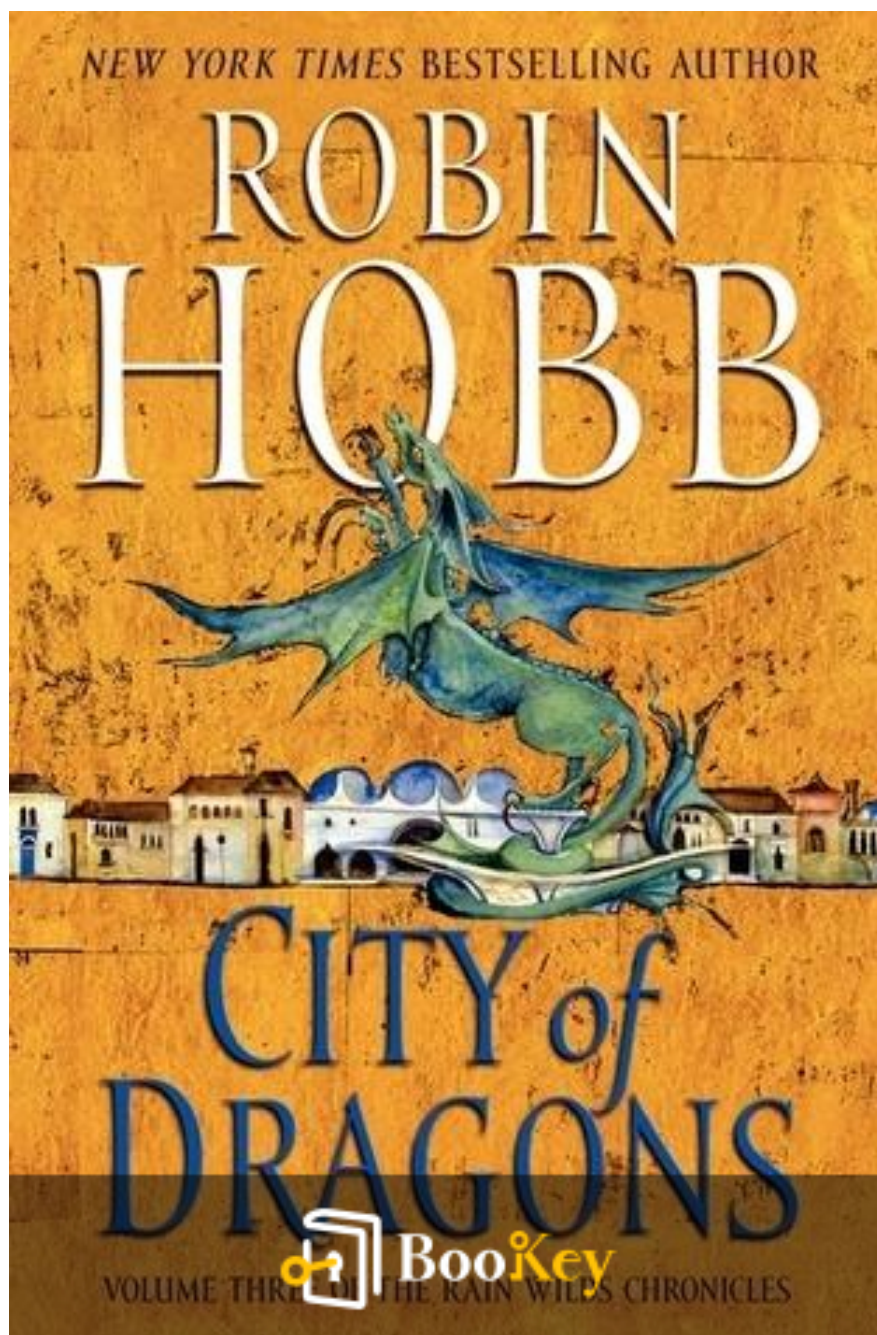


City Of Dragons PDF (Limited Copy)

Robin Hobb



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City Of Dragons Summary

A Tale of Power, Betrayal, and Awakening Dragons.

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About the book

In "City of Dragons," Robin Hobb plunges readers into a rich tapestry of adventure, mystery, and the enduring bonds of family in a world where the fate of kingdoms hangs in the balance. As the story unfolds, the reluctant heroes embark on a perilous journey through the turbulent seas of the Rain Wilds, striving to uncover the truth behind the ancient and majestic dragons that once ruled the skies. With themes of loyalty, sacrifice, and the struggle for identity, Hobb masterfully weaves a narrative that not only explores the complexities of her characters but also reinvents the very essence of power and connection. A tale of growth and discovery waits—dive into the heart of the dragon's legacy and uncover the secrets that could alter the course of their world forever.

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About the author

Robin Hobb, an acclaimed American fantasy author, has captivated readers with her richly woven narratives and intricate characters since the publication of her debut novel in the 1990s. Born Margaret Astrid Lindholm Ogden in 1952, she adopted the pen name Robin Hobb to distinguish her fantasy works from her earlier writings in the romance genre. Hobb is best known for her epic series such as the Farseer Trilogy, the Liveship Traders Trilogy, and the Tawny Man Trilogy, all set in the same intricate world that explores themes of loyalty, sacrifice, and the complexities of relationships. Her mastery in blending character-driven storytelling with expansive world-building has earned her a dedicated following and critical acclaim, solidifying her position as one of contemporary fantasy's most influential voices.

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Chapter 1 Summary: Prologue: Tintaglia and IceFyre

PROLOGUE SUMMARY

The prologue begins with Tintaglia and IceFyre, two dragons soaring gracefully above a desert landscape. The two creatures, each distinct in their appearance—with Tintaglia’s shimmering blue scales contrasting with IceFyre’s sleek, black form—enjoy a post-hunt respite. Their bond is rooted in long-standing companionship, with Tintaglia appreciating IceFyre’s prowess in the air despite his past injuries from being encased in ice.

Their destination is a familiar oasis, a remnant of an ancient Elderlings settlement now overtaken by the desert. The oasis provides a much-needed sanctuary for the dragons to cleanse themselves after their hunt. However, the tranquility is shattered as they approach, with a hidden ambush resulting in an intense battle against armed humans seeking to capture them. As arrows rain down and spears are thrust, chaos ensues in the water of the oasis.

IceFyre, fueled by instinct and rage, fights fiercely, using his poison to decimate the attackers. Tintaglia, caught in the fray, grapples with a net meant to ensnare her. In her fury, she retaliates violently, embodying a mix of primal instinct and determined protection, while also questioning the

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motives behind the human attack.

It becomes clear through their conversation that their long history with humans has been marked by hatred and fear, a theme echoed in IceFyre's recounting of past atrocities committed against dragons. Despite Tintaglia's confusion over the violence and her lack of memory regarding prior confrontations, IceFyre confirms that humans, particularly the Duke of Chalced, view dragons as threats to be eradicated.

After their skirmish, Tintaglia and IceFyre decide to feast on their fallen enemies while contemplating the implications of their recent encounter. Tintaglia grapples with the moral dilemma of consuming humans, reflecting on her relationships with those she once considered friends. Yet, survival instincts prevail as she ultimately succumbs to hunger, marking a significant moment of transformation in her identity as a dragon.

