

# **Anew Study Guide**

**Anew by Chelsea Fine**

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# Plot Summary

Anew is the first novel in the Archers of Avalon Series by Chelsea Fine. In this novel, Scarlet Jacobs wakes up naked in the woods with amnesia. For two years she struggles to put her life back together. One day, Scarlet meets Gabriel Archer and feels an instant connection to him. Over a series of months, Scarlet learns that she, Gabriel, and his brother Tristan, have known one another for more than five hundred years. Scarlet also learns she is dying. Anew is a new take on the classic tale of Sleeping Beauty that leaves the reader eager to learn not only Scarlet's fate, but that of the two men who love her.

Scarlet Jacobs wakes in the woods with no memory except for her name. Two years later, Scarlet still does not remember her past, but she has made a life for herself in the small Georgia town of Avalon. While attending a local festival with her best friend Heather, Scarlet meets Gabriel Archer. Scarlet feels an instant connection to Gabriel, and soon they are dating. However, questions about Gabriel's home life make Scarlet wonder if he is lying to her. Scarlet follows Gabriel home one day only to discover he has a twin brother Tristan.

Gabriel and Tristan sit Scarlet down and tell her that she is partially immortal. Five hundred years ago, Scarlet was killed with an arrow to the heart. However, the arrow was covered in immortal blood which causes Scarlet to come back to life each time she dies. When Scarlet begins a new life, she appears the same age at which she died, but she has no memory. Normally when Gabriel tells her the year in which she was born, Scarlet immediately regains her memory. This time, however, she does not.

Scarlet also learns that she is dying. The immortal blood that brings Scarlet back to life each time is also the cause of her death from a broken heart each lifetime. This heart condition worsens whenever she is close to Tristan because it is Tristan's immortal blood that lives in Scarlet's heart. This is a difficult situation because Tristan is in love with Scarlet, and she is drawn to him. However, Gabriel has been cursed to love no one but Scarlet.

Tristan, Gabriel, and their friend Nate are searching for the Fountain of Youth, the source of their own immortality in hopes that it will heal Scarlet from the curse. Tristan has lost hope of finding it. He is looking for another way to save Scarlet. Tristan believes that if he finds a way to kill himself, Scarlet will be saved. So, Tristan is searching the world for a weapon capable of killing an immortal. When Scarlet recalls hiding an arrow that could kill someone she loves, Tristan realizes this is the weapon he needs.

Tristan goes into the woods to shoot himself with the arrow. However, Scarlet figures out his plan and runs out to stop him. Scarlet is struck in the heart with the arrow.

# Prologue and Chapters 1-8

## Summary

Prologue. Scarlet Jacobs wakes in the woods, naked, with no memory except for her name.

### Chapter 1

Scarlet Jacobs is attending the Kissing Festival in downtown Avalon, Georgia, with her best friend, Heather. It has been two years since Scarlet woke up with amnesia, and she still has no memories of her past. A local woman named Laura Walker has taken Scarlet into her home. She treats Scarlet more like a little sister than a child. Scarlet feels lucky to have the life she does even though she still wonders where her family is and why they are not searching for her.

Scarlet catches sight of a young man about her age watching her. Scarlet feels a sense of familiarity for this person, but she cannot get close enough to see his face. Then Scarlet hears a voice that is even more familiar. This voice proves to be attached to a very handsome young man named Gabriel Archer. He flirts with her, agreeing that the festival is a little creepy. Heather joins them and is blown away by Gabriel's good looks.

Tristan Archer feels pain when he is apart from Scarlet, but he wants to find a cure to her curse before he approaches her. When Gabriel comes home, Tristan argues with him over his choice to speak to Scarlet. Tristan thinks they should both stay away from her before they can break the curse, but Gabriel disagrees. Gabriel sees no harm in befriending her now, before she regains her memory. Gabriel thinks their friendship will make it easier for Scarlet to regain her memory.

### Chapter 2

The next morning, Heather wakes Scarlet early so they can go shopping. At the same time, Tristan is sharpening his newest weapon, thinking about his plan to save Scarlet.

### Chapter 3

Gabriel comes downstairs dressed to go out. Tristan is unhappy about Gabriel's decision to see Scarlet again. They argue briefly about Gabriel's budding relationship with Scarlet and Tristan's plan to murder someone in order to break Scarlet's curse. Gabriel goes downtown to meet Scarlet at the Kissing Festival dance. They flirt and talk for a while. During the fireworks display, Gabriel kisses Scarlet.

### Chapter 4

Gabriel walks into the kitchen the next morning and finds Tristan washing blood from a dagger. Gabriel remains unhappy with Tristan's plan. When Gabriel tells Tristan he has



decided to enroll in the local high school to be near Scarlet, Tristan tries to talk him out of it. Gabriel refuses to listen. After arguing with Gabriel, Tristan speaks with their friend Nate. Tristan wants Nate to reaffirm Tristan's conviction that his plan will work. Reluctantly, Nathan reaffirms Tristan's idea. At the same time, Scarlet wakes and has breakfast with Laura, her guardian. They talk about Gabriel, and Laura expresses pleasure that Scarlet is finally getting something of a social life.

## Chapter 5

The following week, Scarlet and Gabriel go on a date. Gabriel takes Scarlet into the woods to have a moonlight picnic beside a lake. Scarlet tells Gabriel that she has amnesia. She also tells him details she can recall of her past. Gabriel takes it better than Scarlet expected him to. That night, Scarlet has what appears to be a memory, but it features Gabriel, leaving Scarlet thinking it might have been more of a dream than anything else.

