



# Hope's Reign

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*Complete summary including spoilers.*

Living in the castle isn't turning out to be the happily ever after that Memory hoped for. She feels that she is drowning and cannot be herself—whoever that really is.

One day, Memory skips a council meeting to go look for Will in the woods, who she hasn't seen for a while. Instead, she stumbles into a fairy ring where she meets an Unseelie fae. Memory is forced to defend herself using magic, and she accidentally transports herself back to the castle in the process—and worries what this unintentional use of her magic means.

While looking for Roen, somehow Memory winds up at Thayl's cell, much to her own surprise. There, Thayl tells Memory that when she was born, he had a sixteen-year-old sister, also sacrificed as part of the ritual to steal Memory's power. Her sacrifice created a bond between him and Memory that allowed him to travel through time to steal her magic when she was sixteen. According to him, it's also what brought her to him here in the dungeons.

He informs her that the night he vowed revenge on the Council, the witch, **Providence**, came to him and promised enough power for him to enact his vengeance—but he didn't know it would involve the death of the people he loved: his sister and Loredanna.

Despite his claims of innocence, Memory is furious with Thayl for stealing part of her soul during Providence's ritual, and remains on edge for days. She hates the idea that she is not in control of herself.

In the next Council meeting, the Wizard's Council members discuss reopening their university, which Thayl had previously destroyed. Memory clashes with the council members when they say the university will only be open to those of noble blood, which further escalates into an argument about who is really fit to rule, Eloryn or Memory. Eloryn defends Memory against the councilmembers' accusations of unsuitableness, but Memory feels alone in her pain—no one really believes she can do it; not even herself.

Meanwhile, Roen has just returned from a trip to Duke Lanval's, and Eloryn is nervous to see him. She and Roen surprise Memory with a birthday celebration, and Eloryn gifts Memory with an old book about the history of Avall, hoping it might help ease her adjustment to her new life.

Privately, Roen gives Eloryn a rare jade pendant to wear around her neck, telling her it reminds him of her eyes. She treasures it, guarding her feelings for him.

Unbeknownst to Eloryn, Roen is also fighting his feelings for her, knowing he can't be with her. He worries that he can never outrun the shame of his curse or his criminal past, which—as he sees it—makes him unworthy of her.

Will shows up on Memory's balcony and calls her by her old name—**Hope**. Memory is happy to see him, but then grows upset that he is never around, and he departs, leaving her feeling unsettled and restless. Memory agonizes over the lost piece of her soul, certain that it makes her unlovable by all, including Will. Only she and Thayl know that part of her soul is missing—and Memory wants to keep it that way.

In the history book that Eloryn gave her, Memory reads about the sword, **Caliburn**, which belonged to **Arthur Maellan**. Arthur, a human commoner, and his half-human, half-Unseelie fae friend, **Myrddin**, created the Pact with the fae in order to save Avall from a blight that would destroy the rest of the

world, but only on the condition that all iron be removed. In return, the fae bestowed upon humans of Avall the **Spark of Connection**, allowing them to use magic. Avall was saved, but the rest of the world was lost.

Memory still has her iron knife, but she wants to honor the Pact, so she decides to enlist Will's help in hiding it. Will suggest a dry, abandoned well which he knows the fae avoid. Inside the well, tunnels lead them to an underground lake where they find a large stash of iron. This surprises them, and Will observes that the boxes are not even covered in dust—they seem new.

Memory leaves her dagger in the curious stash, and they sneak back into the castle using underground tunnels connected to the secret cavern. Will works to hide his desire for Memory, remembering the rules.

Memory and Will decide to spend the evening in the city. Memory's new servant, **Clara**, helps get them cleaned up, and Memory is shocked to find how gorgeous Will looks.

Memory, Will, and Clara go into the city together, where the citywide street party for her and Eloryn's birthday is well underway. Memory is surprised by the number of beggars on the streets, and Clara explains that things are changing: there are stories of the land becoming infertile as fae numbers dwindle.

The trio goes to a tavern called Beyond the Veil, where they watch a play with human actors glamoured to play the parts of Arthur Maellan, Myrddin, and Myrddin's lover, an Unseelie fae called **Lady Nyneve**.

All seems to be going well, but when a nobleman flirts untastefully with Memory, Will gets angry and attacks him. The man threatens that he'll see Will hang for this. Clara tells the man that he is speaking to the princess, seeming to clear things up, but Memory worries about the consequences of the incident.

That night, Memory converses with Thayl in her dreams, where she demands to know what really happened during Providence's ritual when he stole her memories and soul.

He transports her back to the forest clearing where the ritual took place, right after the newborn Memory had been dropped through the Veil and Alward fled with Eloryn. Thayl's sister is brought out, blindfolded. A sobbing Thayl tries to stop it, but Providence tells him he has already made his bargain, and that this will allow him to steal Memory's powers. She slashes the girl's throat, then carves rune symbols into Thayl's hand with the twice bloodied blade to complete the ritual.

