

## OUTLINE

Begin with terraforming -- Northern lights -- dragons' interest in dryness. Need the Master Architect. Achieved through magic. Land radically changed to desert. Later Mei (jerboas) can comment on natural difficulties of magically saturated land. Ao Rue objects to communal effort. knows it will release demons, imps, etc.

Rue by enemies exiled to Mud Pit Hollow for objections. Friend goes? Probably meets woman before he leaves. MAKE point of how grateful he is for her faith & admiration, which are initially real. MUST set up distance & her control & his helplessness. telepathy only when agreed upon; great intimacy. Mei warns?

### WOMAN

Ao failed romantic -- work with Byronic hero?

Promiscuous

The two fly in thunder storms

She is the song-never-sung

Dream

Ao's foolishness: I call the dragon/I call the fire/I will burn with power/I am omnipotent

She says "muldrum"

Writes her bad poetry

Dreams in the mist

Some have blindness behind their eyes

Sexual/intimate: curled in each other's tails

Where is the center?

She leaves with poisoned boy dragon

Grey Heron at Mud Pit.

Terraforming appears good. But demons rise. Beginning of Rue's unease with Her and what turns out to be Her manipulation & fickleness. Not poisoned; she's telling him to kiss off. Demons, yellow, pus-yellow, moiling, nameless, poison dragons even when dragons are victorious. Dragons effected with extreme melancholy. Suicides begin. Rue realizes he has lost HER. She tells him -- devastation. Likens his love to the glitter sand; ineffectual; sparkles like a dead dragon. Retreats/withdraws to full exile in disgust with life. Goes to cave? Wishes death & ill for all his kind. Starts "The Gate of Sighs." Pain beyond enduring. Mei comments? Demons join for last confrontation. Rue rises in full power for first time to protect Her. Grand, worthless gesture, as Mei points out. He saves Her & new lover. They leave to spend final days together somewhere. It's not clear if SHE and lover are poisoned. Rue alone. Other dragons suicide. Mei watches; he doesn't. Rue, despite full encounter with master demon, is not poisoned. Safe because of his unshared knowledge of how to tap northern lights. Cursed to endure. Is he waiting for HER? Fool.

Damnation is like snapping at butterflies -- even if I catch one they don't taste good & something beautiful is destroyed.

Retreat to cave. Mei will hang around for awhile. Prior to last chapter Ao tells Mei what he wanted.

Last chapter.