

# Bloodlines Study Guide

## Bloodlines by Richelle Mead

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# Contents

<a href="#">Bloodlines Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 1 and 2.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 3 and 4.....</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 5 and 6.....</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 7 and 8.....</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 9 and 10.....</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 11 and 12.....</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 13 and 14.....</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 15 and 16.....</a>	<a href="#">13</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 17 and 18.....</a>	<a href="#">15</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 19 and 20.....</a>	<a href="#">17</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 21 and 22.....</a>	<a href="#">18</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 23 and 24.....</a>	<a href="#">20</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 25 and 26.....</a>	<a href="#">21</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 27.....</a>	<a href="#">22</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">23</a>
<a href="#">Objects/Places.....</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
<a href="#">Themes.....</a>	<a href="#">28</a>
<a href="#">Style.....</a>	<a href="#">30</a>
<a href="#">Quotes.....</a>	<a href="#">32</a>
<a href="#">Topics for Discussion.....</a>	<a href="#">34</a>



# Plot Summary

Bloodlines is the first novel in the international bestselling series of novels by Richelle Mead. In this novel, the main character and narrator, Sydney Sage describes the worlds that exist between humans, vampires, and Alchemists. Alchemists, which is the race that Sydney belongs to, are responsible for protecting humans from vampires. When one vampire race, the Moroi, have rogue Moroi attack their new Moroi Queen, Vasilisa Dragomir, and her sister Jillian Dragomir, the Moroi decide it is best to send Jill away until the revolution settles down. The Moroi law states that a queen can only become queen if she has a sibling, so if the rogue Moroi are able to kill off Jill, then they can also remove Vasilisa as queen.

The mission requires three groups to come together in order to pull it off. They consist of the Moroi, the dhamphirs, and the Alchemists. The main character and narrator is an Alchemist, Sydney Sage. Sydney's job in the mission is to act as Jill's older sister and roommate at a private boarding school in Palm Springs, California. The job of an Alchemist is to clean up vampire actions to hide and protect the human race from the vampire race.

Another member of the team is Eddie, who is a dhamphir. Eddie's job is to protect Jill, while acting as her brother. Eddie is a student at the private boarding school, Amberwood Prep. Keith, who is also an Alchemist, acts as the older brother and local guardian of Sydney, Jill, and Eddie.

As the group lives out their time in Palm Springs while the Moroi are trying to change the law, which will prevent the rogue Moroi from trying to kill Jill, several mysterious happens occur. For one, the recluse Moroi, Clarence, that is providing the feeder for Jill, is convinced that vampire hunters are responsible for killing his niece Tamara. When another Moroi girl turns up dead in the same manner that Tamara died, this further convinces Clarence of the existence of vampire hunters.

In addition, Sydney finds out there is a tattoo parlor in town that is giving metallic tattoos that are very similar to those of the metallic lily tattoo that Alchemists wear. During her investigation, Sydney finds out that the tattoo parlor is receiving supplies with an Alchemist formula and vampire blood in order to give the tattoos, which give special powers and a high to the receivers of the tattoos on a short-term basis.

By the end of the novel, Sydney and the group manage to keep Jill safe and solve two mysteries. First, they find out who is supplying the tattoo parlor with the materials and put an end to it. Second, they find out who has been killing the girls to make it look like vampire hunters are on the loose.



# Chapters 1 and 2

## Chapters 1 and 2 Summary

In Chapter 1, Sydney Sage is woken in the middle of the night by her father. Her father requests that she make herself presentable, be quiet so she doesn't wake her mother and then come downstairs. Sydney and her father are Alchemists, which are people with superhuman powers that protect the rest of the world from vampires and other catastrophes. When Sydney arrives in her father's study, she finds several other Alchemists present. Sydney finds out that they are sending her out on an assignment to Palm Springs to protect a member of the Moroi, which is one of the vampire tribes.

In Chapter 2, when Keith refuses to allow Sydney to go on the assignment and calls her a "vamp lover," everyone in the study gasps. A discussion ensues as to who has the power to make the decision on who will go on the assignment with Keith. During the discussion, Sydney finds out the assignment requires her to enroll in a private boarding school with Jill and be Jill's roommate. Living with a vampire makes Sydney feel uncomfortable, in addition to the fact that she already graduated high school. Sydney and Keith leave to meet the vampires in Palm Springs.

## Chapters 1 and 2 Analysis

Sydney has been on suspension from her Alchemist duties because she got caught up in some kind of vampire scandal. While some of the details are revealed in the first chapter, it appears to be a foreshadowing of the rest of the details that will come out in the remainder of the novel. Ironically, it is Zoe, Sydney's sister that is originally requested for the assignment, but Zoe is not a full Alchemist. When Keith Darnell arrives in her father's study, she knows why Zoe was requested over her for the assignment. A hatred exists between Sydney and Keith, but the reason is not yet given.

Sydney is stuck on the fact that Keith Darnell specifically requested her sister Zoe for the assignment. Sydney alludes to the fact that young Alchemist girls are not safe with Keith. Sydney knows a dirty little secret about Keith, which is what she believes is making Keith protest her going on the assignment instead her sister Zoe. One of the primary reasons Sydney fights against allowing Zoe to go on the assignment is to protect Zoe, but ironically Zoe takes it as an insult that Sydney thinks she is incompetent and confront Zoe while Zoe is in her room packing for the trip. While Jared thinks of Keith as a "golden boy," Sydney knows differently about him and almost reveals the secret she knows about Keith, which infers that he raped one of the Alchemist girls.



# Chapters 3 and 4

## Chapters 3 and 4 Summary

In Chapter 3, as Keith and Sydney taking turns driving to Palm Springs, Keith fills Sydney in on the details of the mission. Sydney finds out that as a senior in high school, she will have off-campus privileges and that she and Jill will be enrolled as sisters. When Keith and Sydney arrive at Amberwood Prep, Sydney finds out that the dhampir coming with Jill is enrolling as their brother. Keith will also be their brother, but because of his age will not be enrolled, but will be a local guardian and contact since their fake parents live out of state. They acquire their fake IDs and buy Sydney a vehicle.

In Chapter 4, introductions are made around the room. As Abe is telling Sydney that he is here only to make sure the group arrived safely and he will be leaving, Rose Hathaway enters the room. Along with Rose enters another Moroi, Lee Donahue. While Eddie is the dhampir that will be playing Sydney and Jill's brother at school, Rose invited herself along to check out the group and the mission. Keith and Sydney learn more about the attack on Jill by the Moroi assassins that have brought the group to Palm Springs and into hiding.

