

Stone of Tears Study Guide

Stone of Tears by Terry Goodkind

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Plot Summary

Stone of Tears, by Terry Goodkind, follows a group of characters as each do their part to stop the Keeper, the ruler of the underworld, from escaping into the world of the living. Richard Rahl is a wizard that the prophecies have told about for thousands of years. Richard alone has the power to fix the veil that has been torn and stop the Keeper from destroying all life on earth.

Zedd, a powerful wizard, has found the Stone of Tears. The Stone of Tears is one of the items that prevents the Keeper from escaping from the underworld. Zedd puts the stone around the neck of a little girl named Rachel and puts a spell on it to ensure that when Richard sees it, he will be drawn to the stone. Zedd realizes that if the Stone of Tears is in the world of the living then the veil that separates the world of the living and the world of the dead has been torn. Zedd sends Rachel and her father, Chase, on a mission to find Richard, who Zedd knows is the only one that can mend the veil between the living and the dead.

Richard is in a faraway village with his intended wife Kahlan. Kahlan is the Mother Confessor, a sorceress who can take over a person's mind with a single touch. Richard has begun to have head aches and soon is visited by three women who call themselves the Sisters of the Light. They tell Richard that he must come with them or the head aches will kill him. The head aches are Richard's magic that has recently begun to surface in Richard. He refuses to go with them, but Kahlan fears he will die and tells him that if he loves her he will go.

Richard is distraught that Kahlan would want him to go but leaves her, putting on a collar provided by the Sisters of the Light. The collar can't be removed until Richard learns to use his power. After Richard arrives at the Palace of the Profits, where the Sisters of the Light live, Richard learns that there are Sisters of the Dark that work in secret towards freeing the Keeper from the underworld. The Sisters of the Dark try to kill Richard. The Sisters of the Dark flee upon being discovered.

Richard leaves the Palace of the profits to face the agent that wishes to free the Keeper and finds Rachel and retrieves the Stone of Tears from her. The agent, Darken Rahl, tells Richard that Kahlan is to be beheaded, but Darken Rahl will save Kahlan if Richard will help to free the Keeper. Richard loves Kahlan but can't imagine sentencing the entire world to death for her. Richard is able to defeat Darken Rahl and replaces the Stone of Tears on the Keeper's prison. Richard quickly starts the long journey to the kingdom where Kahlan is to be beheaded.

Richard finds a man selling pieces of Kahlan's hair in the street as she is the last Mother Confessor. Richard kills the council that supposedly puts her to death but is visited by a spirit who tells him that Kahlan is still alive. The people were deceived into thinking she had died by a vision that Zedd had created.



Chapter 1-9

Chapter 1-9 Summary

As chapter one begins, Rachel, a young girl, is clutching her doll. Rachel's father, Chase, and Zedd, a wizard, are talking. Rachel sees something and goes over to Chase to convince him to pull out his weapon. Chase doesn't listen and after a short time they are attacked by a black creature that seems to laugh despite Chase and Zedd hitting the animal with everything they have. Zedd realizes that the thing is a screeeling, a creature from the undead underworld. Zedd tells Chase and Rachel to walk, not run or stand still, and they attempt to lock the thing up in the garden. The screeeling doesn't focus well on things that are walking but can spot you if you stay still or run.

Chapter two finds Zedd walking calmly with the screeeling close behind him. Zedd and Chase soon encounter a group of people that had been praying. They warn the people and quickly make a plan to get the screeeling into the water. They are able to get it into the water, and Zedd uses his magic to encase the creature in ice, then tells the soldiers to hack it into little pieces before it can figure out how to escape. The leader of the soldiers, Trimack, asks Zedd what the creature is. Zedd swears him to silence and then explains that the creature is from the underworld and that Zedd believes that Richard, the new king and Zedd's grandson, is the only one that can fix the tear in the veil between the world of the living and the world of the dead.

Chapter three has Zedd walking around helping people that have been hurt by the screeeling's attack. Zedd finds a woman that is wearing a stone that signifies she has the gift of sight. Her name is Jebra, and Zedd asks her to work for the new Lord of Rahl, Richard. Jebra refuses stating that she knows he is a good man but that she has seen him and had a vision. In her vision she saw many things including Richard's true love. Jebra saw that the Keeper of the underworld had burned a mark into Richard and had claimed him with the mark of the dead. After hearing all this, Zedd tells her that he is Richard's grandfather, although Richard doesn't know it. Jebra finally agrees to help Richard, and Zedd commands her to keep her gift a secret.

In chapter four, Zedd takes a stone, unsure of what it is, out of his pocket and places it on a chain and weaves a magical web around it ensuring that when Richard sees the stone he will be irrevocably drawn to it. Zedd takes the stone on the chain and gives it to Rachel. Chase isn't happy about it because he worries for Rachel but knows Zedd wouldn't do anything to needlessly put her life in danger. Zedd tells Chase to explain to Richard when he sees him that Zedd is his grandfather and that his father had been Darken Rahl, the evil wizard Richard killed. Zedd hopes this will give Richard time to be less angry before Zedd and Richard meet. Jebra had told Zedd that she saw Richard dying in a red coat in one of her visions. Zedd instructs Chase to inform Richard to never wear a red coat.



Chapter five begins with a prophet named Nathan calling for a Sister to tell her that there has been a fork in the prophecies. Margret sees a Mother Confessor being executed and a crowd cheering greatly. Nathan tells her that this must happen and the people must be happy over the Mother Confessor's death or else the world will fall into darkness. Nathan doesn't know why this is true. Nathan tells Margret to tell the Prelate that there is a pebble in the pond, although Margret doesn't understand.

Chapter six and chapter nine introduce Kahlan, the Mother Confessor of the Midlands, and Richard Cypher as they reach the Mud People's village. The Mud People claim Kahlan and Richard as their own. Richard and Kahlan intend to be married. When a Confessor has sex with a man, he loses his mind and becomes a mindless slave. Richard has enough love for Kahlan that he is immune to her magic. Kahlan tries to convince Richard that he is showing signs of someone with the gift, magic powers, but Richard doesn't want anything to do with magic. Soon three women show up claiming to be Sisters of the Light. They tell Richard that if he doesn't come with them, the head aches that Richard has been having will kill him because they are caused from the magic growing inside him. There are three Sisters and each one will give Richard an offer to put on a collar that will be used to control him. Richard refuses the first offer and the Sister kills herself. The other two tell him that they will return to give Richard two more options to come with them.

Chapter 1-9 Analysis

The reader sees that there are several different characters to follow. The importance of each isn't explained immediately but will soon become evident. Richard and Kahlan will be the main focus of this story in regards to their devotion to each other. The reader has already seen that they love each other greatly and have been through a lot with each other. The Sisters of the Light are very mysterious characters. The reader will have to decide which characters are honest ones and which ones are working towards Richard's demise. Richard will tell Kahlan he is worried that the Sisters of the Light intend to keep Richard and Kahlan apart. The reader will see later on in the story that this seems to be true.

The prophet, Nathan, talking in the book to Sister Margret isn't explained in detail. He will have a large impact on Richard later in the book and in the series. The prophecy where the Mother Confessor is beheaded and the crowd cheers isn't explained until the very end of the book. There will be many prophecies that Richard and Kahlan will have to figure out as the story unfolds. The pebble in the pond is Richard, and the Prelate will explain to Richard that Richard causes waves that touch and move everything around them. The Prelate goes on to tell Richard that the trouble with being a pebble in the pond is that the pebble sinks.

The three Sisters of the Light that show up at the Mud People's Village won't give Richard much of an explanation about anything. The palace that Nathan, the prophet, is being kept at is called the Palace of the Prophets and will be introduced later on. The reader will see as the story continues that there are Sisters of the Dark that have taken



over a large portion of the Sisters of the Light in secret. The Sisters of the Light work for goodness for the Creator and the Sisters of the Dark work to help the Keeper of the Underworld. The reader will learn in the next few chapters that out of the three Sisters of the Light that came to Richard, two of them are Sisters of the Dark. It won't be for some time that the reader learns definitely which ones are which.

Richard reacted very strongly when he saw the collar that the Sisters of the Light intended to put on him. In the next sections of the book Richard will explain in detail why he won't put on a collar. Once Richard goes to the Palace of the Prophets with the Sisters of the Light, the reader will see that there is a red coat that Richard is given to wear just like the one that was seen in the vision told to Zedd. Richard will also soon learn that his biological father was Darken Rahl, the evil man Richard killed to stop the Keeper, and that Zedd is his grandfather. Richard will seem to accept this more easily than he accepts the fact that he may have magical abilities.



