

The Power That Preserves Study Guide

The Power That Preserves by Stephen R. Donaldson

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Contents

The Power That Preserves Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Chapter 1-3.....	4
Chapter 4-6.....	7
Chapter 7-10.....	10
Chapter 11-14.....	13
Chapter 15-17.....	16
Chapter 18-20.....	19
Chapter 20.....	21
Characters.....	23
Objects/Places.....	27
Themes.....	29
Style.....	31
Quotes.....	34
Topics for Discussion.....	36



Plot Summary

The Power That Preserves is the third book in the Thomas Covenant series. Thomas Covenant is a leper in the real world who is called back to the Land, a place that Covenant is certain is only a figment of his imagination. Although he has no belief in the Land he has grown to love it and undertakes the journey to destroy Lord Foul, the destroyer of the Land. Covenant is able to save the Land but before being transported back to his own world he is given the choice of living out his life free of leprosy in the Land or returning to his world. Covenant chooses his own world and is happy to be alive.

Covenant is back in his reality from another trip to the Land where his daughter, Elena, dies. Covenant blames himself for this death and is having a hard time coming to grips with reality. He eventually winds up taking a walk in the woods where he goes to sleep. When he awakens he finds a young girl cornered by a rattlesnake. Covenant gets up to help the girl but falls and hits his head before he gets to her and is summoned to the Land.

Mhoram and the others in Revelstone have called Covenant but he begs them to let him return to his home. Mhoram explains before he releases Covenant that the ancient servants of the Lords, the Bloodguard, have been corrupted by the evil Lord Foul and the Land is dying under Foul's attack. Covenant returns to the girl and she has been bitten already. Covenant lances the wound and sucks much of the poison out and begins carrying her back to her parents. Once there Covenant sits down and is pulled back to the Land. Covenant realizes he has not been summoned by Mhoram but by Triock and Foamfollower, people he knows from previous journeys to the Land. Foamfollower and Covenant start their journey to Lord Foul where Covenant hopes his magic ring will be able to help him defeat Lord Foul. Meanwhile Revelstone is under attack by Lord Foul's army.

When Foamfollower and Covenant reach Lord Foul, Covenant is able to realize how to defeat Lord Foul and has Foamfollower laugh. The laughter triggers an emotion that helps defeat Lord Foul. Covenant uses his magic ring to destroy Foul's evil illearth stone. As thanks for saving his creation, the Creator offers to let Covenant live out his days in the Land with health. Covenant chooses to return back to his world where he lies dying from his leprosy and the anti-venom given to him after he tried to help the girl. The Creator gives Covenant's body the strength to survive and Covenant is happy to be back home and alive.



Chapter 1-3

Chapter 1-3 Summary

The Power That Preserves is the third book in the Thomas Covenant series. Thomas Covenant is a leper in the real world who is called back to the Land, a place that Covenant is certain is only a figment of his imagination. Although he has no belief in the Land he has grown to love it and undertakes the journey to destroy Lord Foul, the destroyer of the Land. Covenant is able to save the Land but before being transported back to his own world he is given the choice of living out his life free of leprosy in the Land or returning to his world. Covenant chooses his own world and is happy to be alive.

As chapter one begins, Thomas Covenant is trying to adjust to life in his reality. It has only been days since he was in the Land. He is sleeping when the phone rings. It is his lawyer but for a moment Covenant recognizes her voice as that of Elena, his daughter from the Land. Covenant feels guilty over his part in Elena's death and it takes his lawyer a moment before she is able to communicate that the city is upset that Covenant, a leper, has been going into town since they are worried they might catch his disease. The town wants to rezone Covenant's house and force him to move. Although the lawyer explains all this in detail Covenant does not seem to comprehend what she is saying and eventually hangs up on her even though she is trying to help him. Covenant is still thinking about Elena's death as well as other people that had been with him when he was in the Land the last time when he decides to try and prove that there is not a Land. He calls a woman that he had seen while in a bar. The woman had called him Berek and Covenant had been called Berek Half-hand while in the Land, because Covenant was missing part of his hand due to his leprosy. When he calls the woman she laughs saying she did not call him Berek but Berrett. Covenant hangs up on her and makes another call to a military base to try and find a Hile Troy, who had been from his reality called to the Land just as Covenant. When he calls the military base they say that they cannot help him regardless because of the rules that they have about giving out information. Covenant hangs up the phone and in a rage of confusion and hurt begins to tear his living room apart and then hurries outback to his shed where he used to write. Once there he finds that the shed has been vandalized by people in the town who hate him and fear his disease.

Covenant spends the next several days wishing he had the resolve to kill himself but does not have the strength. He is out walking when he comes upon a tent revival. He comes forward when there is an altar call and admits to being a sick sinner. One of the men in the church recognizes him and throws him out. Covenant is sick with the grief of his sickness and goes home where he finds a sack by the mailbox with his weekly groceries in it so that he does not come to town. He takes the sack inside and begins to eat when he bites into a razor blade that had been put in his bread. Covenant runs out of the house and into the woods. After a time he falls down and leans against a tree to sleep. The next morning he awakes to find a little girl about four or five cornered by a



rattle snake. Covenant tries to make his way to the girl when he falls and hits his head. He feels himself being pulled toward the Land once again.

Meanwhile, in chapter two the High Lord Mhoram is in Revelstone, a great city, in the Land. The Land has been pushed into an unnatural cold by Lord Foul, the Despiser, who wants to destroy the Land and everything in it. Lord Foul has acquired the Illearth Stone, a green stone capable of great power. Mhoram had thought the stone would not give Lord Foul that much more power but now knows that he had been wrong. The Lords have lost the Staff of Law, a staff that aids in the Land's natural healing powers. The staff was with High Lord Elena when she died after calling forth the spirit of High Lord Kevin seven years ago. Lord Foul is working against the Land and his servant Satansfist, a giant possessed by an evil spirit called a raver, is getting ready to wage battle against Revelstone. Mhoram feels that he is running out of options of how to fight Lord Foul and his army. He wants to call forth Thomas Covenant, the Unbeliever, back to the Land for a third time. The ancient prophecy states that the Unbeliever will either damn the Land or save it. There are many who advise Mhoram not to summon Covenant again because of the damage that he did during his first two trips to the Land but Mhoram feels it is the best option that they have. Trell, the grandfather of Elena, hates Covenant and asks Mhoram not to call the Unbeliever back but Mhoram tells him that they must.

Mhoram sings the song to call Covenant and finds that Covenant is battered and is weak and is crying not to be called to the Land because of the young girl that he is in the woods with. Mhoram tells Covenant about the Bloodguard, the ancient servants of the Lords, and how two of them are corrupted by Lord Foul and each of them has a hand cut to resemble Covenant. Upon seeing that their vow had been corrupted, the Bloodguard renounce their service and leave the Lords. Mhoram tells Covenant that without the Bloodguard and the Staff of Law they need the wild magic that Thomas Covenant has, referring to his white gold wedding ring. Mhoram releases Covenant to go back and help the little girl. Mhoram is worried because he feels weakness in Covenant.

In chapter three Covenant wakes up to the little girl asking for help. He looks her over and realizes she has been bit by the snake. Covenant does not have a way to get her help quickly enough unless he gets part of the snake venom out of her leg. He asks her if she is brave and she tells him that she ran away after her daddy spanked her but did not cry. Covenant takes out his knife and cuts her leg and sucks part of the poison out. He then takes off his shoes that protect his leprous feet and carry the girl toward her parents. He walks a long ways before he finds her parents. During the walk Covenant has time to wonder about where the Giants in the Land are and why they are no aid to Revelstone as well as Bannor, the Bloodguard that was assigned to him while he was in the Land. When the girl's parents see Covenant they act like they would like to attack Covenant for a moment. He sits down on a stump and thinks about Mhoram and says he is ready now.



Chapter 1-3 Analysis

This book is the third in the series and so the first couple of chapters in the book is filled with information that helps the reader understand what has happened in the past two books. There is still a lot that is not explained at this point and only brief mentions made of other things that will show themselves in greater detail later in the story such as the story of the Giants and the Bloodguard as well as a better explanation as to what the Staff of Law is. The Krill, the sword that Mhoram looks at after summoning Covenant, will also play a larger role in the story.

Covenant notes that he did not get to look at the little girl's face. She will not be seen again in the story but will have a great impact on Covenant's life in his reality. Covenant's lawyer and the fact that he is being kicked out of his home will also be mentioned again in the last chapter of the story. Since this is the third in the series there are many questions and plots that will be answered in this book that do not originate in this book. There will be much more information that is focused on explaining these plots and what happened in other books. There are other books in the series after this one and there will be things that are left unanswered in the end of this book.