## Chapters 3 and 4 Analysis

Ironically, even though the job of Alchemists is to protect humans from vampires, most Alchemists have never met a Moroi or a Strigoi. As Sydney and Keith approach the home of the rogue Moroi that will be the feeding source for Jill, Sydney realizes that Keith has not met any or very many vampires or dhampirs, even though he says he has met a few. In a twist of irony, it is Sydney that freezes when she steps into the room of vampires at the home of their host. Sydney is taken aback by one of the attendees, which is Abe Mazur, a vampire responsible for blackmailing her, which is what led to her involvement with helping Rose Hathaway in the first place. When Adrian Ivashkov answers the door, Sydney recognizes him, but she is also set back for a moment about his looks. This foreshadows that there may be some kind of romance between the two at some point later in the novel.

Abe Mazur asks Keith Darnell to repeat his name, saying that it sounds familiar to him. Keith says it is probably familiar to Abe because his father is an important Alchemist. Sydney knows, on the other hand, that Abe knows the secret that she knows about Keith. Clarence has a conspiracy theory that it is vampire hunters that killed his niece, and since this was what the Moroi court said caused her death, it is why Clarence went rogue. The irony is that the court said it was a Strigoi killing, but instead of vampire fangs, Clarence's niece was killed from her throat being cut and then something drinking her blood. Keith says that a Strigoi attack is what led to him losing his eye, but Sydney indicates from her narration that this is not the case, so she excuses herself from the room in an attempt to steer the conversation away from the truth. While Jill is exploring



Clarence's property, she overhears a conversation between Abe and Adrian, where Abe tells Adrian he is to watch and listen to everything that goes on and to report everything back to Abe. It indicates that Abe is up to no good, as usual, and there is an inference to a relationship that existed between Adrian and Rose. Ironically, the group finds out that Adrian will be living with Clarence.



# Chapters 5 and 6

## Chapters 5 and 6 Summary

In Chapter 5, Rose gets ready to leave. Jill and her entourage also get ready to leave Clarence's home and head off to their private school to start their new lives. When Sydney, Jill and Eddie arrive at Amberwood, Eddie has to leave the girls at the girls' dorm, while he goes on to the boys' dorm. The following morning, the girls have to head for orientation. When the girls run into Eddie, he says he hasn't met his roommate yet. When Eddie's roommate introduces himself to Eddie, Eddie acts strange. The girls go about getting their schedules and uniforms and then meet back up at their dorm room.

Chapter 6 begins with the first day that the students attend class. Students seem to know something about the lily tattoo on Sydney's face, or seem to know something that Sydney does know. Two of the girls that Sydney runs into invite her to lunch with them so they explain something to her. When Sydney makes it to her last class, Jill is supposed to be in the class, but Jill is not there. When the teacher calls attendance, the teacher does not call Jill's name. When Sydney returns to their dorm room, Sydney finds Jill there. Jill tells her that her first period teacher sent her back to her dorm because she mistook Jill's sickness as a hangover.

## Chapters 5 and 6 Analysis

Rose's statement to Sydney makes Sydney believe that the Alchemists do not know everything they need to know about the situation, which may lead to Jill being in more harm than safe. Sydney then contradicts herself by thinking that the less people that are involved, the less attention they will attract and the safer they all will be. The almost tearful goodbye between Jill and Adrian suggests that there may be something romantic between them, but the conversation between Abe and Adrian in the garden suggested Adrian had a relationship with Rose. Sydney says the affection between Jill and Adrian does not appear romantic. This, combined with Sydney overhearing Abe saying Adrian needs to stay near Jill suggests that maybe Adrian is Jill's brother. Eddie's reaction to his roommate infers that Micah may be a Moroi, or that Eddie knows something about Micah that the girls do not know. At the end of the chapter, Sydney foreshadows that the next day poses problems for them.

There is an inference that Amberwood is a special kind of school—special beyond being a private school in Palm Springs. At lunch, the girls ask Sydney about the magic that her tattoo holds, as if they know something about Alchemists. When Sydney asks why the girls think her tattoo is magic, lunch is ending, so the girls tell Sydney they will talk more about it later.



# Chapters 7 and 8

## Chapters 7 and 8 Summary

In Chapter 7, Sydney agrees to drive Jill to Clarence's house so Jill can see Adrian. When the girls arrive, they also meet Dorothy, who is Clarence's housekeeper and the feeder. Sydney leaves Adrian alone to speak with Jill and runs into Lee in the hallway as Sydney is making her way outside. Sydney asks Jill on the ride back to campus if there is anything going on with Adrian. Jill says no and that Adrian is in love with Rose still.

In Chapter 8, Eddie meets the girls for breakfast the next morning. Eddie knows the teacher sent Jill back to the dorm for being sick in class, but he does not know about the hangover allegations. In the middle of the night, Jill had screamed and lashed around in sleep, but when Sydney tries to talk to her about it, Jill says it was just a nightmare and not to tell Eddie because he'll just worry. Sydney arranges to have her last period be an independent study course, where she will act as a research assistant for her history teacher who is writing a book. Jill has a lot of trouble keeping up in PE class, which Sydney realizes is because of the sun and plans to obtain a doctor's note saying that Jill is allergic to the sun.

## Chapters 7 and 8 Analysis

Ironically, when Adrian comes to talk with Sydney in the kitchen, he doesn't want to talk about Jill. Adrian wants to talk to Sydney about getting him out of Clarence's house because it is so boring. When it is time for the girls to leave, Jill almost seems more reluctant to leave Lee than Adrian.

The fact that Jill does not want Sydney to pursue the allegations that Jill had a hangover in class suggests that it may be possible that Jill did have a hangover. It could also be that Jill is simply adjusting to the desert environment as a vampire, which is making her sick. The history teacher's aide and several of the other students hint that Sydney is so smart because the knowledge is coming from her tattoo. She does not know why or where these students are getting the idea that her tattoo makes her smart. There seems to be an obsession with tattoos in Amberwood, but Sydney has to figure out where the obsession is coming from, and what the tattoos symbolize at Amberwood. When Sydney brings to Eddie's attention that Eddie's roommate, Micah, seems to have a crush on Jill, Eddie, ironically, does not freak out and advocates Jill having a normal dating life, even if there is a ban on vampires and humans dating. Sydney realizes that it is that Eddie doesn't want to confront Micah, adding evidence that there is something about Micah that makes him different and explains why Eddie reacts differently to Micah.





# Chapters 9 and 10

## Chapters 9 and 10 Summary

In Chapter 9, Sydney goes to Clarence's house to tell Adrian about the relationship Sydney thinks is forming between Jill and Micah. Adrian says to have Eddie take care of it, but Sydney tells Adrian that it appears as if Eddie does not want to confront Eddie, so Adrian says he'll back Sydney up if Sydney talks to Jill to remind her that the relationship is forbidden. When Lee hears about the problem, he offers to ask Jill out. Even though there is a four-year age difference between Jill and Lee, they are both Moroi, and Lee admits that he wants to get to know Jill better. Keith shows up to Clarence's house in an annoyed mood. When Sydney returns to the dorm room, she finds Jill doing schoolwork and mad at her for Adrian and Sydney dictating her dating life behind her back.