Chapter 10-18

Chapter 10-18 Summary

In chapter ten, Richard explains to Kahlan that the reason he won't ever wear a collar again is because of a Mord-Sith that captured Richard. Mord-Sith are women that use magical collars to control their captives and cause them excruciating pain. Richard tells Kahlan everything that the Mord-Sith, Denna, made him do. Richard was able to kill her; she was glad someone had the strength to free her from her own prison. Richard wears a necklace because Denna asked him to wear it and remember her as something other than a monster. Mord-Siths are created by torturing a woman, and Richard was one of the few that could understand her. Richard tells Kahlan that he will die before he ever puts on another collar.

In chapter eleven and twelve, Richard and Kahlan are discussing how Richard could be the one to close the tear in the veil when a witch woman named Shota shows up at the village. Shota tells Richard that his biological father is not George Cypher but rather Darken Rahl. Shota also tells them that Richard is the only one that is be able to save the world from the Keeper. Shota tells them that no one living can help Richard and Kahlan understand how to close the veil, so Richard and Kahlan decide they will have to call on the dead to find out. Richard tells the Mud People that he wishes to call the ancestor spirits and a bird falls from the sky. This is taken as a warning to not call upon the spirits, but Richard insists it is the only way.

Chapter thirteen takes place at the Palace of the Prophets. There are several Sisters discussing things that are happening in regards to Richard. They are very careful to not use any names. One of the Sisters finds a novice, a woman with the gift, who is trying to become a Sister of the Light, and decides that this one will be the one that receives Richard into her care. The novice's name is Pasha Maes. The Sister then goes to the lowest part of the castle where two young wizards wait. They both have on the collars and have been friends since childhood. The Sister asks them to choose to serve the Keeper or to die. She hands one a knife and a magical orb and gives him instructions to skin his friend alive so that the magic will bleed out of him. This is the only way to take the magic from the a wizard.

In chapter fourteen and fifteen, Richard and Kahlan ready themselves for the meeting with the ancient spirits. The two remaining Sisters of the Light return and make the offer to Richard once again. When he refuses, he tries to stop the second Sister from killing herself, but the last Sister kills her and leaves. Kahlan explains that it is most likely to pass power from one Sister to the next.

In chapter sixteen Richard calls forth the ancient spirits; the spirit Richard calls back is that of Darken Rahl. Darken Rahl explains that since Richard is his son only Richard could have called him back from the dead to loose the Keeper from the underworld. Darken touches Richard and leaves Richard with a mark. Kahlan can do nothing for



Richard, but a spirit follows Darken Rahl and saves Richard. It is the spirit of Denna, who tells Kahlan that Kahlan must do whatever it takes to save Richard and stop the Keeper. Denna tells Kahlan she must make Richard put the collar on no matter how much it makes Richard hate her.

In chapter seventeen, the last Sister returns. Richard is refusing Sister Verna's help when Kahlan enters and tells him that if he doesn't put on the collar then his love for her is obviously a lie. Richard is emotionally devastated but puts on the collar. Kahlan makes Sister Verna promise to not let Richard forget how much she loves him. Richard tells Kahlan to go find Zedd and refuses to look at her as he leaves. Kahlan gives him a lock of her hair.

In chapter eighteen, Richard is traveling with Sister Verna and refers to himself as the bringer of death. Sister Verna explains that this is a term from an old prophecy, but Richard doesn't believe in it. They stop to camp and Richard throws away Kahlan's hair knowing that if she wants to be free of him then he can give her that and nothing more.

Chapter 10-18 Analysis

The reader has seen up to this point that two of the Sisters of Light that were sent are actually Sisters of the Dark. Sister Verna is harsh to Richard in many respects, and it is unclear at this point if she is a Sister of the Light or the Dark. It won't be until much later that the reader discovers what side she is on.

Kahlan made Richard go because she loves him and is scared that he will die. It takes Richard a long time to understand her love for him and the reason she asked him to leave.

Shota talked to Richard about being in a time trap and that he would need to escape it before he would be able to stop the Keeper. This isn't explained at this point in the story and Shota admits that she doesn't know what it means. The reader will find later in the story that the Palace of the Prophets is covered with a spell that ensures that people don't die from old age before they are able to master their magical abilities. It will be this spell that proves to be the trap of time.

Richard refers to himself as the "bringer of death" in the story. As the story continues, the reader will find that Richard is in more than one prophecy. Richard has been unable to accept all the different parts of himself. It will be this refusal that keeps him trapped for much of the story. The reader will find that Richard accepts his link to Darken Rahl quite easily. This seems to be because he was loved by both his adopted father and by Zedd. The reader will see later in the story that Richard introduces himself both as Richard Rahl and as Richard Cypher, seemingly dependent upon the situation.

In the following chapters the reader will follow Kahlan on her trip to find Zedd. She will have a hard and much more gruesome time than Richard. It will be her love for him that sees her through much of what happens. She continues to be strong even though she is worried that Richard will never love her again. Richard appears to be certain that Kahlan



doesn't love him any longer and asked him to go just to be rid of him. It will become evident as the story continues that Richard isn't able to give up thoughts of Kahlan despite the fact that he is sure she doesn't love him.



Chapter 19-27

Chapter 19-27 Summary

In chapter nineteen Sister Verna tries to help Richard begin to learn how to use his magic. While trying to focus, Richard sees a vision of Darken Rahl at the Garden of Life who tells Richard to come watch him tear the veil. Richard doesn't tell Sister Verna what he has seen. Richard is difficult to deal with and Sister Verna tells Richard that when they reach the Palace of the Prophets that she will be hung for bringing Richard there.

Chapter twenty begins with one of the Sisters of the Light, Sister Margret, following the Sisters of the Dark. The Sisters of the Dark know that Sister Margret is following and a young wizard, Jedidiah, helps them to murder her. Sister Margret sends the knowledge of who killed her into a necklace she is wearing, a necklace that Jedidiah made her, before she dies hoping that someone will find it.

In chapters twenty-one through twenty-three, Zedd has gone to the home of an old blind witch named Addie. Zedd wants Addie's help to learn all he can about the veil. Addie has lived in her house in the woods believing that the Keeper can't find her there. Zedd tells Addie that the veil is torn but Addie appears to realize this. When Zedd tells Addie that the Stone of Tears is in the world of the living, she becomes scared. While they are deciding what to do, a skirn attacks. A skirn is a creature from in between the underworld and the world of the living. Zedd doesn't know why the creature is attacking them; the horse is able to stay just out of range of the skirn as they run.

Chapter twenty-four: Richard and Sister Verna, while traveling, are attacked by a woman. Sister Verna explains that they have to get rid of the body so that none of the others of her tribe will come to find them. When Richard goes to get rid of her body, he is attacked by a short-tailed gar. Short-tailed gars are winged creatures with needle sharp teeth and are very smart. Richard is able to kill the creature but it has a baby and Richard doesn't have the heart to kill the infant. Richard goes back to Sister Verna and tells her that a baby gar is eating the woman's body. Sister Verna tells Richard that he is using his magic without realizing how he is using it and so he it is very dangerous. She demands to have his Sword of Truth which Richard always carries. He refuses but then decides that he will give it. Sister Verna tells him that by offering the sword he has earned the right to keep it and tells Richard the sword is tainted.

Chapter twenty-five returns to Zedd and Addie as they manage to trick the skirn into following a bone necklace that Addie wears as they throw it into a rift in between the two worlds but not before the creature has managed to give Addie a small wound on her arm. They travel toward Richard and helping him to stop the Keeper once again. Chapter twenty-six shows how twisted the council of the Midlands has become. Kahlan's half sister, Queen Cyrilla, is sentenced to death and is thrown into a pit with rapists.



Chapter twenty-seven returns to Kahlan as she tries to make her way to Aydindril. Three warriors from the Mud People's village have accompanied her to keep her safe, Chandalen, Prindin, and Tossidin. They stop on the way to Aydindril and find that Queen Cyrilla's entire kingdom has been attacked. All the men and children were killed and the women were raped for days and then killed.

Chapter 19-27 Analysis

Kahlan left the Mud People village with only three warriors to protect her. The reader will find in the coming chapters that not all of the men with her can be trusted. Kahlan has looked at Queen Cyrilla's kingdom and searched for her sister but doesn't yet know the fate of her half sister or half brother. Closer to the end of the story Kahlan's half brother saves Cyrilla from being beheaded, but Cyrilla is unfit to continue as Queen. Kahlan will eventually be put into the same pit with the same men into which her half sister, Cyrilla, was forced.

Richard is difficult for Sister Verna to understand in many respects but the reader sees that she is also confusing to him. She tells him that the Creator hates lying, but Richard doesn't understand why it's acceptable to let people die when one lie could stop a war between two villages. The reader is beginning to see that there are things that confuse Sister Verna although she doesn't explain to Richard her confusions. It won't be until they reach the Palace of Prophets that many of her questions become voiced. Later on in the story much more will be explained after they talk to the Prelate in the Palace of Prophets.

Zedd and Addie were able to escape the skirn but in the coming chapters it becomes obvious that the creature was deadly in more than one way. The creature was able to cut Addie before they escaped him. This cut will cause a long detour in Zedd and Addie's journey. This will be the last time that a skirn is seen in the book.

