

The Illearth War Study Guide

The Illearth War by Stephen R. Donaldson

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Contents

The Illearth War Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Prologue, Chapter 1-6.....	4
Chapter 7- 10.....	7
Chapter 11- 14.....	9
Chapter 15- 18.....	11
Chapter 19- 20.....	15
Chapter 21- 24.....	17
Chapter 25- 27.....	20
Characters.....	23
Objects/Places.....	26
Themes.....	28
Style.....	30
Quotes.....	32
Topics for Discussion.....	34



Plot Summary

The Illearth War by Stephen R. Donaldson is the second in the Thomas Covenant series. Thomas Covenant is a leper in the real world but is healed when he is called, for the second time, to the Land to fight against Lord Foul. Thomas must not only fight to stay alive but also to keep himself from going insane, since he believes the Land is nothing more than a dream and once back in reality he will have sacrificed the tools he has acquired which he needs to survive as a leper.

Thomas Covenant, a leper, is sitting at home in the real world when he is suddenly called by his ex-wife Joan. Covenant is so shocked at her call that he trips and hits his head on the coffee table. As he becomes unconscious he is transported to the Land, a magical place where Covenant has been before. Covenant is certain it must be a dream but that dreams can be dangerous. Covenant hates being in the Land because it makes him forget to live like a leper. If he forgets to live like a leper he is certain he will die slowly as other lepers have done.

Covenant's summoner to the Land is High Lord Elena, Covenant's daughter, the product of a rape that Covenant committed on his first journey into the Land. Elena has no ill feelings toward Covenant and asks him to help them save the Land from Lord Foul. There is another person there from the real world named Hile Troy. Troy was blind in the real world but has magical sight given to him by the Land. Troy is now in command of the armies that will march to save the Land.

Covenant's appearance in the Land begins a series of events that lead Covenant and Elena to a magic that Elena hopes will save the Land, the Seventh Ward. While they are on their journey to the Seventh Ward Troy finds out that the race of giants have allowed themselves to be slaughtered by one of their own because the ravers took over three giant brothers, Kinslaughter, Fleshharrower, and Satansfist. Fleshharrower is leading Lord Foul's army and chases Troy into Garroting Deep. Caerroiil Wildwood protects the forests of Garroting Deep and strikes a deal that Troy will be Caerroiil's eternal servant. In return Caerroiil Wilwood kills Fleshharrower and the demons with him.

Covenant and Elena find the Seventh Ward, and Covenant tries to stop her from using it feeling that Lord Foul is manipulating them in some way. Elena is certain it will give them the power they need so she uses the Seventh Ward to call forth the spirit of a High Lord that did battle with Lord Foul in ages past. When she calls forth the spirit, she breaks the Law of Death and Lord Foul is able to command the spirit and send it back to kill Elena. With Elena dead Covenant goes back to his world. He finds he is on the floor unconscious and the phone is beeping and Joan hung up hours ago.



Prologue, Chapter 1-6

Prologue, Chapter 1-6 Summary

The prologue explains that Thomas Covenant was a successful author who was married until he developed leprosy. His wife couldn't stand to be with him after the disease began, so they divorced. Covenant becomes lonely and bitter. Covenant forces himself to go into town, despite the fact that no one wants to be near him, and he is suddenly called to the "Land." In the Land the people treat Covenant like he is a long-awaited hero; his wedding band that he didn't remove after the divorce is a source of great magic. Covenant goes on a journey to help the people save their lands although he believes it all to be a dream. When he wakes up he is back home and his disease is still in his body and there is no proof he was ever anywhere but in a hospital.

In chapter one Thomas Covenant is trying to get the memory of what happened in his dream out of his head. Covenant is tired as if he really did go on a quest. He begins getting threatening calls from people in town who warn him not to come spreading his disease. The horse stables behind Covenant's house are set on fire and the sheriff refuses to help because he, too, wants Covenant gone. For a short period of time Covenant stops taking his medicine or watching for signs of his disease. Covenant decides to go to town again if for no other reason than so he can be pulled back to the harsh reality that his disease gives him.

In chapter two Covenant decides to head for a town where he will likely not be recognized. He hitch hikes on the way there and is passed by several vehicles before a man stops. The man begins to talk about the awful leper that lives in the town and how the leper should be human enough to go and live with his own kind. Covenant asks the man to come and have a drink with him and the man agrees. When they get into the bar Covenant tells the man that he is the leper, but the man thinks Covenant is joking. A woman gets up to sing and when she gets ready to leave the stage she calls attention to Covenant who is recognized by a few in the building as the leper. The sheriff has been looking for Covenant and drives him partially home. When Covenant reaches his house his ex-wife calls. Covenant stands but trips on the phone cord and hits his head. Joan is asking Covenant to say something, but Covenant feels himself being carried away.

Chapter three begins with Covenant becoming aware of his new surroundings. He is back in the Land in the council chamber of the Lords in Revelstone. They try to tell him how much they need his help and the white gold, but Covenant is angry that they pulled him away as Joan was trying to talk to him. High Lord Elena is the one that summoned Covenant, and she admits she doesn't have the power to send him back. The council of the Lords have gotten word that Lord Foul, enemy of the Land, is gathering his army together. Covenant is badly hurt from his wound to the forehead and his leprosy. Lord Mhoram, Covenant's friend during his first journey to the Land, puts hurtloam on



Covenant. This begins to heal Covenant's disease much as it did his first trip to the Land, and Covenant is left to rest.

In chapter four Covenant is thinking about Joan, his ex-wife, and how much it must have taken her to call him. He is angry he has been called away from Joan by this delusion. Covenant knows this land is not real and that it is deadly to believe in the things around him. After he is able to stand up again Covenant meets with Lord Mhoram and they discuss the white gold that Covenant doesn't know how to use and the plans of Lord Foul. Mhoram tells Covenant that it doesn't matter if it is a dream. He tells Covenant that Covenant must still do what is needed. Mhoram takes Covenant to meet with the other members of the Lord's council.

In chapter five Covenant goes to the Lord's council where they are discussing Lord Foul's effect and plan. The Warmark, the leader of the army, Hile Troy, talks to Covenant. Hile Troy is from the real world just as Covenant is. Troy's presence is still not proof for Covenant that being in this land is anything other than a dream and Covenant refuses to be taken in with Hile Troy's story. Hile Troy then takes off his sunglasses and shows that he has no eyes, eyelids or lashes. Hile Troy explains that he was born that way but with the hurtloam applied to his head he began seeing visions as vividly as sight. Hile Troy had been a war game master in the real world and commands the troops in the Land. Troy gotten to the Land because a student had tried to summon Covenant but had gotten Troy by mistake; the student dies. Troy then says that Mhoram says he sees in his dreams that the Land will die if Covenant doesn't save it. Troy says to be happy for the health that they both have been given. Covenant becomes angry and screams that it isn't health; it is a lie and Troy leaves the room.

In chapter six High Lord Elena calls Covenant to her room to speak privately. She looks familiar although Covenant doesn't know why. Elena gives Covenant a sword that was said to have magic, the krill, but no one could use. Covenant becomes angry at the way he is being treated, as a savior, and slams the sword into a stone as it is brought to life. Elena is speechless for a moment. Covenant tells her it doesn't matter that he brought the krill to life or that he has the white gold because it won't be enough to save them.

Elena then tells him the story of how Hile Troy came to the Land although the truth has been kept from Troy. Atiaran Trell-mate called for Thomas Covenant in order to exact revenge upon him for raping her daughter, Lena. Atiaran made a mistake in the calling and died in bringing forth Troy. Elena then tells Covenant that Atiaran was her grandmother and she is Lena's daughter, the product of the rape. Covenant wants to weep but has forgotten how. Elena tells him that she doesn't want him to suffer and her will is to save the Land and that is the only reason she called Thomas Covenant back.

Prologue, Chapter 1-6 Analysis

Elena is not immediately easy to understand. Later in the story she will make a definite sexual pass at Thomas Covenant. Hile Troy says at one point that she seems to be obsessed with Covenant. It appears as the story continues that she may have had



ulterior motives for calling him forth although she doesn't say. Her mother is never seen in the story but it is explained later on that she always has waited for Covenant and said he would come back for her. It is obvious Covenant has no intention of coming back for Lena.

