

Blood Promise Study Guide

Blood Promise by Richelle Mead

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Plot Summary

Blood Promise is the fourth book in the Vampire Academy Series by Richelle Mead. In this novel, Rose Hathaway has traveled to Russia to find Dimitri, her lover who was turned into a Strigoi vampire during a rescue mission to save academy students and personnel kidnapped during an attack at the academy by the Strigoi. Rose fully expects to die when she finally confronts Dimitri, but feels it is worth it to free his soul. However, Rose did not expect to find herself faced with a choice: to become Strigoi herself and spend eternity with Dimitri, or die at Dimitri's hand. Blood Promise is an exciting fourth installment to the Vampire Academy series that leaves the reader breathless with every twist of the plot.

Rose is in Russia attempting to get information on a dhampir village in Siberia. Rose knows that Dimitri has come back to Russia and hopes to find him near his home village. However, Rose does not know where the village is. One night Rose is confronted by a human who knows about the vampires, a Alchemist. Rose has never heard of this group of humans who come up behind the dhampir guardians and clean up their kills because she has not graduated from the academy yet. However, the Alchemist, Sydney, gives her a crash course after Rose kills a Strigoi in an alley. Later, Rose tells Sydney about the village she needs to find and Sydney calls her bosses, giving them both the orders to travel to the village together.

When Rose and Sydney arrive in the village of Baia several days later, Rose finds herself in the home of Dimitri's mother, sisters, and grandmother. Rose is so overwhelmed by grief when one of the sisters mentions Dimitri that she realizes she must tell them what has happened to Dimitri. Afterward, the family throws a memorial service for Dimitri, whom they consider dead even though he has become Strigoi. At the same time, Rose meets Abe, a rich and powerful Moroi who has taken a special interest in her safety for some unknown reason. Rose thinks that Abe is working for her mother or someone at the academy who wants her returned safely. Therefore, when Abe helps save one of Dimitri's sisters from a dangerous situation, Rose agrees to leave Baia. Instead of returning home, however, Rose goes with a group of unpromised dhampir to Novosibirsk to renew her search for Dimitri.

Rose and the group of unpromised dhampir hunt and interrogate several Strigoi on their first night in the city. Rose finds one dhampir who knows Dimitri. Rose sends him back to Dimitri with the message that she is searching for him. A few days later, Dimitri approaches Rose on the street. Rose hesitates when given the opportunity to kill him and Dimitri overpowers her. Rose wakes a day later in a strange place. Dimitri gives her the choice to become a Strigoi or to die at his hand. Rose refuses to make the choice and instead allows Dimitri to feed from her. Rose falls into an addiction to the endorphins released during these feedings and stops trying to kill Dimitri or even find a way to escape.

At the same time Rose is being held captive by Dimitri, Lissa is back at the academy. However, Lissa' behavior has altered and she has estranged herself from everyone who



cares about her. Adreian tries to get Rose to come home to help Lissa, but realizes that Rose is also in trouble. Lissa's plight and Adrian's plea for help brings Rose somewhat out of her addiction and she begins to avoid Dimitri's bites in the hopes of becoming sober enough to make an escape. The escape goes badly, however, and Dimitri is forced to kill his old mentor and several other Strigoi as Rose escapes his clutches. Dimitri follows Rose and they fight on an old bridge. Dimitri falls into the water after Rose stabs his chest with a silver stake.

As Rose recovers from her injuries, she becomes aware that Lissa is in danger. With help from another spirit user, Rose is able to rescue Lissa. Rose returns home and promises her mother that she will return to school. However, Rose learns that Dimitri is still alive and that the brother of Lissa's most dangerous enemy, Victor Dashkov, has the answer to saving him.



Prologue and Chapters 1-5

Prologue and Chapters 1-5 Summary

This novel is the fourth in the Vampire Academy Series. Rose Hathaway, the narrator of the series, is a dhampir, half vampire and half human. Rose is training to become guardian to her best friend, Lissa, with whom she has a unique bond. However, several events in the previous novels caused Rose to leave the school and to give up her position as Lissa's guardian.

In the Prologue, an attack on the vampire Academy, St. Vladimir's, leads to a rescue attempt. During the rescue attempt, Rose and Dimitri fight side by side. As the Strigoi flee the area, Dimitri lets down his guard and is attacked, bitten by a Strigoi, an act that turns Dimitri into a Strigoi. Recalling a conversation they once had in which Dimitri expressed the thought that he would rather die than live as a Strigoi, Rose has decided to hunt him and free his soul. This decision forces Rose to leave the academy before graduation and relinquish her role as Lissa's guardian.

In Chapter 1, Rose has been going to a nightclub in Russia called the Nightingale that is known to be a hangout for Moroi for several nights in a row. Rose hopes to find a dhampir who might be able to tell her where the dhampir village in Siberia is located. Rose has reason to believe that Dimitri has gone home. However, when she attempts to ask questions, Rose calls to herself attention from guardian dhampirs. Then, one night while walking back to her hotel, Rose is followed. Assuming it is a dhampir, Rose confronts her stalker only to discover a human who appears to know a great deal about vampires. As the woman confronts Rose on the dead Strigoi she has left in her wake, a Strigoi attacks.

In Chapter 2, Rose fights the Strigoi and kills him. Rose is shocked as she watches the human pour some kind of liquid over the Strigoi that turns the body into dust. The woman tells Rose that she is an Alchemist. The woman, Sydney, explains over a meal at a local diner that the Alchemists are humans who agreed many hundreds of years ago when the Moroi first began to hide themselves to work with them to protect humanity from the Strigoi. For this reason, the Alchemists work to hide all aspects of vampires from humanity. Rose would have learned of the Alchemists upon graduation from the academy. Rose asks Sydney about the village where she believes Dimitri has gone. Sydney calls her bosses and then tells Rose that she has been ordered to travel with her to this village.

In Chapter 3, Rose and Sydney quickly make travel arrangements. On the train, Rose discovers that Sydney not only thinks of vampires as an abomination, but also is afraid of them, including Rose. Rose feels some sympathy for Sydney and tries to make their forced confinement together less stressful. As they travel, Rose spends some time in Lissa's head where she overhears her friend lament Rose's absence. Later, Lissa meets the new headmaster of the academy, Mr. Lazar, and his daughter, Avery. Lissa



immediately believes that Avery has been sent to teach Lissa to be a better member of the court, causing her resentment and to be cool around Avery.

