

The Bone Season Study Guide

The Bone Season by Samantha Shannon

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Plot Summary

“The Bone Season” by Samantha Shannon is the story of a young girl who is extraordinarily gifted in clairvoyance. Paige Mahoney is nineteen-years old and is a member of the criminal underground in 2059 Scion-London. The city had been taken over by the Scion, a corrupt movement that has deemed clairvoyants to be enemies of the state and clairvoyant acts to be criminal. Paige works for the clairvoyant syndicate that exploits the gifts of its members. The Scion fears that the powerful syndicate could eventually take back the city for the people. Paige is a voyant (as in clairvoyant) and member of the Seven Seals. She is considered a mollisher, a protégée of the mime-lord Jaxon Hall who oversees the I-4 sector which is referred to as Dials.

The corrupt administration is in league with the Rephaim race which has overtaken an abandoned area that once was Oxford. The Rephaim race entered earth through a schism created between earth and the Netherworld. They established a prison camp known as Sheol I in what used to be Oxford. When Scion captures clairvoyant criminals, they are either sent to the tower to wait their ultimate transport to Sheol I or, if it is Bone Season, they are sent directly there. A Bone Season only occurs every ten years. The name is derived from the French word, “bonne” which means “good”. However, the prisoners at Sheol I would all agree that their incarceration is anything but “good.”

Paige possesses advanced clairvoyant skills. She is a dreamwalker and is known as The Pale Dreamer. She has the ability to “leap” into the dreamscape of another person’s brain. She sees what they see, how they see it and what they think. When she tangles with a pair of Scion soldiers when traveling by subway to her father’s house, the fight escalates and her powers take over. She murders one of the soldiers and nearly kills the second one. The soldiers hunt her down and find her at her father’s residence. After a chase and fight, they apprehend her by shooting her with a dart filled with “flux” a poison that is nearly deadly to a clairvoyant.

But Nashira Sargas, the leader and blood-sovereign of the Rephaim race wants her alive and orders that she be given an antidote. Nashira believes Paige is a dreamwalker and wants to steal her powers. Nashira is protected at all times by five guardian angels. She murdered five clairvoyants, trapped their spirits and thereby stole the powers they had when they were alive. Nashira wants to make Paige her sixth guardian angel.

Arcturus, Blood-Consort and Warden of the Mesarthim, claims her and becomes her keeper. He is betrothed to Nashira. Paige becomes XX-59-40 and will live with Arcturus, known as the Warden, at his Magdalen residence in Founder’s Tower. The Warden is a big powerful being, not human and more than 200 years old. Yet, he appears to be a young and handsome being who looks almost human except for his yellow eyes. The Warden will be training her in combat and on honing her already incredible gift – Nashira wants Paige’s gift to reach its ultimate capacity before she steals it. The Warden is charged with training Paige on how to allow her spirit to leave her body and possess the mind of others.



Paige is possessed with escaping and returning to her friends. As time passes, she finds the Warden to be kind and caring – almost human. The Warden has a lot of secrets – one of which is that he detests Nashira and had been part of a group of Rephs who had rebelled against her many years before. Another secret is a new secret – he is falling in love with his little prisoner.

Paige faces many battles and dangers on her quest to escape Sheol I and return home. She faces the wrath of Nashira, vicious red-jacket soldiers, the malevolent Sargas members and the Emim, dangerous creatures that crave human flesh. Eventually, with the help of the Warden, she is finally able to flee but she finds her parting to be bittersweet.



Chapters 1 - 2

Summary

Chapter 1 – The Curse

There are not many like Paige. They look like everyone else and they are out there – everywhere. In 2056, she lived in London and quit her private school at sixteen to work. Although her father thought she was not ambitious, she wound up working in the criminal underworld of Scion London – or SciLo as it was called on the streets. She was a voyant (as in clairvoyant) for the syndicate working for the Underlord. She was a mollisher, a protégée of the mime-lord Jaxon Hall who was over in the I-4 area and referred to as Dials.

Paige kept in touch with her father but never told him what she did. Her life changed when she was nineteen. It was her last day at work. She had been a hacker. She couldn't read minds but could sense the "nuances of dreamscapes and rogue spirits" (3) and things outside herself. Her job had been to keep track of ethereal activity in Jax's area. Once on life-support, her ability was far reaching. Although Jax thought she could go further, Nick refused to let her. Making money on clairvoyance was referred to as mime-crime. Those who couldn't get into the gang and who cashed in on their clairvoyance were punished. The punishment was nitrogen asphyxiation.

On her last day, she had been hooked up to life support to find a stranger that Jax wanted her to expose. Just when the stranger's mind was close, he was gone. Danica, brilliant and the second in command in Dials, woke her. Paige was angry that she'd been allowed to stay in her altered state for almost an hour. She had the weekend and had to run and catch her train. Danica reminded her that it was dangerous to go by train. It was only safe for the voyants at night while the diabolical NVD officers slept. The NVD officers were clairvoyants in uniform. They served for thirty years and then were euthanized.

As she rushed for the train she was stopped by a voyant who begged for money for food. She warned him that he could be arrested. As she walked on, she was stopped by Hector, the Underlord. He had no real power over the other mime-lords; he just organized gatherings. Paige's gang had beat Hector's gang in a tarocchi and she was on their hit list. Her name on the street was "The Pale Dreamer".

