

# **Blue Adept Study Guide**

**Blue Adept by Piers Anthony**

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# Plot Summary

Blue Adept by Piers Anthony is the second novel in the Apprentice Adept series. Stile exists in two frames, Phaze and Proton, and must travel between the frames to uncover and destroy the unknown enemy who murdered his alternate self, the original Blue Adept of Phaze. Blue Adept is a fascinating novel that blends science fiction with fantasy as Stile alternates between frames ruled by each genre.

When Neysa is summoned by the Herd Stallion for breeding, Stile asks to delay her breeding since he needs her protection while searching for his anonymous enemy who killed his alternate self, the first Blue Adept, but the Herd Stallion challenges him to compete at the Unolympics for the priority of their claims. Hulk travels to the Oracle to ask how Stile can defeat the Herd Stallion, and Lady Blue tells Stile about how she met the first Blue Adept before Stile returns to Proton, where he acquaints Sheen with the recent events in Phaze and wins Round 1 of the Tourney. Back in Phaze, Hulk reports the Oracle's answer regarding the Platinum Flute of the Platinum Elves. Because Hulk is developing romantic feelings for Lady Blue, he returns to Proton to seek her alternate with Stile's blessing.

Lady Blue joins Stile and Neysa on their journey to the Mound of the Platinum Elves in the Purple Mountains, and Stile is allowed to borrow the Platinum Flute in exchange for slaying a dragon and agreeing to a quest to find the foreordained savior of Phaze, who will move the mountain when he plays the Platinum Flute. When Stile returns to Proton for the second, third and fourth rounds of the Tourney, he receives a summons from his employer, a Citizen, but the summons has been tampered with and directs Stile and Sheen to the address of the Satan-Citizen who nearly kills them. Stile narrowly escapes with Sheen's help.

At the Unolympics, Stile loses to the Herd Stallion, but the Herd Stallion yields back the issue while accepting the pride of victory because Stile only uses magic to make the contest fair. Returning to Proton, Stile receives a holo-tape that shows Hulk being killed by a female serf in a trap meant for Stile. Grieved over Hulk's demise, Stile vows an oath to destroy his enemy upon his return to Phaze. He and Neysa travel to the homes of known female Adepts to learn the identity of his enemy, and they discover that Stile's enemy is the Red Adept.

After winning Round 6 of the Tourney, Stile is matched with Clef in the seventh round, and after seeing Clef's skill in music, he sends Clef to the Platinum Elves with the Platinum Flute to try to make the mountain tremble with his playing. When Stile returns to Phaze, Lady Blue admits her love for Stile, and they are married. Neysa and Stile travel to the Red Demesnes to confront the Red Adept, and Stile's battle with the Red Adept occurs in both frames with Neysa helping him in Phaze and Sheen assisting in Proton. In Round 12 of the Tourney, Stile is matched against the Red Adept in a contest of narrative dance. When Stile feigns love for the Red Adept in accordance with the narrative, she disqualifies herself by attacking him because she cannot stand such humiliation due to her intense hatred for men.



# Chapter 1: Unicorn

## Chapter 1: Unicorn Summary

Blue Adept by Piers Anthony is the second novel in the Apprentice Adept series. Stile exists in two frames, Phaze and Proton, and must travel between the frames to uncover and destroy the unknown enemy who murdered his alternate self, the original Blue Adept of Phaze. Blue Adept is a fascinating novel that blends science fiction with fantasy as Stile alternates between frames ruled by each genre.

Stile watches as Clip, a male unicorn, approaches his sister, Neysa, and tells her she has been chosen to breed with the Herd Stallion, but since Neysa is not excited, Lady Blue, the widow of the Blue Adept who was Stile's other self, explains that Neysa is worried about and feels the need to guard Stile. Agreeing, Stile decides he must talk to the Herd Stallion as equals and arrange for Neysa to postpone breeding, and he asks Hulk, his friend and bodyguard, to guard Lady Blue if he is gone.

As Stile mounts Neysa to set off within the hour, he spells himself to be invisible and light-weight. Though Neysa was originally Stile's lover in girl form, they became oath-friends after he met Lady Blue and realized his destiny lay with her. After covering twenty miles, they stop to rest, and Stile sleeps on Neysa's back which is his favorite place to sleep other than Lady Blue's arms, to which he is not permitted because she is faithful to her deceased husband and never mistakes Stile for his other self.

Stile and Neysa reach the herd at noon the next day, and Stile's spells abate as he enters the circle of unicorns so he becomes visible and fully solid. The Herd Stallion shifts to the form of a man and greets Stile. Stile has come to negotiate, but he knows it will not be easy since he embarrassed the Herd Stallion during their first encounter. Stile explains that since he was recently murdered and needs to avenge the murder, he needs Neysa's protection and asks that her breeding be postponed until his mission is completed. Though Neysa has missed two seasons because her color excluded her from the herd, her status has changed since becoming an Adept's steed.

The Herd Stallion insists that Stile must contest for the priority of their claims at the Unolympics in a fortnight. Though Stile dislikes the delay, he realizes the Herd Stallion is allowing him time to reconsider and avoid humiliation since he stands no chance of winning. When Stile informs Neysa of his intent to challenge the Herd Stallion on the field of honor, she objects and explains that the Herd Stallion did not force Stile to fight today because the herd is oath-friend to Neysa and would turn against the Herd Stallion if he took her unfairly by humiliating Stile. Since their relationship has changed, Stile explains to Neysa that a continued sexual relationship would complicate their friendship to each other's offspring, and Neysa recognizes the truth of this, though she has never thought of it before. Stile hugs Neysa after she shifts back to an unicorn because he is glad that their relationship is alright.



## Chapter 1: Unicorn Analysis

In the first chapter, the main characters are introduced, and some of the complicated relationships between the characters are revealed. Additionally, this chapter occurs in Phaze, one of the two frames which serve as the main settings for this novel. The relationship changes between Stiles and Neysa have led the pair into a difficult situation with the Herd Stallion. Due to Lady Blue's explanation to Stile concerning why Neysa is not excited to breed with the Herd Stallion, he attempts to rectify the situation with the Herd Stallion but, in doing so, manages to create another delay with his actions by inciting a duel with the Herd Stallion instead of amiably postponing the breeding. Stile is torn between his duty to accept the Herd Stallion's challenge and his need to avenge his murder, while Neysa is equally torn by her attachment to Stile and her place within the herd. Luckily, she recognizes the truth in Stile's word that they should not continue with a sexual relationship as she realizes that she had not thought about the way that a continued sexual relationship could affect their friendships toward each other's future offspring. They both find this to be the best for all and do not allow this to interfere with their friendship.



# Chapter 2: Lady

## Chapter 2: Lady Summary

Back at the Blue Demesnes, Lady Blue is outraged when she learns that the Herd Stallion wishes to humiliate Stile. Hulk insists upon asking the Oracle how Stile can win the challenge since Stile has already used his only question for the Oracle. After Hulk leaves, Lady Blue decides to acquaint Stile with the way she was since she believes he is an honorable man. Lady Blue grew up in a small village on the east coast and helped her father heal animals. When Snowflake, her horse's foal, is lost in the woods, she searches for the foal but is captured by trolls. A young boy rescues her and takes her home without waiting for gratitude. The next day, her father joins her search for Snowflake, and they encounter the boy, the sole survivor of a troll attack in the village of Bront a decade earlier. The boy offers to help find Snowflake and suggests they question the herds. He makes a deal with Hinny, who can only bear foals by his Blue Stallion, and Hinny allows Lady Blue to ride her. When they reach the herd, the Herd Stallion informs them of the Snow Horse who collects white foals, but only Peg knows where the Snow Horse is now.

The Blue Adept and Lady Blue visit Peg, a winged horse, who directs them to the Snow Horse's fastness in the White Mountains. Lady Blue enjoys exploring the interior wilds of Phaze but has no clue that the boy is an Adept. When goblins attack at dusk, the Blue Stallion and Hinny defeat them. It is cold as they climb the White Mountains, but the lad tells Lady Blue she is not cold; she no longer fears the cold, though she is unaware that his magic warms her. The Snow Horse tells the lad that she had taken the foal but released it when she realized it was not a snow filly; however, Snowflake was then captured by snow demons. The lad still believes they can save her, so they climb deeper into the snowy region and are approached by a snow demon who feigns ignorance until the lad plays his harmonica, causing the demon to point to the filly in a narrow valley. As Lady Blue and the Blue Adept descend to rescue Snowflake, the demons enrage the lad by starting an avalanche, and he plays an aggressive melody on his harmonica, which causes the snow to land in a pool of warm water that swirls at their feet. Though Lady Blue realizes this is magic, she still fails to recognize the lad's power. When a snow demon hits Hinny with an ice spell aimed at the Blue Adept, the lad heals Hinny, and Lady Blue, finally recognizing his power, warns the lad not to "play with magic unduly, lest thou dost attract the notice of an Adept" (p. 38).