As the prologue unfolds, the deep-seated animosity between dragons and humans is laid bare, setting the stage for further conflict and exploration of themes regarding power, survival, and the nature of freedom. The prologue ends with IceFyre consuming the remains of a young boy, underscoring the brutal reality of their world where fear and violence dictate interactions across species.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The complexity of survival instincts in the face of moral dilemmas

Critical Interpretation: As you navigate your own life, consider the moments when survival challenges your beliefs and values. Just like Tintaglia grapples with her instincts after an attack, you too may face decisions that force you to weigh your moral compass against your immediate needs. Embrace the notion that growth often stems from these conflicts, allowing you to develop resilience and a deeper understanding of your fundamental beliefs amidst life's unpredictable challenges.

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Chapter 2 Summary: The Duke and The Captive

Chapter One: The Duke and The Captive

In a stone-walled audience chamber, the Duke of Chalced sits on his ornate throne, emanating authority yet revealing signs of frailty. He receives unsettling news from a messenger: there is no word from the emissaries sent to the Rain Wilds to retrieve dragon flesh, a crucial ingredient for the Duke's rumored cure for his failing health. The Duke's desperation escalates; he fears dying without a male heir and recalls the failure to strengthen his lineage after losing most of his sons to a mysterious disease. Left with a single daughter who does not conform to his ideal of a lineage bearer, his anxiety grows.

Chancellor Ellik, loyal yet visibly anxious, kneels before the Duke, feeling the weight of their shared past in battle turn into current shame and fear; he too yearns for the Duke's revitalization, aware that the Duke's demise could mean his own. The Duke wishes to send more emissaries with lavish gifts to the Rain Wilds, seeking any means to secure dragon blood that could restore him to his former vigor. He speaks of motivations and threats, illuminating his disconnect and reliance on power plays to compensate for his weakening state.

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The scene shifts to a grim stall in the darkened bazaar, where Selden, a half-dragon captive, reflects on his sickness and captivity. He is chained and displayed like a curiosity for wealth-driven buyers who view him more as a commodity than a human being. The men observing him engage in a conversation filled with transactional language; they discuss the price of Selden's life without regard for his suffering. Despite his attempts to assert his humanity and plead for freedom, they remain dismissive, fearing his potential to sway them with charm.

Selden reflects on Tintaglia, a dragon he once served, longing for the connection and admiration they shared. He acknowledges the bitter truth of his existence, resigned to his fate as a creature of fascination rather than a man of substance. As he lies in the straw of his stall, he yearns for freedom and family, believing that even in his dire state, his connection to the dragons could be a means to salvation.

The chapter closes with a sharp juxtaposition of the Duke's opulent struggles and Selden's desperate plight as bonds of power and fate intertwine, each character grasping at tenuous threads of hope and despair in their respective worlds.

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Chapter 3 Summary: Dragon Battle

Chapter Two Summary: Dragon Battle

As the sun breaks through the clouds, Sintara, a regal dragon, contemplates her life from the riverbank where she lies. Her longing for the vibrant warmth of the southern deserts fills her with dissatisfaction for her current existence amidst cold and rain. Sintara reflects on the majestic life of a queen dragon, imagining the fierce battles among male drakes for her affection, and the glorious mating flights in which she should partake. However, she is grounded, feeling inadequate next to her more capable male counterparts like Kalo, who is eager to showcase his growing prowess in flight.

Kalo approaches and boasts about his recent flying success. Sintara, simmering with frustration at her own lack of flying ability, feels both anger and embarrassment when he pushes her to embrace her potential as a queen. A confrontation erupts between Kalo and other males including Ranculos and Sestican, as they vie for Sintara's attention in a struggle that quickly escalates into chaos. The keepers, humans responsible for the dragons' care, rush to intervene, unable to grasp the nature of dragon courtship as it plays out like a dance of power and strength above them.

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In the midst of the battle, Mercor, another male dragon, intervenes dramatically, managing to pin Kalo down and inflict a painful injury. The male dragon's dominant display leaves Kalo humiliated and retreating to the river while Sintara observes the spectacle with mixed feelings. As the dust settles, tensions run high between dragons and keepers, illustrating the precarious balance of power and the raw instincts that drive these creatures.

Amid the uproar, Sintara's thoughts turn back to her own struggles. She is filled with ancestral memories of a glorious life as a dragon but finds herself reflective and resentful of her situation since the transformation from sea serpent to dragon. She blames her inability to fly and hunt on a series of unfortunate events, feeling deprived of her rightful place in the skies and defying her own destiny.

Thymara, her human keeper, attempts to engage Sintara in conversation about her lack of flight, revealing her own struggles with growing wings, and the complexities of human relationships swirling around her. Thymara grapples with her feelings for several boys while being torn between the freedom of independence and the confusion of intimacy, and Sintara, too, tries to assert her identity amid rival males.

As both begin to address their personal concerns, Sintara's hunger remains a pressing matter, pushing them both toward a confrontation with their realities. The chapter ends with Sintara dismissing her dreams of the past

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and struggling with the implications of flight, longing for the day when she can soar above her surroundings and reclaim her identity as a dragon queen. The themes of freedom, identity, and the complexities of relationships—both human and dragon—are woven into their interactions, providing a rich backdrop for the challenges that lie ahead.

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Chapter 4: Pathways

Chapter Three Summary: Pathways

In this chapter, Thymara finds herself adapting to life in the Rain Wilds, a stark contrast to her previous home in Trehaug. The chapter opens with Thymara battling through an intense downpour in the unfamiliar landscape of the meadow by the Rain Wild River. Unlike the sheltered tree canopies of her childhood, the rain now strikes her directly, soaking her worn clothes as she prepares to hunt and feed the dragons she serves, particularly Sintara. The landscape's firm ground and rich array of stones pique her curiosity, a reminder of the mysteries surrounding her new environment.

Tats, her companion and fellow Keeper, joins her in the hunt. They share a camaraderie built on mutual respect, but their conversation reveals deeper insecurities and musings about their past lives. Tats questions Thymara about her desire to return to Trehaug, while she grapples with acceptance of her new identity as an Elderling—a half-human creature transformed by their dragons. They discuss hunting in pairs, as Carson, their older mentor, has insisted due to the presence of large predators.

As they navigate away from the familiarity of home, Thymara reflects on her complex feelings about Trehaug, her challenging relationship with her

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mother, and her father's love. Tats's growth and transformation as a result of bonding with his dragon, Fente, showcase how the journey has altered them physically and emotionally, linking their fates more closely to their dragons than they would have ever expected.

Setting out in search of fresh game, they discuss the unique bond they share with their dragons, which increasingly defines their identities. Thymara's wings, a sign of her transformation, become a point of contention; though she can't fly, they mark her as an Elderling, evoking both beauty and frustration. Their conversation meanders through personal revelations as the pair brushes against deeper feelings and moments of connection mixed with jealousy—especially concerning their friend Rapskal and the prevailing sentiments of longing and regret.

The tension escalates when they come across a large deer, but their hunting plans are thwarted by Heeby, Rapskal's dragon, who swoops in and claims the kill. This turns into a discussion about feeding their dragons, highlighting their dependence on the creatures and contrasting the incompatibility of their bond with the wild instincts of dragons.

Rapskal arrives, full of joy and excitement. However, the hunt quickly turns sour as Tats expresses frustration over their wasted time due to Heeby's opportunistic hunt. Rapskal's exuberance clashes with Tats's irritation, and the chapter unfolds with Rapskal attempting to connect with Thymara by

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inviting her to explore Kelsingra, the Elderling city.

