

Juniper Study Guide

Juniper by Monica Furlong

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Plot Summary

"Juniper" by Monica Furlong is an intriguing novel about a young girl learning to fulfill her destiny. Juniper goes to study to become a doran with her godmother, Euny, and when she returns home, she learns the purpose of her training when she discovers her Aunt Meroot's scheming to take over the kingdom. Though newly trained, the young doran must summon all of her power and bravery to defeat the experienced sorcerer. "Juniper" is an endearing and entertaining novel that chronicles a young girl's growth into something more than she ever expected.

Born a princess of Cornwall, Ninnoc is raised in the splendor of the Wooden Palace, but she shows signs of possessing magic when she heals her cousin, Gamal, and finds water underground. Her godmother, Euny, says she must live with her to continue her education and learn the magic of the doran in a year. This is a concept that Ninnoc dreads. When the time comes, Ninnoc, whose real name is Juniper, according to Euny, leaves her family and the castle to journey to Euny's hut in the Outlands.

Juniper finds Euny's hut unbearable as she suffers from cold and hunger, plus Euny teaches her nothing and treats her like a servant. Juniper often considers returning home. During the winter, Euny leaves Juniper to study with Angharad, another doran. Angharad and her apprentice, Trewyn, are kind to Juniper, and Angharad teaches her to spin and weave, instructing her to make the cloak of the doran which will be her protection against the evil magic of sorcerers. When Euny returns, she and Angharad perform the rituals to welcome Juniper and Trewyn into the order of the doran. Shortly after the ceremony, Euny and Juniper return to Euny's hut where Euny begins teaching Juniper about spells and potions, telling her that her gift is healing people.

Her training complete, Juniper returns to the Wooden Castle and learns that her Aunt Meroot, Gamal's mother, is marrying the Gray Knight of Caerleon. She also learns that the crops and animals in the kingdom are dying, threatening famine, and when she sees Meroot cursing the land, she performs a countercurse to heal the kingdom. After her wedding, Meroot moves to Caerleon, taking Gamal with her. When Juniper does not hear from Gamal, she worries that Meroot is taking out her frustration at her defeated schemes on him; she is jealous that her brother's birth prevented her from taking the throne and hopes to overthrow his lineage and put her son on the throne. Visiting Euny, Juniper has a flying dream where she sees a small house by an inland cliff which she knows will be her home. When Juniper returns home, King Mark tells her that Meroot has informed him of Gamal's desire to marry Juniper, and he sends Juniper to Caerleon to discuss the marriage with Finbar accompanying her. Finbar tells Juniper that when he last saw Gamal at Caerleon, Gamal appeared to be sleepwalking, and realizing Gamal has been ghosted, his spirit removed so he acts as a slave, Juniper determines to save him.

At Caerleon, Meroot will not allow Juniper to see Gamal, claiming that he is sick, but Juniper sneaks into Meroot's apartments and finds her ghosted cousin. Pretending to believe Meroot's lies, Juniper agrees to the marriage before she leaves Caerleon, but



she sneaks back into Castle Caerleon with Finbar and rescues Gamal. They all escape to Angharad's cottage. Juniper and Finbar try to heal Gamal, finally getting a reaction when they sing a lullaby he played as a child, and when Meroot arrives to demand they return Gamal to her, Gamal recalls that Meroot destroyed his mother, a good-hearted doran, and claimed him as her own in hopes of stealing the throne from King Mark. He refuses to go with her, insisting he is no longer her son. Euny is proud of Juniper's success and assures her that Erlain has given birth to a healthy son. Juniper decides to travel so that she can search for the house from her flying dream, mentally promising to do the work of the dorans as best as she can.



Section 1: Chapter 1

Section 1: Chapter 1 Summary

"Juniper" by Monica Furlong is an intriguing novel about a young girl learning to fulfill her destiny. Juniper goes to study to become a doran with her godmother, Euny, and when she returns home, she learns the purpose of her training when she discovers her Aunt Meroot's scheming to take over the kingdom. Though newly trained, the young doran must summon all of her power and bravery to defeat the experienced sorcerer. "Juniper" is an endearing and entertaining novel that chronicles a young girl's growth into something more than she ever expected.

Ninnoc was born on a frosty January night to the king and queen of Cornwall as white owls hooted through the night and no one slept. She was dressed in a rabbit skin before her parents presented their first child to the ealdors, and then Edith, her nurse, cuddled her all night so she would not feel strange in her new country. Ninnoc's earliest memory is of toddling along a grassy enclosure at the center of a palace and picking up a twig, screaming when it wiggles. Her father is pleased when she repeats this as it directs them to another supply of water. Ninnoc also remembers her disobedience to Erith and joining her parents for dinner in the Great Hall. Though she enjoyed being spoiled, she often wished for a sibling. Still, she played with other children at the palace, and once while they played, a thin, dark-skinned woman approached the palace and asked for Marcus. Offended by her appearance, Ninnoc claimed her father would not see the woman, but the guards admit her. Later, Marcus tells Ninnoc that the woman is Euny, though that is the last that Ninnoc hears of Euny for some time. Soon after, Ninnoc finds a baby owl in the field, and naming him Moon, she takes him home to care for him. As she got older, Ninnoc was ruder to Erith, often ignoring her and doing dangerous things. One day, she was in the stables with her father's dangerous stallion, ignoring Erith's pleas for her to return to her, when she was pulled from the stable as Euny yelled "Juniper!" Erith is smug as she noted that Ninnoc has annoyed her godmother, and when Ninnoc asks Erlain why someone like Euny is her godmother, Erlain explains that Euny is wise and they needed her though she cannot explain why now. Ninnoc asks why Euny called her Juniper, and her mother says it was Euny's special name for her when she was a baby and Euny claims this is whom Ninnoc really is. Later, Ninnoc yells the name out aloud and is seized by the extraordinary sense of conviction that Euny is right about Juniper being her proper name.

Section 1: Chapter 1 Analysis

Chapter 1 begins Part One which continues through Chapter 4. This period in time summarizes Juniper's early life at Castle Dore before she begins her doran training with Euny. One of her earliest memories is accidentally finding water through the use of a twig, an indication of her magical powers which foreshadows her eventual training as a doran as well as the strength she will have as a doran. Juniper's birth name is Ninnoc,



but her true name is Juniper as indicated by the parchment she wears around her neck and according to Euny's claims. Ninnoc's father, Marcus, is the king in Cornwall, and their family lives at Castle Dore in the Wooden Palace. Erlain, Ninnoc's mother, is tall, graceful and clever, and when she taught her husband to read, it made him want his daughter to have a good education. When a child is born to the nobility among their people, the astrologers study the heavens and create words on a parchment to help the child remember the main points which the child wears in a horn case around the neck. Ninnoc's read "Named for the strong and twisting tree/Of medicine, when she finds the way/By earth, air, water, fire/Then will she mend what is broken/The dark teacher will correct her,/The fair one will protect her,/The strong man will love her, /And all may be well" (page 6). Ninnoc liked to read the parchment when she got older, though it did not make sense since she was not named for a tree. Ninnoc's early wishes for a sibling foreshadows Erlain's eventual pregnancy. This first chapter also describes the first time Ninnoc met Euny and how she was appalled by the woman's appearance. She also finds a baby owl, Moon, and cares for him, foreshadowing Moon's importance in Juniper's life. When Juniper learns that Euny is her godmother, she is repelled by the idea, though she realizes the truth of Euny's claim that Juniper is her proper name, foreshadowing Ninnoc's development into Juniper, a powerful doran. She learns that Euny is an Outlander, living in the country beyond her father's protection, and when she asks if Euny is frightened by the lack of safety, Erlain does not believe that Euny is ever actually afraid.



Section 2: Chapter 2

Section 2: Chapter 2 Summary

The only person at court whom Ninnoc dislikes is her Aunt Meroot, Marcus's older sister, who comes to live at the Wooden Palace with her son, Gamal, after her husband dies mysteriously when Ninnoc is four. Ninnoc and Gamal become close friends, and though Meroot has Gamal trained in fighting and is cruel to him, he loves music and often sings a mysterious lullaby to Ninnoc. Also, Ninnoc feels that her aunt dislikes her and, as a result, does not trust Meroot. Erlain explains that Meroot is nasty to Gamal because she wants him to be a great warrior, but Ninnoc will need other powers. If Ninnoc had a brother, he would be king after Marcus, but with no brother, Ninnoc may rule, depending on her power as "the strength of the warrior is not the only kind" (p. 16). Playing at the beach with Gamal, Ninnoc learns that Meroot wants her son to rule after Marcus, but Gamal promises his allegiance and fealty if Ninnoc is strong enough to rule. During this period, Ninnoc begins to have a recurring dream. The first part is beautiful and tranquil as she sees a hazel tree, but then she runs in terror through a dark tunnel as she is pursued by the smell of a wild beast; no one is able to uncover the meaning of this strange dream. Ninnoc also learns that she can heal Gamal's minor wounds, but she swears him to secrecy.

Section 2: Chapter 2 Analysis

Chapter 2 focuses on Ninnoc's interactions with her aunt, Meroot, and her cousin, Gamal, who come to live at court when Ninnoc is four years old. Meroot is cold, but Gamal is nothing like his mother and becomes like a brother to Ninnoc. They spend as much time together as possible, trying to stay out of Meroot's way. Determined that Gamal will grow up strong and fearless, Meroot has him trained in fighting and treats him somewhat cruelly. Loyal to his mother, Gamal never complains, but he spends much time in Ninnoc's apartment. He learns to read and is very musical. He often sings a special lullaby which he learned from a fair-haired woman who he cannot remember; Ninnoc knows there is something mysterious about the song. Though Meroot is always kind to Ninnoc, her words of love seem false and make Ninnoc uneasy. She recalls Meroot looking at her with such hatred when she was five years old that she never trusts her aunt again. Soon after, Ninnoc realizes her mother is also uneasy with Meroot, and she spends a lot of time with Erlain during this period, learning that Meroot is also her godmother. Alone, Ninnoc wonders whether she will have power, recalling how she accidentally used her power to find water, but she realizes someone else may rule the kingdom if she does not manifest power or have a brother. As she wonders if Gamal will rule, Gamal appears, and they ride to the beach to swim. Ninnoc asks if Meroot wants Gamal to rule after Marcus, and he admits that she does, but that does not mean it will happen as Erlain could still have a son. Ninnoc tells Gamal that she intends to learn other powers and rule after her father, and he hopes she does because he wants to be a musician though Meroot would never allow it; he also promises that



Ninnoc will have his allegiance and fealty if she has enough power to rule rightly, showing his devotion. This conversation also foreshadows Meroot's schemes to insert her son on the throne. Ninnoc is touched by his response even as she feels weak and frightened.

Ninnoc begins to have a strange, recurring dream during this time period. At Erlain's suggestion, Ninnoc discusses the dream with an astrologer, but he seems unwilling to ponder the meaning, and Ninnoc thinks he is afraid to prophesy a terrible accident. She tries to figure it out herself with no luck. This dream foreshadows its place in Ninnoc's future. Growing older, Ninnoc spends less time with Erith and more time with Erlain and her tutors. She likes learning and has the best teachers, learning better than Gamal other than in music. In the afternoons, after Ninnoc and Gamal complete their work, they play together with moon who Gamal pretends to talk to. Gamal and Ninnoc share a secret; Gamal is often injured after his labors as an apprentice soldiers, and Ninnoc tends his wounds, but they notice that his injuries often heal when she looks at or touches them. Ninnoc begs Gamal not to tell anyone. Gamal wonders if there is anything Ninnoc cannot heal, and they find out when he breaks his arm a week later. Ninnoc can heal cuts, scratches and bruises, but anything else is beyond her. Her power to heal foreshadows the direction of her doran magic.



Section 3: Chapter 3 & 4

Section 3: Chapter 3 & 4 Summary

In Chapter 3, Ninnoc finds it strange that Euny does not speak to her after the day she found her in the stables, though Euny visits King Mark twice each year. A change comes one day while Ninnoc is practicing calligraphy. King Mark summons Ninnoc to him as he sits with Euny, and he explains that as noble children are often sent away from home for a year or two as part of their education, Ninnoc will be sent to live with Euny in a year because, as her godmother, Euny claims the right to instruct Ninnoc in certain things she needs to learn that only Euny can teach her. When Ninnoc discusses the matter with her mother, Erlain explains that Euny can teach her about the power they have discussed before, assuring her that Euny is King Mark's strongest ally and will become Ninnoc's if she allows it. While she and Gamal ride to the gorge one day, Ninnoc can clearly see the gorge as she thinks of it, as well as a camp of women and children and a band of robbers. She tries to ignore the thought, but Moon speaks to her, telling her not to go. Ninnoc tells Gamal what she saw, so instead, they climb the path and look at the camp. It appears as Ninnoc saw it, but two robber scouts chase them back to their horses. After that, Gamal is respectful of Ninnoc's gifts, and asking if all women do magic, he admits that Meroot does though she will not talk about it. He also tells Ninnoc about a terrifying image in one of Meroot's spell books that depicts someone buried inside a coffin alive. Ninnoc wonders if Meroot would do such a thing. Ninnoc tries talking to Moon, but he does not respond. She also dreams of the tree and tunnel, and while she wakes frightened, her longing for the hazel tree replaces her fear. "I knew that something had to change, but I could not imagine what it might be" (page 31).

In Chapter 4, Ninnoc wakes at dawn and knows what she must do for the first time. She packs a bundle of clothes and personal items and waits for the rest of the household to wake. Gathering her bundle, Ninnoc sets off, but half an hour later, Gamal rides up on horseback, angry that his cousin left without saying goodbye. When he returns to his lessons, Ninnoc misses him immediately, feeling sad and lonely, but she continues her journey slowly, heading toward the oddly shaped hill in the distance where her father once told her Euny lives. Ninnoc's feet and legs become abused during the journey, but finally, she stands at the foot of the hill and knows she must endure the rest of the journey to reach Euny. She reaches a small hut and opens the door to see a rocking chair where someone sits between the door and the fire. The inhabitant does not turn around yet Euny notes that Juniper has decided to come after all and orders her to shut the door behind her.

Section 3: Chapter 3 & 4 Analysis

In Chapter 3, Ninnoc again sees Euny when her father summons her to tell her that in about a year, she will be sent to live with Euny for a year to continue her education. This is a normal part of the noble children's education, but Ninnoc dislikes the idea of living



with her strange, unpleasant godmother. Ninnoc storms out of the room as Euny hisses "Juniper" at her. Erlain explains that Euny will teach Juniper about the power she will need to rule if she does not have a younger brother. Though Ninnoc does not understand everything her mother says, she knows she will have to be Euny's pupil. Meroot is angry when she learns that Ninnoc will study with Euny, indicating Meroot's objection to Ninnoc learning to wield the power she possesses and further foreshadowing her schemes to place Gamal on the Cornwall throne after King Mark dies. As autumn changes to winter, Ninnoc dreams about the hazel tree and the dark tunnel more frequently, and she also spends a lot of time daydreaming. While riding with Gamal, Ninnoc sees the danger at the gorge ahead of them, and though she decides to ignore her instinct, Moon speaks to her out loud, telling her not to go. This foreshadows Juniper's ability to see the future as well as Moon's role as her protector. The following conversation with Gamal reveals that Meroot is capable of doing magic, though she keeps it a secret. Her secrecy combined with the description of spells Gamal has seen in her books indicates that Meroot's magic is not the same as Euny's or Juniper's as it is magic that seems to do harm to others. Juniper does not understand magic, but she supposes that is why she must go to Euny's, and that day makes her feel she needs to be taught all that Euny knows. She is pleased at the thought of learning effective magic and feels herself drawn to Euny though she dislikes her godmother. Juniper continues to dream of the hazel tree and accepts that something must change, foreshadowing her departure to study with Euny.

