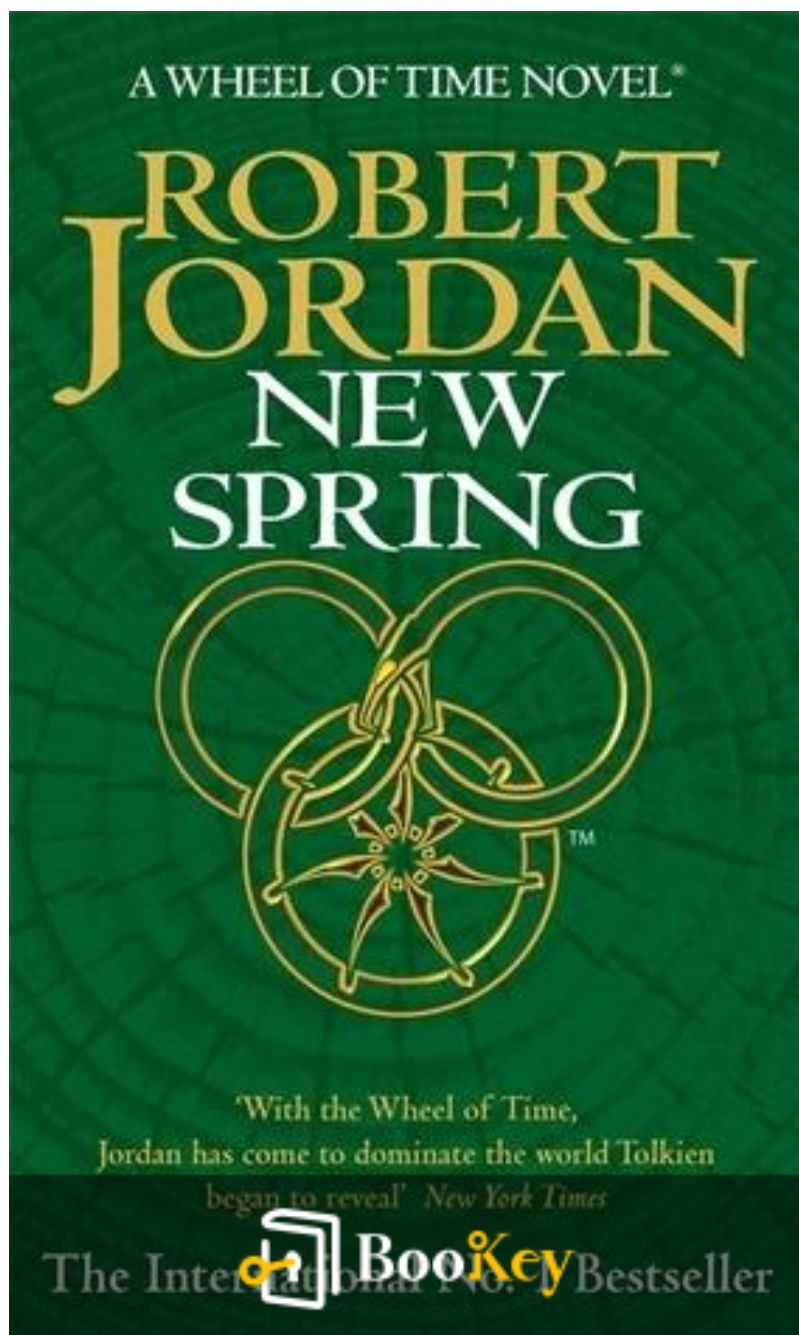


# New Spring PDF (Limited Copy)

Robert Jordan



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# **New Spring Summary**

The Awakening of Heroes Before the Last Battle

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## About the book

Set in the richly woven tapestry of Robert Jordan's Wheel of Time universe, "New Spring" serves as a compelling prequel that delves into the origins of pivotal characters and the cataclysmic events that shape their destinies. This novel introduces us to the enigmatic Moiraine Damodred and her steadfast protector, Lan Mandragoran, as they embark on a perilous journey to uncover crucial truths about the Dragon Reborn—a figure destined to either save or doom the world. With themes of fate, sacrifice, and the intricate interplay of power, readers are invited to immerse themselves in a tale that intricately blends ancient prophecies, political intrigue, and the timeless battle between light and dark. Prepare to explore the roots of one of fantasy literature's most epic sagas, where every choice echoes through the ages and the wheel of time weaves its unbreakable pattern.

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## About the author

Robert Jordan, born James Oliver Rigney Jr. on October 17, 1948, in Charleston, South Carolina, is a celebrated American author renowned for his epic fantasy series, "The Wheel of Time." An avid reader from a young age, Jordan's passion for storytelling blossomed after serving as a helicopter gunner during the Vietnam War, which led him to delve into writing full-time. His intricate world-building, complex characters, and elaborate plots have captivated millions of readers around the globe, solidifying his legacy in the fantasy genre. "New Spring," a prequel to "The Wheel of Time" series, showcases Jordan's signature blend of rich mythology and deep character development, further contributing to his status as a masterful storyteller.

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## Chapter 1 Summary: 1

In the first chapter of "New Spring" by Robert Jordan, we are thrust into a cold, tense landscape where Lan Mandragoran, a seasoned warrior, is patrolling a snow-covered camp. The atmosphere is thick with danger, as Lan reflects on both his duty and the imminent threat of the Aiel, a fierce warrior people with a reputation for deadly skill. As he makes his rounds among the weary sentries, he exhibits a leadership style that is calm yet firm, urging his men to stay alert.

Lan's ancient sword, forged with the One Power, symbolizes his deep connection to his Malkieri heritage and the burdens he carries as the last of a fallen nation. Through interactions with his men, particularly with a sentry named Basram and his old mentor Bukama, we see the camaraderie and respect within their ranks, despite the dire circumstances. The chapter explores themes of loyalty, the weight of responsibility, and the stark realities of war. Lan's teachings from Bukama—a man who embodies duty and tradition—reinforce the importance of vigilance and the mental discipline required in battle.

The narrative shifts when a messenger arrives with news of Aiel movements nearby, signaling a possible confrontation. Lan's response is marked by a mixture of irritation at the messenger's rudeness and a deep sense of obligation to fulfill his duties. As he prepares to move towards a tactical

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position known as the Hook, strategizing an ambush of the Aiel with the help of an allied force, we sense the weight of his decisions and the impending chaos. The atmospheric tension crescendos when a large group of Aiel appears on the horizon, and Lan's men brace for confrontation.

With the Aiel calling out "Aan'allein," or "One Man Alone," the chapter leaves us contemplating the unknown motives of this formidable enemy, setting the stage for an epic clash. Through vivid descriptions, character dynamics, and a palpable sense of urgency, Jordan establishes a gripping opening that hints at the larger epic saga to come, centered on themes of honor, duty, and the complexity of war.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** The importance of leadership under pressure

**Critical Interpretation:** In moments of fear and uncertainty, like Lan Mandragoran in a snowy camp poised for battle, we are reminded of the strength of true leadership. Every challenge in life demands more than just personal strength; it invites us to step up and support those around us. Just as Lan maintains calm amidst chaos, we too can find inspiration in his example to exhibit steadfastness and compassion when faced with our own challenges. Embracing leadership not only fosters resilience within ourselves but also strengthens our bonds with others, creating a united front against whatever storms may come.

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## Chapter 2 Summary: 2

In Chapter 2 of "New Spring," titled "A Wish Fulfilled," we find Moiraine in the cold, drafty sitting room of the Amyrlin Seat, Tamra Ospenya, amidst a tense atmosphere as battles rage outside Tar Valon. Moiraine, though an Accepted, yearns for knowledge about the ongoing conflict, feeling a deep connection due to her uncle's involvement. The presence of acrid smoke and the chilling conditions highlight the war's severity and its impact on the world outside the Tower.

