

# **Born at Midnight Study Guide**

**Born at Midnight by C. C. Hunter**

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# Plot Summary

Kylie Galen is sixteen as the story opens. Her father is moving out of their house, leaving Kylie and her mother behind. Kylie is sad that her father would leave her alone with her mother, who Kylie calls the "Ice Queen." Kylie begs him to take her but he refuses, saying Kylie's mother needs her. Kylie has recently had night terrors and she sometimes sees a man in military uniform that no one else seems to see. On the night her father leaves, Kylie goes to a party with her friend, Sara. There is alcohol and drugs and Kylie is angry that Sara knew Kylie's ex-boyfriend, Trey, would be there with his new girlfriend. The party is broken up by the police and Kylie has to call her father from jail. However, her mother comes to pick her up and announces that Kylie is going to be sent away to a summer camp for troubled teens.

There, Kylie learns the other campers are all supernaturals, ranging from werewolves and vampires to witches and fairies. Kylie is quickly singled out as an anomaly because her mind is closed to the others. She is forced to accept the fact that there are supernaturals when one of the shapeshifters turns into a unicorn on command. Kylie is roommates with a witch, Miranda, and a vampire named Della. While she's initially afraid of both she soon discovers they are - in some ways - typical teenagers struggling to deal with their lives and families, just as Kylie is. Miranda is dyslexic and that handicap is threatening her family's place in their coven. Della's parents don't know she's a vampire and believe she must be on drugs. Meanwhile, she's being urged by her cousin to break ties with her family and join a group of rogue vampires.

Kylie soon becomes involved with two boys though she isn't certain either has her best interests at heart. One may have killed Kylie's cat when they were younger and the other may be manipulating her emotions to make her feel things she doesn't really feel. Meanwhile, Kylie continues to try to figure out why she can see a ghost and whether she is also a supernatural. She initially hopes to prove she isn't one of them but is soon connected with her new friends in a way that makes her hope she is a supernatural.

When Kylie realizes the fate of the camp is in danger, she and her friends set out to discover who is killing off exotic animals at a nearby refuge. While solving this mystery Kylie comes to learn things about herself and her family. She learns the ghost who has been with her for months is actually her biological father and that he wants her to know he was glad to learn he was going to be a father. She also learns that he had supernatural powers and is, therefore, the source of her own power. She learns that her father isn't the wonderful person she'd thought and that her mother isn't as cold as Kylie had believed. Finally, she learns that she has more in common with vampires and witches than she'd thought and that her place is at the camp.



# Chapters 1 through 6

## Chapters 1 through 6 Summary

In Chapter one, Kylie Galen is in the kitchen as her parents argue. Her father is moving out and her mother, who Kylie secretly calls the "Ice Queen," seems indifferent. Her father asks where Kylie's mother put his underwear and she says she doesn't know. Kylie knows Mrs. Galen burned it on the barbecue grill. Mr. Galen finishes packing and prepares to leave. Kylie follows him out, pleading with her father to let her go with him. He refuses, saying Mrs. Galen needs Kylie but Kylie knows what he really means is that he doesn't want her. Outside, Kylie sees a young man dressed in a military uniform. She's upset by the appearance because she's seen him many times recently. The sightings have become so frequent that Kylie believes he might be stalking her. She's worried when her neighbor walks very near the young man without acknowledging his presence. That's happened with other people as well and the result is that Kylie is now seeing a psychiatrist.

In Chapter two, an hour has passed since her father left the house. Kylie, with her backpack and purse, prepares to leave the house. She's spending the night with Sara Jetton, her best friend, and is attending a party at Mark Jameson's house. When her mother asks, Kylie assures her Mark's parents will be home though she knows they won't. At the party, Kylie soon encounters Sara who pushes a beer into Kylie's hand though they both know Kylie won't drink it. Kylie is there only a little while when Trey - who had been her boyfriend until recently - arrives with his new girlfriend. Trey bumps into Kylie later and says he's heard about the Galens' pending divorce and the death of Kylie's grandmother.

The party is broken up by police officers and Kylie, along with many others, are taken to the police station. Kylie hadn't been drinking or taking any of the drugs that were seized at the house but she has to call her parents to pick her up. She calls her father but her mother arrives. Mrs. Galen announces that she's sending Kylie to a summer camp for troubled teens, recommended by Kylie's psychiatrist.

In Chapter three, Kylie and Mrs. Galen are at the YMCA parking lot where Kylie is to catch a bus for Shadow Falls Camp. She gets on the bus and is immediately aware that the others already on board are strange. They have an array of dyed hair and tattoos and Kylie soon discovers a boy who has eyes that change color constantly. The driver is "elf short" with purple hair. Kylie believes her mother might have second thoughts about sending her to this camp if she sees the other campers. One of the girls has a "huge honking toad," and Kylie wonders if the girl licks it to get high. Kylie sends a text to Sara, saying, "Help! Stuck on a bus with freaks." Sara responds with a plea for help of her own, saying she's afraid she might be pregnant.

In Chapter four, Kylie waits for Sara to say she's kidding but it doesn't happen. The girl who'd been holding the toad introduces herself as Miranda. Kylie asks what Miranda



knows about the camp and Miranda says it's not bad "if you can stand the sight of blood." She assures Kylie she isn't teasing but says she might be exaggerating. Kylie continues texting to Sara. While she knows her own situation is horrible, she feels sorry for Sara. Kylie says she'll be headed home at the end of the summer but Sara's pregnancy won't be over at the end of the summer.

The bus stops for a break and a pale girl who Kylie later learns is Della touches her. Kylie jumps because the girl is so warm. While she is waiting in line to pay for some gum, a boy begins talking to her. She later learns his name is Derek but her first impression is that he reminds her of Trey.

In chapter five, the bus arrives at camp and Kylie is escorted in by Derek into the camp dining hall. Kylie encounters a boy she knows from her childhood, Lucas Parker, but doesn't talk to him. She watches as a strange ritual goes on with almost everyone in the room wiggling their eyebrows at each other. The camp leader, Holiday Brandon, introduces a second leader, Sky Peacemaker. Holiday goes over some of the expectations and rules then asks for questions. One girl, dressed in goth clothing, says she wants to know who Kylie is.

In chapter six, Kylie's first instinct is to run but "too many freaks stood between her and the door." She realizes that to run would make it appear she's afraid so she stands her ground instead. Holiday asks everyone who knows why they are attending this camp to move to one side of the room and those who don't to move to the other. Kylie, not wanting to stand out, moves with the larger group indicating she does know. When Holiday asks Kylie why she's there, Kylie says it's because she got in trouble at a party where there was beer and drugs. Several of the others laugh.

Holiday instructs Kylie to come with her and the small group and Kylie does. Holiday announces that all the teens at the camp have supernatural powers. Some are vampires, witches, or werewolves. Kylie obviously doesn't believe it and Holiday offers to provide proof.

## Chapters 1 through 6 Analysis

The characters Kylie meets on the bus will become an important part of finding her identity and dealing with the superpowers she has only begun to discover. Two of the most important girls will be Miranda and Della. Miranda is a witch who is slated to take over as high priestess for her coven. However, she is dyslexic and has trouble with spells. Miranda is the girl with the toad on the bus. Kylie has heard about some drug users who claim that licking a specific species of tad will make a person high. Kylie believes this is why Miranda has the toad with her. In actuality, the toad is Mr. Pepper, Miranda's former piano teacher who inappropriately touched Miranda. Miranda cast a spell but made a mistake and Mr. Pepper only turns into a toad when he's thinking about touching another little girl. As soon as his thoughts turn to that topic, he turns into a toad and pops into Miranda's presence. As soon as he turns his thoughts away from that topic, he returns to his real body and wherever he was prior to the change. The second



of the important girls on the bus is Della, a young vampire. Della's father is Asian and Della is struggling to find a way to live her new way of life without alienating her parents. She has a cousin who is also a vampire and who wants Della to leave her family behind and live with his group. Della is torn.