Chapter 4 completes the first part of this novel. In this chapter, Ninnoc decides that it is time to go to Euny's to continue her education and learn about magic. She bids adieu to her parents and Erlith; Erlain is distressed that the day of Ninnoc's departure has come but seems to think her daughter is right to go. King Mark dislikes parting, yet he trusts Euny's conviction that Ninnoc must learn from her. Gamal rushes after Ninnoc to say goodbye to her, making Ninnoc feel lonely and sad as she continues the difficult journey alone with only a vague notion of where Euny's home is located. Despite the pain and difficulty of the journey, Juniper finally arrives at Euny's hut where Euny greets her rather indifferently, foreshadowing Euny's demeanor toward Juniper for the remainder of her training as a doran.



Section 4: Chapters 5, 6 & 7

Section 4: Chapters 5, 6 & 7 Summary

In Chapter 5, Euny sits in silence as Juniper creeps toward the fire and wraps a blanket around herself. Euny warns Juniper of the hardships she will face while living in her hut, and Juniper begins to regret coming here, saddened that Euny does not seem happy to see her. After tending to Juniper's injured ankle, Euny explains that Juniper is here to learn about power such as seeing the future and danger which is about understanding herself or others. Seeing and knowing makes things happen or prevents bad things. Euny warns that it is a long path and may be too much for the girl, but Juniper assures her that she can do it. She learns that most dorans are women because men put their trust in violence which makes them weak. Euny leaves Juniper alone while she runs errands, warning that she may not return before nightfall.

In Chapter 6, Juniper examines the room in more detail once Euny leaves, realizing Euny owns nothing that is not absolutely necessary. Juniper completes several chores and goes to bed, but she decides that she would prefer to return home instead of living so uncomfortably, no matter the benefits of becoming a doran.

In Chapter 7, Juniper finds it difficult to tell Euny of her decision because she fears Euny and perhaps she thinks something marvellous will happen to make living with Euny worthwhile. While collecting roots to use for medicine, Juniper daydreams as they walk, but Euny notices everything and asks detailed questions, chiding Juniper for never knowing the answers. More importantly, Juniper asks why she is here, and Euny tells her she must learn about earth, air, fire and water, like her rhyme. When Juniper tells Euny about finding water, healing Gamal and talking to Moon, Euny tells her not to boast and to do exactly as she is told. Imagining the happiness at home, Juniper decides to leave in the morning while Euny is still asleep, but as they return to the hut, the moonlight shows the beautiful scenery around Euny's hut, allowing Juniper to notice the hazel tree from her dream. She stands transfixed, though Euny only says it has always been there and Juniper needs to pay better attention.

Section 4: Chapters 5, 6 & 7 Analysis

Part two of "Juniper" begins with Chapter 5 and continues through Chapter 15, encompassing the majority of Juniper's training as a doran. Euny prepares a bowl of soup, warning there will not be much food here and Juniper will sleep on the hearth. Euny laughs when Juniper asks for help undressing, so Juniper manages on her own. These are indications of the hardships that Juniper will face while living with Euny. Later, she curls up in Euny's fur rug and falls asleep quickly, waking before dawn, cold and miserable, to wonder if she has made a mistake since Euny is not glad to see her as she expected. She considers leaving before Euny wakes, but the pain in her ankle makes it obvious that she will not make it home. Juniper dozes off and wakes to Euny



making breakfast. After they eat, Euny ties herbs to Juniper's ankle and sits to talk. She knows that Juniper finds her home unpleasant after the splendors of the palace, but this is how poor people live. Though King Mark has offered Euny a home at the Wooden Palace, Euny finds life easier this way. Foreshadowing Juniper's training, Euny explains that she will learn about power, such as seeing the future and danger. Euny says it is possible that Ninnoc could have power, but she could spoil it by wanting it too much or using it badly; if she does not spoil it, she could become a doran which may be very important for her father and the kingdom, foreshadowing that Juniper will use her doran powers to protect the kingdom. When she asks if her aunt is a doran, she also learns that Meroot only uses magic to make other do what she wants which is wicked. This foreshadows Meroot using magic to further her agenda and schemes to usurp the throne from King Mark.

Left alone in Chapter 6, Juniper explores her new living space. With nothing to do, she tries talking to Moon in vain before teaching herself to light the fire and cook. She washes her smock and her hair and makes supper, building the fire up as much as possible before going to bed. Afraid as she imagines outlaws trying to break into the hut, Juniper sleeps badly and decides she does not like this, no matter how much power she can get or how important it is to be a doran. She would rather marry like other girls instead of being cold and hungry in a place like this, so she decides to tell Euny when she returns and go home once her ankle heals. With the decision made, she sleeps, waking several hours later when Euny returns. This repeated decision shows Juniper's unhappiness at Euny's hut as well as her own selfish tendencies at this point. It also foreshadows a change in her way of seeing her training.

Chapter 7 shows Juniper finding it difficult to share her decision to leave with Euny, foreshadowing her decision to stay and continue her training. When she wakes cold and stiff on the second morning, Euny announces that Juniper's ankle is better and sends her to collect water and sticks before breakfast. Juniper tries to ignore the fact that she is still hungry, and though she thinks they will start her lessons, Euny orders her to tidy the hut and then take a walk with her to collect roots for medicine with Euny explaining their use as Juniper digs them up. Juniper is lonely and knows the winter will be colder, but she thinks that maybe Euny has affection for her that she finds difficult to show since she asked her godchild to come; however, when Juniper asks if Euny wanted her to come, hoping for a declaration of love, Euny insists "it's all one to me" (page 53). Euny explains that Juniper is training with her to learn about the four elements, but she chides Juniper for boasting about the powers she has already exhibited. Fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing, Juniper's decision to leave changes when she sees the hazel tree from her dreams near Euny's hut; this seems to be a sign that this is where Juniper belongs for the time being.



Section 5: Chapters 8 & 9

Section 5: Chapters 8 & 9 Summary

In Chapter 8, Euny is full of instructions about what Juniper can and cannot do, and Juniper dislikes feeling like a servant. The most painful thing about life with Euny is the cold and hunger, but indifferent to her suffering, Euny insists that Juniper came here to make her life real, and cold and hunger are her teachers. Though Juniper notices the change from autumn to winter more sharply than before, she still is not observant enough for Euny who claims she is hopeless and will never make a doran. Juniper tries harder, but it seems to be no use. Juniper also suffers from loneliness as Euny often goes long periods without speaking to her. Juniper begins to mind that she is learning nothing; she expected Euny to teach her, but Euny does not reply when she asks how she will learn if Euny never teaches her anything.

In Chapter 9, the worst part of Juniper's stay with Euny is when she is ordered to kill the pig. She begs Euny to do it, but Euny says they will starve if Juniper does not kill the pig. Knowing her future as a doran requires obedience to Euny, Juniper returns to the sty and struggles as she kills Borra. She returns to the hut, covered in blood, and is too upset at first to realize that Euny is not alone. Erlain, Erith, Gamal and another boy Gamal's age stare at her in shock. Juniper tells Euny she killed the pig. Gamal introduces Juniper to the other boy, Finbar, a new page at court. After Juniper cleans up, she and Erlain takes a walk, and Erlain says that Juniper must come home if it is dreadful, but she has a strange feeling that Juniper wants to be here. Crying, Juniper says it is horrible, yet she needs to be here. She also talks to Gamal who promises to visit again with Finbar who he insists his cousin will like once she gets to know him. Juniper is lonely once they leave, but Euny is proud of Juniper for killing the pig since they will not starve this winter. Juniper can hardly believe her ears.

Section 5: Chapters 8 & 9 Analysis

Chapter 8 shows Juniper adjusting to life with Euny who is an odd mixture of business and laziness. Sometimes, she sits at the hut, but others, she goes on long walks to find a particular spot where she sings as Juniper watches. Soon after Juniper's arrival, Euny leads her up the tor into a hut to show her a carved and painted ornate figure. Euny prostrates herself on the floor, crying and drinking a bit of water, and Juniper is irritated when Euny tells her she must not visit the place of the Mother unless she is ordered to do so. Juniper dislikes the cold and being hungry, but Euny reacts indifferently to her suffering. Though Juniper tries harder to be more observant, her efforts seem to be in vain since they are never good enough for Euny. In addition to the cold and hunger, she struggles with the silence as Euny often goes the entire day without speaking to her, leading her to talk to Moon and Borra, the pig. Euny admits that sometimes she feels lonely, but it does not matter because she is used to it. After Juniper completes her chores, Euny expects her to sit by the fire though it is boring. Juniper resents the fact



that she is not learning anything, but Euny ignores her questions about what she will learn, indicating that Euny has already begun the lessons which begin with adjusting Juniper's view of the world and of her life, coinciding with her earlier claim that hunger and cold will be Juniper's teachers.

Chapter 9 recounts Juniper's horror at being forced to kill the pig, but Euny's insistence that Juniper must be the one to slaughter the animal suggests that this is also part of Juniper's training. Pointing out that Juniper would eat the meat if Euny killed the pig but does not want the blood on her hands, Euny explains that dorans take the life from living creatures for it to become part of their lives. After killing the pig, Juniper returns to the hut, covered in blood, and is horrified to find her mother, Erith and Gamal as well as Finbar, a new page at her father's court. He is handsome, but Juniper thinks he is the rudest boy she has ever met because he mocks her while she talks to her mother. Erlain tells Juniper she can come home, but she has a feeling that Juniper wants to be here, and her feeling is verified when Juniper admits she needs to be here even though it is horrible. Gamal promises to visit Juniper again, foreshadowing his future visits. Juniper immediately misses her family once they leave, but she can scarcely believe it when Euny says she is proud of Juniper for killing the pig; this is the first praise that Juniper receives from Euny, and it is a rare treasure as seen through the remainder of her doran training.



Section 6: Chapters 10 & 11

Section 6: Chapters 10 & 11 Summary

In Chapter 10, Euny informs Juniper that they are going to visit Angharad of the West tomorrow. Juniper and Euny travel the difficult journey to Angharad's home, and on the way, Euny explains that Angharad is very powerful and has offered to teach Juniper. Euny also informs Juniper that she will have the healing power if she is ever ready for it and when she can use it rightly. Once they finally reach the house, Angharad greets them, catching Juniper when she nearly falls from weakness. Angharad feeds them and leads Juniper upstairs to one of two beds in the chamber. After tending the sores on Juniper's feet, Angharad kisses her and tucks her in, expressing the hope that Juniper will be happy in her home.

In Chapter 11, a girl around the same age wakes Juniper, introducing herself as Trewyn, Angharad's apprentice. When Juniper descends the ladder to where Euny and Angharad sit, Euny announces she will travel north tomorrow for two months during which Angharad will teach Juniper. Juniper believes her preference for Angharad rankles Euny because when she walks her part of the way on her journey, Euny says she knows that Juniper thinks she is hard on her and does not care for her, but "I can only be a doran in the way that is natural for me" (p. 80). She kisses her and sends her back to Angharad. When Juniper comments that Euny is very hard on her, Angharad tells the story of Euny's life: when Euny was very young, she saw her parents killed in a raid, and as a result, she spent her childhood homeless and begging. At age 14, she was taken in by Phrene, a famous doran who was gentle with Euny, allowing her to become strong. Angharad was also trained by Phrene, so she and Euny were sister dorans-in-training like Trewyn and Juniper. Though Angharad is kind and tends to Juniper's needs, she also expects her to work hard, teaching her the difficult task of spinning wool which she insists is the same thing as learning to be a doran.

Section 6: Chapters 10 & 11 Analysis

In Chapter 10, Juniper's visit with Angharad is foreshadowed when Euny announces their visit. As they set off on the long journey on a bright winter day, Juniper is happy at the prospect of change, and though the cold bothers her, Euny does not seem to notice it at all. Euny's questions about her observations are irritating, though Juniper seems to be better at noticing things. By the second evening, they are miles from any human habitation, and when Juniper complains about hunger and their lack of preparation, Euny claims they cannot miss the pleasure of living from the hand of nature. Euny no longer minds being hungry, but she admits that she did not like it when she was a child. Juniper is intrigued since Euny never mentions her past, but she does not dare ask more. When she asks where they are going, Euny explains they are visiting one of the greatest dorans in the land; Angharad possesses great power and has offered to teach Juniper. Euny's admission that Juniper will have healing power if she is ever ready for it



and can use it rightly fulfills the earlier foreshadowing from when Juniper healed Gamal's injuries as a child. After a long night, Juniper's hunger flees since there is no prospect of food, and that afternoon, they breast a hill, and Euny points to a little house in the valley. Juniper is instantly drawn to Angharad who reminds her of Erlain. Angharad's tenderness and loving nature contrasts sharply with Euny's brusqueness, but the combination of these two women indicate that they are partners in Juniper's doran training.

In Chapter 11, Juniper meets Trewyn, Angharad's apprentice. Trewyn will share the room with Juniper. Juniper is excited to have a companion her age for the first time in months. Trewyn brings food to Juniper and tries to talk to Moon while Juniper eats, but he just blinks stupidly at her. Downstairs, Juniper learns that Euny is leaving her for two months, and when she walks Euny part of the way on her journey, Euny offers a rare display of tenderness when she explains that she is hard on Juniper because she must be a doran in the way that is natural for her. Juniper believes that one reason Angharad agreed to keep her was to feed her since she believes young girls need proper nourishment, an obvious critique of Euny, but she also tells Juniper that her teacher is one of the most remarkable dorans in the country. The dorans speak of people have the power to bring things back to a sort of harmony, and Euny does that in an unusual way by seeing to the heart of things. Angharad also explains that she knows Euny because they were sister dorans-in-training, just like Juniper and Trewyn are. Furthermore, she tells Juniper some of the details of Euny's youth, explaining why Euny is as reserved and cold as she is. Euny was the best pupil that Phrene ever had, and Angharad explains "good dorans are made by good teachers. You will be a good- perhaps great-doran partly because Euny trained you" (p. 81). While learning to dye wool, Angharad notes that Juniper was brave to go live with Euny, and Juniper admits that she could not help it; she knows Euny has something to teach her if only she would. Angharad notes that learning to be a doran is different than learning other subjects. She feeds Juniper and keeps her warm, but Angharad also expects her to work hard. She teaches Juniper the difficult task of spinning wool, which she insists is the same thing as learning to be a doran. When Juniper objects that every old woman knows how to spin, Angharad warns her not to underestimate old women's wisdom as they will not become stupid just because Juniper becomes wise.



Section 7: Chapters 12 & 13

Section 7: Chapters 12 & 13 Summary

In Chapter 12, Angharad teaches Juniper how to make dyes from various herbs, informing her that when she has enough wool, she will learn to weave a doran's cloak which "needs to be carefully made because one day it will be your protection against the magic of sorcerers" (page 86). One day, Angharad orders Juniper to start weaving, instructing her to look inside herself to know which colors to choose. Juniper panics at her lack of knowledge, but Angharad ignores her when she tells her mentor to choose. After dinner, Juniper tries to return to spinning, but Angharad insists she must weave, and she will not allow Juniper to go to bed until she solves it. Finally realizing that this is something she must teach herself, Juniper asks who she is, and answering that she is Juniper, she chooses her colors. The next morning, Angharad praises her for choosing correctly.

