

# **Lioness Rampant Study Guide**

**Lioness Rampant by Tamora Pierce**

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## Plot Summary

Alanna of Trebond is a woman and she is a knight. Having finally attained her lifelong goal of becoming the first woman knight - errant, she is now unsure what to do with herself. Since all that Alanna has ever wanted was knighthood, now that she has it she finds herself left empty and purposeless.

Despite her uncertainty about her future, a new challenge does present itself. Alanna has found an ancient and strange map. The map reveals the location of a great treasure. The Dominion Jewel is a great magical tool that only a ruler can use. In the hands of her old friend Jonathan, Alanna is sure that the Dominion Jewel would bring wealth and happiness to the lands of Tortall.

Alanna must face many challenges on her quest for the Dominion Jewel. She must face bandits. She must face and rogue assassins sent to kill her by old enemies in far off lands. She must face the god-like creature living at Chitral, and his fierce winter storms. She must even face up against her own companions and friends.

After surviving all of these trials and returning to Tortall with the coveted Dominion Jewel, everything seems initially well for Alanna. Is it? Alanna returns to court to find that her brother, a powerful sorcerer, has returned her arch-enemy, Duke Roger, from the dead. Alanna's brother grows weaker and weaker, yet Roger seems to become stronger and stronger, and rumor has it that the gods have turned their backs on Tortall as punishment. With great enemies roaming the capital unchecked and unidentified and with a dark rebellion growing in secret, will Jonathan's reign really be as cursed and short-lived as the rumors say?



# Chapter 1

## Chapter 1 Summary

As the story begins, a copper-haired knight, his man at arms, and a black cat arrive at the Marenite city of Berat. After a brief exchange with the guards, the young, beardless knight and his companions are allowed into the city. Once inside the city, the man at arms inquires after directions to an inn called The Wandering Bard. Only once inside the city is it revealed that the cat can speak and that the knight is actually a woman.

Allana and Coram and Faithful arrive at The Wandering Bard. Windfeld, the innkeeper, has received a letter from Sir Myles, informing him that she would be arriving. After hearing the news of the realm, Alanna and Faithful head off to take a bath.

During her bath, Alanna has a vision. It is a vision that she has seen before. She sees a blue-violet gem set in a golden disc that does not reflect light. Beyond the gem, she sees a blizzard. After her bath, Alanna heads downstairs for supper. Windfeld tells her about what is going on in Sarain. The K'miri tribes hunt lowlanders and the lowlanders fight the K'miri. The mountain born are heading west in droves to escape the fighting. After he asks what brings her to Berat, Alanna shows Windfeld an ancient map. She is there to see a translator to have the map translated. After her supper, a maid brings Alanna a drink. The drink was sent to her by another redhead, who says that redheads must stay together, and wonders if she will join him after that cup.

The redheaded man comes over and joins Alanna at her table, introducing himself as Liam. Liam has been keeping tabs on her. When Alanna asks why he would do that, Liam responds that it is important to know what important people are doing, and since she has killed the powerful Conte Duke and revealed him as a traitor, she has become an important person. Alanna explains the events surrounding the Duke's death, and seems upset about having killed him. She does not like killing. Liam reveals that he knew the Duke when he tells her that he was rotten all the way through. Before Alanna can get any answers out of Liam, who seems to know her very well, Coram arrives, drunk and singing. Liam promises to that they will see each other again.

After settling Coram in his bed, Alanna heads for her room. At her door, Windfeld meets her and asks if there is anything else that she needs this night. When she asks if Windfeld would introduce her to the Shang Dragon, Windfeld points out that she has already met him, Liam Ironarm, the Dragon of Shang. Alanna is unable to sleep, and goes for a ride. In her distracted state, Alanna does not notice that anything is wrong until Moonlight refuses to walk any further. After dismounting, Alanna discovers the Goddess standing before her.

After leaving the Goddess, Alanna realizes that she is farther away from the city than she thought she was. As soon as the sun comes up to burn away the fog, Alanna rides back for the city. She is awakened with a start as she falls from her horse and hits the



ground. Alanna is angry at herself to falling asleep on her horse and falling into the mud. Before she can get back on Moonlight, Alanna hears a horse approaching. When Liam arrives, he makes no attempt to hide his smile. He teases her a little about falling off of her horse, but then has her ride with him so that she can sleep on the way back to town. He admits that he once fell off of his horse in front of the men he was to command. They didn't tease him about it, much.

After having the map translated by a friend of her father's, Alanna discovers that the Dominion Jewel is hidden at the Roof of the World. With the Jewel, a ruler can rule peacefully or be a great tyrant, depending on his personality. The Jewel bonds its power to the earth for an ungifted ruler, but for ruler with the gift of magic, it can be used for literally anything. While deciding what to do next, Alanna and Coram are attacked by rogues. They bear a message from an enemy back home. Soon, Cooper will be dead, but Alanna will die now. In the melee, Alanna and Coram are both injured. Liam shows up and kills the rest of the rogues.

## Chapter 1 Analysis

At the gates of Berat, the young-looking knight is challenged by the city guard. They wonder if the boy can even hold his shield. When the "young boy", who is actually a woman, smiles at them and laughs, they allow them to pass. The guards seem to like her answer.

The stable boy is surprised to see a female knight. Windfeld knew of her visit in advance, but forgot due to a fire in their stables. Windfeld generally does not go out to meet his customers, but he shows special preference for Alanna. He informs her that he represents her father's interests in Berat, and that Sir Myles informed him of her visit. Sir Myles is one of the wealthiest men in Tortall, and he has adopted Alanna as his heir. She concealed her sex to train as a knight, and has only recently been knighted. Only after Alanna hoists Faithful onto her shoulders does the inn keeper notice that the cat's eyes are identical to Alanna's own eyes. As they leave, he makes a sign against evil.

Alanna's recurring vision, first revealed in this chapter, likely foreshadows some important item or event, or both, that will come along in her quest. Alanna's quest is not defined as of yet, she has recently achieved knighthood, and now she has an ancient map that is written in an ancient language. So far, she is only looking to have it translated. The redheaded man who buys her a drink is a very large, powerful looking man. He is dressed much as she is, but wears no weapons. Alanna's first thought about him is that he is attractive, but that with his broken nose and scarred face, he shouldn't be. Her second thought about him is that only four types of people go about without weapons, sorcerers, priests, fools, and those few who don't need weapons. Alanna feels that in her world, there are very few people who do not need a weapon.

Alanna reveals in her thoughts that she is unsure how to show her interest in this man. She has never flirted with anyone before, although she has had a lover before. The man notices the pleading in her eyes, and comes over to introduce himself as Liam. Liam



knows quite a bit about Alanna, which makes her somewhat uncomfortable. Liam feels that she is a very important person, one who will make great changes. It is important to him to know what important people are doing. Before leaving, Liam calls her kitten, and tells her that he will reveal how he knew the Duke some day, but not today. Alanna realizes that Liam is flirting with her, and Liam does not deny it. Coram's timely, if drunken, arrival conveniently saves Liam from any explanations, although he does promise that they will see each other again.

Alanna has always wanted to meet the Dragon of Shang, but Liam did not reveal his identity to her. The Shang are a group of fierce warriors, the best of whom gain animal names after besting a great ordeal and living one year amongst the people. The Dragon is the best of the best, which explains why Liam does not feel need to carry weapons. With her head so full of thought, Alanna is unable to sleep.

On her ride out of Berat, Alanna thinks to herself about being a knight. She had always wanted to be a knight, but now that she is a knight, Alanna realizes that not every little village needs saving. Suffering from boredom, Alanna wants to go beyond what appears on her maps. Surely, in such foreign lands she would not be this bored.

The Goddess asks Alanna where she is going and who she is going to be. Alanna reveals that now that she has achieved her goals, she has no idea what she is going to do. She says that she is simply drifting. The Goddess tells her that if she chooses to have the map translated, it will be an interesting path.

When Coram sees Liam leaving Alanna's room, he becomes worried. He is her protector, and does not take well to the idea that this unknown man was in her room alone with her. Coram blocks Liam's way and demands that Liam identify himself. Once he discovers that he is talking to the Dragon of Shang, he decides to switch tactics, but continues to interrogate the man all the same. Liam points out that Alanna is an attractive woman, a grown woman, and a great fighter. He doesn't much like being threatened, but he does forgive Coram some because he knows that Coram is only trying to protect his lady. Liam likes Alanna, and admits that he would probably like Coram too, if he would give him the chance.

While Coram is worried about Alanna and disappointed in her for getting into the situation that brought Liam into her room, he had no problem getting himself so drunk that he was rendered pretty much useless the night before. When he woke with a great hangover, he only discovered Liam because he was looking for Alanna to cure his hangover.

Jendrai is a happy and proud father of six. He welcomes Alanna and Coram generously into his home, and explains that he was once a student to Alanna's father. He will help them anyway that he can. When he translates the map for her, he is shocked to discover the hiding place of the Dominion Jewel. This jewel can control the natural forces of the earth, but will only work for one who is a leader by nature. In the hands of a benevolent ruler, the Jewel will allow peace to thrive in every way. Harvests will be good and weather will behave. The people will be happy, and relations with other



nations will go well. In the hands of a power hungry tyrant, on the other hand, the Jewel will wreck great havoc. In the hands of someone without magic, the Jewel's powers are limited to working with nature. However, if the wielder of the Jewel knows magic, then that ruler can create anything that they can imagine with the power of magic, even bring the dead back to life. Jendrai, Alanna, and Coram discuss the history of the Jewel for the benefit of the reader, revealing the power of the Jewel in the tales of what previous rulers have done with the Jewel.

When Coram and Alanna are attacked by the rogues in the street, Liam arrives to save them. He claims to have been returning from a friend's home when he heard the commotion. While Liam is gracefully and quickly dispatching the remaining rogues, Alanna is amazed by his martial power. Liam moves from punch to kick, from enemy to enemy, with lightening speed. Alanna wonders if she will ever be able to attain such skill.

Back at the inn, Coram and Liam discuss what happened in the street. The two warriors share an herbal drink for healing purposes, and grow to admire each other better.



# Chapter 2

## Chapter 2 Summary

When Alanna wakes up, she finds that Coram and Faithful both trust Liam and that he is now part of their group. Coram has told Liam of the map, hoping that he would be able to advise them on what road to take. Liam advises against going through Sarain, as they are in the height of a civil war. Alanna does not want to go on a boat, so Liam suggests going around the long way along the shores, to avoid the mountainous area where the fighting is heaviest. Liam will ride with them part of the way, as he is heading in that general direction as well. After Liam leaves the room, Coram asks Alanna what way they shall go. She does not like the idea of taking any longer than needed, and is sure that they can handle any bandits that get in their way. She suggests going straight through, shaving months off of their trip. She assures Coram that she has no trouble using magic if needed to handle bandits.