During the bus ride to the camp, Kylie begins to meet the other campers and there are lots of hints as to what's going to happen later in the story. For example, one of the boys wiggles his eyebrows at her and she takes it as an innuendo that he has making out on his mind. When Kylie is standing in line at the convenience store, she sees that same motion from Derek. Derek says the other campers wouldn't be so curious about her if she "opened up." This seems odd because Kylie hasn't tried to be unfriendly to anyone. It will later be revealed that the supernatural people can "read" each other to a degree but Kylie's mind is closed completely. All they can tell about her is that she's not entirely human but they can't get any of the other information that would typically be forthcoming without any words. When Kylie expresses her puzzlement, Derek realizes that Kylie doesn't know why she's being sent to this particular camp and that she doesn't know that she has supernatural powers.



# Chapters 7 through 11

## Chapters 7 through 11 Summary

In Chapter seven, Holiday calls Perry Gomez to the office, and introduces him as a shapeshifter. Holiday challenges Kylie to decide what Perry should become. Kylie suggests a unicorn. Perry hesitates, saying unicorns aren't real but Holiday assures him they are merely extinct. She says Perry should imagine "a horse with a horn" and Perry, in a cloud of "floating glitter," turns into a unicorn. In Chapter eight, at Holiday's direction, the unicorn disappears and Perry returns to his human form. Holiday says the campers can leave but asks Kylie to remain behind. Holiday says Kylie is at the camp because she's gifted. Kylie doesn't agree and asks Holiday to define her gift.

In Chapter nine, Holiday asks if Kylie is ready for the truth. Kylie initially says she is but interrupts before Holiday can speak, saying she might not be ready for whatever Holiday is about say. Holiday reveals that Kylie's psychiatrist, who is half fairy, recognized Kylie's supernatural powers and recommended she go to the camp. Holiday gives Kylie some facts, including that most supernatural powers are hereditary. Kylie says she's certain her parents don't have supernatural powers and Holiday says it sometimes skips a generation, though not often. Under Holiday's questioning, Kylie admits that she has seen someone she isn't certain is real - referring to the soldier - but that she isn't certain he's a ghost either. Holiday reveals that she also sees ghost and refers to herself as a ghost whisperer. She tells Kylie she'll be able to better control the gift and Kylie snatches at the idea that she might be able to simply "turn it off." Holiday also reveals that some ghosts have enough energy to make themselves known to humans without supernatural powers. She also reveals that the eyebrow wiggling is a means supernaturals use to "read" each other. In Kylie's case, others can't get a read on her. Some believe Kylie is closing herself off on purpose and Holiday says that's considered rude. Holiday then asks what time Kylie was born and she says it was midnight. Holiday says everyone at the camp was born at midnight.

Kylie learns that she's roommates with Miranda and Della Tsang, In Chapter ten, Kylie excuses herself from talking with her new roommates by answering the telephone. It's Trey who says he misses her and wants to meet up with her. Kylie returns to the table without making a commitment and Derek asks if she'd been talking to her boyfriend. Kylie says it's her ex-boyfriend and turns her attention back to her own situation.

Kylie again sees Lucas and remembers when they were young next-door-neighbors. Kylie's cat had come up missing and she'd just gotten a kitten when Lucas told her she should be sure to keep the cat inside to avoid losing it too. She'd told her parents and they'd confronted Lucas's parents. The Parkers had moved away the next day. Kylie's father had referred to Lucas as a future serial killer. Kylie believes Lucas killed her cat but she also remembers a time bullies had picked on her until Lucas intervened.



In Chapter eleven, there's a time for all campers to introduce themselves and Holiday begins by saying that Kylie isn't blocking them from "reading" her on purpose. Kylie is later in her cabin feeling sorry for herself because of her father's indifference. Miranda steps into her room and notes Kylie has been crying. Della joins them in Kylie's room and remarks on the fact that Kylie is afraid of her. When Kylie reveals that she sees ghosts, both Della and Miranda are obviously afraid.

## Chapters 7 through 11 Analysis

Kylie and Holiday are in the dining room soon after Kylie's arrival when a man in a suit enters. He is obviously angry and threatens Holiday, saying the camp will be shut down if she doesn't "get to the bottom of this and make it stop." The situation will remain a mystery until near the end of the book. Kylie will eventually learn the man is from a government agency charged with keeping an eye on the supernaturals, and that there are animals being killed at a nearby wildlife refuge. It seems admirable that Holiday tries to deal with the situation on her own without worrying the campers but Kylie later points out that Holiday's efforts to protect them are the same as lies.

Kylie is frightened by the idea that she's very near a great many supernaturals, including vampires. She is particularly disturbed by the idea of vampires drinking blood and that will later be something she has to overcome when she becomes friends with a vampire, Holiday explains that there are rogue groups of supernaturals that do not obey the rules but that those in the camp are nice and Kylie has nothing to fear from them. Kylie begins to think of the campers as falling into one of two groups: Those who won't consider humans food and those who would consider humans food.

As Kylie begins to accept her situation, it occurs to her that she'll have to lie to almost everyone that she knows. She knows she won't be able to tell her friends she has supernatural powers of that she knows people who are witches and vampires.





# Chapters 12 through 15

## Chapters 12 through 15 Summary

In Chapter twelve, Kylie spends a half hour on the phone with Sara. At the end of the conversation, Sara asks what she's going to do without Kylie for the entire summer and Kylie says they'll both simply have to survive it. Kylie is in a secluded area behind the office for the duration of the phone call and when it's over, she dozes off. When she wakes, she realizes she isn't alone but soon discovers Della is there. Della says she's been sent to find Kylie for the group campfire event. Kylie and Della talk on the way back about the fact that Della wouldn't steal blood from a person but Della does warn that there are rogue vampires who don't abide by that common rule of courtesy. As they walk, there's a sound and Della reveals that it's a white tiger from a nearby animal refuge. Suddenly there's a sound and a rushing of air and Della's cousin, Chan, appears. He says it appears Della has brought a "snack," referring to Kylie.

In Chapter thirteen, Chan gets near Kylie and she can smell blood on his breath. Chan says Della needs to make up her mind to come live with him, leaving her family behind. Chan says the officials at the camp are merely trying to brainwash Della into thinking she can get along in the world. After he leaves, Della says she had the vampire virus like most in her family. The family believed Chan had died but Della encountered him at a party and that contact had activated the virus. She'd been sick but Chan nursed her through it. Chan now wants Della to do as he did, fake her death and make the break. Kylie is still fearful of the vampire but hears the pain in Della's voice. Della asks that Kylie not tell anyone Chan had been there and Kylie agrees with Della's assurance that Chan won't be back. Lucas Parker walks up to them and makes it clear he knows Chan was there.

At the campfire, Kylie is soon alone and realizes she isn't part of any group. Watching the other campers interact makes her lonely for Sara. That night, Kylie is already in bed when she realizes she's hungry. She gets up and heads for the refrigerator when she hears boards creaking in the cabin, indicating she isn't alone.