In Chapter 4, Rose and Sydney arrive in Moscow with time to spare, but Rose does not enjoy touring the city because it only causes her to think of Dimitri. Later, while sleeping on the train, Rose is visited by Adrian in her dream. Rose knows that Adrian only wants to know where she is and she easily evades all his questions. When Rose wakes, she finds Sydney out in the hall, unable to sleep. They talk a little and Sydney warns Rose about the subculture in the village where they are going.

In Chapter 5, when they arrive in Omsk, Sydney buys a 1972 Citroen for the rest of the journey. Sydney reveals some of herself in her excitement over the car. Rose is less than impressed and spends most of the journey in Lissa's head. Rose watches as Lissa works with Adrian on their spirit magic and then accidentally happens to overhear a fight between Avery and her father. Lissa feels sympathy for Avery and invites her to lunch. Back in Russia, Rose and Sydney stop for the night at a small farm.

Prologue and Chapters 1-5 Analysis

The prologue gives the reader a great deal of information about the characters, the different types of vampire that populate the novel, and the situation that has brought Rose to Russia. It helps the reader who has not read a previous Vampire Academy novel to understand what is happening.

Rose and Dimitri were secret lovers and no one was truly aware of their situation until after Dimitri was taken by the Strigoi and Rose told the truth to her best friend, Lissa. Rose and Lissa have a very close relationship, not only because they have been friends since young childhood, but because Lissa's elemental magic is spirit. After a car accident that killed Lissa's family, Lissa brought Rose back from the dead and created a bond between the two of them through which Rose can see through Lissa's eyes and feel Lissa's emotions. This helps Rose to know where Lissa is and when she might be in danger, even from the other side of the world. Rose uses this bond to check in on Lissa from time to time and make sure that her friend is safe.

Rose has made the decision to go after Dimitri and kill him in order to free his soul from his now undead body. Rose believes Dimitri would not want to live as a Strigoi and that she is the only one who cares enough to do anything about it. However, Rose does not have a plan for when she finds Dimitri, nor does she have any faith that she will survive the encounter. For this reason, Rose has made no plans as to what to do when she confronts Dimitri or what will happen after the confrontation.

Rose meets Sydney, a human Alchemist whose job it is to hide all evidence of vampires, including disposing of vampire bodies after a battle. Rose did not know about Alchemists because this is something she would only learn after graduation. Sydney is traveling with Rose to Baia, Dimitri's home village, under orders from her own bosses. The reason for this is not clear to either Rose or the reader at this point in the novel.



Chapters 6-11

Chapters 6-11 Summary

In Chapter 6, while sleeping in the farm house, Rose wakes when she is filled with nausea, an early warning system given to her through her shadow kissed state, warning her that Strigoi are nearby. Rose goes out to the barn and is attacked by a female Strigoi while a male Strigoi watches nearby. Rose is overwhelmed and filled with fear, causing her to lower her guard against dead spirits that often surround her. These spirits begin to attack the Strigoi, distracting them long enough for Rose to kill them both. When Sydney comes rushing out, Rose passes out in her arms. When Rose wakes, she is in Baia in the home of Olena Belikova.

In Chapter 7, Rose realizes immediately that she is in the home of Dimitri's mother, sisters, and grandmother. Sydney tells Rose that she called a friend and he brought her there. The man, Abe Mazur, is not a royal, but appears to have a great deal of power among the Moroi. Rose goes into town with Dimitri's sister, Viktoria, and meets one of her friends. Rose is overwhelmed by the questions and stories about Dimitri that she receives from his family. This causes Rose to decide she must tell them the truth.

In Chapter 8, after she tells her story, Rose is surprised when the family immediately arranges a memorial service for Dimitri. Although he is not dead, the Moroi and dhampir communities often consider those changed into Strigoi dead. Later, Sydney warns Rose about Abe Mazur, telling her that he is a business man whose business is not always strictly legal. Sydney says that Abe is often called Zmey, snake, behind his back. Still later, Rose goes into Lissa's head and overhears a conversation between her and Avery in which Avery makes certain inquiries into Adrian's dating status. Then, during the memorial service, Rose meets Abe Mazur.

In Chapter 9, Abe insists on knowing what Rose is doing in Baia, but she refuses to answer. Rose becomes convinced that Abe has been hired by someone back at the academy to find out what she is up to and to encourage her to return. Rose leaves Abe in the street and returns to the memorial service where she is encouraged to tell stories about Dimitri. It is difficult for Rose and she drinks too much.

In Chapter 10, Rose returns to Lissa's mind to help her recover from too much drinking. Lissa and Avery have become friends. Avery sets off the fire alarms at the school so that Lissa and Christian can cut their classes and spend the day with her and Adrian. The next morning, Rose is woken early and told she must accompany grandmother somewhere. Rose is made to carry a heavy load as grandmother leads her through the village. They arrive at the home of a Moroi and her dhampir husband. Rose is shocked to discover that the Moroi, Oksana, is a spirit user and her husband, Mark, is bound to her. Rose talks with Mark about it and learns that Oksana can read people's thoughts, something neither Adrian nor Lissa can do.



In Chapter 11, Rose also learns that Oksana can heal the darkness Mark takes from her and that she puts healing charms on objects to help him as well. Mark gives Rose a ring with a healing charm on it. Rose returns to the Belikova home to discover that Sydney has moved on. Rose finds herself unsure of what her next move should be and considers the idea of remaining in Baia. At the same time, Lissa considers going to the Court with Avery who promises to make it more entertaining than it has been in the past. Christian refuses to go, but offers Jill, a freshman, in his place. Lissa is angry, but agrees.

Chapters 6-11 Analysis

Rose fights a couple of Strigoi at the farmhouse in the middle of the night and is so overwhelmed that she accidentally calls spirits to her. The spirits help her fight the Strigoi, distracting them long enough for her to win the fight. Rose is then taken to the home of Olena Belikova, Dimitri's mother. Rose tells the family about Dimitri's change into Strigoi and is shocked by how quickly they give him a funeral, deciding he is dead just like the Moroi community at the academy. However, for the first time, Rose is able to openly mourn for Dimitri in a way she has not been able to do thus far.

