

# **Throne of Glass Study Guide**

## **Throne of Glass by Sarah J. Maas**

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## Plot Summary

"Throne of Glass" by Sarah J. Maas is a coming-of-age tale about a young, very capable woman facing overwhelming odds. Celaena was once the Assassin of Adarlan, who defied the king and earned the reputation of the deadliest assassin in the world, but wound up imprisoned and enslaved to work in the Endovier salt mines for the rest of her life after losing her beloved and suffering through incredible loss. A year after her sentence is declared, she is summoned by the Crown Prince, Dorian, who convinces her to make a deal. Celaena agrees to test her abilities against dozens of opponents in competition for the title of King's Champion. In return for just a few years of service, Dorian swears that she will be paid well and rewarded further with her freedom. She agrees, at first planning to escape but instead rapidly forming meaningful friendships with both Prince Dorian and his best friend and Captain of the Royal Guard Chaol. When she arrives at the castle, she quickly begins training to best the other contestants while struggling to keep her identity a secret. Meanwhile, her relationships with both Dorian and Chaol begin to take on romantic leanings, even as the other Champions are being discovered dead one by one, and appear to have been ripped apart. With the help of Dorian and Chaol, and Princess Nehemia of Eyllwe, Celaena continues training against the Champions, especially the warrior Cain, who proves to be the largest challenge amongst the contestants by far, and also seeks to learn who or what is killing the Champions. The mystery deepens as she is visited by the spirit of Queen Elena, a member of the fairy race and first Queen of Adarlan, who insists that Celaena must win the Championship and rid the castle of the evil that inhabits it. She attempts to uncover the secrets of Wyrdblocks, magical writings, which she suspects are responsible for the bizarre killings of the other champions. Just as she begins to suspect Nehemia of the killings, her searchings bring her face to face against Cain and a terrible monster known as a ridderak, which she barely escapes with her life. This occurs just before the final duel, the winner of which will be named King's Champion. Celaena is poisoned just moments before facing off with Cain, who has been using the demons that he has summoned in order to steal the strength of the other contestants. After being severely beaten by her opponent, Celaena is suddenly rescued when Nehemia manages to summon Queen Elena to the assassin's side. The spirit quickly rids Celaena of the poison and takes Cain strength away, and Celaena emerges victorious as King's Champion, strong with the friendships she forged along the way.



# chapters 1-10

## chapters 1-10 Summary

In chapter one, Celaena is in the mines of Endovier when she is approached by a man in black and taken into a building. She has been a slave for a year in the salt mines. The man who leads her turns out to be Chaol Westfall, Captain of the Royal Guard. From there, she is taken to see Prince Adarlan, the son of the King who imprisoned her in the first place.

In chapter two, Celaena refuses to bow before the prince. Duke Perrington, also present, forces her to the ground, but is chastised by Prince Adarlan for cruelty. The prince then formally introduces himself to Celaena. Captain Westfall informs the Prince of Celaena's escape attempt several months ago, and the prince is stunned that she managed to survive the attempt. She considers another escape attempt in the room, but before she can execute it, the prince announces that he wants to make her an offer.

In chapter three, Prince Dorian explains that his father is looking to silence people in his Kingdoms and the lands that he has conquered. After six years of serving as the King's Champion, Celaena may be given her freedom. She must first compete for the position of Champion, however, and duel against twenty-three others in the glass castle. Dorian offers to let her go free after five years, but she must compete against the others under an alias, so that no one knows her true identity. Celaena agrees, but bargains for four years of service instead of five. They leave for Rifthold the next morning.

In chapter four, Celaena goes to sleep, imagining herself growing stronger once again after her year of slavery. Captain Westfall wakes her the next morning. She is thrilled to begin her new journey towards freedom, but thinks about the prisoners still left in the salt mines. She dresses, and they begin their travels. Captain Westfall shackles her to prevent her from attempting an escape. They move through Oakwald Forest, and eventually Celaena tries to converse with Westfall. She learns that he is a lord, but that some sort of scandal prevents him from claiming his title.

In chapter five, the group breaks for lunch, and Celaena sees Prince Dorian and Duke Perrington arguing. The soldiers around her complain about the forest they are in, known as Brannon's Forest, and one of them believes there are faeries in it. Westfall asks her what she knows about the area, and she pretends to know very little about it. In fact, she is well aware that it was once the land of King Brennan and his fae. They resume traveling and finally set camp for the night, but when she awakens she finds white flowers and small footprints outside of her tent.

In chapter six, the group spends the next two weeks traveling, and the land gets continually darker and colder as they do so. Prince Dorian takes Celaena and Chaol to see the glass castle from a distance, and then they set up camp for the night. Celaena tells Chaol that she hated the other assassins she trained with as a youth, and that they



envied her abilities. She also tells him about the horrors of working in the Endovier salt mines. Later that night, she awakens from a nightmare.

In chapter seven, the group finally enters the city of Rifthold, and approaches the glass castle. They dismount once inside the courtyard, and Dorian informs Celaena that her room is in the stone castle, which is inside the glass one. Chaol takes her to her rooms and she quickly takes note of all the windows and exits. The guards are armed with crossbows, but she knows that she could manage to escape from them if she wished to do so. She ties a weapon together made of sharp hairpins, then hides it in her bed. She examines the rest of her chambers, and sleeps for an hour before the tailor arrives to make appropriate clothing for her. Afterwards, she meets a servant of the royal household named Philipa Spindlehead, who is to be Celaena's personal servant.

Meanwhile, Dorian has met with his father. The King is upset about the fact that Dorian chose Celaena to enter the competition. Perrington has chosen a powerful warrior named Cain, and the King feels that it was a much stronger choice than the assassin his son chose. He warns Dorian against trying to engage in romance with Celaena. Dorian mocks his father, and the King strikes him in retaliation.

In chapter eight, Chaol gives Celaena a brief tour of the castle. They pass Queen Havilliard's court, and through a set of glass doors, Chaol shows her the clock tower. Celaena takes note of a strange symbol that is etched on the ground, and Chaol has no idea what it is. He finally takes her to the library, and Chaol allows her to go inside. According to the guard captain, there are over one million books inside of the library. This fact thrills Celaena, because she loves books. However, he forbids her to read any of them, as they are the king's property. She writes a letter to Prince Adarlan asking for permission to read them. She receives seven books from the prince that he commands her to read. The next morning, she awakens, looks for Chaol, but instead overhears three women talking about the prince, and one of them refers to Celaena as a harlot. She throws a flower vase at them.

In chapter nine, Celaena prepares herself for the competition. Philipa comes into her chambers and praises her beauty. Chaol bursts in and demands Celaena come with him at once upstairs. He takes her to see the king, which will mark the official beginning of the competition.

In chapter ten, Celaena arrives with Chaol inside a large chamber. She is nervous and uncomfortable from her clothing. The king is there with Prince Dorian. She notices that the king is wielding his sword, Nothung. The other competitors are also there, and they are all men. The king tells the competitors that they will face training and contests against one another for the next thirteen weeks, and that they expect some of the competitors will die.