In Chapter fourteen, Kylie sees a kitten on the windowsill and quickly goes outside to rescue it. The kitten scratches and fights when Kylie picks it up. She is cuddling the kitten to her breast and looking in the refrigerator for something to feed herself and the kitten when Miranda enters. Miranda seems upset that Kylie has the kitten and Kylie initially thinks Miranda might be allergic to cats. Then Miranda points her pinkie finger at the cat and chants a rhyme demanding the animal show his "true self." Kylie is horrified when the kitten turns into Perry and is more so when she realizes she'd been cuddling the kitten against her breast. Della arrives as Kylie grabs Perry by the ear and marches him out of the cabin. She's just gotten rid of Perry when the toad appears in the room.

That same night, Kylie has a vision of the dead soldier. He removes his helmet and begins dripping blood from a horrific wound on his head. Kylie reads the word "help" in



blood on the floor. Miranda and Della continue talking then Della says she smells something. Miranda then notes that Kylie's aura is turning black and the girls realize there's a ghost in the room. Both panic but Della rushes back to Kylie when she believes Kylie is no longer breathing. Kylie then passes out.

In Chapter fifteen, Kylie wakes and sees Lucas bending over her. Holiday is there as well, saying that Miranda had called on them for help. The next morning, Kylie is walking to breakfast with Miranda. Kylie decides she'll begin ruling out supernatural powers in an effort to prove she isn't really a supernatural being. She quizzes Miranda about being a witch but learns more about Miranda than about her powers. Miranda reveals that she's in line to be a high priestess of her family's coven but she is dyslexic and may not be able to fill the role. As they near the dining hall, Kylie sees two men she'd seen earlier. They seem to have some official capacity and they head directly for Kylie.

## Chapters 12 through 15 Analysis

When Della finds Kylie behind the camp office in Chapter twelve, Kylie is obviously afraid of being alone with the vampire in the dark. Della is hurt that Kylie doesn't trust her and uses an analogy to make a point. She asks Kylie to imagine that she's really hungry and goes into a fast food restaurant. All the patrons have hamburgers and other food on their tables and the smell drives Kylie wild with hunger. Della then asks Kylie what she'd do and Kylie says she'd hurry to order food for herself. Della points out that Kylie could just take food from someone else's plate but Kylie says she wouldn't do that. Della then points out that stealing someone's burger would be wrong but stealing someone else's blood would be even more so. Kylie then points out that Della seems angry a lot of the time and asks if Della has ever been angry enough to steal blood.

When Della and Kylie meet up with Chan in the woods, Della's own conflict becomes evident. From the conversation, the reader learns that Della is having trouble with her parents. Della says she now has to be somewhat nocturnal in order to find enough blood to sustain her and that her parents are angry when she's unable to remain awake in class. Chan offers to let Della live with his group but Della knows that means leaving her family behind and she hates to make that break.

Kylie continues to grasp at straws to explain alternatives to her supernatural powers. Holiday says one or the other of Kylie's parents is probably supernatural in order for Kylie to have the power but says that in rare situations the power might skip an entire generation. Kylie doesn't believe any of her grandparents had any supernatural powers either but she admits she can't be sure. Another possibility is that she has either a brain tumor or is simply "loony." It's a statement of how desperately Kylie wants to be normal that she's hoping she is either crazy or has a brain tumor in order to explain her power.



# Chapters 16 through 19

## Chapters 16 through 19 Summary

In Chapter sixteen, Kylie learns the men in suits are part of the Fallen Research Unit. They are a branch of the FBI located in the nearby town of Fallen, and they are charged with keeping up with the supernaturals. Miranda says they fund the camp in an effort to "promote peace between the species" to keep the various supernatural groups from trying to kill off each other or humans. Kylie gets a call from her mom later. Mrs. Galen says Kylie should ask if her father is planning to come to the camp for parents' day and says she'll wait until the following week if he is. Della encounters Kylie and reveals that Brian, a vampire, was paired with Kylie for "meet your campmate hour," and that Derek agreed to give Brian a pint of blood to trade names. Kylie is horrified at the thought.

In Chapter seventeen, Kylie goes to Derek and demands that he not go through with the deal. Derek says it's too late and asks Kylie to trust him. She's on the verge of arguing further but something about Derek's voice makes her give in. She warns herself that he has some sort of control over her emotions and that she'll have to be on guard. They walk to a spot near the creek and talk. Kylie admits that Derek reminds her of Trey and Derek tells Kylie that he can't read minds but can sense emotions.

In Chapter eighteen, Derek asks what's going on between Kylie and Lucas. He says there's something there but that passion and fear are too closely related for him to be able to tell which Kylie feels toward Lucas. Kylie says Lucas lived next door when she was young and that she knew then "something was off" but didn't realize he was a werewolf. She refuses to say more. Derek tells Kylie his father was a fairy only Derek refers to it as "Fae." He says his dad left when he was eight, leaving he and his mom alone. As they finish their conversation, Kylie hops off the rock and Derek orders her to stop moving. She suddenly realizes there's a water moccasin coming toward her. Derek steps down beside her, puts his hand on her back and removes all her fear. She watches as the snake passes by. When Derek removes his hand after the danger is passed, Kylie screams and jumps back on the rock. She and Derek lay back on the rock together and there's an immediate spark of passion between them.

In Chapter nineteen, Lucas appears and demands that Derek leave Kylie alone. Lucas says he heard Kylie scream but leaves when he realizes she's alright. Derek says he wouldn't have let anything happen to Kylie and she suddenly wonders if Derek might have somehow summoned the snake to scare Kylie. He denies it and also denies that he's manipulated her emotions other than the moment when the snake was so near and he calmed her fear. Kylie says she wants only to be friends with Derek, saying her own life is too complicated at the moment to begin a relationship. Derek says he can't help but hope for more but agrees to her friendship.



## Chapters 16 through 19 Analysis

There's an interesting conversation between Miranda and Kylie in Chapter sixteen. Kylie learns that the government knows about the supernaturals and the camp is an effort to educate the younger generation to lessen the prejudice and fighting among the species. Miranda then reveals that there have been fights throughout the ages. She says the Civil War wasn't really about slavery but began with a battle between werewolves and vampires. Miranda also says the Black Plague began with an effort by witches to kill off the fairies.

The situation in which Lucas barges in on Kylie and Derek is interesting because it seems to prompt some questions that are never answered. Lucas seems to believe that Derek might put Kylie in danger or that he might not protect her. Kylie senses that and questions whether Derek might have somehow summoned the snake. Derek denies it but Kylie is also suddenly wondering if Derek might have been manipulating her emotions. This thought crosses her mind several times over the course of the story though Derek always denies it. There are indications Lucas may not be a good guy in this story but Kylie's instinct says otherwise. The author seems almost to be presenting the idea that Lucas is Kylie's protector and that Derek will turn out to have an agenda other than Kylie's happiness. The reader who expects these questions to be answered in this book will be disappointed.



# Chapters 20 through 23

## Chapters 20 through 23 Summary

In Chapter twenty, Derek says there's another Fae girl at the camp - Helen - who detected a tumor in her sister's brain before the doctors discovered it. Kylie returns to camp to discover Miranda and Della arguing. At one point Miranda threatens to hex Della with an outbreak of pimples and Della threatens to drain Miranda's blood and sell it on eBay. Kylie then learns that one of the men from FRU is looking for her. Suddenly Kylie realizes the dead soldier is back and she considers asking what he wants but Holiday steps between Kylie and the ghost, breaking the spell. Della offers to go with Kylie for the questioning but Holiday says she can't.