Richard has trouble understanding why Kahlan sends him away unless she doesn't love him and want him with her. Richard has already thrown away the locket of hair Kahlan gave him. The baby gar that Richard saved will ultimately be the reason Richard is able to understand Kahlan's motivation. The creature will become Richard's friend as the story continues. Once they are near the Palace of Prophets the gar will eventually be spotted and hunted. Richard is forced to send the creature away to save the gar's life. When this happens Richard realizes that Kahlan sent him away for the exact same reason.

Sister Verna continues to talk to Richard of different prophecies with Richard telling her that he doesn't understand such riddles and seemingly doesn't believe in them. Yet, Richard begins to lean very heavily on the prophecies and believe in them more and more as the story continues.

Rachel and Chase have gone after Richard. They get trapped when Richard and Sister Verna try to cross the desert where the wizards had their war centuries earlier. Richard

catches what he believes to be a vision of the battles. It is this vision that allows Richard to unfold more of the prophecies once at the Palace of Prophets because Richard's sight is drawn to the necklace that Rachel wears.



Chapter 28-37

Chapter 28-37 Summary

In chapter twenty-eight, Richard and Sister Verna begin the journey across the Valley of the Lost. It is a wasteland that used to be beautiful until the wizards waged war. There are two towers in the Valley of the Lost called the Towers of Perdition. Whoever tries to cross the Valley has trouble if they have no magic but can't get across if they have too much magic because the towers sense the magic and traps the person there with different spells.

Chapters twenty-nine and thirty returns to Kahlan and the Mud warriors that protect her. Kahlan makes sure she can't find the body of her half sister. After they have searched the castle, Chandalen points out that someone else has been in the castle since the slaughter took place. Kahlan and Chandalen realize that whoever came to the castle has gone after the ones that committed the murders. Kahlan decides that they must stop the ones that came to the castle from reaching the first army.

Chapters thirty-one and thirty-two follow Richard and Sister Verna as they travel through the Valley of the Lost. Richard sees a vision while they are in the Valley of Kahlan being beheaded. Sister Verna is trapped in a spell and Richard frees her. After the two of them are safe, Sister Verna tells Richard how angry she is with him but doesn't fully explain why.

In chapters thirty-three through part of thirty-five, Zedd and Addie are beginning to deal with the sickness that the skirn has caused with the wound it gave Addie. Zedd tries to heal Addie using his wizard's magic. When Zedd touches Addie with his magic, the sickness from her went into him as well. The skirn sickness is altering Zedd's magic. He and Addie decide they must find someone who can heal them of the sickness before it kills them both. In order to get to the only person Addie knows that can heal them, they must go in the opposite direction of Aydindril. Zedd hires a coach with the understanding that he is a wealthy orchard owner and he and Addie pose as husband and wife with the names Ruben and Elda.

The rest of chapter thirty-five deals with Chase and Rachel being caught in the Valley of the Lost under a magical spell that makes them both completely content, but the Stone of Tears is safe around Rachel's neck.

Chapter thirty-six begins with Richard hunting with his gar, Gratch, and their growing relationship. When he returns from hunting, Sister Verna tries to explain to him that he is like a man with an axe swinging it around children. He has to learn what kind of magic to use and when to use it and how much or else Richard will always be putting himself and others in danger. Richard asks Sister Verna why she has been so surprised and confused over so many things concerning Richard but he gets no answers. Sister Verna tells Richard to stop blaming her for taking him away from Kahlan.



Chapter thirty-seven returns to Kahlan finding the Glean army that was following those responsible for the massacre. Chandalen says they look good for boys about to go to die. Kahlan tells them to turn around but they refuse. She calls them children, but they tell her that if they leave the army alone, then they will continue to kill all in front of them. Kahlan realizes that these children have come with the understanding that they will die but can't turn and run. Kahlan and Chandalen decide to stay and help the young men learn to fight. Kahlan takes a horse and heads toward the neighboring army to find out what their demands are and see if she can stop the coming war.

Chapter 28-37 Analysis

Kahlan is going into the camp to talk to those in charge. The actual name of the army isn't yet known, although the crest on the troops has been found, but Kahlan can't place it. The troops are from an empire called the Imperial Order. This doesn't mean much at this point in time but later on the reader will find that this same empire is the one that has taken over the Palace of the Prophets.

Zedd and Addie are very ill as the reader has seen. The reader has seen that when Zedd or Addie try to use their magic, it doesn't work correctly and sometimes not at all. In the coming chapters, the reader will learn that there is a link between the mishaps with their magic and the touch of the skirn. The reader will also see that because they are traveling under false names, they will travel right through the army where Kahlan is, but she will never know Zedd and Addie are nearby.

Gratch continues to follow Richard to the Palace of Prophets although it is never explained how he gets through the Valley of the Lost. It is possible that Gratch got through the same way the horses did since the valley has on it a spell that seems to only camouflage the valley. Later on, the reader learns that Richard is destined to fix the devastation that has befallen the land of the Valley of the Lost and help the people that belong there.

Sister Verna still hasn't truly shown the reader if she is a Sister of the Light or a Sister of the Dark. It is clear that the Sisters of the Dark in the Palace of Prophets are very powerful. One of them has Jedidiah make her a sword. It is obvious later on which Sister has the sword made. There is only one Sister at the palace of whom the reader is given the name and who wasn't sent to retrieve Richard. That Sister, Sister Margret, was killed. Later on in the story Richard retrieves Sister Margret.

Sister Verna seems to be very angry with Richard much of the time, and Richard dismisses a lot of what she says. Later in the story much of what Verna says is true; Richard could have avoided much of what happens if he had been more in tune with his magic and what he was doing with it. Richard tore the veil in the first place by having Darken Rahl open the wrong Box of Orden. The second time Richard uses his magic incorrectly, he brought Darken Rahl back from the underworld. All this will be shown in the following chapters.



Chapter 38-47

Chapter 38-47 Summary

In chapter thirty-eight, Kahlan enters the camp of the opposing army. She meets their wizard and the ones that command the army. They say they are Imperial Order troops and their purpose and goal is to rid the world of magic. The wizard they have with them, Wizard Slagle, says he will kill himself once he is sure that all the magic in the world has been stamped out permanently. They tell Kahlan they fight so everyone can be under the same rule. If a group of people refuses to sign under their flag, then those people are killed. They try to take Kahlan captive and tell her she will be beheaded. Kahlan is able to kill the Wizard Slagle before she escapes and heads back towards her camp and the Glean soldiers.

In chapter thirty-nine through forty-one, Kahlan gets the Glean troops ready for the attack. There are some of the boys with the soldiers that don't want to follow a woman, even if it is the powerful Mother Confessor. Kahlan tells them that they may leave. Kahlan is beginning to feel constantly tired and drained. Kahlan goes into her tent to sleep when she is awakened by some of the Glean soldiers. One of the young men that had refused to be led by a woman is held by several men. Kahlan touches him with her power, and immediately he is her mindless puppet. She asks him to tell everyone what he was going to do and he admits that he was going to warn the neighboring troops that the Gleans were coming and to ask to join them. After he confesses everything, he begs Kahlan for further orders and she tells him to die. The young man gurgles on his own blood and dies. Chandalen, Tossidin, and Prindin teach the Glean soldiers how to move and how to be unseen. They aren't going to fight; they are going to sneak up and murder these men and kill them. Kahlan tells all the men they are going to take off their clothes and bath themselves in white, so they will be hard to see and look like spirits; Kahlan asks for a sword. The men are shocked she is going to join them but proud.

In chapter forty-two, Sister Verna and Richard are through the Valley of the Lost and enter the village of the Majendie. Sister Verna tells Richard he must give the Majendie a blessing on their human sacrifice or else they will kill her, Richard, and then the prisoner that they have as well. Richard doesn't say anything. When they reach the Majendie, the Majendie announce that Richard is too old to give the blessing and will have to perform the sacrifice himself. They take Richard to a holding area where a woman is naked in the corner chained to a pole. Richard announces that he needs time alone with the woman. She immediately attacks Richard, but he continues to tell her he is there to help her and eventually frees her from her chain. Her name is Du Chaillu, and she tells Richard that her people are the Baka Ban Mana, meaning "those without masters," and none captured by the Majendie ever return. Richard tells her she will be the first.

In chapter forty-three Sister Verna is outraged with Richard's behavior but has no choice but to go along with it if she doesn't want to die after Richard leaves. Once well into the



forest Sister Verna tells Richard to be careful because Du Chaillu will kill him because he is a magic man.