In Chapter 10, Sydney's history teacher calls for Sydney to get her a coffee and bring it the library where the teacher is working. As Sydney is passing a group of students, she notices the football player, Slade that was talking about getting a tattoo earlier was now showing it off to the group that surrounded him. Sydney meets with her history teacher and then convinces her to allow Sydney to work out where the other students are, which is Sydney's plan to meet up with Kristin and Julia, the two girls Sydney met earlier and asked Sydney about her tattoo. The two girls tell Sydney that about half the school has tattoos. The celestial tattoos are copper and make the tattooed person feel great for a few weeks. The silver tattoos, such as the one Slade has, provide the tattooed with athletic strength, but it only lasts a few weeks. Sydney returns to the dorm and Jill is fast asleep, but in the middle of the night, Sydney wakes to find Jill sobbing in her bed. Jill won't tell her what's wrong. They go back to sleep. Sydney wakes up later to see Jill is lying in her bed, awake with a haunted look on her face.

## Chapters 9 and 10 Analysis

Keith believes that Sydney is hanging out with Adrian and Lee because she is friends with vampires, rather than the fact that Sydney was there on business pertaining to Jill. Sydney denies any kind of group connection, even though Sydney, Lee and Adrian did just plan a group date that would also include Jill and Eddie, in addition to the three of them. It seems as if Keith is too defensive about his own reasons for being at Clarence's house two days in a row. Instead, Keith tries to turn it around on Sydney, putting her on the defensive as to why she keeps coming to Clarence's house. Jill is a symbol of Zoe to Sydney. While Sydney is there because it is her job to protect Jill, Sydney is also finding a personal connection she feels toward Jill because Jill reminds Sydney of Zoe.

While the tattoo is nothing special in its design, what catches Sydney's attention is it is a metallic silver ink. From the conversation Sydney overhears, Slade insinuates that the silver metallic tattoo gives him special powers that he plans to use during football



tryouts to make quarterback. Slade even mentions that this tattoo is stronger than the ones they did last year. As Sydney passes the group, one of the girls calls out to Sydney that she is vampire girl's sister. While it is the truth, it is simply a coincidence—a joke that the group makes up because Jill's skin is so pale. Since the Alchemists are the experts as using compounds to mix special and powerful ink, there is some foreshadowing that a rogue Alchemist is selling these tattoos to the students at Amberwood. Since the Palm Springs Alchemist territory belongs to Keith, it suggests that Keith is the one selling these tattoos to the Amberwood students.



# Chapters 11 and 12

## Chapters 11 and 12 Summary

In Chapter 11, the next day, Sydney sends a request to the Alchemist office to get a note from the Melrose parents to excuse Jill from PE class. Sydney sees the ability that the metallic tattoo seems to give Slade in PE class. After last period, Sydney goes to the dorm room to wake up Jill to take her to Clarence's house for Jill's feeding. Sydney asks Keith if he is aware of the metallic tattoos that a place is giving in town that give a temporary euphoria or athletic abilities. When Adrian starts talking about his overnight trip to L.A. with Lee, Jill jumps up and says she's going to her feeding now.

In Chapter 12, the group leaves for the group date or family outing to go play mini-golf. While the rest of the group is on the same hole, Eddie and Sydney notice that Lee and Jill are two holes behind and seem to be in deep conversation. When the group reaches the waterfall hole of the course, Jill uses her magic to make the water swirl. Sydney tells her to stop, but Jill does not stop until Adrian commands her to stop.

## Chapters 11 and 12 Analysis

Even though Jill seems to be suffering in PE class because of the exposure to the sun, ironically, she never whines or complains. Jill simply endures and tries to keep up with the class the best she can. The previous night's breakdown, however, indicates that something is bothering Jill that she is not willing to share with Sydney. While the metallic tattoo Slade has seems to give him power, it doesn't seem to be a focused power, so it doesn't necessarily make him a better athlete—simply a stronger one. Keith dismisses Sydney's concern about the tattoos, suggesting that there is no way that someone could have come up with the Alchemist formula, so the metallic tattoos must contain some kind of drugs. Keith acts as if Sydney did not speak to him about Jill's problem with PE and about getting a note from the Alchemists. This is when Sydney realizes that Keith plans to build a case against exchanging Sydney for Zoe, since Keith wanted Zoe on the mission in the first place. Jill shows jealousy of some sort over Adrian spending time in L.A. with college girls. Clarence insisting that Jill and Sydney learn how to protect themselves with defensive moves hanging in the air foreshadows that there may be in an incident where the girls knowing defensive moves of their own will prove helpful.

Jill tries to get Lee to use his vampire power, which is air, to create fog over the water of the waterfall at the golf course. Lee refuses, saying that they are in public, but it suggests that Lee may not possess the power he claims. The time that Jill and Lee spend together at the mini-golf course and how Jill can't stop talking about Lee indicates that a romantic relationship is in their future.



# Chapters 13 and 14

## Chapters 13 and 14 Summary

In Chapter 13, the following morning, Eddie calls Sydney's cell phone early in the morning to train both girls in self-defense moves. Sydney says she can't because of homework and working with her history teacher, but Jill grudgingly gets out of bed and goes downstairs to train with Eddie. Sydney researches the Alchemist site for more information on the attack on Jill. Jill waked Sydney up at dawn saying that they have to rescue Adrian.

In Chapter 14, Jill tells Sydney that they have to pick up Adrian from L.A., where he is stranded. After Jill reveals her secret to Sydney, Sydney knows there is a spirit bond between Queen Vasilisa and Rose, because Vasilisa brought Rose back to life after a car accident. Sydney goes to pick up Adrian, so she can talk with him about how his actions are affecting Jill. While Sydney and Adrian are talking on the balcony, one of the Moroi girls inside screams. She then tells them that another Moroi friend of theirs was killed by a Strigoi last night and that they slit her throat.

## Chapters 13 and 14 Analysis

When Sydney finds out that Slade wreaked havoc on the field during football tryouts, she knows the source of his power is from his tattoo. Sydney remembers when Keith was telling her not to worry about it and get involved, which makes it look as if Keith is behind the tattoos. Sydney cannot help but feel that there is more to the attack on Jill than either Eddie or Jill are sharing.

Sydney realizes that Jill's phone did not ring, so questions how Jill knows this. Jill confesses that she and Adrian are bound spirits because he brought her back to life on the day of the attack, which explains the special bond between Jill and Adrian. The spirit bond explains why Jill always seems to know what Adrian wants, needs and feels. Sydney realizes that all of the sickness and illness Jill is experiencing is because she is experiencing what Adrian is doing. For example, the first day when Jill was sent home for being hungover, she was hungover because Adrian was hungover. The slitting of the Moroi girl's throat is similar to how Clarence's niece was killed and adds some value to Clarence's theory that there are vampire hunters.

