

# **Blue Is for Nightmares Study Guide**

**Blue Is for Nightmares by Laurie Faria Stolarz**

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# Contents

<a href="#">Blue Is for Nightmares Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 1-5.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 6-10.....</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 11-15.....</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 16-20.....</a>	<a href="#">13</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 21-25.....</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 26-30.....</a>	<a href="#">19</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 31-35.....</a>	<a href="#">22</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
<a href="#">Objects/Places.....</a>	<a href="#">30</a>
<a href="#">Themes.....</a>	<a href="#">32</a>
<a href="#">Style.....</a>	<a href="#">35</a>
<a href="#">Quotes.....</a>	<a href="#">38</a>
<a href="#">Topics for Discussion.....</a>	<a href="#">39</a>



# Plot Summary

Stacey Brown, a junior in Hillcrest High School experiences recurring nightmares. Similar events and similar places keep appearing again. She used to have them in the past, and now she has them again. This time they involve Drea, her closest friend and roommate.

Everything happens just it is in Stacey's dreams. Drea receives lilies whose number represents the number of days she has left before she is going to meet her stalker and die. Drea also receives strange phone calls and emails from Chad. Stacey is determined to resolve these mysteries, find the stalker, and save Drea's life. She has to use her grandmother's Wiccan spells, some of them for the first time in her life.

She knows that Drea's stalking is connected with phone calls from an unknown stranger. At first Drea herself doesn't want to talk about it, embarrassed that she let herself get involved in a friendship with someone she doesn't know. She realizes she made a mistake, but it is too late. The stalker starts threatening her and Stacey. It also turns out that another girl, Veronica Leeman is threatened in the same way. Only when she receives a warning to mind her own business along with Drea's handkerchief she decides to avoid any matter involving stalking.

Veronica receives an email from Chad to collect her cheat sheets from the classroom. When she gets there however, she is killed. Stacey finds Veronica lying down dead in the classroom and is questioned by the police. The next day also Drea is missing, but only Stacey seems to be doing something about it. All her friends are preoccupied with their own problems. Stacey tries to contact the spirits to help her track down Drea. She receives further clues but she receives a message that her dreams provided her with enough information already.

Stacey decides to venture into the woods on her own, notifying the police about it. She has to rely on her own instincts only and her grandmother's guidance.

In the woods she meets Donovan who seems to be running from someone. He wants to help her, but ends up convincing her to leave. Stacey becomes suspicious about him. Her mistrust is confirmed as she follows Donovan into the house. He becomes unfriendly towards her. Stacey almost gets away when she realizes that she must find Drea. Her urge to pee is connected with what she has seen in her dreams. Consequently she runs to a porta-john. Drea is inside it. Unfortunately, Donovan's also shows up, threatening both Drea and Stacey. They engage in a fight, but the police turns up just in time. They arrest Donovan.

Following the court case, Donovan is charged with involuntary manslaughter, convincing the jury that his actions were not planned and is sentenced to a detention. Drea returns home for the entire semester. Stacey and Chad can finally spend time together as a couple.



# Chapter 1-5

## Chapter 1-5 Summary

Stacey, a junior in Hillcrest High School experiences recurring nightmares. They involve similar places and similar occurrences. She used to have them in the past, and now she has them again. This time they involve Drea, her closest friend and roommate.

Chapter 1 introduces us to Stacey's nightmares involving her getting away from someone in the forest. She is pursued by an attacker she is unable to see, only hearing the noises of someone walking behind her. Her realistic dreams indicate that her roommate Drea may be in danger. She carries out rituals to find out more about it, such as anointing a candle with her initials and drawing letters in the air.

In Chapter 2, Stacey dreams that she visits her grandmother who gives her an amethyst ring with Stacey's initials engraved on it. She has the same conversation she once had with her when she received this ring. Stacey hears wailing sounds outside the house and goes out. In the end she gets lost and thinks she can hear her friend Drea crying for help. She runs as fast as she can, gets stuck in the mud, and loses one of her sneakers. Her friend Drea is calling for help. Her crying is interrupted by a male voice somewhere close to Stacey. Stacey doesn't know who he is while realising that a tree branch got stuck in her foot. She needs guidance, any guidance that would help her rescue Drea. In the end, she notices someone holding a bouquet of lillies. Horrified, being aware of the meaning of these flowers professing death, she tries to get away but is unable to move. Dirt fills her nose and mouth. The male voice is now close. Unable to escape she throws the rock that is in her hand and wakes up learning she broke her bedroom window with one her crystals.

In Chapter 3, she realizes Drea is shouting at her, asking why she screamed, but Stacey herself doesn't understand it. They cover the hole in the window with Drea's former boyfriend Chad's jersey. Stacey also wets her bed, as it always happens when she has nightmares. She tries to cover it up, using incense and lavender. It is embarrassing for her because she only did it when she was a child.

These nightmares have another deep impact on her, such as putting on weight. She cleans the glass and tries to decipher the meaning of her dreams through a spell, but it doesn't work. Drea enters, but to Stacey's relief she thinks her accident is due to female problems. When Stacey cleans the glass, one piece gets stuck in her foot. Her injury is similar to the one she had in her dream. She clots the bleeding with a potatoe cut in half. She hesitates about revealing the content of her nightmares to anyone, including Drea.

Chapter 4 begins with a phone call that is for Drea, but which Stacey picks up. The male voice hangs up, refusing to say who he is. He calls again. Only when Drea answers the phone the male talks.



Stacey is secretly in love with Chad. She now hopes that Drea has a new admirer, who will take her mind off Chad. Also Drea refuses to say who the caller is perhaps because she doesn't know it herself. Despite early hours their friend Amber visits them.

Stacey is worried about her dreams so much that she decides to do a Tarot card reading. The cards foretell that Drea is to meet Chad who is to then cancel it. There is also something else that cards reveal, but Stacey is afraid to reveal it.

At the end of the reading, Drea discovers she has an email from Chad with nursery rhymes that she doesn't understand. It is an animated tale that is about a house that Jack built with a cat chasing a rat that ate the malt of the house that Jack built. The next email is from Donovan asking Drea to give him the notes from their health class he will not be able to attend. Stacey thinks that it's only Donovan's excuse to meet Drea.

In Chapter 5, we find Stella taking a French language test. Unable to give answers, she falls asleep. She dreams that her teacher corrects it, marking it as failed, and then sends her a message that she is going to kill her roommate just as she killed Maura. She wakes up, facing her French teacher standing besides her, telling her to hand in her test. Stacey needs to go to the bathroom and fears she won't have enough time to do this.

## Chapter 1-5 Analysis

Chapters one to five unveil the incidents that lead to kidnapping Drea. Stacey's dreams about her grandmother are a premonition of what is to happen. They also unveil various significant events, such as when Stacey's grandmother gives her an amethyst ring or advising her along with her first nightmares of getting lost in the woods beginning to haunt her. Such nightmares verge on reality, forcing her to take them seriously. During her searches Stacey realises she is looking for Drea. The male voice she hears when she gets stuck in the mud is the voice of the attacker, and she needs to remember it. The future events that lead to Drea's murder are all based on the premonitions she has along with all objects that appear in her dreams, such as the lilies that appear as well as the items she wears. Her wrestling in the mud, trying to find her way out, along with her attempts to scream have a meaning that Drea needs to be aware of and solve. She already knows the significance of lilies that her grandmother taught her. They stand for death.

Stacey is also unable to scream while her nightmares coincide with prank phone calls Drea receives but tries avoid talking about them. Drea doesn't want to reveal who is the mystery caller because she is embarrassed about it. She feels that she is also somehow involved with this man she knows nothing about although she shares with him her private life.

Things start to appear even more suspicious when she receives a strange email from Chad based on nursery rhymes about the house that Jack built. She is surprised that he would go into so much trouble to do this. Such emails don't seem to be something that



Chad would engage in, and she feels slightly disappointed that she doesn't receive anymore emails from him like before simply saying goodnight. These events foreshadow what is to happen in the future.



