

A Bite to Remember Study Guide

A Bite to Remember by Lynsay Sands

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Contents

A Bite to Remember Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	4
Chapter 1.....	5
Chapter 2.....	6
Chapter 3.....	7
Chapter 4.....	8
Chapter 5.....	9
Chapter 6.....	11
Chapter 7.....	13
Chapter 8.....	14
Chapter 9.....	16
Chapter 10.....	18
Chapter 11.....	20
Chapter 12.....	22
Chapter 13.....	24
Chapter 14.....	26
Chapter 15.....	27
Chapter 16.....	28
Chapter 17.....	30
Chapter 18.....	31
Chapter 19.....	32
Characters.....	34
Objects/Places.....	39
Themes.....	41



Style.....43

Quotes.....45

Topics for Discussion.....46



Plot Summary

Vincent Argeneau is the head of V.A. Productions and hires Jackie Morrisey, a private investigator, to help him find the saboteur trying to destroy his company. Though Jackie and Vincent get off to a rough start, the attraction between the two grows and intensifies with every day that they spend together. Jackie does not trust immortals and knows that the last thing she needs to do is get involved with another vampire.

Jackie and her assistant Tiny stay with Vincent as they try and track down the culprit behind the mysterious accidents that have been happening on the sets of his plays. Jackie is nervous that the saboteur wants to hurt Vincent so the first thing they do is secure Vincent's home. Jackie immediately gets an employee list from Vincent's office. Jackie finds suspicious letters in Vincent's mail and it becomes obvious that the saboteur is real and wants to harm Vincent. Shortly after the letters are discovered, the house gets broken into and the employee list is stolen. A few days later, they find the mortal vice president of the company, Stephano, stabbed in the chest in his office. Without thinking, Vincent turns him in an effort to save Stephano's life. They sneak Stephano to Vincent's house so that he may recover there without the saboteur knowing that he survived. They are hoping that Stephano caught a glimpse of the saboteur and will remember when he wakes up. Jackie and Marguerite realize that Vincent sacrificed his once in a lifetime chance to turn a human to turn his vice president. Immortals usually use their one chance to turn on their life mate if they are human.

Since the saboteur keeps harming those around Vincent, Jackie and Vincent spend more time together working on the case. As such, they start to develop a relationship and Marguerite recognizes that Jackie and Vincent are life partners. Marguerite tells Vincent and he opens up to the possibility that they may be destined to be together. Although Jackie starts to develop feelings for Vincent, she has to keep reminding herself that immortals are all the same, just like her ex Cassius.

Jackie unexpectedly runs into the saboteur and chases him only to end up in a struggle with him. The saboteur then sucks her blood out and tries to kill her and Jackie ends up biting the saboteur in an effort to get him to drop his knife which he was going to stab Vincent with. Consequently, Jackie swallows the saboteur's blood and is unintentionally turned. During this turning it becomes clear that Vincent is in love with her and she is with him.

Finally, the saboteur kidnaps Jackie. It becomes apparent that it was Vincent's production assistant who was trying to seek revenge against Vincent's father who killed her life mate William. William was a pedophile who turned Lily when she was twelve in an effort to keep her looking like a child and control her. While contrasting William with Vincent, Jackie is able to see that she loves Vincent and Vincent loves her. They both accept each other as partners and start planning the rest of their lives being with each other for eternity.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

The phone rings and Vincent answers it to find his cousin Bastien from New York on the other end. Bastien informs Vincent that he has sent his private investigator to help him find who is sabotaging his plays and to be expecting the private investigator to be there any minute. Bastien also tells Vincent that his mother Marguerite, Vincent's aunt, was going to be arriving later that night and to be expecting a package of blood to be arriving.

Just then the doorbell rings and Vincent opens the door to find a woman and a man at the door. The woman introduces herself as Jackie and the man as Tiny. Vincent doesn't even shake her hand as he slams the door in their faces and yells at Bastien that Jackie is a woman and they are humans. When Bastien tells him to trust them Vincent goes back and opens the door. Tiny and Jackie are infuriated with Vincent's rudeness. To let Vincent know that she is far from stupid she recites everything about the case including Vincent's background. Jackie lets Vincent know that they are staying there and that she will be covering as his personal assistant and Tiny will have the cover of being the housekeeper and cook.

Jackie immediately begins to inspect the house and make note of what security measures need to be taken to make the house safe. Jackie also notes that if they are to be living there they will need to get some food and appliances because Vincent's kitchen is completely bare since he doesn't eat. Jackie doesn't like Vincent and tells Tiny what she thinks of him. Within moments, Vincent walks in the room and apologizes for his rudeness and asks to start over. As they are in the office, Vincent gets a phone call.

Chapter 1 Analysis

When Vincent gets a phone call from Bastien, he is glad that the private investigator is coming but not that his aunt is coming. Marguerite seems to be very nosy and Vincent does not seem excited that she is coming to stay with him.

The private investigators arrive and Vincent is shocked that Jackie is a woman and a human. Vincent thinks that they would not be able to handle the case. Meanwhile, Jackie is not only offended but she is mad that Vincent would be arrogant enough to think she is inferior to him and she sets out to prove him wrong. Jackie seems to expect this behavior from immortals and it infuriates her even more.

Jackie and Tiny come in the house she thoroughly checks it for security purposes and suggests that they bring in a security company to secure the house the next morning. She makes a point to be cold to Vincent and treat him like he deserved to be treated, especially after slamming the door in her face.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

Vincent hangs up the phone and tells Jackie that the call was to tell him that the lead in his play had quit. Jackie explains she was under the impression that all his productions had been closed but Bastien hadn't completely filled her in so Vincent would have to. Vincent and Jackie head to the store to buy some appliances. On the way to the store he explains that the call he received was to tell him that the lead in his play had quit. They get to the appliance store and Vincent explains to Jackie that he has not closed his entire production. Vincent then proceeds to buy every appliance he can find. After the appliance store they go shopping at the grocery store then head home so that Vincent can give Jackie the information she needs on his case.

Vincent tells her how he has temporarily closed down plays that are currently open and delayed the opening of those that weren't because of all the incidents that have occurred in his productions. Some of these occurrences of sabotage included a can of paint being spilled over all the costumes, a small fire destroying their entire set, another fire destroying the whole theater and all their things inside, part of a set falling on a lead of the play and breaking her arm, another lead breaking his leg after claiming that he was pushed down the stairs, members of his cast got sick with contagious anemia, and finally, six leads in different plays suddenly walked off and quit last minute even though they were under contract.

After discussing the case, Vincent, Jackie, and Tiny have dinner. Vincent actually eats though Jackie remains skeptical that he normally does this. After dinner Vincent's aunt arrives.

Chapter 2 Analysis

As Vincent and Jackie are shopping, Vincent tries hard to impress Jackie and let her know that he is not the Stereotypical vampire she believes him to be. He tells her that he eats, upgrades all the appliances that she picks out, and buys everything he can find that would make her stay at his house easier. Although Jackie wants Vincent to believe that she is not impressed, she takes note of Vincent's kind gestures and has to keep reminding herself to keep her serious and that he is a vampire.

As Vincent recounts the events that have led to the close of his productions, one can see how pained he is that after being in business for four hundred years, he is now being sabotaged and that his saboteur is a Vampire.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Marguerite arrives at Vincent's home and meets Jackie and Tiny. Marguerite is very suspicious as to why they are there but Tiny and Jackie manage to block their minds so that she doesn't find out why they are staying with Vincent. Vincent goes out to feed and Jackie finds herself "concerned" about where he is. Jackie goes to her room and as she is thinking about Vincent she comes to the admission that she finds him attractive, however, she reminds herself that he is a vampire and cannot become involved with another vampire. She drifts into the memory of her first love Cassius who was a vampire. She met Cassius while working for her father when she was 19. Cassius read her mind and used her to do things that she didn't want to do just for his amusement. Cassius manipulated her mind into believing that she wanted to do the sexual things he wanted her to. Their relationship came to an end when Jackie walked in on him talking about how unsophisticated he found her to be and what his intentions were the entire time. Cassius also stated how much he hated her father and how he found humans to be inferior to him. Jackie told her father everything she had heard Cassius say and he called on Bastien for help. He took care of the situation, but not before making Jackie leaves to Europe for a year. Jackie reminds herself that she cannot fall for another vampire.

Chapter 3 Analysis

It is explained in this chapter how the Vampires came to be. Nanos were biologically engineered to attack cancers and any degeneration in the body. These nanos were fueled by blood and though they were programmed to self destruct upon fixing the person's body, that never happened because their work was never done.

