

# **The Tenth Power Study Guide**

## **The Tenth Power by Kate Constable**

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## Plot Summary

The Tenth Power is the third novel in The Chanters of Tremaris Trilogy by author Kate Constable. In this novel, Calwyn, is a talented chanter from the city of Antaris on Tremaris. Calwyn is in the process of returning to Anatris with two of her friends in tow, after running away from the sisterhood a year earlier. Calwyn returns to the priestesses of Antaris because she has lost her powers from chanting. While Calwyn is hoping that her sisters to care for her and coddle her, she finds instead that the place she once called home is in great despair. The sisters hope that her return will save them and save their land.

Calwyn takes readers into the lives of the different groups of people that live on Tremaris, while she tries to regain her powers. The former High Priestess and the woman that is like a mother to Calwyn, Marna, tells Calwyn that there is a secret Tenth Power, and an object that holds the magic of this secret power. Marna dies before she is able to give Calwyn the details. Once Calwyn discovers the magic that Wheel Marna was talking about, Calwyn realizes that it is broken. The owner of the other half is her arch enemy, Samis.

Through her journey, Calwyn hunts for the other half of the Wheel. As the planet of Tremaris is deteriorating, Calwyn believes that putting the two pieces back together will save the planet, the city, and the chanters from the ill-fated snow-sickness.



# Moondark

## Moondark Summary

The Daughters of Taris are a group of priestesses that are walking from their home of Antaris to the wall that encloses Antaris to protect it from the rest of the world. The Guardian of the Wall is in front of the line of priestesses and is leading the way. When the Guardian stops, she calls one of the priestesses, Athala, out of the line. The Guardian hands Athala a vial of liquid. Athala drinks and then dies. The other priestesses wrap Athala. They sing a chantment that causes a gap in the wall to form. They place Athala's body inside the gap. Another chantment causes the gap to grow over Athala's body to conceal it. While the rest of the priestesses start to return to Antaris, one priestess stays behind. She knows that her village will never be the same now.

## Moondark Analysis

The opening chapter of the novel sets the stage for the events that are to unfold in the novel. First, it foreshadows the reader learning what types of powers these priestesses have. Additionally, the storyline will reveal why they sacrificed the life of Athala. Finally, the priestess that stays behind will prove to be the main character of the novel.



# Bitterthorn

## Bitterthorn Summary

Against the stark contrast of land covered in snow are three figures. One is Calwyn, a girl with dark hair and dark eyes. She is dressed in layers of clothing and animal furs to keep her warm. Calwyn doesn't smile much anymore. The other two figures, Mica and Trout, are friends of Calwyn's.

The three are heading toward Calwyn's home, Antaris, from a city along the coast, Kalysons. The journey has been difficult with the snow and ice covering the land, even parts that are not typically frozen and this cold. One of them asks Calwyn if she saw the moons the previous night. They say they saw a formation that suggests it shouldn't be winter anymore, but instead should be spring.

Trout is strapping a blade to Mica's boot so they can all skate across the frozen lake. Calwyn finds a sprig of bitterthorn, which is a plant that grows near the wall that surrounds Antaris and is a painkiller. As Mica makes her way onto the ice, she sings a chantment of fire. Trout also hands her the Clarion of the Flame, which is a trumpet-like artifact that helps them to start fires.

As they continue on their journey, Calwyn thinks about how at one time she would have sang chantments to get them through the entire journey. She normally possesses all nine powers. Now, all of her gifts of magic are gone. The bitterthorn blows out of Calwyn's hand and across the ice.

Calwyn thinks about everything that has happened in the two years since she ran away from Antaris with Darrow. Darrow and Calwyn were friends that became lovers. Now, Calwyn is not sure what they are to each other. When Calwyn lost her powers, she pushed Darrow away.

While Mica feels the calling of the wall before she sees, Trout, and now Calwyn without her powers, are not called by the wall. They are only mesmerized by the site of it rather than the power within it. As they approach the wall, they are astonished to see the body of a woman inside the wall. Calwyn calls for Mica to play the Clarion to heat the ice and free the woman from the ice wall that surrounds her.

When the ice melts away around the body and the woman falls to the ground, Calwyn recognizes her as the shoemaker, Athala. Calwyn tries to revive Athala, but all she can smell is bitterthorn coming from Athala's mouth—indicating she was drugged or she drugged herself. Calwyn keeps trying to revive her but it doesn't work. They go through the hole they created into the wall and drag Athala's body inside to be retrieved later for proper burial. As the trio continue on their journey, they see there are 30 to 40 bodies of the priestesses frozen inside the wall, the same as Athala was. Trout and Mica ask Calwyn what is going on, but Calwyn doesn't know.



## Bitterthorn Analysis

The inference is that Calwyn is the priestess that stayed behind as the line of priestesses walked back toward Antaris. The fact that the winter is longer and harsher than it normally is suggests that there is some sort of an imbalance in the universe. The imbalance is causing the seasons to be out of whack.

The bitterthorn blowing away is symbolic. Since the bitterthorn is pain reliever, the bitterthorn blowing away symbolizes that pain and trouble will fall upon Calwyn, Trout and Mica, because they have nothing to relieve the pain.



# Snow-sickness

## Snow-sickness Summary

As they reach the bridge at the base of the orchards, Calwyn points out the beehives. Trout and Mica know that Calwyn used to help care for the beehives. Calwyn points out the Dwellings, which are the building where the sisters live. They notice how dark and quiet everything is and they think something might be wrong.

Calwyn insists they find Marna first. Calwyn says the sisters don't like strangers, but Marna will be more understanding. They say they understand since the last person to cross the wall was Samis, and who knows what he did when he was here. When they come to the infirmary that is burned to ground, with only one burnt wall left standing, Calwyn says Samis burned it to show them his powers.

The only sound they hear is a cough followed by terrible weeping coming from one of the buildings. Marna's house too is dark and quiet. Calwyn says they should go to the kitchen because there is always someone there tending the fires. When they approach the building where the kitchen is, they see smoke coming out of the chimney, but inside it smells rotten, which is highly unusual because the head cook, Durtha, always insists on everything being clinical clean.

When the three enter the kitchen they hear some voices, but beyond that, the kitchen is deserted. Calwyn enters the main kitchen alone and finds Lia. Lia says that Tamen, the second in command, knows that someone breached the wall and she's been turning the village upside down looking for the intruder. Lia also says that nothing in the village has been the same since the sorcerer Samis came and went. She says he took their health and contentment. Lia says he has stolen spring from them now too.

Lia says that after Ssmis left, the sisters fell ill with the snow-sickness, which is a disease that only chanters catch. Lia also says that Marna isn't the High Priestess anymore, but instead Tamen is in charge now. Lia confirms that Marna is dead, which upsets Calwyn. Lia also says that Tamen is sacrificing the priestesses and putting them in the wall as a way to prevent the disease from spreading.

Tamen enters the kitchen and sees Calwyn. She says that Calwyn has not learned her lesson about what happens when she brings outsiders to Antaris. Tamen starts singing a chantment to freeze Trout. There is nothing Calwyn can do because she has lost her powers, although Tamen doesn't know this. Mica starts to play the Clarion to create warmth and melt the ice.