# Chapter 6-10

## Chapter 6-10 Summary

In Chapter 6, Stacey's mishap during the French class makes her hungry. She rushes to the cafeteria meeting a person she hates most, Veronica Leeman. Food is not appealing while Veronica has an argument with the staff because she is a vegetarian. Stacey decides to take tuna sandwich, considering the meaning contained in the cards. She hasn't revealed to her yet that she is to receive a package. The meaning behind the Ace of Spades that was in the cards implies death. Its significance is the same as the one conveyed by lilies in her dream. Stacey remembers what her grandmother told her about the meaning of lilies as well as other flowers. In cafeteria she also meets Chad, and then Drea, Amber and PJ join them as well.

They start talking about Stacey's dreams. Chad intercepts that maybe in her dream she unnecessarily runs away from someone close to her. Stacey is unsure if he tries to express his interest in this way, implying that it may be him.

Drea mentions the email she received from Chad but he seems to know nothing about it. Donovan joins them, handing Drea a chewing gum he had for her just as she expected. He then shows them his art that allowed him to skip some of the classes. One of his drawing shows Drea under an umbrella, as if she was crying, wearing a raincoat. Drea walks out with Donovan to make Chad jealous. Amber is jealous of the way Drea attracts all men.

Chapter 7 provides an insight into the relationship between Stacey and her mother. Her father died when Stacey was seven, and she developed a distance between her and her mother. Stacey asks to retake her test, blaming failing it on her problems at home.

She takes dirty sheets to the washroom. When grabbing Drea's bra she senses bad vibrations. Terrified she leaves the laundry there, and runs to their room, finding Drea pondering over Chad's missing jersey. She suspects Stacey of having something to do with it. Stacey looks out the window, finding a small box. She is afraid it maybe the same gift she dreamt about. Both afraid, they finally open it finding inside chocolate chip cookies. They are sent from a culinary arts club, inviting them to join it.

They both relax, although Stacey remembers what her grandmother told her that unexpected things happen when we are relaxed. She misses Maura, a girl who she used to baby seat, and who was killed. This memory prompts Stacey to reveal all meaning conveyed in the cards during her reading, including death.

In Chapter 8, Stacey is about to reveal the outcome of cards reading. The phone interrupts them, and Stacey remembers that she left the laundry in the washroom. She decides to pick it up early in the morning instead. Stacey reaches for her book of spells, grabs the candle with Drea's initials, DOES that stand for Drea Olivia Eleanor Sutton.



She wants to tell her about card reading, but Drea is now preoccupied that Chad is not in his room.

Amber comes with a packet of cigarettes. Just as she smoke they notice a man standing outside their windows. He smiles, noticing Stacey. She pulls the shade down in panic. Amber dials the campus police asking for help but is disconnected.

Stacey takes out the cards, Drea that she is going to receive a gift that is connected with her death in the end. These premonitions are the same ones she had about Maura, a girl she used to baby sit. Stacey makes more spells, and they chant asking for revelation.

In Chapter 9, following the casting of spells, Amber decides to spend the night in their room. In the morning Stacey wants to collect the washing she left in the washing room, but her laundry is missing. Stacey hopes it is a mistake.

She returns to their room when Chad rings. Amber picks it up and tells Drea that he wants to meet her in a cafeteria for breakfast. Stacey notes that this was predicted in cards. Stacey ponders over her own meeting with Chad, and how they kissed. The same stranger appears again in front of their windows, but this time salutes them and leaves.

In Chapter 10, Stacy question Drea about the man she talks to over the phone. Drea had a misunderstanding with him about whether she was single or not. She doesn't want to reveal who he is.

While Drea goes out to take a shower, Chad pops into their room. He asks Stacey to let Drea know that he is unable to meet her because he has a hockey practice. He wants Drea to email the assingment he wanted to Donovan who is to print it, and hand it to him. He also has received his jersey back along with a note warning him to stay away from Drea. Stacey realizes that another prediction came true.

## Chapter 6-10 Analysis

Stacey is analyzing the meaning of her card reading following her strange dream during her French class. Their meaning confuses her, with a gift for Drea being followed by her date with Chad while all is connected with the death card. These events also coincide with the appearance of lilies in her dream. The meaning of lilies is deeply ingrained in her memories as her grandmother associated them with death. Her reflections on the meaning of cards are interrupted by her friends. It is difficult for her to focus on saving Drea while being in love with Chad who has a peculiar relationship with Drea. Her roommate remains interested in him although flirting with Donovan to make Chad jealous.

Further events also confirm that Drea faces danger. Stacey senses some negative vibrations from her bra. The jersey in the window is missing while they find a box deposited outside. Its content turns out to be cookies, but it forces Drea to reveal that





she has hidden the most important part of the reading that she has done earlier for Drea that is about her death.

Stacey also finds out that Drea has a secret admirer who calls her without introducing himself. She has to reveal the meaning of her card reading as well as what happened to Maura, a girl she used to baby sit who was killed.

The laundry she left in the washroom is missing while her first prediction comes true when Chad invites Drea to meet him for breakfast. She anticipates that her other predictions may also become true. These revelations are as horrific as they are unexpected, and everyone seems to be in disbelief as they unfold.

It turns out that Chad comes to cancel their meeting because of his hockey practice just as cards predicted. He has received his own jersey in his mailbox with a note warning him to stay away from Drea.



# Chapter 11-15

## Chapter 11-15 Summary

Chapter 11 depicts Stacey trying to find Drea in the shower. Veronica Leeman, who is there as well tells them that the man they saw in front of their window the day before and today was her father. Drea wants to make Veronica jealous about her relationship with Chad, telling her how he likes her the lipstick she just puts on.

Stacey shows Drea the note attached to Chad's jersey upon its return. When she spreads the paper on the wall, she senses the smell of lilies, thinking that the person who wrote that note also delivered lilies to Drea. Stacey reassures Drea of her support. She promises Drea that she won't let anything wrong happen to her.

They are still in the shower room when they notice a large box in a red paper with a card warning Drea that she is being watched. The letters are written with a lipstick she has just been using.

In chapter 12 both girls horrified with the note Drea received try to figure out who could write a note like that. She considers that it could be a girl, such as Veronica Leeman. Drea opens the card saying only that she has for more days. Inside the box are four lilies.

Stacey discovers Amber hiding in one of the showers. They all make a secrecy pact.

Chapter 13 shows girls preparing how to handle the future developments. They try to come up with the best way of dealing with what happens to Drea. They don't want to call the police because they think that no one would believe them. Drea thinks that the person sending these notes is Chad who wants to get closer to Drea in this way. Stacey intends to soak the lilies in lemon juice and vinegar and then put pins and needles in them. Drea touches the lilies. She conjures that the person who sent them is close to them. It is apparent that the lilies were soaked in water first and then but. She can also sense a shelter and dirt. Stacey can sense someone digging something but she doesn't know exactly what it is. Stacey has the ability to sense vibrations when she touches something. Such vibrations often indicate what is going to happen in the future.

Amber suggests that Stacey tells her whether Brantley Witherall is going to ask her to prom. She also fancies Donovan although Drea considers him entirely interested in her. A phone rings again. Stacey demands that Drea reveals who is the person making phone calls and puts him on speakerphone. When Drea does it the caller tells them that he knows that he is on speakerphone. He tells her that it was him who sent her the lilies. He thinks that Drea hasn't been faithful to him since the last time they spoke. Stacey prepares a protection bottle for Drea made of lillie petals soaked in lemon and vinegar with pins and needles inside. She makes other protection spells and they try to detect where the phone call was made from hoping that they may also trace in this way



who made it. Amber has this number listed in her phone book as belonging to a pay phone near the library. When they get to the library they see Donovan leaving the library building. He is surprised to see them there as much as they are. He is staring at Drea, inviting her to a hockey game, but she refuses to go. As soon as he leaves they notice Chad making a phone call from the same pay phone that was used to make a phone call to them. He hangs up as soon as they see them. They explain that Stacey is waiting for someone here and leaves. They are about to find out who was the person he calling when the phone rings. The same voice as before tells Drea that he has her bra. Drea has another panic attack. They think this person maybe watching them all the time.