The history Jackie has with vampires gives the reader some insight as to what Jackie faces everyday that she encounters an attractive male vampire. Jackie was fortunate to have the help of her father and Bastien when it happened but it still changed her life forever. Jackie is in a daily struggle to try and prove herself to vampires. Cassius made her feel naïve and that all male vampires feel themselves to be superior to humans. Jackie hides her feelings behind a tough exterior and sets out to prove these vampires all wrong. She knows what vampires are capable of so she has trained herself to keep them out of her mind and always be on guard. This is seen when Marguerite tries to read her mind and she consciously blocks her out.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Vincent wakes up to the sound of workers installing the security system. Vincent finds Jackie on the phone in his office. She is on the phone with his production assistant, Lily, trying to get a list of names of all the people who have worked for him. Jackie explains to Vincent that the saboteur is someone who has been able to get close to the staff, either by mind manipulation or actually taking on a job. Jackie shows Vincent some letters that she found in his three-month-old pile of unopened mail. These letters are short one sentence letters that make references to the accidents that have happened on the sets of his productions and were sent the day after each incident. As Jackie is putting the rest of the mail away, Vincent begins to have lustful thoughts about her and gets hungry. He quickly leaves and finds one of the workers to feed on and as he is feeding, Jackie catches him. She is upset until Vincent points out that when humans eat, an animal must die. However, when a vampire eats, no one has to die. After making sense of his argument, she has to stop herself from staring at his attractive shirtless body and goes downstairs to eat dinner. Vincent notices Jackie's attraction and decides to make it a point to be shirtless more often.

Chapter 4 Analysis

In this chapter the author makes it very clear how Vincent and Jackie are extremely attracted to each other. The way Vincent fantasizes about touching Jackie while they are in the office and physically gets aroused shows that he is sexually attracted to her. Jackie is also very attracted to Vincent; however, she knows from previous experience that she cannot allow herself to become vulnerable because the last time she acted on her attraction for a vampire she was humiliated.

When Jackie and Vincent discuss their feeding habits, for a moment they are able to open up to each other on a personal level. They are starting to become comfortable with each other which hints at them starting to open up to a potential friendship.

As Jackie is leaving the room, she tells Vincent that she would lose her appetite if she has to stare at his bare chest at the dinner table. This action says a lot about Jackie, she often puts up a hard exterior to protect her true feelings. Vincent's reaction shows how observant he actually is, he knows that Jackie is actually attracted to his body and decides to make it a point to continue to be shirtless around her.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

During dinner Vincent keeps flaunting his body in front of Jackie which upsets her even more. Marguerite comes to the table and states that she is ready to help with the case. Vincent admits that she read him and she knows all about the saboteur that is out to get him. Jackie tries to get rid of Vincent by asking Marguerite and him to go together so they can talk to the actress that just walked out on the play and see if she can read her mind to get information. Marguerite insists to go with Tiny and that Vincent stay with Jackie. As Jackie is in the office working on eliminating some of the people that wrote the letters from the suspect list, she sees two women approaching the house. She overhears the taller woman stating that she wants to scope out the new personal assistant Vincent hired. Jackie meets them at the door and finds that the secretary is named Sharon is a vampire and the production assistant is a mortal named Lily. Sharon is very protective over Vincent and suspicious of the whole situation. After resisting Sharon's persistent attempt to read her thoughts, Jackie leaves Sharon and Lily with Vincent. She goes to speak to the man heading the security installation, Allen, to get him to change the code to the gate since Sharon has a remote to it.

Vincent confronts Jackie about her changing the code to the gate. Jackie insists that it needs to be changed and that if he isn't going to ask her for the remote back that it needs to be changed. Vincent finally agrees to change the code and they head down to the kitchen as Marguerite and Tiny have arrived. As Tiny informs Jackie that they weren't able to get any information from the lead who quit, Jackie fills him in on her meeting with Sharon and Lily. Jackie becomes irritated with Vincent for believing Sharon's lie about why she came to the house. Jackie makes a remark about assholes and immortals being the same thing which hurts Vincent. Jackie reminds herself that she must fight her feelings for Vincent because all immortals are the same when she finds Marguerite placing thoughts in her mind trying to convince her that she should stop fighting her feelings for Vincent because he is a good person. At this point Jackie knows that Marguerite has read her, knows everything, and is wondering why she is putting these thoughts in her mind.

Marguerite approaches Vincent and tells him that he should read Jackie to get some better insight on why she acts the way she does and what her true feelings are. She tells him that she believes that they are a very good match.

Chapter 5 Analysis

Jackie tries to get rid of Vincent because she knows that she needs to spend as much time away from him as possible. She realizes that she is attracted to him and is trying everything to get him off her mind. As Jackie meets Sharon, it becomes obvious that Jackie is a very dominant person, and though she may not know it herself, she is being



very territorial and protective over Vincent, and one might even say that there is a glimmer of jealousy behind her behavior. Sharon is very pushy and seems to also have an interest in Vincent, the fact that she goes out of her way just to meet Jackie shows that she is trying to size her up for some unknown reason.

Jackie puts Vincent in a very awkward position as she has the security code changed on the doors. Jackie is concerned for Vincent's safety, but the action of changing the security codes seems to mean more than just safety for Jackie, possibly power. Jackie is not pleased with Vincent's unwillingness to confront Sharon to get the remote back and when they get into their argument she takes out her anger on him. When Vincent states that he doesn't think he has offended anyone Jackie immediately attacks him but her attack seems to come from her experience with Cassius.

When Marguerite reads Jackie she is able to see all her pain and understand where she is coming from. Marguerite senses that there is a very powerful connection between Jackie and Vincent and is determined to bring them together. When she suggests to Vincent that he should read Jackie's mind because he could gain a greater understanding of her past, he decides that he will do it, this shows that he really does want to know her on a deeper level.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Vincent comes down to the kitchen and joins Tiny for dinner as he asks Tiny why Jackie doesn't like immortals. Tiny admits that there is a reason and it has to do with Jackie's past, however, he would never betray his friendship with Jackie by telling him about it. Then, in a round-about way, he suggests that if Vincent were to read his mind while he was thinking why Jackie does not trust immortals, he would not stop him.

Jackie finds another letter from the suspected saboteur in that day's mail. It says "Ready to play?" This letter shakes Jackie up and she and Tiny go and check the perimeter of the property. While on their walk, Jackie has an overwhelming feeling that something is about to happen, it is so strong that even Tiny picks up on her feeling. When they get back to the house they decide to go swimming in the pool. Jackie and Tiny agree to change into their swimsuits then meet back at the pool. Jackie is the first one at the pool and waits for a while before tiny arrives. Shortly after, Vincent joins them in the pool and Tiny leaves. Once alone, Jackie asks Vincent about his life and what it is like to live forever. Vincent explains that he doesn't know any other way but that he used to feel sorry for mortals. Vincent has been able to meet people such as Shakespeare but he didn't know these people would be famous at the time. He says that when he was younger he was rebellious brat that refused to follow in his father's footsteps as his father who was an "enforcer" for immortals. An enforcer is like a police officer for the council of immortals in America. Vampires have their own set of laws that they need to follow and if they don't they are made to pay with a painful death like a beheading after a full day of being tied up in the sunlight. Some of the rules that vampires have to follow are only having one child per hundred years and only "turning" one human in their lifetime. Jackie then asks about Vincent's feeding habits. Vincent explains that he only feeds as needed and that he had grown bored with eating as many immortals do after a while. Additionally, he explains that though he was good at it, he had also grown bored of sex. Jackie is astonished by this and she becomes flustered by his mentioning the subject of sex. As they get out of the pool he draws her towards him as he wraps the towel around her and though there is so much sexual tension between them they both resist and walk in the house as if nothing was felt.

Chapter 6 Analysis

At the beginning of this chapter Vincent comes to terms with Jackie potentially being his soul mate and is actually accepting it. As Jackie and Tiny are walking around the house, Tiny tells her how Marguerite is worried about Vincent feeling lonely and possibly turning to self destructive behaviors as many immortals do when they become depressed. Tiny tells Jackie that Vincent is a good guy, and Jackie actually considers her friends approval because of how much she respects him. Though Jackie does not seem to care about Vincent, she asks him questions about his life and when he shows



even the slightest sign of loneliness or depression she immediately starts to worry about him. Jackie's concern for Vincent shows that she is starting to genuinely care about him and his well being. Vincent may not be as lonely as Marguerite fears he is, but his boredom in life may be what makes him seem cynical at times.

When Jackie and Vincent are done swimming and she becomes flustered by how close she is standing to him, it lets the reader know that the chemistry between them is only getting stronger. Jackie is very aware of Vincent's attractiveness and though she remains strong, she is no longer reminding herself of Cassius in order to stop thinking about Vincent.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

Vincent and Jackie walk back into the kitchen and find Tiny baking cookies and Marguerite sitting at the table. Tiny explains that cooking helps him to relax, especially after Jackie gets one of her "hinky" feelings. Tiny further explains that Jackie's "hinky" feelings are always right, and it always means that something really bad is about to happen. Jackie had that same feeling the night Tiny got shot while they were in pursuit some men in a case for Bastien.