When the train stopped, she saw that two underguards were making spot checks. She panicked. The man next to her, Mr. Linwood, was a medium and recognized that she was a voyant. The guards thought Paige was an oracle. The medium hurled his guardian angel at the soldiers who summoned a pool of poltergeist who began to sap Paige's energy. But she mustered up some strength and honed in on the guards trying to disorient them enough to escape. But her spirit flew out of her body and killed one



underguard. The other was in horrible shape and begged her to kill him but she couldn't. The poltergeist had killed Mr. Linwood. Paige hurried out of the train.

Chapter 2 – The Liar

Paige entered her father's flat. The incident lingered in her mind – she had killed someone. And she felt bad that Linwood had died. The authorities would use an expert to apply blue aster to the victim which would temporarily restore their memories. They would find her there in his memories. Her options were limited. She couldn't return to Dials and lead the police to Jax. She couldn't stay with friends – they'd turn her in. There was no safe place for her or her father. Her father was a scientist for a division of Scion. He pushed her about a career. She should return to the university. She wasn't in the mood for such a discussion, pleaded a headache and went to bed.

In the guest room, she called Jax and told him that she'd killed one underguard and put the other in his hadal zone. Surprisingly, Jax was delighted. He always knew that she was more than a voyant. She looked out the window and a message flashed across the Tower that there were delays in the underground. They had shut it down. The whole network was in lock down. She had to get out of there. They had time, Jax told her. It would take at least twelve hours to extract the guard's memories. He would send Nick for her tomorrow. She couldn't sleep that night. She remembered that there was a small pistol in one of the dresser drawers. She loaded it and put it in her backpack.

Paige drifted off but woke while it was still night. She sensed that the guards had come for her. There was a loud bang on the outside door and then a gunshot. She crawled out on the balcony and spotted the guard's vehicles parked below. She ran back inside and crawled through a first-floor window to a small courtyard and shimmied up the drain pipes to the roof. Suddenly, bright beams of light fell upon her. She was told to stop. She didn't recognize the uniform of the soldiers. Perhaps they were from Scion.

Paige leaped to a lower part of the roof and ran. A medium was right behind her. She fired at him. He ducked and laughed at her. The medium was fast and agile and right on her heels. She jumped to a fire escape on a nearby building and grasped onto the gutter. She was shot with a dart filled with "flux". She began to feel the effects and knew she was going to die so she let go.

Analysis

Paige's father didn't think she'd amount to much, meaning she might wind up as a clerk or in a service capacity. She lived up to low expectations as far as he knew. She left school at sixteen, but instead of becoming a clerk, she became part of the underworld. She has the gift of clairvoyance and is called a voyant. She can literally get in the minds of other people. Her father thinks his assessment of her is accurate because she told him she worked at a bar and lived with her boyfriend.

But Paige has more talent than just hacking into peoples' minds. She is able to hold off a group of dangerous poltergeist and kill a NVD guard and render another helpless. If



captured, her crime will probably lead to her execution. Her boss is proud of her, but she has no time for compliments. She has to try to survive. She knows that the soldiers will be after her because they can tap the memories of her victim and identify her. She probably wants to escape from her father's house because she knows her being there puts him in danger. When the soldiers storm her house, she hears a gunshot. It is not clear if her father is wounded or not or if he is arrested.

One word of advice for the first few chapters – be ready to consult the glossary at the back of the book for some of the unusual terms that you'll run across.

Discussion Question 1

What is a “voyant”?

Discussion Question 2

What does Paige do for the Syndicate?

Discussion Question 3

How do the Scion authorities know that Paige is the killer?

Vocabulary

blacklisted, voyants, citadel, protégée, syndicate, ethereal, mime, asphyxiation, impeccable, echelon, nepotism



Chapters 3 - 4

Summary

Chapter 3 – Confined

Paige was in pain, trying to force the poison from her body but to no avail. She wanted her misery to end. Death was better. Flux kept circulating in her bloodstream – it didn't go away. She heard a voice order the antidote. They wanted her alive. When she woke later, there was no pain. She envisioned that she was in a prison with other voyants. She was alone and naked in a dark dank room. She was shivering and still weak.

A woman entered the room. She was a voyant but one that Paige had never encountered before. She had yellow eyes and an unusual aura. She slapped Paige when she refused to take the pills she gave her. Paige took the pills and pulled on some clothes that the woman threw at her. She led her out of the room, ordering her not to speak to anyone. They passed through a labyrinth. The place seemed like a castle. Paige wondered if the strange woman took orders from the NVD or if the reverse were true. As they passed an area, the woman called to "Carl". She congratulated him for surviving Flux. Carl and several other young voyants they passed followed them.

The woman introduced herself as Pleione Sualocin. She would be their guide for their first day at Sheol I. They were not to look any Raphaites directly in the eyes. One young boy spoke up and complained about being there. Pleione killed him with a force from her eyes that had turned to bright blue. Pleione herded them into a small room and left. Julian, another voyant, introduced himself. He was from IV-6. He was a seer and had murdered a Vigile. A girl, with a broken arm spoke up. They would all be tortured for something the Raphaites wanted. She had been in the Tower for two years. Another had been there nine years. They discussed what they might be wanted for. One boy, Seb Pearce, was not an unnatural and claimed he shouldn't even be there. Contraband had been planted in his satchel at school. He'd been framed. The Schoolmaster reported him to the Vigiles.