Chapter 15 begins when Stacey and Drea study. Stacey feels guilty about flirting with Chad in Drea's presence. She looks at Maura's picture. Stacey tries to call her mother but she's not at home. They try to act as they used, making facials and painting their fingernails. Stacey asks Drea again about the person she has been talking to previously, wanting some explanation about how she knew him. Drea tells her that he started calling her the first time dialling the wrong number. Stacey wasn't there and she just had a conversation with her mother telling her that she maybe spending her holidays only with her in their grandfather's house. She also thought that maybe it was Chad. They talked about dating and what they thought of having sex during dates. They only talked five or six times. Drea felt comfortable at first talking about it. Stacey is surprised that she could talk about these sort of things with someone she doesn't know. Drea never ended up having sex with Chad although they were prepared to do it. She realises that she shouldn't have talked to someone on the phone without knowing who he is. She knows that the caller couldn't be Chad after all although it could be him because he had the jersey that was missing from their room. Stacey think it is someone living on the campus, who knows everyone there. They go to sleep. Stacey's mother calls her back.

## Chapter 11-15 Analysis

Stacey finds out that the man who stood in front of their windows was Veronica's father. She hands Drea a note that was delivered to Chad warning him to stay away from her. She warns Drea that her dreams and predictions may have serious consequences. They find another box addressed to Drea, in the sink. The note on the box warns Drea that she is watched. A card inside the box that also contains four lilies says only 'four more days'. These events again confirm what the cards predicted. They become more and more horrified.

Together with Drea and Amber they make a pact of secrecy, as Amber also finds out about the delivery of the present.

The mystery caller rings again, revealing that the lilies are from him. They signify the number of days until they meet. They want to find out who called by retrieving the number. He also accuses Drea of not being faithful.



Stacey makes a bottle of protection made from lilies soaked in vinegar, lemon juice and pins and needles, giving it to Drea. She wants to create a bond between them along with a spell that would make them protected. Each girl has a different idea of protection connected with individual character and the degree of maturity. For Stacey protection involves nature. For Drea it involves her parents, reflecting her longing for care. Amber associates protection with armed guards and muscly men. They all decide to act and trace the last threatening phone call that seems to be made from the phone near the library.

On the way they meet Donovan, although Chad is making a call from the payphone they received their last call. They chat to Donovan and then Chad. After the boys leave, they receive another phone call, telling Drea that the caller has her bra, and they will soon be together. Stacey realises that the caller stole their laundry. They are as perplexed by all this as they are terrified. New events seem to be adding to confusion without clarifying anything.

Drea finally reveals what she knows about her mystery caller and why she started talking to him. She didn't feel uncomfortable at first when their friendship started, but she ended up sharing with him what she would do during dates. Even though she didn't know who he is, he started referring to them as a couple. She also suspected at first that it was Chad.



# Chapter 16-20

## Chapter 16-20 Summary

In chapter 16 Stacey manages to sleep well after her conversation with her mother. For the first time since quite some time she has no nightmares, although now she would want them. She decides to pretend that she is sick and stay in bed. Her friends, Amber and Drea go to classes. Despite all tools that she uses she is unable to fall asleep. When their friends come back she convinces them to inform campus police about what happened. In the meantime, she is trying to take bath to fall asleep as her own grandmother also suggested. She dips the sponge and pours the water over her neck and shoulders, listening to a CD.

Stacey thinks that Maura's death could also cause some damage to her soul, where part of her died. She is afraid that if she is going to fail this time the reminder of her may die as well.

When she closes her eyes she imagines warm teabags on top of her lids. She also imagines the waning moon until it almost disappears. She doesn't realise when she falls asleep. In her dream Chad comes up to the window, asking her to let him in. He tells her that he has received a note saying that love is funny, and hands her three lilies. They are about to kiss when she wakes up. Drea and Amber return. She feels that she wet her pyjamas again. Their visit to campus police didn't bring any results. They were told that only if something significant happens the police may respond. For now, only security will be increased. PJ knocks on their window, letting them know that Veronica Leeman, also called Snotty Ronnie, has been receiving the same prank calls as Drea.

Drea is distressed. She wants to go home for one semester. Stacey suggest she is going to do a séance, but she wants to talk to Veronica about her stalker first.

In chapter 17 Stacey, Drea, and Amber find Veronica in campus café. She is there with Donna Tillings. They notice Donovan sitting there and sketching the cream and sugar station. Amber asks him to buy her a coffee, but he refuses.

Drea tries to put her differences between her and Veronica aside so that they can work together to solve the stalker issue. Stacey threatens Veronica that she is going to reveal she cheated during the French test, even though she is only guessing that. It forces Veronica to cooperate, confessing to receiving calls from a stalker and three lilies just like Drea, corresponding to the number of days she has before she meets the mystery caller.

Chapter 18 reveals Stacey alone in her room after her conversation with Veronica. Drea spends the night with her aunt a couple of towns away. Stacey tries to sleep, but is unable to do so in Drea's absence. Drea gets closer with Veronica, deciding to help her



because of the danger they both face, and refuses to stay away longer from the campus.

Stacey doubts Veronica's story. She thinks about all the clues she received, but is unable to make any sense of it. She gets a phone call. At first she hangs up, but then she is told to stay away from Drea. The caller also tells her that he has her laundry and that he knows that she wets her bed. She checks the door and yanks the window shades. She then finds her dirty laundry outside the window.

In chapter 19 Stacey quickly washes her sheets in the sink. It is almost 1 o'clock at night. She is distressed but tries to focus on her efforts to save Drea. She feels helpless, especially dealing with her bed wetting, fearing it eventually everybody will find out about it. The phone rings again. The stalker tells her that he has their laundry, and warns to stay away from Drea. He knows about her propensity to wet her bed that others may find out. She finds their dirty laundry outside the window. The next phone call is from Chad. He knows about prank calls they are getting. Stacey tells him that Drea is at her aunt's place, and Chad suggests that he is going to see her. She agrees.

They talk about studying. He then asks how she feels about him. Stacey is confused. She would prefer to make sure that it is over between him and Drea before she gets involved with him. She also if he could be stalking Drea himself. Chad thinks Drea is not in love with him, only thinks she is. Although he has feelings for her, it's not love. They kiss, but Stacey pushes him away before he embraces her again.

In chapter 20 Stacey is with Chad, and falls asleep unaware of it. In her dreams that seem quite real she kisses Chad in the same spot, near the tree where they first kissed. She can even smell a musty scent. Chad leaves, and Stacey tries to find him, but instead ends up in front of a structure reminding a house.

She is now being followed by someone and needs to pee. She finds a portable bathroom along with Drea's name written down near the ditch.

It is important that she gets inside the house to find out who is there. When inside she hears someone calling her name telling her to pick up the phone. As the voice gets closer, she wants to answer the phone. The same male voice tells her that there are only two lilies left, and that love is funny. She recognizes who he is just when she wakes up.

## Chapter 16-20 Analysis

Stacey is overwhelmed by the responsibility she has knowing about the events that are to follow, and especially knowing that her best friend may die. She feels she failed Maura when she died. It is important to her that she does all she can to save her friend as well as herself. She tries to have a bath. She finally has some success with her dreams dreaming of her and Chad kissing. The stalker in her dreams gives her two lilies, telling her that love is funny.



Drea and Amber visit to campus police is unsuccessful. The police will only increase security around the campus until something more significant happens.

They find out that Veronica Leeman is also receiving strange phone calls from an unknown man who is also watching her. They want to talk to her although they know that it is not going to be easy because they dislike each other. They turn up in a cafeteria where Veronica spends lots of time and Stacey manages to persuade her to share with them what happened by threatening that she is going to expose her cheating during the French class test. Finally Veronica admits that she is also being stalked receiving also three lilies signifying the number of days until the caller will meet her. Drea decides to help Veronica although she spends one night at her aunt's place. Stacey thinks this is odd that the stalker would be after two entirely different girls.

When Drea is away, Stacey gets a threatening phone call to stay away from Drea. She can't see anyone outside.

She is about to go to bed when Chad calls. He insists on seeing her since they both can't sleep. Stacey fears that he still has feelings for Drea although he assures her that he is interested in Drea as a friend while she only thinks she likes him. Stacey tries to push Chad away but he doesn't let her.

When she falls asleep she has a dream about meeting Chad in the woods in the same place they kissed. He walks away, and Stacey tries to find him but instead she approaches a house. She enters still looking for him. There various rooms and four doors inside, yet she is unable to get out. Trapped inside, she hears a phone. A voice whispers to her that there are only two more lilies left. For a second she recognises who talks to her when she wakes up.



