

# **Beastly Movie Tie-in Edition Study Guide**

**Beastly Movie Tie-in Edition by Alex Flinn**

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# Plot Summary

Kyle Kingsbury is a selfish, shallow high school freshman who thinks that his money and social standing earn him the right to behave in any way he wishes. His behavior, as pointed out by a Goth girl at school, is "bestly." After Kyle enacts a plan to humiliate the Goth girl who upset him, he is transformed by a witch into a horrible beast. He has fur, claws, fangs and, in the beginning, a bad attitude. Kyle must now learn to live with himself as a beast and must make changes in order to be happy. The witch has given Adrian two years to break the spell she has put on him. If he can learn to love and be loved in return, he will change back into the the boy he was.

Kyle's father abandons him in a five-story brownstone in Brooklyn, where is is cared for by his maid, Magda, and his blind tutor, Will. It is with Magda and Will's help that Kyle grows into a better person. Once his personality starts to change, he becomes ashamed of the person he was. He takes a new name, Adrian, and begins to learn how to appreciate the real, simple things in life. Kyle, as Adrian, begins to grow a rose garden which helps him to see the beauty in life.

Adrian resigns himself to being a beast forever until a chance encounter with a thief changes his life. The thief offers to give Adrian his sixteen-year-old daughter in exchange for not having him arrested. Adrian agrees and the girl, Linda, is brought to live in the house with Adrian, Will and Magda. At first, Linda is angry and feels like a prisoner, but as the two get to know each other they develop a bond. Adrian and Linda become friends as they share a love for flowers and learning. They also seem to understand each other on a level they didn't before. Adrian begins to feel guilty for the arrangement he made with Linda's father, an arrangement that makes her a virtual prisoner. Adrian falls in love with Linda and decides to let her return to her father, whom she is concerned about. Linda says she will visit him, but Adrian knows in his heart that she won't.

The two are separated for many months. During that time Adrian is depressed. One night Linda is in danger and calls for Adrian's help. He heedlessly runs to help her and is almost caught in the process. After saving Linda, the two express their love for each other and kiss. The kiss changes Adrian back into Kyle. Lindy is uncertain, but loves Adrian no matter who he is. The two return to the brownstone to find Will and Magda and live happily ever after.



# Part 1: Chs 1-8

## Part 1: Chs 1-8 Summary

As the book opens, Kyle Kingsbury is introduced as the main character. It is clear from his retelling of his story that he is a privileged, narcissistic young man. Kyle is a freshman at a private high school in New York City. He is loved by everyone for his wealth, looks and popularity, but not for his personality. The story begins with a brief conversation in an internet chat room where it is clear that Kyle has been changed somehow. Chapter 1 begins Kyle's story.

In the prelude to Part 1, the reader discovers that BeastNYC has joined an online, therapeutic chat room. Inside the chat room, BeastNYC finds other people who have been cursed by witches. A prince has been turned into a frog, a mermaid has become a girl and another man has become a bear.

Chapter 1: Kyle Kingsbury considers himself to be a ninth grade prince. He is attractive, smart, rich and now he has been nominated for homecoming king. Kyle not only wants to become king, he already assumes he will win by a landslide. His friend, Trey, has also been nominated. However, Kyle feels he is more attractive and more popular than his friend. Kendra Hilferty, whom Kyle describes as a fat, unattractive Goth girl, expresses her disgust with the homecoming court process. She feels it is both shallow and elitist. Kyle's friend, Trey, begins to argue with the girl and this leads to a fight between Kendra and Kyle. Kyle tells Kendra that she could lose weight and have plastic surgery and maybe she wouldn't feel the way she does about homecoming elections. Kyle notes to himself that he has never seen Kendra before and that she seems almost out of place at the school. Kendra ends her tirade against Kyle by calling him "Beastly."

Chapter 2: Kyle and Trey move on to PE where they are expected to run. Kyle is still upset by the things Kendra said to him and wants to discuss it with Trey. Trey doesn't understand why Kyle is so upset. Kyle begins to refer to Kendra as the "witch" and decides he needs to put her in her place. He feels that ugly people are always jealous of the pretty, popular people like himself. Kyle makes up an injury and convinces the coach he should sit for a while. He strikes up a conversation with Kendra and tries to make her feel that her words have caused him to change. He asks her to a dance in the hopes of teaching her a lesson. Kendra accepts, but it seems as if she may have an agenda of her own. In this chapter Kyle begins to show that he is both manipulative and vindictive. However, he also seems to be bothered by Kendra's words because they contain a kernel of truth about him.

Chapter 3: Kyle receives an upset phone call from his girlfriend, Sloane Hagen. He describes Sloane as a bottle blonde and treats her as if she is not very bright. Sloane is upset that Kendra has been telling people she is going to the dance with Kyle. She is a fairly selfish person who is more concerned with her homecoming date than with Kyle's problems. Kyle convinces her to allow Kendra to keep believing she is going with him,



as he is hoping she will get a dress and be embarrassed when he stands her up and goes to the dance with Sloane. Sloane loves the idea, but tells Kyle he better not ever try that on her. Kyle tells his father about the dance, but his father has more important things to worry about - himself. Sloane makes a big deal out of the color of her dress for the dance and wants to make sure Kyle gets her the correct flower for her the dance. She also seems to promise that they will have intimate relations if she is happy at the dance.

Chapter 4: Kyle arrives at school and is greeted by Trey, who congratulates him on going to the dance with Sloane. Kyle is sure that Kendra has heard he is taking Sloane to the dance, but it seems she hasn't. Kendra greets him in the halls and makes Kyle uncomfortable by linking her arm through his. Kyle imagines how horrible it would be to actually attend the dance with her. He asks Kendra about her dress so that he can pull her further into his plot to embarrass her at the dance.

Chapter 5: Kyle is getting ready for the dance and has a conversation with Trey about going to dances. He then goes to get Sloane's orchid from the refrigerator, but finds a single white rose instead. Kyle approaches the housekeeper, Magda, about the mistake. He berates and belittles her, implying that she does not speak English, is a schemer and tells her she is stupid. She tells him she feels sorry for him, that he does not see the beauty in a simple white rose. Kyle seems to be upset about the rose because his failure to bring Sloane an orchid will ruin his chances for a make out session after the dance. However, it also seems that the rose is too big of a reminder of the strange relationship he is forming with Kendra.

Chapter 6: Kyle and Sloane take pictures at her house and Sloane rejects the rose the same way Kyle did when he found it. They arrive at the dance and Sloane goes off with friends. Kyle gives the rose to the ticket girl and wonders how a cheap rose can make anyone happy. He also wonders why the girl doesn't get her crooked teeth fixed. Kendra shows up, but is not allowed in as Kyle is supposed to have her ticket. Kyle and Sloane notice Kendra and laugh that she showed up. Sloane kisses Kyle in front of Kendra and a crowd gathers for a confrontation. Kyle expects Kendra to cry and is looking forward to her emotional destruction, but he is not prepared when she seems to be unfazed by his actions. She tells him that she wasn't sure if he would really go through with his plan, but now that he has it makes her decision easier.

Chapter 7: Kyle and Sloane are crowned king and queen, but Kyle is haunted by Kendra's last words. He can't concentrate as he is crowned and is upset that Sloane is making moves on him in front of the whole school. Finally, he explodes and decides to go home. Sloane talks him out of it. They go back to her house, drink and make out. Kyle arrives home to find his bedroom light on and Kendra sitting on his bed.

Chapter 8: Kendra has come for revenge. As she explains to Kyle that she didn't really want to date him, her physical form begins to change. Kyle gets nervous as she seems to change before his eyes. Kendra tells Kyle that she is a witch who has come to give him his comeuppance. She plans to make him as ugly on the outside as he is on the inside and challenges him to find a way to change her spell or be forced to live ugly for



the rest of his life. Kendra tells Kyle about the times in his life when he was cruel and he begins to see a pattern in his behavior. She casts a spell and Kyle is shocked to see he has been turned into a "beast."

## Part 1: Chs 1-8 Analysis

In the prelude to Part 1, it is discovered that there are many out there who have been cursed by witches. This part is presented as if the reader was also in the chat room watching the computer screen, a format which may be very familiar to modern. BeastNYC is the story's hero who is attempting to understand how he became the beast he currently is. Mr. Anderson moderates the chat room and acts as a therapist for the others.

Chapter 1: Kyle Kingsbury is shallow, cruel and vain. He is the product of a distant and unloving father who expects Kyle to be like him. In this chapter, Kyle recounts a scene where he is looking for his father's reassurance that he is loved. Kyle doesn't get the words of love he is looking for, but accepts the words of his father as loving. Kyle also notices that Kendra is not quite a normal girl. He takes in her looks and word choices and feels there is possibly something mysterious about her. This is foreshadowing events to come. Kyle's temper is ignited by Kendra's dismissal of his popularity. She insists that he is only popular because he is attractive, but not because he is strong, good or worthy.

Chapter 2: Kendra's mocking words have made Kyle feel insecure about himself. He admits that he wants to be homecoming king and is upset because he feels Kendra ruined his excitement. His need to take some sort of revenge on her is due to his need to feel better about himself. Kyle shows his manipulative side as he cons the coach into letting him sit on the bench by Kendra. As Kyle interacts with Kendra he notices a few things that are out of place, symbolic of the fairy tale origins of the story. The sky is dark over Kendra, she holds a Snow White type hand mirror in her lap and her eyes seem to almost boil. Kyle flatters Kendra by telling her she is interesting and asks her to an upcoming dance. Kendra accepts, but seems to have a plan of her own in mind.

Chapter 3: As Kyle tells Sloane about his plan he again shows that he is willing to manipulate people to get what he wants. He also shows that he is desperate for his father's approval when he waits up to tell his father he has been nominated for homecoming king. He also shows that he doesn't feel like his father pays attention to him. Kyle also acknowledges that his mother left him for a more interesting life. Kyle's father tells him that his co-anchor has been fired for failing to lose weight.

Chapter 4: Kyle worries that Kendra may have heard he is going to the dance with Sloane and attempts to manipulate her even more. Looking at Kendra he halfheartedly wonders if she really is a witch.

Chapter 5: When Kyle goes to find Sloane's orchid he instead finds a white rose . . . the flower requested by Kendra. Kyle is upset because he knows Sloane will be angry with



him and he will not be in her good graces that evening. As he argues with the maid over the rose he gets the impression that the rose is growing bigger. He is upset because of the rose, because of Sloane and because he was not listened to.

Chapter 6: Kyle shows himself to be a cruel bully at the dance. He seems to have slightly hurt feelings over Sloan's rejection of the rose and thinks briefly about poor people, but his words and actions toward Kendra are heartless and cruel. At the end of the chapter it is clear Kendra will have her revenge and even more clear that whatever she does to him, Kyle deserves it.

Chapter 7: Kyle is preoccupied by Kendra's last words to him. He knows they are a threat and is worried about what she meant. He yells at Sloane and then goes back to her home with her where he proceeds to get drunk. He returns home to find "the witch" on his bed.

