

Bloodsucking Fiends Study Guide

Bloodsucking Fiends by Christopher Moore

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Plot Summary

Jody is a woman with low self-confidence who is afraid to be alone. Then, one day, she is attacked and turned into a vampire. *Bloodsucking Fiends* is the story of how Jody adapts to life as a vampire, discovering unknown power and self-confidence. Still, she is unable to overcome her fear of being alone and her need of a man. She uses and manipulates Tommy, her naive lover, and ultimately, she turns him into a vampire so that she will not have to be alone.

The story begins one night while Jody walking to the bus from a late night at her job. She is attacked and left under a dumpster in an alley, waking two nights later with her hand, which was exposed to the sun, burned. Her attacker has left her \$70,000 in cash. Jody is confused and finds her way back to her live-in boyfriend, hoping for help and sympathy. Kurt, however, is angry, selfish, and helpless. They fight, and Jody finds herself knocking him out and drinking his blood. She must face that she's a vampire.

Jody finds a motel room and decides that she needs someone who can help her in the daytime. She runs across Tommy, a want-to-be writer who is new in San Francisco and works as night supervisor at the Marina Safeway. He is a young boy from Indiana, naive and easily attracted by Jody's allure. Jody moves in with him, and Tommy becomes her helper and her source of blood.

Meanwhile, the vampire who turned Jody is murdering people who are about to die and leaving their bodies for the police. He leaves a trail of bodies wherever Jody is and shadows Jody and Tommy during the night, playing a survival game with his new offspring. Tommy becomes a murder suspect, and the vampire threatens to kill him.

Jody tells Tommy that the vampire must die and sends him off to hunt the killer. Tommy gathers his employees on the Marina Safeway night shift, and with the help of the homeless Emperor of San Francisco, they track the vampire to a yacht anchored off the coast. With the police close behind, the Safeway crew blows up the yacht, but the vampire isn't killed. Wounded and burned, he makes his way to shore, where the police are confronting Tommy and his coworkers.

The Safeway workers attack the vampire with all their weapons, severely wounding him, but Jody has changed her mind about killing him. She shows up at the last minute, stopping the killing. The group buys off the police officers, and Jody takes the vampire back to her and Tommy's loft apartment, where the two vampires talk all night. The next morning, afraid that Jody will leave him, Tommy electroplates both of them in brass. He drills holes in the brass over Jody's ears so that she can hear them. Jody, however, has learned how to turn to mist and escapes her brass prison through the ear holes. She tells Tommy that she never meant to leave him and only wanted information from the vampire. Now, she knows how to turn Tommy into a vampire, too, and she takes him into her arms to begin the transformation.



Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 1, Death and Chapter 2, Death Warmed Over

Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 1, Death and Chapter 2, Death Warmed Over Summary

Jody is a woman with low self-confidence who is afraid to be alone. Then, one day, she is attacked and turned into a vampire. Bloodsucking Fiends is the story of how Jody adapts to life as a vampire, discovering unknown power and self-confidence. Still, she is unable to overcome her fear of being alone and her need of a man. She uses and manipulates Tommy, her naive lover, and ultimately, she turns him into a vampire so that she will not have to be alone.

As the story begins, the sun sets over San Francisco, and the Emperor pees on a dumpster. His two dogs, a terrier called Bummer and a golden retriever called Lazarus, are at his heels. The Emperor talks to his dogs. There is a plague killing people in the city. The dogs begin to growl. Suddenly, a vampire rises up out of the dumpster. The vampire laughs at the Emperor and walks away. The Emperor thinks of how hungry he is and of his grave responsibility to the city. He must battle the vampire. He calls his dog to come with him to get the day-old bread from a local bakery.

Meanwhile, cute, redheaded Jody leaves her job at the Transamerica building. Her pantyhose is torn, and although it doesn't hurt, she finds herself limping. The wind blows her hair into a mess as she nears her bus stop. She sees a man ahead in the shadows, but she decides not to cross the street to avoid him. As she passes, he catches her by the hair and drags her into an alley. They struggle, and he bites her. Jody begins to pass out. Then, her attacker makes her drink blood from his arm. As he leaves her, Jody dies.

Jody wakes in fear and, before she knows what she's doing, pushes over the heavy dumpster that's lying on top of her. Her hand is burned. She runs out to look for help, and the whole city seems alive with sounds, smells, and the sight of heat coming from buildings and people. Her senses are awakened.

Jody finds that her shirt is full of money. Why would her attacker leave her thousands of dollars in cash? Jody puts the money in a bag and tries to call 911 from a payphone. She can't get through, so she tries to call her boyfriend Kurt. He doesn't pick up the phone. Jody has her bus pass, so she takes the bus home. Jody has a car, but since she found a parking space right in front of her apartment a month ago, she hasn't moved it for fear of losing her space. A man on the bus flashes Jody, and she flashes her horribly burned hand at him. Jody finds that she knows one of the men on the bus is dying. She can see auras and fears she needs a CAT scan. The sight of tourists' food makes her feel sick.



Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 1, Death and Chapter 2, Death Warmed Over Analysis

Moore sets the scene for his vampire story with the character of the Emperor of San Francisco, a famous homeless man known throughout San Francisco for his delusion of being its emperor. Though homeless, the Emperor is known and respected throughout the city. The opening scene of him peeing on a dumpster is contrasted against the grandeur of the sunset over the Transamerica building. The world of the city is one of contrast, the humble against the grand, and neither is quite what they seem. Into this world, there comes a vampire, something evil. Most people do not see him, but the "crazy" Emperor does. The first chapter ends with a death, as foreshadowed by the title. The death of Jody, though, is a beginning, not an end.

Jody's bus ride home introduces the reader to her new senses and experience. Jody is now a vampire. She can tell by looking at someone whether they are dying. She sees auras around people, and her senses of smell and hearing are heightened. She experiences no pain or upset from her burned arm. Jody's personality has also changed. When a man on the bus flashes her, she calmly grosses him out with her burns. The odd people on the bus are the people of the night, misfits. Jody has also joined the world of misfits and become a person of the night.



Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 3, Oh Liquid Love and Chapter 4, Blooms and the City of Burned Clutches

Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 3, Oh Liquid Love and Chapter 4, Blooms and the City of Burned Clutches Summary

Jody walks the three blocks home, finding herself afraid of the nighttime city. When she gets to the apartment, her car is missing. She sees a light in her apartment. Behind her, she thinks she sees a shadowy figure. Jody buzzes up to her boyfriend, Kurt, telling him she doesn't have her key. The shadowy figure is gone. Jody goes upstairs to her handsome, blond, want-to-be stockbroker boyfriend, who angrily asks where she's been. Jody tries to explain that she was attacked, but Kurt is obsessed with himself instead of helpful or sympathetic. Jody's car has been towed. She's been gone a whole day.

In a fit of anger, Jody throws a potted plant at Kurt, knocking him out. Then, at the sight of the blood on his forehead, Jody is overcome with hunger. New, sharp teeth begin to grow behind her canines. She falls on Kurt, sucking blood from him. When she pulls herself out of her frenzy, Kurt is unconscious but alive. She takes a shower, feeling strange, sad, and new, as she did after losing her virginity. Jody realizes that she's a vampire and that she'll need a safe place to stay during the day. The sun must have burned her hand. She packs a quick bag, checks into a motel, and passes out as the sun rises.

Elsewhere, C. Thomas Flood, or Tommy, wakes from a wet dream. He is living in a tiny room with five Chinese men all named Wong. He thinks about writing a story, after he finds a post office box and looks for a job. Ever since Tommy has been living in the crowded room in Chinatown, someone has been leaving flowers on his bed each day. The odd thing is that no one in town knows him.

Tommy's five roommates leave. He is renting the room from another Wong, an older man who speaks English. Tommy's 1974 Volvo, Rosenante, caught fire after he drove it hard from Indiana to San Francisco. Tommy's father is a line worker at a forklift company and doesn't understand Tommy's need to write, but after realizing that Tommy has set his mind to being a writer (and is not gay or communist), his father has sent him off to the city to starve, thinking that is how someone becomes a good writer.

Tommy goes out into the city to search for a job. He meets the Emperor and his two dogs on the street. Tommy introduces himself, explaining that "C." is part of his pseudonym and that it doesn't stand for anything. Tommy tells the Emperor his story.



The Emperor points Tommy toward a potential job and suggests that the flowers are being left by a vampire.

Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 3, Oh Liquid Love and Chapter 4, Blooms and the City of Burned Clutches Analysis

Jody is a vampire. This chapter is her birth into a new world, and the act of feeding on Kurt marks Jody's passing a point of no return. She has to leave her old life to begin a new life. The act takes on the same significance as losing her virginity, a passage into womanhood. Jody's first time having sex was unsatisfying, not an experience of pleasure. Although she experiences pleasure by drinking Kurt's blood, she still feels unclean and let down afterward. Her first feeding is as unpleasant as her first sexual encounter, but it leaves open the possibility for much future pleasure.

After Jody reaches the height of her change into a vampire, Moore switches the story to another character, Tommy, leaving the reader in suspense, wondering what will happen to Jody. Tommy is a young writer, new in the city, without any attachments. His story will intersect with Jody's story, and their first point of contact is the Emperor, who represents the city itself. The Emperor is the first to introduce to Tommy the idea of vampires, the dark underside of San Francisco. His character acts as a thread that ties the stories together, as the city brings together so many diverse people, causing their stories to intertwine.



Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 5, Undead and Somewhat Slightly Dazed and Chapter 6, The Animals

Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 5, Undead and Somewhat Slightly Dazed and Chapter 6, The Animals Summary

Jody suddenly regains consciousness when the sun sets. She hates waking alone; she's lived with ten men in five years. Jody realizes that she doesn't need to pee anymore. She tries drinking water and throws it up. She dresses and walks to her old apartment building. From the street, she can hear Kurt talking on the phone. Her concern for his safety is quelled, but she is annoyed by his complaining monologue about her. Jody goes back to the motel and pays for two more days. She cannot cry. She has no friend to talk to.