In chapters forty-four through forty-seven, Kahlan and the young men of the Galean army attack the Imperial Order Army. They are doing well and since the Imperial Order no longer have their Wizard Slagle they don't know exactly when they are going to be attacked. Kahlan is continuing to grow weak. The battle has been going on for some time, and Kahlan is going back to the village. She is attacked by several men but is able to put her power into one of them and have him protect her for a short period of time. The Mud Warriors show up and Prindin kills Tossidin. Prindin then shoots a poison arrow into the neck of Chandalen. Kahlan is so weak now she can't fight back. Prindin tells her that he has given her just enough poison to slow her down but that she will live to be beheaded but that Chandalen is going to die in just a few moments. Prindin says he has been working for the Keeper for some time. Prindin takes Kahlan back to the Imperial Order camp where he tries to rape her. Kahlan is too weak to move but somehow is able to get a knife that Chandalen gave her in between them and Prindin kills himself falling onto her and the knife.

Chapter 38-47 Analysis

It is only here that the reader finds that the one that was working against Kahlan was Prindin. She had given him her complete trust and the reader will see that the fact that Prindin was able to kill his own brother worries her just as much as anything. Kahlan seems to believe that Chandalen's grandfather's spirit may have been what put the knife between her and Prindin. Prindin had been poisoning Kahlan for some time causing the tiredness. Chandalen was able to figure out what was going on before Prindin actually attacked Kahlan. The reader has seen how the relationship between Chandalen and Kahlan has grown during their journey. It seemingly continues to be a strong connection through the rest of the story.

Richard saves Du Chaillu. This seems to be nothing more than Richard making a choice to save a person instead of sentencing her to death. The reader will find in the coming chapters that this is the beginning of Richard fulfilling other prophecies. When Richard meets Du Chaillu's people he will again be put to a test and be forced to call on the magic of the sword.

Sister Verna is becoming increasingly alarmed. The reader will find that when they reach the Palace of the Prophets in the next chapters that Sister Verna will be in trouble for Richard's behavior but it will become clear that she is not a Sister of the Dark and was chosen to go to find Richard because the Prelate knew for a fact that Verna was trustworthy above all else.

When Richard and Verna reach the Palace of the Prophets, Richard is given to Pasha, the novice, to train. Pasha is sweet in many ways but nothing Richard could want. It appears that Pasha is under the influence of the Sisters of the Dark without realizing it. While Richard doesn't want to go to the Palace of the Prophets, if he hadn't gone there,

he would have been left to figure out much about magic on his own. There are prophecies at the palace that aid him in his battle with Darken Rahl.



Chapter 48-56

Chapter 48-56 Summary

In chapter forty-eight, Richard and Sister Verna are following Du Chaillu towards Du Chaillu's village. Once there Du Chaillu has said that her people will lead Richard and Sister Verna to the Palace of the Prophets. Sister Verna warns Richard that Du Chaillu will try to kill him. Richard can't believe that Du Chaillu would kill him after he saved her. Du Chaillu tells Richard that she is grateful that he saved her and always will be, but that no matter what, Richard is still a magic man and the magic men stole her people's land and turned it into the Valley of the Lost during the wizarding wars.

Du Chaillu's people, the Baka Ban Mana, are expert fighters and Richard is soon surrounded by thirty swordsmen. Richard doesn't want to fight anyone, but Du Chaillu announces that Richard is to be executed and the fighting begins. Richard is able to simply hold them off for a moment using his Sword of Truth, but the fighters refuse to stop and soon Richard is forced to kill them. Richard somehow calls on the spirits within the sword and fights with such speed that soon all the Baka Ban Mana warriors are dead. Richard tells Du Chaillu that he won't forgive her for making him kill those men and it is then that Du Chaillu explains that the Baka Ban Mana have been waiting for the Caharin, the one that dances with spirits who will come and defeat thirty of their warriors by calling on the spirits. It is the Caharin that will be the leader of the Baka Ban Mana and return their lands to them. Du Chaillu and her people bow to Richard and take him and Sister Verna safely to the Palace of the Prophets.

Chapter forty-nine has Richard and Sister Verna coming into view of the Palace of the Prophets. Before they reach the city, Sister Verna shows Richard the Hagen Woods and warns him that none go in there and if anyone lets the sun set on them while in the Hagen Woods, they die. Richard doesn't say anything but feels called to the woods despite Sister Verna's warning. When they enter the palace several Sisters come out to meet Sister Verna and all are surprised at Richard's age, since wizards are usually found when they are small children and brought to the palace. Sister Verna learns that the government was overthrown while she was gone by an empire called the Imperial Order. Once inside the palace, Richard announces that he is the bringer of death and that he will kill everyone in the palace if harm is brought to the Baka Ban Mana, Sister Verna, or him by use of the collar. Richard declares them to be at war. Pasha Maes, the novice, is introduced as the one that is in charge of Richard, but Richard is rude to her. Sister Verna is stripped of her title as a sister and put to work in the stables for her inability to teach Richard how to control himself.

In chapter fifty, Verna comes to Richard's room. She gives him the lock of hair belonging to Kahlan that Richard had thrown away and explains that Kahlan had done what she did out of love even though Richard doesn't see it.



In chapters fifty-one through fifty-two, Richard leaves the palace and goes to see Gratch and warns him to stay clear of people and leave the animals alone. Richard enters Hagen woods knowing that Pasha can feel his collar and will soon come looking for him demanding that he leave. Before Pasha gets there, Richard feels something moving close to him and he kills a monstrous beast. When Pasha arrives with the sister that demoted Verna to novice rank and put her in the stables, Richard refuses to leave Hagen Woods until Verna is returned to her position. The sister reluctantly agrees. Both the Sister and Pasha are amazed that Richard was able to kill a mriswith. Pasha explains that a mriswith takes the color of whatever is around it and no one can see one until after it has attacked. When no one is looking, Richard takes the mriswith's cloak. On the way back to the palace Richard makes Pasha cry and he tries to comfort her. He reluctantly agrees to wear a bright red coat to dinner that she has picked out for him.

In chapters fifty-three through fifty-four, Richard meets a young wizard in training named Warren who works with the prophecies along with Jedidiah. Richard quickly makes an enemy of Jedidiah and befriends Warren, promising to visit Warren in the lower parts of the palace where Warren studies the prophecies. Richard and Pasha go see Warren and look at the prophecy concerning the bringer of death. Before they leave Warren reluctantly explains that the collar is used to give a test of pain before a wizard can have his collar released. Warren has been unable to pass the pain test. Richard sees a shape in the book that Warren is looking in and asks Warren to find out everything he can about the Stone of Tears, the shape of the stone that had been on Rachel's necklace when Richard saw her in a vision in the Valley of the Lost.

In chapter fifty-five, Richard returns to his room and finds Sister Verna waiting on him. Sister Verna tells Richard that the Hagen Woods were placed there many years ago for certain wizards but they have never had a wizard able to go into the woods. Sister Verna also tells Richard to not trust any of the sisters and to be cautious. After Sister Verna leaves, Pasha tries to kiss Richard. He has trouble resisting her but is able to hold her off. Pasha finally leaves and Richard pulls out the cloak he removed from the mriswith. When Richard puts the cloak on and concentrates, he is able to blend in with any background. When Richard relaxes, the cape returns to its black color.

In chapter-fifty six, Richard begins to make close friends with the guards at the palace by giving them money and retaining a brothel open only to those that say they are a friend of Richard Cypher. Soon Richard is able to move into almost any restricted place within the palace. Richard has six sisters that are his teachers. The one that Richard comes closest to calling his friend is Sister Liliana. Sister Liliana promises Richard that if he comes to the point that he feels the collar must be removed, she will do it.

Chapter 48-56 Analysis

Sister Liliana has become Richard's friend in many ways. The reader sees that she is very calm and doesn't throw herself at Richard. In the coming chapters the reader will find that Liana isn't what she appears. She has made promises that she will help Richard and he trusts her even though Sister Verna told him not to trust anyone.



The reader has seen that Pasha wants to be with Richard very badly. This will continue and eventually because she is so determined to follow Richard, she sees Gratch. It will be at this point that Richard will be forced to send Gratch away to save Gratch's life just as Kahlan had to send Richard away to save his life. Pasha is very young and although the reader doesn't see the influence that the Sisters of the Dark are having, it becomes apparent in coming chapters how much they control Pasha's actions and thoughts.

Richard has fulfilled the prophecy of the Baka Ban Mana by becoming their leader after killing thirty of their trained swordsmen. The reader will see the end of that prophecy when the story continues. Richard will find a way to return their lands to them.

Warren is very helpful to Richard in discovering things about the underworld, the Keeper, and how to close the veil. Richard is beginning to understand that he has both subtractive and addictive magic, but he doesn't yet know what he is. Richard has been making friends with the guards and the reader will see him use that leverage to find a way in to the Prelate. When Richard goes in to meet the Prelate many more of his questions will be answered. The reader will also see Richard find his way in to see the prophet Nathan. When Richard meets Nathan the reader finds out many things that begin to push Richard toward his destiny. Despite the fact that the Prelate and Nathan give Richard much information that he needs, they are giving him what they feel he needs in order to steer him in the direction that they want him to go.



