

Angelfall Study Guide

Angelfall by Susan Ee

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Plot Summary

"Angelfall" is a young adult novel by Susan Ee and revolves around a post-apocalyptic California, and the attempts of seventeen year-old Penryn Young to rescue her kidnapped sister.

When the novel begins, the Apocalypse has come. Penryn, her mentally imbalanced mother, and Penryn's little sister, wheelchair-bound Paige, prepare to flee from Silicon Valley into the hills. Their escape is interrupted by a fight between the angel Raffe (Raphael) and five challengers. Raffe manages to fend off the angels, though he becomes seriously wounded, and the lead angel, Beliel, cuts off Raffe's wings. Paige is then kidnapped and their mother runs away. Penryn helps nurse Raffe back to health, and asks him to help her find her sister. He is reluctant to do so, but decides he must help if he wants the chance of having his wings reattached.

Penryn and Raffe travel north, and fall in with a militia resistance group, determined to fight back against the angels that have invaded Earth. They are led by a good man named Obadiah, who wants to give people hope by fighting back. Penryn and Raffe leave and continue north to the angel aerie in San Francisco, at a 1920s-themed club. Raffe has no idea what the angels are doing -none of them do. They simply act on orders, but without Gabriel, God's Messenger, they have no idea what they are supposed to do. Politics have broken out among the angels, seeking to nominate the next Messenger. Raffe is in consideration. While at the club's basement, Penryn finds her sister, who has been torn apart and stitched back together. She is now an automaton, with little independence of her own -but she can walk again. Raffe goes to see the angel Laylah, who can reattach his wings, but betrays him by putting Raffe's wings on Uriel, Beliel's boss. Uriel's demonic wings are given to Raffe. A scorpion fetus creature paralyzes Penryn as the resistance attacks the club, killing many angels, and Raffe brings Penryn to safety. The victory is celebrated, and Penryn, her mother, and Paige leave with the resistance, while Raffe goes off on his own, able to fly once more.



Chapters 1 - 24

Chapters 1 - 24 Summary

Chapter 1 - Seventeen year-old Penryn Young says that the sunsets since the attacks have been beautiful. Penryn hides sharpened steak knives in her seven year-old sister, Paige's, wheelchair, and into her mother's shopping cart. She and her mother then bring Paige downstairs to the lobby of the building, taking the stairs because the electricity is not always reliable. They then bring the cart downstairs, which is full of old photos, Bibles, and empty bottles. The plan is to head down El Camino, to Page Mill, and then to the hills. The nights are dangerous, as street gangs and immortal predators roam at will. Penryn's father left the year before.

Chapter 2 - Penryn knows it is the Apocalypse. As she and her mother and sister head down the road through Silicon Valley, they move around abandoned cars and past debris. They find a chocolate energy bar in one of the cars, and share it. As they head down the road, white feathers fall on them, and an Angel of the Apocalypse appears before them.

Chapter 3 - Penryn and her family take cover as five angels appear to corner another before them. Each of the angels have different attributes, such as different colored skins and wings. They say they have their orders, and they commence to attack the lone angel, who drops his sword as the others cut off his wings. Then, they notice Penryn and her family.

Chapter 4 - Hoping to cause a distraction to let her mother and sister get away, Penryn dives for the lone angel's sword. She throws it, and it lands in the hand of the now wingless angel. He begins to fight again, while another angel goes after Paige. The angel abducts her, and Penryn rushes to stop him, but she is unable to do so.

Chapter 5 - With Paige gone, Penryn turns her attention to find her mother, whose cart is overturned. The angel pieces that are strewn about are likely to cause attention, as a black market exists for angel parts, and a bounty exists for dead angels. Penryn discovers that the injured angel is still alive. She asks where the other angel took Paige, but the wingless angel is unresponsive. Penryn decides to stop his bleeding enough for him to tell her where the others have gone. The angel is very light in weight. Using Paige's wheelchair, Penryn puts the injured angel into it, and rolls him away, taking the severed wings along, too.

Chapter 6 - Penryn brings the angel to an abandoned office building. They stay there for two days. The office has some supplies, including aspirin, so Penryn tries to give the injured angel some aspirin for his fever, but all he does is lay on a couch. Penryn has gone out to find her mother four times, but hasn't been able to. In frustration, she yells at the angel to wake up, and dumps water on him, but he asks her to keep it down because he is trying to sleep. He says Paige is dead, but Penryn doesn't believe him.



Penryn offers the angels his wings in exchange for his help to find Paige, but the angel is unresponsive. Penryn imagines she could torture him, and needs to find something to hold the angel down.

Chapter 7 - Leaving the office building, a lifeless body that has been at the entrance to deter others has been rearranged, and a knife is sticking out of the corpse. Penryn knows her mother has found her, and her mother is off her medication. Her mother says that she has made a deal with a demon to find her daughter, and she needs to go and collect some things. She tells Penryn to stay put. Penryn recounts the day she and her father came home to find her mother standing over Paige, who was two then, whose legs had been mangled. After that day, Penryn's mother puts her through self-defense classes, survivalist camp, and so on. Her mother is convinced demons and the devil are speaking to her, coming up through the pipes, so she uses books on top of a board to block the toilet at night.

Chapter 8 - Using almost an entire roll of duct tape, Penryn hogties the angel. The angel awakens. With scissors, Penryn cuts off some of the feathers to get the angel to talk, and he threatens to kill her, but Penryn is not afraid, saying that if the angel wanted her dead, he would have done it already. When Penryn looks over to see that the door is locked, the angel vanishes, leaving shreds of duct tape behind. The angel attempts to choke Penryn, but Penryn fights back, slamming the angel into a wall, and his badly cut back is further injured by nails. They both fall to the ground as Penryn's mother calls through the door. Penryn says that she is okay, that she is just handling a personal demon, and Penryn's mother leaves her alone.