In Chapter 13, Trewyn admits that she is afraid of becoming a doran because of a terrifying encounter with Angharad's enemy, a sorcerer from Caerleon who appeared in the form of a giant black dog. She has now seen the dangers of magic in the hands of sorcerers who want to rid the world of the positive magical influence of the dorans, and she wishes she could return to a normal life. Influenced by the talk of magic, Juniper sees figures in her weaving that afternoon, and when she spins a perfect thread, Angharad announces she is ready, encouraging her to work hard on her cloak since Euny will return soon. Juniper notices a small mistake in her weaving, but it is so far back and so tiny that she cannot be bothered to fix it. Juniper adds the lining, a clasp and a collar to her cloak, and on the day she finishes it in March, she and Trewyn return from a walk to find Euny sitting at the hearth as if she had never left.

Section 7: Chapters 12 & 13 Analysis

In Chapter 12, Angharad gradually teaches Juniper to dye with many different plants. They spend their mornings doing chores, finding herbs and making dyes, and in the afternoons, they tell stories as they spin. Angharad will teach Juniper to weave when she has enough wool, and when Juniper asks what she will weave, Trewyn dons a cloak that reveals everything that Juniper knows about her and other things she has only guessed. Angharad explains that this is the cloak of the doran, and it "needs to be carefully made because one day it will be your protection against the magic of sorcerers" (p. 86). Juniper spins more zealously, trying to make her thread as perfect as possible, and she stores her wool on a shelf in the closet, adding to it daily. It is a relief that Juniper is no longer cold or hungry, a fact she finds to be a precious sort of freedom. When the time comes for Juniper to weave her cloak, she panics because she does not know which colors to choose, but Angharad offers no assistance, ordering Juniper to sit at the loom until she figures it out. Sitting alone and puzzled, Juniper cries. She wants to choose a random color, but she knows there is no point in cheating



because the cloak must be woven in truth since it will be her protection. Suddenly, she realizes her teachers cannot help her because this is something she must teach herself. Asking who she is, she answers that she is Juniper. She grabs midnight blue, gray-blue, white, amber and a light yellow, knowing these are the right colors though she does not know how she knows. Juniper works at the loom, and there are many threads when Angharad wakes to milk the cow and tells Juniper that she knew she would get it right.

In Chapter 13, Trewyn asks if Juniper wants to be a doran. Juniper responds that she wants to understand all kinds of things, and she does not want to get pushed into marriage. Trewyn is afraid of becoming a doran. Angharad and Euny can do real magic, and Trewyn knows she and Juniper will be able to eventually. When she was younger, Trewyn thought it would be lovely to do magic, but now she is not so sure that it is something she wants to meddle with. Trewyn proceeds to tell Juniper about an extraordinary experience when she went to Caerleon on an errand for Angharad. On the road, she met a terrifyingly large black dog that would not allow her to pass, and when she mentally asked Angharad what to do, Angharad appeared, led her past the dog and disappeared. Back at home, Angharad explains that she arrived because Trewyn needed help. She also elaborates that the dog was her great enemy in Caerleon who recognized that Trewyn was Angharad's apprentice because sorcerers can recognize anything that belongs to a doran by scent. Trewyn is now terrified because she saw the danger in magic. Sorcerers can kill or enslave people, including dorans, and sometimes, Trewyn wishes to return to a normal life. The talk of magic influences Juniper at the loom that afternoon as she sees three-dimensional figures as she weaves. At the spindle, she spins a perfect thread, so Angharad notes she is ready and tells her she must work hard at her cloak because Euny will soon return. This foreshadows Euny's return. The small mistake in Juniper's weaving foreshadows the effects that this flaw will have when she must rely on the strength of her doran's cloak to protect her from the magic of sorcerers. When she ponders what Angharad meant by "ready," Trewyn suggests they will be put through some sort of ceremony or ordeal which dorans use to find out if their apprentices are strong and brave enough, foreshadowing the ceremony that Trewyn and Juniper are subjected to. Trewyn is obviously frightened of the coming ordeal as she begins to sleep badly, and though Angharad looks at Trewyn thoughtfully, she does not comfort her. On the day that Juniper finishes weaving her cloak, she puts it around her shoulders, but Angharad tells her it is not yet time; there will be a ceremony for Juniper and Trewyn when Euny returns, but she cannot tell them about it yet. Juniper continues working on her cloak, adding the lining, a clasp and a collar, and Angharad tells her "this will be the most precious thing you will ever own, and you will keep it all your life" (p. 96). On the day that Juniper completes her cloak and Angharad stores it in her chest, Euny returns. It is a March day when Juniper and Trewyn return from a walk to find Euny sitting at the hearth with Angharad, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing regarding her return.



Section 8: Chapter 14

Section 8: Chapter 14 Summary

On an April afternoon, Angharad and Euny call Juniper and Trewyn inside and make them bathe, giving them sheets to wrap around them and informing them that they are all fasting though they will not explain why. When the moon appears, Euny and Angharad lead the girls outside to the stone hut where the four of them sit down. The dorans recite a long poem about dead heroes and heroines, telling the history of the dorans, and at the end, the words begin to be addressed to Juniper and Trewyn, explaining they must be worthy of their calling, enter into harmony with the world, care for others and never work magic for their own aggrandizement. Euny then orders the girls to lie face down and asks if they wish to be admitted to the order of the doran. Trewyn is uncertain, so Angharad says they will ask her again at the end of the ceremony. The dorans light the fire and summon the apprentices to it, and when Euny piles green wood on the fire, the hut fills with acrid smoke. Juniper runs to the door to find that it appears to have been bolted from the outside. She and Trewyn sit with their arms around one another, and when the smoke finally clears, they are astonished to see that Euny and Angharad have disappeared. Juniper assures Trewyn they will return, though she worries that they could be some sort of sacrifice. Sitting on a chest they drag from a far corner, Juniper closes her eyes to enjoy the sweet smell of the fire, but when she opens them, everything seems bigger and clearer, so she realizes the smoke must be magic. The girls envision snakes from the grain in the wood, and the stone walls seem to shine with a golden light. Juniper asks if Trewyn is still frightened, and Trewyn responds negatively because she now knows they are meant to be dorans. Juniper and Trewyn doze, and when they awake, Euny and Angharad are sitting there, still and silent, as if they never left, yet they are different like everything else is different. Euny builds the fire up, and Angharad begins chanting with Juniper and Trewyn joining in. The four of them dance for what seems like hours before they all fall asleep from total exhaustion. Trewyn wakes Juniper much later to show her that the door is open, revealing the dark sky, and the girls leave the hut and stumble into the ring of standing stones where Angharad and Euny wait by the fire, signaling for them to join them. Euny and Angharad dress their apprentices in tunics and deerskin slippers before adding their doran cloaks. They embrace the girls, and the girls hug one another, realizing that they are truly sisters now.

Section 8: Chapter 14 Analysis

On their frequent walks, Juniper and Trewyn notice an oddly shaped stone building near a circle of tall stones, and on the instance that they enter it to avoid the rain, they notice that someone uses it. The detailed description of this building foreshadows its use in the doran ceremony. Angharad no longer pushes them to spend and weave, allowing them to idle the days away. She often disagrees with Euny, though their conversations cease as soon as the apprentices enter the room, so Trewyn informs Juniper that the dorans



are preparing for the ceremony. In April, earlier foreshadowing is fulfilled as Angharad and Euny prepare Juniper and Trewyn for the doran ceremony, taking them to the stone building, as foreshadowed, where they proceed with the ceremony. When Euny asks if the girls want to become dorans, Juniper knows that "life was pushing me toward the particular sort of wisdom that Euny and Angharad had. I felt that I had no real choice" (p. 101), although she would rather be warm in bed. On the other hand, Trewyn does not know because she is scared, so Angharad says they will continue with the ritual and ask Trewyn again at the end; if she decides the answer is no, she will leave and never mention what she has seen to anyone. After lighting a fire, Angharad and Euny disappear, leaving Juniper and Trewyn alone to see visions elicited by the fire. Juniper is fascinated by the faces in the fire and the branch of apple blossoms which open into flowers. She feels that she and Trewyn are like the buds, achieving their perfection one day and returning to the nothingness from which they came the next day. Trewyn's fear vanishes as she realizes that she and Juniper are destined to become dorans. After the girls take a nap, Euny and Angharad return. Juniper notes that Angharad's face seems so pure that she is filled with reverence, while Euny's face holds the sadness of a little girl while still allowing Juniper to see how her loneliness turned into great strength and fearlessness. Regardless of what the strange ceremony is about, she decides that the dorans are trustworthy. The four of them dance for a long time before falling into an exhausted sleep. When Juniper and Trewyn awake, they join the dorans outside among the circle of standing stones where they are dressed in their doran cloaks, completing the ceremony. Angharad hands them bread and wine as Juniper looks up to see Moon flying above her, big and silent. The completion of the ceremony indicates that Juniper's training is drawing to a close, and this foreshadows her return to the Wooden Palace.



Section 9: Chapter 15

Section 9: Chapter 15 Summary

After the ceremony, Trewyn and Juniper play with their new magical skills, and they also realize that their sense of smell has changed, allowing them to smell individual's personality traits. Early in the summer, Juniper and Euny leave Angharad and Trewyn to return to Euny's hut, and when she notes that she is supposed to return to her parents in three months, Euny claims they have much to do. Juniper is lonely in Euny's hut, so she is excited when Gamal and Finbar visit to share gossip from Castle Dore. Gamal suggests spending the night so he can spend more time with Juniper the next day, but Euny reacts inhospitably, irritating Juniper who decides she will sneak off anyway. The next day, Juniper leaves her buckets at the well and sneaks off to the beach with Gamal and Finbar. Since Finbar is kind to her, Juniper's heart softens somewhat, though she cannot forget his mockery, plus she wishes to be alone with Gamal. Seeming to sense it, Finbar rides off alone for a while, allowing Juniper to ask Gamal how Meroot is doing, but Gamal wants to talk about music, telling Juniper that a new musician at court is secretly teaching him and he has started composing music. He knows that Meroot will never allow him to be a musician, but she cannot prevent him from thinking about music. Juniper is sad to see Gamal leave, and she grows fearful of confronting Euny. She fills the buckets at the well and returns to the hut, and though she expects a scolding, Euny does not say anything; in fact, she seems rather pleased with Juniper, a reaction that Juniper does not understand and finds quite disturbing.

Section 9: Chapter 15 Analysis

Chapter 15 is the final chapter in Part Two as Juniper's training with Euny draws to a close. Back at Angharad's house, Trewyn and Juniper discover that they can now do magic, so they play with their new skill, hiding it from their mentors for fear Angharad and Euny will think it frivolous and make them stop. Juniper suspects that Angharad knows what they are doing but does not say a word, possibly because she knows their time together is coming to an end. After the ceremony, Juniper and Trewyn's sense of smell also changes. They can now smell Angharad's goodness, Euny's strength, Trewyn's beauty and Juniper's healing wisdom. Angharad confirms that increased sensitivity to smell is one skill of the doran. Early summer, Euny and Juniper head back to Euny's hut. The journey is pleasant, and though Juniper is sad to leave Angharad and Trewyn, she is happy to be alone with Euny again, especially since Euny is warmer since the ceremony, as if she is now sure of Juniper in some way. Juniper is excited and happy when they exit the forest near Euny's hut, and while the hut seems cold and unwelcoming, the sight of the hazel tree assures Juniper that this is where she is supposed to be. While lighting the fire and making soup, Juniper notes that she will return to her parents in three months, further foreshadowing Juniper's return to the Wooden Palace, and Euny claims they have a lot to do though she does not explain what they need to do and Juniper does not ask. Within several days, Euny and Juniper



fall into their old routines, though Euny makes an effort to feed Juniper better. Still, Juniper is lonely and misses Angharad and Trewyn badly since Euny seems like she can only live with Juniper by forgetting and ignoring her most of the time. Juniper sleeps comfortably with the pallet and blanket Angharad sent with her, and she often picks flowers to liven up the little hut. While gathering lilacs in the field one day, Gamal and Finbar ride up. Gamal tells Juniper about everyone at Castle Dore and brings her a delicacy of meat from Meroot. After their last visit, Juniper sees Finbar as an enemy, but he is friendly now, a fact she finds disconcerting. Gamal suggests they can spend the night so he and Juniper can spend tomorrow together, but when Juniper asks Euny, Euny insists she will not feed them and Juniper cannot have time off to play with them because she has too much to do. Juniper is furious at Euny's lack of hospitality and unfairness, so she tells Gamal that she will come out with them tomorrow, planning to run off while pretending to do her chores. Gamal worries she will get in trouble, but Juniper insists the day of fun will be worth it. The next day, Juniper abandons her chores to spend the day with Gamal and Finbar on the beach. Gamal avoids talking about Meroot, foreshadowing the discovery of Meroot's evil actions during Juniper's absence. When the boys finally leave, Juniper fears confronting Euny about her neglected duties, but she is stunned when Euny seems pleased with Juniper, indicating that Euny wants Juniper to become independent, even if it means defying orders.



Section 10: Chapter 16

Section 10: Chapter 16 Summary

Finally, Euny begins teaching Juniper about spells and potions. She explains that healing is a special kind of knowing combined with the study of herbs which is the focus of Juniper's final lessons. Euny also teaches her about clearwater, a liquid used to protect a doran from sorcery. Gamal visits several times, and remembering his reluctance to talk about Meroot, Juniper questions him and learns that she still hopes Gamal will take over the kingdom after King Mark dies; yet, Gamal swore his allegiance to King Mark on his last birthday and knows that plotting is against the rule of knights. He also worries what Meroot might do if she does not get her way since she knows magic and may be a sorcerer. On the day of Juniper's departure, Euny announces she will accompany her on the journey, and when Juniper says she will miss the hut, Euny contemptuously says it will be here and Juniper can visit if she can spare time from her grand life at the palace. Juniper cries as they leave the hut. When Castle Dore is within their view, Euny gives Juniper several protections to carry in case of danger: a crescent moon amulet on a leather string, a black egg to break if her life is in danger, and two flasks of clearwater. As Juniper tucks the protections into her bundle, Euny disappears. Juniper is nervous as she returns to Castle Dore, and she is surprised to see a flock of rooks in the courtyard. Rushing to her parents' quarters, Juniper notices that her father looks worried before he sees her, but he announces that they will hold a feast tonight to celebrate her return. Holding her head high as she joins her father, Juniper finds the feast wonderful, though it is the same as usual, since she has been away for so long, yet the knights' weariness puzzles her as she has never before seen such dejection from them. Later, Juniper sits with her parents and tells them about her time with Euny, but when she asks about life at Castle Dore, a shadow crosses Erlain's face before she admits that the crops are doing badly and animals have been dying for no reason. Juniper asks if it is magic, but King Mark crossly insists that crops and animals sometimes do badly, though Erlain quietly points out that they rarely fail at the same time. Juniper asks if they suspect anyone, and her mother says they will discuss it more tomorrow after exchanging a look with King Mark.