Chapter 57-63

Chapter 57-63 Summary

In chapter fifty-seven, Kahlan finally reaches Aydindril. Chandalen waits for her out in the forest. Kahlan finds that the seats in the council have been taken over by those claiming that magic is done with; Zedd is no where to be found in Aydindril. A woman named Jebra asks Kahlan if she has any friends with her. Kahlan tells Jebra that she has Chandalen in the woods. The woman begins to talk to Kahlan but suddenly goes white and faints.

Zedd and Addie awake in a carriage with no memory of who they are or what they were doing. The driver tells Zedd that he and Addie were very sick and three sorceresses healed them but had to take away their memories in order to do it. Zedd and Addie will have to have a traumatic emotional experience to regain their magic and memories. The driver was told to take them to Aydindril, although he doesn't know their real names or why they are going there.

Chapters fifty-eight through sixty reveals that the council has been taken over by those calling themselves the Imperial Order. They charge Kahlan with murder and being a traitor to her country. They find her guilty and sentence her to death but not be carried out right away. A wizard comes forward and takes away Kahlan's magic and cuts off her hair. After they have taken that from her they throw her in a pit with rapists and the men begin to attack Kahlan. They talk about the queen that they raped recently and Kahlan knows it was her half sister. She is able to convince them that she will be a willing participant if they will take her one at a time rather than all at once. She fights to find her magic knowing that no matter what a wizard does the only way to remove magic from a person is to skin them alive. Just as one of the men is about to rape her she is able to use her magic to take control of his mind, and she orders him to protect her. He hurts several of the other men and stands guard over her while she cowers in the corner. Soon the other men begin to overpower the one and Kahlan hasn't had time to regain enough strength to use her power again. Kahlan is listening to the fight when suddenly she hears Chandalen calling to her. When Chandalen rescues her from the cell, Kahlan finds Jebra had gone and found Chandalen explaining that she fainted after seeing the vision of Kahlan being beheaded. Kahlan begins to make plans to leave the city when Jebra tells her that Zedd needs her and had employed Jebra to help Richard and his cause.

In chapter sixty-one, Richard uses two young boys to create a distraction and slip in to see the Prelate. Her name is Prelate Annalina, and she tells Richard that she has met Richard before and knew Richard's adoptive father George Cypher. She tells Richard that only after he accepts the fact that he is a wizard will he be able to take off the collar. She explains that Richard is what is called a war wizard and that they are the most rare type of wizard. The war wizards can bring forth destruction or fight the keeper and



protect the defenseless. She explains many more things of Richard and his role in the prophecies and why he must learn of himself and the Keeper.

In chapter sixty-two, Richard realizes that the palace has been breeding wizards in order to try and get a war wizard. Richard goes out to see Gratch. When Richard reaches Gratch, Pasha shows up and seeing Gratch, Pasha becomes irrational and runs screaming back to the palace. Richard yells at Gratch to leave and never come back. He is heart broken but knows that when the palace comes back to look for Gratch they will kill him no matter what Richard says. Richard stops after Gratch is gone and realizes it is the same thing that Kahlan did for him and knows that Kahlan still loves him. When Richard returns to the palace, he finds Warren. After talking for a moment, Richard learns that Warren is one hundred and fifty seven years old and has known Pasha for more than a hundred years. There is a spell over the castle to ensure that the wizards have time to learn their talents. By the time Richard is able to leave, the great-grandchildren of those he knew will be dead and gone. Richard remembers Shota's words and realizes that this is the time trap of which she spoke.

Chapter sixty-three has Richard desperate for a way to escape his "prison" that will force him to live years after Kahlan is dead. Richard is able to bribe the guards into letting him in to see the prophet Nathan. Nathan tells Richard that Nathan is Richard's grandfather, but too far back to count. With Nathan's help, Richard is able to control his power enough to call forth a blue ball of wizard lightning though it is weak. Nathan explains that Richard must let Kahlan die if they are to stop the Keeper, although Nathan doesn't know why. He also explains that the wizard's second rule says that a person must not use their heart above their head. The best of intentions can cause the most horrible of results. Richard decides to go to the one person that has agreed to help him.

Chapter 57-63 Analysis

At this point in time, the reader is seeing things that have been spoken of in the beginning of the book. The Boxes of Orden have been explained and why Richard was able to open them. Richard has also found out why his adoptive father had a magical book that he forced Richard to read and memorize. Nathan is also in on much of the Prelate's plans for Richard. The reader will see as the story continues just why it is that Kahlan must die in order for the Keeper to remain in the underworld.

Pasha continues to tell Richard that she is the only one for him and that he will realize this as time continues. It didn't occur to Richard that he was going to be away from Kahlan for such a long period of time. Warren is in love with Pasha, but it is easy to see that Pasha doesn't have any feelings for him. As the story continues the reader will find that Pasha's feelings appear to have been induced by the Sisters of the Dark. Warren has explained to Richard that in order to get the collar off, a wizard must endure a test of pain. It will be because of Warren's love for Pasha that his collar is able to be removed.



The reader has seen some of Shota's words come to pass. The trap of time has been explained at this point. Shota also explained that if Kahlan and Richard have a child then Shota will try and kill it because of the danger that the child will pose. Since Stone of Tears is the second in the Sword of Truth series, the reader will not see the truth of Shota's words in this book. Also the skirn bone that was taken from Addie is left unexplained. The reader doesn't know who took the skirn bone, and Warren has told Richard that whoever has it can call the skirn to the Keeper so that the Keeper can kill it and then be able to cross. This will be left for the later books to be explained as well.

Kahlan is waiting on Zedd. The reader will see that even though Kahlan is able to find Zedd, things don't go as she planned. The emotional trauma that Zedd needs will be finding out that Richard was taken by the Sisters of the Light.



Chapter 64-71

Chapter 64-71 Summary

In chapter sixty-four, Sister Verna goes to see the Prelate. The Prelate explains that she picked Sister Verna as the last name on the list of the sisters to go and retrieve Richard because she knew that Sister Verna was too unimportant to be a Sister of the Dark. The Prelate is heartbroken telling these untrue things to Sister Verna but knows that it must be done.

Sister Liliana tells Richard she will help him and to meet her in the Hagen Woods, and she will come with what she needs to remove the collar. Richard goes back to his room before he leaves for the Hagen Woods and a young wizard, Perry, meets him there and asks to borrow Richard's red jacket to go to the city to visit a girl with whom he is in love.

As chapter sixty-five begins, Richard is waiting in the Hagen Woods for Sister Liliana. Liliana has brought an orb and explains that it is used to amplify power. Liliana also warns Richard that the power will make him feel as if he is dying, but he must trust her. Richard does begin to feel as if he is dying and then he hears Liliana telling the dark creatures in the woods that they can have what is left of Richard. Richard breaks the hold of the orb, and Lillian pulls out a dark sword and they begin to battle. When Richard kills Liliana he hears a clap of thunder and knows the Keeper has taken her. Richard finds bones lying in the woods after Liliana is dead. The bones hold a small necklace; when Richard picks it up, he suddenly knows that Jedidiah killed whoever this person was.

Chapter sixty-six has Richard walking back to the palace and stopping at the river where a body is being retrieved from the river. It is Perry wearing Richard's red jacket. When Richard returns to his room, he finds Sister Verna. She tries to remove his collar but can't. They suddenly realize that if the Sisters of the Dark are trying to kill Richard, then they will also try to kill the Prelate. When they reach the Prelate's room she has been attacked and they take the Prelate to Nathan. Richard and Sister Verna decide to get some sleep and head out at first light toward Aydindril. Richard goes to his room to pack his things and is attacked by Pasha. She tries to kill him, but Warren appears and kills Pasha. Warren explains that Pasha admitted to killing Perry. Because killing Pasha brought him such pain, Sister Verna removes Warren's collar. Then they learn that all the remaining servers of the Keeper set sail on a ship the night before unnoticed.

Chapter sixty-seven returns to Kahlan. She finds Zedd and runs to him excited to find him finally. Zedd doesn't remember Kahlan but upon hearing that Richard has been taken by the Sisters of the Light, he becomes outraged. He blames Kahlan for making Richard put on the collar and pulls her behind him in a rage and announces he will have Kahlan beheaded the next day.



Richard, Sister Verna, and Warren go to meet the Baka Ban Mana and head toward the Valley of the Lost. Richard is able to reverse the magic there and restore the valley to its natural, lush green and give it to the Baka Ban Mana. With the spell gone from the Valley of the Lost, Rachel and Chase are released and Richard is able to retrieve the Stone of Tears from the little girl. Richard then calls on Scarlet and heads toward the Garden of Life where Darken Rahl waits to free the Keeper.

