

Blood and Chocolate Study Guide

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Plot Summary

Vivian is a werewolf living with her mother and her pack in a city in Maryland. She falls in love with a human boy, but is devastated when he is unable to accept her for who she is. Her rage and grief cause her to lose control of herself while in wolf form. When murders begin to happen, Vivian is terrified that she is the killer. However, she learns that another werewolf in her pack, Astrid, has been setting her up. Astrid now plans to murder Aiden, so Vivian runs to his defense, only to find that Aiden means to kill her. She fights Astrid but is accidentally shot. She is permanently trapped between wolf and human form until she learns to accept her identity as a werewolf. When she does, she becomes the new queen of the pack, and chooses the pack's leader as her new mate.

Vivian has been forced to move home to Maryland after her home in West Virginia was burned down. This was in retaliation for murders committed by werewolves in her pack. Her father, the leader of the pack, died in the fire. Now the pack is living in the suburbs of a Maryland city and is separated and disjoined without a leader. Vivian feels very alone and confused.

When she sees a poem about werewolves in her school magazine, she decides to seek out the author. She finds Aiden, a good-looking boy who she is immediately attracted to. Vivian begins a relationship with Aiden and soon becomes a part of his group of friends. With them she finds the acceptance and friendship that she is not getting from the pack. However, she does not dare tell them her secret, for fear they will react badly and put the pack in danger once again.

The pack decides that it will need to fight to decide who will be the next leader. An Ordeal is held, a ritualized tournament between werewolves. Gabriel defeats his competition to become the new leader. Vivian's mother is attacked by a nasty female werewolf called Astrid. Vivian leaps to her defense and savages Astrid, accidentally becoming the new queen of the pack. She is now expected to mate the new leader, Gabriel. Vivian is appalled and runs away. Gabriel makes it clear that he wants her, but will not force her into what she does not want.

Vivian decides to reveal her true self to Aiden, and transforms in front of him. He is terrified and ends their relationship, telling her that he is too disturbed by her beast form. She is angry and upset, and her emotions get the better of her. She wakes up the next morning not remembering anything and realizes that she must have lost control while in wolf form. There is blood all over her, and when she hears about a murder, she begins to suspect that she is the killer. Later, when she sees Aiden dating another girl called Kelly, Vivian goes crazy and trashes Kelly's room. She then loses control again, and the next morning hears of another murder. She is now convinced that she is the killer, and decides that the only way to keep the pack safe is to kill herself. She leaves a note for her mother and walks to an abandoned building, where she douses herself in gas.

Before she can light a match, a werewolf called Willem arrives and tells her to stop. She is not the killer. She is being set up by Astrid. Gabriel arrives and comforts her. She then



realizes that the latest murder victim is Aiden's friend, and that Astrid means to kill Aiden. She goes to the rocks where Aiden is waiting for her. He pulls out a gun and tells her that he means to end her suffering by ending her life. Just then, Astrid and another werewolf called Rafe arrive. Aiden shoots Rafe and Vivian fights Astrid. Gabriel and the others arrive, and Gabriel kills Astrid. However, Vivian is accidentally shot by the terrified Aiden. Vivian begs the others to spare Aiden. Gabriel angrily orders Aiden to leave.

Vivian is now permanently stuck between human and wolf form. She thinks that the silver bullet has caused this, but Gabriel helps her to understand that she can only heal if she learns to accept herself for who she really is. She does so, and is healed. She then chooses Gabriel as her mate, realizing that he is what she has needed and wanted all along. She prepares for a new life as queen of the pack.



Prologue (May, Ghost Moon), and Chapters 1-3

Prologue (May, Ghost Moon), and Chapters 1-3 Summary

Vivian is a werewolf who is feeling lonely and isolated from her pack. She turns to a human boy at school called Aiden, and begins a relationship with him. The other pack members do not approve, and when Vivian accidentally becomes the new queen of the pack, she is expected to mate the leader, a werewolf called Gabriel. Instead, she tells Aiden her secret, expecting acceptance and comfort. Aiden is terrified of and disgusted by her, and ends their relationship. When two killer werewolves plan to murder Aiden, Vivian goes to his aid, only to find that he came there to kill her. Vivian helps fight the werewolves, but is accidentally shot by Aiden. She is permanently stuck between human and wolf form until she learns to accept herself for what she is. She realizes that Gabriel is a much better match for her, and prepares for a new life as queen of the pack.

Vivian is a werewolf and part of a werewolf pack along with her father and mother. Her father is the leader of the pack and her mother is the queen, or as Vivian calls her, the Head Bitch. However, after a werewolf called Axel kills a human girl, some humans in their small town become aware of what they are. They attack the pack, setting their homes and buildings on fire. Vivian and her family escape from their burning house, but Vivian's father goes back inside to save others. He does not get out in time and is killed.

A year later, the werewolf pack has moved to the city. Vivian's mother, Esme, seems to be coping with her husband's death by picking fights with Astrid, a female werewolf in the pack. The pack is fragmented and confused, and Vivian is unhappy without their support.

Vivian is no longer friends with the Five, the five other teenagers her age in the pack. They had killed another human while Axel was in jail, in order to clear his name and remove suspicion from the pack. Vivian partly blames them for her father's death, as the fire was retaliation for the human deaths. She thinks the Five are wild and out of control, and does not want to hang around with them. She wants to make friends with the humans at her school instead, but she does not fit in.

Vivian gets one of her sketches published in the school magazine. She is surprised to see that it accompanies a poem that encapsulates the idea of being a werewolf. The poem is written by a boy called Aiden, and Vivian decides to find him. She asks her teacher about him, and then confronts Aiden at lunch break. She flirts with him, and writes her number on his hand.

When Vivian returns home from school, a werewolf called Gabriel is coming out of her house. She is annoyed, as her mother is flirting with him despite him being almost half



her age. That night Aiden calls and invites Vivian to a concert. She tells him she will give him her answer at school the next day. Her mother disapproves, and Vivian is now determined that she will date Aiden. That night she turns into her wolf form and enjoys the freedom of running as a wolf.

Prologue (May, Ghost Moon), and Chapters 1-3 Analysis

These first chapters introduce and build on the character of Vivian. Vivian seems to be a very lonely girl. Her pack is in turmoil and no longer has the strength and unity that it once had. Without a proper leader, they are all confused and going their own way. Vivian's mother is constantly getting into fights and flirting with younger men, which seems to be her method of coping with the loss of her husband and the confusion within the pack. Vivian's reaction is different; she is lonely, depressed and unsure of herself. She separates herself from the pack and does not want to have anything to do with them while they are squabbling and fighting. She no longer has the strength and the support that the pack gave her, and misses it terribly. She does not trust the other teenagers in the pack, a group of five boys that she calls 'the Five.' They are acting a little too wild and immaturely for her and she thinks that their behavior is becoming dangerous. If the pack were strong and had a good leader, the Five would be disciplined and brought back into line, but while the pack is weak the boys are out of control. Vivian resents this and tries to avoid the Five whenever she can.

Vivian is a very isolated character without friends, family, or support. She feels lost and tries to reach out to the humans at her school instead. However, she finds that making friends is difficult and that others do not seem to accept her. She wonders if this is because she is a werewolf and so they can sense that she is different, even if they do not actually know what she is. She feels lost between two different worlds. She does not feel close to her mother or her pack anymore, and does not fit in with the Five. She also does not fit in at school and among normal humans. She wants to feel like she fits in both worlds, and is confused about who she really is and what her life should really be. When she reads Aiden's poem, she is surprised that she could feel a connection with a human like this. He seems to understand what it means to be a werewolf, and he has touched her soul with his words. At the same time, he is different from werewolves, as he seems gentler and more relaxed. He is not like the Five at all, which instantly attracts Vivian to him. She finds herself drawn to him and is curious how a human boy could cause these feelings. Perhaps Aiden is the link between the two worlds that Vivian needs so badly. Perhaps he can help her to feel like she belongs again. She decides that she will pursue a relationship with him, despite the differences between them and the disapproval of her mother.

Vivian's thoughts, feelings and behavior are sometimes typical of a normal human girl her age, but sometimes very different. She is attracted to good looking boys and worries about fitting in. She has a rocky relationship with her mother and resents being told what to do. In these ways she is just like every other American teenager. However, she also feels a deep affinity with her wolf side. She loves running as a wolf at night, howling



at the moon and hunting prey. She even reveals how much she thinks like a wolf when she compares flirting with Aiden to stalking her prey. She says she will hunt him in her girl skin, and draws a pentagram on his hand to symbolically make him her victim. It is clear that she thinks of herself as a predator, and that her thoughts can quickly turn dangerous and violent. She enjoys the reaction she gets from men when they find her attractive, not because this is a compliment to her but because it makes her feel powerful over them. She cannot help thinking of humans as weak and somehow inferior. The author makes it very clear that Vivian is not a normal girl after all. She is something caught between two worlds. She thinks like a human as well as a wolf, and the two sides of her personality are always mingled. She does not only think like a wolf when she is in the form of a wolf, as this aspect comes out in her human side too. Unlike other werewolf stories, in which the predatory side of the person only emerges at full moon, and is uncontrollable and terrifying, in this story Vivian is in full control of her changes, and embraces and loves both sides of herself. She is not frightened or ashamed of becoming a wolf, but associates it with freedom, strength and beauty. She is proud of who she is. This is an important aspect of Vivian's character.

These chapters also give more background to what werewolves are in this story. Werewolves are creatures from myth and legend that can be found in many stories, usually in the horror genre. Often, werewolves are created by the bite of another werewolf, and lycanthropy is seen as a kind of curse or disease. The human infected by it turns into a wolf on the night of the full moon and cannot control any of their actions when they do so. They become a monster and hunt their friends and loved ones. When the werewolf regains human form during the day they feel terrible for anything they have done as a wolf, and often these stories end in tragedy. Here, werewolves are dealt with very differently. Werewolves in this story are a different species from humans. They can change into a wolf at any point, but are compelled to do so when the moon is full. The change seems to be powered by the moon, and so is easier when the moon is bigger and brighter. This is why the pack like to change into wolves at night. The werewolves have complete control of themselves in both human and wolf forms, and so will not do anything they do not choose to do. In other words, if they kill a human it is because they meant to do it and wanted to do it. Importantly, lycanthropy is not seen as a disease or curse or anything to be ashamed of, and all the werewolves in this story are pleased and proud of what they are.

The werewolves in this story live in a pack, and share many similarities to real wolves in the wild. They like to hunt as a pack, and within the pack have a strong system of support. They will help each other, but they are also supposed to know their place within the pack. The pack has a leader whom all the rest must obey, and his mate is regarded as the 'chief bitch' or queen. In other words, she is in control of all the other females. Interactions in the pack are built on support and trust, but also on a show of strength, and the werewolves seem to enjoy violence. They are more aggressive and predatory than humans, even when they are in their human forms. Many of the werewolves seem to feel little sympathy for humans and do not associate themselves with them. Some of the werewolves even seem to regard humans as prey, and would kill and eat them if they could. Vivian deplors this view, but at this stage of the story her attitude seems to be based on the danger to the pack that killing humans poses. Like the others, she does



not seem to feel much sympathy towards humans. This makes her a somewhat ambiguous character. The reader can relate to her desire to fit in, and for her longing for support and friendship, but feels distanced from her due to her disregard for normal humans. She is appealing, but also a little frightening, which reflects her werewolf nature perfectly.



Chapters 4-6

Chapters 4-6 Summary

The werewolves hold a meeting at Esme and Vivian's house. Rudy informs them that the insurance money came through for the buildings burned down in the fire. He suggests using the money to move on and find a new place in the country somewhere. Astrid argues that she does not want to leave and some of the others agree. The pack also argues over who will be their new leader, with some favoring Gabriel and others arguing that he is too young. They decide that they will have to fight to see who gets to be leader. This will be done in a ritual called The Ordeal in a month's time. Vivian gets sick of the arguing and goes outside, where the Five follow her and threaten her new boyfriend, telling her that she should stick with her own kind.

The next day Vivian puts on a sexy yellow dress and leaves for her date. Aiden picks her and Quince up, and they meet the rest of Aiden's gang at the concert. Apart from Kelly, Aiden's friends accept Vivian and make her feel welcome. Vivian enjoys the concert and begins to spend more time with Aiden after this. He invites her to an anti-prom party, but she realizes that this will be the night of the full moon, so pretends that she is grounded.

On the night of the full moon Vivian declines to go with the rest of the pack, wanting to run on her own instead. She goes up to the roof of the house to transform, but is disturbed by noises of someone climbing up. It is Aiden.

Chapters 4-6 Analysis

When Vivian meets Aiden's friends in these chapters, she compares his gang to a pack. Aiden calls his group of friends 'the Amoeba' explaining that it is a large group that keeps changing size, sometimes makes him sick, and sometimes breaks off into smaller groups that act exactly like the larger group. This is an accurate description of a pack, and Vivian is interested to see that he understands this idea. She approves, as the importance of being part of a pack is something that she has been brought up with all her life. Aiden's explanation here shows how humans might be more similar to pack animals than they would like to think. Humans might seem like prey to the werewolves, but humans can also be predatory. Like the wolves, they tend to like to form groups, and within the group they will have a sense of place. Kelly resents Vivian because she is obviously one of the stronger females in the gang, and so sees Vivian as a threat. Kelly also seems to like Aiden, and so sees Vivian as a rival for him too. Vivian compares this rivalry with Kelly to the rivalry between her mother and Astrid. She realizes that perhaps she understands her mother's aggression after all. These similarities between humans and wolves are emphasized at several points in the story. Humans like to pretend that they are very civilized and not violent, but they are closer to being wild monsters than they would care to admit. It is these similarities that persuade Vivian that she can make



friends with these people, and that perhaps she could fit in with them after all. However, the very fact that she is comparing Aiden and his friends to her pack, shows how important her wolf life is to her, and how much she is still thinking like a werewolf. She can only make sense of the human world in terms of her wolf world, and this is a strong piece of foreshadowing that indicates trouble is likely to come.

It is not only the similarities that Vivian finds between humans and wolves that convinces her that her relationship with Aiden could work. She also finds that Aiden is the kind of person who might be drawn to her naturally. He is interested in witchcraft and the supernatural, and wrote that poem about werewolves. He tells her that he would like to meet a werewolf or even make a good werewolf himself. He feels that the ordinary world is too boring, and longs for something more exciting and magical. Vivian thinks that this could be her. She thinks that Aiden seems open to the supernatural, and that he could understand her and accept her where others would not. However, there is a disparity between what Aiden says and what he would really feel or do if faced with the supernatural. Vivian notices him saving a small bug, rather than squashing it as the Five would have done. Aiden is very gentle and kind, and Vivian compares him to the warmth of the sun. This only emphasizes how very different he really is from her and from the rest of her pack. He would not make a good werewolf, as Vivian points out to herself. She likes him because he is different from the Five, but perhaps their differences cause a gulf between them that will be too difficult to cross. Aiden is sweet and gentle, and the reader can only guess that he will not react well to the revelation about how brutal supernatural monsters really can be. Aiden has an ideal picture in his head of what magic would be like if it were real. He might say that he would love to see it for real, but perhaps he does not quite mean this. Vivian is already having to lie to him to protect her secret, and finds that she has to curb her predatory nature a little when she is with him. Again, these early signs are clues that foreshadow the disastrous events to come. They point out to the reader that Vivian and Aiden's relationship could be doomed from the start.

As Vivian spends time with Aiden and his friends, she seems to be losing touch with her wolf side. She does not want to go out with the rest of her pack on the full moon, and wishes she could be changing her clothes to go to the party rather than changing her skin. The reader gets the impression that this is the first time Vivian has ever resented the change and the full moon, and it seems unnatural for her. Now she is acting more like a normal teenage girl and longing to go to a party rather than to run as a wolf. However, she also yearns to be free and part of a strong, supportive pack again. This is perhaps why she is reaching out to Aiden and his friends, in an attempt to replace her pack with theirs. However, their pack can never match up to her needs, as they cannot change into wolves. This is an essential part of who Vivian is. When she paints herself on her bedroom mural looking at the running wolves, she notes that it does not seem right, wondering if she should paint herself running with them instead. This also does not seem quite right, though. She is caught between the human and werewolf worlds, feeling as though she does not fit into either. In being drawn away from her pack, she is adding to her unhappiness and confusion. She knows something is missing. She is extremely conflicted, and Aiden only seems to be making this separation and confusion worse. Despite the strong feelings she is having for him, it seems that Aiden might not

be that good for her after all. Vivian needs to feel like she can be herself, and be proud of who she is. If she cannot do this with Aiden, then their relationship cannot work.