The flames almost set everyone in the room and the kitchen on fire, so Trout, Mica and Calwyn flee. As they are running, they run into Ursca, who directs Calwyn to hide with her friends in an old barn because it will be safe and it's already been searched. The old





barn only has half a roof, but in the loft, Ursca has stacked bales of hay to almost cover the gap.

Calwyn finds Marna there in the corner, snugly wrapped in a blanket. Ursca reminds Calwyn not to touch Marna's skin because Marna has the snow-sickness. Ursca doesn't know that Calwyn no longer has her powers, she is no longer a priestess and therefore cannot catch the disease.

After leaving them with some food, Ursca leaves for the night. Trout asks Calwyn why Ursca can't tell that Calwyn's isn't a chanter anymore. Calwyn says it's because there are too many chanters here for her to notice.

## **Snow-sickness Analysis**

The dead bodies of the sisters, the priestesses, in the wall, in addition to the dark and quiet dwellings are clues that life inside of Antrais is not normal. Samis coming over the wall foreshadows that he did in fact do something to harm Antaris and its residents when he was inside.

The fact that the infirmary has not been rebuilt in the two years Calwyn has been away is unusual. This could be an indication that it wasn't rebuilt because something has happened to the residents of Antaris.

The inference is that Calwyn bringing Darrow inside the wall of Antaris is what brought Samis to the village. This action is what ultimately caused unrest in the village, which led to disease and death. Calwyn wasn't aware of any of this because she fled the village with Darrow.

Ursca insinuates that Tamen allowed or forced someone with the snow-sickness to touch Marna. Ursca implies that only she and Tamen cared for Marna when she fell ill after Samis attacked the village. Since snow-sickness is a skin disease, someone with the disease would have had to touch Marna. Ursca insinuates Tamen made Marna sick on purpose so that Tamen could take over as the leader of the priestesses.

It seems as if Calwyn has not lost her powers, but she thinks she has lost her powers. It appears to be more a psychological problem than the real loss of her powers. This foreshadows that Calwyn is going to discover that she still possesses her powers when she is able to focus her mind over matter.



# The Dark Chantments

## The Dark Chantments Summary

In the middle of the night, Calwyn wakes and touches Marna. Marna mistakes Calwyn for Calida, Calwyn's mother. she tells Marna it is Calwyn and the Lady Mother recognizes her. Marna tells Calwyn that she must pass on the Goddess's secrets to Calwyn, but Calwyn avoids it by saying she's not initiated.

Marna says that in these times rules must be broken. She tells Calwyn that the secret is in the secret Wheel, but that Calwyn needs the Tenth Power to unlock it. This surprises Calwyn because there are only nine powers. Marna also says the secret Wheel is safe with Calwyn's friends, and then Marna falls back into a deep sleep.

The next morning, Gilly shows up to change Marna's bedding and bring what little food she can. Gilly was once a flirtatious and giggling girl. Now she is gaunt and reserved. While Calwyn told Trout and Mica about the Wheel, she doesn't mention it to Gilly. Gilly says that Marna's mind is wandering and that drinking the bitterthorn to ease her pain doesn't help.

Later that night, Calwyn decides to go check on Lia. She wants to make sure Lia is okay from the kitchen fire. Calwyn also wants to see what Lia knows about the mysterious Wheel, since Lia is a senior priestess. Calwyn finds Lia in bed in the House of Elders.

Calwyn asks Lia about the secret lore. Lia says only one priestess can possess this knowledge in each generation and Marna thinks it is Calwyn. Lia warns Calwyn not to tell her anything Marna told Calwyn. When they hear the creak of a door hinge, Calwyn gets out the window just in time before Tamen, Lady Mother, comes in to check on Lia. Tamen mentions to Lia, in a menacing way, that Lia wouldn't know if she caught the snow-sickness because Lia lacks feeling in her feet and hands. Calwyn returns to the loft to find Gilly telling Trout and Mica stories about how Tamen forced sisters to drink bitterthorn to die.

In the middle of the night, Calwyn wakes to find Marna leering at her. Marna says she must teach Calwyn the dark powers, so Calwyn can fight evil with evil. Marna teaches Calwyn the chantments in pieces so she doesn't call up the power. When Calwyn asks about the Tenth Power, Marna says she'll teach it to Calwyn later and falls back to sleep.

The next morning, Gilly can't come to the loft because of the snowfall. When Marna wakes up, she hints to Calwyn that she knows Calwyn has lost her powers. Marna tells Calwyn that when winter turns to spring, what is broken will be whole again.

Ursca arrives and sings a chantment as Marna dies. Calwyn admits to Ursca she has lost her powers so she can help prepare Marna's body for burial. Calwyn is worried because she believes the secret Wheel and its power died with Marna. As Calwyn is



discussing the Wheel with Trout and Mica, she realizes what Marna was talking about when she said the Wheel is safe with her "friends."

## The Dark Chantments Analysis

Marna and some of the other senior priestesses believe that Calwyn possesses a special power. They have all been praying for her return and believe that she is the key to saving the village. Ironically, Calwyn is not even one of them anymore. Not because she ran away to the Outlands but because she has lost her chantment powers. This foreshadows Calwyn continuing to keep her loss of powers a secret and Marna putting her faith in Calwyn, only for Calwyn to let down her entire village.

On the other hand, it could be that when put to the test, Calwyn realizes that she hasn't lost her powers after all, which leads to her being able to save her village. Ironically, Calwyn was hoping to return home and be cared for, but she is the one expected to care for the village.

Marna talking about the dark and evil powers reveals that this is what Tamen is using to kill the sisters. In the novel, Tamen represents the side of darkness, of evil. Calwyn, on the other hand, represents the side of lightness, of good. when Marna talks of winter and spring, it is symbolic of winter being dark and barren, like Calwyn's powers and spring being a time for new beginnings, such as Calwyn regaining her powers and even acquiring a new one—the Tenth Power.

Calwyn realizes that when Marna said that the Wheel is safe with her friends, she meant with the bees that Calwyn used to help take care of in Antaris.



# The Treasure of the Bees

## The Treasure of the Bees Summary

Gilly uses her power to clear the ice to make her way to the barn to retrieve Marna's body. When Gilly finds out that Mica has the power to tame the winds, she asks Mica to go with her to the cemetery but Calwyn says she needs Mica to go to the orchards. Gilly admits that Ursca told her about Calwyn losing her powers.

In the orchards, Calwyn has Mica touch each beehive to see if she feels anything magical inside, which is the wheel. After touching 19 beehives without success, Calwyn knows it is in the Timarel beehive, which is the last one left. Because bees hate storms, Calwyn has Mica stir up the bees to chase away the sisters that are part of the search party looking for the intruders.

Mica and Calwyn argue and Mica leaves. Later, when the bees are settled, Calwyn reaches her hand inside the hive. She feels something wrapped in a silk scarf. When she retrieves it, she finds the Wheel, but it is broken in half. Calwyn recalls what Marna said about what is broken can be fixed.

Chaos breaks out in the village because the barns and the kitchens are on fire. When Calwyn returns to town, nobody even notices her in the chaos, but she sees that the sisters have Mica and Trout hostage. Calwyn speaks out to save Trout's life. She calls for the sisters to choose their High Priestess and Calwyn nominates Lia. When they hold a vote, the sisters choose Lia.