Moiriane and her close friend Sivan Sanche, also an Accepted, are in attendance, serving Tamra and her Keeper of the Chronicles, Gitara Moroso. The two Aes Sedai, while seemingly unfazed by the cold, are evidently troubled. Gitara's rumored ability to Foretell the future adds an air of uncertainty, and Moiraine senses an impending crisis as Gitara frets over her letter. The urgency becomes palpable when distant trumpets signal an emergency outside, prompting Tamra to order Moiraine to fetch news.

The tension escalates when Gitara suddenly experiences a moment of prophetic clarity, declaring the birth of the Dragon—an event of monumental significance. However, the moment quickly turns tragic; Gitara collapses, lifeless. Tamra attempts to heal her but realizes it's too late. The chapter explores themes of power and foreknowledge, revealing the burdens that come with being an Aes Sedai and the weight of destiny.



As Moiraine grapples with the implications of Gitara's Foretelling, she understands the gravity of events unfolding, while Tamra's orders to keep Gitara's death a secret accentuate the complexities of power and the heavy responsibilities the Aes Sedai carry. The chapter closes on a note of foreboding as Moiraine reflects on the wish she had made to witness a Foretelling, only to find herself in the midst of a tragic omen instead.

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## Chapter 3: 3

In Chapter 3 of "New Spring," titled "Practice," we find ourselves in the cold, drafty corridors of the White Tower, where Sivan and Moiraine, two Accepted preparing for their upcoming test for the shawl, share a moment of camaraderie. The chapter opens with the two friends navigating the chilly hallways, adorned with rich tapestries and intricate decorations, highlighting their world steeped in tradition and hierarchy. Moiraine, a noblewoman by birth, grapples with her feelings of anxiety and pressure surrounding the test they both face, while Sivan, who has a rougher background, confidently insists they practice their channeling skills despite Moiraine's reluctance.

As they walk, their friendship is explored, showcasing how Sivan often takes the lead, reflecting their bond that defies social ranks within the Tower. Sivan's dreams of traveling the world versus Moiraine's more reserved nature reveal their differing ambitions and personalities. However, a shadow hangs over their practices, stemming from the recent Foretelling by Gitara, an Aes Sedai who has passed away. Gitara's cryptic prophecy suggests that a vital baby is soon to be born, one tied to the legendary Dragon Reborn,

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## Chapter 4 Summary: 4

In Chapter 4 of "New Spring," Moiraine prepares to leave the White Tower alongside her friend Siuan, reflecting on the humdrum nature of her surroundings and her eagerness for adventure. Moiraine's sparse room mirrors Siuan's, but she focuses on packing efficiently, knowing they are embarking on a mission, albeit with little assurance of success. Moiraine dons heavy shoes to brave the cold and retrieves a dagger for protection, hinting at her cautious nature in a world filled with dangers.

As they join the bustling chaos of the Tower's courtyard, the excitement is palpable among the Accepted, each scrambling to gather last-minute items. The camaraderie between Moiraine and Siuan shines through, underscored by their shared hopes and frustrations. Their journey begins with a group of Tower Guards escorting them on horseback, marking a shift from the constraints of the Tower to the larger world.

Once outside, the reality of Tar Valon unfolds—its vibrant streets, the variety of its people, and all the hustle and bustle feels alive. Moiraine takes in the sights, though she is still anxious about the mission ahead—searching for Aiel women who may slip away without being counted. Siuan, ever the strategist, hints at her thoughts on bonding a Warder, while both grapple with their feelings amid the unfamiliar sight of the city and its diverse inhabitants.



The tension rises when their path is interrupted by a group of Whitecloaks, who are known for their intolerant and intimidating nature. Here, the chapter explores themes of authority and rebellion as Moiraine seeks to assert that they will not be intimidated. However, Sivan reminds her of the importance of discretion, particularly in light of the power dynamics at play.

As they venture onward, they navigate the bridge leading out of the city, experiencing a sense of freedom mixed with the ominous feel of their surroundings near Dragonmount, where smoke rises. Steler, the officer in charge, proves to be unyielding, leading them to the camps beyond the city, where the hope of encountering Aiel women rests uncertainly.

The chapter closes with their first encounter at one of those camps, filled with children playing in the snow and the faint sounds of work being done; it contrasts sharply with the apprehension surrounding their mission. The atmosphere shifts between hope and unease, reflecting the precarious balance the characters must maintain as they move into unknown territory. Moiraine's resolve is tested, and a dynamic tension unfolds as she and Sivan embark on their quest, their skills and destinies intertwined with the fate of those they seek.

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## Chapter 5 Summary: 5

In Chapter 5 of "New Spring" by Robert Jordan, we see Moiraine and Suan engaged in a challenging and chaotic task of collecting names from women in a camp, primarily those with newborns. As the chapter unfolds, Moiraine is confronted by the biting cold and the clamor of nearly a hundred women demanding to be heard. She struggles with her discomfort, but Suan steps in with a display of the One Power, commanding attention and establishing order, which highlights her assertiveness and burgeoning strength as an Aes Sedai.

The women, a mix of nobility and commoners, jostle for position as they line up before Moiraine and Suan, eager for their infants to receive White Tower honors. Through this scene, we see various personalities: Lady Meri do Ahlan a'Conlin, with her prideful lineage, and Susa Wynn, who exhibits desperation amid poverty. The interactions illustrate themes of social hierarchy and maternal bonds, as the women navigate this momentous occasion, each driven by their hopes and fears for their children.

As Moiraine records their names, she contemplates the purpose of their task, reflecting on the possibility of finding the Dragon Reborn among the children born in the camp. Yet, her practical duties are overshadowed by the emotional weight of the interactions, especially with Susa, whose story reveals the tragic loss of her husband. The chapter touches on human



connections and the varying definitions of honor, with women dealing with loss in the backdrop of war.

When two Aes Sedai—Meilyn and Elaida—arrive, their presence throws the camp into disarray, and we witness Moiraine’s apprehension toward Elaida’s authority and reputation. The dynamic between the sisters, particularly Elaida's disdain for the two young women, adds tension and complexity to the narrative, embodying the competitive nature among the Aes Sedai.

The chapter closes on a more somber note as Moiraine grapples with the ramifications of her family's death and the looming threat of the Dragon Reborn. After a distressing day, she seeks solace in Siuan's company, signaling that despite their roles, they remain on a deeply personal journey, fraught with uncertainty and fear of the future. This blend of interpersonal drama, societal commentary, and the omnipresent threat of war enriches the story, creating an engaging tapestry of emotions and experiences.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Embrace Strength in Adversity

**Critical Interpretation:** In the chaotic scene of women awaiting the honor for their newborns, you are reminded of the power of assertiveness and inner strength. Moiraine and Sivan face not just physical discomfort but the emotional weight of expectations and societal pressures. Sivan's use of the One Power to command attention teaches you that in moments of chaos, finding your own voice and standing firm can bring order and clarity. This is a powerful lesson for your life; when faced with challenges, tapping into your own strength can help you navigate through difficult circumstances, fostering confidence and resilience that can inspire those around you.

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## Chapter 6: 6

In Chapter 6 of "New Spring" by Robert Jordan, titled "Surprises," the story begins with Siuan and Moiraine as they prepare for a busy day at the White Tower. They receive news from a novice named Setsuko about the Amyrlin's orders to gather all Accepted at the West Stable. As they hurry through the corridors, the atmosphere is thick with tension and anticipation as both young women harbor hopes of encountering something significant regarding the Dragon Reborn.

Moiraine's excitement shifts when she meets Sheriam, and their conversation centers around conflicting reports about the Aiel's retreat, signaling possible shifts in power dynamics outside the tower. The chapter teases the bonds and camaraderie between the Accepted, particularly between Moiraine and Siuan, who share their hopes and fears as they navigate the trials of being novices.