Chapter 8: Kyle knows that Kendra is right about his cruel behavior, and he doesn't understand why he behaves the way he does. He also doesn't quite see what is wrong with his actions, although he admits that his actions were both humiliating and hurtful. He admits to himself that he enjoys being mean and doesn't think that his cruelty has to do with his father's detachment or his mother's abandonment. He just enjoys making others feel bad. However, Kyle still doesn't see his actions as wrong.



## Part 2: Chs 1-5

### Part 2: Chs 1-5 Summary

In the Prelude to Part 2, BeastNYC is talking to the other members of the online chat room for people who have been magically transformed. Mr. Anderson is the group facilitator and is trying to get BeastNYC to talk about himself. There are three other members of the group: SilentMaid, Froggie and Grizzlyguy. It is clear from their stories that they are well known characters from fairy tales. BeastNYC is angry and has decided to rant to the group about the witch. After a while, SilentMaid grows tired of the rant and wants to talk about her situation. She is in love with a human and wishes to be transformed into a mute girl so she can have legs and pursue a relationship with him. BeastNYC states that he doesn't believe in love and indicates she is being silly. Froggie tells SilentMaid that she should talk to her family. He can't and misses them. BeastNYC becomes angry and tells the group they are better off without family. When Mr. Anderson asks for more information, BeastNYC refuses to talk.

Chapter 1: Kyle finds himself transformed as a result of Kendra's spell. He now has fangs, claws and hair all over his body. He is horrified by what he sees in the mirror and can barely voice his rage. Kyle attacks Kendra, ripping her clothes and flesh. He suddenly realizes that he could kill her and stops to demand she change him back to his beautiful self or he will kill her. Kendra is unfazed by Kyle's anger. She uses her magic to pull him off of her and repairs her clothes and skin. Kyle starts to wonder if he is out of his mind from the vodka he drank with Sloane; he even wonders if Kendra gave him drugs somehow. Kendra tells him that he spent his life being cruel, but did do one nice thing and so she will offer him a small second chance. Kyle remembers that he gave the nerdy girl the rose at the dance and thinks if that is the only nice thing he has done than he is pretty lame. Kendra agrees. She tells him to take the two rose petals from his pocket. The petals give him two years in which to find someone to love him whom he loves in return. If the girl kisses him then he will return to his old self. Kyle things this is ridiculous as he doesn't know how anyone could love someone who looks the way he does now.

Kyle has refused to come out of his room in the two days since his transformation. During that time he has destroyed his room and has decided to show his father what has happened. Kyle decides that if his father's money can't fix what has happened then he will kill himself. Kyle's father is pounding on the door and Kyle finally opens it to show his father what has happened. At first his father thinks Kyle is playing a joke, but soon realizes that his son is indeed transformed. Kyle tells his father he has been cursed by a witch. Kyle's father swears that they will figure out a way to change him back to who he was.

Chapter 2: Kyle's father leaves for work, telling Kyle he will return around lunch time. By six in the evening he still hasn't arrived home. Kyle thinks his father may be consulting people about his problem, but it is obvious Kyle doesn't really believe it. He doesn't think





his father is coming home. Kyle decides to call Sloane and try to manipulate her into kissing him and breaking the spell. Sloane is always saying she loves him and if he says it back maybe he will be cured. Sloane is shopping with her friends and agrees to come over later. Sloane arrives and finds Kyle in his room. Kyle has put on over-sized clothes and turned out the lights in order to hide his appearance from her. Kyle tells her he loves her and would love her even if she were ugly. Sloane thinks this is great and comments that he never tells her he loves her. She then asks him if he has a zit and is hiding it from her. The pair begin to kiss, but Sloane stops when she feels that he is hairy. Kyle tries to keep Sloane from discovering his condition, but she turns on the lights and begins to scream. Kyle tells her that Kendra was a witch who placed a spell on him. Sloane is disgusted by him and can't bring herself to kiss him. She runs from the room and tells Kyle to call her if he changes back. She also says that she won't tell anyone about his curse because no one would believe her.

Chapter 3: Kyle and his father have spent months trying to find someone who can change his appearance. They have gone to medical doctors and witch doctors but no one can help. Finally they have traveled to the Midwest to consult with Dr. Endecott, a well known doctor and their last hope. Dr. Endecott treats Kyle as if he were a normal person. Kyle notices that the doctor calls him by his name and touches him on the hand, treating him as a human being, something no other person they have consulted has done. The doctor tells Kyle and his father that nothing can be done to change Kyle's appearance. That whatever has happened to him has affected the skin cells and any changes the doctor might make will just revert back to the beastly face. The doctor relates to Kyle by saying he had bad acne and eventually became a happily married man. He also suggests that Kyle go to therapy to begin to accept what has happened to him. Kyle's father becomes very angry. He tells the doctor that he will pay as much money as it takes and will even sign a waiver if he needs to. Kyle understands that a waiver means his father is willing to risk Kyle's life to make him beautiful again. The doctor tells them nothing can be done and the two drive thirteen hours back home in silence. Kyle enters the house, but his father decides to leave for work. Kyle asks his father if he will still continue to help him, but knows his father is lying when he says yes.

Chapter 4: Kyle decides to see if he is really as unchangeable as Dr. Endecott said. He cuts his hair and it grows back. He shaves his arm and the hair grows back. Finally, he cuts a gash in his skin and the gash heals. Kyle begins to wonder if he is now somehow indestructible. Strangely, he finds Kendra's fancy hand mirror on the floor in his room. He hasn't looked at his reflections since she changed him and decides to look into the mirror now. In the mirror his reflection is that of his old, beautiful self. Then the reflection changes, replacing the pretty boy with the new beast. Kyle feels like crying. He opens the window and howls out into the night. When he returns to the mirror he intends to shatter it, but before he can Kendra's reflection appears and stops him. She tells him that the mirror is magic and can show him the girl who will love him. Kyle thinks of Sloane and of Trey and the mirror shows them both at Sloane's house making out. It seems that no one even misses Kyle. He has not seen a friend in months and no one texts, emails or IMs him. Kyle expresses his anger for Kendra and Kendra seems to feel slightly guilty for what she has done. She tells Kyle that she can't break the spell, only he can, but that she is willing to help if she can. Kyle becomes angry and begins



shaking the mirror in order to agitate Kendra. She tells him to be careful with the mirror and disappears. Kyle carefully puts the mirror down.

Chapter 5: Kyle is becoming increasingly bored. In his boredom and loneliness he has also become curious about other people. He thinks about the people who populate New York City and about the people he has seen. He begins to wonder about a man with war injuries, or a burn victim or a disabled person. His old self would have just wanted to get away from them, but now he is wondering what their story is and how they got to be the way they are. He also begins memorizing people from the Tuttle yearbook and watching people in the hand mirror. Kyle usually picks people from the yearbook and calls them up in the mirror. Today he calls up Linda Owens, who he recognizes as the girl he gave the rose to at the dance. Kyle expects to find her at the library, but instead finds her in a slum apartment in a bad part of town. The first time Kyle watches her she is interrupted from her reading by her father who wishes to have tea and a blanket. The man seems to be sick and is not all that nice. The next time Kyle watches Linda he sees that her father is a junkie who is about to abuse her for throwing out his drugs. After a threatening confrontation, Linda runs to the safety of the subway and Kyle wishes he could be there to comfort her.

## Part 2: Chs 1-5 Analysis

In the Prelude to Part 2, the reader begins to see more of BeastNYC's (Kyle's) vulnerability. He is frustrated with what has happened to him and has not yet accepted that he had a role to play in the curse that was put on him. He is angry and wants to lash out. BeastNYC discusses how he doesn't believe in love and also sheds some light on his family situation by saying that he was unloved and not really wanted around. He alludes to the fact that he and his father are not speaking right now, and it is obvious that BeastNYC is hurt by the fact that he has lost this relationship. However, his bitterness is keeping him from making any progress in the group.

Chapter 1: Kyle is horrified by the monster he has become and is ashamed of himself for many different reasons. He recognizes that he used to make fun of people with small facial problems and cannot accept that anyone would want him looking like he does now. When Kendra tells him that he has two years to be loved and fall in love, Kyle scoffs at her. He spends the next two days trying to figure out how to fix his problem. It is obvious that falling in love is out of the question for Kyle, as he doesn't believe anyone could love him. Kyle decides to confide in his father, believing that his father can afford plastic surgery and treatments for him. It is also obvious that Kyle needs his father's support. At first, Kyle's father feels his son is playing a joke and wasting his time. Kyle resents the implication and remembers a time when he saw his father on the Jumbotron at Times Square. At the time, as a child, Kyle believed his father to be a god. He doesn't believe that anymore, but he does believe his father's influence can help him. Kyle's dad agrees to help, but the way he phrases his words makes Kyle worry that his father will ultimately reject him.



Chapter 2: Again Kyle thinks he can fix a situation by manipulating someone. He tells Kendra he loves her in an attempt to break the spell, but finds out the hard way that his solution won't work. Kyle is terrified that Sloane will discover he is now a beast. Once she does he worries she will tell others. After Sloane leaves, Kyle has a moment of honesty and admits that he doesn't love her and that is why the spell didn't break. He also admits to himself that he has never loved anyone and that his friends only liked him because of his money, looks and partying. He was always fine with that because he felt there would be time later in life for serious relationships, but now he is not so sure. He wonders if finding someone to love him will be the easy part of breaking the spell, that loving that person back might be the hardest part of all.

Chapter 3: Kyle is running out of options and running out of hope that he can be helped. He hides himself in cloaks and head coverings and travels to the Midwest in search of a cure. On the way Kyle notices how green the grass is where they are and how beautiful the roses are. He thinks about Magda's comments on the beauty of roses and begins to understand what she was talking about. After the doctor tells Kyle and his father that there is no medical help to be found, Kyle begins to wonder if his father will stand by him. Unfortunately, Kyle already knows the answer to that question in his heart.

Chapter 4: Kyle begins to feel some small bit of hope that he might be able to change his appearance. He tries to cut and shave off his fur, but finds that it is a hopeless task. He is almost at his breaking point. Kyle feels abandoned by his father who has begun to ignore him again. He has not heard from his friends and he is isolated at home with no one to talk to. When Kendra appears in the hand mirror, Kyle becomes upset. But he also realizes that, with the mirror, he may have some hope.

Chapter 5: Kyle's loneliness has inspired him to get to know people he never payed attention to before. One of those people is Linda Owens. As Kyle watches Linda's life he begins to feel the need to help her in some way, but doesn't go so far as to decide how to help her. For now he just watches and begins to feel empathy for the girl.



## Part 3: Chs 1-7

### Part 3: Chs 1-7 Summary

In the Prelude to Part 3, the online chat room is beginning to heat up. The participants have started to bond and some are moving forward with their lives. SilentMaid has decided to trade her voice for a chance at true love and BeastNYC thinks that she is being crazy. He warns her that guys are no good, SilentMaid leaves the chat in anger. Froggie seems to be a hopeless romantic and he is having a hard time adjusting to his new life, much like BeastNYC. BeastNYC reveals to the group that he is moving, but doesn't yet know where he will go.