## Chapter 6

The rest of the summer passes quickly. Scarlet and Gabriel continue to see one another. When school begins, Scarlet discovers that having a good looking boyfriend causes her to become the center of attention. She likes it. At the same time, Scarlet becomes aware that Gabriel is interested in the symbol she draws on everything, including her shoes. It is a symbol she seems to remember, but she does not know from what or where. Gabriel's interest seems strange to her, but he brushes it off. Later, Heather tells Scarlet that someone saw Gabriel hanging out in the park during the night. Scarlet does not believe the rumor, but she becomes suspicious when Gabriel denies it was him.

## Chapter 7

Tristan works out with his longbow to try to reduce the stress of his failed attempts to make his plan come true and the pain associated with being too far from Scarlet. Gabriel pushes Tristan on trying to find the Fountain of Youth, an alternative to Tristan's plan; but, Tristan insists that if they could not find the fountain in the past five hundred years, the possibility of finding it now is pretty slim. However, he agrees that Gabriel can begin his search again.

## Chapter 8

Two weeks later, Heather tells Scarlet that she saw Gabriel in the warehouse district the previous afternoon even though he insisted that he had to go home to work on an English assignment. Gabriel seems guilty when he insists it was not him.

# Analysis

These early chapters introduce the main characters and one of the conflicts that will propel the plot to its conclusion. The main character is Scarlet, a teenager who woke up



alone and naked in the woods two years ago with no memory except for her name and a vague memory of a symbol. Scarlet has been taken in by a single business woman, and she has made friends with a girl who has become more like a sister. Scarlet is beginning to put her life back together even though she has no memory of her past. No one has come looking for her.

Scarlet meets Gabriel Archer while attending a festival in town. Gabriel is dark and good looking, the kind of boy all the girls in town would like to date. Gabriel has eyes only for Scarlet, something that catches her by surprise, yet makes her very happy. Something about Gabriel is familiar to Scarlet, but she cannot name what that is. However, she likes having him around and tries not to analyze their relationship too much, especially his unexplained interest in the symbol she has a vague memory of and tends to write on everything, including her shoes.

Scarlet does not know it, but Gabriel has a twin brother named Tristan. Tristan and Gabriel know Scarlet, but Tristan has decided they should not tell her what they know about her past just now. Tristan is trying to find a way to save Scarlet. However, the reader is unclear why Scarlet needs saving. The boys seem to know exactly what is happening to Scarlet, and they know that it has happened before. The boys also know that time is running out. They have to find a way to save her before something bad happens. Whatever is wrong with Scarlet seems to be very bad because Tristan seems determined to even commit murder to save her.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Who is Scarlet? Why does she not remember her past? Where is her family? Where does she live? Why?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Who is Gabriel? Why does he seek out Scarlet? Why does Scarlet think she might know Gabriel? Does she know Gabriel?

## **Discussion Question 3**

Why is Tristan plotting to commit murder? Why does he think this will help someone? How will it help that someone?

## **Vocabulary**

Signaling, project, polished, classroom, million, warehouse, district, investigation, warehouse, polished, pedicures, definitely, abandoned, strange, especially, considered, population, suspicious, opportunity, fiddled, electric, concentrated.



# Chapters 9-16

## Summary

### Chapter 9

Heather continues to harp on Gabriel's apparent dishonesties. This makes Scarlet analyze her relationship with Gabriel, especially the fact that she does not even know where he lives. For this reason, Scarlet asks Gabriel if she can go to his house to study that day, but he lies and tells her the house is being fumigated. This causes Scarlet's doubts to grow, so when she sees him get into a car she does not recognize, she decides to follow. Scarlet follows Gabriel to a house in the woods. When Gabriel goes inside a house that is clearly not being fumigated, she knocks on the door. It is opened by someone who looks like Gabriel, but it's not. It's his twin brother Tristan.

### Chapter 10

Tristan is just as shocked to see Scarlet as she is to see him. Tristan needs to make her leave, but having her so close makes him feel so good that he cannot immediately speak. Eventually, Tristan gets control of himself and invites Scarlet inside. She is confused by him, but more confused because she knows his name and is drawn to him. Tristan accidentally tells Scarlet that he knows her from the past and this only adds to her confusion.

Gabriel arrives a few moments later. When he realizes that Tristan has told her that they know one another, he slowly begins to tell her the truth. Gabriel begins by telling Scarlet she was born in the 1500s. This causes her to have a memory that appears to support his claim.

### Chapter 11

Tristan and Gabriel appear disappointed Scarlet has not regained all her memories. They tell her that she has had amnesia before and she usually gets her memory back when they tell her what year she was born. This time, she does not. Gabriel then tells Scarlet that he and Tristan are immortal because their mother drank out of the Fountain of Youth while pregnant with them. Gabriel then tells Scarlet that he and she were once engaged. However, Gabriel had been courting another girl who was angry when she learned of his relationship with Scarlet. For this reason, she cursed Gabriel and killed Scarlet with an arrow to the heart. However, the arrow had immortal blood on it, causing Scarlet to come back to life each time she dies. The blood is Tristan's. Tristan jumped in front of the arrow to save Scarlet. The arrow went through his heart into hers. Now that blood seeks to return to Tristan, therefore each time they are separated he feels pain. When they are near one another, the blood breaks her heart and causes her to die. Gabriel says that each time Scarlet dies, she simply vanishes and then reappears, sometimes years later, sometimes centuries later. Tristan always finds Scarlet when she



returns to life because they have a connection, he can feel her. Gabriel and Tristan tell Scarlet that their mother drank out of a vial of the water from the Fountain of Youth, therefore they do not know where to find the fountain, but they believe that it could stop her cycle of life and death.

#### Chapter 12.

Scarlet rushes out of the house in need of time alone to process all she has been told. Tristan and Gabriel argue because of the way things went down. Scarlet goes into the woods to be alone. Tristan goes to work out with his longbow and sees her. Against his better judgment, Tristan walks out to comfort Scarlet. Eventually, Scarlet goes home and tells Laura that she and Gabriel had a fight because he did not tell her about his twin brother.