Merean, the Mistress of Novices, makes a surprising appearance in the gallery, indicating that something important is afoot. This moment stirs an

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Alex Walk

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## Chapter 7 Summary: 7

In Chapter 7 of "New Spring" by Robert Jordan, the narrative follows Moiraine and Siuan as they continue their quest to find the prophesied boy-child born near Dragonmount. Moiraine grapples with the understanding that mothers would hesitate to reveal such a child's existence due to the fear surrounding the Dragon Reborn's fate. This complex web of secrecy and truth complicates their search, forcing Moiraine to navigate delicate conversations with potential mothers to elicit information without raising suspicion.

The chapter introduces a pivotal moment when Tamra, the Amyrlin Seat, visits Moiraine and tasks her with delivering a sealed letter to Kerene Nagashi, a Green sister. Their discussion highlights Siuan's dislike for mundane clerical work, contrasting the urgency of their mission with the tediousness of record-keeping. The chapter emphasizes the looming threat posed by the Reds, who may not be trustworthy in safeguarding the boy-child, intensifying the stakes of their mission.

As Moiraine ventures into the Ajah quarters, the descriptions paint a vivid picture of the Green Ajah's space filled with martial imagery, revealing their readiness for future conflicts. Interactions with various Warders offer insights into their relationships with Aes Sedai, blending the themes of loyalty, restraint, and the burdens of duty.

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Moiraine reflects on the pain of Aes Sedai, recognizing their sacrifices over time, including the loss of families. Kerene's room, adorned with war-like decor, juxtaposes her gentle embroidery work, encapsulating the duality of Aes Sedai life—nurturing yet war-ready.

Back to her studies, Moiraine's analytical mind quickly grasps a pattern in Tamra's secretive messages. Realizing that Tamra is recruiting trusted sisters to search for the boy-child, she and Sivan become increasingly aware of the dangerous implications of their mission. Their discussion underscores the tension between knowledge and ignorance as they realize the complications surrounding the child's fate in a world rife with intrigue.

The chapter concludes with a sense of urgency and tension, as Moiraine battles her own frustrations and "itches" for clarity in a situation fraught with uncertainty, teasing the reader with the complexities of their unfolding journey.

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## Chapter 8 Summary: 8

In Chapter 8 of "New Spring," titled "Shreds of Serenity," Moiraine and Siuan are deeply entrenched in their lessons with the Aes Sedai of the White Tower. They experience both the rigor and frustration of their training, which leaves them exhausted but yearning for more. While some Aes Sedai show a willingness to teach, many express resentment towards Moiraine and Siuan, who are capable of teaching novice classes but are instead subjected to intense training. This creates a simmering tension and competition among the women, hinting at the rivalry and pettiness that sometimes exists within the Tower's hierarchy.

Moiraine is consumed by a burning urgency to find a certain boy mentioned in a list they possess, understanding that the Aes Sedai's current leisurely pace might lead to missed opportunities. The chapter conveys her frustration as she witnesses the Aes Sedai dismiss rumors about ongoing battles and conflicts outside the Tower, further enhancing her sense of urgency.

The lessons become increasingly brutal, particularly with the entrance of Elaida, a Red sister who subjects Moiraine and Siuan to merciless practice sessions. During these sessions, Moiraine struggles under the harsh conditions, battered physically and emotionally, yet she strives to maintain her focus. Elaida's unforgiving nature becomes a stark contrast to their earlier experiences, showcasing the various methods of training employed in

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the Tower.

As the chapter unfolds, the hardships intensify, with Moiraine and Sivan bonding over their shared suffering. Their friendship and determination to succeed in completing the required weaves highlight their resilience in facing adversity. They support each other during their painful practice sessions, fostering a deep connection amidst the trials they endure.

However, the dynamic begins to shift when Merean, the Mistress of Novices, intervenes, revealing that Elaida's methods could have repercussions that may put her at odds with the Amyrlin. Merean's arrival provides a sense of relief, although it raises questions about the politics within the Aes Sedai, hinting that not all is as serene as it seems. This tension between authority and rebellion plays a significant role in shaping their experiences and future.

By the end of the chapter, a significant turning point is reached when the weather shifts, signaling that the search for the boy is narrowing. It culminates with a formal summons for Moiraine to be tested for the shawl of an Aes Sedai, a moment that holds both excitement and dread. She understands that success in this test is essential for her journey, setting the stage for the conflicts and challenges that lie ahead. The chapter encapsulates themes of ambition, resilience, and the complex hierarchy of power within the Aes Sedai, leaving readers eager to see how Moiraine will

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navigate the twists of her destiny.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Resilience in the face of adversity

**Critical Interpretation:** As you journey through the challenges of your own life, remember the tenacity displayed by Moiraine and Siuan.

Their shared struggles in the brutal training at the White Tower remind you that resilience isn't just about enduring hardship—it's about coming together with others to support one another, learning from the pain, and growing stronger. Embrace the obstacles you encounter, for they can forge deep connections and lead you closer to your ambitions. Just like Moiraine, you too can channel the urgency of your goals and face the trials head-on, transforming them into stepping stones towards your destiny.

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## Chapter 9: 9

In Chapter 9 of "New Spring," titled "It Begins," Moiraine Damodred prepares for a crucial test that could determine her future as an Aes Sedai. Accompanied by Merean, she descends into the depths of the Tower, overcome by anxiety about her impending trial. Her mind races with thoughts of potential failure, evoking a sense of dread. Yet amid her panic, Moiraine reassures herself of her identity and capabilities, reminding herself that she can still channel saidar regardless of the test's outcome.

The atmosphere grows more intense as they reach a heavily guarded chamber where a beautiful ter'angreal—an ancient device for using the One Power—awaits her. As she enters, she is encircled by Aes Sedai, including Elaida, whom she views as a formidable threat. With each formal exchange, the seriousness of her situation emphasizes her fraught state. Clad only in her trust for the Light, Moiraine readies herself for the test that will challenge her mastery of the One Power.

Guided by the instructions of Merean, she makes her way to the star-shaped

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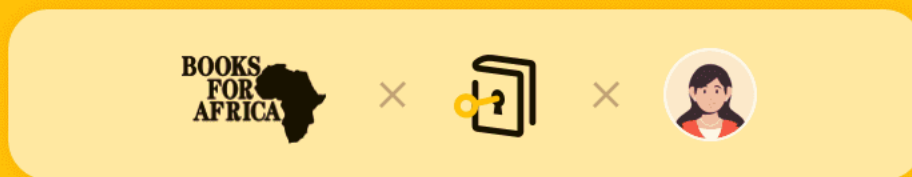
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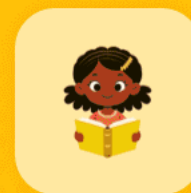
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## Chapter 10 Summary: 10

In Chapter 10 of "New Spring," we follow Moiraine Damodred as she endures an intense and challenging series of tests that shape her path toward becoming an Aes Sedai. The chapter opens with vivid imagery of Moiraine navigating a myriad of disorienting and terrifying scenarios, each time facing a different danger or challenge while trying to complete her task of weaving. This relentless barrage of trials leaves her battered—both physically and mentally—and we sense her exhaustion, which goes beyond mere fatigue.

Amidst the chaos, she clings to her mundane task of weaving, revealed through her chaotic experiences, whether facing wild beasts or being captured by hostile mobs. At one moment, Moiraine's father appears in her vision, distressed and urging her to come quickly because her mother is dying. Instead of succumbing to emotion, she maintains her composure and expresses her love for him before moving on, symbolizing her sacrifice and the inner strength that defines her character.

