Eragon has learned, but he seems a self-assured warrior in his own way.

Eragon dismisses Murtagh because he and Saphira will not be able to protect their new friend. But Murtagh does not want to leave them and travel in a different direction. So Eragon relents, and with the wounded Brom who lies on a litter, they travel out of danger. They arrive at a cave where they will be able to tend to Brom without threat of

Ra'zac attack. This new companion, Murtagh, is a brave and talented warrior. He proved his worth by saving their lives the previous night. He is also mysterious and has his own motives.



Legacy of a Rider

Legacy of a Rider Summary

Eragon wakes slowly at the urging of Saphira. Brom is running a high fever and thrashing about with his arms. A moment later, Brom opens his eyes and yells for the wineskin. Eragon takes Murtagh's wineskin, and Brom tells him to wash his right hand with it. Eragon follows his instructions, not knowing why. After washing Brom's hand, the identical scar possessed by Eragon is exposed on Brom's hand. Brom was a Dragon Rider long ago until his dragon was killed by Galbatorix after being betrayed by Morzan. His dragon's name was named Saphira.

Eragon asks Brom why he has not revealed this information before and Brom tells him he did not need to. He warns Eragon to guard his Saphira with his life, "for without her, it's hardly worth living." (Page 275) Brom confesses that he is unable to fight the wound, and that he does not have the energy to do so. He asks Eragon if he can give the young man his blessing before he dies.

Eragon is sobbing and denying that Brom is going to die, but he accepts the blessing from Brom anyway. Brom says, "May the coming years bring you great happiness." (Page 275) Brom then whispers seven words in the elfin language and says, "That is all I can give you....Use them only in great need." (Page 275) With that instruction Brom declares he is ready, "for the greatest adventure of all...." (Page 275) Hours later, with Eragon by his side, Brom dies.

Risking being seen, Eragon insists that Murtagh and he bury Brom. Using magic words, Eragon digs a grave for Brom in stone, and then writes an epitaph for him. "Here lies Brom who was a Dragon Rider and like a father to me. May his name live on in glory." (Page 276)

Later that night while mourning Brom, Eragon falls asleep and dreams of the woman in the cell. She looks to be in pain as she lies alone in her cell. She is unconscious and, Eragon can tell, is bleeding.

Legacy of a Rider Analysis

Saphira is watching over Brom as Eragon awakes. She calls to him urgently as Brom convulses. Eragon comes to Brom's side and can feel that his fever is very high, high enough to feel without touching his skin. They hold Brom until his convulsions subside, and a moment later, he opens his eyes and asks for the wineskin.

After Murtagh gives Eragon his wineskin, Brom tells Eragon to wash his hand with the wine. After doing so, Brom's hand reveals the identical scar that Eragon has. Eragon is shocked, and Brom tells him of how his dragon was killed when Morzan betrayed the Riders, and Galbatorix killed many dragons.



Brom tells Eragon the story of Morzan's betrayal, and then reveals that the name of his dragon was Saphira. Brom then offers to give Eragon his blessing and although Eragon does not want to accept the inevitable, he finally relents, and Brom whispers a few more magic words for Eragon to use only when he is in the greatest need.

Brom finally declares that he is off for his greatest adventure and hours later grows rigid and dies. Eragon is grieving and decides to bring Brom's body to a grave. Although there is no dirt to bury Brom, Eragon digs a grave in rock using magic. Eragon writes Brom's epitaph, saying that Brom was like a father to him and should be remembered with glory.

While grieving, Eragon falls asleep and dreams of the woman in her cell. She is unconscious and bleeding. Eragon no longer has his teacher to guide him through his journey. Will he be able to handle himself without Brom? Did Brom teach him everything possible? It seems so, and Eragon has many enemies pursuing him and Saphira.



Diamond Tomb

Diamond Tomb Summary

Eragon wakes and feels ill, and Murtagh stands over him holding the rabbits he has killed. Murtagh asks him whether Brom was the legendary one who killed Morzan in a duel. Murtagh looks troubled, and Eragon is curious how he knows about these events. Murtagh admits that he heard of the new Rider and wished to find out who the Rider is by following the Ra'zac.

Eragon attempts to probe Murtagh's mind but finds that it is guarded. Murtagh asks to examine Eragon's sword, Zar'roc, and after he does, he is shocked to realize that the sword belonged to Morzan. Eragon is also shocked when he thinks about how many riders were killed with the same sword that Brom gave to him.

Eragon and Murtagh talk about what to do with Brom's horse and where they should go next. Eragon admits that he will need Murtagh as a companion. Saphira enters the cave and is saddened by the loss of Brom. She talks to Eragon about some of the secrets Brom imparted to her. She tells Eragon that Brom felt that he would be the best person to inherit the Rider position after Brom was gone.

Saphira tells Eragon that a man named Dormnad is a man Eragon can contact to find the Varden. They decide to travel to Gil'ead, and Eragon thinks that the woman he dreams about is in prison in that city. It will be a long way to Gil'ead, Eragon tells Murtagh where they are going, and they pack to leave. Before leaving, Saphira leaves a diamond covering on Brom's grave that protects it with magic.

Diamond Tomb Analysis

In this chapter, Murtagh reveals some secrets, as does Saphira. Murtagh sees the blade carried by Eragon and recognizes it as the blade once carried by Morzan, the man who betrayed the Riders. He is wary of the blade and tells Eragon of the blade's past and that it was responsible for killing many dragons. Murtagh admits that he heard there was a young Rider, and he followed the Ra'zac hoping to meet the Rider.

Then, Eragon and Saphira talk about where they should go next, and they decide they will go to Gil'ead. It is going to be a long journey, but Eragon feels that the woman must have something to do with the quest he is on. Saphira tells him that Brom left a name, Dormnad, as a person they should contact regarding the location of the Varden. Murtagh wants no part of going to the Varden, but Eragon reminds him that they really do not know the location of the rebels.

Eragon and Murtagh pack their belongings to travel to Gil'ead, and in the meantime, Saphira casts a magical diamond to cover Brom's grave. It will protect the grave forever, and Eragon is very grateful.



Murtagh has revealed a few secrets, and he seems grateful to be able to travel with Eragon and Saphira, but Eragon will need him for companionship and protection because there will be many more obstacles and enemies on their journey to Gil'ead and beyond.



Capture at Gil'ead

Capture at Gil'ead Summary

Murtagh and Eragon ride their horses on their journey to Gil'ead. The days roll by with no sign that the Ra'zac pursue them. When they pass through towns, Eragon disguises himself, and he sees the wanted posters advertising his name and description. He celebrates his sixteenth birthday in the woods. He has reached manhood, but he does not tell his companion on the day.

Eragon's ribs are now healed, and he and Murtagh spar with the swords that he dulls with magic. They spar intensely but are evenly matched and neither can gain an advantage over the other. When they arrive near Gil'ead they decide to camp 2 miles away to discuss their strategy. During the night, Eragon wakes with a tingling sensation on his scar. He wakes Murtagh, and though they are poised, nothing happens.

In the morning an Urgal roars near Eragon, who turns and strikes the monster with magic. After killing the first Urgal, Eragon turns to see several more Urgals bearing down on him. He kills several before an Urgal catches him with his club, knocking him unconscious. Before he slips into unconsciousness he screams for Saphira to fly.

Capture at Gil'ead Analysis

Eragon and Murtagh journey to Gil'ead for days and days. Eragon's ribs heal as he and Murtagh spar heavily every day. Eragon must wear disguises when they enter towns because there are wanted posters bearing his description in these places. Extra guards are posted near bridges and town entrances, so it is difficult traveling around them.

Murtagh and Eragon discuss how they will travel together and what they will do once they reach Gil'ead. Murtagh maintains that he should enter the town and not Eragon. Eragon will be tortured and killed by the king if he does not join Galabatorix's forces. Murtagh is wanted but not like Eragon.

Murtagh and Eragon have arrived on the outskirts of Gil'ead. They camp for the night and plan their entrance into the city. Eragon wakes in the night and feels his scar tingling. He wakes Murtagh, who wakes with a start, but there is no enemy lurking. He is poised and waiting when an Urgal appears whom Eragon kills easily with magic, but he looks up to see a large group Urgals advancing on him.

Eragon kills several Urgals until one bashes him on the head with a club, but he is able to warn Saphira to fly away just in time. The reader is unaware what has happened to Murtagh in the attack. Eragon is at the mercy of Urgals now, and the reader fears he is vulnerable to the Urgals or whoever has him in custody.



Du Sundavar Freohr

Du Sundavar Freohr Summary

Eragon wakes up warm and dry and realizes he has been placed in a cell with an iron door. He has dried blood on his head and is groggy. He tries to use magic but is unable to summon the words. Realizing his captors must have drugged him, Eragon looks out the high window in an effort to figure out where he is.

Soon, a man brings Eragon food and water, and he is grateful. He then remembers that Urgals captured him, so he is unsure why men have put him into a jail cell. Across from Eragon's cell, the armor-clad soldiers carry a woman from her cell. Eragon realizes through his haze that the woman is the one he has dreamed about for the last few months.

Eragon sees a tall man with a cape stride into her cell, and as he does he looks at Eragon and smiles, showing his pointed teeth. He realizes that this man is a Shade and wonders why the soldiers are not alarmed by the Shade's presence. Later, Eragon wakes up and realizes the drug his captors gave him is wearing off. He picks up his water and detects an odor to it, so he decides that the water and food must be tainted with a drug.

When the jailer brings him food later, even though he is very hungry Eragon does not eat. He begins to devise a plan as the drug wears off. Soon, he hears voices outside his cell, and he hears the conversation between the jailer and the Shade. The jailer insists that the Shade not come in to see Eragon, but the Shade wins the argument and enters the cell. Eragon feigns being drugged and asks who the Shade is. The Shade rebuffs the question and instead demands Eragon's identity.

Eragon tells him his name, but the Shade does not want this moniker. He prefers Eragon's true name so he will be able to control him. He quickly makes up a name that will satisfy the Shade, revealing that Brom told him it is Du Sundavar Freohr. The Shade is satisfied with the response and tells Eragon that he is there to gloat about his victory over Eragon.

The Shade leaves Eragon, but not before telling the jailer to add more drug to the water. Although he is frustrated by his confinement, Eragon reminds himself to be patient.

Du Sundavar Freohr Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon wakes in a cell and feels groggy and unsure of where he is. Soon he realizes he is in the middle of the city, and men have imprisoned him after his capture by the Urgals. He vaguely thinks that it is significant that men hold him after Urgals, but his mind does not seem to be functioning normally. Slowly, he surmises that he is drugged.



Eragon watches the heavily armored soldiers bringing a prisoner to and from the cell across from him. He sees that the prisoner is a woman, and he notices her clothing and her head lolling to the side. He realizes at once that she is the woman he has dreamt about and that she is an elf. He thinks about drinking the water the jailer has left in his cell, but he realizes that if the water is drugged, his food must be as well.

Soon, he hears a strange but smooth-sounding voice belonging to a Shade that startles Eragon. The Shade looks at Eragon and shows his pointed teeth. Soon the Shade enters Eragon's cell and asks him his name. After Eragon freely tells the Shade his name, the Shade still wants to know what his true name is. Eragon realizes that if the Shade knows his true name, then he can be controlled, so he gives him a false name, Du Sundavar Freohr. This seems to satisfy the Shade, who vows to return and discuss the name further.

Eragon must remain patient, and as the drug wears off he reminds himself not to drink the tainted water or eat the food. He also must bide his time as he plans to escape and take the elf with him.



Fighting Shadows

Fighting Shadows Summary

Hours later, Eragon can feel the magic returning to his mind. He reaches out to unlock the door to his cell mentally, and he hears the click as it pops open. He gets up and walks warily into the hall. He is feeling stronger than ever and knows that his body can withstand much more than it ever could when he first learned magic.

Eragon steps into the hall and remembers he should call Saphira for assistance. He does, and she replies for him not to move because Murtagh is headed there to rescue him. Just then a small group of soldiers enters the hallway, and they see Eragon and his open cell door and charge him. He strikes the soldiers down with magic and is about to do it again when a soldier is struck by an arrow. A soldier lies stricken, and Eragon stands over him, threatening him with torture if the soldier does not tell him where his sword and the elf are.

Finally, the soldier relents and tells Eragon where the elf and his weapon are, and Eragon subdues the man with magic. Watching him is the person who fired the arrows into the guards. It is Murtagh in disguise, and he is incredulous when Eragon says that they must rescue the elf. They enter her cell, and although she stands and looks at Eragon she soon collapses into unconsciousness, and Eragon catches her before she hits the floor.

