

The Shadow Rising Study Guide

The Shadow Rising by Robert Jordan

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Plot Summary

The Stone of Tear, the impregnable fortress that was foretold to stand until the Dragon Reborn's arrival, has fallen, and Rand Al'Thor, a shepherd from the Two Rivers, holds Callandor, the Sword That Is Not a Sword, a weapon for magnifying the One Power.

Rand has been studying the prophesied of the Dragon and has determined that he must go to Rhuidean, the forsaken city of the Aiel, and become the Aiel Car'a'carn, the chief of chiefs. He travels to Rhuidean with Moiraine Sedai, Lan, Egwene, and the Aiel who helped him take the Stone of Tear.

Nynaeve, Elayne, Thom, and Juilin Sandar voyage to Tanchico, an exotic city on the western coast, to try to stop Liandrin and her group of Black Ajah from acquiring a powerful ter'angreal they hope will allow them to control Rand. Moghedien, a member of the Forsaken, is weaving a trap around the item, and Nynaeve is forced to confront the women in a fierce duel with the One Power. Nynaeve succeeds in defeating Moghedien, though the woman escapes. Nynaeve and Elayne give the powerful ter'angreal to Bayle Domon, with instructions to drop it in the sea.

Perrin, Faile, and Loial return to the Two Rivers along with three adventurous Aiel named Gaul, Bain, and Chiad. There they rescue Mat's sisters who have been kidnapped by Whitecloaks. They find two Aes Sedai in Emond's Field, there to determine why Whitecloaks and trollocs are roaming the rural countryside. Faile stops Perrin from turning himself into the Whitecloaks for execution and convinces him that the Two Rivers needs a leader to rally them against the trollocs and the Whitecloaks. Perrin succeeds in uniting the Two Rivers and they win a pitch battle at Emond's Field. The people of the Two Rivers make Perrin, and his new wife Faile, Lord and Lady of Emond's Field and expel the Whitecloaks.

Meanwhile, in the White Tower, Elaida Sedai has put together enough of the pieces of the conspiracy involving Suan Sanche and Moiraine Sedai to have Suan deposed as Amrylin Seat. Suan and her keeper Leane are removed from office and stilled, that is, their ties to the One Power are severed. Min rescues them before they are executed, and the three women sneak out of Tar Valon with the gentled false dragon Logain.

Rand journeys with Mat into Rhuidean and sees a vision of the origins of the Aiel people. He returns marked as the Car'a'carn and attempts to rally the Aiel clans, encountering resistance from the Shaido clan, who put up one of their own, Couladin, as the Car'a'carn. The chiefs determine that Rand is the true chief of chief and in the ensuing fight, Rand learns that two member of the Forsaken, Lanfear and Asmodean, have been traveling with him incognito, and that Asmodean has used the distraction caused by the fighting Aiel to return to Rhuidean to retrieve a powerful ter'angreal. Rand races Asmodean to the ter'angreal and succeeds in overpowering him.



Chapters 1-4

Chapters 1-4 Summary

Chapter 1

Min has been sent by Moiraine Sedai to give the Amyrlin news about the Battle of Falme and Rand's determination to capture the Stone of Tear. Min meets with Sivan Sanche, telling her that Rand is on his way to Tear with Moiraine in pursuit. Min tells Sivan that she wishes to depart for Tear at once, but Sivan has another mission for her. Min is to disguise herself as a young noblewoman visiting the tower and use her ability to look for members of the Black Ajah.

Dain Bornhald leads a group of Whitecloaks into the Two Rivers. With him, much against Dain's will, is the man the Children call Ordeith, who is really Padan Fain.

Chapter 2

Perrin and Mat are both attacked by inanimate objects while inside the Stone of Tear. Suspecting that Rand has lost control of the One Power, they both head to his quarters.

Rand is in his quarters when he notices his reflection step out of several mirrors in the room. He fights them with a sword he conjures using the One Power, but he discovers that if he can lay hands on them, he can reabsorb them. He succeeds in reabsorbing them all, in the process suffering numerous wounds.

Chapter 3

Perrin arrives in Rand's chambers, takes one look at his friend and sends for Moiraine. Moiraine arrives and heals Rand as best she can. Rand believes that the attack must have come from one of the Forsaken. Moiraine disagrees. She believes the attacks were a miasma of the power of the Dark One. The Dark One cannot fully touch the world yet, but some of his power seeps into the world, and it is drawn toward ta'veren, which is why all three of the ta'veren in Tear, Rand, Mat, and Perrin, were attacked.

Chapter 4

Matt pays a visit to Thom and tells the gleeman about his desire to flee the city and the dangers that Rand brings. Thom would like to leave as well, but he worries that without his help, Rand could be outmaneuvered by the political intrigues of the High Lords of Tear.



Chapters 1-4 Analysis

Elaida Sedai recognizes Min, and she is slowly putting together the pieces of the conspiracy between Moiraine and Sivan, a conspiracy to conceal the existence of the Dragon Reborn and allow him to walk free in the world. Elaida can foretell as well, and she long ago saw that the royal line of Andor would be crucial in the war against the Shadow. She is therefore furious about the second disappearance of Elayne, the daughter heir of Andor, and she is sure that Sivan Sanche and Moiraine are behind it. Elaida's opposition will prove a critical flaw in Sivan's plans.

Pedron Niall, the leader of the Children of the Light, has told Dain about Perrin, the man who the Whitecloaks have blamed for their defeat at the hands of the Seanchan in Falme. Dain believes he is in the Two Rivers to drive Perrin into the open, but it is Padan Fain who has manipulated Pedron Niall into the act, hoping to lure Rand back to his home by stirring up trouble in the Two Rivers.

In the previous book, *The Dragon Reborn*, Jordan concentrated on subplots involving the secondary characters, leaving the journey of his primary protagonist Rand to the reader's imagination. In this chapter, he seems to call us back to Rand's central position in the story and signals that in this volume, the focal point will again shift back to the Dragon Reborn. Perrin and Mat both grapple with physical metaphors of their possible contributions to Rand's cause. Perrin's half-moon axe, his wielding of which gave him his name, Young Bull, from the wolves, is a metaphor for his choice to fight against the shadow. The half-moon axe will be continually placed at odds with the other item Perrin carries, the blacksmith's hammer, which symbolizes his desire to deny his importance as a ta'veren and settle down to the quiet life of a blacksmith. Mat is attacked by playing cards, symbols of his prodigious luck, which combined with his status as ta'veren, enables him to bend the pattern of events wherever he goes.

It is not only the miasma of the Dark One and a possibly lethal attack by the predatory Forsaken that concerns Moiraine. She is worried about Rand taking a dagger in the back because of the intriguing of the Tairen High Lords, who he is infuriating on a daily basis with his brutal enforcement of egalitarian ideals. Rand has made it possible for High Lords to be tried for crimes they commit against commoners and has forced the High Lords to apportion production from their estates to the poor and to neighboring Illian and Cairhien.

Thom who is a master of the Cairhien social war known as "Daes Daimar," or "The Game," has been secretly outmaneuvering the Tairen High Lords and Ladies. Thom's sense of devotion to Rand's comes from an incident in Thom's past. His nephew, a young man named Owyn, a man who could channel the One Power, was captured and gentled without trial by Aes Sedai from the Red Ajah. Thom's failure to protect Owyn and the subsequent guilt he carries was the initial reason he took an interest in helping Rand. The incident involving Owyn was also pivotal in his split with Elayne's mother, Morgase, the Queen of Andor, who was Thom's lover for a time when Elayne was a child.



Chapters 5-8

Chapters 5-8 Summary

Chapter 5

Two members of the Black Ajah were captured in the fall of the Stone of Tear. They both tell Nynaeve, Egwene, and Elayne that the other Black sisters are probably heading for Tanchico, where Liandrin believes an object resides that could be used against Rand. The Black sisters also intend to free Mazraim Taim, a false dragon, who has recently been captured by Aes Sedai and is en route to Tar Valon.

Chapter 6

Moiraine is encouraging Rand to attack the city-state of Illian, where the Forsaken known as Sammael rules the city. Rand has hidden himself away, reading from prophecy books. Moiraine tells Nynaeve, Egwene, and Elayne about a ter'angreal stored in the hold of the Stone. It is a doorway that will answer three questions with truth.

Chapter 7

Egwene and Elayne try to teach Rand how to use the One Power, but they can sense nothing when Rand channels, and their descriptions of saidar, are nothing like what he has experience with saidin. Egwene tells Rand she is no longer in love with him, and that she intends to be an Aes Sedai.

Chapter 8

After Egwene departs, Elayne tells Rand that she is in love with him, and after telling her that he feels the same way, they kiss. The High Lords of Tear arrive and are greatly displeased when Rand tells them to lower taxes and give excess grain to Illian.

Mat asks Egwene if she can help him restore all the gaps that have appeared in his memory or if she can explain why he sometimes talks and thinks in the Old Tongue. She tells him that she can not help him, but tells him of the ter'angreal in the hold that might be able to answer his questions.

Chapters 5-8 Analysis

The plan to free Taim is a shrewd move by the Black Ajah. Though its original intention is to discredit Rand and make it more difficult for Sivan Sanche to convince the Tower to back him, it will instead lead to the great split in the Tower that divides the Ajahs.



Reasoning that war will come regardless of which course he takes, Moiraine is encouraging Rand to attack the city-state of Illian, where the Forsaken known as Sammael rules the city. Rand has hidden himself away, reading from prophecy books, and Moiraine thinks that every day he waits increases the danger that someone will try to attack him.

Moiraine tells Nynaeve, Egwene, and Elayne about a ter'angreal stored in the hold of the Stone. It is a doorway that will answer three questions with truth. There are dangers in using the doorway. People have stepped through and never returned, but Moiraine is growing desperate, and tells them that she may be forced to use the doorway to find out how she is supposed to guide Rand.

Though the women can feel nothing when Rand channels, he can feel something when they do. Rand's flesh erupts in goose bumps when a woman channels near him, and this sensory cue will prove critical in later encounters with the Forsaken and with Aes Sedai.

Elayne is one of the three women that Min saw in Rand's future, along with herself. The third will be the Aiel woman, Aviendha.



Chapters 9-12

Chapters 9-12 Summary

Chapter 9

Selene visits Rand and reveals that she is the Forsaken known as Lanfear. She says that she loves him and will help him destroy the other Forsaken. She speaks of two sa'angreal, the most powerful ever made, one usable by a man, one by a woman. With them, she and he could challenge even the Dark One.

Chapter 10

While they are talking, a Gray Man sneaks in and tries to kill Rand. After Lanfear says that she had nothing to do with it, Rand exits the room to check on the Aiel that were guarding him. He finds them all dead, and trollocs fighting with Defenders of the Stone throughout the stronghold. Rand leads them into the fight, with Lanfear behind them crying out that he is a fool to use a sword when he can do so much more. He becomes separated from the Defenders and Lanfear appears again, berating him for risking his life and leaving Callandor back in his chambers for any one of the Forsaken to sneak in and steal. Rand races back to his chamber and, finding Callandor where he left it, snatches it up and runs back into the battle, burning small groups of enemies at a time. Finally, he decides to end the battle and, with Moiraine and Lan watching him, produces lightning from Callandor that travels through the entire fortress and kills every Shadowspawn.

Chapter 11

Egwene decides to enter Tel'Aran'Rhiod, the world of dreams, to discover what in Tanchico could be dangerous to Rand. There she meets an Aiel Wise Woman named Amys, a Dreamwalker. She tells Egwene that she is foolish to wander in Tel'Aran'Rhiod untrained, and she should come to the Aiel Waste to learn dream-walking from the Aiel Wise Ones.

Chapter 12

Egwene awakens and tells Nynaeve, Elayne, and Aviendha about Amys. Aviendha says that Amys is the wife of Rhuarc. Egwene tells them all that she intends to go to the Waste to learn from Amys. Nynaeve and Elayne decide that they will go to Tanchico to try to capture Liandrin and the other Black sisters and discover what in Tanchico could be dangerous to Rand. Aviendha wants to go with them, but Moiraine says that she received a letter from the Aiel Wise Ones several weeks before, which foretold of Egwene's journey to the Waste. The letter also said that Aviendha must return to the Waste with Egwene.