At dusk, the Blue Adept plays his harmonica and summons a vision in which Lady Blue sees herself as an adult. Music is the first of three foundations for Lady Blue's later love for the Blue Adept. The lad asks to show her his village, and using his harmonica, he calls a vision of the night of the troll attack when he witnessed the destruction of his family and village. That night transformed him from a youth to an enchanter because "no force but magic could restore the balance" (p. 41). The Blue Adept shows Lady Blue how he later burned the village and destroyed the trolls but allowed a young troll to live because it had been too young to kill his family. His power is the second component of



Lady Blue's love for the Blue Adept, though she did not realize the significance of this deadly ability. She learns that the lad is actually twenty-seven years old but small for his age.

He summons their steeds, and they return to Lady Blue's village, where he allows Hinny to breed with his Blue Stallion. After telling Lady Blue a summoning chant should she ever need him, he asks her father for permission to marry her, but her father recognizes the lad as the Blue Adept, and she is stunned she missed it after seeing his power. The Blue Adept shakes hands with her father and leaves; "no answers had been given, for none were needed. Normal people associated not with Adepts, and married them never" (p. 43). Lady Blue tells Stile that he can now go about his business, so he thanks her and departs her presence.

## Chapter 2: Lady Analysis

The Blue Lady's outrage at the actions of the Herd Stallion, along with Hulk's verification that Stile is an honorable man, cause her to take action in regards to describing her relationship with the Blue Adept to Stile. She decides to reveal her search for Snowflake and her introduction to the Blue Adept. She relives all the obvious signs that he was an Adept, though she had not noticed it for herself and is embarrassed that she had not come to the appropriate conclusion when he had used his powers before her. When the lad had asked for permission to marry her, she was amazed to find out what he really was and the power that he truly held. After telling this to Stile, she allows him to go about his business, hoping that this will in some way help him in his quest, as she knows him to be an honorable man.



## Chapter 3: Proton

### Chapter 3: Proton Summary

Neysa carries Stile to the nearest curtain in the forest, and he asks her to guard Lady Blue while he is in Proton. He undresses and walks through the curtain to Proton, the other frame where he originated and lived until the Blue Adept, his alternate self, was murdered. Stile resents being smaller than the other serfs in Proton as he walks to his room, dismisses his doppelganger robot and waits for Sheen, his beautiful protector. Pretending to be the robot, he tries to seduce her, but she recognizes Stile immediately. He acquaints her with the recent events in Phaze but accidentally hurts her by saying he cannot be with Neysa because his destiny lies with his own kind. When Sheen suggests searching for Lady Blue's alternate self in Proton, Stile declines. She reminds him that he must try to win the Tourney because he needs to become a Citizen to pursue an effective investigation against the Citizen who had his knees lasered and washed him out as a jockey.

After considering the parallelism between the two frames, Stile checks in at the Game Annex. His first match is against the Rifleman, a Citizen who was a serf until he won the Tourney fifteen years ago. Stile is unhappy to play a Citizen who has nothing to gain by winning the Tourney. The Rifleman offers a private wager: if Stile wins, he will investigate Stile's knees being lasered. At first, Stile declines because he has no information to share if he loses, but recalling the existence of the alternate frame, he agrees. The Rifleman chooses antique Earth-planet American football using androids, and Stile does badly at first but manages to win the round. After they exit the field, the Rifleman promises to contact Stile in the future regarding their private wager. Sheen takes control of Stile's remaining time in this frame, unaware that he must hurry back to Phaze to learn how to handle the Herd Stallion in combat.

### Chapter 3: Proton Analysis

Stile entrusts Neysa to watch and protect Lady Blue while he is in Proton, showing his devout love and open trust of her in this task. Knowing that his other self was once the mate of the Blue Lady drives him toward his own relationship, even a limited one, with her. Sheen's suggests that he search for the other self of Lady Blue in Proton, but Stile is drawn to Lady Blue and does not wish to have another version of her. Sheen then reminds Stile that he must put the Tourney as the first and foremost thing in his mind in order for him to become a Citizen and learn the identity of his anonymous enemy. He manages to win a round and therefore a private wager with the Rifleman and rushes off back to Phaze in order to learn how to proceed with another battle in his challenge with the Herd Stallion. Meanwhile, Hulk has met with the Oracle and used his one question to help Stile, showing the level of respect and honor that Stile has instilled, as this is a sacrifice on Hulk's part.





# Chapter 4: The Little People

## Chapter 4: The Little People Summary

Returning to Phaze, Stile uses magic to transport himself back to the Blue Demesnes, where Neysa greets him and Lady Blue informs him of Hulk's return. Hulk relays the Oracle's message that Stile can only defeat the Herd Stallion by obtaining the Platinum Flute, but no one understands this vague prophecy. Luckily, on his way to the Oracle, Hulk met Voldevile, a vampire whose son is allergic to blood, who explains that most metal tools, weapons and instruments are made by the Little People, the Tribes of the Dark Elves. Lady Blue is outraged that Stile intends to seek the Little People because they are difficult to find and detest normal men, especially Adepts, making the mission very dangerous. First, Stile summons the Yellow Adept whose potion is needed to help Voldevile's son. He trades the potion for his future aid, provided it does not violate his ethics and he is still alive. To protect her investment, the Yellow Adept provides Stile with a potion to render the wearer less noxious to the Elven folk. Planning to head toward the Purple Mountains this afternoon, Stile asks Hulk to guard Lady Blue, but Hulk objects because he is attracted to her. Stile gives Hulk permission to return to Proton and seek Lady Blue's alternate self, and they gravely bid one another goodbye. Lady Blue is unhappy with Hulk's departure, because she has a premonition of doom about him. Since it is not safe to leave Lady Blue alone at the Blue Demesnes, she insists on joining Stile and Neysa to the Purple Mountains.

With Stile on Neysa and Lady Blue riding Hinblue, a pale blue mare who is the offspring of Hinny and the Blue Stallion, they ride toward the Purple Mountains as Lady Blue says how strange it is to think that she rode this same domain on Hinny so long ago. After breeding with the Blue Stallion, Hinny returned to the wild, and Lady Blue continued with her family, shamed, flattered and intrigued by the Blue Adept's suit. She later learns that the Oracle had named her as the ideal wife for the Blue Adept, but it was long before she gave him the third Thee, which has the force of an oath as she explains to Stile.

Hinny arrives at Lady Blue's door in a sad state after being ravished by jackals and dies while pregnant. Recalling the Blue Adept's spell, Lady Blue summons him, and he weeps at Hinny's death; his abiding love for equines is the third quality that makes her love him. Using magic to birth Hinny's foal before its time, the Blue Adept asks Lady Blue's father to care for the foal, giving him his greatest wish in the form of a favor. The Blue Adept kills the jackals in vengeance, but Lady Blue's father no longer objects to his suit, as though exchanging his daughter for the precious foal. Though Lady Blue married the Blue Adept, she did not really love him, especially after learning from the Oracle that she could not bear him children, and she laments the wasted years; however, she still thought of him as a lad and was frightened by his willingness to destroy all who stood against him.

When Neysa and Hinblue are disturbed by nearby magic, Stile plays his harmonica to summon his magic, but one of the fairies which appears angrily expresses her disbelief



that Stile is human due to the Yellow Adept's potion. As a truce, Stile dances with Thistlepuff, the fairy, and is invited to her village for the night. He sleeps heavily and wakes the next morning to find the fairy village gone.

By mid-morning, they reach the fringe of the Platinum Demesnes but are treated inhospitably until Pyreforge, the Chief of the Tribe of Platinum Elves, arrives and recognizes Stile as the impostor Blue Adept, though he thinks Stile "will not be considered impostor long" (p. 107). Stile explains the Herd Stallion's challenge and that he has come to borrow the Platinum Flute, but Pyreforge says it is forbidden to yield this instrument to a human, especially an Adept, since the wielder becomes immune to the negation of magic. Stile understands the danger of removing the limit to his will and asks to trade, but Pyreforge says they need only two things, one which no man might perform and the other is that prophecy mandates that "he who plays the Flute well enough to make our mountains tremble will be the foreordained savior of Phaze" (p. 109). Pyreforge insists Stile try, threatening to kill Stile if he betrays them, and Lady Blue says she is willing to stake her life on her lord's integrity.

Stile plays the Flute well, but the mountain does not move; however, Pyreforge is now convinced of Stile's honor and agrees to allow him to borrow the Flute if he goes on a quest for the foreordained. Feeling that he must earn the right to borrow the Flute, Stile asks about the task which no man can perform and learns about an aggressive, magic-resistant dragon that lives under the elves' platinum mines and demands human sacrifice as tribute under the threat of melting the platinum. Lady Blue plays chess with Pyreforge, acting as hostage, while Stile and Neysa face the dragon. Neysa shifts into a girl to act as tribute and lure the dragon out of its lair so that Stile can defeat it. After killing the dragon, Stile worries that Lady Blue's situation could have become dire if he had failed and realizes it still might if he does not locate and deal with the murderer of the Blue Adept before the murderer catches up with him. As he heads back to the mound of the Platinum Elves, Stile wonders if Lady Blue is winning her game of chess with Pyreforge.