Chapters 7-9

Chapters 7-9 Summary

Aiden climbs onto the roof and gets out wine, wine glasses, cheese, and paper napkins. He tells her that since she is grounded and can't come to the party, he has brought the party to her. She feels the change coming on and tells Aiden that she is coming down with flu. She pretends she needs to be sick, and runs to the bathroom and locks herself in. Aiden is concerned, but she manages to convince him to leave. She does not dare go out after that, in case she catches scent of Aiden and cannot help herself from hunting him. She stays in the house all night instead.

The next day Vivian decides she will have to stay away from Aiden. However, when she hears Rudy talking about how a female in the pack only has power through her male, and that she cannot even choose her mate, Vivian is angry. She decides she will date Aiden after all and find a way to make it work. She calls him, and he invites her around to meet his parents.

Vivian dresses smartly but sexily to meet Aiden's parents. It soon becomes clear that Aiden's mum does not like Vivian, and Aiden's dad likes Vivian a little too much. He tries to flirt with her, but she puts him down. Aiden takes Vivian to see his room, and tells her that his parents do not approve of him as they think he is into Satanism. This is because he has painted part of his room black and has books on Wicca.

Aiden tells Vivian that he has to go on holiday with his parents, so he will miss her birthday. On her birthday, the Five come round to see her, and so does Gabriel. The Five all give her sexy underwear as presents, and she quickly puts down their flirting. She dances and has a good time. However, Rafe grabs her and comes on to her, and she is forced to defend herself. Gabriel sees and admires her, and Vivian is annoyed.

The next evening Aiden returns from holiday and gives her a present. It is a silver pentagram. She laughs, as it is the sign of her people, but made of silver, which is poisonous to werewolves.

Chapters 7-9 Analysis

Vivian seems to have two sides to her personality as the story develops. On the one hand, she is fierce and independent. She does not like the strict rules of the pack when they limit her free choice. She wants to decide for herself what is best for her, and is determined to choose her own mate. In fact, part of what draws her to Aiden is that she knows her mother and the pack disapprove, and she enjoys defying them. This emphasizes how strong Vivian is. She is the daughter of the strongest female and the strongest male, who was the last leader of the pack, and this shows. She can stand up for herself and will not let anyone else push her around. It is clear that one day soon Vivian is going to give the other females in the pack something to think about. Vivian



embraces and loves this side of herself. She is strong, fierce and free, and will need a partner who understands and shares this part of her.

However, Vivian is not all strength and power. Though she can be fierce and stand up for herself, she is not as violent as other members of her pack. This is the other side to Vivian, her softer side. She is kind and warm-hearted, and she cares deeply about her friends and family. She loves Aiden because he is gentle and different, and because he treats her as though she is something very special rather than just a potential mate or sexual object, as other members of the pack treat her. When Vivian is with Aiden she allows some of her vulnerability to come out, such as asking him why other people do not warm to her and worrying that no-one likes her. This is something that the normally confident Vivian would never admit in front of members of her pack. When Vivian is with Aiden and his friends she acts more like a normal teenager than a werewolf. She goes to parties and enjoys hanging out. She can enjoy sharing her gentler side with Aiden. Vivian loves the fact that he does not act as immaturely as the other teenage boys in her pack. This is positive for Vivian, but unfortunately there is something missing. By ignoring her stronger and more dominant side while she is with Aiden, she is denying half of herself, and this will only lead her to be unhappy. On her birthday she spends time with her pack again and is surprised to find how much she enjoys it. She has been neglecting her werewolf side while she has been with Aiden, and is becoming isolated from the pack. It is clear that Vivian needs both sides of her life in order to be happy. She needs someone who is as strong and fierce as her, who appreciates her independence and wild side, but who can also be gentle, caring and loving.

It is possible that Aiden might prove to be this person, but at the moment the relationship is not as full and honest as it should be. Until Vivian can trust Aiden with every part of herself, she cannot really feel whole and happy with him. Aiden believes that he is in love with Vivian and that she is his soul mate. This is because she is very accepting of his interests and not at all fazed by his interest in Wicca and witchcraft. She accepts him for who he is, and seems to share his fascination with the supernatural. Of course, Aiden does not yet realize that this is because she is a supernatural creature herself. Aiden is grateful for Vivian's acceptance and more attracted to her because of it. He opens up to her, and this makes her feel like she could be open with him one day too. However, the observant reader will see that there are already problems. Aiden believes that Vivian is his soul mate, but he actually seems more besotted with her than in love. When she asks why people at school do not accept her, he tells her it is because she is confident and beautiful. Clearly a girl like Vivian has never shown interest in Aiden before, and even Aiden's father tells Vivian that she is out of Aiden's league. Aiden is always telling Vivian how beautiful she is, and seems more obsessed with her beauty and sexuality than her other attributes. Vivian thinks that Aiden could be her soul mate too, but she is not sure yet. She wants to have sex with him first before she decides. Again, this indicates that for Vivian the attraction is more physical than emotional. Both of them seem to be mistaking sexual attraction for something deeper. Neither of them really know each other that well, and Aiden does not know Vivian at all. There is a huge secret between them, which prevents anything from developing further. They might fool themselves that they are in love, but until they can be honest and accept each other for who they really are, with all lies and pretence



removed, then they cannot really be in love. Aiden's present to Vivian only emphasizes this problem. He tries to buy her something special, but gives her a silver pentagram. This is the symbol of her people, but Aiden has no idea of the significance of it. Worse, it is made of silver, which is extremely harmful to Vivian. The silver pentagram highlights how little Aiden really knows about the girl he says is his soul mate.

A slightly sinister note is introduced into the chapter in which Vivian meets Aiden's parents, when Aiden shows her his father's gun collection. His father likes to buy and fix antique guns, and makes his own bullets to fit them. The guns symbolize the fact that even humans can be hunters and predators, and that they can be very dangerous when provoked. Aiden does not yet know what Vivian really is, but if he finds out, the reader cannot say how he will act. In his father's basement he has the means to make his own bullets, and so could create silver bullets. He could also easily take a gun with which to fire them. Since silver bullets are one of the few things that could actually harm Vivian, this small incident adds an uneasy, threatening tone into the novel. This is strong foreshadowing for what will come, as Vivian will later find herself facing one of these very guns, with silver bullets inside.

During Vivian's birthday party, Vivian comes to realize how much fun she has when she spends time with her pack. She realizes that she misses it. However, the Five do not seem to be acting any more maturely. They all give her lacy, sexy underwear as birthday presents. This emphasizes how they think of her; to her she is simply a sexual object, a potential mate. This is what Vivian is when she is in the pack, and she will be expected to pair off with another werewolf to have children. This is one of the things that particularly annoys Vivian, as she sees herself as more than this, and is determined to make her own choices. At the same time, however, Vivian does tend to think about sex a lot, and wishes she could move faster with Aiden. Clearly, sex is important to her, perhaps more so than to a human girl her age. This is part of what it means to be a werewolf. Vivian wants to embrace this, but at the same time have more power and control over it than other members of her pack would like her to have. The Five are too immature and wild for her; she needs a man who will respect her and understand her, but who will also keep pace with her strength and desires, and not treat her as though she is fragile. It does not seem likely that Aiden would ever fully understand this.

There may be another person who would, however. Gabriel also attends Vivian's birthday party, and makes it clear that he is attracted to her. Unlike the Five, though, he is not aggressive or overly forward with his advances and flirtation, and seems to respect her right to choose for herself. He enjoys it when she puts the other boys down, and admires her when he sees that she can stick up for herself. He shows that he likes her strength and independence, as well as her looks. Vivian is annoyed with Gabriel because of her mother's flirtation with him, but at the same time does seem to be attracted to him herself. She immediately tries to force these thoughts out of her mind. She deliberately singles him out as the only person she does not dance with. It seems likely that there is strong attraction lying underneath Vivian's frustration with Gabriel, and that her rude treatment of him is partly denial. Gabriel could compliment and embrace Vivian's werewolf side in a way that Aiden might be incapable of, but can he

also be the gentle and caring man that Vivian needs? Could Gabriel become Aiden's rival for Vivian's affections?



Chapters 10-12

Chapters 10-12 Summary

Vivian and Aiden are going to the July 4th firework display at the school. They decide to leave Aiden's car at Vivian's house and walk there. The night is beautiful and Vivian decides she wants to run. Aiden finds it hard to keep up. They reach the school and meet up with Aiden's group of friends. Aiden goes to the bathroom before the fireworks begin. Vivian relaxes and joins in the conversation, but after a while she realizes that Aiden has been gone for a long time. Then she hears a group of boys howling.

Suddenly she is very worried, and goes to search for Aiden. She goes into the woods behind the portable toilets and finds Rafe with a large sack over his shoulder. She fears the worst and insists that Rafe tell her what's in the sack. After teasing her for awhile, he opens it to reveal a dead dog. Vivian hits him and walks away. She returns to Aiden's group of friends, where she finds that Aiden has returned safely.

When the firework display is over Vivian and Aiden walk home. They stop by the river and lie down in the grass, kissing. Suddenly, some of the pack run past, led by Astrid. Vivian tells Aiden to stay still, and the pack runs past them without stopping. Vivian is nervous for Aiden's safety, so tells him she wants to go home.

Vivian tells Rudy about Astrid and the others running so close to populated areas, which they are not supposed to do. Rudy insists on telling Gabriel.

One day Vivian comes in and finds her mother crying over pictures of her father. Esme suggests going to Tooley's bar for burgers to cheer themselves up. They do, and Vivian enjoys interacting with the pack again, as well as the male attention she receives. Lucien Dafoe comes in, covered in blood and injuries, followed by an injured Astrid. The pack crowd around them to ask what happened, and they tell them that Gabriel did it. Gabriel then enters the bar and tells the rest of the pack that it is not safe to party with Astrid anymore.

Chapters 10-12 Analysis

Vivian finds herself slowed down by or having to protect Aiden in these chapters. First, she wants to run to the school for the fireworks. The night is beautiful, and she longs to enjoy it in the way she knows how. She wants to run and jump and share her joy with Aiden. Unfortunately, Aiden is not very fit and cannot keep up with her. She soon outdistances him, and when she comes to a fence that she can jump, Aiden has to climb slowly over. He collapses to the ground for a rest, and she pretends that she is also tired. At the firework display, she becomes worried about Aiden when he has been gone too long. She goes to search for him, and gets extremely worried. In actuality, he has just been to the bathroom. If something so simple can get Vivian so worked up and worried, then she will be fussing over and protecting Aiden constantly. Later, Vivian



protects Aiden when Astrid and the others run past, telling him to keep still so they do not chase him. She then becomes worried about him again and suggests they go home. This means that she has to sacrifice the intimacy he had planned with her, which she was looking forward to. When he comments on her being afraid of a pack of dogs, she snaps at him, and is then disappointed that he does not argue back. Instead, he just looks chastened, which makes her feel bad. Vivian is always protecting Aiden or holding herself back for him. She cannot be wild and free with him, nor can she be as forceful and fierce as she is with others. Whenever she snaps at Gabriel, he simply gives as good as he gets, or laughs at her spirit. Later, Vivian enjoys the roughness of Tooley's bar, and the more forward and confident interaction of the men there. Vivian is not violent, but she does appreciate strength and adventure, and she likes a little danger. Aiden is a little too soft and weak for her, which frustrates her at times. She enjoys letting loose in Tooley's bar and does not realize that what she is actually enjoying is the chance to really be herself.

Some of the differences between Vivian and the other pack members, the Five in particular, are explored further in these chapters. The Five seem to enjoy power over others because they like making other things suffer. They take their dominance to the point of being cruel. Vivian enjoys strength and power, but explains that she does so in a more honorable and palatable way. She likes to hunt wild animals as a proper hunter should, she lives by the code of the werewolves, and always thinks about the good and safety of her pack. She also feels sympathy and some affection for humans, and does not like to think that they will be hurt. The Five like to kill anything weaker than themselves, even if there is no challenge or honor in it, such as pets and humans. They claim that she is denying what she is. Vivian thinks that it is they who have lost their way. She loves being what she is, and considers herself a truer werewolf than they are, because she behaves more like the wild, noble creature that a werewolf should be. However, although this seems true, there is perhaps a hint of truth in what Rafe says. Vivian does have to suppress her werewolf side and instincts when she is with Aiden and his friends, which is a little like 'playing at being human.' To a certain extent she is denying who she really is, and not being completely true to herself.

These chapters also explore the character of Gabriel a little further. Rudy explains that Gabriel has helped the pack a lot, in many different ways. He was the first to get a job in the new city, and he helped the rest of the pack to settle in and to keep going. He has always been looking out for them. He got the Five in line after the fire, and helped everyone to sort themselves out and move on in that difficult situation. Vivian resents him for stepping into her father's shoes as leader so soon after he died, but Rudy tries to tell her that this was necessary. If Gabriel had not taken charge then, they might not have gotten out of their old town alive. This was necessary at the time, and now it is even more vital that they have a strong leader. Rudy points out that Gabriel is exactly what they need in order to rebuild the pack. He is strong and supportive, but also not afraid of violence when it is necessary. Rudy says he will support Gabriel for leader. Gabriel shows that Rudy's assessment of him is true when he quickly deals with Vivian's information. He knows that Astrid is endangering the pack by running with so many wolves so close to human houses. He teaches her a brutal lesson, and warns the others away from her. This is a bit too violent for Vivian's tastes, but necessary in dealing with

Astrid and Lucien, who will not listen to reason. Gabriel cares deeply about the pack's safety, and will not let them come to harm. This is also what drives Vivian, and is why she reported Astrid in the first place. Gabriel might be as caring as Vivian after all, simply showing it in a slightly different way. The reader can see that Gabriel is not the bad guy that Vivian makes out, but Vivian is still too stubborn and resentful to see this for herself.



Chapters 13-15

Chapters 13-15 Summary

Vivian meets Aiden at his house. He is in a bad mood because his parents are insisting that he should see a shrink. They think he is becoming a Satanist. Vivian cheers him up, and they go for pizza with Aiden's friends. Gabriel drives into the parking lot on his motorbike and sees them. He comes over to Vivian and puts his hands on her shoulders, then whispers into her ear to let Aiden go. Vivian is annoyed, and tells the others that Gabriel is just an annoying friend of her mother's.

Aiden's parents decide to ground him, and insist that he paint over all the black in his room. Vivian is surprised when Bingo comes round and invites her over to her house to watch movies and eat popcorn. Vivian is pleased to be included and agrees to go. She has a great time, and finally feels as though she is being accepted.

The pack holds the Ordeal in a deserted park at night. Some males come from other areas for the chance to become the new leader of the pack. A stranger called Tomas flirts with Esme. Orlando recites the law of the pack, and then the Ordeal begins. Astrid insists on being allowed to fight with the males, and Gabriel says to let her, as a demonstration of why it is usually not permitted. Gabriel easily beats her and throws her aside. She refuses to accept defeat, even though a contender is supposed to accept defeat at first blood. Gabriel throws her aside again and threatens her until she gives in. Then the males begin to fight.

Chapters 13-15 Analysis

In these chapters the normal teenage activities that Vivian engages in with Aiden and his friends are contrasted sharply with the fierce brutality of her werewolf life, as Vivian's pack begins the Ordeal. With Bingo and Jem, Vivian sits around watching horror movies in comfort, eating popcorn, laughing and being silly. She hears gossip from Bingo, who criticizes Kelly behind her back. This is the everyday behavior that normal teenagers get up to, and Vivian finds that she has a good time doing it as well. This is because she is partly like them; she is half human. However, this is contrasted with the Ordeal, in which the members of the pack fight among themselves, with the addition of some power-hungry strangers, for the right to lead the pack. This is brutal and violent; mercy is not really considered, and although the rules state that only first blood must be drawn, in reality many of the fights lead to serious injury and even death. So far, only the beginning of the contest has been shown, and already Astrid has been beaten and forced to submit, and the other females are ready to attack her the second she disobeys. Brother is preparing to fight brother, and after the leader has been decided, the females will also fight for their position. The social hierarchy of the pack is decided entirely on who is strongest and most brutal.