The angel returns to sleep, which Penryn realizes is a healing sleep. She then chains up the angel using the shopping cart. Penryn then goes to sleep. She is awakened by the angel putting his hand over her mouth and telling her to be quiet.

Chapter 9 - Intruders have broken into the office. Penryn hears her mother scream. The angel throws the shopping cart through the glass as intruders come to the office door. The angel tells her to run, but she doubles back to the building. Inside, she finds her mother has plunged six knives into the chest of her attacker. Penryn tells her mother to go, while the angel is fighting off ten attackers. Using the hidden wings, Penryn pretends to be an angel, scaring the attackers momentarily, and giving the injured angel enough time to fight back. Penryn also helps the angel fight, who is impressed with her skill. Penryn tells the angel they must go, and the angel is amazed to see that Penryn has kept his sword. She won't give it back to him, though. He no longer needs a wheelchair, but Penryn brings it along anyways -for Paige.

Chapter 10 - Penryn picks out a guesthouse on an estate to spend the night in. There, Penryn tends to the blisters on his feet. The angel's name is Raffe. Penryn asks what humanity did to deserve such brutal punishment, and Raffe says he doesn't call the shots. Penryn makes him some instant noodles, and gives him an energy bar. She discovers Raffe can see well in the dark, and has excellent hearing. Penryn asks Raffe what the angels are doing with kids, and Raffe says that this is the first time he has heard of children being taken. He also says that angels are violent and destructive, and



not necessarily the good creatures they've been portrayed as. Penryn says that Raffe needs her to be his guide without wings, and that she will help him if he helps her. The angel doesn't say yes or no, but goes to sleep.

Penryn has nightmares, and Raffe comforts her and holds her. He tells her in the morning that he will take her to the aerie.

Chapter 11 - Raffe has almost fully healed the next morning. He explains that angel sword wounds take a long time to heal, and that they can only be wielded with permission from the sword itself, otherwise, they would be so heavy they could barely be held. They finish their noodles, and go rummaging. They find cat food, and eat that. They change clothes, and Penryn dresses Raffe in normal clothing, for he has been shirtless. They head to the freeway, and find it packed with cars and bodies.

Chapter 12 - Raffe examines the dead bodies. They are partly eaten -by humans, according to Raffe. A short while later, they find a rotten egg and some herbs on the road -a sign that Penryn's mother, who has been carrying rotten eggs -was there. Raffe thinks the cannibals were children.

Chapter 13 - Penryn and Raffe move through the forest. Penryn cannot bring the wheelchair through the rugged terrain, so she is forced to leave it behind. She is unhappy about this. Raffe makes her feel better by kidding around with her about still having chocolate to give to Paige, and that she's hanging out with him. They are moving north, following Skyline Drive, hoping to avoid populated areas. When they reach Skyline Drive, they discover the highway has been barricaded with cars. An unwelcoming community exists there, and Raffe says they are being watched by at least two people. They then begin running downhill as dogs begin chasing them.

Chapter 14 - Chased by dogs, Raffe puts Penryn into the safety of a tree, and then keeps running. The dogs follow him. They yelp in the distance. A moment later, five armed men emerge from the underbrush. They return with Raffe, who is tied up and bleeding. When they are gone, Penryn runs downhill and finds Raffe's wings, wrapped in a blanket. She straps these to her pack, and takes off after the men.

Chapter 15 - Penryn follows the men to their camp, where the dogs are kenneled. More armed men, and women, move about. They appear to live in beaten-up old buildings in a compound, and there are machine guns pointed at the sky. The camp is hostile to angels. Raffe is taken to a small building in the center. Penryn hides the wings. She watches patrols, smells delicious food being cooked, and waits until darkness. Then, she sneaks into the camp. She goes to find Raffe, who tells her that the militia isn't sleeping, and a flashlight turns on.

Chapter 16 - Three men apprehend Penryn. The leader is impressed that Penryn has made it inside. Raffe says that the militia needs good armed men, not skinny little girls like Penryn to do whatever it is they are trying to do. They imagine Raffe has former military experience. They decide their visitors should have food, and they leave. When they return, they feed stew to Raffe and Penryn. The leader reveals himself to be



Obadiah West. Two of his men have been killed, and Obadiah wants to know who is responsible for it, so they took a risk to capture Raffe. They are also aware of cannibalism going on, but it is not them. Obadiah says they are forming a resistance army to drive the angels back off of Earth.

Chapter 17 - The point, Obadiah explains, is to attack the angels to recruit people, to let them know that the war has not been lost. Penryn wonders which side she should be on, but doesn't say anything about that. She says her head hurts. She is tied up and laid down on a cot, and Obadiah says she will be safe, because his men have orders not to touch her, and to be gentlemanly toward her. Penryn is confused. If she goes to the aerie with Raffe, he has intelligence about a resistance movement he can use to help himself; if she doesn't, she will have lost her sister. When all the men in the camp are asleep, Raffe unties himself, saying that ropes can't hold angels. He then unties Penryn. Penryn wonders if angels can be killed by bullets, remembering seeing footage of the angel Gabriel being shot out of the sky, and wondering if he was killed. Penryn picks the lock on the door. They flee into the woods, but Penryn is caught.