# Chapter 21-25

## Chapter 21-25 Summary

In chapter 21 Stacey still gasping wakes up, finding Chad beside her in her bed concerned about her dreams. She realizes she wet her pants again, and asks him to leave. When Chad is reluctant to go she resorts to telling him that she doesn't care about him. He tells her that he doesn't believe her when Drea walks into their room.

Drea tried to call her at night but no one picked it up. She is angry at her and Chad, even when Stacey reassures her that nothing happened. She no longer considers them her friends, but Chad asks her to calm down. Ms Lacharge knocks on the door, concerned about the noise inside their room. Chad gets out of the room through the window before they let Ms LaCharge inside. Drea tells her that they argued whether she should cut her hair. When Ms LaCharge leaves, she demands further details about Chad' presence in their room, suspecting Stacey of luring him there. Drea raises Stacey's comforter to find out if they had sex and discovers that she wet her pants.

In chapter 22 Stacey is taking her physics test, but is unable to concentrate on questions, wondering all the time if Chad will find out about her bed wetting. All this time she also tries to remember the content of her dreams. She knows she is going to fail this test. She wants to go back to the dorm to do a memory spell to see her attacker's face again.

On the way back she meets Chad, who explains that he prefers that he and Drea are friends, and their previous argument perhaps made her realized that. Stacey finds that he doesn't know yet about her bed wetting problem.

She rushes back to her room, and makes a memory spell that doesn't work. Instead the memories of her grandmother and aunt Delia comes back. She remembers her grandmother told her that blue is for nightmares, trying to figure out what she would've done if the spell didn't work. Perhaps she has all she needs, but should simply analyse it.

In Chapter 23 Stacey tries to find Veronica, who now avoids her. Veronica thinks that the stalker is Drea herself because she is jealous about Chad. Even when Stacey defends Drea, Veronica refuses to work together with them, and leaves. Stacey is afraid that Veronica maybe in danger as well.

Stacey joins Drea, Amber, and PJ on the other side of the cafeteria. She gets into argument with Drea, who claims that Chad's tastes remain the same, implying that he is still interested in her. Stacey responds that he may think Drea is bitch. Drea calls Chad to verify if he said that, but then Stacey denies that she mentioned that. In the end Drea reveals that Stacey wets her bed. Stacey leaves. Amber is appalled that Drea said that, while Chad doesn't believe her.





In Chapter 24 Chad finds Stacey in the library telling her that he is interested in her, despite previously dating Drea and finding out about her bed wetting problems. Amber shows up and he leaves. Stacey admits she tried to resolve her issues with bedwetting that may have something to do with her nightmares. She doesn't tell Amber about her conversation with Chad.

When Stacey and Amber go back to their room, Drea is in bed. She tells them that Veronica thinks that Drea is behind stalking, and refuses to work with them on resolving their problem.

In Chapter 25 Stacey, Drea, and Amber visit Veronica who refuses to see them, but they force their way inside. Stacey tells Drea that someone stole the laundry along with her handkerchief. The same person would have given this handkerchief to Veronica.

Drea tries to get it back, but Veronica threatens her with police, also revealing she knows Drea's middle names.

## Chapter 21-25 Analysis

Chad wakes up Stacey. She realizes that she wet her bed again and wants Chad to leave when Drea turns up discovering them just as Chad puts on his shoes. Drea drops the coffee and some breakfast she holds for Stacey who tries to explain what happened but Drea doesn't want to listen. Drea wants to know exactly what happens. She still has feelings for Chad or at least she thinks she does. Trying to get to the bottom of the truth she picks up the comforter and discovers that Stacey wet her bed.

Stacey fails her physics test but the most important thing on her mind right now is to recover her memory from the last night's dream and detect the person who whispered to her and who is the stalker. She searches through her family scrapbook to find out how to recover her memories. They are also associated with her family. Her grandmother used blue candles for nightmares. Stacey follows instruction to recover the image of the person she dreamed. Her spell doesn't work. She knows from her grandmother that if spells don't work she needs to find out why she uses them. Perhaps she already has all the necessary information she needs.

She needs to see her friends and especially Veronica who may provide some clues if they work together to find out who the stalker is. Unfortunately Veronica now thinks she knows who the stalker is, claiming that it could only be Drea, who does it out of jealousy because she can't hold on to her man. Even when Stacey tries to talk her out of this notion, Veronica seems to be convinced that it can only be Drea.

Stacey's friends, Drea, Amber, and PJ sit on the other side of the cafeteria. She confronts them trying to get Drea to work with her and Veronica together on finding out the stalker. Drea is still hurt about finding out Chad and Stacey together in bed. They both get into argument. Stacey calls Drea a bitch while Drea reveals to Chad that Stacey wets her bed.



Stacey gets upset and hides in the library. Chad finds her there and reassures her that he cares about her. He thinks he can be more himself with her. She discusses with Amber her bedwetting problem that seems to be connected with her nightmares. When she returns with Amber to her room, Drea tells them that Veronica changed her mind about working with them, claiming it must be Drea who is behind stalking.

When they all confront Veronica, she refuses to work with them. They find that she has Drea's handkerchief, claiming she herself stuffed into her mailbox, and refusing to return it. She reiterates that she thinks Drea is behind stalking.



# Chapter 26-30

## Chapter 26-30 Summary

In Chapter 26, Stacey, Drea, and Amber follow Veronica all day, making sure that nothing happens to her. They stay near her in the Hangman Cafe, during her dinner, in the library, and then follow her to her room. In the meantime Drea starts talking to Stacey again.

There are two hours left till midnight when Veronica wants them to leave her alone. Her roommate Donna is on a date, and Veronica wants to go out as well.

As they wait outside Amber decides to get some snacks. Stacey wonders how Veronica knows Drea's middle names. After one hour Amber comes back. They haven't seen Veronica. They knock on the door, and when no one answers, they decide to break in. They are interrupted by Becky Allston, but Amber reassures her that she has just moved in with Veronica.

Inside Veronica's room they find an email from Chad telling her that he found her cheat sheets on her desk inside the French class, and that he hid them along the chalkboard ledge. She should get them before Madame Lenore will be there in the morning.

They assume Veronica went to school and follow her there. On the way Drea gets a panic attack. Amber tries to get help, finding Donovan and Chad. In the end Drea is taken to hospital. Stacey and Chad go to school while Amber and Donovan stay with Drea.

In Chapter 27, Stacey with Amber's teddy bear back pack, her cell phone, and Donovan's sketch book goes to school. Chad is with her. They find Veronica dead inside the French class room. Stacey faints.

In Chapter 28, Stacey wakes up in her room when the phone rings. This is the day when Drea was to die, and she is nowhere to be seen. She picks up the phone. It's Chad asking how is she and telling her that he may be suspected of killing Veronica. He asks Stacey to believe in him.

After this conversation Amber shows up explaining that that she dropped Drea to their dorm after checking out at the hospital. PJ picked them up, refusing to drive Donovan. Just when she mentions all this the police knocks on the door. Amber, reluctant to talk to them leaves through the window.

In Chapter 29, Officer Tate wants to take Stacey to the police station to ask her about Veronica's death. Stacey tells her that she is concerned about her roommate Drea who is missing, but the police woman thinks she should calm down. Stacey dresses up, putting on her yellow sneakers that she also remembers from her nightmares. Stacey tells about everything that happened the night before Veronica died, only hesitating



about Chad's email to Veronica, admitting that she doesn't know why he would be helping Veronica.

Stacey also tells her about her premonitions, but Officer Tate refuses to investigate Drea's disappearance without any evidence. She finds that Amber lied that they went to look for Veronica because Stacey left her book at school. Officer Tate gives her her card to contact her if she wants to add anything else. As for Drea, Ms Tate thinks she is most likely to be in another room.

In Chapter 30, Stacey goes to the boys' dorms. Other students leave for the weekend. Stacey doesn't want to be recognized as a person who found Veronica's body. She can see Veronica's mother, feeling guilty about what happened.

She passes the empty front desk at the dorm, and walks to PJ's room. The room is dark. She finds PJ inside telling her that the dark room helps him think. His hair is dyed black. PJ confirms that they dropped Drea but denies he is jealous about Donovan. Stacey is confused hearing a different version from Amber the night before. PJ is too worried about himself not having alibi on the night of Veronica's murder to be concerned about Drea's absence.