Covenant has a great deal of inner turmoil in regards to the Land and his actions there, as well as his leprosy. He continually talks about Elena and Lena and his part in their suffering and then connects that to the fact that they never existed. Although there has been a lot of this explained at this point it will be much later in the story when the full story of Elena and Lena will be explained.

The Bloodguard and the Giants have been briefly mentioned. Two of the characters that will have a larger part in the story will show up in the next chapters. The battle that Mhoram is facing at the city of Revelstone is a very serious one that has the city extremely worried. Despite the severity of their situation it appears that it is not here that Covenant is most needed. Later in the story it will seem that if Covenant had stayed in the city when Mhoram first called him that this may have been a great mistake. Lord Foul will also be a character shown in greater detail later in the story. Covenant is a hero that is flawed. The severity of his flaws will be crucial as the story continues and will be explained toward the end of the story.



Chapter 4-6

Chapter 4-6 Summary

In chapter four Satansfist army is slowly driving forward all the people in their path toward Revelstone. Mhoram knows that this is so that all the people can be gathered together in one place for a great slaughter. When Satansfist reaches Revelstone he shouts at the city, telling the Lords that he is waiting courteously for them to surrender. Mhoram shouts back that they will not surrender. Satansfist offers to let Mhoram live as a servant and Mhoram says that he will never serve Lord Foul or any of his servants. Satansfist tries to jump at the city but Mhoram is able to shoot Lords fire at him and deflect Satansfist. Satansfist leaves a short distance but the army can be seen from the city walls. Mhoram knows that they will starve in Revelstone within a number of weeks but also does not think that Satansfist will wait for this because Satansfist wants blood too badly.

Before long, Satansfist's men begin to make catapults and throw a viscus liquid at the castle that eats through the stone. It kills several men but Mhoram and the others in the castle are able to keep the damage to a minimum and eventually the battle stops for a time. Slowly Mhoram realizes that there is something eating away at the morale within the city. There is fear and distrust growing within everyone in Revelstone. Somehow there is a spell that is seeping up through the ground in Revelstone and is causing fear and instability in the people. One of the Lords that helps Mhoram explains that her daughters have stopped eating and have begun to suspect that everything is poison and that one of them acts like she does not recognize her mother. She begs Mhoram to summon Covenant but he knows that time moves differently in their world than for Covenant and has no way to know if he has saved the child yet or not.

In chapter five Covenant is floating and seemingly going towards death when he hears a voice calling him. He is being summoned towards it by a familiar voice although it is not Mhoram. There are two voices discussing Covenant while he lays there. Covenant opens his eyes and realizes that one of the men talking is Triock, a Stonedowner who had been in love with Lena, daughter of Trell. Covenant had raped Lena on his first visit to the Land. Triock is talking with the other man with him and calls him "Rockbrother" which is a word for a Giant friend. Covenant is still very weak and ill but forces himself to look at Triock's companion and sees that it is Saltheart Foamfollower, a Giant that had befriended Covenant on his first trip to the Land. Foamfollower carries Covenant down to a safe place until it becomes obvious that Triock and Foamfollower need to do something to heal Covenant because he is so close to death. Triock has a staff called the lomilliallor that was given to him by Mhoram. It can be used to communicate with another who holds the same type of staff but it can also heal. Triock uses the magic in the wood to heal Covenant to some small degree. Covenant is able to look around and realizes that the winter has stripped the Land bear. Triock explains that the winter is Foul's doing and has already lasted far longer than it should have. Still very weak and sick, Covenant begins to fall into a deep sleep.



As chapter six begins Covenant is awakened by Foamfollower because Triock has seen marauders heading toward the Stonedowner village. The Stonedowners have run and hid in the hills many times but have decided that they will not hide while their homes are destroyed any more and Triock and Foamfollower mean to make it to the village in time to fight with them. Covenant is barefoot from when he had taken his shoes off to carry the little girl in his reality and so Foamfollower gives him a pair of sandals. Through the snow they make their way to the village. Covenant is worried as they reach the village that the marauders may be there looking for the white gold if Lord Foul felt Covenant reenter the Land. Foamfollower and Covenant take a stance behind a row of houses and Foamfollower throws Covenant up onto the top of a house to be safe. As Covenant is on top of the house he can see as the marauders enter the village. Covenant realizes watching them that they are not looking for his white gold but then suddenly there is a white haired older woman that runs past the houses and into the middle of the marauders that are destroying the houses. Covenant does not have much time to think but runs to the woman's side to help her. He is able to confuse the attackers for a moment by brandishing his white gold ring. Covenant takes advantage of their pause and with the old woman flees. Foamfollower soon is in the middle of the attackers killing many of them in one attack. Covenant and the woman retreat to a safe place on the side of the mountain. Covenant watches the fight with disgust, feeling that there are people dying because of the woman's foolish actions. The woman tells him that she has born his child. When Covenant looks at her he realizes that this old woman is Lena, the girl he had raped when he first came to the Land. Lena tells Covenant that she has remained unchanged for him and that he should meet their daughter. It is then that Covenant realizes no one told her about the death of Elena. After the battle is over Covenant helps to heal those in the village that are hurt and works with Foamfollower to help him in his pain.

Covenant tells Triock that he must find a way to get word to Mhoram that Covenant has returned to the Land. Triock knows that it is impossible but Covenant tells him that they must start doing impossible things. Triock decides to take the lomillialor into the mountains to find an Unfettered One, a person who went into the mountains hundreds of years ago, to see if he can use the lomillialor to talk to Mhoram since Triock does not have the knowledge. Covenant and Foamfollower are going to start on their way to find Lord Foul so that Covenant can destroy him although Covenant admits he does not know how. Lena demands to go with Covenant. Triock tries to protest but it has started to snow and Covenant knows that the snow will give their tracks some cover and help them stay hidden.

Chapter 4-6 Analysis

Covenant is still questioning what has happened to the Giants. It becomes clear that Foamfollower is very hurt by the discussion although he will not explain why it is that he will not talk about his kindred. It is not until much later in the story that the fate of the Giants is explained. When the tale of the Giants is revealed it becomes understood that Foamfollower is fighting, perhaps in part, to justify his actions when his people were in danger.



Lena wants to go with Covenant. Listening to her talk it becomes obvious that when Covenant raped her he did more than violate her body. She is nearly mad. She repeats the fact that she is young and has stayed the same even though Covenant can see that she looks like an old frail woman. Triock had been in love with Lena when Covenant raped her. In the next few chapters it will be shown that he has continued to love Lena even though she has remained faithful to Covenant. The rape has also had an effect on Covenant and it is clear that he feels a need to make amends of some type for this action. The thing that is easy to forget is the time difference for the two worlds. Lena was a young girl when Covenant raped her and now she is an elderly woman. Triock talks about the long time he has spent since Covenant's actions, but to Covenant it has been only a matter of weeks in his reality. The rape for Lena and her family has been years and brought forth a child and that child's death and has had a long term effect on the family. For Covenant he still is feeling the guilt over his actions but has not had time to make amends or come to terms with himself in any way.

Triock talks about forgiveness and mercy in regards to Covenant and it is clear that he is having a hard time applying these to Covenant. Despite his feelings and what has happened he will prove to be able to forgive even if it does not give Covenant any relief.

Lena is still telling Covenant how much she has waited for him and how she wants to be with him. As she continues with these vows of her faithfulness to Covenant, it will appear to cause him pain. As they get ready to leave the Stonedowner village Covenant says that he has debts to repay. It seems that this may be the reason that he allows Lena to go with him. In the next chapter the effect that this has on Triock is revealed.



Chapter 7-10

Chapter 7-10 Summary

In chapter seven, Triock and two of his companions, Quirrel and Yeurquin, leave the village in search of the Unfettered One. Triock knows that they may not be able to make it there and that it will be dangerous but feels that it may be necessary. As they begin walking through the snow, Triock fears the path they have chosen although there are no good paths left with all the enemies in the Land. They are walking for only a few days when they are attacked by a pack of Kresh, giant yellow wolves that enjoy killing and have an insatiable appetite. They are able to kill the wolves but Yeurquin is badly injured. They continue on their way and are soon followed by another enemy that sensed the fighting that took place when the Kresh attacked Triock and his friends. They make their way on to where Triock believes the Unfettered One lives. When they are walking through the harsh snow storm Quirrel disappears from sight although he was no more than a few steps ahead. Soon Triock and Yeurquin are lying in the snow storm dying when they are found by the Unfettered One and taken to his cave. He agrees to help them and Yeurquin is sent to stand guard at the mouth of the cave. The Unfettered One begins to call Mhoram when Quirrel walks in holding Yeurquin's body, her neck broken. Quirrel is badly injured, although none of his injuries are bleeding, and he looks mad. The Unfettered One recognizes him as someone that is possessed by a raver but he is unable to fight the raver-possessed Quirrel. Triock is injured quickly and watches helplessly as the raver rips the Unfettered One apart limb by limb.