Time passes and Lia is ruling as High Priestess. Tamen is in jail. Mica, Trout and Calwyn are getting ready for a trip to Gellan, where Darrow is from, to search for the other half of the Wheel. Tamen requests to see Calwyn. Tamen starts to tell Calwyn about the Wheel, but Calwyn says that Marna told her and that she has half of the Wheel.

Tamen admits that she gave the other half of the Wheel to Samis, telling him they only had one half. Tamen says this is what released all of the sickness and evil into the village. Tamen says she doesn't know anything else because Marna didn't trust to tell her the lore; she was waiting for Calwyn to return. When Calwyn leaves, the sister guard tells Calwyn that Tamen requested two things, to speak to Calwyn and for a vial of bitterthorn.

Calwyn goes to Trout's workshop, where he is building Lia a wheelchair. When Calwyn tries to discuss the secrets with Lia, Lia stops her because she says only one priestess should know the information and Marna chose Calwyn. Lia agrees to allow Calwyn to tell what she knows when she returns from her trip, if she still doesn't have her powers back.



As Lia is trying out her new chair, Mica and Calwyn sense a calling in their heads. It is Darrow, Halasaa and Tonno, who are waiting by the wall to be let into Antaris. Calwyn asks for Lia's permission to bring them in and she grants it.

## **The Treasure of the Bees Analysis**

When Marna was talking about fixed things being broken, Calwyn assumed Marna was talking about Calwyn and her loss of power. It seems what Marna was really talking about was the Wheel. Tamen is planning to commit suicide with the vial of bitterthorn. She wanted to tell Calwyn what she knew before he kills herself.

The breaking of the Wheel and the release of the evil powers could explain why Calwyn lost her powers. Now that Calwyn knows that Samis is in possession of the other half of the Wheel, she can use her connections to get to Samis and get to the other half of the Wheel. Her primary connection to Samis is Darrow. Coincidentally, Darrow arrives at the village, which infers that he will be making the trip to Gellan with Calwyn, Trout and Mica.



# The Red City

## The Red City Summary

While Calwyn and her friends were making their journey to Antaris, Darrow and his friends were traveling around looking for Samis. When the return to Gellan, the Red City, they find it is plagued with sickness affecting chanters and that there is a famine. After speaking to a Gellanese resident, Darrow finds out that four nights ago, Samis had come and gone from the city.

The resident also tells Darrow that she found Samis's best friend, Tragg, murdered in his room. The lady says she heard them arguing before Samis left about the sickness and a wheel. Suddenly, guards emerge, encircle Darrow and arrest him, accusing him of having the sickness, as he is a ironchanter. As they haul Darrow off to the Lazar-House, which is where the sick are detained, a Gellanese woman, Matifa, invites Tonno and Halasaa to her house and says she'll help them free Darrow the next day. The next morning, the two men crawl through the basement of Matifa's house and into the underground sewer systems. She's given them directions on how to get to the Lazar-House.

When they get inside the Lazar-House, they pay one of the prisoners to tell them where they are keeping Darrow. They find out that he is in a tower where they keep problem prisoners bound and gagged—Traitors' Tower. When they make it to the tower, they only have to overcome two guards to get inside. They unlock each door, letting prisoners go until they find Darrow. They cut off the gag from Darrow's mouth and Darrow says an iron chantment to break his shackles.

The three friends fight off guards and lazars to escape the tower. The three return to Matifa's house, where she prepares tea to warm them from trekking through the snow and ice storm. Darrow asks about the man that grabbed him on his shin. The friends confirm it was a lazar and Darrow asks if they can tell if he has the sickness now. Halasaa confirms Darrow has the sickness.

When Matifa returns, she has shed her makeup and turban. They realize Matifa is the half-sister of Samis, Keela. She says she has the guards in her pocket, which explains why it was so easy for the friends to break Darrow free. She also admits that she is responsible for having Darrow arrested in the first place. Keela finds out that Halasaa does not have the power to cure this particular disease.

She agrees to tell them where her brother is if they agree to take her with them. when they ask about the wheel, she says there was a mention of the wheel and that it is a magical thing. The friends finally agree to let Keela go to the Wildlands, near Spareth, where Keela says Samis is. Darrow says they will stop in Antaris first to check on Calwyn.



## The Red City Analysis

It is obvious from his skin and looks that Darrow does not have the sickness that is attacking chanters. The guards arrest him because they know that he is trying to find Samis. Matifa turns out to be Keela, so she set a trap to land Darrow inside of the prison. Keela telling the three friends that she will lead them to Samis appears to be a trap as well.

Since the three friends show up at the wall without Keela, it seems as if something happens to her. They might have done away with her before leaving Gallen, or something could have happened to her during the journey. Once Keela revealed where Samis is and she paid for the supplies they would need for the journey, they wouldn't need her any longer.



# The Frozen Forest

## The Frozen Forest Summary

Mica, Trout and Calwyn go with a group of sisters to retrieve Darrow and his friends from the wall. Halassaa asks Calwyn if her powers have returned before Darrow hugs Calwyn. The, Calwyn sees a fourth figure, which is Keela. When Keela greets Calwyn, Keela also reveals to Calwyn that Darrow has caught the chanter's plague.

Calwyn tells Halsaa about the snow-sickness originating from Antaris. She also tells him about the broken wheel and about Samis having the other piece. As the group makes their way back into the village, Mica tells Calwyn that she's not going to go on the journey to Gellan. Mica says she and Gilly want to work together to melt the ice and snow in the village so the goats can feed and they can plant some vegetables.

Calwyn insists they need Mica on the journey to keep the winds and storms away. Mica says Darrow can do that now. The two girls argue about it and Mica stomps ahead.

When the group leaves Antaris heading for Spareth, they leave Mica behind. The first few days, they don't have any problems with the weather. They lose about six days huddled in a shelter while the blizzard storms are raging outside. One night, when Keela steps outside the shelter, Calwyn says she thinks Samis is heading to Spareth to look for the other half of the wheel, or to try to repair the half he has.

Darrow suggests that Samis might have figured out that the wheel can be broken and mended, and that each time he breaks it, another evil chantment is released.

During the entire trip, it seems as if the group is just behind Samis. They find clues along the way that Samis has been there. One night, Tonno calls on Calwyn to look over into the next valley, where Calwyn confirms she sees a fire. They think it's Samis. Tonno and Calwyn do not tell the others.

Later that night, Calwyn sees Darrow returning from the forest. She calls out goodnight to him and he to her. They end up in each other's arms, kissing, until Keela calls out for Calwyn to come inside so she can close the girls' tent. Through mindspeak, Halasaa tells Calwyn not to wait too long to mend her relationship with Darrow.

As they are riding on the sleds, the two sleds crash into each other. The collision causes a crack in the ice. Trout and one of the sleds is dangerously close to falling into the chasm. Calwyn can see a dark figure in the trees singing a chantment. Tonno yells that it's Samis. Darrow sings a chantment which helps raise the sled out of the water. While they are using the pole on the sled to fish Trout out of the river, Keela runs off with Samis and they both disappear into the woods.

Trout can't find the Clarion, so he thinks it fell in the river. Calwyn checks her jacket pocket to make sure the Wheel is still there. Calwyn also sliced her hand open on one





of the blades. Darrow gets angry when he finds out that Calwyn and Halasaa knew Samis was so close and they didn't tell him. Halasaa performs a healing chantment to seal the cut on Calwyn's hand until he can fully heal it later.