Mhoram is very methodical in his speech. He has dreams and visions that cause him to cry out in the night. These dreams and visions foretell things that will not happen in this book. There is a lot of references to things that happened in the first book in the series, but the author gives enough background information that it is possible to understand the role of the characters even without the first book in the series being read.

The Bloodguard have made an ancient vow. In the Land there are vows and words that carry deep power. Much of this will not be explained in detail but the effects of this power will be seen and pointed out when it becomes important. The Bloodguard will have a very important role in the story though they do not often speak.

The war that is being fought will be between those of the Land and Lord Foul. Lord Foul will not actually be seen in this story. Many different kinds of his servants will be seen, but Lord Foul himself will appear to be something that is almost intangible.

Hile Troy and Thomas Covenant come from the same world but they have very different ideas about what the Land offers them. Hile believes the Land is real and offers him a great gift. Covenant believes that the Land is nothing more than his dream and is a way to slowly let him die as other lepers have. There will be a serious rift between these two characters throughout the book. They share many of the same feelings and thoughts although it has a different effect on each of them.



Chapter 7- 10

Chapter 7- 10 Summary

In chapter seven Covenant is awoken by Lord Hyrim who explains that he and Lord Shetra are to go with thirty Bloodguard to aid the giants, although it is thought they may be too late. Lord Hyrim asks Covenant to go with them because Lord Hyrim wants to give the giants all the aid they can. Covenant says he wouldn't be any help, although the real reason is that High Lord Elena doesn't want him to go. As the two Lords and the Bloodguard leave, Covenant thinks of his giant friend Foamfollower, who helped him during his first trip to the Land and asks for forgiveness.

Chapter eight begins with Covenant still struggling with the effect that the Land is having on him. Covenant feels that if he fails he will die and if he succeeds then he won't be able to go back to his life of leprosy. Covenant is called to the Lords Council. There is a stranger in Revelstone that has asked to meet with them. When the stranger arrives Covenant is surprised to see that it is a young boy, although he looks both young and old at the same time. The boy says he has no name to those that know him, but those that do not know him call him Amok. His answers seem to be in Riddle although he explains he was created by High Lord Kevin and was supposed to come when the signs were right. The sign he had been waiting for was the krill sword coming alive. Covenant is upset that he has caused this. Elena explains to Amok that they have not mastered the other of Kevin's Wards and that they do not have what is needed for the Seventh Ward, which Amok says he is there to reveal to them. Upon hearing this Amok says he must be going and simply is gone. Though they search they do not find Amok.

Later that night Covenant and Troy talk again and Troy is still confused as to why Covenant doesn't love the Land. Covenant tells him that to believe in the Land is suicide for a leper. As they walk back to their rooms Trell Atiaran-mate rounds the corner coming face to face with Covenant. Trell is the father of Lena, the girl Covenant raped. Trell loses himself for a moment and attacks Covenant. Bannor is able to save Covenant; Covenant, partially hiding the truth of Atiaran's summoning of Troy, says that he had raped Trell's daughter. Troy further is disgusted by Covenant at learning this.

In chapter nine those in Revelstone are still waiting and watching for the war to begin but have no word of Lord Foul's army. High Lord Elena calls Covenant to come with her to meet a man who is going to interpret Covenant's dreams. While they wait for the man Elena kisses Covenant. Although he says nothing to her, he pushes her away and suddenly has a pain in his chest. Elena leaves as the interpreter arrives. Covenant follows the man.

In chapter ten Covenant comes to Mhoram's room. Mhoram and Covenant discuss what the interpreter said. Covenant's dreams are truth and Covenant is most fortunate that his dreams are this way, although Covenant disagrees. Covenant decides he has become his own "despiser," and he is working against himself. Mhoram doesn't know



how to help Covenant with these thoughts. They are discussing much of this when there is a knock at the door. Lord Foul's army has been seen. The war has begun. Covenant agrees to come with Lord Mhoram and Elena although he believes he won't be able to help.

Chapter 7- 10 Analysis

There is a lot discussed between Covenant and Hile Troy. Troy doesn't like what he has learned about Covenant in regards to Covenant's rape of Lena. It won't be until much later in the story that Troy learns the full story. It is unknown if it would have changed any of Troy's behavior if he had known earlier the connection that Covenant has to Lena. In the next few chapters the point of view changes from Covenant to that of Hile Troy. At that point it will become clear that much of what prevents Hile Troy from accepting Covenant is that Hile Troy cares for Elena although he has never told her.

Elena knows Covenant is her father and she kissed him. There is no discussion between the two and it is not known why she has acted this way. The pain in Covenant's chest when she kisses him isn't fully explained either. This will not be the last time he feels this pain.

Mhoram is very patient with Covenant although he doesn't know how to convince Covenant of the reality of the situation. He tries instead to impress upon Covenant the fact that dream or not, Covenant's reactions are just as important. Mhoram will continue to play a large role in the story. He will eventually be the one that reveals much of the truth to Troy in regard to Trell, Lena, and the connection they have to Covenant, although Troy doesn't know there is any family relation between Trell and Elena.

Elena has talked about the High Lord Kevin. There is a lot of past explanation about Kevin and his actions and the reason for them. Elena will explain how much faith she puts in High Lord Kevin later in the story, although Covenant will disagree with her. It will be in part her faith in High Lord Kevin that is Elena's downfall.



Chapter 11- 14

Chapter 11- 14 Summary

Chapter eleven begins with Hile Troy realizing that regardless of what Covenant says, the Land is real. Troy knows that it is real although he has no proof of this. A woman from the Plains of Ra comes and brings news that the army of Lord Foul was much closer than Troy had anticipated. He is so stunned for a moment that he loses his composure and has to sit down momentarily. They also learn that a giant that leads Lord Foul's army. This news stuns the council because the giants were thought to be above working with Lord Foul.

High Lord Elena gives duties to each of the Lords of the Council as they get ready to leave. Many of them are to go to different areas to help those left homeless by Lord Foul. Troy takes command of his men and explains that they are in a bad situation because Troy was counting on Lord Foul's army to be much farther away. He is going to force part of the troops onto boats to reach Lord Foul's army quickly and the others will march at a breakneck pace to get to the men on the boat before they are overtaken. His men are worried but carry out their orders. Troy tells Elena that there is a lot of faith put in him but Elena assures him they trust him. When Elena is gone Covenant tells Troy that they don't necessarily trust Troy, but they have a lot of faith in the person that summoned Troy. Troy seems to ignore Covenant's warning of what could happen and Covenant walks away.

Chapter twelve starts with the march away from Revelstone. Troy knows there is no room for error or delay in the plan he has made and is nervous about it as he starts out. The thing Troy can't forgive Covenant for is Covenant's refusal to fight. Troy feels everyone seems to see something in Covenant Troy cannot see.

Chapter thirteen begins with the group still marching. Trell is behind Covenant watching Covenant and Elena. Troy thinks Trell is wise to not trust Covenant although Troy doesn't know why Trell is concerned about the High Lord. They continue to march and approach near the Rock Gardens of the Maerl. When they reach the Rock Garden, Covenant tells a story of a woman who loved life and became a leper but couldn't live life and love it and still take care of herself. Her disease ate her until there was nothing left but a smile and one eye. Covenant rides away angry, and some of the Lords ask if he is prophesying about the Land. High Lord Elena says firmly "No." As they dismount to rest for the evening Troy notices a Bloodguard that was going with Lord Hyrim and Shetra to the giants riding toward them.

In chapter fourteen Runnik arrives to tell the tale of what has happened on the journey to the giants. He tells them the story of how the journey began. They came upon a soldier from Revelstone that had been thought dead. His skin is like ice and he seems to be almost dead although he is alive. He tells them about three giant brothers that have been taken over by the ravers, servants of Lord Foul. The soldier begins to scream a



painful scream and they are forced to push him into the water. They decided to take a raft down the river but the raft is attacked by a creature that was in the water. Lord Shetra is pulled into the water along with one of the Bloodguards and neither are seen again. Lord Hyrim says there will be pain and suffering to humble what they have just been through and calls himself a coward. Lord Mhoram waits until Runnik has finished his story and begins to sing a song about the coming of death.