Covenant, Saltheart, and Foamfollower begin making their way toward Lord Foul in chapter eight. Lena continues to walk proudly by Covenant's side. He is still badly injured from the events that happened before he was summoned to the Land and has to stop and rest frequently. Lena is elderly and also has to stop and rest often. Covenant was healed of his leprosy the first two times he came to the Land. Foul has attacked the Land to the point that none of its healing powers remain. He tries to convince himself that he cannot feel his feet because of the winter but knows that his disease is spreading further and further. As they travel, Covenant tries to get Foamfollower to explain his tale but Foamfollower does not answer any of the questions and Covenant does harm to the Bloodguard during his last trip to the Land and is reluctant to push the subject. After traveling for a time Lena breaks down and begs Covenant to marry her. He does not love her but instead of telling her that he tells her that she is beautiful but that he cannot marry her and to remember that Berek Halfhand did not marry his Queen either. Lena grabs onto this hope and asks if she is his Queen. Covenant hides his face from her as he tells her that she is.

Covenant takes a turn watching over Lena and Foamfollower as they sleep when suddenly they are attacked by dark figures. Covenant runs to aid them but is apprehended himself. The person holding Covenant spins him around to look him in the face and Covenant realizes the man holding him, although much aged, is Bannor of the Bloodguard who had been with Covenant on both of his previous journeys in the Land.



In chapter nine Bannor says that Covenant is well disguised since he travels with an old woman and a giant and stinks of infection. Bannor explains that the vow the Bloodguard gave to the Lords had been corrupted and that they no longer can serve. The Bloodguard have left, many of them going home, but Bannor and a few others have come to work with the Ramen and lend a hand protecting the Ranyhyn, the great free horses of the Plains of Ra. The Ramen live to serve the horses and the horses have refused to leave the Plains of Ra even though there is great danger and the horses are beginning to starve to death. Bannor and the other Ramen insist that Covenant, Lena and Foamfollower go with them to ensure that they are not spies of the enemies. Covenant says he has been saved by Bannor too many times to distrust Bannor now. When they enter the last of the Ramen's secret lairs they find many of the Ranyhyn are badly injured and some close to death. Despite this condition they try to rear to Covenant. This and Lena's love for the horses convinces the Ramen to trust them but not Foamfollower. They are given food before Foamfollower is to be tested and a man enters who calls Covenant the tormentor of horses and calls Foamfollower a raver. After the man leaves, the Ramen explain that this was Pietten, the boy that Foamfollower and Covenant saved during Covenant's first journey into the Land. The boy was attacked by creatures of Foul and something was done to his mind. The Ramen agreed to take the boy to raise since all his people were killed but the child is never the same although he has a deep love for the horses and lives with them on the plains.

After Pietten is gone Foamfollower does a fire ritual to prove his worth to the Ramen. Bannor accepts this but has words with Covenant in regards to Elena's death, saying that he does not blame Covenant but that Covenant should not blame the Bloodguard either. Lena hears this and becomes furious, not having known that Elena had died so many years ago. Lena suddenly seems to slip into her own world and does not respond to Covenant. While he tries to make her listen to him, they are attacked by urviles. Bannor and Foamfollower stay to fight and show Covenant a way out the back. Covenant and Lena escape although he feels the need to stay and fight and perhaps find forgiveness in the battle.

Chapter ten resumes with Covenant and Lena running out into the snow and finding their way to a cave. Lena is almost unresponsive but suddenly comes to life attacking Covenant. They are suddenly overtaken by Pietten who tells them to follow him or die where they stand and he starts off. Something about Pietten makes Covenant worry but he feels that he has no choice but to follow and Covenant pulls Lena along behind him. They come to a river and Covenant and Lena cross but are wet and weak after the excursion. Pietten makes a large fire that can be seen for miles. Covenant tells Pietten how foolish it is to build a fire because it will be seen by everyone. Pietten explains that he wants them to come and witness him killing Covenant. Covenant tells Lena to run but Pietten says he will hunt her down and kill her if she tries. Pietten blames Covenant for the death of the Ranyhyn and for them choosing to stay in the Plains of Ra because Covenant promised not to ride any of them if they would come to save him. When Lena learns that Covenant is responsible for the Ranyhyn's demise she becomes furious and turns to run from Covenant. Pietten tries to go after her and Covenant attacks him, taking the spear from Pietten. Covenant breaks his ankle in the struggle and Lena comes back to save him, telling him to call the Ranyhyn. Pietten is able to spear Lena



through the belly, staking her to the frozen ground. Covenant whistles for a Ranyhyn and as Pietten throws a knife at Covenant, he hits the great horse and Pietten falls into misery at what he has done. Covenant is able to get to Pietten and the fight until Pietten is dead. With Lena's last breath, she asks Covenant to free the horses. Covenant tells the Ranyhyn that they are all free and the horse rears to him before it leaves.

Chapter 7-10 Analysis

Covenant feels that he has done every crime that there is now with Pietten's death on his hands. He has raped Lena, been treacherous in his dealings and now he has murdered. It becomes clear that Pietten thought he was doing something for the horses. In many ways this is how Lord Foul works. He takes what the person holds most dear and makes into their fear or worry and has them work so hard toward that goal that they destroy everything. Pietten will not be the last person to fall in this way in the story. It will be seen again in Revelstone and later in the story with Triock.

Pietten tells Lena and Covenant that Bannor and Foamfollower are dead. It is not until Pietten is ready to kill them that he reveals that they are still likely to be alive. Despite the fact that his friends are still alive, it will not be until much later in the story that they resurface.

Lena loved Covenant and it is unclear at her death why she chose to come back and save him. It could be that she saved him because she still loved him, despite her daughter's death and the fact that the Ranyhyn are hurting because of Covenant's self-serving compromise with the horses. It is also possible that even in her hindered mental state she is able to realize that Covenant is a help for the Land. Lena's father, Trell, is at Revelstone. He also has been effected by Covenant's actions. During this story there is no indication that he ever learns of what happens to his daughter although Triock will find her later on.

Covenant is much worse off physically now that he has done battle with Pietten, as well as emotionally. He can remember the events that brought Pietten to the Ramen and knows that it is Lord Foul's plan all along that the boy be brought up with them. The damage that has been done to the boy is not fully realized although they know that something has been done. Covenant will blame himself for Pietten's death as well as many others. He will continue to look at each of the people that have given their lives for him. At this point it seems to be hate that is driving much of Covenant's motivation to fight. It becomes obvious as the story continues that hate is not going to be the answer. In the next chapter Covenant will question hate and its effect. This hate will seemingly be pulled from Covenant although Covenant will not know what has happened to him or have any full memory of it.

In the next set of chapters the story will switch from one set of characters to another and the time line will be hard to distinguish until there are events that correlate. There will be events that happen and are described to both sets of characters that will give a time frame. These events will not be readily recognized until all the chapters have been read.



Chapter 11-14

Chapter 11-14 Summary

In chapter eleven Mhoram and all those in Revelstone are still battling Satansfist and his army. Mhoram tells some of the workers in the castle that they must use their earthlore to try and seal Revelstone from the despair that the enemy is sending up through the ground. Mhoram is walking through Revelstone when he finds Trell and realizes that Trell does not look good. Trell accuses Mhoram of trying to keep Revelstone intact so that Lord Foul can have it for his own use and walks away refusing to help them. Mhoram is worried for Trell but has situations to deal with elsewhere. The workers in the castle are able to meld the stone under Revelstone together and slowly a change takes place and the people become more peaceful and fear begins to leave. Mhoram tells the cook to cook big full meals and to make sure everyone is fed. Mhoram explains that if they do not have the strength to endure this attack they will have no future and so does not want anyone to be hungry while they conserve food. For more than a week Satansfist's army sits around Revelstone and waits, although Mhoram is not sure what sign Satansfist is waiting for.