## Chapter 26-30 Analysis

Stacey, Amber, and Drea have to follow Veronica all day on the crucial day when all prophecies are to be fulfilled. During the day they make sure that at least one of them is with her. They manage to do that until the moment when she decides to go out on her own. She insists that they leave her alone, making them perplexed why she rejects their help. It is only because of Stacey who knows that Veronica may be in danger that they continue to guard her. She misled them into believing that she is still in her room while leaving. It is all because of the email she received apparently from Chad about her cheating sheets left in the class where they have French lessons. She needs to get them before the next day when the teacher may discover them. To do this, Veronica climbs through the window so that they don't find out where she goes. They don't know then that this email is from Donovan who uses Chad's account.

Stacey, Amber, and Drea break into her room and find the email. They go to school to rescue her, but it is too late. Veronica is dead. Stacey finds her in the French classroom, lying down on the floor.

The police interrogates Stacey, verifying her words and everything she did, questioning also what Amber told them about the reason for going to school. Amber for some reason lies to the police telling them that they went to the school to retrieve Stacey's book that she left there, rather than telling about the email that Veronica received from Chad. Stacey is confused why would Amber lie about that. The only explanation is that she didn't want to be caught for breaking into someone's room or trespassing the school property.



Stacey is also confused about Chad and his intentions. She is suspicious about his presence around the school on the day they went to look for Veronica. He didn't seem to have knowledge of the email he sent himself to her or only pretended he didn't.

She is also unable to convince Ms Tate that Drea is in danger despite the fact that she is missing. Everything she tells her about the preceding events seems to fall on deaf ears. Ms Tate doesn't think that Drea's absence is suspicious but claims that she is most likely to be in one of the rooms, promising to look into it. She thinks Stacey is confused and simply overreacts. Stacey realises that she is on her own, as no one seems to be able to help her to save Drea. No one seems to think that she is missing except for Drea while Amber doesn't understand how could Drea be missing if she dropped her off at the door.

Drea finds out from PJ that he and Amber dropped her off at the door of her dorm. He denies that he and Amber were fighting about her flirting with Donovan. Stacey is entirely confused why would Amber lie to her that they were fighting. Also PJ's lack of concern about Drea's absence makes Stacey somewhat worried. PJ dyed his hair black and stays in his room in the dark, as if he was hiding from something. He tries to convince Stacey that Drea is probably safe somewhere. He is entirely absorbed by his own problems, not concerned about Drea's absence. He confesses to Stacey that no one has seen him on the day Veronica was killed at his dorm, and he may be suspected of killing her.



# Chapter 31-35

## Chapter 31-35 Summary

In Chapter 31, Stacey returns to her room. Just as she is to enter it she meets Madame LeCharge who questions her about her absence during the assembly meeting. She is curious about her attending the police station. Stacey withdraws to the room concerned about Drea's disappearance. She still hopes to find her, even though there is only seven hours left till midnight. She has Amber's phone that is now charged.

She tries to contact Officer Tate and her mother to no avail. She consults her book for spell directions to channel the spirits. She uses the letters in her scrabbles that she separates into Y tiles for yes and N tiles for no. Her Q tiles stand for question marks, placing them in between. She calls her own grandmother, Ann Blake who the stalker is. Her hands are guided towards the appropriate letters. She is unable to identify the name of the stalker but her grandmother lets her know that she knows him.

Stacey's other questions are only partially answered, indicating that she needs to solve them herself. She asks what is the reason behind her recurring nightmares as well as where did the stalker take Drea. The response is in the letters TEL FUTR. The letters indicating where Drea is stand for S HDN. Further clues are in her previous dreams. All she knows is that this place is somewhere in the forest.

In Chapter 32, Drea goes to the forest by herself, notifying Officer Tate about it. The policewoman promises to help her. Stacey moves in the dark without the flashlight, listening to the sounds that surround her. She suddenly hears footsteps along with the sound of a body being moved. She hears Amber's phone ringing in her pocket. Amber tells her she wants to talk to the police, asking her to meet her before that. Stacey tells her she can't see her.

In silence she reaches a partial clearing. Suddenly she has an impression that she is followed. She tries to speed up and steps into the mud, losing one of her sneakers. She injures her foot when stepping on a wooden stick. Breathing heavily she slips down just when she hears a whisper near her. The voice in the dark asks if it is her. It's Donovan squatting between the shrubs. He asks if she has seen anyone. Stacey in the meantime tries to assess how deeply the stick has punctured her foot. Donovan helps her to remove it, and tells her to hurry before others are going to find her. He doesn't know who is after them but they need to hurry. Donovan explains that he is checking something out here. Stacey decides to stop, asking him to keep going on his own. He tells her he is going to find out if the people he is afraid of left.

Stacey reaches for his sketchbook while waiting. She finds an image resembling somewhat the place where she is. She follows Donovan until she gets near a house resembling the house from her dreams. Inside she finds Drea's Diet Coke, her half-eaten bar of chocolate, her bra, and physics notebook. Amber calls her again saying



that the police is waiting for her. It is obvious that the police are not going to follow Stacey now and she is on her own. The footsteps are audible again heading in her direction.

In Chapter 33, Stacey attempts to leave the house just when her ankle makes a loud popping sound. She tries to find the doorway to get out. Donovan appears in front of her. She realises that the stalker is Donovan who was always obsessed with Drea. He tells Stacey that it's safe to go while she asks him about Drea.

Not knowing how to convince her to leave Donovan tries to grab Stacey who hits him with her protection bottle. He tries to strangle her, but she hits him in the head with her protection bottle. This blow thwarts Donovan onto the ground. Stacey runs away but feels an urge to pee. The meaning of the letters S HDN signify that Drea is hidden. Stacey goes back to find Drea.

In Chapter 34, Stacey wants to pee and notices a porta-john behind the construction site tipped to the side with a rod locking the door. She suspects that Drea is inside. She manages to find a rock with which she tries to break the rod. After striking it a few times, she manages to remove the rod. Drea is inside with a duct tape on her mouth and around her wrists and ankles. She hears her sobbing beneath the tape. Stacey slides her out of the toilet, removing the tapes from around her mouth and ankles, but Drea can only cry. Stacey picks her up but she is too heavy pushing them both to the ground. She reaches for her protection bottle, and gives it to Drea, telling her to remember her strength and safety. Drea finally stops crying, beginning to stare instead. All Stacey can do is drag her away.

Donovan finds them putting his knife on Stacey's throat. Drea starts screaming. Donovan threatens Stacey with he knife asking her to put her hands behind her back. puts her hands behind her back. He confesses he accidentally killed Veronica because she pretended that she had received threats. Veronica was to disappear as if she was killed, prompting Drea leave the campus. In this way, Veronica could go out with Chad. Donovan didn't want to kill Veronica although wanted to prevent Drea from leaving the campus.

In an attempt to convince Drea that he is telling the truth he starts stabbing the ground all around him, injuring his knee in the process. Seeing this Stacey reaches for a branch, and swings it at Donovan, who gets hold of it and breaks it. The only thing Stacey can grab is the rock. Donovan throws her against a tree, pressing his knife against her cheek. It urges Drea to defend stand up and scream. This distraction allows Stacey to bite Donovan's hand. He releases his knife, while Drea gets hold of it forcing him to sit down, but he lurches towards her instead, grabbs her wrist, and manages to get back his knife. Drea kicks the back of his leg. He falls, releases his knife but gets it back just when the police shows up. Officer Tate along with other policemen arrest Donovan.

In Chapter 35, Drea testifies to the police. Following Donovan's arrest she returns home. Donovan is recognized in the campus as an obvious person who would engage



in stalking Drea. Everybody though is surprised with Veronica's death as a result of her falling for Chad. She pretended to be stalked just before she was to go with her parents on a safari trip the day after she was to meet her stalker. It was also Donovan who wanted to scare Veronica with a card saying to mind her own business as well as Drea's handkerchief.

If any subsequent investigation would discover these items in Veronica's possession it would point it in the wrong direction. It made Veronica so scared that she decided not get involved anymore in the stalking. Donovan used Chad's email account to send mails to Drea and Veronica. It then prompted Veronica to go to the school, where Donovan accidentally killed her.