Chapter 1: A month after Kyle's discussion in the chat room, his father has him moved to a five story brownstone in Brooklyn, NY. When Kyle arrives he sees the first floor has been set up as an apartment for him. The second floor is set up as an apartment for his father, he assumes, and the top floor has a bedroom with suitcases in it. It isn't until after Magda comes into his room that he realizes his father is not moving into the brownstone with him. Magda is and she will become his guardian. Kyle sees his new home as the perfect setup to keep him locked away. The windows have been changed so that people can't see inside and he can barely see out. There is a small, unkempt backyard and the mirror has been removed from his bathroom. Magda tells him that she tried to decorate everything to make him happy, but Kyle knows he can't be happy with only DVDs to keep him company. He soon discovers that his father has not even had a phone installed in the house. Kyle gets angry and sweeps a shelf of DVDs onto the floor. He then sends Magda for a cell phone. When she re-enters the room, Kyle is picking up the movie and apologizes to Magda, which surprises her. Kyle's father does not want to talk to him and tries to tell Kyle that this is for his own good. Kyle threatens to give an interview to the news if his father won't talk to him. He demands three things from his father in exchange for not talking to the media: 1) a computer with internet, 2) a tutor, and 3) that his father never visit. His father agrees to all three demands.

Chapter 2: Kyle meets his tutor, Will Fratalli, a week after his phone call with his father. Will is a twenty-something college student whom Kyle describes as kind of geeky. He is blind and uses a guidance animal, Pilot, and a cane to move around. He also seems to be fairly standoffish during his first meeting with Kyle. Kyle discovers that Will was told he would be tutoring an invalid. He was also told by Kyle's father that he and Pilot were to live at the house. Will signed a three year contract and agreed to tutor Kyle, live at the house, not write a tell-all book about his experience and not to ask who hired him. Will also states that Kyle's father offered a huge salary, credit card, to pay his student loans and to pay for a doctoral program. Kyle is shocked that his father considers him an invalid and makes a joke to himself that his father more likely feels he is just simply not-valid. He reveals his condition to Will, who is disbelieving at first, and convinces the tutor to stay and keep the job. Will confesses that he thought Kyle was maybe a movie star and is relieved he is not. After feeling Kyle's arm he realizes that Kyle is telling the



truth about his condition. Will agrees to keep the job and Kyle reveals that his father is Rob Kingsbury.

Chapter 3: Kyle begins to describe his days. He and Will have begun to bond and are more like friends than student and tutor. Will suggested that Kyle read *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Kyle spends his mornings in a room on the fifth floor reading and watching people walk by on the street. Will usually calls Kyle around eleven and they begin talking and studying. The two have made good use of Mr. Kingsbury's credit card and have ordered all sorts of books and some furniture for Will. Kyle begins to relate to the book's character Quasimodo, but feels that the author is a bit depressing.

One morning Kyle realizes that Will is not at home. Magda tells him that Will had an appointment and that Kyle is to take the day off. Kyle is disappointed, but turns to the internet for entertainment. He spends the afternoon looking for girls to date on various internet sites. He doesn't find any girls, but he does find all sorts of deviants. Kyle also discovers Mr. Anderson's chat room for the first time. He doesn't look at it, but decides to explore the site at a later time.

Will comes home and Kyle finds him in the backyard with loads of soil and various colors of rose bushes. The roses remind Kyle of how he became a beast. Will convinces Kyle to help him plant a garden and tells Kyle that the roses were Magda's idea. She is worried that he spends so much time inside and alone. Will also tells Kyle that he wasn't always blind and that he began to lose his sight at about twelve years old. Will and Kyle begin to joke around and Kyle begins to garden. Will suggests that Kyle give Magda some white roses. Kyle leaves three roses for her in the kitchen and then refuses to face her at dinner because he is embarrassed.

Chapter 4: Kyle decides to leave the house for the first time. He dresses in a cape and hood and decides to go to a party at Gin Elliott's house. Kyle saw in the mirror that Gin's parents were gone and knows Gin will throw a party. He isn't planning on participating in the party, but wants to go and watch the people. Nervously he gets on the subway only to realize that no one will make any eye contact with him. They think he is homeless and, as such, he feels invisible. The feeling makes him feel free. Kyle sees some old friends at the party and watches them from the outside. He sees Sloane making out with an older boy and overhears a conversation between his friend Trey and another boy. Trey and the boy are discussing Kyle. They express that they are glad he is at boarding school and that Kyle felt he was too good for everyone else. Finally, they call him a putz. Kyle realizes that he didn't really have friends when he was attractive and that Kendra had been right all along.

Chapter 5: Kyle attempts to find love again and asks the hand mirror to show him Angelbaby1023. However, instead of Angelbaby, Kendra appears in the mirror. Kendra attempts to tell Kyle that he can't find true love on the internet. He will have to meet someone and be his true self with her. When he attempts to argue with her, she repeats back to him the lies he has told in his online profile. Kyle accuses Kendra of being mad because he has found a way around her curse. Kendra tells him that she wants to help



him and she is trying to show him that he must find love in a different way. Kyle becomes upset and asks Kendra to leave him alone.

Chapter 6: It is one in the afternoon and Kyle is still laying in bed in his pajamas. He has spent a good deal of time lately prowling around the city at night and watching people. He sees a couple making out and finds himself imagining taking the girl away and killing the man. The thought scares him. Kyle has discovered that his name means "handsome" and so decides to change it. He chooses Adrian instead, as it means dark one. Magda and Will now call him Adrian. Adrian spends his days reading *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Portrait of Dorian Gray*, *Frankenstein* and *Phantom of the Opera*. All stories about people who are monsters either on the inside or on the outside. Will comes to Adrian and tells him that if Adrian does not return to tutoring he will leave. Will expresses that he has worked too hard to take money from Adrian's dad without earning it. Adrian agrees to return to tutoring the next day.

Chapter 7: Halloween is here and Adrian is excited at the thought of being to go out without being covered up. Lately his cape and hood has not allowed him to be invisible and people have been trying to make eye contact with him. Halloween has always been his favorite holiday and he remembers a cruel prank he and Trey played when they were younger.

Adrian decides to crash a school Halloween party in the hopes that he will get to dance with a girl. He finds a party to attend, but is hesitant to go in. While he is waiting he strikes up a conversation with the ticket girl who is dressed like an alternative version of Dorothy from the *Wizard of Oz*. Adrian tells her he is waiting for someone and makes it appear as though he has been stood up. Adrian and the girl, Bronwen Kreps, enter the party together and begin to dance. Bronwen is obsessed with how real Adrian's costume is and attempts to pull his mask off. He pushes her away and she falls. In the process of catching her he accidentally breaks her arm. Adrian runs out of the party as she screams.

## Part 3: Chs 1-7 Analysis

In the Prelude to Part 3 the reader begins to see BeastNYC's character changing a bit. He seems to be truly concerned for SilentMaid's welfare when he warns her against transforming. He also makes a joke when he enters the chat room that is normally unlike him. Instead of talking about himself and his anger he participates in the conversation to the benefit of someone else.

Chapter 1: Kyle is devastated to learn that his father intends to lock him away as if he were a prisoner. He also seems to understand that his father is embarrassed of him and that this behavior is the norm for his father. Kyle learns that Magda is to be his guardian and says some pretty unkind things to her. However, he knows she is the only person who will care for him. When Kyle apologizes to Magda and cleans up the DVDs it is not because he is trying to manipulate her, it is because he understands he was unkind. Kyle's demands to his father show that he is thinking about his future and is beginning





to take control of his life. He wishes to communicate with others and find true love using the internet. He also realizes that he misses his education and learning and feels that a tutor will at least give him someone to talk to. Lastly, Kyle asks his father not to come around because he knows that his father doesn't want to see him. His request for his father to stay away is born out of his desire to not give his father an opportunity to reject him. And to not be hurt by his father's rejection anymore.

Chapter 2: Kyle is happy and surprised when Will Fratalli shows up as his new tutor. Kyle and Will seem to start off on the wrong foot when Kyle treats Will as if he needs assistance. Will quickly puts Kyle in his place and the reader realizes that Kyle is trying to be helpful and supportive, not condescending and unkind. He has just never known someone with a disability. Kyle realizes that his beastly state gives him a special connection with the dog, Pilot, and that he might have an ally in Will. After an honest discussion, the two agree to work together.

Chapter 3: The rose motif is showing up again in the story. Whenever Kyle is confronted with a life changing moment, there seems to be a white rose involved. This time the roses come as Kyle is forming a friendship with Will. He is also expressing a genuine interest in Will's story and is focusing on another person instead of his own pain and anger. Kyle allows Will to show him how good roses smell and tells him that Magda is worried about him. At first Kyle says that Magda is paid to take care of him, but Will points out that she is not paid to care about him and that she clearly does. Kyle wonders how Magda can care about him when he has been so unkind to her over the years. Kyle thanks Will for getting the roses, sharing with him and creating the garden. This is a complete change from the old Kyle who would have scoffed at Kyle's gesture and retreated into his own world.

Chapter 4: Kyle has become more brave and is anxious to get out of the house. He finds freedom in his new found invisibility and decides that no one pays attention to the homeless. This is proven once he arrives at the party and realizes that people are ignoring him like he isn't even there. At first he worries someone will recognize him, but then realizes they would have to acknowledge him first. Again a rose appears, but this rose is red not white. The color red is an indication that Kyle's trip will end up hurting him. Kyle ends up with hurt feelings after overhearing a conversation between two of his old friends. He expects his friend, Trey, to stand up for him and is upset to realize Trey is trash talking him too. Kyle is numb and doesn't know how he got home. All he can think of is that no one liked him and that Kendra was right.

Chapter 5: When Kendra pops up in the hand mirror and tells Kyle his plan won't work, he becomes upset. He understand what Kendra is saying and knows that she is right. He can't meet someone on the internet and expect them to love him when he tells them lies. The conversation between the two shows how the nature of their relationship is changing. Kendra is truly trying to help Kyle, although her help is not exactly warm and fuzzy. Kyle is beginning to show slightly more respect toward Kendra by listening to her, even though he doesn't want to hear what she has to say.



Chapter 6: Kyle is in a dark place and it is reflected in the new name he has chosen, Adrian. He is depressed and feeling bitter about his situation. When Will threatens to quit, Adrian realizes that he would be sad to see Will go. He also acknowledges that he can't live off of his father forever. Adrian's brooding mood is reflected in the books he chooses to read.

Chapter 7: Adrian desperately wants to be held by a girl on the dance floor. Halloween presents him with the perfect opportunity to talk to someone because girls will just assume he is in costume. Adrian doesn't want Will to leave and so decides not to prowl the city at night any longer. If he is out too late he won't be able to be awake for tutoring. Adrian is enjoying the closeness of dancing with Bronwen until everything goes horribly wrong and he is forced to flee.





## Part 4: Chs 1-7

### Part 4: Chs 1-7 Summary

In the Prelude to Part 4 BeastNYC is still using the online chat room. Everyone who is chatting seems to be making some sort of progress. SilentMaid has transformed and is pursuing her love, Grizzlyguy has moved into a house with two girls and Froggie is pretty much the same. From the discourse one can see the changes that BeastNYC is making in his personality and in his life. He is becoming more involved in the stories of the others and is trying to be more supportive.