Chapter 18 - Obadiah tells Penryn and Raffe that because they know the current location of the militia, they cannot be set free until they all move, which will be soon. Obadiah explains that these resistance camps exist all over the world. Obadiah says that he doesn't like killing other people because it is divisive, and unity is needed to drive out the angels. He wants Raffe and Penryn to become part of his group. A man named Jim Boden says they should pitch in to help the camp, else, they'd all be doomed; and Boden says that the angels won't stand a chance against them. Penryn is assigned laundry duty, while Raffe is assigned latrine duty. A woman named Dolores explains that most of the dogs in camp are former pets, and few have been trained into guard dogs.

Penryn learns the resistance is well-supplied, thanks to a secret warehouse that has been well-stocked. Penryn also notices several crates being loaded very carefully onto trucks. She believes they must be some kind of explosive. Boden speaks down to Penryn, using sexual innuendos to dominate her. She smashes his nose, but then Boden punches her back and tackles her. But nobody stops the fight. They begin taking bets, including Raffe.

Chapter 19 - By hitting Boden in the groin, Penryn gains the upper hand. She kicks him in the face for good measure. Then, Obadiah intervenes, and guides Penryn away. He tells her it is alright, and his voice soothes Penryn. She wonders why Raffe didn't jump in to help her. Obadiah brings her to the kitchen, where he gets a first aid kit and a bag of frozen peas to put on her swollen jaw. Obadiah explains that fights are never broken up unless they become life-threatening. This helps keep people in check knowing no one will come to their aid, and helps to work off nervous energy by spectating and betting. He is impressed with Penryn's skill, and wants her to join them for good. She can leave when they leave, if she wants. If not, they can help get retribution for her. But Penryn says she has to find her sister before it is too late. Penryn realizes Obadiah is a good man, but he has his own agenda.



Later on, two redheaded twins congratulate Penryn on her putting Boden in his place. They call themselves Tweedledee and Tweedledum, lightheartedly. They want her to throw a fight against a girl named Anita, for a thirty percent share of the profits, and a hand in helping her escape. They want to see a catfight between two hot females. Penryn agrees if it can be done that night.

Chapter 20 - Penryn is exhausted from her day of physical activity. Anita is beautiful, and walks by Raffe, which Dee and Dum use as an excuse to point her out. Penryn throws a wet towel at Anita, telling her to stay away from her man. Anita is stunned. They begin to fight, crash into wash basins, get soaked, and roll around fighting in the mud. A crowd gathers and cheers. But the fight is broken up by a gunshot, and a scream.

Chapter 21 - As the camp goes into chaos, and soldiers rush to the woods, Raffe decides it is time to escape. He asks about the location of his wings, and Penryn says she has to show him. In the woods, more gunshots ring out. Seven soldiers are dead, and five are still alive. Penryn wonders what is going on, if the source of their fear and the fighting was cannibal children, but she knows better. Whatever it was has even unnerved Raffe. As the soldiers leave, Penryn and Raffe retrieve the wings and the sword. Raffe tells her that it is too dangerous for her to be with him, and he vanishes. Penryn decides to head out into the darkness on her own. She has to save her sister.

Chapter 22 - Penryn moves through the darkness, quiet and terrified. Shadows begin to move, and there is horrific growling. Something begins slicing at her skin, and she wonders if something is biting her as she tries to run.

Chapter 23 - Raffe appears to save Penryn, slicing at the midget-sized demons that are behind her. She throws rocks at them to help. Three of them bite Raffe, and he staggers, but the demons are disgusted by the taste of Raffe's blood. Raffe chases after them, and kills them all. He doesn't want to take any chances that they will report to others what they have found. Raffe says that the demons weren't on his side, and that angels aren't evil. Penryn isn't convinced about angels not being evil. Nevertheless, he stays with her as they keep walking. Raffe leads her to a small house where he puts her to bed. She has nightmares about wrestling with Anita, and Paige being taken away by demons.

Chapter 24 - In the morning, Raffe and Penryn prepare to move out. Raffe is disposing of unnecessary things from Penryn's backpack, such as a pot. They clean up, change clothes, and move out. As they walk, they hear a scream. Investigating, they find two little girls hanging from trees, their legs gnarled and chewed up. The girls were alive when they were eaten. Penryn throws up. A man and a woman argue about what has happened to the little girls. The man says that they have all become monsters, including their boy, who has eaten the girls. Raffe and Penryn continue on.



Chapters 1 - 24 Analysis

When Susan Ee's novel "Angelfall" begins, Penryn has essentially become the head of her little family. With her father out of the picture, having left the year before, it is up to Penryn to take care of her family. It is a task that she seems equal to, for she has been raised in survivalist camps and karate and self-defense classes. Following the Apocalypse, Penryn and her family are determined to flee into the hills on foot, to get out of the populated Silicon Valley. But their move to flee is blocked by an angel battle, during which time Penryn falls in league with Raphael, or Raffe, as he calls himself. Raffe wants his wings reattached, and he becomes an ally in Penryn's cause to get her sister back from the angels.

As they travel along, they come across a mobile militia resistance group, determined to either expel the angels, or die trying. Their goal is to give people hope, and a reason to hope, by scoring some kind of victory against the angels. The leader, Obadiah, wants Penryn and Raffe to join his cause, but both individuals have their own battles to fight -at least for the time being. As they travel through the wilderness, they realize that there are more than just angels running around, but demons and various other evil entities as well. The discovery of the two girls hanging from a tree only adds to the gravity of the situation, and lends horror to the already terrifying events of the novel.