## Chapter 4: The Little People Analysis

Hulk's retelling of his encounter with the vampire on his way to the Oracle sheds light on the message the Oracle later gave; however, it also heralds the possible trials ahead. Though the Oracle's answer did not signify danger, it was in Voldevile's tale that the dangerous mission was revealed. The danger is demonstrated in the Blue Lady's reaction to the mission. As she has already lost her husband, and as Stile is his other self, she is forced to face the possibility of losing him all over again. It is for this reason, as well as her safety, that she joins Stile and Neysa on their journey to the Purple Mountains, as she had done so long before when she first met the Blue Adept. In bringing the story back to this place, the author shows a parallel between the relationships of the Blue Lady with both the first Blue Adept and Stile, the second Blue Adept.



On their arrival at the Platinum Demesnes, the Platinum Elves treat the arrivals as hostile intruders. Once convinced that Stile is the honorable Blue Adept, Pyreforge, the leader of the Platinum Elves, strikes a bargain with Stile. In order for Stile to once again prove his honor and integrity, he is asked to face a dragon. Even though he defeats the dragon, he is also reminded of the danger he faces with the murderer of the Blue Adept still out there. This brings to mind the danger that he may have left the Blue Lady in and that he had placed her in that danger even though she had volunteered for the task.



# Chapter 5: Riddles

## Chapter 5: Riddles Summary

Sheen is pleased that Stile will spend a full week in Proton before the Unolympics. She asks about being among the Little People and, after updating Stile on Hulk, laments being a robot because Stile can never truly love her; she asks him to junk her if he ever gives her up as a mistress and friend because she does not want to suffer alone, but Stile assures her that day will never come.

After winning the second round of the Tourney against an older female serf, Stile and Sheen return to his apartment to find a summons from the Lady Citizen for whom he works. On the tube shuttle, Stile encounters a woman serf who claims that the address on his summons leads to her employer, a male Citizen. Suspecting something wrong with the summons, Sheen summons Stile's robotic doppelganger to appear at the address, but the Citizen destroys the robot, claiming he sent no summons. Stile and Sheen hide from the Citizen's robot tank sent to destroy intruders and find themselves in Heaven, but they rush out when they are recognized as serfs who do not belong here. Next, they reach Hell and realize the male Citizen is Satan, and he summons Stile's employer, who determines that the address was changed on her original summons. After arguing with Stile's employer, Satan-Citizen grants Stile and Sheen two minutes to escape unfettered.

When Sheen is injured in the following battle, Stile carries her through a curtain to Phaze and repairs her by using magic before spelling them back to Proton where Sheen functions properly. Stile defeats Noh, an alien, in the third round of the Tourney by default. Stile is bothered by the fact that someone is trying to kill him in both frames and wonders if it is the same person, a curtain traveler. Stile defeats Hella, a serf of his own age, in the fourth round of the Tourney, and returns to Phaze to duel the Herd Stallion since there is more than a day until his next match.

## Chapter 5: Riddles Analysis

Sheen's love for Stile and her sadness that she is a robot causes her to request that she be destroyed should he no longer want her, humanizing her character to the reader, as does her curiosity over the Little People. Stile's summons to an address correctly reveals a plot of some sort, portraying yet more danger in his path and another mystery that he must uncover. The coincidence that there appears to be someone trying to kill him in both frames indicates that this may also be a curtain traveler. In their trip to Hell, Stile and Sheen are only permitted two minutes in which to escape, and when Sheen is injured, Stile takes her to Phaze in order to repair her and bring her back to Proton before defeating more challengers in the Tourney and returning to Phaze for his duel with the Herd Stallion.



# Chapter 6: The Unolympic

## Chapter 6: The Unolympic Summary

When the time comes, Stile and Lady Blue transport to the Unolympics, where the Yellow Adept introduces Stile to the other Adepts and their consorts, though she admits there be some unknown Adepts since they are a secretive bunch. Stile and Lady Blue take their seats and watch the competitive contingents, and Stile compares the various olympics to the Tourny in Proton. When a music contest is difficult to judge, the Yellow Adept asks Stile to play the flute to remind her of how it should be played since she is a judge, and Lady Blue praises Stile's playing. Stile watches Neysa and Clip compete in the dance competition, but they lose. His attention wanders because he must meet the Herd Stallion when the competition ends and he knows it is unfair to use magic. Vodlevile approaches Stile to thank him for helping his son and, to repay the favor, advises him about facing the Herd Stallion.

After the competition ends, Stile faces the Herd Stallion. First, he establishes his power and makes it compellingly evident to the entire audience by using his magic to show them the story of the Dragon's Tooth, but the Herd Stallion is stubborn and does not budge. Stile uses his magic only to make the contest even and prevent being injured by the unicorn's horn. Stile meets the Herd Stallion in the center of the arena, and they ceremoniously cross weapons as the duel begins. Just as it becomes apparent to the audience that there is unlikely to be a winner, Stile loses his grip on his weapon and, trying to mount the Herd Stallion, nearly lands on his horn, but the Herd Stallion shifts to a man to avoid impaling Stile, so Stile yields the victory.

The Herd Stallion accepts the pride of the victory but yields back the issue because Stile eschewed magic in the favor of equality. With the Unolympics ended, Neysa carries Stile back to Lady Blue, and Stile realizes the Herd Stallion only wanted the pride of defeating the Blue Adept in order to redeem his pride lost during their previous encounter at the Blue Demesnes. The Herd Stallion grants Neysa an extension for breeding, and Stile only loses a little pride but realizes he must pay better attention to the hidden motives of the creatures of Phaze.

## Chapter 6: The Unolympic Analysis

Stile compares the Unolympics to the Tourny on Proton where he has faced several opponents, yet he has only had concern of his abilities with his upcoming duel with the Herd Stallion. Even though he knows that it is unfair to use magic, he uses only enough to make the competition fair. In this action, Stile again demonstrates his sense of fair play and honor, and in doing so, he has gained the respect of the Herd Stallion, who yields back the spoils of the victory due to this action. Stile realizes that the Herd Stallion only wanted the pride of defeating the Blue Adept and that he needs to pay more attention to the motives of the creatures of Phaze, which also echoes the thoughts

that he needs to pay attention to everyone as the murderer is still out there and their hidden motives may be the key to discovering who the murderer is.



# Chapter 7: Hulk

## Chapter 7: Hulk Summary

Sheen takes Stile to a private chamber of the maintenance section of the dome where they live where an anonymous machine gives him a partial report about the assassination attempt, including that his enemy is a serf and a Citizen sent Sheen to protect Stile from the serf. The self-willed machines help Stile because an anonymous imperative favors him, and he can help their cause to become serfs if he becomes a Citizen. Stile promises to help the machines when the occasion presents itself.

Stile loses round 5 of the Tourney to an eleven-year old boy who participates in the Tourney for fun, and he becomes upset that luck is turning against him. A holo-tape arrives from the Rifleman, and it shows Hulk going to a dome which is a perfect replica of the Blue Demesnes and asking for Bluette, but when she arrives, a rocket of nerve gas crashes into the dome, knocking Hulk and Bluette unconscious. It is obvious that the trap was set for Stile because his enemy, aware of his life in both frames, thought he would search for Lady Blue's alternate self. Stile believes his enemy must be an Adept who can cross the curtains but is not a Citizen in Proton.

Hulk and Bluette are taken to a chamber in the mountains, where Hulk tells Bluette about Stile, Lady Blue and Phaze. Knowing their captor will be upset with the error, Hulk hides and instructs Bluette to describe him as Stile in an attempt to save their lives. Time elapses, and a female serf arrives and orders her robots to torture Bluette if she refuses to call Stile. The serf wants to ensure that Stile is dead, but first, she wants to know why the Blue Adept tried to destroy her because Adepts do not usually attack one another. As the robot begins torturing Bluette, Hulk appears and begins fighting the robots. The serf is outraged that she has failed to capture Stile and orders her robots to kill Hulk and Bluette. Hulk instructs Bluette to return to her employer for help as he battles the robots, and she says that Hulk is a brave man and she could learn to love him in time. After Bluette escapes, the robot breaks Hulk's neck and chases Bluette. Stile realizes that Hulk will soon die of suffocation, if he is not already dead, when the captor shuts off the force-field supplying air to the chamber. The holograph fades out because the recording is over.