In Chapter twenty-one, Holiday tells Kylie that members of the FRU are curious about her, mainly because they can't read her. Kylie enters the office and is introduced to Burnett James and Austin Pearson. Kylie notes the two men are "GQ perfect" and that Burnett is obviously interested in Holiday though Holiday seems oblivious. Kylie learns that Burnett is a vampire. He questions Kylie about her life, asking if she likes the camp and if she's ever belonged in a gang. Holiday says that Kylie is a "ghost whisperer, just like me." Burnett asks if Kylie is fairy and Holiday says they are still trying to figure out the origins of her supernatural power. Burnett demands to be updated on Kylie's "condition," calling her an "anomaly."

In Chapter twenty-two, Lucas catches up with Kylie after her questioning. Lucas asks what "that" was all about and Kylie thinks he's talking about her earlier time with Derek. Lucas clarifies, asking why the FRU were questioning her. Kylie doesn't really understand what's going on so tells Lucas only that she's considered an anomaly. Kylie then excuses herself to go search for Helen. Kylie explains the situation to Helen and asks if Helen will scan her for tumors of the brain. Helen says she isn't sure of her powers but agrees to try. Helen is excited when she makes her powers work. In Chapter twenty-three, Helen reveals to Derek that Kylie doesn't have a tumor.

At lunch time, Miranda changes Kylie's sandwich from tuna to peanut butter and jelly. Kylie is a little worried about eating it but Miranda assures her she's been eating them for years. Miranda says she wants Kylie to "put in a good word" for her to Derek but Della says it's obvious Kylie likes him. Just then Fredricka, a girl who has been spending a lot of time with Lucas, sits down at the table with Kylie, Miranda and Della. She warns Kylie to stay away from Lucas. Miranda tells Fredricka that she should be careful threatening Kylie because of Kylie's ghosts. After Fredricka is gone, Kylie thanks Della and Miranda for standing up to her.



## Chapters 20 through 23 Analysis

As Holiday and Kylie are walking toward the camp office where the FRU officials are waiting to question her, Holiday reaches out and touches Kylie's back. Kylie realizes Holiday is trying to ease her fears and immediately moves away and tells Holiday she doesn't like for her emotions to be manipulated. Holiday says it's "amazing" that Kylie can sense that.

There's a hint that something is wrong as Burnett's questioning of Kylie comes to an end. He says that the evidence "points to" someone at the camp but doesn't say what the crime is. Kylie will later learn that someone is killing animals at the wildlife refuge and that the FRU believe it's someone from the camp. When Kylie figures out what's going on, she's angry that Holiday has worked so hard to keep them in the dark. Holiday is trying to protect the young campers but Kylie will point out that Holiday is supposed to be helping them learn to live in the real world - a place where there isn't anyone to protect them from reality.

It's during this section that Kylie learns more about the FRU. It's the Fallen Research Unit and is funded by the FBI. Kylie is surprised to learn the government is aware of the existence of the supernaturals and that they fund the camp in an effort to encourage tolerance among the species. The location of the camp is apparently important because the FRU is located in the nearby town of Fallen.



# Chapters 24 through 28

## Chapters 24 through 28 Summary

In Chapter twenty-four, Kylie tries to question Holiday and Holiday asks if Kylie is accepting that she's supernatural. Kylie insists that she isn't ready to believe that but says she wants to be as prepared if possible in case it turns out to be true. Holiday is evidently exasperated with Kylie's insistence that she isn't and Kylie tries to justify it, saying that neither of her parents are supernatural and reminding Holiday that most cases of supernatural powers are hereditary. Holiday assures Kylie that the ability to communicate with ghosts is reserved for "those with worthy spirits, good hearts, and courage." Kylie doesn't consider herself a courageous person and thinks Holiday must be wrong. Kylie is obviously searching for answers now and asks what species she might be. Holiday says the gifts are bestowed on various species and that she isn't yet certain about Kylie, but that she is certain Kylie's "lineage to the gods is closer than most." Holiday also indicates that Kylie is probably just beginning to learn the extent of her powers. Kylie asks if there are tests that could determine what she is but Holiday says that isn't possible. She says the gods made the blood of supernaturals the same as humans so the humans or a particular species couldn't use the information to wipe out some particular species. Holiday does say she thinks Kylie isn't a vampire or werewolf but doesn't rule out anything else.

Later, Kylie goes for a hike led by Lucas. As they walk, Miranda says she's willing to bet Fredricka wasn't born at midnight, a comment that leads Kylie to a plan. In Chapter twenty-five, she sends her mother an email saying there's a camp project and she needs to know what time both her mother and father were born. Kylie's mother calls and, at Kylie's insistence, agrees to find her birth certificate later to answer Kylie's question.

In Chapter twenty-six, Della brings Trey to Kylie's room. She says she found Trey on the camp property searching for Kylie and that Kylie will have to figure out a way to sneak him back off the camp property. Trey tries to convince Kylie he loves her and that he made a mistake by breaking up with her. Kylie almost gives in to his kisses and words but the dead soldier reappears and Kylie insists on some distance from Trey. Kylie asks if Trey slept with the girlfriend he'd hooked up with after Kylie and he says he didn't but Kylie knows he's lying. She accidentally calls him Derek which makes Trey angry. She insists that he leave and says she should have been up front with him from the first time he called asking to see her. She says she can't see him again and leads him through the woods back to the front gate where he left his father's truck.

After Trey leaves, Kylie realizes that Fredricka saw him and that she'll hold it over Kylie's head. Kylie goes directly to Holiday, says she had someone visit though he wasn't invited, and promises it won't happen again. Holiday quickly sums up the situation and realizes Fredricka was threatening to tattle. That night, Kylie talks with her father but he cuts the conversation short, saying he's with a client.





In Chapter twenty-seven, the three girls talk about an array of topics, including that Fredricka's parents are "rogue," meaning they don't adhere to the rules. Della admits that she's not a virgin and says her boyfriend had pulled away from her after she became a vampire, saying that her skin was too cold to touch. In Chapter twenty-eight, Kylie's mother sends an email saying she was born at ten twenty-three in the evening and her dad was born at nine forty-six. Kylie takes that as proof that she's not supernatural. The next day, Kylie takes the information to Holiday who asks that she give it two weeks before she goes home. Kylie agrees and admits it's at least partly because she doesn't really want to go home. Holiday begins trying to help Kylie learn some meditation techniques she believes will help Kylie deal with her ghosts.

## Chapters 24 through 28 Analysis

Kylie asks about the death angels and Holiday says she's never seen one in person but knows people who claim they have. She says they are generally powerful ghosts who are "avengers." Holiday indicates these angels "right the wrongs of the supernaturals," but that does not become an issue in this first book of the series. The Shadow Falls, a nearby waterfall, is believed to be a place where death angels are known to congregate. Kylie becomes determined to see for herself but can't find anyone who'll go with her. The book ends without Kylie paying a visit to the falls.

Miranda and Della are constantly bickering and their fights take on their personas. Miranda makes threats that include casting spells and Della makes threats about taking Miranda's blood. At one point Kylie, fed up with the incessant arguments, says they should start arguing like "normal" teenagers. Both Della and Miranda look at Kylie as if she's lost her mind and ask why they would argue like normal teens. They point out to Kylie that one of them is a witch and the other is a vampire, meaning typical teen arguments would be pointless. This is a step toward Kylie's understanding of the others. Interestingly, Kylie defends those at the camp while Trey is there. He says he's heard stories about the strange kids at the camp and Kylie stands up for her campmates. This is another of her steps toward accepting the supernaturals.