Chapter 11- 14 Analysis

Being able to see the events that are happening from the point of view of Troy is rather different compared to what Covenant sees. There are people and things that Covenant sees, but Troy doesn't notice any of these. The things that catches Troy's attention are the tactics of war, which are seen first hand. In addition, Troy's feelings for Elena are very different from Covenant's. Troy watches them together and sees how much Elena leans on Covenant. Covenant never comments on Troy's actions in regards to Elena and Covenant. It is unknown if Elena or anyone else knows of Troy's feelings for her although she makes it clear that Covenant is the one she chooses.

The first of the messages have come back from the journey to find the giants and try to give them aid. Lord Hyrim said that there would be pain and suffering to humble what has been done which is a moment of foreshadowing. There is much more horrid things that this band of Bloodguards and the Lord Hyrim will encounter. There was a message given by the soldier before he died that is very important. The ravers are creatures that take over a being's body, seemingly like possession. This will be seen later in the story as the giants are encountered.

Troy does see things differently because of his lack of eyesight. It will be this lack of eyesight that causes him to be able to see Amok in the next few chapters when the others can't see him. Despite the fact that he can see many things going on, he will not notice the odd behavior of the Bloodguards; Thomas Covenant will take a very pivotal interest in this.

There is a lot mentioned that happened in the first book, and these characters have only partially been explained. In the next few chapters there will be a lot of characters shown briefly that will add to the information about Thomas Covenant's past and the people that he encountered on his first journey there. Lena, Elena's mother, will be discussed but not seen.



Chapter 15- 18

Chapter 15- 18 Summary

Chapter fifteen begins with the sixteenth day since the Lords Council left Revelstone and they arrive at Loesraat. Once in the Loesraat community they hold a council to tell those in Loesraat the news of Lord Fouls' army and Troy's battle plans. Troy is confused and angered that Covenant seems to be honored above High Lord Elena but says nothing. While they are in council Troy notices a shimmering around Covenant although no one else notices it. Troy stands and tries to look like he is casually walking when he suddenly jumps towards the shimmering. Once he has caught it, it begins to laugh and Amok appears. Amok explains that he has realized the peril that the Land is in and because Thomas Covenant wields the wild magic of the white gold Amok has decided to return. Amok answers in riddles since the Lords have to know the right question to ask before Amok can answer in a straightforward manner. They finally are able to get him to say that he is the way and the door to the Seventh Ward of Kevin's Lore. Elena says that they are saved. Covenant and Mhoram don't agree with Elena since no one knows what the Seventh Ward of Kevin's Lore is, but Elena is determined to find the Seventh Ward of Kevin's Lore. Amok agrees to take her there if Covenant agrees to it. Covenant doesn't want anything to do with giving permission for such things. Elena decides the Seventh Ward of Kevin's Lore is the best chance for defeating Lord Foul even though she doesn't know what the Seventh Ward is.

Troy is angry and feels he is going to lose Elena. Troy remembers that Covenant said it wasn't Troy that the people had faith in but the student that summoned him, so Troy decides to go and visit the grave of the student. When Troy arrives he finds Trell there weeping. Troy tries to stop Trell to ask him why he is there but Trell screams at Troy that Troy is worse than a fool. Troy doesn't understand but has no one to ask.

Mhoram tries to dissuade Elena from going after the Seventh Ward, but she says it is the best way. She is able to choose one to accompany her on her journey. Troy is already beginning to say yes, feeling certain she would ask Troy when she asks Covenant to go with her. At this point Troy feels the High Lord has chosen the friendship of Covenant over defending the honor of the young woman that Covenant raped and Troy is very angered. Troy looks at Mhoram as the High Lord, and Covenant rides away and tells Troy that he (Covenant) believes something terrible is going to happen to Elena. Troy begins his ride towards the war eager to have it begin.

Chapter sixteen begins with Troy struggling to come to terms with the fact that his summoner, Trell's wife, had been trying to summon Covenant. Troy decides he will prove he is the fruit of hope and not despair, and he will win the war at all costs. Troy soon realizes they are behind schedule and won't reach the meeting point in time to help the other men that went ahead on boats. Troy is already pushing his men but encourages them on even faster. After marching for several days they stop to camp and are attacked by wolves that kill several men and wound several more. Troy spends the



next several nights making sure none of the demon wolves can attack unnoticed again. There are no more losses, but this doesn't loosen Troy's feelings of caution. As they march through rough terrain several of the men simply lay down and die due to the back breaking pace they are being put through, but Troy knows they cannot stop. Troy decides he has to leave his men and go to High Kevin's watch. From there with Troy's sight he can see Lord Foul's army and know what size of an army they are up against and also Troy can get the lay of the battle that will take place. Troy and Mhoram head toward High Kevin's watch and stop in the small village before they get there. It is here Troy meets Triok who had been in love with Lena, the daughter of Trell, whom Covenant had raped. Although Triok was willing to marry her, Lena always refused saying Covenant would come back for her. Troy and Mhoram go out to wait for daylight, so Troy can see Foul's army with his sight. While they wait, one of the Bloodguards, Tull, arrives bearing the news of the mission to find the giants with Lord Hyrim.

Chapter seventeen has Tull telling the story of what happened to the mission and what fate became of the giants. Hyrim became ill for a time, but they were eventually able to cure him, although he was still very weak, and it slowed the trip down considerably. When they reached the giants' home they found that all work places had been abandoned by the giants. When they reach the first of the giant's homes they find the giants' heads have been bashed open and the brains eaten. The giants didn't struggle or resist in any way. The only ones that appeared to have fought back were the children. Hyrim is aghast that they simply went home and waited for the death they obviously knew was coming. They reach a lower level of the giants' vast home and find that the bodies are fresh. In the hope that there may still be someone alive they hurry to the lower level where they find an older giant who is almost catatonic. Hyrim performs a giant ritual on the giant and the giant begins to speak. There were three giants, triplets, who had been overtaken by the ravers. The giants were so ashamed that they produced such weak beings that they waited for the giants, who are now ravers, to come and kill them rather than fight. They had become the thing they hated the most. At this point in time another giant comes in holding a green glowing rock. He is glad to see the Lord and the Bloodguard saying that he will eat well as he thought his brothers were the only ones that were going to get such wonderful things to eat. Hyrim calls him by his true raver name, but the giant laughs and says that he and his brothers like the new bodies they occupy. He is Kinslaughterer, and his brothers are Fleshharrower and Satansfist. The giant huddled in the corner is the father of these three and Kinslaughter has saved his father's death for last. Kinslaughter and his father begin fighting, but the raver is able to take the glowing rock, which is a piece of the Illearth Stone from Lord Foul, and easily crush his father. Kinslaughter attacks the Bloodguard and Hyrim and is able to knock them unconscious and begins to summon a tsunami from the sea. Hyrim explains that if this is accomplished then the sea will be an obedient servant of Lord Foul, so he and the Bloodguard attack Kinslaughter. They are able to kill Kinslaughter but not before he mortally wounds Hyrim. The Bloodguard pick up the piece of Illearth stone and come to talk to Hyrim as he dies. Hyrim tells them not to touch or take something but dies before he can say anything else. One of the Bloodguards pick up the Illearth Stone which is fiery cold, and the Bloodguard says they will take it to the High Lord.



After hearing the story, Mhoram says they shouldn't have touched the Illearth Stone. Troy, remembering the dreams that caused Mhoram to cry out, asks if this is what Mhoram had seen. Mhoram says he saw the Bloodguard in service of Lord Foul. The sun begins to rise.