Jackie and Vincent go and change into dry clothing and when Jackie hears Vincent on the office phone she enters and waits for him. She immediately notices that the list of employee names is missing off the table and the balcony door is ajar. They are puzzled as to why the alarms didn't go off and Vincent remembers that the alarm wasn't even on when he entered the house. This means that the alarm must have been disarmed between the time that Tiny and Jackie came back from their walk, and when Vincent and Marguerite arrived. Jackie concludes that the saboteur must have convinced her or Tiny to disarm the alarm. Jackie and Tiny begin to recount their story to each other and Jackie realizes that Tiny is missing a part of his memory. Tiny becomes upset at the knowledge that he had his mind manipulated but Jackie is very understanding. Jackie thanks Tiny for telling her how rude she was being to Vincent and admits that she was treating Vincent unfairly by making generalizations about vampires based on her bad experience. She admits that she Vincent is a good guy, and that she is attracted to him.

Chapter 7 Analysis

This chapter is a turning point in the story as the saboteur becomes real and all the characters in the story are in danger. Jackie's "hinky" feeling is what the author uses to foreshadow bad things happening. When they discover that Tiny was manipulated by an immortal, Tiny finally understands how Jackie felt about immortals. Tiny's feeling of vulnerability gave him a glimpse of Jackie felt when she discovered what Cassius was doing to her. However, when Tiny tells Jackie how and why he feels the way he does about immortals, she tells him that she was wrong in making generalizations about immortals based on her experience with Cassius. Jackie has realized that not all immortals are bad and there are some kind good immortals like Bastien and Vincent out there.

Jackie finally accepting that Vincent is a good person means that she is now ready to let her guard down with him. She has come to accept that she is attracted to Vincent and that she was out of line for treating him based on Cassius.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

Vincent finds Jackie asleep in the office. As Vincent watches her sleep he starts to fantasize about her the things he would do to physically pleasure her when suddenly, she has a physical reaction to his fantasy. Vincent realizes that he unconsciously transferred his fantasy into her open mind.

Vincent gets ready for the day and goes to his office with Jackie and Marguerite to get another copy of the employee list while using the story that he is showing his new assistant around and showing this aunt his production company.

When they arrive Jackie makes the suggestion that they chance the security guard shifts around since there are immortals on the night shift and mortals on the day shift. Jackie wants him to change the shifts so there is at least one immortal on shift between the hours of five pm and nine am because it would be too easy for an immortal to slip in the way the shifts are currently scheduled. They are greeted by Sharon when they enter the executive section of the office and she seems to ignore Jackie. When they ask her for the copy of the employee list they find that the list they brought to the house was actually the original. Additionally, Sharon finds that the employee list they had on their computer was somehow missing too. Lily suggests they try and get the list from the accounting department. Because Phillip, the man over accounting, was missing, she suggests they talk to his assistant Meredith for the list. They head over to the accounting and on the way they pass the receptionist and Vincent asks for Stephano. Stephano is the human vice president who handles all the day business and his immortal brother Neil is the night vice president who handles everything else. The receptionist states that Stephano left and said he was going to be back shortly but had not yet returned. Vincent, Jackie, and Marguerite continue on to the accounting department and don't find anyone there, however, they do find one of the office door slightly cracked. They open the office door and to their horror, they find Stephano lying under the desk with a knife in his chest.

Chapter 8 Analysis

Vincent's lustful feelings for Jackie are getting so strong that he is even able to transfer his fantasies into her mind while she is sleeping. By his reaction of shock upon the discovery that Jackie felt what he was fantasizing about, one can see that he respects her to the point that he didn't intentionally go into her mind.

When Vincent, Jackie, and Marguerite get to his production company, Sharon is overly excited to see Vincent and completely ignores Jackie. Jackie notices that Vincent tightens his lips when Sharon dismisses Jackie's presence. This is a sign of his protectiveness over someone he cares about being treated poorly.



When Jackie has Sharon get the copies of the employee list, Sharon frowns when they ask for it but goes ahead and heads to Lily's desk to get it. Vincent, Jackie, and Marguerite walk in on Lily telling Sharon that the copies Sharon insisted on taking were the originals and that Sharon was aware of it because she clearly told her several times that they were. Sharon seems to be bothered when Lily tells her that the list is actually on the computer. However when Sharon goes to look in her files, it seems to be missing. Lily then suggests that accounting would probably have the list of employees because of the payroll. In this section the reader can see that Sharon for some reason doesn't seem to want to help. Sharon may just be lazy, not care about helping, or another reason.

The author foreshadows that some thing is wrong when receptionist says that Stephano has been gone for longer than she expected. As they enter the empty accounting department and the office door is slightly opened the setting changes and one can feel the suspense as Vincent opens the door. When Stephano is found dead, it is clear that the saboteur will do anything to get to Vincent.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

As they are looking at the Stephano on the floor, Marguerite hears his heart beating and knows that he is still alive. Without thinking, Vincent bites into his own arm and starts pouring his own blood into Stephano's mouth. Marguerite tries to stop him from turning Stephano but it is too late. Vincent has used his one chance to turn a human on his vice president. They find a letter matching the ones found in Vincent's mail and it says: "A friend of yours? I'm afraid he got in the way. The next one will be someone you chose." They come up with a plan to call the ambulance and police to take Stephano to the hospital, however once they arrive to VA Productions they will persuade them to actually take Stephano to Vincent's house then wipe their minds and change their memory of what actually happened. Since Stephano was stabbed in the front and he knows how to block immortals from his mind, they are hoping that the saboteur wasn't able to completely wipe his mind and he can tell them who it was. As they are coming up with the plan, Neil walks in and is shocked to find his brother on the floor. Vincent explains what happened but Jackie cannot watch and leaves the room.

Vincent and Jackie get home before dawn and find Marguerite and Tiny waiting for them. Marguerite and Tiny let them know that everything went smoothly and Stephano is recovering in one of the bedrooms upstairs with Neil taking care of him. Jackie and Vincent then inform Marguerite and Tiny that the saboteur had taken the employee list from every single computer and department. Marguerite questions Vincent if he has had anything to eat because he is looking very pale. Vincent reluctantly tells her that he fed off one of his employees because Jackie had insisted that he eat. Marguerite hands Vincent the newspaper. On the front page is a picture of a woman who was found dead and had been drained of all her blood. The woman is the same woman Vincent fed off the night he went out to the club with Marguerite to feed. The letter the saboteur left obviously meant that the person he chose to feed off that night was the next victim. This also means that the saboteur was watching them that night. Vincent is now scared that anyone he feeds off is going to become the saboteur's next target. Vincent is in desperate need of feeding but doesn't want to put anyone else in danger so Jackie orders a pizza and makes Vincent feed off the delivery boy.

Jackie and Tiny discuss the significance of Vincent turning Stephano and how it will be sad for him if he meets a mortal soul mate because he won't be able to turn her. Marguerite overhears their discussion and informs Jackie that Vincent has already met his soul mate but before she can finish her sentence, Vincent walks in. Jackie is left thinking that Vincent has a soul mate and reminds herself that she should not let her relationship with him go further.



Chapter 9 Analysis

When Vincent instinctively uses his one chance to turn a human on Stephano, Marguerite is horrified because she believes that Jackie is his soul mate and knows that now he will never be able to turn another person. Jackie is deeply moved by his selflessness and kindness, but she also knows the significance of his using his only chance to turn a human.

The note left in the pocket of Stephano lets Vincent know that the saboteur is very real and intends to hurt anyone that gets in his way. Vincent quickly recognizes the importance to make everyone including the saboteur think that Stephano is dead. If they think he is dead he will no longer be a target for the saboteur and they may be able to get part of his memory and find out who the saboteur is.

Vincent has the strict rule that he will not feed on his employees, but now that he has turned Stephano with his blood, it is imperative that feed as he is getting weaker. He is going to have to come up with ways to feed without his saboteur finding out who he is feeding from as they will probably be targeted as his next victim.

Jackie thinks about what she would do if she had an immortal soul mate and after some pondering decides that she would want him to turn her. She would want to spend the rest of her life with that person, and wouldn't want them to see her age and eventually die. As she comments on how sad it would be for Vincent to have a mortal soul mate Marguerite informs Jackie that Vincent has already met his soul mate. Marguerite is obviously referring to Jackie, but Jackie doesn't know that and actually ends up getting jealous. Jackie has strong feelings for Vincent but now that she thinks that he has met his soul mate she doesn't see a point in letting things go any further.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

Jackie brings a pharmacy delivery boy to Vincent so that he can feed. Vincent is flattered by Jackie's kindness and sees that she cares about him. Vincent talks to Neil and they decide that they should plan a funeral for Stephano so the saboteur believes Stephano is dead. Neil thanks Vincent for his sacrificing his only turning and for the first time it hits Vincent that he has given up the chance to turn his life mate. Vincent gets choked up and overwhelmed with emotion at his realization of what he has given up.