Rose continuously checks in with Lissa and this allows her to see the developing relationship between Lissa and Avery. Rose is jealous of this relationship, feeling as though Lissa is choosing Avery over her. Rose feels replaced, left out, and this causes her to overlook a sense that something is not right with Avery and her relationship with Lissa.

Rose meets another spirit user and her husband, a man who is bonded to her. This surprises Rose because she has not met another person bond to a spirit user before and this allows her to ask some questions about the things that have been happening to her and Lissa. This also allows Rose to learn about Oksana's ability to heal the darkness that is a by-product of spirit use that the bonded partner takes on. Rose is often filled with this darkness and only Dimitri was ever able to help her break its hold on her emotions and moods. However, now Mark has given Rose a ring that can help heal the darkness in her and has given her hope that Lissa might one day learn a way to heal her more completely. This suggests a way of dealing with all the unpleasant side effects of spirit use for Rose and Lissa. Perhaps for Adrian as well.

Lissa and Avery plan a trip to court even though Lissa dislikes the control the queen tries to place over her. Lissa is angry when Christian refuses to go, infusing some discord into what had previously appeared to be a perfect relationship. Lissa appears to be angrier about a great many things lately and acting in ways she never has before, causing some concern about her behavior. However, Rose continues to feel replaced by Avery and cannot see what is wrong with Lissa.



Chapters 12-17

Chapters 12-17 Summary

In Chapter 12, Viktoria encourages Rose to remain in Baia and perhaps finishing her education at the boarding school that Viktoria attends. Rose is still unsure about what she wants to do now. Later Mark also suggests that Rose remain in Baia. Mark tells Rose that he knows she is seeking to free Dimitri, but that it is dangerous to fight the Strigoi. He wants her to avoid such a life. Abe confronts Rose as well, but he wants her to return to America. That night, Adrian comes to Rose in her dreams. They argue and Rose tells him not to bother ever coming back.

In Chapter 13, on Easter, Rose attends church services with the Belikova family. Afterward, while Rose and Viktoria speak with Nikolai, a friend of Viktoria's, they are joined by Nikolai's brother and his friends, a group of unpromised Strigoi fighters. The boys invite Rose to join them on their next hunt in Novosibirsk despite the scorn of those around them.

In Chapter 14, Viktoria lies to her mother about a party she already declared she would not attend. Rose goes with her to a secret nightclub where Viktoria introduces Rose to Rolan, a Moroi boy whom Viktoria clearly is in love with. Rolan, however, is more interested in more physical things, illustrated by his attempt to seduce Rose the second Viktoria's back was turned. After Viktoria and Rolan go into the club, Rose runs into Abe. Abe promises to keep Rolan from Viktoria for good if Rose will agree to leave Baia. Rose agrees.

In Chapter 15, Viktoria comes out of the club and confronts Rose, refusing to believe that Rose has done her a favor. Rose is saddened by Viktoria's anger. Rose goes into Lissa's head for a short time to help her deal with her grief at losing Viktoria's trust. Lissa is at Court where she meets up with Mia. Mia questions why Lissa did not go with Rose when she left. This leaves Lissa filled with guilt. At Court, Lissa is shocked when the queen suggests that Lissa take on two new guardians now that Dimitri and Rose are gone. When Rose returns to her own mind, she finds Dimitri's grandmother beside her. Rose assures her that she is leaving and then she finds Denis and the other unpromised dhampir and asks to go with them to Novosibirsk.

In Chapter 16, Rose goes to Novosibirsk where they join up with another unpromised dhampir in the city. Rose had originally thought she would go hunting Dimitri on her own, but decides that working in a group might help. Rose takes control of the group and tells them how they will proceed. Rose insists on interrogating any Strigoi they find before killing them. With the first three Strigoi they find, this interrogation does little, but with the fourth Rose finds one who knows Dimitri. Rose tells the Strigoi to give Dimitri a message that she is looking for him. Then she lets him go.



In Chapter 17, several days pass without a clue to Dimitri's whereabouts. Rose spends her days visiting Lissa. The night before flying back to the academy, Lissa is at a party with Avery and Adrian. Lissa becomes very drunk and begins dancing on a table. When she falls off, one of her ex-boyfriends catches her. Lissa gives him a kiss in reward. Jill confronts Lissa, suggesting she has cheated on Christian. There is an argument and Avery's brother, Reed, intervenes, nearly becoming physical against Jill. Rose comes back to herself just as Denis receives a call from Tamara, one of the unpromised, who wants an escort home from work. As they walk back to the apartment, Rose sees a homeless woman lying on the ground and she goes to help her up. Before Rose can return to the apartment, she is confronted by a Strigoi. Rose goes in to kill the Strigoi, but when she realizes it is Dimitri, she hesitates just long enough for him to knock her unconscious.

Chapters 12-17 Analysis

Rose loses her purpose as she remains in Baia with the Belikovas. Rose realizes that she could have a fulfilling life in Baia, that she can learn about spirit users and she can be with people who loved Dimitri as much as she. However, when Viktoria nearly becomes a victim to a Moroi sexual predator, Rose finds herself forced to make a choice between protecting Viktoria and losing a good friend, or allowing her friend to become something demeaning. Rose protects Viktoria, as is her nature, and finds herself losing a good friend and the only loving home she has ever truly known.

Rose goes to the nearest large city to search for Dimitri. Rose has been told by Sydney that Strigoi rarely hang out in the country, that they prefer the hunting grounds of the large cities. For this reason, Rose joins a group of unpromised dhampir to try to find Dimitri and to finish what she originally came to Russia to do. Rose does not think she will ever find Dimitri, however, therefore she is shocked when she finds a Strigoi who claims to know Dimitri. Rose lets this Strigoi go with a message for Dimitri. In a short time, Rose finds herself face to face with Dimitri, but unable to kill him, leaving her in danger of death.

At the same time, Lissa becomes friends with Avery and her behavior becomes erratic, like it was when her spirit magic first began to appear. Lissa is drinking too much, she is filled with anger and darkness, and she is acting out in ways that are unusual for her. For this reason, Rose is becoming concerned, but she is still so filled with her own grief and her own belief that Lissa is replacing her that she does not see the danger that is lurking in the shadows. The reader, however, can guess that something is not quite right about Avery and that it is Avery influencing Lissa to act so erratically.