Chapters 25 - 47

Chapters 25 - 47 Summary

Chapter 25 - Penryn wonders if the girls were eaten by one of the low demons. Penryn says that not all people are like that, and Raffe says he knows, because he watches TV. Penryn asks him if he is married, but he says that angels and humans cannot be together. He explains that once, angels called Watchers were left to observe the world, married women, and had children called Nephilim. They were abominations who ate humans, drank blood, and terrorized the world. The Watchers were therefore condemned to the Pit until Judgment Day.

Penryn and Raffe arrive outside the southern part of San Francisco, and are amazed to see a black Hummer on the road below them -Obadiah's men. The Hummer stops and shuts off as a flying-v of angels swoops in over the road. The angels disappear, and the Hummer continues on. Raffe wonders how the Hummer could have known the angels were coming. Penryn, in her mind, believes that the genius of technology in the Silicon Valley has something to do with it. Penryn wants to know why Raffe didn't call out to the angels, or if he recognized them, but Raffe only says no.

Chapter 26 - Raffe decides they should drive a car, but as they get down to the freeway, another black truck comes up behind them, so they hide. They realize it is a caravan. When it passes, they finally find a black SUV with tinted windows, and hop into that. Raffe tells her to head toward the financial district. He has been formulating a plan. As they drive, they see scattered groups of people who run and hide upon their approach. Driving into the city, they discover it has been utterly wrecked and pummeled. Penryn wonders aloud how Raffe could do this; he stays quiet after that. Part of the financial district is almost untouched, and makeshift camp has been set up there. As they drive past, people touch the car and the windows. The doors are locked, and Raffe and Penryn change. Penryn is given risqué clothing, and Raffe tells her it is their only way. He doesn't like it, but he has to accept it.

Raffe cuts holes in a jacket, and then fashions his wings to the backpack, making it appear as if he has wings, and these wings protrude through the jacket. When they are changed, he tells Penryn to head through the checkpoint, because they sometimes let women in.

Chapter 27 - The financial district is surrounded by a weak, temporary fence, but it does its job of keeping people out. A line of cars, and innumerable people are gathered around, wanting to get in. Many of them are wearing clothing that looks brand new. Penryn notices her mother in the crowd. The guards at the gates are angels. They let through a few women, but only women. Penryn wants to know if she'll make it through, and Raffe says yes, because she is beautiful. Penryn is flushed. She is ordered out of the car, and the guards inspect her, and then wave her through. They park near a club and get out. Raffe is wearing a tuxedo. He explains that producing children with humans



is forbidden, but the angels -dressed in zoot suits, the current fashion style for the aerie -appear to have found a gray area by not producing children. Raffé and Penryn are given admittance.

Chapter 28 - The inside of the club is Art Deco, and there are humans inside as well. All of the men are workers, serving drinks and picking up empty glasses. Raffé and Penryn end up kissing. He says he doesn't even like Penryn, and this hurts her. He goes through a double-door, and Penryn follows.

Chapter 29 - The inside of the club itself is alive and moving. It is as if the world outside does not exist. Raffé has four drinks, and he is watching something across the room. He turns down a sexually suggestive girl as Penryn comes over. Raffé is watching a booth with six angels, all bigger and more confident than the rest. Raffé points out one angel in a white suit, and tells Penryn to get him to go to the bathroom, where he will be waiting to convince the angel to help.

Chapter 30 - As Penryn makes her way to the booth, she sees an angel in a light gray suit making the rounds and being friendly with everyone. She refers to him as the Politician. He looks charming, but the two girls who are with him look terrified. The Politician notices Penryn, but a waiter steps in between them to offer her a drink. The Politician loses interest. The waiter tells Penryn she's welcome, and Penryn realizes it is one of the Tweedle twins. She realizes the plan must be to blow up the club, and she realizes she has very limited time.

Chapter 31 - The albino angel pointed out by Raffé has blood-red eyes that are chilling to look at. She pretends to be drunk and spills a drink on him, and he goes to the bathroom to clean it. She follows him in. Raffé confronts the angel, named Josiah. Raffé has trained Josiah as a soldier, but Josiah is wary about being seen with Raffé -or Raphael, as he calls Raffé. A new Messenger is supposed to be named, since Gabriel has been shot down. Uriel wants to be the new messenger, and he is sparing no expense to get the support of a majority of the angels. The only thing stopping him is Raphael and his supporters. Many believe Raphael has fallen. Others believe Uriel has ties that are too close with Hell, because he visits the Pit so often. But Raphael has to restore his name before he makes any kind of a move. Raffé explains his wings have been cut off, and Josiah says that the only one who can reattach them is the head physician and surgeon, Laylah. Josiah promises he will talk to her. Raffé asks about where the children are being kept, and Josiah says he will speak to Raffé in a few hours.

Chapter 32 - Penryn is stunned by the fact that none of the angels know why they are there. She thinks an angelic civil war might be coming. She is also stunned that Raffé is really Raphael, the archangel. Raffé checks them into a room, and orders up some food. Penryn showers, and ravenously eats her meal. Then Raffé showers, and lets Penryn have his meal, for he has ordered up more food. Josiah and Laylah then show up. She wants to know why she should help him. But then one of the twins arrives with the second order of food, and then leaves. Laylah agrees to help, but doesn't name her price. She takes Raffé's wings with her and Josiah, and this worries Penryn.