Pleione returned and led the group outside to a wide street that had no cars, only rundown dwellings. They passed by masked figures. Voyant music was being played by a violinist performing in front of an audience. Voyants stood and began to dance. One young girl shimmied up red drapes and posed like a circus performer. Paige wondered if it was some kind of voyant cult. Then suddenly, she realized where she must be – the lost city of Oxford.

Pleione led them on past large gates guarded by a being who looked just like Pleione. They entered a room where they were lined up to listen to an oration by another woman who stepped forward.

Chapter 4 – A Lecture upon the Shadow



The woman was at least 6'6" in height. She identified herself as Nashira Sargas, leader of the Race of Rephaim. She apologized for the awful start to their stay. The Rephaim, who were clairvoyant, had arrived two centuries ago in 1859. They had originally resided in a higher dimension called the Netherworld. Since a rift occurred between earth and the Netherworld, they had been forced to share the Netherworld with the Emim. They were creatures with a taste for human flesh. The Red-Jackets kept the Emim at bay. Red-jackets, humans in their employ, were summoned to destroy Emim if they dared enter. It had never been the goal of the Rephaim race to destroy the humans' world - only control it. Paige and the others were brought there to Oxford as an alternative to imprisonment in the Tower and ultimate execution.

One of the girls became frightened and screamed. She was killed by a red-jacket the second she ran for the door. Paige noticed one of the Rephaim was looking at her. He was the most beautiful scary creature she'd ever seen. Over a ten-year span, the Rephaim collected as many voyants as possible. They called these harvests Bone Seasons; this was Bone Season XX. The voyants would work under a Rephaite keeper. The Amaurotics would be servants. One of the Rephaites selected Carl and gave him an ID number.

Paige was the last voyant to be claimed. Nashira asked where she was from. Paige responded that she was from Cohort I but originally from free Belfast. Arcturus, Blood-Consort and Warden of the Mesarthim, claimed her. She would be XX-59-40 and she would live with him. If she didn't live up to expectations she would be set out onto the unkind streets. She followed him to her new home in The Founder's Tower. The furnishings were opulent and the carpet plush; there was a huge roaring fireplace on one wall. Arcturus didn't know much about humans. She would have to remind him of her needs. It occurred to her that the stranger that Jax wanted her to hack had been one of these beings.

Paige would have her own room. Arcturus would be gone the next day. She could explore the city on her own. He ordered her to take a pill and another when he was gone. She was to address him as Warden. He locked her in her room and told her to sleep well.

Analysis

Paige is captured and winds up in a strange place with a strange woman with yellow eyes. She heard someone say that they want to keep "this one" alive. Perhaps, her captors want to keep her alive so they can find out about the syndicate and go after them. Paige is loyal to Jax, her underlord boss, and will probably not be very cooperative with her adversaries. It is obvious that she has a strong character. Maybe she inherited that from her father.

After a torturous struggle to survive a dart laced with flux, Paige learns that she is a captive in a strange place run by beings she had never encountered. The race of beings is the Rephaim. They collect humans for their own uses. There is a form of classism



among the captured humans in Oxford, the lost city the Rephaim took over. The more talented and gifted voyants will be given more important tasks – some will perform for the Rephs. The humans who are not clairvoyant will be servants.

The captives cannot disobey or even look at the Rephaim without permission. Those who disobey or try to escape are immediately killed. There are other humans who probably don't have very high IQs and are called Red-Jackets. They are the enforcers who kill disobedient prisoners and keep at bay the dreaded Emim who have a taste for human flesh.

Paige was surprised by the nice "prison" she would be staying in. But her captor, the Warden, ordered her to take a pill. When she asked what would happen if she didn't take it, she showed her rebellious attitude. She went ahead and took the pill because he said it wasn't a request. The Warden doesn't seem like a bad fellow. He tells her to sleep well which she understandably finds to be darkly funny.

Paige is a gifted girl. She is bright and blessed with special and supernatural abilities. And in her fight with the NVD guards, she proved that she was a worthy opponent and was able to fend off a pool of poltergeist. In the past, her job was to hack into the brains of others. Her biggest risk was that she might stay in an altered state for too long. Now she has the biggest challenge of her young life. Will she be able to use her special skills to escape from a horrid life as a pawn to this strange race?

Discussion Question 1

Who are the Raphaites and where did they come from?

Discussion Question 2

What is the role of the human "Red-Jackets"?

Discussion Question 3

What is Bone Season?

Vocabulary

labyrinth, traipsed, augur, zeitgeist, svelte, intrepid, symmetrical, harrowing



Chapters 5 - 6

Summary

Chapter 5 – The Indifferent

The next night, Paige looked out the window and saw Rephaite guards positioned by large oak doors. There was a fresh uniform on her bed with a note that said to wait for the bell. She thought back to her history classes. London had become the first Scion citadel. She wondered if the Rephaim may have triggered the rise of the Scion. She wanted to figure that out but her first goal was to escape. She wanted to find Seb. He wasn't a voyant; he was just a kid. He shouldn't even be there. She took the pills she found. The city was filled with nonhumans. Maybe the pills were to protect her from toxins and contamination.

After the bell rang, she left and ran into a bony girl who was stationed at the main door. Warden had left her instructions on how to get food. The girl gave her directions to the squatter settlement where she could eat. The girl reminded her that the Rephs slept in the day because the spirits were easier to detect at night. The girl warned her not to go beyond the bridge.