Vocabulary



# Chapters 15 and 16

## Chapters 15 and 16 Summary

In Chapter 15, Sydney and Adrian drive back to Amberwood. Sydney checks Adrian in as a guest so he can see Jill. Adrian invites Jill, Eddie, Sydney and Micah along to lunch. When they return to campus, after dropping Adrian off at Clarence's house, Sydney and Eddie go to the library together. Sydney tells Eddie about the killing of the Moroi girl in L.A. by the Strigoi. When Sydney returns to the dorm, she sees a crowd outside of Julia and Kristin's room. When Sydney makes her way in to the room, Kristin appears to be having a seizure or bad reaction to something. Sydney finds out Kristin is having a reaction to the copper tattoo she got earlier in the day. Sydney applies an Alchemist mixture to Kristin's tattoo and slowly Kristin returns to normal.

In Chapter 16, word spreads about how Sydney helped heal Kristin. The kids at Amberwood come to her for various ailments. Sydney can help with some of them. When Sydney takes Jill to Clarence's house for Jill's feeding, Keith is there. When Keith emerges from another room with Clarence, it sounds like Keith agrees with Clarence's point of view about vampire hunters and that Keith may have told Clarence of the recent Strigoi killing of the Moroi girl. When Sydney drives Adrian to get cigarettes, she sees the Nevermore tattoo shop. Sydney uses an acid she carries to dissolve the back door lock of the tattoo shop so she can get in and look around. While Adrian occupies the tattoo artist in the front of the store, Sydney searches the back room and finds vials of ink. As one of the tattoo parlor employees tries to return to the shop via the back door and finds it locked, he comes in the front door asking why the back door is locked. Sydney manages to escape just as the two employees are heading toward the back of the shop. When Sydney meets Adrian at the car, she tells him they are putting drugs and vampire blood in the tattoos.

## Chapters 15 and 16 Analysis

Adrian, too, feels as if he knows Micah, Eddie's roommate, from somewhere. Eddie says he doesn't know where from because he has never been to South Dakota, where the Jill and her "family" are from. Sydney realizes that the reason Eddie may be so overprotective of Jill is because he failed to save her life the first time when she was attacked and killed in the Royal Court. Eddie's role of Jill's protector now is a way for him to redeem and forgive himself for that failure. Adrian mentions to Sydney that he caught a ride to L.A. but never hooked up with Lee that night. When Sydney and Eddie log into the Alchemist database, Sydney finds that Clarence's niece and the friend of the girls that Adrian was hanging with are the only two Moroi drained of blood that then had their throats cut. It infers that Lee is the one responsible for two murders, since one girl was his cousin and the other was someone from his college. Sydney crosses the line, runs back to her room, and mixes together an Alchemist mixture to try to save Kristin's life.



Ironically, breaking an Alchemist rule has gained Sydney popularity in her social life in the human world. Because Sydney has not had a social life before, she doesn't even realize when one of the football players asks her out on a movie date. Finding Nevermore and the fact that Sydney talks Adrian into getting a job, foreshadows that Adrian may try to get a job in the tattoo shop to work undercover to find out what is really going into the tattoos. It appears that vials of dark liquid she finds may be vampire blood, which is what Alchemist's use as part of their tattoo ink mixture. Again, it infers that an Alchemist is involved in the operation and since Palm Springs is Keith's territory, it points to his involvement.



# Chapters 17 and 18

## Chapters 17 and 18 Summary

In Chapter 17, Sydney decides she must report the tattoo issue to the Alchemists, but first she needs to run some tests to identify what some of the mixtures are. In retaliation for the teasing that Jill is taking from Laurel, one of her PE classmates, Jill uses her power with water to freeze the water when Laurel is showering one day after gym class. Sydney picks Adrian up to take him to his job interviews. Adrian tells Sydney that he knows where he knows Micah from now—that Micah looks like a Moroi, Mason Ashford, who was involved with Rose and killed in an attack. When Sydney returns to the dorm after dropping Adrian off at Clarence's house, she finds Eddie, Micah and the police at the dorm because Jill is missing.

In Chapter 18, Sydney talks with the security officer, Eddie, Micah and the lady in charge of the dorm. They say they've looked everywhere for Jill and that most likely she will turn up by curfew. Sydney then has Eddie call Lee and they find out that Jill is with him. When they tell the dorm lady they've located Jill, she tells them that one student went missing once and they found her murdered, which is why she always gets so worried when they cannot locate a student. When Jill and Lee walk into the dorm, the dorm lady says she knows Lee from somewhere. Jill is grounded to her dorm room and faces possible suspension from the school. While Sydney is sleeping that night, Adrian brings Sydney into a spirit dream, which is a way to talk to each other for real but in a dreamlike state. Adrian apologizes to Sydney for messing up his job interviews and asks her to help him apply for and get into a college called Carlton. Sydney agrees and then Adrian ends the spirit dream.

## Chapters 17 and 18 Analysis

Jill sees Eddie, Sydney, and Adrian's lives as being great in Palm Springs, but her own life as a disaster. This attitude and her reckless behavior of using her magic may lead Jill to making decisions that uncover her identity and leave her vulnerable to another attack. The fact that Micah resembles a dead Moroi suggests that he was brought back to life somehow and is now a classmate at Amberwood. It could be that the element that brought him back is an evil one and that Micah's attempt to get close with Jill and Eddie is a way of making Jill vulnerable to another attack.

While Eddie and Sydney are talking, Sydney realizes that they have more in common than she originally thought. Eddie and Sydney are both on "probation" with their own groups for mistakes they have made in the past. The fact that the dorm lady thinks she knows Lee from somewhere indicates that he may have been involved with a student at Amberwood, maybe even the one that was kidnapped and killed. Instead of working with Sydney, Keith seems to be continuing to work against her because Sydney receives a phone call from her father, where he berates her for all of the things Keith

told her father she is doing wrong. This leads to letting Sydney know that they are training Zoe over the next two weeks, tattooing her and sending Zoe to replace Sydney. Sydney knows she now has to work faster than ever on uncovering the mystery of the tattoos to get back in the good graces of the Alchemists.





# Chapters 19 and 20

## Chapters 19 and 20 Summary

In Chapter 19, Jill tells Sydney the next morning that during her trip with Lee, they met with a fashion designer that offered her a runway modeling job. Sydney doesn't answer Jill because they have to meet with the dorm lady to see what Jill's punishment from the principal. The principal decides not to suspend Jill, but confines her to the campus. Sydney realizes while she is working with her history teacher that the teacher has connections with Carlton College, where Adrian wants to attend. The history teacher says she will make some inquiries for Adrian.

In Chapter 20, Sydney tells Jill about the death of the Amberwood girl a few years ago, but they cannot prove if she was human or a Moroi. They look for a picture of her but cannot find one. Sydney takes Adrian to the college interview, where they tell him he can take some classes as an auditor while preparing his college application. When Sydney returns to school, she goes to the chemistry lab to conduct the spell for her history teacher. When Sydney finishes and returns to the dorm room, she sees VAMP GIRL in red paint on the door and two teachers searching the room.