Knowing that the longer she stays in bed, the longer it will be before she returns to peak condition, Alanna begins exercising the very next day. She goes out into the stable yard and practices with Coram's heavy broadsword, which is heavier and larger than Lightning. When she notices that she has an audience of stable boys, she ignores them. Alanna knows that if she acknowledges the boys, that they will turn shy and run off. Instead, she pretends that she doesn't notice them as they imitate her with their sticks. Soon enough, Alanna is correcting stances, and training them openly, as was her intent to start with.

After Alanna is content that she is at her peak, Liam challenges her to a duel. He wants to spar with her to see just how good she is with a sword. After a long, grueling battle, Alanna finds an opening and defeats Liam. Liam is impressed, admitting that it has been years since a swordsman has beaten him.

The day after leaving Berat, Liam and Alanna both meet in the same clearing to practice. They both go through their own unique exercise routines, then Liam calls Alanna over. He begins by teaching her how to punch in the Shang method. He coaches her on how to punch correctly, and has her practice it until her entire body hurts. After their practice, Liam reveals that he is afraid of her gift. Alanna doesn't believe him at first, but is convinced when Liam reminds her that everyone is afraid of something. Liam is afraid of becoming sick, dying for nothing, and the gift of magic.

When they arrive at Fortress Jirokan, they find it overrun with refugees from the Sarain civil war. Liam and Coram both agree that it would be best to remain as low key here as possible, which, unfortunately, turns out to be impossible. In the tavern, Liam is approached by a bored lady. The lady is cooing over Liam when her man returns from the privy. The large sergeant bellows his rage at Liam, who tries to tell the man that he has mistaken the situation. The man does not believe that nothing was happening, any more than he believes that Liam is the Shang Dragon. After beating the sergeant and





his men soundly, Liam makes sure that none of them are seriously injured before leaving the tavern.

As the group makes its way into Sarain, the difference is visible almost immediately. The roads are abandoned, with the leavings of the refugee camps strewn about. After their fourth day, they see the first signs of the war, a great pile of bodies left to rot. That night at camp, Faithful runs into the circle and informs Alanna that there are women and children just over the ridge. Coram stays with the horses, while Liam and Alanna go investigate. Alanna is surprised when she hears an unfamiliar voice warn that if she doesn't tell the big man to drop his sword, that she will die.

## Chapter 2 Analysis

Alanna has a strange dream, in which her twin brother, a sorcerer, is standing in front of a tomb, trying to close it. His magic is not strong enough to do it alone, and he calls out to her, saying that he needs her gift and the stone around her neck. In the dream, Alanna refuses to take the gem off of her neck, as the Goddess gave it to her. When she wakes, she finds that Coram is asleep, and it is Liam that watches over them.

Alanna wakes to find Liam standing guard, with Coram asleep, and later when she sees Faithful purring happily at Liam's side. This clearly shows a change in the relationship between the characters. Liam was at first a potentially dangerous stranger, not to be trusted. Now, he is a trusted ally, standing guard over them as they sleep. Alanna was quick to trust him in the beginning, so it comes as no surprise that she accepts Liam now. It is Faithful's acceptance of Liam and Coram's obvious trust that truly marks the difference.

When Alanna ignores Liam's advice to avoid the fighting in Sarain, she risks the entire quest. Now, Coram, Faithful, and Alanna will be trekking through the mountains of Sarain, right through the heaviest fighting in the Sarain civil war.

Alanna is annoyed when Liam calls her "little girl," using the older and wiser head routine on her, but also doesn't like that she is apparently "too old" to learn the Shang method of fighting unarmed. She wants Liam to teach her to fight without weapons, as she recognizes that when unarmed, she is not a very good fighter. When Coram jokes about her ire, he shows that he and Liam have become good friends.

When Liam sees Alanna training the stable boys without even their knowledge, Coram informs him that she has done this before. Liam asks if she is really serious about learning Shang fighting, and Coram assures him that she is. Coram apologizes for not bringing Alanna to the Shang as soon as he saw her skill, when she was young enough to be accepted. Liam tells Coram that he chose correctly, as she is far happier being a knight than she would have been as a Shang warrior.

After defeating Liam in swordplay, Alanna asks why he didn't use any of his Shang techniques to beat her, as he easily could. Liam didn't want to beat her, only to



accurately gauge her swordsmanship without the Shang techniques. Liam is able to assess Alanna as an excellent sword. He is impressed.

After their practice in the clearing, Alanna cooks breakfast. It is revealed here that Alanna is a fearful cook in the field. Liam and Coram both eat her breakfast because it is the nice thing to do, but it is clear that neither of them like it.

When Alanna summons the view of a lady for Coram so that he can watch her in the fire, Liam becomes offended and leaves the camp area. Alanna follows him to give Coram some privacy. She assures Liam that the lady has given permission for Alanna to show her to Coram and let him watch her. Liam reveals that no Shang is allowed to have the gift, and that the Shang only allow gifted healers to heal them out of necessity. Alanna is offended by this, as she likes him and is obviously gifted. Liam apologizes and tells her that he didn't mean to offend her, but that he does have a temper. He reveals that he is afraid of magic. Liam doesn't even allow gifted healers to heal him, as he fears magic in the way many fear spiders. Alanna is worried that this will stop them from forming a relationship, but Liam says that he is willing to try anyways. Despite her misgivings, Alanna allows herself to be pulled into his embrace. She will worry about their relationship at a later, less interesting time.

When the sergeant's lady makes her move on Liam, Alanna forgets that she is dressed like a boy and shows her jealousy. Coram tries to talk her down, but Alanna continues to say mean things about the lady. The lady doesn't realize that Alanna is a girl, thinking her a lad instead.

As they continue on into Sarain, Alanna and Liam continue Alanna's Shang training. Liam only teaches her a few punches, blocks, and two kicks, but he drills her constantly and relentlessly in those few moves, checking for even the slightest flaw. In the mornings, Liam is a grumpy teacher, often threatening to dump cold water on Alanna if she does not wake. As he says, if she wants to learn Shang fighting, then she must keep Shang time.

When they come across the first signs of combat on day four, Liam is clearly distressed by the pile of remains. He feels that the warriors deserved better than to be left to rot. When Alanna uses her gift to burn their remains, she sees that Liam is sweating on his horse. She can see now that he was not lying when he said that he was scared of magic. He is clearly terrified by it. Alanna is sad, knowing that there is no way that any real love can survive between them when he so greatly fears such a large part of her. It seems that her romance has been killed just as it is beginning.



# Chapter 3

## Chapter 3 Summary

The voice behind Alanna belongs to a young girl. This embarrasses Alanna, but at least she isn't forced to repeat the command. Liam hears the girl, and drops his sword. Alanna calls out to Coram, and discovers that he has also been ambushed by a young girl. He assures her that, aside from his dignity, he is just fine. When they are brought into the group, Alanna, Coram, and Liam find that this is a group of very tired children. The two girls that captured them seem to be warrior trained, but the remaining group is made up of helpless children who appear nearly dead on their feet. Liam recognizes the very beautiful girl behind Coram, and introduces himself and the group to Thayet, the daughter of the warlord who rules Sarain. When Buri, Thayet's K'mir companion, refuses to drop her guard of Liam, he easily gets the drop on her. Seeing that she had only captured him because he allowed her to, Buri puts away her weapon. Liam tells Thayet where they are going, but not why. Thayet tells them that they are heading in the same direction, fleeing the fighting for the sake of the refugees. Their guards have run away and abandoned them. Liam, Coram, and Alanna agree to accompany them to their destination on the way to the Roof, as they can hardly let a relatively unarmed group of children roam about undefended.

After making camp, Buri comes to Alanna and hands her a baby. Alanna has never cared for a baby before, and is dismayed by this. She is even more dismayed when the baby begins to wail. Coram shows her how to change his dirty diaper, and Alanna has her first experience with childcare.

After the children go to bed, Coram, Alanna, Liam, and Thayet meet by the stream out of earshot of the camp. They discuss the situation and form a plan. The camp has little to no supplies left, and the food that Alanna and her group have won't last long. The refugees originally planned to range for food off the land, but the other refugees and the fighters have left the countryside of Sarain fairly barren. Coram suggests that if bandits have already cleared the land of any available food, then they must find the bandits and take the food from them. The group agrees on this, knowing that if they don't, the refugees won't make it to sundown.

Liam finds signs that bandits have been nearby recently, so the group sets up camp to prepare to go in search of them. Faithful comes into the camp and tells Alanna that there are about fifty or so bandits with their women in a canyon very nearby. Alanna, Coram, Faithful, Liam, and Buri head out to take a look. There are too many bandits for such a small attack force, so Alanna decides that she must use magic. Buri and Liam are both instantly upset at the suggestion, both feeling that any fighter who uses magic is a cheater. Buri gets over it and agrees that it is the only way that they can get their much needed supplies. Liam agrees that they must, but storms off in anger.



As Liam fights a sentry, Alanna rushes to complete her spell. She envisions the Dominion Jewel as her magical focus, which was the first image to come to mind, and begins her spell. She channels her gift out and over the bandit camp, forming a net to hold them all down while the others rob the supply tent. As the others come back, laden with supplies, Alanna struggles to get free of the spell. Faithful has to bite and scratch her to break her focus on the spell to keep her from pouring her life into it. The others don't know how close she comes to dying, but they do notice that she takes two whole days to recover from the spell.

Once inside the city of Rachia, the group comes up against some trouble. An assassin fires at Thayet from a rooftop. After running him down, Alanna is unable to identify him or who he works for. He jumps from the roof onto the street, killing himself. His pockets are empty, giving no evidence as to who he was.

After the would be assassin, more trouble comes. Alanna and Buri arrive at the convent to find that the daughters of the Mother of Water have not allowed the group into the convent. Alanna is forced to threaten to report them to the Goddess herself to gain entry into the convent, where it should be safe. The leaders of the group are brought before the heads of the convent, and given terrible news. Thayet's father has died, and the new ruler has ordered everyone to turn in Thayet if they find her. The Daughters promise not to turn her in, but they can not guarantee her safety either. Thayet and Buri are not welcome to stay in the convent, but the others are. Alanna asks Buri and Thayet to join their quest, but doesn't tell them what the quest is for. The two girls agree, not having anywhere else to go.

After a three day ride out of the city, the group arrives at the border of Sarain. Soon, they will be at the Roof of the World.

## Chapter 3 Analysis

Alanna is embarrassed to find that a very young girl has got the drop on her. Coram is equally embarrassed to have Thayet catch him off guard. When Alanna sees Thayet, she is instantly jealous of this girl's epic beauty. Thayet is extremely beautiful, while Alanna thinks that all she can aspire to is being cute. When Liam recognizes her and introduces himself, Thayet instantly decides that they are friends and lowers her weapon. Buri does not agree, but Liam tells her that she might as well lower her weapon. He tells her that if he wanted to hurt her, he could have turned the tables on her at any point. To prove it, he effectively disarms her, then returns the crossbow to her. Buri finally puts away her weapon because she realizes that it is now useless to her against Liam, but she doesn't like it. Buri still doesn't trust them.