## Chapter 7: Hulk Analysis

Sheen takes Stile to a machine which reveals that his enemy is a serf, and this reminds the reader of the Oracle in a way. It also reveals that Sheen was sent by a Citizen in order to watch over and protect Stile, foreshadowing that something may happen to her. Then, a recording arrives showing Hulk and Bluette knocked out by nerve gas, revealing that the killer is aware of Stile's lives in both frames, but the killer obviously thought that Stile would search for the Lady Blue's alternate, rather than Hulk. This also reveals that the killer knows more about Stile than the fact that he has a life in both frames, including

who he has encountered and cares for. Hulk and Blulette's capture will anger the killer, and when it is discovered that Stile was not captured, Hulk is injured in the battle, and it is clear that death is coming, just as Lady Blue had feared.





# Chapter 8: Quest

## Chapter 8: Quest Summary

Stile plays the Platinum Flute as he emerges in Phaze, and the mountains nearly tremble but not quite. When he vows to end the person who killed his other self and his friend, the mountains echo as the oath shakes the firmament, but Stile weeps because none of this can bring Hulk back from death. At the Blue Demesnes, he informs Lady Blue and Neysa of Hulk's demise and his oath of vengeance. Lady Blue tries to dissuade him, promising to act as though she loves him, but Stile refuses because he will fulfill the oath in the best way he knows how; Lady Blue is angry that Stile is so like her lord. Finding Neysa in the courtyard, Stile expresses concern about leaving Lady Blue alone while he seeks the enemy Adept, but Neysa has summoned a pack of werewolves, her oath-friends, to guard the Blue Demesnes and Lady Blue during Stile and Neysa's absence. Stile rides Neysa to the White Demesnes since the White Adept is one of few known female Adepts. He is glad to be with his oath-friend because he is angry over his loss in the Tourney, guilty for Hulk's demise and disturbed by Lady Blue's attempted seduction, while Neysa makes him feel secure.

When they reach the icy White Demesnes, Neysa shifts into a firefly for Stile to carry across the ice and to escape detection, since only Stile rides an unicorn. Stile, disguised as a clown to act as entertainment until he learns the nature of the White Adept's magic, is admitted by the guard and offers entertainment in exchange for the White Adept recharging his warmth amulet. When the White Adept orders Stile to be imprisoned, Neysa returns to her unicorn form, Stile is recognized as the Blue Adept, and a fight ensues, which Stile wins. Though the White Adept knows the amulet maker, she will not betray her to Stile, but she does confess that there are only two other known female Adepts.

When Stile visits the Brown Demesnes, he finds that the current Brown Adept is just a child who sees him as a bully, but she tells him that the former Brown Adept exchanged a wooden golem for an amulet made by the Red Adept. Though Stile met the male Red Adept at the Unolympics, he realizes that she was simply disguised as a man and that she is his enemy. He makes amends to the Brown Adept by allowing her to ride Neysa to collect unicorn manure to make her flowers grow. Now that Stile knows his enemy's identity, he can deal with her, but first, he must return to Proton for the next round in the Tourney.

## Chapter 8: Quest Analysis

When Stile vows to avenge the death of his other self and Hulk, Lady Blue tries to dissuade him as this is also a characteristic that reminds her of the Blue Adept and one that had frightened her coming from him as well. Her fear transfers to anger that Stile is so similar to her Lord. Neysa again chooses to follow Stile by summoning werewolves



to guard over the Lady Blue as Neysa accompanies Stile on his quest. Her presence demonstrates her devotion further to the reader and makes the reader question which is the best relationship for Stile. Deeper into the intrigue, Stile is forced to fight yet again in order to seek out the maker of the amulet. He is aware that the murderer is a female Adept and discovers the limited suspects. He then discovers that the Red Adept is a female, though she frequently disguises herself as a man, and in this, Stile also finds the identity of his murderous enemy; however, before he can confront her, he must return to the Tourney in Proton.



# Chapter 9: Music

## Chapter 9: Music Summary

In the sixth round of the Tourney, Stile achieves an easy victory over yet another Citizen, but Sheen worries about him facing the Red Adept in the Red Demesnes. His opponent in round 7 is Clef, a serf of his own age, and Stile agrees to grant Clef the choice of game, Music, while he chooses the instrument, the harmonica. Before the round begins, Sheen warns Stile that Clef is expert in all music. When the solo performances result in a draw, the contestants must play a duet. Clef worries about the contest being unfair for Stile and asks how Stile elicited such a response from the audience, so Stile explains that it is necessary to feel while performing in order to develop a rapport with one's audience. During the duet, Stile grows nervous when Clef learns to feel and plays Stile's way better than Stile himself. Though Clef wins the advisory decision of the computer and audience, the panel of judges deems Stile the winner of the round. Stile is confused, but Clef explains that he improved more due to playing with Stile so Stile wins because he is the reason for Clef's vast improvement. When Stile permits Clef to play the Platinum Flute, Clef plays it better than Stile, but Stile warns him that possessing the Flute costs the high price of relinquishing his life in Proton and seeking the mound of the Platinum Elves in Phaze; Clef feels he must go. Stile wonders how the Platinum Elves knew he would meet Clef because their pairing in the Tourney was coincidental, but he begins to doubt it.

## Chapter 9: Music Analysis

Fate plays a major role in this chapter as Stile faces Clef in the Tourney, and due to the victory in the round, Stile allows Clef to play the Platinum Flute. Because of the beauty of his playing, Stile realizes that Clef is meant to play this flute and tells him of the Platinum Elves. The fact that this chance meeting does not seem to be chance in Stile's eyes shows the connections that are drawn between all the characters and the progress that is coming to sight in the overall tale. This also indicates the interactions between the two frames and the characters within each frame.



# Chapter 10: Red

## Chapter 10: Red Summary

After telling Lady Blue about sending Clef to the Platinum Elves, Stile continues, saying that he must now seek his destiny by fulfilling his oath to slay the Red Adept. First, Lady Blue says she must inform him of some misinformation, that she lied when she denied loving him, and she gives him the oath of "Thee Thee Thee" (p. 247). She says Stile is in no way inferior and is superior in some ways to the first Blue Adept. She worries that he would die before she could beg forgiveness for her lie. Furthermore, the Oracle's prophecy regarding her children referred to having a child by her second husband, so Stile must give her a son before setting out on his suicidal mission of revenge. After pointing out that since the Oracle always speaks true, and that since he cannot die until Lady Blue is with child, Stile asks to defer impregnating her until after he has disposed of his enemy, and when he proposes, Lady Blue accepts. Neysa and the werewolves witness the ceremony as Stile and Lady Blue are married.

Stile and Neysa depart for the Red Demesnes to do battle with the Red Adept. Neysa takes Stile to a cave near the Red Demesnes where a group of vampires, including Vodlevile, live, and the vampires invite Stile to camp there for the night after he explains that he is seeking vengeance against the Red Adept for killing his alternate self and Hulk. Vodlevile's son expresses gratitude for Stile's help with his dietary condition but becomes upset when Stile says repayment is unnecessary, so Stile asks the young vampire to keep an eye out for something nice as a gift for Lady Blue.

After leaving the vampire colony in the morning, Stile and Neysa approach the Red Demesnes, but Stile's challenge goes unanswered. They enter the Red Castle to find a chaotic carnival meant to distract idle visitors. After spelling himself to avoid being strangled as his predecessor was, Stile uses a spell to locate the Red Adept within the castle. The stairs turn into demons, causing Stile to realize that his use of magic invokes the amulets the Red Adept has placed throughout her home as protective traps, so he must fight her in the Proton fashion.

When Stile begins to fall in the hall of mirrors, he spells himself to fly, and Neysa turns into a firefly; they fly through a portal and enter a pleasant apartment where the Red Adept reclines on a couch. She asks why Stile gives her so much trouble, confusing Stile since she is acting like the injured party. The Red Adept explains that the Oracle prophesied that Blue would destroy Red, and since she operates in both frames, she acts against the Blue Adept and Stile to prevent her own destruction. When it becomes obvious that both Stile and the Red Adept have an unknown enemy yet, they make a pact that the survivor of their encounter will seek this enemy, but after discussing the possibilities concerning this unknown enemy's identity, the truce ends and the battle begins. After Stile dismisses all spells and amulets, they fence with swords, but the Red Adept, realizing that Stile can defeat her, disappears into an opening behind the couch, closing the panel behind her. By the time Stile demolishes the panel, she is gone.



## Chapter 10: Red Analysis

Lady Blue can no longer deny that she loves Stile and shows her love by giving the oath of "Thee, Thee, Thee." She fears that Stile will die before she has had the opportunity to tell him of her love, and she reveals that she had known that she would take a second husband who would provide her with a son. She uses this as a way for Stile to impregnate her, while he in turn uses this a way to insure that he will return, for as the Oracle tells the truth, then he will not be able to die until he has given her the son that was foreseen. As a further promise, he proposes to her, she accepts, and they are married to make sure that he is the second husband of the prophecy.