# Chapters 29 through 31

## Chapters 29 through 31 Summary

In Chapter twenty-nine, Kylie learns that Perry has drawn her name for the "meet your campmate" hour that day. The next day is parents day and Kylie is expecting her father but he never shows up. Kylie watches as both Della and Miranda deal with their parents. Holiday and Kylie talk during the parents time and Kylie sees Lucas welcome an elderly lady that Holiday says is Lucas's grandmother. Holiday says Lucas's parents died soon after his birth and his grandmother raised him. Kylie knows Lucas was living with his parents when they lived next to Kylie. She wonders why he would have lied but doesn't correct Holiday. Kylie gives in and calls her father when he's a couple of hours late. He says he's caught up at work and that he'll try to come the next weekend. Kylie is hurt, especially when he doesn't even see the need to apologize for not showing up.

In Chapter thirty, Kylie and Della go outside to find Miranda already awake and cradling an injured bird in her hands. Miranda points out that the creature seems to have a broken wing and is very concerned. Kylie realizes it's really Perry and she says the "humane thing to do is break its neck." Della catches on and agrees though it takes Miranda a minute to figure out what they're talking about. After Perry changes back to a boy and runs off, Kylie points out that he obviously likes Miranda.

Derek begins spending time with another girl and Kylie, though she'd asked Derek to be only her friend, is jealous. During the "meet your campmate" hour that day, Lucas is paired with Kylie and her immediate reaction is to excuse herself but she doesn't. As they talk, Kylie reveals that she knows Lucas has a girlfriends - Fredricka. Lucas explains one scene Kylie saw by saying Fredricka had been showing him a new tattoo and says they'd been involved the previous summer but weren't any longer. Lucas tells Kylie he knows where there are some dinosaur tracks found by an archaeologist and she agrees to go with him to see them.

In Chapter thirty-one, Kylie and Lucas begin walking and Kylie notices a band-aid on Lucas's arm. He says he donated blood to a vampire named Chris and when Kylie seems upset by the idea, he points out that people donate blood "all the time" in order to save lives. Lucas says this is no different. Kylie realizes that Della wouldn't ask her for blood because she's made it clear that she's disgusted by the idea of Della drinking blood.

They leave the camp property and a few minutes later arrive at the creek where Lucas says the dinosaur tracks can be seen. Kylie is wading in the water when she slips and falls in. Lucas helps her up and the next time she falls, both go into the water. They kiss and Kylie can't help but think this was her first adult kiss. Kylie's shirt is then soaked and Lucas, citing the fact that there are voices coming near, gives Kylie his shirt to wear over her own. Just then Kylie realizes one of the voices she hears is actually Trey who is at a nearby camp.



## Chapters 29 through 31 Analysis

Kylie points out that Perry is somewhat shy but that he's also likely to be having an identity crisis. She says that Perry can turn into anything he wants, which sounds cool but may mean Perry doesn't really know himself. This awareness of self is a minor theme throughout the book and is seen in several of the characters, including Kylie.

Kylie tells Miranda and Della that she's agreed to stay two more weeks at the camp and that Holiday has agreed to let her go home at the end of that time. Both Della and Miranda are hurt by what they see as Kylie's efforts to get away from them and their newly-formed friendship.

Each time Kylie sees Della drinking blood, she's obviously disgusted. When Miranda and Lucas talk about the fact that Lucas donated blood to another of the vampires, Miranda sees her actions as that of a petty person and she's ashamed of herself. Kylie realizes she's come to like Della but hasn't really accepted her as a vampire. Along these same lines, Kylie realizes that Lucas may have killed her cat when they were children simply because of his instinct to hunt.



# Chapters 32 through 35

## Chapters 32 through 35 Summary

In Chapter thirty-two, Kylie makes the introductions between Trey and Lucas then insists she and Lucas leave. Lucas apologizes for the kiss and says it shouldn't have happened, a statement that hurts Kylie though she doesn't say anything. Back at the cabin, Kylie tells Della she wants to donate blood. Della is skeptical at first but pleased, saying she's glad Kylie doesn't see her as a monster. Della says she can survive the summer on animal blood but Kylie says she has "extra" and wants to give some to Della. Miranda enters and when she discovers Kylie is giving blood, Miranda donates as well.

Some time passes with no drama and then Kylie wakes one night to discover she's not in her bed. She comes to realize she's in the body of the soldier she has seen so many times before and that this is what happened to him. She's aware of bombs and guns firing, then hears a woman's screams. She knows that if she goes to the woman's aid, she will probably be killed and that she could run to join a group running in a different direction. She goes toward the screams and finds a man on top of the woman. She fires her gun and the man falls. Just then a boy enters the room and fires off several shots at Kylie. She knows she's been hit but doesn't feel the pain. She leaves the body of the young soldier and watches as he pulls a letter from his pocket, kisses the paper, then dies. When she wakes, she's in the kitchen, screaming, and Della and Miranda are watching her.

Kylie gets dressed and heads for Holiday's cabin. In Chapter thirty-three, she encounters Sky on the way. When she reaches Holiday's cabin, her first words are that she finally knows what the soldier wants from her. Kylie believes the soldier may have been accused of attacking the woman and wants Kylie to clear his name.

Kylie is back at her cabin later and Lucas knocks at the door. He tells her he has a gift for her and she really expects flowers but is surprised when he places a small kitten in her hands. The kitten looks a great deal like her cat, Socks, that had been killed when she was younger. Lucas also has a litter box, food, and supplies for the kitten. As Lucas leaves, he says good-bye in such a way that Kylie realizes he's leaving. Kylie still isn't certain Lucas remembers her but then he says that he'd thought she couldn't get "any cuter than when you were six," but that she has. He lightly kisses her and then leaves. An hour later, Burnett and Holiday arrive at the cabin looking for Lucas. Kylie says he was there but has gone and says she doesn't know where.

In Chapter thirty-four, Kylie gives Helen advice on how to let a supernatural named Jonathan know she likes him. Kylie tells her to be honest and Helen leaves, happy with the advice. On the way back to the cabin one evening, Della says the animals are exuding anger. Derek admits to Kylie that he'd been spending time with a supernatural named Mandy in an effort to make Kylie jealous.



In Chapter thirty-five, Kylie talks to Derek about her experience with the soldier. She says he looks familiar but she can't place him and that her mom says they have no relatives with military background. Kylie's mom arrives for parent day and Holiday indicates she's not supernatural. Her dad arrives that afternoon and Holiday again indicates there's no supernatural power. That evening, Kylie accepts an invitation from Holiday to go into town. At a bookstore she buys books on dyslexia, hoping to help Miranda.

## Chapters 32 through 35 Analysis

At breakfast the day after Kylie's out-of-body experience, Kylie learns that there have been some fights among some of the boys. Among the rumors are that some of the vampires don't want Chris to take blood from Lucas because he's a werewolf. The prejudices among the species are strong and, in some cases, deadly.

The FRUi is threatening to close down the camp if Holiday can't get to the bottom of some situation. Kylie and the other campers are still in the dark at this point as to what the problem is but they'll soon learn there are vampires killing off animals at the wildlife refuge. An interesting aspect of the investigation is that Burnett seems intent on closing the camp but is really trying to settle the issue to keep it open. The encounter Kylie has with Sky on the way to Holiday's cabin in the middle of the night seems innocent but it will later be revealed that Sky is involved in the killings.



# Chapters 36 through 39

## Chapters 36 through 39 Summary

In Chapter thirty-six, Kylie is in town when she sees her father with a young woman who Kylie recognizes as his assistant who is still in college. She suddenly realizes this prompted her parents' divorce. Headed back to camp, Kylie tells Holiday she's not yet ready to go home after all. One evening Kylie goes to her cabin and discovers a lion on her bed. She immediately assumes it's Perry and begins yelling at the lion to leave. The soldier appears and tells Kylie the lion is real. He urges her not to panic and not to scream. She manages by focusing on the ghost of the soldier. He says his name is Daniel Brighton and he says he'd needed Kylie to know he "didn't have a choice" about dying. Kylie asks if her grandmother, who recently died, is in heaven and Daniel says she is. He says her grandmother would have visited her by now but "they" allow only one spirit to visit at a time until the human is able to handle the situation.