Jody counts the money her attacker left her, almost seventy thousand dollars. The attacker must have turned her into a vampire on purpose, and he knew she would need money. The phone rings. No one knows where Jody is. She answers it, and a voice tells her that she can be killed. Jody hangs up and runs out of the room.

The night workers at the Marina Safeway are known as "the Animals" because of their rowdy behavior. The manager has told them that the new crew chief will make them shape up, and the workers discuss it while getting high off nitrous oxide from whipped cream cans. The Animals are Simon, self-styled a cowboy; Clint, a born-again Christian; Jeff, a former high school basketball star; Drew, a drug dealer; Troy Lee, a martial artist; Gustavo, a Hispanic man with five children; Barry, a balding scuba diver; and Lash, a business student at San Francisco State.

The night manager arrives; it's Tommy, who soon proves he's one of the guys by showing his familiarity with taking hits of nitrous oxide off whip cream cans and bowling with frozen turkeys. The workers get together a bowling game, using soap bottles as pins. Tommy rolls a strike, and Simon's roll smashes into the refrigerators, incapacitating them. Tommy calls a break.

Tommy asks Troy if he speaks Chinese and whether he can act as a translator so that Tommy can talk to his roommates, and Troy assents. Jody walks by the store, and Simon approaches her, trying to pick her up. Tommy fends Simon off by telling him that they need his help to fix the store refrigeration. Then, Tommy is compelled to tell Jody how pretty she is, and she makes a date to meet him the next night.



Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 5, Undead and Somewhat Slightly Dazed and Chapter 6, The Animals Analysis

Moore picks up Jody's story in this chapter, and the mysterious vampire becomes more visible. Whoever the vampire is, he purposefully turned Jody into a vampire. He gave her money to survive. He shaded her body but left her hand in the sun so that she could know the sun was dangerous to her. Now, he is warning her that she can be killed. This scene builds suspense. What is the vampire's motive? Why doesn't he give more information? Does he want Jody to survive? Is he testing her? Is he playing a game?

At the same time, Tommy begins his job at the Safeway, where he acquires a network of friends in his coworkers. The Animals have unique skills and specialties that will be helpful to them in the upcoming battles, but they also add humor to the story with their raucous behavior and turkey bowling. Tommy proves that he fits in with these misfits, but he is also separate from them. He is the supervisor, so he is in charge.

In Chapter 6, the two main characters finally meet. Simon is the notorious hound in the group, but Tommy deflects him from making advances toward Jody. Simon is the one who introduces all of the Animals, and he is the leader that Tommy is replacing. Although the two are friends, this chapter sets up a rivalry between Simon and Tommy.



Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 7, Suiters and Chapter 8, Dinner with the Vampire

Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 7, Suiters and Chapter 8, Dinner with the Vampire Summary

The Safeway workers successfully put the store in order and stock the shelves. Then, Tommy goes to Chinatown with Troy Lee, where he finds out that his Chinese roommates, believing that in San Francisco men can marry each other, are courting him to try to marry Tommy for citizenship. Now, Tommy must endure Troy's ribbing about his suitors.

Jody wakes up at sunset, with a half hour to get ready for her date. Dissatisfied, she heads to a gap for new clothes. Meanwhile, Tommy has been avoiding his roommates. He gives a quarter to a panhandler who wants eyeliner, unable to stop himself from giving money whenever he's asked. Tommy arrives at their date early and picks up an almanac as a gift, something Jody mentioned that she wants. Tommy tells the waiter that he's meeting a girl he's sure will break his heart. At dinner, Jody just picks at her food, and Tommy tells her that she's going to break his heart.

Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 7, Suiters and Chapter 8, Dinner with the Vampire Analysis

The Chinese suitors are contrasted with Tommy's date with Jody. The Chinese men are from a different culture, and they don't understand Tommy or know what he wants. They want him for their own purposes: to keep them in the country. In a sense, Jody is the same way. She is alien to Tommy, now. She is a vampire. She wants Tommy as someone to protect and help her. She is not merely attracted to him; Jody has ulterior motives.



Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 9, He Knows If You've Been Bad or Good, So You'd Better... and Chapter 10, Walking, Talking, and Bumping in the Night

Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 9, He Knows If You've Been Bad or Good, So You'd Better... and Chapter 10, Walking, Talking, and Bumping in the Night Summary

Tommy has only had sex twice, and both times, he was drunk. He's terribly sexually attracted to Jody, and in his mind, he begs her to take him home. To Tommy's surprise, Jody asks him to move in together. Jody and Tommy leave the restaurant to walk through the city, and Jody exudes a confidence that she never had before. Tommy accepts Jody's offer to find a place together. She gives him instructions to find an apartment and get her car out of impound.

Jody has superhuman hearing, and she hears two men in a doorway ahead. She gets Tommy to cross the street to avoid being mugged. Then, Jody sees a dark figure behind them, someone who is not giving off any body heat. The vampire laughs to himself when he sees Jody with the young boy. She is doing much better than he thought she would.

Tommy and Jody walk to Coit Tower, seeing the city at night. Tommy has first-date nerves. To him, Jody seems a dream come true. Jody realizes that she never feels warm or cold anymore; she has no body heat. She realizes that the man with no body heat must be a vampire, too. Jody breaks the romantic mood. She says that she should get Tommy his own motel room. Tommy agrees, sullenly, and he accepts the tasks he gives her. Uneasy at his compliance, Jody suggests that he jump off Coit Tower and is relieved when he says she's crazy. She hasn't robbed him of free will.

After Jody and Tommy part, she breaks into Kurt's apartment to get the paperwork for her car, and she finds Kurt in bed with another woman. Jody is filled with anger, but she remembers her newfound powers and feels better about herself. She gets her papers and leaves Kurt and his new lover.



Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 9, He Knows If You've Been Bad or Good, So You'd Better... and Chapter 10, Walking, Talking, and Bumping in the Night Analysis

Tommy is a naive young boy from the country, and this is his first time in the city. He is not like the native city dwellers, suspicious of others and hardened to the sight of homeless people. Tommy can't help but give money to panhandlers and stop to talk to the barkers who try to lure him into strip clubs. He is easy prey for anyone trying to take advantage of him, and Jody falls into that category. She also has sex appeal on her side. Jody uses her attraction to get Tommy to help her. Meanwhile, the reader is kept in suspense by the presence of the dark, mysterious vampire.

As a human, Jody has low self-esteem. She can't handle being alone, and she always feels that she needs a man. She jumps from one live-in relationship to the next, afraid of being by herself. When she sees Kurt with his new girlfriend, her old insecurities surface. As a vampire, though, Jody is finding power. She no longer needs Kurt, and she doesn't need to be angry at him or his new lover. A new world is opening up for her, but her interest in Tommy shows that, under her power, Jody still lacks the confidence to be by herself.



Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 11, Lather, Rinse, Repent and Chapter 12, Fashionably Doomed

Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 11, Lather, Rinse, Repent and Chapter 12, Fashionably Doomed Summary

Tommy returns to work and to the ragging of his co-workers, who all know about the Chinese men's proposals. Simon is no longer mad at Tommy for getting a date with Jody, claiming to have gotten blowjobs from two choirgirls. Tommy takes some of the women's magazines into the office to research women, since he's about to move in with one. He is disappointed at the manipulative picture of women that the magazines paint. He reads a quiz to find out whether you can tell your lover he's bad in bed.

Jody calls, telling Tommy that she's booked him a room at her motel, the Van Ness and that she's left the paperwork for her car there for him. Tommy hangs up the phone to find that the Animals are riding the soapy bubbles behind the power floor cleaner around the store, while Simon is roasting hot dogs. The hot dogs catch fire, setting off the smoke alarm, and Tommy, as supervisor, has to go outside to talk to the fire department. As the fire engines approach, Tommy sees a dark figure running away with superhuman speed.

When Tommy gets to the Van Ness Motel, it is surrounded by police cars. A cop questions him to make sure he's registered at the motel before allowing him past. Tommy finds out that a woman and her dog were found in the motel dumpster, murdered. The motel manager gives Tommy a police officer's card to give to Jody. They want to question her.

Tommy gets to his room and finds papers, money, and a note from Jody giving him instructions to retrieve her car, find an apartment, and pick up Jody's last paycheck at her old job. She's left him four thousand dollars, and Tommy wonders where Jody got so much cash, thinking that perhaps she is a drug dealer. The note is signed "love," which throws Tommy into a flurry of insecurity. On his way out of the motel, Tommy learns that the murder victim was drained of blood, with no visible wounds.

Tommy goes to a coffeehouse to think and look through the classifieds for apartments. He is immediately attracted by a loft south of Market. Tommy finds the location on the map and is elated at his prospects. As Tommy is leaving, a fat, bald fortuneteller enters the coffeehouse. The fortuneteller reads Tommy's cards, and the Death card keeps coming up in the relationship position. The fortuneteller says that Tommy is screwed.



Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 11, Lather, Rinse, Repent and Chapter 12, Fashionably Doomed Analysis

By reading the women's magazines, Tommy begins to understand the manipulative nature of relationships. He does not fully understand everything that Jody wants from him, but he recognizes that she has her own motives and needs that she is trying to satisfy through him. Tommy cannot resist his own desires, though. He is driven primarily by his desire for sex. The Animals' rowdy behavior shows just how wrong things can go when someone follows their animal desires, as they set fire to the store. Though the fire is put out, it foreshadows the dangers and disasters ahead.

The murder near the motel is another thread of the storyline that is beginning to fall into place. Although Tommy is in the dark, the reader knows that the woman is the victim of a vampire, since all her blood has been drained. Like the mysterious figure disappearing into the night, the murder victim is a reminder of the danger surrounding the unsuspecting Tommy.

While the deadly story of the vampire is surrounding him, Tommy is caught in his own insecurities about his burgeoning relationship with Jody. His alternating highs and lows have to do with the potential for the future. Either Tommy will find love and happiness, or his heart will be broken and his future disastrous. The fortuneteller brings up all of Tommy's worst fears.



Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 13, To-Do List of the Fashionably Doomed and Chapter 14, Two Losts Do Not Make a Found

Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 13, To-Do List of the Fashionably Doomed and Chapter 14, Two Losts Do Not Make a Found Summary

Tommy retrieves his belongings from Chinatown and walks to the Transamerica building. Before going in, he stops to watch the well-dressed workers. The Emperor sees Tommy and stops to talk to him, calling the pedestrians a tragedy, uncreative thinkers being left behind in a new world of technology. The Emperor also comforts Tommy by telling him that Madame Natasha is a terrible fortuneteller.

Tommy goes into the Transamerica building, where he has to wait for an hour before anyone will talk to him. When the woman who is supposed to give him Jody's check ignores him, Tommy takes out his typewriter and begins typing a note as if he is about to go mad and gun down everyone in the office. The woman finally gives him Jody's check, and Tommy leaves, feeling better. Next, Tommy goes to view the loft. On the bottom floor of the building, two artists are making bronze sculptures. The agent arrives and shows Tommy the loft, and he falls in love with it immediately. He rents it for four thousand dollars cash.

Jody wakes up suddenly in the shower. She has been out cold all day, with the water running over her, and she is aching and raw. A spot on her head has started going bald, and she has a bruised chin from falling on the shower floor. She also feels less powerful, less together. She needs blood. She also needs to clean herself up before she can meet Tommy. Instinctively, she eats a bug that's flying past. She is revolted, but she feels better, and her bruise begins to heal.

Tommy brings Jody to the loft, and she can barely wait until they arrive to have sex with him. While they're making love, she bites him on the neck, drinking his blood. The puncture wounds immediately heal, and Tommy does not even realize he's been bitten. Jody feels guilty, though, and confesses to Tommy that she is a vampire. She proves it by showing that she can see in the dark and jump up to the ceiling. From the ceiling beams, she reads him Kerouac from across the room. Finally, Tommy is convinced, and he thinks it's great.



Part 1, Fledgling: Chapter 13, To-Do List of the Fashionably Doomed and Chapter 14, Two Losts Do Not Make a Found Analysis

The Emperor is a unique character in the city. He is respected by nearly everyone. A woman from the Transamerica building gives him five dollars and recommends somewhere to find some food, and the security guards let Tommy pass because he is a friend of the Emperor. The Emperor feels a real responsibility to care for the people of the city. He walks among them, on the streets, a leader from below instead of a political leader rising above the crowd. He sees trends in the city: AIDS, the changing world of technology. He feels for how the people's lives are affected. His responsibility seems to be in caring about the people more than changing their lives.

Jody discovers her dependence on blood. If she doesn't have it, she physically begins to fall to pieces, and she loses some of her powers. Her instincts will take over to feed her desires, even if her conscious mind rebels. She is disgusted by the idea of eating a moth, but she does it without thinking. She can't seem to control her desire for Tommy, and her desire for his blood is mixed up with her desire for sex, much as her sexual desires in the past have been clouded and confused with desires for security and companionship. Tommy is immediately accepting of Jody's vampirism, but he does not fully understand its ramifications.



Part 2, Nesting: Chapter 15, Learning the Licks and Chapter 16, Heartwarming and UL-Approved

Part 2, Nesting: Chapter 15, Learning the Licks and Chapter 16, Heartwarming and UL-Approved Summary

Jody and Tommy make love again, but both are trying too hard to impress each other. Jody, feeling insecure about the situation, tells Tommy that she'll understand if he doesn't want to stay with her. She mentions that she's lived with ten men, and Tommy assumes she's an ancient vampire. They get into a tiff, and Tommy says he feels used. He's intrigued, though, when Jody says drinking blood is a sexual turn-on, and in the end, Tommy wants to have sex again. Jody tells him to get dressed, and Tommy starts riddling her with questions about being a vampire, most of which she can't answer.

Tommy finds the police officer's card in his pocket and remembers to tell Jody about the murder. While he's explaining, he suddenly realizes that the corpse was drained of blood and suspects Jody of being the murderer. He locks himself in the bathroom. Jody breaks down the bathroom door and then takes Tommy to a restaurant to watch him eat fries. She tells Tommy about her life and about becoming a vampire, and she's horrified by the realization that she'll never lose that last five pounds she's always meant to lose. Tommy conducts an experiment and discovers that Jody's saliva can heal wounds.

When Tommy and Jody return to the loft, a street person appears to be sleeping on the sidewalk. Jody sees that he has no heat signature, and suspecting that it's the vampire, sends Tommy upstairs. Tommy falls asleep immediately, and Jody goes to the window to watch the heat-less figure. When Tommy awakes again, Jody is literally dead to the world, lost in her vampire's complete sleep. Tommy goes to the bathroom and imagines his future as a Nobel Prize winning author, and then he realizes that he doesn't remember Jody's last name. He tries to wake her and finds her completely unmoving. Nothing he does will wake her. He is tempted to have sex with her unconscious body but decides that he'd better not.

When Jody wakes, she's got a thermometer in her mouth. Tommy has bought an electric blanket and is trying to bring her up to body temperature. He's also brought home a stack of books about vampires. He has a list of reported vampire traits and checks off which ones are true or false, based on Jody's experience. Jody is annoyed when he tests her morning breath for the stench of the undead, but she invites him into the shower with her anyhow.



Part 2, Nesting: Chapter 15, Learning the Licks and Chapter 16, Heartwarming and UL-Approved Analysis

After initially accepting that Jody is a vampire, Tommy freaks out at the idea that she might actually be a murderer. He doesn't understand the potential dangers and consequences of his acceptance of her, and he is quick to stop feeling uncomfortable when Jody denies any involvement in the killings. Still, Jody is not human. She is aggressive and even violent, but Tommy overlooks it all. He is too busy being interested in her special abilities and sexual appeal to see the potential danger.

Moore sets up the rules of his vampires in this chapter. Tommy's inquiring mind takes the place of the traditional "orientation lecture" that Tommy notes appears in most of the vampire books he's brought home. Even Tommy's experiments with trying to wake his new girlfriend give the reader information about her vampirism. She is completely dead to the world during the daytime, and Tommy's temptation to sleep with her shows that she is at his mercy and at the mercy of anyone who finds her in this state.



Part 2, Nesting: Chapter 17, This Month's Makeover: The Faces of Fear and Chapter 18, Bugeater of the Barbary Coast

Part 2, Nesting: Chapter 17, This Month's Makeover: The Faces of Fear and Chapter 18, Bugeater of the Barbary Coast Summary

Simon is a daredevil who has done almost anything you can imagine, including trying to swim to Alcatraz Island, but he's afraid that one of his two secrets might be discovered. The Animals are discussing their weekends, bragging about their conquests. Tommy comes in, bubbling over about his new relationship, and they tell him that the scanner is broken. They'll need to use the order books to order new stock. This is why Simon is afraid; he can't use the order books because he can't read.

The Animals start working on the unusually large load. As Simon is considering injuring himself so that he can go home without revealing his secret, Tommy gives him the order book to start placing his orders. Tommy notices Simon's uncertainty and, guessing the secret, tells Simon that he is going to do everyone's ordering himself. Meanwhile, Jody watches the seemingly homeless man across the street. She is afraid for Tommy.

At twelve minutes to sunrise, Jody goes down to the street and confronts the sleeping figure. He doesn't respond, and she pulls his collar away from his face. It's not the vampire. It's a corpse. The vampire pulls her away from behind, and she bites off two of his fingers. They begin to heal immediately. He sees that the sun is rising and takes off without answering Jody's questions. When Tommy gets home, he finds Jody under the electric blanket covered in blood. The house is filled with an awful stench, and Jody's left him a note to order the largest freezer they have at Sears.

Tommy wakes the next day feeling awful. The new freezer is in place, after an excruciating conversation with a salesman over extended warranties. He wonders at his blind obedience to Jody's unexplained request. Jody is awake and invites him into the shower. Tommy tries to complain that he's lost his identity to her, but he becomes distracted by her breasts. Afterwards, Jody tells him about the body. She's brought it up to the apartment because she doesn't want the police connecting them to two murders. They put the body in the freezer until they can figure out what to do with it.

Jody asks Tommy to go to the Laundromat, but he protests that it's an errand she can do herself at night. He's got enough to do, especially now that he's arranged to teach Simon to read. Jody tries to convince him to do the laundry, but Tommy resists, and



Jody walks out with her laundry grudgingly. Outside her building, she runs across the Emperor, who warns her that there is a vampire in the city and tells her that she's not safe on the streets. Jody pretends to go back into her apartment, waits five minutes, and heads to the Laundromat, grumbling. On her way, she snaps at a man who tries to approach her.

At the Laundromat, the man Jody snapped at and two friends come in, ready to attack her. She incapacitates them all, breaking one's arm, smashing another's face, and breaking the third man's back. Then, she walks out with her laundry, worrying about potential wrinkles.

Part 2, Nesting: Chapter 17, This Month's Makeover: The Faces of Fear and Chapter 18, Bugeater of the Barbary Coast Analysis

Tommy shows his kindness in how he handles Simon. Simon has never learned to read, and he's ashamed of this secret. Tommy saves Simon's feelings by noticing the predicament without having to be told about it. Tommy's good nature is intuitive and humanitarian. This is one reason why he can't help but give money to panhandlers. He does not want Simon to feel ashamed.

Tommy's open nature, though, leaves him open to danger, and even though she herself is a danger to Tommy, Jody wants to protect him. Her desire to confront the vampire is motivated by protectiveness of Tommy. The vampire, though, has outsmarted Jody by tricking her with the corpse. Jody is trapped a few minutes to sunrise with a dead body. Their situation becomes worse, not better.

Tommy is being overwhelmed by Jody's needs. He finds his life completely controlled by her. The one thing Tommy stands up to Jody about is the laundry, and she grumbles and complains all through her ordeal. Jody is far more upset at having to do her own laundry than she is at being attacked by the three men. She is not afraid to go into the city at night, and the fight seems to be an outlet for her disgruntled feelings more than anything else.