Murtagh exclaims that she is beautiful, but Eragon cautions that she is injured as they carry the elf from her cell. Eragon hides with the elf in a banquet room, where he is able to drink and eat quickly. Murtagh returns with all their weapons, and they wait for their escape. After Eragon tells him that the Shade is in the building, they decide that they have to leave immediately.

Moments later they hear a cold laugh from the Shade, who has found their location. Eragon tells Murtagh that he will fight the Shade. They duel, and the Shade is much stronger than he looks. As they fight Eragon ignores a screeching sound coming from above the ceiling. The Shade is still dueling Eragon, but his superior strength and skill allow him to toy with Eragon. The Shade knocks the sword out of his hand with an easy flick. Moments later an arrow pierces the Shade's shoulder.

It does not bother him and knocks another arrow out of the air, but a moment later an arrow lands between his eyes. Soldiers are closing in to take Murtagh and Eragon but Saphira is also entering from above. The Shade is neutralized, but the soldiers press in until they see Saphira. She then crashes through the ceiling, and a falling beam crushes the soldiers as she enters.



Murtagh, Eragon, and the unconscious elf escape on Saphira but not before the dragon's wings are pierced by arrows. She is wounded but is able to fly them out of the city to safety.

Fighting Shadows Analysis

Eragon lies in his cell and his mental ability is slowly coming back to him. He tests his magic by trying to open the door of his cell, and it works. He exits his cell and then realizes that he should summon Saphira. She responds that Murtagh is already on his way.

Eragon is still not thinking clearly, but he does remember that Saphira needs to be called. He confronts the guards with magic, and then a few arrows hit the guards. He speaks to a downed guard and asks him for information. The guard refuses to reveal anything, but after Eragon threatens him with magical torture, the guard reveals the location of the elf and the whereabouts of Eragon's weapons. Eragon looks up and realizes that the person who shot the guards with the arrow is Murtagh in disguise.

They head to the cell of the elf. Murtagh objects to doing this, but Eragon does not offer this action as an option. When he enters the elf's cell, she collapses into unconsciousness, and Eragon catches the beautiful female before her head hits the floor. They flee to an empty banquet room with the elf, where Eragon is able to eat and drink quickly. Murtagh retrieves their weapons from a storage room and meets them in the banquet room. A moment later, they are discovered by the Shade.

Their duel rages, and the Shade toys with Eragon. Murtagh offers his assistance with his bow and arrow and one pierces the Shade's forehead, dropping him to the floor. They are unsure whether he is dead, but by that time Saphira crashes through the ceiling while the soldiers stream into the hall. Murtagh, Eragon, and the elf are aboard Saphira, and she flies away as the soldiers' arrows puncture her wings. She is injured but not seriously as they fly away from the city.

Eragon has added another experience to a long list of harrowing adventures, and each one makes him stronger and wiser in his journey. The Shade was not able to control him as much as he would have liked so that he could permanently gain control over the new Dragon Rider. The duel between Eragon and the Shade demonstrates the theme of magic, and luckily for Eragon, he was able to escape.



A Warrior and a Healer

A Warrior and a Healer Summary

When they land, Eragon tries to feel for the holes made by the arrows. An arrow still protrudes from Saphira's wing, and Eragon removes it while she bites a sapling to avoid roaring in pain. The arrow was lodged in her muscle, and she rears back in pain, knocking Murtagh to the ground.

Saphira takes the elf as Murtagh and Eragon ride the horses. Eragon thinks about what he knows of elves. They live a long time and have magic powers, and so this elf must be drugged like he was in Gil'ead but much more heavily. After traveling for many hours, Murtagh and Eragon make camp. They discuss their situation and realize that the Urgals are working for the king. Eragon says that this fact means that the people of Alagalsia will rebel against their king once this fact becomes known.

Murtagh posits that the people may find out about the king's use of the Urgals, but Galbatorix is still powerful enough to maintain control. They speak further on the politics of the Empire with Murtagh saying that the king has no power outside of their land. Eragon broods that they have lost a chance to reach Dormnadr, who was going to tell them the location of the Varden. Saphira agrees. The Empire's soldiers will find them before they find the Varden.

The elf has not awoken from her slumber, and Murtagh asks Eragon whether he is able to heal her. Saphira reiterates that an elf must not be allowed to die, and Eragon silently vows that whoever hurt her will die.

Eragon then attempts to heal the elf, and he works hard and spends much effort to heal her as much as he can. When he finishes, he is exhausted and can barely stand, but he insists they travel on.

A Warrior and a Healer Analysis

In this chapter Eragon must extract an arrow from Saphira's wings. They hold the dragon down while she bites on a sapling to stand the pain. She thrashes as the arrow comes out and knocks Murtagh to the ground.

Murtagh, Eragon, and Saphira begin a conversation about the politics of Alagalsia. The fact that the Urgals are helping the Empire is shocking and dramatic. The knowledge of that alliance may start a war in the Empire with many people joining the Varden.

What is wrong with the elf? Murtagh urges Eragon to help her and so does Saphira, who says that he cannot allow an elf to die. So Eragon sets about the task of healing the elf. It is a process that racks his body. Doing magic is exhausting, and even though Eragon is very strong, he is brought to his knees by his healing.



They are unsure if Eragon's efforts to heal the elf woman will help. Only time will tell whether it does help, but she is still unconscious. Even through his great fatigue Eragon presses Murtagh to travel on.



Water from Sand

Water from Sand Summary

Eragon, Murtagh, and Saphira travel on through Eragon's exhaustion. Murtagh suggests that Eragon go on without him, though, because it would be easier, but Eragon says he would never leave Murtagh behind because Murtagh has saved Eragon's life.

Eragon, Saphira, and Murtagh discuss their next destination, and Eragon suggests that they seek shelter with the elves. The idea is quickly shelved because they fear they will not be able to find the elves. Murtagh concludes that they will have to leave the territory of the Empire.

One way to leave the Empire is to traverse the Hadarac Desert, and Eragon proposes they do this, but it is a very difficult task. Murtagh declares, "The Hadarac Desert is so huge and contains so many dangers, the chances are slim that we can cross it unscathed. It is a desperate path to take." (Page 320) Eragon responds that at this point in time, they are desperate. Traveling across the desert is the only way to travel to the Beor Mountains, which lie outside the Empire and where the Varden may live. It is the ideal path, Murtagh agrees, but there is the problem of the lack of water and food.

Eragon leaves camp hoping to experiment with sand and water. He attempts to turn sand into water, which nearly kills him for all the strength it takes to make a small amount. Saphira chides him and reminds him to be more careful. Eragon asks her whether she would be able to make water, but she replies that it would take too much of her power. Her power is not as controllable as Eragon's. He looks at the ground sullenly, feeling homesick for the Palancar Valley, and soon the sand where he focused his emotions turned moist. The water came up to the surface from below.

Eragon is certain he will be able to make water rise to the surface, and he shows Saphira that he can. He does not need to create water from sand, but he simply must draw the water up from below. He comes back to the camp, and Murtagh asks him whether they will be traveling through the desert. Eragon answers in the affirmative.

Water from Sand Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon is exhausted and snapping at his traveling companions. They travel for great distances for hours each day, but they do not encounter danger on their journey. After discussing their next destination, Murtagh concludes that living in and traveling through the Empire is impossible.

Murtagh, Eragon, and Saphira discuss how they should leave the Empire, and Eragon suggests they find and take shelter with the elves. That plan would not be workable, however, since no one knows where to find the elves. Would the elves welcome them or be suspicious even if they came with an elf woman?



Since traveling to the land of the elves is not feasible, Eragon, Murtagh, and Saphira discuss another way to leave the Empire and find the Varden. Eragon says that traveling through the Hadarac Desert is the best way to escape the Empire and end up in the Beor Mountains. Murtagh begins to agree with Eragon, but the problem remains that they need enough water and food for the journey.

Eragon tries to solve the water problem by turning sand into water. He exerts himself and nearly dies from the effort. He remembers Brom's admonishments about using his power for overwhelming tasks. He is able to make a small amount of water from the sand. Eragon is chastised by Saphira and he stares into the sand and thinks about his home. He concentrates hard enough that water soon percolates through the sand. He has drawn the water up to the surface.

Eragon decides that they will travel through the desert, and he will bring the water to the surface. He will not have to create water from sand. Saphira asks him whether he is sure because their lives depend on his magic. He answers that yes, he can do it.



The Ramr River

The Ramr River Summary

As they begin their journey, Saphira suggests and Eragon agrees to tie the unconscious elf to Saphira to transport her. Murtagh and Eragon travel as rapidly as possible, pushing their horses to the brink.

Eventually, they reach the Ramr River, which is as wide as a small lake. Saphira flies over to the other side and reports that the river is a half-mile wide. Murtagh mentions that the horses will panic if the dragon lifts them across the river. Unfortunately, it is their only option, and although the horse is frightened, it makes it to the other side.

Soon they all meet on the other side of the wide river. Saphira notes that Murtagh's horse had to be tied down so that it would not run away. Eragon is exhausted enough to sleep while walking, but they continue toward the vast desert.

The Ramr River Analysis

Murtagh, Eragon, and Saphira arrive at a vast river, the Ramr. They must solve the problem of how to cross with horses in the dark. Saphira flies over the river and reports that the other side is a half-mile wide. Murtagh and Eragon debate how to cross, and they decide to have Saphira fly them all across.

Murtagh and Eragon decide that Murtagh will fly over the river first. Eragon peers into the darkness and sees a line of soldiers amassing a league away. Although Eragon has traveled fast and driven his horse to the brink of exhaustion, the soldiers have still nearly caught up with them.

Saphira flies across with the horse Tornac bucking and frothing all the way. They arrive on the other side of the river and speed on their way. It is an exhausting journey, and they have yet to make it to the dangerous desert that awaits. Eragon sleeps while he runs, and Murtagh is just as sleepy, but they travel as if their lives depend on it, because they do.



The Hadarac Desert

The Hadarac Desert Summary

Eragon and Murtagh arrive with their horses and Saphira at the vast Hadarac Desert. They notice immediately that there is brush growing in bunches that will provide enough food for the horses. The heat makes Eragon weary, and he wishes he had leisure time to fly with Saphira, who immediately likes the desert.

Eragon reminds Murtagh that soldiers will still be looking for them. Murtagh hopes that their trail was lost after crossing the Ramr River. On their stop, Eragon draws water from the earth, and the horses and Saphira drink gallons. They awake the next day and carp at each other, Eragon is eager to cross the small section of Hadarac Desert. Eragon goes to talk to the elf, asking her how she can still live even while she is in perpetual sleep but there is no answer.

Coming to the end of their desert journey, Eragon and Murtagh begin to see what seems to be a white cloud in the distance. The sky is dominated by the dark and forbidding presence. They realize shortly that it is not clouds they see but rather the Beor Mountains. Saphira marvels at their size as she flies. When Murtagh sees them he gasps, "That's impossible!...I knew the Beor Mountains were large, but not that monstrous size!" (Page 335)

Eragon and Murtagh press forward even through extreme fatigue. They marvel at the size of the mountains and discuss what they will do with the elf. Eragon says he will bring her to a healer in Surda. Soon, they are out of the desert, and the weather changes with cool breezes refreshing them. Herds of gazelle run past.

The Hadarac Desert Analysis

The desert is a terribly difficult place to traverse, and Eragon seems constantly irritated at having to be there. It is dry, hot, and sandy and he snaps at Murtagh while they travel. They push themselves relentlessly through the desert, but Eragon is able to draw water from the ground. The horses are able to drink the water and eat the scrubby brush plants that grow throughout the Hadarac.

Soon Eragon and Murtagh see signs that their stretch of the Hadarac Desert is ending. They can see a white cloud in the distance, which turns out to be the massive Beor Mountains. They are so large they leave Saphira in wonder. She flies near them and is in awe. She feels small next to them, and soon Eragon is able to see them and he is equally awed. Murtagh is left staring at the mountains that never seem to end, stretching even into the clouds.

Murtagh and Eragon discuss what to do with the elf, and they decide they will consult a healer once they get to the mountain village of Surda. Eragon is very worried about her,



and he also seems to love her. She is beautiful, and he has risked much by rescuing her, while not even knowing whether she will live. Finally, they reach the end of the desert, and the landscape changes. The fauna is different as well, as they see gazelles bound past, but there is further adventure in store as they leave the Empire for the mighty Beor Mountains.



A Path Revealed

A Path Revealed Summary

Eragon sits at the campfire, and he is happy to know that they are now beyond the borders of the Empire. As he sits and contemplates, he realizes that his quest has changed. He now does not merely want to avenge the deaths of Garrow and Brom, but as a Rider he must right the wrongs of the Empire and reverse the oppression wrought by Galbatorix. As he looks at the elf, Eragon has an idea that he should attempt to listen to her thoughts.