Chapter 1: Kyle/Adrian's curse has reached the one year mark and he has given up on finding love. It is November 1st and the weather is turning cold. Adrian decides to build a greenhouse to help care for his roses. At this point Adrian has many different varieties and colors of roses. Will and Magda agree to help Adrian build his greenhouse and they worry about the time he spends on his roses. Adrian's day consists of tending his flowers, weeding, clipping dead flowers and sweeping the garden and greenhouse. One afternoon Magda comes to the garden and tries to help him clean. Adrian tells her he is fine and shares with her that it is part of his daily routine that makes him happy. Magda tells Adrian that she has nothing to do and Adrian lists for her all the things she does for him. Sensing that Magda has no family, Adrian decides to ask her about herself. Magda tells Adrian that she is married and has children. However, her husband could not get a green card and so she is in the country alone. She was a teacher before coming to the US. Now Magda works to send money back to her husband, children and grandchildren. She tells Adrian she is worried for him and that tending the garden is no life. She doesn't want him to give up on life so young. Adrian tells her he is living for his roses.

Adrian goes to his room and calls Kendra up in the mirror. She is happy to see him and the two of them discuss the limits placed on Kendra's powers as a witch. Adrian asks Kendra to help Will to get a good job and to help Magda see her family. Kendra is surprised, but not unwilling to help. However, she is unable to grant wishes out of fear that she will become trapped in a bottle like a genie. Adrian and Kendra agree that life is unfair and Kendra consults a book for some sort of solution. She tells Adrian that she can help Will and Magda as a condition of helping Adrian. For example, if he breaks the spell she put on him than she can also help Will and Magda. Adrian feels that the situation is hopeless, but after looking at the book once more Kendra isn't so sure.

Chapter 2: Kendra told Adrian that sometimes unexpected things happened and in chapter 2 she is proven right. Adrian is awakened in the middle of the night when an intruder crashes into his greenhouse, killing some of his roses. Adrian rushes into the greenhouse and drags the man to the fifth floor where he realizes the man looks slightly familiar. The man is a drug dealer. Adrian takes his ID and his drugs and then dangles the man out of the fifth floor window in an attempt to scare him. Adrian realizes that he can't kill the man and that he also can't call the police, but he wants to scare the man for ruining his roses. The man pleads with Adrian not to kill him. He offers Adrian money,



drugs and finally - his sixteen-year-old daughter. Adrian is immediately intrigued by the idea and asks the hand mirror to show him the girl. The mirror shows him Linda Owens. It is her father, Daniel, who Adrian is attempting to scare. Daniel promises to bring Linda to Adrian within a week. Adrian tells him that he will find him if he doesn't bring Linda as agreed. Adrian tells himself that he will be doing a favor for himself and for Linda if she comes to live with him. He hopes that she will break the spell. After Daniel leaves, Will confronts Adrian. Adrian tells him they will be having a female visitor and that they need to make a room ready for her. Will is not sure about the plan, but agrees.

Chapter 3: Adrian spends this chapter creating the perfect living space for Linda on the third floor. He decorates the perfect bedroom, wallpapers the walls, fills the shelves with books and stocks her closet. All the while he watches her in the hand mirror. Adrian plants a rose in Linda's honor and hopes to show it to her when she comes. Will tries to tell Adrian that his plan feels a lot like kidnapping, but Adrian points out that he is not going to hurt her and if he doesn't take her she might be sold to someone who will hurt her. Adrian spends so much time making Linda's new room perfect that he neglects to repair his greenhouse. Adrian looks into the mirror one last time and sees that Linda is packed and ready to move in the next day.

Chapter 4: Linda "Lindy" and her father have arrived at Adrian's home as agreed. Adrian wants to greet Linda himself, but doesn't out of fear that he will scare her. Instead he watches her in the mirror. Will opens the door and seems to understand that Linda's father is just as horrible as Adrian described. It is obvious that Linda is crying and she is outraged when she learns her father wants his drugs back. Will tells Linda that she has a choice and does not have to stay, but if she leaves he will turn the break-in tape of her father over to the police. If he is turned in her father could serve fifteen years to life in jail. Linda agrees to stay and her father leaves. Linda tells Will that she is in jail and that she has spent her life in jail, but at least she had an escape plan before. She worked hard in school and was going to get scholarships and escape to college. Will shows Linda to her rooms and she is overwhelmed by how beautiful they are. She appreciates the books and the roses, but doesn't care much about the closet full of clothes. She chooses a few books and then lies on the bed to cry.

Chapter 5: Adrian is disappointed at Linda's response to her room and his hospitality, and he hopes to convince her to come out of her room. She tells him to go away and rages at him that he is keeping her against her will. Adrian goes to Will for advice and tells Will that he feels Linda is ungrateful. Will tries to help Adrian understand that Linda is scared and angry. That Adrian needs to allow her to stay in her room because he needs to respect that she has choices. If he is patient, she will eventually come around. Adrian takes Will's advice and again tries to get Linda to come out of her room. Again she rejects him and again he becomes frustrated. Linda eats dinner alone in her room while Adrian, Magda and Will eat together. Adrian is disappointed and goes to bed early, as he leaves the dining room Will reminds him to have patience.

Chapter 6: Will suggests that maybe Adrian should allow Linda some space and not bother her. Adrian agrees that silence may do the trick and tries not to bother Lindy. Will tells Adrian that he is proud of him for understanding that Linda can't be bought and



respecting her for it. Later that night Adrian hears someone wandering around the house and working in the kitchen. He realizes it is Linda and waits for her to pass by where he is watching ESPN. She comes into the room and he alerts her to his presence so she isn't scared. Linda realizes that Adrian really does look like a beast and admits that she thought her father was on a drug trip and made it up. She is also surprised to find out that he is not some old pervert, but a lonely sixteen-year-old boy. Adrian reminds himself to stay silent and allows Linda to talk about what she wishes. They discuss Magda's cooking and their fathers. Adrian tells Linda that his mother left when he was young and that his father left when he turned into an ugly beast. Linda agrees to attend tutoring with Adrian and Will. The two talk a little about roses and Shakespeare, then Linda goes to bed.

Chapter 7: Adrian is beyond excited that Lindy will be joining tutoring. He wakes Magda and Will up extra early so they can help to prep him for the session. Will tries to convince Adrian that he is smart and that he doesn't need to study extra to impress Lindy, just be himself. Finally he tells Adrian to read Sonnet 54 so Adrian will go away and let him go back to sleep. Adrian reads the poem over and over and then tries to create the perfect room for Lindy to see him in the daylight for the first time. He arranges his chair and the roses and the music to be perfect, but Lindy shows up early and ruins the effect. Lindy loves Adrian's rose garden and the two of them tour the greenhouse and talk about flowers. Adrian holds his own in the tutoring session and the three of them discuss the symbolism of the rose in Shakespeare's sonnet. Adrian and Lindy agree that the rose is a symbol of truth and that the canker-blooms in the poem refer to things that are beautiful on the outside but not inside. Lindy tells Will and Adrian that she had a rose once that she pressed in a book, but it lost its beautiful smell. Adrian understands that the rose is the one he gave her at the dance. Will invites Lindy to lunch and she accepts. Adrian has made sure that Magda will prepare a meal that he can eat without having to eat like a beast.

## Part 4: Chs 1-7 Analysis

In the Prelude to Part 4 one can see BeastlyNYC showing a new attitude toward women. He is offended when he learns that SilentMaid is being called dumb and is more open to listening to her story.

Chapter 1: Kyle/Adrian has had a major breakthrough in this chapter. He is enjoying his rose garden and has taken on the project of building a greenhouse to protect the roses. Adrian also begins to relate to Magda and asks her to tell him about her life. Adrian realizes that life is unfair for Will and Magda. He cares for them and wants to help them, so he turns to Kendra for help. Trusting Kendra with his new problem and his friends also shows how much Adrian has changed. Adrian finds himself feeling helpless to assist his friends even though Kendra thinks it just may be possible.

Chapter 2: Adrian is shocked and horrified by Linda's father's behavior. He can't believe that a real father would give his daughter to a monster and realizes it is what his own father would have done. Adrian wants Linda to live with him and, hopefully, come to love



him. But he also feels that he can help her by getting her out of her father's house. He is surprised when the druggie's daughter turns out to be Linda, but he is also pleased. He remembers Kendra's words and feels the situation is fate.

Chapter 3: Adrian is in a very excited state. He has imagined all of the things he and Linda will do. He will show her the garden, talk to her about books and - hopefully - get her to love him. He has been watching Linda in the mirror for some time and has fallen for her, even though this is not something he yet understands. Adrian has come up with some convoluted reasoning to justify what he is doing, and at this point he really seems to believe the reasoning himself. Adrian does understand that Linda may hate him for what he and her father are doing, but his excitement outweighs his fear. He tells Will that if Linda can love someone as sleazy as her father then maybe there is a hope that she will love him.

Chapter 4: Adrian knows that he is wrong in trapping Linda, but he is fascinated by her and doesn't want to let her go. He is also sure that she can love him and help to break the spell. Adrian wishes to comfort her and tell her that things will be ok, but he worries that his appearance will terrify her. Adrian feels that Linda is not as plain as he thought she was when they first met, but he is glad she is not beautiful. He doesn't think a beautiful girl could see past his ugliness.

Chapter 5: At this point Linda feels that Adrian is a monster. Not because of his appearance, but because of his behavior. Adrian is disappointed that Linda is so upset and feels that she should almost thank him for saving her from her father and her poor life. However, when he insults her father, Adrian realizes that Linda loves her father . . . just as he still loves his own.

Chapter 6: Adrian realizes that he respects Linda because she is unimpressed with his money. He also decides to give her some space and allow her to come out of her room when she is ready. Will expresses that he is proud of Adrian and Adrian realizes that no one has said that to him before. Adrian is scared to let Linda see his face, but knows that Kendra is right and that they can't have a relationship without honesty. Linda seems shocked by Adrian's appearance, but she is not turned off by it. Linda is obviously relieved to find that Adrian is her own age and is not an old pervert as she feared.

Chapter 7: Adrian tries hard to be himself around Linda. In the greenhouse he begins to feel at ease with her and hopes they might become friends. During their tutoring session he tries to keep up with her intellectually and does a good job of holding his own. It is clear that Linda is warming up to Will and Adrian, but she still has a hard time looking at Adrian's face. Adrian assumes it is either because he is repulsive or she feels awkward staring at him.



## Part 5: Chs 1-8

### Part 5: Chs 1-8 Summary

In the Prelude to Part 5, Grizzlyguy has managed to break his spell and become human again. SilentMaid has possibly lost her true love to another and BeastNYC is having a hard time believing that SilentMaid would give up her life for her love.