## Chapters 19 and 20 Analysis

Confining Jill to the campus means that Jill cannot get her twice weekly feedings, which a vampire requires, at a minimum to stay alive. Sydney may save the confinement for the two nights per week by citing that the family has get-togethers twice a week for religious reasons. Ironically, the history teacher tells Sydney to follow one of the magic spells in one of the books she has been outlining for the teacher and to write a report on it. When Sydney calls Keith and offers to drive the note for him to sign for Jill to leave campus to his apartment, he adamantly insists that he come to the campus, as if he has something in his apartment he doesn't want Sydney to see. Ironically, Sydney also finds out that the girl that was murdered from Amberwood a few years ago bled to death because her throat was cut.

Laurel and her friends calling Jill vamp girl simply seems as if it is a high school bullying episode. After it goes on for this long and Sydney finds out that there may have been another Moroi enrolled at the school that was murdered in the same way of the other two girls, Sydney begins to wonder if some of the humans believe in vampires more than she is giving them credit for. Sydney also promises to stop Laurel so that Jill doesn't have to lower herself to Laurel's level or expose her powers to anyone.



# Chapters 21 and 22

## Chapters 21 and 22 Summary

In Chapter 21, Sydney mixes a concoction and puts it in Laurel's shampoo bottle. Kristin switches out the real shampoo bottle for the new bottle in Laurel's PE locker. Sydney hands in her report to her history teacher about the making of the spell. Laurel washes her hair with the tainted shampoo, which leaves her hair oily and a shade of yellow instead of red. Sydney drives Jill to her modeling lesson because they have arranged with the school for Jill's extracurricular activity to be the sewing club, which allows Jill to use her modeling work with the designer as part of the activity. While Jill is practicing, Lee shows up at the designer's shop, so Sydney leaves Jill with Eddie and Lee to make a visit to the Nevermore tattoo shop. Sydney's testing on the vials she stole from the shop confirms it is an Alchemist formula and vampire blood the shop is using. The tattoo artist also asks Sydney if she can get the person to stop calling asking if any tall, pale people are coming in to the shop, but Sydney says she doesn't know anything about that and leaves. Sydney calls Adrian to tell him what she found out at the shop and then returns to the designer's office to see if Lee can take Jill and Eddie home so she can meet Adrian. When Adrian takes Sydney into Clarence's room, Sydney sees a needle mark in Clarence's neck, which verifies where Keith is getting the vampire blood for the tattoo shop.

In Chapter 22, Sydney and Adrian find out from Clarence that Keith has been drawing his blood and taking Clarence's saliva in exchange for Keith investigating his niece's murder. When Sydney and Adrian leave Clarence's room, Sydney sees that Adrian has transformed the living room into an art studio for his college classes. Sydney and Adrian hatch a plan to search Keith's apartment for the items that can implicate him in the crime. Sydney lures Keith to meet her at a diner across town while Adrian searches his place. While Sydney is waiting for Keith, she listens to a voice mail from the college saying they cannot admit Adrian as a student until next semester. Right after Keith arrives at the diner, Adrian sends Sydney a text message letting her know he has the evidence against Keith and that he has called the Alchemist number Sydney gave him so Alchemist reinforcements can come in and handle the situation. Keith realizes that Sydney is trying to keep him in the diner and rushes home. Sydney follows him. When they arrive, three Alchemists are searching Keith's apartment and Adrian is standing off to the side smoking a cigarette. One Alchemist tells Keith they are taking him in for questioning.

## Chapters 21 and 22 Analysis

Ironically, when Sydney enters the tattoo shop, the tattoo artist acts as if he knows Sydney and that she is part of his scheme. He asks Sydney if she has more of the ink because he can't keep up with the demand. Sydney realizes it is her lily tattoo that the tattoo artist identifies, which verifies that the tattoo shop is working with a rogue



Alchemist to get the supplies they need to make the special tattoos. Sydney and Eddie realize that Lee's college schedule seems to be sporadic. When they ask him about it, he says that he secretly took a semester off and he still goes back to L.A. to keep up the front. This adds to the foreshadowing that Lee may be the one involved in the Moroi killings, but making it look as if it is Strigoi attacks.

Sydney tells Keith she needs to speak with him about Carly, which is presumably the girl Keith attacked and the secret information Sydney has been holding back for the right time to use it against Keith. Sydney decides to keep the news from the college from Adrian because she believes it is for the better good of both Adrian and Jill's well being that Adrian has thrown himself into the art. When Sydney accuses Keith of rape, ironically, it is Sydney's older sister, Carly, that Keith actually raped.



# Chapters 23 and 24

## Chapters 23 and 24 Summary

In Chapter 23, it is the night of Jill's fashion show. At the end of the show, Adrian confronts Sydney about not telling him that the financial aid isn't coming through for his college classes. Sydney leaves to go to Keith's apartment to get away from the argument with Adrian, and to see if there are any chemicals that were left behind that she might use. While Sydney is there, she looks in the yearbooks that Laurel handed to her before she left the fashion show, in exchange for leaving Jill alone. Sydney realizes that the girl killed at Amberwood was not a Moroi, but a regular human. Lee knocks on the door. They're talking when Sydney comes across a prom picture of the dead girl with her date—and her date is Lee. Lee takes Sydney hostage with the knife, admitting to killing all of the girls because he is trying to get his life back from when he was a Strigoi.

In Chapter 24, a knock on the door lets Lee and Sydney know that it's Adrian. Sydney yells out for Adrian. When Adrian comes in, he makes Adrian put on a pair of handcuffs and ties Sydney up with Adrian's tie. Lee calls two Strigoi on the phone to have them come and take the lives of both Adrian and Sydney to give him everlasting life and then to give Jill everlasting life so they can be together forever. Sydney manages to get her hands untied and hits Lee over the head with one of the yearbooks. Sydney then punches him the way Eddie taught her and Lee falls back in the chair. As Adrian and Sydney are about to escape, two Strigoi open the apartment door and enter.

## Chapters 23 and 24 Analysis

The ironic part is that the prom picture is five years old, but Lee looks the same then as he does now. This proves that Lee was once a Strigoi and not a Moroi. Sydney and Adrian are hoping that the spirit bond that Adrian and Jill share alerts Jill and brings them help to save their lives.