Eragon tries to contact the elf in her unconscious state. He kneels next to her and places his hand on her forehead. As he probes her mind, he is felled by an icy pain and is unable to retreat from its grip. It is the elf's defense attacking him, and it leaves him in terrible pain but unable to let go. He cries out to her in friendship, telling her he is a Rider, but she is suspicious and does not trust him.

Finally, the elf becomes curious enough to want to see who he is and the pressure that Eragon feels begins to ebb. He is able to see her mind as a ponderous territory filled with memories of long ago. They begin to communicate with each other. She asks Eragon his name, and he asks hers. Hers is Arya, and she asks him why he is contacting her and where she is. Arya tells Eragon of her experiences, and how she was heavily drugged with a poison called Skilna Bragh and given another drug to stop her magical powers. She is in a comatose state to impede the power of the poison, which would kill her in a few hours' time if she were conscious. She will require the antidote to Skilna Bragh once she emerges from unconsciousness.

The antidote to Skilna Bragh is located in only two places, with the elves and with the Varden. Arya makes Eragon promise never to reveal any of the secrets she reveals to him. Then she reveals to Eragon through visual images the location of the Varden. Arya tells Eragon that the Varden live far away but the distance should not dissuade him from going there. At the end of the conversations, Arya warns, "Do not talk with me unless there is no hope of reaching the Varden. If that is the case, there is information I must impart to you so the Varden will survive. Farewell, Eragon, rider of dragons...my life is in your hands." (Page 341)

After withdrawing from Arya, Eragon is questioned by Murtagh and Saphira, and he tells them what ails Arya and her instructions. Eragon mentions the possibility of joining the Varden, Murtagh is angered, and they begin to argue. Murtagh is frustrated over his role in their journey and for being taken for granted by Eragon. A moment later, they are sprawled on the ground fighting. Saphira quickly breaks up their fight with a swoosh of her tail. Eventually, she pins them both to the ground. She commands Eragon to ask nicely what is wrong with Murtagh. Eventually, they begin to talk.



Murtagh does not answer directly why he does not want to join the Varden. He merely says they will be upset he was born. He mentions his father but is interrupted by the sight of something far away, hundreds of Urgals marching to the east. They are holding the flag of an Urgal chief, whom Murtagh recognizes as someone he has fought. Eragon decides they must flee before the arrival of the Urgals, and he forces Murtagh to agree to come with him. He says that Murtagh can leave before they arrive at the Varden. Murtagh agrees, and as Saphira flies, she wonders whether the Urgals are in the Beor Mountains to attack the Varden.

A Path Revealed Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon sits at the campfire and realizes that his mission has evolved into something broader. He is now a Dragon Rider and must not look solely to avenging the deaths of Brom and Roran. He must now seek to right the wrongs in the Empire. He wonders whether he would be able to communicate with her in her unconscious state since he is able to speak with animals.

He lays his hand on her brow and is struck by the vastness of her mind. Then he seems to walk into a painful wall. It is agonizing and sharp, and he feels like she has him and will not let him go. She is relentless, and he is fully within her iron grip and helpless in the face of her power. He tries to talk to her in the ancient language, but she does not trust what he has to say.

The elf's defenses begin to relax after Eragon tells her he is a Rider who comes in peace. She asks him his name, and he asks hers. She is Arya, and she tells Eragon what poison was used on her, a poison for which she will require the antidote and which only the elves and Varden possess. She lies in this unconscious state to keep the poison from doing its work.

Arya provides Eragon with the mental images that will guide him to the Varden. She warns him that he must alert her if he is unable to make it to the Varden since she must give Eragon instructions that will save the Varden. Arya releases Eragon and when he returns, Saphira and Murtagh remark that he seems to be in pain. Eragon relates to them the plan for finding the Varden, and Murtagh is repelled at the thought of meeting them. Eragon tries to get the story out of Murtagh, and he mentions something about his father when something catches Eragon's eye.

It is hundreds of Urgals in the distance. They are marching and perhaps on their way to attack the Varden. Eragon and Murtagh were fighting over their differences of opinion, but they now concentrate on moving as quickly as possible to get to the Varden before the Urgals can find them.

The plot twists what may have been inevitable. Eragon will go to the Varden, but Murtagh is reluctant to join the rebels. What makes him not want to go? It was Eragon's fate, a theme mentioned by Angela when she read his fortune, to leave their land, and now Arya is guiding him there.



A Clash of Wills

A Clash of Wills Summary

Eragon wakes, weary from riding on the horse and fighting with Murtagh. They have ridden fast and far and have distanced themselves from the Urgals. After declaring her hunger, Saphira goes to hunt for deer. Moments later as they stop at a pond to let the horses drink, they spot a man with a mace standing in front of a group of horsemen. Eragon and Murtagh discuss what to do while Eragon tells Saphira to return. The man with the mace signals and the others begin cantering toward Eragon.

A moment later, Eragon and Murtagh are surrounded. The men remark at the shape Eragon and Murtagh are in. They are slavers, and Eragon is quickly enraged as the leader tells Eragon and Murtagh to surrender. One of the men finds Arya, throwing off her blanket they marvel at whom she is and the amount of gold they will be paid for bringing in an elf. Seconds later, Eragon begins the attack and so does Murtagh as he smashes the face of the leader, and Tornac rears and kicks at another man. Eragon magically sends out fire, and Saphira lands as the men flee in panic.

In their panic the men strike their leader, Torkenbrand, in the temple. He is stunned and bleeding as Murtagh walks over to him with his sword and beheads him, much to the horror of Eragon who screams at Murtagh. Eragon is horrified, yet Murtagh is nonchalant at his own action.

Eragon lectures Murtagh that he should not engage in needless violence, but Murtagh answers that they need to protect themselves. As they ride later, Saphira asks about his feelings, and Eragon admits that he is confused.

A Clash of Wills Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon and Murtagh pause for a moment as Saphira hunts and the horses drink. Soon they notice threatening men on a nearby hillside. The leader is carrying a mace and there are 20 others looking down upon Eragon and Murtagh. The two discuss their strategy and decide there is no way for them to outrun the men who have smaller and faster horses.

The strangers make their way down to Eragon and Murtagh. Their leader talks to them as his men surround them. The leader remarks that Eragon and Murtagh look healthy, healthier than the usual ones they find. One of the men lifts the blanket that covers Arya and exclaims that she is an elf who will fetch a great amount of gold. The slavers enrage Eragon, who remembers the men at Dras-Leona selling the little girl who was forcibly taken from her mother's arms.

The rage builds up in Eragon who has summoned Saphira. He signals Murtagh to attack, and Murtagh smashes the face of the leader, Torkenbrand, while Eragon shows



his magic to the men. Blue light emanates from his sword, and the men begin to panic. They flee as Saphira lands, and she is ready to tear any one of them apart. In the meantime, Torkenbrand is felled by one of his fleeing men, and as he gets to his knees he is helpless. Murtagh walks over to him and calmly beheads him with his sword.

Eragon is sickened and horrified by Murtagh's actions. Murtagh does not know why Eragon reacts like this. He tells Eragon that he was protecting them, and Torkenbrand could have warned the Urgals. It was for their safety. Eragon is not taken by any of the arguments and reminds Murtagh that any atrocity could be reasoned like this. Soon Eragon realizes that Murtagh is not evil, and he was trying to protect Eragon. Eragon is conflicted and confused. It is a murky area, one to which young Eragon is not accustomed. He is used to good and evil and no shades of gray.



Flight Through the Valley

Flight Through the Valley Summary

The next day, Eragon and Arya take off on Saphira. Eragon is still upset and confused over the events of the previous day when Murtagh beheaded Torkenbrand. While camped by a stream, Eragon sees the Urgals nearby, and he cannot believe that the monsters could have gained ground on him.

Eragon discusses the situation with Murtagh, and they decide to split, letting Eragon fly on Saphira. They push their animals to the breaking point to gain ground on the Urgals. On their last day of traveling, they struggle to distance themselves from the Urgals. Eragon watches the monsters on their march and realizes that they are less than a league away. They make their way into the dense forest, and Eragon has an eerie feeling that the ancient forest does not want them traveling through.

Eragon travels on Saphira with Arya, Murtagh rides the horses in a race to the Varden, and the Urgals easily make up ground. They reach a long valley that hides the Varden at its end, and Eragon promises Murtagh that he will be able to leave through an exit somewhere. Eragon continues to fly with Saphira through the clouds and past the birds where they soon become iced by the cold temperatures. Eragon becomes light headed and faints, but he soon regains consciousness after they leave the clouds. They had hoped to stand on the highest mountain peak, but it is too high.

As Eragon and Saphira near the ground, they are able to spot the Urgals and notice that they are a few feet taller than a tall man. Eragon magically casts a mist in front of the Urgals, and this confuses them for a moment but then they continue unabated. Eragon's energy is sapped. He realizes that he was too far from his target to make the magic work, and Saphira chides him for his forgetfulness. On the ground they spot Murtagh, who is examining an animal track that is larger than any animal they have seen.

The Urgals are very near as Eragon climbs aboard Saphira and flies again. Arya is restless and has a fever, and they do not have much time to save her. Eragon has decided to stay near Murtagh and not fly ahead. Eragon has Saphira drop rocks on the Urgals to slow them down. Soon they are flying in the darkness and nearing the end of the valley when they spot a waterfall that they think means they have arrived at the gates of the Varden. They meet Murtagh at the river, and he asks whether there is any place to which he can escape, but Eragon and Saphira have seen none.

Eragon, Murtagh, and Saphira are running for their lives as the giant Urgals gain ground on them. Murtagh becomes furious that he cannot escape from the valley. Murtagh has no choice but to press forward to the Varden, and as he makes his decision, he tells Eragon, "You have a right to know. I...I am the son of Morzan, first and last of the Forsworn." (Page 368)



Flight Through the Valley Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon and Arya fly high into the air and into the clouds until it becomes so cold and the air so thin that Eragon faints. Murtagh and the horses ride as fast as they can, and Eragon and Saphira fly nearby. The Urgals seem to be larger than normal, and a closer inspection shows that they are a chest and head taller than a tall man.

Murtagh and Eragon still remember their fight and the brutal murder of the slaver by Murtagh. They arrive at the valley that will end their journey at the Varden, and Murtagh wonders whether there is a place for him to exit from the valley. He clearly does not want to stay with the Varden. The giant Urgals gain ground on Murtagh, but Eragon decides that he will stay near his companion.

Eragon and Murtagh rendezvous on the river near the end of the valley near the Varden, but the Urgals are near. They are running a race to the end when a frustrated Murtagh lashes out at Eragon. He has no choice and still does not want to see the Varden, but he will surely be killed by the Urgals.

Murtagh shouts at Eragon that he has led him to a place between two impossible choices and then admits finally that he, Murtagh, is the son of Morzan, the betrayer of the Dragon Riders, last of the Forsworn. It is a stunning revelation that those who stand against the king and the Empire will surely not welcome. The reader discovers the reasons for Murtagh's reluctance, and the irony is that Murtagh must save his own life by walking into the unknown.



The Horns of a Dilemma

The Horns of a Dilemma Summary

Eragon looks at Murtagh in disbelief after his companion's revelation. Eragon is unsure about what to do and is unsure whether Murtagh is working for the king. Murtagh cries out that he did not choose who his father was. Murtagh shows Eragon a scar he received from his father when he was a child. He tells Eragon that he holds no allegiance to the king and fears what the Varden would do if they find out.

Murtagh reiterates that he does not serve the Empire, but Eragon presses him with questions about his loyalty. Saphira reassures Eragon that if Murtagh wanted to kill him, he would have done it long before. The Urgals are now bearing down on them, and they begin to run. Saphira descends, tears an Urgal apart, and then continues to dive and kill more monsters. She dives into the lake and then emerges from the water to tear at more Urgals, who attack her with spears.

The Urgals continue their attack on Saphira, and she communicates to Eragon that she has trapped them, and he can hurry to the falls where the Varden will be. When Eragon and Murtagh make it to the falls, and Eragon utters the word Arya instructed him to say, there is no answer. The Urgals continue attacking while Saphira tells Eragon that they have arrived at the wrong side of the lake. They cross to the other side, where Urgals are arriving as well, right behind. They dive through the powerful waterfall, which throws Eragon deep into the water. His lungs are burning while he struggles to reach the surface when suddenly, a hand reaches in and pulls Eragon up to the surface.

The hand that pulled Eragon to the top is not Murtagh or the Urgals, who are now being pummeled by arrows shot from unseen archers. The one who pulled Eragon from the water cannot believe that he and Murtagh had attempted to come through the waterfall. He is a dwarf, and tall enough to reach only to Eragon's elbow. He pulls Eragon into a tunnel with thick doors where men and other dwarves stand watching the battle. A very tall man in purple robes is holding Murtagh at bay with a knife to his throat. Saphira counsels that they should go with the people and hope that they make it out alive.