Again, the associates that Stile has met and left an impression on has come up when he runs into a village of vampires, which include Vodlevile and his son. Stile's request that the boy look out for something nice for him to bring to Lady Blue indicates that this is a subject that will again come to the surface later in the tale. In his interaction with the Red Adept, he discovers that there may be yet another enemy that they need to conquer in order to end the troubles between them, and again, the Oracle's mystic words come into light as to why these troubles have come about in the first place. This leaves the reader to wonder what the Oracle may or may not be leaving out. Then again, many of the characters wonder the same thing.



# Chapter 11: Trap

## Chapter 11: Trap Summary

Stile charges into the passage, but the Red Adept is not there. Though Neysa points out a curtain to Proton, it is too dangerous to follow immediately, so Stile spells Neysa to track the Red Adept and himself. In Proton, he finds the Red Adept safe inside her Citizen mother's dome, so he calls Sheen for help before returning to Phaze to destroy the Red Demesnes. After Stile destroys the force-field surrounding the dome, he enters the dome, but the Red Adept drives past, leaving the other cars burning behind her.

Stile returns to Phaze to spell himself ahead of the Red Adept, crossing back to Proton to join Sheen in a car chasing the Red Adept. Sheen is upset to learn that Stile has married Lady Blue, and when their car nearly crashes into the Red Adept's car, Sheen ejects Stile but not herself because, unlike Neysa, an oath of friendship is not part of her programming. After the Red Adept leaves the battle through a curtain, Stile convinces Sheen to cross the curtain where he can use magic to repair her, thus allowing the Red Adept to escape.

After winning the ninth round of the Tourney, Stile spends the interim before the next round worrying about Sheen and devising a strategy to defeat the Red Adept. A knock at the door reveals Blurette, and Stile says that he will help avenge Hulk but have nothing to do with her afterward because he is married to Lady Blue. Blurette reveals that she is actually Lady Blue; Blurette is dead so Lady Blue can now travel through the curtain. Stile is upset because he did not want Sheen and Lady Blue to meet, but when Lady Blue offers to be oath-friend to Sheen, the two women embrace and shed tears. Lady Blue has come to impart a warning from Vodlevile's son that the Red Adept has constructed an amulet to give Stile in Proton that will destroy him once he returns to Phaze with it in his possession. While Sheen provides Lady Blue with a tour of Proton, Sheen ponders the Red Adept's plan and realizes that she must intend to give him the amulet through a third party since he is aware of the danger of her amulets; now, he knows to take nothing across the curtain.

After Lady Blue returns to Phaze and Stile wins round 10 of the Tourney, he carefully prepares to finish the Red Adept, arming himself with an assortment of small weapons and devises. He returns to Phaze to track the Red Adept, but back in Proton, the Red Adept shoots him in the thigh. Revealing itself to be a robot, the Red Adept's doppelganger tells Stile that the real Red Adept is launching an explosive drone vehicle tuned to the bullet. Stile instructs Sheen to take him to the curtain, but she realizes the bullet is the amulet, a terrible trap, and she must remove the bullet before he crosses the curtain to heal his wound. Sheen outruns the drone on a unicycle while Stile helplessly watches as Neysa is harassed by demons on the other side of the curtain until the werewolves come to her aid. Sheen's robot friend keeps pace with her as it extracts the bullet from Stile's leg. Upon Sheen's direction, Stile wills himself across the



curtain onto Neysa's back and into Lady Blue's arms. Safe at last, he loses consciousness as the drone follows Sheen who now has the homing bullet.

## Chapter 11: Trap Analysis

Having lost track of the Red Adept, Stile spells Neysa to track the Red Adept and himself. He manages to spell himself ahead in a chase with the Red Adept, during which Sheen becomes so upset that Stile has married Lady Blue that when the cars crash into each other, she ejects him, but leaves herself in the car in order to be destroyed. Stile begs Sheen to cross over to Phaze in order to be saved, but in doing so, he risks losing the Red Adept. This shows how important Sheen is to Stile, as does the concern he shows before the tenth round of the Tourney.

When she visits Stile, Blurette is revealed to be Lady Blue and that she can travel through the curtain now since the real Blurette was murdered by the Red Adept. This distresses Stile on behalf of Sheen, but Lady Blue's offer to be oath-friend to Sheen shows how much Stile means to her and therefore how Sheen's friendship with Stile has been appreciated by Lady Blue. Lady Blue's information of the Red Adept's plan warns Stile in time to be one step ahead of her, or so he thinks, but upon returning, he is shot by a robot version of the Red Adept and learns that no matter how he prepared, the bullet is the amulet that he was originally warned about. Luckily, he is saved by Sheen and returned to the arms of Lady Blue before he loses consciousness.



# Chapter 12: Dance

## Chapter 12: Dance Summary

Despite having a healing thigh from the removed bullet, the Red Adept still being at large, and the fact that round 10 is rarified territory, Stile defeats Track, a man of his own age, thanks to the devoted care of his ladies in both frames, including the Yellow Adept, who provides a potion for accelerated healing. A fifteen-year-old Citizen defeats Stile in the eleventh round, and he returns to Phaze for a night of healing with the Yellow Adept tending to him. When Sheen reports that the Red Adept has shown up in the Tourney, Stile realizes he will eventually come up against his enemy if they both continue to win, and this happens in the next round. Stile realizes that defeating the Red Adept in the Tourney and sending her to exile will fulfill his oath to end her, but she must kill him if she wins.

The contest chosen for round 12 is dance, and Stile feels reasonably well-off. He is pleased with his performance, but he realizes that the Red Adept has out-danced him by conveying more emotion more effectively in her performance. The competition continues with Stile and the Red Adept dancing together on separate parts of the stage while coordinating their movements. The Red Adept goes into a series of graceful knee bends which she knows that Stile is unable to match due to his knee injuries. Stile begins to worry about his interpretation of the Oracle's meaning since he was not actually promised victory. He decides that it does not matter what the Oracle predicted because it all ends with the fulfillment of his oath. As the dance ends and Stile's case looks hopeless, he has an idea; seizing the lead, he feigns loving the Red Adept as the narrative song dictates. Enraged, the Red Adept bites Stile's lip, causing him to bleed, and proceeds to throttle him for daring to love her. Stile feels regret because "she, like himself, was a victim of circumstance, of fate. Some unknown party had set them both up for this cruel denouement" (p. 326). As he sinks into unconsciousness, he knows he has won because the Red Adept has disqualified herself.

## Chapter 12: Dance Analysis

In the final chapter, Stile continues to participate in the Tourney in Proton, despite the fact that his leg is healing from his bullet wound. His ladies show their devotion by nursing his injury, and Stile begins to develop a friendship with the Yellow Adept when she, surprisingly, joins Neysa, Sheen and Lady Blue to nurse him. After winning the tenth round of the Tourney and losing the eleventh round, Sheen informs Stile that the Red Adept has finally shown up in the Tourney, which causes Stile to realize that they will eventually be matched if they both continue to win. This realization foreshadows the occurrence of this exact event in Round 12. Stile prefers not to kill the Red Adept, especially when he realizes that, if he wins, she will be sent to exile, which fulfills his oath to end her, but he also knows that she has no choice but to kill him if she wins.





When the competition is announced as narrative dance, Stile feels fairly confident, but the Red Adept outperforms him in the first round. When they dance together on separate parts of the stage, the Red Adept takes advantage of the knee injury which she inflicted upon Stile by going into a series of graceful knee bends which he is unable to match. At this point, Stile begins to worry that he will not win and that he has misinterpreted the Oracle's messages. Just as the situation begins to look hopeless, Stile receives a flash of inspiration; he feigns love for the Red Adept, which causes her to attack him and disqualify herself because she cannot tolerate the humiliation of Stile pretending to love her due to her intense hatred for all men. Stile shows his compassion by regretting the fact that their enmity has progressed to such a level because he knows that another unknown enemy has coordinated their battle and the Red Adept, like himself, is a victim of circumstance and fate.



# Characters

## Stile

Stile is small in stature and exists in both frames. In Phaze, he is the Blue Adept, but he is a serf fighting for Citizenship in the Tourney in Proton. When Neysa is summoned by the Herd Stallion for breeding, Stile asks to delay her breeding since he needs her protection while searching for his anonymous enemy who killed his alternate self, the first Blue Adept, but the Herd Stallion challenges him to compete at the Unolympics for the priority of their claims. Lady Blue tells Stile about how she met the first Blue Adept before Stile returns to Proton, where he acquaints Sheen with the recent events in Phaze and wins Round 1 of the Tourney. Lady Blue joins Stile and Neysa on their journey to the Mound of the Platinum Elves in the Purple Mountains, and Stile is allowed to borrow the Platinum Flute in exchange for slaying a dragon and agreeing to a quest to find the foreordained savior of Phaze, who will move the mountain when he plays the Platinum Flute.