In Chapter thirty-seven, Daniel disappears briefly and when he returns he assures Kylie help is on the way. He has notified Holiday and she and Derek arrive at the same time. Kylie urges them to stay out of the bedroom but Derek enters anyway. He cautiously moves between Kylie and the lion and then helps her reach the doorway where he closes the door between the animal and the humans. When Burnett arrives with a tranquilizer gun, Derek returns to the room to reassure the lion that there's nothing to fear.

Later, Holiday finally tells Kylie what's going on. She says someone is killing animals at the nearby refuge and that campers seem to be to blame. Lucas is on the list of suspects but there are others. Holiday says she's fighting to keep the camp open but there are threats to shut it down. Holiday says that because Daniel is "attached" to Kylie, he couldn't communicate with Holiday but that Kylie's grandmother did. Holiday also reveals that Kylie's grandmother wasn't supernatural. Kylie accepts at this point that she is supernatural and says the important thing left is to figure out what she is.

In Chapter thirty-eight, tensions at the camp run high. The various species begin blaming each other for the killings at the wildlife refuge. At one point, Kylie accuses Chan which makes Della angry. One evening Kylie suddenly has an idea of how to get to the bottom of the situation. In chapter thirty-nine, Kylie goes to Derek and asks that he use his powers to communicate with the animals in order to find out what's happening at the wildlife refuge. Derek initially refuses, saying "it doesn't work like that," but Kylie insists until she realizes she's asking Derek to go against what he's been trying to accomplish - turning off his power to communicate with the animals. Derek says he's on the verge of giving up that idea anyway and agrees to go with Kylie to the park.

Burnett is guarding the refuge and Kylie comes up with a plan to call him away. Miranda uses Holiday's cell phone to send Burnett a message that she needs his help. Helen is



pretending to have a personal crisis that will keep Holiday away from the camp. With Burnett out of the way, Kylie and Derek sneak onto the refuge and to the lion's cage. Derek is on the verge of communication when some vampires arrive and attack them. Kylie is suddenly out of her body and watching the fight from above.

## Chapters 36 through 39 Analysis

Kylie isn't the only one of the group learning about her powers and abilities. While she and Derek are involved in the fight against the vampires, Kylie notes that Derek is being held by several vampires who then just drop to the ground. Derek much later admits that he's just discovered he has the power to overload the vampires, putting them temporarily out of commission.

Sky is an unlikely suspect in the killings except for the moment Kylie met her in the middle of the night and the fact that Holiday had earlier accused Sky of not doing her job at the camp. As it turns out, Sky has a motive - the safety of her sister. Sky says she'd been willing to do whatever it took to keep her sister safe but that she'd been assured no one would get hurt. When the fight occurs at the wildlife refuge, Sky becomes involved and isn't willing to stand by while innocent teens are hurt or killed.



# Chapters 40 through 42

## Chapters 40 through 42 Summary

In Chapter forty, Kylie realizes she's in Daniel Brighton's body and that Della has joined in the fight. Burnett arrives and demands answers. All of them try to take the blame in order to protect the others. Derek then announces that Sky had been involved - information he'd gotten from the animals. Sky admits that she was involved but says it was because a group of vampires are holding her sister and she fears for her sister's life.

Back at the camp, Holiday is angry that the teens put themselves in danger. Kylie finally has enough of the situation and stands up to both Holiday and Burnett. She says the two were trying to protect the teens and, while that's admirable, the result was the teens were left with no solid information about a situation that affects them greatly. Holiday realizes they are right and apologizes, then announces that Shadow Falls Camp Academy will be formed as a year-round school for the supernaturals. Holiday says she hopes this will provide a place for some of the newly-turned supernaturals who are struggling to find their way. She is obviously talking about Della and says this could create an alternative to Della severing ties with her family.

Kylie's mother arrives for parent day and Kylie takes a good look at her, thinking about Holiday's suggestion that Mr. and Mrs. Galen might not be her biological parents. Kylie realizes she and her mom look nothing alike. Mrs. Galen walks with Kylie to her cabin and is surprised to find the kitten who looks so much like Socks. She says Kylie's "dad got it for me the day we had our first sonogram."

In Chapter forty-one, Kylie reveals that she knows her father has had an affair. She begins trying to convince her mother that she should attend the camp academy the coming school year. As the chapter ends, she asks her mother a question: "Who is my real dad?" In Chapter forty-two, Kylie has suddenly realized Daniel is her father and that she looks like him. Mrs. Galen says she and Daniel met three weeks before he was being deployed and that she hadn't known she was pregnant until after he was gone. She wrote him a letter telling him the news but never heard from him and thought he hadn't wanted the baby until she read about his death. She'd known Mr. Galen since high school and when they met one day she'd confessed about the pregnancy. She says he proposed on the condition that Kylie never know he wasn't her biological father. Mrs. Galen says she's partly to blame for their divorce because she could never fully love him and that she'd felt guilty for the promise she'd made.

Later, Kylie is at the camp office with Holiday. She learns that Lucas and Fredricka are together and that there's a letter from Lucas to Kylie. She decides to put off reading it and goes instead to a party with her new friends.



## Chapters 40 through 42 Analysis

After the fight and the announcement of the academy, the teens head back to their cabins. Kylie is walking with Miranda and Della but breaks away to walk with Derek. They talk for part of the walk but then Kylie kisses him. She says she isn't certain what the kiss represents and admits that it could be because she's feeling vulnerable. Derek says he's willing to wait for Kylie to figure out what she wants. Kylie still hesitates, wondering if Derek might be manipulating her emotions.

When Mrs. Galen learns that the camp is to become a full-time school, Kylie expects that she'll be elated to let Kylie attend. The reaction is not what Kylie expects. Mrs. Galen adamantly refuses, saying Kylie belongs at home. Kylie is surprised and it may be at this point that Kylie begins to realize that her mother had sent her to the camp in an effort to do what she thought was best for Kylie because she loves her.





# Characters

## Kylie Galen

Kylie is sixteen when her father moves out of their house, leaving Kylie alone with her mother. She's devastated by the loss and immediately blames her mother though she later comes to realize the breakup was a combination of factors, including her own parentage. Kylie believes she has been raised by her biological parents but comes to learn that she's actually the daughter of Daniel Brighton who was killed in war. With this knowledge, and the fact that her father is having an affair with a much younger woman, Kylie matures quickly. Kylie can see ghosts and is struggling as the story opens to understand her gift. She is recognized by a fairy who suggests Kylie go to a summer camp designed for others with supernatural gifts, though the camp is disguised as a place for troubled teens. Kylie fights for some time against the idea that she might be something other than human and goes so far as to hope the brain patterns seen by other supernatural campers is actually a brain tumor. Kylie is a strong character though she doesn't recognize that strength in herself. While Kylie is struggling to come to terms with her life and her powers, she helps those around her. When her best friend fears she's gotten pregnant, Kylie talks to her for hours putting her own crises on hold. When she learns her cabin mate needs blood, Kylie overcomes her repulsion and provides her share.