This is worlds apart from the cozy movie night Vivian enjoys with Bingo and Jem. However, ironically it is also somewhat similar. The members of Vivian's pack fight among themselves in order to decide social position. In the Amoeba, Aiden's gang, social position is also decided through fighting. In the Amoeba, however, the fighting is much more subtle and underhand. Bingo talks about Kelly behind her back, putting her down, and makes it clear that Jem is her special friend. Kelly does not like Vivian's entry into their group, as she sees the confident and beautiful Vivian as a threat. She tries to turn the other girls against Vivian in the hopes that this will keep Kelly in a position of power. Bingo seems to be leaning towards Vivian and turning against Kelly, perhaps because she senses that Vivian is stronger. It is not pure strength and brutality that decide social importance in this gang, but confidence, beauty, number of friends, sneaky maneuvering and rumors. Aiden appears to be the main leader, though he is less of a force of control than the leader of Vivian's werewolf pack is. Instead, Aiden seems to determine the social position of others, as those who are better friends with him seem to be treated as more important. This is why Vivian appears to be pushing her way to becoming queen bitch, and why Kelly resents her relationship with Aiden. The humans may think that they are nothing like animals, but they show many of the same concerns and behaviors that Vivian's pack do. They are simply more underhand and subtle about it.

It is ironic that during Vivian, Bingo and Jem's film night they watch horror films, as Vivian is like a real life horror monster sitting in the house with them. If they could see the Ordeal, they would think they had fallen into their very own horror movie, with Vivian as the villain. This shows how different their lives are, and how Vivian's hopes of fitting in might be all in vain. It highlights how much Vivian really is pretending and lying when she is with the humans, but she cannot tell them the truth because she would be putting both them and her pack in danger. It is an impossible situation. The brutality of the Ordeal also highlights why Vivian is so desperate for more normal, gentle human interaction. She is lonely, and longs for friends who are not part of the violence of the pack. Even such a simple thing as watching movies with two friends is such a wonderful experience for Vivian. It makes her so happy to be accepted. The reader can feel a great deal of sympathy for Vivian here, as what she longs for so badly seems doomed to fail.



Chapters 16-18

Chapters 16-18 Summary

The Ordeal continues, and the males gradually knock each other out of the fight. Now only Gabriel, a blond stranger, and Bucky and Jean are left. Bucky and Jean are good friends, and they seem to be laughing and enjoying themselves. However, things suddenly turn very violent when Bucky loses control of himself and rips at Jean's belly. He kills Jean and the blond stranger then jumps in to kill Bucky, but Gabriel fights him off. Now it is only Gabriel and the blond stranger left. Gabriel quickly snaps the blond stranger's neck and the fight is over.

Vivian is horrified by all the blood and violence that she has just seen. However, before she has time to recover, she hears her mother yell. Astrid has ambushed her and jumped on her back. She is forcing Esme's head up and crushing her windpipe. Vivian jumps at Astrid and attacks her until she lets go of Esme. Vivian destroys one of Astrid's eyes, and fights savagely to keep Astrid from hurting her mother. She beats Astrid, and is suddenly surrounded by all the other females. She realizes that she has accidentally become the new queen. This means that she is supposed to mate with the new leader, Gabriel. Vivian is determined not to be forced into this, so she runs away.

She hides in a cave and runs home when she is sure that Gabriel has not tracked her. She sleeps the whole day and night, and is woken by Esme in the morning. Esme thinks Vivian is embarrassed for running away. Vivian is annoyed that even her own mother would hand her over to a mate she doesn't want. Aiden calls and Vivian pretends she is sick. He invites her to come over the next night, as his parents and sister will be away. She tells him she will see how she is in the morning. She puts the phone down and finds Gabriel in the room with her. He tries to court her but she refuses him. He tells her he will not give up on her.

Vivian goes round to Aiden's house the following night and plans to reveal her true self to him. He has prepared his room with candles and is obviously hoping to have sex with her. However, the change comes over Vivian too powerfully to resist. She tells Aiden that she will show him his poem come to life, then changes into a wolf in front of him. Instead of the wonder and love she was hoping for, Aiden is terrified of her. He throws a mug at her head, and she realizes she has to get away. She jumps through the window.

Chapters 16-18 Analysis

In the description of the Ordeal, the author does not hold back on gruesome detail. The fights are extremely violent and bloody. Bucky kills his best friend, getting lost in the aggression of the moment, ripping open his belly. Gabriel snaps the neck of the blond stranger, which Vivian likens to killing a chicken for dinner. This gives the impression of life trivialized, and death simply accepted, not eliciting the shock it deserves. Even



Vivian takes part in the violence, destroying one of Astrid's eyes and savaging her. Astrid began this by attacking her mother, and Vivian began in defense of Esme, but like Bucky she too got carried away in the moment, dealing more damage than she meant to. The graphic descriptions of the violence during the Ordeal highlight how different the werewolves really are from normal humans. The author has deliberately made the Ordeal off-putting, frightening and revolting to the reader. This creates a distance between the reader and the werewolves. It reminds us that werewolves are traditional horror movie monsters for a reason. They are terrifying and brutal and cruel. They will kill with little thought, and do not show much grief or remorse. They have greater strength and speed than a human, as well as vicious claws and teeth. When it comes down to it, the pack are wild animals, savage and violent. The reader can feel sympathy for Vivian, and sees events from her point of view, but at the same time can feel frightened of and repelled by the pack. Here, the reader can begin to really understand why humans and werewolves cannot mix. They are different species, and though they share some similarities, the differences are simply too extreme. In light of this, Vivian's decision to tell Aiden the truth seems like a very bad idea.

Vivian has now accidentally made herself the queen of the pack, and is supposed to mate with Gabriel. This only makes her more determined to be with Aiden. Her revulsion at the violence of the Ordeal also makes her long to join the gentler human world and leave the brutal werewolf world behind. She is torn between two identities at the moment, and seems more confused than ever about who she really is. She feels disgust at the things she saw during the Ordeal, and the behavior of the other members of her pack, but she is afraid to admit that part of her did actually enjoy it too. She was howling with the others and urging the males on in their fight. She fought Astrid long past the point of simply defending her mother, and blinded her in one eye. She is ashamed of this and wants to distance herself from the pack, but at the same time she is anxious to reveal the truth of her werewolf side to Aiden. She thinks of it as beautiful and hopes that he will think so too, though what she saw at the Ordeal is anything but beautiful. She feels sure that Aiden will accept her because he loves her, yet she does not entirely accept herself at the moment. She does not seem to know who she really is or what she really wants.

Despite all Aiden's words about wanting the world to be more special, and longing for magic and the supernatural, he does not react well to Vivian's secret. The reader might have expected him to react with wonder and delight, but he is too frightened. Vivian's change is a complete shock to him, and instead of seeing his girlfriend he sees a monster. He throws a mug at her, and is obviously in a panic. Vivian knows she needs to get out before he attacks her and she loses control of herself in self-defense, as she did with Astrid. She jumps out of the window and runs away. Vivian's world is shattered with this; she had expected Aiden to love and accept her as she has done for him, and is devastated to get only fear and hatred from him. However, Aiden is not the only man trouble she is having. Now that she is the queen of the pack, she is expected to mate with Gabriel. It is clear that none of the pack will help her with this, and even her mother thinks that she should be with Gabriel. She will have quite a fight on her hands to convince them that it is her choice who to be with. On top of this, Aiden's reaction to her

secret means that she and her whole pack could be in danger. Things are really not looking good for Vivian at the end of these chapters.



Chapters 19-21

Chapters 19-21 Summary

Vivian wakes up in her room in bed. She cannot remember what happened the last night after she jumped out of Aiden's window, and thinks that she must have been so upset her wolf side simply took over. She sees blood on her hand and on her sheets and can smell that it is human blood. She is suddenly terrified that she did something terrible and might have hurt Aiden. She quickly washes off the blood in the shower and then calls Aiden. He answers, and she slams the phone down, relieved that he is alive.

A siren wails past, and Vivian follows the police cars to Tooley's bar, where the police surround a dumpster. The Five arrive, and tell her that a body was found in the dumpster, and the police are talking about a wild animal attack. Rafe tells her that she was heading this way last night in her wolf skin. Vivian goes home, but she is very worried that she may have killed the man in the dumpster.

Gabriel comes round to Vivian's house to discuss the murder with her, Esmé and Rudy. He seems sure that the killer was a werewolf, and probably one of their pack. They hope that the police will just think it is a wild animal or a one-off mysterious incident. Gabriel says he will search for the killer in the pack and make sure they are punished. Gabriel also tells Vivian that he is sorry she lost her old home because of a killer in the pack, and promises to make sure she is safe.

Vivian mopes around the house for a few days, then finally plucks up the courage to call Aiden. He hangs up on her twice. She calls Bingo, but Bingo is angry. Apparently Aiden told her that Vivian has jealous rages, and that she threw a chair through his window when he tried to break up with her. Bingo wants nothing to do with her now. Vivian is upset by this, and decides she needs to talk to Aiden face to face. She ambushes him as he is walking to his car. She tells him she never meant to hurt him, but he is still frightened of her and wants nothing to do with her. She tells him that he is the monster, not her, and throws the pentagram necklace he gave her back at him.

Chapters 19-21 Analysis

Vivian is very afraid that she was the one who killed the man in the dumpster behind Tooley's bar. She recognizes the thrill of killing inside her, and worries that she gave in to instinct when she was upset and her wolf side took over. She is horrified at the idea of taking human life, but this seems more because it puts her pack and herself in danger, than because the act itself is terrible. Gabriel also talks about the joy of killing, and how he understands the urge to hunt humans. What he cannot condone is putting the pack in danger by doing so. The main concern is for the pack's safety and not whether it is wrong to take a human life. Gabriel seems to long for a simpler time in which they could hunt up in the mountains and travelers would not be missed for



months. Vivian also thinks about longing for simpler times, when instincts would not have to be controlled and the moon was forgiving. These sentiments once again remind the reader that these werewolves are a completely different species from humans. We can enjoy reading about them, and sympathize with them to a certain extent, but their desires and actions can still repulse us. Their disregard for human life perhaps backs up Aiden's decision to break things off with Vivian. The reader can begin to sympathize with him after all. Perhaps the werewolves really are monsters, and are simply too dangerous to be around. Vivian is hurt that Aiden would think she killed the man in the dumpster, but it is a strong possibility that she actually did, and even she suspects this. Perhaps Aiden has it right after all?

However, it is very difficult for the readers to sympathize with Aiden. He comes across as a very hypocritical boy. He talked of longing for magic and the supernatural, of something special to make the world more interesting. He spoke of finding the good even in dangerous and frightening creatures such as witches and vampires. He asked Vivian to accept everything about him and was grateful when she did, but he is not willing to extend her the same courtesy. He cannot accept her for what she is, and clearly cannot handle magic or the supernatural when actually faced with it. In reality, it is far too different and frightening from everyday life, and Aiden proves that what he actually wants is normality. He is ordinary, and does not want to have to deal with the extraordinary. On top of this, he has told lies in order to get Vivian's new friends to reject her. He treats Vivian appallingly, not calling her or answering her calls, and taking her friends away from her. He, who longs so much for acceptance, makes sure nobody will ever accept Vivian. This is very cruel of him, as Vivian has been left alone and it is all his fault. However, Aiden may have been thinking of his friends' safety here. He is trying to keep them away from harm, and out of reach of what he sees as a dangerous monster. Although Aiden is an unlikeable character in these chapters, he is perhaps a somewhat sympathetic one. He is frightened, but he does not give away Vivian's secret. Instead, he protects himself and his friends from her, and gives her the chance to leave him alone with no further harm done. At the same time, the reader feels a great deal of sympathy for Vivian, who has had her whole world shattered by Aiden. Vivian calls Aiden a monster, but perhaps neither of them are. Alternatively, perhaps both of them are.

Gabriel shows his softer side as well as his fierce side in these chapters. He is gentle with Vivian and wants to protect her and make her happy. He is genuinely sorry that she had to lose her home and her father in West Virginia, and longs to make this up to her by giving her a new home. He promises he will make her safe, and is worried that she is frightened and unhappy. At the same time, he can be very fierce when pushed. He is angry that a killer in the pack has endangered all of them, especially as it seems like a cruel repetition of what led to Vivian's losses in West Virginia. He wants to step up and be a good leader, and is determined to punish the murderer in the pack. He shows himself to be responsible and caring. He has also refrained from pushing himself on Vivian. He is respecting her right to choose instead. When she ran away after the Ordeal he did follow her, but only to protect her and make sure she got safely home. He has tried to court her, and will now let her reach her own decisions. This is more honorable behavior than Vivian has given him credit for, as she imagined that she would



be forced to accept him as mate. Gabriel also seems to be treating Vivian as queen, even though she has not accepted the position of leader's mate. He comes to her house to discuss the murders, partly because Esme and Rudy are trustworthy, but mainly, it seems, because Vivian is here. He wants to make sure she is involved in any discussions about the safety and good of the pack. He shows that he trusts her and respects her, as well as caring for her. As the readers' opinions of Aiden drop, Gabriel begins to improve in their estimation. Perhaps Gabriel could be the right person for Vivian after all.



Chapters 22-24

Chapters 22-24 Summary

Willem comes to see Vivian and tells her that the Five is not the same. Rafe is hanging around Astrid all the time, and Finn is now pushing the others around. Willem is not happy with some of their dangerous and immature behavior. Vivian tells him he should stick up for himself, and then decides to take her own advice. She goes to a concert that she knows Aiden and his friends will be at.

As she is walking there, Gabriel passes her on his motorbike and offers her a lift. She agrees, and when they arrive, she kisses Gabriel to try to make Aiden jealous. Gabriel grabs her and kisses her back, then pushes her away and tells her not to use him. She joins the concert crowd and looks over to where Aiden is standing. Kelly runs up to him and they hug and kiss.

Vivian is filled with anger and sadness over this, and quickly leaves the concert. She breaks down and cries in a field. Rafe finds her, and gives her a bottle of alcohol. She drinks it and becomes steadily more drunk. She decides to teach Kelly a lesson by frightening her a little bit. She goes to Kelly's house and breaks in through her bedroom window. She looks around the room, and suddenly realizes that she's being crazy and should leave. However, she sees the same necklace Aiden gave her on Kelly's dressing table. This sparks her rage, and she begins to rip all of Kelly's sheets, curtains and clothes, and to trash her room. When Kelly does not come home Vivian concludes she must be with Aiden. She leaves to go find her.

Vivian wakes up the next morning not remembering anything about the night before. She is covered in mud, but there is no blood. However, as she moves, a severed hand falls out of the covers. There is a skull ring on one finger, and she realizes that it is one of the bikers from the bar. She takes the hand and buries it in the garden.

Inside, her mother is up and Tomas has come to visit. They tell Vivian that there has been another murder. The newsreader on the radio announces that an anonymous caller claimed the killings are the work of werewolves. Vivian realizes that Aiden must be this anonymous caller. Then she sees policemen coming up the path to her door.

Chapters 22-24 Analysis

Gabriel again shows a caring attitude towards Vivian. He seems to honestly want to help her. He tries to comfort her and convince her that he is her friend, and that she can trust him. He appears to have guessed the trouble she is in with Aiden, as he points out that it makes no sense for him to have broken up with her unless she said something to scare him. Gabriel makes it clear that he will help her, with no questions asked and no blame. All he wants is to make sure she is safe and happy, and will not punish her or lecture her for putting the pack in danger. Vivian thinks that he may just be offering this,



but if he knew the truth he would hurt her. This is because she thinks she is also the killer. However, perhaps she is not giving Gabriel enough credit here. He wants to protect his pack, but he also wants to love Vivian and earn her love in return. He says he will protect her no matter what her problem is, and it seems likely that he means this. Even Vivian now begins to realize that he is a good guy after all, and that she has been far too harsh on him. He has not pushed himself on her since she made her feelings clear, and obviously cares about her. However, he will not be used either. When Vivian tries to use him to make Aiden jealous, he makes it clear that this is unacceptable. He cares for Vivian, but also has self-respect and will stick up for himself. He has both the strength and fierceness that Vivian sometimes found lacking in Aiden.