Jackie tells Vincent her plan on how to recover the names on the employee list. She is having a computer specialist fly out to see if he can recover the files and until he arrives she is going to interview everyone in V.A. Productions for names of people that worked on the set of Dracula with them.

As they start brainstorming names Vincent mentions the head of security, Max Kunsler. Jackie recalls meeting Max the night before and not liking him because he seemed arrogant. Marguerite explains that there are many immortals like Max that feel superior to immortals like Vincent and act the way he does because they feel that those who cannot bag-feed are inferior.

Chapter 10 Analysis

Jackie lures a pharmacy delivery boy to the house so that Vincent can feed. She takes him up to Vincent's room with the intention of waking Vincent up and telling him to feed off the boy. The boy misunderstands and thinks that Jackie wants to have sex so when they get to the room he strips down and jumps on her. Jackie struggles to get him off of her and finally wakes Vincent up to feed. Vincent feeds and wipes the delivery boy's mind.

As Vincent gets ready for the day he is surprisingly cheerful because of Jackie's kindness towards him. He knows that Jackie doesn't like that he feeds on mortals but that she is taking care of him because she knows he needs it. This action of Jackie caring for him lets him know she cares about him and he hasn't had that feeling since his parents were alive. Vincent checks on Stephano and speaks with Neil who then suggests that they plan a funeral and go about business as if Stephano had actually died. If the saboteur doesn't know Stephano is alive, he won't try and kill him again. Neil thanks Vincent for using his once in a lifetime turning on Stephano. This is the first time Vincent actually thinks about what he has done and is pained by the thought of not being able to turn his life mate. Vincent quickly leaves the room to prevent showing any emotion.

Vincent informs Jackie and Tiny that they should start planning a funeral. Jackie explains her plan to recover the name of all the employees on the set of Dracula, the



Musical. She wants to interview everyone at the production company and see who they can recall as being on the set. As they start discussing names of people that were there Vincent tells Jackie that the head of security at the time was Max Kunsler. Jackie remembers meeting him the night before at the office and did not like the way he acted so disrespectful and arrogant. Vincent explains that when the first few accidents happened Max didn't believe they were anything other than just accidents so he dismissed them as that. When the cast came down with contagious anemia, Max accused Vincent of feeding off his cast. Marguerite further explains that there are many immortals like him that feel they are superior to other immortals who like Vincent, cannot feed from bagged blood. Jackie takes note of this and moves on to asking who the production assistant was on the set. Vincent informs her that it was Sharon because as a lead in the play what he was in need of was a personal assistant and he felt she could do the job.



Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

Jackie, Vincent, Marguerite, and Tiny, go clubbing to make the saboteur think Vincent is feeding off a clubber. After club hopping for a while, Vincent asks Jackie to dance. As they are dancing he thanks her for helping him feed and then kisses her. Jackie goes to the bathroom to help clear her mind and realizes that she is Vincent's life mate. Her thoughts are cut short when a young woman approaches her telling her that they should go somewhere private to hook up. Jackie goes with the woman and is lead to a secret door that goes into the club office. In the room is the club owner who wants to have a threesome. Jackie tells them she will be right back and goes to get Vincent. She knows this is a perfect opportunity for him to feed without the saboteur finding out. Vincent is confused about where Jackie is taking him so she tells him to read her mind. They are both surprised and saddened to discover that he cannot read her mind, which is a sign of a true life mate.

Chapter 11 Analysis

After arranging for Vincent to feed off the pool man, cleaner, and Chinese food delivery man, Vincent starts to fear that the saboteur will soon catch on. Marguerite, Tiny, Jackie, and Vincent go clubbing so the saboteur thinks that he is going to feed. They only stay at each club for about thirty minutes hoping that they can make the saboteur think that he missed seeing Vincent feeding.

Vincent dances with Jackie and while dancing he thanks her for arranging his feedings and as he does so he kisses her. Even though her mind is telling her not to, she gives in and kisses back feeling their steamy connection. As they are kissing someone bumps into her and she excuses herself and heads to the ladies room to regain her composure. While in the bathroom Jackie starts thinking about what Marguerite said about Vincent already meeting his life mate. She figures out that she was the one Marguerite was referring to. As Jackie is thinking of this, a woman steps out from the bathroom stall and hits on her while proposing they go somewhere private. The woman grabs Jackie's hand and takes her through the back of the club to a storage room with a hidden door that leads to an office. In this storage room is an older man who is the owner of the club. He proposes they have a threesome. While Jackie is not interested, she seizes the opportunity to bring Vincent to feed on the man and woman because this room is so hidden that the saboteur wouldn't be able to find them. Jackie tells the man and woman she is going to let her friends know where she is but instead goes to get Vincent. Because she doesn't have time to explain what is going on she lets Marguerite read her mind, and when Vincent starts asking what is going on she tells him to also read her mind. To their surprise, when Vincent tries to read Jackie he discovers that he cannot read her mind. Jackie and Vincent are saddened by the recognition that true life mates

cannot read each other. They are both aware of how tragic it is that Vincent will not be able to turn her, even if they are life mates.



Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Summary

Jackie, Vincent, Marguerite, and Tiny all return from the club and Jackie goes upstairs to change. As she is heading downstairs she decides to check the answering machine in the office. Upon finding the office closed and feeling the breeze coming out from under the door, she senses that something isn't right. She swings the door open and sees a dark figure leaving the room through the French doors.

Meanwhile, Vincent, Marguerite, and Tiny are surprised as a tall dark haired man enters the room. He introduces himself as Christian Notte, Neil's cousin from Europe. He explains that the security panel was smashed with the wires hanging out so asked his cousin to wait in the car and jumped the wall to let himself in. Christian then saw the French doors open and came in through there. Vincent tells them that they just got home from clubbing, further explaining that the saboteur is targeting those he feeds off so they are trying to throw him off. Christian agrees that it was a good move on their part because the saboteur might start to think that Vincent is feeding off Jackie or Tiny and might target them. Just then, Marguerite points out that the saboteur might have thought that Vincent was feeding off Jackie when they were in the storage room and he may be after her. As they are discussing how Christian entered the house, his cousin Marcus who was left in the car enters the room. At the thought that Jackie may be a target Marguerite and Vincent frantically start searching for Jackie.

Meanwhile, Jackie chases the saboteur outside and as he jumps the wall she climbs a tree to get to the wall. She falls off one of the branches and lands on the saboteur and a struggle between the two follows. The saboteur overpowers her and bites her neck sucking out her blood. As her blood is being sucked out Jackie starts to lose consciousness until she hears Vincent, Tiny, and Marguerite yelling for her. Jackie sees the saboteur pull out a knife as Vincent approaches and manages to bite her attacker's arm in an attempt to keep him from stabbing Vincent. Jackie bites the saboteur with all her strength and blood is pouring down her throat as Vincent knocks the knife from his mouth. The saboteur then turns his attention to Vincent and they begin to fight until Vincent sees the Nottes approaching and he leaves them to chase the saboteur while he tends to Jackie who has now completely lost consciousness.

Chapter 12 Analysis

In this chapter Jackie and Vincent start accept that they may be life partners. Marguerite offers to turn Jackie for Vincent. Marguerite points out that Jackie would make a great immortal, especially because she doesn't have any family or human ties that she would regret leaving behind. Vincent wouldn't let her make that sacrifice for him but considers asking Stephano's mother to turn Jackie for him since she wanted to turn Stephano anyway.



As Jackie and Vincent's bond is growing, their feelings for each other are put to the test as they encounter the saboteur. When Jackie first sees him she simply acts on instinct and chases him. She doesn't think that it could possibly put her in danger until it is too late. When Jackie falls on the saboteur she knows she is no match for an immortal but she tries to fight him anyway until he starts feeding off her and she loses consciousness. She is about to completely pass out until she sees that the saboteur pulls out a knife as Vincent approaches. She uses the last of her strength to bite the saboteur to the point that his blood is pouring down her throat. This courageous act saves Vincent and it was her first instinct which means that her connection with him is getting deeper. Her last thoughts as she loses consciousness are about Vincent and how she feels knowing that he lets the saboteur go so that he can take care of her because he is genuinely worried about her safety.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

Vincent brings Jackie into the house and sees that her neck had been torn open with the intention of killing her. Christian, Marguerite, and Tiny watch as Vincent lays Jackie on the table. Jackie starts to shift and moan the suddenly starts to convulse. Though it is rather quick for these symptoms to start showing, Marguerite recognizes Jackie's moaning and convulsing as turning. Jackie drank enough of the saboteur's blood for him to turn her. Marguerite tells Christian that they are going to need rope, an IV and bagged blood for Jackie's turning. Christian says he will have Marcus get the supplies for the turning as soon as he gets back. Shortly after, Marcus gets back announcing that the saboteur got away.