As Paige walked along the street, she saw the bridge which was guarded by Red-Jackets who pointed their guns at her when she stopped there. The next street over was unlit and was lined with huts and shacks. There were two large buildings that towered off to the side. The aroma of cooking meat drew her to the shantytown. The people were filthy and had unhealthy sallow complexions. They were voyants who had failed their tests and were forced to live on the street.

A voyant asked her if Abel Mayfield was still the General Inquisitor. Paige told him that he had died and that Frank Weaver was the GI. The man was joined by other outcasts who asked her more questions about their former world. A girl whose name was Liss Rymore, told Paige that she now was part of a family – a family formed for protection. Liss was captured at the last Bone Season, ten years before. Word had gotten around that the Warden had selected Paige. He'd never done so before. Nashira was his fiancé – maybe she encouraged him. Liss was a harlie, one of the voyant performers. Liss shared some thin broth with Paige. The meat was being cooked for the Red-Jackets.

Liss told her about the surroundings. The deserted countryside was called No-Man's Land and was rigged with mines and traps. The Rephs weren't human and they constantly reminded the humans that they were protecting them from the Emim. The siren was sounded when the Emim were attacking. Liss heard that the Emim were walking bones and pulled the skin off humans to cover themselves with. Liss figured that Paige was a dreamwalker. That was why the Warden took her. Nashira had wanted a dreamwalker for a long time. Nashira would protect her from harm. Nashira had a special aura – five guardian angels protected her. It was thought that she used the



powers that the angels had when they were alive. The Warden was the blood-consort, the prince consort, which meant he could never be ruler.

A Rephaite interrupted them. It was time for Liss to perform. Paige noticed that her arm was bleeding. Liss told her that the Rephs fed on the voyants – they feed on aura. It kept them alive. Paige concluded that they must be aether incarnate. They wouldn't feed on Paige because she was a white jacket unless she failed her tests. Paige said that someone had to stop them. Liss said that they'd been at it for hundreds of years of no one had stopped them yet. Liss gave Paige directions to Amaurotic House where Seb was.

At Amaurotic House, a guard told Paige to return to her residence. Then she heard Seb call out to her. The guard was distracted so she slipped Seb a food packet and told him she'd try to get him out. She told him to try to come to Magdalen house the next day. He could take a bath and get something to eat.

Chapter 6 – Community

The bells tolled and Paige returned to her residence by dawn. Before she could use her clairvoyant ability to find out more about Oxford, she would need an oxygen supply. If she pushed her spirit to its capacity and stayed too long, her breathing would stop. Paige was exhausted and fell asleep. At some point the Warden returned. After he went into his sleeping chamber, Paige snuck in and saw that he was bleeding. He must have been in a battle. He was dying and she had to save him. She tore a sheet into strips. She soaked the strips in hot water and treated him. After hours of tending to him, he looked better and was breathing normally.

Paige drifted off and when she woke, there was a clean uniform on the bed with the note that read, "Tomorrow." Paige dressed, took her pills and left for more exploring. Tilda, a whisperer, asked her about Magdalen and offered her a smoke of aster but Paige refused. Paige asked her about the three pills she had to take every day. The white one was a contraceptive and the red one was an iron supplement. Paige asked about the green pill. Tilda wasn't aware of a green pill. Tilda told her that where Julian might be training.

Paige saw Julian training with other recruits at the Residence of Trinity. As she watched his keeper flung a spirit and crashed to the ground on Julian's back. His keeper ordered him to stand and when he couldn't she kicked him in the head. Everyone abandoned Julian who lay on the ground writhing in pain.

Julian got permission to leave the grounds and he and Paige went to a food shack. He told her that Aludra Cheran was his keeper and that she hated him. Julian learned that the white-jackets go through a few days of training – mostly combat – and the keepers verify their gifts. The white-jackets had to demonstrate their usefulness. They noticed that some of the humans at the shack were missing hands and fingers apparently from attacks by Emim. She overheard Carl saying that he'd seen the face of the mime-lord of



I-4 in a stone and that Nashira was interested in finding a White Binder. Paige knew immediately that it was Jax who Carl had seen.

Paige cornered Carl and asked him about what he saw. He didn't see exactly where Jax was but he saw a sundial. She asked why Nashira wanted the White Binder but he had no idea. Paige had to warn Jax. She took some food to Seb. She climbed up the drain pipe and called to him but no one was in his room. She climbed back down and somebody grabbed her arm like a vice. Two burning eyes were glaring at her.

Analysis

From her knowledge of history, Paige thinks that the Rephs may have been involved in the transition of London to a Scion citadel. She had to figure that out later because her first and only goal for now was to escape. She knew that wouldn't be easy. It would take all her resources.

There is a mystery about the pills that she is required to take. She learns that one is a contraceptive so that the humans don't procreate and the other is an iron pill, but no one else that she's run across knows what the green pill is for. She has learned that even though her life is miserable, she has been placed in an elevated status. Nashira wants her because she suspects that Paige is a dreamwalker. Nashira has wanted a dreamwalker for some time.

What she is going to use Paige for is not clear but it could be to hack the minds of those who Nashira wants to defeat. There is a clue that Nashira is not happy with her little kingdom in Oxford. When she gave her orientation speech, she told the humans that she didn't want to destroy the human domain but she did want to control it. If she could use a dreamwalker to hack into the brains of her enemies, that would be a way to control them. Since Paige might be a very valuable possession, it would behoove Nashira to keep her safe. That could be why The Warden became her keeper. And the green pill could be something to keep her safe from a danger that hasn't been identified at this point.