Chapter 33 - Raffe and Penryn talk about God and Gabriel. As the Messenger, Gabriel was the only angel to speak with God, and then to instruct the other angels to do His bidding. Gabriel only ever explained things fully when they needed to be explained fully. Raffe, though he has been crafted by the Hands of God, is not sure God exists. But they do the Will of God anyways, without hesitation. Penryn, likewise, is agnostic, having previously not known whether God exists or not. Raffe then leaves for his surgery, saying that if he is not back by dawn, to get Josiah's help to get out of the aerie.

Chapter 34 - Ordering things from room service eventually gets Tweedledum to deliver the food. Penryn She asks him if he knows where they're keeping the children. He writes down that she needs to get out while she can. Penryn insists she has to find her sister. The scribble notes back and forth about the angels being in political turmoil, and Penryn saying that Tweedledum owes her. He scribbles down that he will take her where there might be kids, and then he destroys the note. He returns a short time later with chocolate and a servant's uniform. From there, Penryn gets dressed, bringing along the sword, which Tweedledum questions, but accepts as a mere collector's sword stolen from an abandoned house. He brings her outside, telling her that there is no more time anymore. A large crowd is gathering outside the club. They go down a dark alley to go in a side entrance. But they are surrounded by thugs.

Chapter 35 - Another person comes to the group of thugs. It is Penryn's mother. She embraces Penryn, and the thugs -evidently her friends -scatter. She then scolds Penryn for going off on her own. Penryn tells her to quiet down, or she'll leave her mother there and go find Paige on her own. Her mother doesn't want to be left alone, so she comes along. Once they are in the basement, Tweedledum has to leave to attend to certain things. He says she has an hour. Penryn, meanwhile, goes into the basement with the sword drawn, and her mother believing it is a trap. They come across a room with glass tubes the size of men, but each glass tube contains a scorpion angel-like creature.

Chapter 36 - Penryn examines the creatures. The front of them are normal, like people, but their backs have scorpion-like tails. In one tank, a creature is feeding on a woman with an oxygen mask, killing her by turning her insides to mush, and drinking them. A man arrives pushing a cart, and delivering furniture drawers. When he passes, Penryn decides she has to find a way to get the victims out of the tubes. Then Penryn sees something which horrifies her.

Chapter 37 - A wall full of lifeless children as old as twelve are piled up and stacked naked to the side of Penryn. They have incisions across their torsos. She calls for her sister, and her sister crawls out from the other children. She has been carved up and stitched back together.

Chapter 38 - As Penryn prepares to leave with Paige, an angel appears and orders her to stop. Penryn attacks and grapples with the angel. The angel rushes back and begins to strangle her.

Chapter 39 - The angel is knocked off of Penryn. Paige is ripping apart the angel with her razor-sharp teeth. Penryn calls to Paige, who stops, and miraculously walks toward



Penryn. This makes Penryn think about the girls hanging lifeless in the woods. She plunges the angel sword into the dying angel on the floor. Suddenly, Laylah and another angel walk in. Penryn wonders why Laylah is not performing surgery on Raffe. But then a series of explosions shake the ground. The resistance attack has begun. The angels leave in a rush.

Chapter 40 - Penryn slashes open the glass feeding tubes with the sword, and the creatures and the victims fall to the floor. Penryn's mother appears, and grabs Paige up into her arms and hugs her. She tells both her children they have to get out of there, though Penryn can see in her mother's eyes that she blames her for what has happened to Paige.

Chapter 41 - Behind them, a fight breaks out, and Raffe flies through the air. A massive angel follows him. It is Beliel, the Night Angel, who cut off Raffe's wings in the first place. Raffe's wings have been attached to Beliel, and hideous bat-like wings have been attached to Raffe. Because of the wings, the sword rejects Raffe when Penryn throws him the sword. Raffe is stunned and heartbroken. Wielding the sword herself, Penryn attacks Beliel, and then so does Raffe. Together, they force him back, until someone grabs Penryn.

Chapter 42 - A scorpion fetus has interrupted the fight, attempting to fight Penryn. The stinger pierces her, and she goes limp. Raffe rushes to her side, hurling the fetus through the other glass tubes. Raffe takes her in her arms.

Chapter 43 - Beliel returns to the fight, but is stopped by the Politician who comes through the doors. Beliel protests being told not to kill Raffe. The politician is Uriel. Uriel says that if Raffe dies, he will be turned into a martyr, and absolute power will never be his. Uriel is delighted by Raffe's tears over Penryn. Uriel and Beliel leave, and Raffe, enraged, begins destroying things left and right until there is nothing left to destroy. He then picks up the paralyzed Penryn, and they head out toward the explosions.

Chapter 44 - As they head up, the angels are taking to the sky, but many are being gunned down. The other angels are astonished and horrified to see Raphael, and they make space around him as they try to escape. Angels are running in one direction, humans in another. Raffe, with Penryn in his arms, follows the humans. Outside, the trucks and jeeps of the attacking humans are retreating, as the angels who have escaped now have the advantage of the air. Obadiah and his men are busy getting civilians in the trucks to get away, and Raffe brings Penryn to them, and then takes off.

Chapter 45 - Paralyzed, Penryn can only watch helplessly as everyone looks at her to examine her, while the fighting rages on. Obadiah believes Penryn is dead, and orders her left behind, but Paige picks up Penryn and puts her in the truck. As they leave, another truck smashes into the aerie, blowing it up, and collapsing it. As this happens, the angels flee, and the humans cheer. Penryn realizes they have hope again, just as Obadiah wanted.



Chapter 46 - As they drive along, the venom begins to wear off, and Penryn can move her eyes again. Above, Raffe flies over them. Though he is shot at, he is not injured, and flies away.