Vincent watches over Jackie as she goes through the painful turning. The thought that she is going to be immortal and can join him as his life partner for eternity makes him happy, he just hopes that she will accept it. Marguerite watches over Jackie too and informs Vincent of Stephano's waking. Unfortunately, Stephano doesn't seem to remember much of what happened and only has small pieces of the attack left. Christian's Italian cousins Dante and Tommaso arrive at the house to help Christian. They are bigger than Tiny and eat as well as feed so Vincent orders them some pizzas.

Jackie wakes up and is incredibly weak and thirsty, she goes downstairs to get a drink and as Tiny holds her up to help her she finds herself saying that he smells so good and she finds him appetizing. Dante and Tommaso feed her blood and for the first time she realizes that she has been turned.

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Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

Marguerite and Tiny sit Jackie down to explain to her that she has been turned and is now an immortal. Jackie screams upon the discovery because she hates immortals. Tiny tries to help her understand that she doesn't hate immortals she only fears them because of what Cassius did to her. Marguerite tells Jackie that she is Vincent's life mate and it is hard for Jackie to accept at the moment but she seems to understand.

Vincent, Marguerite, Christian, and Tiny go to V.A. Productions to interview people to get more names of those on the employee list. They aren't able to get much information but they are able to rule out some people as suspects. While they were out, Dante, Tommaso, and Marcus teach Jackie how to hold her fangs in. After successfully keeping them in, Christian suggests Vincent teach Jackie how to take them out. Christian explains that only three things can take out fangs, hunger, the smell of blood, and sex. He grabs Jackie and kisses her in an attempt to make her fangs come out but nothing happens. Then Vincent kisses Jackie and they share a steamy kiss and her fangs finally come out. Everyone leaves and Jackie gets nervous about being alone with Vincent so she makes an excuse and goes to the office. Shortly after Vincent knocks at the office door and is holding a bag of blood.

Chapter 14 Analysis

Jackie is mad that she was turned but her anger doesn't last very long as Marguerite calms her down and the thought that Vincent is her life mate settles in. Jackie doesn't want to be an immortal because she hates the power they have over others. Marguerite was in a controlling marriage to someone who was not her life partner and tells Jackie that she will teach her everything she knows to help her keep others from controlling her. This is a significant moment as the fear of control is what has made Jackie act the way she does with her tough exterior. Marguerite truly wants Vincent to be happy and knows Jackie will be able to complete him.

When Christian arrogantly kisses Jackie, in front of Vincent and makes him so jealous and mad that he starts growling. Though Christian is a good kisser, Jackie's fangs do not come out. This proves that not just anyone can get to Jackie, she needs something deeper than the physical. As Vincent kisses Jackie the sparks between them fly and her fangs immediately come out. In a way Vincent marks his territory and Jackie is able to relax and connect with him.



Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

Vincent offers Jackie a bag of blood but Jackie can't seem to get her fangs to come out. Vincent asks to help her get her fangs out and she gratefully accepts as he passionately kisses her. They passionately engage in foreplay which eventually leads to them making love. Vincent then carries her into his room and they make passionate love all night long.

When Jackie wakes up she goes downstairs to feed and is joined by Vincent, tiny, and Christian in the kitchen. Christian suggests that she should learn to manipulate minds, read minds, and feed off humans. When Jackie refuses Tiny volunteers to let her practice on him. She isn't sure she wants to practice on him but she knows that it is something she will have to eventually learn to do. Vincent reminds her that they have Stephano's fake funeral to attend and they need to get ready. As they go upstairs Vincent informs Jackie that everyone in the house now knows about them because they heard everything. Jackie is embarrassed but is actually okay with it.

Chapter 15 Analysis

When Jackie and Vincent finally make love all their passion and true feelings for each other are unleashed. The passion they share surpasses any passion she ever thought she could have after Cassius. Even Vincent who had grown bored with sex was revived and able to suddenly want to have sex. Jackie wonders what the status of their relationship is, if Vincent knows she is his life partner and if he wants her to be. She isn't sure what she wants but she is starting to think about them as true life partners.



Chapter 16

Chapter 16 Summary

Everyone goes to the funeral and they are watching all the attendees to see if they are able to pick up on any strange behaviors that would indicate suspicion. Everyone gives their condolences to Neil and his parents including Vincent and Jackie. Sharon and Lily see Neil and Sharon begins to give him her condolences until she sees Vincent and Jackie. Sharon seems shocked to see Jackie and Lily does too but when asked why they are so shocked they simply say that they didn't know that Jackie knew Stephano.

As they are looking around, Jackie discovers that Cassius is at the funeral. Her heart stops as she sees him. All the men around her are ready to protect her because they know about him. Marguerite reminds Jackie that she was only nineteen when this happened and she is older and immortal now. Jackie is given the confidence she needs as Cassius approaches them and is introduced to everyone in the group including her. Cassius doesn't remember Jackie at all until Vincent asks him if knows Jackie's father. Upon remembering who Jackie Cassius is mortified, then Vincent tells Cassius that Jackie is his life mate letting him and everyone know that she is his and will do anything to protect her. Jackie lets Cassius know that she knows he used mind to manipulate her and then flashes her fangs at him to let him know that she is now immortal. Cassius is so shocked that he simply leaves and as he leaves Jackie feels that part of her life is finally over.

They all go to the wake then go home. On the way home tiny asks if all immortal funerals are as similar to human funerals as this one was. Vincent doesn't know because he hasn't ever been to one. Vincent's mother was burned at the stake as was Marguerite's husband. Marguerite explains that the nanos make immortals burn easier and hotter and there isn't anything left of them when they are burned. She adds that her husband was her sire and because they shared nanos she felt him die. Jackie begins to wonder if she too has a connection with the saboteur since they share nanos.

Chapter 16 Analysis

In this chapter Jackie faces all her demons at once. She faces the saboteur who remains unknown but is likely at this funeral, Cassius, and her insecurities about her relationship with Vincent. When Sharon seems shocked to see Jackie, her initial reaction suggests that there is something she is hiding. Lily even seems to be covering up something. When Cassius and Jackie finally talk Jackie can see Cassius for who he really is. She finally comes to terms with the fact that she was blaming herself for something she never stood a chance against. She lets him know that yes she was controlled but now the roles have switched and she is controlled. Vincent tells Cassius that he is Jackie's life partner so that everyone knows that his loyalty is with her and he is there to protect her. When Vincent says the words he looks at Jackie and all she can



read in his look is that he loves her. The words ring in Jackie's ears and though he was saying it to Cassius, it seems like he was also saying for himself. As Cassius cowers away Jackie gets closure and is ready to move on in her life.

As they are talking on their way home, Jackie is intrigued with the knowledge that when people share nanos they are connected. She knows she is now connected with the saboteur and wants to find out how it will affect her.



Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

Vincent and Jackie head straight to his bedroom when they get home. After making love Jackie goes downstairs to order pizza so that Vincent can feed. Jackie finds Tiny and Marguerite in the kitchen talking. Jackie orders the pizza and when the delivery boy gets to the gate she buzzes him through the gate. There is a knock at the door and Jackie opens it. Meanwhile, Tiny is in the office and he gets a feeling that something is wrong. Tiny can't find Jackie so he looks outside and finds her walking in a trance like state with Lily towards the pizza delivery car. In the driver's seat of the car the delivery boy who is also in a trance. Tiny runs to Vincent's room and frantically wakes him telling him that Jackie has been taken by Lily. Vincent informs Tiny that Lily is an immortal which leaves Tiny puzzled because Lily doesn't have silvery eyes.

Just as they are trying to figure out what to do, Vincent receives a phone call from Christian. He is at a stoplight and has spotted Jackie in the back of the pizza delivery car. Vincent tells Christian to follow the car and that he will call him shortly and soon follow in pursuit of the vehicle.

Chapter 17 Analysis

After making love, Jackie lovingly watches Vincent sleep. She notices his hunger pain on his face and decides to order pizza so that he can feed off the delivery boy. She goes downstairs and tells Marguerite and Tiny she is going to order pizza. After going into the office to order pizza she stays in there thinking about Vincent and wondering if he loves her back. As she is lost in thought, Tiny walks in and asks her what is wrong. She tells him what she is wondering and he assures her that Vincent knows that she is his life partner and is in love with her. They hear the knock on the door and Jackie goes downstairs to open the door for the delivery boy. When Tiny gets a "hinky" feeling and fails hear any sound coming from downstairs, he goes to investigate and finds that Jackie has been taken.

Tiny wakes Vincent up with the news that Jackie was taken and Vincent springs into action. The thought had never occurred to any of them that the saboteur could be a female. Tiny saw Lily take Jackie but when he tells Vincent he seems confused. Vincent cannot picture Lily being the saboteur. When the phone rings and Christian informs Vincent of Jackie whereabouts he immediately tells him that he will follow shortly. Vincent will do anything for Jackie and to ensure she is safe, his love for her is no longer a secret.



Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Summary

As they are in the car Lily releases part of her control and Jackie asks Lily why she has human eyes. Lily tells her she wears contacts to blend in. Jackie then asks Lily why she stole the list from them since she wasn't even on the list. Lily explains that she simply took it so that she could lead them in the direction she wanted them to go in. Lily explains that since she had not been in the production she took vacations to New York and Canada and snuck onto the set to sabotage the plays. She also recounts the incident with Stephano and explains that she didn't originally intend on killing him but when he got in the way of her deleting the files and she wasn't sure she had wiped her mind she had no choice but to kill him. At that moment Lily reads Jackie and is infuriated to find out that Stephano is actually alive.

Jackie asks Lily how she knew that was the one of the humans in the house that had ordered pizza that night. When she saw the pizza delivery car she simply slipped in the back seat then controlled the driver. Lily tells her that she knew it was Jackie that would answer the door because she was the one that answered when they buzzed. Lily also explains that the night Jackie caught her in the office she was just leaving a note for Vincent to find. Lily was at the club the night Vincent and Jackie went clubbing. She seemed to lose them in the storage room so she went to the house instead. Lily had no intentions of attacking Jackie until she followed her and fell off the tree on her. The car pulls up a dirt road by the beach and Jackie realizes that they are at their destination.

Chapter 18 Analysis

In this chapter the saboteur is revealed. Though her motives are not clear yet, her motives are clear. She wants to kill those around Vincent. Lily is able to control Jackie just like Cassius did and Jackie is turned into a puppet. While in disbelief Jackie asks Lily how she did it. She wants to know how she managed to get away with the things she did and what her motives were. Lily is very open about everything and seems to be proud of herself in a very arrogant way. Jackie is unnerved by the knowledge that her best friend Tiny is in danger and probably her next target.

Lily is able to read Jackie's mind quite easily, however, when she starts to pry about Jackie and Vincent's relationship Jackie is able to successfully block her out. Jackie is not about to share the details of her relationship with anyone, especially Lily.



Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Summary

Lily leaves the driver in the car then makes Jackie walk on a dirt path heading towards the beach. As they walk Jackie asks her why she hates Vincent so much. Lily says she doesn't hate Vincent at all. She is seeking revenge against his father Vincent. Vincent and two other men killed her life mate William. Lily staked and beheaded one of the men responsible hoping it would satisfy her need for revenge but it didn't. Lily decided what she needed to do was make the other men feel the same pain she did when her life mate had been killed. She said after William was killed she didn't know how to feed or survive so for years she starved in pain and fed off rats and children. Lily wants the men to suffer so she is going after those they love. Because Vincent is Jackie's life mate she is going to kill her by tying her to a stake to suffer in the sun then behead her. She wants Victor see his son Victor suffer at the loss of his life mate. She has been seeking revenge for the past one-hundred years and believes this will finally get her just that.

Jackie is trying to understand Lily's logic when Marguerite shows up. Marguerite clarifies that William was not Lily's life mate. He was actually a pedophile who loved to prey on young girls. He would turn them then starve them so they would stay young looking as a consequence of starvation. After growing bored with the girls he would decapitate them and find another. Lily was one of the girls he turned, and when Lily's grandmother found out what was going on she turned him in. William then killed Lily's parents and sister and fled to America taking Lily with him. All the while, he made sure he didn't teach Lily how to feed or anything so that he could control her and keep her dependent on him like a little girl. After being in the America for a year, William was finally caught for his crimes and killed by being tied to the stake for an entire day then being decapitated. While Marguerite is telling this story Lily keeps screaming that she is lying and that William loved her. Even when Christian, Marcus, Dante, Tomaso, and Vincent show up and confirm that what Marguerite is saying is true, Lily keeps screaming that it is all lies. The men circle around Lily and she puts knife to Jackie's neck. At this point Jackie becomes annoyed at Lily and calls her out on how boring her whole story is. Jackie tells Lily that William never loved her; he was simply a pedophile that wanted her to be dependent on him because he was a sick person. She tells Lily how Vincent taught her how to take care of herself in a matter of days and has never tried to control her because "that is love" not what William did to her. Jackie grabs the blade with her hands and rips it off her neck as the others grab wrestle Lily down.

Jackie tells Vincent she loves him and he tells her he loves her too. He proposes they be life mates and Jackie accepts. Tiny finally appears out of the trees and Vincent informs him that he is quitting the play business and is actually thinking about being a private investigator like them. Marguerite chimes in that she too would love to do that. Vincent kisses Jackie and suggests they get married in Vegas then go to Disney land for their honeymoon.



Chapter 19 Analysis

Jackie knows that Lily is going to kill her so she unsuccessfully tries to delay her hoping that Vincent would find her. When Lily explains why she is seeking revenge Jackie is confused and tries to find logic in what she is saying. When Lily tells her that she wants to hurt Vincent by killing his life mate Jackie purposefully reveals her thoughts that Vincent is not truly her life mate and was only saying that because of Cassius. Lily points out that until Jackie showed up, Vincent was depressed and seemed he had lost all interest in life. After meeting Jackie he started eating and was actually happy and smiling which he wasn't before. This revelation helps Jackie realize that Vincent is her true life mate and puts all her doubts to rest.

As Lily tells Jackie about William, Marguerite interrupts with the true story of who William was. Lily is convinced that William loved her and was her life mate, Jackie points out that a true life mate helps one be independent and teaches one how to care of themselves like Vincent did with her. Jackie can finally see for herself that Vincent does love her. She has finally found her life mate and suddenly becomes annoyed with Lily and the whole situation. She grabs the knife away from Lily and is able to free herself. She embraces Vincent and they are both finally on the same page, she gives herself completely to him and tells him how she feels. Vincent knows she is the one she wants to spend eternity with and she is happy to be that person.



Characters

Jackie Morrisey

Jackie Morrisey is the owner of the New York private investigation company that is called in by Bastien Argineau to help Vincent Argineau find the person sabotaging his production company. Jackie used to work for her father Ted Morrisey and inherited the company when he passed away. Jackie started working for her father in her teens and was introduced to the world of Vampires by him. Ted Morrisey did a lot of work for Bastien and his friends who were immortals. Ted had Jackie read the files on all the immortals he had done work for in order to become acquainted with them and their lives. At age nineteen Jackie is seduced by an immortal named Cassius. She sees him as the most attractive being she has ever met and is head over heels over his beauty. Although her father forbids her from seeing Cassius, Jackie rebels and sneaks away at night to see him. Cassius is able to get Jackie to have sex with him anywhere and anytime he wants. He unlocks a rebellious passionate side of Jackie that she never knew she had. One day, Jackie sneaks away to see Cassius and walks on him talking about her. Cassius says that he doesn't really like Jackie and is just using her for his amusement. He is able to control her so easily and convince her that she wants to have sex with him in public and make her do whatever he wants. Cassius states that he is going to break things off with her but is thinking about doing it in a way that will humiliate both her and her father, he suggests making her have sex with him on the boardroom table while her father and all his colleagues watch in horror. After finding out who Cassius really was, Jackie told her father everything and he called in Bastien to take care of the matter.

Since the incident with Cassius, Jackie has become a strong, intelligent woman who does not trust immortals and is always protecting herself with a hard exterior. She wants to ensure that no other mortal can ever control her the way that Cassius did. Jackie has learned how to block her mind from immortals reading her thoughts and learned to control any attraction she may feel for an immortal, like Vincent.

Later on in the novel it is discovered that Jackie is Vincent's life mate and at the knowledge of this she begins to open her heart and see that Vincent is a good man and he can be trusted. She is turned into an immortal by biting her immortal attacker. Jackie then runs into Cassius at a funeral and is able to confront him. She is able to close that chapter in her life and move on knowing that he was a bad person and that not all mortals are like him.

Vincent Agineau

Vincent Argineau is an over 400 year-old vampire. His parents were both immortals and his mother Marion was burned at the stake when he was younger. His father Victor is an enforcer of the council. Enforcers of the council are like police officers for immortals.



When Marion was killed, Victor withdrew from life and consequently does not have much of a relationship with Vincent or the rest of the family. Vincent has a genetic condition that he inherited from his father. Unlike other immortals, they are not able to feed on bagged blood. They have to feed off living humans other wise they starve. Like humans, immortals have laws they have to follow. When immortals break these laws they are punished severely, one of these punishments includes being tied to a stake for a whole day then being beheaded. Being exposed to the sun makes the nanos inside immortals start consuming the immortal's insides.

Vincent is a pleasant immortal who is described in the Morrisey files as always smiling and happy. However, it is later revealed by Lily that Vincent only acts happy around his family. He is actually depressed and not very happy at all. It wasn't until Jackie came into his life that he has started being happy again. Vincent is Jackie's life mate and knows that of all the women he has dated in his four hundred years of life, she is the one he wants to be with forever.