Vivian loses control again in these chapters, partly due to her anger, and partly because of the alcohol she that she drinks. This is irresponsible behavior at the best of times, but certainly when the pack should be doing as little as possible to draw attentions to themselves. Vivian's drinking leads her to take revenge on Kelly. She rips up Kelly's possessions, showing a mean and spiteful streak to her nature. It is lucky for both Vivian and Kelly that Kelly did not come home while Vivian was in her room, as Vivian would have injured or even killed her. Vivian's werewolf side is quick to anger and longs for violence; it is extremely important for Vivian to always keep in control if she does not want to cause disaster. Vivian's reaction to Kelly and Aiden's relationship is perhaps not so different from how a normal human girl might react, but her actions are driven by the beast inside her. Worse than this, it is now looking extremely likely that Vivian is the killer. She had the severed hand of the biker in her bed, and he was killed near the university, not far from Kelly's house. This means she was in the area and had the opportunity to make the kill. The previous murder is also strongly linked to her, as she woke up covered in blood, and was again tied to the area in which the body was found. Vivian herself now seems almost convinced that the killer is her. When she hears that someone warned the police about werewolves, she first feels hurt that Aiden would betray her like that. However, she realizes that he does indeed have reason to consider her dangerous. She ripped up Kelly's room, and there have been two murders that Aiden will link to her. Vivian is dangerous, and perhaps he is right to protect others from her. Perhaps she is not the innocent creature she liked to believe she was, who can be gentle and live at peace with humans. Perhaps she is a monster after all.



Chapters 25-27

Chapters 25-27 Summary

The police ask for Vivian. They tell her that Kelly's room was vandalized and that she suggested Vivian as a suspect. Vivian tells them she didn't do it. Gabriel arrives and claims that Vivian was with him all night. The police disapprove, but accept the alibi and leave. Esme begins to lecture Vivian, but Gabriel says it is his business as pack leader to talk to her. He is surprisingly kind, and advises Vivian that she needs to let Aiden go or she will end up hurting him or Kelly.

Gabriel calls a pack meeting to discuss the latest murder. He arranges patrols in pairs, to try to discourage the murderer from killing again. The meeting ends and the pack disperses. Astrid and Rafe linger outside kissing. Quince arrives at the house and gives Vivian a letter from Aiden. It tells Vivian to meet him at 2am at the rocks by the river. Rafe and Astrid give Vivian mocking looks, and she goes back inside the house.

Vivian thinks about how she must be the killer, and how she has put the pack in danger by telling Aiden the truth about herself. She decides the only way she can protect her pack is to kill herself, to stop any more murders. She writes a note for her mother, then walks to an abandoned building and pours gas over herself. She tries to light a match but it will not light. Suddenly Ulf and Willem arrive and yell at Vivian to stop. Ulf tells her that it was not her who murdered the humans. Gabriel arrives and lifts her up, then carries her to a river and washes the gasoline off her.

Ulf explains that he was at home that night when Rafe and his mother Astrid came in with a human boy. They killed him. Ulf ran to Willem's house, and Willem thought it would be best to go to Vivian to ask what to do. When he arrived, he saw her note and quickly followed her trail. He called Gabriel, who then followed his trail. Vivian explains that she thought she was the killer, and realizes that Rafe and Astrid must have set her up.

Ulf says Astrid and Rafe took a note off the human boy and said something about a meeting at the rocks at 2am. Vivian realizes with horror that the murdered human boy must be Quince. Now Astrid and Rafe are going to kill Aiden. Gabriel says he will round up the pack and that Vivian must go tell Aiden to run to safety. She admits that she told Aiden about herself and that now he is afraid of her. Gabriel says they will deal with that problem later.

Vivian runs to the rocks and meets Aiden. She tells him they have to get away from there, but he pulls out a gun and tells Vivian that he has come to release her from her torment.



Chapters 25-27 Analysis

Vivian comes to the conclusion that not only is she the killer, but that she is a danger to her pack. She may kill again, and it will only be a matter of time before the police trace the deaths back to the pack. Even if she runs away, if she is caught the police will investigate her family. She decides that the only way to keep her pack safe is to kill herself. She is willing to sacrifice her own life for the safety of the pack and the happiness of those she loves. This shows how devoted Vivian is to the pack, and how she is willing to take responsibility for them, proving that she will make an excellent queen. She is similar to Gabriel in this respect, as she puts the good of everyone ahead of herself.

When Willem rings Gabriel to tell him what Vivian is doing, Gabriel rushes to her rescue. He comforts her, and is very gentle with her. He seems to admire her for wanting to protect the pack, and does not get angry when she tells him about Aiden. In fact, he encourages her to try to save Aiden's life, reminding her that she had chosen Aiden to be her mate, and that they should protect their mates. He turns out to be very understanding and sympathetic in this situation and will not abandon someone he cares about just because they made a mistake. Vivian takes comfort in Gabriel here, and it is clear that her feelings for him have shifted a lot since the beginning of the story. Now she sees him as someone she can depend on.

It turns out that Astrid and Rafe are the real killers. They have gone too far in indulging their predatory nature and are now out of control. They clearly have no respect for human life and enjoy the fear and suffering they inflict on the humans they kill. They do not care if they are putting their pack in danger. They have even tried to frame Vivian, perhaps to teach her a lesson for fraternizing with humans. Not only have they put their pack in danger, but they have deliberately tried to destroy one of their own. This is unforgivable behavior in the pack. Whereas the rest of the pack know that they have to keep their instincts and violence under control, and only use it for specific reasons such as the Ordeal, Rafe and Astrid have broken this code. They are merciless and vicious killers, like animals gone rabid. Even Ulf turns against his own mother because he knows how wrong her behavior is. This draws a line for the reader, helping them to see that although the pack are sometimes frightening and dangerous, they are not evil. Rafe and Astrid are different, and seem to be the true monsters that Aiden fears Vivian might be.

Gabriel seems to have been right in his assessment of Aiden and what will happen if Vivian tells him her secret. Aiden does try to kill Vivian at the end of these chapters. This is unexpected, as Vivian was convinced that Aiden was too gentle to ever do this. It is perhaps not so surprising for the reader, who can look at Aiden with a less biased eye. Aiden is a frightened boy who believes Vivian is a monster. He thinks she has killed two people now, and knows that she ripped up Kelly's room. The latter must seem like a very obvious threat to his new girlfriend. Aiden must think that none of his friends or himself are safe while Vivian lives. However, to take the decision to murder Vivian is extreme behavior, even in these circumstances. Aiden seems to have convinced himself



that Vivian does not deserve the same rights as a human because she is not one. He sees her as different, and so does not seem to think she has the same right to exist. He assumes that he knows things about her that he does not. He sees her change into a wolf and instantly assumes she is a monster, even though he has dated her and should know her better. He has no real proof that she is a killer, and yet he is willing to kill her. He says that he is releasing her from her misery, arrogantly presuming that she must hate being a werewolf. This is completely wrong, as Vivian is proud of what she is and thinks of her wolf form as beautiful. Aiden could never accept this. He simply sees something that is too different for him to understand or accept, and so gives in to his fear and prejudice. This is very different from Aiden's image of himself as an open-minded person who can accept and find the good in anything, and who loves the idea of magic and the supernatural. It is clear that Aiden is very hypocritical, and much more ordinary than he pretends to be. He displays the same attitude that he hates in his parents, reacting with fear to what he does not understand. It is clear that the differences between Aiden and Vivian are far too big to ever surmount, and that Aiden was never the kind of person who could love Vivian. Their relationship was doomed from the start.



Chapters 28-30

Chapters 28-30 Summary

Aiden tells Vivian that he made silver bullets by melting down silver things, such as the necklace he bought her. She tells him he had better save the bullets for the real killers. He thinks she is lying, but then Astrid and Rafe appear. Vivian tells Aiden to shoot Rafe while she attacks Astrid. As she is fighting Astrid, Gabriel arrives and throws her off, saying the law is his to mete out. The rest of the pack arrive and listen as Gabriel pronounces Astrid guilty. He snaps Astrid's neck. Rafe is already dead from Aiden's bullet.

Vivian tells Aiden he can run away now, and Gabriel steps forward with his hand out. Aiden thinks this is an attack and raises his gun. Vivian steps in front of Gabriel and the bullet hits her instead. Gabriel tells Aiden that he has shot the one person who cares about him there, then threatens him to make sure he keeps quiet about what he has seen. Aiden runs away.

A month later Vivian has recovered from the wound, but she is stuck permanently between wolf and human form. Even the full moon has come and gone and not changed her. She thinks of herself as a freak and finds it hard to believe that her pack will accept her now. Gabriel has found a new home in Vermont for them and they will soon be moving, but Vivian is miserable that she will not be able to run with her pack as a wolf. The Five try to cheer her up by singing werewolf songs, but Vivian refuses to come out with them.

Gabriel climbs to her bedroom window and stops her before she can close it. He tells her that he once fell in love with a human girl. He couldn't stop himself from changing when he was with her one night. She was terrified and called him a filthy beast. He was overcome with anger and sadness and hit her. However, he was partly in werewolf form and the blow killed her. After that he felt ashamed and lived as a stray for a long time, refusing to take human form again. Vivian comforts him, and they discuss the foolishness of loving a human.

Gabriel then tells her that it is not the bullet that stopped her from being able to change, but her own feelings. She needs to accept herself again. Gabriel kisses her, and she changes form fully into a wolf. She is surprised, and changes back into human form to prove she can do it. Gabriel tells her that he wants her to be with him, and she realizes that she wants him too. They go out together into the night.

Chapters 28-30 Analysis

Vivian wants to save Aiden, even when he would have killed her. Even after he shoots her, she still tells the others to let him go. She feels sorry for him, and still cares about him. She will not abandon him even when he has abandoned her. This shows an



extremely forgiving and caring attitude. Aiden also feels guilty, and worried about Vivian. He seems to realize that he has gotten things very wrong, and treated Vivian badly. He is still terrified, but feels remorse at having accidentally shot Vivian. He tells her that he could never have actually killed her anyway, even though he did come intending to shoot her. Vivian calls herself a monster for dragging Aiden into all this and for making him unsafe, changing his world forever. Is she correct? Vivian seems too caring to be a monster, as she thinks of Aiden's feelings even when she might be dying because of him. Is Aiden actually the monster for not accepting her and trying to kill her, or is this excused by his fear? Aiden seems too remorseful to be a monster; he had thought what he was doing was right, and now that he realizes he made a mistake, he feels terrible. Both of their reactions and behavior is very different from that of Astrid and Rafe, who took pleasure in death and suffering. Perhaps neither Aiden nor Vivian are monsters, but simply tragically different.

Gabriel loves Vivian for exactly who she is, which is what Aiden could not do. Gabriel even loves and accepts her in her half-changed form. Vivian is worried that she is a freak and that no-one will want her, and that she will only become a burden to the pack. However, the pack is actually very supportive, showing her that she does have the love and acceptance she so strongly needs. Gabriel, in particular, shows her kindness and patience, helping her to regain her sense of who she is. Gabriel does not just love her for her wolf side, but he loves her gentleness and caring nature too. She wanted to protect the pack, even giving up her own life to do so, and she got shot when trying to protect Gabriel. She even wanted to protect Aiden despite the fact that he came there to kill her. Gabriel admires her loving nature, and shows the same caring sensitivity underneath his fierceness and power. He is exactly what Vivian needs; he is gentle and caring like Aiden, but can be a fierce and independent wolf like her. She notes that his kisses are what she always wanted from Aiden, and that Aiden would never have fully satisfied her as Gabriel can. Gabriel tells her that werewolves need to love their partner in both their forms, and Vivian can do this with him.

Gabriel's story about the human girl he once loved helps Vivian to understand him better and to accept that what she did to Aiden was not so bad. She put her trust in him and made a mistake, but she can recover and learn from it as Gabriel has also done. He will sympathize and understand her because he has been through the same thing. The reader might be put off by the fact that Gabriel is actually a murderer, but this is less important to Vivian, who understands what it is like to hunt and kill. She knows Gabriel is sorry and ashamed of his past actions, and this proves that he can truly understand her and her sympathy for humans. She would have wanted the same comfort and sympathy from him if it had turned out that she was the killer, so she is happy to give it to him now. She now realizes that Gabriel is right for her, not Aiden, and that she will be happy with him. This is symbolized by the fact that Aiden caused her to become literally stuck between wolf and human form, confused and lost between two sides of herself. This is how she felt when she was with him. Gabriel, on the other hand, helps her to heal and to become werewolf once more. She can be both wolf and human when she is with Gabriel, and so is who she is meant to be. She can be herself with Gabriel, which is what is vital for love to succeed.



The message at the end of the book seems to be to stick with your own kind, as too much difference will only lead to disaster. Differences mean a lack of understanding, which hinders love. This is very different from the usual message of teenage romances, or even supernatural romances, that love can conquer all. Here, love does not conquer all as it cannot conquer Aiden's prejudices and fear, and Vivian's torn identity issues. This story takes a more realistic approach and warns the reader that although sometimes differences attract, this may bring trouble down the line.

However, perhaps the message of the story is a little more complicated than this. The author might not be saying 'stick with your own kind' but instead 'understand who you are and what you want.' Vivian's problems come from her inability to understand who she really is, and to accept both sides of herself. She thinks she is in love with Aiden, but there is a lot to suggest that she never actually was. Vivian could never be herself when she was with him. Even Aiden seems to have been lying to himself, mistaking sexual attraction and fascination for something deeper. The attraction of opposites may be exciting, but this should not be mistaken for love. Gabriel points out something similar when he tells Vivian that she should not mistake her desire to dominate and protect humans for love. Aiden proves that he was never really in love with Vivian when he shows that he cannot accept her, and Vivian is not the kind of person who could love someone who is not willing to understand both sides of her. When she realizes this how important her werewolf side is to her, and how much she wants to share both sides of her personality with her lover, she realizes that Aiden was never really the right person for her. For true love, acceptance is necessary, and where it does not exist, love cannot flourish. Vivian did not pick Gabriel because he is 'her own kind' but because he accepts her and loves her. In the end, she does follow her heart. It is ultimately up to the reader to decide how exactly to interpret this, and whether the message is a positive one or not.



Characters

Vivian

Vivian is the main character of the story. She is a sixteen-year-old werewolf who is currently living in the suburbs of a city in Maryland. Her old home in West Virginia, where she lived with her parents and the rest of her werewolf pack, was destroyed in a fire set by humans. This was retaliation for the death of two humans at the hands of werewolves. Vivian's father, who had been the leader of the pack, died in the fire. Now Vivian lives with her mother, and the pack is dispersed in different houses in the city. The pack is in turmoil without a leader to control it; it feels disjointed and some of the members are behaving very wildly. Vivian feels disconnected from the pack and from her own mother, who gets into fights and flirts with younger men. Vivian feels as though she does not have a strong parent figure or the strength and support of the pack anymore. She feels lost, lonely and sad. The only other teenagers in the pack are the Five, a group of five boys who act far too immaturely and recklessly for her. She begins to look for friends in her human world instead of her wolf world, turning to the other teenagers at her school.

This is when she becomes drawn to Aiden, a boy at her school. He wrote a poem in the school magazine about a werewolf, and Vivian feels an instant connection with him because of this. She is attracted to him, and enjoys pursuing him. She begins a relationship with him, and soon finds that she loves the things that make him different from the males in her pack. Aiden is sweet, caring and gentle. When she is with him and his friends she acts more like a normal human and enjoys doing so. She draws comfort and support from Aiden that she does not find in the pack. Eventually she trusts Aiden enough to tell him her secret, but he refuses to accept her and ends their relationship. Vivian is devastated and angry. She believes that she loves Aiden, and is hurt that he so easily rejects her when he finds out who she really is. She spends a lot of time moping, then lets her anger get the better of her and trashes the bedroom of Aiden's new girlfriend. She feels sorry for this later, and even tells the pack to spare Aiden's life when he tries to kill her. This shows a very forgiving and loving attitude. Vivian also shows her caring nature and her devotion to those she loves when she is willing to die to protect her pack. Vivian is a loving girl who feels things deeply and expresses her emotions openly. She is generally kind and thoughtful, which makes her a sympathetic character, though she can get carried away when upset or angry.