Chapters 9-12 Analysis

Rand has already seen one of the sa'angreal of which Lanfear speaks. In the second book, *The Great Hunt*, while leading his party into Cairhien, he came across an excavation. Cairhein workers were digging up a large statue of a kingly man holding a crystalline sphere. Rand had overheard rumors that the statue was an artifact from the Age of Legends. Its matching female statue is on the island of Tremalking, in the Aryth Ocean, southeast of Tanchico.

During the fight, both Rand and Mat notice trollocs fighting trollocs, and Myrddraal fighting Myrddraal. They speculate that this phenomenon could be a sign that there is dissension among the Forsaken, more than one of whom had sent forces after Rand at the same time. Lanfear's concern for Rand is genuine, though there is a limit to how far she will go to protect him. During their argument, they both pin each other with the One Power against opposite walls of a great hall. Rand feels her slice away and untie his weaves of the One Power. Rand's education in the One Power is multidimensional. When he watches another person do something with the One Power, even a woman, he is able to learn much of how it is done. In this sense, he is simply Rand Al'Thor, the young shepherd, learning. But he is also remembering techniques at random, techniques from the mind of Lews Therin Telamon, and which he performs without thinking.

There is a heartbreaking moment after Rand has ended the battle, when he spots a young girl who has been killed by a trolloc, lying dead on the floor of the Stone. Holding Callandor, he is so filled with the One Power that he feels like he can do anything, and he tries to resurrect the girl, accomplishing nothing except to cause the girl's corpse to jerk about. Rand weeps and curses his folly, running into the battle instead of ending it fast, as Moiraine tells him that he is not the Creator. Healing death is beyond even him.

The previous volumes of the series all followed a smaller epic format, one where the central characters begin in close proximity, are forced apart by divisive events, and then are brought together at the end of the book in a climax that resolves much of the storyline. From this point on, Jordan will divide his characters for several novels and the series takes on a broader format. The split at Tear will separate the characters for several volumes to come.



Chapters 13-16

Chapters 13-16 Summary

Chapter 13

After overhearing rumors in a tavern about Whitecloaks in the Two Rivers looking for Rand, Mat and Perrin, Mat goes to see Perrin. Perrin has heard as well, and is packing to leave. Mat tells him that he can not go with Perrin to the Two Rivers, that Rand's pull as a ta'veren is holding Mat to him, and that, for the time being, he must go where Rand goes.

Chapter 14

Berelain, the First of Mayene, pays a visit to Perrin. She tells him that she is leaving for Mayene and invites him to accompany her. He refuses. Faile walks in on them and Berelain, in front of the other woman, seductively invites Perrin again. She leaves with Faile following her. Faile accosts her in the hallway, telling her to stay away from Perrin. Berelain tells Faile that she will seduce Perrin and have her fun with him until she grows bored of him. Faile attacks her, but Berelain deftly throws her to the floor. They are separated by Rhuarc, who sends them both in separate directions, saying there has been too much killing already.

Chapter 15

Mat steps into the ter'angreal of which Egwene had told him. He finds himself in a vast palace, where he is told to ask his questions. First, Mat asks if he should go to help his people in the Two Rivers. He is told he must go to Rhuidean. Second, he asks why he should go to Rhuidean. He is told that if he does not go, then he will die. Third, he asks why he will die if he does not go. He is told that if he does not go, then he will be killed. An earthquake begins, shaking the palace. Figures appear, pushing him out of the room. He fights them off, asking what his fate is. They say his fate is to marry the Daughter of the Nine Moons, to die and live again, and to live once more a part of what was.

He is hurled out of the doorway. After a few seconds, Rand steps out, followed closely by Moiraine. She upbraids them both for being in at the same time, telling them that two ta'verens entering might have permanently disrupted the connection between the two worlds.

Chapter 16

Perrin goes to find Loial, hoping to convince the Ogier to take him by the Ways to the Two Rivers. Faile is already there. She had guessed that Perrin would try to travel by the Ways, and she had tricked Loial into promising her that he would show her the Ways. Ogiers do not break promises, so Loial is forced to take Faile. Faile, still angry at



Perrin after the altercation with Berelain, tells Perrin that she is the leader of the expedition, and that if he wants to come along, he will have to follow behind her like her lost dog. The Aiel named Gaul, who Perrin freed from Whitecloaks, tells Perrin that honor demands that Gaul accompany Perrin to the Two Rivers and try to help him protect his people.

Chapters 13-16 Analysis

The description of the pull of Rand on the other two ta'veren from Emond's Field makes the phenomenon seem very much like hypnotic suggestion. In their conscious minds, Perrin and Mat both wish to leave, but they find that their actions are subconsciously affected by Rand's pull.

In the previous book, *The Dragon Reborn*, Min had seen a vision of Perrin with a falcon on one shoulder and a hawk on the other. Min did not know what the vision meant, but she suspected that both of the birds were female and were attempting to influence Perrin in opposite directions. She told Perrin about the vision, and he has surmised that Faile, whose name means falcon in the Old Tongue, is the falcon in the vision. He does not yet know that Berelain is the hawk.

Moiraine and Rand tell Mat nothing of what they asked, but they both say that they needed interpreters to talk to the beings. It is only then that Mat realizes that the beings were talking to him in the Old Tongue the whole time.

The Ways are a series of islands, connected by stone bridges, which connect various places in the world and can be used to travel between the various Waygates, allowing huge distances to be covered in days. The Ways were constructed by the One Power in the Age of Legends, by male Aes Sedai. The taint that the Dark One placed on the male half of the One Power has had an effect on the Ways, and the islands, once thriving with vegetation, are bleak, dark places. An evil wind known as "Machen Shin" travels the Ways and is capable of sucking the soul out of any person it happens upon. Perrin has traveled the Ways before, with Loial's help, but even with experience, the dangers involved are no less.

Lan and Nynaeve's fractured romance must endure another long separation.



Chapters 17-20

Chapters 17-20 Summary

Chapter 17

Moiraine tells Thom Merrill to accompany Nynaeve and Elayne to Tanchico, promising him that when he returns she will tell him the names of the Red sisters that gentled his nephew Owyn.

Siuan Sanche receives two letters, one saying that Mazraim Taim has escaped, the other from Moiraine, saying that Rand holds Callandor. Siuan tells Min that she now has what she needs to hold a meeting with all the sisters in Tar Valon, to tell them about Rand. They will have no choice but to support him, now that he holds Callandor.

Chapter 18

Gaul is the only Aiel who will go with Perrin to the Two Rivers. However, two Aiel women, Bain and Chiad, decide to accompany Faile. The Stone of Tear trembles as they set off for the nearby Waygate.

Chapter 19

Nynaeve and Egwene board a ship called the Wavedancer, manned by Atha'an Miere. The captain, a woman named Coine, tells them that Aes Sedai are usually denied passage, but, after Nynaeve tells them that they are on a mission that will aid Rand, she agrees to take them to Tanchico. It is then that they learn that the Atha'an Miere believe Rand to be their savior, the Coramoor. Coine tells them that they must conceal the fact that they are Aes Sedai from the crew.

Chapter 20

Thom Merrill and Juilin Sandar are waiting on deck for Nynaeve and Elayne. Thom tells them that Moiraine asked him to come. Juilin says that he was approached by both Rand and Lan separately and was asked to see to the safety of Nynaeve and Elayne. They agree to allow the men along, and warn them not to reveal the fact that Nynaeve and Elayne are Aes Sedai to the crew. They leave the harbor and set off for Tanchico.

Chapters 17-20 Analysis

Moiraine tells Thom Merrill she knows that he has been secretly outmaneuvering High Lords who oppose Rand. She hints that she knows all about his past, including his affair with Queen Morgase, Elayne's mother, their falling out, and his subsequent exile. He jabs back with his knowledge about Moiraine Damedred, King Laman's niece, Taringail's youngest half-sister and, at one time, near in line to the throne of Cairhien. Moiraine



tells him that Nynaeve and Egwene will need his skills in the rough town that is Tanchico.

Jordan synchronizes the action in the next four chapters by inserting the earthquake that Rand causes into each separate part of the story. The brief rift between Faile and Perrin is mirrored by the Aiel that accompany them. Gaul's clan has a blood feud with that of Bain and Chiad, and even though the Aiel have declared an abeyance on all blood feuds during the search for "He Who Comes With the Dawn," the tensions between the three Aiel, and their eventual friendship, will mirror the relationship of Perrin and Faile.

Elayne observes Jorin, the Wavedancer's Windfinder, a kind of navigator the Atha'an Miere use to find wind, channeling flows of air thicker than any Elayne has ever seen before. She asks Jorin if this is why the Atha'an Miere do not normally allow Aes Sedai on their ships. Aes Sedai would normally wish to spirit any woman who could channel away to the White Tower for proper training. Jorin says that the Atha'an Miere do not wish to leave the sea, and so women who can channel become Windfinders, and that fact is kept from Aes Sedai. Elayne promises to keep Jorin's secret, if the other woman will instruct her on how she works with the powers of air and water.



Chapters 21-24

Chapters 21-24 Summary

Chapter 21

Rand calls a gathering of all the High Lords of Tear. The High Lords cheer when Rand tells them the army will move, thinking he means to invade Illian, the city they all despise. They are appalled when he tells them they will move north into Cairhien, and use the army to restore order and distribute food. Rand drives Callandor into the ground at the Heart of the Stone, and tells them that it will remain, to await his return, for he is going away. He marches out of the Stone of Tear, the Aiel with him. Moiraine asks him to reconsider, especially regarding Callandor. She tells him one of the Forsaken could come and claim it. He tells her that he hopes one will try, for he has set deadly traps around it. Egwene tells him she intends to go to the Waste, and Rand surprises her by saying that their paths are together, for he intends to go to Rhuidean.

Chapter 22

As they ride out of Tear, Moiraine asks Rand how he intends to get to Rhuidean, which is a long journey to the northeast. Rand tells her that he intends to use a Portal Stone.

They ride to a nearby Portal Stone and, using a small sa'angreal, a figurine of a fat man with a sword, Rand succeeds in transporting everyone, including nearly one hundred Aiel that accompany them, to another stone on the slopes of a mountain overlooking the valley of Rhuidean.

Chapter 23

They are quickly surrounded by more Aiel, and a group of Wise Ones, lead by Amys, approaches them. Rand shocks them all by formally asking permission to enter Rhuidean, something that only Aiel who intend to be clan chiefs or Wise Ones may do. An Aiel named Couladin, a member of the Shaido clan, protests, but the Wise Ones, who have foreseen Rand's arrival, grant him permission. Mat then asks permission to enter Rhuidean. Couladin throws a spear at Mat, but the spear and Couladin are flung aside by the Wise Ones, at least some of whom can channel the One Power. They tell Mat that he may not enter Rhuidean, but Rand says that Mat must come with him. The Wise Ones relent. Rand and Mat set off for Rhuidean.

The Wise Ones tell Aviendha that she must give up the spear and become a Wise One. They tell her of a ter'angreal in Rhuidean, very similar in description to the ter'angreal used by Aes Sedai novices who wish to become Accepted. She must go to Rhuidean, enter the ter'angreal, and if she survives, return. She sets off for Rhuidean at a run and the Wise Ones invite Moiraine and Egwene into a tent. They tell Egwene they will teach her to dreamwalk, but that she must not enter Tel'Aran'Rhiod without accompaniment,



until they deem her ready. They tell Moiraine that they saw her, in a vision, journeying into Rhuidean as well. She sets off for Rhuidean at a run.

Chapter 24

Rand and Mat walk to the central plaza, which is filled with strange statues and objects. Rand identifies a circle of crystalline columns as the ter'angreal into which he must go. He tells Mat to wait for him and vanishes as he steps into the circle. Mat spots a twisted doorway, much like the one he used in Tear. Burning to have his questions answered in a more satisfactory way, Mat enters.

Mat is in palace similar to the previous one. A guide takes him to a room where people sit on columns as before. Mat begins asking questions, but the people do not answer him. He becomes angry and begins making demands. He complains about the gaps in his memory. The people on the columns say, "Done." He tells them he wishes he was free of Aes Sedai meddling and far away from any Aes Sedai. They say, "Done and done." They tell him his demands have been met, but that now the price must be paid. Something starts choking Mat, and he blacks out.