#### Chapter 13

Tristan goes to a dark alley that night and hires a hit man to commit a murder. The hit man is surprised when Tristan announces he is the victim and that he wants to be killed with a dagger. The man does what Tristan asks.

#### Chapter 14

Scarlet spends the weekend in bed. Across town, Tristan slowly recovers from his hit man's attempts to kill him. Tristan is disappointed it did not work once again.

#### Chapter 15

Heather visits Scarlet on Sunday and drags her out of bed.

#### Chapter 16

At school on Monday, Gabriel gives Scarlet the distance she has asked for. However, he is deeply concerned, and he asks Heather how she is doing. Heather is a fierce watchdog and goes out of her way to keep Gabriel from Scarlet.

## Analysis

Scarlet has begun to doubt Gabriel's honesty, so she follows him one day. However, instead of following Gabriel, Scarlet discovers that she has followed his twin brother Tristan. On top of this, Scarlet realizes that she knows Tristan somehow.

Scarlet learns an incredible story from Gabriel and Tristan that sounds crazy. It turns out that they are all immortal. Scarlet can die, but she always comes back, sometimes after a few years, sometimes after centuries. Not only this, but she and Tristan are connected because it is his immortal blood that makes her immortal. Each time Scarlet regains her life, she almost immediately begins to die of a broken heart, a process that is accelerated when she is close to Tristan because it is his blood that it is killing her. It is



this curse that Tristan is desperately trying to break. For this reason, Tristan is trying to find a way to kill himself so that he can save Scarlet. His plan is unbeknown to Gabriel and Scarlet. This shows the reader that Tristan is a very honorable man, but it also shows the reader that Tristan is deeply in love with Scarlet even though it is Gabriel who is cursed to love no one but Scarlet.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Who killed Scarlet the first time? Why? What curse was this person trying to place on Gabriel when this was done?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Whose immortal blood is inside Scarlet? How does this blood connect them? How does it injure Scarlet?

## **Discussion Question 3**

Why does Scarlet feel an instant connection to Tristan? Why is Tristan trying to kill himself? How are the two connected?

## **Vocabulary**

Bloodied, completely, dumpster, depressed, reflection, fleeting, impossible, remaining, mistaken, vampire, normal, rapid, persistent, slashing, assassins, freaked, eventually, accused, basement, dungeon, antique, marble.

# Chapters 17-24

## Summary

### Chapter 17

Scarlet becomes fixated on finding the Fountain of Youth, but she knows that she cannot run off with Gabriel to try to find it. Scarlet realizes the first step is to let Gabriel back in her life.

### Chapter 18

The following day, Scarlet goes to the cabin to speak with Gabriel. Tristan opens the door with a large sword in his hand. Gabriel and Scarlet sit on the couch to talk out the rest of the story. Gabriel tells Scarlet that Tristan's survival of the arrow through his heart that day made them seek out another person from their village whose hand healed from a cut right before their eyes. The three investigated together and realized that they were immortal. Gabriel tells Scarlet that their best chance of changing her fate is to find the Fountain of Youth. Scarlet wonders why it took them two years to find her when she came to life this time, and Gabriel tells her that Tristan wanted to wait until they broke the curse; but, it finally became too hard for him to be so far from her. Gabriel then tells her that Tristan does not want her around him. When Scarlet asks Tristan the same question, he says the same thing. Scarlet takes this as rejection, unaware that Tristan loves her.

### Chapter 19

A week later, Scarlet stops by the cabin uninvited. Tristan is unhappy to see her and tells her she should have called first since Gabriel is not there.

### Chapter 20

A few weeks pass. Scarlet and Heather are at the local coffee shop discussing Halloween costumes when Heather spots Tristan on the street. Scarlet is surprised by how nice Tristan is to a homeless woman and Heather, while continuing to be cold to her. That night, Scarlet wakes in the middle of the night to discover someone is in her house. Since Laura is away on a business trip, Scarlet is very afraid. As Scarlet tries to slip out of the house without the intruder seeing her, she is grabbed in the dark by a second intruder. This intruder turns out to be Tristan. Tristan tells Scarlet to run while he goes up to confront the intruder. Scarlet watches from the kitchen as Tristan and the intruder fight on the stairs. When the intruder flees the house, Tristan takes Scarlet to his car and drives away. When Scarlet tries to call the police on her cell phone, Tristan throws it out the window.

### Chapter 21



At his cabin, Tristan and Scarlet go inside and encounter a frightened Gabriel. Gabriel agrees with Tristan that Scarlet needs to stay with them until they can figure out who broke into her house and why. Scarlet insists that Tristan go to a hospital because of the knife wounds he sustained in the fight with the intruder, but he shows her that they are healing. Gabriel and Tristan discuss what to do. Tristan wants Nate's help, but he cannot reach him.

## Chapter 22

Scarlet wakes in the night, filled with worry, but unsure why. Tristan is awake, filled with overwhelming worry.

## Chapter 23

The next morning, Gabriel tells Scarlet that he has to go to New York to get Nate. Gabriel wants Scarlet to stay behind with Tristan, but neither she nor Tristan like this idea. After some arguing, it is decided that Scarlet staying with Tristan is the only option. Later, Gabriel gives Scarlet a quick tour of the house and then takes her to his room to sleep.

## Chapter 24

Scarlet is bored. She makes a list of things she needs from her house, but Tristan refuses to allow her to leave the cabin. That night, Tristan wakes hungry even though he ate before going to bed. Tristan knows that it is really Scarlet who is hungry, so he makes some pancakes. Scarlet comes downstairs, surprised to find Tristan in the kitchen. They talk for a few minutes, but when an intimate moment seems impossible to resist, Tristan turns cold and leaves.

## Analysis

Scarlet begins to deal with the reality that she has a very short time to live. She is determined, however, to not allow this to happen. Instead, Scarlet tries to help Gabriel in the search for the Fountain of Youth now that she understands its importance. Unfortunately, the three of them have searched for it for five hundred years and have failed to find even a hint of its location.