Each character's growth is reflected alongside their relationships and the challenges of their new lives intertwined with dragonkind. As the chapter concludes, Thymara is torn between her responsibilities toward Sintara and her curiosity about Kelsingra. The themes of choice, belonging, and identity weave through their experiences, painting a vivid picture of their struggle to navigate a world reshaped by magic and the majesty of their dragons. The stark picture of Thymara's longing for acceptance both from herself and her friends amplifies throughout, promising further exploration of her character's journey in the chapters to follow.

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Chapter 5 Summary: Kelsingra

Chapter Four: Kelsingra Summary

In the desolate city of Kelsingra, Alise, cloaked in an Elderling robe, wanders through eerily empty streets filled with remnants of a once-thriving civilization. As she explores the abandoned homes, she reflects on the ancient architecture characterized by interlocking stonework, wondering how the city, with its rich details, stands intact while everything else dwindles into decay. A half-remembered feeling of presence haunts her, suggesting that life might still echo within these walls, even as she finds no signs of life, logging her observations on a tattered piece of fabric instead of proper parchment.

Alise's heart sinks as she considers the imminent arrival of Traders eager to plunder Kelsingra for its artifacts and treasures once Leftrin, her companion and captain of the ship Tarman, reveals their discovery. She fears that her documentation of the city will be rendered meaningless when scavengers arrive. Leftrin, who plans to return to Cassarick for supplies, urges Alise to come with him. However, she is determined to stay and document Kelsingra, viewing it as her responsibility to protect its secrets and history from exploitation.

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Their conversation delves into Alise's tumultuous past with her former husband, Hest, revealing the deep scars of betrayal that haunt her. Alise expresses a longing to sever ties with her past, fearing exposure as the woman she once was while recognizing her growth and connection with Leftrin. Despite Leftrin's reassurances that he will protect her and their discovery, Alise hesitates to confront her old life, hoping instead to embrace her new identity alongside him.

As night descends on Kelsingra, the whispers of the city become more palpable, echoing a sense of danger that Leftrin warns her about. Despite the cold sting of the wind, they make their way back toward the river, where they find Rapskal and his dragon, Heeby. Rapskal appears to be in a trance-like state, “drowning” in Elderling memories, which alarms Leftrin, who understands the grave risk of obsession with these recollected pasts. As they attempt to rouse him, Heeby becomes agitated, echoing the distress of the group.

After Leftrin saves Rapskal from his stupor, they prepare to return home. Alise rides Heeby across the river, her heart racing with the fear of falling into the depths, while Leftrin watches anxiously from shore, praying for her safety. Rapskal, now back to himself, reassures Leftrin of his bond with Heeby but reflects on the allure of the memories he previously touched, hinting at a deeper connection to the Elderling past that both attracts and threatens him.

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The chapter closes with a letter from Reyall, the Acting Keeper of the Birds, announcing a renewed search for Alise and her companion Sedric, revealing the reach of her former life and the consequences of her choices. As the chapter unfolds, it captures the blend of uncertainty, adventure, and the struggle for integrity against a backdrop of ancient, empty grandeur, hinting at deeper transformations yet to come.

Key Elements	Summary
Setting	Kelsingra, a deserted city filled with remnants of a once-thriving civilization.
Main Character	Alise, cloaked in an Elderling robe, documenting her findings.
Themes	The conflict between preservation and exploitation of history, personal growth, and the struggle against past traumas.
Historical Reflection	Alise contemplates the intact nature of the ancient architecture amidst decay.
Character Relationships	Alise and Leftrin discuss her traumatic past and her current desire to protect Kelsingra's secrets.
Rapskal's Condition	Rapskal experiences a trance, overwhelmed by Elderling memories, causing concern among the group.
Final Events	Alise rides Heeby across the river as Rapskal returns to consciousness. A letter from Reyall indicates a search for Alise and Sedric.
Overall Mood	Uncertainty, adventure, and a tension between past and future.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of documenting history and protecting knowledge

Critical Interpretation: In the desolate city of Kelsingra, you feel the weight of history pressing upon you, whispering stories of a once-thriving civilization. As Alise dedicates herself to capturing the essence of this forgotten place, you're reminded of your own responsibility to safeguard the lessons of the past. Inspired by her determination, you realize that every effort to preserve knowledge is a stand against the tide of forgetfulness, urging you to leave your own mark on the world by sharing insights and experiences. In doing so, you not only honor what came before you but also shape the future, ensuring that the stories that matter to you are not lost to time.

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Chapter 6 Summary: A Bingtown Trader

Chapter Five: A Bingtown Trader

In this chapter, we are introduced to Hest Finbok, a Bingtown Trader who is frustrated with his unconventional wife, Alise, who shows no interest in the traditional roles expected of a woman in their society. Hest reflects on their marriage and the immense effort he expended to win her over, particularly through the acquisition of a rare and priceless Elderling scroll as an engagement gift—a gesture Hest now deeply regrets.

Hest finds himself in Alise's abandoned sewing room, noticing that it has been transformed into a makeshift study cluttered with books and scrolls that align with Alise's passion for dragons—an obsession he disdains. As he explores the room, he discovers that Alise has taken the Elderling scroll, which ignites his anger and suspicion that she and his former secretary, Sedric Meldar, have run off together.

His volatile thoughts are interrupted by his steward, Ched, who informs him of an unexpected guest from Chalced—a man dressed elegantly but bearing a menacing presence. The stranger demands merchandise relating to dragon parts that Hest was supposed to procure through Sedric. Hest realizes he is caught in a dangerous situation, as the Chalcedean claims that information



about Hest's dealings has been relayed to him, and they expect tangible results.

A knife-wielding confrontation ensues, with Hest being physically threatened as the Chalcedean reveals the gravity of his demands. He coerces Hest into participating in a scheme to capture Sedric and Alise—accusing them of stealing valuable goods and implicates Hest in their betrayal. The Chalcedean plans to manipulate Hest into sourcing dragon materials, promising rewards from a Duke with questionable morals who requires these illegal parts to aid his failing health.

Amidst distrust and rising tension, the Chalcedean deftly extracts information from Hest, seizing control of the conversation and ensuring Hest understands the severe repercussions of failure. After a harrowing interplay of threats and ultimatums, the Chalcedean leaves Hest with instructions to retrieve two precious boxes intended for Sedric and another businessman, Begasti Cored, marking a twisted expectation that Hest's fortunes still rest within the clutches of Sedric's elusive plans.

Hest, left in the wake of this confrontation, is shaken and desperately considers his next steps. The chapter ends with the steward announcing he has located the missing Elderling scroll, only to find a horrifying revelation contained within a box that suggests deeper and more ominous consequences.

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This chapter illustrates the complexities of Hest's character—his avarice, deep-seated insecurities, and desperation to control his narrative against the tumultuous events swirling around him. The backdrop of Bingtown, a place where social standing is significant, complicates Hest's plight further as he navigates through alliances, betrayal, and the looming threat of the Chalcedean assassin, all while wrestling with personal grievances against both Alise and Sedric.

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Chapter 7 Summary: Marked by the Rain Wilds

Chapter Six Summary: Marked by the Rain Wilds

In this chapter, Malta Khuprus prepares for a journey to Cassarick with her husband, Reyn. As she packs, her mother-in-law, Jani, expresses skepticism about her need to accompany Reyn, who is adept at addressing concerns with the diggers at their excavation site. Malta insists on going, eager for any news regarding the Tarman expedition, despite the internal struggles stemming from her pregnancy.