Chapters 21-24 Analysis

Since taking the Stone of Tear, Rand has kept to himself, pouring over prophetic texts he has had brought to him from the vast library in Tear. He is tired of being told what he needs to do by Aes Sedai who cite prophecy, and he has decided to draw his own conclusions. He is also obsessed with doing what those around him least expect. Moiraine admires Rand's intentions, and the skillful way that he places the High Lords who pose the most danger to him in charge of the work in Cairhien, thereby getting them out of Tear where they are free to plot against him. Moiraine is from Cairhien, and she is moved by Rand's concern for the plight of her people, but she believes he is making a blunder, albeit a well-intentioned one. Rand's abandoning of Callandor represents a major plot twist, as the sa'angreal was the focal point of the previous book. He cites prophecy, in particular a verse that seems to indicate that the sword will remain behind to bind the Tairens to him and remind them of his power.

In the first three books, the characters spent much of the time moving from place to place, and the action occurred along the way, with the most climatic action occurring at the end of the journey. In this volume, Jordan moves his characters into place quickly, using speedy modes of travel, the Ways and the Portal Stones, which he introduced briefly in previous volumes. Most of the action of this volume will occur at three principle locations, the Two Rivers, the Aiel Waste, and Tanchico, and travel is largely minimized.

Rhuarc had told Rand after the fall of the Stone of Tear that the secret name of the Aiel people, the name that only clan chiefs and Wise Ones knew, was People of the Dragon. The Aiel chiefs also knew that the fall of the Stone of Tear would be one event heralding the arrival of He Who Comes With the Dawn. For the Aiel, Rand's coming is like a storm. The prophecies say that he will lead them back into the Three-Fold land, the Aiel



name for the world west of the Spine of the World, where the principle city-states rule. But the prophecies also say that he will break the Aiel. Every time he challenges their customs, for instance allowing Mat to enter into Rhuidean with him, Rand tells them, citing prophecy, that he brings change. This will to change them is part of what will break them.

As they walk to Rhuidean, Mat wonders aloud if the people on the other side of the doorframe tell everyone to go to Rhuidean just to trap them. Rand tells Mat that they never mentioned Rhuidean to him. Still, Mat decides to flip a coin to see if they should go in. When he does, the coin lands on edge, and Mat curses the effect of two ta'veren on chance. The coin then falls over, telling them to enter, and Mat wonders if Rand used the One Power to nudge the coin. The square is filled with angreal brought across the world by Jenn Aiel after the breaking of the world. In the center is a large tree called an Avendesora, the Tree of Life, a tree from the Age of Legends, much revered and now all but dead.

The world beyond the second doorframe is similar to that of the doorframe in Tear, but the function is different. Instead of answering the questions, the beings in this second world grant requests, but they require a sacrifice and, because Mat did not bring one, they force him to pay it himself.



Chapters 25-28

Chapters 25-28 Summary

Chapter 25

Rand is surrounded by a bright light. Ahead of him is a Shaido Aiel named Muradin, who came into the city before they arrived. Aiel who wish to become clan chiefs must enter Rhuidean and journey into the circle of crystal columns. Rand has a series of visions. The visions take him back in time, first into the mind of an Aiel man who is, along with his people, crossing over the Spine of the World and into the Waste for the first time; then Rand sees into the minds of the man's progenitors. Rand lives through several key events in the lives of each. As he gets closer to Muradin, he sees that the Aiel man has gauged out his own eyes, unable to bear the vision.

Chapter 26

When he steps out of the other side of the circle, Rand finds no sign of Muradin, but he sees Mat hanging by a rope. He races over to Mat and cuts him down. Rand succeeds in reviving him. The rope Mat had been hung by was suspended from the tree by what at first looked like a long spear. They examine it closer and find that it is a staff with a half sword attached to one end. Rand tells Mat that he thinks the blade might be made with the One Power. Around Mat's neck is a medallion depicting a silver fox, which Mat, although he does not know how, recognizes as the ancient symbol of the Aes Sedai.

Chapter 27

Perrin, Faile, Loial and the Aiel travel more than a day in the Ways. As they arrive at the Manetheren gate, the one that will take them out into the area that is now the Two Rivers, trollocs set upon them, and they must battle their way to the gate. As they exit, Loial takes the key from the part of the gate inside the Ways and places it on the outside, so that the gate may now only be opened from the outside. Perrin reaches out to any nearby wolves, looking for news of Whitecloaks or of more trollocs, but finds no wolves in the nearby area.

Chapter 28

Perrin's party makes camp near the gate. That night, Perrin enters the wolf dream. He spots a man with a bow on a nearby hill. The man sees Perrin and jumps to another hill. Where the man had been, Perrin finds a dead wolf. He chases the man across the country to a black metal tower, into which the man disappears. Hopper, a wolf who is Perrin's contact in the wolf dream, appears and warns Perrin that the black tower is far too dangerous for him to enter. A woman then appears and confirms what Hopper said. When she leaves, Hopper tells Perrin that there are no wolves around the Two Rivers because Slayer, the man he was chasing, has killed them all.



Chapters 25-28 Analysis

Muradin was picked by the Shaido to become their next chief and was sent into Rhuidean before Rand arrived. He will not survive the ordeal and his failure to return from Rhuidean will be one of the factors that cause the Shaido to reject Rand.

Rhuarc speculates that the visions are those of the viewer's direct ancestors, for though all Aiel who enter the columns see visions of the past, most see through the eyes of a different set of progenitors. The visions represent a protracted aside, long enough to be considered a short story within the main storyline, and they are filled with lore about not only the origin of the Aiel and the Tuatha'an, but also about the time of the breaking, and the social structures in the great cities during the Age of Legends.

Rand learns that the Aiel are descended from a people who, during the Age of Legends, helped Ogier to sing to plants, thus bringing growth and prosperity to the large cities of that age. When the Dark One was imprisoned by Lews Therin, the Dragon, the Dark One, as a last act, placed a taint on the male half of the One Power. The taint causes any man who channels to eventually go insane. The male Aes Sedai, including Lews Therin, went mad and broke the world, destroying most of the cities and radically altering the geography of the land. The female Aes Sedai entrusted the Aiel with transporting the angreal out of the cities, so that the men could not get hold of them and magnify their power. The Aiel followed the Way of the Leaf, the life of nonviolence currently upheld by the Tuatha'an, the Traveling People, who now travel the world in wagons, looking for the song that they once sung. The Aiel were attacked and killed repeatedly. The ones who wanted to fight back, who grew tired of upholding the Way of the Leaf, became the descendants of the current Aiel. Those that held to the Way of the Leaf became the Tuatha'an.

Mat will bear the physical mark of the hanging across his neck forever. He gained much from the experience, though. The gaps in his memory have been restored, though it will still take him some time to access them at will. His memory is vast, and covers many lifetimes, from even before the Age of Legends. He has been warriors and kings, and commoners, but he has often played crucial roles in key events. He still thinks of himself as only Mat Cauthon, from the Two Rivers, but his ability to access his past lives will be more pronounced from this point on, and he will be able to draw on the skills and experiences of the men he was. The fox head medallion will prove to be a ward against anyone who tries to use the One Power directly against its wearer.

Perrin actually wanted Loial to remove the leaf altogether and keep it with them so that no one could open the door. But Loial, who knows that the leaf will die if removed for too long rendering the door useless at least until Aes Sedai and Ogier can work together to grow a new one, will not destroy a Waygate.

The woman who appears to warn Perrin is likely Brigitte, a hero from the Age of Legends, who will appear in Tel'Aran'Rhiod later to aid Nynaeve.



Chapters 29-32

Chapters 29-32 Summary

Chapter 29

Perrin guides his group toward Emond's Field, stopping first at Rand's father's farm, which is burned to the ground. Perrin slips away with Gaul in the night and enters Emond's Field. Egwene's father lets them into his inn, telling Perrin that the Whitecloaks have placed a bounty on Perrin's head. Perrin tells them he has come in order to turn himself over to the Whitecloaks, so they will leave the Two Rivers. Faile, Bain, and Chiad arrive in time to overhear him, and Faile is outraged that he would consider such a thing. The Al'Veres break the news to Perrin that the trollocs slaughtered his whole family, along with many others, and are still about, ravaging outlying farms. Rand and Mat's fathers are both in hiding, and Whitecloaks have kidnapped Mat's sisters, and the village blacksmith, Mr. Luhhan and his wife.

Chapter 30

Mistress Al'Vere takes Perrin's group into the nearby Westwood. Two men appear. One is Verin Sedai's warder Tomas. The other Perrin does not know but from the way he moves, Perrin guesses that he too is a warder. Mistress Al'Vere takes them to a decaying manor house, hidden in the woods. Inside are Verin Sedai and Alanna Sedai. Tam Al'Thor, Rand's father, and Abel Cauthon, Mat's father, arrive. Perrin talks privately with them, assuring Tam and Abel that Rand and Mat were unharmed the last time he saw them. Perrin tells them that they must free Mat's sisters and Mr. and Mrs. Luhhan.

Chapter 31

Dain Bornhald, the commander in charge of the Whitecloak regiment in the Two Rivers, is beginning to notice that patrols he leads personally are attacked twice as often by trollocs as other patrols. He suspects the man called Ordeith, who was forced on him by Pedron Niall, is responsible. Ordeith's own patrols are suffering heavy casualties, but Dain suspects that Ordeith is somehow directly responsible for them. Ordeith, or Padan Fain, can feel that either Mat or Perrin is in the Two Rivers.

Chapter 32

Perrin takes a party to scout the Whitecloak encampment. On the way back they stop at the Al'Seen farm, where a number of families have banded together for protection. As he is talking to the families, Lord Luc arrives. He is a nobleman and hunter for the horn, who has been hanging around the Two Rivers and encouraging the people to fight back against both the trollocs and the Whitecloaks.



Chapters 29-32 Analysis

Faile learns the real reason why Perrin did not want her to accompany him to the Two Rivers. He intended to turn himself in, sacrificing himself to bring peace to his home. This and the news of the death of all of Perrin's relatives mend the rift between Faile and Perrin, and he breaks down in her arms.

Verin tells Perrin that the two Aes Sedai are in the Two Rivers searching for other girls with the ability to channel. If Moiraine found two in one village, there could be more. Perrin suspects that their visit is more significant than that. With Whitecloaks and trollocs in the Two Rivers, the White Tower might suspect that Rand will move to save his home, and the White Tower might have dispatched Verin and Alanna to try to exercise some control over Rand's actions.

Before Rand's identity was known to the Dark One, he had only the information that three boys, Rand, Mat, and Perrin were ta'veren come out of Emond's Field, and that one of the would be the Dragon Reborn. Padan Fain was a Darkfriend selected by the Dark One to undergo a special attunement, which allows him to feel and track any of the three boys. He has used it to follow them across the world and to run away when they have pursued him.

Perrin's distrust for Lord Luc is immediate and is based not only on the man's solicitous behavior toward Faile, but on Perrin's subconscious connection between Luc and the man known as Slayer from the wolf dream.



Chapters 33-36

Chapters 33-36 Summary

Chapter 33

Perrin convinces the families at the Al'Seen farm to move to Emond's Field for more safety. As they are packing up, Perrin tells Verin that Rand has Callandor. The Al'Seen farm is abandoned, and several of the young men come along with Perrin's party. They set off back to the Whitecloaks camp, where they manage to sneak Mat's sisters, and Mr. and Mrs. Luhhan out of the camp. Alarms sound around the camp, but Perrin tells the others to cut through the forest and make for Emond's Field, while he takes the younger men and, making as much noise as he can, draws the pursuing Whitecloaks away.

Chapter 34

Rand and Mat jog out of Rhuidean. Couladin accuses them of killing Muradin, who has not returned. The Shaido are furious, but Rand rolls up his sleeves to reveal a dragon marked into the skin of each of his forearms. All who enter the crystalline circle in Rhuidean and emerge alive are marked with the dragon, though Aiel men are usually only marked on one arm. That he returns from Rhuidean marked twice is proof that he is the Car'a'carn.

Rand asks the Wise Ones to appear in the dreams of other Wise Ones from other Aiel clans and tell them that the Car'a'carn will address all of the clans at a meeting place called Alcair Dal.

Aviendha and Moiraine both return later that night.