When Alanna is left with the infant, she is dismayed by his crying. She doesn't know what to do, but Buri returns, followed by Coram, and they coach her through it. Alanna doesn't feel that she will ever need the skills of child care, but she also feels that as a knight, she should be up to anything. She agrees to change the diaper herself, but she really doesn't know how. Coram coaches her through it, showing great parenting skills.



Alanna is surprised by this, but he explains that he got plenty of childcare experience when he was governor. He used to watch the children while their mothers worked in the fields. It never bothered him, as he likes children. Alanna wonders if Coram would have had a family and been a happy farmer had he been free to do so. Coram assures her that he is happy enough in his line of work, and reminds her that he reared her since she was very little.

When Thayet tells of her mother's death, and the death of Buri's family, Alanna doesn't understand what they accomplished. She sees no accomplishment in death. Liam tries to explain it to her, but she is too blinded by her feelings for him to accept that there could be a good reason for Liam to die. When Liam and Thayet seem to agree that Alanna is too young and inexperienced to understand, Alanna is upset.

While Buri agrees with Liam that fighting with magic is cheating, she does get over her ethical issues with it in the face of desperate need. Liam, on the other hand, agrees that she must, but he does not get over it so easily. He says that it is cheating, and tells her that when she is done, she can come give a hand with the real work if she likes. Buri tries to say that it is unfair for him to say that to her, but Liam has already left. Alanna, knowing of Liam's extreme distrust and fear of magic, tells Buri that it is all right. She understands.

The use of her magical gift grants Alanna a great feeling of euphoria and power. It is so intoxicating, that when she is done, she is almost unable to break away from the spell. She realizes that she has gone too far, but is unsure how to stop from pouring her entire life energy into the spell and dying. Faithful frantically tries to tell Alanna to break free of the spell, but she can not. It is not until he wraps himself around her arm, biting and clawing her, that she is able to break free. Despite her obvious weakness after working the magic, Liam refuses to have her ride behind him. Coram has to take her back to camp.

As they ride through this desolate area, Alanna is plagued by nightmares in which the people who have died are from her land, and the burned out homes are the homes of her friends. Liam provides the cure for these dreams, adding another training session just before bed.

When the group arrives at the city of Rachia, Alanna finds that she is afraid of the city. She has become too used to deserts and plains, and is uncomfortable in the confines of a city. She worries about how she will react when she returns home, to bigger cities.

The assassin on the rooftop appears to be a simple drunk, probably hired out of a random tavern for a single gold, which he has already likely drunk up. It is disturbing that an attempt was made on Thayet so soon after they arrived in the city. The group knows that they must hurry for the convent.

The head Daughter is Thayet's distant cousin, and it is hard for her to deliver the news to Thayet. However, the Hag-Daughter has no trouble telling them how it is, in fact she is quite blunt. Alanna admires this, saying that at least she was honest. When it

becomes clear that Thayet and Buri have nowhere else to go, Alanna and Coram decide to invite them on their quest. They agree readily enough, even though they still don't know what they are looking for, only where they are going.



# Chapter 4

## Chapter 4 Summary

Ever since leaving the convent, Alanna has been unable to use her magic to communicate with her brother or to show Coram the image of his love in the fire. She worries about this, but assumes that it is only the great distance. She asks Coram about joining the Voice, but he says that he has been unable to do so since the convent. He also assumes that it is the great distance, but he is just as worried as Alanna is. When Alanna tells Coram that she is likely worrying about nothing, he seems to disagree.

When they arrive at the crossroads and the two mountains that formed the passes into Lumuhu, the group finds an inn nestled at the feet of the mountains. The first pass that Alanna sees is clogged with snow, but still easy enough looking in good weather, with gentle slopes and a wide path. The second pass looks far more daunting. Alanna gets the sinking suspicion that the second pass is the one they need, the Chitral Pass. It isn't long before the innkeeper confirms this suspicion. He tells them that the easy pass will likely be closed for a month or so, while Chitral will be closed for several months, and even then, it is open only to the hardest of travelers. Chitral is a very unforgiving passage.

Up in her room, Alanna decides to put on a dress. When she arrives in her dress, the group applauds her, all except Liam. Liam criticizes her, saying that it is impractical and stupid. She leaves, crying and goes back to her room. In her room, Alanna rips off the dress and begins taking her pretty clothes off. Thayet shows up to comfort her, but leaves when Liam comes in. All that he offers in the way of apology is that the dress did look nice, and then they briefly discuss his feelings before making love.

The group are bored to distraction during their wait for the blizzard to end. After several days, they finally go into the common room to entertain themselves. In the common room, they find a group of Doi, one of whom is a seer. She offers to see the futures of everyone there except Liam. She knows that he has already had his future read in his palms, and says that nothing she can see will change that future or his knowledge of it. When she reads Alanna's palms, a new, unidentifiable magic appears. The seer tells Alanna that Chitral knows that she is coming, and will not let down his storms. Chitral will only give up his treasure to her if she is proven worthy, and to do that she must defeat his storms. After this reading, Alanna begins to gather snow gear. She plans to head into the pass to face what ever is there waiting for her without the group, and without waiting for the storms to break.

Alanna sneaks off in the night, magically making certain that Liam remains asleep. She gets into her winter gear and powers up into the pass. The wind drives back at her, making her journey take far longer and be far more dangerous than it should be. She can feel her magic using itself up as she continues up the mountain, trying to keep her warm. Suddenly, the blizzard and the wind stops, and Alanna is surprised to see that



her tracks form a straight line behind her as far as she can see. She is brought to her knees by a voice in her head. It tells her that it has been waiting for her to decide to come. A bright light shines from the top of the pass, and the voice tells her that her quest, as well as the owner of the voice await her there, if she can make it. Alanna begins climbing up the side of the mountain and is injured several times. She blames the hurts on old Chitral, but she knows that it is due to the exhaustion and frustration effecting her judgment. She dares not rest, however, and pushes up and up until she reaches a cave. In the cave, Alanna realizes that she has burned out her gift, and that for now, she is without magic.

Once Alanna arrives in the cave, the voice returns. The power of the voice causes her great physical pain, but she does her best to ignore it. The voice congratulates her on making it this far, then agrees to give her something she can fight physically, just as she asked. As Alanna prepares for battle, a great snow ape arrives with an ancient short sword in its hand.

Alanna battles the ape, which she knows is Chitral in physical form. She is in terrible shape from her climb, and he is able to disarm her. Alanna resorts to the Shang unarmed methods that Liam has been teaching her, and eventually disarms the giant snow ape. She grabs his sword, but it causes even more pain than his voice did. As the ape rushes toward her, Alanna pleads with him to stop. She doesn't want to kill the ape, and tells him that he can keep the Jewel. The ape stops and takes the sword out of Alanna's now bleeding hands. He laughs at her. His voice no longer creates pain for her, and it appears that he has changed his mind about killing her. He gives her the Jewel and fades away. Alanna, weakened by her lack of magic and from her battle, simply goes to sleep in the cave.

Alanna wakes to find that she is back in the inn. The snow stopped completely as soon as she defeated Chitral, and the Doi headed up the mountain and brought her back over their pack horse. As soon as it became clear that Alanna would recover, they left. She has been asleep for a week. Her hands will always know when it will snow now, and she will bear a scar down her chest, but she has the Dominion Jewel.

Once in Port Udayapur, it is time to make a plan. Everyone agrees to return to the capital with Coram and Alanna. When everyone leaves Alanna in her room, she settles for a nap. Alanna is awakened by a knock on her door. Her old friend Raoul arrives. After a very happy greeting, he tells Alanna some bad news. While Alanna was gone, the queen died. Soon after the queen, the king died now, with his parents dead, Jon acts as king until his coronation as of July's full moon, when he will be king. That is not the worst of it, however. In response to the goading of Delia of Eldorne, Thom's pride got the best of him. He raised Roger from the dead.

## Chapter 4 Analysis

The Roof of the World





Thayet begins to reveal more about her personal life. After hearing about Thayet's childhood, Alanna begins to appreciate her own more. Thayet's father wanted only a son, and got only a daughter. Her mother was the only one in the family who truly made her feel loved. Now Thayet will not be queen, which she does admit disappoints her some. Thayet had planned to change things in Sarain. Sarain women have no rights, and are simply the property of their husbands. Alanna feels that this is barbaric, as in Tortal, even women can inherit lands. While it is rare that any woman holds a title, many women have been the heirs to their lord husbands and fathers, inheriting whole estates. Thayet tells Alanna that she thinks that Tortel seems wonderful. Alanna begins to form a plan to take her to Tortal after the quest is over. She is interested to see how Jon will react to Thayet, who was originally supposed to be his wife.

When Coram and Alanna were adopted by the Bazhir, they became able to join with the Voice. The Voice of the tribe is an individual who is bound by Bazhir law to connect magically with anyone who wants to at sundown each day. This way, the Bazhir can hear news and trade information instantly. Alanna has never joined with the Voice, but she does know that Coram has done the rite everyday since they left the tribe. She didn't want to do it because she doesn't like the idea of someone else being in her head. After Jon became the Voice, and they had their falling out, ending their relationship, she certainly didn't want to join the Voice. Alanna specifically ordered Coram never to speak to her of the Voice and the rite, but now she asks him about it. She is more worried by the loss communication via magic than she lets on.

When Liam is mean to her about the dress, Alanna becomes very upset. She loves Liam and wants to impress him, but he can be very cruel sometimes. Thayet explains that he doesn't mean what he is saying sometimes. Much like Alanna, he did not ask to fall in love. It just happened. It is taking him by surprise just as it is Alanna. However, unlike Alanna, Liam, the Shang Dragon is practically obsessed with self control. He always feels that he must be in control of everything, especially himself. It seems that every time that Liam thinks that he has figured her out, she shows him something new. He is not able to define her easily and put her in a neat little box like he does the rest of the group.

Alanna is surprised to discover that Liam has had his palms read. He says that it is different from the kind of magic that Alanna uses, and that it does not bother him so much. Thayet leaves the group for some privacy after hearing her fortune, but it is unclear just how she feels about it. Both Coram and Buri ask that the seer whisper their fortunes to them, and she does. Buri sulks off and broods over her fortune, but Coram seems quite happy about his, whatever it is. The seer reads Alanna's fortune out loud. Alanna probes the seer with her gift and find that the seer's magic is the magic of the land, not her own. However, when the seer takes Alanna's hands and begins to read, a new magical presence makes itself known to Alanna, but Alanna is unable to tell what it is, only that it is strange and different, and strong.

