Narrator: We are presenting a scene from the science fiction novel Steelheart by Brandon Sanderson. In this scene our hero, David, attempts to join the elusive group of Reckoners; an elite group of fighters trying to take down the powerful Epics. Prof, the leader, is read by ______________, Abraham is read by ____________, Tia is read by ____________, Megan is read by ________________, David is read by _________________, and I am _________________ your narrator. This is the first meeting between the Reckoners and David. David needs to convince the Reckoners that he is good enough to join their group against Steelheart, the most powerful Epic in Newcago. David tells them that he saw Steelheart bleed when his father died at the hands of Steelheart. We join them after he finishes his saga.

Prof: Well?

Tia: I’ve heard of it. Steelheart destroyed the bank on the Day of Annexation. The bank rented out some of the offices on the upper floor – nothing too important, some assessors and bookkeepers who did government work. Most lorists I’ve talked to assume that Steelheart hit the building because of those offices.

Abraham: Yes. He attacked many city buildings that day.

David: Sir –

Prof: You’ve had your say, son. It’s a show of respect that we’re talking about this where you can hear. Don’t make me regret it.

David: Er, yes sir.

Abraham: I have always wondered why he attacked the bank first. It was an odd choice. Why take out a bunch of accountants, then move on to the mayor? I’m sure you’re a wonderful person, my friend, but I do not think we should base decisions of information given by someone we only just met.

Prof: Megan? What do you think?

Megan: I think this is stupid.

Abraham: You stood up for him before.

Megan: That was before I heard this wild story. He’s lying, trying to get onto our team.

Abraham: You sound like you’re considering it.

Tia: Prof? I know that look. Remember what happened to Duskwatch.
Prof: I remember.

Tia: What?

Prof: He knows about the rescue workers.

Abraham: The rescue workers?

Prof: Steelheart covered up that he killed the rescue workers. Few know of what he did to them and the survivors — of what happened at the First Union building. He didn’t kill anyone who went to help at other city buildings he’d destroyed. He only killed the rescue workers at First Union. Something is different about his destruction of the bank. We know he entered that one, and spoke to the people inside. He didn’t do that elsewhere. They say he came out of First Union enraged. Something happened inside. I’ve known that for a while. The other cell leaders know it as well. We assumed that whatever made him angry had to do with Deathpoint. Steelheart got his scar that day. Nobody knows how.

David: I do.

Prof: Perhaps.

Megan: Perhaps. Perhaps not. Prof, he could have heard of the murders and known of Steelheart’s scar, then fabricated the rest! There’d be no way to prove it, because if he’s right, then he and Steelheart are the only witnesses.

Abraham: Hitting Steelheart would be near impossible. Even if we could figure out his weakness, he’s got guards. Strong ones.

David: Firefight, Conflux, and Nighwielder. I’ve got a play for dealing with each of them. I think I’ve figured out their weaknesses.

Tia: You have?

David: Ten years. For ten years, all I’ve done is play how to get to him.

Prof: Son, what did you say your name was?

David: David.

Prof: Well, David. You guessed we were going to hit Fortuity. What would you guess we’d do next?

David: You’ll leave Newcago by nightfall. That’s always what a team does after springing a trap. Of course, there is no nightfall here. But you’ll be gone in a few hours, then go rejoin the rest of the Reckoners.

Prof: And what would be the next Epic we’d be planning to hit?

David: Well, none of your teams have been active in the Middle Grasslands or Caliph lately. I’d guess your next target would be either the Armsman in Omaha, or Lightning, one of the Epics in Snowfall’s band out in Sacramento.
Prof: Abraham, prep Hole Fourteen and see if you can get a false trail set up that will lead to Caliph.

Tia: Hole Fourteen? We’re staying in the city?

Prof: Yes.

Tia: Prof, I can’t –

Prof: I’m not saying that we’re going to hit Steelheart. But if the kid has figured out what we’re going to do next, someone else might have too. That means we need to change. Immediately. We’ll go to ground here for a few days. As for Steelheart…we’ll see. First I want to hear your story again. I want to hear it a dozen times. Then I’ll decide what to do next.

Narrator: David thinks he has all the answers and can figure out Steelheart’s weakness. Will the cost of being a part of the Reckoners be too much for David to handle? Working with the Reckoners, can he finally get his revenge against Steelheart for murdering his father? To join this exciting quest, read *Steelheart* by Brandon Sanderson!