Chapter 47 - Within an hour, Penryn is back to normal, and the venom has lost its potency. Paige sits mechanically at Penryn's feet, while their mother prays. Penryn realizes it is good to be alive.

Chapters 25 - 47 Analysis

The entrance to San Francisco is one of heartbreak and uncertainty. There are important revelations that the reader cannot ignore when faced with the events that play out. These revelations explain, in part -perhaps- why the angels being on earth have such horrible and cruel consequences, despite Raffe's insistence that the angels are not evil.

The first of these revelations is that none of the angels knows what they are doing on Earth anymore. The second is that they do know that they have come down on God's orders through Gabriel, but Gabriel is dead, and there is no Messenger to relay orders between God and the angels. Stepping into that void appears to be Uriel, who is clearly not working for God. Under Uriel at the aerie, horrific pseudo-scientific work is being done to create hybrid creatures. In other words, the creation of these creatures is a direct affront to God, because it allows lesser beings to play God in that sense. In this case, it is probably Laylah and Uriel. Furthermore, Uriel is directly working with Beliel, who spends much time in Hell as he says. At the same time, politicking is going on to become the next angelic Messenger to God. Whatever God's reason for sending angels down, it has been hijacked and twisted by evil. It is probable that the angels are doing evil without even realizing it.

Yet, despite the seeming prevalence of evil, the forces of good -in the form of the resistance, Raffe, Penryn, and her family, win the day. The victory against evil means that there will be hope in the world.



Characters

Penryn Young

Penryn Young is the main character, narrator, and principle protagonist in the novel "Angelfall" by Susan Ee. Penryn is a beautiful, resourceful, seventeen year-old girl who cares for her mentally unbalanced mother, and her wheelchair-bound younger sister, Paige. Penryn and Paige's father is gone, having left the year before. Penryn has been raised to take care of herself, having gone through survivalist camps, karate, and self-defense classes. The skills she learns from these lessons she puts to good use throughout the novel when she is forced to defend herself and to come to the aid of Raffe. When she and her family attempt to flee to the hills from their Silicon Valley home, they are interrupted by an angel fight, which leaves Raffe seriously injured, and Paige kidnapped, and their mother vanished. Penryn helps care for Raffe, and the two form a tense alliance to rescue Paige and get Raffe's wings reattached.

As they head north, they fall in with a militia resistance group for a short while, headed up by Obadiah West, who plans to attack the angels. Penryn and Raffe then head to the angel base, the aerie, in San Francisco. There, Penryn finds her sister has been turned into an automated creature that responds to her name, but still has some vestiges of her former humanity. When Penryn is paralyzed by the sting of a scorpion fetus creature, it is Raffe and Paige who bring Penryn to safety.

Raffe

Raffe is Raphael, an archangel, and one of several potential candidates to succeed Gabriel as Messenger to God. Turned on by five other angels, Raffe has his wings cut off by the demonic angel Beliel, and is left for dead. Raffe is nursed by Penryn, and the two form a tense alliance to get Raffe's wings reattached, and Penryn's sister, Paige, rescued. Raffe ultimately brings Penryn to the angel aerie in San Francisco, where he attempts to get his old protege, Josiah, to help him convince the angel Laylah to reattach his wings. But Raffe is betrayed when he has Beliel's demon wings attached to himself. When Penryn is attacked by a scorpion fetus, Raffe brings her to Obadiah and the resistance, and leaves her to their care. He flies around to make sure she is okay as the truck drives out of the city, and then he flies off by himself.

Penryn's Mother

Penryn's mother (whose other daughter is Paige) is a mentally imbalanced woman who has been off her medication for a while. She has momentary bouts of sanity, but otherwise, believes she is being haunted by demons. She comes and goes, tending to show up in the right places at the right time. She brings Paige to safety when the aerie is assaulted, and escapes the city with both her daughters on a resistance truck.



Paige

Paige is the seven year-old sister of Penryn. She is wheelchair bound for unknown reasons, though it is imagined her mother may have had something to do with it. Paige is abducted by angels, is eviscerated and sewn back together, and becomes an automaton that only responds to her name. Paige is responsible for lifting the paralyzed Penryn into the resistance truck when it leaves the aerie.

Obadiah West

Obadiah West is the kind and heroic leader of the resistance militia that is currently located in northern California. He shelters and feeds Penryn and Raffe. He also leads the attack on the aerie, and is on the last truck out of San Francisco carrying civilian refugees -including Penryn, her mother, and Paige.

Josiah

Josiah is a powerful albino angel with blood red eyes, formerly a slave, who is rescued and trained by Raphael, But Josiah apparently turns his back on Raffe, delivering Raffe into Laylah's scheming hands.

Laylah

Laylah is a stunning beautiful female angel who apparently has some sort of a pat with Raffe, which causes her to turn on him when he comes to her for help. She is a master surgeon, and oversees the grafting of Raffe's wings to Beliel, and Beliel's wings to Raffe.

Uriel

Uriel is a top angel who is vying for the spot of God's Messenger. Uriel is not entirely liked, because he has ties to the Pit that is so close to Hell, and Uriel is doing his best to play politics to get the job of Messenger. He is the arch villain of the book, and he absolutely wants to destroy Raffe, first in reputation, and then physically.

Beliel

Beliel is demonic angel who does the bidding of Uriel. It is Beliel who cuts off Raffe's wings. Beliel later tries to kill both Raffe and Penryn, but is stopped by Uriel.