Chapter 35

Egwene meets Elayne in Tel'Aran'Rhiod, Elayne using the ter'angreal ring that Verin gave Egwene. They bring each other up to date. Elayne leaves and Amys appears. She chastised Egwene for coming to Tel'Aran'Rhiod without training. Egwene promises Amys that she will do everything the Wise Ones say, and in return Amys tells her that a dreamwalker will accompany her on her trips to communicate with Nynaeve and Elayne. The Wise Ones decide to set Aviendha to the task of staying at Rand's side, to watch him and to try to learn his intentions, as well as to instruct him in the ways of the Aiel.

Chapter 36

The party outside Rhuidean sets out for Cold Rocks Hold. They do not go far before a train of peddler's wagons approaches. The leader, a man named Kadere, asks permission to travel with them to the meeting at Cold Rocks Hold, where the trade in goods should be profitable. Rhuarc allows him to follow the Aiel. Rand takes notice of



some of the people traveling with the peddlers, including a rotund woman named Keille, a veiled beauty named Isendre, and a gleeman named Jasin Natael.

Chapters 33-36 Analysis

After he convinces those at the Al'Seen farm to head for the Two Rivers, Verin tells Perrin that it is fascinating to see the effects of a ta'veren up close. Perrin tells her that he was only telling them what they already knew, that they were taking the action of their own free will. But Faile agrees with Verin, and they would be proved right, as the Al'Seen farm will be one of many that Perrin, through little effort on his part, manages to convince to band together at Emond's Field.

Gaul is gaining the respect of the two maidens, Bain and Chiad, whose attitudes toward the man have changed from open distrust to almost playful insulting and taunting. It could be argued that this is Perrin's doing again. The force of ta'veren changing minds and making people forget old feuds and begin anew.

Jordan emphasizes that the dragons on Rand's forearms are not tattooed there but are instead a part of his skin. The distinction between something that is tattooed and something that is a part of the skin is difficult for the reader to imagine, and Jordan does not clarify further.

To teach Egwene a lesson, the Wise Ones force her to braid her hair and carry a doll like a child. It is Aiel custom that only young girls wear braided hair. The Two Rivers has an opposite custom, requiring women to begin braiding their hair when they are ready to marry. Egwene is forced to wear her hair braided for the next week, and this confuses both Rand and Mat, neither of whom believed Egwene wants a husband, so consumed was she with the goal of becoming Aes Sedai. Aviendha's hatred for Rand has its root in her attraction for the man. She will fight an internal war with herself for some time, believing that her feelings are causing her to betray Elayne, for whom she promised to keep an eye on Rand.

Rand is immediately sure that there is more to the caravan than meets the eye. He knows Kadere is a dangerous man just by looking in Kadere's eyes. It is possible that Rand already senses the presence of Lanfear and Asmodean, who are disguised as Keille and Jasin Natael.



Chapters 37-40

Chapters 37-40 Summary

Chapter 37

They stopped at a hold called Imre Stand, which has been ransacked. Rand and Mat think it the work of trollocs, but the Aiel tell them that trollocs never raid this far south into the Waste. They camp the night and Jasin Natael, who overhears Mat muttering in the Old Tongue, asks Mat probing questions about his past, a past which Mat is remembering in increasing detail, both this life, and the many before it.

That night their camp is attacked by trollocs and Myrddraal. The small force of Shadowspawn is easily repelled by the Aiel.

Chapter 38

A Seanchan woman named Egeanin, disguised as a noblewoman, sits in an inn in Tanchico. She is on a mission to find escaped Seanchan sul'dam. A man she hired for the task has found none of the women, but he has found an a'dam, which he sells to Egeanin. Egeanin is keeping one sul'dam in her basement.

Jaichim Carridin is also in the city, desperate to find and kill Rand. He meets with two disguised men, one of whom is Andric, the king of Tanchico. They ask him to bring his regiment of Whitecloaks into the city and seize the palace, so that Andric may install his lover Amathera as Panarch. Jaichim makes no promises, but when he returns to his headquarters in the city, he is confronted by Liandrin, who calls him by his Darkfriend name, Bors, and who requests the same action that Andric did, and tortures Jaichim until he agrees to do it.

Chapter 39

Nynaeve, Elayne, Thom, and Juilin arrive in Tanchico, where they immediately run into Bayle Domon, the ship captain who they last saw at Falme. Wishing to make up for sailing out of the battle early and leaving them behind, Domon offers to aid them in their cause.

Nynaeve journeys to Tel'Aran'Rhiod to speak with Egwene, but Egwene is not there. Nynaeve finds herself in the Waste, watching as a man skulks around the city of Rhuidean. A woman bearing a strong resemblance to the legendary heroine Birgitte appears and warns Nynaeve that the man is dangerous and that she must leave.

Chapter 40

It is six days since the raid on the Whitecloak camp, and Perrin is still in the wild, gathering more young men to him and ambushing bands of trollocs. Faile and Lord Luc



come to visit him at the Aybara farm, where Perrin has his camp. They tell him that most of the people in the outlying areas have gathered at Emond's Field and are ready to fight alongside Perrin Goldeneyes, as they are calling him. Faile urges him to return to the town, but Perrin wants to continue hunting trollocs. He and Faile lead the young men to ambush a small group of trollocs, but are set upon from both sides. Perrin is wounded and twenty-seven of the seventy young men he had with him fail to report back. He takes the survivors and heads towards Emond's Field. They come upon an encampment of Tuatha'an.

Chapters 37-40 Analysis

The escaped sul'dam is being held only by the a'dam, part of its function, but a function that is only suppose to work on women who can channel. Egeanin is forced to conclude that sul'dam can channel. Egeanin's situation is an example of how a culture with a rigidly-structured system of beliefs can be more susceptible to revolt than is a culture with a more malleable system. The Seanchan social structure is rigid and brutal in its absoluteness. Even the minds of its nobility are well-trained in the social structure and in the absoluteness of right and wrong. But Egeanin has discovered a contradiction. In Seanchan, woman who can channel are called domani and are thought to be dangerous. They have the social status of wild animals, and are leashed and tamed like pets. The sul'dam are skilled women who are supposed to be experts in taming and controlling women who can channel, and they are awarded good social standing because of their abilities. But if sul'dam, too, can channel, and have been living free among the Seanchan, perhaps domani are not dangerous either. Egeanin is an operative on a mission but is beginning to have serious doubts about the ethical consequences of that mission, and, more importantly, about the beliefs that make up the foundation of her culture.

Liandrin's orders are the capture Rand, not kill him. Bors has orders to kill Rand. Once again, as in the battle at the Stone of Tear, different groups of dark forces seem to have different orders. This again, as Rand correctly surmised, points to the fact that there is dissension among the Forsaken.

Domon had made an arrangement with Nynaeve, before the Battle of Falme, to provide them with transportation out of Falme after they had rescued Egwene and Min from the Seanchan. When the battle erupted, Domon waited as long as he could, but with the Seanchan fleet bearing down on the harbor, he decided to cast off and take flight. Thus he feels that he owns Nynaeve a debt and, though he has been making his living in Tanchico as a smuggler, Domon is an honest and even courageous man.

The man that Nynaeve spots skulking around Rhuidean is Asmodean, one of the forsaken.

Perrin's heightened sense of vision and smell keeps the skirmish from being an even bigger rout. He senses the ambush and tries to rally the young men out of the trap. Still,

he feels a great sense of responsibility for this loss, and his confidence has been undermined.



Chapters 41-44

Chapters 41-44 Summary

Chapter 41

The group of Tuatha'an is the same that Perrin encountered over a year ago on his way to Tar Valon with Egwene. Their leader, Raen, remembers Perrin and invites them to stay. Faile and Raen's wife try to mend Perrin's wound, but it is beyond them, and he is losing strength. After Raen had hinted at Perrin's ability to commune with wolves, Faile confronts him about it. Perrin tells her everything, and in return, she tells him that her father is not a farmer, but is Davrim Bashere, marshal general of Saldaea and uncle of Queen Tenobia.

Chapter 42

Perrin sleeps in one of the Tuatha'an wagons. In the wolf dream, he follows ravens to the Waygate, and finds that the leaf that Loial placed on the outside has been returned to the inside of the gate. The gate can once again be opened from the inside. When he awakes he tells Faile he must go alone to close the gate, but, pointing out that he can barely stand, Faile insist he returns to Emond's Field where Alanna can heal him. After failing to convince the Tuatha'an to come with them, Perrin's party returns to an Emond's Field transformed for defense, where the woods have been cut back to make fortifications, the rooftops are manned by young men with bows, and a new banner, one of a red wolf's head on a field of white, flies over the town.

Chapter 43

Loial wants to return to the Waygate and remove the leaf, but Perrin reiterates that he alone will make the attempt. Lord Luc has told the Whitecloaks that Emond's Field is closed to them. Alanna arrives and all conversation stops when she examines Perrin and determines that he is near death, and that attempting to heal him might kill him. She makes the attempt.

Chapter 44

Perrin awakens days later. Faile tells him that Loial and Gaul have gone to close the gate. Perrin makes to go after them, but is barely strong enough to stay in his saddle. Trollocs attack the town, but are repulsed by arrows before they reach battlements. The people celebrate but Perrin correctly guesses that the attack was not meant to succeed, but to test their defenses.



Chapters 41-44 Analysis

The list of secrets that Perrin and Faile have kept from one another has shortened. Still, Perrin has not told her about his ability to enter Tel'Aran'Rhiod, and Faile, though she revealed her father's name, did not give Perrin details about the respect his name commands. Perrin, who is in many ways still an ignorant country boy, does not know that Davrim Bashere, Gareth Brynn and Pedron Niall are considered the three finest field commanders alive.

The red wolf banner is one of two to fly over Emond's Field. The banner of Manetheren flies as well. Manetheren was an ancient empire whose capital lay centered on the land now called the Two Rivers. Manetheren was destroyed in the trolloc wars, but until then was considered one of the most successful kingdoms to oppose the shadow. When she first arrived in Emond's Field, Moiraine Sedai said that she could sense that the old blood of Manetheren was still strong in the Two Rivers, and that the people that lived there, for all outward appearances simple farmers, were still capable of fighting the shadow as warriors, largely due to their ample will and patience.

Loial's unwillingness to destroy the Waygate has come back to haunt the Two Rivers and the Ogier is properly ashamed of his decision. Perrin suspects that Lord Luc's defiance of the Whitecloaks was not to keep them from meddling with Emond's Field, but was instead to incite them to crush the uprising.

Perrin is not the only one worried about Loial and Gaul's dangerous mission to close the gate. Chiad now has strong feelings for Gaul, and her anxiety over his safe return will lead her and Bain to sit at the southern entrance of the town for nearly three straight days.



Chapters 45-48

Chapters 45-48 Summary

Chapter 45

A few Tuatha'an stumble into Emond's Field, including Raen, his wife, and their son Aram. Most of the Tuatha'an have been slaughtered and all their wagons burned.

Whitecloaks, lead by Dain Bornhald, arrive from the south. Lord Luc surprises Perrin by asking Bornhald about the man called Ordeith. Bornhald admits that he does not know where Ordeith is but, recognizing Perrin from the description of the Darkfriend who supposedly betrayed his father to his death, he announces his intention to arrest Perrin and take him back to Amadicia for trial and execution. Perrin tells him that the Seanchan killed his father, but Bornhald believes the Seanchan are an Aes Sedai lie. Perrin, over protests from Bran Al'Veire and Faile, tells Bornhald he will come with the Whitecloaks, but only after they help defend Emond's Field against the trollocs. Dain agrees.

Chapter 46

In the streets of Tanchico, Egeanin follows the man she has hired to find missing sul'dam. When the man and his thugs attempt to waylay Nynaeve and Elayne, Egeanin intercedes, and helps fight off the thugs. During the fight, Egeanin notices as Elayne uses the One Power to stop a thug intent on stabbing Egeanin. Grateful for her intercession, Nynaeve and Elayne invite Egeanin to dine with them.

Thom arrives, with the news that Whitecloaks have seized the Panarch's palace. After Egeanin and Thom leave, a distinguished woman that neither Nynaeve nor Elayne recognize enters, hypnotizes them into revealing all they know about their mission to Tanchico. The mysterious woman tells them to forget her visit, then leaves.

Chapter 47

Elaida enters Sivan's office with twelve other sisters. They block Sivan from the power and seize her and Leane. Elaida tells Sivan that the Tower has convened in secret, with enough sisters to have her deposed. Sivan awakens in a dungeon, Leane beside her. They have both been stilled, and Sivan remembers telling Elaida, under torture, almost everything about her conspiracy with Moiraine to aid Rand.