Chapter 1: Autumn and winter have come and Lindy has become more comfortable with Adrian. There is a thunderstorm that wakes them and they find themselves watching TV and talking. Adrian makes them two bags of popcorn and they settle onto the couch to watch *The Princess Bride*. Lindy tells Adrian that the thunder sounds like gunshots and Adrian wonders if she heard a lot of guns in her old neighborhood. Lindy talks about waking in the night as a child and being afraid because her father was gone. Adrian talks to her about how his parents used to tell him to be brave at night so he would leave them alone. The two share Lindy's bag of popcorn, which gives Adrian an excuse to sit closer to her. Lindy falls asleep and Adrian carries her upstairs to her room and puts her to bed. On the way, Lindy wakes and says she can walk, but Adrian convinces her that it is not a problem. Lindy says she trusts him and goes back to sleep. As Adrian tucks her in he wishes he could kiss her, but knows doing so would upset her. The two say goodnight and Adrian leaves. However, upon leaving, Lindy tells him his voice sounds familiar.

Chapter 2: Lindy asks Adrian what is on the fifth floor of the brownstone and Adrian is reluctant to tell her. He spent so many miserable days in the fifth floor room that he is afraid of the memories. However, Lindy is in the mood for an adventure and the two of them head upstairs to look through boxes that were left by the previous owners. Lindy loves that there is a couch by the window and talks about how it would be fun to watch people from there, something Adrian used to do daily. Adrian admits to watching people from there a time or two and it seems that Lindy understands he did this because he was lonely. Once the two of them begin to open the old boxes they find some wonderful things. Many of the items have to do with an actress named Ida Dunleavy and her family. Through newspaper clippings they find that Ida was an actress in the thirties who married a banker, Stanford Williams, and had two children. When the stock market crashed, her husband killed himself. They also find a green dress, a hat, gloves, scarf and old phonograph which doesn't work. Lindy puts on the dress, some makeup and perfume and takes down her hair. Adrian puts on the scarf and gloves and the two waltz while he hums *Blue Danube*. Adrian tells Lindy she is beautiful and she tells him he only thinks so because he hasn't seen pretty girls. She asks him how he became the way he is and Adrian says he was always this way. Lindy eventually leaves and Adrian takes the green dress and sleeps with it under his pillow.

Chapter 3: Adrian is having a hard time sleeping, knowing that Lindy is just upstairs. He imagines what it would be like for them to be able to sleep through the night together. In the morning the two study together and talk of Lindy's life. Lindy tells him that she



wishes he could go to her old school and Adrian imagines what comments would be made about his looks. They finish lunch and move into the greenhouse to pick more flowers together, as this has become their daily routine. Lindy talks to Adrian about being lonely in her old life and reveals to him that she had a crush on a boy at school named Kyle Kingsbury. Adrian is crushed because he knows what how he would have treated Lindy when he was Kyle. He is also upset knowing that Lindy could want someone as awful as his old self just because he was attractive and yet not love him as Adrian. Lindy tells him of the night Kyle gave her the white rose and says that she still has it in her room. Lindy talks about missing being able to go outside and wanting to walk in the snow as Christmas is coming soon. Adrian decides that he loves Lindy and tells Will he plans to let her go. Kendra thinks Adrian is crazy and tells him if he lets Lindy go he will never break the curse. Adrian is about to tell Lindy she is free when Magda comes up with a plan.

Chapter 4: At Magda's insistence, Adrian has come up with a plan to make Lindy happy. He calls his father and his father agrees to help him. Adrian, Lindy, Will and Magda take a limo to Adrian's winter cottage. Lindy has never been out of the city and has never seen pure white snow. They head to the mountains in New York and plan to stay for the entire winter if that is what Lindy wants. Lindy is overjoyed. She and Adrian have a snowball fight and build a snowman. That night Adrian doesn't lock the front door and he stays up all night worrying that Lindy will run away. In the middle of the night he checks her bedroom, thinking her door will be locked, and finds that she is sleeping. For the next few nights he waits for her to run away, but she doesn't.

Chapter 5: Lindy finds a sled and asks Adrian to go sledding with her. The two have a great time and Adrian is given the opportunity to sit behind Lindy on the sled and hold her like he has been longing to do. The sled reminds Adrian of a time when he was young. His father took him sledding but refused to get on the sled with him, even though Adrian was crying. Finally his father paid another boy money to take Adrian on the sled.

In the evening, Lindy and Adrian talk about how happy she has been with him and how much she appreciates his friendship. She says only one other thing would make her happy and that is to see her father and make sure he is ok. If she could do that she would be happy to stay with Adrian forever. Adrian shows her the mirror and they see her father in a drug induced stupor. Adrian tells her she must go to him and they agree that Lindy will leave in the morning. It is obvious that Lindy doesn't want to leave Adrian, but it is not clear if she will miss him as a friend or as something more. Adrian is crushed, but knows it is the right thing to do.

Chapter 6: Lindy leaves to help her father and months go by. In April, he gives up hope of her coming back and realizes there is just one more month left to end his curse. Adrian spends his days watching Lindy in the mirror. She has moved to an even poorer part of town and is going to a terrible school. He imagines that she hates him because she is no longer at Tuttle due to his kidnapping of her. Eventually Adrian only allows himself to watch her as she sleeps, and he is convinced she doesn't think of him at all. Adrian decides to stay in the mountains and not return to NYC, but Kendra convinces him to return to the brownstone and give Lindy the chance to come back to him.





Chapter 7: Adrian, Will and Magda return to New York and Adrian begins to repair his rose garden. He toys with the idea of getting a cat and decides not to do it. He and Will discuss Jane Eyre, Lindy's favorite book, and Adrian expresses that he didn't like the way the book ended. He also says that his favorite part of the book is the scene where the two separated lovers call out each other's names in the darkness because their souls are connected. It is May now and only two hours before the curse will be set forever. Adrian calls for Lindy in the mirror and hears her screaming his name for help. She is being held captive in the dark streets and is being forced up a stairwell by a shadowy figure. Adrian goes crazy. He runs into the streets in only jeans and a t-shirt, so intent on finding Lindy that he forgets to cover himself. Adrian's appearance causes a riot on the subway. People are yelling and screaming and calling him a monster. They decide to call the police and then try to push him onto the subway tracks. Adrian turns into a real beast in his desperation to get to Lindy. His claws come out, as do his fangs, and he roars and gets down on all fours in an attempt to escape his persecutors. Finally he uses the mirror to hit a man on the head. The mirror breaks and Adrian is left to use his senses and memory to guide him to Lindy.

Chapter 8: Adrian finds Lindy and the mugger in a building. The mugger plans to force himself on her if she has no money. Adrian threatens the man, who pulls a gun and holds it to Lindy's head. Lindy is surprised to see him. Adrian threatens to kill the man if he hurts Lindy and finds himself behaving more like a beast than a man. Adrian attacks the man using his teeth and claws, then a gunshot rings out. Adrian has been shot and the man is unconscious from loss of blood. Lindy runs to him and sits with him as he lies bleeding on the floor. Adrian refuses to let her call the police, thinking of the scene on the subway. He knows he is going to die and his time to break the curse has run out. However, he doesn't care because he is with Lindy. The two confess their love for each other and Lindy tells him she was out that night looking for his house. They kiss and the attacker rises up to attack Lindy. Adrian can't help Lindy because he is overcome with dizziness and the smell of roses. He hears a gunshot and broken glass, Lindy has fended the robber off. Adrian returns to the present and realizes that he is no longer a beast. Lindy recognizes him as Kyle and is confused, telling him she must go and find Adrian. He explains that he is Adrian and there was a curse. They embrace and return to his home.

## Part 5: Chs 1-8 Analysis

In the Prelude to Part 5, the participants in the chat room are all moving forward in their small subplots. BeastNYC is trying to understand how SilentMaid can love someone so much that she will give up everything.

Chapter 1: As Lindy and Adrian watch a movie in the middle of the night the two have an opportunity to spend time alone together. Adrian is smitten with Lindy and it is clear that Lindy is feeling more and more comfortable with Adrian. Adrian is taking special care not to scare Lindy and to take her feelings into account. He desperately wants a connection with her, but understands that she doesn't trust him.



Chapter 2: Adrian is learning to appreciate Lindy for more than just a friend and a way to break the curse. As they waltz in their costumes, he thinks about how beautiful she is and how much he would like to hold her. And more importantly, how much he wishes she would want him in return. Adrian is happy to learn that Lindy thinks of him as a friend, but still wants more. He is beginning to hope that Lindy may want that too as she comes to breakfast with her hair down, perfume and make up on.

Chapter 3: Adrian is in love with Lindy and finally understands what is motivating SilentMaid to give up her life for her beloved. He has decided to let Lindy go so that she can have freedom and be happy. He secretly hopes that she will stay with him, but knows this is not realistic. He is prepared to stay a beast forever instead of taking away Lindy's freedom.

Chapter 4: Lindy and Adrian continue to cement the bonds of their friendship. Adrian has come to realize that Lindy trusts him not to hurt her and he is beginning to trust that she is staying because she wants too. Not because she is a prisoner.

Chapter 5: Adrian has finally let Lindy go. He knows that she is worried for her father and understands that his love for her is not enough if she is unhappy. Adrian feels that Lindy only thinks of him as a friend and that will not break the spell. He understands what it is like to want to see your parent, even when that parent is abusive and unloving. He would rather she leave than be unhappy in any way.

Chapter 6: Adrian has given up all hope of breaking his curse. He has also given up any hope that Lindy will come back to him. He loves her, but knows he has lost her. Magda, Will and Kendra feel terrible for Adrian as he is a changed man and shouldn't have to live with a curse meant for Kyle Kingsbury - the person he no long resembles on the inside or out.

Chapter 7: This is the climax of the book. Adrian is overcome by his beast and attacks the robber to save Lindy. Lindy and Adrian express their love for each other and kiss. The spell is broken and Lindy finally learns Adrian's true identity. It looks as if they might end up together.

Chapter 7: This chapter is the lead up to the book's climax. Adrian must overcome many obstacles to save Lindy from the person holding her. He must disregard his looks, his fear of exposure, and overcome facing the people on the subway. All of this he does because his mind is focused solely on finding and saving Lindy. She needs him and he will not let her down.





## Part 6: Chs 1-3

### Part 6: Chs 1-3 Summary

In the Prelude to Part 6, BeastNYC has Lindy join him in the chat room. It seems that everyone has found love and everyone's lives are looking up. Everyone except SilentMaid, who is not in the chat.

Chapter 1: Adrian, Lindy and the mugger emerge from the building to find the place crawling with reporters trying to find a lead on the beast reported in the subway. The mugger begins to tell anyone who will listen that there was a beast in the building who attacked him. Lindy and Adrian make a joke about the man being on drugs and everyone laughs it off. Adrian takes the microphone away from a female reporter, who works for his father's station, and makes a speech about respecting people who are different. Adrian thinks about how upset his father will be that someone has discovered Adrian is a beast and imagines his father is already at the brownstone waiting for him. The police arrest the mugger and ask Adrian and Lindy to come to the station to make a statement. The couple agrees and then they kiss.