## chapters 1-10 Analysis

In this section, the main character is introduced and her background is explored. Celaena is a very young woman who trained as an assassin and wound up serving a prison sentence in the Endovier mines. King Havillion was directly responsible for her imprisonment, and it is also revealed that he told the guards of the mines to keep her alive as long as possible in order that she continue to suffer. She bears permanent physical and emotional scars from the brutality she experienced as a slave. Celaena's mind is fixated on survival and possible escape, and much of her internal dialogue concerns itself with searching for possible means of escape from her captors. She makes crude weapons and constantly sizes up the guards around her. She was once known as the deadliest assassin in the world, and her skills appear to still be quite sharp, despite her concern that a year in prison has caused them to deteriorate somewhat. Her strength of will and force of character are emphasized when the prince is informed that she not only survived an escape attempt from the mines several months ago, but also managed to get much farther than any previous escape attempts ever had. However, Celaena did not expect to escape, and informs the prince she was aware that no one had even made the attempt and survived before her. Celaena is also very intelligent, and loves to read. She has two possible romantic interests as well. Chaol is almost completely opposite from Celaena in every way, but the two converse often, and it is difficult to believe that Celaena is only trying to get information from him just for the sake of murdering or escaping from him. Prince Dorian is also, quite possibly, a source of romantic interest for the main character. He is widely regarded as extremely handsome, and clearly has an unstable relationship with his father. Given Celaena's feelings about the king, it is very likely the two will grow closer to one another. The creatures who left Celaena the flowers in the forest will also very likely come to her aid in the future, as it is revealed that the king wishes to destroy the ancient woods, for fear of Brennan.



# chapters 11-20

## chapters 11-20 Summary

In chapter eleven, Chaol wakes Celaena and shows her a large breakfast, warning her that the competition begins in an hour. Chaol does not know what any of the challenges will be. He leads her into a giant rectangular room, where many of the contestants are already present. Cain enters and says good morning to her, but he is condescending. Chaol has her pick a weapon off a rack. The two spar with swords, and she discovers he is an excellent swordsman, and he manages to defeat her. She chooses knives for the second sparring match.

In chapter twelve, the sparring is stopped by a man who introduces himself as Theodus Brullo, the weapons master and judge of the competition. He has each of the competitors introduce themselves. Many of them are ex-soldiers or thieves. The last man to introduce himself, Grave, is an assassin, and she worries about him because he looks dangerous. Celaena introduces herself as Lillian Gordaina, a jewel thief. Brullo announces that the first challenge is a distance run, to take place in five days. When they race in practice, Cain takes the lead. Celaena finishes in the middle, then goes into the forest and vomits from exhaustion.

In chapter thirteen, Chaol surprisingly joins Celaena for lunch. She discovers that Chaol enjoys reading as well. Later, he takes her on a walk around the castle, and is surprised to encounter an Eyllwe Princess, Nehemia Ytger. Celaena knows the princess often aids rebels. Nehemia dislikes the woman she is being made to walk around with, a lady named Kaltain. Celaena dismisses Kaltain with Chaol's help. Celaena asks the princess why she is in Rifthold. Nehemia came at the request of her father in order to learn the language and customs of the people of Adarlan. She asks Celaena if they can spend more time together.

In chapter fourteen Celaena continues her training with Chaol. She trains very hard, but does everything she can to avoid attracting attention from Brullo or any of the other Champions. The day before the first event, Chaol does not show up in the morning. In the training hall, Brullo is absent, but there are more guards present than usual. Pelor, a poorly trained assassin and one of the competitors, tells her that one of the Champions, named Bill Chastain, nicknamed Eye-Eater, was found dead that morning. He appeared to have been torn apart. She spends training time with another contestant, named Nox, and helps teach him to throw knives. Chaol joins her later. She learns that he was supposed to be Lord of Anielle, but gave up the throne to be Captain of the Royal Guard.

In chapter fifteen, the first test finally arrives, and still no one has any idea what to expect. The sponsors of the champions, including Prince Dorian, are all present. Brullo calls the Champions to attention, and reveals that the first test is a simple archery target. Chaol directs her to the end of the line. Cain performs excellently. During



Celaena's turn, she gets annoyed with the other competitors for laughing at her. She strikes dead center on the target.

In chapter sixteen, three days after the race, Celaena still feels out of shape and has begun to get up earlier in order to train. Chaol sees the scars on her back, which she got from lashings in Endovier. The next afternoon, while Brullo is lecturing them on weapons, one of the Champions begins attacking the guards. He attempts to escape, but is shot with an arrow. She wonders why the Champion, Sven, chose that moment to try to escape.

In chapter seventeen, Prince Dorian is at court, worried about the murder of Eye Eater and the death of Sven. His mother the queen is there, and insists that he marry soon. She jokes that he might marry Nehemia. She also suggests Kaltain, but Dorian is disgusted by the idea. He feels very bored with the women at court in general. The queen gives him a list of potential brides. He sees Celaena with Nehemia, stunned to find the assassin unguarded and armed with a sword. He tells her that she is not allowed to have Nehemia with her while training. Instead, Celaena tries to make him spar with the princess. He begins practicing swords with them.

In chapter eighteen, Chaol arrives just as Nehemia and Dorian begin to spar. He orders Celaena back to her room.

In chapter nineteen, Kaltain is in court, dressed up to impress Dorian, but she is disappointed when the prince leaves quickly. Duke Perrington arrives, and Kaltain decides to try and get information from him. She lies and tells the Duke that Dorian is in love with Celaena. Later, Dorian and Chaol are discussing the events earlier in the day. The captain warns the prince that he must stay away from Celaena because she is still dangerous. They discuss Eye-Eater's death and its possible implications, but still have no idea who the culprit is.

In chapter twenty, Celaena is worried about both Chaol's behavior and the death of Eye-Eater. She tries to distract herself by playing the pianoforte. Prince Dorian listens to her play from the hallway. He enters her chambers and asks after the books he made her read, and wonders if she is lonely. He begins to make advances towards her, and she instructs him to leave. As he prepares to do so, she tells him about a former lover of hers named Sam.

## chapters 11-20 Analysis

The stakes rise sharply with the death of Eye-Eater. The king is also behaving somewhat suspiciously, which strongly suggests his motives may not be as straightforward as they once seemed. Celaena, while trying desperately to get back into shape for the Tests, is also confronted with the possibility that she might not succeed at them. Chaol's behavior towards her suggests that he has a growing interest in her, but his outward reactions to her irreverent behavior seem hostile, and he is clearly threatened by her. Hence, he attempts at keeping her isolated from both Nehemia and





Dorian might be from jealousy just as much as they are a concern for the others' safety. Unbeknownst to the assassin, she has earned a new enemy in Kaltain, and she is likely not accustomed to the weapons that would be used by a lady in court. It is very likely that Kaltain managed to encourage Perrington to address her problems to the king, which could have serious consequences for Celaena. Meanwhile, the tests that Celaena must face appear to be increasing in difficulty. Her dissatisfaction with the treatment she receives from many of the other Champions is beginning to cause trouble. As Chaol suggested, she would be better off avoiding attention, making her accomplishments somewhere in the middle of the others. But she is already struggling with this, as her performance in the archery contest demonstrates. She wants the others, especially Cain, to know how skilled she really is, and risks exposing herself in doing so.