As the chapter progresses, Moiraine bursts into a bright, white chamber where she is finally confronted by Merean, the Mistress of Novices. The atmosphere shifts as Merean announces the completion of Moiraine's trials with a sense of finality, which is underscored by her dramatic clapping. This moment marks a significant transition for Moiraine, as she prepares for the



burdens she will shoulder as an Aes Sedai. The crux of the chapter lies in her emotional vulnerability juxtaposed with her resilient façade, revealing the isolation that comes with achieving her goal.

Following her test, supportive sisters like Anaiya and Verin offer healing for Moiraine's wounds, which reflects the importance of camaraderie and the rigid structure of Aes Sedai society. Moiraine's awkwardness at having her private experiences observed serves to underscore the strong themes of vulnerability, scrutiny, and the bittersweet nature of growth and advancement.

The tension turns personal as Moiraine anxiously awaits news about her friend Suan, who is also undergoing her test. The friendship between them becomes spotlighted, illustrating the deep bond that exists between two women in this challenging environment. Moiraine experiences a mix of joy and sadness as she realizes that their friendship will soon change due to their impending promotions to Aes Sedai.

When Suan finally returns, they jubilantly celebrate their successes, but their interactions reveal a newfound distance; the rules governing their society tighten around them. The chapter closes with the women planning a mischievous act against Elaida, the sister who subjected them to stress, merging both the thrill of their bond and the complexities of their positions within the Tower. This moment expansively captures the themes of

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friendship, sacrifice, ambition, and the bittersweet nature of growth in an unforgiving world.

Through rich imagery and emotional depth, the chapter emphasizes the arduous journey of becoming an Aes Sedai, where pain, challenge, and the hope of camaraderie converge. Moiraine emerges from her trials not only as a survivor but transformed and ready to embrace her future—a testament to her strength and resilience.

Aspect	Summary
Chapter Title	Chapter 10
Main Character	Moiraine Damodred
Challenges Faced	Various terrifying trials while weaving
Emotional Struggle	Maintaining composure amidst chaotic visions of her parents
Mentor Figure	Merean, the Mistress of Novices
Key Themes	Vulnerability, scrutiny, sacrifice, friendship
Support System	Healing from sisters Anaiya and Verin
Friendship Highlight	Moiraine's anxious wait for Suan; bond and impending change
Ending Note	The women plan a mischievous act, showcasing their bond amid societal pressures



<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Transformation	Moiraine emerges as a survivor, ready for her future as an Aes Sedai

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## Chapter 11 Summary: 11

In Chapter 11 of "New Spring" by Robert Jordan, we join Moiraine as she prepares for a pivotal morning in her journey to becoming an Aes Sedai. After a sleepless night of contemplation filled with nervous anticipation, Moiraine dresses with care, reflecting on the burdens of her calling and the importance of the ceremonies that lie ahead. She wishes her friend Sivan were there to support her, though they have chosen to undertake this rite individually, adhering to the strict customs of the Aes Sedai.

As Moiraine finishes her preparations, a knock on her door reveals a group of seven sisters from different Ajahs, who stand ready to escort her to Sivan's door. Each sister carries an air of timelessness, underscoring the significance of the gathering, with the stern Elaida representing the Red Ajah. Together, they proceed in silence to join Sivan, who greets them with an eyebrow twitch upon seeing Elaida.

The sisters form a circle around Moiraine and Sivan, and when they reach the ceremonial chamber, they declare their intentions to swear the Three Oaths and claim their status as Aes Sedai. Despite a small moment of hesitation from their teacher, Tamra, they confidently affirm their passage through the tests set by the White Tower. As they step into the chamber, Moiraine's heart swells with joy, and she experiences the weight of her choices.

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During the oath-taking ceremony, Moiraine feels the pressure of each vow settle upon her as she swears to speak only the truth, not make weapons for men, and not use the One Power as a weapon except against Shadowspawn or in self-defense. The physical sensations that accompany these oaths are both overwhelming and momentous, solidifying her bond with the Tower.

After Moiraine completes her oaths, Sivan follows suit with a steadiness that showcases her strength. With each step, they feel themselves becoming part of something larger, embodying the dignity of their new identities. Upon completing the ceremony, they are welcomed as sisters into the Blue Ajah, with the warmth of their fellow sisters surrounding them in joyful embraces.

As the newly minted Aes Sedai navigate through the Tower, they engage in playful banter about customs and expectations, highlighting the balance between tradition and personal identity that the Aes Sedai must navigate. Moiraine becomes acutely aware of the weight of her new status, but also a sense of belonging, especially once she dons her blue-fringed shawl.

The chapter emphasizes themes of camaraderie, the weight of responsibility, and the transition from novice to Aes Sedai. Moiraine and Sivan's journey reflects the trials of female friendship and the solidarity that comes with shared struggles, marking not just a new beginning for them individually, but also for the greater mission they will undertake together within the Blue

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Ajah. The excitement and trepidation of their new roles are palpable as they move forward, ready to explore their identities as Aes Sedai and face the challenges ahead.

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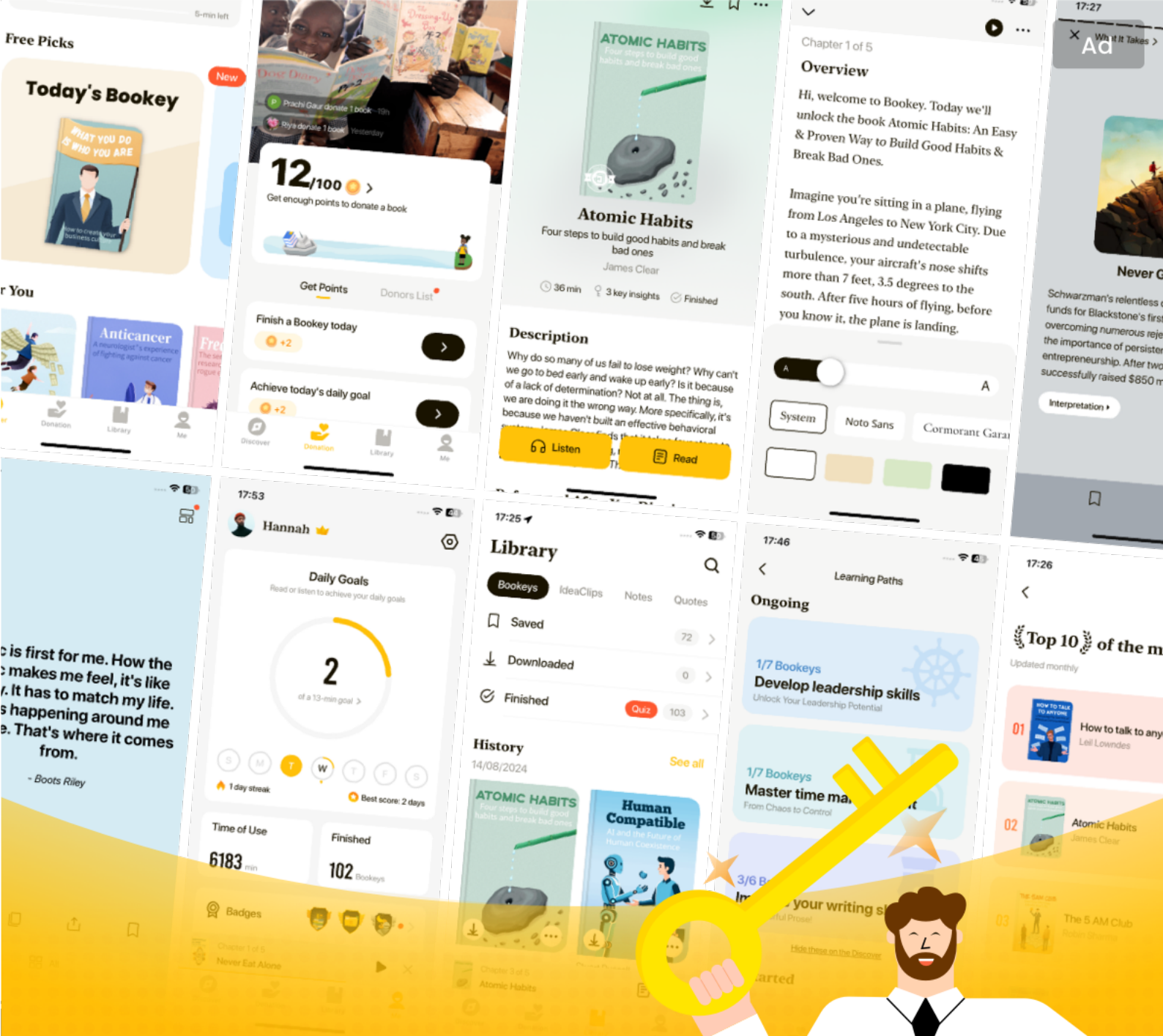
## Chapter 12: 12