Part 2, Nesting: Chapter 19, Jody's Delicate Condition and Chapter 20, Angel

Part 2, Nesting: Chapter 19, Jody's Delicate Condition and Chapter 20, Angel Summary

Tommy gets used to the corpse in the freezer after a few weeks, nicknaming him Peary and chatting with him. Tommy complains to Peary about his troubles writing a short story about a farm girl in Georgia, how Jody doesn't appreciate what it means to be a writer, and how Jody never does any shopping. Tommy is continuing his experiments to find out about Jody's vampirism. She tries, and fails, to turn into mist and a wolf. She can't levitate, climb vertical surfaces, or project her thoughts.

Jody is curious about whether she is immortal, and Tommy comes up with a test. They will try drowning her in the bathtub, and Tommy will revive her if she dies. Jody is unaffected by the drowning, so as far as they can tell, she is immortal. Tommy wonders if she'll leave him when he begins growing older, but Jody puts off his worries. Tommy also mentions that the police have found another murder victim, this time at the Laundromat.

Inspector Alphonse Rivera and his partner Nick Cavuto are grumbling over the murders that have been dropped in their lap. In addition to being mysteriously drained of blood, the victims have something else in common: they were fatally ill. They decide to keep the details from the press. The detectives think the beatings at the Laundromat might be related and visit one of the victims, LaOtis Small. LaOtis claims that a red-haired ninja woman attacked him and his friends, unprovoked, although his friends' stories differ.

Cavuto signs LaOtis's cast with a note implying that LaOtis gave them information, and LaOtis admits that he and his friends were attacking the redhead. The detectives get a call reporting another murder. Meanwhile, Tommy and Jody are enjoying their sex life, but Jody feels lonely alone at night, while Tommy is at work. She walks the streets, restlessly. No one can relate to how she sees the world now. One night as she's walking, she meets a man dying of AIDS who has just euthanized his life-partner. He greets her as death, gratefully. She embraces him and bites him, and he turns to dust.

Part 2, Nesting: Chapter 19, Jody's Delicate Condition and Chapter 20, Angel Analysis

Tommy and Jody are settling into their relationship. Tommy grumbles about the unbalanced nature of their partnership, since Jody's "condition" makes her more special



than he is. Tommy's identity as a writer is lost in the spectacular nature of Jody's identity as a vampire, which consumes their joint time and energy. Jody is centered on herself, and Tommy is centered on her also.

Jody makes her first kill, moving ever forward into the realm of the vampire. The victims of the other vampire are all near death, and Jody's victim is, as well. She can see the aura of death around people, and so she can choose victims who will soon die. Does this make the killings justified? Jody's kill wants to die, but do the victims of the other vampire? While Jody is exploring her newfound world as a vampire, a new danger threatens her. The vampire is a constant threat, but now the police are also connecting her to their unsolved crimes.



Part 2, Nesting: Chapter 21, Angel Dust and Chapter 22, A Nod to the Queen of the Damned

Part 2, Nesting: Chapter 21, Angel Dust and Chapter 22, A Nod to the Queen of the Damned Summary

After work, the Animals are drinking beer and talking about the new cashier's breasts. Simon pulls out a shotgun to shoot at a passing seagull, in retribution for the bird droppings he finds on his truck. They tell the manager that the noise was a backfire. Tommy gets Simon to drive him through Chinatown on the way home, to pick up a present for Jody. Meanwhile, Jody is in shock after her first killing. The body has disintegrated into dust. Jody does not know how she should feel or what she is. She wonders why the other vampire is leaving bodies. Her vampire nature tells her that killing is right, and finally she embraces what she's done.

Cavuto and Rivera examine the new crime scene, where they find Tommy's copy of *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac. Meanwhile, Jody is racing to get home before sunrise, but she finds the crime scene on her doorway. She does not know where to hide, and mysterious arms pull her into a basement at the last moment, saving her. Tommy also arrives home with two live snapping turtles he's bought in Chinatown to find the front of his building overrun with police.

Tommy tells the cops that he's been at work all night and goes up to his apartment with Simon. He's horrified to find that Jody isn't at home and imagines her burning up in the sun. Reluctant to be alone, Tommy agrees to start teaching Simon to read. While the police learn that the media has nicknamed the killer the "Whiplash Killer" and make the connection that Tommy was at two murder scenes, Tommy is struggling to teach Simon. After Simon leaves, Tommy reads, paces, and worries. At the peak of his worry, Jody's mother calls, complaining that she moved without letting her know or giving her a phone number.

Jody wakes in the basement and meets the Emperor in the alley. The Emperor escorts Jody home. Tommy is both angry and relieved to see Jody, and he is taken aback when she tells him about killing a man the previous night. He tells Jody that the police have his book and that he may be in trouble. The vampire is setting them up as murder suspects on purpose. As Tommy is trying to come to grips with Jody killing someone, Jody discovers the turtles in the bathroom and is less than pleased with the gift. On top of everything, Jody's mother calls again.



Part 2, Nesting: Chapter 21, Angel Dust and Chapter 22, A Nod to the Queen of the Damned Analysis

Tommy's coworkers think he is pussy-whipped, and Simon recommends that Tommy get a second girlfriend to force Jody to work harder for his attention. They are, in fact, playing the manipulative game of relationships, the male version of the women's magazine advice that Tommy was so horrified by. None of them considers love and mutual partnership. Instead, they see a game of control and manipulation to get what you want from your partner.

The problems with Jody and Tommy's relationship are mounting. Tommy can't understand why Jody would kill someone. She doesn't need to kill to survive, but being a vampire means being a killer. Jody feels that it's natural and right, but is following her instincts truly right? Tommy tries to get Jody a thoughtful gift, but she is horrified at sucking blood from the turtles. She can't appreciate Tommy's point of view about them. To add even more strain to their relationship, Jody's mother appears in the offing.



Part 2, Nesting: Chapter 23, Mom and Terrapin Pie and Chapter 24, The Return of Breakfast

Part 2, Nesting: Chapter 23, Mom and Terrapin Pie and Chapter 24, The Return of Breakfast Summary

Jody's mother is coming over in a few minutes. Jody realizes that she forgot to call her mother this month because she didn't have a period, her usual reminder to make the call. She and Tommy rush to try to make the apartment presentable, while Jody tells Tommy about her man-hating, righteous mother who disapproves of her "living in sin." When Jody's mother, Francis Evelyn Stroud, arrives, she is cold and disapproving toward her daughter, questioning her and Tommy about their lives and their work. She puts up her nose at Tommy's claim to be a writer, noting that he's unpublished and works at a grocery store. She suggests that Jody could still go to her alma mater, Stanford, but Jody rejects the idea.

Scott the turtle is under the futon and spots Jody's mother's alligator shoe. He takes it for food and attacks. Tommy only succeeds in retrieving the heel from the turtle's grip. Jody's mother is sent horrified from the apartment in Jody's worst pair of sneakers, and Tommy and Jody are able to laugh at the fiasco.

The Emperor lies on the dock by the Saint Francis Yacht Club Marina, where Bummer led him. He rests after a long night of tracking the vampire. Meanwhile, off the shore in a yacht, the vampire lies sleeping. Back at Tommy's loft, the Animals arrive uninvited for an early-morning breakfast, waking Tommy at 7:30. They invade the loft, tell Tommy that the cops came to view his time card, and discover that Jody will not wake. As Tommy tries to deal with his unruly friends, the cops discuss whether to arrest Tommy, even though he has an alibi for both murders.

When Jody wakes, the apartment is a wreck from the Animals. Jody decides to let Tommy's hangover be his punishment and wakes him. Then she realizes that someone was in the freezer where the dead body was and that the Animals must have seen her sleeping. She is furious with Tommy for endangering them and storms out of the apartment.

Part 2, Nesting: Chapter 23, Mom and Terrapin Pie and Chapter 24, The Return of Breakfast Analysis

Jody's mother gives insight into her character. Mrs. Stroud is cold, disapproving, and unfeeling. She is unable to accept anything that her daughter is or wants. She won't



even listen to anything that falls outside of her predefined ideas of "acceptable." Tommy, Jody, and everything about their lives are unacceptable. Growing up in such an environment, it is no surprise that Jody would develop a low self-esteem and a need to be accepted and approved of.

Tommy and Jody's relationship has survived a visit from Jody's mother, but can it survive the Animals, too? At first, Jody decides to be tender instead of complaining, but when she realizes that the Animals may have come too close to her secrets, she gets truly angry. Protecting herself is Jody's highest priority, and Tommy's breakfast party turns from a harmless, boyish incident to a real danger.



Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 25, All Dressed Up and Chapter 26, At the End of the Night...

Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 25, All Dressed Up and Chapter 26, At the End of the Night... Summary

Left to clean the apartment, Tommy is furious at Jody's angry reaction. He bangs around the apartment, throws up, and then decides he needs a shower and takes the turtles out of the tub. He sees them awkwardly navigating the room and decides that they need freedom. Tommy is about to load the turtles into a cab when one of the sculptors downstairs offers to take them, assuring Tommy that he doesn't intend to eat them. Tommy hands off the turtles to his neighbors and takes the cab to work.

Jody finds herself at Macy's in Union Square, along with other broken-hearted women seeking comfort through shopping. With newfound confidence, she buys a sexy little black dress from a saleswoman who is horrified by Jody's overt sexuality. Jody gets her makeup done at the makeup counter by a friend of the saleswoman who makes her look like a gothic tramp. For the first time, she looks the part of a vampire. Meanwhile, Tommy arrives early to work, and as he's reading about bats in Reader's Digest, he meets Mara, the new cashier, who shares his love for the Beats. He learns that she is divorced and makes a date for the following night to show her around the city.

The Emperor is still at the yacht club when the sun sets, and Bummer barks at the yacht anchored near the shore. A mist drifts in from the yacht, and it transforms into the vampire. The Emperor runs away with his "men." At the Marina Safeway, the Animals come in to work, hung over. Drew prescribes remedies, including Valium and pot. They are interrupted by the Emperor, who runs in looking for help to kill the vampire. No one believes him, even Tommy, who is convinced that vampires cannot turn into mist.