Section 10: Chapter 16 Analysis

Part Three begins with Chapter 16 and continues until the end of the novel, detailing Juniper's return to Castle Dore and her subsequent adventures as a doran. The next day, Euny sits down with Juniper and begins teaching her spells and potions as Juniper expected in the beginning. She says it was obvious that Juniper's gift would be healing people because "all those under the protection of the owl know about healing" (p. 119). Healing is a special kind of knowing plus the study of herbs, and while Euny cannot help her with knowing and seeing illness, she can teach her about herbs. She tasks Juniper with memorizing the uses of herbs, and she also teaches her to create clearwater, a liquid used to protect a doran from sorcery. She teaches her about the curses sorcerers



use on their victims as well as the rituals that the great dorans use to dissolve the curses, reminding Juniper that earth, air, fire and water are her allies. Euny teaches Juniper many spells to bring good or prevent evil, and the weeks pass quickly since Juniper enjoys learning. When Gamal visits, he shares his apprehensions about Meroot's ambitions, insisting that he is loyal to King Mark but worrying about what his mother will do if things do not go the way she wants. When Juniper tells Euny what she has learned, Euny claims Juniper is at least as strong as Meroot, suggesting that perhaps Juniper was born to oppose Meroot. The only sorcerer who may be stronger than Juniper is Angharad's enemy in Caerleon. The relationship between Juniper and Euny changes as Euny begins to share the chores equally, and Juniper finds the shift to be more peaceful. She knows that she must go home soon but also that she will return to Euny at some point for the rituals to complete her training as a doran. When Juniper wonders if she will be forced to marry and who will rule the kingdom once her father dies, Euny says they will just have to wait and see. Juniper asks if Euny will miss her when she leaves, but Euny claims she needs no one. In a typical fashion, Euny is dismissive of Juniper's sentimentality regarding the hut when she prepares to return to Castle Dore. The protections that Euny gives her when she walks her home foreshadows Juniper's need for these items when facing a great evil. The rooks in the courtyard foreshadow Juniper's discovery that evil magic has been at work in the kingdom. Though Juniper enjoys the dinner her father throws to celebrate her return, she cannot help noticing the dejection on everyone's faces which foreshadows the discovery of the hardships they have recently endured due to Meroot's evil magic. This discovery comes when Erlain confides that the crops and animals have been doing badly. King Mark's defensive reaction combined with Erlain's hesitance to talk about the matter in front of her husband foreshadows the discovery that Erlain suspects Meroot of being responsible for casting curses on the kingdom.



Section 11: Chapters 17 & 18

Section 11: Chapters 17 & 18 Summary

In Chapter 17, Gamal tells Juniper that Meroot is marrying a knight from Caerleon in December, and when Juniper visits Meroot the next day to congratulate her, she notices that Meroot now has a large, black dog that constantly growls at her. Meroot questions her about her time with Euny, but when she leaves the room, Juniper can feel that she is being watched as she examines a strange leather stick. Talking to Erlain later that afternoon, Juniper learns that her mother does suspect Meroot of cursing Castle Dore, though King Mark refuses to believe his sister would do such a thing. Juniper provides her mother with clearwater for protection and agrees to try to think of magic to help the kingdom. Plans for Meroot's wedding progress, and Juniper is distraught to learn that Gamal is expected to move to Caerleon with his mother. During the feast that King Mark throws for Meroot the night before the Gray Knight's arrival, Juniper can feel her aunt's hatred, but she feels sorry for her aunt whose place as ruler was lost when her younger brother was born; however, during a walk late that night, Juniper sees Meroot casting spells in the middle of the field.

In Chapter 18, the Gray Knight arrives at Castle Dore, and after the wedding, the feast continues for days. Gamal and Juniper sneak off frequently, and they are often joined by Finbar who Juniper begins to like. Gamal laments the fact that he is not old enough to refuse accompanying his mother to Caerleon, and he knows that no knight will defy Meroot to squire him. He also knows that Meroot has not altered her schemes since she has never forgiven King Mark for taking the kingdom from her, and Gamal believes Meroot bore him to avenge her. He has no doubt she is already using spells, but he is unsure if she will go to war to further her schemes. Though Juniper understands why Meroot is so upset that her younger brother was preferred to her, Gamal insists they swore fealty to King Mark, and "in any case, curses are no way to get what you want" (p. 140). Juniper is relieved when Meroot and the Gray Knight leave for Caerlon, but she is sad to see Gamal go. She is distracted from her sorrow when Erlain confides that she is pregnant, and though Juniper knows her mother feels guilty for not having a son, Juniper is also jealous because she will never be queen if Erlain bears a son. Yet, Juniper's concern for her mother is more important than her jealousy, so she cautions her mother to secrecy. Additionally, Juniper casts a counter-curse to rid the kingdom of Meroot's malignant spells, and the crops and animals strengthen in only a few weeks. Everyone's spirits improve, though Juniper's jealousy increases when the astrologers predict that Erlain will give birth to a boy.

Section 11: Chapters 17 & 18 Analysis

In Chapter 17, Gamal taps on Juniper's door at dawn the next day and invites her to go out riding with him. They ride to a hillside overlooking the sea, and when Juniper mentions how badly the crops are doing, Gamal looks miserable, seeming unable to say



what he wants. He tells Juniper that Meroot is going to marry a knight from Caerleon in December, and the knight's name stirs a troubling memory inside Juniper, though she cannot recall why. This, combined with the following mention that Meroot possesses a large black dog, brings to mind Trewyn's story about encountering Angharad's enemy, thus foreshadowing the discovery that Meroot's new husband is the same sorcerer who counts Angharad as an enemy. The next day, Juniper calls upon Meroot to congratulate her on her marriage. She notices that Meroot now has a large, black dog which growls at her, and Meroot's home is filled with a sour, sickening smell. Meroot asks what Euny taught Juniper, and though it is the same question that King Mark asked, it is asked differently. Meroot seems surprised when Juniper mentions Angharad who Meroot once knew. When Meroot leaves the room, Juniper moves toward the leather stick that catches her eyes, but she feels like she is being watched, even though she cannot comprehend why Meroot would do such a thing. The dog growls at Juniper when she inches toward the stick, but Gamal arrives and tells Juniper about his lesson, both falling silent when Meroot returns. Juniper is relieved when she can leave Meroot's home without seeming rude. Finding Erlain alone that afternoon, Juniper asks if they suspect Meroot of laying a curse upon Castle Dore, and Erlain admits that she suspects Meroot, though King Mark is loyal to his sister. Erlain asks if Juniper knows magic to help them, and Juniper agrees to think about it. She would like to send for Euny, but Euny is visiting Angharad. Juniper gives Erlain a flask of clearwater, telling her how to anoint herself for protection. In her bed, Juniper wonders if Meroot's new husband is Angharad's enemy in Caerleon, fulfilling the foreshadowing concerning this suspicion. She also realizes that Meroot now knows that Euny and Angharad are friends if she did not know before. The plans for Meroot's wedding continue to progress, and the Gray Knight of Caerleon sends gifts to his bride, making it obvious that he is rich and that he either loves Meroot or needs her good will. Gamal informs Juniper that Meroot and the Gray Knight want him to live with them at Caerleon, and though he does not want to, Juniper knows he is loyal to his mother. Despite the lack of food in the kingdom, King Mark throws a feast for Meroot the night before the Gray Knight arrives, and Juniper is bothered by the odd triumph flushing Meroot's face. Unfortunately, Juniper cannot avoid Meroot's gaze or conversation since they are seated across the table from one another, and as Meroot talks about the Gray Knight's home, Juniper can feel her concealed hatred; yet, as she recalls her father telling her how Meroot tried to outstrip him at everything as a child, Juniper feels sorry for her aunt since her place as ruler was usurped by King Mark's birth. Still, Juniper is vulnerable to Meroot's schemes because she is a girl. Unable to sleep that night, Juniper takes a walk and is shocked to see Meroot standing in the field, making signs with her fingers dipped in a bowl of blood. Juniper has no doubt that Meroot is uttering spells. This scene serves to confirm Erlain and Juniper's suspicions as well as fulfill foreshadowing concerning this discovery.

In Chapter 18, King Mark receives the Gray Knight, and they spend half the day talking. Juniper is afraid when she meets the Gray Knight because he seems to look through her and know everything about her. The wedding is splendid, and the feast continues for days afterward. Juniper, Gamal and Finbar often sneak away together as Gamal complains about being forced to join his mother in Caerleon as he worries about her schemes to take the throne from her brother; this foreshadows Meroot's activities in Caerleon as she continues to further her schemes to place Gamal on the throne. While



Juniper is somewhat sympathetic to Meroot's jealousy, Gamal is distraught that his mother would plot against her brother to whom she promised her loyalty. Juniper is sad when Gamal leaves, but a distraction comes when she learns that Erlain is pregnant. Juniper sympathizes even more with Meroot at this point as she realizes that she, too, will be passed over for the throne if Erlain gives birth to a son. Still, her concern for her mother overrides her jealousy, and she warns Erlain not to tell anyone for fear Meroot will find out and act against the baby. She assures her mother that the child will be fine since Erlain uses clearwater daily, and Juniper also realizes that the timing is perfect since a son born to the royal family will comfort the people against Meroot's curse. Thinking of all Euny taught her, Juniper plans a ritual and asks her mother to accompany her. The next morning, Juniper wakes with a sense of fear, feeling that she is directly challenging Meroot. Wearing her cloak and her crescent moon and with Moon on her shoulder, Juniper and Erlain walk to the place beyond the walls where Juniper witnessed Meroot casting spells. Using the four elements, Juniper says a spell to rid the kingdom of Meroot's curse and to keep Erlain's baby safe and healthy. She dances the dance that is the harmony of all creation as Angharad and Euny taught her, and when she finishes, she is tired and weak from giving her strength to the anti-curse; however, she is happy to see the rooks flying away as she returns to the castle. Things improve in the kingdom within a few weeks. Still, Juniper is jealous when Erlain informs her that the astrologers believe the baby will be a boy. Winter slips into a wonderful spring, and with Meroot and her curse gone, the people are joyous and King Mark walks with a lighter step. With everything seeming to go well, this foreshadows another catastrophe, as the improvement in the kingdom is obviously the calm before the storm.



Section 12: Chapters 19 & 20

Section 12: Chapters 19 & 20 Summary

In Chapter 19, Juniper decides to visit Euny and ask about her future since there are no current doran tasks to be completed. Euny expects Juniper, and when Juniper fills her in on the events at Castle Dore, Euny realizes Juniper is jealous of her mother's pregnancy and decides it is time for her to fly, an important way for dorans to discover their true vocation. Juniper prepares for the flying dream, fasting and anointing herself with ointment before concentrating on seeing the future. Juniper feels herself being pulled to a dark place that reminds her of her old dream, and she smells a familiar scent she cannot identify. The vision changes to Gamal's face upside down and the sound of a crying child, and then it takes Juniper to an island where she stands in front of a house near an inland cliff. Inside, she finds jars filled with liquid and sees a herb garden through the window. Sitting in the chair by the hearth, Juniper feels peace as she realizes this is her house, the place in the world that she is seeking. She returns to Euny and describes her dream. Euny indicates that the portion about Gamal suggests that Juniper's friendship and love for Gamal will be tested and that Meroot or the Gray Knight currently have power over Gamal. In regards to the terror in the tunnel, Euny reminds Juniper that a doran's business is to encounter evil. When she returns at Castle Dore, King Mark tells Juniper that Meroot has contacted him in regards to Gamal's proposal of marriage to Juniper.

In Chapter 20, Juniper objects to marrying Gamal, but King Mark insists it would appease Meroot's jealousy of the throne and give Castle Dore the protection of a warrior. Furthermore, the Gray Knight is forming an army, and King Mark knows there will not be a war if Juniper marries Gamal so he orders her to visit Meroot in Caerleon to discuss the marriage. Later, Erlain explains that King Mark fears losing the kingdom to the Gray Knight. Finding Juniper alone, Finbar offers to accompany her, explaining that the last time he saw Gamal, his friend seemed to be sleepwalking. From Finbar's description, Juniper realizes that Gamal has been ghosted, his spirit taken from his body so that he can be controlled. Now eager to visit Caerleon and rescue Gamal, Juniper agrees that Finbar can accompany her, and he promises that she can trust him. Several days later, Juniper sets off to Caerleon with Finbar, four soldiers, a bard and an astrologer. Juniper and Finbar grow close during the several day journey, but both grow fearful as they come within sight of the grim Castle Caerleon. Juniper and her retinue are admitted at the gate, and they are left waiting in the courtyard after their horses are taken to the stables.

Section 12: Chapters 19 & 20 Analysis

In Chapter 19, Juniper worries that Meroot will take out her frustration over her defeated schemes on Gamal when she does not hear from him, foreshadowing the truth of this concern. With no doran tasks since the danger was averted, Juniper decides to visit



Euny and ask for guidance about her future. She finds Euny in her rocking chair, as if she is waiting for Juniper, and Juniper can tell that Euny is happy to see her, though Euny tries to hide it. Euny knew that Juniper was coming because she dreamed it. Juniper tells Euny about the anti-curse and her fear that Meroot is not finished as well as the news about Erlain's pregnancy which causes Euny to note that Juniper is jealous and to decide it is time for Juniper to fly. Flying is an important adventure in the doran world, providing a way to discover where one's true vocation lay. After Juniper fasts for a day, Euny spreads ointment all over her skin, and Juniper concentrates on seeing the future, willing herself not to return to ordinary life before the end of her flight. In the dream, Juniper sees a dark place similar to the tunnel from her dream, then she hears a crying child as she sees Gamal's face upside down. Finally, she is taken to a small house by an inland cliff which she realizes is her future home, the place in the world that she seeks. When Juniper returns to Euny's hut, Euny helps her analyze the dream. Euny notes that the flying dream allows her to access the future, and Juniper realizes something must be given up. Returning home, Juniper is happy that she found the place where she belongs, but she does not enjoy the prospective terror concerning the tunnel and the crying child. Returning home, Juniper learns that Meroot has proposed to Juniper on Gamal's behalf, indicating that Meroot's schemes have not come to a close just yet and also foreshadowing Juniper's visit to Caerleon.