On the twenty-eighth day, a dark unnatural cloud comes over the city and Satansfist's army begins to move into action and the war begins. After much fighting, Mhoram and others in Revelstone realize the weather and other indicators means that Lord Foul has the Staff of Law although they do not know how. While they are battling Mhoram is brought word that Trell has lost himself in his grief and has begun an attack inside Revelstone to ensure that the great castle is not taken by Satansfist. Mhoram and several others are able to stop Trell but not before much is destroyed by Trell's power of stone melting. The ancient sword, the krill, that comes to live when Thomas Covenant is in the Land is seen to be glowing and Mhoram realizes that Covenant is in the Land. Mhoram pulls the sword from the stone and calls the other Lords to tell them secrets he has long ago discovered about their power.

In chapter twelve Covenant is walking on his badly broken leg rolling the word hate over and over through his mind. He thinks of all the people that have died trying to help him or manipulated by him or manipulated to kill him. He feels certain that they are all his responsibility and the only thing left by all their deaths is hate. As he walks he uses Pietten's spear as a crutch but the pain is harsh and he has no warm clothes or food for the journey. As he travels he stops to rest at times and has a dream. In it there is a man who kills several people and when Covenant finally sees the face of the man he realizes it is himself. He has found no food for sometime and resorts to eating grass under the snow. He finds a path and, excited, follows it hoping to find the person that made the trail, but after a time realizes the path is his own. Covenant is growing weaker and begins to walk into a forest. Once in the forest he finds that the trees are almost singing to him. Covenant is lead on by a light and finally, unable to go any further, lays down to sleep and then spiders come to cover his wounds in delicate spider webs. Later that night an old woman comes to Covenant whispering the word mercy to him and takes



him to heal him. She says she has been sent by the Forestall to help Covenant but he is unable to understand her and calls her Lena.

The woman helps Covenant back to her home where he continues to call her Lena saying that she is there to torment him. The woman begins to build a fire and gets ready to heal Covenant's wounds and says that she fears not death but does fear the pain. She readies herself and touches his ankle and then goes to a corner after having touched Covenant and breaks her own ankle in the same exact way that Covenant's is broken. She rests for a time and when she awakens both hers and Covenant's ankle are healed. Covenant, sick with madness from the poison grass he has eaten, tries to leave the cave, accusing the woman of hating lepers. She drugs him and keeps him in her cave although the Forestall is pressing its urgency on the woman. When she gets ready to heal Covenant's mental illness she realizes the extent of it and tries to pull away from him but cannot. The madness takes her over and she grabs a knife to kill Covenant but the trees gently reach in her cave and pull the life from her and leave her lying on the floor.

In chapter fourteen Covenant wakes up and realizes that he does not know where he is but that he is safe. Something has changed in him and although he does not remember coming to the cave he knows that he is safe there. He gets out of bed and sees the old woman lying on the floor. He knows by looking at her that she too has died for him. As he leaves the woman's cave he puts her on the bed and whispers mercy to her.

Once Covenant is out of the forest he sees Triock standing at a pass on the river. Covenant comes closer to Triock and finds that Triock will not show Covenant his face. Triock has seen Lena and tries to fight with Covenant but then changes tactics and makes dinner for Covenant. Covenant is sure that something is not right with Triock but does not know what it is. Covenant eats some of the food and suddenly is very tired. He realizes that Triock has drugged his food. Covenant can hear the Forestall calling him and warning him of the danger but Covenant is already too drugged to move. Triock shows his face and he has been possessed by the raver and take Covenant captive as Covenant falls into a deep sleep.

Chapter 11-14 Analysis

In chapter thirteen there is a woman that helps Covenant heal. Her name is never known and Covenant has no recollections of what she has done for him. The woman states that she was summoned by the forest and it is seen later in the chapter that the forest is impressing the urgency of the situation on her. Despite this there is no dialogue or proof of the forest's communication to the woman other than the leaves that come to gather her when she is about to kill Covenant. When Covenant sees her he grasps that somehow this woman gave herself for him. When she realizes what was going to happen to her while trying to heal his mind, she tries to pull back but is unable. It is unclear if it is Covenant pulling her back to his mind or the Forestall pushing her towards his mind that finishes the connection. It is clear that the forest seems to know what is going to happen and is ready to react when she picks up the knife. It is also



unknown if she would have given her life willingly for Covenant had she known what it would accomplish. He feels that she died for him but it never explains if she died willingly or not in any respect, only that the initial glimpse into his mind frightened her.

When Covenant leaves he says that he cannot remember anything, however the one thing the woman had continually said to him was "mercy." When Covenant leaves the word he says to her before he goes is also "mercy." This clearly indicates that on some subconscious level he retained something from their encounter. There seems to have been a change in Thomas Covenant that he alludes to while talking to Triock at the river. Covenant does not remember the woman healing his mind but he knows that somehow his feelings of hate and anger have changed and that he is going to have to find a different way to face Foul. It appears that the woman somehow took the emotions that were tainting Covenant as well as his illness. It may be that this illness corrupted her. Later in the story Covenant will explain that Foul had no effect on him because he, himself, was already corrupted by the leprosy and sin in his life. It is possible that this corruption touched the woman healer as well.

When the raver, in Triock's form, meets Covenant at the river it becomes obvious that Triock's own emotions are feeding the raver to a point. This indicates that the raver is not completely separate from the person that they are controlling. This will prove to be crucial later in the story. The raver shows stealth and patience while waiting for the drugs to take effect. While the raver seems to be a creature of pure hate that has little emotion, it is smart and realizes that if Covenant has the power of the white gold to wield then he can destroy the raver. It is not until the raver finds out that Covenant cannot call the white gold that he reveals much of his true nature.

In Revelstone, Mhoram has been clearly energized by the fact that the krill has come to life since it indicates that Covenant is back in the Land. Mhoram is now willing to share his secret with the other Lords although it will not cause them any relief. The fact that the Staff of Law is being used by Lord Foul is important and the truth of this will be revealed in the next few chapters. Mhoram has come upon renewed strength at the thought of Covenant's help but it will also be shown that his strength and hope dwindles with the thought of Covenant gone. Despite this, Mhoram will prove that he is capable of great power and leadership.



Chapter 15-17

Chapter 15-17 Summary

In chapter fifteen Satansfist has exhausted his army and there is a lull in the fighting. Lord Mhoram takes the Lords aside and explains to them the paradox of the Lore of Kevin, the magic they seek to help win their war against Lord Foul, and the Oath of Peace that they take against needless violence. Mhoram explains that the Lore of Kevin cannot be used except by those who are willing to do harm. Many of the Lords feel that if they do not have power they are lost but if they go against the Oath of Peace then they are no longer who they are and they are lost. Mhoram says that they must find the wisdom to attain both peace and power.

Days continue and the battle ensues. Mhoram and Satansfist have words and while Mhoram is shouting at Satansfist he pulls out the krill. Satansfist laughs and Mhoram sees that the gem on the sword has gone out again and that Covenant must be gone from the Land or dead. Mhoram leaves to go to the top of Revelstone and calls for his Ranyhyn to come. The horse comes but looks near death. Mhoram takes the Ranyhyn to have it cared for and tells his army that he goes out to do battle with Satansfist soon. He explains that he will want all the men with him he can have but none that do not want to fight and that they must know that the light of the krill has gone out. Lord Mhoram is in his private study when one of the other Lords brings him the krill. Deep in its gem there is a faint hint of green light and Mhoram knows that the white gold has fallen into Lord Foul's hands.

The next day Mhoram and all his army march out to do battle with Satansfist. The Ranyhyn has completely recovered and is eager to do battle as well. During the battle Mhoram is quickly knocked off his horse and is separated from the others and battles, killing many of Satansfist's creatures before coming face to face with Satansfist himself. While they are fighting suddenly the wind from Lord Foul's unnatural winter ceases for the first time in many months. Mhoram pulls out the krill knowing the power is dead only to see that the jewel is glowing again in the fashion that only Thomas Covenant could create. Mhoram drives the sword deep into Satansfist's chest and kills the creature but Mhoram is badly hurt and his hands are burned into tatters. Mhoram's men find him and return to the castle knowing that the drive of Lord Foul is still upon the creature army.