After Liam realizes that Alanna plans to head out into the killer blizzard, he tries to stop her. They argue about it, and Liam wonders if she is as ignorant as the kitten that he named her. They both know that he was wrong to say it, but neither is willing to do



anything about it. Liam is unable to apologize, and Alanna is unable to forgive. She cries herself to sleep, knowing exactly what is happening, why it is happening, yet still powerless to stop it.

Alanna dreams. In the dream, she, Thom, Roger, and Jon stand over Jon's mother's grave. Roger tells Jon that she was weak and her time had come. Jon tells him that she was strong before Roger sent his sickness and magic at her to attack her, but Roger says that that was different. He is not the same man who did this, and that was not the reason that she died. Jon says that he knows, but George doesn't seem to understand. He is looking fiercely at Roger. Alanna wakes. Faithful uses magic to charm Liam so that he will remain asleep, and Alanna heads out.

On her way up the mountain, Alanna struggles just to take a few steps. She realizes that she will be lucky to make it up into the pass, much less back. When the voice enters her head, she is glad for it to leave. She is angry at old Chitral, and uses the heat of her anger to keep her warm as her magic fades while she climbs.

While fighting Chitral in ape form, Alanna decides that the Jewel obviously belongs to Chitral. She is not sure how the valiant heroes of the past took the great items from the entities that hold them, especially if they are so valiant. This feels more like stealing to her, and she spares the ape and tells him to keep his Jewel. Chitral is greatly amused by this, and gives it to her. Before fading from view, Chitral tells her that he is older than her gods, and that the closest thing she would know to call him would be an elemental. He created the Jewel, and from time to time it returns to him. He enjoys the company, but he will be amused by her behavior for centuries to come.

When Alanna wakes a week later in the inn, she finds that no one is happy with her. Liam is angry because she went off on her own, she could have been killed, and she used Faithful to bewitch him to keep him asleep. Alanna goes to the stables to apologize to her horse for leaving her behind. She is easy, only needing an apple and some rubbing. Alanna wishes that people forgave so easily. Coram is also upset with her, but he does not stay angry long.

Buri has decided that she will follow Alanna anywhere. She tells Alanna that the common people say that she parted the snow and marched up the mountain to do battle with the god of the Roof for his Jewel. The healer has refused payment. The inn keeper has refused payment, although he has also raised his prices in general. News has traveled fast and the inn has filled. The inn will likely stay full for several years. The stable boys fight over who will care for Moonlight, and the maids rip up Alanna's napkins so that they can each have a piece. Alanna feels that this is foolish, but it is just part of being a legendary hero.

Alanna finds Liam sulking in the common room. He doesn't want to talk to her. Liam fears magic, but he also realizes that it is a tool for Alanna, and he says that tools must be used. He is angry that she tricked him, angry that she made him worry about her, but mostly angry because she allowed Faithful to charm him, knowing how he feels about magic. Liam tells Alanna that while she was out there, everyone was talking about how



that blizzard would kill her. Liam was worried and depressed. Coram was so drunk that Liam was worried about him. Moonlight tried to break down the stall in the stable and had to be drugged. Liam tells Alanna that he doesn't know if he can trust her again. When Alanna asks if they can still be friends, Liam say yes. The fact that he is so relieved by her question hurts Alanna more than anything else that has been said today.



# Chapter 5

## Chapter 5 Summary

In the Capital of Tortal

Jon is worried about his reign. He did not expect to be king for quite some time, but now he is. He is worried about Alanna, and hopes that she can really bring the Dominion Jewel back to him. Gary wonders if their messengers will really find her, and Jon assures him that one of them must. The fate of the kingdom might well rest on that Jewel. While Jonathan and Gary discuss the fate of the realm, George arrives at his mother's house after she has been attacked by Claw. He takes his mother to Sir Myles, who agrees to allow her to stay at his home, where she will be safe. George notices that when Myles kisses his mother's hand, Myles holds her hand just a moment too long. George wonders about that. Will he be getting another father now?

Thom is not feeling well. When Roger arrives, Thom tells him about his meeting with Jon. They wonder if Roger's gift has come back. They wonder if Thom trusts him. Roger asks if Thom trusts him, and asks about Alanna. Thom doesn't know what Alanna went to the Roof for, but he does know that she is on her way back. Roger, who appears to be in much better health than Thom, despite his recent ten months of death, assures Thom that he owes him a great debt. If not for Thom, Roger would still be dead. He tells Thom that he will repay him if he can, and that if his gift comes back, Thom will be the first to know.

George is attacked outside The Inn of the Dancing Dove. A boy runs in yelling that Claw has been arrested by the Provost's men, and when George comes outside he is attacked from behind. It is only the arrival of Myles and his guards that save George. George spends a few days recovering in Myles's house. While George is there, the agent who has been assigned the task of discovering Claw's true identity arrives. He tells them that Claw is actually Ralon of Malven, a disowned noble who bears no love for Alanna.

Jonathan finally decides to go for a ride in the market. He takes Gary and Roger with him. The common people do gather to watch, but they are quiet until Roger is replaced by the Provost. When a woman's child escapes and runs into the group of riders, Jon scoops him up and takes him back to his mother. The mother hugs both child and king, and while Jon is entangled in the commoners, a group of assassins attack. George steps out of the crowd to help fight them off, along side his long standing enemy, the Provost. The Provost winks at him as they remount their horses to try to escape the riot that results from the attack. George leads them out of the crowd down an alley, but disappears before more guards can arrive.

Several nights after receiving the warning, Jon, the Provost, and Roger hide in a secret passage to spy on the suspected assassins. They see several servants, one of whom is



one of Jon's favorites. They seem worried that someone will not arrive, but soon a special knock is heard. In comes Claw, Spy, and Killmaster, along with some more assassins. They show the plans of the king's rooms, the guard duty roster, and so forth. Provost heads out to prepare the arrest, but Claw notices that the room is too clean. He wonders at the lack of dust in a room that was supposed to be unused for some time. He figures it out and tries to run. Claw's escape catches the Provost's men off guard, and he manages to escape. All of the other conspirators are either killed or captured, and the Provost loses two men.

In a lavish room, conspirators meet. Ralon of Malven, also known as Claw, Princess Josiane of Copper Isles, Delia of Eldorne, and Alex of Tirragen discuss the failed attempt on Jon's life. Claw was found out, and the other four are in the process of scolding him when Roger arrives. He informs them that their little plan has caused no end of trouble for him. He tells them in no uncertain terms that if they pull a stunt like that again without his permission, they will die. He also clearly demonstrates that he does indeed have his gift back, then he leaves.

## Chapter 5 Analysis

### In the Capital of Tortal

With the deaths of the queen and then the king so close together, the people of Tortal are beginning to think that the Black God has cursed them. They feel that the gods are taking their anger out on the royalty for Thom raising the dead. Jon doesn't blame his people for worrying about a curse, especially after the famine that winter to go along with the deaths and the un-death. Jon is worried that he will not be able to comfort his people. He hopes that Alanna will actually be able to bring the Dominion Jewel to him, and decides that he doesn't want to be a king that just sits in his palace waiting on the people to come to him. Once this is all settled, he will go to every corner of Tortal, to see his people, so that they may know and love him.

Thom is resentful of Roger's apparent good health. While Thom was the one who raised Roger from ten months of death just seven months ago, Roger appears to be in perfect health, while Thom is sickly. It doesn't seem fair to Thom. Thom also does not like the fact that Jon keeps at him to spy on Roger. He wants to know if Roger is trustworthy and if his gift comes back. While Thom is obviously unsettled, Roger seems to be almost disinterested. He asks Thom what he would have him do next, but Thom tells him that he is neither his jailor or keeper. Roger claims to feel a great debt to Thom and says that he will repay it anyway he can.

George is disappointed in the turn that the Rogue has taken. In his early days, a would be rogue king would fight the current king honorably and the winner would be king. Claw waited for George to leave and then tried to take the throne. When George returned, Claw refused to fight him, instead swearing loyalty to George, while his men attacked George nightly.



Myles is disturbed to discover that Ralon of Malven is the Claw. Apparently, Ralon was a true born noble, of a wealthy house. However, he was disowned after the rape of another noble. The lady's serving girl threw acid in Ralon's face, causing the purple scars and the loss of one eye. Ralon infiltrated the court of the Rogue as Claw and is now battling George to be the king. He refuses to fight him face to face, and relies on treachery. He will betray all those who serve him. Claw once fought with Alan the squire, who was Alanna's boy alias before she revealed her true gender. He is an enemy of Alanna's, and therefore of Myles, as well as George.

It is unclear who actually sent the assassins, but most feel that it is the Claw's doing. They simply can not figure out what the Claw would have to gain by killing Jon. George offers that perhaps Roger might have something to do with it, as he left the group just before the attack.

Jon is tired of his princess. The princess from the Copper Isles is pretty, but now he is tired of her and she just doesn't seem to understand that. Jon muses that she would make a terrible queen, and prepares himself for more time with her where he will have to refuse her advances again. He recently discovered that Alanna and Coram will soon be home, and he is ready to put the Dominion Jewel, as well as the lioness, to work.

George is faced with an ethical dilemma. He is the king of rogues, and to inform on another rogue to the Provost is to betray the Rogue, and everything that he accepts as true as king of rogues. On the other hand, Jon is George's friend, as is Thom and Alanna, but the Claw plans a great assassination attempt at the palace. Claw also disregarded the rules of the Rogue himself, in his unethical war with George and his past assassination attempts of the king. George ultimately decides that he must warn Jon and the Provost, even though it feels like betraying his people. Afterward, he is unsettled by Thom's appearance when he visits him. He is sick, and when George touches Thom, he can feel the sorcerer's body burning up. Thom claims to have a cold in his gift, and worries that Roger might be causing it. He is fed up with the rumors about him, but he has burned too many bridges to be able to ask for help. As soon as George leaves, he sends word to Si-cham, First Master of the Order of Mithros, telling him of Thom's plight.

When Ralon arrives in the room with the four other conspirators, he has been disgraced. Dalia reminds him that he promised to be Rogue in a week, and yet still he fought George. She tells him that with his failed attempt on Jon, and the fact that he is a wanted man now, that he is useless to them. In fact, he is worse than useless. He is dangerous.

When Roger comes into the room, he completes the circle of plotters. Roger has regained his gift, although his magic is a different color now. Alex smiles at this change while Delia is put off by it. Roger quickly assesses the situation as he sees it. Delia once wanted to be Roger's consort, but if she continues these actions without his permission, she will be consort to Carthaki snake breeders. Josiane only had Jon for a time because Jon wanted to make Alanna jealous. Roger warns her that he is not her pawn, and that she will stay out of his affairs. Roger tells Ralon that George is worth twenty of him, and



warns Delia that Ralon will betray her when he is done with the Rogue. Roger is uncertain why his former squire, Alex is there. Alex does not explain himself out loud, but gives Roger a signal that he knows will answer the question. Roger gives them all one final warning. They must wait for his orders before acting again, or he will kill them all.