# Chapters 25 and 26

## Chapters 25 and 26 Summary

In Chapter 25, when the Strigoi enter, both are women. Lee begs them to awaken him and he will also provide them with a dhamphir. As one of the Strigoi drains Lee of all his blood and then refeeds her blood to him, nothing happens and Lee dies. When one of the Strigoi tries to drink Sydney's blood, she says it is disgusting and cannot drink it. As the Strigoi are taking turns drinking Adrian's blood, Sydney finds the spell bag she made for her history teacher, which is to create fire. Fire is one thing that Strigoi can die from, so Sydney throws the amulet at the Strigoi, saying the spell and the Strigoi catches on fire. The other Strigoi puts the fire out. Eddie then busts in the door with a silver stake and starts fighting with the Strigoi. He kills one of them, while Sydney provides water from the faucet for Jill, who enters behind Eddie to create a weapon. Eddie eventually kills the other Strigoi. Jill realizes at the end of the fight that Lee is dead too.

In Chapter 26, Sydney and the group find out that Lee was forcibly turned into a Strigoi about 15 years earlier. It turns out that the Amberwood student Lee dated and killed was dhamphir. The Alchemists were in and out of Palm Springs for a week conducting an investigation. The Alchemists offer Sydney the position for taking over for Keith. Sydney confronts her history teacher, who admits to knowing all about the Alchemists and vampires in the world and how to spot them. She wants to train Sydney in magic, but Sydney refuses. They tell Jill the truth about Lee, but she is having a hard time getting through it. Jill, however, is trying to move on with her life.

## Chapters 25 and 26 Analysis

Ironically, Sydney feels pity for Lee as he is begging the Strigoi to reawaken him, or turn him back into a Strigoi. Even though Lee tried to kill Sydney and had plans to kill Adrian, Sydney can see how desperate Lee feels. In another twist of irony, Sydney feels bad again when Jill finds out that Lee is dead. Sydney, for the first time, realizes what love is, even if the love was askew, such as that of Lee's love for Jill.

The Alchemists realize that if they can figure out what kept Lee from being turned back into a Strigoi, they may be able to create a vaccine for others so that they cannot be turned into Strigoi. There is a suggestion that something in Sydney's blood may contain something that keeps the Strigoi away as well, which foreshadows some testing on both Lee's body and Sydney's blood. Adrian gives up her chance to move into Keith's apartment so that Adrian can move into it and help with the Moroi/Strigoi study. Eddie sacrifices his own romantic feelings for Jill so that Micah can be with her because he believes that Jill deserves the best and so does Micah. Ironically, one of the Moroi turned Strigoi that shows up is Dmitri Belikov, which is the guy that stole away Rose's love from Adrian.



# Chapter 27

## Chapter 27 Summary

In Chapter 27, Sydney visits Adrian at Keith's old apartment. Adrian has redecorated the entire apartment. Abe Mazur arrives with Jill's new roommate, Angeline Dawes. Abe admits that the reason he wanted Adrian to stay and live with Clarence is because Abe suspected that Clarence was selling his blood. Abe says he had no idea that Keith was involved though. Sydney reveals to the reader that she made a deal with Abe Mazur to fake a Strigoi attack on Keith for revenge for raping Carly, and now Abe held this over her head as blackmail. Two Moroi that had been turned Strigoi show up to work with Adrian on the experiment.

## Chapter 27 Analysis

Adrian redecorating Keith's apartment is a symbol of him washing away what happened to him, Lee and Sydney with the fight against the Strigoi. Even though Adrian has never been one for manual labor, he tells Sydney that he scrubbed the kitchen floor on his hands and knees and the kitchen counters as well. It appears as if Adrian and Sydney are seeing each other in a new light - a light that may lead to a future romance, which of course is forbidden love.



# Characters

## Sydney Sage

Sydney is an 18-year old girl. Sydney, like her father, is an Alchemist. While Sydney is on her assignment in Palm Springs, her name is Sydney Melrose from South Dakota. Sydney is posing as a student and as a sister of Jill and Damien's. Her real purpose is to watch and help protect Jill from another Strigoi attack.

Prior to the novel starting, Sydney was apparently involved in a scandal among the Moroi and Alchemist people. Sydney had helped Rose Hathaway in her escape from charges for murdering the queen of the Moroi, Tatiana. Because of Sydney's involvement in the scandal, she is on house arrest with the Alchemists when the mission to protect Jill comes up.

Sydney is typically very rigid and abides by all of the rules. She is also very intelligent. During this unfolding of the story, she is trying to avoid getting into any more trouble than she is already in. It also seems as Abe Mazur, Mr. Sage, and Keith Darnell are all holding her involvement with Rose Hathaway over her head as a form of blackmail to keep her in line and to avoid telling their own secrets.

Sydney has also learned that vampires and dhampirs are different from Alchemists, but that they are not as bad as she originally thought. Sydney learns to get along with people that are different from her, but that still have some of the same feelings and emotions that Sydney does. In the end, Sydney forms a bond with the other main characters in the book and it no longer matters that they are part of different races.

## Jillian Mastrano

Jillian Mastrano is the illegitimate sister of Vasilisa Dargomir. Jill is 15 years old. Jill is the person that Sydney is supposed to protect as part of her assignment. While they are living in Palm Springs, Jill and Sydney are sisters and roommates at the school. Damien is their brother at the school and Keith is their local guardian and older brother living off campus.

Jill reminds Sydney a lot of her own sister, Zoe. They are similar in age and Sydney feels the same responsibility in keeping Jill safe that she does in keeping her sister Zoe safe. Jill recently found out that she is royalty in the Moroi court and that Lissa is her sister. Jill's existence is what permits Lissa to become queen of the Moroi, which is also why the Strigoi and some of the Moroi are trying to kill Jill. If Jill dies then Lissa cannot hold her position as queen because the Moroi rules state the queen has to have at least one living relative.

Jill and Adrian have a spirit bond. The spirit bond allows Jill to see what Adrian is doing and thinking wherever Adrian is. The bond literally makes Jill feel the way Adrian feels



from what he does. When Adrian gets drunk, Jill suffers a hangover. When Adrian is sad or depressed, it also causes Jill to be sad and depressed. Jill is still learning to control her emotions from the spirit bond as the novel unfolds. Ultimately, it is the bond that saves Sydney and Adrian's lives from the Strigoi and Clarence's son.

## **Jared Sage**

Jared Sage is the father to Sydney and Zoe. Jared is also an Alchemist.

## **Rose Hathaway**

Rose Hathaway is a vampire. Rose was accused of murder and Sydney stood up for her because she believed that Rose was innocent. This caused a big scandal since vampires and Alchemists are on different sides. The scandal led to a temporary suspension of Sydney's Alchemist duties.

## **Horowitz**

Horowitz is one of the Alchemist elders. He is responsible for inking and re-inking the lily tattoo that Alchemists possess on their cheek. In the opening chapter, Horowitz re-inks Sydney's tattoo.

## **Vasilisa Dragomir**

Vasilisa Dragomir is an 18-year old girl. She is a vampire of the Moroi tribe. Vasilisa was recently elected Queen of the Moroi.