The keepers are cruel to Julian and Seb – in fact Seb has gone missing. Liss is mistreated by the red-jackets and by the Rephs. One of them apparently drew blood while “eating” her aura. Life in Oxford is brutal and the chances of survival there are slim. Paige is unable to eat when she sees the missing fingers and hands of humans who had apparently met up with flesh-eating Emim. Could that be her future?

Paige was determined to escape as soon as she found herself in the horrid place, but two things have placed a greater urgency on the matter. The brutality she sees is nearly unbearable, and she learns that Nashira may be a danger to Jax; Nashira wants a White Binder that he apparently has. What that is has not been explained yet. Paige feels her boss is in danger and that she must warn him. The risk of escaping is underscored when some creature grabs her while she is trying to get food to Seb.



Discussion Question 1

What are the three pills that Paige has to take for? What is your guess for the purpose of the green pill?

Discussion Question 2

How is Julian hurt during training? What does this reveal to readers?

Discussion Question 3

What does Paige learn from Carl, and why is it disturbing to her?

Vocabulary

cantankerous, cursive, diaphanous, shantytown, curmudgeon, consort, incarnate, feigned



Chapters 7 - 9

Summary

Chapter 7 – The Bait

It was Warden who grabbed Paige at Seb's building. He was accompanied by four other Rephs. He said he noticed that she tended wounds and fed starving humans. He ordered one of the others to tell Nashira that they had Paige in custody. "In custody!" Paige thought. He said she would be taking her first test. She asked what had bit him but he refused to answer. He warned her not to speak of his wounds.

Nashira was pleased that the Warden found their "prodigy". Nashira asked why Paige was taking food to one of the amaurotics. Paige responded that Seb was being treated like an animal and needed a doctor. Nashira ignored her comment and told her to show them her talents. She could let her spirit out and kill Nashira, Paige thought to herself. They brought in Seb. Paige's test was to kill him. When she protested, Alsafi, one of the Rephs kicked her in the head and almost knocked her out.

Paige refused to kill Seb. She told Nashira to go ahead and kill her instead. Alsafi struggled with her and ordered her to kill the boy. She grabbed his knife and stabbed him in the arm. Paige tried to get closer to Seb to cut him loose. Nashira ordered the Warden and Aludra to disarm Paige. Aludra was Julian's keeper. She was happy to get the chance to tangle with Paige. Page stabbed at Aludra who swung a candelabra at Paige but missed her. The Warden did not engage in the fight.

Paige ran into a chapel but a guard closed the outside door and she was trapped. Aludra was suddenly on top of her. Paige summoned her spirit and flew into Aludra's mind. She dropped to her knees and begged for Nashira to get her out. "She walks!" The Warden took Paige by her shoulders – not to hurt her but to stop her. Nashira was thrilled with Paige's abilities and called Paige her little "dreamwalker." Nashira killed Seb. Paige was distraught and screamed at Nashira who was unfazed. Nashira told Paige that she was XX-59-40 and was bound to the Warden of the Mesarthim forever. Her life was their's.

Chapter 8 – Of My Name

Paige was battling the flux in her bloodstream again. Nashira was killing her. In her mind, Paige fought against the poison and in her dreamscape she ran toward her sunlit zone where she felt safe and warm. She lay down in the flowers and waited to die.

Paige woke up back in her room. The Warden was sitting in a chair beside her bed. She asked why they didn't just kill her. He lifted a chalice to her lips but she refused to drink it. She had been branded with her number and the drink would help her heal. He pulled the sheet back to reveal the branding which would not heal by itself. She still refused and became weak and delirious. All the while the Warden sat silently beside her. Her leg



became stiff and the pain was unbearable. Finally, Paige gave in and drank the foul-tasting brew. Almost immediately, Paige's leg began to heal. She said they were even now. But the Warden warned her to keep silent about his injury. The Warden gave her a pink uniform to wear and told her she had been promoted. It was the first time he called her "Paige".

Chapter 9 – Variety

When Paige stepped outside she shivered in the bitter cold. Her only thought was to get out of that place. As she passed the performers they averted their eyes. They probably heard that Seb was dead, saw her pink uniform and assumed that she killed him. She found Liss who refused to talk to her. Paige then found Tilda. She had brought the green pill with her to see if Tilda could tell what it was for. It was herbal according to Tilda but she didn't know what kind of herbs were in it. Tilda sent Paige to Duckett who ran a jerryshop, because he might know what herbs were in the pill.

The shop was loaded with numa, junk that humans used to trade for food. It was like a pawnshop except Duckett paid numa to those who brought things to him. The more valuable the item, the more numa he gave them. Duckett said he would keep the pill and let her take anything she wanted. She bartered with him and agreed to exchange the pill for three items. She would pick items that might be able to save lives.

Duckett asked Paige what she thought of the Warden who was considered the most attractive of the Rephs. Paige found him repulsive. She selected a Sterno can, a few aspirins and fusidic acid for her three items. When she left she tossed the fusidic acid to a julker with a bad eye – "For your eye," she told him. She went back to Liss' shack and swore to her that she didn't kill Seb. She had found Julian and gave him some aspirin. He fell asleep in the corner of Liss' shack while Paige and Liss talked. Liss lit the Sterno and sat it between them for warmth. Liss had found some coffee grounds and made a pot of coffee for them. Julian woke up. He was learning "subliming" in his training. Subliming exerted control over the nearest spirits but it didn't allow the user to see the aether. Paige wondered why the Rephs stayed in Oxford instead of returning to the Netherland. Julian figured that it had something to do with the Emim.