# Chapter 6

## Chapter 6 Summary

### Homecoming

George arrives in the port city soon after Alanna does. He takes her up in his arms and kisses her, then asks about the others. He knows about her and Liam, as does everyone. The commoners have been singing songs of the Dragon and the Lioness for weeks now. Liam arrives and informs George that they will continue to sing plenty more songs about him. George rides with the companions to the home of Myles, and Myles insists that all of the group stay at his house. After introductions, everyone just sits around and visits. All talk of Dominion Jewel or any unpleasant business are left for tomorrow.

Alanna wakes instantly, having been disturbed by something. She grabs Lightning, but a voice tells her to put it down. It is Thom. He has appeared magically in the room, and he glows in the dark. He explains that it is all part of it, as well as the unnatural heat. Alanna touches her ember stone, and tells him that he looks like his gift has been corrupted. Thom knows this, and speaks no more of it. After he fades away, Alanna wonders if anyone else knows that Thom is dying.

After seeing her brother, Alanna heads for the library, hoping that Myles is still awake. Instead, she finds Jon and George having a conversation. Jon has arrived in the night, but George tells him that Alanna has already passed out. George figures out that Alanna is outside, and gets her in the room before leaving. Alanna swears fealty to Jon, and he accepts her as his knight. George returns and they have tea. As they are talking about old memories, Thayet arrives, but is embarrassed when she sees that she is intruding on a private conversation. Alanna invites her in for tea, and introduces her to Jon. After an awkward moment, Jon and Thayet finally warm up to each other and they all settle in for tea and conversation.

After her morning work out with Liam, Alanna heads out to find Duke Roger. She finds him atop the wall, looking out over the city. He seems different than she remembers, but still dangerous. She finds him crazy and dangerous. While he claims to be on his best behavior and without his gift, she simply does not trust it.

After seeing the Duke, she spars with a few of her old knight friends. She is better with a sword than they are, and defeats them all. After her spars, she heads to the stables and finds Stefan, who she expects will tell her what has really been happening.

When Alanna returns to Myle's house, she finds a dressmaker waiting for her. She will attend the king to be tonight, where he will announce her and she can present him with the Jewel. After a brief argument about what Alanna will wear, Thayet shows them all a drawing of some sort of compromise between a dress and armor. Everyone is satisfied





by it, and Alanna prepares to have her ears pierced for earrings. After the needle goes through her second lobe, she wakes to find everyone laughing. The blooded knight fainted at the needle.

Liam is to be presented to the court as the Shang Dragon. Thayet will be presented as the princess of Sarain, along with Buri her guard. Alanna will be presented as a knight, and will give Jon the Dominion Jewel. When it comes her turn, Alanna heads down the stairs and publicly pledges her fealty to Jon. She then presents him with the Dominion Jewel in front of the entire court. As soon as Jon touches the Jewel, it shines like a bright sun in his hands. When he speaks, his voice projects to every corner of the court. He thanks the gods for bringing the Dominion Jewel, and their lioness, in their great time of need.

## Chapter 6 Analysis

Alanna is glad to be off the boat. She was terribly seasick almost the entire trip, but she was so worried about what was happening at home that she decided to take a boat anyways. Alanna is glad to see George, but she can see that something has been bothering him. He is thinner than she remembered, and seems more scarred. George refuses to tell her what is wrong, but instead focuses the discussions on more pleasant things.

At the home of Myles, Thayet and Buri offer to find their own inn, and Liam offers to go with them. However, Myles has been expecting them all, and will be terribly hurt if they refuse his hospitality.

George is clearly still in love with Alanna, and Alanna does not necessarily feel otherwise about him, but her relationship with Liam is still complicated, if not over. George and Liam are amiable enough to each other, each knowing that the other is in love with Alanna and has at some point been her lover. Alanna shows that she still loves Liam when he carries her to bed. He leaves her in her bed and calls her lioness. Alanna tells him that she doesn't want to be lioness, meaning that she would rather still be his kitten. However, Liam does not respond to this, and only turns and leaves the room.

Alanna tells Thom that she would like the chance to talk to Roger. She wonders if Roger would have actually redeemed himself had she not killed him. Thom doesn't believe her, thinking instead that she only wants the chance to put him back in his grave. Alanna worries about her brother, as she can see that something is wrong with his gift. It is either corrupted, or has been taken over by something else. She is worried that Thom is dying.

After Alanna swears fealty to Jon, he breaks down. He tells her about his father, who committed suicide after the queen's death. Jon says that while the kingdom believes that it was a hunting accident, as his father wanted, he does realize that the king killed himself. Jon is distraught by the loss of both parents, and is glad that Alanna is home.



When Thayet appears, Alanna is glad for the opportunity to introduce her to Jon. She still feels that the two would make a good match. Thayet would make a good queen for king Jonathan. At first, Thayet is standoffish and dry with Jon, and he responds in kind. After hearing Alanna sigh, Thayet warms up a bit and gives Jon a chance. Before long, they are all drinking their tea and having a good time, with Thayet sitting very close to Jon by the fire.

When Alanna first sees Roger, her first thought is that his hair is too long and there is a food stain on his tunic. The Roger that she remembers was very vain in his appearance, and this is a definite change. He claims to be on his best behavior, but Alanna doesn't believe him. He is openly hostile to her, which frees her to be openly hostile with him. She is relieved by this, as she was hoping that she would not have to pretend to like him now. Alanna feels that Roger is now crazy, though she doesn't know why. Perhaps it is the fact that he is up on the surface when he should be dead, or perhaps the spell that brought him back rearranged his mind. Either way, he is crazy and dangerous.

After waking to find everyone laughing at her, Alanna is slightly embarrassed. She talks with Myles for a while, and he explains how things are going in the kingdom. Jon's father left the fiefdoms to their own devices for too long, and now that he is dead, they are wondering what Jon will do. If he is unable to rule them, they will break off and attempt to rule themselves. The neighboring kingdoms will nibble at them until they have taken most of Tortal. This is what the people are worried about, not Duke Roger taking the throne. Of course, no one at court actually knows of Roger's plotting, and that he is exactly who they should fear.

At the palace, Alanna is nervous about her appearance, as is Thayet. Alanna feels that Thayet need not worry about her appearance, as everyone's eyes are on her. Even the courtier who once told Alanna that after seeing so many women come down the stairs, he is no longer impressed by any of them, seems impressed by this one.

Alanna has a brief, if awkward moment with Liam. He comments on her beauty, and admits that he did not want to break it off with her. He thinks that she will end up being the queen, and claims that she will thank him when she is. Alanna has no plans of marrying Jon. Instead she wants Thayet to marry Jon, and is pleased when Jon leaves the throne to meet her half way in the court room. Things seem to be going well in Alanna's plans for them after all.



# Chapter 7

## Chapter 7 Summary

Alanna attends her first council meeting and discovers that she will have a larger role in Jon's reign than she had known. Jon appoints her the King's Champion. After the council meeting, Jon tries to comfort Alanna about her new position. He also asks her again if she will marry him. They both know that he doesn't really want to anymore, but he did ask, and he can't go back on his word. Alanna tells him that he's lucky one of them has some sense, and she tells him no again. She finds a drawing of Thayet, and teases Jon about it. She tells him that she knows she wouldn't make a good queen, but that Thayet would. Jon agrees that their marriage would not work out, and they leave it at that.

As the days roll on by, Alanna tries to stay as far from court life as she can to clear her head and get reacquainted with her city. Jon courts Thayet, so Buri sticks fairly close to Alanna, preferring her to the nobleman's company. The duke seems to be conspicuously innocent, which only heightens Alanna's mistrust of him. On the festival of Beltane, Jonathan summons Alanna. He wants her to help smooth over a conversation that he is going to have with George. When George arrives, Jon hands each of them a scroll. Alanna notices that the writing on George's scroll is the flowing script of a court scribe, not Jonathan's precise hand. George becomes very upset when he reads his official pardon. Jon explains that he learned much from George, and that George has earned it. However, there is more to it than even that, as Jon does not want to ever have to sign George's execution warrant. Jon feels trapped by the crown, and Alanna is too well known now. Jon needs someone who can move freely without being recognized as one of the king's men. He wants George to take the pardon, and to work with him in secrecy. George grudgingly agrees and accepts the pardon and the title as Baron of Pirate Swoop and the income that comes with it.

Later in the day, as Alanna walks aimlessly around the city, she finds herself in the coronation chamber. This chamber is used only for one purpose, to bind a king to the land. It has sat unused for many years, but now servants had opened it up and cleaned it out. Alanna is surprised to see the Goddess in the chamber. The Goddess tells Alanna that she can no longer guide her. She has grown into her powers fully now, and it is up to her to make her own future from this point on. If the gods continue to give people hints and show them the way, then where is their freedom to choose? When Alanna begs the Goddess for just one hint about the future, she laughs and denies her again. Before the Goddess fades from view, all of the other gods arrive beside and behind her. Alanna is forced to cover her eyes, and when she opens her eyes again, the gods are gone.

On her way back from the Hall of Crowns, Alanna is surprised to see Princess Josiane and Delia talking together. They greet her with sarcasm, and she bows to them as a man would. Delia tells, very biting, of the times that she "had to" dance with Alanna



when she posed as a boy. Alanna remembers things a little differently, saying that she thought that Alanna was a boy, and was just a woman hater. She chased after Alanna trying to make Alanna fall in love with her to show off to the court. After several more biting insults from both sides, Delia finally calls Alanna a slut and pulls Josiane away.

Back at Myles's home, Alanna tells Liam and Myles of the incident with the ladies. They discuss the danger that those two might pose, and the likelihood that there are warrior groups in the city to kill Jonathan. They haven't seen any proof of them, so it would appear that the soon to be king is as safe as possible. Si-cham arrives, and surprises Alanna by revealing that he knows both Myles and the Dragon of Shang. He reveals also that George has sent for him to treat Thom.

Thom took several days of convincing before he finally agrees to see Si-cham. Once he does agree, Si-cham and Thom are sequestered away in Thom's study alone for many days, and no one is allowed in. After a while, a courier summons Alanna to visit Thom. Thom begins the visit by prying into her personal life, which not only annoys her but also shows that he is feeling better. Si-Cham explains that they need Alanna to hold a small part of Thom's gift for a week so that he can think and work clearly. This should give him the time to make the infusions that he needs to heal. The only condition, though, is that she should not try to use her gift while holding the parcel of his gift.