Min returns from shopping in the city to find the Tower in full revolt. The Ajahs have split over supporting Sivan, and warder battles warder. Min sneaks down into the dungeons and manages to free Sivan and Leane. Disguising themselves as servants, they flee the tower, receiving help from Gawyn, who gets them past the guards at the exit. Min tells Sivan that all the Blue Ajah, and most of the Green are either dead or have fled the tower, along with small groups from all of the other Ajahs except perhaps the Red, Elaida's Ajah.



They are leaving the city when they spot Logain in the streets. He does not seem to recognize Sivan and Leane, but after Sivan promises him revenge on those who gentled him, he agrees to join them, and they ride out of Tar Valon.

Chapter 48

Rand and the Aiel travel eleven days to reach Cold Rocks Hold. Along the way, Jasin Natael quizzes Rand about his history, as though interested in composing an epic poem, and Mat openly flirts with and pursues Isendre.

Chapters 45-48 Analysis

The negotiation between Perrin and Dain is thick with tension. Dain is nearly speechless with anger, anxious to take into custody the man he believes is responsible for his father's death. Perrin worries throughout the encounter that a spark will ignite the two forces, and that the people of Emond's Field will be forced into a pitched battle with the well-armed Whitecloak force. His concession to Dain appalls both Faile and Bran Al'Vere, but they can do nothing to put the words back into his mouth.

The fact that Nynaeve and Elayne are from the White Tower, and are women who can channel, comes out during the dinner. Egeanin, still in a state of confusion after her discovery that sul'dam can channel, decides to learn more about Aes Sedai and eagerly asks Nynaeve and Elayne questions.

The mysterious woman who tricks Nynaeve and Elayne into revealing their plans is the Forsaken known as Moghedien.

The coup in the White Tower is the result of Elaida's investigation into the conspiracy between Sivan and Moiraine. The formal charge that Elaida uses to depose Sivan is that Sivan orchestrated the escape of Mazraim Taim. But Elaida is being manipulated, too. Her new keeper, Alviarin, is a Darkfriend of considerable power.

Sivan is forced to take a new measure of Gawyn, for though he allows them to escape, he fought on the side of those supporting Elaida and slew his own teacher, the master of the guards.

The women are able to disguise themselves more easily because of an unexpected side effect of stilling. Apparently, women who are stilled are returned, in appearance to near the age when they first started working with the One Power. So Sivan and Leane, who are both middle-aged women, now have the physical appearance of young women in their early twenties, about the same age as Min.



Chapters 49-52

Chapters 49-52 Summary

Chapter 49

At Cold Rocks Hold, Rand meets Rhuarc's second wife, Lian, who is roofmistress of the hold. She accepts him as the Car'a'carn, and they speak of the gathering of the clans to Alcair Dal. Lian tells Rand that the gathering of all of the clans will take at least one month.

Chapter 50

Rand awakens to find Aviendha in his room. He knows the Wise Ones have told her to stay close to him. Sensing something is wrong, Rand moves out into the sitting room, where a servant is being attacked by a draghkar. Rand kills the beast, but the servant is dead. Alarms sound and Rand goes outside to find Aiel fighting trollocs at the base of the ravine, and Seane, a Wise One, dead near his door. The trollocs are quickly dispatched and all agree they were merely a distraction, sent to allow the draghkar to sneak in and try to kill Rand.

Rhuarc tells Rand that Couladin has led the Shaido away in the night, towards Alcair Dal, and that if he gets there first, he may try to incite the other clans against Rand. Rand tells them that he will go to Alcair Dal now and speak to the chiefs that have arrived.

Chapter 51

Egeanin has been visiting Nynaeve and Elayne for a week, but one day, as they are dining, Bayle Domon arrives, recognizes her as the Seanchan ship captain that once seized his ship, and reveals her identity to Nynaeve and Elayne. She tells them that they are nothing like what she was taught, and that she now knows that sul'dam can channel and has released the one she held captive. She tells them that she is no Darkfriend and still wants to help them against the Black Ajah.

Chapter 52

Nynaeve goes to meet Egwene in Tel'Aran'Rhiod and learns that she can find the object that is dangerous to Rand if she concentrates on what she needs and attempts to jump to that location. Doing as she is told, she finds herself in the exhibition hall inside the Panarch's palace. She hides as a servant woman enters and examines an item. Another woman appears behind Nynaeve, beckoning her out into the hall. The woman is Birgitte, the warrior of legend. She tells Nynaeve that the servant she was observing was actually the Forsaken known as Moghedien. Birgitte leaves and Nynaeve, seeing that Moghedien has left the exhibition hall, reenters and examines the item that Moghedien was standing over. It is a collar, big enough for a man, with two long chains on it



attached to a pair of bracelets. Nynaeve knows at once that it is the item that Liandrin seeks, an item that will allow her to control Rand.

Chapters 49-52 Analysis

Rand is stumbling through the ceremonies and conventions that the Aiel expect from him as a new chief. Even though they acknowledge that he brings change, the Wise Ones believe he should go through the paces and fulfill as many as of the customs involving both new clan chiefs, and the prophecies about He Who Comes with the Dawn. They believe this will help him gain acceptance in the eyes of the Aiel. When he asks Lian for permission to stay under her roof, Rand asks as a beggar would, rather than as a clan chief would. This breach of protocol proves advantageous, as Lian is impressed with his modesty and welcomes him to stay under her roof as the Car'a'carn. This stumble and others have negative effects, too. Couladin witnesses Rand's mistake and it only serves to convince the fiery man further than Rand is an upstart wetlander with no business in the Waste.

The Wise Ones have told Rand that Aviendha has been assigned to him to teach him Aiel customs and to minimize his social mistakes while he attempts to gather support from the clan chiefs. While this is certainly part of her function, Rand is not ignorant of the fact that Aviendha is also acting as a spy for the Wise Ones, who Rand is keeping in the dark about his intentions for the Aiel. Aviendha wishes to remain as far from Rand as possible, yet she is also attracted to him. She is therefore acting on her high level of emotional turmoil by being as verbally abusive to Rand as she can and humiliating him whenever possible.

It is considered dishonorable for a clan chief to call a meeting of all the clans and then arrive before all the other chiefs have. The act dishonors those that have not arrived. But Rand tells Rhuarc that he must risk offending the late comers, for he cannot allow Couladin the opportunity to undermine the whole of the proceedings.

Upon learning Egeanin's true identity, Nynaeve is furious with the Seanchan woman, mostly because Nynaeve had grown fond of her. Nynaeve's temper is always close to the surface, and her ability to channel saidar depends on her being angry. Egeanin is adamant that she is no Darkfriend and is greatly offended by the accusation. Her reaction shows that while the Seanchan have customs that other cultures consider reprehensible, they still consider themselves enemies of the shadow.

Again Nynaeve finds herself dangerously close to one of the Forsaken in Tel'Aran'Rhiod and again Birgitte warns her of the danger. Birgitte tells Nynaeve she (Birgitte) has been born into many different lives, always to play some role against the shadow, and that between lives she returns to Tel'Aran'Rhiod to await rebirth. The collar that Nynaeve discovers is similar to an a'dam, but for a man, and usable by two woman who link themselves with the One Power. On one of her jumps, before she arrives at the exhibition hall, Nynaeve finds herself in Amathera's bedroom, where the Panarch is being tortured by one of the black sisters. Nynaeve is able to conclude from what she

sees that Amathera is not a Darkfriend who is playing host to the black ajah, but is instead a captive of them.



Chapters 53-56

Chapters 53-56 Summary

Chapter 53

Emond's Field has weathered a series of attacks. Loial and Gaul return, telling Perrin they have succeeded in closing the gate, but that at least 1,000 trollocs surround Emond's Field. Perrin enters the wolf dream, travels to the trolloc campsites and confirms the number. Slayer appears, shooting an arrow at him. Perrin runs, but turns and sets a trap. He manages to get an arrow into slayer's chest, and the man disappears.

When he awakens, Perrin is told that Lord Luc left town, clutching his chest. Perrin, desperate to get Faile clear of what he suspects will be a losing battle, asks her to go to Caemlyn to convince Morgase to send forces to help repulse the trollocs. Faile agrees to go, but only on the condition that she and Perrin wed, which they do.

Chapter 54

Nynaeve, Elayne, and Egeanin ride on a cart with Bayle Domon, who makes a delivery to the palace. Elayne and Egeanin, suspecting that the panarch is being held against her will, free her from captivity. Nynaeve enters the exhibition hall to remove the collar but is interrupted by Moghedien. They duel with the One Power. Seeing Moghedien up close, Nynaeve's memory becomes unblocked and she remembers Moghedien as the distinguished woman who mesmerized her and Elayne. To Moghedien's shock, Nynaeve wins the duel. She does not kill the Forsaken, but encases her in air and walks out of the hall, right into an ambush. One of the Black sisters attempts to kill her, but Nynaeve flees. She glances back into the exhibition hall and sees that Moghedien has managed to get herself free and has vanished.

Chapter 55

Outside the palace, Nynaeve, Elayne, Egeanin, and Amathera meet up with Thom and Juilin. Once back at their inn, Nynaeve gives the collar, which is made out of cuendillar and is therefore indestructible, to Domon, instructing him to drop it into the deepest part of the sea he knows.

Chapter 56

Trollocs attack Emond's Field from the north and south and defeat seems inevitable, but then cries of "Deven Ride!" and "Watch Hill" are heard, and Perrin spots reinforcements from the two towns, lead by Faile on horseback, arriving behind the trollocs. The trollocs are crushed between the two forces, and the people of the Two Rivers prevail.



Dain Bornhald demands that Perrin come with him, but Perrin tells him that their agreement is void because the Whitecloaks did not participate in the battle. When Bornhald says Perrin must come, the people of the Two Rivers draw bows on the Whitecloaks, and Perrin commands them to leave the Two Rivers, which they do.

Padan Fain watches the battle from the edge of the forest. When it is over, he tells the men he is with that they must ride to Caemlyn.

Chapters 53-56 Analysis

Lord Luc is the source of the trolloc infestation. But ironically, he brought them only to assassinate the renegade Darkfriend Padan Fain. In Tel'Aran'Rhiod, wearing his true face as the figure known as Slayer, Lord Luc bears a strong resemblance to Lan. This hints at his origin, but his true identity will not be revealed until very late in the series.

When Perrin first asks Faile to take a message to Morgase, he suggests that she take Bain and Chiad with her for protection. At this, Chiad stands up and begins to protest, but Faile quickly tells the Aiel woman that she will not have to leave "him." This confuses Perrin, for he has not yet guessed with Faile knows about Chiad, that she is in love with Gaul and would not be willing to leave him behind to fight a hopeless battle.

Jordan spends a great deal of time describing the duel between Nynaeve and Moghedien, but he ironically says that, if viewed by any man, or any woman unable to wield the One Power, the duel would look as though two woman were simply standing facing each other, with strong looks of concentration on their faces. Nynaeve is Moghedien's superior in the One Power, especially in the areas of elemental forces. But Moghedien gives the younger woman no time to attack with physical forces like Air or Water, instead striking out with Spirit, attempting to cut Nynaeve off from the source. Moghedien's knife of Spirit is so sharp that Nynaeve knows allowing it to cut her off from the source will probably still her. She has to concentrate all her effort on repelling the attack and at the same time, attempting to use Spirit to cut Moghedien off from the power.

Thom and Juilin have spread the rumor that the Whitecloaks have killed Amathera. This creates a riot outside the palace gates and provides cover for the party's escape.

Faile's improvisation saves Emond's Field, which, without the aid of the Whitecloaks, was losing the battle. At one point, the Emond's Field line is about to breach, when the women, armed with makeshift spears, hammers, and anything they could get their hands on, race in to shore up the breach. Perrin berates the Whitecloaks for showing so little courage, telling them to look to the example of the Two Rivers women.



Chapters 57-58

Chapters 57-58 Summary

Chapter 57

Rand enters Alcair Dal. Inside, Seanna, the young Wise One of the Shaido, is trying to convince the clan chiefs that Couladin is He Who Comes With the Dawn. Couladin bares his forearms, revealing dragons exactly like Rand's. When Rand shows his arms, the clan chiefs decide that the best way to determine who is the real Car'a'carn is to ask each man what the ter'angreal in Rhuidean revealed. As clan chiefs, they had traveled into Rhuidean and used the circle of crystalline columns and would know which man described the visions correctly.