Someone breaks into Scarlet's house while Laura is out of town. Tristan insists that she stay at the cabin where they can protect her. This creates an awkward situation for Scarlet because the more she is around Tristan, the more she wants to be with him. This leaves her conflicted because of her relationship with Gabriel and the fact that Tristan appears to dislike her. However, what Scarlet does not know is that Tristan is deeply in love with her, but he is afraid that being near her is accelerating Scarlet's death in this life.



## Discussion Question 1

What is the Fountain of Youth? Why does Gabriel think that it can break the curse that is killing Scarlet over and over?

## Discussion Question 2

Why does Tristan not want Scarlet around? Why does she take this as a personal insult? Why does Scarlet think that Tristan hates her? Does he?

## Discussion Question 3

Who breaks into Scarlet's house? For what purpose? Who saves Scarlet?

## Vocabulary

Heartbroken, abandoned, examined, swallowed, without, stiffened, reason, linger, belonged, desire, reached, floated, fixated, butterflies, perfect, softened, immortal, steadily, perfectly, expression, unwanted, unwelcome, immature.

# Chapters 25-32

## Summary

### Chapter 25

Gabriel arrives at Nate's apartment and convinces him of how important it is for him to go to Georgia to help with Scarlet.

### Chapter 26

Tristan is uneasy the next day because he nearly lost control with Scarlet. At the same time, Scarlet is bored. She is disturbed by her thoughts about Tristan. As she sits watching television, Scarlet takes a pen and begins drawing the symbol on her hip and belly. Tristan finds her doing this and becomes angry, insisting that she stop. This makes Scarlet think that Tristan knows something about the symbol.

### Chapter 27

Gabriel and Nate talk about Scarlet on the way back to Georgia.

### Chapter 28

When Gabriel comes home, he greets Scarlet affectionately. Then Nate comes into the room and tells Scarlet and Tristan that the item Tristan found on the intruder at Scarlet's house is a Head Ghost, a device used to extract memories from sleeping victims. This confuses Scarlet because she cannot imagine what someone would want from her memories, or lack of them. Nate then tells Scarlet some of the symptoms of her impending death, such as how her eyes become a more supernatural blue and her nose will bleed without a reason. This makes Scarlet rush to the mirror to look at her eyes, but both Nate and Gabriel assure her that she is not sick yet. That night, they receive some new maps of ancient Florida. The four of them divide up the research into the Fountain of Youth in a renewed attempt to find it. When Gabriel and Scarlet go to bed a few hours later, Gabriel sees the symbol Scarlet was drawing on her body earlier and becomes angry. Gabriel confronts Tristan about the symbol, but Tristan refuses to admit to anything.

### Chapter 29

The next day, Gabriel is cold toward Scarlet, making the already difficult situation almost unbearable. For this reason, when Scarlet learns Heather has returned home from her winter vacation early, she insists that she be allowed to return to her home and stay there with Heather. Gabriel and Tristan reluctantly agree, but insist one of them always be on guard. Scarlet returns home where Heather immediately begins chastising her for her clothing. Heather tells Scarlet that she thinks Tristan is in love with Scarlet. As they talk about Tristan, Scarlet's eyes brighten causing Heather to notice.

## Chapter 30

Nate comes by the next morning to see Scarlet. Nate tells Scarlet that Gabriel is also cursed. Gabriel's curse is that he can only find true love with Scarlet. When added to the fact that Tristan feels physical pain when he is not near Scarlet, she is overwhelmed with the guilt of what her presence does to these brothers. Nate then gives Scarlet a ring that he says she gave to him in her last life and insisted that he return to her in this life.

Back at the cabin, Nate, Tristan, and Gabriel discuss Scarlet. Nate says that he thinks Scarlet has less than six weeks to live. Then they discuss the intruder, trying to decide why he went after Scarlet and if it has anything to do with the fact that she is dying again.

## Chapter 31

Tristan asks Nate's help in finding a weapon that will kill an immortal. Nate wants to refuse, but knows that it is probably their only option at this point. Nate points out that things are progressing much faster this time and he wonders if perhaps something different happened that has made this life different for Scarlet. A few hours later, Gabriel is trying not to fall asleep outside Scarlet's house when Tristan surprises him with a visit. While they talk, they see an intruder approach Scarlet's house. They scare him away by throwing rocks at him, then track him into the woods. Tristan kills the intruder with an arrow when he turns to attack Gabriel. AS they discuss the murder, the intruder suddenly turns into ash.

## Chapter 32

Trent, Gabriel, and Nate go to where the ash man died to see if they can figure out who he was, but there is little to find.

# Analysis

Tristan and Scarlet are left in each other's company. There is clearly a great deal of sexual tension between them, but Tristan is determined not to act on it. This leaves Scarlet confused and convinced that Tristan hates her. However, Scarlet later learns that her mere presence, or lack thereof, causes Tristan pain. Not only that, but Gabriel has been doomed to find true love only with her. It is a difficult situation that leaves Scarlet in the middle of a very difficult situation.

Gabriel brings Nate to Georgia and he proves to be a wealth of information, but none of it really helps. The search for the Fountain of Youth begins again in earnest, but they have little hope of really finding much of anything helpful. This makes it seem that Scarlet is destined to die again.

Nate points out several times that the progression of Scarlet's illness is different this time, suggesting that something has changed. Nate and Gabriel are not sure about



what might have happened in Scarlet's previous life that changed things, but the reader suspects that Tristan and Scarlet became romantically involved in their previous life. Perhaps, this explains the acceleration of the illness this time.