Jody walks toward a club called 754, and on the way, a panhandler tries to pick her up. Once she is in line at the club, the doorman picks her out to let in. Kurt happens to be in line, too, and not recognizing her, he begs her to get him inside. Jody takes pleasure in rejecting him. Inside the club, she meets the vampire. He implies that he is going to kill Tommy, laughing at Jody's naiveté and youth, and he disappears without answering Jody's questions. She runs after him. When Jody catches up with the vampire, he tells her that he must kill Tommy, since no human can know about vampires. It isn't safe. Then, he tells her that the murder victims are presents for her. He denies saving her from the sunlight by pulling her into the basement, but Jody knows that he's lying.



Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 25, All Dressed Up and Chapter 26, At the End of the Night... Analysis

Tommy and Jody both experience fallout from their argument. Their relationship hits its most tenuous moment, as the book begins to enter its third act and build toward a climax. Jody's response to the fight is to shop, but in her shopping, she continues to embrace what it means to be a vampire. She exhibits her sexuality instead of fighting it. Tommy, on the other hand, becomes tempted by another woman after the fight. He is showing doubts about staying with Jody.

Just as Tommy and Jody's relationship is at its most tenuous, the vampire threat heightens as well. Moore is building up tension in the story, bringing both the love story and the horror story to their climaxes. The vampire's threat against Tommy highlights how deeply Jody feels she needs Tommy, whether from love or dependency. Jody's most urgent question is how she can save her lover.



Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 27, Bridging the Boredom and Chapter 28, Is That a Blackjack in Your Pocket?

Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 27, Bridging the Boredom and Chapter 28, Is That a Blackjack in Your Pocket? Summary

Jody calls Tommy to warn him to stay inside the store all night and ask him to be at the loft when she wakes up the following sunset. Then, she peruses her paper, finding a vampire support group going on that night. She goes to the meeting, but she is disappointed to find a group of overly dramatic want-to-be vampires and men trying to pickup women.

As Jody is leaving, though, the payphone on the corner rings. Jody answers it. A man is watching her down the street. He's a med student named Steve who saw one of the bodies of the murder victims and guessed that a vampire killed the victim. He thinks Jody is the killer and wants to meet with her to try to find a cure for vampirism. Jody explains that another vampire is the murderer but makes an appointment to meet him. Meanwhile, Elijah Ben Sapor, the vampire, is standing atop a tower over the bay. He is 800 years old and was once an alchemist. He has found eternal life, but the price is loneliness. Now, he finally may have found a companion in Jody.

Tommy returns to the loft, wondering what he's going to do about his date with Mara, when he runs into his downstairs neighbor. The sculptor reveals that he's electroplated the turtles, turning them into bronze sculptures. Tommy is horrified. He brings the bronze Zelda upstairs, where he finds a note from Jody threatening that he absolutely must be at the loft when she wakes up. He's afraid to anger Jody and doesn't want to miss his date with Mara, so he decides to freeze Jody, just for a day. He puts her in the freezer and goes to sleep.

Tommy has only been asleep for a few hours when the police come to arrest him for abandoning his car. They use the excuse to get his fingerprints, tying him to the Kerouac book found at one of the murder scenes. They also search his apartment and find two dead bodies in the freezer. Rivera and Cavuto interrogate him, and Tommy reveals the whole story of the vampires.



Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 27, Bridging the Boredom and Chapter 28, Is That a Blackjack in Your Pocket? Analysis

The presence of the med student provides Jody with an option. Up until this time, she has had no choice but to live as a vampire. The med student's existence makes Jody's decision to remain a vampire a choice instead of a necessity. The identity of the vampire is finally revealed, and so is his motive in creating Jody. He is lonely, and he is seeking a companion vampire. He needs to test her, though, to make sure she will survive.

The first indication that Tommy is willing to ignore Jody's rights and wishes for his own benefit is when he thinks about having sex with her while she is unconscious. Later, Tommy performs experiments on her while she sleeps, using garlic and crucifixes. Now, Tommy goes to the length of putting her in the freezer so that he can juggle going on a date with Mara and his relationship with Jody.



Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 29, Paying Respects and Chapter 30, Cops and Corpses

Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 29, Paying Respects and Chapter 30, Cops and Corpses Summary

Gilbert Bendetti, the night man at the coroner's office, takes advantage of his job to have sex with the corpses. He is waiting for Jody to thaw out so that he can have sex with her. Just as he is pulling his pants down, though, she wakes up. Gilbert has a heart attack from the shock. Finding herself in the morgue with no explanation, Jody at first thinks that Tommy must be dead. Then, she calls the Safeway to try to find him. Simon answers and tells Jody that he will come pick her up and explain where Tommy is.

Simon meets Jody and tells her that Tommy's suspected in the Whiplash murders. He also says that he has figured out that she's a vampire. He threatens Jody at gunpoint, telling her that he wants two things, sex and to be turned into a vampire. Simon is dying of AIDS from a drug needle, and he wants eternal life. As Simon is about to shoot her, Jody lashes out and breaks his neck.

Rivera and Cavuto go out to find the Emperor, since he's been reporting vampire sightings in the city. The Emperor tells his story. Cavuto thinks it's a waste of time, but Rivera is interested and gives the Emperor his business card. Then, they get the call that there's been another murder, and a redheaded woman was seen fleeing the scene.

Cavuto and Rivera arrive at the morgue, where the attendant is dead and Jody's corpse is missing. They've brought in Simon's corpse, and even though the detectives saw puncture wounds on the body's neck, the wounds have mysteriously healed. Cavuto is still reluctant, but Rivera is beginning to believe in vampires. Meanwhile, Tommy impresses his menacing-looking cellmate, who is in jail for copyright infringement because of lewd Disney tattoos, by confessing to putting his girlfriend in the freezer.

Jody returns to the loft. She drained Simon's blood after killing him in order to protect Tommy and get him out of jail. She doesn't feel the same high from drinking Simon's blood as from a live person's blood. She finds that the police have made a mess searching the loft and confiscated most of her money. She recovers a small hidden stash of cash. Then, the door opens. Tommy is home.



Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 29, Paying Respects and Chapter 30, Cops and Corpses Analysis

Simon turns on his friend Tommy by attacking Jody. The relationship between Simon and Tommy has always had some tension because Tommy and Simon are rival alpha males. Both are attracted to Jody, and both are leaders at the Safeway. Tommy has been winning out over Simon, and now Simon is, on one level, lashing out. Simon also attacks Jody for his own self-preservation. He is dying, and he wants to live. Like Jody, he reacts from his gut, animal instincts.

The evidence for vampires mounts, and the detectives release Tommy because of Jody's clever ploy. Still, Jody's actions show her moving further and further into the world of vampirism. She kills Simon even though she might not have to, and she uses his body after his death for her own purposes. Tellingly, she kills him in the same way as the vampire has killed the murder victims. She is becoming more and more like her sire.



Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 31, He Was an Ex-Con, She Was Defrosted... and Chapter 32, All for One, and...Well, You Know

Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 31, He Was an Ex-Con, She Was Defrosted... and Chapter 32, All for One, and...Well, You Know Summary

Tommy breaks down and confesses his loneliness to Jody, explaining why he put her in the freezer. They confess their love for each other and go to bed together. Jody falls asleep fearing that she will lose Tommy, after finally finding love. The next night, when she wakes, Jody tells Tommy that the vampire threatened to kill him. She tasks him with killing the vampire during the day. She tells him that the vampire killed Simon to egg Tommy on. Tommy also lies to her, telling her that he freed Scott and Zelda.

Rivera and Cavuto are following Tommy, and they are outside the loft on a stakeout, while inside Tommy decides to get the Animals to help him kill the vampire. When he leaves for the Safeway, he runs into the Emperor again. Bummer is barking and trying to get into Tommy's building, like he does every time he passes the loft. Tommy takes the Emperor with him to the store. Cavuto follows Tommy, while Rivera stays to watch the loft and its mysterious occupant.

Tommy goes to the Safeway and tells the Animals the story. At first, the Animals are reluctant to help Tommy kill the vampire, but Troy Lee finally convinces the majority of them to go along, couching it in terms of an adventurous party. They gather weapons but have little idea how to find the vampire. Then, the Emperor realizes that Bummer always barks when vampires are near. Bummer should be able to track the vampire's scent. Cavuto follows as the vampire-hunting party heads out, their weapons loosely hidden in rolled Venetian blinds.

The hunting party's first attempt to have Bummer track the vampire fails. Tommy gives Bummer one of Jody's bills to get the scent, but he tracks the scent of money to the Safeway cash register. Then, they head to the last place the Emperor saw the vampire, at the yacht club. Cavuto arranges for the Animals to get by security, wanting to see what they'll do. Once inside, Bummer identifies the vampire's yacht, going wild at the smell. Drew throws Jeff into the water, and they use him drowning as an excuse to get a life raft from one of the boat owners. Once they've got the raft, they use their guns to keep it and head for the vampire's yacht. They reach the yacht with four hours of daylight left.



Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 31, He Was an Ex-Con, She Was Defrosted... and Chapter 32, All for One, and...Well, You Know Analysis

Tommy and Jody see each other for the first time since their big fight. Tommy confesses to his feelings of loneliness and his plans to meet another woman. The two make love, reinforcing their relationship. At the same time, they both lie to each other. Jody does not confess to killing Simon, and Tommy does not tell Jody about the turtles. Neither can truly open up to each other. Instead, Jody manipulates Tommy into doing what she believes is best for both of them: killing the vampire.

Moore compares the Animals to groups of fighters like the Seven Samurai. They are a parody of parties who fight together in books and movies, each with his own special skill. Jeff's skill turns out to be not being able to swim. The Emperor provides Bummer, who can scent the vampire. Tommy Lee has a collection of swords. They may not be the Seven Samurai, but they follow the pattern of a group of warriors with special skills to use in fighting the monster.



Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 33, Ship of Fools and Chapter 34, Hell Breaks Loose

Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 33, Ship of Fools and Chapter 34, Hell Breaks Loose Summary

The Animals search the vampire's yacht, looking for his resting place. They find that the yacht is filled with art treasures, but no one's aboard. The yacht seems to be run by a complex computer system. They also find a gruesome room that's been used as a cage to hold human prey on long journeys. As they search, the boat's computer system tracks their every move, and readouts appear on computer screens over the vampire's resting place.

At an hour until sunset, the Animals still haven't located the vampire. Then, they let Bummer loose, and he begins scratching on the floor of the engine room. Prying up the floor, they find the vampire's vault, but it's too heavily sealed to break in. They decide to blow it up, using Drew's know-how. Cavuto, who is watching from the shore, finds out that the ship is registered to Ben Sapir Limited, a Dutch shipping company, and that it arrived just before the murders began. Cavuto arranges the Animals' passage through the yacht club security again, so Jeff and Troy Lee find no resistance as they run to the Safeway and purchase the necessary materials to make a bomb. By the time the Animals finish the bomb, the sun is down.

When Jody wakes, no one is in the loft, and there is no message from Tommy. Jody thinks about Tommy. She loves him, but she feels lonely, too. She doesn't want to give up being a vampire and be changed back into a human by the medical student. She needs to find Tommy. She goes downstairs and reveals herself to Rivera, who is watching the loft from his car. She displays her power and forces Rivera to take her to Tommy.

Meanwhile, the vampire wakes in his yacht and sees that the ship has been invaded. He experiences an emotion he hasn't felt for a long time: fear. Then, he starts the engine and begins raising the anchor. Tommy and the Animals take as many art treasures off the boat as they can and row the raft in to the dock. They are just arriving at the dock when the ship blows up. Their celebration is cut short when they find themselves stopped at gunpoint by Cavuto.

The vampire is smashed and burned by the explosion, and he is too weak to turn into mist for more than a few seconds. He swims to the surface and arrives at the docks full of fury. The vampire grabs Tommy, and Cavuto shoots him. As the enraged vampire goes for the cop, the Animals shoot him with the spear gun. They pin him down, and Tommy starts toward him with a sword. Just as Tommy is about to kill the vampire, Jody arrives. She convinces Tommy to stop and convinces the police to let them go, telling



Tommy that she plans to leave with the vampire so that she can have a companion who is like her.

Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 33, Ship of Fools and Chapter 34, Hell Breaks Loose Analysis

Moore uses the time constraint on the Animals to increase tension. With every moment that goes by, the sun comes closer to setting, and the vampire comes closer to waking. The Animals cut their search down to the wire. Tommy set out at sunrise to find the vampire, and somehow as the sun sets, he is just finishing his arrangements for the vampire's demise. Moore ends Chapter 33 at the moment when the Animals know that the vampire is waking in his chamber to increase the reader's suspense.

Chapter 34 is the height of the climax, when the Animals have their final showdown with the vampire. They succeed in injuring him with an explosion and attacking him while he is in weakened form. The vampire's anger turns out to be his downfall. If he had quietly sneaked away from the wreckage, he would not be in any danger. Because of the vampire's emotional reaction, Tommy and the Animals succeed. However, their victory turns sour when Jody tells Tommy that she wants the vampire to live and that she is leaving him, finally breaking his heart, as he always thought that she would.



Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 35, Sculptures

Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 35, Sculptures Summary

The vampire driven from the city, the Emperor returns to his role as leader of San Francisco. Cavuto and Rivera look at the priceless statue that they took in exchange for letting the vampires go and make plans to retire and open a rare-book shop. Meanwhile, Tommy admires the two bronze statues in the loft. He has electroplated Jody and the vampire with the help of his downstairs neighbors.

The vampire healed after drinking Jody's blood, and the two sat talking in the bedroom all night. In the morning, Tommy went about his plans. He has drilled holes in brass around Jody's ears so that she can hear him, and he explains that he's got money from Lash fencing the artwork from the boat. He doesn't want Jody to leave, and he believes the vampire will kill him. He's encased them in bronze as a temporary solution while he figures out what to do.

Tommy is about to go to sleep when he gets a phone call from Steve, the med student, asking about Jody. Steve believes that he's found a way to turn Jody back into a human. As he's talking, a stream of mist comes out of Jody's statue. Jody has learned how to turn to mist. She's also learned how to change someone into a vampire. She has used the vampire to learn what she needed to know, and now she's glad that the vampire is encased in bronze. She moves toward Tommy to fulfill her goal all along, to change him into a vampire.

Part 3, Hunters: Chapter 35, Sculptures Analysis

The end of the story is the height of manipulation. Jody fulfills all of the vampire's worst fears about other people by using him to gain the knowledge she wants and then tossing him aside. Tommy is willing to encase Jody in bronze to get what he wants, showing that he is just as selfish and manipulative as she is. Jody accepts his actions, because he is, in fact, just like her. She knows what she wants, too, and she is willing to do anything to get it, despite Tommy's feelings. She moves to turn him into a vampire without thought or discussion, giving into her animal desires.



Characters

Jody Stroud

Jody is a self-conscious, needy woman who jumps from one short-term, live-in relationship to another until she is turned into a vampire. Jody gains newfound powers, but she is left with her worst nightmare: loneliness. Jody can never stand to be alone, and as a vampire, she has no one to share her life and her world with. The only other vampire that Jody knows about is the one who changed her, and he seems to be constantly disappearing into the shadows and playing a cruel game with her.

Jody finds herself, once again, needing a man. She picks up Tommy, a naive want-to-be writer who has moved from Indiana to the big city in order to starve and work on his writing. Jody has ulterior motives in their relationship. She wants someone to help her live in her current state, but she also wants someone who can emotionally support her. She feeds off of Tommy, literally and metaphorically.

Jody becomes embroiled in a relationship with Tommy, and her needs always seem to overpower his. Tommy believes that she will break his heart, but Tommy is the one who seems most dissatisfied with the relationship. Jody desires one thing more than anything else: someone to share her life and her world with. Her demon is not vampirism. It is loneliness. Jody decides to save the vampire that turned her, but only to gain valuable information. She learns how to make other vampires, and she uses that knowledge for the ultimate manipulation of Tommy. Without giving him a choice, Jody decides to change Tommy into a vampire, so that she can never be lonely again.

C. Thomas Flood (Tommy)

Tommy is a young boy who wants to be a writer. His father, a stolid union worker from Indiana, disapproves of his son's dream and finally confronts him. Convinced that Tommy is not gay or communist and that Tommy is dead set on being a writer, his father decides that the proper course of action is for Tommy to go to the city and starve. Tommy's father packs him up and sends Tommy to San Francisco.

Tommy arrives in the city wide-eyed and hopeful. He seems to accept this strange, new world at face value, not put off by the cross-dressers or homeless people. He lives in a small room in Chinatown with five illegal immigrants and finds a job at a local Safeway. Tommy adapts to his environment with good humor and hope, and his humanitarian kindness leads him to constantly give money to panhandlers.

Tommy's biggest weakness is women. He wants sex, and when Jody comes along, Tommy falls for her completely. He can't seem to resist her, and as with everything else, Tommy takes her vampirism in stride. He doesn't seem to see the possible dangerous consequences. Tommy ends up being a suspect in a murder investigation, but all through their troubles, he does everything that Jody tells him to do, without question. He



even goes out to hunt down the elder vampire, and when Jody appears at the last minute to stop him, he reluctantly stops, even though Jody says she plans to leave him. Tommy tries desperately to hang on to Jody by electroplating her, but in the end, she turns him into a vampire.

Elijah Ben Sapir

Sapir is the vampire who turns Jody into a vampire. He is responsible for the murders that the police are investigating, but all his victims are already fatally ill. Sapir is an old vampire, and he has a custom-made yacht that is run electronically, allowing him to live a solitary existence. Sapir believes that any human who knows about him must be killed, otherwise he will be hunted down. He also believes that other vampires are dangerous, and yet he is drawn to create another vampire. He gives Jody clues to how to survive and then amuses himself by watching what she does and how she reacts.

The Emperor of San Francisco and Protector of Mexico

The Emperor is a well-known figure around San Francisco, a homeless man who is respected under his self-appointed title of Emperor. The Emperor runs across the vampire in the alleyways of the city and decides that he must fight the creature, with the help of his "soldiers," his two dogs Bummer and Lazarus.

Kurt

Kurt is Jody's live-in boyfriend. When Jody returns to her apartment, exhausted and injured, Kurt does not help her. Jody hits him in the head with a plant and drinks his blood.

Wong One

Tommy rents a cramped room from Wong One for fifty dollars a week, due Tuesday and Sunday.

Wongs Two through Six

Tommy shares his cramped room with five Wongs, who don't speak English and are in the country illegally. The Wongs leave flowers on Tommy's bed to try to court him, believing that in San Francisco men can marry each other and that if they marry Tommy, they can get citizenship.



Simon McQueen (Sime)

Simon is one of "the Animals," the night-shift workers at the Marina Safeway. Simon is twenty-seven, and he considers himself a cowboy and a poet. He is a daredevil, up for any dangerous stunt. Simon has two secrets. The first is that he can't read, which Tommy discovers one night when the scanners at the store are broken. Tommy tells Simon that he'll help him learn to read. Simon's second secret is that, because of a shared drug needle, he is dying of AIDS.

Simon threatens Jody at gunpoint to try to get her to turn him into a vampire so that he can live, instead of dying a slow death from disease. Jody does not know how to turn someone into a vampire, though. In self defense, Jody kills Simon. She lies to Tommy about it, telling him that the other vampire killed Simon.

Jeff Murray

Jeff is one of "the Animals," the night-shift workers at the Marina Safeway. Jeff is a former high school basketball star who can't swim. The Animals throw him into the water at the yacht club in order to get a boat to transport them to the vampire's yacht.

Clint

Clint is one of "the Animals," the night-shift workers at the Marina Safeway. Clint is a born-again Christian who tries to save the other night-shift workers. He attempts to use prayer, communion wafers, and holy water as weapons against the vampire, but he does not have much chance to try these weapons.