The vision ends, and Thayl explains that when he stepped through that doorway he was taken straight to Memory, and began the process of absorbing her magic. But young Will showed up and stopped him before he could complete the process of taking all of Memory, and they all fell back through the veil door that Providence kept open from the Avall side.

He warns her: if she ever tries to go back to Hell—her old world—she may not be able to return.

Later, Eloryn and Memory find **Sir Ewain**, their uncle, arguing with the Wizard's Council that he should be the one in charge. Memory is surprised to discover she has an uncle at all—her father's brother—but is even more shocked when she learns that Thayl is to be executed after the coronation. Memory reminds the Council that Thayl didn't kill Loredanna; Alward did, by accident. Thayl, she tells them, was being manipulated by the powerful witch, Providence.

The Wizard's Council states that they've never heard of Providence, and that no woman could possibly have enough learning or understanding of magic to do what Memory claims she has done.

Distraught over the responsibility of signing Thayl's execution order, Eloryn relinquishes the role of court legislature to Hayes so that he can take on the burden of making such difficult decisions from now on.

Upset over the news of execution, Memory runs to the dungeons to warn Thayl, but he already knows.

The next day, Eloryn, Roen, and **Peirs**, the Captain of the Guard, burst into Memory's room to tell her that Thayl has somehow escaped his cell.

Memory sneaks out of her room and finds Thayl hiding in the northern wing of the castle where he once lived during his reign. Desperate to save his life, Memory tries to open a Veil door to the rest of the world where Thayl could escape to, but fails. The guards arrive and surround him. To Memory's horror, Thayl lets himself fall from the balcony to his death.

The day of the coronation arrives, and Eloryn is crowned queen. Hayes has pre-written a speech for Memory to give, but Memory disagrees with it. Instead, she announces that the Wizard's University will be open to everyone, not just nobles. Hayes tries to make light of her rebellion by stating that anyone can join—if they can afford it. The crowd laughs, and Memory realizes that no one is taking her seriously.

Memory hears voices telling her she is a murderer, but no one else seems to be able to hear it. She runs through the castle in search of the culprit, and finds a reflection of her old self—**Hope**—staring back at her through a mirror. Hope tells Memory that she has formed from the broken pieces of her, and she warns Memory that it won't take long for the others to realize that Memory is a monster.

Wishing to rouse Memory from her depression, Will shows her an abandoned room on the castle walls he found that is overgrown with vines—a secret place where she can be herself. Memory confesses that she has begun to remember things, and Will wants to protect her from pain. The two agree to meet in the **Ivy Room** every evening, but Will knows it's a promise he cannot keep.

Soon enough, Memory and Eloryn attend their first day of finishing school. Insulted that she and Eloryn are being subjected to this—especially while the boys get to practice swordplay—Memory takes her complaint to Wizard Councilor **Hayes**, hoping he will remedy the unfair situation. Instead, he accuses her of behaving like a wild girl, and informs her that it's time she starts learning how things work around here.

When Memory expresses her frustration to Roen, he offers a solution: they'll disguise her as one of Roen's deceased brothers, **Tristan**, and enroll her in the boys' classes. Roen explains he had seven brothers, five of which died during Thayl's early takeover, but many at court won't know that.

When Memory heads to the Ivy Room to meet Will, the vision of Hope, her old self, shows up and tells her he's not coming because he's off with his fairy friends. Hope makes Memory promise not to tell anyone about her.

Later, Memory awakens from a nightmarish loop of running from the janitor at the orphanage while searching for Will. She finds her knife lying on her sheets, bloodied from a cut in her hand—the same knife she left at the underground lake.

Memory finds herself questioning what is real and what is not, as real and dream, old and new, tangle in her head.

Memory attends her first magic class disguised as a boy, taught by **Waylan**. After the lecture she discovers that her disguise has not fooled Waylan, but he promises to keep her secret. Waylan admits that he has concerns about how Hayes is running things.

Later, an explosion erupts in the **Round Room**, and Waylan is killed. Hayes informs them that this was an assassination plot, conducted by Sir Ewain as an attempt to usurp the throne.

Peirs and Hayes clash over their views about what really happened. Eloryn agrees to give Hayes the rank of Grand Bailiff and Legate of Civil Defense so that he can better investigate, imprison, and sentence any who threaten the stability of Avall. Hayes's first action in his new role is to strip Peirs of his rank as Captain of the Guard. Drowning in her hefty responsibilities, Eloryn hopes she is making the right decisions.