In chapter sixteen Covenant wakes up to find that he is being kept prisoner and Triock is standing close by. Covenant knows that his ring has been taken. Triock tells Covenant that both of their times are short and to get up. There are two Ramen standing behind Covenant that are being controlled by Foul's servants and behind them are Foamfollower and Bannor, both frozen in place by a magical force. Covenant begins to ask questions of Triock but is interrupted when a figure starts toward him. Covenant recognizes the figure as that of Elena, his daughter. She was called forth by Lord Foul to serve him with the Staff of Law and she holds the ring of Covenants. She is turned toward Revelstone using the staff and Covenant is able to talk to Triock and convince



him that Lena has died for nothing if Triock is not able to help him. With Elena's focus diverted, Triock is able to make his way to her. The two Ramen are able to begin resisting the force that controls them as well as Foamfollower slowly moving. Triock finally makes it to Elena and is able to knock the ring out of her spectral hand. Covenant tries to get the ring and Triock puts himself between Elena and Covenant and takes a giant blow to the back from Elena's Staff of Law. The two Ramen are killed as well. Elena and Covenant do battle and with the ring on his finger he is able to trigger the ring and destroy the Staff of Law and the wind from Lord Foul's winter stops. Elena is freed from her service and tells Covenant to strike a blow for her as she vanishes. Covenant waits for Triock to die and knows that he will return home with his summoner dead but as Triock dies, Covenant does not fade.

In chapter seventeen Covenant helps Foamfollower and Bannor from their imprisonment. It is here that Foamfollower explains why he is the last of his people left alive and that he feels a need to atone for leaving his people when they decided to die. Covenant decides he cannot keep any secrets from Foamfollower or Bannor and tells them that he had been called to the Land by Mhoram but that he denied the call to help a small girl. Bannor is angry but Foamfollower laughs and says that this is great and he can find joy in that choice. Bannor says that he will not continue with Foamfollower and Covenant to find Lord Foul but gives them the information that he has in regards to the way to Lord Foul. Bannor also has the metal left from the Staff of Law and says he will find a way to get it to Revelstone. As Bannor leaves, Covenant knows that he will never see him again.

Foamfollower and Covenant are soon followed on their journey and are attacked once in a dark part of the Land. Covenant and Foamfollower are being attacked by a fire and jump into quicksand with the hope that it will protect the most of their bodies from the fire. Once they are in the Sand they are both grabbed and pulled under.

Chapter 15-17 Analysis

Bannor has exited the story at the end of chapter seventeen and this is the last time he will be seen again. There is much that is not known about Bannor. He keeps a lot of his emotion to himself and Covenant's feelings about Bannor are not readily known, other than Covenant knows Bannor to be trustworthy. It is not until Bannor announces that he will not be going with Covenant that Covenant realizes how much he has been counting on Bannor's presence.

Elena died during Covenant's last trip to the Land and he blames himself for her death. When the Staff of Law is destroyed and she slowly vanishes, Covenant is distraught once again and blames himself for her demise a second time, although Foamfollower explains that a spirit cannot die and so she was not killed again but was simply released back to where she should be. Elena will make one more appearance in this story.

Covenant has refused to leave Foamfollower more than once in the story. Covenant continues to blame himself for the death of all those around him, including Triock and



Pietten. It is not until much later in the story that Covenant is able to view the death of those around him as choices that they have made.

The Staff of Law breaks and the wind stops. It is not clear how long the winter has been on the Land exactly but it is told that the wind has not stopped since the winter created by Lord Foul began. This is the last time that the Staff of Law is seen in the story. It will not be clear if Bannor is able to get the metal fragments of the staff back to the Lords at Revelstone or not. Bannor will not be mentioned again either. If there is anymore information on either of these subjects, the author has left it for the next books in the series.

The story has switched several times from the view of Covenant to that of the people in Revelstone. The people in Revelstone will be looked at one more brief time in the story although it will be from the view of Covenant looking down on the people.

Foamfollower's story about his people has been explained. He abandoned his people because they chose to die rather than to fight and Foamfollower felt that they needed to fight and help. Foamfollower's guilt arises from the fact that he feels he should have stayed and fought when the Giant raver, Kinslaughter, came to kill those in the Giant village. With the power of the illearth stone to help the Giant ravers, it seems certain that Foamfollower would have died if he had chosen to stay.



Chapter 18-20

Chapter 18-20 Summary

In chapter eighteen Covenant and Foamfollower are pulled into a dark cave by mud-like creatures that are creations of Lord Foul although they do not serve Foul. The creatures hope that Covenant is pure and will be the one to free them as it has been foretold by their prophecy. Covenant regrets to inform them that he is not the pure one they seek. The creatures cry but give him the information he will need to find Foul and ask him to believe that he is pure. With the creatures information, Foamfollower and Covenant are able to follow underground tunnels deep into Lord Foul's mountain. They soon come to a pit of lava and Foamfollower puts Covenant on his shoulders and jumps in. Foamfollower is able to make it a large portion of the way across the lava lake before being stopped by the pain and throwing Covenant the rest of the way across. Covenant watches as Foamfollower's hands disappear below the surface.

In chapter nineteen Covenant lays asleep for sometime and is trying to slowly make his way toward Foul when he is attacked from behind and his mouth covered. He tries to fight back until he turns and sees Foamfollower smiling at him, naked. Foamfollower explains that he thought he was going to die but he believed that somehow Covenant's white gold ring sustained him in the fire. They slowly continue their way on until they come to the main entrance to Foul. Foamfollower and Covenant are separated by the creatures and Foamfollower finds himself face to face with the spirit form of one of the Giants that had been corrupted by the ravers.

In chapter twenty Foamfollower and Covenant begin battle with Foul and his servants. Foamfollower is chained to a wall by Foul's creatures as Covenant is face to face with Foul. Foul tells Covenant that if he will place the ring in his hand then he will heal Covenant. Covenant refuses because he loves the Land. Lord Foul says it is impossible for Covenant to love the Land and not believe in it but Covenant says that it is the truth. Lord Foul torments Covenant for a time and then tries to use the illearth stone on Covenant to corrupt him. Covenant is subjected to the stone and then begins to laugh. He explains that the illearth stone cannot corrupt him because he has already been corrupted as is shown by his leprosy. He has Lord Foul weakened and the spirits of the past Lords come and tell Covenant to finish him off. Covenant then tells Foamfollower to laugh. Foamfollower does and the mood lightens and the laughter effects the whole room. Foul is slowly destroyed by the lack of hate to feed on and vanishes as do the dead Lords. Covenant uses his magic to free Foamfollower and then uses it to destroy the illearth stone.

Chapter 18-20 Analysis

Covenant has helped to free Foamfollower but at this point it seems clear that Foamfollower has no intention of trying to get out alive. Foamfollower has a lot of sorrow



over being the last of his people alive. Foamfollower was Covenant's friend. In the next chapter Covenant will put his love for Foamfollower above his desire to be rid of the leprosy. Foamfollower will not be revived and the reasons explained are acceptable but Covenant's desire to put Foamfollower before his own desires is touching and conveys the depth of his feelings.

When Covenant destroyed the Staff of Law he realized that this was not going to be enough to keep Foul from continuing his work against the Land. It is unclear what the consequences would have been if Covenant had been returned home after the death of Triock but the fact that Covenant knew his work was not over is significant.

The creatures that pull Covenant and Foamfollower down into the quicksand are not seen or spoken of again in the story. This possibly is one of the plots that the author leaves open for the next book in the series or it may not be answered at all. As a result of the mud creatures and their prophecy, it is known that Covenant considers himself not pure. This is again stated when Covenant is talking to Lord Foul about the fact that he cannot be corrupted by the illearth stone because he is already corrupted.

Covenant has been blaming himself for the death of those around him. It is not until the end of the story that Covenant places people's decisions on themselves for the most part. It appears that Covenant has found peace for himself in some small degree although he still believes he is unworthy of a rest as is seen in the next chapter. He tells Lena earlier in the book that he does not want her to forget and that he does not want anyone to forget. It does not seem that Covenant feels that he has atoned for his sins but it does appear that by this point in the story he has found a way to live with them.



Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

In chapter twenty Covenant floats in the place between death and life but cannot let himself rest because of all the wrong he has done. He knows that Foamfollower is dead, choosing to die rather than find an escape after Covenant destroys the illearth stone. Covenant is blaming himself for many wrongs when he hears a voice telling him to take heart in the fact that Covenant did not chose this path for himself. It is the old beggar that Covenant saw right before he was brought to the Land the first time. The beggar is the Creator and he thanks Covenant for choosing to save the Land, his creation. The Creator explains that he could not interfere with the choices Covenant made because it would have made Covenant his tool and Covenant would have been ineffective against Lord Foul. Covenant's sickness made him familiar with despair and corruption and this knowledge gave Covenant the wisdom he needed to succeed. The Creator offers Covenant a gift for saving the Land. Covenant asks for Foamfollower to be alive again but the Creator cannot give this because it would break many laws and allow Lord Foul to come back more powerful. The Creator offers to give Covenant a life in the Land free of disease but Covenant refuses. The Creator then tells Covenant that in his reality he is dying from an allergic reaction to the anti-venom given to him at the hospital. The Creator cannot heal Covenant's leprosy in his reality but can give Covenant the strength to live. Covenant chooses to go back to his reality. Before they go, the Creator shows Covenant Lord Mhoram and those of Revelstone and the rebuilding that has begun.