# Chapters 21-30

## Chapters 21-30 Summary

In chapter twenty-one, the Second Test is a wall-climbing challenge. Another of the Champions has gone missing. Celaena is using tar to grip the walls, and she and the others make their way towards a flag. Ned Clement suddenly falls to his death. She sees Grave the assassin shove her friend Nox aside and then begin to cut his rope. Celaena jumps to save him.

In chapter twenty-two, Celaena catches Nox just as he begins falling, but they slam into a wall. She winds up finishing next to last, just in front of Nox, but no one is disqualified since Ned Clement died in the test. Chaol tries to comfort her, and she learns that her old master made her pay her back for her training. Philipa comes in later to tell them that the Champion who didn't show up to the test was found killed in the same way as Eye-Eater. The challenges seem to have gotten much more difficult, and Celaena has begun to doubt that she'll make it.

In chapter twenty-three, Chaol wakes up from another nightmare. It is Samhuinn, and he's come to see if she would like to attend a temple service with her. There is another test the next day, so she declines his invitation. Later, Dorian runs into Chaol, Nehemia, and Celaena after the service. Earlier, Duke Perrington introduced a plan to hold Nehemia hostage and send more forces to her homeland of Eyllwe. Dorian managed to delay any decision until his father returned. Celaena, Nehemia, and Chaol go to a festival in honor of the holiday. Celaena declines going to the feast, however. Nehemia wants Celaena to teach her the native language of Adarlan better, and she agrees to do so. They pass Cain near the clock tower, who is kneeling in front of it. When he sees them, he hurries away. Nehemia recognizes the mark on the ground that Celaena noticed earlier. It is a Wyrddmark.

In chapter twenty-four, Celaena can't sleep, so she is lying awake in her room. She studies a tapestry in her room and realizes there is a doorway behind it. She opens the door, gathers supplies and enters the corridors. As she explores the tunnels, she keeps track of her progress with yarn. She descends to a sewer entrance, and sees several boats tied next to the banks of a stream that begins outside of the castle. This, she realizes, is her chance to escape, but doing so would disgrace Chaol, leave Nehemia alone, and she would spend the rest of her life fleeing King Adarlan. She continues exploring, and eventually hears music. She winds up just above the feast in the Great Hall, and realizes that she is the only Champion not allowed to attend. She discovers that she's jealous when she sees Dorian dancing with someone else. She spots Chaol leaving, and hurries back to her rooms. Hours later, Dorian comes back into her rooms. Chaol arrives and asks Dorian why he is there. Chaol tells him to leave immediately, and quickly tosses the prince out. Chaol has brought her a present from the party: a simple silver ring with an amethyst in the middle.



In chapter twenty-five, Celaena dreams of the secret passage again. She comes across two sarcophagi, one of a man and another of a woman. She then sees the Wyrddmark that is on the ground near the Clock Tower, then realizes that the walls are covered with other Wyrddmarks. She realizes the woman in the sarcophagus is Fae, which means the man is Gavin, the first King of Adarlan. The sword he holds is named Damaris. The spirit of Queen Elena Havilliard appears and tells her that something evil dwells inside the castle, and that Celaena must stop it. Something howls as it approaches them, and Elena hands Celaena a metallic object and tells her to flee. She awakens, and finds that the metal object has remained with her. It is an amulet with a blue gem. She decides to look at the tomb inside the secret passageway.

In chapter twenty-six, Chaol comes back to her chambers early in the morning. He asks her where she was the night before. Another Champion, Xavier, has been found dead, torn apart the same way the others were. She pretends to go back to sleep, then leaves to explore the tunnels once more when Chaol departs. She finds no clues there, however, and gives up her search. She returns to her quarters and convinces one of her guards to take her to the library. On the way, she manages to get a look at Xavier's body, which has been horribly mangled. Grave is also at the crime scene.

Later, Dorian and Chaol are sparring. Dorian feels out of shape from not having practiced in weeks. They both want to know what the other was doing in Celaena's chambers the night before. They are also concerned about the king's disappearance.

In chapter twenty-seven, Celaena inspects the gargoyles on the Clock Tower and Nehemia in with her, and asks about Xavier's body, and as Celaena describes it they are approached by Verin, the thief, and Cain. The men taunt Celaena and Nehemia, and then Cain reveals that he knows who she is. Later, Dorian and Chaol watch her train. Nox enters, and Dorian is surprised to learn she is helping him.

Days later, Celaena is reading a book and trying to find information on Wyrddmarks. She gives up in frustration. Chaol asks her what she is trying to read. He asks why she is so annoyed, and she responds that she is frustrated because there is next to no real information of Wyrddmarks. Instead, she is finding strange and radical theories about them, and all that she wishes to know is why they are present in the castle. There is one theory that suggests the Wyrddmarks are symbols that control Wyrddgates, which lead to different worlds. She finds a book entitled "The Walking Dead." She begins to look through it, but closes it quickly when she hears a noise and feels a presence close to her. She grabs other books and leaves with Chaol.

In chapter twenty-eight, Celaena is practicing Billiards, frustrated with the sport's level of difficulty. Dorian watches her, then joins her in a game. They play until after two in the morning. Dorian finds her to be very intelligent. Eventually, she asks if he thinks the Champion murders have been intentional, but the prince confesses not to know what their reasons are. Finally, Celaena is exhausted. Dorian takes her to her room, then makes his way back to his own room.



In chapter twenty-nine, the next test is a sparring duel. The winners are safe, but one of the losers will face elimination. Celaena must duel Verin, and she defeats him without a problem. Later on, Kaltain is sitting in the Queen's Court. She is intent on marrying Dorian. She is attempting to manipulate the queen to get closer to the prince.

In chapter thirty, during training, Celaena reveals to Chaol that Cain knows who she is. Guards inform Chaol that another murder has taken place. They both go to investigate. Verin is the victim this time, and he has been killed in the same way as the others. Celaena is quickly able to determine from the scene that someone bound Verin, then summoned a monster to kill him. Later, Dorian finds Celaena reading. He hasn't slept well, and he asks her to play the pianoforte. She refuses because playing reminds her of Sam and her past with him. She asks him why he hasn't married yet, and he explains that he doesn't want to marry anyone less intelligent or willful than him. He notices the ring Chaol gave her and asks about it, but she doesn't tell him who gave it to her. Meanwhile, Chaol is with Perrington and Kaltain. He notices that the Duke's eyes are behaving strangely.