Their household, a unique tree dwelling within the Rain Wilds, reflects generations of Khuprus' adaptation. Malta's beauty has come with the changes imposed by the Rain Wilds, leaving her occasionally insecure despite her apparent privilege. Her conversation with Jani reveals both the tension and camaraderie of their relationship, as they discuss societal expectations and the harsh realities faced by the Tattooed—the laborers who've been marginalized by the Traders. Jani candidly critiques the current diggers' treatment, emphasizing the Traders' responsibilities toward the Tattooed, whom they had promised a better life.

Amidst the bonding and worries about their children, Malta's discussion with Jani touches upon miscarriage, a painful reality for both women. The fear of

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giving birth to a Changed child lingers heavily on Malta's mind, alongside the harsh assessments from Koli, her midwife, about their options if the child is indeed altered. The possibility of keeping or relinquishing her child raises profound emotional turmoil for Malta.

As the narrative unfolds, Reyn joins them, bringing lightness back into the room and showcasing their affectionate dynamic. Despite the challenges presented by their societal position, their bond remains strong. However, the impending journey into the complexities of Cassarick, with its Trader Council, looms ominously.

The chapter intricately weaves themes of family, societal expectations, and personal fears while providing insight into the racial and cultural tensions within the Rain Wilds as the Khuprus family grapples with their identities amid changing times.

The Bird Quarantine Message

In a separate but interwoven storyline, a message from Detozi, Keeper of the Birds, addresses concerns in Trehaug regarding a rising issue with bird illness due to unusual weather conditions. This urgency emphasizes the growing tensions and challenges across the Rain Wilds during a time of significant change and uncertainty, hinting at the larger social ramifications that might affect Malta and her family.

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Chapter 8: Dragon Dreams

Chapter Seven: Dragon Dreams

Sintara, a young dragon with vibrant scarlet wings, revels in the freedom of flight as she glides over the lush landscapes of Kelsingra, a once-thriving city now shrouded in the neglect of time. Below her, sheep scurry at her shadow, unaware of the dragon's true desires; she longs for a worthy hunt rather than the easy prey humans keep. Despite her strength and instinct, Sintara wrestles with a haunting memory of a time when dragons and Elderlings coexisted in harmony—a stark contrast to her current life of hunger and discomfort.

Awakening from her dreams to find herself cramped in a poorly constructed shelter built by her human keeper, Thymara, Sintara feels imprisoned and frustrated. The shelter's inadequacies compound her growing resentment, especially as she navigates the rainy, unsettling night alone. The humans, or "keepers," have established a village for dragons like her, but Sintara regards their makeshift homes as unfit for creatures of her stature. She observes their dedication but finds herself grappling with conflicting emotions, particularly the unwelcome sense of gratitude toward them for remaining with her.

As rain pours down, Sintara leaves her shelter and ventures into the meadow,

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a place once abundant with game but long deserted from fear of dragons. Striving to master her flight despite her uneven wings, she charges down the hillside, determined practice driving her. Her attempts are clumsy and met with failure, frustration boiling within her. Each effort leads to a relentless cycle of trying again, driven by an innate need to succeed, while shadows of doubt lurk in her thoughts.

Meanwhile, Alise, a scholar in the ancient city of Kelsingra, observes the progress of Heeby, a dragon quickly adapting to her surroundings. The incessant rain clouds her mind as she reflects on her mounting despair regarding her efforts to catalog the city's rich history. As she gazes at the dilapidated structures around her, the enormity of her task becomes overwhelming. Alise is burdened by the foreknowledge of impending plunderers who would descend upon the city, looting its ancient treasures rather than preserving them.

Lacking her companion, Captain Leftrin, the absence weighs heavily on Alise as she longs for their shared moments of discovery. Resolving to shift her focus from careful documentation to exploration, she sets out to investigate parts of Kelsingra that remain obscured in mystery.

Wandering through the grander streets of the city, Alise marvels at the intricate architecture, which whispers of greater glory long lost. Seeking shelter from the rain, she pries open an entrance to a crumbling theatre

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where statues of performers seem frozen in time. As she immerses herself in this world, they appear eerily alive, evoking both beauty and sorrow at their fate. In a surprising moment of interaction, Alise accidentally activates ancient magic, momentarily reviving the figures amid ghostly music before they fall still once more.

Reeling from the experience, Alise reenters the reality of her task, burdened by the knowledge that she might be the last to witness such wonders. Steeling herself against the chill and hunger clawing at her, she continues her tour of Kelsingra. The rain subsides, granting her momentary respite as she discovers remnants of opulent architecture and faded artistry.

Ascending into a tower, Alise encounters increasingly locked doors, hinting at treasures perhaps long forgotten. Each time she brushes the black stone, ghosts of Elderlings seem to awaken, their impressions lingering in the air with whispers of their lives. In the dim light, she realizes that the tower holds a model of the city itself, prompting a sense of urgency—this knowledge must be preserved before it too is lost.

Determined to return with a means to document her findings, Alise's thoughts are a jumble of urgency and guilt. She descends the tower's winding stairs, now guided by a glow from the jidzin, the shimmering metal responsible for the city's flickering lights. As she finally escapes into the rainy streets, her heart pounds with a mix of fear and exhilaration. Realizing

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the delicate balance she treads, both as an explorer and a potential looter, she hurries back to where Heeby awaits, carrying the weight of her discoveries on her shoulders.

Simultaneously, a letter from Kim, a new character introduced, enlightens

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Chapter 9 Summary: Other Lives

CHAPTER EIGHT SUMMARY: Other Lives

In this chapter, Sedric and Carson continue their struggle to adapt to life in the crumbling Elderlings' city of Kelsingra, a place riddled with memories and the heavy weight of their circumstances. As the relentless cold and lack of creature comforts wear on their spirits, Sedric reflects on the oddity of why the Elderlings settled in such a dreary location when dragonkind generally yearns for warmth and sunlight. Carson, sharing a bond with Sedric through their dragons, suggests that there must have been meaningful reasons rooted in ancient memories that guide their existence now.

The narrative illustrates their daily life in their rustic cottage, which is poorly insulated and fraught with decay. Sedric grapples with the state of their living conditions, feeling trapped by both the physical mess and emotional turmoil it evokes. His personal struggles reveal a buried guilt related to his past attempts to harm himself, as Carson voices concern for Sedric's mental well-being. This moment highlights the depth of their partnership, underscoring both Sedric's shame and Carson's protective instincts.

As tensions rise from basic needs like hunger, the two keepers consider their dragons—Relpda and Spit—who fail to adapt to their new lives without

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significant support from their keepers. Carson insists that they need to set boundaries to encourage their dragons to fend for themselves. Although Relpda's constant hunger exacerbates Sedric's woes, he contemplates the importance of tough love for both his beloved dragon and himself.

The chapter shifts perspective to Thymara and Rapskal as they undertake flights over Kelsingra, revealing the city's grandeur and its ruin. Thymara's trepidation about flying mirrors her internal battle with self-worth, having always perceived herself as lesser compared to the perfect images of Elderlings she encounters. Rapskal enthusiastically embraces their transformed identities, arguing for the importance of harnessing the city's energy to unlock their latent magical potential. He believes the ruins are repositories of knowledge waiting to be reclaimed, asserting that they can revitalize both the city and the dragons.

Their adventure culminates in the act of exploring memory stones that are inscribed with ancient memories, essential for their transformation into full-fledged Elderlings, capable of wielding magic. Thymara reluctantly agrees to immerse herself in this experience, revealing her complex feelings about identity and belonging. Intermittently, she grapples with fears about childbirth and sexual relations that complicate her burgeoning relationship with Rapskal, stemming from societal expectations and personal history.