However, Vivian is still a werewolf and the author encourages the reader to remember this. She can be very fierce and even frightening at points in the story. She is confident and strong, and values her independence and freedom very highly. She loves being a werewolf, and often refers to her wolf form as beautiful. She always comes across as very confident, which often intimidates other human teenagers her age. She delights in her wolf-ish nature, and sometimes displays quite predatory behavior. When she flirts with Aiden she thinks of it as a form of hunting, and even jokes that she will make him her victim. This is ironic, as in the end it will be him who reverses the situation, hurting



her and leaving her devastated. Later, he even becomes the hunter as he lures her to the rocks to kill her with silver bullets. Vivian also has a tendency to compare others' behavior to things in her werewolf life, interpreting events in terms of the pack. It is clear that being a werewolf is extremely important to her and is a big part of her life. She is proud of what she is and would never give it up, something that Aiden cannot understand.

Vivian might not like the extreme violence sometimes found in the pack, but she can and does fight. She savages Astrid and becomes the new queen of the pack, proving her strength and ferocity. She sympathizes with humans to a certain extent, but she does confess that she longs for a simpler time in which they could hunt without having to control their instincts. Like other werewolves in her pack, her condemnation of murder seems to be based more on the danger it will bring to the pack than on ethics or respect for human life. This makes her a slightly ambiguous character. She is sympathetic, but only to a certain extent. She might seem like a normal human girl in some ways, but the author makes it clear that she is a different species entirely, and that sometimes she just does not think like we do.

When Vivian is with Aiden she loves his gentleness, but also wishes that he would be stronger and stick up for himself more. She loves the tenderness of his kisses, but wishes that he would sometimes bite. This is Vivian's dual nature, as she is caught somewhere between human and wolf. She has two natures, one human, caring and gentle, the other wolf, fierce and wild. This relates to the title, 'Blood and Chocolate,' with blood representing her wolf side and chocolate representing her human side. Through most of the story she makes the mistake of trying to choose between these two natures. She struggles to fit in in the human world, pushing aside the wolf instincts and denying those aspects of herself. When she is with the other werewolves she enjoys letting go and indulging the parts of herself that she must hide when she is with Aiden. This tears her in two, leaving her with a terrible identity crisis. This is made worse when Aiden rejects her, cruelly forcing her away from the human world because her wolf side disgusts him. Later, Vivian comes to understand that she must love and embrace all aspects of herself, and that it is the marriage of her wolf and human sides that make her who she is. She also realizes that although she liked Aiden, he was never enough for her because he could not share her wolf life. He was like chocolate, a sweet but transitory pleasure. Her werewolf life, and Gabriel, the man who will accept her for who she is, is like blood. For Vivian, blood is thick, wild and rich, and much more satisfying.

Aiden

Aiden is a boy the same age as Vivian who attends the same school as her. Vivian first becomes aware of him when she sees his poem about werewolves in the school magazine. It has been put alongside one of her own drawings. She is intrigued and seeks him out. At first Aiden comes across as quite an ordinary teenage boy. He is attracted to Vivian and is happy when she pays him attention. He is obviously not too shy, as he calls Vivian and asks her out very soon after she makes her interest in him clear, but he is not as confident as she is. He finds his parents' control annoying and



seems to rebel by deliberately taking interest in things they find disturbing. He is interested in the supernatural, and owns books on witchcraft and Wicca. When he is with Vivian he is kind and sweet, and always treats her with respect. He makes it clear that he is interested in sex, but takes things slow and never pushes her, believing this to be the right way to treat her. In actual fact, Vivian would prefer to speed things up, but Aiden does not realize this.

For Vivian, Aiden is a breath of fresh air after the violence of the pack. He is completely different from any other males in her pack, particularly the Five, who are all far too immature for her. Aiden is gentle where they are fierce, and kind and thoughtful where they are crude and harsh. He trusts her and treats her like she is important. He offers her the support and friendship that she finds missing in her life with the pack. However, there is something lacking for Vivian. Aiden is perhaps a little too sweet and gentle. Vivian sometimes thinks that she would like him to bite instead of kiss, and wishes that he would stick up for himself more. He gets easily hurt when she snaps at him, instead of arguing back, and he lets his parents boss him around too much. Vivian cannot help seeing this as a sign of weakness. Although she does not realize it at first, Aiden will never be enough for Vivian, as he is not a werewolf. He cannot run as a wolf with her, and even when she is in human form he cannot keep up. He will never share this aspect of her life with her. He is a sweet but short pleasure, like chocolate. He makes Vivian feel happy for awhile, but like chocolate, this is not filling or lasting.

At first Aiden is a very likeable character. He seems to be very interested in the supernatural and often mentions how he wishes magic could be real. He finds the world an ordinary, uninteresting place, and wishes for something that will make it special. This makes it seem like he is perfectly suited to Vivian. She is the 'something special' that can prove to him that magic does exist and that the world is an exciting place after all. Naturally, Vivian thinks she can trust him, and that he will be thrilled when he learns her secret. However, this is not how Aiden reacts at all. He soon proves himself to be a very big hypocrite. He reacts to Vivian with fear and revulsion, ending their relationship and explaining that he could never be with her after seeing her wolf form. He does not even try to accept her or let her explain, as he is simply too scared to try to understand something so different. He shows himself to have exactly the same attitude that he claims to despise in his parents. They show fear of what they do not understand, assuming that Aiden's interest in Wicca and the supernatural is a bad thing. They treat him like a freak and try to force him to change. Aiden does the same thing to Vivian. He assumes that her werewolf nature is something hideous and evil, and that she would want to be released from it. At the end of the book he even confronts her with a gun, meaning to kill her to 'end her torment.' Aiden proves himself to be a very ordinary boy after all. He does not like being faced with something different, and allows his fear to turn into hatred and disgust. Clearly it is actually a quiet, normal existence that he wants, despite everything that he says. Aiden's image of himself is very different from the reality.

Aiden's sudden turn-around may seem like an abrupt character change, but there are clues throughout the story that point to this result. Aiden claims to be interested in the supernatural, but his idea of the supernatural seems to be based on TV and popular



culture. He likes magic and Wicca because they are mysterious and fun, and help him to defy his parents. He does not seem to actually know much about them, and never talks to Vivian about what they mean to him. He owns a tarot deck but admits that he does not know how to read it, drawing excitement from the idea of it rather than the reality. He seems to like pentagrams because they are a cool symbol of his mysterious and open attitude, but he does not really know anything about them. The pentagram is actually the symbol of Vivian's people, and by drawing one in his hand she makes him her victim. This is not something he picks up on until after she has revealed her secret to him, when he has clearly actually taken the time to research werewolves a little. Aiden's idea of what is 'different' and 'magical' seems to be based on the fantasy that 'different' and 'magical' will also mean 'friendly' and 'cool.' He imagines that he could find the good in witches and vampires, without actually thinking about what this would mean. Could he really understand what it is like to be a killer and sympathize with them? His later actions make it apparent that he could not. Aiden is forever lost in a dream world where he is powerful and life is exciting. This is the reader's warning that Aiden is probably not everything he imagines himself to be. Aiden does not want the reality of what things would be like if supernatural creatures were real. He wants to feel like a hero in a story, in which excitement never actually means danger and he always wins. Werewolves in reality would not be cuddly and friendly; Vivian is fierce and wild and strong. Aiden is not brave enough to see past the fear to understand that Vivian is also loving and loyal. He only sees the monster. Aiden is happier in his dreamland where magic is exactly what he wants it to be, and he resents Vivian for pulling him out of it.

However, Aiden does have some redeeming features. When he believes Vivian to be a monster, he lies to his friends to make sure they will have nothing to do with her again. This may seem very cruel, but Aiden is actually trying to protect the people he cares about while at the same time not giving away Vivian's secret. Later, he calls the police anonymously to tell them about werewolves, and then tries to kill Vivian. This is because he is convinced that she is the murderer. He actually shows an extraordinary amount of courage here, as he is willing to face a vicious killer in order to keep others safe. He also believes that he is helping Vivian by ending her suffering, and puts his own life at risk to do so. It is a shame that these redeeming qualities are accompanied by such bad reasoning and a hypocritical attitude. By the end of the story it is very hard to feel any sympathy for Aiden, but Vivian does still manage to find some. She realizes that she has shattered Aiden's world and made sure that he will never feel safe again. This, accompanied by Aiden's guilt and final realization that he has gotten things terribly wrong, allows the reader to feel a little sorry for him at the end.

Aiden is a very interesting character as he is not at all like the typical love interest found in paranormal romances. He is much more realistic, and although the reader might not like to admit it, most people would probably react similarly in his situation.

Esme

Esme is Vivian's mom. She lives with her daughter in a house owned by a family friend in the suburbs of Maryland. Her husband, Vivian's father, was the leader of the werewolf



pack, but he died in a fire at their old home in West Virginia. Esme is a very strong and beautiful woman, and a fierce and powerful wolf. She is the current queen of the pack, but without her mate her position is being challenged by another female called Astrid. Esme and Astrid are constantly getting into fights, and also seem to be rivals for the same man. This is Gabriel, a werewolf half their age who seems to find their advances amusing but is more interested in Vivian. Vivian finds her mother's behavior annoying and embarrassing, and often misses having a strong parental figure around. Her mother acts more like her sister at the moment, and Vivian finds it difficult to confide in her.

When the Ordeal is held, Esme is caught off guard when she is attacked by Astrid. Vivian jumps to her defense, savaging Astrid and accidentally becoming the new queen of the pack. Esme is proud of her daughter and delighted that she is the new queen. She tries to encourage Vivian to forget Aiden and her human friends, and to become the powerful member of the pack that she is meant to be. When Vivian desperately wants support for her right to make her own decisions, her mother tries to push her towards Gabriel. Vivian finds this hurtful and upsetting. Despite Esme's occasional failings as a mother, she does clearly care about Vivian a lot, and does everything she can to help her accept her identity as a werewolf.

Gabriel

Gabriel is a male werewolf in Vivian's pack. He is twenty-four years old, and both Esme and Astrid flirt with him shamelessly, despite both being nearly twice his age. This embarrasses Vivian, which makes her dislike Gabriel at first. She also resents Gabriel for stepping into her father's role as leader so soon after the fire. He ordered them around and helped them out of the crisis. This was necessary, and actually shows his responsible attitude and care for the pack, but Vivian cannot see this at first. At the Ordeal, Gabriel fights off all the competition to become the proper leader of the pack. When Vivian becomes the new queen, she is expected to mate with Gabriel. This horrifies her, and she is determined to make her own choice. She refuses Gabriel and makes it clear that he has no chance with her.

Gabriel is interested in Vivian and makes this clear. However, he does not push her or force her to be with him, and leaves her to make her own decision. He treats her with care and respect, and proves his feelings many times by trying to help her. He claims he wants to make her happy and to keep her safe, and shows how devoted he is to her. Later, when she is in trouble, he runs to her rescue. Instead of being angry with her for endangering the pack by telling Aiden about her true nature, he supports her and comforts her. He shows his caring and sympathetic side by encouraging her to fight to save Aiden, and by letting Aiden go when Vivian asks him to. Gabriel also shows many times that he is dedicated to the pack and that he cares a great deal about all its members. He sees a similar attitude in Vivian, and this is what he admires so much about her, along with her strength and independence. Vivian comes to see that her assessment of him has been all wrong, and that he is actually a good man. He is someone she can trust and rely on.



By the end of the story, Vivian has come to realize that she can love Gabriel after all. She chooses him to be her mate. When he kisses her, his kisses are passionate and intense, and much more satisfying than Aiden's were. Aiden was sweet and kind, but was never strong enough for Vivian. He could not share her werewolf life with her, and when he found out the truth about her he let her down. He was unable to accept her for who she really is. Gabriel can and does accept Vivian, even when she is trapped between human and wolf forms and is afraid that she is a freak. He helps her to accept herself again, and so helps her to heal. He is strong and fierce in ways that Aiden is not, and he can share Vivian's werewolf life with her. However, he also proves himself to be caring and kind, meaning that he fulfills everything that Vivian needs. When Vivian compares the two men, she finds that Aiden is like chocolate, sweet but fleeting and superficial, whereas Gabriel is like blood, rich and satisfying.

Like most of the werewolves, Gabriel also has a dark side. He thinks it is wrong to kill humans, but this seems to be more because of the consequences for the pack than for moral reasons. He reveals to Vivian that he once accidentally killed his human lover after she showed disgust at his wolf side, and that he has felt remorse for this ever since. He can therefore understand Vivian's attraction to humans and the hurt that she is feeling over Aiden. He also reveals that he understands the urge to kill and to hunt, and that it can be hard to keep instincts under control. He wants to take the pack away from humans and so away from temptation and trouble. Vivian sympathizes with this view as she also longs for a time when werewolves did not have to control their instincts so much, when travelers might not be missed in the mountains. These touches remind the reader that Gabriel and Vivian are far from being like normal humans; they are a different species entirely. They are not meant to be with humans, and are much better suited to each other.

Astrid

Astrid is a female werewolf in the pack, and mother of Ulf. Her husband is dead, and like Esme, she seems to take delight in getting into fights and flirting with younger males in the pack. Unlike Esme, she takes this a little too far and actually begins a relationship with a teenage werewolf called Rafe, who is the same age as her own son. Astrid does not seem to care how this will affect her son, and shows very little concern for anyone's feelings except her own. She comes across as a selfish and cruel character. She relishes violence and seems to enjoy inflicting suffering. She has no sympathy or care for human life, and thinks that werewolves should be free to hunt humans. At the end of the book it is revealed that she is the one who has been murdering humans, and that she has been setting Vivian up to take the blame for the killings. She hates Vivian because Vivian beat her in a fight to determine the new queen of the pack, destroying her eye in the process. Astrid is vindictive and calculating as well as strong and fierce. She is the real monster that Aiden fears Vivian might be. At the end of the story, Gabriel is forced to kill Astrid to stop the murders and keep the pack safe.



Rafe

Rafe is the leader of 'the Five,' five teenage boys who are part of Vivian's werewolf pack. He once dated Vivian, but now she finds him too immature for her. Rafe is a very forward, wild and aggressive boy who is still interested in Vivian. He likes to flirt with her in a very crude, vulgar way, but she always manages to put him down. He seems to feel the constant need to prove himself, and is annoyed whenever one of the other werewolves treats him like a child. He begs to be allowed to compete in the Ordeal but is deemed to be too young. This is particularly frustrating for him as Vivian is not too young to be queen.

Rafe begins a relationship with Astrid, a much older female in the pack and the mother of his friend Ulf. He is clearly very proud of the fact that an older woman finds him attractive, and does not understand that she is just using him. He lets himself be led into murder by her, helping her to hunt and kill humans. Even before Rafe became involved with Astrid he liked to hunt helpless pets and inflict suffering, and seems to have quite a sadistic personality. In West Virginia he led the Five into killing a human in order to remove suspicion from his friend, who was in jail for another murder at the time. At the time, Vivian argued for him and the rest of the Five to be spared punishment, as they were only trying to protect the pack. Now she worries that their reckless behavior might lead to a similar disaster. Rafe is killed at the end of this book when Aiden shoots him with a silver bullet.

Willem

Willem is one of the Five, and the twin brother of Finn. He was once very good friends with Vivian, and still treats her much more kindly than the other members of the Five do. He is sweeter than his friends and acts a little more maturely than they do, seeming to disapprove of some of their behavior. However, he is also weaker than them, and allows himself to be drawn along in their plans. Vivian likes him better than the others and is softer with him. At the end of the story it is Willem who comes to her rescue and calls Gabriel.

Finn

Finn is one of the Five and the twin brother of Willem. When Rafe begins to spend more time with Astrid, Finn takes over as the leader of the Five. He enjoys this new power and likes to assert his dominance by making the others do stupid or dangerous things. Willem complains of his behavior to Vivian, who convinces him to stick up for himself a little more.



Ulf

Ulf is Astrid's son and one of the Five. He is possibly the weakest member of the group, allowing himself to be controlled by the others. Rafe's relationship with his mother makes him unhappy and embarrassed. When he finds out that his mother is the murderer, he is distraught and does not know what to do. Eventually, he tells Willem the truth, choosing the pack's safety over his mother.

Gregory

Gregory is the cousin of Willem and Finn and a member of the Five. He is Renata's son.

Rudy

Rudy is a male werewolf and a member of Vivian's pack. He is a good friend of Vivian's mother, and the two of them are currently living with him in his house in Maryland. He is referred to as Uncle Rudy, but may not actually be a literal uncle, as all older members of the pack are uncles and aunts to Vivian.