## **Zoe Sage**

Zoe Sage is Sydney's sister. Zoe is 15 years old. Zoe is not technically an Alchemist. Zoe has been trained overall in case she has to fill in for Sydney, but she is not technically an Alchemist.

## **Keith Darnell**

Keith Darnell is an Alchemist. Most of the Alchemist girls think he is charming and handsome, but Sydney hates him and Keith hates her. Keith has one glass eye from an accident that caused him to lose one of his eyes.





## **Clarence Donahue**

Clarence Donahue is a rogue Moroi living in Palm Springs. He is the vampire that will provide the feeder for Jill while she is hiding out in Palm Springs. Clarence's home is also the meeting place for the vampires, Alchemists and dhampir when they first meet as a group in Palm Springs.

## **Adrian Ivashkov**

Adrian Ivashkov is a Moroi. He is tall and lean with Emerald green eyes. Adrian answers the door to Clarence's home when Sydney and Keith arrive. Sydney mentions that to Adrian that they met when she went before the Moroi court when she underwent questioning for her involvement with Rose Hathaway and the murder. Adrian remembers Sydney's name.

## **Eddie Castile**

Eddie Castile is the dhampir that accompanies Jill to Palm Springs. Sydney also met Adrian in the Moroi court because he was in some sort of trouble when Sydney was in trouble too.

## **Lee Donahue**

Lee Donahue is also a Moroi. Lee is Clarence's son. Lee is home from college in L.A. visiting his father. When Lee first enters the room in his father's house that is filled with the group, he admits that he has never met Alchemists before.



# Objects/Places

## Jared's Study

Jared's study is the meeting place for the Alchemists in the opening chapter of the book. The study is also where Jared, who is Sydney and Zoe's father, takes care of his Alchemist paperwork.

## Lily Tattoo

The lily tattoo is the tattoo that Alchemists have tattooed on their cheek. The ink that is used to add the tattoo has special powers that seep into the Alchemist that receives the tattoo. The tattoo is also only visible in certain lights and by certain groups of people, which does not include humans. Re-inking the tattoo is a touch-up of the tattoo that provides the power the Alchemist needs when going out on an assignment.

## Hierophant

A hierophant is a priest for the Alchemists. The hierophant blesses the combination of chemicals that create the tattoo ink.

## Moroi

The Moroi are one of the vampire races. The Moroi are similar to the Alchemists in how they live and die. They can live, die, and be brought back to life. The Moroi are also a vampire race that are alive and do not kill.

## Strigoi

The Strigoi is another race of vampires. Strigoi are murdering vampires that become vampires by forcing someone to drink their blood or by drinking the blood of someone the vampire has killed.

## Amberwood Preparatory School

Amberwood Preparatory School is the private boarding school where Sydney and Jill will be living as undercover students. The school is a very prestigious school in the area.



## **Dhampirs**

Dhampirs are not full vampires, but they are not fully human either. The dhampirs are a combination of vampire and human. Dhampirs cannot reproduce with each other. Dhampirs can only reproduce with a Moroi or a human.

## **Feedings**

Vampires live by drinking the blood of others. While Sydney is in charge of protecting Jill, Sydney will also be in charge of making sure that Jill receives her feedings in order for Jill to survive.

## **Nevermore**

Nevermore is the tattoo parlor in the town of Palm Springs that is giving the students at Amberwood metallic tattoos. When Sydney searches Nevermore, she finds vials of special tattoo ink that she determines is an Alchemist formula. Sydney also finds vials of vampire blood the tattoo artists are using in the tattoos.

## **Keith's Apartment**

Keith's apartment turns out to be the hiding place for the blood and saliva Keith is taking from Clarence to sell to Nevermore. The apartment is also where Lee tries to attack Sydney and Adrian, eventually leading to the fight between the Strigoi, Eddie, and Jill.



# Themes

## Relationships

One of the primary themes of the novel is the relationships that form between the characters. Due to the way that Sydney, an Alchemist, was raised, she has complicated relationships with other Alchemists, humans, vampires, and dhampirs. Sydney especially struggles with social relationships because she takes everything so literally and seriously. As the novel unfolds though, Sydney learns how to be a little more social, learns to see people that are different from her in a more positive way, and to be more sociable in general.

The primary relationships Sydney experiences throughout the novel are with humans, Moroi, a dhampir, and eventually Strigoi. Sydney studies and observes the differences in the interaction between each of these races. She learns how one race interacts with others of the same race, and she also observes and learns more about the interaction of the races with other races. Eventually, Sydney learns to accept the differences among the races, especially the Moroi and dhampirs because she realizes that each race has its own reason for being. In return, each race plays a role in protecting Jill throughout the novel, as well as solving the murders and the tattoo mysteries that arise as the novel unfolds.

The final relationship that Sydney begins to understand for the first time in her life is a romantic one. Sydney witnesses crushes and romance between Jill and Lee, and even between Jill and Micah. By the end of the novel, however, Sydney starts to feel what it's like to have a crush on someone, as she begins to develop what may be feelings for Adrian.

## Culture

Culture plays a pivotal role throughout the whole novel. Each group - Alchemists, Moroi, Strigoi, and dhampirs - has its own culture. Each culture has its own set of morals, ethics and rules to which they abide by. For example, Alchemists exist to protect the human race from the vampire race. Alchemists are not allowed to have relationships with vampires or dhampirs, but are allowed to mate with humans and other Alchemists.

Sydney spends a lot of her time in the novel making sure that the cultural lines of each group are not crossed. For example, when Sydney notices that a human, Eddie roommate Micah, has a crush on Jill, who is a Moroi, Sydney tries to stop the forbidden relationship before it starts. Instead, she allows a relationship to develop between Jill and Lee because they are both Moroi. Sydney is also super aware that she is in the presence of vampires, which also means that she is in the presence of their magical powers, and magical powers are not a way of the Alchemist life. Instead, Alchemist life is very science-based.



The Strigoi race and culture is proof of what happens when races that mix, but should not. The Strigoi are neither humans nor vampires, but an unnatural culture that originates from killing and bringing back to life a vampire. In essence, the Strigoi are a walking dead race that has super powers and tend to use them for evil rather than good.

## Coming of Age

One of the primary themes that run throughout the novel is growing up and coming of age, even against adversity, such as having to work against morals and beliefs. Sydney struggles with the tradition of coming of age as an Alchemist and a human in traditional "teenage" ways and protecting Jill from vampires simultaneously. Sydney deals with responsibilities in life, such as protecting Jill, while she also struggles to fit into Amberwood as a normal teenager with normal social skills.

Sydney deals a lot with her feelings of having to deal with adult matters and decisions while still acting as a teenager, and dealing with others, such as Jill that are actually teenagers. Sydney especially struggles with "normal" teenage life because she never had one of her own. It is Sydney's job as an Alchemist to make sure that the rules are followed and that the races interact the way they are meant to interact and not interact.