During the trial his version of events was that he never intended to harm Drea. He only became angry at Drea when she made plans with Chad. Donovan removed his jersey from Stacey and Drea's window, placing it into Chad's mailbox, and requesting that he stays away from Drea. He also removed their laundry from the washroom, keeping only Drea's bra and hankerchief.

When Drea was taken to the hospital Donovan waited for her in front of the dorm, asking her to go with him for a walk. He explained that he needed to talk to her. After reaching the construction site, he told her he loved her. Drea's response angered him, because she wanted to go back home. His anger resulted in a fight. The reason behind sending the lilies was because he thought they suited Drea. He sent her a riddle to foretell their romantic meeting. When Donovan met Stacey in the woods he made up a story that someone is following them. In the meantime he went to hid Drea in the porta-john.

The court decided he was temporarily insane, charging him with involuntary manslaughter. He was then sent to a juvenile detention centre for mentally disturbed for five years.

Amber moves in with Stacey while Drea returns home for the entire year, studying with private tutors. Drea and Chad decide to remain just friends. Stacey and Chad kiss at the tree where they once kissed and spend the rest of the day together. Stacey can finally trust herself.

## Chapter 31-35 Analysis

Stacey is entirely confused with the events she witnesses. She is questioned by Madame LeCharge about her absence at the assembly meeting as well as attending the police station. Stacey hopes she can still find Drea. In her last attempt she tries to conduct a spirit séance on her own. It confirms what she already knew, giving her further clues as to who the stalker is as well as where Drea where to look for her. It all has been part of her dreams in the past. She has no time to analyse them now, but knows that she needs to search for Drea in the forest.





Stacey has no choice but to venture into the forest on her own. All she can do is trust her own instinct as well as her grandmother's guidance. In the forest she gets to hear footsteps and the dragging of the body. She follows these sounds eventually meeting Donovan who tries to get her away from there. Just as it happened in her dreams she loses one of her sneakers immediately after she injures her foot. This injury along with the sounds of phone calls she keeps receiving from Amber allows Donovan to trace her. She may be able to get away on her own but she decides to follow him, hoping she is going to find Drea in this way as well. Her conclusions prove to be correct because she finds a porta-john just as it was the case in her dreams. Her urge to pee is another clue that she uses as guidance. She does find Drea inside the porta-john, but at the same time Donovan also finds both of them. The ensuing fight between him, Stacey, and Drea reaches its critical moment when the police turns up.

Donovan manages to defend himself in court, claiming that he never intended to kill. He convinces the court that killing Veronica was only accidental. It allows him to be sent to detention centre.

Drea stays in her home for the entire year while Stacey and Chad finally become a couple.



# Characters

## Stacey

Stacey comes from a Wiccan family. She attends Hilcrest boarding school. She thinks she is more like her grandmother. Her aunt is called Delia. She thinks that she also looks like her grandmother, but in reality she looks a lot like her aunt Delia. They both have golden-brown eyes that offer an invitation to the bedroom and also resemble the eyes of Bette Davis. She has shoulder length dark hair that hangs in dark clumps. She has a gift of seeing the future in her dreams. She leaves with Drea in one room for two years. She is secretly in love with Chad, Drea's ex-boyfriend. She also hates Veronica Leeman.

Stacey is modern yet to a degree conservative. She has various qualities, such as being loyal, knowing how to be friends and how to care about someone. She also has certain flaws. She is uncertain about her own feelings and even premonitions. She wets her bed. Only her adventure with Drea teaches her that she can trust herself.

Every now and then she does various rituals. She is also known to be doing spells among her classmates. She starts having nightmares that are followed by bedwetting. She has various secrets. One of them is that the girl she used to baby sit, Maura was killed. Stacey had similar nightmares before the girl disappeared. She thinks that she needs to save Drea if she is in danger also for her own sake. She is still suffering when remembering Maura.

Her grandmother gave her an amethyst ring with Stacey's initials. In her first nightmare she is looking for Drea while the man who orchestrates all this appears in that dream with lilies although she doesn't recognise him. Her grandmother told her that lilies mean death. Stacey is running away. This first nightmare is a premonition of everything that is to happen. She must find out what it means and she must help her friend Drea. Stacey knows how to do Tarrot card reading, but she prefers to use regular cards.

## Drea

Drea is in coeducational boarding school in Hilcrest along with Stacey, Amber, and Veronica. She is sixteen years old just like other girls, has angled cheeks, pouty lips, loopy, golden hair, and cat shaped eyes with curled, black lashes. Although pretty, she can also be quite vain and superficial. She is possessive of Chad even after they break up. Her lack of insight into what Chad is really thinking or what he wants distances her best friend, Stacey. Stacey realizes that she can't reveal her own crush on Chad because Drea remains involved in getting him back that is only a matter of time. She thinks of herself as the only girl that he can be interested in, because they share the same tastes. It doesn't cross her mind that Chad may be interested in someone else.



She loves chocolate that becomes like a habit for her. This habit does not affect her weight that she manages to keep down despite treating chocolate as a remedy to all her problems, including stressful situations.

All the boys in Hillcrest school want her. Her boyfriend Chad wants to date her even after they break up. Drea is known to go out with lots of boys and everyone in Hillcrest wants to date her. She broke up with her boyfriend Chad six months ago. She likes to eat chocolate regardless of whether she is going to put on weight. She also likes Diet Cokes and admires Stacey for her foretelling talent. She thinks she should do it professionally. She suspects that Stacey may try to get involved with Chad and is jealous of everyone interested in him, including Stacey and Amber. Her idea of protection involves her parents being together.

Drea is confused about her relationship with Chad. They break up and get together on and off. Although she desperately tries to get together with Chad, she becomes interested in a mystery man who calls her often without telling her who he is. They share various private moments in private conversations. She is reluctant to reveal anything about her conversations until she is forced to do so through a series of events that, according to Stacey, foreshadow Drea's death.

## **Amber**

Amber is sixteen years old. She attends Hillcrest High School. She lives above Stacey and Drea. She visits boys' bathrooms writing about herself to let them know she is available. She also finds out what they write about other girls, including Drea. She is secretly in love with Chad just as Stacey is. Amber didn't have a date for the last six months. She gets a tattoo of a chicken on her forearm as her idea of protection. PJ is her admirer and tries to be wherever she is. She likes granola and she doesn't know how to keep a secret. She has an elaborate paint on her toenails with blue smiley faces with half-worn-off smiles. Amber thinks Donovan is a creep, but she likes to flirt with him.

She is confused about her love interests, rejecting PJ all the time. Like most of the girls in Hillcrest, she follows the trends, hating Veronica Leeman while flirting with Donovan.

## **Chad**

Chad is Drea's ex-boyfriend. Stacey, Veronica, and other girls are secretly in love with him. He has sandy blond hair and greenish-blue eyes. Despite the breakups in the past Drea thinks she and Chad will get back together again because they have similar tastes. Chad also is seeing Stacey. They spent one afternoon searching for pinecones or cleaning up the campus for Earth Day. They kissed once. He wears a jersey and used to email Drea goodnight when they were a couple.

He thinks Drea only thinks she is in love with him. It is better if they are only friends. He realises he is really in love with Stacey because he can be himself with her.



## PJ

PJ attends the same class as Stacey, Drea, and Amber. He sits in the class beside Stacey, and dyes his hair frequently. His hair matches his nail polish, but later changes it adding a circular patch of yellow dye. After Veronica Leeman is murdered, he dyes his hair black. He has a habit of pouring orange soda into his milk and drinks in audible gulps. He has the habit of knocking on Stacey and Drea's window in a series of raps from the tune "I dream of Jeannie". He dislikes Veronica, but doesn't like to swat flies because he believes in karmic penalty. He tried to free Mrs Pinkerton's pet rabbit from its cage. He changes his appearance according to his moods and what happens around him. He fears he is going to be suspected of murdering Veronica when he doesn't have an alibi for the night when she died. No one had seen him entering the dorm and around the dorm on that day. He is even more afraid knowing that others were aware of how much he hated her.