Hope tries to convince Memory to forget about Will, and to instead start spending more time with Roen. She also suggests that Eloryn intentionally has tried to keep Memory from power even though the title is rightfully hers.

Meanwhile, the castle goes into lockdown due to the attempted assassination, and Hayes assigns a new guard to keep an eye on Memory. Eloryn is frustrated with Memory's disregard for finishing school and lack of cooperation with the Council, and they get into an argument, which dampens Memory's spirits even more.

Having evaded her guards, Memory stumbles upon a captured Sir Ewain being led to the dungeons—and execution. Sir Ewain insists that he never did anything he is accused of—including the assassination attempt that killed Waylan—and he makes a shocking claim: Memory and Eloryn are an abomination of the Maellan line because his brother and Loredanna never consummated their marriage.

Roen finds Memory in a distraught state and tries to comfort her. In the heat of the moment, Memory kisses him, and Roen lets her, feeling confused about his feelings. Memory confesses that some of her memories are coming back and that she's been accidentally slipping through Veil doors.

She and Roen return to the secret cavern so that she can hide her knife again. She has a sudden childhood recollection of telling Will that if they were going to be friends, there had to be rules: The first rule was No Touching.

Struck with the realization that Will's standoffish behavior is him still following her rules, Memory goes to the forest and searches for Will, but instead she finds Mina. In her anger, Mina attacks, scratching Memory's arm. Memory recognizes the scratch pattern as what she saw on Will's chest—and realizes that she must find a way to help free him of his abuser.

**Bedevere**, Waylan's brother, brings Memory a letter that Waylan wrote her before he died. He discreetly gives her the information she needs to access Alward's old research, which could contain helpful information. Roen helps Memory break into the tower where the research is locked away.

Inside, they find crates full of documents, so Memory opens a Veil door to her room and Roen starts carting the research to the other side, but it doesn't take long for the Wizard's Council members to catch Memory in the act. As punishment, Hayes tells her she will not be permitted to attend any more magic lessons—but Bedevere offers to give her private lessons as a compromise.

Memory is overcome with guilt and decides to tell Roen that their little romantic experiment isn't working; their friendship is too important—and she knows that his true feelings lie with Eloryn.

Roen decides to approach his relationship with Eloryn properly. He formally asks the Wizard's Council for permission to court her, but Hayes refuses, noting Roen's questionable background, not to mention that he is **a seventh son of a seventh son**, meaning Roen has no spark of connection and is unable to access magic in any way. It's the Wizard Council's role to match Maellan heirs with partners strong in magic to preserve their powerful bloodline. He orders Roen to stay away from Eloryn entirely.



At a later meeting, Hayes declares it is time for both Eloryn and Memory to marry, and he provides a list of suitable candidates for them to choose from. Memory and Hayes are at odds about what to do about the rising population of vagrants. Memory wants to help the homeless, but Hayes wants a stronger police force to keep them in check.

Memory and Eloryn argue about whether it's truly possible that Thayl could be their father. Memory finds it feasible, but Eloryn is angry with Memory for even considering the idea.

Memory meets a gorgeous, and flirty young man named **Dylan** who offers to study with her in the library. Memory enjoys herself in his company, but when Roen arrives, he starts yelling at Dylan, and Memory is shocked to learn that Dylan is Roen's brother. Roen warns Memory that Dylan cannot be trusted. Meanwhile, Hope continues to whisper in Memory's ears that she can't trust anyone, that the people close to her are not truly her friends.

Roen inadvertently eavesdrops as Eloryn has high tea with one of her suitors. When the man isn't looking, Eloryn longingly clutches the pendant that Roen gave her, and Roen is struck with the realization that his feelings are mutual—but he concludes that he must leave the castle for good because if they cannot act on their feelings for each other, his presence will only hurt Eloryn more.

Meanwhile, Memory has been working on a homeless shelter. Dylan offers to accompany her to the city, and as they tour the shelter, **Maeve**, one of Memory's primary helpers, informs her that some of the orphans have been vanishing. Peirs, who now works at the shelter, has been out looking for them without success.

Dylan flirts with Memory and together they head to Beyond the Veil. That's when she sees one of the orphans from the homeless shelter, Bran, leaving the pub with an **Unseelie fae**. Memory tries to

stop the Unseelie fae from taking Bran, but Bran seems to be under a spell. The fae tells Memory that she is nothing but a power store made by its master, who will come to collect soon.

When they get back to the castle, Dylan surprises Memory by kissing her, and she accidentally transports herself to the Ivy Room. Will warns her that Dylan is only pretending to like her, and Memory is angry at Will's suggestion that no one could truly care for her.

Hope continues to insist that Eloryn isn't helping Memory like she should be—that she stole the crown and has purposely kept Memory from power.