## Chapters 21-30 Analysis

Even though Celaena doubts her abilities to win the challenges, she is still a strong opponent and gets stronger every day. Her heroics in the second test prove that she is more than just an assassin at heart, as Nox is one of her competitors, but also a friend, and she risks her life and her place in the challenge in order to save his life. As terrible as her past may have been, she is still fiercely loyal to her friends. Chaol is possibly the best example of this loyalty. She began the book hating him, but now clearly cares for him, and certainly doesn't think of ways to escape or kill him any longer. Dorian is another good example of the way Celaena has changed towards people, and a very interesting fact revealed in a conversation between the two is that Celaena once wanted to be a healer, almost the diametrical opposite of what she became. Celaena was a girl who never had the opportunity to decide her own fate, and her time in the castle is the freest she has ever been. She has put the time to good use, making strong friends with others and ensuring the safety of those friends. Her character contrasts sharply with that of Kaltain's. The noblewoman who seeks to destroy Celaena is self-serving, manipulative, and totally uninteresting to both Dorian and Chaol. She fails to notice the strange transformation of the Duke, apparent in his face. She uses Perrington ineffectually to get closer to Dorian, while Perrington may in fact be connected to the murders of the Champions in some way, since Chaol knows that something is clearly wrong with him. Perrington is also almost certainly involved in the King's disappearance somehow. Chaol and Dorian have not been getting along well at all lately, and this is due to the fact that they both clearly have feelings for Celaena. At this point, Celaena seems interested in Dorian more than Chaol, but no solid romantic ties have been created just yet. This means that feelings of jealousy could soon come to play an important role in the development of the story. Celaena seems to have given up the idea of not attracting attention to herself during the contest, and Cain is the one who has driven her to make her skills known amongst the other Champions. As Perrington's personal Champion, he is certainly playing a role in the murders, and depending on



Celaena's connection to the Fae and King Brenna, which has been both mentioned and implied but never directly explained to the reader, she may be in danger soon. More about Celaena's past and her family is bound to play a role in either this story or future ones.



## chapters 31-40

### chapters 31-40 Summary

In chapter thirty-one, Elena's spirit again visits Celaena in her chambers. Elena reminds Celaena that she must win the competition and directs her back inside the tunnels. The next test for the Champions involves identifying seven poisons and arranging them from least to most dangerous. They must then drink the deadliest poison with the antidote nearby. She sees the poison specialist, Pelor, arrange his poisons and mimics his. They wind up getting the order right.

In chapter thirty-two Celaena is with Nehemia, teaching her the language of Adarlan. The princess asks her why she is so carefully guarded, as Celaena is still pretending to be Lady Lillian to keep her identity a secret. They visit the prince's kennels, and find Dorian there. Celaena sees a dog that doesn't respond appropriately to humans, and Dorian explains that it will have to be killed if it doesn't socialize soon. Celaena asks to keep the animal. As she and Nehemia leave, the princess notes that Celaena seems to have a strong connection to Dorian. Celaena encounters Cain later, who appears to be choking, but the Champion runs away when he sees her.

In chapter thirty-three, Kaltain is again with Duke Perrington, who has come to see her. She is under the effects of a drug taken recently. Perrington tells her that Lady Lillian—Celaena's false identity—may have a questionable background. Back with Celaena in her quarters, Nehemia returns and tells Celaena that Adarlan's army has just butchered hundreds of Eyllwe rebels.

In chapter thirty-four, Chaol visits Celaena late at night to see how she feels about the news of the rebels. But Celaena is genuinely not feeling well. She tells him she is on her menstrual cycle, and he makes a hasty retreat. Dorian visits her later, and teases her about feeling ill, but Dorian realizes that he cares deeply about her and admits that he feels terrible about the way his father's soldiers acted in Eyllwe.

In chapter thirty-five, the next night, Chaol watches Celaena and Dorian from above the courtyard. She has been successful in three more tests since the one with the poisons, but three more Champions have been found murdered. Six Champions remain. Dorian notices the amulet that Celaena was given by Queen Elena, and recognizes it. She changes the subject by asking about the arrival of his brother, but the weather has delayed his return and stranded him at school. Later, in her bed, she discovers countless Wyrdblocks scrawled over the floor. She leaves her chambers immediately and heads for the library with the guards assigned to her. She runs into Nehemia, surprised to find her reading complicated texts when she is still struggling to learn the language. Nehemia is curt with Celaena and leaves quickly. Celaena discovers a Wyrdblock on paper left behind by the princess.



In chapter thirty-six, days have passed, and another test occurs, leaving only five Champions. It is Yulemas, another holiday, and someone leaves her a bag of candy, which she devours. Philipa enters and scolds her. She dresses and meets Dorian at the temple. He reveals that he sent the candy and gives her the dog that she asked for as a present. Celaena wants her to be trained. She has come to suspect that Nehemia is behind the Champion murders and decides to disguise herself and attend the ball, knowing that it will make Chaol furious when she does so.

In chapter thirty-seven, Celaena goes to temple with Chaol. She finds the sermon boring and falls asleep. She wakes up later, and children begin to hand out the blessings of the Gods. Celaena receives the gift of Deanna, Goddess of the Hunt and Protector of Youth.

In chapter thirty-eight, Philipa helps Celaena prepare for the ball. The guards unquestioningly escort her there when she is ready. Dorian is shocked to see her enter—recognizing her instantly despite the fact that she wears a costume. He sees Chaol approach her, and is jealous as the two enter the crowd together. Chaol, however, seems mostly upset at her presence. Nevertheless, he relents and allows her to remain at the ball. Finally, Nehemiah approaches from her place next to the queen. She complains to Chaol that no one will ask her to dance since he is watching her too closely. Celaena asks Chaol to dance, but he says no, because he is concerned about drawing Perrington's attention to them. Dorian approaches them and dances with Celaena instead.

In chapter thirty-nine, Chaol watches Celaena and Dorian dance. He is approached by a courtier named Otho, after information about Celaena. The prince and the assassin are being watched by many, including Kaltain, who is furious that they dance together. The ball continues until three in the morning, at which point most of the guests have left. Celaena decides it is safe to leave. She returns to her chambers, and Dorian arrives there shortly after. They kiss, but she quickly sends him away and goes to sleep. Chaol watches Celaena walk onto her balcony and look up at the night sky.

In chapter forty, Celaena is woken up by her puppy, and Dorian enters. It's one in the afternoon, and she is two days away from the final test before the duel. Nearby, in the palace greenhouse, Kaltain is with Perrington, still upset about seeing Celaena with Dorian at the ball. Perrington tells her the truth about Celaena, and that the king feels drastic measures must be taken to prevent Celaena from growing even closer to the prince. They plan to poison her before the duel with Cain.

## chapters 31-40 Analysis

The two most significant developments to occur during this section of the story pertain to Nehemia's relationship with Celaena, and Kaltain's increasing jealousy of the assassin. Nehemia is almost certainly not involved in the murders of the other Champions, and it is fairly common for a "red-herring" to be thrown the reader's way at this point in the novel, but her strange actions do warrant suspicion with respect to her



presence in the castle. She seems more familiar with the language than she let on, and yet pretended to need help with it from Celaena. Nehemia is concealing something from Celaena, but that is as far as can be told. Kaltain's frustration over her inability to engage Dorian has finally grown to murderous proportions, and Perrington seems to be under external magical influences, as indicated by the black ring on his finger, which appears to flash or pulse with magical energy. This reinforces the idea that he is connected with the murders of the Champions, but the sight of Cain comes unexpected, and may be significant later on in the story, even if there is little mention of it directly after the event. Celaena has developed her friendships with the castle's inhabitants to the extent that even her own guards are fond of her. Her feelings for Dorian and Chaol have become much stronger as well, but Chaol's inability to express his own feelings for her is creating a rift between them. The misunderstanding Chaol is trying to perpetuate—that he believes Celaena is dangerous and must be avoided—is convincing enough that even Chaol himself buys into it here and there. He takes his rank and position in the king's court very seriously, and is constantly reminded that Celaena is a dangerous assassin, despite her rampant popularity. It may be his insistence she be kept more or less in her chambers is simply an ill-executed attempt to keep her to himself, or at least away from Dorian, but if that is the case, he has failed miserably.