Tweedle-Dum

Tweedle-Dum is the code name for a red-headed twin brother of Tweedle-Dee, who is a member of the resistance army. He infiltrates the aerie, and later helps Penryn find her sister.



Objects/Places

California

California is in the United States, and is the main setting of the novel. It is where Silicon Valley and San Francisco are located, as well as the angel aerie and the resistance camp.

Silicon Valley

Silicon Valley is located in California. It is where Penryn and her family live, and where they flee in order to escape into the hills.

San Francisco

San Francisco is a major city in northern California, and is the location of the Financial District and the angel aerie. It is the city to which Penryn and Raffe travel, and the city has been most laid waste to.

The Financial District

The Financial District is located in San Francisco. It is where the angel aerie is located.

The Angel Aerie

The Angel Aerie is located in the Financial District of San Francisco, in a 1920s-styled club and hotel. It is where Uriel and all the angels congregate, conduct experiments, and party. The Aerie is infiltrated by members of the resistance, and by Penryn and Raffe.

The Basement

The basement is located at the angel aerie. It is where scientific work is done by angels to create human-scorpion hybrids. It is where Penryn finds Paige, and where Uriel spares Raffe's life in order to kill him later.

The Resistance Camp

The Resistance Camp is located in northern California, somewhere south of San Francisco. It is run by Obadiah West, and is staffed by dozens and dozens of soldiers,



fighters, and civilians, all of whom want to strike a blow against the angels. It is where Penryn and Raffe spend the night.

Angel Sword

Angel swords are wielded by angels as their primary weapon. Angel swords can only be wielded by handlers of the sword's choice. Penryn handles and wields Raffe's angel sword throughout most of the novel. They are impossible to be wielded by people the sword does not want to be wielded by.

Wings

Wings are how angels fly. Raffe's wings are cut off by Beliel, and kept safe by Penryn. At the end of the novel, Raffe's wings are attached to Beliel, and Beliel's wings to Raffe.

Cat Food

Cat food is discovered at an abandoned house by Penryn and Raffe. They eat it in order to have food.

Wheelchair

A wheelchair is what Paige uses to get around, because her legs are limp. Penryn drags the wheelchair as far as she can into the forest to return to Paige, but ultimately has to leave it behind.

Explosives

Explosives are what are collected by the resistance, and used to load up a truck. The truck is then driven into the angel aerie, and explodes.



Themes

Family

Family is a major and dominant theme in the novel, "Angelfall" by Susan Ee. Thematically family, which includes mutual love or affection, caring, emotional support, and loyalty towards relatives and relations who may or may not be blood related, affects the course of the entire plot of the novel. Family most strongly revolves around the character of Penryn, and indeed, fuels the plot of the entire novel.

Family comes into play immediately. Penryn, who has become the de facto head of her family -her mother and sister- decides that they must head to the hills for their safety. It is love of her family, and desire for their safety, that prompts Penryn to want to relocate. When the escape attempt is disrupted, and her mother disappears, and Paige is kidnapped, Penryn is at once concerned about where her mother is, but even more so concerned about getting her sister back. There is no other singular thought that preoccupies Penryn than the safe return of her sister.

It is love of her sister -of family- that prompts Penryn to force an unsteady alliance with an angel, and to journey to San Francisco to set Paige free. Had Paige not been kidnapped, the plot would have undoubtedly taken another turn that may have had nothing to do with San Francisco. Nevertheless, following the kidnapping, everything Penryn does is to bring her one step closer to rescuing her sister, and ultimately reuniting with her mother.

Good and Evil

For a novel that deals with the Apocalypse, the theme of good and evil is unmistakable present. Good and evil is a major and overall encompassing theme in Susan Ee's novel, "Angelfall". Good and evil, in the novel, has to do primarily with the motivations of several of the characters, and the things that they are doing, and classic questions about good and evil are raised throughout the novel.

In terms of doing good, Penryn's sister has been kidnapped by angels, and the rescue of her sister is, ultimately, an act of good. This is perhaps one of the few clear cut examples of goodness in the novel. At the same time, angels -who are presumed to be good- are the harbingers and progenitors of the Apocalypse, having destroyed and inhabited the Earth, killing, enslaving, and sexually defiling humans. These acts are, superficially, evil, and Penryn cannot understand them. Yet Raffe says that angels are not evil, and do the work of God. Yet God is not evil, and is the source of all goodness. So the angels would not carry out an act of evil on the orders of God.

The difficulty comes in the killing of Gabriel, the Messenger of God, and the only angel who has knowledge of God's true intentions. With Gabriel's death, all of the angels are clueless about why they are on Earth, and they have seemingly resorted to their own



devices as politics run rampant to determine whom the next Messenger will be. That politicking is orchestrated by Uriel, who has associations with Hell, and is clearly manipulating and twisting the Will of God to his own ends. Uriel, therefore, presents a purely evil character, driven by the self, and with the self as the ends to justify the means. Raffe, meanwhile, appears to exist as neither a true hero, nor a villain. He presents something of an antihero, seeking to do good, but not always using good means to achieve his ends.

Heroism

Heroism is an important and underlying theme in the novel "Angelfall" by Susan Ee. Heroism includes courage and bravery, facing tremendous odds despite poor chances of success, and inspirational action. Heroism occurs in many ways, and in many forms in the novel. Heroism chiefly deals with three characters: that of Penryn, that of Raffe, and that of Obadiah West. Each of these characters is heroic in some form or fashion, which ultimately influences the plot of the novel.