In Chapter 20, Juniper objects to Meroot's plans, but she learns that the Gray Knight is a threat to the kingdom as he is gathering troops. Juniper points out that will not matter if Erlain has a son, but King Mark explains that the Gray Knight is recruiting soldiers and rumors circulate that he plans to attack Castle Dore; King Mark knows there will not be a war if Juniper agrees to marry Gamal, and he has agreed to send his daughter to Caerleon to discuss the marriage at Meroot's request, ordering Juniper to do as he says when she objects that Meroot is dangerous and plotting to put Gamal on the throne. This fulfills the recent foreshadowing that Meroot's plots continue. When Juniper discusses these plans with her mother, Erlain confides that King Mark knows this is wrong, but he fears losing his kingdom to the Gray Knight. Juniper is angry at the prospect of becoming Meroot's tool. Finbar appears and asks to accompany Juniper to Caerleon because he is Gamal's friend, and following her to the privacy of her apartment, he tells her that the last time he delivered a message to Meroot from King Mark, he asked to see Gamal. At first, Meroot would not permit it, but when he insisted he had a note from Juniper that was only to be delivered to Gamal, she brought Gamal to Finbar; however, it seemed like Gamal was not there as he acted like a sleepwalker, and Finbar is not even sure that Gamal knew him. Juniper realizes that Gamal has been ghosted, his spirit taken from his body so he can be controlled. Now, she is eager to visit Caerleon and try to cure Gamal. She knows Gamal must have resisted Meroot's schemes bravely for her to resort to such desperate measures. Juniper warns Finbar that the visit will be dangerous, but she thinks it will be good for him to accompany her since he cares about Gamal as much as she does. Finbar apologizes for his previous rudeness as he likes Juniper and wants to help. He assures her that she can trust him, and she will need people she can trust in Caerleon. During the next few days, Juniper prepares for her visit to Caerleon. She packs her protections and rehearses her spells, finally setting off with Finbar, four soldiers, a bard and an astrologer. During the journey of several days, a closeness springs up between Juniper and Finbar as they are drawn



together by their love for Gamal, their sense of dark magic and the awareness of the awaiting dangers at Caerleon. Juniper insists Finbar use clearwater to protect himself, and she is surprised by the change in her feelings for Finbar as she realizes he is a loyal companion. Finbar is silent when they first see Castle Caerleon, and Juniper suspects that he is wondering if any of them will make it out alive without the damage of spells. Juniper feels safer wrapped in her cloak as she notes that Castle Caerleon is grim and fortified, and she wonders what Gamal felt when he first approached his new home. The guards at the gate admit Juniper and her retinue, taking their horses in the courtyard.



Section 13: Chapters 21 & 22

Section 13: Chapters 21 & 22 Summary

In Chapter 21, Juniper can feel that they are being watched as they wait in the courtyard, and when a servant tries to lead Juniper to Meroot, Juniper refuses to go without Finbar. When she confronts Meroot, Meroot objects to Finbar's presence but quickly yields as she explains that Gamal cannot see Juniper because he is unwell. Juniper offers to help since she is trained in healing, but Meroot contemptuously declines though there is "no doubt that you know all the old wives have to teach" (page 160). Meroot indicates that Finbar will have a room in the barracks, but Juniper insists that he will stay near her since he is her bodyguard, feigning disapproving shock when Meroot suggests that such an arrangement would cause gossip. Meroot leads Juniper and Finbar to the eastern apartment where Juniper notices a door to a small chamber. It takes a moment before the door is opened, during which Juniper hears movement within the chamber, but Juniper insists that the chamber will be perfect for Finbar's sleeping arrangements. At Meroot's formal dinner to welcome Juniper, Juniper finds the Gray Knight's eyes and smell familiar, though she cannot place either. For three days, Meroot does not allow Juniper to see Gamal, though she continues to make plans for their wedding, and finally, Juniper sneaks into Meroot's chambers while Meroot is riding with her husband one afternoon. Passing through several rooms filled with odd smells and odd apparatuses, Juniper finds Gamal staring blankly as he sits on his bed. He is unresponsive, but as Juniper decides to leave, she hears Meroot approaching. Juniper hides under the bed, but Meroot enters the room and tells her to reveal herself, mocking Juniper when she claims she only wanted to try to heal Gamal. Furious at Juniper's bad manners, Meroot sends Juniper to her room, and though she is furious, Juniper cannot forget Gamal's lack of personality.

In Chapter 22, Juniper discusses the situation with Finbar. Finbar suggests they should pretend that they have not noticed anything wrong with Gamal. Juniper can pretend to agree to the marriage, and when they leave to go home, they can secretly return and kidnap Gamal. First, they will need to find a secret path leading into the heart of the castle. After pretending to believe Meroot's lies and setting a date for the wedding in three months, Juniper joins Finbar to search for a cave leading to the castle. When a twig she holds indicates water beneath them, Finbar recalls that there is an underground stream leading to the castle, so they search for a tunnel. They find a tunnel and follow it into the castle. Seeing the bulk of the castle standing before them, they realize "we had found the way to save Gamal" (page 172). On the day that Juniper and her retinue leave Castle Caerleon, she convinces the rest of the retinue to go on without her and Finbar, claiming she wants to visit Angharad. Juniper and Finbar wait for dark to fall, carrying a flask of clearwater with which to anoint themselves once they exit the water into the castle.



Section 13: Chapters 21 & 22 Analysis

In Chapter 21, Juniper and her retinue are left waiting in the courtyard, and she can feel that they are being watched. After a servant takes Juniper's possessions to her room, the soldiers are led to the barracks, but Finbar insists on staying with Juniper. The servant objects because Meroot only wants Juniper, but Juniper insists Finbar will stay with her and she will explain it to her aunt. Sitting like a queen, Meroot studies Juniper as she approaches, greeting her and mentioning that she had hoped to speak to Juniper alone. Feeling that she is being watched again, Juniper insists that there is nothing Finbar may not hear, but when she asks to see Gamal, Meroot insists he is unwell with a rash and a fever and cannot see her. Meroot mocks Juniper when she offers to try to help by healing Gamal, indicating that she is not at all concerned for her son which reinforces the belief that she is responsible for his illness because she has ghosted him. Juniper attempts to control her temper since she needs to find a way to help Gamal. Meroot claims she is happy that Gamal has chosen Juniper, avoiding Juniper's questions about Gamal's role in their proposed betrothal. When Meroot indicates that Finbar will room in the barracks, Juniper insists that Finbar will have a room near her because he is her bodyguard, and irritated, Meroot asks if Juniper believes she is in danger at the Gray Knight's home, suggesting that such an arrangement could cause unpleasant gossip. Meroot's objection to Juniper having her bodyguard near her foreshadows Meroot's malicious intentions. Juniper insists that Finbar and her honor are beyond doubt, and Finbar seems to admire her for winning the argument. Meroot leads Juniper and Finbar to the eastern apartment where Juniper notices a door set in the wall and asks for it to be opened as she hears movement beyond. The servant seems reluctant until Meroot nods, and the door is opened to reveal a small chamber which Juniper decides will be perfect for Finbar. When Meroot finally leaves, Juniper and Finbar plan to ride later to see the environs of Caerleon before dark. Juniper also tells Finbar that the servants confiscated her vials of clearwater, swearing the flasks were not in her luggage. This further indicates Meroot's ill intentions. Luckily, Juniper produces two more flasks from her cloak, showing that she is prepared. As Juniper prepares for Meroot's formal dinner to welcome her, Moon perches on her shoulder, obviously meaning to accompany her which further indicates Juniper's danger. Sitting next to the Gray Knight, Juniper suspects that the sweet oil he wears covers a less pleasant odor, yet he is charming and attractive, though his eyes remind her of someone else who she cannot place. This foreshadows the discovery that the Gray Knight is in fact the large black dog that was in Meroot's home in the Wooden Palace. The next morning, Finbar and Juniper are taken to see the Gray Knight's soldiers practicing, and Juniper is appalled at the sight of the small army. Three days pass, and Meroot claims to be sorry that Gamal is not well enough to receive Juniper; however, she still makes plans for their wedding. Juniper does not know where Gamal's chambers are, but she knows that Meroot and the Gray Knight have private rooms in the western wing, so while Meroot is riding with her husband, Juniper sneaks into Meroot's room where she is troubled by the combined smell of the dog and another scent she recognizes but cannot place, again foreshadowing that the Gray Knight takes the form of a large, black dog. She examines Meroot's leather stick which has the look and feel of a magical object, though Juniper cannot imagine what it is used for. In the



next room, she finds Gamal sitting on a bed and staring blankly, confirming Juniper's suspicion that he has been ghosted. He is unresponsive when Juniper attempts to talk to him, and unable to risk being caught, she starts to retreat, but when she hears Meroot scolding her sleeping servant, Juniper realizes she cannot escape. She rushes back to Gamal's room and hides under the bed, fearing that Meroot has guessed her actions. Meroot soon enters the room and tells Juniper to come out. Juniper claims she thought she could help Gamal, but Meroot snidely says they would have asked for her help if it was needed. She says she will tell King Mark of Juniper's bad manners and sends her to her room, announcing that she will be treated like a naughty child since that is how she has acted. Meroot's anger seems disproportionate if her claims were true, therefore confirming her actions in ghosting Gamal and also reinforcing the truth of her intentions toward Juniper. Juniper is furious as she returns to her room, but she cannot forget Gamal's blank eyes and face.

In Chapter 22, Finbar searches for Juniper when she does not meet him for their evening ride, and she finds it a relief to tell him what happened. Finbar suggests that Meroot's anger was calculated to distract Juniper from what she had seen, but now the problem is that Meroot knows that she knows about Gamal being ghosted. Finbar suggests that Juniper should pretend she did not notice anything, agree to marry Gamal and go home, secretly returning with Finbar to kidnap Gamal. First, they agree that they need to find some sort of secret path leading back into the heart of the castle. The next day, Juniper apologizes to Meroot and pretends to believe her lies, agreeing to marry Gamal and setting a date three months hence. Meanwhile, Finbar and Juniper spend as much time as possible in the countryside searching for a cave that might lead back to the castle. One day, while Juniper plays with a twig, it moves down of its own accord, indicating there is water beneath them. This causes Finbar to recall that there is an underground stream that runs into the castle but does not seem to run back out, so he suggests that there may be a tunnel to lead them in. They allow the twig to lead them to the stream where they search for a tunnel. They are triumphant when they find a path which they follow for some way before Finbar notes that the walls are red like the rocks around the castle. They see light at the end of the tunnel, but in order to reach it, they must wade into the water. They are ecstatic when they find that it leads into the castle, and this foreshadows Gamal being rescued. Creeping back the way they came, Juniper and Finbar are ready to plan their departure. Keeping her protections with her at all times, Juniper discusses the wedding with Meroot, and when she wakes on the day of her departure and Gamal's rescue, she is sick with fear. After Juniper and her retinue leave Castle Caerleon, Juniper convinces the rest of the retinue to leave her and Finbar to visit Angharad. As she and Finbar wait for darkness to fall, Juniper worries about entering the castle. She thinks of Meroot's dog, but Finbar assures her that the dogs are all kept in a kennel in the stables at night. They carry a flask of clearwater with them to apply once they get out of the water, and Finbar seems happy to have a bit of magic working for him. Though Juniper suspects that Finbar is as frightened as she is, his eyes occasionally flash with carefree humor as they discuss their imminent adventure.



Section 14: Chapters 23 & 24

Section 14: Chapters 23 & 24 Summary

In Chapter 23, Juniper and Finbar enter the tunnel, leaving Moon in the cave as they continue to the western wing where Juniper sees the dog's collar and realizes why the Gray Knight's eyes are so familiar. They leads Gamal out of the room and into the tunnels, but as Juniper begins to feel uneasy, Moon tells her to run because the dog is coming. Juniper and Finbar drag Gamal along as she realizes that they forgot to reapply the clearwater after rescuing Gamal, and she also realizes that the dog is the Gray Knight's other form. The three climb onto a ledge, but when the dog springs, it tears through Juniper's cloak and scratches her leg before she throws the black egg. As the egg hits the dog, it reverts to the Gray Knight who collapses to the ground and rolls in agony. Finbar, Juniper and Gamal rush away.

In Chapter 24, Juniper, Finbar and Gamal reach Angharad's house late that afternoon. Juniper's leg has become infected and pains her where the dog scratched, but worse, she is appalled when she realizes that the crescent moon amulet that Euny gave her is now gone. Juniper is sad to find that Angharad is not home, but she feels safer inside the cottage. In bed, she covers herself with her doran cloak and realizes that the place torn by the dog is the same place where she did not correct the mistake in her weaving; she regrets the carelessness that allowed the dog to wound her. Juniper's leg worsens, and she fears that Meroot and the Gray Knight will smell her out, but she still focuses on trying to heal Gamal. When she tells Finbar that they need to find a path to Gamal's heart, Finbar suggests that Gamal loves music more than anything else, so they play music for him, trying to lure him from his hiding place in vain. Juniper's grief increases when she realizes she has not seen Moon all day, and going to bed because of the fever induced by the infection in her leg, Juniper dreams of wanting the dignity of her father's throne, but when she hears a baby crying, she only wants to protect him. Juniper thinks of how Meroot's life has been corrupted by her jealousy of her baby brother; she cannot see that King Mark loves her, only that he has what she does not. Juniper feels herself coming to a difficult decision and knows she needs to be different though she does not know how. She longs to escape the pain, and when she hears Moon's wings, she believes it is part of her delirium, yet her pain eases and she sleeps peacefully. When Juniper wakes the next morning, she finds her pain and fever have subsided, and she is shocked to see the moon amulet beside her bed. Seeing Moon resting on a beam, she realizes he retrieved her amulet, and she thanks him for saving her life.

Section 14: Chapters 23 & 24 Analysis

In Chapter 23, Juniper and Finbar tether their horses in the forest and set off along the tunnel, and Juniper finds Moon's presence comforting when he settles on her shoulder for the journey. They leave Moon in the cave, and once they exit the water, they anoint



their bodies with clearwater and set off to the western wing. In Meroot's rooms, Juniper notices the dog's collar on a table and a hideous smell reaches her, causing her to realize with shock what she is reminded of when the Gray Knight looks into her eyes. This foreshadows the realization that the Gray Knight takes the form of the large, black dog. Taking her hand, Finbar leads Juniper into Gamal's room where they find Gamal sitting on the bed and staring straight in front of him as before. Gamal offers no resistance as Finbar and Juniper lead him to the underground stream and set off along the path. At first, Juniper feels much safer, but an unease settles over her as she recalls where she had seen the look in the Gray Knight's eyes; however, she is distracted when Moon tells her to run fast because the dog is coming. Dragging Gamal along, Juniper and Finbar rush through the tunnel as the dog closes in on them and an evil smell reaches Juniper's nostrils. As the dogs draws near, Juniper remembers that they forgot to reapply the clearwater after getting out of the water, and she also realizes that the dog is the Gray Knight in his magical form, recalling how Trewyn was threatened by a large black dog that was Angharad's enemy from Caerleon. This fulfills the earlier foreshadowing regarding this realization. Knowing they cannot outrun the dog, Finbar and Juniper climb onto a ledge, pulling Gamal up with them, and as the dog crouches to spring, Juniper throws the black egg but not in time to prevent the dog from tearing through her doran's cloak and scratching her leg. The dog reverts to the Gray Knight in human form who clutches his throat as if he cannot breath, collapsing to the ground and rolling in agony. This confirms the earlier foreshadowing that the Gray Knight took the form of the dog, and it also shows how Euny and her training saves Juniper's life. When Finbar urges Juniper on, they set off fast down the tunnel with the only discernible sound emanating from the Moon gliding beside them.