Chapter 2: Adrian and Lindy return home to find Mr. Kingsbury there just as Adrian assumed he would be. Rob is concerned that Adrian was the beast on the subway and barely notices that his son's looks have returned to normal. He greets Lindy and spends time taking in her less than wealthy appearance. He wants to take the couple to breakfast, but they decline. Adrian tells his father they can do it another time, but has no intention of seeing him again any time soon. Adrian urgently goes to find Will and Magda. He wants to tell them his has changed and also wants to see if Kendra held up her part of the bargain and helped them when he broke the curse. Will wakes up and is amazed that he has his vision back. Adrian and Lindy go to find Magda, but she has already gone. On her bed is a hand mirror similar to the one Adrian broke on the subway. Adrian asks the mirror to show him Magda — and it shows him Kendra.

Chapter 3: Adrian and Lindy go to the roof to meet with Kendra. She explains to him that she was Magda all along. That she cared for him and wanted him to appreciate life. She also explains that as a young witch she did some pretty dirty spells on people. As a result, she was banished to be a servant in New York and was not allowed to use her powers. But Adrian, as Kyle, was so horrible she just had to teach him a lesson. As a result, she has been estranged from her family and was forced to be with Adrian forever. However, when Adrian wished for her to return to her family once he broke his spell, she was reunited with them. Kendra turns into a crow and flies away to be with her family. Lindy is disappointed to see Kendra leave because she is worried that Adrian is too handsome and perfect. She wanted to ask Kendra to make him less attractive; she is worried he will leave her for someone more beautiful. Adrian assures her that no one will ever be as wonderful as she is, because she loved him even when he was a monster.



## Part 6: Chs 1-3 Analysis

In the Prelude to Part 6 the reader finds that all the chat room subplots have been resolved except for one. SilentMaid is not part of the group and it is assumed she has been turned into foam by the sea witch.

Chapter 1: Adrian and Lindy are in love and are happy to share their love with the reporters outside the building. They also take the opportunity to make light of the "Beast in the Subway" report and do a nice job of covering up the fact that Adrian was the beast.

Chapter 2: Everything is falling into place perfectly. Adrian's father shows up, but Adrian is not upset by it like he would have been. He rejects his father's breakfast invitation just as his father used to reject him. Will has been granted sight again and Magda has gone back to being Kendra. It seems that Adrian had a fairy godmother, of sorts, the entire time.

Chapter 3: Magda, who was really Kendra, has made up with her family and is now free from her self-inflicted problems, thanks to Adrian. She leaves the couple and returns to where she is from. Lindy shows her vulnerability when she expresses her fear that Adrian will leave her for another girl, one who is prettier. Adrian shows, once and for all, that he has changed. He tells Lindy how wonderful she is and that he loves her for her just and she loved him for him.



# Epilogue.

## Epilogue. Summary

Adrian and Lindy have returned to school at Tuttle. Adrian is going by the name of Kyle again and he is again nominated for homecoming king. The difference is that this time he could care less. The couple are taking AP English, which is being taught by their old tutor, Will. Who is now in night school so that he can move forward in his career. Kyle's father wrote Will a great recommendation that allowed him a teaching spot at the school. It has been over two years since the curse and Kyle is a changed person. He and Lindy walk home from school and Kyle suggests they go to see a garden. Lindy says no, that she would rather go home. Kyle, Lindy and Will all live together in the brownstone house and are like a family. Lindy goes to her room and tries to find the green dress they found the day they were looking through boxes on the 5th floor. When she can't find it Kyle admits it is in his room under his mattress. Lindy thinks it is weird, but Kyle doesn't explain. She sees that the dress needs repair and Kyle suggests she try it on before getting it fixed. She puts it on and the two dance like they did the day on the 5th floor.

## Epilogue. Analysis

The story is neatly tied up in the Epilogue. The reader finds out what happened to Kyle, Lindy and Will. They all have their happily ever after and are also moving forward with their lives in a positive way. There is only one loose end in the book that does not get resolved, that of SilentMaid. It seems that the author has chosen the Hans Christian Anderson version of the tale as opposed to the more uplifting Disney version. In the HCA tale, the sea witch wins.



# Characters

## Kyle Kingsbury.

Kyle Kingsbury is a vain, egotistical high school freshman who is used to being adored due to his looks and money. Kyle is hoping to become homecoming king, but his plan takes a turn for the worst when he is cursed by a witch. As the book opens, Kyle is proud that he is the king of the school. He understands that his popularity is based on his looks and his money, but he doesn't care. Kyle thinks that his money and looks make him a better person than others. When a girl at school makes Kyle feel bad about himself he decides to get revenge. However, his revenge seals his fate as the girl he humiliates is a witch who curses him by turning him into a beast.

Kyle has been abandoned by his mother and is all but ignored by his father. He has no relationship to his mother and his father is an older version of Kyle. It is very obvious that Kyle gets his "beastly" behavior, uncaring attitude and sense of privileged from his egotistical father. To compensate for his unhappy home life, Kyle has focused on becoming the most popular guy at school. He is cruel to others and thinks that he is better than everyone else. He is also a manipulative person who plays people in order to get what he wants. However, after being turned into a beast, he must learn to change on the inside if he ever wishes to change back to normal on the outside.

Living in isolation as a beast changes Kyle on the inside and the outside. He learns to be kind to others, to see beauty in life and to love himself. Kyle has an opportunity to live a life he never thought possible as the beast. Although he is lonely, he has a maid and a tutor who care for him as a friend. Kyle learns to make friends and throws himself into learning. Kyle has two years to fall in love, and be loved in return, in order to break his curse. However, Kyle feels that no one could love him looking the way he does. Kyle has a chance at finding love when Lindy moves into the brownstone, at first against her will. As their friendship grows, Kyle learns the value of love and leaves all of his selfish ways behind.

## Kendra Hilferty.

Kendra is more than a girl, she is a witch. Kendra is described as an overweight Goth girl who is unpopular. One day in class she and Kyle argue about the value of having a homecoming king and queen and she ends up calling him a beast. Kyle is humiliated by Kendra's attack on him and swears he will get even with her. However, it is Kendra who leaves a lasting impression on Kyle. After Kyle embarrasses her at homecoming, Kendra reveals herself as a true witch. She changes into a beautiful girl and curses Kyle. Kendra wishes for Kyle to change who he is on the inside and gives him two years to find true love and reverse the spell.



Over the next two years, Kendra and Kyle enter into a strange relationship. Kendra gives Kyle a magical hand mirror in which he can see anyone he desires. He can also use the mirror to contact Kendra. Kendra uses their conversations to try and help Kyle change and find true love. As Kyle grows and changes, Kendra begins to feel remorse for what she did to him. She still feels he deserved the curse, but she wishes she could break the spell. However, due to the conditions of the spell, she can't help him. Kyle must find love to break the spell. Kendra devotes herself to encouraging Kyle not to give up and helping him find and appreciate love. She also encourages him to value himself and to believe that there is a girl out there who will also value him.

## **Magda.**

Magda is the Kingsbury family housekeeper. She takes care of the house and speaks with a Spanish accent. Magda seems to see something in Kyle that he does not see in himself. She tries to impart words of wisdom to him, but is ignored and disrespected by Kyle and his father. Magda seems to put up with the Kingsburys' disrespect and doesn't seem upset by it. More than anything, she seems to feel sorry for Kyle and his father.

When Kyle is banished to the Brooklyn brownstone, Magda goes with him. Kyle feels that she has come because his father paid her, but it is clear that Magda is living with Kyle because she cares for him. She doesn't approve of the way Mr. Kingsbury treats Kyle and seems to understand that his father's distance causes Kyle emotional pain. Over time Magda and Kyle become like family. As Kyle changes, he comes to respect Magda more and appreciates her.

Magda is working in the US, but has a husband, children and grandchildren in her home country. She tells Kyle that she works to send money to her family in her home country. She tells Kyle that she made the choice to live alone as an older woman, after living her life. She wants Kyle to live while he is young and feels he is too young to isolate himself from the world.

## **Linda Owens.**

Linda "Lindy" Owens is an impoverished girl who is attending Tuttle on scholarship. She is a poor girl from the wrong side of town and her father is a drug addict. However, despite her circumstances, Linda is a hard worker and a successful student. She hopes to escape her father and poverty by getting a college scholarship. She and Kyle first meet at homecoming when Lindy is taking tickets at the door. Kyle gives her the white rose that his girlfriend didn't want and wonders how someone could get so excited over a rose. Lindy has never had someone give her a flower and presses the bloom in a book when she gets home. Unbeknownst to Kyle, his act of giving Lindy the rose earns him a chance to break the spell Kendra puts on him.

As the book moves forward, the reader learns that Linda is also the girl who will help Kyle break his curse. After her father gives her to Kyle, she moves into Kyle's home. At first Lindy resents being held prisoner in the brownstone with Kyle, Magda and Will.



However, as time goes by and she gets used to her new home, she comes to feel safe and secure. Lindy and Kyle form a friendship that seems to be developing into something more. Lindy tells Kyle that she would gladly stay with him forever, but that she is worried about her father. When she learns her father is in danger, Kyle sets her free and she returns to her original home.

Lindy misses Kyle and tries to find the brownstone, but doesn't have the address and can't find him. Lindy grows to love Kyle.

## **Adrian King.**

Adrian King is Kyle Kingsbury. Once Kyle begins to understand what a cruel person he was, he decides to distance himself from that person. He changes his name to Adrian and chooses to remake himself. When Linda comes to live with Kyle she only knows him as Adrian. Kendra, Magda and Will agree that Adrian suits him more than Kyle did.

## **Mr. Chris Anderson.**

Mr. Anderson is the moderator of an online chat room for people who have been cursed. It is unclear who Mr. Anderson is, although it is probable that he is an allusion to the author Hans Christian Anderson who wrote *The Little Mermaid*. Inside the chat room, Mr. Anderson tries to help people like Kyle who have been cursed by magical beings. His role is that of a therapist and he helps his online community accept their shortcomings.

Mr. Anderson discusses curses and transformation with his online group. He tries to help them understand each other and themselves. He also encourages them to try and break the spells they are under.

## **SilentMaid.**

SilentMaid is another fair tale creature who participates in Mr. Anderson's online chat room. She is a mermaid who has fallen in love with a mortal. She is about to willingly change into a human in order to have a chance at true love. SilentMaid is one of the only people in the chat room that Kyle truly doesn't understand. He doesn't understand her desire for true love or her willingness to sacrifice herself for it. However, it is SilentMaid whom Kyle emulates when he sacrifices everything to make sure Lindy is happy.

## **Dr. Endecott.**

Dr. Endecott is a compassionate doctor who is the last person Kyle and his father consult before they give up on finding a cure for him. Dr. Endecott treats Kyle as if he were human and shows great compassion. He also reprimands Mr. Kingsbury for calling



his son a freak. The doctor suggests that Kyle can have a good life no matter what he looks like and asks Kyle to consider going to therapy to adjust to his new looks. Dr. Endecott makes it very clear that there is no medical help for Kyle.

## **Trey**

Trey is Kyle's best friend and competitor. Trey is not as popular as Kyle, but wishes he could be. He is envious of Kyle and somewhat worships him. Trey is also running for homecoming king and eventually becomes involved with Kyle's girlfriend.