As chapter eighteen begins Troy is already using his unworldly sight to find Lord Foul's army. When he sees it he is aghast at the number of creatures marching in the army. Troy didn't realize he had tried to jump from the cliff until Mhoram and the Bloodguard had grasped him. Troy is unnerved and for a moment can do nothing but murmur that all is lost. Mhoram demands that Troy come to the aid of his men and think of a plan. Troy is able to think of one chance. They plan a trap and begin putting men in place. They reach the area and are quickly engaged in battle. Things are not going well for Troy and he demands that Mhoram do something to help his men who are being slaughtered. They plan a retreat through the valley and Mhoram helps slow the advancing hordes of Lord Foul. They are able to get away and rest for the night. There have been many casualties, and they still have to fight the next day. They decide to march the men again at a very harsh pace to put distance between them and the army of Lord Foul. Someone has to stay behind to slow Lord Foul's army and Lord Veremet, Lord Shetra's husband, insists it is his duty. Mhoram tries to argue with him but Lord Veremet feels that he didn't love Shetra enough in life though he loved her as much as he could. He says that with his death he will find a reprieve from the anguish he feels over her loss. One Bloodguard stays behind to help him and Lord Mhoram puts a spell in place that will cause an avalanche once Lord Foul's army tries to cross its boundary. Veremet fights with amazing speed and is able to give Troy's men time to get a safe distance before he is forced to face Fleshharrower, the giant raver possessed. They do battle and for a moment Veremet is able to hold his own before he is killed. Once dead, Veremet's Bloodguard attacks Fleshharrower and is torn into several pieces as the giant stomps on what is left of the Bloodguard. His army races forward but hits the spell put in place by Mhoram and the walls of the valley collapse on them. Troy's men use the time to march toward the enchanted forest, Garroting Deep.

Chapter 15- 18 Analysis

The fact that the giants killed themselves rather than live knowing what had become of the three brothers is a very harsh blow to those in the Land that had hoped to have the help of the giants. The giant race is explained to some extent but there is little reason given to explain their point of view in regards to this. It appears that their honor perhaps refused to let them believe they had been a part of Lord Foul's machinations. The only giant, except for the children, who was willing to fight against Kinslaughter, was the father of the triplets and then it appears he only fought because the Bloodguard and Lord Hyrim were in danger. Hyrim tried to warn the Bloodguard not to do something but died before he could finish his sentence. It isn't until Mhoram explains that they shouldn't have touched the Illearth Stone piece that Kinslaughter carried that it is understood against what Hyrim was warning. This is one of the things that will be left until the next book in the series to be explained. There is no more discussion of the Bloodguard fighting for Lord Foul in this book.



The death of Shetra and Hyrim is very hard for Troy and Mhoram. Shetra had been loved by her husband. He says that although he loved her completely, he didn't love her enough. In his battle with Fleshharrower it seems he was fighting as much for the memory of his wife and to avenge her death as anything else. Although he gave all that he had in the battle he only gains them a day. In the next few chapters Fleshharrower will catch up with Troy and his men once again.

Kinslaughter has been killed and the reader will see the death of Fleshharrower as well. Since the Ravers possess people and beings the spirit of these creatures can't be killed. The third giant won't be seen in this story and will be left until one of the other books in the series.

Troy feels there is much that has been kept from him and is angry over this. The last piece of the puzzle that he doesn't know is that Covenant is actually Elena's father. This will be most devastating to Troy. The truth of this will not be seen from Troy's point of view, so the full extent of his thoughts will be unknown. Troy loves the fact that he can see here in this land. The way he sees is very unique and gives him an upper hand in many respects. In the next few chapters Troy will lose this sight.

They are going to Garroting Deep. It hasn't been talked about a lot in this part of the story. In the next few chapters it will be seen that the choice to go into Garroting Deep will have far-reaching consequences and the full effect of these consequences will be unknown until the end of the story.



Chapter 19- 20

Chapter 19- 20 Summary

Chapter nineteen has Troy and his men still marching trying to get as much distance between themselves and Lord Foul's army as possible. Thousands of men die, many deaths due to the marching pace that Troy has set, and he is feeling guilty wondering if he will ever be able to sleep again. They have gained only a day on the army thanks to Veremet and Mhoram's spell. They march for a time and are attacked again by flying creatures and demonic-looking things that serve Lord Foul. Troy is attacked by one of the giant flying birds and begins to fight. Troy is able to kill it but the blood of the creature flows over his head and burns clear to his brain. The bird is dead and Troy loses consciousness.

When Troy wakes he is alone and knows that it must be night since his unworldly sight doesn't work at night. He tries to feel the right direction to go and begins walking when he is suddenly surrounded by several hissing monsters that laugh at him and decide to make sport of him before they eat him. Troy cannot see but is saved by several men and Mhoram. They announce that it is daytime and Troy grabs Mhoram and explains that he is blind once again.

Chapter twenty has Troy's men marching into Garroting Deep. Troy tries to convince his men that they will not die there but that Fleshharrow and his army will die. Troy admits that going into Garroting Deep is death for all of them but is hopeful that before they die Fleshharrow will be far enough in to die as well. Once in Garroting Deep Mhoram lights his staff and summons Caerrol Wildwood the forestall of Garroting Deep. Caerrol doesn't allow men into his forest and hates them but hates ravers more. Caerrol allows Troy's men to come into the forest and have safe passage but says there is a price that must be paid, and Troy agrees to pay it without knowing what it is. Mhoram tries to object to the deal but Caerrol takes Troy's offer before Mhoram can stop him. Troy begins marching his men deeper into the woods and Fleshharrow, seeing that Troy's men are unharmed, forces his demonic army further into Garroting Deep. As Fleshharrow's men go into the woods Caerrol Wildwood begins to sing a song and the trees begin to attack. The song is soft and sad and as the trees destroy Lord Foul's army and drink up the blood and the bodies until there is no sign of the creatures. Fleshharrow also is killed. He struggled so hard that the blood vessels in his body broke. Caerrol breaks the piece of Illeath Stone the raver giant carried. From the river in the middle of Garroting Deep there are two men that come up the mountain. Mhoram recognizes them as Covenant and Bannor. There is a blast from under the earth that causes Covenant to almost fall; the wedding ring on his finger is hot.



Chapter 19- 20 Analysis

Troy seems to make a lot of promises. He promises people in the beginning of the book that if they do what he asks then he can win the war. It is unclear if he remembers all these promises or the reason he makes them. It appears he makes the promises because he is so certain of himself. Though Troy loves the Land, he is not as humble as he should be. He seems to put so much faith in himself that he underestimates Lord Foul and the army. Troy will become quick to make his last promise—the one to Caerrol Wildwood to save his men. It is unknown to the reader and to Troy what this promise is although it appears that Mhoram may have known what the promise would entail. It won't be until the last of the book that the reader realizes what Wildwood demands.

There is much talk about High Lord Kevin and his destruction of the Land in order to try and stop Lord Foul. Caerrol Wildwood also remembers High Lord Kevin and cannot forgive him for the destruction that he caused. It is for this reason that Caerrol hates humans and would have normally killed all the humans that entered Garroting Deep. Although he hates humans it becomes clear that ravers are a much greater enemy of all.

This is the last that the giant ravers will be mentioned in the story. It is unknown what the third giant is doing. The name of the first had been Kinslaughter, and his job was to kill all of the giants or slaughter his kin. Fleshharrow had been used to destroy Troy's army, and Fleshharrow had been a very appropriate name. The third is Satansfist and his name doesn't give a clear direction of what he is being used to do although the lack of him in the story doesn't mean he isn't a threat to the Land.

Covenant is seen by Mhoram. The noticeable person missing with Covenant is Elena. There is a mention of a blast that rocks the ground and knocks Covenant off his feet. This is a moment of foreshadowing for the reader. It is at this point that the point of view switches from Troy to Covenant and the tale of his journey with Elena to find the Seventh Ward is revealed.



Chapter 21- 24

Chapter 21- 24 Summary

As chapter twenty-one begins Thomas Covenant is thinking about the words Troy said. Covenant doesn't refuse to believe in the Land for any reason other than to control the intensity and the potential suicide that the Land would impose on him. Covenant and Elena left Troy and Mhoram and were being lead by Amok to Kevin's Seventh Ward. As they begin their journey Covenant wonders why Elena has chosen him to go with her but to some extent is afraid of what her answer would be if he confronted her with this question. After a time Covenant has to ask why Elena chose him to go with her after all he has done. She tells Covenant that her mother never taught her any bitterness toward Covenant. This distresses Covenant to know that Lena also had forgiven him for the wrongs he committed.