Once back in his reality Covenant is told by one of the doctors that the city has decided to let him stay and not rezone his home because he saved the girl. Covenant is badly injured but is happy to be in his own reality, alive.

Chapter 20 Analysis

The little girl that Covenant saved is never truly introduced and Covenant never even sees her face. Despite her small part in the story she has a great impact on Covenant and the events in his life. If it had not been for the little girl, Covenant would have stayed in Revelstone the first time rather than going back to help her and thus would not have started the journey with Foamfollower and Triock. It is also the story of the little girl that causes Foamfollower to laugh for the first time in the story. It may be this short laugh that helps Covenant to think to have Foamfollower to laugh again while they are battling Lord Foul. The little girl's effect is once again shown when Covenant is returned home and the people of his town are so full of gratitude toward Covenant that they decide not to kick him out of his home.

Covenant says at the very end of his battle with Lord Foul that he does not believe in the Land. The Creator offers to show Covenant that the Land is real but Covenant refuses this offer. It is unclear completely why Covenant chose to go back rather than to



have his health restored. The fact that Covenant is able to smile when he is returned to his reality gives some indication that he has come to terms with his illness and perhaps himself.

The sight of Mhorm and the others at Revelstone appears to be something that helps Covenant in other ways. Covenant thinks about Trel when he sees the city and decides that Trel might be dead. The end state of Trel is not revealed in the story. It is clear that Trel was hurt emotionally when he realized his actions and what he had done to the city of Revelstone but the information on this character ends at this point.

The thing that Covenant seems to be most aware of is the fact that Revelstone has enough survivors to start again despite the fact that they have undergone great losses. Covenant also takes notice of the fact that Mhoram is badly injured although he is still alive and seems able to heal. What becomes of Lord Foul's army after Covenant is able to banish Foul is not explained. It is seen earlier in the story that Mhoram kills the Raver but that Lord Foul still has a hold on the creatures serving him. It may simply be that when Foul is defeated by Covenant and the illearth stone destroyed, the creatures simply leave.



Characters

Thomas Covenant

Thomas Covenant is the main character in *The Power That Preserves*. The story is the third in a series about the life of Thomas Covenant and how he is pulled to a mythical place called the Land from reality. Covenant is certain that this place is a figment of his imagination and so does not exist but knows that his survival in his own world is directly linked to what happens in his dream. Covenant spends a great deal of time in the book coming into contact with people he has wronged on his past journeys to the Land. Although many in the Land believe Covenant is a tool of Lord Foul, the one who wants to destroy the Land, he is still treated as a hero and many are willing to die for him even when they believe he is to blame for the hurt around them. Covenant realizes this by the way that the people look at him. At one point in the story Covenant will blame the people for part of his actions because of the kind way that they continue to treat him despite his obvious flaws.

Covenant has a wedding ring that he wears even though his wife, Joan, left him shortly after discovering he had leprosy. Covenant has never taken this ring off. When Covenant is taken to the Land it is this ring that Lord Foul wants and that the people believe hold power. They refer to it as the white gold or wild magic. Covenant has been able to call on the ring before when he was in the Land but it was not intentional and he admits that he does not understand how it works. At the end of the story Covenant will gain a better understanding of the magic and how it pertains to him.

Covenant is hated in the real world because of his disease. It is not until he saves a small girl, at risk to his own life, that the town is able to look at him any differently. The way that the town has treated him over the years has created strong feelings of hate and distrust in Covenant. Although he has a lot of hatred he seems to point that hatred toward himself as much as toward anyone else. Covenant will explain later in the book that the reason that Foul is unable to corrupt him is because he is already corrupted by his own leprosy and his own sins.

Saltheart Foamfollower

Saltheart Foamfollower is a friend of Thomas Covenant and is one of the ones that helped call Covenant to the Land. Foamfollower was with Covenant when Covenant was pulled to the Land in the first book and there are many mentions made of the things that the two of them have done together in the past. Foamfollower is a giant, the last of his race. When Foamfollower finds that there are three giants that have been taken over by ravers, evil workers of Lord Foul, he feels that the giants need to fight against them and help the people of the Land. The rest of the giants go to lie down and die because they feel that their people have become what they hate the most and they would rather



die than face this. Foamfollower is looking for redemption of a type because he fled when the others of his race chose to lay down and die.

Foamfollower is tormented by agents of Lord Foul and called "Kinabandoner." Covenant is not aware of Foamfollower's people being dead and does not push the subject for sometime because he sees that the subject of his people hurts Foamfollower. Foamfollower will die in the book, choosing rather to give up his life once he and Covenant have finished their quest. Covenant tells Foamfollower that he needed Foamfollower for his task. It is unknown that Foamfollower's help was an absolute necessity for Covenant but Foamfollower did seem to play a very crucial role. Foamfollower seems to be one of the few people that understands Covenant.

Lena

Lena is a woman that met Thomas Covenant on his first trip to the Land. Lena was young when she and Covenant first met but due to the difference in the way that time moves between the two worlds she is a frail old woman in this book. Covenant rapes Lena when he first comes to the Land. Despite this fact, Lena chooses not to hold any ill toward Covenant and seems to not be mentally stable. She tells Covenant how much she stayed faithful to him and how much she loves him. She asks him to marry her. Covenant tells her that he cannot but tells her that she is his queen. Lena learns later that it is because of Covenant that her daughter, Elena, died during one of his other trips to the Land and also that the Ranyhyn, great horses, have stayed in the Land where they are in danger. Lena becomes angry with Covenant at this point and seems to go past the point of loving him despite his actions, but will still give her life for him.

High Lord Mhoram

Mhoram has known Covenant since Covenant's first trip to the Land. Mhoram calls Covenant to the Land but is persuaded to send him back when Covenant explains that there is a small girl he is trying to save. Mhoram is responsible for much of the defenses of Revelstone, a great city in the Land, while it is under attack from Lord Foul's servants. Mhoram kills the last of the giant ravers, Satansfist, in battle and Mhoram is badly injured but survives.

Bannor

Bannor is a Bloodguard that had been assigned to protect the Lords and had sworn their vow which caused them to not age or sleep. During Covenant's last journey to the Land he unknowingly caused Bannor to betray their vow and the Bloodguard had been corrupted by Lord Foul. Bannor and the other Bloodguard left Revelstone and the Lords. Bannor went to serve with the Ramen who serve the Ranyhyn, the horses of the plains. It is Bannor who helps Foamfollower and Covenant while they are traveling to Lord Foul although Bannor refuses to continue with them.



Triock

Triock is a Stonedowner who had been in love with Lena when Thomas Covenant raped her on his first journey to the Land. Triock summons Covenant to the Land in this book to help them in their fight although Triock is not fully capable of forgiving Covenant for all that has happened. Triock gives his life to help Covenant and dies lying in Covenant's lap.

Lord Foul

Lord Foul is also called the Despiser and many other names. He causes despair and fear among other things in people. He hates life and hates everything that the Creator has made. Lord Foul is unable to corrupt Covenant and use him because Covenant is already corrupted by the leprosy that is in his body.

High Lord Elena

Elena is the daughter of Thomas Covenant and Lena, the product of Covenant's rape. She dies during his last trip to the Land and Covenant blames himself, as do many other people. Elena's soul is brought back by Lord Foul and used to serve him. It is Elena that kills Triock. Elena, once freed, is able to tell Covenant that she still loves him and to strike a blow for her before her soul disappears back to where it came from.

Trell

Trell is the father of Lena, grandfather of Elena. He has grown to hate the thought of Covenant and because of his lack of trust in himself and harsh feelings toward Covenant tries to destroy Revelstone while it is under attack, saying it would be better to be destroyed rather than to let Lord Foul have it.

Pietten

Pietten is a young boy that Covenant and Foamfollower save when Covenant is in the Land for the first time. Pietten has been harmed by the creatures that caught him but it is unclear what has been done. The Ramen that care for the Ranyhyn agree to raise the boy. In this book when Covenant meets Pietten it is clear that Pietten has been damaged far more than Covenant knew. Pietten will try to kill Covenant and will murder Lena in the process.