Quince

Quince is one of Aiden's friends. He is initially very kind and accepting of Vivian, but when Aiden tells lies about her behaving badly to him, Quince naturally takes the side of his friend. Quince brings Vivian a note from Aiden towards the end of the story. He is killed by Astrid and Rafe because they know the death will hurt Vivian.

Kelly

Kelly is one of Aiden's friends, and she seems to take an instant dislike to Vivian. This is because Kelly wants Aiden for herself, and, according to Bingo, has been slowly encouraging Aiden to fall into a relationship with her. Vivian came along and ruined this just as it was working. Kelly acts like the queen of Aiden's group of friends (the Amoeba), as she always seems to be leading other 'giggling girls' as Vivian calls them. It is probable that Kelly also resents Vivian's strength and confidence, seeing her as a rival to her position in the group.

When Aiden breaks up with Vivian he starts dating Kelly. Vivian is angry and decides to take revenge by breaking into Kelly's room and scaring her. She rips up all of Kelly's bed sheets and clothes, then waits in wolf form for her to come home. Fortunately for Kelly, she does not come home and Vivian gets tired of waiting for her. She goes to Aiden's house to find Kelly, but loses control of her wolf side on the way and ends up going somewhere else. This is lucky, as if Kelly had come home in time, Vivian probably would have hurt or even killed her.



Bingo

Bingo is one of Aiden's friends. She makes a bigger effort than the others to include Vivian, inviting her round to her house to watch horror movies. Bingo is friendly and fun, and Vivian finds that she likes her. Bingo even takes her side instead of Kelly's, explaining to Vivian why Kelly has been unfriendly to her. However, when Aiden breaks up with Vivian, he tells Bingo that Vivian was jealous and flew into psychotic rages. Bingo believes Aiden and is not interested in hearing Vivian's side. This ends any friendship that might have developed between them.

Jem

Jem is part of Aiden's group of friends. He seems to be particularly good friends with Bingo, but the two are not dating.

Jenny Garnier

Jenny is a female werewolf in Vivian's pack. She lost her husband in the fire that killed Vivian's father. She has a young baby to take care of, and is very nervous all the time, jumping at every noise.

Renata Wagner

Renata is a female werewolf in the pack, and is Esme's friend. She is the wife of Rolf and the mother of Gregory.

Lucien Dafoe

Lucien is a male werewolf in the pack, and Rafe's father. He is constantly drunk and out of control, enjoying picking fights in the local bar. He talks of wanting to hunt and kill humans, but does not actually do so.

Bucky Dideron

Bucky is a male werewolf in the pack. He is good friends with Jean, but gets carried away at the Ordeal and kills him. We are not told how Bucky copes with the guilt of this.

Orlando Griffin

Orlando is an old werewolf in the pack. He is too old to fight, but is respected for his wisdom and his knowledge of werewolf law.



Aunt Persia

Aunt Persia is an old female werewolf in the pack. She is the pack's healer, and is in charge of the rituals and traditions of the pack. Her official title is Keeper of Ancient Magics.

Raul Wagner

Raul is a male werewolf in the pack, and Rolf's brother. Magda is his wife.

Magda

Magda is a female werewolf in the pack, and Raul's wife.

Rolf Wagner

Rolf is a male werewolf in the pack and Raul's brother. He is Renata's husband.

Jean

Jean is a male werewolf in the pack. He is good friends with Bucky, but still fights him in the Ordeal. As they fight for the position of leader, Bucky gets carried away and kills him.

Tomas

Tomas is a werewolf but is a stranger to the pack. He comes to the Ordeal, not to fight but to meet others of his kind. It seems likely that he is deliberately looking for a mate. He begins a relationship with Esme, and the two are still going strong at the end of the story.



Objects/Places

Loup Garoux

Loup Garoux is a French term for creatures that can change form between human and beast. Their beast form is close to that of a wolf, but not exactly the same, which is why Vivian uses this name rather than calling herself a werewolf. The mythology and ideas used in this story are the same as those that relate to werewolves, and for ease this study guide will refer to the creatures as werewolves and to their beast form as wolves. Vivian and her pack are all werewolves, changing form at night in order to run and hunt as wolves. They are compelled to make the change on the night of the full moon, but otherwise are free to choose which form they take.

In this story they are proud of what they are and consider their wolf forms to be majestic and beautiful. They do not consider their nature to be a curse. This differs from some versions of the werewolf story found in popular culture, in which the werewolf is a monster who cannot control his or her changes. Unlike these versions of the myth, in this story Vivian and the other werewolves retain their identity and their ability to think like humans when they are in wolf form. However, the idea of the out-of-control beast is referenced in the fact that Vivian can lose control of herself when she is too upset, angry, or drunk, allowing the wolf to take over. This also happens to Bucky at the Ordeal. The werewolves in this story are also slightly different from the usual werewolf of legend, as they are actually a separate species from humans, rather than humans who have been infected by another werewolf's bite. Here, creating new werewolves is a simple act of breeding, rather than an attack on a normal human. Werewolves cannot, however, breed with humans, backing up the idea that they are a different species entirely.

The City

Vivian and her pack move to an unnamed city in Maryland after their home in West Virginia is burned down. The city is a new experience to many of the werewolves, as they had previously lived in a small town and kept themselves to themselves. Some of the werewolves hate the city because it feels crowded, claustrophobic and restricting. There are not so many large open areas where they can run as wolves and feel free. For others, the city makes them go a bit wild. There are so many humans packed in close to them, meaning that prey is always on hand and individuals' actions are much less noticed. They feel like they can get away with much more in the city. This is what leads to the Five's reckless behavior and to Rafe and Astrid's murdering of humans. Vivian seems to enjoy some aspects of living in the city, such as interacting more with humans, but by the end of the story she is glad to move back to the country where she can feel closer to her werewolf identity again.



The Inn in West Virginia

Vivian's mother used to run an inn in West Virginia, where the rest of the pack worked and lived together. Here they were a much more tight-knit community, with a more controlled structure. They kept themselves to themselves and did not interact with humans much. They enjoyed the wide open spaces of the countryside to run in, and felt free and unrestricted. This is the life that Vivian begins to long for again, and what they will be trying to recapture when they move to an isolated area of Vermont, the place that Gabriel has chosen for them at the end of the story.

The Five

The Five is a nickname given by the pack to a group of five teenage boys within the pack. They are Rafe, Finn, Willem, Gregory and Ulf. In West Virginia they were friends with another werewolf boy called Axel, who killed a human girl. When Axel was arrested, the Five committed another murder while Axel was in custody, in order to clear his name. Axel was released from custody but killed by Vivian's father, the leader of the pack, as punishment for endangering the pack. Vivian begged for the Five to be spared, as they had only killed in an attempt to save their friend. Unfortunately, the werewolves' home was burned down by angry humans as retaliation for the murders. Now Vivian cannot help blaming her father's death on the Five, and does not hang around with them as she used to. She also disapproves of their immature, reckless behavior, fearing that they are heading towards another disaster. Rafe is the leader and wildest of the Five, but when he begins to spend more time with Astrid, Finn steps into his role.

The Pack

Vivian, her mother, and her werewolf friends live as part of a pack. They support each other and love each other, running together as wolves and helping each other out in their human lives when needed. The pack has a fairly strict social order, with a leader who is in charge of all the others. He is either voted in or fights for his position in a ritual called the Ordeal. The females also fight to determine who will be queen, with the strongest among them mating the male leader. Relationships are usually kept within the pack and sometimes with new werewolves from other areas. Fraternizing with humans is frowned on, and it is forbidden for one of them to give away their secret to a human. Any member of the pack who is found to have endangered the pack is punished. A werewolf who murders humans is punished with death, as with Axel and Astrid. The older members of the pack are respected and revered as wise elders, and the oldest female, Aunt Persia, is in charge of ritual and pack law. The pack is bound by tradition and most of them are very respectful of their own ceremonies and laws. They do not consider themselves bound by human laws. However, there also seems to be room for individual freedom and expression, something that Vivian is particularly keen on.



The Amoeba

The Amoeba is the nickname given to Aiden's group of friends. He calls it this because it is a large structure that often breaks down into smaller groups that behave just like the parent. Aiden seems to be quite high up in the social hierarchy of the Amoeba, as most of the members like him and are very loyal to him. Kelly likes to feel that she is the leader of the girls and resents Vivian for stepping into her place. She seems to think that Aiden should naturally be her boyfriend. This is similar in many ways to Vivian's pack. There is a social hierarchy and the members are constantly jostling each other, trying to get higher up. Kelly behaves like the queen bitch and so thinks she should be with the leader, Aiden. She fights Vivian, seeing her as a threat to her control. Unlike the pack, however, all fighting in the Amoeba is subtle and sneaky, achieved through gossip, nasty looks, and certain social behaviors. Vivian finds that she likes the Amoeba and is surprised that she fits in so easily. However, when Aiden breaks up with her, he lies to his friends about her, ensuring that the Amoeba will never accept her again. Some of the members of the Amoeba are Kelly, Jem, Bingo, Quince and Aiden.

The Ordeal

The Ordeal is a ritualized fight in which the male members of the pack, and any strangers who wish to be involved, compete to see who will be the new leader. The strongest and most powerful are considered most fit to rule over them. The females also fight to decide who will be queen, with the new queen traditionally mating the new leader. The Ordeal takes place in this story, with Gabriel becoming the new leader, and Vivian, much to her consternation, becoming the new queen.

The Moon

The werewolves are to a certain extent controlled by the moon. They feel the moon's pull stronger when the moon is closer to full, which makes them feel more compelled to change form. On the night of the full moon the change is so powerful that it cannot be resisted, and the werewolves must change into their wolf form. According to werewolf myth, the Moon Goddess created the first werewolves, giving them the power as a gift. She instructed them to be merciful towards lesser humans, who are weaker and more vulnerable. The werewolves still seem to worship the Moon in some ways, and will use 'oh Moon' or 'for Moon's sake' as part of their everyday speech. Vivian is respectful of the Moon and even prays to her when she wants Aiden to accept her for who she is, appealing to the Moon as the goddess of lovers too.

Silver

Silver is dangerous to werewolves when it comes into contact with their blood, poisoning them and stopping their supernatural healing abilities from working. Silver touching the skin does not hurt, but a silver bullet or weapon would do serious damage.



It is one of the few things that could actually kill a werewolf (severing the spine and fire being the others).

Pentagram

A pentagram is a five-pointed star, and is a symbol of werewolves in this story. Traditionally pentagrams are symbols of magic and protection, which is why Aiden is not immediately aware of what the pentagram means in this story. When Vivian draws a pentagram in his palm, it is symbolic of her making him her victim. Later, he gives her a silver pentagram necklace.

The Silver Pentagram

Aiden gives Vivian a silver pentagram necklace on her birthday. This is ironic as it is the symbol of her people but made out of a material that is hateful to her people. It also mirrors the pentagram that Vivian drew on Aiden's palm. This is symbolic of Aiden reversing the situation and making Vivian his victim, as it is he who will actually end up hurting her.

Werewolf Law

Werewolf law is based around what is good for the pack as a whole. Killing humans is forbidden, as it puts the pack in danger. The leader of the pack has absolute control over meting out punishment, which helps to keep the pack in order and stop chaos. Werewolf law also encompasses all the traditions that keep the pack strong, such as choosing a leader by the Ordeal. According to werewolf law, children should not fight, but there is technically nothing stopping a female from fighting. Astrid takes advantage of this to fight in the Ordeal, but Gabriel easily beats her, demonstrating why they do not let females fight for practical reasons. In the pack, the oldest and most respected members are keepers and protectors of the law, including Orlando and Aunt Persia.

Tooley's Bar

Tooley's Bar is a bar in the city where Vivian and the pack live. It is a favorite hang out of the pack, and many of the members go there to drink and roughhouse. The bar is not owned or run by werewolves, however, so the pack have to be careful what they say and do while here. Vivian's mother works as a waitress at the bar. In the middle of the story, when Vivian's mother is upset about her dead husband, they visit the bar to cheer themselves up. Vivian enjoys the more boisterous and rough atmosphere after having to hide her werewolf instincts around Aiden and his friends. Tooley's bar is also where one of the murder victims is found; the body was left in a dumpster round the back.



Vivian's Mural

Vivian is painting a mural on her bedroom wall, which depicts the pack running together as wolves. She began this painting as a way to distract herself from the pain of losing her father, but now she paints to deal with her confusion. She paints herself as a human watching the pack, but feels that this is somehow wrong. However, she also does not want to portray herself as one of the pack. This is symbolic of her confusion over her own identity. She does not know which world she belongs in; human or wolf. She repaints parts of the mural several times, and becomes nostalgic for her old life in West Virginia whenever she looks at it. Towards the end of the story she begins to paint over it, as she is upset that she will never be able to join the pack in a hunt again. She is stuck between human and wolf and feels like she does not fit in. At the end of the story she manages to change between the two again, and accepts Gabriel and her life with the pack. Now she no longer needs a mural to remind her of the good times, as she will be able to live them again very soon.

Aiden's Room

Aiden's room says a lot about his personality. It is a normal teenager's room, but with as many attempts to rebel against his parents as possible. He has painted parts of it black, not having been allowed to paint the entire room black. He has little models that represent his interest in the supernatural, such as a tiny model grave with a hand coming out of the earth. He has books on witchcraft and Wicca. These represent how Aiden sees himself: as mysterious, cool and different. He likes to believe that he is special and that the world is interesting and magical. However, in reality he does not truly want these things; he only wants to dream about them. His room has references from popular culture and other items that do not represent what the supernatural would be like if it were real. The white walls show that he is not willing to actually defy his parents, and that his world view might prove to be far too similar to theirs. The books on his shelf show a desire to be different and rebellious, but in a very conventional teenage way. He does not seem to really know much about what he claims to be interested in, demonstrated by the tarot deck he does not know how to read.

The River

The river is visited several times in the story. This is where Aiden and Vivian almost have sex, but are interrupted when members of the pack, led by Astrid, run past. This makes Vivian all too aware of how weak Aiden is, and how he needs protecting. The river is where Vivian feels free and connected to nature, reminding her of how much she likes to be a wolf. She runs here in human form with Aiden on the way to the concert, wanting him to be part of her world, but seeing that he cannot keep up. Later, Aiden lures Vivian to the rocks by the river in order to kill her. It is here that they face Astrid and Rafe, and where Vivian is accidentally shot.



Themes

Can Love Conquer All?

Many romances, particularly paranormal romances, are concerned with the idea that love can conquer all. They show how two people from very different worlds, sometimes even different species, can fall in love and accept all their differences, fighting all the odds to be together. This story takes a very different, and arguably much more realistic, approach. Vivian finds herself attracted to Aiden and begins a relationship with him. Everything is going well, but there is a very big problem. Vivian is a werewolf and Aiden is a normal human. Vivian does not dare reveal her secret, as Aiden might react badly to it, putting her and her pack in danger. Eventually, however, when her life becomes confused and she only has Aiden to turn to, she reveals the truth to him. This is the point where in most paranormal romances the human would accept the supernatural being for what they are, and love them despite any problems. Unfortunately, this is not what happens here. Aiden reacts with fear and revulsion, and Vivian is devastated. Aiden throws a mug at her and Vivian is forced to escape through his window. After this, Aiden cuts off all ties with Vivian, makes sure her new friends never talk to her again, and begins a new relationship with another girl. Eventually, he even tries to kill Vivian with silver bullets. This book turns the traditional paranormal romance story on its head. Sometimes, it says, differences are too great to surmount, and love does not conquer all.

At first, Vivian is attracted to Aiden because he is different from the men and boys she has previously known. In her pack, the only other teenagers her age are the Five. They are a group of five boys who hang out together and like to tease and hit on Vivian. Vivian disapproves of the Five because she considers their wild behavior to have gotten out of control, and that it risks putting the pack in danger. She knows that they killed a girl in West Virginia in order to get their friend out of jail, and that it is this that led to her home being burned down and her father's death. She sees them urging each other on and risking exposing themselves to humans here too, and is afraid that they will repeat their dangerous and foolish behavior. She also disapproves of their generally immature attitudes and actions. She might be closer to their age, but she is mentally much more mature than them. In comparison to them, Aiden is a breath of fresh air. He is sweet and gentle, and very affectionate towards Vivian. He makes it clear that he finds her attractive, and Vivian enjoys the reaction she can produce in him. She loves the fact that he is so different to the werewolves in her pack, offering her a more human and civilized world to be part of when she finds herself disgusted by the violence of the pack. She develops strong feelings for Aiden, moved by the vulnerability he shows with her. He asks her to accept him for who he is and opens up everything to her. He also claims to love everything supernatural and strange, longs for magic or something more interesting in life, and says he could find the good in any creature, even witches and vampires. Naturally, Vivian comes to believe that he would accept her for who she really is, and that he would find her wolf side as beautiful as her human side. She thinks she can trust him as he has trusted her.