In Chapter 24, Juniper's decision to take Gamal and Finbar to Angharad's house shows that this is where she feels safe. Unfortunately, her leg is infected from the dog's scratch, and the fact that her amulet is missing indicates that this protection could help her. Juniper longs for Angharad's kindness and wisdom, and she nearly cries in despair when they breast the hill and she can see that Angharad's house is empty. Still, it is comfortable to return to the familiar cottage, and everything seems like it is ready for them. Juniper builds a fire and prepares dinner, feeling safer now. The realization that the dog wounded Juniper in the same place where she made a mistake in her doran's cloak reinforces Angharad's claim of how important it is to make the cloak as perfectly as possible. The next morning, Juniper's leg is swollen worse, and though Finbar assures her that Meroot and the Gray Knight cannot possibly know where they are, Juniper cannot believe him because she knows that sorcerers can smell dorans. In the meantime, she tries to think of how Gamal can be healed, knowing she needs to find a path to his heart, something that matters enough to lure him from his hiding place. Finbar suggests that Gamal likes music better than anything else, so Juniper finds Trewyn's flute, and she and Finbar take turns playing the instrument for the remainder of the afternoon without seeing any different in Gamal other than his fingers move and he cries more. This reaction indicates that Juniper and Finbar are on the right path, though they have not yet figured out exactly how to heal Gamal. With the pain in Juniper's leg increasing, Finbar notes she has a fever, but when Juniper realizes she has not seen Moon all day, she is distraught that she has lost her moon amulet and Moon. As the pain in her leg and her fever worsens, Juniper feels she has failed in her



doran's power because she let the dog wound her, and it's poison could kill her. Remembering her desire for power in order to be superior to others and her jealousy of her unborn brother, Juniper realizes "I had wanted the throne as much as I had wanted to be a famous and successful doran. Now it was too late to be anything at all" (page 186). Drifting in and out of consciousness, Juniper sees her father in his kingly robes sitting on a throne in the council chamber, and she finds his power attractive as he uses it to make the country safe and prosperous. She wants the dignity of her father's throne, yet hearing a baby's cries, she wants to comfort and protect him until he is strong, realizing the ridiculousness of considering this frail being her rival. This shows Juniper's willingness to relinquish the throne. She also thinks of how Meroot's jealousy has corrupted her life, coming to the difficult decision that she must not follow in her aunt's footsteps. Juniper thinks she hears Moon, foreshadowing the fact that she will be healed which is quickly fulfilled as she wakes to find that her fever and the pain in her leg have reduced. Seeing the moon amulet beside her bed and Moon fulfills the foreshadowing that the amulet helped heal her as well as reinforcing the fact that Moon protects her.



Section 15: Chapter 25

Section 15: Chapter 25 Summary

Section 15: Chapter 25

As Juniper and Finbar sit at Angharad's hearth with Gamal in between them, Juniper tells Finbar that she knows her mother had a son because she saw it in a dream, and when he points out that she will not be regulus, Juniper explains that she believes part of the reason that she is a doran is to protect the baby and the kingdom. Juniper can accept not ruling because "I'd rather have [Euny's] sort of power than all my father's possessions" (p. 190). She will use her power in a different way than ruling. Wondering how to heal Gamal, Juniper recalls the lullaby that Gamal sang to her as a child, and when she and Finbar sing the lullaby repeatedly, Juniper can tell that something inside of Gamal is changing. Because they are short on food, Finbar leaves on a foraging expedition, and about a week later, Juniper hears Finbar calling to see what he got; however, as she opens the door, she realizes that he called her Juniper but Finbar always calls her Ninnoc. As Juniper faces her aunt, Meroot demands that her son be returned to her, but Juniper refuses because she does not deserve him since she ghosted him. As the two argue, Juniper hears the sound of the lullaby being played on a flute from within the cottage, and it feels like this is the first time she has heard the melody that speaks of the best magic, human love. Juniper notes that it was hard on Meroot when her brother took the throne, and Meroot asks what Juniper will do when her brother takes the throne, offering to help Juniper get her father's throne if she returns Gamal; however, Juniper insists her brother will reign at Castle Dore if he is the rightful king, and she will do everything in her power to help him. Also, Gamal can choose for himself whether to return with Meroot since she has forfeited her natural right to care for him. Gamal appears next to Juniper in the doorway and tells Meroot he is not her son. He now remembers that she stole him from his mother, a kind-hearted doran, to use to obtain the throne. She trained and bullied him, and she even allowed the Gray Knight to work spells on him, feeling it was better for Gamal to be tormented than for her plans to be frustrated. In rage and pain, Meroot throws her leather stick at Juniper, and it turns into a snake. Though Juniper is not wearing clearwater or her cloak, she has the moon amulet and knows this is the moment of power where there is a shift in balance between Meroot's magic and the magic of the dorans. Grabbing the snake and lifting it over her head, Juniper announces that it now belongs to her, and she will order it to follow and bite Meroot if she does not leave now. If Meroot opts to go without spells or tricks, Juniper will allow her to leave with her blessing. Glaring at Juniper for a moment, Meroot turns and walks away.

Embracing Gamal, Juniper returns to Angharad's cottage to find Angharad and Euny sitting at the hearth. Euny chides Juniper because the flaw in her cloak nearly spoiled everything, yet her eyes shine with pride. Angharad hugs Juniper and tells her she did well. When Finbar returns that night, they feast at the cottage. Juniper asks what will happen to her now, but Angharad says that it for her to tell them. Juniper claims that she



wants to visit her parents and her new brother first, and then she wants to travel and learn more, thinking of her need to find the house by the inland cliff from her flying dream. Gamal decides he will go to the monastery at Streaneshalch and become a musician while Finbar wants to become a navigator on a ship. The group lift their wine glasses and toast to the "mending of that which is broken" and the "finding of that which is lost" (page 198). Juniper agrees that it shall be so, silently promising to do the work of the dorans as well as she knows how.

Section 15: Chapter 25 Analysis

In the final chapter, Juniper tells Finbar that she dreamed her mother had a son, and though this means she will not be regulus, she thinks that her destiny as a doran is partly in order to enable her to protect her brother and the kingdom. She agrees that it is unfair that she cannot rule because she is a girl, but she no longer minds because something has changed in her, Euny being that something of course. She grew up with many possessions which were part of her father's power, but she had nothing when she went to live with Euny, and she realized that part of Euny's power derives from her simplicity. Juniper no longer wants to live in the palace and have her father's sort of power because that is not what she was called to. She wants "something simpler where I can work out what being a doran means" (page 190). Yet, she is still annoyed that her brother's birth automatically excludes her from ruling even though she does not want to be regulus, but she will use her power in a different way. Looking at Gamal, Juniper wishes she could do more for him, and when she recalls the lullaby that Gamal sang to her when they were children, she and Finbar begin singing the lullaby, noticing a flicker of interest in Gamal's face. This fulfills the foreshadowing that this lullaby is very important, especially as Gamal begins to be restored to himself.

The next morning, Gamal coughs but does not speak, and Juniper notes a flicker of recognition in his eyes when she feeds him. As she and Finbar repeatedly sing the lullaby, she is sure that something is changing inside of Gamal. This foreshadows Gamal being restored to himself from the ghosting. A week after Finbar leaves for a foraging expedition, Meroot arrives at Angharad's home and calls out to Juniper. Meroot stands near the house with her leather stick, and she and Juniper stare at each other as Juniper wonders how she can fight Meroot's experience and cruelty even though she knows she has a special strength since she carries inside her the good inheritance of all dorans. Juniper is more frightened by the idea of Gamal being destroyed by Meroot than of Meroot herself, and she reminds her aunt that she will be in Juniper's power if she steps on doran's territory. Meroot reiterates her claim on Gamal as the sound of the lullaby being played on a flute floats out of the cottage. Both Juniper and Meroot are startled, and Juniper feels like this is the first time she has heard the melody and is struck by its extraordinary power that speaks of the best magic, human love. She realizes that Meroot's desperate scheming nearly destroyed Gamal when she could have enjoyed his love instead, and this causes her to pity her aunt. When Meroot questions what Juniper will do when her brother takes the throne, Juniper shows impressive development as she claims she will support and protect her brother if he is the rightful king. Furthermore, she insists Gamal can make his own decision about returning with



Meroot, indicating that she knows he has returned from his ghosted state and fulfilling the foreshadowing concerning his being healed. Gamal joins Juniper and renounces his place as Meroot's son as he recalls that Meroot stole him from his birth mother, a doran who Meroot destroyed. Furthermore, she has treated him badly and even allowed spells to be worked on him in favor of pursuing her schemes to regain the throne. Gamal is free now and will never return to Meroot as he is no longer her son. When Meroot throws her leather stick at Juniper, causing it to turn into a snake, Juniper finds her strength as a doran and reaches out, taking control of the snake as she informs Meroot that this is her only chance to walk away with her blessing. Meroot opts to believe Juniper and walks away. The snake reverts to a leather stick when Juniper releases it. Returning to the cottage with Gamal, Juniper finds Angharad and Euny waiting for her, indicating that this is part of her training. They discuss recent events. When Juniper wonders if the black egg killed the Gray Knight, Euny assures her that he is still alive but very ill, and it will be a long time before he dares bother a doran again. It is possible that Juniper will meet him again, but she will know what to do if that happens. Juniper feels safe with the two dorans there, and though Gamal is still pale, he is once again the boy that she grew up with. Angharad remembers the doran that was Gamal's mother and answers many questions about her while Euny assures Juniper that she witnessed Erlain's labor and saw that her son is healthy. She also spells the odd crescent moon shaped scar on Juniper's leg, warning that it could become a place for future dangerous magic to enter if she is not careful. As the five of them celebrate, Juniper decides that she wants to travel and find the place from her flying dream. Gamal and Finbar are also now free to choose their own future paths. The group toasts to the future, and Juniper silently swears to do the work of the dorans, fighting evil, as best as she knows how, indicating that Juniper has found and accepted her true destiny.



Characters

Juniper

Juniper, the protagonist, is born to the King and Queen of Cornwall and named Ninnoc. When she is born, the astrologers predict "Named for the strong and twisting tree/Of medicine, when she finds the way/By earth, air, water, fire/Then will she mend what is broken/The dark teacher will correct her,/The fair one will protect her,/The strong man will love her,/And all may be well" (p. 6). Born a princess of Cornwall, Ninnoc is raised in the splendor of the Wooden Palace, but she shows signs of possessing magic when she heals her cousin, Gamal, and finds water underground. Her godmother, Euny, says she must live with her to continue her education and learn the magic of the doran in a year, a concept that Ninnoc dreads. When the time comes, Ninnoc, whose real name is Juniper according to Euny, leaves her family and the castle to journey to Euny's hut in the Outlands. Juniper finds Euny's hut unbearable as she suffers from cold and hunger, plus Euny teaches her nothing and treats her like a servant. Juniper often considers returning home. During the winter, Euny leaves Juniper to study with Angharad, another doran. Angharad and her apprentice, Trewyn, are kind to Juniper, and Angharad teaches her to spin and weave, instructing her to make the cloak of the doran which will be her protection against the evil magic of sorcerers. When Euny returns, she and Angharad perform the rituals to welcome Juniper and Trewyn into the order of the doran, after which Trewyn notes that Juniper smells like healing wisdom. Shortly after the ceremony, Euny and Juniper return to Euny's hut where Euny begins teaching Juniper about spells and potions, telling her that her gift is healing people.

Her training complete, Juniper returns to the Wooden Castle and learns that her Aunt Meroot, Gamal's mother, is marrying the Gray Knight of Caerleon. She also learns that the crops and animals in the kingdom are dying, threatening famine, and when she sees Meroot cursing the land, she performs a countercurse to heal the kingdom. After her wedding, Meroot moves to Caerleon, taking Gamal with her. When Juniper does not hear from Gamal, she worries that Meroot is taking out her frustration at her defeated schemes on him; she is jealous that her brother's birth prevented her from taking the throne and hopes to overthrow his lineage and put her son on the throne. Visiting Euny, Juniper has a flying dream where she sees a small house by an inland cliff which she knows will be her home. When Juniper returns home, King Mark tells her that Meroot has informed him of Gamal's desire to marry Juniper, and he sends Juniper to Caerleon to discuss the marriage with Finbar accompanying her. Finbar tells Juniper that when he last saw Gamal at Caerleon, Gamal appeared to be sleepwalking, and realizing Gamal has been ghosted, his spirit removed so he acts as a slave, Juniper determines to save him. At Caerleon, Meroot will not allow Juniper to see Gamal, claiming he is sick, but Juniper sneaks into Meroot's apartments and finds her ghosted cousin. Pretending to believe Meroot's lies, Juniper agrees to the marriage before she leaves Caerleon, but she and Finbar sneak back into Castle Caerleon and rescue Gamal who they spirit away to Angharad's cottage. Juniper and Finbar try to heal Gamal, finally getting a reaction when they sing a lullaby he played as a child, and when Meroot arrives to



demand they return Gamal to her, Gamal recalls that Meroot destroyed his mother, a good-hearted doran, and claimed him as her own in hopes of stealing the throne from King Mark. He refuses to go with her, insisting he is no longer her son. Euny is proud of Juniper's success and assures her that Erlain has given birth to a healthy son. Juniper decides to travel so that she can search for the house from her flying dream, mentally promising to do the work of the dorans as best as she knows how.

Euny

Euny, one of the main characters, is Juniper's godmother. A thin, dark-skinned woman with strong black eyes and a determined gait, Euny is a powerful doran who offers to train Juniper as a doran. Juniper is offended by Euny's appearance the first time they meet, but she learns that Euny is a powerful ally to her father. Euny claims that Juniper must live with her to continue her education and learn the magic of the doran in a year, a concept that Ninnoc dreads. Juniper finds Euny's hut unbearable as she suffers from cold and hunger, plus Euny teaches her nothing and treats her like a servant.

During the winter, Euny leaves Juniper to study with Angharad, another doran. When Euny returns, she and Angharad perform the rituals to welcome Juniper and Trewyn into the order of the doran after which Juniper and Trewyn can smell Euny's strength. Shortly after the ceremony, Euny and Juniper return to Euny's hut where Euny begins teaching Juniper about spells and potions, telling her that her gift is healing people. Later, Euny directs Juniper through her flying dream and warns her of the dangers of sorcerers. After Juniper defeats Meroot, Euny is proud of Juniper's success and assures her that Erlain has given birth to a healthy son.

Meroot

Meroot is the antagonist in this novel. She is King Mark's older, jealous sister who is angry that she lost the throne when her brother was born. She has sandy hair and eyes like cold, blue sapphires. Meroot trains her son, Gamal, as a soldier, treating him cruelly, in hopes of regaining the throne. A sorcerer, Meroot curses the kingdom to cause the crops and animal to wither and die, but Juniper casts a counter-curse to heal the kingdom. Meroot marries the Gray Knight of Caerleon, and after ghosting Gamal, she proposes marriage to Juniper on Gamal's behalf. After Juniper and Finbar rescue Gamal, Meroot demands he be returned to her, but since Juniper has healed him of his ghosting, Gamal remembers that Meroot stole him from his real mother, a fair-haired doran who Meroot destroyed. Once Gamal refuses to return to her, Meroot slinks away.

Angharad of the West

Angharad of the West is a good and wise doran who was trained by Phebe along with Euny. Angharad teaches Juniper to spin and weave her doran's cloak, joining Euny in the ceremony to admit Juniper and Trewyn into the order of the doran. After rescuing Gamal, Juniper and Finbar flee to Angharad's home to hide from Meroot and the Gray



Knight. Angharad is a woman of graceful middle age who smells like goodness after Juniper and Trewyn's doran ceremony.

Trewyn

Trewyn is Angharad's apprentice and Juniper's sister doran-in-training. She is scared to become a doran because of her encounter with Angharad's enemy in Caerleon, but during the doran ceremony, she realizes she is meant to be a doran. After the ceremony, Juniper notes that Trewyn smells like beauty.