As the chapter unfolds, the narrative oscillates between personal conflicts

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and collective struggles of the dragon keepers and their charges. The atmosphere shifts drastically when Thymara, immersed in the shared memories of Amarinda and Rapskal, feels a chilling interruption—a distress signal from Sintara, her dragon. The chapter ends with an urgent climax as Thymara realizes Sintara is in danger, heightening tension and suspense as the characters face the perils of both the physical and emotional landscapes surrounding them.

Through layered storytelling, “Other Lives” invites readers to ponder the nature of identity, the bonds that tie individuals to each other, and the collective histories that inform their journeys in a world caught between memory and reality.

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Chapter 10 Summary: Return to Cassarick

Chapter Nine: Return to Cassarick

As Captain Leftrin and his liveship Tarman approached the bustling docks of Cassarick, he sensed the anticipation that had built during his expedition upriver. News of their return—specifically that the Tarman did not bear any dragons—had already spread, as a young runner had dashed off into the trees, alerting the city of his arrival. Leftrin, accustomed to wielding knowledge as a bargaining chip, decided to maintain an air of mystery around the expedition until he had reported to the Traders' Council.

The atmosphere was thick with rain as they navigated the swollen waters of the Rain Wild River, flanked by the towering trees of the forest. Leftrin's thoughts oscillated between nostalgia for the familiar terrain of his home and wonder at the new experiences presented by Kelsingra. As they docked, he spotted a strange vessel named "Impervious One" and remained skeptical; countless ships had claimed to withstand the river's acid waters, and most had failed.

Once secured at the dock, Leftrin turned to his crew, noting their exhaustion and eager anticipation. He entrusted his niece Skelly to remain aboard Tarman while he handled the delicate negotiation with the Council. They



were on the brink of significant changes in their lives—Skelly’s potential shift in fortunes, in part due to Leftrin’s uncertain plans for heirs with Alise.

Meanwhile, in a separate part of Cassarick, Malta Khuprus was grappling with her own transformation into an Elderling, with physical changes that marked her pregnancy. She shared a tender moment with her husband, Reyn, who, like her, had undergone strange metamorphoses influenced by their environment. Discussing their impending parenthood, they were interrupted by a messenger who brought the news of Tarman’s return, which sparked an intense desire in Malta to witness Leftrin’s report to the Council. She braved her discomfort to accompany Reyn, driven by the hope of learning more about their plight regarding the dragons and Kelsingra.

They navigated the tree-lined paths, eventually reaching the Council Hall. Malta noted the tensions brewing among the Rain Wild Traders, particularly since the establishment of Cassarick’s Council had disrupted the equilibrium with Trehaug. As they entered, the mood shifted; it was evident that news of Tarman’s return had stirred excitement and apprehension alike. Leftrin had been careful to send messages earlier; the processed news would not leave them unprepared.

Inside the hall, Leftrin was granted the floor, where he briefly mentioned the success of the expedition while masking the loss of two crew members. As he began to deliver the full account of their findings, he cleverly sidestepped

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immediate scrutiny over the more sensitive subjects of his journey, opting instead to secure the payments owed to him and his crew. Leftrin skillfully deflected Council members' inquiries, claiming that no report was mandated until payment was received, a point that Alise had highlighted in their last planning session.

When pressed on the fate of Jess Torkef, the hunter who had perished, Leftrin revealed Torkef's treachery with minimal emotion, further underscoring the stakes involved. The council erupted into chaos as different factions took opposing sides—some eager for the return of the dragons versus others relieved by their departure. Meanwhile, Malta and Reyn's presence loomed as a symbol of the new Elderling lineage, drawing attention away from the more mundane debates.

The dynamic intensified as Malta asserted that they must listen to Leftrin. Her commanding presence momentarily shifted the focus back, ushering in an acknowledgment of the pressing issues surrounding the dragons and the acknowledgment of betrayal within the Council ranks. Leftrin, expanding on his observations and leveraging Council members' paranoia against each other, deftly maneuvered to emphasize the necessity of settling their contracts.

Though they were eager to cash in on the potential of Kelsingra, Leftrin reminded them of their unsatisfied debts, exacerbating tensions surrounding

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trust and loyalty. As the chapter closed, he passed Malta a letter from Alise, hinting at the greater stakes involved in their collective fates, before he withdrew from the increasingly tumultuous Council Hall, leaving behind a cacophony of splintering alliances.

In this chapter, the intertwining of personal and political crises effectively dramatizes the growing mistrust within the Council as well as the transformative powers of Elderlings. As Leftrin navigates the treacherous waters of negotiation and Malta seeks to reclaim her agency in an uncertain future, both face the dual challenge of healing both personal and communal wounds in a time of upheaval.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The necessity of navigating personal and political challenges with skill and integrity

Critical Interpretation: In your own life, you might often find yourself at a crossroads, facing tensions in relationships or negotiations that feel insurmountable. Just as Captain Leftrin skillfully managed the uncertainty and mistrust within the Council, you too can learn to navigate your own challenges with poise. The lesson here is to approach conflicts not just as obstacles, but as opportunities to assert your values and negotiate outcomes that honor your integrity while recognizing the complexities of others. When you engage with honesty and strategic thinking, you build not only trust but also foster stronger connections, even in the most uncertain of times.

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Chapter 11 Summary: Kidnapped

Chapter Ten Summary: Kidnapped

As a storm brews, Malta insists that her husband, Reyn, seek answers from Captain Leftrin regarding the troubling circumstances surrounding the dragons and their keepers. Although Reyn worries about her well-being, especially as she struggles from exhaustion and pain, Malta is adamant about not appearing frail, determined to learn the truth about her friends and the dragons. She encourages Reyn to leave without delay, promising to wait for his return with news.

After he departs, Malta's determination is tested as the storm intensifies, causing her to lose her way amid the treetop paths of Cassarick. In a moment of distress, she realizes she is in labor and begins to panic, calling for help amidst the storm. Despite the elements, Malta persists, desperate to find shelter for the impending birth.

Meanwhile, Reyn races through the storm toward the Tarman, knowing time is of the essence. He reflects on Malta's fatigue and worries for her safety, pushing through worry and rain to find Captain Leftrin. Upon reaching the boat, he successfully persuades the weary captain to accompany him back to Malta, with Leftrin's eager niece Skelly joining them.

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As Malta continues to suffer contractions, she encounters a mysterious man who offers to help. Despite her fear of accepting help from a stranger, she follows him, hoping to reach a brothel for safety. Once inside, however, she discovers the man is not a savior but a part of a plot involving Chalcedean spies intent on exploiting her and her newborn.

The men reveal their sinister intentions involving her child, aiming to deliver him as a “dragon” to their Duke. Malta, helpless and alone, musters all her strength to survive and protect her newborn son. In a desperate struggle for survival, she manages to free herself from her captors by resorting to violence, using a flimsy kitchen knife on one of the men.

Though she bears a son in a filthy brothel instead of a safe delivery room, Malta quickly wraps him in her clothing, instinctively protecting him as she prepares to flee into the stormy night. As she escapes, Malta is filled with fear, exhaustion, and determination, realizing that her journey to protect her child is just beginning.

In the background, a letter arrives to Detozi and Erek, reflecting on the struggles brought by a contagion that has left the Guild with a diminished supply of messenger birds. The writer expresses sadness over the loss and the wedding that will happen in their absence, underscoring the theme of loss—mirroring Malta's fight for the survival of her newly born child amid

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chaos and upheaval.