Darrow stay behind to use chantment to look for the Clarion. The others take the sled and seek shelter. Halasaa takes them to a cave where his people, the Tree People, used to live. It is outfitted with beds on ledges, bowls, a fire pit, etc. Halasaa uses mindspeak to tell Darrow to look for Trout's glasses while he heals Calwyn's hand and starts a fire for cooking.

When Darrow arrives, he says he couldn't find the Clarion, but he brings Trout's glasses. He also apologizes to Calwyn for yelling at her. As they eat and talk around the fire, Calwyn wonders where Darrow considers home. Halasaa uses mindspeak to tell her it is wherever she is.

## The Frozen Forest Analysis

The relationship that Mica and Calwyn have is parallel to the relationship that Calwyn and Darrow have. Mica is always doing things for Calwyn, to comfort her and to make her feel comfortable. In her relationship with Darrow, Calwyn is the caretaker, always doing little things for Darrow to comfort him. While Mica is hurt by Calwyn's silence, Calwyn is hurt by Darrow's silences.

Something happened that caused a rift between Darrow and Calwyn. This is what caused Calwyn to return to Antaris to start. Now that Darrow is dying, Halasaa warns Calwyn that she needs to mend their relationship before the sickness catches up with Darrow and kills him. Now that Keela is with Samis, she could provide information to Samis about what the group is trying to do. While they did conceal some information from Keela, she knows of their interest in the Wheel and the direction in which they were going, so she can provide all of this information to her half-brother.



# The Time of One Egg

## The Time of One Egg Summary

Keela is in Samis's camp, which is much more luxurious than the camp of the others. She talks with Samis about all of the plotting she has done for him. Keela is responsible for getting Darrow arrested, having him stop to pick up Calwyn and leading them to where they are now. It is all part of Samis's plan.

As Calwyn and the others are settling in for the night, Halasaa mindspeaks to Calwyn to get her to go for a walk. He takes her to the cave where he lived with his father after his mother and twin sister died. When Calwyn sees the yellow cloak and hair combs that belonged to his mother, Calwyn realizes that she is Halasaa's twin sister. His mother was a High Priestess, which wear the yellow cloak and hair combs from Antaris. Calida, Calwyn's mother had run off had a baby and returned to Antaris, where she died from a winter cold she caught during her journey.

Calwyn and Halasaa figure out that the reason Calida went back is that she figured out Calwyn could sing but Halasaa could not. This also explains why both Halasaa and Calwyn can mindspeak.

The next day, they tell the others of their discovery. They continue their journey when they see Keela come out of the woods crying. She says that her brother was horrible to her. She brings them the Clarion. They are suspicious but they comfort and bring her some tea to warm her.

## The Time of One Egg Analysis

Keela and Samis are very calculated. Everything they do has a plan. every plan suits their needs. Samis seems to have plans for Calwyn, although Keel and Samis seem to know that she lost her powers. There is an indication that Samis knows that Calwyn has the other piece of the Wheel. He might be planning to make the Wheel one again so that he can use the magic the Wheel possesses.



# By the Knot of the Waters

## By the Knot of the Waters Summary

By the following day, they have reached a scared area of the Tree People. Darrow is showing signs of weakening and numbness in his hands and feet. The group starts to argue over whether they should go through the sacred grounds or around it. As the group enters the cave, the Veiled Lands, Calwyn feels a tingling sensation in her fingers and toes, and the hair stands up on the back of her neck.

The group walks for hours. One of the areas of the cave is a wall covered with ruby. Calwyn can't help but wonder if the ring Darrow normally wears is cut from the same stone. The group journeys longer than usually because inside the cave, there is no way to know whether it is light or dark. Right before they set up camp, Calwyn realizes the sensation she's been feeling is the return of her powers.

She keeps the realization to herself. As she falls asleep next to Darrow, she feels as if she is lying on a cloud instead of the rock inside of a cave. The next morning, everyone seems chipper and revived. They continue on their journey until they reach a chamber of the cavern with walls lined in white quartz stone. Inside are three frozen pools of water of different colors such as turquoise, green, and mulberry. Calwyn knows it is a very scared place so she removes her skates so as not to defile the frozen ponds.

Suddenly, Keela grabs the Clarion from Calwyn and starts skating on one of the pools. Keela is tossing the Clarion around. Keela and Calwyn struggle with each other on the ice. When the Clarion falls on the ice, it burns a hole and falls through the depths of the water below. Suddenly, the ice gives way and Keel and Calwyn fall through the ice. Calwyn is pulled toward a radiant light at the bottom of the water but Keela is drowning. Calwyn summons up her strength to try to save Keela. Calwyn save Keela and the rest help get the two girls out of the water.

A torch of light shines on one of the cavern openings. The group sees about a dozen Tree People standing there. Halasaa greets them. the Tree People say it is forbidden to swim in the waters. Calwyn realizes the waters are powerful. One of the Tree People women says that because Calwyn saved Keela's life, Calwyn is granted a rare gift.

As the group prepares to follow the Tree People, Calwyn bends and scoops a handful of water from the pool. She sings and turns the water into ice. She mindspeaks that her powers have returned to Darrow and goes to hug him. He forbids her since she can now catch the snow-sickness from him.

## By the Knot of the Waters Analysis

The Unveiled Lands is a sacred land. It must also possess some magical power because it is upon Calwyn going through this land that her powers return to her. Keela



has a plan to try to kill Calwyn when she plunges them both into the water. The tables turn on Keela though, so it seems as if the magical powers of the cavern are looking out for Calwyn. The rare gift that the Tree People speak might just be the Tenth Power.



# The Arrival of the Voiced Ones

## The Arrival of the Voiced Ones Summary

Briaali is the elder of the Tree People. She is the one that leads them back the camp. As they talk, Briaali discovers that Calwyn is both a chanter and one of the "Voiced Ones." Briaali says she knew Calwyn and Halassa's father, Halwi. Briaali also finds out that Darrow is struck with the snow-sickness.

When Briaali learns about the wheel she asks to see it. She tells Calwyn that it is magic but it is not the source of the problems that are eating at the fabric of the world. She says that mending it will not fix the problems. Briaali talks of long ago days and how the rift between the Tree People and the Voiced Ones is what started the problems to begin with. Essentially, all of the powers were once together, but they are split apart and moved to different regions of the world Tremaris.

She says that the Tree People are planning to wage a war on Antaris. This makes Tonno want to go and defend Antaris, but Darrow, Halassa and Calwyn want to go on to Spareth. Briaali also tells Calwyn that she and Keela are sisters now because they were both saved by the water. Keela is still unconscious but she is breathing.

## The Arrival of the Voiced Ones Analysis

Calwyn doesn't believe Briaali because Calwyn believes that fixing the wheel will save Darrow's life. Briaali is an elder that is equal to Marna. Briaali's view of the world is different from that of Calwyn's. While Calwyn knows that Briaali deserves respect and probably does know more than Calwyn, she also believes that Briaali cannot know all sides of the story. Briaali can only know and understand the Tree People's side of the story.

The powers that are spread out among the different groups of people in Tremaris represent the four elements. Some people have the power of ice, which are the sisters of Antaris. Another group of people have the power of wind. Others have the power of earth. The final group has the power of fire. Now, however, with the Clarion lost, this power is lost as well. Ironically, two women that hate each other and constantly compete with each other - Calwyn and Keela - are now bound together as sisters.