The Creator

The Creator is the one that made the Land. He is able to call Thomas Covenant forth and see if Covenant will help the Land or damn it, but has no option to influence things

further than this. He explains that if he had influenced Covenant any more, then Covenant would have been his tool and therefore would have had no effect when faced with Lord Foul. The Creator offers to let Covenant live out his days in the Land as a hero but Covenant chooses to go home. The Creator cannot heal Covenant of his disease in his own world.



Objects/Places

The Land

The Land is the name of the mythical place that Thomas Covenant is pulled to from reality. The Land is similar to our reality in a lot of ways but also contains magical elements. It is the Land that Lord Foul wants to destroy. Covenant believes that the Land is only a dream and is not real but still decides to save it.

White Gold

Thomas Covenant's wedding ring is made out of white gold. This metal is not found in the Land and is said to have magical powers. Thomas Covenant has been able to use the ring although it was seemingly on accident. The white gold is also called wild magic. Lord Foul wants the ring.

Oath of Peace

The Oath of Peace is the oath that those in the Land take that swears that they will not partake in needless violence. It is the Oath of Peace that they hope will keep them from destroying the Land again in an attempt to destroy Lord Foul.

Ranyhyn

The Ranyhyn are the great free horses of the Plains of Ra. They are tended by a people called the Ramen. The horses rear to Covenant even though they are badly hurt and some of them are dying. The reasons that the Ranyhyn have not left the Plains where they are in danger is because of the promise that they made to Covenant. When he frees them of their promise they head to the safety of the mountains.

Revelstone

Revelstone is the Lord's city in the Land. It is attacked by Satansfist and Lord Foul's armies. Lord Mhoram and others fight to protect this city while Covenant is on his way to Lord Foul.

Staff of Law

The Staff of Law was wielded by High Lord Elena when she died the last time Covenant was called to the Land. When Covenant finds Elena's spirit has been called back and enslaved by Lord Foul, she is still wielding the Staff of Law. Covenant's ring destroys the



staff and Bannor takes what is left of the metal from the staff and says he will carry it to Revelstone.

Leprosy

Covenant has leprosy and it has seemingly ruined his life in his reality. He explains later in the book that since he is already corrupted by this disease eating flesh there is no way for Lord Foul to corrupt him further.

Aliantha

Aliantha are nourishing berries found on plants in the Land. They are also called treasure-berries. The plants are now harder to find because of Foul's attack on the Land.

Lomillialor

The lomillialor is staff made out of the High Wood and has power. Triock carries this staff to an unfettered one in the mountains with the hope that it can help them send word to Lord Mhoram regarding Covenant's quest to find Lord Foul. The lomillialor is ultimately destroyed by a raver.

Ravers

The ravers are Lord Foul's three ancient servants. They can take over a person's body but cannot be fully destroyed even when that person is killed. The ravers are made more powerful with the magic of the illearth stone.

Illearth Stone

The illearth stone is a source of evil power. It glows green and Lord Foul is able to give a piece to each of his ravers.

Jheherrin

The jheherrin are creatures that are by-products of Lord Foul's making. They are made of mud and seemingly soft. They resemble the creatures of the Land. They choose to save Covenant and Foamfollower in the hopes that they will gain their freedom and redemption from aiding them. Although Lord Foul has made them and can destroy them they choose to work against him and his evil.



Themes

Good Versus Evil

The theme of good versus evil is shown in the war that is being fought in the Land. The people and creatures that are fighting on the side of the Land are kind and gentle and have taken the Oath of Peace. While they have the ability to fall or to show weakness, it is clear that they are the representation of good in the story. When Lord Foul and his armies are shown it is obvious that they represent evil. Lord Foul is associated with Corruption. Those that serve him are cruel and full of hate. They go beyond the necessary and seem to enjoy killing. One of the ravers that works for Lord Foul admits to killing off all the giants, with the exception of Foamfollower. The raver killed the men women and children in the giant village. The lesser creatures that serve Foul are described in ways that make them seem demonic. There is also a vast contrast between the beasts that serve Foul and those that are striving to help the Land. One example of these creatures are the kresh that serve Lord Foul and the Ranyhyn that are creatures that serve the Lords and the Land. The kresh are giant wolves that leave nothing when they attack a village except shards of bone. The Ranyhyn are seemingly magical horses that can communicate with humans.

Another focus of good versus evil in the story takes place within Thomas Covenant. He is different than the people of the Land in many ways, some largely due to his disease, leprosy. Covenant has not taken the Oath of Peace and it becomes clear that he has done things that cause him great shame and pain. On his first trip to the Land he rapes a young girl. What seems to amplify his shame over this action is the fact that the girl has chosen to love him and says that she has kept herself true for him. Covenant seems to view himself as a bad person that wants to be absolved of his sins. He wants to find peace and to do what he can for the Land but knows that he is corrupted, a fact signified by his leprosy. Covenant is different than those in the Land as is shown when he has the choice of what he will do. At times it seems as though people in the Land are born knowing what side they are going to fight on, even if they are tricked by Lord Foul. Covenant seems to be one of the few people that has a choice of who to serve and which side he will be on.

Forgiveness

Thomas Covenant has done many things he is ashamed of. There are many people in the Land that do not seem to forgive Covenant of anything he has done regardless of whether they feel he is there to save the Land or not, such as Bannor, but there are many people in the Land who have fully forgiven him. Lena is one able to forgive him of everything it seems. There is not a lot of time for her to come to terms with the death of her daughter, but even after learning that it was Covenant who was responsible for Elena's death, Lena is willing to give her life to save Covenant. The hardest forgiveness that Covenant must earn is his own forgiveness. There is also the subject of forgiveness



in regards to Covenant's reality, where he was going to be evicted out of his own home because the town hated him.

In addition to Covenant's forgiveness there are other characters that must come to terms with themselves and others. Although Foamfollower never actually says he needs forgiveness, it appears that he feels a lot of regret over leaving his people when he knows that they are going to be killed. He says that perhaps he could have fought for them. It seems more likely that Foamfollower would have been killed if he had stayed behind but there is no way to determine what the outcome would have been. Foamfollower ultimately decides to die rather than to try and live as the last of his people. Despite this he seems to have found peace within himself.

Battle

There are many different battles that take place in the book. The largest battle that occurs in the book is the battle between Lord Foul and those of the Land. This is shown in many different ways and some ways are not physical fighting as much as emotional and spiritual fighting. There are many characters in the book that have to battle to keep themselves from being lost to despair. There is a large battle that takes place at Revelstone throughout much of the story. This is between the Lords of the Land and Satansfist, Lord Foul's raver servant. This battle is returned to often in the story and shows the effects of Covenant's fight.

There are many smaller battles that take place in the story, such as the battle at the Stonedowner village when Covenant first arrives. In addition to the physical battles that take place, there are internal battles as well. Lord Foul fights through many people by attacking their emotional state. Trell is one of the ones in the story that has to do a internal battle to fight the effects of Lord Foul. There is also an internal battle that occurs at Revelstone when the evil begins to take its toll on people from the ground. Covenant also will have to battle within himself to come to terms with the things that he feels are his fault. Many of these actions are seemingly selfish and caused harm but Covenant blames himself for many choices that people make even if Covenant had very little control over their fate and decisions.



Style

Point of View

The story is told in third person point of view in present tense. Although much of the story is told from the view of Thomas Covenant there will be many times within the story that the character that is shadowed will be someone who is directly linked to Covenant and his battle with Lord Foul. Lord Mhoram, and Triock are two of the characters that are followed. There will be other characters as well, although none of the characters that are shadowed will be workers of Foul. The point of view in the story will come from Triock while he and his companions are traveling to find the unfettered one, but the story will not return to his point of view after his emotional state is compromised by the raver.

The point of view in the story is limited for the most part but there are often moments when the emotions of other characters are explained with no indication as to how these emotions can be known so fully. Other times it will be clear that what the other characters are thinking and feeling are a complete mystery. Bannor is a character that often is left with no indication as to his emotional feelings or inner thoughts. As the story takes place it becomes obvious that the point of view is based on those working for the Land, but there is also a focus of Thomas Covenant's growth and inner changes that occur within him. He believes the Land to be a dream and he obviously has a connection to the Land. The thought that it would be destroyed is enough to make him want to fight Lord Foul.