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Chapter 12: Flight

Chapter Eleven Summary: Flight

In the expansive realm of the Three Realms, Sintara, a dragon newly emerged from her cocoon, revels in her first hunting experience. After a fulfilling feast, she yearns for warmth and freedom rather than returning to the confines of her previous life among earthbound dragons. Embracing her identity as a true dragon queen, she launches herself into the sky, exhilarated by flight and the fresh winds swirling around her.

As night descends, Sintara realizes the risk of flying after dark—dragons generally avoid it. Yet, filled with determination, she searches for suitable landing grounds. Caught by a rising current, she spirals helplessly over a wide river. Just as she spots remnants of a bridge as a potential landing site, fatigue and the wind conspire against her. Despite her efforts, an unexpected gust pushes her into the river, and she plunges beneath the icy surface.

Struggling against the current, Sintara fights to surface but is plagued by memories of a young human girl, Thymara, who is reaching out to her in distress. Even in her dire situation, the thought of the girl emboldens her. Eventually, she manages to fight her way to the shallow bank and collapses from exhaustion. Despite her ordeal, she survives, having hunted and



reestablished her place as a dragon.

Meanwhile, Malta, a woman recently delivered of her child, is engulfed in panic and exhaustion. After killing a man who threatened her life, she traverses the dark, rain-soaked streets of Cassarick, desperate to reach safety with her newborn son. Fearing for their lives, she recalls the urgency to reach Tarman, the liveship where her husband, Reyn, awaits. Driven by instinct, she navigates through the deserted city, her thoughts consumed by the survival of her baby.

As she reaches the river, Turkey's dawn welcomes her, merging with the hope that Tarman brings. She cries out for help, finding solace in the ship's powerful presence, but is deeply pitched with fear for the unknown peril that lies ahead with her child. Ultimately, with Tarman beckoning her baby with love, she finds a sense of trust in the liveship.

Thymara, hearing echoes of Sintara's plight, rushes through the streets, her emotions a tumultuous mix of anger and fear. She dodges ghostly figures and memories that haunt the city until she ultimately reaches Sintara by the river. Sintara, exultant despite her recent struggle, shares the joy of her new abilities and their connection through the bond of flight and survival.

As night deepens, reflections on the past and present intermingle. Both dragons and their human counterparts journey to rediscover the strength in

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their legacy. Together, they explore Kelsingra, sparking the dormant memories of the city and reviving the ties of their ancient past.

In another part of the world, Reyn, chasing the resolve to reunite with his family, enters the stormy night to find Malta and their child. Upon finally reaching them and feeling overwhelmed by the reality of their situation, he learns about the baby's condition—a mix of human and Elderling. In the face of danger stemming from Chalced's spies, Malta's bravery stands central. The lives in Cassarick begin to take shape once more as familial bonds strengthen through trials faced together, setting the stage for their next move, aiming for survival and revival.

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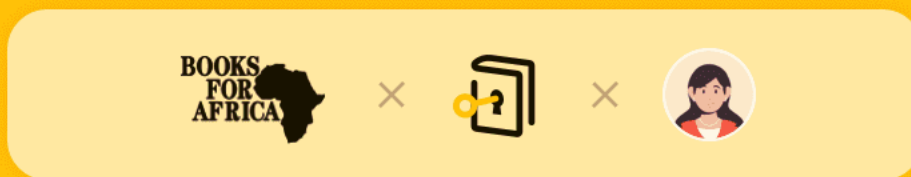




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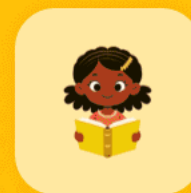
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Chapter 13 Summary: Illumination

Chapter Twelve Summary: Illumination

As the night deepens, Carson is roused by a knock at the door, revealing the anxious boy Tats. Carson and Sedric notice his distress as Tats shares that his dragon, Fente, sensed Sintara, another dragon, in peril. Tats is troubled not just about Sintara, but also over the absence of his friends Thymara and Rapskal, who flew to the city, spurring jealousy in him as he suspects they may be together. Carson, trying to calm Tats, reassures him that the dragons would have informed them if anything was wrong and cautiously reminds him that feelings of jealousy are a universal part of growing up. Tats seems to understand but still wrestles with his emotions.

The intensity of the mood shifts as they notice strange white lights emanating from the distant city, suggesting an awakening of Elderling magic. This prompts a sense of urgency among them. Carson and Sedric accompany Tats to the door, where they all witness the dazzling lights that stretch across the city, overwhelming in size and brilliance. The scene is punctuated by the powerful trumpeting of dragons, which resonates across the landscape.

Meanwhile, Alise awakens to the commotion caused by the dragons and

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rushes outside. She is awed by the lights and realizes that Rapskal's impulsiveness likely triggered this display of Elderling magic, knowledge she connects to her previous experiences. Though she longs to understand what specifically happened, she acknowledges her frustration at not being present to witness it firsthand.

At the ship's galley, Leftrin grapples with urgent decisions as he contemplates the dangers that surround them. He speaks with Reyn and his sister Tillamon about the implications of Chalcedean spies in their midst, revealing the corruption that has seeped into the Council. They must prioritize the safety of Reyn's newborn child, whose wellbeing is intertwined with the survival of the crew and their quest. Their discussions are marked by urgency as they plot to gather supplies, while grappling with the realities of their situation.

Tillamon expresses her determination to escape the prejudices she faces in her own community, making her intentions to accompany Leftrin clear. The mention of a new settlement in Kelsingra sparks hope for acceptance and belonging in a world where their kind can thrive without discrimination. Meanwhile, Leftrin asserts his intention to leave the city discreetly, ensuring that they do not draw attention to their plans as they prepare for their journey.

As day breaks, Alise is struck by the power of her memories associated with

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Leftrin while anxiously awaiting news of his return. Her emotions are layered with longing and determination, driven by the belief that she must document their experiences for posterity, especially in the context of Elderling magic.

Amidst these intertwined narratives, Detozi, a Keeper of the Birds, sends a report outlining successful pest control measures for their birds while hinting at the mysterious happenings surrounding Leftrin's crew and their connection to the Elderling magic. Her correspondence closes with a personal note about her upcoming wedding, blending the urgency of their missions with the personal lives of the characters, amplifying the interconnected stakes of their narratives.

Overall, Chapter Twelve weaves together themes of worry, longing, jealousy, and the anticipated potential of Elderling magic, setting the stage for both personal and communal quests as the characters navigate their complex relationships amid external dangers and internal turmoils.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embracing Emotional Turmoil as a Growth Opportunity

Critical Interpretation: As you navigate the complexities of your own life, remember the moments of emotional turmoil that you face, like Tats with his jealousy and worry. Rather than shying away from these feelings, embrace them as essential parts of your growth. Understand that feeling overwhelmed or uncertain is a universal experience that can lead to deeper self-awareness and stronger connections with others. Just as Tats learned to articulate his fears and desires amidst chaos, you too can transform your struggles into opportunities for personal development, emerging more resilient and empathetic.

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Chapter 14 Summary: Second Thoughts

Chapter Thirteen: Second Thoughts

Thymara awakens to find Rapskal asleep beside her, stirring a mix of emotions within her. Although the intimacy of their night together ignited a feeling of beauty and power in her, doubts and guilt quickly surface, particularly regarding her father's rules and potential consequences like pregnancy. As the dawn light brightens the room, she dresses in an Elderling robe, intrigued by the comfort and fit it offers her evolving body, including her wings. Rapskal, equally naked, encourages her to help him choose an outfit. They banter lightly, their chemistry undeniable, yet Thymara grapples with her feelings of guilt and confusion over their relationship.