Liss thought of fighting back every day but she knew it was futile. In 2039, the human population had rebelled. The Rephs let the Emim in which quickly ended the uprising. Liss had been arrested by an undercover NDV who had asked for a card reading. The siren sounded which meant that Paige and Julian had to hurry back to their residences.

Analysis

The Warden is not human but he has the signs of some human traits. He notices that Paige is kind and caring. She tended to his wounds and she brought food to the starving human boy. Although he doesn't vocalize his admiration for her actions, he certainly took note of them. When Nashira tells the Warden and Aludra to disarm Paige, he stays



back. He has not be violent with her. He grabs her to stop her – perhaps so she wouldn't get hurt or worse.

After she is given another dose of flux and had been tattooed with her number, the Warden sits with her through the night. Even though she curses and screams at him, he doesn't punish her. Although she rejects the healing brew he tries to give her, he is patient with her. He knows she will eventually take the drink to stop the pain and heal the infection. Is the Warden beginning to have feelings for Paige? The race seems rather unfeeling, but he seems to care about what happens to her and tries to protect her from harm.

Conversely, the powerful leader of the Rephs, Nashira, has demonstrated absolutely no human caring. She killed the young boy, Seb, without blinking one of her yellow eyes. Nashira is betrothed to the Warden and she has demonstrated her affection for him. If she begins to suspect that the Warden has feelings for Paige, both the Warden and Paige could be in trouble.

Although the only thing on Paige's mind is getting out of Oxford, she never gets any good news. The humans tried to rebel before. To quell the rebellion, the Rephs allowed the hungry Emim in to eat the insurgents. Paige doesn't want to face such a destiny.

There is a mystery as to why the Rephs stay in Oxford. Their home is in the Netherland. Perhaps the Emim are more dangerous to them than they admit and these creatures keep them from going home. As the story progresses, the real reason the Rephs are separated from their homeland is bound to become clearer.

Discussion Question 1

How does the Warden act toward Paige? What might these actions suggest?

Discussion Question 2

Why do the performers reject Paige after she is promoted?

Discussion Question 3

Why doesn't Liss fight back and try to escape from Oxford?

Vocabulary

revulsion, entourage, prodigy, vulgarities, feral, excruciating, mustered, spectrum, soothsayer



Chapter 10

Summary

Chapter 10 – The Message

The Warden questioned Paige about where she'd been. Whenever the siren sounds, she was to return immediately. If she didn't obey, he wouldn't allow her to leave her room. Their training would start the next day. If she didn't pass her tests, she'd become a performer. The amaurotics cleared the upper floor for her. He reminded her that they could not touch except in training. In other words, if he was bleeding to death, she couldn't help him.

Paige's accommodations upstairs were not as luscious as those in the guest bedroom. In fact, it was more like a jail cell, but at least she had privacy. She thought back to when her and her father got permission to leave London on a business trip in the south. She was only nine-years-old. They stayed with Giselle, an old friend of her father's. She would never wander far from the house without her father. She would often walk to the field and read for hours.

It was there that she had her first encounter with the spirit world, the aether. She felt the presence of an angry woman and then a poltergeist attacked her and left her bloody. A medic came to treat her injuries. It was Nick. She wound up in the hospital and Nick was her doctor. He was only eighteen and was a new doctor, just learning. Dr. Nicklas Nyard stayed with her that night and saw her through the trauma of becoming fully clairvoyant. Nick told her to tell people that a dog attacked her. Seven years after that incident, Nick found Paige again. She wished he would find her now.

After she had fallen asleep, the Warden entered with a fresh uniform. It would soon be time for training. He asked her what her dreamscape looked like. Like red poppies, she told him. On the way to training, they walked through a ghost town. The Warden didn't seem to be afraid of spirits.

Port Meadow where the training took place was vast. The Warden began the training by taking a fake punch at her. She blocked it with her arm. They continuing this practice sparring. She told him she didn't know how to demonstrate her dreamwalker abilities. He drew a knife and held it to her throat. He was strong but she got free of him and ran. But she was driven back to him by darts being shot at her from a watch tower. When she was confronted with the Warden again, her spirit left her and leaped into his mind. But she was repelled back like an elastic band. He continued coaxing her spirit out until she was ready to collapse. He picked her up in his arms. At one point when she glanced at him, he appeared almost human.

When they returned, they learned that the Emim had attacked and had eaten a young boy's hand. The Warden ordered that the injured boy be taken away to Oriel. The



amaurotics would tend to his wound. The Overseer who had chased her on her father's roof suddenly appeared. He made comments to the Warden about Paige's attractiveness. He swore to Paige that her father was alive and well. The Overseer had a young boy with him who was an oracle. He was XX-59-12. The Overseer was there to invite Paige to perform during the Bicentenary celebration. She was about to decline when the Warden spoke up and told the Overseer that as her keeper he forbade it.

Analysis

The Warden was angry that Paige was late in coming back after the sirens sounded. He feared that it had been a warning of an Emim attack. He told her to drop everything and return when she heard the siren. It seems he was worried about her welfare again. Is it an attraction he feels for her personally, or is he being protective because she's such a rare catch?