Memory gets to work reading through Alward's research, hoping to find a way to send Will home so that he can be safe from Mina's abuse. Using her newfound knowledge, Memory works with Bedevere to successfully open a Veil door to her home world. They realize that this new discovery could have huge ramifications for Avall, whose inhabitants believe the rest of the world was lost to hell. Now they have proof that it wasn't.

Hayes requests Roen run an errand in the city to collect some important items, and Eloryn asks to accompany him. Roen attempts to complete his task, only to find himself surrounded by bounty hunters who have a wanted poster with his face on it. Eloryn comes to his rescue and together they fend off his would-be captors. They share a passionate moment and Eloryn almost kisses him but they're interrupted by the guards.

The incident makes Roen realize that it's time to face his past. In a formal meeting with Avall's nobles, wizards, and his parents, he confesses his criminal past and promises to make amends, and Eloryn offers an unconditional royal pardon. In light of the attack in broad daylight, Hayes convinces Eloryn to grant him total power over the military in order to clean up the streets.

Before long, Hayes sends his militia to shut down Memory's homeless shelter. Peirs tells Memory that Hayes is also using the militia to gain control of the trade guilds by force, and Memory's frustration with Eloryn for trusting Hayes thickens.

Having discovered Will and Dylan fighting, Memory rejects Dylan's advances to be intimate, and he grows angry and admits that Hayes recruited him to keep Memory distracted and out of trouble—that he never really liked her.

Memory meets Will in the Ivy Room to share her news that she can send him home. Will is upset that Memory wants him gone, but Memory just wants him safe. She opens the Veil door to their world and turns her back. When she turns around again, Will is gone, leaving Memory bereft.

Hope insists that Memory can only command respect if she's queen, which means they need to get rid of Eloryn. Roen finds Memory upset, and brings her back to his room to calm her down. Eloryn discovers them comforting each other on his bed. Misreading the situation, she angrily flees, stung by the perceived betrayal.

Memory is launched into childhood recollections of defending herself against a chronic assailant. In the memory, she explodes with anger and magic and the man burns. Hope is right: she is a murderer.

Devastated that Roen and Memory went behind her back, Eloryn informs Hayes that she's ready to marry whomever the Council deems appropriate. The Wizard's Council informs Eloryn that they have selected Hayes to be her husband. Horrified, Eloryn tries to deny him, but he reminds her that he now has full control of the military, police, and trade guilds.

Eloryn forms a plan—and agrees to marry him as long as he signs over all control of the militia and trade guilds to the ruler of Avall (which will be him once they marry), and that he cannot use them against her or their heirs.

After they sign the contract, Eloryn announces her immediate abdication as queen—which means Memory is now Avall's ruler.

Another wizard councilor admits to the group that Hayes fabricated the threat from Sir Ewain to unjustly have him executed, and put the bounty on Roen in attempt to get rid of him.

Hayes tries to assault Eloryn, but she fends him off with the help of Roen and **Erec**, Peirs's brother. After, Eloryn and Roen leave the room together and finally confess their love for one another, eager to put the past behind them and start anew. Now Eloryn is no longer queen, she can pursue the romance she wants.

Unaware of the abdication, Hope tries to convince Memory once and for all that they need to kill Eloryn, by returning all of Memory's memories to show her that she is capable of murder. But this leads Memory to realize the problem isn't Eloryn—it's herself, the murderer with her broken soul.

Unbeknownst to Memory, Will never stepped through the Veil door, and was taken away by Mina instead. When he takes his first opportunity to flee Mina's grasp, Clara finds him and hands him a letter upon which Memory has written the words "Goodbye."

Deeply concerned, Clara, Will, Eloryn, and Roen find Memory on the balcony where Thayl died.

Eloryn desperately tries to assure Memory that Thayl never stole her soul—just her magic. Memory is horrified to learn that she can't blame her broken soul for her problems—this is just who she is. Distraught, she falls from the balcony, only to find herself encased in Will's embrace half way down.

He has jumped after her. Before they can hit the ground, Memory rips a hole into the Veil to save them both, and instead they land safely on a pile of mattresses.

It dawns on Memory: if her soul isn't actually broken, then who is Hope, the shadow reflection that has been following her around all this time?

Memory enters a magical battle with Hope, which causes the tower to begin to crumble from beneath their feet. Memory thinks back to all the time that Hope asked for permission to harm her friends, and realizes she must be a fae. With this new knowledge, Eloryn attempts to cast the Brand on Hope, and the impostor vanishes.

Eloryn, Memory, Clara, Will, and Roen make a run for it as the tower crumbles around them. The friends all make it to safety—and Eloryn informs Memory that she is now the queen of Avall.



[Memory's Wake](#)

[Hope's Reign](#)

[Providence Unveiled](#)

[Memory's Wake Coloring Book](#)

[Memory's Wake Companion Guide](#)

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