The Horns of a Dilemma Analysis

Eragon questions Murtagh closely about his loyalty, and Murtagh rebuffs Eragon. He has had plenty of chances to kill him and has done everything to help, including saving his life and rescuing him from the prison. Murtagh convinces Eragon, but they still need to run for their lives as the Urgals approach quickly.

The giant Urgals are upon them as Saphira dives from the sky and attacks and kills the monsters viciously. Eragon helplessly watches her as she dives into the lake around which they are walking to reach the waterfall and the end of their journey. Saphira dives



into the lake and draws the Urgals to her as Eragon and Murtagh finally reach their destination.

Eragon intones the magic words, but nothing happens. They are not panicking because they have arrived where the Varden are supposed to be, but nothing is happening and the Urgals are approaching. They battle the Urgals and decide to cross the waterfall to get to the other side of the lake. They walk through the waterfall, and it throws Eragon deep within the water. He is sucked far down until his lungs cry out for air when suddenly a hand pulls him up.

Frightened that the hand is the hand of an Urgal, he looks up to see a dwarf, an angry one at that, and the Urgals are getting rained upon by arrows. The dwarf marvels that Eragon and Murtagh were insane enough to walk through what could have killed them. There are open passageways into the mountain, and Eragon and the dwarf walk through. A bald man in purple robes is holding a knife to the throat of Murtagh. What will become of them now? Will they ever make it out of the mountain, and especially with the information that Murtagh has confessed, what will become of the son of Morzan?



Hunting for Answers

Hunting for Answers Summary

Eragon hurries through the underground passages thinking of the antidote he must secure for Arya to live. The walls are polished white, but the bald man in the robes is still in control and silences Eragon. The man tells Eragon to take all mental offenses from his mind as he begins to give him a mental probe.

The man insists on probing Eragon's mind, but Eragon insists that Arya's life be saved and the dwarf also insists over the objections of the man in the purple robes. The man relents and lets Arya go to the healer. The man realizes who Arya is and tells Eragon that he has much to explain. The bald man then begins his probe of Eragon.

The probe is intense and painful, and Eragon at first puts up defenses, which the bald man warned would make him go insane. Saphira joins him in his mind and together they block memories that Eragon does not the man to see. He blocks many memories, including when Murtagh revealed who his father was.

The bald man finishes his painful probe of Eragon and finds nothing to distrust in him. The dwarf, Orik, steadies Eragon, who is wobbly from the probe, and the bald man turns to probe Murtagh, who refuses to be probed. Murtagh responds to the bald man's threats with stoicism. The bald man menaces and violently attempts to probe his mind. Their wills clash as Orik interferes and demands the bald man let Murtagh go. The bald man turns on Orik and accuses him of being insolent for letting Eragon, Murtagh, and Saphira into the mountain.

Orik and the bald man argue about Murtagh's potential threat, but when they learn that Murtagh is unable to use magic, he is no longer considered a great threat to the community. After being frustrated by Orik, the bald man departs, leaving Eragon, Murtagh, and Saphira in a cold cell. When they are alone, Murtagh thanks Eragon for not betraying him. Eragon talks to Murtagh seeking answers from the son of Morzan. He asks why Murtagh is freely roaming the land and why the king would let him go.

Murtagh details the life of his mother and how his father used her for information and abused her and did not let her see Murtagh as he grew up. When his mother died, the king brought Murtagh to live in the palace, and Galbatorix brought him to a feast where he made promises of immense power. Murtagh agreed to serve the king, and one day Galbatorix called on him to massacre a rebellious village. Murtagh, however, with the help of his servant Tornac, escaped, but Tornac was killed in the escape. After his escape, Murtagh hid, and then he searched for and followed the Ra'zac who could lead him to the new Rider.



Saphira is still wary of Murtagh, but Eragon counters that Murtagh would have no reason to lie to them. Murtagh finishes his explanation by saying that he does not agree with the Varden because he feels that their rule would lead to anarchy.

Hunting for Answers Analysis

In this chapter, the sinister bald man is fixed on probing the minds of Eragon and Murtagh. Eragon insists that Arya be attended to first before any probe begins. The bald man lets attendants take the elf away. Eragon relents and lets the probe in, but he still protects, with Saphira's assistance, parts of his mind. The probing is very painful, and it tortures Eragon to have the bald man sift through his mind, but if he attempts to stop the probe, he will go mad from the attempt.

Eragon is able to protect many events that occurred on the journey, including the memory of Murtagh's revelation. After the extensive and painful probe, the bald man hesitates and seems disappointed to say that Eragon is not an enemy of the Varden. The bald man turns his attention to Murtagh, who will not permit a probe. Murtagh is unafraid to die, and he is also not afraid of the bald man either. The sinister man attempts to probe Murtagh, but Murtagh blocks it.

Orik stops the bald man from harming Murtagh further. Orik convinces him that Murtagh is not a threat to the Varden since he has no magic, and they can watch him closely while he is kept in a cell. The bald man leaves in a huff, and Orik takes Eragon, Murtagh, and Saphira to a cell where they will sleep for the night.

Later, when they are in their cell, Eragon forces a reluctant Murtagh to reveal his story. Murtagh's mother was often forced to be with Morzan, and when Murtagh was born, Morzan separated him from his mother. Morzan abused mother and child, yet after his mother died Murtagh was sent to live in the palace of Galbatorix. The king called on Murtagh on his eighteenth birthday to serve him. Galbatorix spoke in an entrancing voice that put Murtagh under a spell and caused him to agree to serve Galbatorix.

Later, Galbatorix called upon Murtagh to lead troops to a rebellious village and slaughter all the people, guilty or not, but, rather than undertake this brutal mission, Murtagh escaped with the help of his loyal servant. He decided to search for the Ra'zac, who would lead him to the new Dragon Rider. Saphira and Eragon discuss whether they can trust Murtagh, and Eragon feels they can. They are fed by their captors and fall asleep after a wearisome day.

Murtagh's story is a compelling one and Eragon is apt to believe him. Murtagh could have become as powerful a force as anyone in the kingdom, but he turned away from the power. He would have had to become as brutal as his father and king, but he fled. This story, if true, serves as powerful proof that Murtagh is on the side of Eragon and Saphira.



Murtagh demonstrates his humanity by refusing to undertake the murderous expedition ordered by Galbatorix. Eragon worries for what might happen to his companion, a man he questioned only a day or so before when Murtagh cut the head off the slaver.



The Glory of Tronjheim

The Glory of Tronjheim Summary

Eragon and Murtagh wake in their cell, and Eragon thinks about Murtagh's story and of the brutality of Morzan. A moment later Orik and the bald man reappear to summon Eragon to meet Ajihad, the leader of the Varden. Eragon is led to his horse and told to ride through the wide tunnel. Eragon marvels at the skill involved in mining such a tunnel because it never varies in size by an inch.

After a long procession through the tunnel, Eragon notices a glow that marks the end of his journey. The tunnel terminates in a chamber supported by jewel-encrusted marble pillars. Eragon mounts Saphira, and they enter a massive volcanic crater. Eragon estimates that it is 12 miles high, and a soft beam of light that filters down from the top.

Atop Saphira, Eragon follows a cobblestone path toward a snowy-white mountain within the crater that is large in its own right, yet only a fraction of the size of the crater itself. The pure marble marks the city of Tronjheim, and a crowd from the city is watching Eragon and Saphira carefully. Eragon waves nervously to the crowd, and soon they are cheering loudly, even if they are nervous at seeing Saphira. As they arrive at Tronjheim, Eragon studies the intricate carvings and window frames of the city.

As they enter the mountain city, Eragon, Saphira and Murtagh are greeted by more crowds of cheering people. They see more carvings and spectacular archways and are then led to a very large room with a star sapphire on the ceiling that was carved to look precisely like a rose. Eragon is in awe of the spectacular work done by the dwarves to build their city. They walk through the large room and into more cramped rooms where they are led to room with a massive wood door.

The Glory of Tronjheim Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon, Murtagh, and Saphira are awoken by Orik and the bald man and led through the perfectly mined tunnels. There is much for Eragon to marvel at, and he starts with this tunnel. It is the precision that astonishes him, but then he enters an immense crater that is so high that he can scarcely see the top. He estimates that it is 12 miles high. The farther they ride, the more people appear. At first the people are alarmed, but soon they begin to cheer as Eragon raises a sheepish hand to wave.

The people are afraid of Saphira, but they cheer the Rider whom they feel is on their side in the war against the Empire. Soon, Eragon sees a massive crystal mountain, which is dwarfed by the crater within which it sits. The crystal mountain is made of marble, and it is the city of the dwarves, Tronjheim. Eragon enters the ornate city and is led to more rooms, the first of which is very large and is topped by a sapphire carved to be a rose.



Eragon is in awe of his surroundings and is now going to meet Ajihad, a leader of the Varden. He is anxious to go farther and see the amazing city but what awaits him with Ajihad? He remembers what Brom said about the Varden, that they may use him for their own purposes. What about Murtagh? He has a secret that could be deadly to him if they find out.



Ajihad

Ajihad Summary

Eragon, Murtagh, and Saphira are led to a two-story, wood-paneled room containing a library where they meet Ajihad. He welcomes them to Tronjheim, and from behind the curtains another bald man appears, surprising Eragon. Ajihad mentions that the nameless bald men are Twins, much to the distaste of both Eragon and Saphira. After a moment of discussion Ajihad asks Murtagh to remove his shirt, which reveals a scar on his back.

Ajihad is angry and turns on the Twins and asks how they did not know who Murtagh is. They never believed that this boy could be the son of Morzan. Ajihad promises the Twins that they will discuss the issue later and warns Murtagh that there will be consequences if he does not allow a probe. "Without that verification, the people here, dwarf and human alike, will tear you apart if they learn of your presence." (Page 404) Murtagh will be confined to a cell or purge the memories from his mind before letting him leave. Murtagh remains stubborn and will not allow any person to enter his mind.

Ajihad dismisses everyone from the room, except Eragon and Saphira. Ajihad tells Eragon that Arya will recover, and he is greatly relieved. Ajihad asks Eragon to tell him the story of the journey, portions of which he already knows from Brom's communication. Eragon details everything that occurred. Ajihad is convinced that Galbatorix has gone insane for allying with the Urgals. He then asks Eragon for details about the Shade, and after Eragon describes him, Ajihad reveals that he is known as Durza. Eragon had hoped that they killed Durza in Gil'ead but Ajihad tells him that to kill a Shade, you must shoot it through the heart.

Ajihad explains to Eragon what occurred when Brom brought the Varden Saphira's egg. There was much discussion at the time over what to do with the egg, with many fearing what would happen if a new Rider came to be. The elves feared another person would become a Rider who would side with Galbatorix. Brom had proposed that the egg be ferried from the Varden to the elves to find the child who belonged with it. The elves accepted Brom's solution, and it had been a long wait, but the egg disappeared while Arya was ferrying it.

Ajihad reveals the locations of the elves' cities, in the deep forests of Du Weldenvarden. The elves live in secret, and Ajihad has never visited their cities in the forest. The elves were angered after Arya's disappearance and cut off contact from the Varden. The elves' anger may abate now that Eragon has saved Arya. Eragon will have to be tested for his abilities by the Varden. Ajihad tells him about the king of the dwarfs, Hrothgar, and how he and his people have let the Varden live in Tronjheim, but not all of the dwarf clan chiefs are as sympathetic with the Varden.



Eragon is curious why Galbatorix has not found out about the location of the Varden or the elves, but while he may have heard the names of the places, he has never seen their locations. Elves still maintain power to block invaders into their lands. Eragon becomes curious and asks whether he will be used by the Varden. Ajihad notes the insolent speech would not be tolerated elsewhere, but he tells Eragon that people will expect Eragon to be special because he is a Rider and not a mere soldier. For now, however, Eragon can rest and see the people. Ajihad gives Eragon Brom's ring but refuses to let Murtagh be free.

Orik discusses with Ajihad why he was insubordinate against the Twins and tells how they refused to open the gates at the waterfall. Ajihad tells Orik that the dwarf did the right thing, but he still disobeyed a command that usually means death. Ajihad has mitigated the sentence by giving Orik the duty to guide Eragon and Saphira while they stay in Tronjheim.

Ajihad Analysis

In this chapter the leader of the Varden, Ajihad, meets with Eragon. Eragon begins talking about everything that he and his companions have been through. Ajihad speaks with Murtagh and asks him to show him his back. When Murtagh complies, Ajihad is angered that the son of Morzan is in the Varden's home. He asks the bald man, who is the twin to the other bald man, why they did not know that this Murtagh is the son of the dead Morzan. They never thought that the boy could be the son of the last of the forsworn. Murtagh refuses to be probed, so he will be confined to a cell.