The Warden is testing Paige's mettle in the training field. He realizes that she is most powerful when she is angry. This may be foreshadowing a future event when her anger will be evoked at just the right moment. The Warden is impressed with her skills but he thinks she can do more. His sentiments are similar to those of Jax who always thought she could do more. Men seem to find her strong and able.

Once again, the Warden shows his protectiveness toward his new charge when he forbids her to become a performer. He considers it demeaning and apparently doesn't want her to be placed in such a position. She wonders at one point if she could ever cross the line with him. He never beats her like the other keepers do with their humans and he doesn't become angry when she is disrespectful to him and sasses him – which she does quite often. She is confounded by his behavior.

Discussion Question 1

What did the Warden fear when he heard the sirens?

Discussion Question 2

Why did the Warden try to provoke Paige's anger during training?

Discussion Question 3

Why did the Warden refuse to let Paige perform at the Bicentenary celebration?

Vocabulary

cloisters, insolence, prudish, idylls, poltergeist, corporeal, dilapidated



Chapters 11 - 12

Summary

Chapter 11 – Of Weeping

XX-12 summoned Paige to talk with him. The Warden left a note for her to find out what she could about the Emim. If she had to research them, she must be destined to face them. David was XX-12's name. Since he was a red-jacket, he should not be seen talking to her. He told Paige to pretend that he was bringing her in for questioning. They walked toward a large domed building. David said the harlies call it the Room. David led her to a church and climbed up the staircase to a balcony under the crumbling steeple. It was David's favorite place. Paige asked him about the Emim – what they were. He'd seen one in the dark in the woods. He couldn't completely make it out but it looked like a human but moved like an animal. It didn't have an aura. There were also the many spirits in the forest of those who had tried to escape through the minefield. He and some of the other voyants tried to kill the creature but they failed. David showed Paige his wounds. To her, they looked like poltergeist wounds.

Paige spotted a fire ahead. It was where humans or Emim were burned. Their bones where used for an augury.

David had brought her there to find out if she was really a dreamwalker. Nashira wanted to get hold of good voyants from the Syndicate and disband the mime-lords in London. She planned to establish Scion Paris in two years. The blood of the Rephs was the aether liquefied. Paige asked David what he knew about Bone Season XVIII. He moved a slat on the wall to expose a broken window. They crawled into a room in the church that she sensed was filled with spirits. There was a shrine for the ruins of hope. There was an inscription for the fallen of 2039, the year of Bone Season XVIII. A group of Rephs rose up against the Sargas. They tried to kill Nashira and evacuate the humans to London. Nashira scarred the Rephaim perpetrators and the Emim ate the human rebels.

No one knew who the group of Rephs were but a human, XVIII-39-7, had betrayed them. The only survivors were Duckett and a little girl who didn't survive. Her body was never found. He told her that "Bone Season" stood for "Good Season" – "bonne" was French for good. David asked her to see what she could find out about something; he handed her a letter. Paige wanted her old life back. She missed Nick and Jax. When she returned to her residence, she expected to find an empty room but instead she found Reph blood.

Chapter 12 – A Fever

There had obviously been quite a struggle. She found the Warden, badly injured, behind drapes drawn about his bed. She thought he was dead at first but finally got him to



move. He said she should stay and watch him die. She figured he'd been attacked by Emim. He told her to get salt and water and to put on a pair of gloves from his drawer. He confirmed that Emite had attacked him. She tended to his wounds. She could feel his high fever through her gloves. He told her to keep talking in order to distract him from his pain.

Paige told him that she had lived with her father and grandfather in Dublin. They left because of unrest. She mentioned Abel Mayfield and Mayfield's Massacre. The Warden had met him which made the Warden over 200 years old. He asked about her psychic abilities. She told him that she'd been able to dislocate her spirit since she'd been attacked by poltergeist. To fully recover from his wounds, the Warden needed to drink human blood but assured her he was not a vampire. He would owe her a favor – anything but her freedom. She picked up a shard of glass, cut her wrist and offered it to Warden. He drank from her wrist and when he had enough, he bandaged her wound. Nashira didn't know about his injuries and he didn't want her to. If she kept his secret, he would keep her safe. The door burst open. It was Pleione. She threw him a vial of blood – it was Seb's. Paige raced from the room up to her prison.

Analysis

Paige is gaining information about the strange place she has found herself. But the more she discovers, the more confused and confounded she feels. Answers lead to more questions. She learns an important fact about the rebellion of 2039. There were rebellious Rephs who actually led the uprising. They were in league with the humans who they wanted to save and return to London. These Rephs wanted to kill Nashira. But they failed and the humans were eaten by the Emim and the disloyal Rephs were tortured and scarred. If Paige were to find a "scarred" Reph, she might be able to track down who led the rebellious faction.

Paige once again comes to the Warden's rescue on several different levels. He'd been attacked in the residence, and from the looks of things, there had been quite a struggle. She tends to his wounds and lets him drink her blood in order to fully recover from his wounds. He confirms that an Emite had attacked him. But the Emim only have a taste for human flesh. Since the Warden has some human traits and Paige even thought at one point that he looked human, could the Warden be part human?