Drew

Drew is one of "the Animals," the night-shift workers at the Marina Safeway. Drew supplies all the drugs for the Animals. He also supplies the know-how when it comes to making a bomb to blow up the vampire's boat.

Troy Lee

Troy is one of "the Animals," the night-shift workers at the Marina Safeway. Troy is a martial artist, and he supplies swords when the Animals go hunting for the vampire.

Gustavo

Gustavo is one of "the Animals," the night-shift workers at the Marina Safeway. Gustavo is a Hispanic man with five children. He is excused from the vampire hunt because he has a family.



Barry

Barry is one of "the Animals," the night-shift workers at the Marina Safeway. Barry is a balding scuba diver.

Lash

Lash is one of "the Animals," the night-shift workers at the Marina Safeway. Lash is studying for his MBA at San Francisco State University. He identifies and fences the works of art that the Animals find on the vampire's yacht.

Madame Natasha

Tommy meets a cross-dressing fortuneteller named Madam Natasha in a coffeehouse, and he predicts that Tommy is doomed.

Inspector Alphonse Rivera

Rivera is a detective investigating the string of murders involving corpses with broken necks and no visible wounds mysteriously drained of blood. Rivera investigated a crime spree that had a supernatural origin in the past, and so he is more open than his partner to the idea that the criminal might be a vampire. As the evidence unfolds, Rivera begins to believe that Jody is a vampire, and probably not the only one. After witnessing the Animals attempt to kill the vampire, Rivera agrees to let Jody and the other vampire escape and report that the murderer was blown up in the explosion. Rivera and his partner walk away with a sculpture that is worth a fortune.

Inspector Nick Cavuto

Cavuto is Rivera's partner, a detective investigating the string of murders involving corpses with broken necks and no visible wounds mysteriously drained of blood. Cavuto is gay, and he self-consciously maintains a tough-guy image. He does not want to believe that there are such things as vampires, and he refuses to believe that the evidence points to their existence. After witnessing the Animals attempt to kill the vampire, Cavuto agrees to let Jody and the other vampire escape and report that the murderer was blown up in the explosion. Cavuto and Rivera walk away with a sculpture that is worth a fortune.

LaOtis Small

LaOtis Small is one of three men who attacks Jody at a Laundromat. Jody breaks LaOtis's back, putting him in the hospital.



Mara

Mara is a new cashier at the Marina Safeway. She recently lost a child and ended her marriage, and she seems attracted to Tommy. She and Tommy make a date to meet for coffee and see the city, but Tommy does not show up because he is arrested.

The Sculptors

Two sculptors who do bronze electroplating live downstairs from Tommy and Jody's loft. They help Tommy electroplate the two vampires.

Francis Evelyn Stroud

Francis Evelyn Stroud is Jody's mother. She hates men, and she hates women, too, since one betrayed her. She disapproves of Jody's lifestyle, jobs, and boyfriends. She was the first woman to graduate from Stanford, and her mother is disappointed that Jody did not go to college. She treats her daughter coldly.

The Saleswoman

Jody offends a frumpy saleswoman with her overt sexuality when she buys her little black dress.

Maurice

Maurice is a gay man who works at the makeup counter in the store where Jody buys her little black dress. Jody gets her face done, and Maurice tells her she's a "Winter Woman." Maurice, who is in league with the saleswoman Jody offended, purposefully makes her up to look both trampy and gothic. Jody embraces the vampiric look.

Steve

Steve is a med student who sees one of the murder victims' corpses. Steve realizes there is a vampire in the city and tries to make contact. He is interested in furthering his career by understanding the science behind vampirism. Steve does experiments and believes he has discovered a cure for vampirism.

Gilbert Bendetti

Gilbert works at the morgue and has sex with the corpses. He is just about to have sex with Jody when she wakes up and gives Gilbert a heart attack.



Objects/Places

Bummer

Bummer is a terrier that belongs to the Emperor of San Francisco. Bummer is sensitive to the presence of vampires and sniffs out the resting place of the elder vampire.

Lazarus

Lazarus is the Emperor of San Francisco's golden retriever.

Rosenante

Tommy calls his 1974 Volvo Rosenante. He drives it from Indiana to San Francisco, and it breaks down and catches fire when he reaches the city. The police use Tommy abandoning his vehicle as an excuse to arrest him and get his fingerprints.

The Marina Safeway

Tommy gets a job as night supervisor at the Marina Safeway, where he meets the Animals, the night crew.

The Van Ness Motel

When Jody realizes that she is a vampire, she gets a motel room at the Van Ness Motel to have a private, protected place during the day. Later, she gets Tommy a room at the same motel, until the body of another murder victim is found there.

The Loft

Tommy rents a loft in the SOMA district for himself and Jody. He falls in love with the loft because it sports a wall of bookshelves.

On the Road by Jack Kerouac

Jody proves to Tommy that she is a vampire by reading a book of Kerouac from across the room while she is hanging from the ceiling. Later, Tommy's copy of *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac, with Tommy's fingerprints on it, is found near one of the murder victims.



French Fries

After changing into a vampire, Jody can no longer eat, and she misses eating French fries. She takes Tommy to a restaurant to watch him eat fries.

The Freezer

Jody asks Tommy to buy the largest chest-style freezer available so that she will have someplace to stash the body left outside her building by the vampire.

The Laundromat

Jody goes to a Laundromat in the dangerous Tenderloin district at night, and she is attacked by three men. Jody severely injures all of her attackers with no difficulty.

Peary

Tommy nicknames the body in the freezer Peary, after an arctic explorer.

The Little Black Dress (LBD)

After a fight with Tommy, Jody goes out shopping and buys a sexy little black dress (LBD) that's a size too small for her to show off her figure. She has never dared to dress this sexily before, and for the first time, she really looks like a vampire.

The Sanguine II

The vampire sleeps during the day in his specially made yacht, the Sanguine II. The yacht is completely automated, run by machines that track the movements of the vampire hunters as they go through the yacht. It is also filled with priceless works of art. The Animals blow up the yacht, severely injuring the vampire.

Scott and Zelda

Tommy buys Jody two live snapping turtles in Chinatown, thinking that she can keep them as pets and feed off of them when she wants. He names them Scott and Zelda. Jody is horrified at the idea of the turtles, and eventually, Tommy decides to release them into the bay. His downstairs neighbor offers to take the turtles, and Tommy consents, not realizing that the sculptor intends to electroplate the two animals.



Saint Francis Yacht Club Marina

The elder vampire's yacht is moored off of the Saint Francis Yacht Club Marina.

754

After buying her little black dress, Jody goes to a club called 754, where she is brought to the front of the line by the doorman while her ex-boyfriend Kurt has to wait.



Themes

Manipulating and Using People

Bloodsucking Fiends is about relationships, and no relationship is based purely on love. All of the characters have desires they are trying to fulfill, and they enter into relationships to fulfill their own desires. Jody needs someone to protect her, to keep her safe during the daytime, and to do errands for her that she can't accomplish during the night. Even more than that, she needs some way to fight off loneliness. Jody hates being alone, and she is willing to do almost anything to fight loneliness. Her ultimate act of manipulating Tommy is in turning him into a vampire to fulfill her own needs.

The women's magazines that Tommy reads and the advice that Tommy gets from the Animals highlight manipulation in relationships. The magazines tell women how to use sports metaphors to manipulate men, how to get what they want by any means necessary. The Animals encourage Tommy to cheat on Jody as a means of manipulating her. Tommy's goal is also to fulfill his own needs, and he shows this when he first freezes and later electroplates Jody to get what he wants.

The vampire is also a manipulator. He turns Jody into a vampire against her will (as Jody will later do to Tommy) to fulfill his own need to have someone else like him. Then, he proceeds to play mind games with her, leaving a trail of murder victims and threatening to kill her lover. Like Jody, the vampire seems to be lonely, but he trusts no one. The only way he can alleviate his loneliness is through manipulation.

Animal Nature

As a vampire, Jody gives in to her animal nature. She becomes a hunter and a predator. She is driven to feed, and she is driven to have sex. When she kills, Jody sees it as a natural act, something that feels right and something that is meant to happen. Her animal nature rises to the surface. Her animal nature is also something dangerous, though. She puts herself and Tommy in danger from both the law and the vampire. Society is appalled by both Jody's need to kill and her sexuality, as evidenced by the reactions of the saleswoman when Jody buys her little black dress.

Animal nature is not limited to vampires in Moore's work. The Animals' nickname illustrates that they embody the pursuit of animal pleasures. Much like Jody, the Animals are not restricted by societal requirements. They are creatures of the night who give in to their animal natures. They pursue sex, drugs, and pleasure of all kinds. They have no compunctions against killing. Again, their actions are dangerous. They put themselves in danger from Jody as well as from the elder vampire and the police.

Tommy's animal side leads him into a very dangerous relationship with Jody. He desires sex, and he is entranced by her breasts and her sexual aggressiveness. Tommy is pleased with being bitten, but only when he thinks that her vampire bite is a sexual act.



By following his lust, Tommy finds himself in danger from the police, from the elder vampire, and ultimately from Jody, who turns him into a vampire.

Loneliness

The city is filled with people, but people are also disconnected from each other. Tommy notices how residents of the city walk past homeless people and hawkers without seeming to see them. The city inures them against other people's needs and wants. Ultimately, the city creates impassable boundaries between people. Jody deals with a desperate loneliness. She has been isolated by her mother's coldness and by her life in the city. Loneliness is the one problem that she cannot surmount, and her loneliness drives her to turn Tommy into a vampire against his will.

Being a vampire is a naturally lonely life. The elder vampire trusts no one, because (like Jody's mother) he has been betrayed. Jody's mother hates men and women because of betrayals in her past, and so she drives away her own daughter. The vampire has been betrayed by both mortals and vampires, and so he drives away anyone who might come near him. The vampire believes that he must kill any human being who knows about him, and he believes that he must ultimately kill any other vampire that he makes.