Richard and Scarlet fly into sight of the Garden of Life in chapter sixty-eight. A bolt of lightning flies through the air and strikes Scarlet. After she is on the ground, Richard runs the rest of the distance to the Garden of Life. Once in the Garden of Life, Darken Rahl offers Richard Immortality and the life of Kahlan if he will help to free the Keeper. When Richard refuses Darken Rahl shows a vision of Kahlan being beheaded and tells him that either she dies or the Keeper is freed. Richard realizes this is what the prophecy meant and he can't free Kahlan and sentence the entire world to death. Richard defeats Darken Rahl sending him back to his prison and putting the Stone of Tears back on the Keeper's prison. When Richard looks up, the collar has fallen off his neck. When Richard returns to Scarlet, she is too weak to fly, and Richard must go on foot the rest of the way to the place where Kahlan is to be killed.

In chapter sixty-nine, Richard rides for weeks to reach the city and finds that Kahlan was sentenced to death for treason. Richard calls forth magic and kills every member of the council.

Queen Cyrilla, having been rescued by her brother, Prince Harold, tells Kahlan that Kahlan must take over as Queen of Galea. Being raped for so many days has left Cyrilla unstable and broken. Kahlan feels forsaken and goes for a walk.

In chapter seventy, Richard goes for a walk and finds Kahlan's grave and learns that it was Zedd who pulled her into the courts to be beheaded, and he suddenly has hope that Kahlan is alive. Both Kahlan and Richard are found by the spirit of Denna who takes them to a safe place to see each other for a period of time. Richard reveals his magic to her.

In chapter seventy-one, Kahlan returns to Zedd and tells him Richard is safe and going to meet them soon. Addie's dead husband, Pell, sent her a message back with Kahlan that he never thought Addie had betrayed him. This emotional news is enough to restore Addie's memories. Richard is getting ready to leave the city and head toward Zedd and Kahlan when Gratch arrives. Richard watches as Imperial Order Troops march into the city, and Richard knows they will come looking for him before long.

Chapter 64-71 Analysis

The reader will find that many of the plots in the book have been completed. Richard and Kahlan have been reunited in some respects. Richard has managed to get free from the Palace of the Prophets and the Sisters of the Dark were forced to leave the



Palace. The reader won't know what happens to either plotline, since this novel is only one in a series.

The skirn bone was taken from Addie, and Richard, though he has accepted his magic, still seems to have much to learn. These will be things that will be addressed in later books. Also the reader has seen that apparently Richard and Kahlan slept together when the spirit of Denna came and brought them together. The witch woman, Shota, warned them that if they slept together, they would have a male child who would have great powers that would be the potentially dangerous. The reader won't find out how much of this is true until much later in the series.

Richard sent Gratch away to save his life, but Gratch has found Richard, much as Richard went back and found Kahlan. It isn't explained why Gratch went back to find Richard after Richard had talked to hurtfully to Gratch. It is possible that Gratch is too simple an animal to understand fully that Richard had been nasty to him or perhaps Gratch loves Richard, just as Richard loves Kahlan and is smart enough to know Richard would always love him. The reason for the beast's return will be left up to the readers' interpretation.

The Mud People sent three warriors with Kahlan and the only one still alive is Chandalen. The reader will see that it is the plan for him to return to his people, but the reader won't actually see Chandalen leaving. It appears that Chandalen likes Jebra and the two will possibly begin a relationship. This will be another aspect of the book that will be left for the next one in the series.

The reader had seen the Sisters of the Dark throughout the book, but it isn't until someone talking to Richard at the Palace of the Prophets explains that Liliana had strange colored eyes that the clues are given to the reader to signify Liliana's part in the story. The reader will have seen several of the Keeper's servants at this point. The main thing that the author shows the reader is that they all seem trustworthy, yet they fully deceive the other characters in the book.



Characters

Richard Rahl a.k.a. Richard Cypher

Richard is the main pivotal character in the book. Richard was raised by a man named George Cypher and lead to believe that this was his biological father. Stone of Tears is the second book in the series, and it is in this book that Richard learns that his biological father is Darken Rahl and that his grandfather is wizard Zeddicus "Zedd" Zu'l Zorander. Darken Rahl was an evil and cruel ruler who Richard killed in the previous book. Richard learns that Darken Rahl is his father, which bothers him to some small degree. The reader will see that Richard identifies George Cypher as his true father despite learning who his biological father is. Zedd is Richard's friend and Richard considers Zedd a loving influence and is quick to accept Zedd as a grandfather. Both Darken Rahl and Zedd are powerful wizards. It is because of these two men that Richard is one of the most powerful wizards that the world has seen in several thousand years.

Richard has fears that at times will seem almost irrational. He fears putting on the collar that the Sisters of the Light offer him. Richard had a collar put on him before, which was used to cause him great physical and emotional pain. The reader will also see that Richard believes if he thinks something is right he does it with little thought about the consequences. It won't be until the latter part of the story that Richard begins to look at each of his actions and weigh the consequences of his decisions. Richard is spoken of in the prophecy, although he refuses to admit that he is a wizard for much of the story. Richard accepts that Darken Rahl is his biological father and Zedd his grandfather, but he pushes away the notion that he might be a wizard. Richard claims to hate magic. Richard won't have good control of his powers until the end of the book when he is able to accept his true nature as a wizard.

Kahlan Amnell

Kahlan Amnell is the Mother Confessor for the Midlands. It is her job to speak out for the smaller cities and villages and prevent war. A Mother Confessor's power is so strong that any man that has sex with a Confessor loses his will and mind becoming her obedient slave. Richard loves Kahlan so completely that her power doesn't affect him. Kahlan knows Richard was hurt using a collar which is the reason Richard won't go with the Sisters of the Light. Kahlan becomes so worried for Richard's life believing the magic will kill him soon that she tells him he must go and forces him to put on the collar. Kahlan swears to go and get Zedd to help Richard.

Kahlan loves the people and works to save them. She has an ability to put on a face that makes her look expressionless. This look is referred to as her "confessor face" and Kahlan is forced to use it often. Women aren't permitted to have long hair unless they are powerful or of high standing. Kahlan becomes trapped and accused of treason when she returns to her home to find Zedd. Her hair is cut off and she is thrown into a



pit to be raped by several men before being beheaded. A wizard tries to strip her of her power but that works for only a short time. The thing that brings Kahlan back to her power is the thought of Richard. The connection between the two is evident in almost every choice Kahlan and Richard make. Kahlan isn't with Richard for much of the story but regardless of what Kahlan is doing she links it to Richard in some way. Kahlan believes for a brief period of time that she will never see Richard again. When Kahlan is convicted of treason and sentenced to death, she announces that she is no longer the Mother Confessor and will work to save the people no more. It is unclear how much of that decision was based on the fact that she lost Richard and how much was because she is so hated by the people for whom she fought.

Zeddicus Zu'l Zorander

Zeddicus Zu'l Zorander is referred to as either Zedd or wizard Zorander. Zedd is a wizard of the first order, meaning that he is very powerful. Although it is unknown by Richardin at the beginning of the book, Zedd is Richard's biological grandfather. Zedd knows the veil has been torn and tries to find a way to mend the veil. Zedd has a lot of impact on the story, although the reader doesn't see Zedd that often. Zedd is the one that finds the Stone of Tears and sends it to Richard.

Zedd cares for Richard. It appears that Zedd refused to tell Richard about Darken Rahl being his biological father because Zedd was worried how Richard would react. Richard felt so loved by Zedd that later on in the story Richard will think back and realize that he and Zedd couldn't have loved each other any more even if Richard had known Zedd was his grandfather.

Zedd becomes sick in the story and has to travel to three sorceresses to be cured. They take his memories in order to cure him. When they take his memories, Zedd doesn't even remember he has any magic. The three sorceresses tell Zedd that it will take a severe emotional shock to cure him from his amnesia. It won't be until Kahlan finds Zedd and tells him that Richard is with the Sisters of the Light that Zedd is able to recall his memories.

Darken Rahl

Darken Rahl is the biological father of Richard Rahl, also called Richard Cypher. Richard killed Darken Rahl but in doing so unknowingly caused a tear in the veil that separates the world of the living and the dead. Darken Rahl is in the underworld until Richard accidentally calls Darken Rahl back into the living world. Darken Rahl isn't seen that much in the story but is mentioned constantly. Richard has visions of him throughout much of the story. Darken Rahl is a cruel and ruthless leader and strives to free the Keeper from the underworld. Despite the fact that he is Richard's father, Darken doesn't care for Richard and wants him dead just as much as he wants to have Richard work for the Keeper.



Sister Verna

Sister Verna is one of the three Sisters of the Light that came and offered Richard the collar. The Prelate at the Palace of Prophets chose Sister Verna because the Prelate was certain that Sister Verna wasn't a Sister of the Darkness working for the Keeper. It will be Sister Verna who helps Richard escape the Palace of the Prophets to stop Darken Rahl.

Nathan Rahl

Nathan Rahl is the prophet in the Palace of Prophets. Nathan is kept locked up in a tower, and no one is permitted to speak to him without the Prelate's permission. Nathan is an ancestor of both Darken Rahl and Richard Rahl, though he is still alive. He is kept from aging by living at the Palace of Prophets.