Chapters 18-22

Chapters 18-22 Summary

In Chapter 18, Rose wakes a day later in a room that appears to have been specially designed to keep her prisoner and unable to create a weapon. When Dimitri comes into the room, Rose attacks him. After a few minutes of fighting, Rose gives up when it appears she cannot win. Dimitri then tells Rose that he would like to turn her into a Strigoi so they can live eternity together. However, if she refuses, Rose will be killed. Rose demands he kill her. Another Strigoi, Nathan, comes into the room. Nathan is the one who turned Dimitri and insists that Dimitri get the information they need from Rose and kill her. Dimitri orders Nathan out of the room.

In Chapter 19, Rose searches for hours for a way out of the room, but cannot find one. Rose then thinks of Dimitri's offer, but the idea of becoming Strigoi is repulsive. Rose sleeps for a short time and when she wakes, Dimitri is there. Dimitri again tries to convince Rose to become Strigoi, going as far as to suggest that her bond with Lissa is a drain on her and being Strigoi will free her. Then Dimitri begins to kiss Rose and drink blood from her neck.

In Chapter 20, for several days, Rose finds herself lost in the addictive feeling of the vampire endorphins injected into her body each time Dimitri bites her. Each time Dimitri comes to Rose they become intimate, but Dimitri stops just before the ultimate act as though he is saving it as some sort of prize for when Rose agrees to become Strigoi. Then one day Dimitri takes Rose out of the room for a walk. Rose sees the steel door with the number pad that keeps her in the room and a matching one at the end of a corridor. Nathan is in the hallway and confronts them, but Dimitri punches him. Down four flights of stairs Rose finds the guard at the front door is the same Strigoi she sent to Dimitri with her message. Outside, Dimitri takes Rose into a maze that surrounds the house. They talk for a while and Rose attempts to get Dimitri to declare his love for her, but he never does. Then Galina, the leader of this group of Strigoi, appears. Galina is unhappy with Dimitri and gives him a deadline for changing Rose into a Strigoi.

In Chapter 21, Rose and Dimitri argue about the deadline Galina has imposed. Dimitri bites her and leaves. Rose is still high from the endorphins when Adrian comes into her dreams that night. Rose is barely able to hear Adrian's concern over Lissa and his need for Rose to return to the academy. The next day Dimitri does not come in the morning. Rose dresses up for him, but it is Nathan who arrives first. Rose uses Inna, the maid, as a human shield, but Inna turns on her. Nathan wants to know about Lissa, he wants to kill her. Rose refuses to answer. Dimitri arrives and protects Rose, sending Nathan away.

In Chapter 22, Dimitri and Rose once again argue over her indecision regarding her change into Strigoi. Dimitri threatens to force Rose to become Strigoi when the deadline is over. Rose refuses to allow Dimitri to bite her again. Rose goes into withdrawal and



decides to go to Lissa to help her get through it. Lissa is flying back to the academy. Lissa tries to apologize to Jill, but they argue again when Jill tells Lissa that not telling Christian about the kiss is as bad as cheating. Later, however, Christian confronts Lissa and breaks up with her not only because of the lie over the kiss, but because of her behavior. Lissa turns to Avery for comfort. Then, suddenly, Rose feels herself kicked out of Lissa's head.

Chapters 18-22 Analysis

Rose finds herself held captive by Dimitri at the country estate of his old teacher, Galina. Dimitri wants Rose to become Strigoi and to help him rule Galina's empire. Rose sees in Dimitri all the things she loved about him once before, but now she finds herself also seeing in him things that she dislikes, such as his bloodlust and his lack of morality when it comes to violence and murder. Rose tries to keep objective, to look for a means of escape, but Dimitri's nearness reminds her so much of the man she lost that she cannot focus. This allows Dimitri to seduce Rose and to immobilize her with his bite. Rose becomes what she has most distained and feared, a blood whore.

Dimitri is still Dimitri, but this is buried beneath the Strigoi bloodlust and violence. This makes things very confusing for Rose who has been raised all her life to believe the Strigoi are evil and an aberration. However, as Dimitri continues to bring Rose so close to intimacy and then take it away, she finds herself unable to refuse outright his offer to make her Strigoi. Hence, Rose is able to live in something of a cloud for more than a week as Dimitri tries to convince her to allow him to change her. However, Rose comes back to herself after an attack by Nathan and the fear that Lissa could be in danger from the Strigoi. At the same time, Rose becomes aware that something is not right with Lissa, a fact that is underscored by Adrian's attempt to draw Rose out and make her return to the academy. Rose also finds herself pushed out of Lissa's head, something that has never happened before because Lissa does not know when Rose is in her mind. This causes some surprise and some concern. The tension builds in the plot as both Rose and Lissa find themselves in danger.



Chapters 23-26

Chapters 23-26 Summary

In Chapter 23, Dimitri comes to Rose after a kill. Rose finds herself disgusted by the idea. Dimitri and Rose talk. When Dimitri handles the ring Mark gave Rose, it seems that he is almost like his old self, but Rose thinks this is because they are talking about his family. Later, Rose distracts Dimitri by asking questions about being a Strigoi. After Dimitri leaves, Rose goes into Lissa's mind and finds her in the counselor's office where she is being reprimanded for drinking on campus and throwing a party first in the library and later in the pool area. Lissa tries to speak to Christian, but again he walks away from her. When Avery arrives, Rose finds herself pushed out of Lissa's head again.

In Chapter 24, Rose realizes that Avery is a spirit user like Adrian and Lissa. However, Rose does not know what Avery wants with Lissa. Rose's need to escape doubles and she finds herself searching again for a weapon. A leg of a chair is loose and Rose manages to break it off. When Inna comes into the room, Rose uses the chair leg to force the code out of her. Then Dimitri arrives. Rose lures Dimitri close and then stabs him in the chest with the chair leg.

In Chapter 25, Rose manages to get out the first door, but has trouble remembering the code on the second door. When she finally gets the second door open, Rose finds Marlen, another Strigoi, waiting outside. They fight and Rose manages to trap Marlen inside the corridor between security doors. Rose then runs down several flights of stairs and finds a human servant. Rose makes the servant take her to the vault where Dimitri has taken her silver stake. Rose finds a different stake there, one with decorations on it. Then Rose has the servant take her to a room where she can escape through a window. The servant takes Rose to the library where Galina is reading. Galina rises to attack Rose, but then Dimitri marches into the room. Dimitri attacks Galina. Rose breaks the window and is about to escape when Dimitri calls out to her. Rose can see Dimitri wants Rose to kill Galina. Rose does, but before anything else can happen, several more Strigoi come into the room and attack Dimitri. Rose assumes Dimitri is overwhelmed and will die. Rose jumps out the window.