Couladin, who had never entered Rhuidean, tells them that his visions were of the Aiel crossing the Spine of the World and conquering the west. Rand, to the horror of all the clan chiefs including Rhuarc, tells the whole assembly about the origin of the Aiel, and about their ties to the Tuatha'an and the Way of the Leaf. Couladin triumphantly proclaims Rand an imposter, as the Aiel have always been warriors. The assembly agrees, but the chiefs, who know that Rand is correct, proclaim him Car'a'carn. Couladin hurls a spear at Rand and fighting erupts.

A forcefield appears around Rand. Lanfear appears, but Rand expects her. She is furious with him for upsetting her plans, but he cuts off her tirade and asks where "he" is. She tells him that "he" is using the meeting as a diversion so that he may return to Rhuidean and retrieve something. Rand makes a door in the air and steps through.

Chapter 58

Rand is on a stair, moving upwards. Ahead of him is a man that he recognizes as Jasin Natael. Natael arrives at another doorway and steps through. Rand dives through himself, and finds that he is just outside Rhuidean. Natael is nowhere in sight, but reasoning that he will head toward the square filled with angreal in the center of the city, Rand sets off in pursuit. Rand chases Natael through the streets as the two men trade blows with the One Power. They arrive at the central square. Spotting the statue of a man holding a crystalline sphere, Natael dives for it, but Rand dives as well, and both men come up holding the object.

The ter'angreal allows Rand to tap into the enormous sa'angreal he once saw being unearthed in Cairhein. Natael is channeling through it, too, and the two men match their power. Rand can feel the city coming apart around them. Rand reaches one hand into his pocket, finding the small sa'angreal of the fat man holding a sword. Its small contribution to his power allows him to overpower Natael, in the process severing the ties that bind the man to the Dark One.



Lanfear appears, telling him that Natael is actually the Forsaken known as Asmodean. She partially shields Asmodean, reducing his strength in the One Power, and tells Rand that he should take Asmodean on as a teacher. She tells Rand that she had disguised herself as Keille, and Asmodean as Natael, but that Kadere and Isendre were not Forsaken, only Darkfriends.

Lanfear leaves. Rand finds a female copy of the ter'angreal sphere in the rubble. He takes both of them and Asmodean, and returns to Alcair Dal, where the fighting has stopped, and the Shaido departed.

Chapters 57-58 Analysis

When the Aiel chiefs proposed asking each man what they had seen in Rhuidean, they intended for the two men to talk only with the chiefs. But Rand, seized by the recklessness that often compels him to make bold strokes, addresses the whole assembly, which includes not only the chiefs, but several hundred Aiel from the various societies. Even Rhuarc, who has supported Rand since Tear, is appalled that Rand would reveal this secret so publicly. Like Muradin, many of the Aiel will be unable to bear the truth of their origin. The knowledge that they were singers of wood, devoted to a non-violent way of life, will throw their whole society into chaos. Rand brings change. Here he has begun the process of breaking the Aiel which the prophecies foretold. Couladin's reaction is proof of this. He believes that Rand has given himself away as an impostor.

Rand shows no surprise at Lanfear's arrival. He seems to have known that the meeting was a diversion and that another of the Forsaken was with her, for he asks her almost immediately where "he" is. "He" is Asmodean, though it is unclear whether Rand knows which of the male Forsaken is with her. It is Asmodean who has placed the dragons upon Couladin's arms, hoping to distract Rand.

Asmodean's flight from Rand is that of a desperate man. He shows none of the arrogance and swagger of the other male Forsaken that Rand has encountered. After his capture, the other Forsaken will refer to him as the runt. Still, with his hands on the ter'angreal sphere, he is nearly a match for Rand. This reveals the potential power of the other male Forsaken. Lanfear tells Rand that the weave she used to dampen Asmodean's power will dissipate over time. Rand therefore has a time limit on how long he can keep Asmodean around, for Rand can never fully trust the man. After their fight, the mountains near Rhuidean have shifted in location and size; a great lake has welled up beside the city, and the fog that once enshrouded it has receded.



Characters

Rand Al'Thor

One of three ta'veren found by Moiraine Sedai in Emond's Field of the Two Rivers, Rand Al'Thor is the principle protagonist of the Wheel of Time series. When Moiraine Sedai discovers him in Emond's Field, Rand believes himself to be the son of Tam Al'Thor, a local shepherd. Rand soon learns that he was not born in Emond's Field, but on the slope of the Dragonmount, at the end of the Aiel War, and that Tam, who was a soldier fighting for Andor, discovered Rand and brought him back to Emond's Field and raised him as a son. The prophecies about the Dragon Reborn say that he will be born on the slope of the Dragonmount, and this is one of the attributes Moiraine Sedai looked for in her quest to find the Dragon Reborn.

After Moiraine helps Rand escape from a dark force that is trying to track him down, he journeys to the Eye of the World and has his first encounter with Ba'alzamon, the Dark One, whose imprisonment in Shayol Ghul has protected the world from evil since the Age of Legends.

Rand learns that he is a male who can channel the One Power, another one of the attributes of the Dragon. Aes Sedai usually gentle, that is remove the power of, any man who can channel, because the Dark One set a curse on saidin, the male half of the One Power. Any man who channels will eventually be driven insane by the taint on saidin, and could potentially do damage to himself and those around him.

But Moiraine, after finding out Rand can channel, does not seek to have him gentled. She believes he is the Dragon Reborn and must have saidin to fight against the Dark One in the last battle, which she believes is rapidly approaching.

Siu'an Sanche and Moiraine Sedai decide to allow Rand to walk free, though Moiraine intends to stay as near to him as possible. He does escape from her after the battle at Falme and journeys to the city of Tear where, with the help of an Aiel force, raids the Stone of Tear and secures Callandor, a powerful sa'angreal. Both the fall of the Stone of Tear and the removal of Callandor from its central chamber are said to be signs of the coming of the Dragon Reborn.

Perrin Ay'bara

The second of three ta'veren found by Moiraine Sedai in Emond's Field, Perrin is the apprentice of the local blacksmith. Large and powerful in stature, he is used to moving slowly and deliberately so as to not inadvertently harm those around him. After the Battle of Bell Tine, Perrin begins to carry a half-moon shaped axe. Like Rand, he travels with Moiraine Sedai to the Eye of the World, but unlike Rand he is not a man who can channel the one power.



Perrin does have a unique ability which he discovers when he becomes separated from Rand and Moiraine in their initial journey. After meeting a man named Elyas Machera, Perrin discovers he can communicate and shares a special affinity with wolves. After his initial contact with wolves, his eyes turn yellow.

Moiraine says that Perrin's is an old ability that has nothing to do with the One Power, though many, including the Children of the Light, consider it a dark force and marks Perrin as a dangerous Darkfriend; his yellow eyes always make him a suspicious person to strangers.

While traveling with Moiraine Sedai to Tear in an attempt to intercept or aid Rand, Perrin learns that he has another unique ability. He, like the wolves with which he communicates, can dreamwalk. On the way to Tear, he meets a young woman named Zarine Bashere, who likes to be known by the name Faile, and is Perrin's future wife.

The wolves know Perrin as Young Bull, because he tried to defend a dying wolf from an attack by whitecloaks, by killing two with his half-moon axe.

Mat Cauthon

The last of the three ta'veren found by Moiraine Sedai, Mat was a clown and something of a trickster in Emond's Field. His whimsical nature is soon distorted by an encounter with Mordeth in the abandoned city of Shadar Lagoth. Mat unwisely removed a dagger from the cache of riches he, Rand, and Perrin found in a building in the forsaken city. He carried the dagger with him as they traveled to the Eye of the World, and it began to affect him. He became paranoid and ill-tempered, and eventually tried to harm Moiraine.

The Aes Sedai believe they can safely sever Mat's connection to the dagger and restore him to health, and much of the action in the book prior to this one revolves around the quest to save Mat.

In various places, Mat's connection with the rulers of the ancient kingdom of Manetheren causes him to recite Manetheren battle cries. Moiraine says the old blood of Manetheren sings in Emond's Field, and Mat may indeed be a direct descendant of the last king. His eventual role as a leader of men in the battle against the Dark One is reinforced when, during the battle of Falme, he sounds the Horn of Valere, and binds himself forever to the horn.

Mat travels with Rand to the land of the Aiel and enters Rhuidean, much to the dismay of the Aiel because only Aiel are allowed in Rhuidean.

Nynaeve Al'Meara

The former Wisdom of Emond's Field is a "wilder," a woman who learns to control the One Power without learning to do so from a teacher. Wilders who survive this experience are rare, but it is likely that her role as Wisdom helped her to slowly build a



safe connection with saidar, the female half of the one power, which she was unwittingly using to perform her duties.

After Moiraine leaves Emond's Field with Rand, Mat, Perrin, and Egwene, Nynaeve takes it upon herself to follow them and rescue the foolish young people from the meddling of Moiraine Sedai. She ends up coming with them all the way to the Eye of the World, falling in love with Moiraine's warder, Lan, along the way.

After Moiraine tells her that she has been channeling the One Power without knowing it, Nynaeve grudgingly agrees to come to Tar Valon for training, though she tells Moiraine that she is making the effort mostly so she can keep an eye on Egwene.

In private, Moiraine Sedai tells Sivan Sanche, the Amyrlin Seat, that Nynaeve could be the strongest Aes Sedai in existence. When Liandrin Sedai tricks them into traveling to Falme, telling them they will attempt to help Rand, but instead betraying them to the Seanchan, Nynaeve and Elayne must rescue Egwene and Min from the Seanchan.

After the battle of Falme, Nynaeve returns to the White Tower. Sivan Sanche gives her and Egwene the mission of tracking down Liandrin and the other members of the Black Ajah who left the Tower with Liandrin. Nynaeve, Egwene, and Elayne track them to Tear, where Liandrin hopes to lure them in as bait for Rand. They are captured by Liandrin, but freed by Mat Cauthon during the fall of the Stone of Tear.

Egwene Al'Vere

Egwene is Rand's childhood sweetheart, though she soon must abandon the idea of ending up with him. While in Emond's Field to track down Rand, Mat, and Perrin, Moiraine spots Egwene and recognizes at once that she is capable of channeling the One Power. She brings Egwene along as they travel to the Eye of the World, giving her lessons on how to begin to control the One Power along the way.

After the battle of Fal Dara, Egwene journeys to Tar Valon and becomes a novice in the White Tower, where Aes Sedai and warders are trained. There she befriends Elayne, the daughter-heir of Andor, a fellow novice, and due to inherit the throne from her mother Queen Morgase.

While a captive of the Seanchan, Egwene discovers that she has a strong command of the element of earth, an unusual trait in a female Aes Sedai, as male Aes Sedai have always demonstrated better control of earth and fire.

Elayne Trakand

Elayne Trakand is the daughter heir of Andor and good friend of Egwene, Nynaeve, and Min. She first met Rand when he was traveling through Caemlyn on his way to the Eye of the World. She fell in love with him on sight but does not see him again until after the Battle of Falme. She met Nynaeve, Egwene, and Min at the White Tower, where she



had come to study as a novice along with her brother Gawyn and half-brother, Galad, who came to study war craft from the warders. Along with Nynaeve, Egwene, and Min, Elayne is duped by Liandrin Sedai into a trap set by the Seanchan. She then helps Nynaeve rescue Egwene and Min. After Falme, she returned to the White Tower, where Nynaeve and Egwene took her into their confidences about their mission to find the Black Ajah. Elayne then journeyed with them to Tear where she was captured by Liandrin, but freed by Mat Cauthon.

Min Farshaw

Min is a young woman from Baerlon, who has the unique ability to see iconic visions that surround certain people like auras. The visions contain symbols of their personalities and often of their futures. She first met Rand in Baerlon, when he was traveling with Moiraine Sedai to the Eye of the World. Based on his aura, she knew that she was destined to fall in love with him and to share him with two other women.