The intruder in Scarlet's home confuses everyone as no one has any idea why someone would want to hurt Scarlet. No one should now about Scarlet's unusual life except Nate, Tristan, and Gabriel, but perhaps someone else knows. This someone clearly wants something from Scarlet's memories. What they exactly want from her memories is a mystery at this point in the novel.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why does Gabriel go to New York to get Nate? Who is Nate? What is Nate's role in this drama?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Why does Scarlet draw a symbol on her body? Who becomes upset when he sees her doing this? How does Gabriel react to this drawing? Why?

## **Discussion Question 3**

What item does Nate give to Scarlet? What does it symbolize? How does she react to it?

## **Vocabulary**

Certainly, vulnerable, disintegrated, blinked, grapple, desolate, information, collecting, remaining, contemplated, eager, insane, curse, stranger, protect, committed, crumble, intruder, appeared, release, intention.



# Chapters 33-40

## Summary

### Chapter 33

Several weeks pass. Scarlet works hard on her research for the Fountain of Youth, but she does it outside the house because Laura is odd about it. One day, while researching, Scarlet has a memory in which she remembers hiding an arrow that she knows will kill someone in a secret compartment of an antique wardrobe.

### Chapter 34

Scarlet rushes over to the cabin to tell Gabriel. When she arrives, the cabin appears empty. Scarlet searches everywhere, ending up in Tristan's room. Scarlet recognizes the wardrobe in his room as the one from her memory. Then Scarlet sees Tristan emerge from the bathroom with his shirt off. Scarlet is shocked to see that he has a tattoo that matches the symbol she has been drawing on everything since waking in the woods. Scarlet suspects that Tristan is not telling her something important. However, before she can interrogate him fully, Gabriel arrives. Upstairs, Scarlet becomes very upset as she tells them about her memory. When they appear to doubt her, Scarlet takes them to Tristan's room where she finds the arrow in a hidden compartment under a drawer. Tristan takes the arrow. Scarlet continues to be upset, so Gabriel suggests they skip the school dance. But, she refuses.

### Chapter 35

Heather arrives at Scarlet's house, and they begin to dress for the dance. Scarlet is not very enthusiastic, but she tries to hide it from Heather. As Heather does Scarlet's hair, she insists on putting the ring Nate brought her in her hair. Scarlet suddenly has another flash of emotion that is not hers and realizes that Tristan plans to kill himself with the arrow she found.

### Chapter 36

Nate tries to talk Tristan out of using the arrow to kill himself, but it does not work.

### Chapter 37

Scarlet races to the cabin to stop Tristan. She finds Tristan in the bathroom. Scarlet tells him she knows what he is going to do and begs him to stop. Just as it looks like Tristan is going to kiss her, he injects her with the sleeping drug from the Head Ghost. Tristan carefully lays Scarlet on his bed before he leaves.

### Chapter 38



Gabriel rushes to the cabin to find Scarlet asleep in Tristan's bed. Gabriel uses the antidote to wake Scarlet. Scarlet tells Gabriel Tristan's plan. Gabriel and Scarlet race out of the house to stop Tristan. Gabriel climbs in his car, but Scarlet can sense that Tristan is in the woods.

### Chapter 39

Scarlet runs into the woods, her emotions full of Tristan. At the same time, Tristan is setting up the auto-rigged bow he plans to kill himself with. Tristan's thoughts are on Scarlet as he moves into position.

### Chapter 40

Scarlet rushes into the clearing and in front of the arrow just as the auto-rigged bow releases the arrow. Scarlet is shot in the heart. Tristan holds Scarlet as she dies. Just before she dies, Scarlet tells Tristan she knows the whereabouts of the Fountain of Life.

## Analysis

Scarlet tries to go back to a normal life even as she continues to search for the Fountain of Youth and fight the symptoms of her illness. The school dance is coming up, and Scarlet is lukewarm about going to it. However, Scarlet refuses to miss it because of her illness.

Scarlet has a memory of an arrow she once hid to protect someone from dying. Scarlet reveals the arrow now, giving it to Tristan. However, Scarlet eventually remembers that she hid it because it has the power to kill an immortal. That means that it is the weapon Tristan has been looking for for years in order to take his own life. However, as he goes to take his life, Scarlet gets in the way, much as he once did for her, and takes the arrow instead.

The reader is left with several unfinished threads in the plot that the reader must assume will be dealt with later in the next few books of the series. One of these is the intruder who was interested in Scarlet's memories. At the end of the novel, the reader learns that Scarlet knows where the Fountain of Youth is located, suggesting the intruder knew this and was after the information. However, the reader must wonder who he really was and how he knew she knew. The reader is also left wondering about the ring Nate gave to Scarlet and what it means. Also, the curse that Gabriel and Tristan live with must somehow be broken.

## Discussion Question 1

What does Scarlet remember she hid in a wardrobe? Why did she hide it? Why does she immediately tell Tristan, Gabriel, and Nate?



## Discussion Question 2

What does Tristan plan to do with the arrow Scarlet has given to him? Why?

## Discussion Question 3

How does Scarlet end up getting injured at the end of the novel? Who was the intended victim? How does this parallel a similar event? What might it mean for Scarlet and Tristan?

## Vocabulary

Positioned, hoarse, brilliant, detachment, curiosity, realization, broken, coldness, emotion, assailed, tunnel, memory, forgive, nearness, serenity, envisioned, positioning, separated, bow, anxiety, traveled, precious.

# Characters

## Scarlet Jacobs

Scarlet Jacobs is a teenager who woke up naked in the woods two years ago with no memory of her identity. For two years, Scarlet has struggled to find her past while trying to make a future for herself. The only things Scarlet has been able to recall are her name and an odd symbol. Scarlet draws this symbol on everything, including her shoes.

At the local Kissing Festival, Scarlet meets Gabriel Archer. Gabriel is a very good looking boy who seems familiar to Scarlet. For this reason, Scarlet lets him in her life only to discover months later that he has known her for five hundred years. Scarlet and Gabriel were once engaged, but a jealous girlfriend cursed Gabriel and killed Scarlet. The arrow that killed Scarlet was covered in immortal blood, however, after Tristan, Gabriel's brother, jumped in front of it. This has caused Scarlet to live an unending cycle of dying and coming back to life.