In Chapter 26, Rose is in the middle of the maze with a twisted ankle when she hears Dimitri call out to her. Rose is worried that he will find her before she can find her way out of the maze, but she finally finds an exit. Rose runs into the forest, but she can hear Dimitri behind her. Rose picks a place to attack, choosing to climb into a tree. Rose jumps down onto Dimitri. They fight and Rose falls down into a river bed. Dimitri follows and they fight again. Rose opens herself up to the spirits and they attack Dimitri, but they distract Rose as well, so she pulls them back. Dimitri attacks again as Rose makes it to a bridge. As they struggle, Rose asks Dimitri one last time why he wants to change her, but again he fails to declare his love. Rose stabs Dimitri in the chest with the silver stake, but he falls into the river before she can see if she pierced his heart. Rose makes it to the street and gets a ride, calling Sydney for help.



Chapters 23-26 Analysis

Rose comes to realize that Avery is a spirit user when she again pushes Rose from Lissa's mind. This brings up a great many of questions, but also seems to explain Lissa's continually strange behavior. Part of a spirit user's power is the ability to compel others to do things they might not normally do. Now Rose finds herself afraid that Lissa is in danger, but without any understanding of what that danger might be.

Rose has sobered up from the endorphins from Dimitri's bite because he has not bitten her in a while. This allows Rose to be more clearheaded and to realize that she must escape Dimitri before he forces her to turn Strigoi. The urgency to return to the academy is now pressing on her as well. However, escaping Dimitri is easier said than done.

Rose manages to find a weapon and she forces the code out of Inna before confronting Dimitri. Rose manages to get out of the room, but escaping the house proves to be more difficult. If not for Dimitri's help, Rose would have been killed by Galina. However, Dimitri protects Rose and she in turn helps him kill Galina. Later, Dimitri chases Rose and assures her that he has no intention of killing her, but that he will force her to turn Strigoi. Rose is frightened and more determined than ever to keep from turning Strigoi. Rose and Dimitri battle and Dimitri falls into the river, presumably dead.

Rose now must deal with the emotional fallout of having just killed her lover. However, first Rose must get herself to safety and to help Lissa before Avery can do something to permanently harm her.



Chapters 27-30

Chapters 27-30 Summary

In Chapter 27, Rose is rescued by an Alchemist she does not recognize, but later wakes in a room where Abe Mazur watches over her. Oksana and Mark are also there and Oksana has healed Rose partially. Rose remembers that Lissa is in danger and tries to call Adrian on Abe's phone, but he does not answer. Rose then uses her bond with Lissa and finds Lissa standing on a window's ledge just seconds before Avery pushes her out again. Rose explains the situation to Oksana who agrees to help in any way she can. Oksana goes into Rose's head and then Rose goes to Lissa. Somehow, Rose can now communicate with Lissa. Rose tells Lissa what is happening and talks her down from the ledge.

Avery enters Rose's mind and manages to send her to a fantasy world where Dimitri is still a dhampir and still alive. For a few minutes Rose believes this world, but then realizes what Avery has done and returns to Lissa's mind. Avery then sends in her brother, with whom she is bonded, and attacks Lissa.

In Chapter 28, Rose talks Lissa through a physical attack on Reed. Lissa performs surprisingly well. However, Avery is also bonded with her guardian, Simon, and she sends him to push Lissa out the window. Adrian arrives just in time and helps Lissa and Oksana compel him to stop. With the power of three spirit users trying to compel Simon to do three different things, Simon goes insane as do Avery and Reed because they are all connected. When Rose returns to her own mind, she thanks Oksana for her help. Rose then asks if it is possible to heal a Strigoi. Mark hesitates, but Oksana tells him to tell the truth. Rose learns that a man who taught Mark and Oksana how to deal with their bond once claimed to be able to heal a Strigoi. However, this man is the half-brother of Victor Dashkov, who is currently in jail for kidnapping and torturing Lissa.

In Chapter 29, Rose flies home with the help of Abe Mazur. Once home, Adrian meets Rose at the airport. Rose finds her return to the academy somewhat cool. However, her reunion with Lissa is heartfelt. This time Rose is honest with Lissa about everything, having learned that lies and omissions are not good for their relationship.

In Chapter 30, Rose learns from Alberta, the captain of the guardians at the school, informs Rose that she is eligible to re-enroll at the school and graduate. Rose is pleased and agrees to think about it. The next day, Rose talks briefly to Christian before running into her mother, Janine Hathaway. When Janine sees the scarf Abe gave to Rose, she recognizes it as belonging to Ibrahim, her ex-lover and Rose's father. Rose realizes that Abe is her father. Later, Rose and her mother have dinner with Lissa and Adrian. Rose agrees to re-enroll in school and get her degree. Rose also agrees to look at a dating proposal from Adrian. Adrian then gives Rose a message from Abe that informs her that Victor is not willing to tell anyone where his brother is unless he is freed from prison.



When Rose finds a package from Dimitri waiting for her in her room, she realizes that this is exactly what she is going to have to do.

Chapters 27-30 Analysis

Rose saves Lissa's life by using Oksana in a mind bond that has never been used before. The result is surprising, especially the state in which the bond leaves Avery, Simon, and Reed. Finally Rose realizes that Avery was a spirit user who wanted to kill Lissa and bring her back so that they would be bonded in such a way that Avery hoped would increase her own powers.

Rose returns to the school to discover that many of the students are weary of having her back, but many of the teachers understand her actions and admire what she has attempted to do. Rose also learns that Ave is her father, a man she never met and only knew about in brief amounts of information her mother has given her. This alters the way Rose thinks of Abe slightly, but she is still distrusting of him as she is most of the adults in her life.

Rose has also discovered there might be a way in which Dimitri can be restored from his Strigoi condition to a dhampir. However, this knowledge seems to have come too late as Rose believes she has killed Dimitri. A package delivered to Rose's room containing the stake that she used again Dimitri suggests otherwise and Rose now finds herself on a new mission to find the answers to save Dimitri before he can hunt her down and kill her.