Setting

Thomas Covenant is from a reality like our own. The town and people are believable and it is his goal to return to this reality regardless of what the Land has to offer him. While Covenant's reality is easily believed, it is not the main setting in the story. The Land is where Thomas Covenant is called and it is the battle for this mythical location that the story focuses on. The Land is full of magical elements and creatures. There is Foamfollower, the last of the giants, ghosts, such as Elena and the High Lords who have passed away, and the Ranyhyn of the Plains of Ra. The author spent a large amount of time giving information to help the reader understand the workings of the cultures of this Land. This is necessary to understand the way Covenant is viewed and the reason the people are willing to call him back to the Land for a third time.

The setting will switch between the battle at Revelstone, where Mhoram and the others are fighting Satansfist and his army, to Covenant's journey toward Lord Foul. Much of the Land has been effected by Lord Foul's attack on the Land. If the reader has not read the other books in the series it is not clear what difference Lord Foul has made on the Land. Often when Covenant is traveling, what he is seeing and the vast difference in the scenery will be explained. Since Covenant is from a world that is much like our own



reality, his perspective will give the reader a better understanding of his reaction to the Land.

Language and Meaning

The language in the story is easily understood for the most part. Covenant's speech is much more informal than those in the Land. Their speech tends to be more stiff and use words that are not used in everyday language. This change in language between Covenant's world and the Land makes it easier to identify the vast difference in the two worlds. Some words and phrases are put into italics in the story such as *jheherrin* and *lomillialor*. There is also a lot of inner dialogue that takes place in the book. This inner dialogue helps the reader to have a better understanding of the character's motives and the surroundings that are effecting the situation.

There are some characters that seem to give much longer speeches than other characters. Foamfollower is one that often talks more than others. Bannor is a character that has very important things to say but very few of them. There are times when the meanings of the characters who are talking is so stiff and formal that it seems that they are almost talking in riddle rather than coming out and saying what they mean. Despite this hard to understand language, the context is often easily understood and Covenant will often explain what the person's words have meant to him. This makes much of the story easy to follow.

Structure

The story consists of four hundred and eighty pages and is divided into twenty-one chapters. The chapters will start and stop with a particular character's point of view or events rather than the number of pages that the chapter takes up. There is also a prologue in the book that is not part of the chapters and is named, "What Has Gone Before." This gives a brief recap of what has happened in the last two books since this is the third in the series. It becomes obvious in the book that there is much that the reader has missed by not having read the earlier books, but the author does a good job of summarizing the information so that the reader is not confused when there are mentions of past actions made.

There is a map in the book that shows the lay the Land. This comes in useful to the reader when he or she is confused as to where characters are in relation to each other since the point of view will switch between several different characters. The author has also included a glossary in the back of the book. This is filled with characters, places, and objects of importance to the series. There are many of these objects, places, and things that are not shown in this book but pertain to the other books in the series, but it does help to clarify many questions the reader may have. This will be very useful since many characters or things in the book have more than one name, depending upon the people that are speaking. Lord Foul, for example, is also called the Despiser, Soul Crusher and The Gray Slayer, as well as many other names. The glossary will explain

what people it is that use specific titles and words and what thing or character they refer to.



Quotes

"Elena had died because of him. She was his daughter and he had loved her. Yet he had trapped her into death. She had never even existed. He could find no answer to it." Chapter 1, p. 13.

"When the first new Lords, and all the Land with them, had taken the Oath, articulated their highest ideal and deepest commitment by forswearing all violent, destructive passions, all human instincts for murder and ravage and contempt—when they had bound themselves with the Oath, they had unwittingly numbed themselves to the basic vitality of the Old Lords' power. Therefore High Lord Mhoram feared to share his secret. It was a strength which could only be used if the wielders denied the most basic promise of their lives. It was a weapon which could only be used by a person who had cast down all defenses against despair." Chapter 2, pp. 29-30.

"In the back of his heart, he believed that if there were any hope for the Land in Thomas Covenant, it depended upon Covenant's responses to Lena." Chapter 7, p. 138.

"When I get wiped out of the Land the next time, you'll be left behind, and the only absolutely guaranteed legacy you'll have from me is leprosy. Foul will make sure of it. On top of everything else, I'll be responsible for contaminating the entire Land." Chapter 8, p. 175.

"'You also caused the fall of High Lord Elena,' Bannor said brittlely. 'You compelled us to reveal the unspoken name. Yet you did not bear the burden of that name yourself. Therefore the Law of Death was broken, and Elena fell. I did not reproach you then, and do not now. But I say to you: beware ur-Lord Covenant! You hold too many dooms in your unwell hands.'" Chapter 9, p. 208 .

"No words came to his mind, but he knew what had happened. Rape, treachery, now murder—he had done them all, he had committed every crime." Chapter 10, p. 226.

"Behind him, Lena lay slain in her own blood, with a wooden spike through her belly, Elena was buried somewhere in the bowels of Melenkurion Skyweir, dead in her private apocalypse because of his manipulations and his failures. She had never even existed. Ranyhyn had been starved and slaughtered. Bannor and Foamfollower might be dead or in despair. Pietten and Hile Troy and Trel and Triock were all his fault. None of them had ever existed. His pain did not exist. Nothing mattered except the one absolute question. He moaned deep in his throat, 'Hate?'" Chapter 12, p. 268.

"The man was dressed in misery and violence. He had blood on his hands and the love of murder in his eyes, but Covenant could not make out his face. Again he raised the knife, again he drove it with all his might into that vulnerable breast. Only then did he see that the man was himself." Chapter 12, p. 272.



"At once, he saw the old brown woman lying crumpled on the floor. She was dead with an outcry still rigid on her lips and a blasted look in the staring loam of her eyes. In the dim light, she seemed like a wracked mount of earth. He did not know who she was—he gazed at her with an effort of recollection and could not remember ever having seen her before—but she gave him the vague impression that she, too, had died for him."
Chapter 14, p. 295.

"We—and ur-Lord Covenant—must find the wisdom to attain both Peace and power."
Chapter 15, p. 319.

"'I don't know how to use it.' His voice stumbled thickly past his swollen lip. 'I don't know how to call it up. But I know it is real in the Land. I know how to trigger it. I know how to bring this bloody icebox down around your ears.'" Chapter 20, p. 455.

"At first he could not focus the ring on it, and it drove him staggering backward. But then he found his error. He had tried to use the wild magic like a tool or weapon, something which could be wielded. But High Lord Mhoram had told him, You are the white gold. It was not a thing to be commanded, employed well or ill as skill or awkwardness allowed. Now that it was awake, it was a part of him, an expression of himself. He did not need to focus i, aim it, bone and blood, it arose from his passion." Chapter 20, p. 461.

"You were a man already acquainted with habit and despair—with the Law which both saves and damns. Your knowledge of your illness made you wise," p. 472.

"He was a sick man, a victim of Hansen's disease. But he was not a leper—not just a leper. He had the law of his illness carved in large undeniable letters on the nerves of his body; but he was more than that. In the end he had not failed the Land. And he had a heart which could still pump blood, bones which could still bear his weight; he had himself. Thomas Covenant: Unbeliever. A miracle. Despite the stiff pain in his lip, he smiled at the empty room. He felt the smile on his face and was sure of it. He smiled because he was alive." Chapter 21, p. 480.



Topics for Discussion

Covenant is a character that undergoes many changes through the course of the story. Explain the difference in character in the beginning compared to that of his character at the end of the story. What main events cause this change? Explain your answer.

Explain Foamfollower's motives in the story for fighting. Why did Foamfollower chose to die at the end of the story rather than to try and find a way out?

Why did Bannor refuse to go with Covenant and Foamfollower? Why did Covenant say that he knew that he would never see the Bloodguard again?

The jheherrin have only show up for one chapter in the book but they take up almost the entire chapter. Explain the purpose in the author introducing the jheherrin. Why did the jheherrin tell Covenant to try and believe he was pure?

Describe Lena's character. Why does Triock say he believes that Covenant's treatment of Lena would reveal if there were any hope for the Land in Thomas Covenant? In what ways was this shown to be true or not true?

Why does Lena chose to come back and to save Covenant from Pietten even after she learns that Covenant caused the death of her daughter, Elena, and is the reason the Ranyhyn cannot move on to safety? Why does Triock choose to save Covenant from Elena?

Why does the Creator tell Covenant that he could not have helped him any more or that Covenant would have not been able to work against Lord Foul? What does he mean by this statement?

Why does Covenant choose to go back to his home rather than staying in the Land? Is there any indication that Covenant has started to believe that the Land is real? Why does he worry so much over the Land and love it if he believes it does not exist?