Addie

Addie is an old sorceress that Zedd goes to for help in understanding the underworld and how to mend the veil. Addie is powerful and blind because of torture she went through as a young woman. Addie feels certain that her husband, Pell, died thinking she betrayed him and has spend her life trying to contact him to tell him the truth. Addie becomes sick at the same time Zedd does, and both their memories are stricken from them. Addie doesn't remember who she is until a strong emotional blow enables her to recall who she is. Addie is told that Pell never thought that she betrayed him and that Pell still loves her. Upon hearing this Addie's amnesia disappears and she is able to remember everything.

Pasha Maes

Pasha is the novice that is put in charge of Richard's learning at the Palace of Prophets. Although Pasha isn't yet a Sister of the Light, she thinks herself very wise in many ways. She is young and silly in many ways and throws her attentions on Richard. Pasha is easily influenced by the Sisters of Darkness, and she will try to kill Richard.

Chase

Chase was a boundary warden, but the boundary was destroyed. With no boundary to watch, Chase swears his loyalty to Richard. Chase tries to stop Richard from going with the Sisters of the Light but is too late to stop them.



Prelate Annalina Aldurren

The Prelate is in control at the Palace of the Prophets. Annalina knows who Richard is when he is born but allows him to stay and be raised by George Cypher, Richard's adoptive father. Annalina has brought Richard to the Place of Prelate to flush out the Sisters of the Darkness. She is attacked by one of the Sisters of the Dark and badly hurt.

Warren

Referred to as the Mole, Warren stays in the basement of the Palace of Prophets and studies the prophecies constantly. It is Warren that helps Richard understand the Stone of Tears and what the prophecies mean that involve Richard and Kahlan. Warren goes with Richard when Richard leaves the Palace of Prophets. Warren loves Pasha but kills her when she attacks Richard.

Du Chaillu

Du Chaillu is the spirit leader of the Baka Ban Mana. Richard saves Du Chaillu from being beheaded by a neighboring tribe. Du Chaillu is grateful but soon leads Richard into a trap where he must fight Du Chaillu's warriors. Richard is able to kill thirty of the Baka Ban Mana Sword Masters. After this, Du Chaillu claims that Richard is the leader that is spoken of in prophecy, and she states that Richard is now her husband.

Queen Cyrilla

Queen Cyrilla is the half sister of Kahlan Amnell. Cyrilla is tried by a traitorous council and sentenced to death. Before she is beheaded she is put into a pit with several men who repeatedly rape her. She is saved from being beheaded by her brother, and they manage to escape. Cyrilla is so emotionally scarred from the experience that she gives her crown up to Kahlan stating that the people will need a strong leader and Cyrilla can't be that leader.

Chandalen

Chandalen is the best hunter and protector of the Mud People. Kahlan and Richard are adopted by the Mud People as one of their own but Chandalen blames them for all of the trouble that happens to their people. When Kahlan must go back to find Zedd, she picks Chandalen to go with her stating that Chandalen will have to fight for her or else he will appear to have let her die. Chandalen becomes friends with Kahlan and kills one of his friends who has betrayed Kahlan.



The Keeper

The Keeper is the name for the evil being that rules the world of the dead. It is for him that the Sisters of the Darkness work. The Keeper's desire is death and pain for all those that are living. He makes empty promises to people to convince them to serve him.

The Creator

The giver of life and the one that the Sisters of the Light serve. The Creator gives goodness and fights against the Keeper.



Objects/Places

Central Council of the Midlands

The Central Council of the Midlands, located in Aydindril, is the governing body lead by the Mother Confessor. It is the Council's job to speak for each individual person in the Midlands with the Mother Confessor being the final say if needed. It is the Central Council that finds Kahlan guilty of treason and sentences her to death.

Stone of Tears.

A small stone in the shape of a tear. It is one of many things that helps to keep the Keeper trapped in his prison. Zedd finds the Stone of Tears and gives it to a small girl in the hopes that the Keeper won't be able to find it before Richard does.

Midlands

Place where much of the story takes place. The Midlands consists of many different nations and peoples. Most of the characters in the story come from the Midlands.

Aydindril

Aydindril is the town in the Midlands where Kahlan is sentenced to death. Aydindril is her home. The Palace of the Confessor's is located in Aydindril and this is where Kahlan is reunited with Zedd.

Addictive Magic

Addictive Magic is the type that most wizards and sorceresses have. It implies the ability to change something that already exists or to create something new.

Subtractive Magic

Subtractive Magic is more rare than Addictive Magic. There are very few that have both types. Subtractive Magic is the ability to erase what is there or to undo.

Sword of Truth

The Sword of Truth is the weapon used by the Seeker of Truth. The Sword of Truth glows white when Richard wields it with his magic. Only the true Seeker is able to turn the blade white.



Scarlet

Scarlet is the Red Dragon that Richard befriends by saving her egg. Scarlet gives Richard a tooth so he can call her if he needs her. Scarlet flies Richard to fight Darken Rahl.

Screeing

A screeing is one of the Keeper's monstrous assassins. They can't see a person who is walking but will attack anything that runs or that stands still. The only way to kill one is to cut it into pieces.

Sister of the Light

A Sister of the Light is a sorceress that has given her life to the pursuit of the creator's will. These sorceresses live at the Palace of Prophets and help young wizards learn to control their abilities. Those that live at the palace live for hundreds of years because of a magic spell so that the sorceresses and young wizards have time to fully learn to control their powers.

Sister of the Dark

A Sister of the Dark is a Sister of the Light that has sworn her soul to the Keeper and to doing his will. They were thought to be a myth by many. Richard is brought to the Palace of Prophets as bait to find out who is a Sister of the Dark.

Gratch

Gratch is a short-tailed gar. Gar are hideous creatures with wings that can stand on two legs like men. To some extent they resemble gargoyles. Richard kills Gratch's mother when Gratch is a small baby. He and Gratch quickly bond after Richard doesn't have the heart to kill him.



Themes

Accepting Your Destiny

The story of Richard deals with his destiny. The reader will find that often Richard is fighting against what is his destiny. He fights very hard against having magical abilities. It seems odd that Richard accepts that Darken Rahl, one of the main villains, is his biological father while being so adamant that he can't possibly be a wizard. Richard loves Zedd and even though Zedd is a wizard, it doesn't appear to make Richard feel any differently about his own ability to perform magic.

If Richard accepted the fact that he is a wizard, he might have been able to remove the collar that the Sisters of Light put on him right away and perhaps would have stopped the beheading of Kahlan that took place in front of the crowd. Ultimately what makes Richard free and complete is accepting who he is and of what he is capable. The reader will also see that Richard has other pieces of his destiny that he must accept such as being the leader of the Baka Ban Mana and restoring them their land as well as fulfilling his title as "The Bringer of Death."

Good Versus Evil

Good versus evil is very easily seen as a theme in the story. The author has even given the symbols of good and evil names. The good is often referred to as "The Creator," meaning the one who creates life. While there is no actual list of rules as to how "The Creator" would have his people live, it is expected that certain acts put you on the side of good or "The Creator."

The author talks about the evil in the book and the forces that want to destroy life as "The Keeper." "The Keeper" wants to destroy life simply because he enjoys the pain and suffering of those that possess life. If "The Keeper" is able to gain control of the world, he will wipe out all life simply because it is his desire to destroy.

The author never gives either entity a form of their own or a voice, but the reference is made quite often linking behaviors of different characters in the book to either the side of the Creator or the Keeper. The good and the evil in the book often is not clear cut. There are decisions that are made with the best of intentions that go wrong and cause things to happen that would be called evil—such as Richard inadvertently tearing the veil and releasing Darken Rahl from the underworld. There are also other times that characters in the book do things that appear evil—such as the Prelate of the Palace of Prophets trapping Richard—in order to make good things happen. The mix that the author creates between the good and the evil in the story will cause the reader to take a closer look at motives and effect of each action that is taken.



The Struggle to Control Power

There is a lot of power in the book, much of it in the form of magic. Even when the power isn't wielded by a person, power seems to be controlled, such as the wizard towers in the Valley of the Lost. The towers don't have a person that controls them any longer, but the power is still there and to some extent still working.

One of the most obvious struggles to control power is the power struggle between Darken Rahl and Richard. Richard alone has the power to either seal up the veil between the world of the dead and the living or to finish tearing it and releasing "The Keeper." While Darken Rahl has a great deal of power, he uses his power to control the actions of Richard. Darken Rahl uses his power to try to force Richard to either save Kahlan from being beheaded or to destroy Darken Rahl in a fit of rage. Either one of these actions would have freed the Keeper. Richard struggles to keep his own actions under control.

Another struggle to control power takes place inside Richard. Richard has both subtractive and addictive magic. While much of this is explained to Richard, he continues to have trouble controlling this side of himself. Richard has to control both of these in order to stop "The Keeper."