Ajihad dismisses everyone, and he and Eragon discuss, for hours, the details of the journey. Ajihad fills in some of the gaps of knowledge regarding Saphira's egg. The Varden and the elves shared the egg and after Brom devised the solution, the egg went back and forth between the Varden and the elves. The egg was nearly hijacked on one of these trips when Arya was taken hostage. Eragon asks after her health, and Ajihad tells him that she will recover.

Eragon will have to be tested while he is in Tronjheim to determine what powers he has. Eragon remembers Brom's words and probes Ajihad to determine whether the Varden are going to use him for mere political purposes. Ajihad is taken aback by the young man's tone but accepts the question. Ajihad answers that he does not want Eragon to be a pawn and will try to protect him. The people will expect Eragon to be special, perhaps a savior?

Will Eragon fulfill this heavy burden, to be a savior to a people who are basically in hiding from the king? This seems like a difficult position for Eragon to be in, but as a Dragon Rider, he will expect to be treated differently.



Bless the Child, Argetlam

Bless the Child, Argetlam Summary

Eragon and Saphira walk with Orik, who is now their official guide to eat and get Saphira settled into her home. They walk to where the marble caves once housed the original Dragon Riders. Eragon eats while Saphira flies to her hold. Eragon and Orik eat, and Orik talks about the plight of the dwarves. Their greatest city is Tronjheim, but there are only a few others, and supplies for the city have to be brought in from the outside. Tronjheim does have the advantage of being situated in a secure location where all dwarves can be housed if the need arises as it has on a few occasions.

As they leave the dining hall, a dwarf addresses Eragon by the name Argetlam, and Orik tells Eragon that it is an elfin word that means "silver hand." It is the name the elves and dwarves used for the Riders. Eragon then asks whether he will be able to buy a new shirt and other clothes, but Orik rejects the notion as an insult to his King Hrothgar.

Eragon bathes and Orik brings him new clothing. Orik describes the methods of communication to the top of the mountain: one staircase, a trough that acts as a slide for the dwarves, and flashing lanterns are used as well. Saphira lands nearby, and Orik leaves. As he steps forward, an old woman takes hold of Eragon's foot. She has a tight grip and will not let him go. She asks him to bless an orphan baby in her arms. Searching for something to say for a blessing, Eragon finally decides to use some of the magic words of power.

After the blessing, the woman thanks Eragon, but before she leaves, Saphira places her nose on the child's forehead and brushes away. A moment later a star-shaped patch of skin appears on the baby's forehead. It is a patch similar to Eragon's scar, and the old woman is appreciative of both Eragon and Saphira.

Saphira tells Eragon that the blessing he gave to the child will make her special when she grows up. She will not be content with living an ordinary life but will live an extraordinary one with a Rider's blessing. Saphira mentions that it is Eragon's fate, his "wyrd," that shapes him. Eragon asks Saphira her opinion of Tronjheim and Ajihad and she responds that this is a place where they still have to be on their guard from political enemies.

Bless the Child, Argetlam Analysis

In this chapter, Orik and Eragon walk together through the city and the massive crater. They eat together, and then Eragon has a long-awaited bath and receives new clothes. He is happy he is able to shed the bloodied clothes he wore on his journey. Orik tells Eragon not to insult the king by asking if he can pay for the clothing.



Orik leaves Eragon, and a moment later an old woman grabs his leg and asks desperately for a blessing by Argetlam, the Dragon Rider Eragon. The baby she holds is her granddaughter, an orphan. Embarrassed at first, Eragon searches for words to say to the child. Giving a blessing is an act that can ruin a person's life or make the life great. Eragon chooses words from the secret language, and they are words of power spoken by a powerful Rider.

The woman gratefully accepts the words, and then Saphira places her nose on the child's forehead and makes a star shaped mark that is silvery, like Eragon's scar. Eragon wonders whether he is worthy of the attention paid to him, and he reasons that he is too young to be blessing children. Saphira tells him, however, that he is powerful and that his fate, like the fate foretold by the fortuneteller, shapes him. It is who he is, like it or not. Eragon will have to learn to accept this fate. Many people, including the Varden, are depending on him to save and protect them, and he will have to be brave to fulfill his fate. He is also important to the elves, and he has made his mark to them by saving Arya, and this adds to his growing importance.

Eragon is seen now not only as a special person, but a man on a journey who is blessed with magic and special skills. It is a theme his life has now affirmed. His mission has changed, and he is no longer out for mere revenge since he has become the hope of the people against the evil of King Galbatorix. He has become the hope of the people, a hero on his journey.



Mandrake Root and Newt's Tongue

Mandrake Root and Newt's Tongue Summary

Eragon awakes and feels safe in the crater of Farthen Dyr, but he also worries about Murtagh's fate. When he wakes, he looks up to see a cat enter the dragon hold. It is Solembum, who leads him out of the cave and down the mountain far into its inner parts and to a door that opens to reveal Angela, the fortuneteller and witch.

Angela greets Eragon and he tells her about Brom's fate, which is one that she foretold. She mentions that Brom's fate was one that was discussed by fortunetellers for his many failures and one success. His success was killing Morzan, which was a very good thing for him to do, but Brom failed in love and in guarding the egg and in completing Eragon's training.

Angela reveals that she thinks the Shades are the most dangerous enemies of the Varden, and they practice the worst kind of magic. They are evil in her opinion and should be killed painfully. Shades let their bodies become controlled by spirits and thus have no control over what they do.

Mandrake Root and Newt's Tongue Analysis

Eragon wakes in the dragon hold warm and safe, which are new feelings for him. It has been a long time since he and Saphira have not been pursued. He worries about Murtagh and his fate. He looks up to see Solembum arrive in the dragon hold, and she beckons him to follow her.

Eragon follows the werecat to Angela. She has journeyed to Tronjheim to monitor events. They talk about Brom's fate. Brom was someone whom she and others knew about as a man who failed in everything he did. He failed at falling in love because the woman died as a result of his love, the egg that he tried to protect was lost, and his training of Eragon failed, too. Brom did succeed at killing Morzan, which was a benefit to all people.

Angela tells Eragon that the biggest threat to the Varden are the Shades, for they have let their bodies be taken over by spirits. They are no longer people in control, but mere vessels for evil spirits. She has nothing but contempt for the monsters known as the Shades, and Eragon can feel her vehemence. The Shades are a terrible threat to the Varden, and so might they be nearby, perhaps controlling the attacking Urgals. A foreshadowing moment occurs when Angela forcefully talks about the threat of the Shade and the evil magic he possesses.



Hall of the Mountain King

Hall of the Mountain King Summary

Eragon awakes in the dragon hold and Saphira urges him to wear his sword, Zar'roc, and forge a new history with the sword that has seen so many bloody battles. As he lands at the gates of Tronjheim, Orik greets Eragon and Saphira with urgent news that King Hrothgar, the king of the dwarves, wishes to speak with them. Orik warns Eragon to speak carefully to his king, but Eragon will not have to address Hrothgar as "King."

Eragon and Saphira are led to Hrothgar, and when he enters the king's presence, he bows, but Hrothgar tells him to rise. Hrothgar tells Eragon that he could not meet with him earlier because many clan leaders did not want to grant Eragon sanctuary. Hrothgar tells Eragon about the history of the dwarves and how his ancestors came to live in Farthen Dyr. Hrothgar asks him of his intentions and Eragon tells the king that he wishes for sanctuary and to rest but that he has grievances within the Empire.

Hrothgar turns to Saphira and asks her what she thinks, and she responds that she wishes to drink the blood of their enemies, and she is eager to ride into battle against Galbatorix. Her egg was held for over a century and Galbatorix still possesses two brethren of hers. Hrothgar asks Eragon if he wishes to take the crown from Galbatorix since Eragon would be a wise and kind king compared to Galbatorix. Eragon responds that he has no wish to be a king. Hrothgar agrees that it is not a good idea for a king to live forever like Galbatorix.

Hrothgar asks to see and examines Eragon's sword Za'roc, the blade that killed Riders when it belonged to Morzan. Hrothgar is not pleased to see it but wonders whether the blade's luck has changed. Hrothgar asks whether his nephew serves Eragon well, and then tells Eragon that Orik is his nephew. A moment later, King Hrothgar tells Eragon that he must prove himself to the dwarves, "Words will decide nothing, only deeds."
(Page 444)

After leaving Hrothgar, Eragon tells Saphira that the king did not seem pleased with her, but this amuses the dragon because the dwarf king stands knee-high to her. Orik tells Eragon that the baby he blessed the day before is now being hailed as a future hero and many mothers are searching for Eragon and for him to deliver a similar blessing. Orik offers to take Eragon to Tronjheim's library, and Eragon happily remembers that Brom taught him to read in Teirm.

In the immense library, Eragon encounters the Twins, who tell him they have been searching for him. They tell Eragon that they want to apologize for their actions and pay homage to him. Saphira tells Eragon to be careful as he says that it is he who should pay homage to them. The Twins subtly mock Eragon, and he controls his anger as the Twins tell him about the Wandering Path, the group of magic practitioners that Angela told him of. They offer to teach Eragon more magic, and he rejects them harshly. They



drop all courtesy and threaten him. They demand Eragon accept an offer of apprenticeship, and he puts off his answer to the next day.

As Eragon enters the dragon hold, a messenger, Nasuada, the daughter of Ajjihad, stops him. She cautions him against blessing any more children. She asks Eragon when he plans to be tested on the field, and Eragon replies that the next day will be his test. She then tells Eragon that he should visit Murtagh, who is lonely.

Hall of the Mountain King Analysis

In this chapter, Orik brings Eragon and Saphira to meet his uncle, King Hrothgar. The dwarf king greets Eragon, who bows to him but should not, and they begin discussing what brought Eragon to Tronjheim. They discuss Eragon's intentions, and he tells the king that he is in Tronjheim to take sanctuary and to rest but he has further business in the Empire and may be trained further in magic one day.

Hrothgar asks Eragon something never brought up before, and that is whether Eragon would ever take the crown of Alagalsia. Eragon does not think he would, unless there is no other qualified person to sit on the throne. Hrothgar says that he would be a fair and just king compared to Galbatorix, who is neither. Hrothgar then warns that having a king, who can live forever, like Galbatorix, is not a wise idea. Kings should not be too comfortable on their thrones.

After leaving Hrothgar, Eragon walks to Tronjheim's library and explores the beautiful forest-like library until the sinister Twins see him. They exchange apologies for not treating each other well when Eragon first entered the mountain. The Twins then ask Eragon whether he would like to join the Wandering Path, the group of magic practitioners that Angela told Eragon about. Eragon refuses and insults the Twins in doing so. They unleash threats against him and tell him that he must give an answer to them by the next day.

When Eragon returns to the dragon hold, he is intercepted by a messenger, Nasuada, the daughter of Ajjihad. She chides him on behalf of her father for the blessing he gave to the child the previous day and asks him when he will come to the practice field to be tested. He will come the next day and he also agrees to go and visit Murtagh after Nasuada reminds him that his traveling companion is lonely.

Eragon is now conscious that he has been thrust into the politics of Tronjheim, and he must heed Saphira and be wary of the Twins. He also must be careful about committing to any throne in his future because such a commitment would make him an even larger target than he already is. The reader is conscious that the plot has turned on Eragon, who is now the most important man to challenge King Galbatorix since Brom.



Arya's Test

Arya's Test Summary

Eragon wakes ready to be tested. The practice grounds are a mile away from Tronjheim, and Eragon flies Saphira to the busy grounds. There are mock battles taking place, and arrows flying and soldiers drilling. A man in charge of the practice area asks Eragon about which weapons Eragon prefers and tells him that magic is not used on the practice grounds. They are practicing for skill and endurance in preparation for battles that may last days or weeks.

Before Eragon begins, the Twins interfere and say that he must be tested in magic before being tested on the practice battlefield. Eragon walks over to them and gives them their answer from the previous day's question that he will not join them in their group to be taught by them. They are angry at the rejection and begin testing him. They interfere in each task they give him, willing him to fail and to exhaust him before taking his physical test. The Twins test Eragon for an hour, and he passes every one. Finally, they ask him to summon silver's essence.

Eragon has no idea what to do to summon the essence of silver. Then he remembers Argetlam, or silver hand, his nickname and he puts "arget" with the word for invoke, but before he can give the magic word, the test is stopped by Arya. She commands that the Twins stop and chides them harshly that they have put Eragon through the test when they already knew he was competent in magic.