However, when Vivian does reveal her secret to Aiden, he reacts very badly. He is afraid of her, and repulsed by her wolf side. He finds her nature disturbing, and cannot accept the differences between the two of them. Like his parents, he reacts to what he does not understand with fear and hatred. He immediately ends the relationship with Vivian, who he has claimed love. He does not even give her a chance to explain. He lies about her to his friends to ensure that they will have nothing to do with Vivian, and soon after begins a new relationship with a girl called Kelly. This is certainly not what Vivian had expected. She reacts to this treatment with despair, sadness and anger. She takes revenge on Kelly by breaking into her house and ripping up her possessions. It seems likely she would have injured Kelly if Kelly had come home during this time. In a moment of rage she sets off to teach Aiden a lesson, and seems to have only avoided murder because her wolf side took over and led her elsewhere. She also ambushes Aiden to talk to him, and deliberately attends the same concert as him in an attempt to make him jealous. Neither of their behavior seems to represent the actions of a person who is really in love. If Aiden truly loved Vivian he would have given her a chance to explain and tried to accept her differences. If Vivian had loved Aiden she would not have reacted with anger and violence, and would have tried to let him get on with his life safely. For both of them, their feelings seem closer to infatuation. They mistook their fascination and sexual attraction for love.

Vivian comes to realize that her feelings for Aiden may not have been what she thought they were. When she kisses Gabriel at the end of the book, she finds his kisses are exactly what she wants. She had previously found Aiden too hesitant and not fierce or passionate enough for her. There are also clues that suggest Aiden is not right for Vivian scattered throughout the book, even from the start of their relationship. Vivian begins by thinking of Aiden as prey, and enjoys pursuing him as if she is hunting him. This is clearly not the correct dynamic for beginning a meaningful relationship. Later, she finds herself getting irritated when Aiden does not stick up for himself enough, either with her or his parents. She finds she wants someone stronger and more independent, like her, but she does not quite see this at the time. She also continually feels upset that Aiden cannot experience being a wolf with her, and even considers how good it would be if she could make him a werewolf like her. Clearly, she wants someone who can love her and be with her in both her human and wolf forms. Vivian thinks of her wolf form as beautiful and special, but Aiden sees it as a monster. This is a clear indication that they are incompatible, and were never really meant to be together.

What Vivian loved in Aiden was his gentleness and kindness, traits that she is surprised but pleased to find in Gabriel by the end of the story. In fact, Gabriel is everything that Aiden cannot be. He is loving and gentle with Vivian, but also fierce and strong. He loves Vivian in all her different forms, even when she is trapped between human and wolf. He offers her the acceptance that Aiden was not willing to give. Some readers have interpreted the message at the end of the book to be to stick to your 'own kind,' and that differences cannot be overcome. It is certainly true that Vivian is better off with Gabriel because he can understand and appreciate her better, but this does not mean that her relationship with Aiden was doomed because he is different. Rather, her relationship with Aiden was doomed because Aiden was not the kind of person who was willing to even try to accept her differences. He was not right for her, whereas Gabriel is.



Sometimes love cannot conquer all, but perhaps the right kind of love can. Vivian's obsessive love for Aiden was not a good kind of love. It was built on secrets and lies, lust and fascination. In fact, the reader might question whether they were ever really in love at all. Perhaps if Vivian had found a human who truly loved her, he may have been able to accept her fully for everything that she is. This is not what happened, however, and in the end, Vivian finds a healthier and happier love with Gabriel, one in which she will be able to be herself. This seems to be the author's main message, that if being with someone forces a person to change who they are or hide a part of themselves, then that cannot be true love. Love needs to be built on truth and openness, and most importantly on acceptance.

Identity

Vivian spends a large part of this story trying to come to terms with her often split identity. At the beginning of the book she is still recovering from the loss of her home and her father, and the changing behavior of her grieving mother. Her mother is coping by getting into fights and acting much younger than her age, which makes Vivian feel embarrassed and alone. She does not have a parent figure to turn to. Her pack is in turmoil, as it has lost its strong leader, Vivian's father. There is a lot of bickering, and some of the pack have become a little wild. Vivian disapproves of their behavior, in particular the Five, who are five teenage boys who act very immaturely. The members of the pack, who used to live together and offer a network of support and acceptance, are now split up, living separately and interacting much less than they once did. Everyone is confused, not knowing what their future holds, who will lead them and where they will eventually live. They are stuck in an interim stage, recovering from the disaster in West Virginia and waiting for the next stage of their lives to begin. This situation does not offer Vivian much comfort and support, and she feels very separated from the pack. She is lonely, and does not find the same joy in being a werewolf that she once did.

Her relationship with Aiden only makes matters worse. She begins to reach out to the humans in her school as she is so lonely at home. First, she begins a relationship with Aiden, then she starts to make friends with his friends. She finds that she likes hanging around with them, as she can do the normal teenager things that she has been missing. She goes to parties, attends concerts, and goes around to Bingo's house to watch movies. These are such ordinary, non-violent and gentle experiences that she finds them a breath of fresh air from the brutality of the pack. While the pack literally tear each other apart to choose their new leader at the Ordeal, Aiden's friends keep their social jostling more subtle and underhand. Life with Aiden and his friends is gentler and safer, and Vivian appreciates the difference between them and the werewolves. Vivian has a gentle and compassionate side that is not nurtured by her pack, and she thinks she can only find acceptance in Aiden's social group. When she is with them she hides her werewolf side and keeps her violence under control. With Aiden, she keeps her predatory instincts in check, and has to hold back sexually. She finds herself changing in order to fit in.



Although Vivian does not like the excessive violence of the pack, and has a gentle and loving side, she is also strong, fierce and independent like the other werewolves. She values her freedom strongly, and enjoys running as a wolf. She might disapprove of her pack sometimes, but she also loves them, and would never give up her werewolf life. She loves both sides of herself, finding her wolf form just as beautiful as her human form. This is the side of Vivian that must hide when she is with Aiden and his friends, which she can only bring out when she is alone or with the pack. Consequently, Vivian finds herself enjoying the moments where she can let go, either running alone, enjoying her birthday with members of the pack, or going to the local bar with her mother. In the latter case, she enjoys the roughhousing and the flirting of the men. This is her feisty side, which is pushed aside when she is with Aiden. She also finds herself wishing Aiden would be stronger and more fierce, more passionate with her, and more assertive with his parents. She does not like it when Aiden gives in without an argument, and finds herself wishing he would kiss harder and bite more often. She does not realize it at the time, but she is dissatisfied with him because he is not a werewolf like her, and frustrated because she cannot be entirely herself around him. Meanwhile, the pack are not accepting of her choice to date a human, and she often gets abuse from the others about it. Poor Vivian soon finds that she does not fit in entirely in either world, and that she is constantly torn between the two, and between the two sides of herself.

Things go from bad to worse when she accidentally becomes the new queen of her pack. Now she is expected to mate Gabriel, the new leader, and to devote herself to the pack. She is terrified by this and angry that she has no choice of her own, and so turns to her human life in despair. She reveals her secret to Aiden, expecting acceptance. Instead, Aiden rejects her. He is frightened of her and repulsed by her wolf side. He pushes her away, ends their relationship, and ensures that his friends will never talk to her again. He has cut her off from the human world, and ended that aspect of her life. Now all she has is the pack, but she begins to worry that she is committing terrible murders that put them all in danger. She is more confused than ever. Is she a wolf or a human? Is she a killer and a monster, or a victim?

Her human life and werewolf life clash when she breaks into Kelly's room and rips it apart. She begins to realize how dangerous it was to try to live a normal life. She was pretending to be something that she wasn't, and having to hide an important part of herself. When Aiden shoots her with a silver bullet, she becomes stuck between her human and wolf forms. She is literally trapped between the two worlds she tried to be a part of, symbolizing the identity crisis that Aiden caused her to have. She thinks this is her punishment for trying to be something that she wasn't, as now she can never be what she was meant to be. Vivian's identity crisis relates to the title of the book: 'Blood and Chocolate.' Chocolate represents Vivian's human side, which is soft and gentle. Aiden is a sweet but transitory pleasure, like chocolate. Blood represents Vivian's wolf side, which is rich, fierce and wild. Vivian thinks she must decide which she prefers: blood or chocolate, wolf or human.

However, with Gabriel's help she manages to see that this choice is unnecessary. She is a werewolf, both human and wolf. She can change between the two, and both sides affect who she is. Her gentleness and kindness are part of her, just as her fierceness,



strength and wildness are. Her mistake came from trying to deny one to concentrate on the other. With this realization, she can begin to accept herself again. She realizes that she is a werewolf and that she is happy being so. She loves the pack and will do anything to protect them, which is proven by the fact that she was willing to die to make sure they were safe. She finds that she actually is the queen she accidentally became. She also realizes that she does like Gabriel after all, and that she would be happy to accept him as her mate. She is proud of being a wolf as well as a human, and so finds her werewolf life beautiful, and Gabriel can accept and share this with her. He will be a better boyfriend than Aiden ever was, and will help Vivian to become whole again. This is symbolized by the fact that when she kisses him she is freed from her block and can once more change into wolf and human at will. She merges the two aspects of herself once more, and finally accepts and understands both sides of her personality. Her identity crisis is over. This is symbolized by the last line, in which she says that her blood is singing in her veins. By choosing Gabriel and letting go of Aiden she has chosen blood over chocolate. Blood is thick, intense and much more satisfying. Vivian may enjoy chocolate now and again as she enjoys her human life, but she will never try to give up the blood for it again. She is a werewolf, and once again she is proud to be so.

Monsters

At several different points in the story the idea of monsters is brought up. Vivian is a werewolf, a traditional horror movie monster. However, she is the main character and the one the reader is asked to sympathize with. This is not hard, as Vivian seems to be a caring and likeable girl who in many ways is just like a normal teenager. In other ways she is very different, when she is behaving like a werewolf or with her pack. Even though these aspects of her life are not relatable to by the reader, Vivian's reactions and opinions allow the reader to understand her and feel sorry for her confusion and loneliness. Obviously, the reader cannot know what it is like to be a werewolf, but they can understand what it feels like to long to fit in, and to feel abandoned or let down by the people they love. Vivian might be a traditional horror creature, then, but she is far too human to actually be considered a monster.

However, there are things about the werewolves in the book that make them seem quite horrific. The author makes sure that the reader never forgets that Vivian is a different species from humans, and that werewolves are wild and dangerous. The Ordeal, the fight to decide the next leader of the pack, is described in graphic, horrifying detail. In it, the werewolves rip each other apart, scar and mutilate each other, and some even kill. Bucky fights his best friend, gets carried away in the moment and lets his wolf side take over, and so ends up killing his friend. Gabriel easily snaps a blond stranger's neck. Even Vivian becomes embroiled in the violence in order to save her mother, but fights long past this point, mutilating Astrid by destroying her eye. Afterwards she is horrified and ashamed of this behavior, but it shows that none of the werewolves can be thought of as tame or gentle humans. They are wild, pack animals, and behave accordingly. Ironically, the description of the Ordeal comes straight after Vivian spends an evening with her human friends Bingo and Jem, watching old horror movies. They watch zombie



films, another classic horror movie monster, but Jem and Bingo cannot even guess that there is a werewolf sitting there with them. By setting these two events so close together, the author is inviting the reader to ask themselves whether the werewolves might be monsters after all.

Later, this question is brought back up when Aiden reacts badly to Vivian's revelation. He is terrified of her and in desperation, throws a mug at her head. She is forced to jump out of the window to escape. Later, she tries to explain things to him but he won't listen. He ends their relationship and lies to his friends to make sure they will have nothing to do with Vivian ever again. Aiden does this because he thinks Vivian is a monster, and is afraid for his and his friends' safety. While the reader finds it hard to have much sympathy for Aiden due to his hypocritical behavior, it is possible that he has a point. Vivian is part of a violent pack who think nothing of savaging each other to fight for a social position. They also do not appear to have much respect for human life, only condemning murder because it might put the pack in danger of retaliation from angry humans. The Ordeal showed how brutal and dangerous the werewolves can be, Vivian included. It also proves how easy it is for a werewolf to lose control of themselves and hurt those they love. Later, Vivian even thinks that she has committed two murders. She cannot remember what she did during the nights she lost control of herself, and it is a strong possibility that she did kill people. In fact, it is more luck than anything else that she did not. She tries to take revenge on Kelly by ripping up her room, and once again it is pure luck that she does not end up killing Kelly. No wonder Aiden thinks she is a monster. Can Vivian really blame him for coming to this conclusion when she is also worried that she may be a murderer?

Vivian accuses Aiden of being a monster too. He has broken up with her because she is different, too afraid to face what he does not understand. This is hypocritical in the extreme, as he claimed he would love magic and the supernatural if it was real, and that he would find the good in any being, even witches and vampires. He is acting exactly like his parents, despising what he is too afraid to accept. He lies about Vivian to his friends, causing her to lose the few friends she fought so hard to make. Now she is completely alone. All Vivian wanted was acceptance, and she has never harmed Adrian. He throws her own acceptance of him back in her face, and completely shatters her world. She gives him back the necklace he gave her, claiming that he made her his victim rather than the other way around. She says that he is the monster, not her. Later, Aiden shows how far he is willing to let his fear and ignorance drive him when he lures Vivian to the rocks to kill her. He is influenced by fear and the desire to keep others safe, and he believes that Vivian is a murderer. It is ultimately up to the reader to decide whether this excuses him, or whether he is indeed a monster.

Later, Vivian calls herself a monster because of what she has done to Aiden. She has dragged him into a dangerous situation with the werewolves, and has ensured that he will never feel safe again. She is not being entirely fair on herself. It is partly Aiden's own fault that he is in this mess, as he came to the rocks to try to kill Vivian. Vivian has also proved herself not to be a monster by her insistence on protecting Aiden despite the fact that he was going to kill her. She shows incredible compassion and forgiveness.



It seems clear who the real monsters of the story are. Astrid and Rafe deliberately prey on humans, hunting them down and killing them cruelly. They enjoy the suffering they inflict as much as the kill itself. It is a game to them, and they clearly have no respect for life. They even try to frame Vivian, one of their own pack, causing her a great deal of anguish and grief. The first two murders are not people the reader is very familiar with, and so they are distanced from the reader somewhat. The final one, however, is Quince, Aiden's friend and a boy who had been nice to Vivian once. He died simply from being in the wrong place at the wrong time, and his death is truly tragic. It forces the reader to feel hatred for the murderers, and to try to separate the wildness of the pack from the evil of Rafe and Astrid. Even in the face of this tragedy, however, there is some suggestion that Rafe and Astrid are not that different from the pack. Each member of the pack understands the urge to kill, and the predatory nature that drives this. Rafe and Astrid are not monsters because they had a beast inside them, but because they could not control it.

At the end of the story, Gabriel tells Vivian that all humans have the capacity to be monsters. They are afraid of wild animals and like to believe that they are civilized and different, but this is not entirely true. When pushed, the beast inside them emerges, and they are capable of great cruelty and violence. They try to keep this beast hidden and pretend it does not exist, which means that it can break out in evil ways. Werewolves are more open about their dark side, allowing it to have a voice and so keeping it under control. He says this is their blessing as well as their curse, as it can lead them to do awful things like Rafe and Astrid. In the end, he points out, there is perhaps not such a great difference between humans and werewolves, and that deep down everyone is a monster.



Style

Point of View

The story is told from Vivian's point of view in the third-person narrative. Vivian is the main character of the story and the events of the book are focused on her experiences. Vivian is a mostly sympathetic character, and by telling the story from her point of view, it helps the reader to understand her and relate to her better. In many ways she acts like a normal teenage girl, but in others she is very different. This is because she is a werewolf and a completely different species from humans. The author wants the reader to remember this, and to feel a little distance from Vivian because of it. The reader feels sorry for her at points and admires her at others, but does not always agree with her decisions and morals. Sometimes her actions can be off-putting or even a little repulsive, such as when she savages Astrid. By telling the story from her point of view, but not in first person, the author ensures that Vivian is sympathetic, but that an appropriate level of distance between her and the reader is maintained.