When Stile returns to Proton for the second, third and fourth rounds of the Tourney, he receives a summons from his employer, a Citizen, but the summons has been tampered with and directs Stile and Sheen to the address of the Satan-Citizen who nearly kills them. Stile narrowly escapes with Sheen's help. At the Unolympics, Stile loses to the Herd Stallion, but the Herd Stallion yields back the issue while accepting the pride of victory because Stile only uses magic to make the contest fair. Returning to Proton, Stile receives a holo-tape, which shows Hulk being killed by a female serf in a trap meant for Stile. Grieved over Hulk's demise, Stile vows an oath to destroy his enemy upon his return to Phaze. He and Neysa travel to the homes of known female Adepts to learn the identity of his enemy, and they discover that Stile's enemy is the Red Adept.

After winning Round 6 of the Tourney, Stile is matched with Clef in the seventh round, and after seeing Clef's skill in music, he sends Clef to the Platinum Elves with the Platinum Flute to try to make the mountain tremble with his playing. When Stile returns to Phaze, Lady Blue admits her love for Stile, and they are married. Neysa and Stile travel to the Red Demesnes to confront the Red Adept, and Stile's battle with the Red Adept occurs in both frames with Neysa helping him in Phaze and Sheen assisting in Proton. In Round 12 of the Tourney, Stile is matched against the Red Adept in a contest of narrative dance. When Stile feigns love for the Red Adept in accordance with the narrative, she disqualifies herself by attacking him because she cannot stand such humiliation due to her intense hatred for men.

## Lady Blue

Lady Blue is the beautiful widow of the first Blue Adept. She is also oath-friend to Neysa. When Neysa is hesitant to answer the Herd Stallion's summons for breeding, Lady Blue explains that Neysa is worried about and feels the need to guard Stile.



Though Stile is identical to the first Blue Adept, Lady Blue never mistakes one for the other. Hulk is commissioned to guard Lady Blue while Stile travels to petition the Herd Stallion. Lady Blue is outraged when she learns that the Herd Stallion wishes to humiliate Stile, and after Hulk departs to speak with the Oracle, she decides to acquaint Stile with the way she was since she believes he is an honorable man. Lady Blue grew up in a small village on the east coast and helped her father heal animals. She met the first Blue Adept when he helped her rescue Snowflake, her horse's foal, from snow demons, and she falls in love with him for the three following qualities: his magic, his music and his love for equines.

After Hulk returns to Proton to seek Lady Blue's alternate self, Lady Blue accompanies Stile and Neysa on their journey to the Purple Mountains to seek the Platinum Elves. On the journey, she tells Stile a little more about the beginning of her relationship with her deceased husband. When they reach the Platinum Demesnes and Pyreforge worries about Stile betraying him by stealing the Platinum Flute, Lady Blue claims that she is willing to stake her life of Stile's honesty and integrity, and she plays chess with Pyreforge, acting as hostage, while Stile and Neysa face the dragon. She also accompanies Stile to the Unolympics when he faces the Herd Stallion's challenge. After Stile vows to end the person who killed his other self and Hulk, Lady Blue tries in vain to dissuade him from seeking vengeance.

Before allowing Stile to seek his destiny by fulfilling his oath to slay the Red Adept, Lady Blue says she must inform him of some misinformation, that she lied when she denied loving him, and she gives him the oath of "Thee, Thee, Thee". She says Stile is in no way inferior and is superior in some ways to the first Blue Adept. She worries that he would die before she could beg forgiveness for her lie. Furthermore, the Oracle's prophecy regarding her children referred to having a child by her second husband, so Stile must give her a son before setting out on his suicidal mission of revenge. After pointing out that since the Oracle always speaks true he cannot die until Lady Blue is with child, Stile asks to defer impregnating her until after he has disposed of his enemy, and when he proposes, Lady Blue accepts. Neysa and the werewolves witness the ceremony as Stile and Lady Blue are married.

Since Blulette is dead at the Red Adept's hand, Lady Blue crosses the curtain to Proton to warn Stile about the Red Adept's plan to construct an amulet to give Stile in Proton that will destroy him once he returns to Phaze with it in his possession. While in Proton, she offers to be oath-friend to Sheen. Lady Blue helps nurse Stile back to health after he is injured by a bullet as part of the Red Adept's plan.

## Neysa

Neysa is a unicorn who serves as Stile's mount in Phaze. She is also his oath-friend and protects him from danger during his adventures. She postpones damhood in order to protect Stile, which is the reason Stile must answer the Herd Stallion's challenge at the Unolympics. Neysa also has two alternate forms, a firefly and a small, pretty human girl.



## Sheen

Sheen is Stile's self-willed, robotic protector in Proton. Sent by an anonymous Citizen to protect Stile from an anonymous enemy, Sheen is programmed to Stile's tastes and becomes his lover. She tells him to junk her if he ever decides to forsake her as a mistress. Sheen serves as Stile's protector during his adventures in Proton and is injured several times in the line of duty.

## Hulk

Hulk is Stile's friend from Proton who joins him in Phaze to act as a bodyguard. He protects Lady Blue while Stile talks to the Herd Stallion about delaying Neysa's breeding, and he inquires of the Oracle how Stile may win at the Unolympics, learning about the Platinum Flute. When he finds himself falling in love with Lady Blue, Hulk returns to Proton to seek her alternate, Bluette, with Stile's permission. The Red Adept kills Hulk in a trap set for Stile.

## First Blue Adept

The first Blue Adept was Lady Blue's first husband who was killed by a strangling amulet sent by the Red Adept. His death allows Stile to cross the curtain to Phaze and take his place as the Blue Adept. Lady Blue lists three qualities possessed by the first Blue Adept which made her love him: his music, his magic and his love for equines.

## Red Adept

The female Red Adept learns from the Oracle that Blue will destroy Red, so she kills her alternate in Proton in order to laser Stile's knees. She also kills the first Blue Adept with a strangling amulet. She kills Hulk and Bluette in a trap set for Stile. Unknown for the first half of the novel, the Red Adept is revealed to be Stile's anonymous enemy who he has sworn to destroy after Hulk's murder. The Red Adept and Stile battle in both Phaze and Proton until they are matched in Round 12 of the Tourney in Proton. She loses the narrative dance competition by attacking Stile violently because she cannot tolerate the humiliation of his feigned love.

## Vodlevile

Vodlevile is a vampire that Hulk meets on his way to the Oracle, and he advises Hulk that the Platinum Flute can be found among the Platinum Elves. Stile enlists the Yellow Adept's aid to cure Voldevile's son of his allergy to blood, and Voldevile repays this kindness with advice during the Unolympics. He also provides shelter for Stile and Neysa during their journey to confront the Red Adept at the Red Demesnes.



## Herd Stallion

The Herd Stallion summons Neysa for breeding, and when Stile requests her breeding be delayed, the Herd Stallion challenges Stile to fight at the Unolympics for the priority of their claims. Though he wins the challenge, he yields the issue back to Stile because he only wants the notoriety of defeating the Blue Adept and to redeem the pride he lost during their first encounter.

## Oracle

The Oracle is a mystical entity who is frequently discussed but never actually appears in the novel. She prophesies that Lady Blue is the ideal wife for the first Blue Adept and tells Lady Blue "None by one, One by Two" in regards to bearing children. The Oracle directs Stile to his fate as the Blue Adept and informs Hulk that Stile needs the Platinum Flute to be successful against the Herd Stallion at the Unolympics. She also tells the Red Adept that Blue will destroy Red. The Oracle's prophesies are obscure but always true.

## Pyreforge

Pyreforge is the leader of the Platinum Elves. He allows Stile to borrow the Platinum Flute in exchange for slaying a dragon beneath their mines and for agreeing to a quest for the foreordained savior of Phaze, who will make the mountain move when he plays the Platinum Flute.

## Bluette

Bluette is Lady Blue's alternate self in Proton who Hulk seeks to court. She is killed by the Red Adept in a trap set for Stile.

## Clef

After Stile competes against Clef in Round 7 of the Tourney in a musical challenge, he sends Clef to the Platinum Elves with the Platinum Flute to play and learn whether Clef is the foreordained savior of Phaze.



# Objects/Places

## Phaze

Phaze serves as the setting for half of this novel. It is the frame alternate Proton and contains magic and mythological creatures such as unicorns, vampires and werewolves. Here, Stile is the Blue Adept, a powerful magician who summons his magic through music and lyrics.

## Proton

Proton is the setting for half of the novel and is the alternate frame to Phaze, which contains advanced scientific knowledge and is filled with robots. In Proton, Stile is a serf competing in the Tourney to acquire the status of Citizen.

## Blue Demesnes

The Blue Demesnes is Stile's castle-like home in Phaze.

## Red Demesnes

The Red Demesnes is the Red Adept's home in Phaze, and it is here that Stile first confronts her about killing the original Blue Adept and Hulk.

## Tourney

In Proton, Stile competes in the Tourney, a competition for which the ultimate prize is Citizenship.