Arya speaks the magic words and turns to Eragon's silver ring and draws out a mist-like ring that looks more pure than silver. It hovers above his ring then disappears and the Twins turn abruptly to leave. She then calls on Eragon to duel, and he thinks that he will soften his blows to her since she has just recovered. She is faster than he can see and strong enough to flick his sword aside. She is toying with Eragon, and he decides to counter with all the complicated moves he knows.

On they duel, their swords clashing and bodies intertwined and the time slips away. Her speed is unnatural, and he can scarcely keep up with her. Soon Saphira bugles the end of their duel and while the men cheer for them both, Arya tells Eragon that he has passed. Arya motions for Eragon to meet her on a nearby hill as Saphira teases him that he finds Arya's form to be pleasing. He blushes as Saphira says that she is shapeless, and Eragon counters that the dragon is jealous.

After at first speaking to Saphira in the secret language, Arya thanks Eragon for saving her life. He asks her how she came to Gil'ead and she and he walk as she tells him about guarding and losing Saphira's egg. She tells Eragon that it was Durza the Shade who captured her the moment Eragon first saw Saphira's egg. She relates the horror of being held by the Shade and reminds Eragon how important his act was to save her.



She tells Eragon that his training will need to continue with the elves very soon. For a moment, Eragon feels that he is not in control of his future.

Eragon tells Arya that he was able to scry, or see her in visions and dreams, while she was in Gil'ead. She says that she could feel a presence but was too ill or drugged to know who it was. She studies the ring Brom gave to Eragon and mentions that it is a special gift given only to special friends of the elves, but she suggests that Eragon keep it.

After parting with Arya, Eragon intends to see Murtagh, whom he finds in a sumptuous room. Murtagh tells him that Ajihad has treated him kindly and has given him large meals and books to read. Eragon was afraid that Murtagh was going to have to live in a prison cell, but he is relieved to see his friend rested and happy. Eragon tells Murtagh of the events of the last few days. Murtagh reiterates how happy he is and how stately Nasuada seemed to him. Eragon fears that his friend will not want to leave his happy confinement.

Arya's Test Analysis

In this chapter, Eragon wakes and is ready for his test on the far-off practice fields, but when he arrives he is met by the Twins, who put him through a magic test. He has rejected the Twins' offer of apprenticeship in the Wandering Path, and they are not pleased. They test Eragon for over an hour and make his easy tasks more difficult by blocking his magic.

Soon Arya arrives, healthy and ready to duel, but first, she stops the Twins' magic test and scolds them harshly. They already knew Eragon is competent at magic, yet they went ahead with their test anyway. They turn to leave after she draws out the essence of silver in Eragon's ring.

Arya and Eragon duel for what seems like a timeless period to Eragon. She is faster than anyone he has ever dueled. She blocks him on his most complicated moves. She is quick and strong. She flicks Eragon's sword away like it is a toy. Eragon gives her his best, but in the end he feels the tip of her sword on his neck. This signals the end of the test and through the cheers of the warriors watching, Arya tells Eragon that he passed.

Arya and Eragon walk together. She can run faster than anyone Eragon has ever seen without breathing heavily from the effort. They talk about Eragon's future, and when he will be trained by the elves. Eragon realizes that he has no choice in the matter because Arya did not say "if," but rather she said "when" he is to be trained. It is ironic that Eragon is thought to be his own man, without a king, but at the same time Arya is telling him where he will go next.

Eragon goes to see Murtagh, who is living quite nicely in the decorated room provided by Ajihad. He is given sumptuous meals and library books and is happy in his circumstances. Eragon wonders whether his friend is too happy in his confinement and tells Murtagh that he should not hide forever.



The Shadows Lengthen

The Shadows Lengthen Summary

Eragon wakes with a start as a dwarf is standing over him asking him to come with him quickly since Ajihad is summoning him. Eragon hurries with the dwarf, who prods him forward rapidly, and he is led to a room where Orik greets him with a hushed and urgent tone. Eragon enters, and Ajihad immediately tells all assembled that they are in grave danger. An injured dwarf has escaped the clutches of the Urgals and has brought dire warnings.

An army of Urgals are a day's march away from Tronjheim and they are coming through the tunnels to arrive underneath the mountain. Through the emotional reaction of the few in the room, Eragon asks how they could not have known about the invasion sooner, and Orik responds that there are many tunnels that have gone unused and for that reason they are lucky to have the information.

Hrothgar and Ajihad have decided to try to contain the Urgals within a few tunnels so they are not able to swarm through Tronjheim. Ajihad assigns Eragon and Arya the task of collapsing tunnels on the Urgals, a job that can be done with their magic. They would leave a few main tunnels open so as to keep the Urgals from heading to other dwarf targets. The fighting will be kept in Farthen Dyr, away from the main population, but in the meantime, the women and children will be evacuated to nearby hillsides.

At the head of a tunnel, Eragon decides to collapse them by finding weak spots where earth from the ceiling will collapse. He begins mentally searching for weaknesses in the rocks to collapse each tunnel. Over a short time, Eragon collapses six tunnels with his magic, but the work is tiring. The army assembles as the people evacuate Tronjheim. As Eragon joins the warriors preparing for the battle, he is given a gift of dragon armor for Saphira from Hrothgar that covers her vulnerable areas and chain mail for himself from Orik.

On the battlefield the warriors prepare cauldrons of fire-hot pitch that will be used to pour into the tunnels to kill Urgals. As he rests for the moment, Eragon looks up to see Murtagh approaching in full battle gear. He has been released by Ajihad to prove himself on the battlefield. Ajihad approaches and asks Eragon to communicate to the Twins during the battle in case anything out of the ordinary occurs. Ajihad urges Eragon to refrain from taking unnecessary risks during the battle because the Varden cannot afford to lose a Rider.

Arya arrives at the battlefield, prepared to fight, but Eragon's first instinct is to protect her. She rebuffs him saying that elves train their men and women for battle. He asks her to stay safe, for his happiness, but she responds that it is her wyrd, or destiny, to fight in the battle. The battle does not come for hours, and the warriors have to wait and eventually sleep.



The Shadows Lengthen Analysis

In this chapter a dwarf who urges him out of bed quickly and prods him to Orik, who is waiting to meet with Ajihad, awakens Eragon. Eragon is confused as are the rest of the men who meet with the leader of the Varden, who tells the assembly that he has information that the Urgals are attacking from the tunnels. The women and children of Tronjheim are being evacuated, and the warriors begin assembling at Farthen Dyr. Their goal is to keep the Urgals isolated to a few tunnels and as far away from Tronjheim as possible.

Eragon's task with Arya is to collapse the extraneous tunnels, so the plan is to restrict the Urgals to three. They are able to accomplish this by using magic to loosen earth and collapse each tunnel, making them impassable. It is arduous work, but Eragon is able to collapse six tunnels. At the battlefield, Eragon is sickened to see that boiling pitch will be poured into the tunnels to kill as many Urgals as possible. He does not feel that Urgals deserve such a death, although most of the dwarves would disagree with this. Even with all he has seen, Eragon keeps his humanity.

As Eragon prepares for the coming battle, Ajihad presents Saphira with ancient dragon armor and Eragon with chain mail for protection. The Varden leader asks Eragon how he will fight and asks him to stay on the ground since Saphira will make an easy target for the archers. He also asks Eragon to communicate with one of the Twins during battle, just in case there is anything out of the ordinary. Eragon is not happy with having to do this, but he agrees. A battle will bring all together for the purpose of winning.

Arya joins the warriors, and Eragon is not pleased that she will be in danger. She reminds him that she is a trained warrior, and probably better than most, and she would like to repay the Shade if he is present for the battle. It is her fate, or "wyrd," to be there she reminds him, but he replies that he wants her kept safe for him to feel happy and assured. The warriors continue to wait until most of them fall asleep. The battle will be coming soon.



Battle Under Farthen Dyr

Battle Under Farthen Dyr Summary

Arya wakes Eragon with the news that the Urgals are coming through the tunnel. Eragon jolts awake, and the warriors steel themselves for the oncoming assault. Soon they hear the shouts of the monsters, and the cauldrons of pitch are poured into the holes. The sights and sounds of Urgals being burned sicken Eragon.

The battle begins with archers firing their bows, and Eragon watches, dismayed, at the number of Urgals streaming through the tunnels. Urgals die by the scores, but more and more replace the ones who perish. They impale themselves on stakes and pikes but finally overwhelm the Varden pikemen and surge forward to battle the warriors like Eragon and Saphira behind the pikes. Saphira can tear an Urgal apart with her sword-like teeth or destroy them with her spike-studded tail.

Eragon battles and kills many Urgals, sometimes using magic, other times using his sword. A dozen Urgals surround Saphira. They prick at her wings with their spears and jab at her eyes until Eragon swoops down in a rage and destroys as many as he can, which frees her to kill the others. Saphira flies above the battle to rest for a moment, but she circles back quickly, flying low to the ground and surprising several Urgals as Eragon beheads two archers. They repeat this on another side weakening the flank of the Urgals.

Eragon flies above the battle and watches three separate struggles take place, and he notices how the Urgals do not communicate with each other. He wonders who commands them and relays the information to the Twins, who in turn order him to assist Hrothgar where the fight is not going well. The Urgals backpedal upon seeing Saphira and the dwarves surge forward. Eragon watches Hrothgar in awe as the ancient king kills Urgals with abandon. A moment later, Eragon is struck on his helmet by a sword, and he reels back. As the Urgal is about to deliver a deathblow to Eragon, Angela kills it. She holds a double-sided sword and darts off with Solembum in the form of a boy carrying a dagger with her.

The battle continues, and Eragon is feeling overwhelmed because the Urgals never stop coming. A moment later, he is contacted by one of the Twins who tells him that Urgals may be digging into the city of Tronjheim, and Eragon is required to collapse another tunnel. As they are taking off, an Urgal pounds Saphira in the chest with an ax. Arya kills the attacking monster but the dragon is in pain. She manages to take off over the fighting warriors. Eragon asks her whether she is all right, and she answers that she will live. Arya volunteers to help her when they land.

They land, but Eragon still must travel far down to the tunnels, so he takes a leather pad and slides down the stone slide. The ride takes him 10 minutes, and a moment later he hears explosions as the Urgals are breaching the tunnels beneath Tronjheim. Eragon is



unsure about what to do, but a moment later, a tall man in black armor walks out of the tunnel. It is the Shade Durza. He carries a sword scarred from battle by Ajihad and wears a snakeskin cloak. Eragon thinks about the knowledge of Shades he has from Brom and Ajihad, and he knows that to kill a Shade he must pierce it in the heart.

Durza confronts Eragon beneath Tronjheim, and tells him it was foolish to escape from him in Gil'ead, but Eragon responds that the Shade will never take him alive. For a moment Eragon is frightened as he stands alone, facing Durza. He sends a message to Saphira, but she is too far away to help. Durza attacks, throwing a sword that collides with Eragon's shield, and upon impact the Shade attacks him mentally. They clash physically, and Durza misses Eragon by an eyelash, the chain mail saving his life. This leads to Durza attacking his mind, and when Eragon tries to rebuff the Shade, he is knocked off his feet.

Eragon hits back with his shield from the ground, and when Durza stumbles, Eragon slashes the Shade with his sword. When the Shade weakens, Eragon attacks him with his mind, and he collides with Durza's memories. Durza as a young boy and his family were outcasts, and Durza's mother sang his name, Carsaib. The Shade reels in pain, as Eragon is thrown back by the force of Durza's memories. A moment later, after seeing Durza walk away from his parents, who were resting in their graves, Eragon rises to his feet as Durza charges him, and Eragon is knocked to the ground in agony by Durza.

Seconds later, Eragon looks up as the glass star sapphire is shattered by a descending Saphira with Arya atop her. The Shade looks up to curse the incoming dragon and at that moment Eragon rises and grips his sword. He commands fire, "Brisingr!" Za'roc blazed with bloody light, heatless flames running along it....He lunged forward....And stabbed Durza in the heart." (Page 491) Durza howls and tries to pull the sword out, but he cannot, and his skin becomes transparent with curling light underneath and a moment later, with one final cry, he is gone. Eragon falls back to the floor while Saphira and Arya go to him, and he is unconscious.

Battle Under Farthen Dyr Analysis

In this chapter the battle begins with the Varden pouring hot pitch into the tunnels to burn the first of the incoming Urgals. This sickens Eragon, but soon it is over as there are so many Urgals that their onslaught seems to never end. The Urgals breach the wooden stacks and all fortifications, and soon they are fighting face to face with the dwarves and Varden. Eragon is fighting fiercely with the deadly Saphira by his side. The Urgals are afraid of her and do not attack her, unless they can muster at least a dozen monsters.

Eragon and Saphira work well together as she kills unsuspecting Urgals while Eragon kills those that are watching the dragon. They weaken the Urgals, but there are always more monsters pouring in to fight. Eragon notifies the Twins that the main force of Urgals does not communicate with the others. Who is controlling them? Are they under a spell?