Characters

Rose Hathaway

Rose is the narrating character of the book. Rose is an eighteen-year-old student at St. Vladimir's Academy in Montana. However, Rose has recently dropped out of the school in order to search for her lover, Dimitri in Russia. Rose is a dhampir, half vampire and half human. Rose was training to be a guardian to a Moroi, a living vampire, but by dropping out of school Rose has lost her chance to become promised, to be assigned, to a Moroi to protect.

Rose is looking for Dimitri in Russia because he was a dhampir guardian like her, but during a rescue mission to save some students and personel stolen from St. Vlad's during an attack by Strigoi, Dimitri was attacked and turned into a Strigoi. Rose knows that Dimitri would not want to remain a Strigoi and has gone to Russia to kill him and release his soul. However, Rose has gone alone and has no one to help or to protect her.

Rose meets up with an Alchemist in Russia and learns about a whole side of the vampire society she did not know existed. Later, Rose also meets Abe Mazur, a man she is told is a mobster among the Moroi, but later learns is her father. When Rose finally finds Dimitri, she is unable to kill him and barely escapes being turned into a Strigoi by him.

Dimitri Belikova

Dimitri Belikova is Rose's lover. Rose and Dimitri have kept their relationship a secret because Dimitri is a teacher at the school where Rose is a student. For this reason, no one knows why Rose wants to find Dimitri and free his soul except for her best friend, Lissa, whom Rose had to tell about the relationship for the first time after Dimitri was bitten.

When Rose finds Dimitri, she wants to believe something of his true dhampir heart remains. Rose allows Dimitri to kiss her and to bite her neck in some misguided attempt to regain the man she loves. However, in the end, Rose realizes that Dimitri is incapable of loving her in his current state and she must kill him or be forced to become Strigoi herself. Rose attempts to kill Dimitri, but later discovers that her attempt has failed.

Lissa Dragomir

Lissa is a princess in the Moroi hierarchy and the last of the Dragomir line. Lissa is also a spirit user, a type of elemental magic that the Moroi had believed no longer manifested itself among the Moroi. For this reason, Lissa did not know what was happening to her when it first began to manifest and when she accidentally bonded



herself to Rose. Now Lissa has met another spirit user, Adrian. Lissa's life was once in danger by Victor Dashkov who attempted to force her to heal a rare illness that was killing him. Victor is now in jail thanks to Rose's attempts to protect Lissa.

Rose was supposed to be Lissa's guardian, but her decision to leave school to track down Dimitri has changed this plan. This leaves Lissa open to attack from the outside and this is what happens when another spirit user, Avery, comes to the academy and begins to compel Lissa to act in ways she might not have otherwise done. Avery wants to kill Lissa and bring her back in an attempt to bond them to one another, in a way that Avery hopes will increase her own power. However, Rose becomes aware of what is happening and finds a way to save Rose from thousands of miles away. Rose then vows to never leave Lissa again or to be dishonest.

Viktoria Belikova

Viktoria Belikova is Dimitri's younger sister. Viktoria is still a teenager who is just becoming aware of the world around her. When Rose comes to Baia, Viktoria is in love with a young Moroi boy. However, Rose discovers that the boy is really just attempting to use Viktoria for sexual satisfaction, just as he did to Viktoria's older sister. This causes Rose to interfere in the relationship, ruining her friendship with Viktoria and causing Rose to move on from Baia.

Abe Mazur

Abe Mazur is a powerful man who becomes aware of Rose's movements through Russia first from her mother, Janine, and later through the Alchemist Sydney. Abe becomes involved in Rose's life when she becomes injured during a fight with two Strigoi. Abe tries to encourage Rose to return to the United States, but instead she continues her search for Dimitri. In the end, Abe again rescues Rose by getting her help from a spirit user to repair her injuries in her fight with Dimitri. Later, Rose discovers that Abe is her father and this is why he was so willing to help her.

Adrian

Adrian is a spirit user who discovered Lissa while they were all staying at a ski resort together. Adrian is in love with Rose and has been pursuing her for more than a year. However, Rose has eyes only for Dimitri. Adrian is a good friend to Lissa and has been helping her learn how to use her spirit powers. Adrian also helps to save Lissa when Avery tries to kill her.

Avery

Avery is the daughter of the new headmaster at the academy. Avery is a troubled child who has caused her father some embarrassment at the Court. This is why Avery has



been forced to go to the academy with him even though she has already graduated. Avery seeks out Lissa and immediately Lissa's behavior changes. Later, Rose finds out that Avery is a spirit user who is trying to bond with Lissa in order to increase her own powers with Lissa's. Later Avery is driven insane by three differing spirit users trying to compel a man that she is bonded with.

Reed

Reed is Avery's brother. Reed is a quiet and angry young man that no one understands. Later, however, it is discovered that he is bonded with Avery who killed him intentionally in order to bond with him. Avery controls Reed's every action and thought. In the end, Reed is driven insane with Avery.

Nathan

Nathan is a Strigoi who turned Dimitri. Rose learns that Nathan turned Dimitri not only for his fighting skills, but because he was to be Lissa's guardian. Nathan wants to kill Lissa and gain fame for having killed the last remaining Dragomir. However, Dimitri does not have the information Nathan needs and will not force Rose to turn or torture the information out of her. This causes tension between Nathan and Dimitri throughout the novel.

Galina

Galina is Dimitri's former trainer who was changed into a Strigoi years before him. Dimitri has gone to Galina upon becoming a Strigoi because he knows her and because she is far from Rose. Dimitri has Galina's permission to change Rose upon taking her captive, but Galina quickly grows impatient when Rose will not quickly make up her mind to be changed. Later, Dimitri tells Rose that he plans to kill Galina and take over her empire. Dimitri does kill Galina, but not to take over her empire, but to keep Galina from killing Rose. Rose helps him, but only because it aids in her escape from Galina's mansion.



Objects/Places

Scarf

Abe Mazur gives Rose a scarf from around his own neck before she boards a plane in Russia. Later, Rose learns that the scarf is a special family heirloom belonging to her father, Ibrahim Mazur.

Healing Ring

Mark gives Rose a ring that has a healing charm on it to help her deal with the darkness that is a side effect of Lissa using spirit and flows into Rose across their bond. When Dimitri holds this ring, he appears to be more like his old self.