A few days before the coronation, Thom does indeed look better. Alanna has finally gotten used to the extra burden, though she still refuses to work even the smallest spell out of fear that it will poison her gift as it had her brother's. Thom is already busy working on the spell that should purify his magic, allowing him to take the burden back from Alanna. Jonathan summons her to rehearse her lines. The master of ceremonies will not leave him alone until he decides what to do with the jewel. Being not Tortallian, he can not simply take it up with the crown and the scepter. Instead, Alanna must present it to him at the end of her oath as King's Champion. Alanna thinks that her lines are ridiculous, but Jon tells her to wait until she hears what he has to reply to her with.

## Chapter 7 Analysis

Alanna doesn't want to be the King's Champion and she doesn't feel like she belongs in council. She is a roaming warrior, and she belongs out in the open. Alanna realizes that Jon is trying to hint that she would make a good Champion, so instead of accepting it, she tries to put it off on someone else. Alanna talks about how great warriors some of her friends are, but Jon tells her that he likes them all exactly where they are, and that she needs to be the Champion. He tells her that it's not really up for debate, and that she just needs to say thank you. Eventually Alanna accepts it and just says thank you.

Jonathan has asked Alanna to marry him before, back when they were still enough alike and unchanged by the various adventures that Alanna has had. He doesn't want to feel like he has gone back on his word, so he asks her again. He doesn't want to marry her, but he does love her. Alanna doesn't want to be queen, as she prefers action to kingly



stuff anyways, but she does love him. They pretty much agree to be just friends, and she finally accepts who she is now as the King's Champion.

George is angry at Jonathan for giving him a pardon. He accuses Jonathan of having his fun with his low born, and now throwing him a bauble. George is tired of the Rogue anyways, and he tells Jonathan that he intends to leave and settle in some other city. George wants to travel, and doesn't particularly want to be made respectable. However, Jonathan needs him, and George can not abandon his friend.

In the Coronation chamber, Alanna wonders why she can't have the best of both worlds. She has worked hard and earned pretty much anything that she wants. She wants to be both warrior and woman. She wants to be a knight and to marry and be able to travel. She wants to serve Jon, but also roam about the realm. When Alanna sees the Goddess, she wants to know what will happen. The Goddess refuses to tell Alanna the future, and hints that if she did, she would take away Alanna's freedom of choice. After the Gods fade, Faithful tells Alanna that people like her are the fulcrum on which all things sit. One way or the other, people like Alanna change the world, and even the gods don't know what will happen in every case. At some point, it comes a time that only a human can change the world.

Alanna is glad to see Si-cham, but surprised to find that he knows Liam and Myles as well. She is glad that he has come to help Thom, but is worried that Thom will not accept any help.

When Alanna tries to convince Thom to see Si-cham for healing, he is furious. He is angry that they went behind his back and summoned his old teacher. Thom's pride would gladly kill him if it were not for his old friend George and his sister Alanna, who are more concerned for him that he seems to be for himself. When Alanna comes back, Thom pries into her personal life and analyzes her. She become agitated, and Thom apologizes. He remembers how much he hates it when people do it to him.



# Chapter 8

## Chapter 8 Summary

The night before the coronation, Jonathan must endure the King's Ordeal. Alanna doesn't know what is going on in the Chamber of the Ordeal, but she is glad that she is not in there with him. She begins to have a vision. The Dominion Jewel shines brightly off the doors to the Chamber and it comes closer and closer to her. She is in the Chamber of the Ordeal again. She sees Roger lying on a black stone slab. He tells her to come dance with her, and they dance along the Chamber. Alanna wants to scream, but she knows that screaming is forbidden in the Chamber of Ordeals. She can see the love and madness in Roger's eyes. When she comes to, she finds that she is indeed in the Chamber, and is glad that Jonathan is in a trance and doesn't seem to notice her.

Jonathan's Ordeal only lasts fifteen minutes, and afterward he and Alanna both go to their rooms to sleep for a little bit before the coronation.

In Alex's suite of rooms, he and Lady Delia prepare for the rebellion. He sharpens his weapons, and Delia worries over her physical appearance. A squire arrives and confirms that all arrangements have been made for the attack. Alex reminds the man that he is to wait for the signal before attacking, and that the attack will not come until AFTER the crown rests on Jonathan's head.

The coronation ceremony begins. It is truly a beautiful sight. Mourning is officially over, and all of the nobles are blooming with vibrant color. Alanna stands on the wall watching, grateful that she doesn't need to be down there in the ceremony. The moment that the crown touches Jonathan's head, and the magic of Tortal embraces its new king, the ground begins to rumble and is covered in Blood colored magic fire. Alanna feels a great pain in her stomach, that she immediately realizes means that Thom is under attack. She yells for others to protect the king, and heads for her brother's quarters. George stops her on her way, but after hearing her explanation, follows along with her. When they reach Thom's quarters, Alanna is worried. Something is wrong.

With the earthquakes and the magical fire, many of the commoners try to flee. Several nobles in cloaks throw off their cloaks, revealing their colors and their weapons. Myles races for Jonathan's side, informing him of the attack. Jonathan doesn't know what is going on, but he will find out as soon as he has a chance. The King's Own break into two squads. One will defend the king and the nobles, the other will go out and fight the nobles from Eldorne and Tirragen.

In Thom's quarters, Alanna feels the instant attack trying to drain her magic from her. She steels herself and sets out to find her brother. He is in his room. He is in terrible shape, and she can see the gift literally being drained from him. She tries to reach for her magic to save him, but Jonathan stops her. He warns her that when he brought Roger back from the dead, Roger's gift bound to him, but Roger was still able to control



it. Roger somehow set draining spells there, and is draining all of Thom's gift into himself, becoming more and more powerful. However, since Thom gave Alanna some of his gift, she now has some of his and some of Roger's gift. Roger can only drain one person at a time, but if she uses their gifts to try to save Thom, then she'll be caught in the draining spell too, and Roger will become very powerful indeed. As Alanna holds him, trying to save him, Thom's gift is gone, and so is his life.

On his way out of Thom's quarters, George runs into Coram, who had followed them. He tells Coram that he must take the Jewel to Jonathan, but out of the shadows comes Claw and his men. He demands that George give him the Jewel, and promises to let both men go if they do. Coram and George prepare for a fight.

More and more nobles are throwing off their cloaks, revealing these traitorous colors on heavily armed men. They have their very specific targets. They attack the king, the king's guards, and anyone else who fights back. The fight is not going well for the king's men.

As two more Tirragen guards come to Claw's aid, Coram and George fight them off. Finally, George lunges for Ralon himself. The Claw finds himself exactly where he does not want to be, in a knife fight with George, who was a better knife fighter even before Ralon lost an eye and much of his nerve. The others refuse to interfere, which also leaves Ralon no escape. He tries to fight George, but eventually ends up lying on the ground with George's knight hilt - deep in his chest.

Alanna remains at Thom's side, holding him, until Faithful latches on to her to snap her out of it. Thom is dead and there is nothing she can do about it, however, she is needed by her king. Si-Cham arrives, missing his right hand. He tells Alanna to open her mind to him, and she does. He fills her head with the knowledge of what has happened. Roger was stronger than Si-Cham, who had not practiced in years. He stole his right hand to steal his magic, and has set up leaching spells by the gate. Si-Cham uses Alanna's gift to form a link between Si-Cham, Alanna, and Jonathan. He gives all of Alanna's magic to the new king, making her pass out.

After killing Ralon, George backs away to regroup with Coram. Twelve more men have gathered to watch the combat, and now that it is settled, they can all get back to their fighting. Fierce though they are, Coram and George alone are no match for close to fifteen men. With a sound that momentarily makes George think that another quake has begun, Liam the Dragon roars down the hall and into the fighting men. After taking out several, the remaining six break and run. They three men know that they can not follow Alanna down the path she is on now, so they all head to Jonathan to ensure that the Jewel gets to him in time.

When Alanna wakes up, she finds Si-Cham fighting someone off at the door. It turns out to be Josiane, who chops him down with an ax. She tells Alanna that Roger told her that she could have her if she could manage to kill her. She tries, but Faithful gets in the way. As Josiane kills Faithful, his strength is returned to Alanna, giving her the strength and



speed to cut Josiane down in one swift move. She places Faithful on the table, and heads out to find Roger.

Liam, Coram, and George finally reach the fighting near the king. Liam heads off to do some fighting, and Coram thrusts the jewel into Jonathan's hands before grabbing a sword and taking his place as defender of the king. George, Liam, and Coram set themselves for a long morning, as more and more attackers make it through.

Racing down the old forgotten passageways, Alanna finally comes to Alex. He is waiting for her, and challenges her to a duel. He orders his men to remain at their posts, but the of course disobey and watch the duel. Alex is the first to disarm Alanna, but Alanna manages to defeat him unarmed, crushing his windpipe and ramming the bones of his nose up into his brain. Alex's men flee. Alanna continues down, down into the catacombs. In the ancient tomb, she finds the gate that steals magic, and the remains of an ancient temple. Standing nearby is Roger, who invites her to come to him. He is surprised at first, to learn that she has no gift, but he shrugs it off. Roger has planned for most of the outcomes that might occur here, including Si-cham stealing Alanna's gift. He calls to Lightning, which is made from parts of a magic sword that Roger himself forged. The sword leaps to life to go Roger, but Alanna is able to hold it for a while. Eventually, she realizes that the only thing that Roger DOESN'T expect her to do is to stop fighting. She stops fighting. She releases the sword. Roger doesn't notice until it is too late to call off the summoning spell that the sword is flying through the air straight for his chest. Roger laughs as the life leaves his body once again. The designs on his clothes and the floor melt, and the blood colored fire consumes the remains of Roger.

## Chapter 8 Analysis

In his fancy suite of rooms at the palace, Alex plots his rebellion. Delia, he lumps up with the other conspirators, who mean to steal the crown for themselves. Little do they know that to Roger, they are only pawns. Alex is amused at the idea of Delia and the others thinking that they are going to get the crown. He alone knows what his master is planning. He alone will laugh at the fall of the others once they are of no more use to Duke Roger.

Alanna is glad that she does not have to be part of the ceremony. She is tired from her all night vigil with Jonathan the night before, and doesn't think that frequent yawning would be proper for the king's coronation.

When the blood colored fire takes over the floor, and the earthquakes begin, Alanna instantly knows that something is wrong with her brother. The color of the fire is the new color of Thom's magic. She explains to George that while her brother's color used to be purple, it is not that blood orange red color due to the corruption of his gift. Just before they arrive at her brother's quarters, George is struck by a fearful idea. What color would Thom's purple and Roger's orange make? Alanna realizes that the combination of the gifts would make the same blood colored magic they see now.





When Alanna finds her brother dying, she instantly tries to save him. Thom stops her, knowing that this is what Roger wants, and that if she releases her magic, then Roger will drain her too. Thom seems proud that, while Roger grew stronger with Thom, Thom's magic was still stronger. Alanna doesn't see how this matters, as Roger is still somehow killing her brother, and stealing his gift as well. Thom tells Alanna that she must stop him, and not allow him to get the rest of Thom's gift and Alanna's along with it. His last words are that he still doesn't know how Roger is doing it.

