

Westcrest

Episode #19: Rooftop World

Jeremy continues making his way across the castle, using the tiled rooftops as pathways that lead him from building to building.

It's not easy—he has almost fallen several times as tiles or bricks slipped away from beneath him. Across the castle are many obvious signs of decay; on the ground there are even large mounds of rubble where towers once stood.

Jeremy has spotted guards on the paths below, but has managed to avoid being seen so far. There are no sounds aside from the ceaseless howl of the wind and the cawing of the birds.

The rooftops are the domain of the castle rook and they watch Jeremy with hard, dark eyes as he picks his way across their rooftop world.

Jeremy is hungry and tired. His hands throb and his fingers are swollen. Without really knowing why, Jeremy is slowly making his way towards the large building at the centre of the castle. He hopes that he will be able to look through the glass dome atop it.

Somewhere nearby, there is a booming sound. Jeremy ignores it and continues towards the heart of the castle—it's not far now. The domed building is fronted by a fringe of gardens where only blood red roses grow. There is no easy way across to it, so Jeremy will need to jump.

There's not even a second where he doubts his abilities, but as he strikes the far wall, he realises that the bricks here are loose. He scrambles for a handhold and grips the side of the building. Below, the rose bushes loom thornily.

There is another booming sound, and this time Jeremy recognises it as gunfire. Mustering his strength, he pulls upward and manages to kick a leg over the side of the building. He collapses onto his back. A rook briefly touches down on the bricks that he had been holding onto a moment earlier and they fall away, clattering noisily down into the courtyard below.

Jeremy pauses to regain his breath before starting towards the dome. As he reaches the glass there is another booming sound, this time from almost directly below him.

Jeremy blocks the reflection with his arm and peers through the glass. A thick red carpet stretches down the centre of the hall. At the head of the carpet is an unrealistically large throne, on which an unfeasibly large Queen wobbles.

And at the base of the throne, surrounded by guards and pointing his shotgun directly at the Queen of the Crimson Court, is Marcus Tel-Ur.