After dressing, they venture outside in search of food, their stomachs grumbling. Both express thoughts on the city's awakening, with Rapskal pointing out the significant changes taking place now that their dragons can fly. As they explore, they rummage through rooms they discover, finding Elderling garments and other discarded items. They gather supplies that could aid fellow keepers, reflecting their frugality in a world where resources are scarce.

Their scavenging interrupted by hunger pangs, they reach the river's edge,

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where Rapskal forages for edible plants while Thymara gathers driftwood. Together, they prepare a meager meal—steamed limpets and seafood—eating it around a fire. During a moment of vulnerability, Thymara voices her concerns about being pregnant, prompting Rapskal to respond with naive bravado, attempting to alleviate her fears with humor.

As they talk, an unexpected tenderness arises between them, with Rapskal acknowledging that his world changed significantly after their night together. Meanwhile, thrumps of worry creep back into Thymara's thoughts about her future and her bond with her dragon, Sintara, now able to hunt on her own. She feels as if she is losing her connection with her, which dampens her fleeting joy. Rapskal, unaware of her turmoil, expresses his excitement about Heeby and their newfound prospects.

Their exploration, along with the return to their world and responsibilities, leads them into the inevitable challenge of adapting to their evolving dynamics and surrounding environment.

Interlude: Reyn and Malta

On another front, Reyn, filled with deep concern for his wife and their newborn son, reflects on their precarious situation as they prepare to leave. Despite his feelings of uselessness, he attempts to support Malta, who is

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determinedly caring for their infant. They share tender moments reminiscing about family and loss, grounding themselves in love and hope for their future as they await a decisive departure to find salvation for their child.

Interlude: Selden

Elsewhere, Selden wakes chained on a ship, grappling with his dire health situation and the betrayal of those he had once trusted. He interacts with children aboard who regard him as a “dragon man,” feeling the depths of his despair. Selden recounts his connection to Tintaglia, the dragon who transformed him, while stressing his humanity amidst the mistreatment he endures.

Interlude: Leftrin

Captain Leftrin navigates the burdens of merchant obligations, rumors, and pressures from the council, all of which are compounded by the urgency of loading supplies to escape. He struggles with the chaos of the loading dock while trying to manage increasing scrutiny and expectations from merchants and council members. Time presses against him as they prepare to depart toward Kelsingra, but his plans are thwarted by meddling council members intending to claim the expedition’s findings.

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As Leftrin executes his escape, the tension increases with the looming danger of pursuit. The ship, Tarman, responds to the captain's call, emphasizing their connection and unique ability. A sense of liberation and adventure builds as they begin their journey, promising the possibility of hope and new beginnings.

Interlude: Together Again

Amid the intertwined journeys, Thymara and Rapskal return to the dragons, shortly arriving back at the riverbank. Their excitement and newfound treasures spark curiosity and questions from the fellow keepers. However, Alise challenges their actions, urging caution and care for their shared heritage. Rapskal, emboldened by his experiences, counters her concerns, asserting the living legacy of Kelsingra and the necessity of integrating their discoveries with the dragons' needs.

Tension vibrations extend among the circle of listeners as conflicting ideals collide. Yet the urgent call for progress toward flight and survival echoes in Mercor's urging to rally the keepers and dragons towards their unified future, reawakening the purpose and destinies they have set forth to claim.

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Chapter 15 Summary: Shopping

Chapter Fourteen Summary:

In this chapter, Hest Finbok engages in a compelling confrontation with his father, Trader Finbok, regarding the absence of his wife, Alise, and the implications for their family name and fortune. Hest's relationship with his father is strained, marked by a history of derision and provocation. This tension is palpable as Hest adopts a flippant demeanor, sharing that he is relieved by Alise's departure with his secretary, Sedric, whom he dismisses as an irrelevant detail in the aftermath of recent scandals.

Trader Finbok is not easily placated, passionately insisting that Hest must retrieve Alise for the sake of their family's reputation and potential financial gain. He reveals that Alise inadvertently plays a critical role in a trading expedition, known as the Tarman expedition, which has reportedly discovered significant riches in the Rain Wilds. This knowledge shocks Hest, who learns that Alise's involvement entitles her to a share of these potential treasures, tying the future of their family wealth to her return.

Hest grapples with feelings of humiliation over Alise abandoning him, as well as resentment toward Sedric, whose actions have jeopardized Hest's claims to an Elderling city, Kelsingra. Amidst this turmoil, Hest

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contemplates his father's notion that reclaiming her is not just about personal feelings, but also about securing wealth and legacy. He considers the marriage contract binding Alise to him, and how her absence might be leveraged for his benefit.

As the chapter progresses, Hest endeavors to distance himself from the emotional weight of their discussion. He defers to his mother's influence when she bursts into the discussion, determined to revitalize Hest's efforts to win Alise back through gifts and a polished appearance. Sealia's colorful character serves to offer both comic relief and support, showing her strong maternal instincts while reinforcing societal expectations around marriage and feminine loyalty. The interaction between Hest and his parents also highlights the dynastic pressures he faces as he must secure an heir to satisfy his father's ambitions.

Urgency mounts when Trader Finbok urges Hest to book immediate passage to confront Alise in the Rain Wilds, emphasizing the importance of acting swiftly in light of the rumors surrounding the expedition. Despite their raucous family dynamics, Hest's determination melds with his mother's shopping plans, blending practical concerns with personal ambitions. The chapter culminates in a foreboding turn when Hest receives an ominous gift, the severed ear of his would-be assassin. This gruesome token not only signals that his life is in jeopardy but also offers a chilling reminder of the danger still lurking in the shadows of his ambitions and shattered

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relationships.

With a newfound urgency, Hest is thrust from domestic quarrels into a web of intrigue and danger, setting the stage for the unfolding events in the Rain Wilds and the potential reclamation of both his wife and his family's legacy.

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Chapter 16: Strange Bedfellows

Chapter Fifteen: Strange Bedfellows

In this chapter, the liveship captain Leftrin finds himself confronted with unexpected revelations that could disrupt the fragile peace aboard his vessel, Tarman. His first mate, Bellin, unexpectedly requests a private conversation, and her serious demeanor fills Leftrin with dread. He worries that one of his loyal crew members may be ill, but instead, she reveals two significant issues affecting the crew's morale.

The first is Hennesey's infatuation with Tillamon Khuprus, a woman of noble descent far above his station. Concerned for the implications this romance could have—especially given the volatile nature of relationships amidst their crew—Bellin emphasizes the need for Leftrin to address this situation proactively before it escalates into conflict. Leftrin is taken aback by Hennesey's romantic involvement but resolves to address it, recalling how his own feelings for Alise, a woman of higher social standing, had caused him turmoil despite warnings from his shipmates.

Bellin's second concern is Skelly, Leftrin's niece, who, like Hennesey, seems to stand on the precipice of romantic troubles. Bellin worries that Skelly harbors aspirations of marrying Alum, a young man now considered an

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Elderling. She fears that if Skelly's engagement falls through, she might be drawn into a rough existence ashore, where neither she nor Alum will thrive. Leftrin, knowing this causes tension in their familial bond, reassures Bellin he will handle both situations.