For Penryn, heroism consists in the tremendous journey she undertakes as a seventeen year-old girl, battling angels, surviving in the wilderness, and making it through a resistance camp, all in order to save her sister. Almost everything she does is good and decent, and she can be called heroic in the truest sense of the word. If anyone has odds so severely stacked against him or her, it is without a doubt, Penryn.

For Raffe, heroism means confronting fellow angels and demonic angels, nearly dying several times while protecting Penryn, and bringing Penryn to the angel aerie, where he faces down angels far more powerful than he is. Heroism means confronting his enemies not just for himself, but also on behalf of Penryn. While Raffe's actions may be questionable (such as abandoning Penryn at some point) everything he ultimately does is for the good. In this sense, he can be considered a hero, albeit an antihero.

For Obadiah West, heroism means taking a stand against the evil that the angels (knowingly or unknowingly) have brought to Earth. The human resistance group he has fashioned is hopelessly outmatched except in their resolve. Their attack on the angels is heroic because of this, and because of the fact that they have inspired other humans to stand and fight, and given them hope.



Style

Point of View

Susan Ee writes her novel, "Angelfall" from the first-person limited omniscient narrative, from the perspective of main character and principal protagonist, Penryn Young. This is done for at least three reasons. The first is that the story is Penryn's. The journey to find her sister, the things she experiences, everything belongs to her- and so it is fitting that she tells her own story. The second reason is that her travels, her experiences with Raffe, and their journey, are something only she would know intimate details about, and so she presents the best possible narrator for the novel. The third reason is that, because the events of the book are so emotionally-compelling, and so personal, the first person narration works best to convey the human response to such events on a personal level that allows the reader to experience things firsthand -and be even more moved by them.

Setting

Susan Ee sets her novel "Angelfall" in the state of California, south of and in the city of San Francisco. This is done for at least two conceivable reasons. First, northern California is a wonderful balance of pure wilderness and city sprawl, as well as suburban populations. This allows for a suburbanite like Penryn, and a resistance militia camp, all to exist within close proximity of one another. The second reason for which this is done is presumably that California is America's technological locus -because of Silicon Valley- and all of that electronic and technological innovation is utterly worthless in a world dominated by angels. This adds to the desperation of the people who are without technology to save their lives.

Language and Meaning

Susan Ee writes her novel, "Angelfall" in language that is simple, straightforward, brief, yet slightly poetic. This is done for a variety of reasons. The first is that the narrator, seventeen year-old Penryn, is in a desperate race to save her sister, so the language doesn't have time to dwell on things; yet, the language is not without poetic touches, owing to Penryn's femininity and emotional depth. The simple and straightforward language is also appropriate given Penryn's lack of higher education, and is reflective of any typical American teenager.

Structure

Susan Ee divides her novel, "Angelfall" into forty-seven linear, chronological chapters, that span the time Penryn leaves home to the time the angel aerie is attacked and destroyed. Because the events of the novel are so complex, wide-ranging, and all-



encompassing (especially when it comes to the angels and their back stories), allowing the reader to focus on the plot rather than things like the structure of the novel itself is critical. Therefore, the simple and straightforward structure of the novel works perfectly for the plot.



Quotes

I can't bear to think what's happening to her, if for no other reason than my sheer lack of imagination as to what angels would want with a human child.

-Chapter 6, p. 25

"But there's no question the angels are our enemies. No question that they're my enemies as long as they have Paige."

-Chapter 8, p. 36

"When you're storming the aerie, remember that ropes won't hold angels."

-Chapter 17, p. 101

They got phased out, alright. Computers were the height of our technological prowess, and now we're using them as latrine walls, thanks to the angels.

-Chapter 18, p. 108

When you're small enough to have to look up at everyone around you, there's no such thing as a dirty fight.

-Chapter 19, p. 113

It's no secret we're only temporary allies. Neither of us is pretending that this is a lasting partnership. I help him get home with his wings, he helps me find my sister. After that, I'll be on my own. I know this. I've never for a moment forgotten about it.

-Chapter 26, p. 162

"I brought you here. I'll protect you."

-Chapter 26, p. 167

"I am agnostic."

-Chapter 33, p. 216

Before I can stop myself, hope blooms inside me. She sounds like a mother ready and determined to lead her daughters to safety.

Chapter 40, p. 255

We have declared war on any being that dares to think they can wipe us out without a

fight. No matter how celestial, no matter how powerful they are, this is our home and we will fight to keep it.
Chapter 45, p. 278

Topics for Discussion

Discuss the theme of family in the novel "Angelfall" by Susan Ee. What is the theme of family? Which character does family primarily affect in the novel? How does this affect the plot of the novel itself? Explain.

The character of Penryn is at once both that of a normal teenage girl and an exceptional teenage girl. Describe how she fits into both of these categories? Is her character either more normal, or more exceptional? In what ways does this affect her actions and plans in the novel? Is this for the better or for the worse? Why?

Discuss the theme of good and evil in the novel "Angelfall" by Susan Ee. What is the theme of good and evil? How does it matter to the overall plot of the novel? Which characters can be viewed as good, and which characters can be viewed as evil? Are there any characters in between? How so? Does the idea of good and evil matter in the end? Explain your answer.

Describe the importance of the position of the Messenger to God, and the responsibilities of the Messenger to God. How does the absence of a messenger affect the actions of the angels, especially in terms of good and evil? Are the actions of the angels good, evil, both, or neither? Why? Explain.

Discuss the theme of heroism in the novel "Angelfall" by Susan Ee. What is heroism? Which characters can be considered heroic, and why? Why is heroism so important to each of these characters, even if they do not know they are being heroic? Explain your answer using evidence from the novel.