Silver Stakes

Dhampirs use silver stakes to kill Strigoi. Strigoi can only be killed by a silver stake in the head, fire, or beheading.

Decorated Silver Stake

Rose finds a silver stake in the vault of Galina's mansion that has special designs on the side of it, clearly an important possession of a dhampir. Rose uses this stake to stab Dimitri in the chest, but he falls into the river before she can see if it has penetrated the heart. Later, Rose receives this stake in the mail along with a note from Dimitri promising that he will come after her to kill her.

Spirit User

All Moroi possess the ability to use magic from one of the elements, water, fire, air, or earth. Lissa is a spirit user, a fifth element that had thought to cease to exist among the Moroi. Avery is also a spirit user and she tries to use her gifts to bond Lissa to her to increase her own powers.

Dhampirs

Dhampirs are half vampire, half humans. Dhampirs cannot breed among themselves and need to mate with Moroi to have children. Dhampirs often become either breeders for Moroi men or guardians of Moroi.



Moroi

Moroi are living vampires who require less blood than Strigoi and who do not kill their victims. The Moroi father dhampir children with dhampirs.

Strigoi

Strigoi are living-dead vampires who lack human compassion and who kill their victims. Dimitri has been turned into a Strigoi.

Alchemists

Alchemists are humans who work behind the scenes to get rid of all evidence of vampires, including disposing of Strigoi who have been killed.

Baia

Baia is the small village in Siberia where Dimitri grew up. Rose makes her way there, hoping to find Dimitri, but instead she finds only his family.

St. Vlad's

Rose attended an academy called St. Vladimir's Academy where she was training to become a guardian to Moroi. Rose returns to St. Vlad's at the end of the novel.

Novosibirsk

Novosibirsk is a large city in Siberia where Rose finally meets a Strigoi who knows Dimitri.



Themes

Grief

The novel is filled with grief. Rose is on the hunt for Dimitri, her lover who has been turned into a Strigoi during a brave attempt to rescue those taken in a Strigoi attack on the academy. To all the Moroi and dhampirs in Rose's community, Dimitri is dead and there is nothing else to be done. However, in Rose's mind, Dimitri is still out there somewhere, living a life that he never would have wanted. For this reason, Rose goes in search of Dimitri. Throughout Rose's search for her lover, she has memories of their time together, including remembering a conversation in which he expressed the desire to die rather than live as a Strigoi. This is the reason Rose hunts him and hopes to free his soul from his undead body.

Rose tells Dimitri's mother, sisters, and grandmother about his change into a Strigoi. Immediately, the family has a memorial service for Dimitri, acting as though he is dead rather than still living as an evil monster somewhere. This causes Rose a great deal of grief, but it also allows her to share her own memories of Dimitri and the man she once loved. In a way this helps Rose let go of Dimitri, but at the same time, it makes Rose miss him even more, making her susceptible to his charms when she later finds him.

At the same time Rose is dealing with grief over Dimitri, Lissa is dealing with her own grief over being abandoned by her best friend and bondmate. Rose was everything to Lissa, protecting her but also serving as friend and confidant. By leaving, Rose left behind a fragile girl who is still struggling to deal with her magic of spirit. This leaves Lissa susceptible to the evil plans of another spirit user.

Friendship

Lissa and Rose have been good friends since early childhood. Lissa even brought Rose back to life once when she died in a car accident with Lissa's parents. For this reason, Lissa and Rose have a special bond in which Rose can enter Lissa's head and see what is happening around her as well as be aware of Lissa's thoughts and emotions.

Lissa and Rose's relationship has been challenged many times throughout the Vampire Series. However, in this book their friendship is torn apart by Rose's decision to go after Dimitri and free his soul from his Strigoi life. Lissa is a good person, however, and she attempts to understand Rose's actions. However, when another spirit user begins to mess with Lissa and compel her to do things she would not normally do, Lissa begins to become filled with darkness that is at some points pointed toward Rose.

Rose's absence is a real test on her friendship with Lissa. Rose has all but abandoned Lissa and Lissa not only has to struggle to understand, but she has to struggle with her own sense of inadequacy for not supporting Rose better in her moment of need. However, in the end Rose comes to Lissa's rescue as she always has and Lissa opens



herself up to Rose's friendship as though nothing has changed, showing the reader that they are true friends.

Love

Rose loves Dimitri. From the day they met, from the moment they were victims of a lust spell, Rose and Dimitri have fought their relationship. Dimitri is Rose's teacher and they are to be co-guardians of Lissa in the future. For this reason, it is not practical for them to be lovers. However, despite their attempts to fight their love, Rose and Dimitri find themselves drawn to one another over and over again.

When Dimitri is turned into a Strigoi, Rose begs Lissa to heal him. When Lissa refuses, Rose feels that all is lost. Although Dimitri is still alive in the world somewhere, he is no longer the kind, gentle man she once knew. However, Rose cannot accept that Dimitri is dead and just forget him as everyone else has managed to do. For this reason, and because she knows Dimitri would not want to live as a Strigoi, Rose goes in search of him.

Rose gives up everything that matters in her life, her future and her friendships, to find Dimitri. When she does find him, Rose finds it impossible to kill the man she loves. Hence, Rose is easily kept prisoner by Dimitri and he is almost successful in convincing her to become Strigoi like himself. In the end, however, Rose realizes that this is not the true Dimitri and the only kind thing she can do for him is to release his soul from this soulless life. Rose tries to kill Dimitri and only learns later that she failed.



Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the first-person point of view. The novel is told through the eyes of the main character, Rose Hathaway. Rose tells her story as though the reader is going along with her on the adventures that unfold in the novel's plot. At the same time, Rose has the ability to move into the mind of her friend, Lissa, and see and feel all that Lissa feels. In this way, the author is able to tell Lissa's story from a distance in the third person point of view without betraying the original intention of the first-person point of view.

The point of view of this novel works well because it allows the reader a close connection to the main character Rose Hathaway. It is important that the reader understand Rose's actions and motivations throughout the novel and the author allows this by telling the story in the most intimate point of view available, the first person point of view. At the same time, the author does not lose connection with other characters in the novel by allowing Rose to tell what is happening to Lissa through their mental bond. It is a clever way to change points of view without ever leaving the first person point of view in a true way, giving the reader insight both into Rose and her best friend, Lissa.