While much of the story focuses on Richard and his struggle, Kahlan is off fighting and when she finally returns to the Council of the Midlands, the council has been taken over by people serving evil purposes and who have Kahlan condemned to death. The struggle over the Council power isn't seen but clearly takes place. Richard arrives and kills the members of the council that condemn Kahlan to death, but even after that, there are those that seek the power that the council held, so Richard has to leave the city.



Style

Point of View

The book is written in the third person point of view with the author focusing on different characters throughout the story to give the reader the full story. Richard is the main character in the story and much of the telling comes from his point of view. Kahlan and Zedd are two other characters whose point of view is shown. The story's point of view is limited, but the characters in the book often are very intuitive, so the reader has a good idea of what other people are thinking or planning simply from reading the main characters' reactions. The author also takes time to follow some of the villains in the book, such as the Sisters of the Dark. This allows the reader to understand more clearly the point of view from those that oppose the main characters.

Stone of Tears is the second in the Sword of Truth series. There is much that happens in the first book that is important to understand Stone of Tears. The author spends a large portion of the book explaining the reasons for things and what happens in the first book to keep the reader from being confused. Eventually the point of view always returns to Richard as the main character and his struggle to close the veil.

Setting

The story takes place in a mythical land referred to as the Midlands. Physically the land looks very earth like, but many of the creatures that inhabit the land are linked with magic, such as dragons and gars, which are small creatures that look somewhat like small dragons. The author has also given the world of the dead a link to the world of the living, so some of the setting occurs in the land of the dead. Richard and Kahlan hold a ceremony to call their ancestors in which Darken Rahl escapes, and Denna comes to help Richard and Kahlan. Later in the story Denna comes once again and takes Richard and Kahlan to a peaceful place to talk that appears to be in the world of the dead.

The places that the characters go are described in detail for the reader, such as the Palace of Prophets and the Valley of the Lost. The cities that the characters go to all have a castle and seem to be ruled in large part by a queen, king, or some other type of ruler. There is much magic in the book, which at times is difficult to fully understand. There are magical items and different types of magic, as well as different types of wizards and witches. The setting is very detailed and helps the reader become more involved.

Language and Meaning

The language in the book becomes different for each character that is speaking. The author uses italics to notate when someone is speaking in a different language. There are times when the speech is more formal than others, but over all the language in the



book is relaxed and easy to understand. There are characters that the reader can identify when they speak simply by their language, such as Addie, who speaks differently because she doesn't speak her native language. Many of the characters in the book use phrases that are much more formal when they are speaking to Kahlan, who is the Mother Confessor, or Richard, who is the new Lord Rahl.

There are words that have been invented for the book and some phrases that are used out of context, such as Zedd's constant use of "Baggs" as a word that is profane. The majority of the words that the author uses in the book are explained in detail such as the role and duties of the Mother Confessor and what the Sword of Truth is to Richard. Many of these explanations come in the form of dialogue from one character to another or from inner thoughts of a character. The language is well explained and easily understood.

Structure

Stone of Tears is 979 pages long and divided into seventy-one chapters. The majority of the chapters focus exclusively on one character's point of view. The author ends and begins the chapters in relation to the events that are happening rather than the number of pages that each chapter covers.

The main plot in the story is to stop the Keeper from escaping from his prison and killing the world. While this is the main plot in the book, a large portion of the book is devoted to Richard learning about his magic and the struggle he has in learning to use it. There are other subplots that give each character or sets of characters their own struggles and desires.

Stone of Tears is the second in the Sword of Truth series. While the book allows the reader to have some closure, it leaves many plot lines open-ended for the books that follow. Many of the prophecies and foreshadowing that the characters receive in this book aren't answered or explained fully, such as when the witch woman Shota tells Richard and Kahlan that when Kahlan becomes pregnant, it will be a male child and Shota will be forced to kill it. There are also many questions surrounding the Palace of the Prophets and the Sisters of the Dark that escaped as well as the Imperial Order that has begun taking over the Midlands.

In addition to the story, there is a map in the back that shows the lay of the mythical land in which the story takes place. While this isn't necessary to understanding what is going on, it is helpful in understanding the travel and some of the scenes that take place when armies are advancing. It also gives the reader a better understanding of the time and distance that separate the characters in the book.



Quotes

"Darken Rahl had worked all night drawing forth the Magic of Orden from the three boxes as they had watched, helpless, and only this morning was he killed by opening the wrong box. Killed by the Wizard's First Rule, wielded by Richard." Chapter 2: Page 15

"Well, the Central Council rules the Midlands...' She cleared her throat as she looked down at her hands in her lap. '...and the Mother Confessor rules the Central Council.'" Chapter 6:Page 85

"Richard, if you should happen to somehow close the veil, and save me from the Keeper, save everyone from the Keeper, I will be forever grateful to you." Chapter 12: Page 175

"The man I killed, Darken Rahl, my father, well, when he died, he was sent to the underworld. To the Keeper... the Nameless One. Last night, he escaped." Chapter 18: Page 272

"He should have taken the Wizard's Second Rule into account, but he had been intent on doing something good for her. That was the way it worked with the second rule; it was usually hard to tell if you were violating it." Chapter 21: Page 337

"Young women of fourteen, fifteen, and sixteen, a few a little older. These were not just nameless corpses; Kahlan knew many of these young women." Chapter 29: Page 444-445

"Wizards use the magic of empathy to cure people. We take the pain and the essence of the discordance, the sickness or injury, into ourselves." Chapter 33: Page 490

"We know it's a suicide mission. But we're all single; we have no families to leave without fathers. We're doing it because those men will go on to another city and do to them what they did in Ebinissia." Chapter 37: Page 544

"Richard's father was an evil man who killed many people, yet Richard seeks to preserve life. His mother knew that the guilt of crimes does not pass beyond the one who commits them. She did not spare her love because Richard's father raped her." Chapter 43: Page 636

"He coveted this world's breath of life. He enjoyed watching people die. He did not wish to stop it too soon, stop the suffering, the fear, the pain." Chapter 46: Page 678

"It is proclaimed that the Caharin will announce his arrival by dancing with the spirits, and spilling the blood of thirty Baka Ban Mana, a feat none but the chosen one could accomplish except with the aid of the spirits. It is said that when this happens, then we are his to rule." Chapter 48: Page 702



"Then the gateway between the worlds is opened. The veil is breached. The seal is off the Nameless One." Chapter 56: Page 801

"From now on, she was going to worry about herself, her friends, and Richard, and to the Keeper with the rest of them. He could have them all. She was through with it all. She was the Mother Confessor no longer. She was Kahlan." Chapter 60: Page 838

"The most rare are war wizards. There has not been one born in over three thousand years. Until you." Chapter 61: Page 858

"Richard looked down on the city. Troops were moving about. A lot of troops. Imperial Order troops. It wouldn't be long before they gained the courage to investigate the death of the council, even if it was at the hands of a wizard." Chapter 71: Page 979



Topics for Discussion

Richard seemed to accept the the fact that Darken Rahl is his biological father much more easily than he accepts the fact that he (Richard) might have magical abilities. Given what the reader knows about Richard speculate on the reasons.

Denna takes the mark of the Keeper for Richard. Kahlan doesn't tell Richard any of this when he wakes. Speculate on the reasons that Kahlan keeps these things to herself. Is there any other reason that Richard would have taken the collar? Explain. Why did it take Richard so long to understand Kahlan's motives?

The Prelate at the Palace of Prophets told Sister Verna that she knew Sister Verna was worthless and so wouldn't be someone that the Sisters of the Dark would approach. Explain why the Prelate felt it necessary to say this and what it accomplished to tell Sister Verna these things.

Addie has struggled her entire life with the guilt of what happened to her husband Pell. Do you think Pell knew she hadn't betrayed him? Speculate on the emotions and reasons that it was so important for Addie to find Pell. What role did Addie's culture and childhood play in her decision to spend her adult life trying to reach Pell's spirit?

There are animals in the story that have a role past that of a pet or an animal of labor. Describe the difference between Gratch the short-tail gar, Scarlet the dragon, and the horses. Which would be described as characters and which would be described as pets? Is it their characteristics or their role in the story that puts them in these places? Explain.

There are characters in the book that prove to be traitorous, such as Tossidin, and others that the reader watches for signs of evil intent, such as Sister Verna when the reader is aware that she could possibly be a Sister of the Dark. Explain what if any traits were exhibited that shows the reader a character's motives or intent.

Zedd knew Richard was his grandson and that Darken Rahl was Richard's father. Explain the reasons Zedd kept it secret and why he was worried Richard would be upset. Would Richard's reaction have been any different had Zedd been the one to tell him?

Kahlan has been the Mother Confessor for some time. After her half sister, Queen Cyrilla, is attacked Cyrilla tells Kahlan that Kahlan must take over as Queen of Galean. In what ways will Kahlan's past experience as the Mother Confessor aid Kahlan in her new role? In what ways will it hinder her?