## Unolympics

The Unolympics is the annual competition among the unicorns. This is where the Herd Stallion challenges Stile to compete for the priority of their claims regarding Neysa. Though the Herd Stallion defeats Stile, he accepts the pride of victory and yields back the issue since Stile uses his magic only to create equality in the match.

## Platinum Flute

When Hulk asks the Oracle how Stile can win the Herd Stallion's challenge, she directs him to the Platinum Flute, and Vodlevile instructs them that it is possessed by the Platinum Elves. In order to earn the right to borrow the flute, Stile must defeat a dragon



and agree to search for the foreordained savior of Phaze, who will make the mountain move when he plays the Platinum Flute. The Platinum Flute allows the possessor to retain magical abilities even in magic-nullifying circumstances. Stile uses the Platinum Flute at the Unolympics to create an equality in his challenge with the Herd Stallion. In Proton, he plays round 7 of the Tourney against Clef, a gifted musician, and sends Clef to the Platinum Elves to see if his playing will move the mountain.

## **Blue Adept's Harmonica**

Stile inherits the original Blue Adept's harmonica which he uses to summon his magic.

## **Oath-friend**

On Phaze, an oath-friend is a special oath of friendship that connects people. Stile is oath-friend to Neysa, as is Lady Blue.

## **Thee, Thee, Thee Oath**

The oath of "thee, thee, thee" bespeaks love without commitment from the other party. Lady Blue finally speaks this oath to Stile before he battles the Red Adept.

## **Curtain**

The curtain is the means by which characters, mostly Stile, travel between Proton and Phaze.

## **Mound of the Platinum Elves**

Located in the Purple Mountains, the Mound of the Platinum Elves is where Stile travels to acquire the Platinum Flute.



# Themes

## Magic

One of the most important themes in *Blue Adept* is that of magic. Over half of the novel is set in Phaze, the alternate frame which contains magic and paranormal creatures. This theme dominates the novel as Stile struggles with his new position as the Blue Adept and learns the varying aspects of his magical abilities. The most obvious magic aspect of Phaze is the paranormal creatures that exist in that frame. There are vampires, such as Vodlevile, who Hulk encounters on his way to the Oracle and who reappears sporadically throughout Stile's adventures. There is also the Oracle, a mystical being taken from ancient Greek and Roman literature (among many other traditions) who prophesies about individual's futures. Neysa, Stile's oath-friend and mount, is a unicorn, and this results in Stile's conflict with the Herd Stallion at the Unolympics. Some of Neysa's other oath-friends include a pack of werewolves, which protect Lady Blue while Stile returns to Proton for the Tourney.

Stile also encounters elves and fairies during his travels, and Stile himself is the Blue Adept; Adepts are human magicians capable of practicing magic and spells. As the Blue Adept, Stile summons his power using music and lyrics. Through this, he is able to change his appearance and transport to different locations. Neysa can only change her shape between that of a unicorn, a firefly and a human girl. The Platinum Flute is a magical item that allows its bearer to refute any magic-nullifying influences, and it also will identify the foreordained savior of Phaze whose playing upon the flute will move the mountain. The Red Adept harvests her power through amulets while the Yellow Adept utilizes potions and the Brown Adept constructs wooden golems. Regardless of the means, magic permeates this novel.

## Parallels Between Frames

Although Phaze is a world of magic while Proton utilizes and glorifies science, there are many parallels between the two frames, which Stile discovers as he tries to uncover the identity of his anonymous enemy. The most obvious parallels between the two frames are the people. The first Blue Adept was Stile's alternate in Phaze while Stile existed in Proton. Likewise, the Red Adept also had an alternate in Proton until she paid to have her alternate assassinated after hearing the Oracle's prophecy that Blue would destroy Red. Lady Blue also has an alternate in Proton which is Blurette, but after the Red Adept kills Blurette, Lady Blue is able to cross the curtain like Stile. Although Neysa and Sheen are very different, they are also parallels. Both protect Stile, both were his lover at some point, and both exemplify the frame in which they live, Neysa as a unicorn and Sheen being a robot. The fact that Proton is a world of science while Phaze is a land of magic suggests that these two alternate frames are related in a way similar to science and magic; both frequently yield the same results but through different means.





Another parallel that Stile notes between the two frames is the similarity of the Unolympics in Phaze to the Tourney of Proton. When Lady Blue tells him about the snow demon injuring Hinny's knee with a spell aimed at the first Blue Adept, Stile cannot ignore the irony of his own knee injury in Proton and wonder if it is coincidental. He also compares the prophesying Oracle of Phaze to the self-willed machine in Proton that informs him that his message from his employer was tampered with. Stile begins to suspect that his enemy in both frames is the same person, a curtain traveler, when Lady Blue realizes that an enemy began attacking the first Blue Adept and Stile around the same time. Although Stile begins his quest for the foreordained savior of Phaze in Phaze, he meets Clef in Proton and sends the serf across the curtain to play the Platinum Flute for the Platinum Elves to see if his playing makes the mountain move; therefore, it seems odd that the savior of Phaze may be found in Proton. When Stile confronts and battles the Red Adept, their battle transcends the curtain as they fight in both frames.

## Friendships and Relationships

One of the most complicated matters in "Blue Adept" is that of Stile's friendships and relationships. He is oath-friend to Neysa, but they were lovers before Stile met Lady Blue and realized his destiny lay with his own kind. This somewhat complicates their relationship until Stile explains that continuing their sexual relationship would hinder their friendship with one another's future offspring. Neysa has many oath-friends in her Herd, through the werewolves and in Lady Blue. This is useful as it prohibits the Herd Stallion from utterly embarrassing Stile and allows Neysa to utilize the pack of werewolves as protection for Lady Blue when Neysa and Stile leave the Blue Demesnes to search for the Red Adept.

Lady Blue is loyal to her husband, the first Blue Adept, through most of the novel and does not mistake Stile for his alternate self; however, Stile is hopelessly in love with Lady Blue. Eventually, she recognizes his similarities to her first husband, and in recognizing his merit, Lady Blue marries Stile. Unfortunately, Hulk also begins to fall for Lady Blue, but he will not pursue her because of his friendship to Stile. As a result, he returns to Proton to seek Blurette, Lady Blue's alternate, with Stile's permission. The Red Adept, Stile's enemy in both frames, kills Hulk and Blurette in a trap set for Stile. In Proton, Stile has a friend and lover in the robotic Sheen, but Sheen laments losing him to Lady Blue and asks to be junked if he ever forsakes her completely. Luckily, after Blurette is murdered, Lady Blue crosses the curtain into Proton and offers to be oath-friend to Sheen, her husband's other protector, as she is to Neysa, and this seems to reinstate some of Sheen's will to exist. Before the novel ends, Stile seems to also be forming an uneasy friendship with the cantankerous Yellow Adept.

# Style

## Point of View

The point of view of *Blue Adept* is third person. This point of view is reliable but limited, and this can be seen in the fact that the narrator knows the actions and events that transpire during the novel but has little insight into the unspoken thoughts and emotions of the characters with Stile being the only exception; occasionally, the narrator reports upon some of Stile's feelings about certain events or circumstances. This point of view is important since Stile's development as the Blue Adept and his attempts to discover the identity of his anonymous enemy are among the most important aspects of this novel. Additionally, the limited point of view maintains the mystery and suspense of the novel while forcing the reader to associate most closely with Stile, the protagonist.

The novel is written using a fairly equal distribution of exposition and dialogue. This allows the reader to witness the interactions and relationships between characters. It also serves to distinguish between the characters that exist in Phaze compared to those that exist in Proton, as their dialect is reflective of their respective frames. The narrator's viewpoint remains focused on Stile throughout the entirety of the novel.

## Setting

This novel is set in an imaginary world, on the planet Proton and in its alternate frame, Phaze. While Proton is a world filled with scientific knowledge and inventions, Phaze consists of paranormal creatures and magic. In Proton, the characters are robots, serfs and Citizens. Citizens represent the highest socioeconomic class, while robots have no status whatsoever. Serfs struggle in the Tourney to obtain the status of Citizen. In Phaze, creatures tend to be separated by species, such as unicorns, vampires, werewolves, fairies and elves. Humans also exist in Phaze, and some humans acquire magical abilities and are known as Adepts. These magicians, or sorcerers, are feared by most of the other creatures and are shunned by normal humans. Adepts tend to be solitary beings who mostly keep to themselves.

In Phaze, Stile socializes with Neysa and Lady Blue, and they live in the Blue Demesnes. He attends the Unolympics to challenge the Herd Stallion for the right to postpone Neysa's breeding. Stile travels to the Platinum Demesnes in the Purple Mountains to borrow the Platinum Flute from the Platinum Elves. He also journeys to the Red Demesnes to confront the Red Adept for killing his alternate self and Hulk. His fight with the Red Adept exists on both sides of the curtain, a mystical apparatus that allows him and other characters to alternate frames. In Proton, Stile competes in the Tourney to become a citizen, and he searches for his unknown enemy there as well, with Sheen's help. The two frames contain the same geography, but Proton is constructed as a futuristic world, while Phaze is reminiscent of a place much more medieval.