Setting

The novel is set in several locations. The novel begins in Russia and moves deep into Siberia. Rose is in search of Dimitri and this search takes her from St. Petersburg to Moscow to the small village of Baia, finally to Novosibirsk. At the same time, Rose visits her friend, Lissa, in Montana where Lissa continues to be a student at St. Vlad's Academy.

The setting of this novel is mostly a backdrop to the actions of the plot. By taking Rose to Russia, the author allows the reader to return to Dimitri's roots and meet his family, as well as introducing a character from Rose's own past. The setting is not as important to the overall plot of the book as it is to the mind set and motivations of the main character. At the same time, the setting of St. Vlad's in Lissa's world is only important in that it sets up a situation that allows Lissa to become a victim to a spirit user who plans to bond with her. For this reason, the setting works in the novel as the author has intended.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is written in simple English. The author has written her novel in the voice of an eighteen-year-old girl. Therefore the language is simple enough to suggest the education level of a young woman. The author has set her book in Russia, but she does not use a great many foreign words and phrases, keeping the language simple enough for the intended audience of young adults to follow without confusion.



The language of the novel works well with the plot because it is authentic to the main characters. The novel is not filled with a great deal of slang and sophisticated words, allowing the reader to follow the story without a great deal of confusion. The author has also not taken advantage of her genre to introduce a great deal of made up words to fill her fantasy world. In fact, many of the words that have been made up for the purpose of the novel have basis in real words and therefore do not confuse the readers too much. Hence, the language of the novel works well with the plot.

Structure

The novel is divided into thirty chapters and a prologue. The prologue is used to inform the reader what has taken place in the previous novels so that a reader new to the series will have enough background to understand the plot of this novel. Each chapter is fairly long, more than twenty pages each, and tell the story within the plot through the first person viewpoint of Rose Hathaway and the third person point of view of her best friend, Lissa.

The novel contains two main plots and many subplots. The first main plot follows Rose as she travels to Russia in an attempt to free her lover from his undead body. The second main plot follows Lissa as she falls under the spell of another spirit user. One subplot follows the developing relationship between Rose and her father. Another subplot introduces several new spirit users to Rose and Lissa. All the plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

"Because lately, my life really did seem like it was on the precipice of being a dream. There were days I thought I'd wake up and discover that recent events in my life hadn't actually happened. Surely I must be a princess in an enchanted sleep" (Prologue, p. 11).

"Just like with every Strigoi I'd killed lately, I had a momentary surreal feeling. What if this had been Dimitri?" (Chapter 2, p. 31).

"Despite how cool it was, I actually tried to tune out the city's sights and sounds after a while because it reminded me of...well, Dimitri" (Chapter 4, p. 59).

"All the stories were about Dimitri's kindness and strength of character. Even when not out battling the undead, Dimitri had always been there to help those who needed it" (Chapter 9, p. 135).

"I missed Lissa. I even kind of missed Adrian. And now someone else was taking my place, someone who wouldn't just walk away like I had" (Chapter 12, p. 199).

"Convincing them to release a Strigoi—particularly when we had him trapped—wasn't easy" (Chapter 17, p. 265).

"'Roza.'" His voice had that same wonderful lowness, the same accent...it was all just colder. 'You forgot my first lesson. Don't hesitate'" (Chapter 17, p. 283).

"I lost track of day and night too. My time was divided into Dimitri or not-Dimitri" (Chapter 20, p. 318).

"He laughed, and I flinched. It was so, so close to his old laugh. Closer than I'd ever imagined it could be" (Chapter 23, p. 374).

"I started laughing—but not because I found any humor in the situation. This whole thing was unbelievable, and my hysteria was the only way to let out all the crazy feelings within me. Exasperation. Resignation. Irony" (Chapter 28, p. 462).

"I replayed my brief history with Abe. Shadowy, taunting, infuriating. But he'd driven out into the night to get me when I'd been attacked, been adamant in his goal to get me back to school and safety, and had apparently gifted me with an heirloom because he thought I'd get cold on my way home" (Chapter 30, p. 491).

"It's a good thing I work well under pressure" (Chapter 30, p. 503).



Topics for Discussion

Who is Rose? Why is she in Russia? Who told Rose to go to Russia? Who is Rose trying to find? Why does Rose frequent the club, Nightingale? What does Rose learn when Sydney approaches her in an alley? Why does Sydney go to Baia with Rose? What does Rose expect to find in Baia? What does Rose find in Baia? How does this impact Rose?

Who is Sydney? Why does she approach Rose? What is odd about Sydney? What does Sydney have on her face? Where did it come from? What does it give to Sydney? Who gave it to her? Who does Sydney suggest has something to do with making these things? Why does Sydney go to Baia with Rose? Why does Sydney dislike Rose from the very first meeting?

Who is Abe Mazur? Why does Rose not realize who he is from the very beginning? Why does Abe help Rose after she is injured in a fight with two Strigoi? Why does Abe continuously ask Rose what she is doing in Baia? Why does Abe encourage Rose to leave Baia? Why does Rose refuse to leave Baia? How does Abe finally convince Rose to leave Baia?

Why does Rose go to Novosibirsk? What does she hope to find there? What does she find there? What are the unpromised? Why is Rose warned again and again not to become an unpromised Strigoi fighter? What might happen to Rose if she does not finish her education? What does Rose plan on doing when she has completed her mission in Novosibirsk?

Who finds Rose in Novosibirsk? Where does he take Rose? For what reason? What does this person want to do to Rose? Why does Rose refuse the ultimatum this person gives her? How does Rose become an addict? What is she addicted to? For what reason? How does Rose break this addiction?

Why does Dimitri want Rose to become Strigoi? Why does Dimitri never confess his love to Rose? What might Rose have done had Dimitri sworn his love to her? Why does Rose stab Dimitri with a wooden chair leg? What is the result? Why does Rose later help Dimitri kill Galina? Why does Rose run from Dimitri? Why does Rose attempt to stab Dimitri with the silver stake? Does it work? How does Rose learn the result of this attack?

Who is Avery? Why does Avery attempt to kill Lissa? What do Rose and Lissa learn from Avery's control over two men who are bonded to her? How did Avery bond with two people? What does this suggest about Lissa and Rose's bond? Who is Oksana? What does Oksana and her husband, Mark, teach Rose about spirit bonds? What does all this suggest about Rose and Lissa's future?