The Twins ask Eragon and Saphira to help Hrothgar, and they do. Then they are ordered by the king to the tunnel far beneath the city of Tronjheim where the Urgals are tunneling in to attack. As they are leaving the battle, Saphira is hit by an ax, and Eragon is hit by a different blow. Arya saves them, and Eragon leaves Saphira in her care and slides far below the city. He arrives in a great room far below where he can see the sapphire rose above him, but then he sees the Shade, Durza, striding in. Durza and Eragon battle, and a moment of the Shade's weakness leads to Eragon's probing his mind.

Eragon sees the horrible childhood of the Shade, his family as outcasts, his parents dead. A man takes care of Durza and teaches him, like Brom taught Eragon, but it is a negative feeling Eragon gets as he struggles to rid himself of the Shade's memories. He breaks away from the mental hold and in a daze stands up, only to be nearly killed by Durza, who readies himself to kill Eragon. A moment later, the glass overhead is shattered by Saphira with Arya riding her, and they distract the Shade for a moment as Eragon grabs his sword and shoves Zar'roc into Durza's heart. Durza's death throes show the powerful forces that held him together, the black swirling entities writhe through him, and then he explodes and is no more.

Eragon has killed the Shade, Durza, but in the process is almost killed himself. Did he save the battle for the Varden and the dwarves? Durza may have held the Urgals literally spellbound for them to attack Farthen Dyr as they did, hurling themselves at death. Even though the theme of magic is used throughout this chapter, in the end Eragon is able to kill Durza with his blade rather than with any magical words.



The Mourning Sage

The Mourning Sage Summary

Memories haunt Eragon as he is forced to relive some of the most painful sights he has seen as he struggles in unconsciousness. He sees everything that has happened to him since he found Saphira's egg. In his unconscious state he sees an entity that speaks to him. It is the Mourning Sage, and it asks him to come to it and to go to Arya who will take him to Ellesmyra, the land of the elves. The Mourning Sage will be there waiting for him.

The Mourning Sage tells Eragon, "You are greater than you know, Eragon. Think of what you have done and rejoice, for you have rid the land of a great evil. You have wrought a deed no one else could. Many are in your debt." (Page 494) Eragon thinks of the good things he was able to do, and the Mourning Sage is happy for his thoughts. It reminds him to find the elves.

Eragon finally wakes to the voice of Angela telling him that he has slept too long. He is disoriented and aches all over and wonders about Saphira and Arya. Angela tells him that they lived and are waiting for him to wake up. He sees Saphira, who is relieved to see Eragon awake. Murtagh comes in and tells him that once the Shade was killed, the light that flowed out of Durza released a spell that the Urgals were under. After their spell was broken, the different clans turned on each other and started fighting. Then the Varden and dwarves were able to rout them easily.

Arya tells Eragon about how she broke through the sapphire because it was her only option to distract Durza. Murtagh congratulates Eragon on being a hero for killing Durza and winning the battle. Arya slowed the pieces of glass from the shattered sapphire with magic so they would not slice him or her. He asks Angela how long has been in her care, and she tells him that has been there for a day and a half. Eragon reaches around to his back where Durza had felled him and he feels a large knot-like scar, and Arya looks at him with pity and says, "You have paid a terrible price for your deed, Eragon Shadeslayer." (Page 497) With that, Eragon remembers the Mourning Shade, who was joined by a cripple who was whole, Togira Ikonoka. They had urged him to think of what he had done for the people. Then he remembers the Mourning Shade asking for him to go to the elves, and he decides he will do so.

The Mourning Sage Analysis

Eragon is unconscious, and visions swirl around him. He remembers the events of his life especially since he found Saphira's egg. He thinks pessimistically of himself, recalling everything he has done wrong. Then he sees a "vast and powerful" figure that "is like a mountain looming over him." (Page 493) It announces itself as the Mourning



Sage and its companion is the Cripple Who is Whole. Mourning Sage tells Eragon to go to Ellesmyra, the land of the elves.

The Mourning Sage tells Eragon that he is greater than he knows and reminds him of the great deeds he has accomplished. Eragon realizes, "The stranger was right; what he had accomplished was worthy of honor, of recognition. No matter what his trials might be in the future, he was no longer just a pawn in the game of power. He had transcended that was something else, something more. He had become what Ajihad wanted: an authority independent of any king or leader." (Page 494) Eragon has truly become a Dragon Rider with his own power and paying allegiance to no one.

Eragon wakes up disoriented and confused to Angela's voice. He feels light headed and coughs, which makes him feel worse. He is eager to know what has happened with the battle and how Saphira and Arya stayed safe from the encircling Urgals. Saphira and Arya enter and tell Eragon that once Durza was killed, the spell was broken, and the Urgals turned on each other and began fighting. The Varden and Dwarves were able to route them and chase the monsters out through the tunnels.

Arya tells him that she broke through the glass and kept the shards from slicing through him and Saphira with magic. Eragon feels his back and realizes he has a huge knot-like scar from Durza's attack on him. Murtagh has entered the room and tells Eragon he is a hero and that his new scar matches Murtagh's. Eragon is sad that he is disfigured, but then he remembers the cripple from his dream and that he should rejoice for his deed of ridding the land of evil, and he feels at peace. He is ready to find the elves at Ellesmyra. This is foreshadowing the next part of the story: as the reader knows, Eragon will visit the elves.



Characters

Eragon

A farm boy of 15 who is growing up with his uncle and cousin, Eragon is named for the first Dragon Rider. Eragon discovers Saphira's egg when he is hunting in the Spine. He grows into early manhood while searching out the Ra'zac, the killers of his uncle. Eragon is trained by Brom, whom he discovers was once a Rider himself. Eragon grows from a boy who is prone to acting rashly, into a man who, with his dragon's help, saves a people.

Eragon is a sensitive young man who reacts with anger when he witnesses injustice. When he sees a slave auction, he has to hold his anger in check. He flaunts his magic while fighting Urgals and nearly dies. He learns to control his magic and his temper as well. He becomes the hero of the Varden and the dwarves and will travel to the great forests of Du Weldenvarden to be trained by the elves.

Saphira

Saphira's egg was in the possession of both the Varden and the elves and was overseen by Brom. She hatches for Eragon after he finds her in the Spine while hunting. She had been sent to the Spine by Arya, who was captured by the Shade, Durza.

Saphira is wise and communicates with Eragon telepathically. The connection was formed the moment Eragon first touched her. Saphira is covered in red gemstones, and Eragon gives her the name Saphira without knowing that Brom's dragon was also called Saphira.

Saphira provides Eragon with everything he needs while they are on their own. She wraps her wings around him to give him shelter and gives him counsel and companionship whenever he needs them.

Brom

Introduced as Brom, the Storyteller, Brom is a mysterious presence who takes Eragon under his wing as they flee Carvahall. Brom does not reveal his true background, and this frustrates Eragon. As Eragon's power grows, Brom does not wish for him to become a pawn on the side of the Varden. He wishes to protect Eragon, yet he is a stern teacher. When Eragon takes an unnecessary risk, Brom is severe with him. Brom's admonishment to Eragon is that if he overuses his magic power, it will kill him.

Brom and Eragon travel to Teirm, where the young man learns about his friend's background from Jeod. Eragon learns eventually that Brom protected Saphira's egg



while it was ferried back and forth from the Beor Mountains to the forest where the elves live.

Brom is wounded by the Ra'zac and soon dies. Eragon must bury his mentor in a mountain and leave, but Saphira creates a sealed crystal top to his grave.

Arya

Arya is an elf whom Eragon sees in dreams and visions. She has been captured by the Shade and the Urgals after sending Saphira's egg from the forests of Du Weldenvarden to the Spine. Later she is poisoned and put under a spell. Her captors give her just enough antidote to daily so she will live, but it keeps her in a coma-like state. Eragon and Murtagh rescue Arya at Gil'ead after Eragon had been captured as well. Arya stays unconscious for many more days, but Eragon finds a way to communicate with her, and she gives him directions to find the Varden.

When Arya recovers from her coma, she tests Eragon for his dueling skills. She is stronger and faster than humans and demonstrates this as she and Eragon battle. Later, in the real battle, she saves Eragon by riding Saphira through the glass ceiling and stopping the shards so they will not kill him, and distracting Durza long enough for Eragon to kill the Shade even though he was hurt badly in their duel.

Eragon loves Arya, because she is beautiful and unique, but he has never put his feelings into words. Saphira notices Eragon's love for Arya and she teases him. Eragon will be training with the elves in the future, and so Arya is sure to see Eragon again.

Murtagh

A mysterious young man, Murtagh saves Eragon's life by driving away the Ra'zac when they hold him and Brom hostage. Brom is mortally wounded while the Ra'zac escape. Murtagh is a tough warrior and has no mercy for the enemy. When Eragon and he are surrounded by slavers, they are able to turn on the slavers, and Murtagh beheads the leader. Eragon is repulsed by the action of Murtagh and angered at what he saw as the unnecessary killing of a man. Murtagh, however, has no qualms about killing the threat.

Murtagh lived in the palace of King Galbatorix and nearly became a general in the evil king's army, but he escaped. After hearing that there is a new Dragon Rider, Murtagh finds Eragon and reveals that he is the son of Morzan, the servant of King Galbatorix who was killed by Brom. This makes Murtagh very reluctant to join the Varden, the mortal enemy of the king. The Varden find out that Murtagh is the son of Morzan even while he denies the Twins access into his mind. Murtagh joins the battle with the Varden against the incoming Urgals. His status as the son of the enemy of the Varden is forgotten as he helps save the day.



Angela

Angela is the fortuneteller from Teirm who reads Eragon's future by reading dragon bones. She sees that Eragon will suffer a loss, and soon Brom dies. She also sees that Eragon will have to leave the land, and he soon does to join the Varden. Angela knows about Brom and later comes to Tronjheim with her werecat, Solembum, and joins the battle against the Urgals. Angela saves Eragon's life at the battle of Farthen Dyr and then nurses him back to health after his duel with Durza.

Solembum

The werecat, Solembum, is Angela's companion. Eragon meets Solembum in Angela's shop in Teirm and is surprised when he is able to communicate with it. Later, in the guise of a young boy, Solembum warns Eragon that soldiers are coming to the record room at Teirm city hall. Solembum shows up later at Farthen Dyr when Angela has arrived to be in the action.

Jeod

Brom's old friend, Jeod, is a merchant and former scholar who welcomes Brom and Eragon to Teirm. Jeod had given up Brom for dead and helps Brom and Eragon find a map of Alagalsia. He deduces where Brom and Eragon should travel to find the Ra'zac.

Durza

The Shade, Durza, nearly captures Saphira's egg in the beginning but succeeds in taking Arya prisoner. The Shade, Angela warns, is the most dangerous enemy of all. He has given up his life to evil spirits. He is in control of the Urgals as they invade Farthen Dyr. Eragon battles Durza beneath the mountain and contacts its memories. Eragon sees the Shade's memories. His family members were outcasts, and he was taken in by an evil master.

As Arya, while riding on Saphira, shatters the glass ceiling above them, Durza is distracted long enough for Eragon to stab the Shade in the heart, the only type of wound that would kill him. The spirits that make up the Shade swirl, and he disappears with a terrible scream as they leave him.

Orik

A dwarf and a nephew of King Hrothgar, Orik takes a chance by being insubordinate to the Twins as Eragon, Murtagh, and Saphira enter Farthen Dyr. He defies the Twins and is lightly punished by Ajjihad, and he becomes Eragon's guide while he is in Farthen Dyr.



Orik is a mighty warrior and presents Eragon with chain mail that saves his life, and he gives Saphira dragon armor, which saves her life as well.

Ajihad

The leader of the Varden, Ajihad is merciful and spares Murtagh severe punishment even though he does not cooperate. Ajihad must organize the defense of Farthen Dyr and does so by vicious means, such as boiling pitch, which is poured into the tunnels, burning countless Urgals to death.

Garrow

Eragon's Uncle Garrow is killed by the Ra'zac, and this event sets up Eragon's journey. Garrow is a taciturn man, but he is proud of both Eragon and Roran, his son. Garrow reminds Eragon to make sure that no man ever dominates his mind. This happens as Eragon and Saphira communicate with each other, and the Shade later tries to dominate Eragon's mind.

Roran

Roran is Eragon's cousin who goes to work in a mill and decides to marry Katrina, his sweetheart. Angela sees a betrayal by a family member of Eragon's, is it Roran? Eragon scries and sees Roran working somewhere that does not look like a mill. What has happened to his cousin?