In Chapter 12 of "New Spring," titled "Entering Home," Moiraine and Sivan arrive at the Blue Ajah quarters in Tar Valon, greeted warmly by their fellow sisters. Anaiya, Kairen, and a new sister, Cabriana, welcome them with playful banter, setting a familiar yet slightly tense atmosphere as they navigate the realities of their new lives as Aes Sedai. The Blue quarters are modestly adorned, hinting at the understated elegance of their Ajah, contrasting with the flamboyance of other Aes Sedai quarters. As they walk through the halls, Moiraine and Sivan receive over thirty formal greetings, emphasizing the structure and protocol of life in the Tower, along with the anticipation of new responsibilities and dangers that lie ahead.

Upon meeting Eadyth, the First Selector, she stresses the necessity of understanding their relative strengths in the One Power—a crucial aspect of Aes Sedai hierarchy that both intrigues and intimidates Moiraine. Eadyth's warning about the importance of deference within the Tower serves as a stark reminder of the intricate social dynamics they must navigate. Moiraine reflects on her previous experiences in the Sun Palace, signaling her

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## Chapter 13 Summary: 13

In Chapter 13 of "New Spring," titled "Business in the City," the story unfolds with Moiraine and Siuan attending dinner in the Aes Sedai dining hall, marking a significant milestone for Siuan, who has just been Healed by Moiraine and is now recognized as an Aes Sedai. The hall is adorned with winter tapestries and elegant furnishings, showcasing the prestige of the sisters. As they navigate the dining experience, Siuan playfully flaunts her new status while Moiraine remains reflective, contemplating their tasks ahead and the looming expectations from the Amyrlin Seat.

Upon returning to the Blue quarters, they are summoned by Eadyth, who presents them with letters of rights worth one thousand crowns gold each. This news astounds Siuan, who has never encountered such wealth, while Moiraine subtly recognizes the importance of this financial power in their political maneuverings. Eadyth advises them to spend wisely, hinting at the scrutiny that comes with their new status.

Moiraine later seeks out her banker, Mistress Dormaile, to deposit her stipend. Their conversation reveals the potential danger they face, as a man posing as a captain in the Tower Guard attempted to access Moiraine's finances unlawfully. Mistress Dormaile managed to apprehend him but let him escape to avoid scandal. This incident underscores the treachery within their ranks and the importance of discretion.

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As Moiraine discusses her financial affairs, she becomes increasingly aware of the political tides shifting against her. The Hall's intentions become a pressing concern, particularly regarding the Sun Throne and her future in Cairhien. Feeling the weight of these threats, she resolves to lay plans to protect herself, revealing her strategic mindset.

In a pursuit to solidify her position, Moiraine visits a renowned seamstress, Tamore Alkohima, to commission a new wardrobe. Siuan reluctantly accompanies her, struggling with the expense. Moiraine makes a bold choice to order twenty dresses, determined to make a statement within the Tower. The fitting process leads to moments of vulnerability as they are measured, yet the atmosphere between them and the seamstress is a mixture of professionalism and playful tension.

Through negotiations on style and price, cultural dynamics are showcased as Moiraine insists on maintaining her Cairhienin identity. The chapter captures their camaraderie and growth as Aes Sedai while exploring themes of power, ambition, and the careful art of navigating social hierarchies in Tar Valon. Ultimately, Moiraine emerges with a plan and a renewed sense of readiness, symbolized by her new wardrobe, firmly planting her feet in the ever-challenging realm of Aes Sedai politics.

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## Chapter 14 Summary: 14

In Chapter 14 of "New Spring" by Robert Jordan, titled "Changes," Moiraine and Suan navigate the complexities of life as newly raised Aes Sedai within the Blue Ajah, discovering that mastering White Tower customs is as daunting as their training as novices. They learn various Ajah-specific traditions, uncovering long-standing rivalries, particularly between the Blue and Red Ajahs. As tensions simmer within the Tower, they delve into advanced studies of the One Power, including the secret weaves known only to the Blue Ajah, while tensions between Suan and fellow sisters, especially Cetalia, begin to mount.

The chapter also highlights the Feast of Lights celebration, which fills Moiraine with both joy and sadness, as she recognizes the dwindling numbers of the Tower's sisters. Invitations to balls from nobility in Cairhien flood in, but Moiraine ignores them, prioritizing her secretive agenda over the societal expectations of her position. Meanwhile, Suan struggles under the pressures of her duties, leading to friction in their friendship as the weight of their new responsibilities takes a toll.

Tragedy strikes the Tower with the death of Ellid during her testing, casting a pall over the Aes Sedai. Moiraine feels the impact acutely, mourning not just Ellid but also the looming decline of the White Tower itself. Ceremonies at Tamra's funeral reveal deeper themes of loss, grief, and tradition as Aes

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Sedai gather to honor their fallen.

Within the murky corridors of power, a new Amyrlin, Sierin Vayu, is raised, bringing strict measures and an unsettling atmosphere to the Tower.

Moiraine's fears grow as Sierin's actions seem to foreshadow potential danger for those with differing ambitions. Sensing that she might not be welcome under Sierin's rule, Moiraine decides to take matters into her own hands and plan an escape.

As the chapter concludes, Moiraine boldly leaves the Tower behind, driven by determination and a thirst for adventure to find the boychild—her priority now rests on pursuing her own quest, free from the confines of the Tower and its politics. This new chapter of her life promises to be filled with uncertainty and excitement, underscoring themes of friendship, ambition, and the pursuit of destiny against all odds.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Embrace Change and Follow Your Own Path

**Critical Interpretation:** In Chapter 14 of 'New Spring,' Moiraine's decision to leave the confines of the Tower represents the courage to embrace change and pursue a personal path, which can inspire us to evaluate our own lives. Often, we find ourselves trapped in societal expectations or traditional roles that may not align with our true desires. Just like Moiraine, we can face the fear of the unknown and step away from comfort to seek our destinies, reminding ourselves that it is essential to prioritize our aspirations over others' expectations. Taking bold steps toward our own ambitions, despite challenges, can lead to profound growth and fulfillment.

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## Chapter 15: 15

In Chapter 15 of "New Spring," titled "Into Canluum," we join Lan as he returns to the sharp, invigorating air of Kandor, where he feels a sense of impending destiny, knowing he has come back to the place he might ultimately meet his end. Despite the beauty of early spring, with budding trees and wildflowers, an underlying chill looms both in the weather and the tense atmosphere among the locals, troubled by bandits and whispers of dark omens from the Blight.

As Lan journeys toward Canluum, he observes the stark contrast between the guarded merchants and the proud farmers garbed in bright attire, embodying the essence of the land. Despite the bustling activity on the road with market traders and merchants guarded by armored men, Lan is less preoccupied with their glances than with the ominous sense of the Blight's proximity. Having spent two years away, he feels a tug of urgency as the danger from the north grows more palpable.