# chapters 41-50

## chapters 41-50 Summary

In chapter forty-one, late at night, Celaena is in bed, studying Wyrdmarks again. She has discovered the symbol under her bed is the symbol for a ridderak, a monster that kills humans and gives its victim's strength to its summoner. Celaena suspects Nehemia now more than ever. She goes into the tunnels to see if the monster is down there. She discovers Cain down inside the tunnels, not Nehemia.

In chapter forty-two, Celaena sees the ridderak appear. Cain spots her, then traps her in the chamber with the beast. She waits until the monster charges her, then jumps over it. The ridderak breaks through a door, and Celaena escapes through it, running towards Elena's tomb. She grabs the king's sword once inside of it, and kills the monster. She recovers slowly, then returns to her chambers. Nehemia joins her, and she takes her to the bathing rooms. The princess' arms are covered in Wyrdmarks.

In chapter forty-three, Celaena awakens, healed from the bite she got while escaping the monster the night before. Nehemia is still with her. Celaena tells Nehemia who she really is—an assassin—and Nehemia grants her a new name, Elentiya, which means "spirit that could not be broken." She meets up with Chaol the next morning, but keeps her encounter with Cain quiet. During their training, the king returns.

In chapter forty-four, Celaena can tell something has changed the king during his absence. Later, Chaol reads the king's report of where he'd been, which says everyone in the group he traveled with died, but is not specific about how or when this happened.

In chapter forty-five, Celaena trains with Nox, and looks Cain over carefully, noticing that he has a black ring. Cain does not look surprised to see her alive. Celaena tries to convince Nox to escape the castle. She admits that she is an assassin and reveals her true identity to him. Nox flees the castle that night. Later, Kaltain walks toward the Great Hall for dinner with Perrington and sees Cain with a number of winged creatures, but is too heavily drugged to worry about it. Meanwhile, Celaena plays chess with Dorian. When he leaves, she eventually drifts off to sleep and has a nightmare about being chased in the forest. She is informed that the last test has been cancelled and instead she will Duel Grave, Renault, and Cain the very next day.

In chapter forty-six, Dorian is hunting, obsessed over the kiss he shared with Celaena. Celaena stays awake late into the night, worrying about her duel with Cain and what she might be made to do as the King's Champion.

In chapter forty-seven, Kaltain waits for the duel to begin in the cold morning. She has the poison for Celaena. Eventually, Celaena arrives. Grave and Renault are already there. Chaol reveals that the decision to have the duels outside was just made by the king. They are brought before him, and he explains the rules of the duel. Cain begins



dueling with Renault, and Chaol tells Celaena that Cain forgets to guard his right side. Finally, Cain strikes his opponent's nose and the duel is over. Celaena is to fight Grave next. Chaol offers her his sword, while Nehemia presents her staff. She chooses the staff. She thanks Chaol for her freedom and the duel begins.

In chapter forty-eight, Celaena defeats Grave in two minutes without difficulty. The king announces wine for the winners, and Kaltain presents it. The duel begins between Cain and Celaena, and the poison quickly takes effect in Celaena's system. She struggles to keep on the offensive and finally lands a blow, but is too weak to drive it home. She hears Kaltain laugh, and realizes what has happened to her. Cain begins to attack and taunt her. The staff she wields breaks, and Cain strikes her shoulder and dislocates it. Dorian watches, knowing something is wrong, but unable to do anything about it. Celaena is cut by Cain's sword on her thigh, then he strikes her in the face with his fist. Cain begins physically assaulting her as she lies on the ground. She sees a pale, rotting man in front of her, and thinks the hallucinations have begun from the poison. Chaol comes to her and tells her to get up. Cain grabs her and throws her against the Clock Tower. She sees blackness everywhere, and understands it is not just a hallucination or her losing consciousness. Winged monsters begin to attack just as Cain does. He rips the amulet from her neck.

In chapter forty-nine, Chaol watches in horror as Cain batters the greatly weakened Celaena. Nehemia walks to the edge of the ring. Celaena kneels and waits to die. Suddenly, doors appear all around her and burst open. Elena comes through the swarm of dead and monsters. Wind knocks Cain over just as he prepares to strike a killing blow. Light engulfs Celaena, protecting her from her enemies. Elena removes the poison from Celaena's body. She also takes Cain's power away. Celaena stands to fight again.

In chapter fifty, Celaena quickly stabs Cain with the broken staff. She continues the attack, slicing his arm open. The king announces her as the victor. Nehemia collapses, and then Celaena. Dorian rushes to her side. He calls to a healer. Cain pulls out a dagger, but Chaol quickly stabs him in the heart. Kaltain confronts Perrington about his failed plan, but Duke Perrington feigns ignorance and appears confused when she insists that he gave her the poison in the first place. The king has Kaltain imprisoned.

## chapters 41-50 Analysis

The focus of the story has steadily been shifting away from the tests and more towards Celaena's relationships with the other major characters. Both Chaol and Dorian care deeply for the assassin by now, complicating their relationship to their king and his court. But the main point of the story becomes Celaena's confrontation with Cain, which is the only true challenge that she must face before setting right the evils brought about by the Wyrdblocks. Perrington does not, as of yet, seem directly connected to the murders of the Champions, but there are clearly more loose ends which must be resolved before the novel is brought to a conclusion, even if the book is one of a series, which by definition should allow it to keep several questions unanswered for a later



installment. Still, a little more is needed between the king and Duke Perrington before the book can conclude successfully, since it is likely whatever plots they have been hatching will become very important in the later novels. Both of these characters helped to poison Celaena, and they both seem familiar with Wyrdblocks. Cain was seen wearing the same kind of black ring sported by both Perrington and the King, and they likely taught the Champion the Wyrdblocks necessary to summon the *ridderak* in the first place. How the king's absence ties into the situation remains a mystery, although it is implied he gathers more in the way of magical power. The current conflict overcome by Celaena is clearly one in a series of conflicts that began long ago with Elena and the first king, if not earlier. This means, as Cain implied, that Celaena's parents may have played a role in this conflict, and weren't simply rebels against Adarlan. Nehemia's story is also yet to be concluded, and she seems to be connected to Elena in a way that Celaena did not expect. What Celaena thought was treachery will probably turn out to be acts of defensive magic in order to protect the Champions and Celaena in particular.



## chapters 51-55

### chapters 51-55 Summary

In chapter fifty-one, Dorian defends Chaol to the king the next morning. The king agrees that Chaol should not be punished. They argue about Celaena, and then Dorian tries to convince his father not to use Nehemia as a hostage, as Perrington suggested. Again, the king agrees. Celaena is recovering, but is still in great pain from the injuries Cain gave to her. Nehemia comes to her and tells Celaena that she did not hallucinate during the duel with him. The demons and ghosts she saw were real, and Celaena was able to see them because she was close to death. Nehemia has been fluent in the language Adarlan since she arrived, but pretended to need lessons in order to spend more time with Celaena. She has been researching Wyrdblocks much the same as Celaena has been, in the hopes of fighting off the monsters Cain was sending through the Wyrdblocks with his magic. She has been destroying his creatures for months now, and was responsible for the Wyrdblocks under Celaena's bed, which were only for the assassin's protection. She used one of the portals to let Elena through. Nehemia returns the amulet, the Eye of Elena, to Celaena.