Tiny McGraw

Tiny is Jackie's assistant. Tiny is a very large man and over six feet tall which makes him and Jackie a unique pair. He has worked with her for over ten years and they are more than colleagues, they are best friends. Tiny knows everything about Jackie and isn't afraid to tell her the truth. He complements her personality and has to tell Jackie to soften up at times. Tiny knows Jackie inside and out and throughout the novel he is constantly reminding her that she needs to lighten up and stop letting her past affect the way she treats immortals.

Tiny takes cover as being the housekeeper and cook while living at Vincent's house. When Tiny immediately takes over the kitchen it is no secret that the man loves to cook and is very good at it. Tiny and Jackie love each other like siblings and trust each other more than they would trust anyone else. Tiny recounts a time that Jackie had a "hinky" feeling while pursuing someone on a case. They ignored this feeling and it resulted in him being shot.

Marguerite Argineau

Marguerite Argineau is Vincent's aunt and Bastien's mother. From the conversation Bastien and Vincent have at the beginning of the novel it seems that she is a very nosy person with a very strong personality. Marguerite is worried about Vincent and goes to visit him because she is determined to help him find happiness and keep him from being depressed and self-destructive like many Vampires do when they become depressed.

Though Vincent denies being depressed it quickly becomes apparent that he has lost interest in life and Marguerite had reason to be worried about him. Marguerite is the first one to notice the connection between Vincent and Jackie. She tells Vincent about what she has observed and that Jackie and him are life mates. She sees how well they two



go together and she really likes Jackie. Marguerite reads Jackie and finds out what happened in her past. She is able to understand exactly what Jackie went through because she went through something similar. She married a man who was not her life mate and only married her because she reminded him of his previous wife. He manipulated her and controlled her and it wasn't until she got out of the relationship that she was able to recognize how horrible it truly was. She, like Jackie, learned from the experience and she promises to help Jackie learn how to prevent the mind control from immortals.

In the end of the novel, Marguerite and Tiny become good friends and she decides she wants to join their private investigation company. Jackie and Tiny really like Marguerite and she is happy to welcome Jackie into the family.

Lily

Lily is Vincent's production assistant. At the beginning of the novel it appears that she is a young girl that is helpful and wanting to help Jackie and Vincent get their employee list back. At the end of the novel it is revealed that she is the saboteur and an immortal who wears contacts to conceal the fact that she is. She was seeking revenge for the death of whom she believed was her life mate. Her "life Mate" really just ended up being a pedophile who used her to satisfy his sick need for young girls. He starved her to stunt her growth and didn't teach her how to survive in an effort to control her and keep her dependent on him.

Lily was the one who had been sabotaging all of Vincent's plays. She stole the employee list, tried to kill Stephano, attacked Jackie, planted the letters, and kidnapped and killed the woman Vincent fed from. She wanted to ruin Vincent's life so that his father Victor could see him suffer. Victor was one of the enforcers of the council who killed William for the crimes he had committed. When William was killed Lily was lost and didn't know how to survive so she blamed the enforcers of the council for her suffering. It actually turns out the enforcers of the council tried to help her but she ran away. Lily wanted to kill Jackie to make Vincent suffer like she did after losing William.

Bastien Argeneau

Bastien is Vincent's cousin and Marguerite's son. He has hired the Morrisey Detective Agency to do work for him and has worked closely with them for many years. He had a deep respect for Ted Morrisey and when Jackie Morrisey took over the agency he continued to work with her and refer her to his associates when they needed private investigators. Bastien has met and married his life mate and Marguerite is worried that Vincent is going to become depressed that he himself has not yet met his life mate. Bastien tells Vincent about his mother's concerns and warns him that she is coming to visit him. Bastien has a strange relationship with his mother, he loves her but seems to get annoyed with how nosy she is.



Sharon

Sharon is Vincent's immortal secretary. She was hired by Vincent when she was widowed by one of his very close friends. She seems to be very protective over Vincent and has a strong personality. When she meets Jackie she persistently tries to read her mind and the whole reason she goes to the house is just to meet her and scope her out. During the investigation Sharon is not helpful at all and makes it a point to tell Jackie that she doesn't really pay attention to humans and has a hard time remembering them. She simply identifies them by identifying characteristics like "blonde" and so on.

Christian Notte

Christian is Stephano Notte's cousin who comes to help when he hears of what has happened to Stephano. He is tall and has long dark hair and can sometimes seem arrogant but is a good man. He is very smart and wants to do whatever he can to help them catch the saboteur and ensure the safety of his cousin Stephano.

Stephano Notte

Stephano is unconscious or in hiding for the whole novel. He is Vincent's human vice president. Stephano is the only human in his family and his mother wants to turn him but he has refused her offer telling her that he prefers to be mortal. When Vincent sees that he has been stabbed and is dying he instinctively saves him from death by turning him. Through out the novel it is very important that no one knows that Stephano is alive. The saboteur targeted him because she thought that his mind was not completely wiped and couldn't risk being identified as the saboteur. Vincent fakes his death by holding a fake funeral and only Stephano's family, Marguerite, Jackie, and Tiny know that Stephano is actually alive.

Tommaso, Dante, and Marcus Notte

Tommaso, Dante, and Marcus are Stephano's immortal cousins that come out to help with the case and take care of Stephano. They too are very tall and Italian and Tommaso and Dante are twins. They are good men and have playful personalities despite their huge stature. They are willing to do whatever they can to catch the saboteur. Their loyalty is shown when they protect Jackie at the funeral when they see that Cassius is there. Though they aren't main characters in the novel, they play a role as part of the team.

Allen Richmond

Allen Richmond is a human and the head of security hired by Jackie to secure Vincent's home.



Neil Notte

Neil Notte is Vincent's immortal vice president. He handles all the immortal business and comes into work at night. Neil walks into the scene of his brother stabbed in his office. Vincent tells Neil the truth about that is going on and everything about the saboteur. Neil agrees that it is important that everyone thinks that Stephano is dead in order to protect him. Neil watches over Stephano as he completes his turning and lets Vincent know how grateful he is for the sacrifice he made of turning his brother in order to save his life.

Cassius

Cassius is the character that makes Jackie the guarded person that she is. When Jackie was nineteen years old Cassius was one of her father's clients. Cassius seduced her and controlled her to do sexual things that she would not have otherwise done. Jackie was in love with Cassius and he made her think that he was the most beautiful being she had ever seen. In reality, Cassius is not very attractive and he had targeted Jackie to manipulate because he hated her father so much. He thought that humans were inferior and hated Jackie's father so he was using his daughter for his twisted purposes of amusement. He liked that he could control her to think she wanted to do the things she was doing with him but was growing bored of her. He decided that he was going to break up with her in a way that would humiliate both her and her father just because he hated Ted so much.

When Jackie tells her dad about Cassius, Ted calls Bastien to help him. Bastien confronted Cassius and though Jackie isn't sure what happened, she found out that he had suddenly moved out of New York.

Unknown to Vincent, Cassius is one of his employees. When Vincent meets him he lets Jackie confront him then lets him know that Jackie is his life partner. Cassius is mortified and quickly leaves.



Objects/Places

V.A. Productions

This is Vincent's production company. This is also where Stephano is murdered and where Sharon, Lily, and Neil work.

Vincent's House

This is where most of the story takes place. Tiny and Jackie stay in the home while they work on the case.

New York

This is where Tiny and Jackie live and have their private investigation company.

Bagged Blood

This is what immortals drink from nowadays. There are still some people that have to feed off humans but most people just feed from bagged blood.

The Employee List

The list that contains all the names of those who were employees for V.A. Productions.

The Letters

The saboteur sends Vincent letters to taunt him and let him know that the "accidents" on the sets of his plays are not accidents.

The Club

This is where Vincent goes to feed. Vincent has to feed off humans to survive so he resorts to hunting them at the club.

Contact lenses

Lily uses contact lenses to disguise that he is a vampire. Many immortals use contacts if they are always around humans.

Nanos

These are what live inside of immortals. They were engineered to attack any cancer, degeneration and are able to regenerate. The nanos feed off blood. They were designed to self destruct once their job was done, however since the job was never done they never died.

The Remote Opener

Sharon has a remote opener to let her into the gate at Vincent's house. Jackie changes the code so that Sharon can no longer get in using the remote.



Themes

Discrimination

Discrimination is an ongoing theme in this novel. Jackie finds herself battling the thoughts that all Vampires are arrogant discriminating people. With Vincent slamming the door in her face when he finds out that she is a "woman" and a "human" Jackie's opinion about immortals is simply reinforced. Jackie first experienced discrimination when she became the victim of Cassius. Cassius hated Jackie's father and how he acted like an equal so he decided to use Jackie to get back at him. Cassius had no regard for humans and truly believed that he was superior to them. When he describes Jackie to his friends he does not show any remorse for what he is doing. Now Jackie finds herself putting up a tough exterior in order to keep people from hurting her or treating her badly. Jackie is determined to never let anyone hurt her again.