# The Boat in the Clouds

## The Boat in the Clouds Summary

Trout wakes to find Samis crouching over the group as they sleep around the fire. Samis uses chantments to kidnap Calwyn and take her away on a steel boat that floats in a bubble in the sky. When Calwyn gets to the boat, she finds out Keela throwing Calwyn into the waters was all part of Samis's plan to return Calwyn's powers to her. He plans to use Calwyn's powers in conjunction with his own to solve the riddle of the Wheel and why Tremaris is falling apart.

Keela is telling the rest of Samis's plan. She admits to pushing Calwyn in the water because Samis thought it would get Calwyn's powers back. She says he plans to go to Spareth—that this part of the story was always true. Keela admits that the plan was for her to go with Samis when he came for Calwyn, but that she didn't want to go when the time came.

Calwyn wakes to a hot pastry from Samis. Samis is using his power of seeming to make dry bread look, smell and taste like a hot pastry. He takes the gag out of Calwyn's mouth and unbinds her hands and feet so she can give them a wind chantment to carry them to Spareth. Samis starts asking Calwyn about each chantment she has. When he asks about the ironcraft one, she says only men can sing it. But, she sings it to try to make an iron cup fly at Samis, but it misses and goes overboard instead.

She wonders if Marna would want her to use her dark powers against Samis. Calwyn doesn't want to make the same mistake again. Calwyn confirms that she has all of her powers back but that she can never be the Singer of All Chants because the Clarion is missing.

## The Boat in the Clouds Analysis

Swimming in the magical waters has changed Keela too. This is why she had the urge to stay behind rather than go with Samis. Calwyn implies that she used her powers for evil before and this is what caused her to lose them. She also says something about Darrow and Samis once being friends. She implies that Samis somehow betrayed Darrow and this is why they are now enemies on opposing sides.



# The Silver Ship

## The Silver Ship Summary

When Calwyn wakes up again, she can see Spareth in the horizon. They disembark from the boat and Samis sends the bubble with the boat in it away. As they start to walk through the city, they walk past the spot where Calwyn remembers leaving Samis's lifeless body when his magic had failed.

When they sit, Samis says it's time for their lesson to begin. Calwyn says he promised to give her the relic of the Goddesses. Samis says first he must teach her the Tenth Power. He tells her the Tenth Power is the Power of Signs, as he shows her a silver tablet with markings etched into it.

Samis says all of the chantments are on the tablet. He further explains that even though the Clarion is lost that with the tablet, they still know the chantment for fire. Samis says he cannot sing the fire chantment because it has been denied to him. He urges Calwyn to sing it. Samis spends all day teaching Calwyn and Calwyn spends all day learning the chantments.

Samis also reveals that the city of Spareth is the big silver ship the Ancient People landed on Tremaris in and that they built the city around it. He takes Calwyn onto the ship and shows her all the food and supplies that are still here to sustain them for centuries.

In the meantime, Tonno, Trout and Briaali's group are heading toward Antaris to warn the sisters. The Tree People Warriors attack the group, injuring them. the group surrenders to the warriors.

For day, Samis teaches and Calwyn practices the chantments. Calwyn hears Marna's voice telling Calwyn in her head that Marna was afraid to act against Samis, but that Calwyn should not be afraid. Calwyn worries about the days that she's wasted not helping Darrow. She talks to Samis about why he's teaching her the chantments when she knows he wants to be the Singer of All Songs.

Samis admits that he isn't happy about it but tries to convince Calwyn to be his empress—to rule with him. Calwyn tells Samis about the adventures she and her friends had when she left Antaris. She tells him how Darrow became the Lord of the Black Palace.

Samis tells Calwyn that she has one more lesson to learn. He says being the Singer of All Songs is not all about the lightness. Now she has to walk in the darkness. He says if she wants the Wheel that she has to take back what is rightfully hers.



## The Silver Ship Analysis

Calwyn is afraid to sing the fire chantment. If she has the power, it will make her the Singer of All Songs. This person is said to be as powerful as God. This level of power frightens Calwyn. Samis says the chantments are all hidden somewhere in the city of Spareth. If they can find them all, then it will reverse the damage that has been done.

Samis is plotting to use Calwyn's powers to take over Tremaris. Most likely, however, his rule will not be a happy one, but rather a dark and evil one. Calwyn is having a major inner struggle with choosing between good and evil. Magic has both good parts and bad parts. She knows this and she is questioning whether she really wants to have to use magic for bad, when necessary, and when she has always used it for good.





# The Secret of the Wheel

## The Secret of the Wheel Summary

Calwyn sings a chantment that brings pain and suffering to Samis. Calwyn is paying him back for making Darrow sick, for killing her friend Xanni and for crippling Lia. She uses mind-speech to demand to know where the wheel is. Almost dead, Samis gives Calwyn his half of the Wheel and collapses on the ground, bleeding and barely breathing. Calwyn matches his half of the Wheel with the other half.

Halassa wakes Darrow to tell him he heard Calwyn cry out in pain, but of heart, not of body. Halasaa says he tried to mindspeak to Calwyn but that they are still too far from her for her to hear him. When Darrow tries to sing a chantment to bring firewood into the tent, he realizes that his powers have slipped away.

Calwyn mends the Wheel and seals the crack. She realizes there is no magic in the Wheel and that nothing has changed. Samis wakes up and tells her it doesn't matter that the Wheel is worthless. It only matters that the magic and power is inside of her. They dance around the room together and then he takes her to top room of the Spareth ship and tells her that they can set sail and leave Tremaris behind.

Calwyn and Samis sing chantments together that rip the ship that created Spareth from its roots and sets it into flight. As the ship is flying, Calwyn creates another chantment that rips one of the shelves from the room and she uses it to fly through one of the ship's windows and down into the forest below. She watches from the ground as the ship flies off into the stars and away from the planet Tremaris.

Calwyn picks up the Wheel that has fallen beside her. She notices that the Wheel has string of words on it. Calwyn falls asleep and when she wakes, she knows what she must do to save Tremaris.

## The Secret of the Wheel Analysis

Sending the ship off into space represents the Voiced Ones coming full circle. They landed on Tremaris in the ship to take over the planet. Now, the same ship is being returned to the universe from which it came.

Calwyn is trying to think of everything her elders have said, that Briaali told them, and what the saying on the Wheel means. She is analyzing all of this as she drifts off to sleep. When she wakes she has the answer. The inference is that the world is falling apart because all of the elements have separated and segregated themselves. If Calwyn can bring the people and all of the elements back together, then they can live and work in harmony.



# The Flight of the Goddess

## The Flight of the Goddess Summary

Trout, Tonno and Briaali march ties and the Voiced Ones gagged to the Wall of Ice surrounding Antaris. When one of the Tree People Warriors pokes the wall with his spear, the wall turns his veins to ice and kills him on the spot. Then the warriors set to work on building a fire to try to melt a space in the wall so they can enter Antaris. Briaali mindpeaks to Tonno and Trout to tell them that she has sent a warning to the people inside but she doesn't know if they got it.

As the warriors sharpen their spears and put war paint on their faces, they can hear voices on the other side of the wall. Overhead, what the sisters and the Tree People think is a shooting star is really the Spareth sailing across the sky. The sisters believe the star is a sign that their Goddess, Taris, is coming. The sisters sing chantments but eventually the breach in the wall is where the warriors enter and the war of the Tree People begins.