In chapter fifty-two, Dorian visits Celaena and apologizes for not acting quickly once he knew she'd been poisoned, and for allowing Cain to injure her that badly. Meanwhile, the king ponders what he must do about Celaena and Dorian. He asks Duke Perrington if he was using the power on Kaltain in order to control her, referring to the black rings they both wear, but Perrington confesses that he didn't have to.

In chapter fifty-three, a week after the duel, Celaena has partially recovered, and Chaol comes to see her. She thanks him for killing Cain and saving her life. She hugs him as he tries to leave, and Dorian appears. The king has created her contract, and she is supposed to sign it the next day. He moves to kiss her, but she breaks away from him. It is impossible for them to be together since he is the Crown Prince.

In chapter fifty-four, Chaol finds himself back at Celaena's chambers the same evening. She is at her dinner and tells him she ended the relationship with Dorian. She invites him to join her. That night, she again dreams of Elena's tomb. Elena asks if she is recovered, and tells Celaena that she should be the greatest, most important warrior ever. The people will need Celaena's help, now that she has become the King's Champion.

In chapter fifty-five, Celaena appears before the king to accept the position of Champion. He warns Celaena that if she fails or betrays him in any way, he will have Chaol killed.

### chapters 51-55 Analysis

The story concludes while still leaving several important areas open to development in later installments, as this is only one book in a series focusing on the characters. The



king and Duke Perrington are using some type of black magic, and apparently Kaltain was one of their victims for some time. The friendships between Celaena, Dorian, Chaol, and Nehemia have all survived and will doubtless play a role in future novels, just as the king and Duke Perrington have become clear enemies that Celaena will have to overcome in the future. Though she may serve the king for the next several years, the king will obviously become concerned about her ever-increasing popularity, which has already made her well respected throughout the castle, and if he continues to submerge himself in whatever magics he has summoned, even Chaol and Dorian may find themselves at odds with their King.



# Characters

## Celaena

Celaena is a young, willful individual with a fierce spirit and keen intelligence. She began her life wishing to be a healer, but was quickly drafted into the ranks of assassins after the destruction of her family, rapidly earning herself the title of deadliest assassin in the world. Though she is captured by King Adarlan's forces and sentenced to slavery in the Endovier mines, she is released a year later by the king's son, Crown Prince Dorian, and invited to partake in a contest that would eventually earn her freedom after several years of service as the King's Champion. Celaena quickly makes friends with those around her, including Prince Dorian, Captain of the Royal Guard Chaol Westfall, and Ewlye princess Nehemia, as she struggles to triumph in the tests set for by the king and his court. She is friendly, but possesses a biting tongue at times. She also possesses a strong love of books. Celaena eventually not only manages to triumph against the other possible Champions, but also manages to destroy a great evil that had been attacking people within the castle. With the help of Nehemia in particular, Celaena is able to uncover the mysteries of the Wyrdblocks present in the castle and prevent demons from entering her world. At the end of the novel, Celaena is appointed King's Champion and hailed as a hero to the realm, and told by ancient spirits that the people of the world will sorely need her help.

## Dorian

Prince Dorian Havillan is described as very handsome, and has a reputation amongst the ladies at court for being something of a ladies' man. He chooses Celaena as a potential King's Champion, and quickly develops a strong attachment for her that often puts him at odds with the Captain of the Royal Guard and his best friend, Chaol Westfall. It also clouds his judgement and he visits the assassin numerous times late at night in order to converse with her. He is somewhat arrogant, usually very friendly, and does possess a genuinely human vulnerability that typically manifests itself when he expresses displeasure at his father's actions or disdain for the ladies in his father's court, which he finds boring. Dorian loves to read, and orders Celaena to read several books and tell him what she thinks of them in order to gain access to his father's library. He flirts with the assassin frequently, but deeply fails her during the final duel between herself and the warrior Cain by failing to act when he realizes that she has been poisoned. He suffers from feelings of guilt over doing nothing, and even though Celaena reassures him that there is nothing he could have done, she nonetheless rejects any further romantic advances from him. This does cause him to speak out against his father, however, and Dorian seems far more mature by the end of the novel.



## Chaol

Captain of the Royal Guard Chaol Westfall once had a substantial title to his name, but gave it to his younger brother in favor of remaining in his service to Adarlan. In this way he remained close to his best friend, Prince Dorian. He takes his position very seriously, and often chastises the Prince for his irresponsible actions towards Celaena, even though it is clear that Chaol himself has feelings for the girl, and is using his position as guard captain at least in part as a means of keeping the two separate. He is an excellent swordsman, and despite his sometimes apparently cold and distant nature, unfailingly comes through for all of his friends, especially Celaena, whom he manages to save from Cain's knife after the final duel that leaves Celaena the King's Champion. Like Dorian and Celaena, Chaol enjoys reading. He seems uncertain of his feelings for Celaena through most of the novel. He begins viewing her as an assassin and a dangerous criminal, but his feelings for her undeniably change drastically, and he has great difficulties coping with them, especially since his duties as Royal Guard Captain require him to keep a very close eye on Celaena. The two are in close proximity with one another very often, and Chaol finds himself pretending that she is unimportant to him in order to protect himself from the very real feelings that have developed between the two.

## Nehemia

Princess Nehemia comes from a distant land conquered by the King of Adarlan, and sympathizes greatly with the rebels still there. Though she is friendly and gracious, and claims to have been sent by her father to better learn the customs and language of Adarlan, in truth she is spying on activities in the court and attempting to destroy the source of the Wyrdblocks in the castle. Celaena briefly suspects her of being responsible for the murders in the castle, but Nehemia is actually protecting the Champions as best she can, and making every effort to save Celaena's life.

## Cain

Cain is a powerful soldier from the North, and Duke Perrington's Champion in the competition. Cain is also responsible for the murders of the other Champions. He summons ridders who devour people and transfer their strength to the summoner. He nearly kills Celaena in the final duel for the title of King's Champion, but is ultimately defeated when the spirit of Queen Elena appears and removes his magically enhanced strength. Cain is admired by the other Champions for the most part, but constantly taunts Celaena and is aware of her true identity through most of the challenges.

## King Adarlan

The King is a rough leader. Even his son, Dorian, sees him as cruel and unpleasant. He is also a practitioner of black magic, and spends most of the novel mysteriously absent



from the castle. Little is known about his ultimate goals, except that they naturally include ruling most of the world.

## Perrington

Duke Perrington is an important member of the king's court and at least as ruthless as his master. Perrington chooses Cain as his contestant against Celaendra. He also proposes a plan to hold the princess Nehemia hostage in order to gain more cooperation from her homeland. Kaltain believes that Duke Perrington wishes to marry her, but in the end it turns out she was merely being used by him, for he is also a practitioner of the king's form of black magic.

## Kaltain

Kaltain is a noblewoman obsessed with marrying Prince Dorian, though the prince regards her as boring and average. She is addicted to opium, and her judgement is often compromised as a result. She hates Celaena and agrees to help Perrington poison her, but when the plan fails she is blamed and imprisoned.