Upon entering Canluum, Lan's presence, marked by his Malkieri heritage,

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## Chapter 16 Summary: 16

In Chapter 16 of "New Spring," titled "The Deeps," we delve into a bustling, gritty section of Canluum where shops, taverns, and inns abound but are filled to the brim with lesser traders and merchants' guards. Lan, accompanied by his friend Bukama, faces the challenge of finding accommodation amidst the crowds, as their initial attempts at several inns prove fruitless. They finally enter The Blue Rose, where they encounter the innkeeper Racelle, who shares a tumultuous relationship with Bukama, showcasing her fiery character through her affectionate yet aggressive gestures.

As Lan reconnects with his old friend Ryne Venamar, the conversation veers towards a figure from their past—Lady Edeyn Arrel—who has recently raised the Golden Crane in Lan's name, rallying men to her cause. This news significantly impacts Lan, stirring memories of his connection with Edeyn, and he grapples with the implications of her actions. The chapter emphasizes themes of duty, obligation, and the weight of the past, particularly Lan's commitment to avenge his fallen homeland of Malkier.

A sense of tension builds when Lan senses danger approaching. Six men confront him in the stableyard, and despite the overwhelming odds, he instinctively moves into a combat stance. The narrative heightens with vivid descriptions of his martial prowess as he dispatches the attackers one by one,



expertly utilizing his training. This moment encapsulates themes of survival and the warrior spirit, as Lan battles not just for his life but also for the legacy of Malkier and his own burdens.

After the fight, Ryne ponders whether the attackers were connected to Edeyn's rallying efforts, further complicating Lan's feelings towards her. There's a blend of shock and urgency as the common folk react to the aftermath of the confrontation. Lan faces the reality of his situation—he must decide whether to follow Edeyn's path, which is intertwined with his past and the haunting memories of Malkier. The chapter concludes with looming choices and the acknowledgment that whatever direction he takes will come with consequences, setting the stage for an emotional and possibly perilous next step in his journey.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** The weight of duty and obligation

**Critical Interpretation:** As you navigate through life, consider how the weight of duty and obligation shapes your own journey. Like Lan, you may find yourself at a crossroads, where past commitments and personal responsibilities intersect. In times of uncertainty, reflecting on what you stand for can inspire a deeper resolve to confront challenges. Embrace the legacy of your experiences and the bonds you hold with others; they can be a source of strength and motivation. Just as Lan is driven by his commitment to Malkier and his memories of Edeyn, allow your values and relationships to guide your choices, reminding you that each decision can leave an imprint on your future.

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## Chapter 17 Summary: 17

In Chapter 17 of "New Spring," titled "An Arrival," we find Moiraine in a state of dissatisfaction after three months away from Tar Valon, chasing prophecies that seem more tedious than thrilling. The chapter depicts her visit to a house of mourning in Kandor, where Jurine Najima mourns the tragic loss of her husband and three sons in a fire. Moiraine, posing as a noblewoman named Alys, tries to provide compassion, but her patience wears thin as Jurine's sorrowful recounting repeats itself. Despite her youth, Moiraine feels the weight of her purpose, battling feelings of frustration and responsibility as she searches for a boychild tied to her mission.

Outside, the harsh weather reflects Moiraine's turmoil as she navigates the bustling streets of Canluum, feeling out of place and out of sorts. She brushes past various individuals in the marketplace, her attire signaling her noble status and granting her some protection against unwanted advances. As she reaches her inn, The Gates of Heaven, she finds herself surrounded by Aes Sedai—five in total—none of whom she recognizes. There's an underlying tension as they whisper and speculate about her presence, mistakenly believing she's a wilder, a woman with the ability to channel who has not been trained within the Tower.

Just as she attempts to slip past the Aes Sedai unnoticed, she is halted by Larelle and Merean, two women of authority from her past. Moiraine's

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attempts to maintain her disguise falter when Cadsuane Melaidhrin, a powerful and legendary Aes Sedai, unexpectedly appears. The chapter culminates in a tense confrontation between Moiraine and Cadsuane, who commands her with an authority that leaves no room for defiance.

Despite being months into her new role as an Aes Sedai, Moiraine is reminded of her place within the hierarchy and the dangers lurking in her quest. Cadsuane recognizes Moiraine's potential but insists she needs to be protected from her own recklessness. The chapter highlights themes of duty, the complexities of authority, and the often harsh reality of the world Moiraine navigates. Ultimately, Moiraine is left grappling with her frustrations, the weight of her responsibilities, and the looming influence of powerful Aes Sedai who will not allow her to pursue her search unchallenged.

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## Chapter 18: 18

In Chapter 18 of "New Spring," titled "A Narrow Passage," the story deepens as Moiraine emerges into a common room filled with uncertainty and unavoidable attention from others, especially given her connections to Aes Sedai. The atmosphere is tense and sympathetic, with Moiraine reflecting on her current predicament. Amid her worries, she is relieved to see her old friend Siuan enter, albeit under a shroud of concern and urgency. Siuan's demeanor carries a weight that raises Moiraine's suspicions, leading to a hasty pursuit as Siuan disappears into the crowded streets.

Once they find a moment in a secluded alley, Siuan reveals dire news—several Aes Sedai, including their mentor Meilyn, have mysteriously died in what seems to be a conspiracy. The deaths are described as natural, yet Siuan is convinced they are linked to the Black Ajah, a secret group of dark-siders within the Aes Sedai. The fear that grips Siuan, usually so bold, highlights the gravity of their situation. As they speak, the sense of dread escalates; the Dragon Reborn who is prophesied to save the world may be in dire danger, leading to a race against time to find him.

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## Chapter 19 Summary: 19

In Chapter 19 of "New Spring," titled "Pond Water," we find Moiraine making a stealthy escape from the inn where she has been staying. The early morning air is still chilly, but the rain has stopped. As she navigates through the empty streets of the inn's stableyard, she quickly secures her mare, Arrow, from a dozing stablehand named Kazin, who seems more motivated by her silver coin than by genuine service.

Riding through the deserted streets, Moiraine notices the tension around her; even the watch patrols and lamplighters seem wary as they patrol the area close to the Blight. She is on the lookout for three large men with a packhorse that she has spotted at the western gates, intrigued by their appearance and intentions. As the gates open, she decides to follow them, hoping to glean information about Cadsuane, another powerful Aes Sedai.

The journey leads her through various landscapes, from villages to forests, all while the three men ahead remain her focus. She ponders how to approach them without raising suspicion, aware of the risks posed by bandits or darker forces. As night falls and she searches for a place to rest, the three men stop and one diverges into the woods with the packhorse, an opportunity she considers for questioning.

Her attempt to confront the remaining two men goes awry when the one she



targets, a Malkieri named Lan, surprises her by swiftly disarming her and throwing her into a nearby pond. Immersed in icy water, Moiraine shakes off the shock and readies her powers, but Lan's surprising demeanor intrigues her instead. He helps her dry off, and she realizes these men may not be her enemies after all.

As night falls, tensions ease somewhat among the three men, who show a degree of wariness towards her, suggesting they know more about her nature than she initially presumed. A game called “sevens” unfolds between Lan and another man, Ryne, wherein they test each other’s reflexes and agility with swords, revealing nuances of their camaraderie and rivalry.

When the men discover her presence, a mix of respect and unease flows among them. To solidify her position, Moiraine asserts her rights as a woman alone traveling to Chachin, offering the men silver for their protection. The reaction varies, with Lan accepting in stoic silence, while Ryne appears more captivated, and Bukama expresses a formal willingness to serve her.

As the chapter concludes, Moiraine is left contemplating her newfound companions. Despite the earlier clash, there's a sense of connection forming. She weaves wards of protection around them as she prepares to rest, mysterious and vigilant as ever, caught between her past experiences and the uncertain future ahead with these unusual allies. The dramatic nighttime

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interactions blend tension and intrigue, hinting at deeper motivations and challenges as the journey unfolds.