Keela tells Halasaa about the shooting star she sees too. Halasaa thinks about the shooting star as the omen for change, but also knows that either Calwyn or Samis is responsible for what Keel saw. Calwyn connects with Halasaa with mind-speech. She tells him to keep talking to her so she can find them. She is sledding on the shelf she used to fly off of the ship.

Calwyn and Halasaa bring each other up to speed until Calwyn arrives at their camp. She tells them all to jump on the sled and they will be to Antaris by morning. They don't understand that she can get them there that quickly.

Tonno and Trout use what is left of the burning embers of the bonfire to free themselves from the ropes surrounding their wrists. They both charge through the hole in the wall to the chaos that is war on the other side. One of the sisters encases Tonno's hands in ice, mistaking him for an enemy. Tonno starts to fight for survival at this point.

Trout and Mica find each other. Mica is wounded but okay. Trout sustains a spear to his ribs, but Mica tells him not to worry, that they'll get it out. One of the sisters cries out that Taris is coming. When Trout and Mica look at what the sisters are talking about, they see Calwyn. Calwyn sings a chantment to free all of Briaali's people. Then she sings another to paralyze everyone on the battlefield to stop the fighting.

Calwyn calls for the fighting to stop and for them all to help each other. Everyone starts helping the wounded to the Dwellings. Halasaa and Calwyn try to heal the wounds of Mica, but they realize she is already dead, with a spear shaft sticking out of her chest. They work on Trout's wound. Halasaa and Calwyn get back into the sled and Calwyn tries to figure out what to do next. Halasaa tells her to sing.



## The Flight of the Goddess Analysis

Calwyn has found herself. She knows what she is and she knows how she must use her powers. She is still struggling with the details because she is one of a kind. Since she is one of a kind, she doesn't have anyone that has traveled down this road before, so she has to figure things out on her own.

Ironically, with all of the powers Calwyn possesses, she is unable to save Mica. This means that Calwyn is never able to repair her relationship with Mica before Mica dies. This will haunt Calwyn for years to come.



# One Music

## One Music Summary

People from each side meet in Lia's house, The High Priestess's house. Calwyn tells them about her vision of how to mend Tremaris. She tells them that they all have to come together and work as one in order to save the planet. Each side puts up resistance, but in the end they agree to help.

The Tree People try to teach the sisters how to dance. The sisters try to teach the Tree People how to sing. It all seems quite hopeless to Calwyn, but she has to put on a front. Darrow is getting weaker. Halasaa and Calwyn are working hard to heal as many of the wounded as they can. They are all preparing to perform in a ceremony on the night when the three moons are full.

The night comes for the ceremony. Darrow is so weak that they have to wheel him to the ceremony in Lia's chair. Lia no longer needs the chair because Halasaa was able to heal her back. They perform the ceremony, everything returns to normal and the Wheel begins to spin. Calwyn was right in that having everyone work together is exactly what Tremaris, which was broken, needed to work again.

Darrow runs up to Calwyn. He too has been healed during the ceremony. The two run off together to a secret spot Calwyn knows of so they can alone.

## One Music Analysis

It is ironic that the night of the three full moons, the sisters normally hold a ceremony to repair the wall, and this ceremony is to tear the wall down. In this instance, it is the literal wall that surrounds the city of Antaris, but it is also the proverbial wall that each of the people has surrounded themselves with in order to keep "outlanders" out.

The Wheel is symbolic of the circle of life. When the circle of life is in balance, it is able to spin and everything works together in harmony. When the circle of life is out of balance, it is broken, and the seam of the world starts to fray and eventually fall apart.

Darrow and Calwyn also discuss writing down the chantments, the dances and stories. This is symbolic of the archiving of history. People of all nations somehow mark their history so that those that come after them know the history and can avoid making the same mistakes as their ancestors. Darrow and Calwyn have often dreamed of having a school where they could teach all of this to everyone. In the new world they have created, this might just be possible.



# The Singer of All Songs

## The Singer of All Songs Summary

Spring has blossomed in Antaris. Calwyn is preparing for her journey the next day to spread her new knowledge around Tremaris. First, she is in the cemetery saying goodbye to Marna and Mica. Trout is still heartbroken over the loss of Mica. This makes the group realize that he was really in love with her.

Briaali has returned to her people to start teaching her part in saving Tremaris. Together, the groups have performed two more ceremonies. Each time, Tremaris seems to be more functional and normal. The sisters vow to add the ceremony to their own calendar of events, and Briaali to her dances so that they can continue to repair their planet.

## The Singer of All Songs Analysis

Calwyn is still struggling inside with her light powers and her dark powers—her good powers and her evil ones. It is a learning process that goes on inside of everyone—choosing between what is right and what is wrong. In Calwyn's case, she is making a difference in saving her planet and saving her people. The same lesson holds true for everyone. Everyone plays a part in what happens in their community, state, country and the world in why they live.



# Characters

## Calwyn

Calwyn is an 18-year-old girl from the city of Antaris in Tremaris. She has long dark hair and dark eyes. Her two best friends are Trout and Mica. When the novel opens, Calwyn is returning to Antaris with Trout and Mica.

Calwyn was born outside of the city of Antaris because her mother ran away before Calwyn was born. Calwyn's mother returned with Calwyn to Antaris when Calwyn was a baby. After her mother dies, Calwyn remains with the priestesses in Antaris. While growing up in Antaris, Calwyn learns to sing, which are chantments that hold magical powers.

Calwyn too ran away from Antaris the previous year. She ran away with the boy she loves, Darrow. Calwyn is returning to Antaris because she has lost her powers. She is hoping to return to Antaris to find a way to get her powers back.

Not only does Calwyn find a way to get her powers back, but she also acquires a new power. When Calwyn masters the Tenth Power, she becomes the Singer of All Songs.

## Mica

Mica is one of Calwyn's best friends. Mica is making the journey back to Antaris with Calwyn and Trout. Mica possesses the power of wind. With this power, Mica can sing a chantment that causes storms and the winds to blow. This power helps to get Calwyn, Trout and Mica out of several situations. She also uses her power to clear paths during their journey.

Mica is considered to be an Outlander because she is not from Antaris. When Mica gets to know the sisters in Antaris, however, they grow to love Mica. Mica loves being in Antaris so much that when Calwyn embarks on her journey to find Samis and the other half of the Wheel, Mica decides to stay behind.

Calwyn and Mica argue about Mica staying behind. When Calwyn leaves, Mica stays to help care for the bees in Antaris with Gilly, one of the sisters. This choice proves to be fatal because when the Tree People wage war on Antaris, one of their spears ends up stabbing Mica in the chest and killing her. This happens before she and Calwyn are able to reconcile.



## Trout

Trout is a boy about Calwyn's age. He is the other of Calwyn's best friends. He is also secretly in love with Mica. The reader, however, does not find out about Trout's feelings until the end of the novel—after Mica's death.

Unlike Calwyn and Mica, Trout does not possess any magical powers. He returns to Antaris with the two girls. Trout also embarks on the journey with Calwyn and the others to find Samis and the other half of the broken Wheel. Trout is with Mica at the end of the novel when she is struck with the spear.