## Nox

Nox is a Champion who befriends Celaena during the tests, and is saved by her during a climbing contest when Grave attempts to kill him. He has great respect for Celaena, and follows her advice when she pleads for him to leave the castle when things become dangerous.

## Queen Adarlan

The King's wife, the Queen makes a few appearances in the novel, mostly to pressure her son Dorian into marrying.

## Philipa

Philipa Spindlehead is Celaena's personal attendant, and the two become friends, although Philipa does not get involved in Celaena's affairs.

## Brullo

Theodus Brullo is the competition judge primarily responsible for overseeing most of the tests. He makes the decisions as to who continues and who must leave.





## **Grave**

Grave is another trained assassin. Celaena realizes he might be a problem, and he does attempt to kill Nox, but by the final duel, she is able to defeat him easily with a staff.

## **Pelor**

Pelor is another Champion and assassin, though a poorly trained one by Celaena's standards. He is, however, a poison specialist, and helps Celaena arrange several poisons in the correct order during a test.

## **Bill Chastain/ Eye Eater**

Eye Eater is the first of the Champions discovered to be murdered.

## **Ned Clement**

Ned Clement is a Champion who falls to his death during the climbing test.

## **Elena**

The spirit of Queen Elena urges Celaena to purge the castle of evil and win the contest in order to become the King's Champion.

## **Renault**

Renault is one of the Champions who looks up to Cain and is often by his side taunting Celaena.



# Objects/Places

## Weapons

Weapons are a very common sight throughout the novel. Celaena spends a lot of time when first freed from the mines making crude weapons.

## Poisons

One of the most difficult tests for Celaena involves poisons, and she is poisoned during the final duel.

## Fae

Fairy-folk are said to have disappeared, but the king's soldiers are still afraid of them just the same.

## Wyrdmarks

Wyrdmarks are magical symbols that have various powers. Cain uses them to summon demons, and Nehemia uses them for defensive reasons.

## Books

The three most important characters, Celaena, Dorian, and Chaol are all very fond of books, and the king's library is said to have over one million of them.

## Endovier

Endovier is a slave-labor city where prisoners are forced to mine salt for the king of Adarlan.

## Oakwald Forest

Once home to the Fae, Celaena and the others travel through the ancient woods on their way to Rifthold.

## Rifthold

Rifthold is the capital of Adarlan and home to the glass castle.



## **Glass Castle**

The Glass Castle is actually a series of structures encompassing a regular castle. It was expensive and fragile, but most people feel it is never in any danger.

## **Great Hall**

The Great Hall is commonly where all of the Champions are brought to either practice or compete in the tests.



# Themes

## Freedom

Celaena desires freedom above all else, and this want is often mirrored in the characters that populate the novel at large. The King of Adarlan is seen as the embodiment of tyranny, and has used both military force and magic to dominate most of the world. Most of the characters desire freedom in one way or another. Nehemia desires her homeland to be free from the king's rule, Dorian wishes to be free in whom he chooses to marry, and of course Celaena herself has never really known what it is like to be free. By contrast, the characters who stand in the way of freedom desire power and control. These are exemplified by characters such as Perrington and Cain, who manipulate, bully, and destroy whenever it suits them. The king himself wishes to erase all manners of freedom from the land, and his son, Dorian, resents him for this reason most of all, and by the end of the novel insists that his father show more leniency towards the people he has conquered. The division between good and evil is represented in large part by the battle between those who wish for freedom and those who wish to enslave them, and Celaena spends a great deal of time both looking forward to her own freedom when it should come to her, and fearing for those she has left behind in the salt mines who are still enslaved.

## Knowledge

Celaena's fighting skills are extraordinary, but she is made all the more amazing because she possesses a quick intelligence and makes every attempt to seek out knowledge and information whenever she can. She is constantly attempting to better understand her surroundings, which causes her to notice details completely missed by the other characters and also to sympathize with individuals for reasons that confuse others, as she does with Nehemia. This seeking of knowledge serves Celaena better than any weapon she comes to possess, and in combination with her willful character and sharp wit, cause her to be the source of much pleasure for some characters and much consternation for others. The starkest contrast to Celaena's intelligence and value of knowledge is found in Kaltain, who is regarded by Dorian and Chaol alike to be quite dull, and indeed the noblewoman is so feeble-minded she allows herself to be used and then blamed in the attempted murder of Celaena. Nehemia is also a very intelligent woman, and makes use of her extensive knowledge both in service of her father and people, and also in order to protect Celaena from monsters when necessary. Like Celaena, she is very interested in complicated books, and also goes so far as to disguise the full extent of her knowledge and understanding in order to further her goals.



## Feminism

The book widely embraces a number of characteristics traditionally viewed as feminist while combining them with highly capable female characters. Celaena is the only woman even present at the tests to become the King's Champion, and yet her skills far surpass any of the men present. Nehemia is a similarly gifted individual, and the story places no limits on either of these women's capabilities, either in combat or in the ability to make their own decisions. One of the book's main messages is that women can be just as capable as men at fighting or anything else, and this point could not be made more clearly when Celaena manages to defeat the extraordinarily strong warrior Cain, who has been expected to win the position of King's Champion since the very beginning. Most of the male contenders make the mistake of dismissing Celaena's abilities, but the book is not heavy-handed towards men in the least. Both Chaol and Dorian realize what an extraordinary human being Celaena is, and never make the slightest attempt to silence her or suggest that she is less capable because she is a woman. She also enjoys the full confidence of fellow Champion Nox, managing to save his life during one of the tests. Celaena is not exceptional because she rejects the traditional role of women, either. Instead, she embraces qualities like empathy and playfulness, so that the message relayed by the novel is that women should ignore characteristics traditionally viewed as feminine, but instead it is possible to be exceptional enough to excel in all qualities, as Celaena surely does.

# Style

## Point of View

The point of view of "Throne of Glass" is third person, told mostly through Celaena, but occasionally through Prince Dorian or Chaol, or even King Aldaran if required by the narrative. The point of view goes a long way towards establishing the growth of Celaena as a character throughout the novel, as she begins with somewhat paranoid and self-serving thoughts, but quickly becomes caring and very friendly once she establishes herself inside the castle. Celaena is a fairly reliable narrator, and often provides insights that do not occur to the people around her. However, she is often unable to understand Chaol, especially when he is suddenly put off by her behavior or upset by something that she says. In these situations, the reader is likely to understand Chaol better than she does.

The story is told with a fairly even balance of exposition and dialogue. Celaena spends much time conversing with the other characters and gathering information from them. These scenes are critical to the development of the story because it is in no small part about Celaena managing to begin a new life, with new friends, which she does very successfully. The situations in which the other characters are the points of view often center around Celaena and their interpretation of either her personality or her actions, as when Dorian obsesses over her or Chaol worries about his own feelings for her.

## Setting

The novel is set on the fictional continent of Erilea, a somewhat traditional fantasy setting in which the King of Adarlan has taken over many surrounding territories and soon plans to take even more. The novel begins in the salt mines of Endovier, where criminals are sentenced to life-terms under brutal settings. The average life expectancy in these mines is only a handful of months, as the cruel guards kill often and with little provocation.