In the following days Amok is questioned by both Elena and Covenant. Amok says he knows both much and little about the white gold. He reveals nothing to Covenant that Covenant didn't know or suspect before. Covenant is disappointed to some extent that he learns nothing but is also silently relieved to have no more responsibility put on him to save the Land. Elena reveals to Covenant that she has a deep respect for High Lord Kevin, and Elena firmly believes that with High Lord Kevin's knowledge and if Kevin could come back from the grave, Kevin could utter a single word that would destroy Lord Foul. Covenant tries to tell her that is insane but Elena is firm in her faith in High Lord Kevin. After traveling for more than a week they reach a stream and stop to camp for the night. The Bloodguard go off by themselves and Elena drops her robs to swim. She comes out of the water and tries to kiss Covenant and he hits her hard in the face. She stands before him naked and announces that there is nothing he can take from her because she is giving it willingly. She swears to Covenant that she will share her life with him. They argue for a moment and then something within him breaks and he suddenly cares for her seeing her mother in her. Covenant knows she isn't real but in that moment it doesn't matter because she is his daughter.

In chapter twenty-two, Covenant is more at peace than he has been in a long time. Having refused Elena's offer of a sexual relationship, he has learned to love her as a daughter although she doesn't fully understand Covenant's refusal. As they continue the journey Covenant realizes that the Bloodguard know something they are not sharing in regards to Amok. Covenant asks Bannor, but Bannor is unwilling to offer any information. They come to a piece of the journey that puts them all in danger and one of the magnificent Ranyhyn, the intelligent horses from the Plains of Ra, is killed saving Covenant. Elena cremates the Ranyhyn's body and uses its bone to form a sculpture of Covenant's face as a gift to him. Although it is not focused at him, Covenant sees something in Elena's face that he can find no word to describe other than hate.

Chapter twenty-three begins with Covenant struggling once again with himself. He makes a bargain within himself that he will begin to take an active part in the search for



the Seventh Ward of Kevin's Lore and do everything he can to help Elena find it. In return he will have done what is needed to put the burden of saving the Land off of himself and onto Elena. Covenant is going to have to manipulate her to do this but feels it is justified. After many days of traveling Amok tells them they must either decide to walk or to keep the Ranyhyn close by but Amok also begins once again to speak in riddles. Before he will take them any farther they must tell him what the name of the Seventh Ward of Kevin's Lore is. Elena becomes upset because Amok knows she didn't have this knowledge when they began the trip. She spends the next several days attempting to trick Amok into revealing something, but Amok cannot be trapped. He explains that Kevin created him to do a job and if he did anything other than what he was created to do, Amok would cease to exist. Finally Covenant confronts Bannor, the Bloodguard who was assigned to him, and questions him about High Lord Kevin and the Seventh Lore. The Bloodguard agree to reveal the name of the Seventh Ward—it is the Power of Command. At hearing this Amok begins to nod his head and seemingly to dance.

Chapter twenty-four has the group beginning their journey into the mountain, Earthroot, where the Seventh Ward of Kevin's Lore is contained. Covenant feels a need to apologize to Bannor and the Bloodguard but knows these ancient men do not accept apologies, and there is nothing he can say to make up for what he has just implied about their loyalties. Before they go into Earthroot, Covenant shaves his beard because he has made a deal with the Land to help save it regardless if it is real or not. If he shaves his beard that is one more way that he isn't trying to prove it doesn't exist. Elena helps him shave. When they have traveled far down into Earthroot they come to a lake and Amok warns them not to touch it because of the effect it has on human flesh. A boat arrives with no one steering it. Once into the boat it is discovered that it is the sound of talking that causes the boat to go and that a paddle put into the water is sucked out of the hands that hold it. Elena tells a story as the boat ferries them across the water to their destination. Elena's story is of her youth with the Ranyhyn and how they took her to an ancient celebration where the horses let her partake in a drink that allowed her to communicate with them. She saw the past destruction that the Ranyhyn were put through and it made her feel a part of the Ranyhyn. Covenant listens to the story and then asks what Lord Foul is getting out of all of this.

Chapter 21- 24 Analysis

The time has backtracked at this point. The reader is taken back from the point that Troy and Mhoram finished their battle and made the deal with Caerriol Wildwood until the point where Covenant and High Lord Elena had left to follow Amok. The deal between Troy and Caerriol Wildwood is still unknown at this point in the story, but there is a different direction in the story in this chapter. Troy cares so much for Elena that he is unable to think of much else and the fact that Covenant is with her. Troy is thought of a few times by Covenant but not many.

Covenant has known there was something the Bloodguard weren't telling him, although he couldn't figure out what it was for some time. Even after they reveal what they know



to Covenant it doesn't seem that Covenant has figured them out or come any closer to Bannor or the other Bloodguards. Covenant seems to feel he has insulted them with his actions at this point. He doesn't apologize to the Bloodguard but not because he doesn't care what they think. He realizes two factors about the Bloodguard. He realizes that he can't say anything that would change what he has done to them and also that the Bloodguard simply don't forgive people. The eyes are the only thing on the Bloodguard that will regularly show any emotion. They have been alive for so many thousands of years that the voice and facial expression of the Bloodguard are timeless and emotionless. Despite this they are very loyal and dependable people. The only indication that they might not be solid is the dreams that Mhoram had mentioned earlier in the story. There won't be any time for the characters to discuss this development further.

Covenant saw something in Elena's eyes that he called hate. When she tells the story of her childhood with the Ranyhyn and what she was allowed to partake of with them Covenant seems to understand her drive a little better. He seems certain that it will put her in danger. All this together has been pointing to the events that will happen in the next few chapters when they finally reach the Seventh Ward. It will be here that it becomes clear that the need for the knowledge before using the Seventh Ward was much more important than Elena realized. Covenant has tried to keep the compromise he made with himself secret from Elena. In the next chapters he will be most willing to tell her about it in the hopes that he can save her.



Chapter 25- 27

Chapter 25- 27 Summary

Chapter twenty-five begins with Elena finishing her story about the Ranyhyn and Covenant having asked what Lord Foul hopes to get out of this. Elena explains that Lord Foul has nothing to do with these events and that it was Elena that chose to call Covenant and Elena that chose to follow Amok. Covenant says that it was the release of the creature that Lord Foul had tortured that caused them to call Covenant and that Lord Foul knew the effect this would have on them. Covenant goes on to tell how if they had found the Seventh Ward sooner then they wouldn't feel the need to use something they knew nothing about but if they had been offered a way to go after it any later then they would have been at war and wouldn't have had the option. Covenant tells her that the Seventh Ward might be the worst thing to ever happen. While they discuss it the boat comes to land and they get out. Amok seems to have aged during the boat ride and doesn't move the same as he did. They come to a place where there is a pool and Amok explains what it is. It is Earthblood and it contains the Power of Command. A person can only have one small drink because more than that would kill a mortal person. While Amok is talking Covenant smells something ill but can't identify what it is that is wrong. Amok goes on to explain that it is almost impossible to know the outcome of what you command and that there are limits to what a person can command. If a person drinks but doesn't use the power that they have taken in, the power will well up within the person and kill them. It is unknown why but High Lord Kevin chose never to use the Seventh Ward and it may have been because of one or all of these reasons. After Amok has given his explanation to the Seventh Ward he begins to fade and says that with his task accomplished he has no reason to exist any longer. Covenant wants to ask Amok more questions about the white gold but doesn't have an opportunity.