## Veronica Leeman

Veronica Leeman applies too much spray and gel into her hair that makes it stand. She has moss green eyes and hazel brown hair. PJ and others call her Snotty Ronnie. During the freshman year she organized a book drop during Algebra lesson. Everyone drops their books at midday. As a result the whole class except for them receives a week of detention during which they have to listen about mating habits of reptiles. She is a strict vegetarian and laughs in a high-pitched cackle. Veronica's room is in shades of pink, being to some extent her own reflection through the way she dresses. She is jealous of Drea, orchestrating her own stalking to separate her from Chad.

## Donovan

Donovan likes Drea and everyone in Hilcrest knows it. He liked her since the third grade but Drea hasn't given him a chance. He draws with charcoal. He has a sketchbook full of pictures of flowers, bowls of fruit, a pair of glasses, including a picture with a girl under umbrella with a short raincoat resembling Drea. He plays hockey, although according to Amber, he is not the hockey type. Amber likes to flirt with him although she thinks he is a creep.

## Stacey's grandmother

Stacey's grandmother used to make grilled egg sandwiches. Her name is Anne Blake. She liked English muffins, and wore an amethyst ring on her fourth finger. The ring was made of a chunky violet stone that almost reached her knuckle. She bought the ring when Stacey was born and kept it for her. She also inscribed the initials on the ring with the letters S.A. B. She then gave this ring to Stacey. It fitted her better than her grandmother. She also taught Stacey about the meaning of various flowers. She gave Stacey a book with yellow papers and burn marks in corners that has remedies, spells,



poetry, and secret recipes two weeks before passing away. Her grandmother received the book from her great-aunt Etna. She told Stacey to pass it on to someone else who has a gift as well. She told Stacey not to rely on the book too much because spells and remedies should come from within and the meaning should be made by those who create them.

She lights up a candle every night she goes to sleep. It was usually a blue candle because blue was to be for nightmares. Such colour can be used to make nightmares go away or bring them closer depending on how it was used. She had nightmares every day. She guides Stacey through her ordeals. Her grandmother claimed that it's not the spell that fails the witch but the witch that fails the spell.

## **Delia**

Delia is Stacey's great-great aunt. She has written a family scrapbook that contains various spells. One of these spells can help recover memories. For Stacey, this scrapbook is important in trying to save Drea.

## **Madame LeCharge**

Madame LeCharge has been nicknamed Madame Discharge. She has tiny grey eyes and clunky red glasses. She is the resident director. When she walks, there is a squish sound in her pants. She smells like a wet dog, and is always busy watching Blind Date program on her portable TV in the lobby. She often eats Doritos with Diet Coke.

She becomes suspicious of Stacey's role in Veronica Leeman's murder, inquiring about Stacey's absence in the assembly after the murder. She tries to detect any suspicious behaviour in Stacey and questions her about her ride to the police station. She tries to find out what Stacey had to do with Veronica's murder. Stacey tries to avoid her, fearing her at the same time.



## **Objects/Places**

### **Idaho Gold potato**

Drea hands Stacey an Idaho Gold potato so that she can use to clot the bleeding from her foot when she injures herself on the broken glass in their room.

### **Teen People**

Stacey looks through Teen People magazine to take her mind off her nightmares containing lilies.

### **Earth Day**

Stacey and Chad cleaned the campus on Earth Day.

### **Hillcrest pie eating contest**

Stacey and Chad ate cherry pies during Hillcrest pie-eating contest.

### **Ace of Clubs, a Five of Clubs and an Ace of Spades**

These cards signify that Chad is going to ask Drea to meet with him but then he is going to cancel it, Five of Clubs mean a package Drea is going to receive while Ace of Spades signify death.

### **the House that Jack built**

The House that Jack built is an animated man in overalls building a house and then painting its exterior. When the house is finished a cat chases a rat across the front porch. A grandma comes outside saying that this is the house that Jack built and this is the rat that ate the malt that lay in the house that Jack built. This program is sent as part of an e-mail from Donovan who disguises it as an email from Chad.

### **Lilies**

Stacey's grandmother believed that lilies mean death. When she received them she chopped them and put them in the garbage disposal.



## **Family scrapbook**

Stacey received her family's scrapbook from her grandmother just before she passed away. It contains home remedies, poetry, and secret recipes.

## **Hangman cafe**

Hangman cafe is in Hilcrest campus. It's the place where Veronica Leeman, Donna Tillings and artists such as Donovan hang out. It used to be a theater, but students call it Hangman because of a girl who hanged herself there when she didn't get her role in a play.

## **O'Brian building**

O'Brian building is next to the tennis court, parking lot, and school library in Hillcrest campus.



# Themes

## Friendship

Blue is for nightmares explores the meaning of friendship. Stacey and Drea have been roommates for the last two years. At the same time, Drea and Chad know each other since childhood. Their friendship is based on certain affection they share.

Stacey and Drea know their likes and dislikes, yet they are afraid to share things about themselves that are embarrassing. Stacey is afraid to tell Drea that she wets her bed even though it may be a medical condition. At the same time, Drea doesn't feel comfortable to share with Stacey that she has been talking on the phone to someone she doesn't even know.

Drea is sensitive about everything that may involve Chad. She gets upset even when Stacey reads in the cards that she should be careful about what she says. Drea doesn't think it is inappropriate to fight with those who try to flirt with Chad, even when she herself broke up with him. Friendship between Drea and Stacey becomes complicated especially for Stacey who is love with Chad. Her feelings interfere with the way she relates to Drea.

## Sex and love

Sex plays an important role in this story. Even when Stacey has an important task she needs to accomplish, it constantly interferes with her thoughts and leads to her preoccupation about Chad. Her thoughts about Chad are quite intense. Sometimes her thoughts are only about love and sometimes they are quite sensual. Even when she doesn't think about Chad, she subconsciously thinks about love, just as it happens when she arranges her chips in the shape of heart in the cafeteria during her meal after her French class. When she realises that Chad may have seen what she did, she feels embarrassed. His visual appeal is part of her admiration for him as well as certain idealisation of the way he looks. This admiration involves certain analysis of the way his hair flips and contrasts with the rest of his clothing, engaging in aesthetics while at the same time manifesting distance. She thinks of him as something out of the ordinary that is evident when she mentions that he has perfect greenish-blue eyes. It is as if Chad was almost above other common human beings. Often when she thinks of Chad, she becomes detached from reality as if she forgot where she is and what she does. He is almost intoxicating and unreal. It is as if he existed in a different dimension. In this way, her attitude towards him is almost as if he was some kind of art, unreachable, yet desirable, beautiful, and perfect. It inspires her to think of him.

Chad realises this distance between them when he tells Stacey that she is running away from something that is close to her. When Stacey is confronted with the reality of their relationship she becomes embarrassed, just as she feels her cheeks getting





warmer following his comments about her running away, and hence remaining distant, while her mouth forces a smile on her face almost against her will. She can't believe that he would know what she thinks. She then is brought to reality.

Her love contains an element of fantasy, where Chad has qualities that are all almost perfect. He is not an ordinary person and she would never be with him if she thought that Chad was a rascal or a stalker. In this way, it is the character that is more important than the relationship itself. Romance is not the dominant part of this story, yet the readers are awakened to certain sensitivities of this story.

This aspect of their relationship is put into perspective when the physical aspects of the relationship between Stacey and Chad come to fore where sensuality and sexuality becomes dominant.

When Stacey talks about the relationship between Drea and Donovan, she describes it as sweating over her by him rather than being in love with her, suggesting that it has a more basic undertone. Donovan gives Drea a chewing gum also fulfilling her simple needs, and when he draws her it is when she is sad and crying rather than being happy. He is also lost in certain fantasy, but his fantasy seems more cruel and abstract.

## Witchcraft

Witchcraft is a common theme in urban fantasy. Such theme allows to build a world that is unique, where different rules apply. We also need to be familiar with the way this world works. Stacey has to know the meaning of lilies to prevent her friend's death. It is only through the knowledge of this world, where she gets to know the meaning of colours, flowers, and spells that she is able to survive. If she would ignore the meaning contained in lilies she would not try to have more dreams about the future and warn others.

This world has a specific atmosphere. In *Blue is for Nightmares*, witchcraft adds to the element of mystery in the story. We are intrigued when fiction that is part of Stacey's dream becomes a reality. Her experience during her dreams begins to play an active role in the story. In a true sense her dreams become reality. We have to follow her dreams to find out what is going to happen. We have to know what is going to happen so that these horrific events can be prevented.