Objects/Places

Carvahall

Carvahall is Eragon's home village, and although he lives at a farm miles away from Carvahall, it is still his home. The Ra'zac are seeking the dragon's egg that Eragon possesses, and so they infiltrate Carvahall. They kill Eragon's uncle, and the boy flees with Brom and Saphira.

The Spine

The Spine is the wild area where Eragon finds Saphira's egg that was sent there by Arya. It is a place that is feared by those who live in Carvahall.

Teirm

Teirm is the beautiful coastal city that Brom and Eragon travel to for information about the oil they found carried by the Ra'zac. Jeod lives in Teirm, and they are able to find the information and deduce where to travel next.

Zar'roc

Zar'roc is the blade of Morzan, who was killed by Brom, and Brom gives the sword to Eragon. It is a blade with a storied and cruel history. Morzan used it to kill many Dragon Riders, and thus many fear and hate it. The Varden do not trust any person who would own Zar'roc, but Ajihad decides to accept Eragon, and he hopes that Zar'roc's luck turns.

Alagalsia

Alagalsia is the land of the Empire that is ruled by King Galbatorix, who has become a cruel leader. The king was a Dragon Rider, but his dragon was killed. Now he has achieved immortality, but he has lost his humanity.

Farthen Dyr

Farthen Dyr is the mighty crater under the Beor Mountains and home to the Varden and dwarves alike. It is where Eragon and Murtagh travel to find the Varden and escape the Urgals. It is accessible only by long tunnels, mined by dwarves hundreds of years before.



Tronjheim

Tronjheim is the magnificent city within Farthen Dyr that is made of marble. It was built by the dwarves, features carvings of warriors, and is encrusted with jewels throughout. It is a mile-high city and inspires awe from everyone who visits.

Beor Mountains

The Beor Mountains stand outside of Alagalsia and are taller than anything within that land. They are tall enough to reach into the clouds and leave Eragon, Murtagh, and Saphira breathless. Saphira attempts to fly to the peak of a mountain, but it is too high for even her. Eragon faints on her back because the air is too thin for him to breathe. The Varden and dwarves have made their homes beneath the Beor Mountains.

Gil'ead

Gil'ead is the city where Durza holds Eragon and Arya and where Murtagh breaks in and helps them escape. Durza confronts Eragon there, but Saphira rescues him before the Shade kills him.

Dras-Leona

Dras-Leona is a very harsh city where Eragon and Brom scheme to find the Ra'zac, but the Ra'zac and soldiers find Eragon first in the city's cathedral. Eragon escapes and runs through the town where he meets Brom. They escape through Helgrind, the city's gates and object of worship. Soon after, though, the Ra'zac catch up with Brom and Eragon, and Brom is mortally wounded outside of Dras-Leona.

The Hadarac Desert

The Hadarac Desert is the vast desert that Eragon, Murtagh, and Saphira decide to cross with their horses. It is here that Eragon learns to draw water magically to the desert's surface. After crossing the Hadarac Desert, they come to the base of the mighty Beor Mountains.



Themes

Friendship

Murtagh and Eragon, Brom and Eragon, and Saphira and Eragon all share the bonds of friendship. The most important bond is between Eragon and Saphira. There is love and affection between them, and they are very protective of each other. Brom's relationship with Eragon begins as one of pupil to teacher, but their relationship evolves into friendship even though they were not peers.

Since they are the same age and of the same fighting ability, Murtagh and Eragon are definitely peers,. They quarrel like boys, fighting with each other when they have become tired and irritable, but they care for each other. When Murtagh is incarcerated at Tronjheim, Eragon frets about his friend, whom he is relieved to find out, has been treated very well by the Varden.

Hero's Journey

Eragon sets out on a journey that starts with one purpose but evolves into something quite larger. He and Brom begin in pursuit of the Ra'zac, but eventually, as Brom had warned, they were pursued by the Empire itself. Eragon, in becoming a Dragon Rider, becomes the hope of his people against the Empire, which has become evil. King Galbatorix has aligned himself with the Urgals and the Shade and Ra'zac, who terrorize and kill at will. Upon leaving Carvahall, Eragon has a feeling that he will not be seeing his home for a long time and his future, as foretold by Angela, shows this feeling to be a true one.

Saphira later tells Eragon: "It is your wyrd that shapes you, said Saphira. Every age needs an icon - perhaps that lot has fallen to you. Farm boys are not named for the first Rider without cause. Your namesake was the beginning, and now you are the continuation. Or the end. (Page 430)

Magic

When he touches Saphira for the first time, Eragon is thrown back, and he receives a scar on his hand. With this scar comes the ability to communicate with his dragon and any animal. Later, Brom teaches Eragon words from an ancient elfin language that he can use to battle others as well as to heal. Eragon uses his magic to attempt to heal Brom, Arya, and Saphira at various times. He uses magic to draw water from the ground when they are traveling through the Hadarac Desert. The magic kills Urgals, but almost kills Eragon when he attempts to do too much. Brom warned Eragon that the magic powers he possesses could kill him, and he learns to use them at the right time and in the right amount.



Others that can use magic are the Shade, Durza, Arya the elf, the Twins, and Brom. The Shade is possessed by the spirits that control him while the Twins use their powers to fiercely protect the Varden. Their treatment of Eragon and Murtagh is shabby while Arya is graceful in whatever she does. Brom possesses power but has forgotten much, so he uses magic sparingly.

Fate

Angela foretells important events that will happen to Eragon, including leaving Alagalsia, a romance, and familial betrayal. Does learning one's fate make one more likely to live out what has been foretold? She tells Eragon that he will lose someone close to him, and soon Brom dies. She also tells him that he will have to leave Alagalsia, and he does to join the Varden.

Angela is not the only one who predicts Eragon's fate: "It is your wyrd that shapes you, said Saphira. Every age needs an icon - perhaps that lot has fallen to you. Farm boys are not named for the first Rider without cause. Your namesake was the beginning, and now you are the continuation. Or the end. (Page 430)

In the battle of Farthen Dyr, Eragon worries that Arya is in danger, but the elf tells him that it is her wyrd, or fate, to be there and battle those who kept her hostage and drugged in Gil'ead.



Style

Setting

The setting of the story is in the land of Alagalsia and beyond. The reader is provided with a map at the beginning, and this is helpful in charting the course of Eragon, Brom, Saphira, and Murtagh. Geography plays a large part in the story since the characters hike through mountains, ford great rivers, and cross the dry and sweltering desert. Decisive moments occur in the story when Eragon must decide to leave the lands he has always known. First, he leaves his farm and Carvahall, the village where he grew up. Then he, Murtagh, and Saphira leave Alagalsia when they cross the Hadarac Desert for the Beor Mountains.

The map is very important to the reading of this story. It keeps the reader in touch with where the characters are going and where they have been. It is disorientation and unfamiliarity shared by reader and characters alike. The setting is filled with danger, as storms, slavers, Urgals and Ra'zac endanger the lives of the characters.

Eragon is a wide-eyed farm boy who finds his way through the geography of Alagalsia and beyond. When he goes beyond, it is to take shelter from the Urgals, who then return to try to conquer the Varden, dwarves, and the new Dragon Rider, Eragon.

Point of View

Written from Eragon's and Saphira's point of view, the story is written in the third person. It is a linear story with only a few sections told in the past tense. Murtagh tells of his past, and living in the palace of Galbatorix, but mainly this story is a present-tense story told by a narrator with Eragon's and Saphira's conversations, feelings, and observations. The reader is not omnipresent, nor omniscient; therefore, it is left to the characters to discover the course of the story.

The conversations between Saphira and Eragon are set in italics, and they show the bond between the two. It grows from the dragon's being dependent on him at first to later when she hunts and flies off on her own for long periods of time. The conversations show the internal point of view of dragon and her Rider, and they make all of their crucial decisions together. They give counsel to each other, with Saphira often warning Eragon about dangers that may lie ahead. Saphira and Eragon's internal conversations and thoughts offer a unique insight throughout the story.

In sum, the story is written in the third person with first-person elements included. The first-person elements add an important insight to the thoughts, fears, and vital decisions made by Eragon and Saphira at the most important points of the story.



Language

The language is clear and the story is long, yet concise. There are concepts and words that appear to delineate new characters, such as the Shade and the Urgals, while others such as the elves, dwarves, and dragons are timeless story characters and concepts.

Eragon uses a magic language, invented by the elves and this keeps a veil of magic over the story. In this language one cannot lie, and so it is a language to be used with care. In this way, language plays a key part of the story. Eragon learns as many of the words he can to gain power, but the magic comes with caveats. If he attempts to do too much with the magic language, he will perish. Eragon comes close to overusing this new language against the Urgals. Using it saps him of his strength, but he learns to use it judiciously. Along with a pronunciation guide, there is a glossary of magical words at the end of the story.

An author who clearly wants to structure the narrative in an uncluttered way writes this story. Time is linear, and there are very few flashes back in time. When there are internal discussions, such as the ones between Saphira and Eragon, they are presented in italics, making it clear to the reader that the words are not an external dialogue.

Structure

This is a linear story with no flashes to the past. The reader follows Eragon and Saphira exclusively and the other characters only when in the presence of the main characters. A map at the beginning is helpful in guiding the reader on Eragon's journey. The story is divided into 60 chapters of varying length and a prologue. There is a pronunciation guide at the close of the book.

The narrative of this story is clear, with the action immediate. There are no flashes to the past, except for stories by the characters Murtagh and Brom. Their stories help clear up mysteries for Eragon, who is frustrated by their lack of information about themselves. The story stays mainly in an immediate mode with the reader learning what is happening at the same time as the main characters. The characters discover the course of the story as they go along and at fortunate points.

The reader discovers that this story is written sparsely, with little extra added. As it stands, the story is nearly 500 pages in length, and it shows that there must have been a disciplined effort to ensure that nothing extra strayed into its narrative.



Quotes

"Eragon found the stone both beautiful and frightening. *Where did it come from? Does it have a purpose?* Then a more disturbing thought came to him: *Was it sent here by accident or was I meant to have it?* If he had learned anything from the old stories, it was to treat magic, and those who used it, with great caution." (Page 8)

"Eragon recoiled in shock. Standing in front of him, licking off the membrane that encased it, was a dragon." (Page 37)

"Are you Saphira?' She looked at him with intelligent eyes. Deep in his mind he felt her satisfaction. Yes. Something clicked in his head and her voice echoed, as if from a great distance. He grinned in response. Saphira started humming." (Page 59)

"First, let no one rule your mind or body. Take special care that your thoughts remain unfettered. One may be a free man and yet be bound tighter than a slave. Give men your ear, but not your heart. Show respect for those in power, but don't follow them blindly. Judge with logic and reason, but comment not." (Page 64)

"Brom is a magician! That's how he was able to light the fire on the plains. He doesn't just know about magic; he can use it himself!' Eragon's eyes widened, 'You're right!' (Page 140)

"He saw a young woman, bent over by sorrow, chained in a cold, hard cell. A beam of moonlight shone through a barred window set high in the wall and fell on her face. A single tear rolled down her cheek, like a liquid diamond." (Page 212)

"Here lies Brom who was a Dragon Rider and like a father to me. May his name live on in glory." (Page 276)

"Do not talk with me again unless there is no hope of reaching the Varden. If that is the case, there is information I must impart to you so the Varden will survive. Farewell, Eragon, rider of dragons...my life is in your hands." (Page 341)

"It is your wyrd that shapes you, said Saphira. Every age needs an icon - perhaps that lot has fallen to you. Farm boys are not named for the first Rider without cause. Your namesake was the beginning, and now you are the continuation. Or the end. (Page 430)

"You have paid a terrible price for you deed, Eragon Shadeslayer." (Page 497)

"The stranger was right; what he had accomplished was worthy of honor, of recognition. No matter what his trials might be in the future, he was no longer just a pawn in the game of power. He had transcended that was something else, something more. He had become what Ajihad wanted: an authority independent of any king or leader." (Page 494)

"Come to me Eragon, for I have answers to all you ask. A measure of peace and satisfaction consoled Eragon. *I will come.*" (Page 497)



Topics for Discussion

Was it Eragon's fate that shaped him or his actions?

Did Eragon transcend being a pawn for the Varden, or is he his own man?

How is magic used in the story? Is it overused?

The geography of Alagalsia is rough in many parts, how did it influence the story?

In the end, did Eragon go against his uncle's advice and let others control his mind?

Did Saphira exert control over Eragon's mind or was theirs a mutual relationship?

Does Eragon's journey have a lack of purpose? Are his purposes ever changing? Does this confuse the reader?

Will Eragon's journey change him? He starts out as a sensitive boy, but will the blood he has seen and has drawn make him hardened and more like Murtagh?

Will Eragon make a good ruler? What qualities will make him better than Galbatorix?

What lies in store for Eragon?

What will he do next?

What challenges lie ahead for Eragon?