As the pandemonium grows in the Hall of Crowns, Buri I torn between her training as a warrior and her duty to Thayet. Thayet solves the ethical issue for her by taking up sword against the attackers.

Standing by her brother's side, Alanna can't help but feel that somehow this is all her fault. If it were not for Faithful, there is no telling how long she would have remained there, by her dead brother, while the kingdom tore itself apart in the grips of Roger's dark magic. When Si-Cham arrives, he admits that he made a foolish mistake by thinking that he was unbeatable when in truth he had gone unchallenged for so long. He doesn't bother asking Alanna if she minds him sending all of her magic to Jonathan, probably because he knows that she would not allow it. Instead, he does it without asking, knowing that this is what Jonathan needs to defeat Roger.

As George looks his death in the eyes, he thinks about his oath to Alanna. He promised that he would get the Jewel to Jonathan. George may be a thief, but he is no oathbreaker. It bothers him that he is unlikely to be able to uphold his promise. George is as happy about Liam's arrival for that reason as he is any other.

Alanna is tired of Si-cham and his high handed way of ordering people's lives. She means to give the man a piece of her mind, but is sorry that she will never get the chance. As Josiane steps over his body, she wonders aloud at why he didn't just strike her down with magic. Alanna knows that it is because of Roger's draining spells. Si-cham would rather die than give his gift to Roger, to make him stronger. He does exactly that.

Alanna is surprised and disappointed to find Alex waiting for her. He always wanted to be the best, and was obsessed with beating Alanna. This time, they don't spar, but actually duel to the death. Alanna is tired, and slightly slower than her best. She knows that this might well make the difference with an opponent like Alex. She is disarmed, but then relies on her Shang training to eventually defeat him.

When Alanna finds Roger, she notices fresh blood on the ground, probably the blood from Si-cham's hand. Roger seems prepared for each eventuality as she tries to stop him. He even isn't bothered by the fact that Si-cham has drained her gift. All he needs is to chop off a small piece of her, which will give him access to her inner self, and then to the magic that protects Jonathan. As Alanna tries to fight Roger, she decides that she probably can not defeat him. Instead of fighting, she decides that she must give in. When she does, Roger's own arrogance costs him his life. He is so sure that he has all of his bases covered, that he doesn't really pay attention to what Alanna is doing. He



doesn't realize until it is too late that she has released the sword, and that it buries itself deep into his chest.

When Alanna is brought to the surface, she is sickened by the bodies and ruin all around her. The Hall of Crowns was all but destroyed and so many are dead. Nearly everyone else is injured. Jonathan sits alone, with new silvery hairs on his head that weren't there that morning. Lady Delia tried to assassinate Jon herself with a dagger, but Rispah figured out her plan and tied her up. Jonathan tells Alanna that he did all that he could to hold the land together, but that he could do nothing else. Liam stepped in front of him to take the eight arrows that would have otherwise killed Jonathan and cost them the kingdom. Liam died doing what he felt was his duty. To Liam, an honorable warrior's death for a reason is better than living for no reason. Jonathan understands this, but also understands that Alanna loved the Dragon still. He tries to tell her in the gentlest way possible, but he knows that she still hurts. Despite her many hurts this day, she knows that Liam died the way he wanted to, and that the kingdom is safe because of him, because of all of them.



# Epilogue

## Epilogue Summary

After the fall of the very short lived, but brutal rebellion, Jonathan sends out curriers all over the kingdom to explain that there will be no weeks long celebration of Coronation Day. Instead, in honor of those who died, Tortall will mourn and rebuild. One year from this day, they will have a great festival, and Jonathan will ride out amongst his people as no king has since his grandfather's day.

Thayet and Buri come to visit Alanna at her tribe. They bring news of the school that Thayet has started back in the capital city, and they talk of other things. However, it is nearly a week before Thayet talks about the real subject that has brought her here. She wants to know if it is truly over between Alanna and Jonathan before she agrees to marry him. Alanna assures Thayet that she has no interest in being queen or Jonathan's wife, and that she actually hopes that Thayet would like Jonathan by now. Alanna tells Thayet that she would make the better queen anyways.

The Wildcat of Shang arrives with a message for Alanna. Liam had written her the day before he was killed. If he lived, she was to destroy the letter. If he died, she was to deliver it to Alanna. A few days after the Wildcat leaves, Alanna begins to feel that it is time for her to leave as well. She has made a gift for George, and will bring it to him herself. Instead, George arrives in her tent, covered in dust from the road. He bears news of his new keep and of Jon and Thayet's betrothal, though he figures with Jon as the Voice, she would already know. Alanna agrees to marry George, and they kiss passionately. They go to tell the tribe of their betrothal.

## Epilogue Analysis

No one is in a festive mood after the Coronation Day ceremonies, as they all are injured and mourn for their losses. Jonathan's plan to have a one year anniversary festival instead shows that he is practical and respectful of those who died for him, but still understands that the beginning of his reign is to be celebrated, as much for the people of Tortall, who need such things to keep up their morale, as for the king himself.

Jonathan sentences the captured traitors to exile, and Delia to life imprisonment. Technically the law calls for executions for treason, but Jonathan refused to begin his reign with executions. Instead, he gives out more pardons in his first week as king than his father had in his entire reign.

Alanna is tired. She has had a long year, and she requests that Jonathan allow her to go to her tribe to rest for a while. Jon agrees, and tells her to take all the time she needs. After several weeks of rest, Thayet and Buri show up. Alanna has a good idea of what they want, but Thayet won't talk about it for a while. Thayet feels like Alanna, who is one of her best friends, is still in love with Jonathan and that she would like to be his



wife and queen. She tells Alanna that as her friend, she can not take her man. Alanna assures Thayet that she is still close and will likely always be close to Jon, but that the romance part of their relationship is over. She admits that she had schemed to get Jonathan and Thayet together from the start, and that she had rather hoped that Thayet would at least like Jon by now. By the end of the conversation, it seems clear that Thayet will happily marry Jonathan, now that she doesn't worry that she is stealing him away from a friend. That night, Thayet asks Alanna if there is another man for her. Alanna tells Thayet that she doesn't know, but she thinks of George while they talk.

Liam's letter apologizes for his death. He is not sorry that he died, only sorry that he was never able to make her truly understand how his people saw death. Liam loves Alanna to the moment of his death, but he had sensed change in Tortall for quite some time now. He feels that if he has to die to protect the new king, and what ever it is that he is beginning, then he will have truly died a Dragon.

Alanna is in love with George. When he arrives and fishes for answers about why she gave Thayet her blessing to marry Jon, she admits it to him freely. He is glad, and says that he finally tamed his lioness. Alanna corrects him, saying that she's not quite tame. They agree to marry, and prepare to tell the tribe of their betrothal.



# Characters

## Alanna of Trebond and Olau

Alanna is the adopted daughter of Sir Myles as well as the adopted member of the Blood Hawk tribe. She has always wanted to become a knight, despite her being a woman. When she was young, Alanna disguised herself as a boy and took the name of Alan. She trained as a page, then a squire, and finally attained knighthood. Only then did she reveal that she was truly a woman.

Despite the common belief that it is unnatural for a woman to be a knight, and the noblemen who believe that Alanna can't be a good fighter because she is a woman, Alanna takes on a series of grueling tests and trials and overcomes each one. By the end of her quest, the commoners are singing her praise. She is a hero and a legend, and even becomes King's Champion, the first woman to ever hold that title in the history of Tortall.

Alanna is a fierce fighter, but when it comes to love, she is a bit confused. Alanna has a habit of thinking that she can either be a woman or she can be a knight. Not until the end of the book does Alanna embrace the idea of being a married woman who roams about with her husband doing knightly things. Alanna falls in love with Liam quite by accident, and spends the duration of their brief relationship fairly confused. Finally, Alanna decides that she truly does love George, with no respect to her noble birth and his lowborn station. She agrees to marry George and become the lady of Pirate Swoop.

## Sir Myles

Sir Myles is the nobleman who adopts Alanna and raises her as his own daughter. He is a wealthy noble bachelor as well as a scholar. He is well known throughout the land.

Throughout the story, Myles shows himself to be kind and generous, with a hospitality that can not be matched. In the end of the story, however, another side of Myles is shown. During the rebellion, Myles fights fiercely and brutally. He ignores his own injuries, but only until his friend insists on healing him. Jon feels that this is a good thing, as his temper was so frightful, that they feared what he might do to their prisoners.

## Coram

Coram is Alanna's guardian and good friend. He is rough, gruff, and sounds to be common born. He has been Alanna's guardian since she was a small child. Coram is a kind, loving man, who is easily embarrassed by public displays of affection, but he is also a fierce warrior.



## **Faithful**

Faithful is a magical cat who can talk and use magic. He is Alanna's faithful companion and friend.

## **Windfeld**

Windfeld is the inn keeper at The Wondering Knight.

## **Liam Ironarm, the Dragon of Shang**

Liam Ironarm is a fierce warrior who has trained in the Shang methods since his early childhood. He is also a fierce lover, falling fast for Alanna, despite his best attempts not to. He is a hard man to love, always having to be in control. He seems unable to apologize, which coupled with Alanna's inability to forgive spells disaster for their relationship. He also bears a great fear and dislike for magic.

## **Moonlight**

Moonlight is Alanna's horse.

## **Anvil**

Anvil is Coram's horse.

## **Drifter**

Drifter is Liam's horse.

## **Bother**

Bother is the packhorse of the Sarain group of children led by Thayet and Buri

## **Buri**

Buri is a K'miri guard who is also great friend to her charge, Thayet. Buri is proud, and in the beginning, her pride keeps her from opening up to the other members of their party.



## Thayet

Thayet is the daughter of the warlord of Sarain. After her father's death, she agrees to accompany Alanna back to Tortall.

## Jonathan

Jonathan is the son of the king and queen of Tortall. He was once Alanna's lover, and has even gone so far as to ask her hand in marriage. When his parents die, he takes it very hard. Jonathan was not expecting to be king for many many years. On his coronation day, Roger leads a rebellion that nearly destroys the realm. It is Jonathan's use of the Dominion Jewel that curbs Roger's magic enough to allow him to be defeated.

## Roger

Roger is the Duke of Conte, and the king's cousin. He has planned a great rebellion that will leave his cousin dead and him on the throne, that is until Alanna kills him. While Alanna is away questing for her king, her brother raises the sorcerer from the dead, giving him one more opportunity to take over the kingdom.

## Thom

Thom is Alanna's twin brother. He is a proud and powerful sorcerer, but his pride becomes the death of him. In his pride, he allows Delia to goad him into raising Roger from the dead. When Roger mounts his rebellion once again, Thom is killed by his gift draining spells.