Scarlet struggles to deal with the truth of her lives and deaths while trying to find the Fountain of Youth that could break the cycle. At the same time, Scarlet struggles with an undeniable attraction to Tristan while dating Gabriel. It is a very difficult situation that eventually leaves Scarlet fighting for her life.

## Tristan Archer

Tristan Archer is Gabriel's twin brother. Tristan is deeply in love with Scarlet, but he cannot admit this for two reasons. First, Gabriel is cursed to only find true love with Scarlet. Second, being close to Scarlet causes her curse to act faster. For this reason, Tristan tries to stay away from Scarlet while trying to find a way to break her curse. Tristan thinks the only way he can really save Scarlet is to end his own life, so he has been searching for many years for the one weapon that can end the life of an immortal.

Tristan has avoided Scarlet more during this life than the previous lives. The reader is unsure of why this is true until Scarlet identifies a symbol she remembers from her past lives. It is a tattoo that Tristan has on his abdomen and hip. This makes it clear to the reader that Scarlet and Tristan had an intimate relationship in her past life, leaving the reader wondering what impact this relationship had on her curse. In the end, Tristan finally finds the one weapon that will end his life; but, as he tries to kill himself, Scarlet steps in the way. She is hit by the arrow and dies. Ironically, Tristan had taken the arrow for her in the same way five hundred years ago.

## Gabriel Archer

Gabriel Archer is an immortal who has lived for more than five hundred years. Gabriel introduces himself to Scarlet at the Kissing Festival, pretending he has never met her



before. However, Scarlet later learns that not only does Gabriel know her, but that they were engaged to one another more than five hundred years before. Gabriel has come to Avalon to save Scarlet from the curse that causes her to live an unending cycle of life and death. However, Gabriel still does not know how to save her. At the same time, Gabriel is stuck in a curse that allows him to find true love only with Scarlet, leaving the reader wondering if he really loves her, or if the curse forces him to think he does.

## Heather

Heather is Scarlet's best friend. Heather is a normal, all-American girl obsessed with fashion. Heather is constantly bugging Scarlet about the way she dresses and how she presents herself. Heather proves to be a very good friend, however, when she tries to protect Scarlet from Gabriel's apparent lies and deceit.

## Laura

Laura is Scarlet's guardian in Avalon. Laura is a beautiful, single business woman who travels quite frequently. The reader does not see Laura often in this novel. However, her reaction to Tristan and Gabriel's names and her odd attitude toward Scarlet's research into the Fountain of Youth lead readers to suspect that Laura might not be an innocent in this drama.

## Nate

Nate is a friend of Gabriel and Tristan who is also immortal. Nate is a gamer and their technical expert. Nate has researched the curse that keeps Scarlet in an unending cycle of life and death. Nate has found two ways to stop the curse. First, finding the Fountain of Youth and having Scarlet drink from it would end the cycle; or, if Tristan died the immortal blood in Scarlet's body would stop trying to get back to Tristan. Nate encourages the boys to find the Fountain of Youth, However, he unwittingly helps Tristan with his suicidal mission to find a weapon that will kill an immortal.

## Raven

Raven is a girl Gabriel was courting in the 1500s. When Raven learned that Gabriel was engaged to Scarlet, she cursed him with the inability to find true love with anyone but Scarlet. Raven then shot Scarlet with an arrow. However, Tristan jumped in the way of the arrow to save Scarlet. When the arrow went through Scarlet's heart, it had Tristan's immortal blood on it. The blood caused Scarlet to be semi-immortal. Scarlet comes back to life each time she dies. However, the blood also kills Scarlet by tearing her heart apart in its desire to be reunited with Tristan.

## **Intruder**

An intruder breaks into Scarlet's home with a Head Ghost in order to extract her memories. This intruder fights Tristan on the stairs of Scarlet's home and sustains a knife wound, but manages to run away. Later, Tristan and Gabriel confront this same intruder in the woods. When Tristan hits the intruder with an arrow to save Gabriel, the man dies and then turns to ash. It is a confusing experience that leaves Gabriel and Tristan confused as to the man's nature and his purpose.

## **Tristan and Gabriel's Mother**

Tristan and Gabriel's mother drank a vial of water from the Fountain of Youth while pregnant with her twin sons. By drinking this water, their mother caused Tristan and Gabriel to be born as immortals. Tristan and Gabriel were not aware of their immortality until Tristan survived being shot through the heart with the same arrow that killed Scarlet the first time.

## **Explorer**

In the 1520s there was an explorer who traveled to the New World and found the Fountain of Youth. This explorer returned to Europe with three vials of water from the Fountain of Youth that he sold to Nate's mother and Tristan and Gabriel's mother. By drinking the water while pregnant, these women gave their babies immortality. However, this explorer died before he could tell anyone about the location of the Fountain of Youth. For this reason, no one has ever found it, including Tristan, Gabriel, and Nate who have been searching for it for five hundred years to free Scarlet of her curse.

# **Symbols and Symbolism**

## **Symbol**

Scarlet wakes in the woods with only the memory of her name and a symbol that she draws on everything. Scarlet eventually learns that this symbol is a tattoo Tristan has on his belly and hip.

## **Ring**

Nate gives Scarlet a ring that she gave to him in her previous life with the instructions to return it to her in this life.

## **Arrow**

Scarlet has a memory of an arrow that she hid because it had the potential of killing someone. Scarlet gives this arrow to Tristan to prove the memory, unaware that he wants the weapon to kill himself so that he might end Scarlet's unending cycle of life and death. Scarlet later walks into the path of the arrow and is shot instead of Tristan.