## Lia

Lia is one of the priestesses that lives in Antaris. She has a broken back, which seems to be the result of an attack by Samis on Antaris the previous year. When Calwyn first returns to Antaris, Lia is one of the first women that Calwyn reveals herself to in the kitchens of Antaris.

When Calwyn stands up against the reigning priestess, Tamen, Calwyn nominates Lia as High Priestess. The majority of the vote puts Lia into power as the High Priestess.

## Marna

Marna was the High Priestess when Calwyn was living in Antaris. When Calwyn returns, Marna has the snow-sickness, which is a skin disease that is killing chanters. A couple of the other sisters have Marna hidden in the loft of one of the barns that only has half a roof.

Marna is the priestess that tells Calwyn of the Tenth Power. Marna starts to teach Calwyn the secrets that only one priestess per generation knows. Marna provides clues to Calwyn about the item that holds the magic of the Tenth Power, but she dies before she finishes passing along all the information to Calwyn.

## Darrow

Darrow is the boy Calwyn loves. When she ran away from Antaris, she left with Darrow. Darrow possesses the iron chantment, so he can control metal objects, such as breaking off his chains when he is imprisoned. When Darrow returns to his home city of Gellan, the half-sister of his enemy, Samis, has Darrow wrongfully imprisoned in the Lazar-House, which is where they place chanters that are ill.

During Darrow's struggle with one of the prisoners as he escapes the prison, Darrow contracts the illness. Throughout the novel, Darrow's health deteriorates. Calwyn is



determined to mend the Wheel because she believes it will mend Tremaris and ultimately save Darrow.

## Halaasa

Halaasa is a friend of Darrow and Calwyn. He is one of the Tree People, so he has the ability to use mind-speech. This power allows Halaasa to speak to people directly in their heads and without speaking out loud. Halaasa also possesses the power to heal.

Halaasa was shunned by the Tree People, along with his father, Halwi. His mother and sister died when Halaasa was a baby. Calwyn and Halaasa discover that they are twin brother and sister when the pieces together.

## Tonno

Tonno is another friend of Darrow and Calwyn. Tonno is a burly man. He is a fisherman by trade. Tonno is one of the members of the group that goes on a hunt for Samis and the Wheel. By the end of the novel, it appears as if he and Keela are in love.

## Keela

Keela is a princess. She is also the half-sister of Samis. Keela disguises herself as a Gellan woman to lure Darrow, Tonno and Halaasa, so she can help Samis carry out his plan. When Keela reveals her true identity, the guys find out she is the one responsible for having Darrow arrested and therefore for him catching the chanter's disease.

Keela changes sides after she is plunged into some magical waters in the Veiled Lands. At this point, she starts to work toward helping Calwyn and the group rather than Samis.

## Briaali

Briaali is the elder woman of the Tree People. She tells the group the story that originally started the problems in Tremaris. Briaali is the equivalent to the Tree People what Marna was to the priestesses when she was in power. It is Briaali's knowledge of the original segregation of the people of Tremaris that leads Calwyn to the solution of saving their lands.





# Objects/Places

## The Great Wall

The Great Wall is a wall of ice that surrounds Antaris. The wall possesses magical powers of its own so it is impenetrable by outsiders. The sisters sign a chantment when they need or want to open a gap in the wall to allow people in or out. It is in the Great Wall of Ice that Tamen, the High Priestess, encases the dead bodies of the sisters.

## Tremaris

Tremaris is the planet where the novel takes place. It is home to the city of Antaris, the city of Gellan, the Unveiled Lands, and the city of Spareth. Calwyn believes the black magic that was released from the broken Wheel is what is causing the deterioration of the planet and the disease and problems plaguing the cities. Calwyn believes that if she can mend the Wheel, then she can also mend the planet of Tremaris.

## Antaris

Antaris is the city surrounded by the Great Wall of Ice. It is the city where the priestesses live. It is also the city where Calwyn grows up and where Calwyn's mother, Calida, is from originally. Antaris is plagued with the snow-sickness, so many of the priestesses are ill. The city does not allow outsiders to enter often. It is also a city comprised primarily of women who are the priestesses.

## The Wheel

The Wheel is the magic item that Calwyn believes Marna was talking about that holds the Tenth Power. When Calwyn finds the Wheel, it is broken. Calwyn finds out Samis possesses the other half of the Wheel. She sets off to find Samis and the other half of the Wheel, so that she can mend the Wheel and fix the problems on Tremaris.

## Gellan

Gellan is also known as the Red City. It is known as the Red City because of the red brick used to construct many of the buildings in Gellan. This is also the city where Darrow is from originally. Darrow, Tonno and Halaasa return to Gellan to search for Samis. This is also where Darrow is imprisoned and catches the chanter's disease. Keela is also hiding out in Gellan in order to trap Darrow, Tonno and Halaasa into following Samis's plan to kidnap Calwyn so that he can reinstate and possess all of the powers Calwyn has as his empress or queen.



## Spareth

Spareth is the city where Samis takes Calwyn when he kidnaps her. Spareth turns out to be the city the Ancient Ones built using the Silver Ship as the foundation. The city is deserted, but possesses a magical item for each of the powers. It is also where Samis reveals the Tenth Power to Calwyn.

Calwyn and Samis use their powers to "set sail" on the Spareth ship. When the ship sails into the sky, Calwyn escapes, leaving Samis to sail off into the stars for eternity.

## The Silver Ship

The Silver Ship is the ship the Ancient Ones were on when they first came to Tremaris. The Ancient Ones turn the ship into the city of Spareth. It is on this ship that Calwyn and Samis use to leave Spareth. When Calwyn escapes the ship, she leaves Samis behind to captain the ship for the rest of his life.

When the different people on the land see the ship, they mistake it for a shooting star. The priestesses of Antaris believe it is the return of their Goddess.

## The Tenth Power Tablet

The Tenth Power Tablet is a silver tablet Samis reveals to Calwyn when they get to Spareth. The tablet has all of the chantments inscribed on it. Samis uses the tablet to teach and practice all of the chantments with Calwyn, so that she truly becomes the Singer of All Songs.

## Clarion

The Clarion is a small golden trumpet-like instrument. It is the item that possesses the power of fire. Trout, Mica and Calwyn have the Clarion to help them on their journey when they return to Antaris. Calwyn and the group also take the Clarion when on their journey to find Samis. Keela steals the Clarion when she escapes from the sledding accident and runs off with Samis.

Keela returns the Clarion to the group when she returns to continue on the journey with them. the Clarion is ultimately lost when Keela and Calwyn almost drown in the magic waters in the Veiled Lands.

## Bitterthorn

Bitterthorn is a plant that grows on Tremaris. When used in small amounts it is a pain reliever. Some of the priestesses, however, use a large amount of the bitterthorn to poison themselves.



# Themes

## Relationships

One of the primary themes running through the novel is relationships. The novel reveals that even the individuals that make up a family have different relationships among the family members. For example, Calwyn is very close to Marna, who is like a surrogate mother to her. Calwyn is not as close to other sisters of her family, such as Ursca and Tamen.

Friendship is another type of relationship the novel tackles. It seems as if Calwyn and Darrow's friends are more like "family" than just close friends. Even with the close bonds of friendship, there are moments of tension. For example, Mica and Calwyn get into an argument right before Calwyn leaves on her journey to find Samis. Mica dies before the girls are able to reconcile, so this is a guilt that Calwyn will have to overcome or live with for the rest of her life. Although, Darrow and Calwyn are in love with each other, they are also best friends.