Gray Knight of Caerleon

The Gray Knight of Caerleon is a sorcerer and Angharad's enemy. He can take the shape of a dog. After marrying Meroot, the Gray Knight ghosts Gamal and gathers troops, threatening to go to war with King Mark and steal his kingdom. Taking the shape of a dog, he chases Juniper and Finbar when they rescue Gamal, managing to bit Juniper through the weak portion of her cloak, but he is gravely injured when Juniper throws the black egg that Euny gave her.

Gamal

Gamal is Meroot's son and Juniper's cousin and best friend. Meroot trains him as a soldier in hopes that he will rule after her brother, though Gamal wants to be a musician. After Meroot's marriage, the Gray Knight of Caerleon ghosts Gamal, but Juniper and Finbar rescue him and take him to Angharad's cottage. He is healed when Juniper sings the lullaby that he used to sing to her when they were younger, and this also allows him to remember that Meroot stole him from his birth mother, a doran she destroyed. Announcing he is no longer Meroot's son, Gamal decides to study music at a monastery.

Finbar

Finbar becomes a page at King Mark's court while Juniper studies to become a doran with Euny. He is handsome with black hair and blue eyes, but when he accompanies Erlain, Erith and Gamal to visit Juniper, he mocks Juniper while she talks to Erlain, convincing her that he is the rudest boy ever. Yet, Finbar is friendly to Juniper when she returns to Castle Dore and volunteers to accompany her to Caerleon because he is worried about Gamal who has been ghosted. Finbar helps Juniper save Gamal. Once Meroot is defeated, he decides to become a navigator.



Moon

Moon is the baby owl that Juniper rescues and cares for which shows Euny that Juniper will have healing powers since the owl is a symbol of this. Moon speaks to Juniper when she is in extreme danger, and he retrieves the moon-shaped amulet that she loses while rescuing Gamal which allows her to heal from the bite wound she receives from the Gray Knight of Caerleon in his dog form.

Marcus Cunomorus

Marcus Cunomorus is Juniper's father as well as King Mark of Cornwall.

Erlain

Erlain is Juniper's mother.

Erith

Erith is Juniper's nurse.



Objects/Places

Cornwall

Cornwall, in the southwest region of England, is the main setting of the novel where the narrative occurs. The novel is set during medieval times. Juniper's father, Marcus, is king of Cornwall.

Castle Dore

Castle Dore is Juniper's home with her parents, Marcus and Erlain, in the Wooden Palace in Cornwall.

Wooden Palace

The Wooden Palace is the site of an ancient fort where King Mark builds Castle Dore. This is his court. Meroot and Gamal come to live in a house that King Mark has built for them at the Wooden Palace.

Euny's Hut

Euny's hut is located in the outlands, a part of the country beyond the farms that are under King Mark's protection. Her hut is located on an oddly-shaped hill. It is very small and sparsely decorated as Euny has few possessions. Euny's hut is cold, and there is little food. Juniper spends a year with Euny, beginning her training as a doran.

Angharad's Cottage

Angharad's cottage is a little house set in the valley with a lake behind it. The house is pleasing and reassuring. During the year that Juniper spends with Euny, Euny leaves Juniper at Angharad's cottage for several months while Euny goes on a journey alone. Juniper becomes friends with Trewyn, another doran-in-training, and she learns how to spin and weave. Before leaving Angharad's cottage, Juniper and Trewyn are admitted to the order of the doran through a special ritual.

Caerleon

Caerleon is a village near Angharad's home where her enemy lives. Meroot's new husband also lives in Caerleon.



Stone Hut

Near Angharad's cottage, there is a stone hut that is oddly shaped and near a circle of standing stones. It is made of stone with curving walls that bend upward toward the roof's ridge. This is where Angharad and Euny take Juniper and Trewyn for the ritual admitting them to the order of the doran.

Castle Caerleon

Castle Caerleon is the home of the Gray Knight, Meroot's new husband. The castle is grim and fortified, causing Juniper to feel afraid when she is forced to visit Castle Caerleon to discuss the possibility of her marriage to Gamal.

Eastern Apartment

While Juniper visits Castle Caerleon, she is given the eastern apartment as her room. It is large and sunlit with a big bed and many fine tapestries. Juniper notices a door leading to a smaller chamber where she believes someone spies on her, and she convinces Meroot to allow Finbar to reside in the adjoining chamber.

Juniper's House

During Juniper's flying dream, she is pulled to an island where a small, white house sits on a sort of inland cliff. Inside, there is a great hearth at the center of the room, and it is filled with shelves full of liquid. There is also a herb garden outside. As Juniper sits in the chair by the hearth, an owl watches her thoughtfully. As she sits there, she realizes this is her chair and her houses where she fits perfectly and it completely comfortable. This is the place in the world that she is seeking. After defeating Meroot, Juniper yearns to find her house.

Doran Cloak

While staying at Angharad's cottage, Juniper learns to spin and weave so that she can create her doran cloak, meant to protect her from the evil magic of sorcerers. Unfortunately, she does not correct a small mistake she makes as she weaves the cloak, and when the Gray Knight scratches her in dog form, he rips the cloak from this point and wounds Juniper's leg. Angharad tells Juniper that her cloak "will be the most precious thing you will ever own and you will keep it all your life" (page 96).

Moon Amulet

Before Juniper leaves Euny and returns to her parents, Euny provides her with protections. One such protection is a crescent moon on a leather string which Juniper



wears around her neck. Upon fleeing Castle Caerleon, Juniper is distraught to realize that she has lost her amulet. Moon retrieves the moon amulet for Juniper which causes the wound on her leg to heal; the shape of the scar is a crescent moon.

Clearwater

Clearwater is a colorless liquid that protects a doran against sorcery by steeping rowan leaves with herbs in water where gold has lain. Euny teaches Juniper to make clearwater. Juniper bestows a vial of clearwater upon her mother to protect Erlain from Meroot's curses. Juniper and Finbar also douse themselves with the liquid when sneaking into Castle Caerleon to rescue Gamal.



Themes

Magic

Magic plays an important role in "Juniper" as a large portion of the novel focuses on Juniper's training as a doran, a witch of sorts capable of wielding magic. The first example of magic appears early in the book as Juniper recalls her earliest memory. Juniper's earliest memory is of toddling along a grassy enclosure at the center of a palace and picking up a twig, screaming when it wiggles. Her father is pleased when she repeats this as it directs them to another supply of water. When she is a little older, Juniper and Gamal share a secret; Gamal is often injured after his labors as an apprentice soldier, and Juniper tends his wounds, but they notice that his injuries often heal when she looks at or touches them. Juniper begs Gamal not to tell anyone. Gamal wonders if there is anything Juniper cannot heal, and they find out when he breaks his arm a week later. Juniper can heal cuts, scratches and bruises, but anything else is beyond her. When Juniper discusses the matter of studying under Euny with her mother, Erlain explains that Euny can teach her about the power they have discussed before, assuring her that Euny is King Mark's strongest ally and will become Juniper's if she allows it. Though Juniper does not understand everything her mother says, she knows she will have to be Euny's pupil. While she and Gamal ride to the gorge one day, Juniper can clearly see the gorge as she thinks of it, as well as a camp of women and children and a band of robbers. She tries to ignore the thought, but Moon speaks to her, telling her not to go. Juniper tells Gamal what she saw, so instead, they climb the path and look at the camp. It appears as Juniper saw it, but two robber scouts chase them back to their horses. After that, Gamal is respectful of Juniper's gifts, and asking if all women do magic, he admits that Meroot does though she will not talk about it. He also tells Juniper about a terrifying image in one of Meroot's spell books that depicts someone buried inside a coffin alive. Juniper wonders if Meroot would do such a thing. She does not understand magic, but she supposes that is why she must go to Euny's, and that day makes her feel she needs to be taught all that Euny knows. She is pleased at the thought of learning effective magic and feels herself drawn to Euny though she dislikes her godmother.

When Juniper goes to Euny's hut to continue her education, Euny explains that Juniper is here to learn about power such as seeing the future and danger which is about understanding herself or others. Seeing and knowing makes things happen or prevents bad things. Euny says it is possible that Juniper could have power, but she could spoil it by wanting it too much or using it badly; if she does not spoil it, she could become a doran which may be very important for her father and the kingdom. When Juniper asks if her aunt is a doran, she learns that Meroot only uses magic to make other do what she wants which is wicked. While Juniper stays with Angharad and Trewyn for several months, she learns to spin and weave, making the doran cloak to protect her from the evil magic of sorcerers. Trewyn confesses that she is afraid of becoming a doran because of her encounter with Angharad's enemy, a sorcerer that lives in Caerleon. On the road, she met a terrifyingly large black dog that would not allow her to pass, and



when she mentally asked Angharad what to do, Angharad appeared, led her past the dog and disappeared. Back at home, Angharad explains that she arrived because Trewyn needed help. She also elaborates that the dog was her great enemy in Caerleon who recognized that Trewyn was Angharad's apprentice because sorcerers can recognize anything that belongs to a doran by scent. Trewyn is now terrified because she saw the danger in magic. Sorcerers can kill or enslave people, including dorans, and sometimes, Trewyn wishes to return to a normal life. During the ceremony when Juniper and Trewyn are admitted to the order of the doran, they see many odd things in the smoke that can only be described as magical. The girls envision snakes from the grain in the wood, and the stone walls seem to shine with a golden light. Juniper is fascinated by the faces in the fire and the branch of apple blossoms which open into flowers; she feels that she and Trewyn are like the buds, achieving their perfection one day and returning to the nothingness from which they came the next. After the ceremony, Trewyn and Juniper discover that they can now do magic, so they play with their new skill, hiding it from their mentors for fear Angharad and Euny will think it frivolous and make them stop.

Once Juniper returns home to the Wooden Palace, she learns that the crops and animals in the kingdom have done badly and that her mother suspects Meroot of bespelling the kingdom. Unable to sleep one night, Juniper takes a walk and is shocked to see Meroot standing in the field, making signs with her fingers dipped in a bowl of blood. Juniper has no doubt that Meroot is uttering spells. After Meroot goes to Caerleon with her new husband, Juniper wakes with a sense of fear, feeling that she is directly challenging Meroot. Wearing her cloak and her crescent moon and with Moon on her shoulder, Juniper and Erlain walk to the place beyond the walls where Juniper witnessed Meroot casting spells. Using the four elements, Juniper says a spell to rid the kingdom of Meroot's curse and to keep Erlain's baby safe and healthy. She dances the dance that is the harmony of all creation as Angharad and Euny taught her, and when she finishes, she is tired and weak from giving her strength to the anti-curse; however, she is happy to see the rooks flying away as she returns to the castle. Things improve in the kingdom within a few weeks. Soon after, Juniper learns from Finbar that Gamal has been ghosted, so she goes to Caerleon in hopes of rescuing him. Using protections taught to her by Euny, Juniper manages to rescue Gamal from Caerleon and restore his spirit from the ghosting, allowing him to remember that Meroot stole him from his birth mother.

Selfishness

A key theme in "Juniper" is the concept of selfishness which plays a large role in the antagonist's life. Meroot is jealous of her younger brother because his birth negated her right to the throne. As a result, she continually schemes to take the throne from her brother. She treats Gamal badly his whole life, training him as a soldier in hopes of regaining the throne. She is also willing to use magic to get what she wants, a practice that Euny tells Juniper is evil. While Juniper studies at Euny's hut, Gamal visits several times, and remembering his reluctance to talk about Meroot, Juniper questions him and learns that Meroot still hopes Gamal will take over the kingdom after King Mark dies;



yet, Gamal swore his allegiance to King Mark on his last birthday and knows that plotting is against the rule of knights. He also worries what Meroot might do if she does not get her way since she knows magic and may be a sorcerer. Meroot curses the kingdom, causing the animals to die and the crops to fail, in order to further her goals, willing to harm others to get her way. Luckily, Juniper is able to effect a counter-curse and heal the kingdom. As part of Meroot's schemes, she allows the Gray Knight to ghost Gamal, effectively taking away his free will so they can control him. She proposes marriage to Juniper on Gamal's behalf. When Juniper and Finbar rescue Gamal, Meroot demands he be returned to her, but Gamal refuses as he recalls that she stole him and killed his birth mother. Because of her selfishness and cruelty, Meroot loses everything. Rather than enjoying Gamal's love, she focuses her efforts on usurping her brother's throne because of her jealousy and greed.

There are other examples of selfishness in this novel, though none are as extreme as Meroot. The Gray Knight contributes to Meroot's schemes because of his greed and hatred of the dorans. Also, King Mark sends Juniper to visit Meroot in Caerleon despite the obvious danger because he fears the Gray Knight's army and losing his kingdom to the Gray Knight of Caerleon. Juniper also experiences selfishness and jealousy, comparable to Meroot's, when she learns that her mother is pregnant with a son. This means that Juniper will not rule the kingdom after her father, her place usurped by her younger brother. Though Juniper is angry and jealous at first, she eventually accepts that her destiny is to be a doran and to protect the kingdom, and her brother, through her powers. Thus, Juniper overcomes her selfish tendencies and avoids repeating Meroot's mistakes.

Doran Training

A large portion of "Juniper" focuses on Juniper's training as a doran. When she is a child, her godmother, Euny, calls her Juniper, though her birth name is Ninnoc. Euny claims that Juniper is Ninnoc's true name, and testing it, Ninnoc realizes this is true. Juniper demonstrates power in several instances during her youth such as her abilities to find water, to heal Gamal and her foresight at the gorge; these all indicate that she is destined to become a doran. Euny volunteers to train Juniper as a doran, so Juniper travels to Euny's hut to continue her education. Euny explains that Juniper is here to learn about power such as seeing the future and danger which is about understand herself or others. Seeing and knowing makes things happen or prevents bad things. Euny says it is possible that Ninnoc could have power, but she could spoil it by wanting it too much or using it badly; if she does not spoil it, she could become a doran which may be very important for her father and the kingdom. Euny warns that it is a long path and may be too much for the girl, but Juniper assures her that she can do it. She learns that most dorans are women because men put their trust in violence which makes them weak. Though Juniper wants to leave Euny, she knows this is where she is meant to be when she sees the hazel tree from her dreams. Juniper is irritated that it seems Euny teaches her nothing, but when she spends several months with Angharad and Trewyn, she learns to create her doran's cloak to protect her against the magic of sorcerers.



When Euny returns, it is time for Juniper and Trewyn to be initiated into the order of the doran. After the ritual, the girls begin to exhibit more tangible powers, and Euny seems more sure of Juniper. Euny sits down with Juniper and begins teaching her spells and potions as Juniper expected in the beginning. She says it was obvious that Juniper's gift would be healing people because "all those under the protection of the owl know about healing" (page 119). Healing is a special kind of knowing plus the study of herbs, and while Euny cannot help her with knowing and seeing illness, she can teach her about herbs. She tasks Juniper with memorizing the uses of herbs, and she also teaches her to create clearwater, a liquid used to protect a doran from sorcery. She teaches her about the curses sorcerers use on their victims as well as the rituals that the great dorans use to dissolve the curses, reminding Juniper that earth, air, fire and water are her allies. Euny teaches Juniper many spells to bring good or prevent evil, and the weeks pass quickly since Juniper enjoys learning. Juniper finally returns home where she soon creates a counter-curse to deflect Meroot's curse on the kingdom which causes the animals and crops to die. When Juniper next visits Euny, Euny decides it is time for Juniper to fly. Flying is an important adventure in the doran world, providing a way to discover where one's true vocation lay. After Juniper fasts for a day, Euny spreads ointment all over her skin, and Juniper concentrates on seeing the future, willing herself not to return to ordinary life before the end of her flight. Juniper feels herself being pulled to a dark place that reminds her of her old dream, and she smells a familiar scent she cannot identify. The vision changes to Gamal's face upside down and the sound of a crying child, and then it takes Juniper to an island where she stands in front of a house near an inland cliff. Inside, she finds jars filled with liquid and sees a herb garden through the window. Sitting in the chair by the hearth, Juniper feels peace as she realizes this is her house, the place in the world that she is seeking.