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## Chapter 20 Summary: 20

In Chapter 20 of "New Spring," the story unfolds with the intriguing character of Lady Alys, a woman who emerges from her blankets at dawn. As much as she tries to mask her identity as Aes Sedai, Lan is skeptical, noting her behavior, which he finds too childish for a woman of such status. Their little group—comprising Lan, Bukama, and Ryne—struggles to understand her motives while keeping a wary eye on her, especially since they still feel the danger lurking from the previous night.

The chapter takes a lighter turn as they arrive in the bustling village of Manala, where festivities for the Bel Tine celebrations are in full swing. The contrast between the joyful atmosphere and the grim sight of Trolloc heads on stakes serves as a sobering reminder of the dangers of their world. Despite her commanding presence, Alys confidently insists on stopping for breakfast, showcasing a blend of authority and charm that captivates Ryne but annoys Lan and Bukama.

As they settle into an inn, the tension really begins to rise. The men debate Alys's true identity, with Ryne insisting they keep silent about Aes Sedai while Bukama believes they should pry into her intentions. Lan, though skeptical about her being an Aes Sedai, is still cautious. He senses that Alys may have less innocent reasons for her presence and is determined to remain pledged to her for Bukama's sake.



Alys's dismissive language towards Ryne and commanding behavior toward the innkeeper only add to the men's frustrations, especially Lan, who begins to think he might need to have a stern word with her. After their meal, Alys mysteriously disappears from the tavern, prompting Lan and Ryne to search for her. They ultimately find her speaking with a local woman, but Alys quickly senses Lan's intrusion and warns him of the dangers of eavesdropping, revealing her sharp wit and the layers of complexity she carries.

In a tense exchange, Alys orders Lan to wait for her, insulting him about Malkieri men and their honor. This interaction leaves Lan questioning her true nature, pondering whether she is more than just a wily Aes Sedai on a personal quest. The chapter closes on an ambiguous note, with Lan feeling the weight of his and his companions' choices as they continue their travels.

Through their vivid encounters, themes of authority, mystery, and the interplay between male and female dynamics resonate, making the reader anticipate the unfolding story ahead. The camaraderie and underlying tensions among Lan, Bukama, and Ryne provide an engaging backdrop, deepening the intrigue surrounding Alys's character as they all head toward the unknown challenges that Chachin will bring.

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## Chapter 21: 21

In Chapter 21 of "New Spring," the journey to Chachin proves to be arduous and perilous for Lan, Alys, Bukama, and Ryne. As they ride through the rugged terrain of the Borderlands, they're constantly on edge. The landscapes they traverse are dominated by thick forests, an ominous reminder of the dangers lurking at every turn. Alys, determined to find a woman named Sahera, is both a source of intrigue and tension within the group. Her aloof demeanor, especially towards Lan, contrasts sharply with Ryne's flustered admiration for her, providing humor amid the tension.

The trip is marred by harsh weather and the threat of bandits. As the group faces sudden storms, Alys reveals unexpected powers—creating a shield against hail and rain, further complicating the dynamics as Lan struggles to maintain control over the group. Their encounter with bandits highlights this tension. A gaggle of rough-looking men confronts them, demanding treasure and threatening violence. Surprisingly, it is Alys who takes charge, calling upon her mystical abilities to intimidate the bandits. Her claim of being an Aes Sedai sends the brigands scattering, showcasing her raw power but also

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## Chapter 22 Summary: 22

In Chapter 22 of "New Spring," the story unfolds in Chachin, a vibrant city known for its impressive mountains and ornate architecture. Lan Mandragoran arrives with his companions, Bukama and Ryne, eager to find Edeyn. The bustling atmosphere of the city contrasts sharply with the quiet countryside, and as they navigate through the crowded streets, Lan grapples with his irritated feelings towards Alys, who had plagued him with enough discomfort to leave him on edge.

Once they reach the Aesdaishar Palace, Lan is met with a mix of both camaraderie and the pomp of the palace guards. Although he is greeted warmly by familiar faces like Jurad Shiman, he is keenly aware of the weight of expectations upon him. As he integrates himself back into palace life, he finds his men's quarters humble but suitable, showcasing Lan's sense of duty and his prioritization of his companions' needs.

As the chapter progresses, the narrative dances between Lan's anticipation of meeting Edeyn and the impact she continues to have on him. When he finally sees her, a mixture of admiration and trepidation floods his senses. Edeyn is regal and captivating, exuding authority and a deep understanding of their shared customs. In an unexpected moment, she boldly pledges fealty to Lan, inciting cheers among the crowd, highlighting her strong will and affection for him.



Despite the joyous noise that surrounds them, the chapter subtly reveals Lan's inner conflict. He expresses doubts about his readiness for the responsibilities of leadership and recalls the memories of their past, pondering the implications of Edeyn's presence back in his life. His discussions with Prince Brys touch on significant political tensions and reveal the broader stakes at play, including talk of impending battles against the Blight and the Aiel.

As Edeyn's undeniable influence grows more complex, she cheekily reminds him of the customs they share, leading to a charged and intimate moment between them. Their relationship dynamics are explored deeply, as she proposes ideas about marriage, weaving in personal and cultural expectations that Lan finds difficult to navigate. The chapter closes with an intriguing and scandalous proposition from Edeyn regarding her daughter Iselle, pulling Lan into a scenario laden with both traditional customs and emotional stakes that promise to challenge his resolve.

This chapter explores themes of duty, loyalty, and the burdens of leadership, while also delving into personal connections and the tension between public duty and private feelings. Lan's interactions reveal his complex character as a man torn between the past and the demands of his present. Edeyn's strong, commanding presence continuously shapes the course of Lan's journey, leaving readers eager to discover how their relationship will develop amidst

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the looming threats ahead.

<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Details</b>
Setting	Chachin, a bustling city with impressive mountains and ornate architecture.
Main Characters	Lan Mandragoran, Bukama, Ryne, Edeyn, Jurad Shiman, Prince Brys
Lan's Feelings	Conflicted; irritated by Alys, eager to meet Edeyn.
Arrival at Palace	Welcomed by palace guards and familiar faces, faces expectations of leadership.
Relationship with Edeyn	Admiration and trepidation; she pledges fealty, causing cheer among the crowd.
Inner Conflict	Doubts about leadership responsibilities; reminisces about the past.
Political Stakes	Talk of battles against the Blight and Aiel; discussions with Prince Brys.
Complex Dynamics	Edeyn proposes ideas about marriage, blending personal and cultural expectations.
Climactic Moment	Edeyn makes a scandalous proposition involving her daughter Iselle.
Themes	Duty, loyalty, burdens of leadership, personal connections, public duty vs. private feelings.

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## Chapter 23 Summary: 23

In Chapter 23 of "New Spring," Moiraine reflects on her recent interactions with Lan, feeling a mix of satisfaction and determination. With a small smile, she contemplates Lan's hasty departure, seeing it as an indication that her presence has left a mark on him. However, she quickly dismisses him from her thoughts, focusing instead on her search for the rougher neighborhoods of Chachin, reminiscent of past escapades with her friend Siuan.

As she rides through the crowded streets, Moiraine arrives at a shabby inn, The Ruffled Goose, where she confronts local poverty and the challenges of her quest. Her experience in the common room is tense; she encounters a would-be horse thief who attempts to steal her mare, Arrow. Moiraine skillfully uses her abilities to teach the thief a lesson, showcasing her power while maintaining an air of mystery about her identity.