## George

George is a lowborn thief. He goes from leader of thieves guild to the baron of Pirate Swoop, and Alanna's husband, after betraying the Rogue to save Jonathan.



# Objects/Places

## Shang

The Shang are a group of people who are totally devoted to martial arts. They train from a very young age.

## Tortall

Tortall is the kingdom that Alanna calls home.

## Hall of Crowns

The Hall of Crowns is used for the coronations of Tortall kings only. Any other time, the Hall is closed.

## Lightening

Lightening is Alanna's sword. She made it from two broken swords, one of which was a magic sword made by Roger.

## Sarain

Sarain is a kingdom split by civil war. It is the home of Thayet and buri.

## The Voice

The Voice is the magical leader of the Bazhir people who can magically link to all of the tribes to share news.

## Chithril

Chithral is the dangerous mountain pass that holds the Dominion Jewel, as well as the great entity that guards the jewel.

## ominion Jewel

The Dominion Jewel was created by Chithral. It is a powerful magical item that can be used only by rulers. A good ruler can use the jewel to ensure years of good harvest and a happy reign. Selfish rulers, on the other hand, can use it to form terrible empires.





## **Gigt**

The gift is the spark of magic that is in all natural born sorcerers. There are other kinds of magic that others can use who are not gifted, but that magic comes from the land.

## **Roof of the World**

The Roof of the World is the highest elevation in the world and is north of all of the kingdoms.



# Themes

## Duty

Duty drives most of the characters of this story. Despite her arguments with Jonathan, Alanna still recognizes him as her king, even before his coronation. She feels that it is her duty as sworn knight to do what ever will best serve his reign as king. It is out of her sense of duty that Alanna braves civil war in a hostile nation, roving bandit groups, and brutal snows as well as the powerful elemental who brought them about, all to bring the Dominion Jewel back to Jonathan. When she returns home, her duty will call her to fight to put down a rebellion at the hands of a powerful sorcerer.

Liam, the Dragon of the Shang, is perhaps one of the most duty and honor driven characters in this story. He trained from a very young age to fight with and without weapons. His would gladly give his life if he can die for something important. To Liam, it is more important to die for something important than to live safely, which is exactly what he does. When Jonathan is absorbed in the magic, trying to stop Roger's magic from ripping the land apart, Liam steps in front of eight arrows and trades his death for that of the new king. It is his duty that prevents Liam from allowing his relationship to continue with Alanna, as he believed that she would marry Jonathan.

Jonathan is bound by his duty to the land as king, and must defend it with everything that he is. He is also bound by the duty of his word and will marry Alanna even though he doesn't really want to, just because he cannot break his word.

Coram has helped raise Alanna and Thom since they were in diapers. Coram continues to follow Alanna to the ends of the earth and back, forsaking his own love, to fulfill his duty to Alanna as her guardian. Despite all of his drunken adventures when they stop at inns, Coram's main priority is the safety of Alanna. He has fought many a battle in defense of Alanna, many times after being told to leave.

## Love

Alanna falls in love with several people over the course of this story. Alanna reveals the history of her relationship with Jonathan, a relationship so strong that it leads him to ask her to marry him later on. She remembers George fondly, but immediately falls in love with Liam. Liam and Alanna fall so deeply in love that they are willing to ignore the major issues that will eventually split them apart. Alanna is a gifted sorceress, and Liam is terrified of magic. Alanna is beginning to wonder about settling down and getting married, but Liam is the Dragon of Shang, and will likely never settle down. When Liam does finally break his relationship to Alanna, he later reveals that he doesn't really want to. He still loves her and only did it out of duty.

Alanna falls in love with George all over again when they meet again in the second half of the book. George has been in love with Alanna all along, and has even asked her to



marry him in the past. Alanna always said no before, because of the difference in their social status. However, as the story progresses and Alanna grows, she finds that she loves George regardless of his station, and would gladly marry him. In the end, Alanna tells George that she loves him and that she would like to marry him and have as many children as he wants, after a year or two of having him to herself first, of course.

## Lust for Power

The lust for power drives several of the characters of this story, and becomes vital to the plot. Roger, who has been recently returned from the grave by Thom, still has his old desires of holding the throne. Now, his lust for power has grown, and he would rather be a god instead. Roger is able to use several other nobles, due to their lust for power, as tools to launch a rebellion that almost destroys all of Tortall. Roger intends to drain the gift off of several sorcerers to feed his own, making him super powerful, even more powerful than some of the gods. Roger's lust for power has driven him mad, and he will stop at nothing to gain that power, even the destruction of his own land.

Josiane's lust for power as well as Delia's blind them to Roger's true goals, as well to the fact that Ralon is not to be trusted. Roger warns them that the Claw will betray them as he has everyone else before them, but they are too blinded by their lust for power to listen. Ultimately, each of loses everything when the rebellion fails.

Even Alanna's quest to gain the Dominion Jewel is driven by a lust for power. She doesn't want the power for herself, and she only wants Jonathan to use it for the good of Tortall. However, Alanna is still driven by the image in her head of what Jonathan can do with the power of the jewel. By seeing it as a powerful tool to be used to manipulate the environment with magic, even though she does not intend to use it for evil or for herself, Alanna has given in to her lust for power.



# Style

## Point of View

The point of view of this novel is subjective third-person with multiple viewpoints. The narrator generally follows Alanna, showing the world through her eyes and revealing her feelings. However, in a few sections the narrator instead follows a different character. In some parts of the book, Alanna is nowhere near, and the narrator instead follows George, Alex, or Jonathan. This viewpoint allows the author to tell the whole story as it happens, even as multiple important events take place at the same time in different places. This choice of viewpoint is interesting because it shows the world and events surrounding each focal character in turn, as well as their emotions, but does not provide an all knowing, bird's eye view of the story. Had the author chosen omniscient third-person point of view or bird's eye view, it would have been more difficult to maintain the suspense and keep from revealing crucial plot twists.

## Setting

This story takes place in a fantasy land. The story begins in the kingdom of Tortall, where Alanna and her companions are from. They head out of Tortall into Tusaine, then into Sarain on a quest for the Dominion Jewel. The technology and social development of the time in this story is similar to our own middle ages. Here, magic is real, and is a big part of society.

Weather follows normal patterns based on location and time of year for the most part, however, in some cases, gods and magic do effect the climate. Chitral creates great blizzards in his mountains to deter Alanna, and Roger uses magic to create earth shaking earthquakes. Even the kings who have the Dominion Jewel use its power to control the weather and harvest to a lesser degree.

There are many gods and goddesses in this world, many of whom take an active role in the day to day functions of human life. The Goddess Mother often appears to Alanna to give her guidance. The ancient being Chitral, who Alanna must face in order to gain access to the Dominion Jewel, itself a powerful and intelligent magical object, claims to be far older than the gods. He calls himself an elemental instead, saying that the gods of their realm are but children compared to him and his kind.

## Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is relaxed and informal for the most part. In only a few places is the language stiff and formal. When it is, it is generally only between nobles, and often time overly formal to show sarcasm. In contrast, with Coram and many of the lowborn, the language is quite base, and contains a great deal of contractions and slang.



Most of this story is told through very vivid descriptions about the world as seen through the eyes whichever character is acting as focus for the narrator. Most of the world building and action take are delivered through exposition, while the dialogue shows most of the emotional aspects of character relationships.

## Structure

This novel is made up of eight, long chapters, and one, rather short epilogue. The book spans three hundred and eighty - four pages and about a year of story time. The chapters are numbered. They are also named for some event or place that occur in the chapter. These long chapters do tend to slow the pace a bit, but the easy language and smooth flow of action, along with the suspenseful viewpoint changes, do help to pick it back up a bit.

The obvious plot of this story is Alanna's quest for the Dominion Jewel. In this respect, the story actually starts slightly before, and ends slightly after Alanna's quest. The story begins with Alanna roaming about, fairly well lost about what to do. She has a map, but doesn't know what it says. After discovering the map's secret to be the location of the Dominion Jewel, Alanna decides to go on a quest to get it, and the majority of the remaining story follows this. After she has found the jewel and returned home, the story does not end, however. Rather, it continues on past Jonathan's coronation and a failed rebellion, finally ending several weeks later. Another plot that would better use the full course of this book is that of Alanna's own personal development and grown, or that of her love life. Alanna begins this book as a newly proven knight, with at least two men that she is in love with. Soon after the beginning, add another man. The story follows mostly Alanna, showing how she grows and changes over the year and through her many great adventures. At the end, Alanna is a world-famous hero, the Champion of the King, and in love with only George, who she will soon marry.



## Quotes

"Not a knight like this'un, This'un be a girl" (Chapter 1, p. 3).

"Coram changed my diapers, and he never lets me forget it. He helped raise my twin brother and me" (Chapter 1, p. 5).

"Coram trusts me. Don't you" (Chapter 2, p. 48).

"I like going straight through Sarain. We can deal with bandits, one way or another" (Chapter 2, p. 54).

"yes, she is very much like you at that age" (Chapter 3, p. 97).

"We'll all find out a thing or two when we get there, especially Jon" (Chapter 4, p. 139).

"Roger. He brought Roger back" (Chapter 4, p. 188).

"A fine thing, to be gettin' a new Pa at my age" (Chapter 5, p. 197).

"But isn't that always the way when folk plot to steal power? The innocent get hurt" (Chapter 5, p. 213).

"Wanted by my Lord Provost  
For treason against the Crown  
One Claw, born Ralon of Malven  
Reward: one thousand gold nobles"  
(Chapter 5, p. 233).

"He killed himself, Alanna. He made it look like a hunting accident, but it wasn't. Oh, gods! Why did I have to lose both of them"  
(Chapter 6, p. 250).

"I bring you the fruit of my traveling, Majesty - the Dominion Jewel" (Chapter 6, p. 280).

"Please don't feel that being Champion traps you in some way" (Chapter 7, p. 291-292).

"Not bad - if you like ordeals" (Chapter 8, p. 327).

"It's us now. The succession must be settled. Fight, Ralon, or Claw - if you've the belly"  
(Chapter 8, p. 341).

"We did it, King's Champion. Tortall is safe" (Chapter 8, p. 370).

## Topics for Discussion

Discuss the point of view of this novel. Why do you think that the author has chosen this point of view?

How is Roger able to come back from the dead? How does he manage to hide his gift and then becomes so powerful?

Discuss pride. Does Thom's pride have any negative consequences? What are they?

Throughout the story, Alanna's view of life goes through some very profound changes. What does she believe about marriage and her life in the beginning of the story? What does she feel about it at the end?

Discuss the lust for power. Who in this story is driven by a lust for power? Did these characters act on their feelings? What are the results of their actions?

Discuss duty. What part does the sense of duty play in the lives of the characters of this story?

Liam and Alanna both view death in very different ways. How do Liam and Alanna feel about death? How does it affect their relationship?