However, the vampire cannot be satisfied with living a life of solitude on board his yacht. The vampire has money, riches, and safety. Yet, he is driven to create a vampire that he believes he must eventually destroy. Why? The answer is loneliness. The vampire's life is completely solitary, and another vampire gives him amusement for a little while, if only from a distance. In the end of the novel, the vampire seems willing to be saved by Jody and embrace her company. Perhaps this is what he has desired all along. When he is plated in brass, in total solitude, his condition is symbolic of his whole life: separated from the world by an impassible barrier.



Style

Point of View

The novel is narrated from a third person omniscient perspective. Moore moves from one character or situation to another, showing how intertwining stories ultimately come together. The reader is able to experience Jody's thoughts, Tommy's thoughts, the detectives' thoughts, and even the vampire's thoughts. Each character provides a wider perspective.

In many vampire stories, the line between good and evil is clearly drawn, but by giving the reader the vampires' points of view, Moore clouds the issue of right and wrong. Jody's motives are not purely manipulative. She kills, but she is not cold and heartless. Is she evil? Tommy knows that he is giving in to his lust and that he is, on some level, being manipulated. He is using Jody for sex as much as she is using him for blood. Is Tommy being manipulated, or is their relationship mutually beneficial? Multiple perspectives give the reader more complex issues to consider.

The elder vampire's point of view remains most clouded. Throughout most of the book, the first vampire remains mysterious, staying in the shadows and playing an unfathomable game. He seems to want Jody to survive, but he gives her a minimum of help. Has he created her out of loneliness? Does he hope to find a companion? The vampire seems to believe that all relationships will eventually fail and that to survive, he must destroy everyone who knows about him. He is the ultimate cynic.

Setting

The story takes place in San Francisco. The city acts as a magnet, bringing characters from diverse backgrounds together in one place. The city is also a feeding ground for vampires. As the Emperor says, the city has been afflicted with a plague. AIDS is killing the residents, leaving a pall over the city. Death seems to attract vampires, who can tell when someone is going to die. The vampire's preferred victims are the fatally ill, and AIDS provides an ample feeding ground. It also gives an aura of sorrow to the city.

San Francisco is a city of many faces. It has crime and danger, highlighting Jody's loss of fear and her ability to react with immediate violence when threatened. It also has many people who do not fit in to society. The strangeness of the culture, including a homeless boy asking for money for eyeliner, provides a contrast to Tommy's old life in Indiana and shows his acceptance of people who don't fit in. Jody is one of those people. As a vampire, she is an outcast in society. The Animals are also outcasts, rowdy creatures who give in to their animal desires.

Since Jody cannot go out in the daylight, much of the story takes place at night. The city provides nightlife for Jody and Tommy to witness, but the night also separates the



misfits from the "normal" people. At night, criminals and street people populate the city. Vampires walk among them, firmly in the realm of "not normal."

Language and Meaning

Moore uses language to build his characters. The Emperor speaks in high language, quoting Shakespeare and using archaic phrases. His regal way of speaking contrasts to his humble appearance, adding a comic element to his character and emphasizing his self-appointed role as royalty. Cavuto also is defined by his speech, taking his cue from old detective fiction. He is gay, and so he takes on contrasting speech patterns of manly detectives. The contrast adds humor but also reveals his character's desire to emphasize his masculinity in order to survive as a gay cop.

Moore also uses language to create humor. He contrasts the Emperor's real situation with his imagined identity by describing the Emperor peeing in an alley and shaking "his scepter to clear the last few drops." He cleverly parodies women's magazine articles, emphasizing the manipulative nature of their ideas, and he describes in detail the functions of an industrial floor-cleaning machine, ending the description with a reversal describing its use as a soapy ski boat by the Animals.

Language is important in other key ways. Paying close attention to language is important. When the Wongs try to court Tommy, the issue is a misunderstanding of language. The Wongs believe that men can marry men in San Francisco, failing to understand the legal controversy over gay marriage. The name Moore gives the Safeway employees, the Animals, is meaningful, highlighting their animal nature. When the vampire calls Jody, he says she can "be killed," not that she can die, and the distinction is essential. By paying attention to Tommy's language, including slips like Tommy "knowing" that vampires can't turn into mist, Simon guesses that Jody is a vampire. The characters that have a heightened ability to use and understand language are at an advantage.

Structure

The novel is divided into three parts, each comprising a number of short chapters. Moore jumps from scene to scene and character to character, building the story up piecemeal and creating suspense by drawing away from a scene at a pivotal moment. Each of the three parts of the book functions as an act in a three-act structure. At the beginning of the novel, there is an instigating event, the attack on Jody that turns her into a vampire. The first part, *Fledgling*, introduces the problem of Jody's vampirism and the character of Tommy, and Jody and Tommy are thrown together.

The second part, *Nesting*, builds up Tommy and Jody's relationship. Meanwhile, the threat of the vampire becomes clearer, as bodies start showing up wherever Jody goes. To complicate things further, the police get involved. The second part of the novel ends with the main characters' most dire moment, as Tommy and Jody's relationship is shattered with a terrible fight. After surviving a visit from Jody's mother and constant



battles over Jody's vampirism, the relationship suffers a terrible blow when Jody believes that Tommy has put her in danger of being discovered by allowing the Animals into their home.

The third part of the novel contains its climax. When Tommy and Jody's relationship is in a shambles, they must face an immediate threat from both the elder vampire and the police. The climax of the vampire story comes when the Animals corner and nearly kill the vampire, but Tommy and Jody's relationship reaches its climax at the end of the novel, when each character acts out to manipulate the other to save their relationship. Tommy tries to force Jody to stay by electroplating her, and Jody tries to force Tommy to be with her by turning him into a vampire.



Quotes

"In the back of her mind a small voice shouted 'No!' over and over again as she bit into Kurt's throat and drank." —Chapter 3, page 17

"Whoever had attacked her had known she would need money. It hadn't been an accident that she had turned. And it probably hadn't been an accident that he had left her hand in the sunlight to burn. How else would she have known to go to ground before sunup? But if he wanted to help her, wanted her to survive, why didn't he just tell her what she was supposed to do?" —Chapter 5, page 33

"I could snap her scrawny blond neck, Jody thought. Then, in thinking it, in knowing that she could actually do it, she was no longer angry. I'm not 'that horrible woman,' she thought. I'm a vampire, and no amount of plastic surgery, or breeding, or money will ever make you my equal. I am a god." —Chapter 10, page 64

"She had a lot of nerve signing her note 'Love.' What would the next one say? 'Sorry you have to do hard time in the big house for me. Love, Jody.' But she did sign it that way: 'Love.' What did that mean? Did she mean it, or was it habit? She probably signed all of her letters with 'Love.'" —Chapter 12, pages 75-76

"She started to run her fingers through her hair to facilitate the preliminary untangle, fighting the tension in her arms that seemed to be increasing every second. A large moth buzzed into the bathroom and went for the light above the mirror. Before she knew what had happened, she snatched it out of the air and ate it." —Chapter 14, pages 92-93

"Tommy sat up on the futon and looked at the behemoth freezer that was humming in the half-light of the kitchen. Why? he thought. Why did I buy it? Why did she want it? I didn't even ask for an explanation from her, I just blindly followed her instructions. I'm a slave, like Renfield in Dracula. How long before I start eating bugs and howling at night?" —Chapter 18, page 125

"She thought, this is what it is to be an animal. Just experience, direct, instant, and wordless; memory and recognition, but no words. A poet with my senses could spend a lifetime trying to describe what it is to hear a building breathe and smell the aging of concrete. And for what? Why write a song when no one can play the notes or understand the lyrics? I'm alone." —Chapter 20, page 146

"In a way, Tommy admired him. Simon didn't worry, he took things at face value as they happened. Simon was like the strong, free and easy Cassady to Tommy's introspective, overanalytical Kerouac." —Chapter 22, page 161

"He slammed an armload of dishes into the sink. 'I didn't ask for this. A few friends came over for breakfast and she goes bat-shit. Did I make a fuss when her mother came over with no notice? Did I say a word when she brought a dead guy home and shoved him



under the bed? No offense, Peary. Do I complain about her weird hours? Her eating habits? No, I haven't said a word.'

"It's not like I came to the City saying, 'Oh, I can't wait to find a woman whose only joy in life is sucking out my bodily fluids.' Okay, well maybe I did, but I didn't mean this." —Chapter 25, page 187

"The vampire stood up and patted her on the shoulder. 'It's almost over. The sadness of having a pet is that they always die on you. At the end of the night, you are alone. You'll know that feeling very soon. Drink up.' He turned and walked away." —Chapter 26, page 208

"When they finished she held his face against her breast and listened to his breathing becoming slow as he fell asleep. Tears crept from the corners of her eyes as dawn broke, releasing her from the night's last thought: I'm loved at last, and I have to give it up." —Chapter 31, page 246

"Maybe I should just go up there and knock on the door, Rivera thought. 'Inspector Alphonse Rivera, San Francisco PD. If you have a few minutes, I'd like to talk to you about being dead. How was it? Who did it? Did it piss you off?'" —Chapter 34, page 275

"Jody, I know that you're probably really, really mad. I don't blame you. But I didn't have a choice. It's not forever, it's just until I can figure out what to do. I didn't want to lose you. I know you wanted to just go away and I think you would have, but he wouldn't have. He would never have let me live.'" —Chapter 35, page 287



Topics for Discussion

Does either Tommy or Jody truly love the other? What is their relationship based on, if not love?

Why is Tommy so interested in testing the boundaries and abilities of Jody's vampire nature?

In what ways does becoming a vampire change Jody? In what ways does she remain the same?

Jody suffers from loneliness, even during her relationship with Tommy. Does Tommy also suffer from loneliness? How?

How do you think Tommy will react to Jody turning him into a vampire? Will he be angry?

Throughout the story, Tommy does things that show his willingness to manipulate and even harm Jody to serve his own needs. Give examples of how Tommy mistreats Jody while she is unconscious. Why does he do these things?

What is the elder vampire's motivation for turning Jody into a vampire? Why does he think that testing her will protect him?