After several fruitless inquiries at other inns, where the innkeepers either lack information or seem suspicious, Moiraine finally hears about a Tairen woman that matches her description at her last stop, The Silver Penny. Here, she senses something amiss with the innkeeper, Mistress Satarov, who tries to serve her wine under suspicious circumstances. Moiraine deftly exposes the innkeeper's nefarious dealings, demanding she drink the wine, revealing hints of the dangers lurking behind closed doors in this city.



The chapter also highlights Moiraine's interaction with the city's social disparities, her frustration with the persistent cycle of poverty, and the moral complexities of justice as she navigates through various encounters. As night approaches, her determination to find the Tairen woman only intensifies, fueled by her quest's urgency and the overarching threat of the Black Ajah.

The chapter concludes with Moiraine's reunion with Sivan, who has been searching for her. They exchange lively banter about their separate experiences, adding lightness after the previous tension. Sivan reveals she has found Ines Demain, but complications arise regarding her location at the Aesdaishar Palace. Their shared sense of purpose re-establishes the bond between them as they prepare to tackle the next steps in their investigation, including confronting the shadowy implications of the Black Ajah in this unfamiliar city. Their commitment to uncovering the truth echoes the themes of loyalty, friendship, and the struggle against darkness that permeates the story.

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## Chapter 24: 24

In Chapter 24 of "New Spring," the story picks up on the busy morning following Siuan and Moiraine's tense discussions about their plans. Siuan is worried about the risks Moiraine plans to take and expresses her concerns through teasing and bickering while they dress, highlighting their strong friendship and contrasting personalities. Moiraine, determined and focused, attempts to assert her authority and convince Siuan to trust her judgment.

They descend to the common room, which is filled with various characters, illustrating the lively atmosphere of the inn. Moiraine approaches Mistress Tolvina to hire guards, and their interactions reveal Moiraine's status and the extent to which she is willing to go to ensure their safety during their secretive endeavors. After negotiations, they secure two "watchers" and set off in a sedan chair through crowded streets, where Siuan's nerves surface amidst their plan.

Upon arrival at the bank, Moiraine's noble dress earns them respect, leading them to secure a large sum of gold with relative ease, although the

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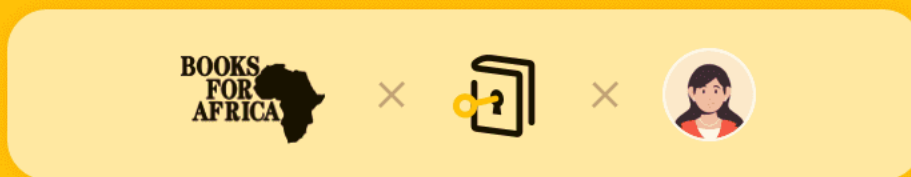
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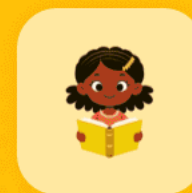
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## Chapter 25 Summary: 25

In Chapter 25 of "New Spring" by Robert Jordan, we find Moiraine navigating the intricacies of a royal court while grappling with her own pressing concerns. She is escorted by a dignified shatayan, a woman known for commanding respect, through sumptuously decorated hallways filled with vibrant tapestries and beautiful gardens. As Moiraine reflects on her mission and the complications involved, her thoughts are briefly distracted by the presence of two men practicing swordplay—Ryne and Bukama—reminding her of her need to remain discreet in her identity as an Aes Sedai.

Upon meeting Prince Brys and his family, she engages in polite conversation that touches upon travel and the concerning rumors of a man who can channel, though her mind is focused on more critical matters, especially her uncertainty regarding Siuan's secretive actions. When Brys introduces his children, Moiraine finds a brief reprieve in the company of the young ones, particularly the insights they share about Lan Mandragoran, who has an aura of both admiration and intrigue surrounding him.

As she seeks to learn more about Siuan, Moiraine becomes increasingly anxious, especially upon encountering Merean, a fellow Aes Sedai. Their exchange is layered with tension and unspoken threats, particularly with Merean hinting at the possibility of Moiraine facing dire consequences for

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her actions. The chapter reveals the complexities of Aes Sedai politics and the shadowy suspicion of Black Ajah among the sisters.

Moiraine's encounters lead her to confront Lan, the King of Malkier, where a starkly honest dialogue unfolds. She must navigate his ice-cold skepticism about the Aes Sedai and address the deep historical grievances regarding Malkier's fall—a moment that showcases the heavy burdens of the past that both characters bear. Their conversation reveals mutual needs: Moiraine requires Lan's allegiance and support, while Lan desires answers about Aes Sedai's absence during Malkier's devastation.

After promising to enlist Malkieri help discreetly, Moiraine returns to her room where she finds Siuan, who is both amused and frustrated by Moiraine's risky interactions with Lan and the court. They share news and gossip, revealing the undercurrents of attraction and intrigue among the palace's inhabitants.

The chapter ends with the tension rising as Moiraine reflects on the weight of her mission, aware that time is running out in their lengthy game of shadows and deception within the palace. The stakes are high, especially with the potential danger surrounding Merean's actions, emphasizing themes of loyalty, power, and the intertwined fates of the characters as they navigate their complex world.

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## Chapter 26 Summary: 26

In Chapter 26 of "New Spring," titled "When to Surrender," we follow Lan Mandragoran as he navigates the corridors of the Aesdaishar palace, attempting to evade the schemes of Edeyn, who seeks to control his future through a marriage to Iselle. Protected by the ko'di, Lan moves stealthily, feeling the presence of others around him, his senses heightened from his experiences in the Blight. Though he feels increasingly trapped by Edeyn's intentions, he is determined to find Bukama, his loyal friend, to discuss troubling dreams he's had.

As Lan descends a staircase, he unexpectedly tumbles down, a result of an unseen force. Despite the chaos, he is focused on reaching Bukama, who has been gravely injured in a political power struggle. Tragically, Lan discovers Bukama dead, a victim of an assassination that he attributes to entanglement in Aes Sedai plots. This moment brings a profound sense of loss and responsibility, highlighting Lan's deep connection to those he cares about and his belief in duty.

Meanwhile, Moiraine, an Aes Sedai, is alerted by Lan's presence and the disturbance outside. When he bursts through her door, covered in bruises and clearly shaken by recent events, he accuses her of involvement in Bukama's death. They quickly realize they are both entangled in a dangerous web woven by Merean, a sister of the Aes Sedai who appears to have



malicious intent. As they race through the palace to confront this threat, the tension mounts.

Reaching a secluded stone walk, they find Merean holding Brys and his son Diryk captive. In a dramatic confrontation, Moiraine's initial attack fails, revealing Merean's greater power. As the fight escalates, the stakes are unbelievably high—Merean, a member of the Black Ajah, seeks to eliminate both Moiraine and the hostages. The scene becomes frantic as Moiraine and Lan engage in a deadly battle with Merean and Ryne, a dark friend allied against them.

As the struggle unfolds, Lan and Ryne clash, while Moiraine attempts to save Diryk from a fatal plunge. In a final act of desperation, Moiraine stabs Merean, ending the immediate threat. However, the chaos doesn't stop: as she tries to save Iselle, she is left holding the girl above a perilous drop, and despite her efforts, Iselle slips from her grasp, falling to her death. The emotional weight of failure and guilt crashing over Moiraine paints a stark image of the cost of their battle.

In the aftermath of the fight, Lan and Moiraine must confront the consequences of their actions. They've succeeded in preventing a greater disaster but lost a significant part of themselves in the process. As Moiraine uses the Power to conceal Merean's death, she wrestles with her hard decisions, knowing that silence may protect her but at a moral cost. The

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chapter encapsulates themes of duty, the complexity of power plays among the Aes Sedai, and the personal sacrifices made in the pursuit of a greater good. Lan's commitment to duty is evident in his choices, and Moiraine's cold pragmatism is necessary under the circumstances, illustrating the intricate balance of personal and political motives in their world.

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