Witchcraft is not a dominant part of this story. It is difficult and it is almost as if we had to chase it. Stacey experiences problems at some stage when she wants to have dreams. It is only sometimes that we gain a glimpse of them and manage to enter this other world. This world is not only mysterious. It is also full of metaphors and riddles. We need to guess a lot and make conclusions. Other events that occur at the same time interfere with clues, making them confusing.

Witchcraft, just as Stacey's love of Chad, is somewhere beyond her normal existence. Her rituals are like an escape from reality. It is also full of certain flavour that becomes

appealing, as it pervades our existence when we become engrossed by the events of the story.

Through this new witchcraft world characters such as Stacey gain a new dimension. They have a new trait, an additional component that they can use. It also requires a new understanding. Through witchcraft, certain events can also be justified.

The author skillfully introduces us into the world of witchcraft describing how spells work, and what needs to be done to predict future or communicate with spirits. It makes the story believable and more compelling.



# Style

## Point of View

The book is narrated by Stacey. It is her point of view that is prevalent throughout the story. This makes the story quite strong while it is also full of spells and premonitions. Her voice influences the story through her own sometimes not quite mature perspective, interesting insights as well as criticism of herself.

Stacey deeply cares about her friend Drea, and it resonates throughout the story, as we also become perplexed with Stacey's dilemmas when she is unable to get along or communicate with her roommate. Her relationship with Drea is also complicated because despite the affection she feels for her after knowing her for quite some time, she finds herself in love with Drea's former boyfriend. Drea still hopes that she is going to be reunited with Chad, making it even more difficult for Stacey to know how to relate to him, what to keep secret, and how to behave when she is with him in the presence of Drea.

This conflict of feelings resonates throughout the book. Stacey on one hand expresses positive opinions about Drea. It is apparent in her descriptions of Drea or when she reveals what she thinks about her. Her thoughts are mostly warm and affectionate. They can also easily change if Chad is involved. Drea's hope to get back together that turns into a certainty makes Stacey confused. At other times, Stacey may become frustrated with Drea who gets angry easily when she realizes that she is not able to manouvre any more Chad's feelings. She tries to make him jealous, inviting disdain from Stacey and her friends. She can even resort to being nasty if it would bring him back. Stacey feels sometimes distance.

Stacey's point of view is hence perplexed as she changes her mind about her friends and situations. She cares about them and becomes determined to save her best friend even though she is not able to rely on Drea's affection that can be influenced depending on whether she is going to lose Chad because of that. Either way Stacey needs to act quickly. This urgency is also apparent in the way she tells her story. The point of view is related in a fast pace mode, exposing various phenomena in a sharp yet intriguing manner.

## Setting

The setting involves a coeducational Hilcrest boarding school near the forest. The setting is critical to the way urban fantasy unfolds. The location adds to the mystery element in the story. We find at the beginning of the story that Stacey is the person that possesses secret skills, being able to conduct spells and see the future. Through her the rules of the world contained in the book are defined. We realize that we will be able to trace as well the future just as Stacey is trying to access it. This world is at the same



time quite realistic. Along with boarding school we meet realistic characters with their realistic needs and faults.

The setting contains as well certain talismans and objects that are going to be used to move the story forward. These objects are also involved in the fight between good forces such as Stacey who uses her abilities to save her friend, and negative forces, such as Donovan who wants to kill her.

Such settings includes a person who has the special skills as well as where they originated. The extend to which Stacey is in charge of her own skills also determines how the story is going to progress. Others who don't have her skills depend on her and need to work with her. The boarding school is quite a realistic setting despite the fact that the rituals and spells are part of this place as well. The setting is modern. It has various details that help to establish the way in which fantastic elements will interact with the rest of the world. Such setting adds and interesting dimension to the story itself.

## Language and Meaning

The language is quite mature and graphic. Characters raise quite mature subjects. It makes the book quite realistic. The author uses descriptions and similes that add to the imagery of this book. The descriptions in the book give it a realistic edge despite various mysteries contained in the story. The language depicts various metaphores that give further insight into the story or provides background to what is happening. Flashbacks also transport the reader into important areas of Stacey's life. She manages to convey details, using graphic depictions as seen through teens eyes.

The expressions used in the book are colourful and imaginative. The text is fresh and provocative while also being quite direct at times. This type of story telling keeps the reader interested through the flow that allows reading with ease.

Language depicts the relationship between the characters in an imaginative way through their propensities and flaws. Nicknames and descriptions given to characters further help to get to know them. Metaphors also created in this way give insight into what really matters.

Language utilizes various hints and clues while providing near death experiences.

Its language is appropriate to urban fantasy format, using expressions and slang that is evocative yet not too sophisticated. Also the setting and language are related. It is contemporary although sometimes may appear almost cliché. This language adds to the story and the flow of the plot.

The dialogue is full of energy and sounds real. Even though sorcery and witchcraft may turn to be strange when using certain phrases, it retains its character without sounding silly. The dialogue seems simple enough retaining a good flavour.



Stacey's nightmares are significant. These dreams are also part of the story. Their depiction enhances the imagery contained in the story.

Through the sensory details we are able to detect the meaning.

## Structure

The book is structured in 35 chapters. Each chapter is an event that has certain significance in the way the story progresses. Although the first chapter describes Stacey's nightmares only in general through the way they usually occur and their most significant content with the next chapter being a flashback where Stacey's grandmother hands gives her the amethyst ring, all other chapters progress as events develop.

Each chapter unveils incidents that are part of the story development involving certain elements that are common to the way urban fantasy unfolds. This structure begins when a horrific event causes the main character to investigate the reason behind this event. Stacey experiences a horrific nightmare. She needs to find out why these nightmares occur and what causes them. Her insight into what triggers her dreams can only be achieved through spells. Stacey reaches for the book of spells while further investigation is to be made along with Veronica. Each revelation is followed by further events that need to be explained in order to save Drea from danger.

As Stacey conducts inquiries into why would anyone want to kill Drea, she also experiences constant clashes with opponents who need to stop her from finding out who is behind the threats and in consequence preventing their fulfillment. Donovan makes sure that everybody stays away from Drea so that he can abduct her. He warns Stacey as well as Veronica that they should mind their own business. Stacey has to fight even with Drea who become angry with her when she finds her with Chad. Their lack of cooperation is dangerous and crucial at the same time for Drea's safety.

At the end a battle between Stacey and Donovan is quite lengthy. It takes place in the forest and with various turns of events that change unexpectedly. When it seems that all is lost, Stacey becomes saved when police shows up.

The main story involves saving Drea while other subplots involve Stacey's crush on Chad along with his attachment to Drea as his previous girlfriend.



## Quotes

"There, in the peaceful whirring of the wind, I can almost hear my grandmother's voice, telling me to trust my insights, telling me that it's when we don't that tragedy occurs" (p. 50).

"I don't use the book often, especially because Gram always said it wasn't good to rely on it, that spells or remedies come from within, and that we are the ones who give them meaning" (p. 54).

"The purple is for insight; the white is for magic" (p. 56).

"Yellow is for clarity of thought" (p. 65).

"When I think of protection, I think of the moon." p. 105

"Gram used to say that in order to have insightful dreams, you need to be brave enough to accept the consequences" (p. 129).

"Because blue is for nightmares" (p.181).

"As much as I hate to admit it, I know exactly what Gram would say right now; what she always used to say about spells when they didn't work - how it isn't the spell that fails the witch, it's the witch that fails the spell" (p. 185).

"It's not everyday your best friend makes you feel like some freakish character straight out of Steven King novel: Stacey Brown, coed by day, psychic bed-wetter by night" (p. 198).

"It's like what Gram always said about spells suddenly making sense - how we're the ones who give them meaning, how somewhere deep inside us lies the most powerful truth and will of all" (p. 257).

"I have to trust my body, what's telling me, where it will lead me." p. 265).

"Maybe love really is funny - funny strange" (p. 272).

## Topics for Discussion

How does Stacey perceive her dreams?

What is the significance of dreams in *Blue is for Nightmares*?

What is the role of witchcraft in urban fantasy novels?

How significant are relationships in resolving the danger that both Drea and Stacey face?

What is the significance of love in *Blue is for Nightmares*?

How do complexities of friendship contribute to the story's development?

Why is foreshadowing through dreams effective?