## **Will Fratalli.**

Will Fratalli is the new tutor hired by Kyle's father. Will is blind and has a service dog named Pilot. Will is being paid a lot of money to tutor Kyle. Will is a nice guy who works hard and seems to truly care for Kyle. Kyle has confided in Will about his transformation and Will is very supportive of him. Will tells Kyle that he wasn't always blind and that his eyesight started to deteriorate when he was about twelve years old. The two become friends. Will decides to create a rose garden and enlists Kyle to help him. While they are planting they bond over the activity and Will tells Kyle why he thinks roses are so special. Will becomes Kyle's friend and confidant. He loves Kyle and wishes that he could help him adjust to his beastly life. Like Magda, Will becomes Kyle's family.

## **Gin Elliott.**

Gin Elliott is a wealthy, popular kid from Tuttle who is known for throwing great parties when his parents are out of town. Kyle goes to one of the parties and watches the people he used to know through the windows.

## **Bronwen Kreps.**

Bronwen Kreps is a nice girl who Kyle meets while she is taking tickets at a school Halloween party. She is dressed as Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, but has modified her costume by adding fish nets, purple hair and tattoos. Bronwen and Kyle (going by the name Adrian) really hit it off until she tries to take off his Halloween mask. As Kyle pushes her away he accidentally breaks her arm.

## **Daniel Owens.**

Daniel Owens is Linda's creepy, drug addicted father. He is seen in the hand mirror being unkind to Linda and even threatening her when she throws away his drugs. One night Daniel is caught breaking into Kyle's greenhouse. Daniel offers Kyle his daughter in exchange for his freedom. Kyle thinks Daniel is scum, but agrees to accept his



daughter once he realizes the girl is Linda. Eventually Linda returns to her father and convinces him to get a job and go to rehab, however, his change is short lived.

## **Sloane Hagen.**

Sloane is a popular girl at Tuttle whom Kyle is dating at the beginning of the book. She is a cruel, spoiled girl who enjoys helping him humiliate Kendra at the homecoming dance.

## **Rob Kingsbury.**

Mr. Kingsbury is Kyle's father. He is a distant and unemotional man. It is clear that Kyle's attitudes and behaviors are heavily influenced by his father. Mr. Kingsbury is a famous television news anchor who thinks highly of himself and prides himself on being attractive. He all but ignores his son and is upset when Kyle's transformation can't be undone. It is clear in flashbacks of Kyle's childhood that his father has always been uncaring and unkind to his son.





## Objects/Places

### **Tuttle.**

Tuttle is the upper crust private academy where Kyle Kingsbury attends school. The school has many different cliques and most students are privileged and wealthy. Linda Owens also attends the school, but she is there on a financial aid scholarship which makes her an outcast. As the book opens, Tuttle is having a homecoming dance and Kyle plans to be crowned king. Tuttle is for privileged kids who have parents that are often over involved in the school.

### **The White Rose.**

When Kyle asks Kendra to the dance she tells him that she would like a white rose to go with her dress. Kyle has no intention of buying her the rose, but ends up with it anyway when his housekeeper makes a mistake. Kyle gives the rose to Linda Owens at the dance and is surprised she wants something so plain and cheap. Later, Kyle finds two rose petals in his pocket and is told by Kendra they represent the two years he has been given to break the spell. Throughout the story the rose becomes a symbol of seeing beauty in simplicity.

### **The Plaza.**

The plaza is the place where the homecoming dance is to be held. It is also where Kyle intentionally embarrasses Kendra and seals his fate as a beast. It is also where Kyle gives Linda the white rose.

### **Times Square.**

Times Square in New York City is referred to in one of Kyle's memories of his father. Kyle remembers seeing his father on the Jumbotron above the city and remembers thinking that his father is a god. He becomes impressed by his father's importance, but realizes as he gets older that his father is not a god.

### **The Hand Mirror.**

The hand mirror is a symbol that ties this modern story to the fairy tales of the past. Like the mirror in Snow White, the hand mirror can show Kyle things he would otherwise be unable to see. The mirror belongs to Kendra and was one of the first clues that she was not a mortal person. Kyle ends up in possession of the mirror and can use it to see the good and bad in the lives of the people around him. He can also use the mirror to talk with Kendra and spy on Linda.



## **The Rose Garden.**

The garden in the back of Kyle's brownstone is a place where Kyle can be outside. Will brings home potting soil and roses; he and Kyle begin to plant a rose garden. The roses remind Kyle of how he became a beast, but they also set him free. After planting the flowers, Kyle begins to venture out into the city at night. He also begins to appreciate roses and the other things around him. The rose garden cements the bond between Kyle and Will; it also helps Kyle to realize that Magda cares for him. Eventually the garden becomes the center of Kyle's life.

## **The Subway.**

The subway is Kyle's ticket to freedom. He can move around the city and no one will try to speak to him. Kyle realizes that people on the subway assume he is homeless and so they treat him as if he is invisible. Kyle begins to spend all night on the subway making him unable to attend tutoring because he is too tired. Later in the book the subway takes on a new significance to Kyle. He must face his fears and the fears of those on the subway to save Lindy's life. Yet another way the subway is freedom for Kyle.

## **The Sled.**

The sled is an item Lindy finds in the closet while they are staying in the mountains. Kyle's father bought the sled when Kyle was a boy and tried to teach his son to sled. Kyle remembers his father making him go down the hill alone and is saddened by the memory. However, he creates a good memory with Lindy as they sled down the hill giggling. It is the first time Kyle is able to hold Lindy in his arms.

## **Ida's Green Dress.**

Adrian/Kyle and Lindy go to the fifth floor to look through boxes left by the previous tenants. Inside the boxes they find old newspaper clippings of an actress named Ida who lived in the 1920s. Inside the box is also a beautiful green dress that Lindy puts on. This is the first time that Lindy has tried to impress Adrian/Kyle with her appearance. It works, he is in love with Lindy and thinks she is beautiful. The two waltz around the room while Adrian/Kyle hums Blue Danube.

## **The Greenhouse.**

Kyle builds a greenhouse to protect his roses in the fall and winter. He also builds the greenhouse so that he can visit his flowers in the daylight without being seen by the neighbors. The greenhouse is a place where he and Lindy spend time together after she moves in. Tending to the roses becomes part of their daily routine together.



## **Pilot.**

Pilot is Will's service dog. Pilot knows that Kyle is not quite human and seems to view Kyle as the Alpha dog. Pilot is not a pet, but becomes one to everyone in the brownstone.

## **The Mountain Chalet.**

Magda encourages Kyle to do something special and romantic for Lindy. Kyle arranges to take her to his family's mountain home for the winter. Lindy has never been out of the city and has never seen fresh, pure snow. She loves the place and she and Kyle continue to grow their friendship and romance at the chalet. However, it is here the Kyle realizes that if he truly loves Lindy he must let her go.

## **Gin's Party.**

Gin is a student at Tuttle who is known for throwing lavish parties when parents are away. Kyle disguises himself and attends one of the parties. However, because he is the beast, he stays outside. The partygoers, all old friends of his, seem to ignore him during the evening. Kyle overhears his friend Trey and another boy gossiping about him and realizes that he never really had friends. Even though he was attractive, popular and rich, people still didn't like him.

## **Books.**

Will encourages Kyle to begin reading literature classics. Throughout the story, many famous literary works are mentioned and discussed. Lindy is also an avid reader and Kyle makes sure she has access to any book she wants. Kyle begins to understand why people love to read and he identifies with the various characters he reads about.

## **The Halloween Dance.**

Kyle's first Halloween as a beast presents him with a unique opportunity to go out and mingle with people. By this time he is feeling very alone and really wants to make a connection with someone. He ends up at a school dance where he strikes up a conversation with the ticket girl. When her shift is over, the pair go into the gym and dance together. But things go badly when the girl tries to take off Kyle's mask. He pushes her away and ends up breaking her arm. Kyle runs back to the brownstone convinced that he can never go out in public again.



# Themes

## Unconditional Love.

The novel, *Beastly*, is about unconditional love. Love is an important theme in the book because it touches each and every one of the main characters in one way or another. Unconditional love is not merely about loving someone else, but it is also about loving oneself. Kyle Kingsbury must learn to love another, and be loved in return, in order to break the curse that has been put on him. However, in order to love and be loved, he must first learn how to love himself.

Kyle was never taught the value of love. He was taught the value of social standing, of aesthetics, of money, but never of love. His mother had no problem abandoning him as a child and his father is a self-centered, uncaring man. It is no wonder that Kyle doesn't understand how to love or be loved by another. It is only as the beast that he comes to appreciate that people can love others without getting anything in return. He becomes vulnerable and that vulnerability allows him to let others into his life. Kyle grows to love Magda, Will and - eventually - himself. Although it is his love of Lindy that truly sets him free, it is Lindy's love of him in return that breaks the curse.

Other characters in the novel also deal with the issue of unconditional love. Magda seems to love and care for Kyle even though he treats her badly. Will cares for Kyle and tries to teach him how to love himself, no matter what his disability. Lindy also struggles with love. She must learn to trust Kyle in order to love him, she loves her father even though he is abusive and she wonders if Kyle can love her because she claims she is not beautiful.

## Abandonment.

Abandonment is another central theme in the novel. It is due to various states of abandonment that some of the book's characters face challenges. Kyle's abandonment by his mother creates in him a feeling of unworthiness which he hides beneath a bitter exterior. After Kyle is turned into a beast he is badly hurt by his father when his father abandons him with Magda and Will in the brownstone. These acts of abandonment form the basis for Kyle's character at the beginning of the book and the changes he makes as the book progresses.

Abandonment also affects Linda. Her father abandons her to the mercy of the unknown when he trades her to Kyle for drugs and freedom. Linda is left to wonder about her safety and her fate when she first begins living in Kyle's home. She has also suffered the effects of her father's drug habits, which have left them broke and living in squalor.

Despite having been abandoned by the people who were supposed to love them the most, both Kyle and Linda are able to learn to love and trust each other.



## Truth.

Truth, and telling the truth, is a big theme in *Beastly*. Kyle must learn to tell the truth to himself and to others if he is to change who he is. Kyle doesn't want to face the fact that he is exactly the cruel person Kendra accused him of being. In fact, he becomes angry with her because he knows in his heart what she said is the truth and he doesn't want to face it. Kyle has shown himself to be a master manipulator, a person who would rather skirt around the truth than ask for what he wants.

After Kyle is turned into the beast he still tries to find ways around telling the truth. Looking for love online is just one of the many ways he avoids telling others the truth about himself. Kendra helps Kyle to realize that he can't find love if he is telling lies. That eventually he will have to show himself as he truly is in order to make a connection with another person.

Kyle's father shows the same falseness of character that Kyle showed at the beginning of the book. It is that falseness that Kyle hates the most about his father.

## Self-Acceptance.

By the end of *Beastly*, the reader learns that each and every character has a lesson to learn about self-acceptance. Kyle must accept who he was before he can grow into the person he wants to be. He must also accept his appearance and find the strength inside himself to love another and allow himself to be loved.