## **Ancient Dagger**

In Tristan's quest to find a weapon that can kill him, Tristan buys multiple ancient weapons. This includes an ancient dagger he asks a hit man to use to kill him.

## **Head Ghost**

An intruder breaks into Scarlet's house with a gadget called a Head Ghost that he plans to use to extract her memories while she is asleep. Tristan confiscates this device when he fights the intruder off, but Tristan and Gabriel catch the intruder with another Head Ghost at a later date.

## **Pancakes**

Scarlet loves pancakes. Therefore, when Tristan wakes and feels hunger, a hunger he knows is Scarlet's, he makes pancakes for her.

## **Clothes**

Heather is obsessed with fashion and often criticizes Scarlet's clothing choices.

## **Video Games**

Nate is obsessed with video games. When Gabriel talks him into coming to Georgia to help Scarlet, Nate insists on bringing the video console system with him.

## **Fountain of Youth**

Gabriel and Tristan became immortal because of a vial of water their mother drank from the Fountain of Youth while pregnant with them. They are searching for the fountain now to break Scarlet's curse.

## **Tristan's Car**

Scarlet sees Tristan get into a black car and mistakes him for Gabriel. Scarlet follows him home only to discover that Gabriel has a twin brother.

# Settings

## Avalon, Georgia

The novel takes place in a small town in Georgia called Avalon. Avalon is a quaint little town with kind people and a lovely landscape. Scarlet woke in the woods just outside of Avalon two years ago with no memory except for her name and an unknown symbol. Scarlet has tried to make a life for herself in this town.

## Kissing Festival

The Kissing Festival is held in Avalon, Georgia. All the games and festivities revolve around kissing. Scarlet finds this outrageous, but she attends with her friend. Scarlet meets Gabriel while at this festival.

## Archers' Cabin

Gabriel and Tristan have a large cabin just outside of Avalon in the woods. This cabin is well protected. When Scarlet wakes to an intruder in her home, Tristan takes her to this cabin for her protection. It is also in this cabin where Scarlet, in a previous life, hid an arrow she knew could kill Tristan.

## Laura's House

Scarlet lives in the home Laura, her guardian. The house is large and comfortable. However, one night Scarlet wakes to an intruder in the house. For this reason, Scarlet moves out temporarily, only to return when Heather comes to stay with her for a few days.



# Themes and Motifs

## True Love

Scarlet's story begins with her first death. Scarlet lived in Europe in the 1500s when she became engaged to Gabriel Archer. However, Gabriel had been dating a young woman in the neighboring village who became enraged when she learned Gabriel was engaged to someone else. For this reason, the girl, Raven, cursed Gabriel to only find true love with Scarlet, but then shot Scarlet with an arrow. This arrow was tainted with immortal blood, however, because Tristan jumped in the path of the arrow to protect Scarlet. For this reason, Scarlet comes back to life each time she dies, sometimes years, sometimes centuries after her death with no memory of her past. However, the same blood that brings her back to life, also breaks her heart and kills her again.

Each time Scarlet comes back to life, Tristan can sense her and finds her. Gabriel renews his relationship with Scarlet each time. However, as the plot of this novel unfolds, the reader begins to realize that Scarlet and Gabriel's relationship was not as wonderful as Gabriel might believe. It is clear that Tristan loves Scarlet, that he has probably loved her since her first life. Not only this, but there seems to be evidence that Scarlet and Tristan had an intimate relationship during her last life.

While Gabriel cannot find true love with anyone but Scarlet, it is clear that Scarlet is free to love anyone she wants. For this reason, Scarlet is torn between her desire to be with Tristan and her long-standing relationship with Gabriel. This is further complicated by the fact that Scarlet does not regain her memory this time. Another complication is the fact that being near Tristan somehow accelerates the illness that kills Scarlet each of her lifetimes. It is an interesting love triangle that leaves the reader wondering how, and if, it will be resolved in subsequent novels.

## Immortality

In this novel, three of the characters are immortal while one is semi-immortal. There have been stories for hundreds of years of a magic pool in Florida called the Fountain of Youth. It is supposed to have the power to give immortality, but no one has ever found it. In this story, the mothers of three of the characters supposedly bought and drank vials of water from this very fountain.

Scarlet has no memory of her past, but she meets two boys who claim to have known her since she was a child, for more than five hundred years. It is a difficult story to believe, but Scarlet feels the ring of truth in their words. Later, when one of the boys is injured, he shows Scarlet how he heals quickly. It seems proof of their claims. It also appears to be supported by their claim that when Scarlet dies, of a broken heart, she always comes back to life within a few years or centuries. Scarlet sees the proof of this when she begins to suffer from the effects of the illness that always kills her.

Immortality is the inability to die. Tristan, Gabriel, and Nate have lived five hundred years, healing quickly from any kind of wound. They are witnesses to changes that have come with the modern world. It is an interesting life, but Tristan would give it all up to save Scarlet from her curse. Unfortunately, finding a way to kill an immortal is next to impossible. Tristan struggles every day to find the one ancient weapon that will do this, but he fails over and over. It is a conundrum that will drive Tristan throughout the plot of this novel. For these reasons, immortality is an important theme to the novel.

## Memory

Scarlet Jacobs woke in the woods naked and alone two years ago. Scarlet has no memory of who she is, where she came from, or where her family might be. The only thing Scarlet remembers is her name and a vague memory of symbol she does not know or understand. Scarlet is taken in by a kind business woman who fights to keep Scarlet in her home. As time passes, Scarlet makes a good friend and begins to make a normal life in this small Georgia town.

One day Scarlet meets a man who knows her. Suddenly Scarlet realizes she has an unusual history and people who love her. However, Scarlet still cannot remember anything from her past. It is a difficult time for Scarlet as she struggles with all these truths that appear to be around her, but unable to be sure anyone is telling her the complete truth. To add to Scarlet's troubles, she learns a story that seems so impossible to believe that she cannot adjust to her new reality.