After Amok is gone Covenant suddenly realizes where the ill in the room is coming from. Elena is the ill. He tries to tell her that her time with the Ranyhyn has caused something to go wrong with her and she is going to fall just like High Lord Kevin but Elena doesn't listen to him. In a desperate attempt to stop her from using the Seventh Ward, as Covenant is certain it is too dangerous, he explains to Elena how he has been manipulating her and using her to take the blame off himself. Elena asks if Covenant ever loved her and he says that he did love her and loves her still but that they cannot use the Seventh Ward. Elena simply tells Covenant that if he had told her the reason he was helping her she would have done things no differently. Covenant's answer only makes her want to help him more. She takes a drink of the Earthblood and calls forth the spirit of High Lord Kevin and commands him to go after Lord Foul. After she has called High Lord Kevin's spirit forth Elena realizes she has done something wrong. Kevin is gone for a short moment before coming back and telling Elena that with the Illearth Stone Lord Foul has been able to control his spirit and he is sent to kill Elena. They drop off a ledge and Covenant is left alone with a single Bloodguard, Bannor. Bannor tells Covenant to save her and Covenant jumps off the ledge after her despite the fact that Covenant still doesn't know how to use the white magic.



Chapter twenty-six begins with Covenant certain that the hand that is holding his is Elena's. It is Bannor and he pulls Covenant back up over the ledge. The two of them make an escape as the underground caverns are beginning to crumble. They get onto the boat and Bannor begins singing an ancient song to move the boat but there has been a crack made somewhere in the mountain that is draining the lake and the boat is pulled under. Bannor and Covenant are able to get out of the water and find themselves looking at a forest where Mhoram and Troy stand. Covenant looks at Troy and realizes immediately that Troy has lost his magical sight that the Land had given him. Covenant tells them that Elena was lost and Troy begins to scream that Covenant is a moral leper and demands that they go to help Elena. Mhoram admits that Elena is still alive proven by the fact that Covenant is still there and Elena was his summoner. But Elena is so far away that they couldn't get to her in time to help her and have no weapon that would fight High Lord Kevin. There are several blasts under the earth as proof that Elena is fighting for her life. Troy strikes Covenant on the forehead and demands the white gold ring so he can save Elena. Covenant gives Troy the ring but before Troy can use it Caerroil Wildwood takes the promise that Troy had given and transforms Troy into a tree while the others watch helplessly. Covenant grabs his ring from the ground and Mhoram announces that Elena has fallen and that Covenant is departing the Land.

In chapter twenty-seven Covenant awakens with a howling in his ear that is the phone off the hook. He has dried blood in his eyes and is unable to see much. He realizes that he has been out half the night. Covenant goes to the bathroom and looks in the mirror. The wound on his forehead is down to the bone. Covenant cries out for Elena, his lost daughter. Covenant feels that he is a traitor to his best dreams. Covenant refuses to wash the blood off his face as if it were an accusation.

Chapter 25- 27 Analysis

Covenant is certain the Land is nothing more than a dream. Covenant had said earlier in the book that he didn't trust the healing of his wound from the coffee table to be proof of anything since he would likely have injured himself before returning to his wold. It was Troy that re-injured Covenant before he was sent back home. Covenant had been willing to make a deal with himself in which he felt he would be freed from any obligation to the Land. It becomes clear that although Covenant demands that the Land isn't real, he still feels a loss for those in it.

There were many aspects of the story left unanswered since it is a series. The Bloodguard, the last of the giant ravers and the war that Lord Foul intends to start are all plots of the story that don't have an answer as well as whether or not Covenant is able to prove the Land is simply a dream. Anything more about Troy is unknown also. Troy doesn't seem to even have a chance to say anything before Caerroil Wildwood turns him into a tree.

Covenant realized there was something odd in Elena, although he was unsure what it was. It isn't until they are at the Earth Blood that Covenant realizes the danger she is in. Although Covenant tries to make amends, the damage has been done. It is almost



certain they would have been unable to reach the Seventh Ward if Covenant hadn't manipulated both Elena and the Bloodguard. How the story would have ended if he had acted differently is unknown.

There is a mention in the story of a man that Covenant had seen in the real world just before he was pulled to the Land. In this story there was the woman at the bar that saw Covenant and recognized him as Berek, the legendary hero of the Land. In this story neither of these two characters is explained and their existence and words do not serve as proof that the Land is real to Covenant.



Characters

Thomas Covenant

Thomas Covenant is one of the main characters in the story of the Illearth War and a large portion of the story is told from his perspective. Thomas Covenant is a leper in the real world. He had once been a writer, husband and father but when he developed leprosy his wife left him and took their small child. Thomas Covenant has become an outcast in his own community and his barn is set on fire by people in his town that want him to leave. Thomas is pulled to the Land, a magical place that Thomas is sure doesn't exist and is just a dream.

This is the second time Thomas has been pulled to the Land. In the Land he is given the title ur-Lord but is also called the Unbeliever although this is not necessarily a derogatory name. Thomas wears a white gold wedding ring despite the fact that he is divorced. This ring holds great power in the Land although Thomas doesn't know how to use it. Thomas used the ring on his first trip to the Land and when he is called back to the Land, the hope of those that have summoned him is that he can use it again.

Thomas' main source of unbelief is in himself. He is ashamed of most of his actions and continually tells people not to touch him although his leprosy leaves him when he is in the Land. Thomas explains that he has learned to live as a leper in his world but that it takes everything he has. When he is in the Land and his illness leaves him, he believes it is the evil of the Land trying to kill him since living like a normal person would cause the disease to eat away his body. Although Thomas states over and over again that being in the Land is just a dream and not real he takes the loss of his friends in the Land very seriously and will blame himself for much that happens.

Hile Troy

Hile Troy is a person that also has been called to the Land the same as Covenant. Troy was born with no eyes, but when he is in the Land he is able to see through visions; he loves the Land for the gift of sight. Troy was summoned to the Land by a woman, Atiaran Trell-mate, who was trying to summon Thomas Covenant. Troy was in a burning building with no way of getting out when Atiaran summoned him. Troy landed safely in the Land, but Atiaran was consumed in the fire that should have killed Troy.

Troy, although blind, has an excellent mental grasp of the lay of things and was a war games expert in the real world. When he arrived at the Land, he quickly became the Warmark, the leader of the armies of the Land. Troy is in love with High Lord Elena although she doesn't share his feelings. Troy loses his sight again while in battle with Lord Foul's army. To save his troops Troy makes a pact to be the eternal servant of Caerrol Wildwood, the forestal of Garroting Deep. Once Caerrol has killed Foul's advancing armies he turns Troy into a tree as part of the pact.



Troy hates Thomas Covenant and takes the white gold ring from Thomas at the end of the story in an attempt to save High Lord Elena. Troy is stopped by Caerrol Wildwood and begins turning Troy into the form of a tree. Troy feels that despite the fact that many of his people were saved and Lord Foul's army was defeated that the whole encounter with Fane's army was a waste and the battle was lost.

Elena

Elena is the High Lord in the Land. It is Elena who summons Thomas Covenant to the Land for the second time. She is rather young and Thomas knows that there is something familiar about her but doesn't immediately know what it is. It isn't until much later in the story that Elena explains that she is Thomas Covenant's daughter. Covenant, on his first trip to the Land, raped Elena's daughter. This is an act for which Thomas feels great shame, although Elena holds him no ill will and tells him continually that she loves him.

Elena loves her people and goes in search of the Seventh Ward of Kevin's Lore in the hope she can stop Lord Foul's attack. When Elena finds the Seventh Lore she calls forth the dead spirit of High Lord Kevin himself but Lord Foul is easily able to control the spirit and sends him back to kill Elena. Covenant tries to help her but isn't able. With the death of his daughter, the one who summoned him, Thomas Covenant is sent back to his real world.

Lord Mhoram

Lord Mhoram had been on a quest with Thomas Covenant during Covenant's first trip to the Land. Mhoram is an oracle of types. When he dreams he sees things. He has a disturbing dream of the Bloodguard serving Lord Foul.

Trell Atiaran-mate

Trell Atiaran-mate is the grandfather of High Lord Elena. Trell remembers that Thomas Covenant raped his daughter and that Trell's mate, Atiaran, died trying to summon Covenant. Trell attacks Thomas when they first see each other, and Trell becomes angry when Elena chooses Thomas Covenant to go with her to seek the Seventh Lore.