The capital of Adarlan, Rifthold, is in many ways now the center of the continent of Erilea. In the center of the city is the glass castle, which looms with transparent towers over the city. However, inside the glass castle is the stone and mortar castle of Rifthold that serves as the kingdom's center, and has done so for centuries. In fact, the castle is so old that few inhabitants know of all its secrets. Large systems of secret tunnels and passageways lead to areas of the castle that have not been in use for centuries, and many of these passages lead in and out of the castle freely, or allow people to spy on important meetings meant to be kept a secret from all but the King's closest advisors. Many amongst the nobility in the castle do no work and simply pass their time idly, but many of the soldiers and servants are lively and even friendly towards Celaena once she arrives.



## Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is very straightforward and easy to understand. All conversations take place in conventional English, and standard phrases and manners of speaking are observed, with the minor exception of Princess Nehemia, who is new to Aldaran and pretends to be learning the language. Given that the novel is meant to be a young adult work of fiction, the language works well with the plot and purpose of the story, making it easy to read and keeping it from becoming bogged down in language that could potentially be difficult for the reader to understand effectively. Each of the characters does tend to speak in more or less the same fashion as the others, though Dorian certainly utilizes far more playful phrases than most of the others in the book. This similarity between the characters' patterns of speech does not hinder the book's progress, however, which instead emphasizes the different outlooks and sometimes the physical mannerisms of the characters in order to distinguish them when necessary.

The language causes the book to flow rapidly, giving it a very simple and fast-paced feel, so that no sections are difficult to comprehend. As the book is primarily concerned with telling a simple and straightforward story, this rapid pacing works well with the rest of the novel.

## Structure

"Throne of Glass" is divided into fifty-five chapters, each very short, and often dealing with a small passage of time and event such as a conversation or fight, although on occasion the narrative will jump several days or so ahead. Events are described in chronological order with no exceptions.

The novel contains several subplots that effect the main plot a great deal throughout. Celaena is attempting to win the contest and eventually earn her freedom, but along the way becomes involved in the beginnings of a love triangle between herself, Chaol and Dorian. She also attempts to discover who the killer of the other Champions is, and her friendship with Nehemia assumes greater and greater importance as the novel progresses. Celaena quickly adjusts to life in the castle and grows very concerned with the fortunes of others along the way. As she becomes more and more sympathetic to the lives of people she once considered enemies, she also begins to wonder what the king will have her do as his Champion. More specifically, she wonders who she will have to kill for him, and this becomes a very large concern for her as time progresses. She eventually wins the right to be called King's Champion, but by this time it is clear that Dorian opposes his father and desires a better life for Celaena that will not include her killing possible innocents for the kingdom of Adarlan.



## Quotes

"Captain Westfall was not excessively handsome, but she couldn't help finding the ruggedness of his face and the clarity of his golden-brown eyes rather appealing." chap. 2, p. 12

"She'd only been eight when Arobynn Hamel, her mentor and the King of Assassins, found her half-submerged on the banks of a frozen river and brought her to his keep on the border between Adarlan and Terrasen." chap. 5, p. 31

"She wanted to leap from her horse and run to them, or to simply scream that she wasn't a part of the prince's court, that she had no hand in bringing them here, chained and starved and beaten, that she had worked and bled with them, with their families and friends—she was not like these monsters that destroyed everything." chap. 7, p. 42

"It was easy enough to tell the nobility from her competitors. Old and wrinkled, each nobleman wore fine clothes and decorative swords. Beside each of them stood a man—some tall and slender, some burly, some average, all of them surrounded by at least three vigilant guards." chap. 10 p. 63

"Nehemia looked toward a rain-splattered window. 'Most of our books were burned five years ago, when Adarlan marched in. It didn't make a difference if the books were about magic'—her voice quieted at the word, even though Chaol and the councilman couldn't understand them—or history. They just burned the libraries whole, along with the museums and universities..." chap. 13 p. 90

"Dorian glanced at his mother, seated on a throne beside his own. She certainly didn't know anything about it, and probably would have been horrified if she knew criminals were living under her roof." chap. 17, p. 113

"Sitting in a chair near the hearth of the great hall, Kaltain watched Duke Perrington converse with Quen Georgina atop her dais. It'd been a shame that Dorian had left so quickly an hour ago; she hadn't even had the chance to speak to him." chap. 19, p. 124

"Celaena soon found herself before the other two portals. What other disappointments would she find in them? She had lost interest. But the breeze stirred again, and it blew so hard toward the far right arch that Celaena took a step." chap. 24, p 158

"Last night in her dream—no, it hadn't been a dream. It had been real. And there had been those screeching creatures...Had Xavier been killed by one of them?" chap. 26 p.171

"She didn't remember selecting this from the shelves. It reeked, almost like soil, and Celaena's nose crinkled as she turned the pages." chap. 27 p. 186





"He knew little of the duke, and had never entirely trusted him. Neither had Dorian, especially not after all his talk of using Nehemia as a hostage to get the Eyllwe rebels to cooperate." chap. 30 p. 206

"A legion of Adarlan's army captured five hundred Eyllwe rebels hiding on the border of Oakwald Forest and the Stone Marshes.' Tears dripped from Nehemia's cheeks and onto her white dress. She crumpled the piece of paper in her hand." chap. 33 p. 222

"The dog stared at her, her wrinkled brow lifting, and Celaena smiled and set her down on the floor. She began sniffing about, though she stayed far from Dorian, and she soon disappeared beneath the bed." chap. 36 p. 241

"She put a hand on his shoulder, her fingers digging into the muscle that lay beneath. How different things were between them than when she'd first seen him in Endovier!" chap. 39 p. 262

The king. Celaena's heart gave a screech and dove behind her spine. Each of the little scars on her hand throbbed. He strode toward them, his monstrous form filling the too-small hallway, and their eyes met." chap. 44 p. 284

"She attacked—faster and faster, stronger and stronger. Cain laughed, and she almost screamed in anger. Each time she moved a foot to trip him, each time they came too close, she either became clumsy or he stepped away, as if he knew what she planned all along." chap. 48 p. 307

"Dorian drowned in the cold rage that lay inside of him. Yet an image came vividly to his mind: Nehemia handing Celaena her staff at the duel. Nehemia was no fool; like him, she knew that symbols held a special kind of power." chap. 51, p. 324



## Topics for Discussion

Compare and contrast the characters of Dorian and Chaol. What about them might Celaena find appealing, and whom does she eventually appear to have more feelings for?

Celaena receives help from many sources throughout the novel. Choose one character who you feel helps her the most and explain why this is the case. What does he/she do or teach Celaena that further develops her as a character?

Why does Celaena keep her true identity a secret through so much of the novel? What does Chaol expect her to gain from doing so, and what does she fear will happen to her when it becomes clear that Cain knows who she is?

What is Dorian's opinion of the women at court? Compare the character Kaltain to Celaena. What might Dorian find appealing in Celaena that Kaltain lacks?

Choose one of the three major characters, Celaena, Dorian, or Chaol, and describe how his or her feelings change towards the other two throughout the novel briefly. Do they all wind up closer friends than before, for example?

The novel hints that there is more to Celaena's past than even she is aware of. Briefly describe at least two clues that this is the case.

When the duel ends, Dorian suffers from extreme guilt and shame over his inability to protect Celaena. Explain what impact this appears to have on his character with respect to the remainder of the novel.