After their conversation, Leftrin observes Hennesey on deck, the first signs of his romantic transformation visible in his demeanor. Meanwhile, the narrative shifts to Hest, a nobleman aboard the New Glory, where he finds discomfort in his cramped quarters and a lack of amenities. His dissatisfaction is compounded by memories of a humiliating encounter with a Chalcedean assassin. This moment revealed Hest's degradation, stranding him in a web of petty deceptions and fears, all while preparing him for a nefarious task in Trehaug.

As the ship approaches Trehaug, Hest's conflicting emotions unveil layers of his character, revealing a man on the verge of unraveling. He resolves to confront Sedric, his rival and former associate. Hest anticipates re-establishing control over Alise, Sedric's fiancé, and reclaiming his status.

In parallel, a sense of impending danger haunts the narrative. Rumors swirl of dragons sighted in Chalced, sparking curiosity and potential peril. Hest becomes acutely aware of the implications that dragonkind may have on their world and his plans, while simultaneously grappling with the machinations of his sociopolitical landscape dominated by power plays.

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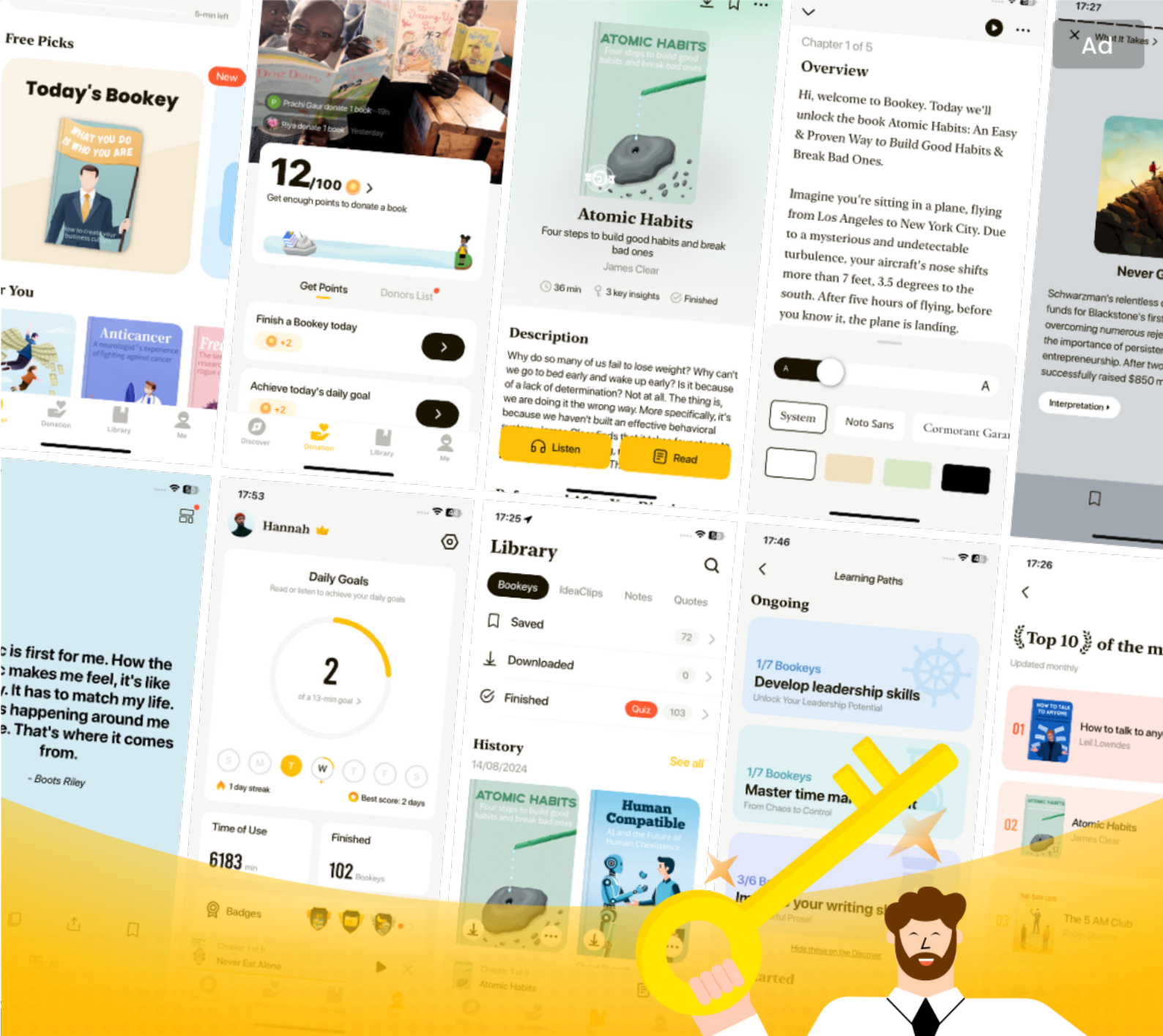
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The chapter concludes with the Duke of Chalced, burdened by illness and political maneuvering, reflecting on the growing treachery within his court, especially from his own daughter, Chassim. Her ambition manifests in written works that challenge the established societal norms and threaten the

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Chapter 17 Summary: Epilogue: Homeward Bound

Epilogue: Homeward Bound

The epilogue opens with IceFyre, an ancient dragon, showcasing his exceptional hunting abilities in the rugged hills bordering a desert. With his powerful yet stealthy flight, he preys on game animals that once roamed freely but have since learned to be wary of the skies due to the presence of dragons. He embodies the last remnants of a long-lost civilization, once shared between dragons and Elderlings, an ancient race of humans transformed by dragons. The destructive events that claimed their society linger in his memory, but he shares little of it with Tintaglia, a younger and smaller dragon still learning the skills he has long perfected.

Tintaglia's own history is fraught with loss and confinement; she recalls being trapped in a cocoon deep within a buried city, a prison created by Elderlings during a time of disaster. Her rescue had come at the cost of the sunlight she craved, and now she finds herself alone after sending away Selden, her human companion and singer, to search for other dragon populations. Bruised by their isolation, Tintaglia grapples with the despair of believing they are the last of their kind amid the fading memories of greater days.

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While IceFyre delights in the thrill of the hunt, Tintaglia faces the harsh reality of her injury—a festering arrow embedded in her wing, a reminder of humanity's past aggressions against dragons. As she struggles to overcome her pain, she voices her thoughts about returning to the Rain Wilds and seeking help from her Elderlings, particularly Malta and Reyn, who had previously aided her. IceFyre, tainted by past treachery, expresses doubt about trusting humans again, but Tintaglia remains hopeful despite understanding their fleeting nature.

After a brief yet intense hunting scene, in which Tintaglia secures a meager kill despite her injuries, she reflects on the unhealed state of her wound and the poisoning that threatens her vitality. The contrasting views of the two dragons regarding their connection to humans—a deep mistrust from IceFyre and latent hope from Tintaglia—serve to highlight the complexities of their existence in a world that has shifted drastically from the age when dragons and Elderlings flourished together.

Ultimately, Tintaglia resolves to seek out her Elderlings for assistance, rejecting IceFyre's dismissive attitude towards her plans. As she settles down for what may be her last moment of rest before embarking on her journey back to the Rain Wilds, she realizes the gravity of her situation. With IceFyre choosing to continue hunting and remaining indifferent to her plight, she decides that when she wakes, she will no longer wait for his decision. It is time to reunite with the remnants of her past and reclaim the

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aid and companionship that could mean the difference between life and death in a world that has forgotten the bonds once shared with dragons.

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