## Derek

Derek is on the bus with Kylie when she makes the trip to summer camp and she believes he is one of the few on the bus who isn't a complete "freak." Derek is handsome and reminds Kylie in some ways of her ex-boyfriend, Trey. However, she soon realizes that making that comparison is dangerous because she can't decide if her attraction to him is genuine or if she's comparing him to Trey. The situation is further complicated by the fact that Derek is able to manipulate emotions. He proves this to Kylie when she sees a snake and is frightened by touching her so that she's immediately calm. Kylie is then troubled by the fact that Derek might be manipulating her emotions to make her feel something for him when she really doesn't. Derek appears to be a strong character and it seems he genuinely cares for Kylie, making it unlikely that he would change her emotions to suit his own needs. Derek is patient and seems to accept Kylie's insistence that she needs a friend more than she needs a new romance in her life. Derek keeps his distance but makes it clear that he still wants to be more to her than a friend. As the story opens, Derek is planning to learn to turn off his powers so that he can no longer sense the emotions of the animals. As the story comes to a close, he seems to accept his power as a gift and is wavering as to what he'll do with it.



## Holiday

One of two camp leaders, she is the first to begin showing Kylie about herself. It's her belief that Kylie has to find her own way to discover her identity and to come to terms with it. Holiday tries to protect the young campers from the harsh realities and doesn't tell them about the situation in the animal park but admits that Kylie is right when she says the campers have a right to know what's going on.

## Della

This is the young vampire who is at camp with Kylie. Della is struggling to find her way with her new situation and new knowledge. Della has a strong family connection but knows her family won't accept her as a vampire. Della is genuinely hurt when she realizes Kylie looks at Della as a monster and their friendship is cemented when Kylie comes to accept Della for what she is.

## Miranda

A young witch who is next in line to be the high priestess of her family's cover, Miranda has dyslexia and sometimes casts spells incorrectly. This handicap may mean she can't fill the role her family has in mind. Kylie helps Miranda by providing a book about dyslexia which helps Miranda eventually correct one of her spells. Miranda and Della often bicker but are devoted to each other.

## Lucas Parker

A werewolf who is at camp with Kylie, Lucas lived next door to Kylie when they were young. Kylie remembers that Lucas had apparently done something to her cat and warned Kylie to keep her new kitten locked up for fear something might happen to it as well. Kylie also remembers that Lucas had fought off some older bullies who'd picked on Kylie but after his intervention she'd never had trouble with that group again. Lucas seems to be somehow involved in the killing of animals in a nearby refuge though Kylie can't believe he is. Lucas disappears as the story comes to an end. He leaves a letter for Kylie but the reader never discovers the contents of that letter.

## Sara

This is Kylie's best friend from school before she is shipped off to camp. Sara is usually self-absorbed as evidenced by her efforts to get Kylie in the same room with Kylie's ex-boyfriend without Kylie's knowledge. While Sara seems to believe she's doing the right thing, she doesn't stop to consider Kylie's feelings in the matter. Soon after Kylie's arrive at camp, Sara announces she might be pregnant. Kylie is concerned with Sara but admits that it's partly to take her mind off her own situation.



## Trey

Kylie's ex-boyfriend, Trey is seeing another girl as the story opens but later tries to reconnect with Kylie. Kylie realizes Trey is attractive but that his profession of love for her is not genuine.

## Daniel Brighton

Kylie's biological father, he died in the Gulf War before Kylie's birth. Daniel appears to Kylie as a ghost and explains that she can't see other ghosts because young ghost whisperers are protected against the need to deal with multiple ghosts at a time. Daniel saves Kylie from a lion and later steps in to help her battle vampires.

## Perry

A young boy who is a powerful shapeshifter, Perry becomes a kitten in order to see in the window of the girls' cabin. Kylie catches him and brings him inside before his true identity is discovered. Perry likes Miranda but is too shy to tell her so.

## Mrs. Galen

Kylie's mother, she is a strong character who is unable to show emotion, even to Kylie during times of crises. Kylie sees Mrs. Galen as cold until she realizes her adoptive father has been cheating on her mother.

## Mr. Galen

Kylie's adoptive father, he took the role of her father when her biological father was killed before Kylie's birth. Mr. Galen is having some sort of mid-life crisis when the story opens and he is soon dating a much younger woman.



## **Objects/Places**

### **Midnight**

This is the time when all the gifted youngsters were born.

### **Shadow Falls Camp**

This is the summer camp where Kylie is sent at the recommendation of her psychiatrist.

### **The Dead Soldier**

This is the ghost Kylie sees that she first believes to be a stalker but later learns is her biological father.

### **Mr. Pepper**

This is a piano teacher who turns into a frog each time he has thoughts about young girls.

### **Fallen**

This is the name of the town near the camp.

### **Fallen Research Unit**

This is the arm of the FBI that deals with supernaturals.

### **Shadow Falls Academy**

This is the name of the school that is being started to help ease the situations for the youngsters who find they have supernatural powers.

### **Socks**

This is the cat Kylie had as a youngster that was killed by Lucas Parker's father.

## **Unicorn**

This is the mythical animal Perry turns into to prove he is a shapeshifter.

## **The Wildlife Refuge**

This is the organization near the camp that is home to endangered species.



# Themes

## Acceptance

Kylie quickly comes to accept the others at the camp have supernatural powers but she continues to have trouble accepting them as individuals. The fact that she is prejudiced against them is reasonable because Kylie doesn't understand them and is fearful of her own life. However, this fear should be replaced by acceptance as Kylie comes to realize the others don't mean to harm her. Kylie finds herself becoming friendly with Della though she subconsciously separates the girl she's befriended from the girl who is a vampire and drinks blood. When Kylie finally realizes she's making this separation, she pledges to accept Della completely. This is an important, conscious move on Kylie's part and one that the camp leaders are trying to foster among other youngsters. The purpose of the camp is to help the younger members of these groups learn to accept the other groups. It's noted that without this acceptance, some of the groups would become determined to wipe out everyone who isn't like them, including humans. Another aspect of this theme is seen in Kylie and Derek. Both are determined early in the story to find a way to turn off their powers so they are simply humans. Both have trouble accepting their powers as a gift but both come to realize that isn't the case. As they become more comfortable with themselves, they learn to accept themselves for what they are - teenagers with supernatural powers.

## Coming of Age

The story is, in many ways, a typical coming-of-age story. Kylie ages only a few weeks over the course of the story but she matures a great deal. This is seen more prevalently in her acceptance of her parents' divorce. As the story opens, Kylie is furious with her mother for driving her father away. Kylie sees her mother as devoid of emotion and pleads to go live with her father. Kylie lays all the blame on her mother until Kylie happens to see her father in an embrace with a much younger woman. At that point, Kylie comes to realize that the break-up may not have been her mother's fault at all. Another aspect of this theme is seen in Kylie's rising acceptance in her discovery and acceptance of her gift. Early in the story, Kylie considers the others at the camp to be "freaks" and denies she has anything in common with them. When Kylie comes face-to-face with the irrefutable information that she's seeing and interacting with ghosts, she has to learn to accept herself for who - and what - she really is. With that acceptance, Kylie comes to realize that she has to accept her friends without conditions as well. She volunteers to give blood to Della, the young vampire girl who is living in the cabin with Kylie and Miranda, and sets out to help Miranda overcome her dyslexia. There are others who similarly come to accept themselves and their friends, including Derek. These are additional examples of the coming of age theme.