Romantic relationships are also tackled in the novel. Darrow and Calwyn have had a turbulent past when it comes to their love and being together as a couple. This is because Calwyn ran away with Darrow after an attack on Antaris by Samis crippled the city. While a romantic relationship does not develop in the novel, by the end of the novel, there is an indication that Tonno and Keela are also in love.

## Good versus Evil

Another primary plot throughout the entire novel is that of good versus evil. The go the sisters of Antaris, the Great Wall of Ice is the line that separates the "Outlanders" from their world. To them, this is the dividing line between that of good and evil. In order to keep the Once the gates were closed and locked, the forbidden mortal world turned many of the Fair Folk into evil beasts and monsters in an effort to breach the gate and make their way into the mortal world.

Calwyn represents good, while Samis represents evil. Throughout the novel, Calwyn is seen as someone who uses her powers for good, while Samis is someone who uses his magic for evil. As the truth comes out, Calwyn has an evil side of her own because she is able to master both the light and dark powers.

Finally, Calwyn has an inner struggle with her powers, which are a combination of good and evil. In her role as the Singer of All Songs, Calwyn has the ability to sing chantments. She has the option of what she chooses to use these powers to do—good things or evil things.

## Family

Family is the central theme throughout the entire novel. This is because the storyline is about the lives of this particular family—the priestesses—and their powers of chantment. While every family has their trials and tribulations, Elena's family has its own family dynamics that are the same and that are different from those of other families. In the end though, they are a family and they will get through it together, one way or the other.

By the end of the novel, it also becomes about the family of Treamris. While the different people of Tremaris have been segregated in the past, they reunite by the end of the novel. The coming together of the different groups of people is symbolic of the family of the planet.



# Style

## Point of View

The novel is written in the third-person point of view. The narrator of the novel is also the author of the novel, Kate Constable. The narrator is telling the story as it unfolds, but she also switches back to some past events to provide the reader with some perspective.

The point of view of this novel is an intimate point of view that allows a reader to connect closely with the main character, Calwyn. The point of view also allows the author to inject her own opinions into the narration and to expand on the events taking place to her and the characters of the novel without interrupting the flow of the narration. Hence, the point of view works well with this novel and the author's writing style.

## Setting

When the novel first begins, the primary setting is Antaris. After the group sets out on their journey to find Samis and the Wheel, different areas of the planet of Tremaris are the primary settings. The author never states the specific year of the novel. The setting of this novel is important because it is about the mysterious occurrences that set the scene for the entire plot of the novel. The main characters of the novel work to mend the destruction and cure the illness on the planet of Tremaris.

The setting of this novel works well with the plot. Initially, the reader is not aware of all of the magic and secrets that exist. However, as events unfold, one secret after the next is either explained or inferred and secrets are revealed.

## Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is modern. The language of the novel is not formal, but also includes words the author invents. There also seems to be an Native American influence on some of the terms and names throughout the novel. The language is educated, strong and descriptive enough that it creates a flow that leaves the reader impressed with the words as much as the plot when the novel ends.

The language of the novel is appropriate to the plot because it is accurate to the characters in the novel and the education level of the writer. The novel is not in love with its own words, but it is descriptive enough that the reader finds enjoyment in the words as well as the plot. The language is not difficult to understand, however, and everything is clear in its context. Hence, the language of the novel fits well with the plot of the novel.

## Structure

The novel consists of 16 chapters. Each chapter is anywhere from five to 20 pages long. The chapters tell the story both in exposition and dialogue. The author is the narrator of the book, so it seems as if she is injecting her own voice throughout the novel as if she has become Calwyn. This allows the author to provide her own opinions of the events surrounding the setting of the novel, as well as the actions taking place within the plot.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows the various relationships between the characters in the novel. The subplots involve good versus evil and the trials and tribulations of the family.



## Quotes

"Our brave sister has given us all the gift of life, this night" (Moondark, p. 3).

"There must be a reason" (Bitterthorn, p. 17).

"S'pose you was sittin' in the middle of a whole flock of gulls, all squawkin' away, and then one goes quiet. You'd never know, would you" (Snow-sickness, p. 38).

"Don't grieve child...for what you have lost" (The Dark Chantments, p. 54).

"When the Merithuran came, Marna told me to hide the Wheel - to keep it safe, in the hive. But I was not afraid to make the sacrifice - to keep us all safe" (The Treasure of the Bees, p. 79).

"I can help to ease the outward pains, the cold in the hands and feet. And I can slow the disease. Your powers will not fade for a long time" (The Red City, p. 106).

"Wherever you are, Calwyn, that is his home" (The Frozen Forest, p. 135).

"The robes that Halwi kept, and the hairpins, were made in Antaris. They must have belonged to Cakida" (The Time of One Egg, p. 142).

"It is forbidden to enter the waters. They quench life's flame" (By the Knot of the Waters, p. 170).

"Something is eating at the fabric of the world. This sickness may be part of it" (The Arrival of the Voiced Ones, p. 176).

"As good friends as you and Darrow once were" (The Boat in the Clouds, p. 210).

"The Singer's powers are not only of the light, Calwyn. It is time to walk in the dark" (The Silver Ship, p. 230).

"Hand to hand, the world's circle danced, the people, the trees, the land, the sea, the moons, the stars...without beginning, without end" (The Secret of the Wheel, p. 246).

"She has gone. But sometimes we dance for the sake of those who remain behind" (The Flight of the Goddess, p. 268).

"This world breathes chantment as we breathe air, and drinks in the dance like water" (One Music, p. 272).

"You have the dark chantments, little daughter. If you must, you will defend yourself, and all chantment, and the well-being of the world" (The Singer of All Songs, p. 305).



## Topics for Discussion

Who is Calwyn? Why does she feel like she is an outsider in her own city? What does Calwyn recall about her life before leaving Antaris? What is Elena's biggest demon that haunts her? Why is this important? How does it change her life?

Discuss the relationship between Darrow and Calwyn. Are they really in love? Is there love, guilt or a sense of obligation in their relationship? How does Darrow feel about Calwyn? How does Calwyn feel about Darrow? Why does Darrow keep fighting off the relationship with Calwyn? What does she do about it?

How does Calwyn lose her powers? How does this affect the future? How does Calwyn gain back her powers? Why Calwyn keep her powers returning a secret at first? How does Calwyn feel about becoming the Singer of All Songs?

Who is the true Darrow? Why is he searching for Samis? Why do you think he is cured of the snow-sickness? What do you think will happen to the relationship between Darrow and Calwyn? Do you think they will be able to teach everyone the chantments just as they have always dreamed of doing?

Who is Keela? Why does she continuously try to help throughout the novel? What happens after Keela falls into the healing waters? Do you think Keela and Tonno end up in a romantic relationship?

Who is Samis? Do you ever find out why he wants Calwyn to be the Singer of All Songs instead of Samis? Where do you think he goes when he sails off on the Silver Ship? Do you think he can survive on the ship and for how long? Do you think he possesses the powers to land the ship or do you think he wanted Calwyn to send him off to die?

Discuss the chantments. What impact do the chantments have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them or hold them back? Why are the chantments an issue to the characters? Do the chantments have anything to do with way the relationships between the characters develop and evolve?