Lord Foul

Lord Foul is the enemy of the Land and wishes to kill and enslave all that is in it. He is also called the Despiser among other names. Lord Foul isn't seen in the story but is described as very smart and manipulative as well as evil. There is often evidence of his cruelty.



Kevin Landwaster

Kevin Landwaster was the High Lord that become desperate in his first battle with Lord Foul and destroyed the Land in the hopes that it would destroy Foul. It did not destroy Foul but did set Foul back in his plans. It is Kevin's spirit that Elena calls from the dead to do battle with Lord Foul. Kevin hid his forms of the Lore in the hopes that each would be mastered before the next was found.

Creator

The Creator is the legendary Timelord and the one that created the Land. He is the enemy of Lord Foul. The Creator is unable to reach his hand down and help the Land against Lord Foul, but it is believed by some that the Creator sent Thomas Covenant and others to help. The Creator is not seen in the story.

Bannor

Bannor is the Bloodguard assigned to Thomas Covenant. Bannor is very much a mystery and hard to read. He is several thousand years old although he doesn't look it. Thomas Covenant will often ask Bannor questions but be answered almost in riddles.

Amok

Amok is the being that comes to take High Lord Elena to the Seventh Lore. He was created by High Lord Kevin. Amok appears to be a child but also seems to be ancient. He is able to disappear and appear wherever he chooses. After he takes Elena and the others to the Seventh Lore, he ceases to be since his duty was done. Thomas Covenant had hoped to gather answers from Amok before he was gone but failed.

Caerroil Wildwood

Caerroil Wildwood is the forestal of Garroting Deep. He hates humankind for what they did to the Land so long ago. Troy and Lord Mhoram go into Garroting Deep and beg Caerroil to help them destroy Lord Foul's army. Caerroil agrees but takes Troy to be his eternal servant as payment.

Lena

Lena is High Lord Elena's mother. Thomas Covenant raped her during his first trip to the Land and Elena is the product of that rape. Lena is not seen in the story but it is said that she is mentally unsound. She is certain Thomas Covenant will come back for her.



Objects/Places

The Land

The Land is what the place where Thomas Covenant is called. It is here that the Illearth war begins. The Land seems to have magical properties and there are many who live in the Land that are mythical and magical themselves.

Oath of Peace

All that live in the Land that do not serve Lord Foul take the Oath of Peace. The Oath is designed to keep anyone from laying waste to the Land again as High Lord Kevin did. The Oath of Peace is against needless violence.

Ravers

The Ravers are Lord Foul's three ancient servants. It is these creatures that are able to take over the giants' bodies with the help of the Illearth stone. A Raver cannot be killed, although the flesh they inhabit can be destroyed.

Seven Wards

The Seven Wars are a collection of knowledge left behind by High Lord Kevin. He left clues within each one to unlock the next. It is Thomas Covenant's presence in the Land which unlocks a doorway to the Seventh Ward, although they do not know how to use it since the Lords have only mastered two of the wards.

Ranyhyn

The Ranyhyn are horses from the Plains of Ra. The horses are intelligent beings and vastly superior to common horses. These horses travel at very fast speeds and can communicate with each other and humans, although they do not speak. A Ranyhyn will bow itself to a rider and regardless of where it is, the Ranyhyn can hear their particular rider's whistle and will come when called.

White Gold

White Gold is said to be ancient magic that is wild. Thomas Covenant still wears his wedding ring, which is made from white gold. Thomas Covenant doesn't know how to use this power although he was able to use it once before without knowing how he did it. There are many that believe Thomas can save them because he has white gold.



Hurtloam

Hurtloam is the healing mud used in the Land. When applied it can heal most any wound. It is this substance that rids Thomas Covenant's body of the leprosy that eats at him.

Illearth Stone

The Illearth Stone is the stone that was found under Mount Thunder. Lord Foul has the stone and uses it to wage war on the Land and its people. There are small pieces of the stone that Lord Foul cut off the main stone and gives to the ravers.

The Krill

The krill is the enchanted sword of Loric. It is when Thomas Covenant touches the krill that Amok appears and offers to take them to find the Seventh Lore of Kevin.

Revelstone

Revelstone is the Lord's Keep. It is here that Thomas Covenant is summoned by High Lord Elena.

VSE

VSE is the acronym for visual surveillance of extremities. This is what Thomas Covenant does often while in the real world to ensure that he hasn't hurt himself. It is his VSE and other constant checks that keeps the leprosy from killing him.



Themes

Good Versus Evil

Good versus evil is a very easily identified theme in the story. Lord Foul is cruel and is symbolic of evil despite the fact that he is never seen. Lord Foul's army is made of nasty creatures that are described as looking almost demonic. The Ravens that take over the giant brothers are snarling drooling creatures that enjoy killing and eating their kill. They seem to want to kill and enjoy the death of others. They even kill small children. The good in the story are those that serve the Land and seek to protect it. They even take an Oath of Peace that prohibits them from doing any unnecessary harm to the Land or its people. The war between the Land's people and Lord Foul is the main focus of good versus evil in the story.

There is also another form of good versus evil seen in the story. The main character, Thomas Covenant, is constantly struggling with himself. He committed a rape the first time he was in the Land and this still seems to be something of which he is greatly ashamed. Thomas Covenant struggles with good and evil within himself. Even when Thomas does something good or feels he has made some sort of sacrifice he will remind himself that it was for the wrong reasons and that he is doing nothing more than serving himself despite his actions.

Love

There are many different types of love seen in the story. Thomas Covenant loves Elena although he admits he doesn't believe anything that is happening is real. Elena also loves Thomas Covenant although her love seems to be odd in some respects. Elena offers herself sexually to Thomas Covenant although he is her father. Thomas Covenant refuses her which confuses Elena, but she continues to call him beloved. It is unclear if her feelings for Thomas Covenant influenced her decision to summon him to the Land.

Hile Troy is greatly in love with Elena. It is apparent that Hile Troy never tells Elena how he feels. She seems to be very understanding of most subjects but it is unknown if she realizes Troy's feelings for her. Elena will also talk often of her mother, Lena, and how much Lena still loves Thomas Covenant and waits for his return. There are several other instances of love found in the story between husband and wife and other people. None of this love will ever come from any ones that are considered evil. Love will influence many of the choices the characters in the story make.

The other form of love seen in the story is that between the people and the Land. The people have a great love and respect for the Land that is talked of often. The people not only care and worry about their own lives but the love of the Land drives them to protect it. They don't see protecting the people as their only aim. The Oath of Peace is proof of the love for the Land.



The Desire for Power

The desire for power comes into play in more than one area of the story. Lord Foul and his attempt to enslave all the Land is the most obvious example of desire for power. Although the reader is never told what it is that Lord Foul wants, it becomes clear that he had manipulated events, according to the characters that recounted the story, from Thomas Covenant's first trip to the Land in order to get the Illearth Stone. Once Thomas Covenant and Elena are to the Seventh Ward, Thomas explains how Lord Foul is obviously manipulating things again in order to achieve something, but he is unsure what it is. Lord Foul's desire for power drives him to the destruction of everything that is in the Land.

In addition to Lord Foul's desire for power, Elena also becomes obsessed with searching for power that will help her destroy Lord Foul. She becomes so obsessed with this search for power that Covenant is unable to talk her into being sensible. She is consumed with the thought that she can have the power to stop what Lord Foul is doing. At one point in time when she looks at Thomas Covenant he realizes something is wrong with the look in her eyes. Later when they are at the Seventh Ward Thomas feels something ill in there with him. It takes Thomas some time to realize it is Elena who is giving him that feeling. Her desire for power takes over all of her other thoughts.

Style

Point of View

The story is written in the third person point of view. The main character in the story is Thomas Covenant, and while the story begins and ends with his point of view, there is a large portion of the story that is focused on Hile Troy's point of view. There is also a brief passage in the book where the point of view shifts to the Banner, the Bloodguard assigned to Thomas Covenant. The story's point of view is limited to the person who is being shadowed at that moment. Despite the limited point of view given it seems that the author uses the character's interpretation of others' emotions and facial expressions to relate what otherwise would not be known. Elena's thoughts and ideas aren't revealed through Elena's point of view, but when Thomas Covenant looks at her, he is able to at times sense what she is thinking or feeling. It will be this way with many of the characters in the story.