Memory is an important theme of this novel because it is the one thing Scarlet does not have, but she desperately needs. It is not until Scarlet lies dying that she begins to remember things that are of great importance to her life and the lives of those she loves. It is a truth that the reader suspects others desperately want to know. For this reason, it is of the utmost importance that Scarlet remember the past, but it is the one thing completely out of her reach.

# Styles

## Point of View

The point of view of this novel is third person omniscient. The author tells the story through the eyes of several of the main characters, including Scarlet Jacobs and Tristan Archer. Scarlet's point of view has something of the unreliable narrator to it because Scarlet has amnesia and cannot remember any of her past. Tristan's narration is more to the point, but Tristan has things to hide, so he often thinks and speaks about things that the reader has no reference point for.

The point of view of this novel works well with the plot. The author tells her story in such a way that the reader cares what happens to the main characters. Scarlet's struggle to understand her past without regaining her memories is a difficult one, but the author portrays it with a degree of clarity by allowing the reader into Scarlet's mind. At the same time, the author contradicts Scarlet's view of things by showing the thoughts and actions of Tristan and Gabriel. For these reasons, the point of view works with the plot.

## Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is simple English. The intended audience of the novel is young adults, therefore the language reflects that of the common teenager. At the same time, the novel contains some language that reflects the supernatural aspects of the novel, such as the name of a device used to extract memories from a sleeping person.

The language of this novel is simple and reflects the age of the main characters. However, the main characters have all lived more than five hundred years, so the reader might expect a little more sophistication in their language that is simply not present in this novel. This novel is intended for young adults, therefore the simple language makes sense from that point of view.

## Structure

The novel is divided into a prologue and forty chapters. The prologue takes place two years before the beginning of the novel to show the moment at which Scarlet woke in the woods. The rest of the novel takes place over the course of a few months. The novel is written in both narration and dialogue and takes place on a linear timeline.

The novel has one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows Scarlet Jacobs as she struggles to remember her past, a past that has disappeared because of amnesia. A subplot follows Tristan Archer as he tries to find a way to save Scarlet from her death curse. Another subplot follows the relationships between all the characters. All the plots come to a reasonable conclusion at the end of the novel.

## Quotes

She rummaged through her brain for something--any information at all. But her memories seemed lost. Stolen, even.

-- Scarlet (Prologue paragraph 12)

**Importance:** This is Scarlet's reaction to waking in the woods with no memory but her name and an unknown symbol.

All he wanted was an easy night with Scarlet. A chance to get to know her again. How was he supposed to relax when his brother was out cutting someone into pieces with a barbaric weapon?

-- Gabriel (Chapter 3 paragraph 32)

**Importance:** This is Gabriel's reaction to Tristan's plan to kill someone to save Scarlet from her unending cycle of dying and coming back to life. Gabriel does not know at this point that Tristan's intended victim is himself.

School began and Scarlet felt like her life was falling into place; she was finally beginning to take on an identity of her own. No more amnesia girl. No more mystery girl. Shew as simply Scarlet Jacobs: normal high school student with a quirky best friend and hot boyfriend.

-- Scarlet (Chapter 6 paragraph 7)

**Importance:** This quote shows Scarlet's state of mind just weeks before she learns the truth about her past.

Scarlet was going to die. Because of him.

-- Tristan (Chapter 7 paragraph 6)

**Importance:** This shows Tristan's guilt over the fact that it is his immortal blood that has Scarlet trapped in a cycle of life and death.

Tristan thought he would die. He actually thought the part of his soul that endlessly clawed at his insides would die of happiness at her nearness.

-- Tristan (Chapter 10 paragraph 5)

**Importance:** This is Tristan's reaction to be nearing Scarlet for the first time in her current life. This quote also illustrates the connection and pain that Tristan feels with Scarlet.

Gabriel didn't have time to wait around for his brother to come home with a corpse. Scarlet was probably scared out of her mind and needed reassurance--something Gabriel was determined to give her.

-- Gabriel (Chapter 12 paragraph 36)

**Importance:** This quote shows the difference in opinion between the two brothers about what to do for Scarlet. Tristan wants to end his own life, Gabriel wants to find the Fountain of Youth.

When you're cursed to die and come back to life every few years, essays just don't seem important anymore.

-- Scarlet (Chapter 17 paragraph 4)

**Importance:** This quote shows Scarlet's state of mind after learning about her complicated past.

Why did Tristan affect her so much?

-- Scarlet (Chapter 19 paragraph 24)

**Importance:** This is the beginning of Scarlet's confusion regarding her attraction to Tristan and his coldness toward her.

His hunger could only mean one thing: Scarlet was hungry.

-- Tristan (Chapter 24 paragraph 58)

**Importance:** This quote illustrates the fact that the connection between Tristan and Scarlet is so intimate that he cannot only feel her, but he can feel her emotions and needs.

It wasn't fair for him to keep information from her. She didn't know what the symbol meant--she had amnesia, for crying out loud. She deserved some answers.

-- Scarlet (Chapter 29 paragraph 3)

**Importance:** This quote illustrates Scarlet's frustration when Gabriel becomes angry with her when he sees she has drawn the complete symbol on her body. Gabriel knows the significance of the symbol, but he does not tell Scarlet.

The corpse at Gabriel's feet began to crumble. The twins watched in disbelief as the intruder's skin and bone slowly lost its color and turned to ash.

-- Tristan (Chapter 31 paragraph 146)

**Importance:** This is a description of the disappearance of the corpse of the intruder after Tristan killed him with an arrow.

With every fiber of strength she had left, she whispered, 'I know where the fountain is.

-- Scarlet (Chapter 40 paragraph 29)

**Importance:** This is Scarlet's final words as she lies dying in Tristan's arms. This suggests the reason why the intruder wanted Scarlet's memories and a premise for the next novel in the series.