By telling the story from Vivian's point of view, the author can explore human behavior from a more objective viewpoint. Vivian is what humans might traditionally consider a monster, but she is not really that different from the readers. She witnesses human behavior, particularly the social interactions of Aiden's group of friends, and is able to compare this to behavior in the pack. This allows the reader to see that people might not be as different from beasts as we would like to think. Seeing Aiden's reaction to Vivian's secret from Vivian's point of view also allows the reader to see how unfair and mean he is being. He is a hypocrite, claiming to love the supernatural but fearing it and hating it when he encounters it. He treats what he does not understand with fear and revulsion, when he should try to be more accepting. This is a lesson for the reader. Aiden's reaction is a typical human reaction to things that are difficult or scary. The author is showing that people should try to understand others better, rather than being quick to blame or condemn them. Aiden does not like it when his own parents act this way to him, so he should not do so to others. This lesson is particularly effective because it is being seen from the other side, from the victim's point of view. Aiden's behavior encourages the reader to not react with fear to things that are different, or things that they do not understand.

Setting

The story is set in the suburbs of a Maryland city. This is crowded and claustrophobic to the werewolves, who are used to wide open spaces. However, it is also alive with possibilities. Vivian finds that she is closer to humans than ever before, and is naturally intrigued. She decides to see what would happen if she becomes friends with them, and even dates one, with disastrous results. Other werewolves see the city as an opportunity to act wildly and recklessly without consequences. They think they can get away with anything, as they are more anonymous in such a big crowd. This even leads



Astrid and Rafe to start murdering humans. It is clear that the city is a bad place for werewolves. It brings out the worst in their nature, and places them too close to the temptation of killing or getting involved with humans. The city is a confusing, busy, hot, and claustrophobic space reflects Vivian's confusion and anguished feelings throughout most of the story. She is not happy here, and longs for the freedom they had in West Virginia. The few open spaces they do find are described in joyful terms, and there are a lot of references to the moon. This is what makes Vivian feel free and alive, and reflects her wolf soul, the part of her that longs to be out in the wild. At the end of the story Gabriel makes the decision to move back to the country and buys a place in an isolated part of Vermont. This is exactly what the werewolves need in order to be able to begin afresh.

Bedrooms in this story strongly represent the people who sleep in them, and are a good clue as to the character of their owner. Vivian's room has a large mural on one wall that she has been painting. It shows the pack running in their wolf forms, with Vivian watching in her human form. Vivian feels that this is somehow wrong, but does not want to paint herself as a wolf either. This represents her confusion over her identity, as she does not know to which world she belongs. Her nostalgia for better days, where the pack ran free and far from humans, is also reflected in the mural.

The author has cleverly reflected Aiden's character in his room. Aiden's room is a shrine to the supernatural, but only those elements of the supernatural that Aiden likes and is comfortable with. He has a model of a grave with a hand poking out, representing the zombie genre and popular culture's idea of what the supernatural is like. This symbolizes Aiden's idea of the supernatural as something 'mysterious' and 'fun' and 'cool.' He does not want to experience what the supernatural would really be like if it existed, but would rather go on dreaming about his perfect version of it. Parts of his room are painted black, but the walls are still white, showing that he is not really willing to stand up to his parents, and may prove to be more like them that he would care to admit. He owns books on witchcraft and Wicca, which seem to be a way to rebel against his parents and to make himself 'different' rather than something he actually believes in. In other words, he is trying to express his individuality in a very conventional teenage way, and does not really think about what any of this stuff means. He has a tarot deck but does not know how to read it, re-enforcing this idea of him as a bit of a fake. This, of course, proves to be true.

Kelly's room also reflects her personality. Vivian describes it as a shrine to a good girl gone bad, as it is also full of black, layered over flowery wallpaper and other relics of childhood. Like Aiden's room, there are touches that suggest a parent is trying to combat their teenager's rebellion. Kelly's room is very similar to Aiden's, and she even has the exact necklace that Aiden bought Vivian. Though Vivian would not want to admit it, Aiden and Kelly seem well suited to each other. Both are trying to express themselves in similar ways, and rebelling against parents who do not want to let them grow up. Neither of them seem to actually want to face anything different or challenging, however. Both of them seem like rather fake people who are actually very ordinary at heart.



Language and Meaning

The author uses language to draw out emotional reactions from the reader. She describes Vivian's feelings for Aiden in quite tender and sweet terms, making the reader invested in the relationship. When Aiden rejects her after finding out her secret, his responses to her are abrupt and brutal, forcing the reader to take Vivian's side and see Aiden as a monster. However, it is also very important for the reader to understand that Vivian is not human. She is a werewolf, a different species that does not always act or think like humans. The graphic descriptions of the violence of the Ordeal help to achieve this. Each fight is described in gruesome detail, which is deliberately meant to produce shock and disgust in the reader. The reader realizes that werewolves are not tame after all, and that they really are very frightening. Perhaps Aiden's reaction is not so wrong after all. This keeps the reader at a distance from Vivian at the same time as sympathizing with her. The reader is never under the illusion that Vivian is a cuddly werewolf, and they can see that she is dangerous. Nevertheless, they are led to like her and to feel for her, which is much more effective than if she had always acted like a human. By maintaining this distance, the author also challenges the reader with interesting questions such as who is really the monster and who is the victim?

Language is also used to show how much Vivian thinks in terms of being a werewolf. She often compares human behavior to things she has seen her pack do, and interprets others' actions in terms of being a wolf. For instance, when Aiden opens up to her and is vulnerable with her, she compares this to him showing her his belly. This is what wolves do when they wish to acknowledge the others' dominance or to be intimate with each other. Vivian also often compares Aiden's group of friends to a pack. This is effective for two reasons. First, it reminds the reader that Vivian is a werewolf and is happy being one, and that she never quite fits in the human world. Aiden will never be enough for her unless he can share both worlds with her. Second, it allows the author to compare human behavior to animal behavior, showing the reader that humans are not as different from beasts as they would like to believe.

The author uses a lot of symbolism throughout the story. The title of the book, 'Blood and Chocolate,' is referenced a few times, such as when Vivian refers to Aiden's kisses as being like chocolate. Chocolate represents her human side and her life with Aiden and his friends. Chocolate is sweet and pleasant, but also quite mild and very fleeting. It is not fulfilling and deep, and so is actually quite a superficial pleasure. This assessment fits Aiden and his relationship with Vivian perfectly. He is sweet and pleasant, which is why Vivian is attracted to him. However, he cannot fully satisfy her, as he can never share her werewolf life with her. She sometimes wishes he would bite instead of kiss, and hates how he gives in easily without an argument. Like chocolate, he is soft and weak, unlike Vivian who is fierce and strong. Like chocolate, he is only a fleeting pleasure, and proves not to be in it for the long haul. Finally, like chocolate, he also proves to be rather superficial. He likes Vivian when she is a hot teenager he can kiss and show off to his friends, but when she reveals her wolf side, he is not willing to make the effort to accept her or understand her.



Chocolate also represents Vivian's human side. She enjoys being a human, and likes to indulge that part of herself now and again, but the reader quickly gets the impression that her wolf side is just as important, if not more so. She loves being a wolf, associating it with freedom and strength. Her wolf side is like blood; it is deep, rich and satisfying. The reader might not fully understand this, as they would probably choose chocolate over blood, but for Vivian, who is a different species entirely, blood is much, much better. Blood is the hunt and her instincts, blood is the strength of the pack, and blood is the bond that only the werewolves can have with each other. A life as a human could never compare to this. The choice of chocolate or blood is a choice of human or wolf, a dilemma that confuses Vivian throughout the story. Sometimes her violence disgusts her, but she also loves it. Sometimes her human side is comforting, but sometimes it seems empty, just as chocolate is pleasant but also dissatisfying. In the end, she sees that she does not have to deny either side of herself. She can enjoy the chocolate now and again, but blood is who she is, and her life is with the pack, not humans. She chooses Gabriel as her mate, understanding that where Aiden was chocolate, he is blood.

Chocolate and blood are not the only symbols in the story. The pentagram also plays a strong role as a symbol of hunting, predator and prey. Vivian draws a pentagram in Aiden's palm to make him her victim, a joke to herself because she thinks of flirting as a form of hunting. Later, Aiden gives Vivian a silver pentagram necklace. Now he has hung the pentagram symbol around her neck, returning it to her, switching their roles. Now she is his victim, as she finds herself falling in love with him and trusting him. The silver adds to this, as it is harmful to werewolves. This makes it clear that the pentagram is a gift laced with poison, something with a sinister edge. Later, it is Aiden who hurts Vivian rather than the other way round. She tells him that he has made her his victim after all, and that perhaps he is the monster. Aiden takes this role reversal further by literally becoming the hunter, luring Vivian to the rocks to shoot her with a silver bullet. However, in the end, Vivian notes that Aiden will never feel safe again. He will live his life in fear, while Vivian is happy with her pack. Perhaps he really has been the victim of this whole thing after all.

Structure

The book has a very simple structure. Events are told in chronological order with no flashbacks or dream sequences. Vivian is quite a straight forward and open girl and so the story is told naturally and simply. The chapters tend to be quite short, often with a cliffhanger or teaser to draw the reader on. A large part of the novel is made up of dialogue, as it is character interaction that is important to the plot, and it is through speech that the reader can understand how characters are feeling and reacting to things. Where there are long periods of description, it tends to be when Vivian is in wolf form or observing things related to her pack. Descriptions of scenery tend to focus on the beauty and wildness of nature, and in particular the splendor of the moon. This emphasizes how connected to her wolf side Vivian is, and how important her freedom is to her.



The story is split almost equally into human and wolf sides. In the first half of the novel, Vivian explores her human side as she connects to human friends and leaves her pack behind her. She becomes more separated from her wolf side and this makes her confused and unhappy. At the same time however, she also experiences a natural high from the experience of being in love. Halfway through the book she tells Aiden her secret and is rejected. This is when the murders begin and when Vivian begins to explore her wolf side. She takes revenge on Kelly, and revels in the feeling of being a hunter again. She almost becomes the monster that she tells Aiden she is not. She learns to love and appreciate her pack again, and decides it would be better to die than endanger them. If the first half of the book is concerned with chocolate (i.e. humanity and the human world), then the second half is about blood. In the end, Vivian chooses blood over chocolate and embraces her werewolf life again.



Quotes

"She was a beautiful loup-garou, she knew - the Five howled for her - but what did human eyes perceive" (Chapter 1, p. 12).

"She missed the mountain slopes where humans were far apart and the pack was close, and she hardly ever had to pretend" (Chapter 1, p. 13).

"I am strong," she whispered. "I can run with the night and catch the dawn. I can kick a hole in the sky" (Chapter 1, p. 13).

"What am I, a pervert? she asked herself. He was human, for Moon's sake - half a person" (Chapter 3, p. 25).

"It's only a game, she told her herself, to see if I can snare him. But she wanted to know what was in a human head to make him write that poem, and she wanted to know why he'd stolen the breath from her lips" (Chapter 3, p. 26).

"But why should she care so much? He was a human after all: a meat-boy scantily furred, an incomplete creature who had only one form. How sad, she thought, and suddenly she craved the change" (Chapter 3, p. 29).

"I will howl for you, human boy, she thought. I will hunt you in my girl skin but I'll celebrate as wolf" (Chapter 3, p. 31).

"He was a creature of warm sun and comfort" (Chapter 6, p. 58).

"She had never had to hide away before. What a crime to trap her beautiful body. It was all his fault." Chapter 7, p66

"We know who we are, Vivian. And we know what we want. We don't run away from it. You're sick, Vivian, if you think you can play human" (Chapter 10, p. 101).

"I love being loup-garou. I adore the sweet change and the beauty it brings me in the night. When I hunt, I hunt wild prey by the laws of the Goddess. I don't kill pets for the fun of it" (Chapter 10, p. 101).

"He was full of rushing blood and smiles and dreams - things her father would never have again." - Vivian thinking about Aiden and swearing she will not be responsible for his death" (Chapter 10, p. 102).

"But did he realize how different people could be; he who wrote of exchanging skin for a pelt of brindle luxury? Would he grant her the right to be different" (Chapter 13, p. 123).

"When a leader dies by the teeth of fate then Ordeal is called, for only the swift and strong may lead" (Chapter 15, p. 137).



"Why did they have to make their beauty foul? What kind of people were they that they'd kill their friends? What kind of people invited strangers to a ritual death? Wasn't the joy of the run and the sweet, sweet night enough" (Chapter 16, p. 147).

"What if he didn't love her in her wolf-skin? Was ancestral hate ingrained too deep in them all? She glanced outside to take strength from the high-flying three-quarter moon. No, he would see the beauty" (Chapter 18, p. 167).

"Mixed with her disgust at herself was contempt for Aiden's cringing, then guilt because she had caused it. Her heart broke for him because he feared, because he couldn't see the wonder, then raged at him because he made her feel unclean" (Chapter 18, p. 169).

"Now I wonder if we can ever have peace. The stories the humans tell say we're cursed. Maybe they're right" (Chapter 20, p. 179).

"She recognized deep within herself the same red spark of desire for a time when instinct wasn't bound and the young Moon found it easy to forgive" (Chapter 20, p. 183).

"I thought you were different from the rest, open-minded, but you're just like those parents you despise. At the first sign of the unusual you run. You tell lies about me and make people hate me. You take away my friends. You're the monster, not me" (Chapter 21, p. 194).

"You can't confuse the desire to dominate and protect with love" (Chapter 25, p. 225).

"His world had changed. Now shadows would always take on threatening shapes. What had she done? Oh, poor, poor boy. She was indeed a monster. She had made him unsafe forever" (Chapter 28, p. 248).

"I tried to be what I wasn't, and now I can't even be what I should" (Chapter 29, p. 254).

"They may not be able to change, but they still can be the beast of their own nightmares" (Chapter 30, p. 261).

"How could she have mistake Aiden's kisses for this? They had been delicious and smooth like the brief comfort of chocolate, but they had never been enough" (Chapter 30, p. 264).



Topics for Discussion

One reading of this story is that sometimes love cannot conquer all, if the differences between two people are too great. Do you agree with this? Use examples from the story to back up your answer. In your answer you might like to consider whether Aiden and Vivian were ever actually in love with each other, and whether their relationship might have worked if they had been.

What are the differences between Aiden and Gabriel, and is Gabriel a more suitable match for Vivian? Are you happy with Vivian's choice at the end of the story?

Vivian refers to both herself and Aiden as a monster. Do you think she is correct? Are there any monsters in this story? Who are they? Why do you consider them to be monsters?

In what ways do the werewolves in this story behave like normal humans? What is different about them? Do humans ever behave like animals and if so, how?

How does the author make the werewolves seem dangerous or unappealing to the reader? How does she make them sympathetic? In the end, what is your opinion of the pack? Do you think the author intended this reaction, and why?

Discuss the character of Vivian in this story. Do you like her? Why or why not? Do you think she is a sympathetic character?

Discuss the character of Aiden in this story. How is the reality of his personality different from his own opinion of himself? How is he hypocritical? Do you think he is a sympathetic character, and do you ever feel sorry for him? Is your opinion of him different at the end of the story from the beginning of the book?

How does the author force the reader's opinion of Gabriel to change throughout the story? How is this effective? Do you like Gabriel by the end of the book? Give reasons for your answer.

Discuss the theme of prejudice and fear in this story. In what ways do people show fear of what they do not understand? Are they wrong or correct to do so? What does this fear lead to? How should characters react to what they do not understand?

Discuss the theme of identity in this story. Why is identity such an important and tricky issue for Vivian? In what ways does she explore who she really is? Is she ever ashamed of herself? What is she proud of? Is she pretending to be something that she is not? What does Vivian learn about the importance of her identity by the end of the book?

Discuss the theme of freedom in this story. Why is Vivian's independence and freedom so important to her? What does she love about being a wolf? How does she express this?



'Stick with your own kind.' Do you think this is the message of the story? Explain your reasoning and use examples from the story to back up your answer. Do you think the story has a positive or negative message, or simply a realistic one?