Moiraine Sedai

Moiraine is Cairhien in origin, but has been an Aes Sedai for several decades, though she appears to have a young, ageless face because of her work with the One Power. She and Suan Sanche witness a foretelling at the end of the Aiel War, when the two of them are not yet Aes Sedai. Based on the foretelling and on prophecy, they conclude that the Dragon Reborn has come into the world, and they resolve to find him and allow him to develop, keeping him secure not only from dark forces but from those inside of the Tower that would threaten him.

The Amrylin Seat

The title given to the head of the White Tower. As the book opens, Suan Sanche is the Amrylin Seat.

Suan Sanche

Suan is the Amrylin Seat, the leader of the Aes Sedai. She is originally from Tear, and her language is filled with colorful sayings related to fishing and seafaring as she came from a family of fisherfolk.

Aes Sedai

The Aes Sedai are an ancient order, composed entirely of those who can channel the One Power. After the breaking of the world, the Aes Sedai admit only women to their order, and made it part of their mission to gentle any man born with the power, lest he go insane and use it for destruction.



Ajahs

The Ajahs are societies within the Aes Sedai, which women join based on their goals and personalities. The Ajahs are called Blue, White, Yellow, Brown, Green, and Red.

The Black Ajah

The Black Ajah is a secret society of Aes Sedai that secretly serve the Dark One.

Dain Bornhald

Dain is a young commander of the Children of the Light who believes that Perrin is responsible for his father's death.

The Children of the Light, Whitecloaks

The Children are an organization of zealots, formed after the Age of Legends, whose goal is to rout out evil in the world, especially Darkfriends. Their obsession with opposing the shadow has made them a dangerous organization. Ironically, a few of the Whitecloaks are themselves Darkfriends.

Darkfriends

People who have secretly pledged their lives to aid the Dark One. There are Darkfriends in every town and at all levels of the social structure.

Padan Fain, Ordeith, Mordeth

Fain is a Darkfriend singled out by the Dark One to undergo a refinement that attuned him to the presence of Rand, Mat, and Perrin. He is also inhabited by the life force of Mordeth, an evil entity that was responsible for the destruction of Shadar Logoth.

Ta'veren

Ta'veren are powerful figures in history capable of bending the pattern woven by the Wheel of Time. They influence the events around them. How much they affect the world is based on the degree to which they are ta'veren. Rand, as the Dragon Reborn, is the strongest ta'veren since the Age of Legends and can cause whole cities full of people to behave strangely, as well as change natural phenomenon.



Thom Merrilin

Thom is the former court bard and lover of Morgase. He met Rand at the close to same time that Rand met Moiraine Sedai and has been unable to extricate himself from Rand's influence ever since.

Elaida Sedai

Elaida is an Aes Sedai of the Red Ajah, the Ajah largely responsible for the gentling of men who can channel. She has been watching Sivan and Moiraine closely and suspects both of actions against the Tower.

Pedron Niall

The leader of the Children of the Light.

The Seanchan

A culture from across the Aryth Ocean that attempted an invasion but was rebuffed at the battle of Falme.

The Forsaken, The Chosen

The Forsaken were some of the most powerful channelers from the Age of Legends. They turn against the light and pledge loyalty to the Dark One. They were imprisoned with the Dark One at Shayol Gul, but the seals around the prison have now weakened enough to allow them out. They refer to each other not as the Forsaken, but as the Chosen.

Morgase

Morgase is the queen of Andor and the mother of Elayne Trakand.

Liandrin

Formerly of the Red Ajah, Liandrin led a group of sisters in a revolt against the tower. She and those with her are actually of the Black Ajah.

Mazraim Taim

A false dragon, a man who can channel but is not the Dragon Reborn.



Sammael

One of the Forsaken, Sammael secretly rules the city-state of Illian.

The Aiel

A tribal society, the Aiel live east of the Spine of the World, in an area of desolation known as the Waste.

Aviendha

Aviendha is an Aiel Maiden of the Spear, an all-female warrior society within the Aiel culture. Aviendha befriends Elayne and Egwene at the Stone of Tear. Aviendha can channel the One Power and is thus forced to give up the spear to become an Aiel Wise One. In Min's vision of her future with Rand, she sees that she will have to share him with two other women. One is Elayne Trakand; the other is Aviendha.

Lanfear, Selene, Keille

Lanfear is one of the Forsaken, and the former lover of Lews Therin Telamon.

Lews Therin Telamon, the Dragon

Lews Therin was the most powerful Aes Sedai of the Age of Legends, responsible in large part for the imprisonment of the Forsaken and the Dark One at Shayol Gul. Lews Therin went mad along with the other male Aes Sedai and earned the name Kinslayer by killing everyone he knew or loved. Rand is Lews Therin Telamon reborn.

A Gray Man

An assassin of the Dark One, a Gray Man usually takes the form of an plain, nondescript person.

Trollocs

The Dark Ones "grunts," trollocs are powerful humanoids with a jumble of animal features.



Myrddraal, Half-men, Fade

Myrddraal appear as eyeless, thin men, snakelike in movement and deadly in action. They have the power to evoke fear in all, including the trollocs they command.

Al'Lan Mandragoran, Lan

Lan is Moiraine's warder, a fighter bound to protect an Aes Sedai. But Lan is also the last surviving lord of the destroyed kingdom of Malkier. Lan is in love with Nynaeve Al'Maere, but he is bound to Moiraine Sedai and is therefore compelled to accompany and defend her.

Amys

An Aiel Wise One, channeler, and dreamwalker, who offers to instruct Egwene.

Berelain

The ruler of Mayene, a small city-state to the east of Tear.

Faile, Zarine Bashere

Faile met Perrin while hunting for the Horn of Valere. She is the daughter of Davrim Bashere, marshal general of Saldaea, and uncle of Queen Tenobia.

Rhuarc

Rhuarc is the clan chief of the Taardad Aiel and an early supporter of Rand.

Loial

A young, by the standards of his people, Ogier who Rand met in Caemlyn on the way to the Eye of the World and who has since been caught up in the story.

Gaul

An Aiel man that Perrin rescued from a cage while Perrin was on his way to Tear.

Bain and Chiad

Aiel Maidens of the Spear who agree to come with Faile to the Two Rivers.



The Atha'an Miere, The Seafolk

A society of people who spend their lives aboard their ships, sailing mostly in the south, through the Sea of Storms.

Juilin Sandar

A thief catcher hired by Lan and Rand to accompany Nynaeve and Elayne to Tanchico. A thief catcher has the ability to "sniff" out people who have committed a crime and fled.

Couladin

A hot-tempered man of the Shaido clan who quickly opposes Rand.

The Tuatha'an, the Traveling People, tinkers

A nomadic culture, dedicated to nonviolence and the search for the lost songs of their past.

Bran Al'Vere and Marin Al'Vere

Bran is the mayor of Emond's Field. Egwene is their youngest daughter.

Tam Al'Thor and Abel Cauthon

Rand's adopted father and Mat's father, respectively.

Verin Sedai

Verin is an Aes Sedai of the Brown Ajah who Moiraine and Sivan were forced to take into their confidences when she correctly guessed that Rand was the Dragon Reborn.

Alanna Sedai

An Aes Sedai of the Green Ajah.

Lord Luc, Slayer, Isam

A Darkfriend given special powers by the Dark One, he makes his first appearance in *The Shadow Rising*, though some of his story was told in *The Eye of the World*.



Car'a'carn, He Who Comes With the Dawn

Car'a'carn means "chief of chiefs" in the old tongue, and it is the name by which the Aiel refer to their savior.

Kadere

A dangerous Darkfriend who leads the peddler wagons, helping to hide the presence of Lanfear and Asmodean.

Isendre

Another Darkfriend employed by Lanfear to divert attention from herself.

Jasin Natael, Asmodean

Asmodean is one of the Forsaken, who has disguised himself as the gleeman, Jasin Natael, and is in league with Lanfear.

Egeanin

A Seanchan sea captain on a mission to hunt down missing Seanchan sul'dam.

Sul'dam

Seanchan women who use a'dam to control women who can channel.

Jaichim Carridin

Carridin is a Darkfriend named Bors who has attained a position of power among the Children of the Light.

Bayle Domon

A ship captain who repeatedly crosses paths with the Emond's Fielders, he will eventually spark up a romance with Egeanin.



Objects/Places

The Stone of Tear

A fortress in the city of Tear, believed to be impregnable, but which fell to an Aiel force at the close of the previous book.

The One Power

The One Power is a force composed of Air, Earth, Water, Fire, and Spirit, which those who can channel it use to manipulate the world.

Saidin

The male half of the One Power.

Saidar

The female half of the One Power.

The White Tower

The White Tower is a massive fortress built with the One Power during the Age of Legends, in the Aes Sedai home city of Tar Valon.

Angreal, sa'angreal, ter'angreal

Angreal are objects used to manipulate the One Power. Sa'angreal will magnify the power of the user, allowing them to perform any task with the One Power with greater strength than without. Ter'angreal are objects that will produce a specific effect when power is channeled into them.

Callandor

Callandor is a sword-shaped object and one of the most powerful, male sa'angreals from the Age of Legends.

A'dam

A ter'angreal that allows one woman who can channel to control another.



Tear

The most powerful city-state on the southern coast, Tear is a muggy city of fishermen and traders, whose skyline is dominated by the dome of the Stone of Tear, the fortress constructed with the One Power that lies at the city's center.

Illian

The inhabitants of the second-most powerful city-state on the coast speak with a distinctive accent and despise Tairens.

Tanchico

An exotic city on the west coast, Tanchico is the capital of Tarabon, and is the home town of Liandrin.

Tar Valon

Tar Valon is home to the White Tower, the center of Aes Sedai power. Tar Valon lies north of Caemlyn, on the road into the Borderlands.

Caemlyn

The capital of Andor, perhaps the most powerful of the states, where Morgase sits on the Lion throne.

Cairhien

A city-state between Andor and the Spine of the World. The city of Cairhein is the home town of Moiraine Sedai.

Rhuidean

The abandoned city of the clan of Aiel known as the Jenn Aiel, or the True Aiel, Rhuidean lies just east of the Spine of the World in a fog-enshrouded valley overlooked by peaks.

Emond's Field

A small town in the Two Rivers province in the southeast of Andor, Emond's Field is the home town of Rand, Perrin, Mat, Nynaeve, and Egwene. The city derives its name from

the last king of Manetheren, who there made his last stand against the forces of the shadow.



Themes

Devotion and Self-Sacrifice

When Perrin learns a Whitecloak force has entered the Two Rivers, he suspects they are searching for him. In the first book, *The Eye of the World*, Perrin killed several Whitecloaks while attempting to defend a wolf named Hopper. The Whitecloaks captured him and told him that he would be taken to Amadicia, tried, and executed, but Perrin was rescued from the Whitecloaks by Moiraine. Later, before the battle of Falme, Geofram Bornhald spotted Perrin in a village outside of Falme and, remembering him as the Darkfriend who killed several Whitecloaks, sent a message back to Amadicia containing Perrin's name and appearance, and Geofram's suspicions that Perrin was a Darkfriend. When Geofram's regiment was wiped out at the battle of Falme, the Whitecloaks blamed the only specific Darkfriend that Geofram had reported, Perrin Ay'bara.

Though those around him convince him to lead the fight against the Whitecloaks and the trollocs, Perrin believes, throughout the book, that he will eventually have to give himself up for execution, in order to get the Whitecloaks to abandon the Two Rivers. He feels guilty for every death that has occurred in the Two Rivers, including those of his own family, and he does nearly everything he can to sacrifice himself for his home. That he fails to sacrifice himself is only due to the intervention of Faile and others around him, who convince him that his death would not only be unjust, but unfruitful, as the trollocs would still likely pillage in the Two Rivers to try to draw out Rand.