After Juniper returns home, she learns that Meroot and the Gray Knight have ghosted Gamal to bend him to their will, so she decides to rescue him. She and Finbar visit Caerleon and manage to rescue Gamal from his captors, using the skills Juniper learned during her doran training, such as the use of clearwater and the amulets that Euny gave her. Taking Gamal to Angharad's home, Juniper restores Gamal's spirit by finding the thing that matters to him most in the world, the lullaby he sang to her as a child. This allows Gamal to recall that Meroot stole him from his birth mother who Meroot subsequently destroyed. Euny and Angharad return and express pride in Juniper's accomplishments in defeating Meroot. They tell her she will decide what comes next now, indicating that her training has concluded. Juniper decides that she wants to travel and find the house from her flying dream.



Style

Point of View

The point of view of "Juniper" is recounted from the first-person perspective. This point of view is limited and reliable. This is proven by the fact that the narrator, Juniper, knows only her own thoughts and feelings without having access to the interior mental workings of the other characters. Still, she does have unique insights into other characters because of her power as a doran. This allows her to see Angharad's goodness and wisdom, Euny's strength and Meroot's evil intentions and jealousy. The use of this first-person point of view is very useful for the novel's development as it allows the reader to focus on Juniper's growth, both as a doran and as a person.

The distribution between exposition and dialogue in this novel is fairly equal. This distribution is used to show Juniper's interactions with other characters as well as her observations about other characters and various things about her environment. The significance of Juniper's observations increases as she completes her training as a doran and begins to utilize her powers. In this novel, all of the events are seen through Juniper's eyes, and there is no other viewpoint.

Setting

"Juniper" is set in medieval Cornwall, a portion of Southwest England. This land is filled with magic. The novel focuses on the kingdom of Cornwall and its surrounding forests and wildernesses. The characters consist of those born to royalty, sorcerers, dorans and some combination of the aforementioned. This is significant as Juniper was born to a royal family but is destined to become a doran; she must come to terms with the fact that she is destined to be a doran but not queen of Cornwall.

Cornwall, in the southwest region of England, is the main setting of the novel where the narrative occurs. The novel is set during medieval times. Juniper's father, Marcus, is king of Cornwall. Castle Dore is Juniper's home with her parents, Marcus and Erlain, in the Wooden Palace in Cornwall. The Wooden Palace is the site of an ancient fort where King Mark builds Castle Dore. This is his court. Meroot and Gamal come to live in a house that King Mark has built for them at the Wooden Palace. Euny's hut is located in the outlands, a part of the country beyond the farms that are under King Mark's protection. Her hut is located on an oddly-shaped hill. It is very small and sparsely decorated as Euny has few possessions. Euny's hut is cold, and there is little food. Juniper spends a year with Euny, beginning her training as a doran. Angharad's cottage is a little house set in the valley with a lake behind it. The house is pleasing and reassuring. During the year that Juniper spends with Euny, Euny leaves Juniper at Angharad's cottage for several months while Euny goes on a journey alone. Juniper becomes friends with Trewyn, another doran-in-training, and she learns how to spin and weave. Before leaving Angharad's cottage, Juniper and Trewyn are admitted to the



order of the doran through a special ritual. Caerleon is a village near Angharad's home where her enemy lives. Meroot's new husband also lives in Caerleon. Near Angharad's cottage, there is a stone hut that is oddly shaped and near a circle of standing stones. It is made of stone with curving walls that bend upward toward the roof's ridge. This is where Angharad and Euny take Juniper and Trewyn for the ritual admitting them to the order of the doran. Castle Caerleon is the home of the Gray Knight, Meroot's new husband. The castle is grim and fortified, causing Juniper to feel afraid when she is forced to visit Castle Caerleon to discuss the possibility of her marriage to Gamal. While Juniper visits Castle Caerleon, she is given the eastern apartment as her room. It is large and sunlit with a big bed and many fine tapestries. Juniper notices a door leading to a smaller chamber where she believes someone spies on her, and she convinces Meroot to allow Finbar to reside in the adjoining chamber. During Juniper's flying dream, she is pulled to an island where a small, white house sits on a sort of inland cliff. Inside, there is a great hearth at the center of the room, and it is filled with shelves full of liquid. There is also a herb garden outside. As Juniper sits in the chair by the hearth, an owl watches her thoughtfully. As she sits there, she realizes this is her chair and her houses where she fits perfectly and it completely comfortable. This is the place in the world that she is seeking. After defeating Meroot, Juniper yearns to find her house.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel tends to be fairly casual and informal though it is still written in a proper and grammatically correct style. The language used is chosen because it is comprehensive for the target audience of children and teenagers. This novel uses language to aid comprehension, making the narrative easy to understand especially as the more abstract concepts, such as the magic that takes place within the novel, are fully explained without the use of jargon.

The language used in "Juniper" characterizes the magical aspects of the land of Cornwall where the novel takes place. It also characterizes Juniper's growth both as a doran and as a person. The distribution between exposition and dialogue in this novel is fairly equal. This distribution is used to show Juniper's interactions with other characters as well as her observations about other characters and various things about her environment. The significance of Juniper's observations increases as she completes her training as a doran and begins to utilize her powers. The language aids the writing style by making the abstract concepts more understandable for readers. Overall, the language utilized in this novel is easy to understand and serves to highlight the major themes and events in the novel.

Structure

"Juniper" is comprised of 198 pages divided into 25 chapters which average around eight pages in length. The novel is further divided into three parts with the first consisting of four chapters, the second containing eleven chapters and the third being comprised of ten chapters. The chapters are numbered, rather than titled, and they tend



to be fairly short. The chapters in this novel also tend to be mostly detailed. The narrative occurs during a period of around two to three years.

"Juniper" by Monica Furlong is an intriguing novel about a young girl learning to fulfill her destiny. Juniper goes to study to become a doran with her godmother, Euny, and when she returns home, she learns the purpose of her training when she discovers her Aunt Meroot's scheming to take over the kingdom. Though newly trained, the young doran must summon all of her power and bravery to defeat the experienced sorcerer. "Juniper" is an endearing and entertaining novel that chronicles a young girl's growth into something more than she ever expected. The pace of the novel is fairly quick, and it is easy to read since the more abstract concepts are fully explained. The narrative is majorly linear with a few flashbacks in terms of Juniper explaining her childhood and recalling her doran training during times of crises such as when she is at Castle Caerleon. Overall, "Juniper" is an extremely enjoyable and entertaining novel.



Quotes

"Named for the strong and twisting tree
Of medicine, when she finds the way
By earth, air, water, fire
Then will she mend what is broken
The dark teacher will correct her,
The fair one will protect her,
The strong man will love her,
And all may be well" (Chapter 1, p. 6).

"It was a special name she had for you, your secret name. She whispered it in your ear when you were a baby. Later she told me and said that the secret name was who you really are" (Chapter 1, p. 11).

"The strength of the warrior is not the only kind. There are other kinds of power. I intend to learn what they are and, as my father's daughter, rule after him" (Chapter 2, p. 18).

"We have been talking, Euny and I, about your future. As you know, it is the custom of this country to send a noble child away from home for a year or two to stay in another house as part of that child's education. It is usually boys who are sent, but in this case the circumstances are unusual. Euny, as your godmother, has proposed that in, say, a year's time, we should send you to live with her for a while. She believes, and I agree with her, that she will have valuable lessons to teach you" (Chapter 3, p. 23).

"The Christians say that there is no magic- that the world is ruled by love. I cannot decide whether they are right. Our forebear Arthur was a Christian yet believed in magic. This kingdom seems to be controlled by magic, good magic and bad magic. For those who choose the good magic it is important to have strong allies who choose good magic too. Euny is your father's strongest ally. If you let her, she will become your ally, and that may be important" (Chapter 3, p. 25).

"So Juniper decided to come after all, did she? Shut the door behind you- there's a terrible draft" (Chapter 4, p. 36).

"My sort of power is about seeing- seeing into the future, seeing into someone's heart and mind. Sometimes it is about knowing what a tribe or people must do to escape danger. Sometimes it is just about understanding yourself or one other person. Seeing and knowing- and being very truthful about what you see and know- they make things begin to happen, maybe more things than battles and armies. Sometimes they prevent bad things" (Chapter 5, p. 43-44).

"Men prefer to put their trust in weapons and fighting. They won't know it, but it makes them weaker" (Chapter 5, p. 44).



"I don't like this at all, no matter how much power I get out of it, nor how important it is to be a doran. I'd rather marry the son of a neighboring prince, or even the son of one of the knights, as all the other girls do. That would be much better than spending my life cold and hungry in a place like this. As soon as Euny returns I will tell her, and then when my ankle is better I will go back home" (Chapter 6, p. 49-50).

"What could show more love for an animal than eating it?... For it to become part of the life in you. You are being false. What you will discover- if you ever stop being interested in yourself for long enough to notice the world around you- is that all life feeds off other life" (Chapter 9, p. 64).

"The mending sort, the healing kind. If you are ever ready for it. When you can use it rightly" (Chapter 10, p. 74).

"You think I am hard on you, maybe that I do not care about you. I can only be a doran in the way that is natural for me" (Chapter 11, p. 80).

"This is the cloak of a doran. Every doran has one, and it needs to be carefully made because one day it will be your protection against the magic of sorcerers. It must be as perfect as it can be... Your cloak will be as you make it. When you thread the loom, you will know which colors to use. That is why you need to prepare a good stock of colors now, so that you will have what you need" (Chapter 12, p. 86).

"Somehow, that whole episode scared me. Up till then I thought magic was exciting, but then I knew that there was real danger... That sorcerers could kill you or enslave you. They can take the spirit out of you, you know- they call it ghosting- and you wander around not knowing who you are. Sometimes now I just want to go back home and lead an ordinary life and not get mixed up in magic" (Chapter 13, p. 92).

"Oh, no, not at all. Well, not of being a doran. It's what we have to be, isn't it? You and me. It's what we're meant for, don't you think" (Chapter 14, p. 104).

"It seems to me now that I needed someone, something, to love. I missed Angharad and Trewyn badly. Though Euny noticed every flower and berry and cloud and turn of the wind, it felt as if she could live with me only by forgetting and ignoring me for much of the time" (Chapter 15, p. 112).

"Different dorans have different gifts. Yours will be to do with healing people, which is partly about a special kind of knowing and partly about a long and difficult study of herbs... Oh, I knew about the healing because of the white owl. It was perfectly obvious. All those under the protection of the owl know about healing" (Chapter 16, p. 119).

"The crops have done badly. Many animals have died for no reason that we can discover" (Chapter 16, p. 129).

"It's Meroot, isn't it? You are afraid she is laying a curse upon Castle Dore" (Chapter 17, p. 134).



"I could not hear her voice or see her mouth move, but I had no doubt at all that she was uttering spells" (Chapter 17, p. 137).

"She has never forgiven your father for inheriting the kingdom and taking it from her. She believes it is rightly hers - and eventually mine. She thinks only of how to get it back. She will not forgive me for refusing to help her. I think that is why she bore me and why she insists I must be a soldier. So that somehow I can avenge her" (Chapter 18, p. 139).

"But I do not think Meroot has finished with us. I believe she means to take my father's kingdom by one means or another. There is the baby too. If my mother has a boy, then I shall not become queen" (Chapter 19, p. 146).

"You are a doran. A good one. I have seen to that. To be able to encounter evil, naked evil, that is your business. Not every day, not often, but when it is necessary. And now that you have found your place- through flying- that makes it must easier. That is your center. It waits for you, and one day it will find you" (Chapter 19, p. 150).

"I carried a message for your father to Caerleon. It is a grim place. Naturally, when my business was done, I asked to see Gamal. At first Meroot said that I could not see him. Then I told her that I had a message for him from you. And that you had said I must deliver it only to Gamal. She kept me waiting for ages and then he came...he was led...into the room where I was. He was...I don't know words for it...he was not there. He was like somebody sleepwalking. I am not even sure he knew me" (Chapter 20, p. 154-155).

"Finbar is part of my retinue and must have a room near me. My father was concerned about my taking so long a journey virtually alone, and I promised him that Finbar would be my bodyguard and stay always within earshot...My honor and Finbar's are beyond doubt. And I am still a child. I am surprised at you, Aunt Meroot" (Chapter 21, p. 161).

"Water runs beneath the castle, does it not? There is a place in the foundations where the servants draw water from an underground stream. On my first visit, when I slept with the servants, I went there to wash myself, as we all did. The underground stream runs into the castle but it does not appear to run out again. It must stay underground for some distance; then perhaps it emerges. Could the stream lead us in" (Chapter 22, p. 169).

"What I knew now- had known ever since I saw the collar in the bedchamber- was that the dog was the Gray Knight in his magical form. In the few seconds it took me to think this I remembered in detail when Trewyn told me how she had been threatened on the road by a huge black dog who was an enemy of Angharad's in disguise. It was terrifying enough to be chased by a huge savage beast; it was much worse knowing that it had human and magical powers as well" (Chapter 23, p. 178).

"What we have to do is find 'a path to his heart'- that's what the dorans say. We must think of something that matters so much to him that it will lure him out of his hiding place" (Chapter 24, p. 184).



"I think now that part of the reason I am a doran is so I can protect the baby and the kingdom" (Chapter 25, p. 189).

"Part of Euny's power came from her simplicity. In the end I knew I'd rather have her sort of power than all my father's possessions...I want something simpler where I can work out what being a doran means" (Chapter 25, p. 190).

"If my brother is the rightful king, he shall reign at Castle Dore, and I shall do everything in my power to help him. As for Gamal, he shall choose for himself whether to return with you, since you have forfeited your natural right to care for him" (Chapter 25, p. 194).

"I am not your son, and I shall not return with you... I have now remembered what I could not bear to remember- that when I was a small child you took me by force from the fair-haired woman who was my mother and claimed I was your child. She was a doran and a woman of great goodness, but you destroyed her. You had no child, but you thought you would use me to obtain King Mark's throne. You trained me as a soldier and you bullied and threatened me to try to make me fit in with your schemes. Later you let the evil knight work his spells on me. You thought it better that he should torment me that that your plans should be frustrated. But now I am free, and I will never come back with you. I am no longer your son" (Chapter 25, p. 194-195).

""To the mending of that which is broken,' said Euny. To which Angharad replied, 'And to the finding of that which is lost.' As the youngest doran present, I said, 'It shall be so,' silently promising to do the work of the dorans as well as I knew how" (Chapter 25, p. 198).



Topics for Discussion

Why does Ninnoc go to stay with Euny for a year?

Why does Meroot resent her brother? How does she react to this resentment?

Who is the Gray Knight?

Compare and contrast Ninnoc and Meroot.

What happens to Gamal, and what does he learn about himself as a result?

What is the significance of Erlain's pregnancy to the kingdom and to Ninnoc specifically?

For what purpose does Juniper believe she was born with doran powers?