## Language and Meaning

The language used in this novel tends to be mostly stiff and formal; however, the ways in which it adheres to this general classification varies. Though the word choice and language construction tends to be mostly formal in both frames, the language used by the characters of Phaze tends to be more antiquated and comparable to the language spoken in the medieval period of ladies and knights while, in contrast, the language of Proton tends to veer towards scientific jargon and more modern verbiage.

The distribution of exposition and dialogue is fairly equal and serves to further emphasize the difference in language between the two frames. This is exemplified by Stile's occasional mistake in using a phrase from Phaze while in Proton, or vice versa. The language aids the writing style overall by distinguishing the characters from different frames and highlighting the differences between these two worlds.

## Structure

Blue Adept is the second novel of a seven part series titled "The Apprentice Adept". This novel consists of

327 pages and twelve chapters. The chapters average between twenty-five and thirty pages long, with some variation. They are titled to reflect the purpose of the specific chapter. About half of the chapters are quite long, with the remainder being fairly short, but they are all very detailed. Each chapter portrays varying amounts of time, ranging from a matter of hours to days.

In Blue Adept, Stile exists in two frames, Phaze and Proton, and must travel between the frames to uncover and destroy the unknown enemy who murdered his alternate self, the original Blue Adept of Phaze. Blue Adept is a fascinating novel which blends science fiction with fantasy as Stile alternates between frames ruled by each genre.

The novel is fairly quick-paced as a result of the many action sequences, which are described. It is very easy to read and quite interesting as Stile travels between the two frames. The narrative is fairly linear, though some background information is provided through Stile's memories as well as Lady Blue's story about her relationship with Stile's predecessor. Overall, this novel is easy to read and extremely fascinating.



## Quotes

"Thou art now the Blue Adept, the leading magician of the realm. Only have the human wit not to offend the mare in the presentation of thy decision."

Chap. 1, p. 4

"The Lady was true to her real husband, Stile's double, though he was dead, and in no way did she ever mistake Stile for that other man."

Chap. 1, p. 11

"Now I know, from a third party, that thou art much the way my husband was. A man of great honor and skill, yet one who has suffered abuse because of size. Neysa, too, has told me of thy qualities... Thou art a good man, and I wrong thee by mine aloofness. Yet must I am the way I am. I feel it only fair to acquaint thee with the way I was."

Chap. 2, pp. 21-22

"No horse could maintain such a pace, so smoothly- yet the Hinny ranged beside the blue stallion, now and then covertly turning a sleek ear on him: she desired the service only he could serve. I wondered fleetingly whether it could be like that for me as well, with only one man destined to be my husband. Little did I know how close to the truth that was, and that he was as close to me then as the stallion to the Hinny."

Chap. 2, p. 29

"Have no sympathy for me. I was transformed that hideous night from youth to enchanter. I realized that no force but magic could restore the balance, and so- Look what I did."

Chap. 2, p. 41

"Contrary to appearances, there is more than one concern on this male mind. I am fated to love the Lady Blue, though she may not be fated to love me- but how can I love two of her? I really have no business with her Proton-alternate."

Chap. 3, p. 49

"Rank hath its privileges."

Chap. 3, p. 57

"I would that my touch could bring the joy to thee that thy touch does to me."

Chap. 4, p. 79

"There is no shame in love, any form."

Chap. 4, p. 81

"She may not be thine now, but she is destined for thee and no other. Thou'rt the Blue Adept, the keeper of these Demesnes, and she is the Lady Blue. She is the finest woman I have known. Were there another like her-"

Chap. 4, p. 88



"The revealed identity of my erstwhile companion the blue lad astounded me, and I was shamed. Yet I was intrigued too, and potently flattered by his suit."

Chap. 4, p. 91

"And I realized that in the guise of a request, the lad was proffering a gift of what was most dear to my father's dreams. It was Blue's way... And something heaved in my breast, not love but a kind of gratitude, and I knew that though he looked to be a lad and was in fact a nefarious magician, he was also a worthy man."

Chap. 4, p. 94

"Promise me that if you ever give this mistress up permanently, you'll have me junked, put out of consciousness. I don't mean just reprogramming or deactivating me; destroy my computer brain. You know how to do it. Don't let me suffer alone."

Chap. 5, p. 129

"Passing strange. With power to enchant an entire unicorn herd, he exercises it not on the Lady who is as lovely as any mortal can be and as spirited as a fine animal and who is legitimately his by right of inheritance. Methinks it is the man who is the fool."

Chap. 6, p. 168

"Put more succinctly: he had to crush the pride of an honorable creature, to win the right of another creature to sacrifice her ambition of dam-hood and risk her life for him. Some pride!"

Chap. 6, p. 179

"Thou art very like my Lord. His friendships were many, his enmities few."

Chap. 6, p. 180

"The Stallion says the Adept is more of a creature than he took him for. The Adept had magic to win, and eschewed it in favor of equality, and fought fairly and well, and lost well. The Stallion accepts the pride of that victory- and yields back the issue."

Chap. 6, p. 186

"Which means that your enemy knows of your life in both frames. And that you would hardly be likely to bring the one person who could help you escape that situation—me."

Chap. 7, p. 195

"There are no surplus diamonds. Every precious thing has a taker. He is a generous man, Lady. He loves you, but will take only the one he first came to know. There is something more to his interest than your likeness, I suspect."

Chap. 7, p. 199

"Thou'rt now the Blue Adept. Thy power is proven. Fain would I have thee remain here, not risking thy life in any quest for vengeance."

Chap. 8, p. 209

"This had turned out to be the wrong Adept, but the excursion had been worthwhile. Now at last he knew the identity of his enemy. He would not have time to brace the Red



Adept after rejoining Neysa at the herd; he had to get back across the curtain for the next Round of the Tourney. But on his return to Phaze..."

Chap. 8, p. 225

"There is no place in my philosophy for untruth."

Chap. 9, p. 229

"Some things transcend life and death."

Chap. 9, p. 244

"I know what this means to thee, this vengeance. And fain would I see my Lord avenged: I am no gentler than thee. Yet I dislike it. There is aught thou knowest not... I have to tell thee- That never till thou didst come on the scene was I a liar... When I said- I loved thee not... Thee, Thee...Thee."

Chap. 10, pp. 245-47

"Then I will not die until I have given thee thy son. Allow me to wait until I have disposed of the Red Adept, that I may have child and life with thee."

Chap. 10, p. 251

"There were a number of deep emotional wounds Stile bore as a result of the malicious mischief of the Red Adept; he could not afford to let them overwhelm him. His oath of vengeance covered it all. Once Red was dead, he could let the tide of buried grief encompass him. He simply could not afford grief- or love- yet. Not while this business was unfinished."

Chap. 10, p. 259

"I am less complicated than a living creature like Neysa. Oaths are not part of my programming."

Chap. 11, p. 287

"Vengeance I have sworn, but it shall not take precedence over friendship."

Chap. 11, p. 291

"Of course I'll help you. I'm on the trail of the woman who killed Hulk now. But one thing you must know at the outset: I want nothing personal to do with you, after this... I am married to your alternate self, the Lady Blue of Phaze. You look exactly like her, Blurette- you are exactly like her- but she is the one I love. This is no reflection on your own merit, that I sincerely appreciate. And I know you have no personal interest in me. But- well, if she thought I was seeing you..."

Chap. 11, p. 295

"The Oracle, he realized, had not promised him victory; he had merely juggled the Lady Blue's Oracular message to ensure his survival after this encounter. He actually had no guarantee of victory. His oath was only an oath- vital to him, but no guarantee of success. Yet there had to be developing purpose in his life, however it had been shaped. The way his need to meet the Herd Stallion had brought him and the Lady Blue to the Little Folk, and he had acquired the Platinum Flute, lost to the Stallion anyway,



and delivered the Flute to Clef. Maybe all coincidence, but if Clef was indeed the Foreordained, then it all had meaning. Stile had been a vital part of that chain-"  
Chap. 12, p. 324

"As Stile sank into unconsciousness, he felt the stasis field take hold, and knew that he had won. His difficult, desperate ploy had been effective against the man-hater. Even for victory in the Tourney, even for Citizenship, even for life itself, she could not bring herself to submit to this ultimate humiliation—to be loved, even in pretense, by a man. Red had disqualified herself."  
Chap. 12, pp. 326-27



## Topics for Discussion

Compare and contrast Phaze and Proton.

How are Stile's relationships with Neysa and Sheen the same, and how are they different?

Why does the Herd Stallion challenge Stile, and what is the result of the challenge?

How does the Lady Blue's feelings toward Stile change throughout the novel, and why?

What does Stile learn about his enemy during this novel?

Why is Stile opposed to encountering Blulette?

How do the events in Stile's life transcend the curtain by the events in one frame affecting the events in the other frame?