Social Change

Rand tells the Aiel that as the Car'a'carn, the chief of chief, the man destined to take the Aiel back over the Spine of the World and break them, he brings change. The Wise Ones are anxious to make sure that Rand jumps through the ceremonial hoops involved with becoming a new clan chief with as few stumbles as possible, and they assign Aviendha to him as not only a spy but as a kind of social tutor, for Aiel social customs are complex and vastly different from those of the wetlanders, what the Aiel call all those west of the Spine of the World. Rand is willing to observe their customs as much as he can, for he wants the Aiel to trust him and support him. But he makes it clear that as He Who Comes with the Dawn, he brings change. On his first full night with the Aiel Wise Ones after he has returned from Rhuidean, Rand breaks custom by asking the Wise Ones and the clan chiefs, who themselves have seen the visions of Rhuidean, to confirm what he saw about the origins of the Aiel. Later, he breaks a long-held social rule about the meeting of chiefs, by arriving at Alcair Dal before all of the other chiefs he has called, risking dishonoring the late comers. But his most dramatic cultural breach occurs when he intentionally tells the Aiel gathered inside Alcair Dal, among them many that are not clan chiefs or Wise Ones and have not seen the visions of Rhuidean, about the origin of the Aiel. This action is what the prophecies meant by Rand breaking the



Aiel. For the knowledge of their past, a past so antithetical to their current social structure, will prove too difficult for many Aiel to bear and will radically transform their society. The episode speaks to the nature of social change, and that sometimes social change brings an initial period of unease, unrest, and even violence.

Loss of Faith

The complexity of the Seanchan social structure, with its rigid classes, hereditary reverence, and formal ceremonies, gives it many of the attributes of a religion. Given that this religion is woven in with the order of the state, any crack in the social structure, at any level, threatens the entire society. Egeanin's discovery that Seanchan sul'dam are women who can channel throws her beliefs into chaos. In Seanchan, domani, or woman who can channel, are considered dangerous animals, beneath the lowest of citizens, and in need of forced control, as dogs to be placed on leashes. That sul'dam, the very women that the Seanchan trust to control domani, are themselves women who can channel, is a contradiction too big for Egeanin to ignore. Even though it is perhaps not the most important of Seanchan beliefs, likely their ideas on the purity of the blood of the noble class would rank higher, Egeanin cannot help feeling that if this one belief is incorrect, perhaps there are other Seanchan beliefs that are erroneous. One of the problems with rigid belief structures is that they are susceptible to what could be called a house-of-cards effect. One belief put in question, questions them all.



Style

Point of View

Jordan writes exclusively in third person. The breadth of his narrator's knowledge varies from time to time, but, for the most part, it is limited to the character whose point of view he has taken. He will stick with one character through each chapter most of the time. If he does jump to a new perspective, he will often announce the change with a line break. His style is conducive to dramatic popular fiction writing, as the shifting perspectives allow him to reveal or conceal knowledge as needed.

Jordan splits the action in to three different locations, Tanchico, the Two Rivers, and the Aiel Waste. In Tanchico, he tells the story through Nynaeve and Elayne, in the Two Rivers, through Perrin, and in the Aiel Waste, through a combination of Rand, Mat, Egwene, and Aviendha. The perspectives of the antagonists are rare, but include Liandrin, Elaida, Padan Fain, and Kadere.

The subplot that occurs in the White Tower, in Tar Valon, is told through the eyes of Min Farshaw and Suan Sanche.

Setting

The story begins in the muggy, seaport of Tear, a town ruled by a loose council of High Lords and populated by every kind of trader and craftsmen, all slogging through the muddy streets on small platforms they strap to their shoes.

From there, the action splits into three disparate locations. Tanchico, where Nynaeve and Elayne travel to hunt down the Black Ajah, is a seaport on the west coast, and is an exotic city divided across a deep inlet harbor. The women of Tanchico dress scandalously, in Nynaeve's opinion, and the men wear odd conical hats strapped below the chin.

The Two Rivers is a rural district which contains several towns, including Emond's Field, Tarren Ferry, and Devian Ride. The people consider themselves hardworking and sensible, and they dress in good Two River's wool. They are vaguely aware of their place as a small province in the kingdom of Andor, but most of them have not seen a member of the Queen's Guard or a tax collector in their lifetimes.

The Aiel Waste, where Rand travels to claim his place as the chief of chiefs of the Aiel people, is an arid, desolate land of flat desert interrupted only by inhospitable, jagged mountains. It is to the east of the Spine of the World, a vast stripe of treacherous mountains that divides the civilized world of the west from the desolation of the Waste. Its proximity to the Blight, an equally desolate and poisonous land controlled by the dark forces, makes the Waste an even more dangerous locale, especially along the northern border, where Aiel have fought against the dark forces for centuries.



A small subplot occurs in the Aes Sedai home city of Tar Valon. A smaller city than Tear or Caemlyn, Tar Valon is on an island in the river Erinin, and is dominated by the picturesque structure known as the White Tower, built with the One Power in the Age of Legends, and home to the order of the Aes Sedai.

Language and Meaning

A notable change occurs in Jordan's writing in this volume. In the first three books Jordan was economical in his use of language and indeed stingy with his descriptions of the world around the action. The first three books stuck to the action of the storyline, and if Jordan described anything in length it would be the internal states of his characters, not the external environment. In *The Shadow Rising*, Jordan shifts gears. The book weighs in at almost 1,000 pages, swelling almost 400 pages above any of the previous volumes. Jordan's vocabulary swells, too. The first three books contained few words that would test the knowledge high school level readers. Compared to the first three books, *The Shadow Rising* is exhaustive in its description and challenging in its vocabulary. The change is so dramatic that the reader may wonder if Jordan was responding to criticisms about the level of writing in the first three volumes. Despite its size, one could argue that there is less action in this book than in the previous books, and Jordan has not abandoned his, at times, excessive description of the internal states of his characters. With the exception of some of the vocabulary, the writing is still well within the reading ability of high school level readers.

Structure

The chapters are not broken up by scene, but are instead used to heighten the tension or suspense of whatever is occurring. There are fifty chapters, each rather short. This brevity allows Jordan to jump around from perspective to perspective, further increasing the tension of the story.

This is one book in a series of over ten; therefore, there are quite a few subplots running through the story, and even more details injected into the story that will only become understandable later.

Of the three principle storylines that Jordan follows in the book, he spends the most time with Perrin, who attempts to lead the people of the Two Rivers against both trollocs and Whitecloaks. Rand's attempt to rally the Aiel behind him in the Aiel Waste receives the second-most amount of attention, and Nynaeve and Elayne's adventure in Tanchico is dealt with sparingly, in small chapters that break up the action in the other two plotlines.

There is a small, but very important subplot that occurs in the White Tower, in Tar Valon. This plot intercedes in the action only a few times, but to dramatic effect when the coup lead by Elaida deposes Siuan Sanche.



Quotes

"That has been my duty since the day she was born. My blood shed before hers; my life given before hers. I took that oath when I could barely see over the side of her cradle; Gareth Bryne had to explain to me what it meant. I won't break it now. Andor needs her more than it needs me."

Gawyn talking to Min about Elayne, p. 24

"Limping to the foot of the bed, he lowered himself into the chest there and laid Callandor across his knees, bloody hands resting on the glowing blade. With that in his hands, even one of the Forsaken would fear him. In a moment he would send for Moiraine to Heal his wounds. In a moment he would speak to the Aiel outside, and become the Dragon Reborn again. But for now, he only wanted to sit, and remember a shepherd named Rand Al'Thor."

p. 86

"Something had to be done, so a way had to be found. That horrible wound and the madness were problems for later, but they would be dealt with eventually. Somehow. Everyone said Two Rivers men were stubborn, but they could not match Two Rivers women."

p. 156

"'We call ourselves the Chosen,' she said calmly. 'Chosen to rule the world forever. We will live forever. You can, also.'"

Lanfear talking to Rand, p. 181

"Mat tossed the gold mark onto the man's tray. 'From the biggest fool in the world. Mind you spend it well, on women and wine.'

'Th-thank you, my Lord,' the man stammered as if stunned.

Mat left him standing there. The biggest fool in the world. Aren't I just!"

p. 237

"Suddenly the transparent sword blazed in his hands. Whirling it hilt uppermost, he drove it down. Into the stone floor. Bluish lightning arced wildly toward the dome above. The stone rumbled loudly, and the Stone shook, dancing, heaving screaming people from their feet."

p. 347

"Take care, Young Bull. The day of the Last Hunt draws near. We will run together in the Last Hunt."

Hopper talking to Perrin in the wolf dream, p. 464

"'The Children of the Light,' Verin said, 'are good at one thing. Making people who have been neighbors all their lives suspicious of each other.'"

p. 524



"He found himself wishing he could climb on Jaede'en and run as fast as the stallion could carry him. It was not the first time. But I can't run, he thought. I have it to do because there isn't anybody else who can. I do it, or the Dark One wins. A hard bargain, but the only one there was. But why would I destroy the Aiel? How?"
p. 549

"In spite of himself, Rand laughed. Something to eat? He did not care if he ever ate again. Mat stared at him as if he were crazy, and that only made him laugh harder. Not crazy. For the first time somebody was going to learn what it meant that he was the Dragon Reborn. He was going to break the rules in a way no one expected."
p. 567

"Mat was vaguely aware of Rand with that fiery sword suddenly in hand, but then he was sucked into the maelstrom himself, wielding his spear as spear and quarterstaff both, slash and thrust, haft whirling. For once he was glad of those dream memories; the way of this weapon seemed familiar, and he needed every scrap of skill he could find. It was all chaotic madness."
p. 612

"'Because it is lonely being a queen,'" he said softly. 'Because most men attracted to a queen see power, not a woman. I saw a woman, and she knew it. I suppose Bryne saw the same in her, and this Gaebriel, too. You have to understand, child. Everyone wants someone in their life, someone who cares for them, someone who they can care for. Even a queen.'
Thom Merrill to Elayne, p. 649

"Shock turned Siuan's tongue to stone. This was madness. This was impossible. In a rage she reached for saidar—and suffered a second shock. A barrier lay between her and the True Source, like a wall of thick glass. She stared at Elaida in disbelief."
p. 763

"Moiraine's lips compressed, and her hands were too still on her skirts; she was not best pleased. 'Prophecy is most dangerous when you try to make it happen. Did you not learn that in Tear? The Pattern weaves itself around you, but when you try to weave it, even you cannot hold it. Force the Pattern too tight, and pressure builds. It can explode wildly in every direction. Who can say how long before it settles to focus on you again, or what will happen before it does?'"
Moiraine to Rand, p. 831

"Moghedien's axe of Spirit waxed and waned in sharpness, but that would not matter if the woman managed to drive it home; Nynaeve could not see any real difference in the outcome between being stilled by the woman and merely—merely!—being shielding and at her mercy."
Nynaeve duels with Moghedien, p. 907

"Vaguely Rand was aware of a great, half-buried statue in far-off Cairhien, of the huge crystal sphere in its hand, glowing like the sun, pulsing with the One Power. And the



Power in him surged up like all the seas of the world in storm. With this surely he could do anything; surely he could even have Healed that dead child. The taint swelled as much, curling 'round every particle of him, seeping into every crevice, into his soul. He wanted to howl; he wanted to explode. Yet he only held half what that sa'angreal could deliver; the other half filled Asmodean."
p. 969



Topics for Discussion

The women of Emond's Field are respected and hold equal social power with the men. Still, Rand, Mat, and Perrin have a rather chivalrous view of women in warfare. Rand is uneasy about the Maidens of the Spear defending him and dying in battles to protect him. Discuss this aspect of chivalry in the context of sexual equality.

Moiraine believes Rand should move against Illian in a war that she says will be short, with minimal casualties. Egwene is aghast that Moiraine suggest that Rand should start a war, but both Moiraine and Elayne tell her that sometimes leaders must start conflicts in order to avert more dire consequences. Is it morally permissible to instigate war if not doing so would bring great calamity? Is resorting to violence always immoral?

Rand's attitude toward Moiraine has gone from overawed, to reverential, and finally to guarded and at times hostile. Given some of the things Moiraine has done to manipulate him, albeit toward what she believed would protect him, is Rand justified in his treatment of Moiraine?

How does the concept of the ta'veren compare to what would be considered charisma or leadership in the real world? How does it differ?

From her perspective, is Elaida's coup justified?

Discuss the differences between the Aiel customs and the customs of the Two Rivers. What does Rand do or not do that illustrates these differences?

Perrin displays a remarkable amount of self-sacrifice in his original plan to turn himself in to the Whitecloaks to entice them away from the Two Rivers. How do Faile and the others around him head him off from this act?

How does Egeanin's crisis of faith in her culture change her? Explain why Nynaeve would be so furious with Egeanin upon learning that the woman concealed the fact that she was Seanchan.

Should the Aiel believe that Rand is their Car'a'carn? At what point does common sense and tradition outweigh prophecy and change?