The story is told in past tense and contains much exposition to explain past events. Also Thomas Covenant is often alone or thinking to himself in the story so there is no dialogue during those passages to explain what is happening. The fighting scenes in the story will also take up a great deal of print and are told from Hile Troy's point of view. Often the characters will describe how many days it has been since they left on their journey. This mention of time will be important to the reader during the story in order to understand where the two sets of characters are in relation to each other.

Setting

The story takes place in two different worlds. Thomas Covenant is a person in the real world in both the beginning and the end of the story. The place where Thomas Covenant lives isn't fully explained but it seems to be modern times. The people and the things that they wear are easily understood as is their reaction to Covenant's disease. There isn't much dedicated to describing the physical setting of this world, but the author goes to great lengths to explain to the reader the effect that this place has on Covenant and how this real world reacts to Covenant's disease.

The majority of the story takes place in the Land. The Land is magical in many respects. Its people often work different kinds of magic, and there are beings such as Giants, wraiths, and ravers. Some of the creatures are good and pure and want to help the Land, while others are evil and appear to be almost demonic. There is much explanation about the Land since much of the importance of saving the Land is associated with the power the Land holds. There is also a map included in the book to give the reader a better understanding of the lay of the Land. While the setting is not realistic, the author gives the view of the Land and explains the emotional impact it has on Covenant as well to show the difference between the Land and the real world.

Language and Meaning

The language in the story is varied between groups of characters. There are words that have been created just for this story, but the author gives meanings and history for each of these as it is needed. Hile Troy and Thomas Covenant are both from the same reality; although they differ in many ways it is clear that their speech is very similar due to their shared origin. The Lords and many of the other characters in the story talk in a more formal manner. This makes it easier to distinguish among the characters talking. The giants and other creatures each have their unique style of speech. The creatures that work for Lord Foul find Hile Troy later in the story and it is obvious that they are relatively inferior in mental capacity to humans. Their speech is rather garbled at times and they spit when they talk, among other things.

The language in the story is easy to understand, although there are moments when the author will intentionally use his created language to give Thomas Covenant pause. Most of the words and phrases used that have been created for the story are explained if they are significant. Despite the words and phrases that won't be easily recognized the language and meaning of the story is easily understood.

Structure

The story, *The Illearth War*, covers 518 pages and is divided into twenty-seven chapters. The chapters vary in length and end at one scene or event and the beginning of the next. The chapters also signify a lap in time or switch in the view of characters. The chapters are further divided into three parts; although the parts are not equally divided it creates a clear line in events. Each chapter and part of the book has a title that foreshadows the events that will take place in that part/chapter.

The author has also included a map of the Land to give the reader a better idea of the relation between the sets of characters that are on different journeys. There is also a prologue in the front of the book that gives basic background information about Thomas Covenant and the events that happened in the first book since this is the second book in a series. To further help the reader understand the words and characters that occur in this book and others, there is a glossary in the back of the book that contains explanations as to words and characters. There are some characters named in the back of the book that the reader only sees for a short period of time in the book or the character is only mentioned. The glossary can help the reader understanding the importance of this character.



Quotes

"For two weeks now he had completely lost his grasp on survival, had not taken his medication, had not performed one VSE or any other drill, had not even shaved."

Chapter 1: Page 7

"I don't care what you need. You can drop dead for all I care. You're a delusion! A sickness in my mind. You don't exist! Send me back! You've got to send me back. While there's still time!" Chapter 3: Page 31

"If he failed, he would die. And if he succeeded, he would never again be able to bear the numbness of his real life, his leprosy." Chapter 8: Page 105

"Hile Troy was sure of one thing; despite whatever Covenant said, the Land was no dream. He perceived this with an acuteness which made his heart ache." Chapter 11: Page 165

"They went to their homes to die! They knew their danger-and went to their homes to await it. They did not fight-or flee-or send for help." Chapter 17: Page 302

"His blow split the bird's skull. Its weight bowled him over. Green blood spewed from it over his head and shoulders. The hot blood burned him like a corrosive, and it smelled so thickly of attar that it asphyxiated him. With a choked cry, he clawed at his forehead, trying to tear the pain away. But the acid fire consumed his headband, burned through his skull into his brain. He lost consciousness." Chapter 19: Page 367

"We'll still have to go into the Deep. And pray the Forestal doesn't kill us until Felsharrower follows. We'll all die that way, but maybe the Raver will, too." Chapter 20: Page 383

"But before he could shout a warning, Troy said fervidly, 'Then I'll pay it! I'll pay anything. My army is being slaughtered.'" Chapter 20: Page 391

"I believe that if High Lord Kevin could speak from beyond the grave, he would utter a word which would unmarrow the very bones of Lord Foul's Despite." Chapter 21: Page 412

"Since they had left Trothgard-since he had made the discovery which enabled him to love her without despising himself-he had put everything else out of his mind and concentrated on his daughter." Chapter 22: Page 422

"It's as neat as clockwork. If you'd summoned me sooner, then when we got to this point you wouldn't be under such pressure to use lore you don't understand. And if all this had happened alter, you wouldn't have come here at all- you would have been too busy fighting a war." Chapter 25: Page 484



"I've been using-using you to get myself off the hook. I promised myself that I would do everything I could to help you find this Ward. And in return I promise myself that I would do everything I could to make you take my responsibility." Chapter 25: Page 494

"'Fool!' he cried in a paroxysm of anguish. 'Damned betrayer! You have broken the Law of Death to summon me-you have unleashed measureless opportunities for evil upon the Earth-and the Despiser mastered me as easily as if I were a child! The Illearth Stone consumes me. Fight, fool! I am Commanded to destroy you!'" Chapter 25: Page 498

"This is all just a game for you! Mental tricks. Excuses. You're a leper! A moral leper! You're too selfish to love anyone but yourself. You have the power for everything, and you won't use it. You just turned your back on her when she needed you. You-despicable-leper! Leper!" Chapter 26: Page 508

"The song molded Troy's form. Slowly, his legs grew together. His feet began to send roots into the soil. His apparel turned to thick dark moss. He became an old stump with one last limb upraised." Chapter 26: Page 513-514

"The wound and the blood on his gray, gaunt face made him look like a false prophet, a traitor to his own best dreams. Elena! he cried thickly. What have I done?" Chapter 27: Page 518



Topics for Discussion

Thomas Covenant seems to believe that everything that happens in the Land is truly a dream. Why is Covenant so willing to strive to stay alive if everything is just a dream? Why does he weep for the loss of Elena if it was just a dream?

In chapter seventeen one of the giants says "We had become the thing we hate. We are better dead." (page 307) Why do the giants choose to die rather than to fight? What seems to motivate their actions? Explain your response?

Hile Troy discusses the connection between the person summoned and the summoner. Given what is seen in the story is there any truth to this? Explain.

Explain loyalty. Why are the people of the Land so loyal to to the Land? Is there any difference between their loyalty and the loyalty that Hile Troy has for the Land? Explain.

What is the difference between Hile Troy and Thomas Covenant? Why is Troy willing to fight for and believe in the Land? Why is Covenant unwilling?

Is there any proof to show the reader that the Land is or isn't a dream? Explain.

Would it change Thomas' view or actions if he knew the Land wasn't a dream? Explain.

Describe High Lord Elena's character. Why was she unwilling to listen to the warning given by Lord Mhoram about the Seventh Ward? Why was she unwilling to listen to the warning Covenant gave her when they were at the Seventh Ward?

Why did Thomas Covenant choose to try and stop Elena after he had made a pact with himself to absolve himself from the responsibility? What does his reaction at this point in the story reveal about his personality or character? Is this contradictory to what was previously thought or shown? Explain.

Does Covenant care about the people in his dream? If so why? If not then what is he mourning over at the end of the story? Explain.