Vincent also faces discrimination when he is treated poorly by Max, the head of security at his production company. Marguerite explains that immortals that feed from bags feel they are superior to those that have to feed from humans. Immortals feel they are perfect and they see the need to have to feed on humans as a disability. Some immortals feel that anything other than perfection is a sign of inferiority. Vincent shrugs it off but it bothers Jackie to see that someone would be rude enough to treat him badly because of his medical condition. Jackie sees the way Sharon talks about humans when she is being interviewed to see if she remembers any of people on the cast of the play. Sharon states that she really doesn't pay much attention to humans and refers to them by identifying characteristics such as the "rude mortal" and so on. It bothers Jackie that Sharon is so disrespectful and doesn't even make an effort to be nice.

True Life Mates

The idea that Vincent and Jackie are life mates is first introduced by Marguerite. She has noticed the chemistry between the two and she is determined to help them see what she does because she doesn't want them to miss the opportunity of a lifetime. Marguerite first tells Vincent that Jackie is his life mate and he doesn't seem to believe it. However, the next day he starts to accept that it may be a possibility that Jackie is his life mate so he opens up to it.

Jackie resists acting on her attraction for Vincent. When she starts to suspect that she could be Vincent's life mate, she still resists for fear that he may not feel the same way she feels about him. When Vincent turns Stephano, Jackie's heart is shattered at the knowledge that even if she was his life mate, they will not be able to be together for eternity. Jackie decides that the last thing she would want is to be with an immortal while she is mortal. She would not want her life mate to see her age and eventually die.



When Jackie is turned Vincent is happy that he will have the chance to be with her for eternity if she accepts that they are life mates. As they are at the site where Lily plans to kill her, Jackie is finally able to understand what a true life mate is. She sees how William treated Lily and then is able to contrast it with how Vincent treats her. She knows that this is true love and they are in fact true life mates. Jackie eventually opens her heart to the Vincent as her life mate and is happy to accept Vincents proposal for an eternal life together.

Overcoming The Past

Jackie is haunted by her memories of Cassius. What he did to her and how he humiliated her has made her the person she is today. Jackie hides behind a tough exterior and guards her heart with the fear that she could get hurt again. Though Vincent is a good man and Jackie is attracted to him the past prevents her from acting on her feelings and she has to keep reminding herself that Cassius seemed like an attractive person and then completely destroyed her. It isn't until Jackie sees Cassius at the funeral that she is able to finally see Cassius for the person he really is. She is able to understand that he controlled her from the day he met her and she never had a chance against him. It isn't until she gets this closure that she allows herself to believe that she is Vincent's life mate.

Marguerite is also has a past. She was married to a controlling man who was not her life mate. She lived many years in an unhappy marriage. Like Jackie, she learned to protect herself from it happening again and because she knows what Jackie has gone through she offers to help her by teaching her how to do the same.

Lily is facing the loss of what she is convinced is her life mate. Though it was many years ago she is still living in the past and trying to get revenge for some thing that doesn't really matter anymore, especially since William was a bad person and not the man she believed him to be. While Jackie and Marguerite were able to use their past to help them be better people and move forward. Lily's past destroys her life and she doesn't even realize it.



Style

Point of View

The novel is written from the point of view of an omniscient narrator. The Narrator can see and recounts everything that is happening when Jackie and Vincent are around but cannot see what the saboteur is doing or even who it is. The narrator is able to tell the reader what the characters are thinking and even how their facial expressions and body language contribute to their feelings. Though the narrator can see everything that is happening when Jackie and Vincent are around, he cannot see what happens when they are not.

What the reader doesn't get from the narrative, he is able to get from the dialogue between the characters. Sometimes the characters are having their minds read and even plant thoughts into each others minds. As such, the narrator makes it possible to see this non-verbal communication between the characters but most of the time it is only between Marguerite, Vincent and Jackie.

Setting

The setting of the novel is in modern day Hollywood. Vincent owns a production company and although Hollywood is known for it's film industry, it is also known for theater. Now that the saboteur has turned his attention to Vincent, the house is a target for him. Because most of the characters in the novel are immortals, most of the story line plays out at night when everyone is awake. Most of the action happens at Vincent's house and office.

When Vincent, Marguerite, and Jackie have heir emplyee list stolen, they all go to Vincent's production company to see if they can get a copy of the list and for Jackie to meet some of his staff. To their surprise they find Stephano in V.A. Productions but other than that most of the story as back at Vincent's house.

At the end of the story, Lily takes Jackie on a long drive which actualy ends up at the beach. Lily tells Jackie that she lead her to the beach with the intentions to kill her. Lily explains that it will be symbolic. Jackie thinks back and finds it funny that their first fith was on the beach and here she was back at the beach ready to have her last fight.

Language and Meaning

The language that is used in this novel is basic modern day English. The way the narrative is organized lets the reader see exactly what the Character is saying and the characters are usually direct in what they want to say.



The thing that is very unique to this novel is that every now and then the author will have one of the characters read another characters mind. When there is mind reading going on the author narrates what the person that is being read is thinking. After stating that the character is reading the others mind, the author lets the audience know what happened by the other person's reaction which is usually physical. On example of mind reading is when Jackie doesn't have time to explain to Marguerite why she needs Vincent to go with her when they are at the club. Jackie simply opens her mind and lets Marguerite read what Jackie's plan is. Jackie is able to tell that Marguerite understood by her facial expression.

This novel also has characters place thoughts in each others minds. When a thought is placed in another person's mind, it is italicized so that the reader can easily identify that it is not part of their own original thoughts.

Structure

The structure of this novel is like most other books. The novel is divided into Nineteen chapters with about ten pages each. There are some parts like that of Cassius that seem to be a subplot. Though they are significant to the story line, they do not get their own chapter. The main story told in this book is that of Vincent trying to find and stop the person who is sabotaging his production. The subplot to that is the love story between Vincent and Jackie. Even under that story line is the story of Cassius and how he hurt Jackie but the story of Cassius ends after the Jackie finds closure.

The novel is a very quick read. The author creates so much suspense in some sections that it becomes a page turner. Every now and then towards the end of the book, the author adds a romance scene. Once the romance scene ends everything goes back to the main plot and the search for the saboteur continues.



Quotes

"He acts as though he's as good as us and he isn't. None of them are. They're all simple-minded children that we feed from and can control as we wish and he needs to understand that" (Chapter 1, p. 56).

"Go try to read her...If you can read her, there's nothing to worry about or fear. If you can't, then you can begin to consider the possibilities" (Chapter 5, p. 100).

"Asshole. Immortal. Whatever" (Chapter 5, p. 95).

"Now, you just sit there and eat quietly. I'm just going to spend a few moments pondering the reason Jackie has a Jard-on for immortals and how sad it is that she does" (Chapter 6, p. 103).

"I believe that she's beautiful, intelligent and interesting. She appears tough as nails, but I suspect isn't as hard-boiled as she appears" (Chapter 6, p. 102).

"I like you. I think you're a good man. I think you're the kind of man who could make Jackie happy" (Chapter 6, p. 102).

"What's done, is done" (Chapter 9, p. 160).

"Jackie has no family, nothing to hold her to the mortal world" (Chapter 12, p. 225).

"you're not nearly as tall as I remembered. You wouldn't have been using some of that immortal mind control on me all those years ago, would you" (Chapter 16, p. 307).

"And tonight he introduced you as his life mate. Vincent loves you, Jackie" (Chapter 17).

"...Vincent doesn't try to control me or make me dependent on him. That is love" (Chapter 19, p. 356).

"I know Marguerite's story and how horrible it can turn out when you choose the wrong life mate and I would never want you unhappy because of me" (Chapter 19, p. 360-361).



Topics for Discussion

In the novel vampires have the option to turn their mortal life mate so that they may be together forever. As a mortal, would you or would you not choose to be turned by your life mate?

Discuss discrimination. Do you see discrimination between the humans and the immortals? Is there also discrimination between immortals?

Jackie describes having a "hinky" feeling every time something bad is about to happen. Do you believe in "hinky" feelings? why or why not?

In the novel, vampires live by different laws than humans do. If vampires were real would this be a fair rule? Why or Why not?

One of the laws that vampires have to follow is the limit on children. Should the government today be allowed to place laws into place that limit family size? why or why not.

Discuss Vincent's feeding habits. Is feeding off humans bad? Is it better to kill an animal or to simply feed off a human?

When Jackie finally confronts Cassius she decides that she is not going to insist on him being fired for what he did. If you had the power to fire someone that did something horrible to you would you have them fired?

Discuss life mates. Do you believe that every person has their one "life mate"? Do you believe that there are multiple people that one can marry and be happy with?