## Everyone has a Quest

Holiday tells Kylie that every kid at Shadow Falls Camp is there on some sort of quest. For Kylie, the quest is to learn her true identity and the source of her powers. Kylie initially struggles with the question of how to go about finding the answers to these questions. Holiday tells Kylie she'll have to make that decision for herself and indicates that's part of Kylie's quest. Though Kylie does eventually figure out what her powers are, Holiday challenges her to additional discoveries as her next quest - issues that are apparently addressed in the second book of the series. Derek's quest is to learn to turn off his gift of reading the emotions of animals though his journey to that ends with his decision to accept the gift. Derek equates his gift with his father who Derek describes as "deadbeat." Derek wants desperately to be unlike his father in every way possible and his efforts to "turn off" his gift are apparently a part of that desire. Another example of this theme is seen in Della. Della is a young vampire who has always had the virus but became an active vampire upon reuniting with her cousin, Chan. Della's quest is to decide whether she can continue to live with her families or if her life would be better if she left her family to live with a group of vampires. Della's parents believe she's involved in drugs or some other problem because she's spending a great deal of her daytime sleeping after being out seeking a source of blood during the night. Della wants to return home but Chan is encouraging her to live with his group.



# Style

## Point of View

The story is written in third person but from the limited perspective of Kylie Galen. The limited perspective is necessary in order to maintain the twists and surprises of the book. For example, Kylie spends some time with Derek and fear that Derek is manipulating her emotions to make her like him more than she really does. Kylie confesses this fear to Holiday and Holiday assures her she doesn't believe Derek would do that. Kylie wants to believe what she feels for Derek is genuine as well but the reader is never given any indication from Derek's perspective whether this is the case. There is a scene near the end of the book in which the perspective seems to shift for a moment. Kylie and Derek are attacked at the wildlife refuge and the reader sees someone trying to revive Kylie. It seems the perspective has switched but Kylie then realizes she's in the body of the ghost soldier and is merely watching from above. The limited perspective means the reader doesn't know that Sky Peacemaker is involved in the slaughter of the animals at the refuge until Kylie learns about it. The reader knows only the thoughts of Kylie over the course of the book. When Lucas disappears, Kylie doesn't know where he's gone and the reader, therefore, doesn't know. At one point Lucas seems to be worried about Kylie spending time with Derek but the reader never knows whether that's just because Lucas is jealous or if there's something sinister about Derek that is not revealed in this story.

## Setting

The story is set in the fictional town of Fallen, Texas, in modern times. Kylie and her family live in Houston which is about three hours from Fallen. The use of the real setting in conjunction with the story is apparently meant to lend credence to the story. There are some specific settings within the overall settings. Kylie's home plays only a very minor role in the settings because she is sent away to camp soon after the story opens. The location of the party is another minor scene in the story. The camp is an important setting because the majority of the action takes place there. There is not a great deal of description about the camp. It seems fairly typical of summer camps though there are some major differences. For example, Kylie, Della, and Miranda have a cabin to themselves, complete with a bedroom for each girl and a kitchen with a refrigerator. The dining hall and the woods around the camp are also important settings and seem typical of a camp and the region. The specific time setting is not important but the technology being used indicates fairly recent times. The girls have a computer in their cabin and email is an accepted means of communication, as are cell phones. Kylie and Holiday each have a cell phone and it's likely that other characters had them as well.





## Language and Meaning

The story is written in a straightforward style and is divided between dialogue and narrative. The dialogue seems typical of what could be expected of a story of this type. There are curse words in the story, an apparent attempt by the author to present dialogue as the characters would have actually talked. There are also some slang words, including some slang curse words, that are also apparently aimed at being acceptable to the characters and time. There are some humorous sections included in the story, some of these with slang terms. For example, Kylie is listening to an argument between her parents as the story opens. Her father is looking for his underwear and her mom claims not to know where they are. Kylie knows her mom burned them on the grill and says, "A pair of her dad's tighy-whities dangled half out of the smoldering grill." The slang for underwear is apparently meant to bring a level of humor to the situation. In another passage, Kylie seeks to refute the idea that she might be anything other than human. She compares herself to a vampire and says she doesn't, "suck at anything, except maybe algebra." Kylie refers to the others as "freaks" from the time she meets them until she comes to accept them. The term is meant to be derogatory and indicates a level of prejudice Kylie has for those unlike herself. The reader who expects to find resolutions to all aspects of the story will be disappointed. The story is the first of a series and there are some points left open. It's not certain whether Kylie will begin a relationship with Derek and the contents of Lucas's letter to Kylie are not revealed.

## Structure

The book is divided into forty-two chapters of varying lengths. The chapters are identified by title only with no hint as to what that chapter might contain. The story flows basically in chronological order beginning with the day Kylie's father moves out of the house pending his divorce from Kylie's mother. Over the first few chapters, Kylie is involved in a party and her best friend and ex-boyfriend are introduced. In chapter three, Kylie is headed to camp and begins her quest to figure out what she is and to come to terms with her identity. Many of the chapters end with a "cliffhanger," obviously designed to encourage the reader to go on with the next chapter. For example, chapter thirteen comes to an end with Kylie headed to the fridge in the cabin in search of something to eat. As she's headed that way, she makes the floor of the cabin creak from her weight. The chapter ends with Kylie standing perfectly still but hearing the boards creak again, indicating she isn't alone.



## Quotes

"Kylie's gaze shot out the kitchen window to the patio where she'd seen her mom earlier. There, a pair of her dad's tighy-whities dangled half out of the smoldering grill" (Chapter 1).

"Thanks to Trey dumping her and her parents divorcing, Kylie's whole summer was headed for the toilet. And the way things were going, someone was going to walk by and flush it" (Chapter 2).

"Tearing her gaze away, she eyed the door and fought the urge to run. Run fast and hard. But face it, she had never been a good runner, and too many freaks stood between her and the door" (Chapter 6).

"You sent me to a camp with real freaks, a bunch of bloodsuckers and cat killers. And oh, I'm a freak too, but they don't know what kind yet" (Chapter 9).

"Kylie dropped her forehead on her knees. She was either a supernatural or dying of a brain tumor; she didn't know which was worse" (Chapter 11).

"He leaned down and whispered something to the other man and then they started forward. Right toward Kylie. Crappers" (Chapter 15).

"I think you are just coming into your powers and who knows what all awaits you" (Chapter 24).

"'We're not normals,' Della retorted. 'Neither are you and the sooner you accept that, the better off you'll be'" (Chapter 26).

"I personally think the downside of being able to change into anything is the fear that you don't know who you really are" (Chapter 30).

"She still wanted to know, but if she found out she was supernatural it wasn't the end of the world. As a matter of fact, it was the idea that she might not be 'special' that seemed to bother her more" (Chapter 34).

"The reality rolled over her like a dump truck. Her father was flirting" (Chapter 35).

"Over my dead fairy body. He's as irritating, rude, and obnoxious as he is ... hot" (Chapter 35).

"And just like that, Kylie figured out a bunch of things. Like how her father's six pairs of underwear ended up being grilled, how her mom's countless cold-shoulder moment toward her dad suddenly added up to fair justice" (Chapter 36).

"She remembered how it felt to kiss Derek - hot, safe, except for the little doubt that her emotions were being manipulated" (Chapter 42).



## Topics for Discussion

Describe Kylie. How does she change over the course of the story? What are her strengths and weaknesses?

Describe Lucas and Derek. How is each connected to Kylie? What does she feel for each of them? What are her concerns about her attraction for each of them?

Who is Miranda? Della? How does each affect Kylie? What is Kylie's reaction to each? How does Kylie affect each of the girls? What is it that bonds them as friends?

Describe the powers of at least three of the supernaturals. How do their powers compare to that of Kylie? How do their powers compare to each other? What do you consider the most important power? Why?

Compare the prejudice Kylie initially has against the vampires, werewolves, and witches to the prejudice some people feel for other races.

Who is Sara? Trey? Burnett James? Perry? Helen? What is the role of each in Kylie's life? Which of these is the most likeable of the characters? Why?

What is happening at the refuge park and how does that affect the camp? What does Kylie set out to do to put a stop to it?