# Style

## Point of View

The novel is in the first-person point of view. The narrator of the novel is Sydney Sage. While Sydney tells the story in the present, she also refers to events that took place in the past that have led the characters in the novel to their current situation. The main character is telling the story of how Alchemists, vampires, and dhampirs work together and against each other in the regular world.

The point of view of this novel is an intimate point of view that allows a reader to connect closely with the main character. The point of view also allows the author to inject her own opinions into the narration and to expand on the events taking place to the main character. Hence, the point of view works well with this novel and the author's writing style.

## Setting

The novel is set primarily in Palm Springs, California and at the private boarding school, Amberwood Prep. The author never states the specific year or period, but it seems as if it is taking place during modern times because the characters have cell phones, computers, and the Internet. The setting of this novel is important because it is about the culture, rituals, and the story of outsiders trying to hide out in a city where nobody knows them and they do not know anybody, except for the feeder connection established for feeding Jill the blood that she requires to survive. The setting of the novel has a strong impact on all of the characters in the novel because they live in a constant clash of culture, nature, and the relationships between her human world and magical world.

## Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is modern, but also mixes the English language with words that are dialects specific to Alchemists, vampires, and dhampirs. In other words, there are some fictional words or concepts. The language of the novel is not formal, yet is educated, strong and descriptive enough that it creates a flow that leaves the reader impressed with the words as much as the plot when the novel ends.

The language of the novel is appropriate to the plot because it is accurate to the characters in the novel and the education level of the writer. The words are descriptive enough that the reader finds enjoyment in the words as well as the plot. The language is not difficult to understand, however, and everything is clear in its context. Hence, the language of the novel fits well with the plot of the novel.

## Structure

The novel has 27 chapters. Each chapter is anywhere from 10 to 20 pages long. The sections primarily tell the story in exposition, but there is some dialogue mixed in to the story. The author is the narrator, so it seems as if she is injecting her own voice throughout the novel—as if she has become Sydney. This allows the author to provide her own opinions of the events surrounding the setting of the novel, as well as the actions taking place within the plot, but from the eyes and words of Sydney.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows relationships. The subplots primarily concern cultural and coming of age issues.



## Quotes

"Ridiculous or not, though, we cannot have them in civil war. Some Moroi have acted out in protest, enough that they've caught the attention of human media. We can't allow that. We need their government stable, and that means ensuring the girl's safety. Maybe they can't trust themselves, but they can trust us" (Chapter 1, p. 12).

"I don't know if you can undo the disgrace you brought down on us by running off with them, but this is a step in the right direction. Do not mess this up. You're being tested. Follow your orders. Keep the Moroi girl out of trouble" (Chapter 2, p. 33).

"I have no intention of going rogue again" (Chapter 3, p. 40).

"I hope so. If you only knew what happened" (Chapter 4, p. 67).

"It's so dry here. They keep the lawn green, but it's so strange not to feel the moisture in the air. I'm a water user" (Chapter 5, p. 74).

"Why on earth would you think the tattoo is making me smart" (Chapter 6, p. 97).

"Yeah, you know. Adjusting to living with humans" (Chapter 7, p. 109).

"Look, I don't know where this idea's coming from about my tattoo making me smart, but if that's what you think, well...don't. It's just a tattoo" (Chapter 8, p. 120).

"You don't have to go behind my back to keep me away from Micah. I'm not stupid. I know I can't date a human" (Chapter 9, p. 146).

"It's a place called Nevermore. They're selective, though, and don't give them out easily. They got a lot more cautious after Trey tried to turn them in" (Chapter 10, p. 156).

"Sydney, why didn't you tell me how bad it is" (Chapter 11, p. 169).

"You didn't set me up with Lee. I should have never accused you of interfering. He really has liked me all along, and, well...he's really great" (Chapter 12, p. 188).

"I know about the tattoos. Julia and Kristin told me about them. And I get now why you were suspicious of mine—but it's not what you think. Really" (Chapter 13, p. 191).

"At least they didn't turn her. She can rest in peace. Of course, those monsters still couldn't rest without mutilating her...They didn't just drink from her. They slit her throat too" (Chapter 14, p. 213).

"Here's the thing, this Moroi girl - this friend of theirs - was allegedly killed like Clarence's niece" (Chapter 15, p. 220).

"Worse, they're using vampire blood" (Chapter 16, p. 244).





"The greatest changes in history have come because people were able to shake off what others told them to do" (Chapter 17, p. 255).

"Dad! I'm doing fine here. Please, don't send Zoe" (Chapter 18, p. 276).

"Well, that's the thing, I didn't cross you back then. You got off easy. It's not going to happen again. You think I'm worried about you? I'm the one you need to be scared of" (Chapter 19, p. 297).

"Dunno. I think he was checking on Clarence. The old guy hasn't been feeling well" (Chapter 20, p. 304).

"Well, Sage? Do you have any idea why Keith would be draining Clarence's blood" (Chapter 21, p. 329).

"No, he's using my blood and saliva to heal people. To heal sick humans" (Chapter 22, p. 331).

"You know, you can be scary as hell sometimes."  
Chap. 23, p. 353

"You used to be Strigoi."  
Chap. 24, p. 362

"The bodies. we have to destroy them. There's a vial in my purse."  
Chap. 25, p. 390

"Which suggests that those who are restored from being Strigoi are immune to ever being turned again."  
Chap. 26, p. 394

"Maybe because he doesn't want the competition."  
Chap. 27, p. 416



## Topics for Discussion

Who is Sydney? Why does she feel like she has her father's approval? What does Sydney recall about her childhood? What is Sydney's biggest demon that haunts her throughout the novel? Why is this important? How does it change her life?

Who is Jill? Why does Jill go undercover at Amberwood in the first place? Discuss the relationship between Sydney and Jill. How are they similar and how are they different? Does Jill ever accept Sydney's role as Jill's protector? How does Jill feel about Adrian? How does Adrian feel about Jill?

Why do the Alchemists remove Keith from Palm Springs? How does the dynamic of the group change when Keith is no longer in the picture? Why do you think Keith did what he did and betrayed his own race in the process? Was it for greed, revenge or something else?

How does Lee die? How does this affect everyone's future? How does the group come to the conclusion that Lee's death may lead to a greater good for all of the races?

Discuss the Alchemist culture. What impact does the culture have on the human characters and of the other races of the novel? How does it motivate them or hold them back? Why is the culture an issue to the characters? Does the culture have anything to do with way that relationships develop and evolve?

Discuss the Moroi culture. What impact does the culture have on the human characters and of the other races of the novel? How does it motivate them or hold them back? Why is the culture an issue to the characters? Does the culture have anything to do with way that relationships develop and evolve?

Discuss the Strigoi culture. What impact does the culture have on the human characters and of the other races of the novel? How does it motivate them or hold them back? Why is the culture an issue to the characters? Does the culture have anything to do with way that relationships develop and evolve?