Linda has already accepted the fact that she is poor and she seems to be moving forward. However, once Kyle becomes beautiful again, the reader learns that Linda is very self-conscious about her appearance. Kyle must convince her that he thinks she is beautiful and that it is what is on Linda's inside that matters the most to him.

Will seems to have accepted his blindness and is working toward financial independence. He is a role model for how Kyle should appreciate life. Will has accepted himself and, in doing so, encourages Kyle to do the same.

Magda accepts those around her no matter what. She has accepted the unfair circumstances of her life and is making the best of those circumstances. She also shows Kyle that everyone is valuable. A maid, a tutor and even a beast.

Kendra's inability to accept who she is comes as a surprise at the end of the book. It is clear that Kendra has had to do some atoning of her own and it is implied that she may have been much like Kyle before she became estranged by her family. Kendra must accept that she is not there to judge people, as she did Kyle, and that sometimes she takes her magic a bit too far.

## Trust.

Trust is another theme which everyone in the book must deal with. The theme of trust goes hand-in-hand with truth, self-acceptance and unconditional love. Each character in the book shows some facet of trust, whether they trust too little or too much.

Kyle doesn't trust anyone. His mother left him, his father doesn't care about him and he pretty much hates himself and his life. Kyle doesn't believe that anyone could care for him and refuses to believe that he can be loved as a beast. Kyle finds it hard to trust Will and Magda at first because he believes they are only nice to him because they are being paid a lot of money. As Kyle grows emotionally, he begins to understand that even though people are paid to do a job, they are not paid to care about you.

Kendra's relationship with Kyle is based on the fact that she doesn't trust him at all. All of their interactions are based on her assumption that he is not trustworthy. He must work throughout the book to prove to her he is worth her trust.

Lindy is almost too trusting. She trusts that her father will change even though he has repeatedly failed her. She trusts that good grades will get her out of poverty and she - eventually - trusts that Kyle will not hurt her. For some, like Kyle and Kendra, trusting is the cause of pain. However, for Lindy, trusting is a way to find happiness. Eventually Kyle and Kendra learn this lesson too.

# Style

## Point of View

Beastly is told in the first person point of view. The story is told from the point of view of Kyle Kingsbury, a high school freshman who is turned into a beast by a witch's curse. The reader is privy to all of Kyle's thoughts, words and emotions. As the main character, Kyle is able to share his hopes, fears, successes and failures with the reader. Through Kyle's thoughts we are able to see how he became such a shallow person and the reader is able to understand his motivations for change. The reader is drawn into the story because of Kyle's easy narrative voice and his vulnerable thoughts.

The author uses dialogue to show how the rest of the characters are feeling. Often, facial expressions and body language cues are used to give the reader access to the thoughts and feelings of the characters who inhabit Kyle's world. However, it is only Kyle's thought the reader knows for certain. Most of the characters in the book are straight forward in their dialogue so that the reader is not left to guess what they are thinking or feeling. Sarcasm and emotional descriptors are used liberally during exchanges in dialogue.

Before each book section is a prelude which features Kyle, username BeastNYC, chatting in a chat room with others who have been cursed by magic. The prelude seems to set the tone for the chapters to come and gives the reader a glimpse into more of Kyle's thoughts and feelings.

## Setting

The novel takes place in New York, New York. As the story opens, Kyle and his father are living in a wealthy area of New York City and Kyle is attending Tuttle, a private school. Kyle's world is that of the wealthy and privileged. By the middle of the book, Kyle has been banished to a five-story brownstone in Brooklyn, New York. A place where no one his father knows will see him. It is here at the brownstone that the majority of the story takes place.

The brownstone is large enough to house Kyle, Magda, Will and Linda. It provides many places for them to live and work and opportunities for the characters to be alone together. Especially Kyle and Linda who use their alone time to further their friendship and develop a romance. Kyle and Will build a rose garden in the back yard and eventually Kyle erects a greenhouse. Kyle and Linda spend much of their time in the greenhouse tending to Kyle's roses.

A small part of the book takes place during the winter at Kyle's isolated ski chalet in the mountains of New York. This setting is the backdrop for Kyle and Linda's romance and it is the place where Kyle realizes that he loves Linda and must set her free to chose her own path in life.



Often the story leads Kyle to the New York subway. The subway is the first place Kyle goes to escape his isolation and loneliness in the brownstone. It is also the place where he must face his worst fear - that of discovery - at the end of the book.

## Language and Meaning

The author is very creative in his use of language to tell the story. *Beastly* is an adaptation of the fairy tale *Beauty and the Beast*, and as such there are many magical elements to the tale.

Kyle begins the book as a typical teenager. His voice and the author's writing style help the reader relate to Kyle. Kyle talks like any other kid and often has flashbacks of his life with his father that help explain his cold nature. The author uses familiar slang, mentions familiar brands and uses teenage speech patterns to bring the reader into Kyle's world.

Kyle's language, word choices and speech patterns begin to change the more time he spends as the beast. Some of it is because Kyle is reading the classics and becoming more educated, however, some of his new speech even shocks Kyle. For example, when Daniel Owens breaks into the greenhouse Kyle shouts, "Who goes there?" And then wonders to himself why he is talking so formally. It becomes increasingly obvious that the author is using traditional fairy tale language to bring the reader more fully into the state of suspended disbelief needed to believe *Beastly's* fairy tale narrative.

## Structure

The novel is divided into 6 parts and an epilogue. Each part of the novel consists of between three and eight chapters. Each section is given a descriptive title and begins with a transcript of the magical online chat room inhabited by other fairy tale characters.

The sections are as follows:

Part 1: A Prince and a Witch.

Chs. 1 - 8.

Part 2: The Beast.

Chs. 1 - 5.

Part 3: The Castle.

Chs. 1 - 7.

Part 4: The Intruder in the Garden.

Chs. 1 - 8.





Part 5: Time Lapses, Autumn and Winter.

Chs. 1 - 8.

Part 6: Happily Ever After.

Chs. 1 - 3.

Epilogue.



## Quotes

"Then you'd better hope that you never get ugly, Kyle. You are ugly now, on the inside, where it matters most, and if you ever lost your good looks, I bet you wouldn't be smart or strong enough to get them back. Kyle Kingsbury, you are beastly."

Part 1, Chap. 1, p. 6

"A beautiful thing is precious, no matter the price. Those who do not know how to see the precious things in life will never be happy. I wish you to be happy, Mr. Kyle."

Part 1, Chap. 5, pp. 23-24

"I have transformed you to your truer self."

Part 1, Chap. 8, p. 40

"In the street below, a homeless guy trudged by with an enormous backpack on his shoulders. What was it like to be him, to have no one expect, no one want anything from you?"

Part 2, Chap. 4, p. 71

"But now I thought about them all the time, how one minute you can be normal - beautiful, even - and then something can happen the next minute that changes it. You can be damaged beyond repair. A freak."

Part 2, Chap. 4, pp. 75 - 76

"Everyone can use a little beauty . . ."

Part 3, Chap. 3, p. 109

"A rose can change your life."

Part 3, Chap. 3, p. 110

"I loved them. I didn't even mind the thorns. All living things needed protection."

Part 4, Chap. 1, p. 142

"I was a beast, and I would die a beast."

Part 4, Chap. 5, p. 174

"But maybe if I worked harder, she would look past it, see the real me. Except I didn't even know who 'the real me' was anymore. I had been transformed - not just my body, but all of me."

Part 5, Chap. 2, p. 216

"The yellow roses last the longest, but it's still too short."

Part 5, Chap. 3, p. 224

"If I hadn't been transformed, I would never have known what I was missing."

Part 5, Chap. 3, p. 224



"Maybe we judge people too much by their looks because it's easier than seeing what's really important."

Part 6, Chap. 1, p. 282

"I thought of the winter. I'd been as dead as one of my roses, but I hadn't wanted to admit it to myself."

Part 6, Chap. 2, p. 285



## Topics for Discussion

What is unconditional love and why would the author choose this as a theme for the book? Cite some examples of unconditional love in the book. These examples should be instances in the book where characters were accepted for who they are, not for what they do. How do these examples influence the development of the different characters? How do these examples influence the development of the plot?

Kyle does not have much of a family. His mother has disappeared and is not discussed much in the story and his father is a neglectful parent at best. However, by the end of the story Kyle has a very loving, close family - even if it isn't the nuclear family kind. What does the book *Beastly* say about family? According to the book: 1) What is family? 2) How is a family formed? 3) What things keep Kyle's new family together? Do you think the book accurately portrays the elements of family?

Kyle Kingsbury is a bitter, jaded young man. What has happened to him that caused this bitterness? Do you think it is justified? Why or why not? What other ways might Kyle have dealt with the disappointments in his life? Could the plot of the book worked if Kyle had a different personality? Why or why not?

Will Frattalli is a blind college student who has been hired by Kyle's dad to act as his tutor. Does Will's blindness allow him a unique position in Kyle's life? Give examples to support your conclusion. Does Will's position as a tutor allow him a unique position in Kyle's life? Give examples to support your conclusion. Why would the author create a character like Will for the story?

Before each part of the book there is a transcript of BeastNYC's discussions in the magical chat room. BeastNYC is obviously Kyle and he is given the chance to discuss his feelings with others who have been changed by magic. Why does the author provide the reader this unique view of Kyle's feelings? What emotions does Kyle show in the chat room that he doesn't show on the outside? What is the purpose of including the chat room transcripts? Do you feel it helps the story, hurts the story or doesn't affect the story at all? Why?

The subway system is a part of city life in New York; however, the author also uses the subway as a means of freedom and revelation for Kyle. Give examples of different ways the subway has changed Kyle's thoughts, feelings or life. Do you think the author's choice to use the subway is due to convenience? Or symbolism? Why do you think the way you do?

After going on the subway, Kyle realizes that people think he is homeless. He feels that homeless people are treated as invisible. This knowledge allows Kyle the freedom to take the subway around the city without worrying he will be discovered. Do you agree with Kyle that homeless people are invisible? Why or why not? What are some reasons people might ignore the homeless? Do you think the author is trying to make a



statement by using this in the story? Or it is just a convenient way to further the plot? Why do you feel the way you do?

Roses are used as symbols and plot devices throughout *Beastly*. What is the symbolism of the rose? What do the different colors symbolize? Do you think the author intentionally uses roses as symbols in the book? Why or why not? What are some examples that support your conclusion? Why would the author choose the rose to include in the story? Where does this idea come from?

*Beastly* is very obviously based on the Beauty and the Beast fairy tale and, more specifically, the Disney version of the story. What is an adaptation? What is a version? What is the difference between the two? Would you consider *Beastly* to be an adaptation or a version? How do you feel about stories that are so closely based on the works of another artist? Do you enjoy them? Why or why not? Why might an author choose to reinvent a traditional story? Can you give examples of other adaptations or versions of classics that are popular today?

Kyle decides to change his name to Adrian in the second half of the book. Why would Kyle wish to change his name? What is Adrian like and how is he different than Kyle? Do you think it is possible to become a different person by changing your name? Why or why not?