The Warden's trust in Paige has grown. He trusts that she will keep his injuries secret. He showed an interest in Paige's background which is another sign of humanness. Pleione gave him a vial of Seb's blood which indicates that she knows about his injuries, too. She undoubtedly is keeping the Warden's secret and is helping him. Could the Warden and Pleione be members of the insurgent group of Rephs who rebelled in 2039?

Discussion Question 1

What new fact does Paige find out about the 2039 rebellion?



Discussion Question 2

Why does the Warden ask to drink some of Paige's blood?

Discussion Question 3

What does it mean when Pleione gives the Warden a vial of blood?

Vocabulary

indoctrinated, augury, cipher, balustrade, ectoplasm, volatile



Chapters 13 - 14

Summary

Chapter 13 – His Picture

Paige first met Nick when she was nine and didn't see him again until she was sixteen. He was the guest speaker at her school – Dr. Nygard. He talked about his career and had a question and answer session. After the lecture, Paige caught up with him. He remembered her. Her school mistress was standing by them and suddenly had a nosebleed. After she left, Nick asked her if people often had nosebleeds around her. She said that it did happen quite a bit and asked if he knew why. He told her he might know and that he'd be in touch with her again in a few days. He told her to not sign up for the university.

Nick took her to a diner a few days later to talk. He told her she was showing signs of unnaturalness. She was frightened – after all, he did work for Scion. But he wouldn't turn her in; he could help her control it. He arranged for her to meet Jaxon Hall a few days later. Jaxon was impressed from what Nick told him about her. He wanted to offer her a job – a well-paying and one that would protect her. Page related to his descriptions of clairvoyance. He told her that clairvoyants were able to draw on the power of the aether, a higher plane of existence. They could commune with spirits. In essence, the aether was purgatory or afterlife. The aether was what Scion meant when they referred to the “source”. The Scion deemed it the realm of the restless dead. But that was a lie. The aether was simply the spiritual plane that clairvoyants could access. Jaxon pulled out a contract from his case for Paige to sign.

Chapter 14 – The Sun Rising

Paige thought of dropping by to see Liss but she couldn't look her in the eyes. She had just nursed the enemy back to health. She had found another refuge – an archway on the steps of the Hawksmoor. When there were no guards around, she would steal into the old library and read books. It was there that Paige opened the letter that David had given her. It was a cryptic, disjointed note about Rephs that Paige couldn't make out: “Rephaim are _____ creatures. . . Red flower, the _____ sole method.” None of it made sense. There was also a faded daguerreotype dated 1842. It just looked like white smears on a black background. Warden and Pleione were hiding a secret but so was Paige. They didn't know she was part of the Syndicate.

Paige fell into a deep sleep and was awoken by Liss. It was past dawn and the bone-grubbers were out looking for her. She was an hour late getting back to Magdalen. When the coast was clear, they ran back to Liss' shack. Liss was worried about Paige getting back. The Warden would beat her. But Paige wasn't worried. Liss had received a message in a tarot reading. She had picked up the inverted hangman and saw the aether. The face of a man reminded her of snow. Paige was sure it was Nick.



Soothsayers had always referred to him as 'like snow'. There was a picture of a phone next to him. It was obvious – the message was from Nick and he wanted Paige to contact him.

Liss was worried about Paige in connection with the upcoming celebration. Paige agreed to have a tarot card reading. Liss saw her father and the Warden. The Devil card represented her future and a power a person had over her but she would eventually be able to escape. The next card was The Lovers which represented a tension between spirit and flesh. The inverted Death card meant that delaying change would prolong suffering. The next card represented her hopes and fears which showed that Paige had to feel pain in order to escape. Liss had never seen a more negative spread in all her time. Just when she was about to reveal the last card, bone-grubbers burst into the shack. They came to take Paige back to Magdalen.

Paige and the bone-grubbers became embroiled in a struggle. One of the grubbers, Kathryn, grabbed the last tarot card and held it up to Paige as Liss tried to stop her. It was of a man lying prone and staked by ten swords. Kathryn threw the entire tarot deck in the fire. Liss burned her fingers trying to retrieve them. It was her only connection to the aether. Suddenly Suhail, one of Nashira's thugs, entered and told Paige that she was going to die that day.

Analysis

David knows more about the Rephs than he is revealing. His cryptic note only serves to create more questions and mystery. Liss is worried about Paige. She doesn't understand why Paige doesn't rush back to her residence knowing that she missed her curfew. What Liss doesn't know is that the Warden has promised to protect her from death which is why Paige isn't worried. She wants to spend time with her friends and is tired of the rigid routine that she has been following.

Liss gives Paige a tarot card reading which was Liss's specialty. Unfortunately, her reading is the most negative that Liss had ever seen. While she sees Paige escaping, she also sees prolonged suffering for her and a "Devil" who stands in her way. The last card is that of a man who had been either defeated or killed in battle. The grubbers burst in before Liss is able to finish her reading. One of them throws Liss' cards in the fire causing her to lose her power and her only connection to the aether.

Paige isn't afraid of the bone-grubbers who were sent out by the Warden to find her. She probably figures that the Warden is just worried about her. She once again shows her fighting skills and holds her own against the grubbers.

When Paige is finally apprehended by the grubbers, one of Nashira's Rephs enters and announces that Paige will die that day. But the Warden said he would protect her from death. Will he be able to save her even though it appears that Nashira has a target on Paige's head?



Discussion Question 1

How does Nick get a message to Paige?

Discussion Question 2

Why was Liss distraught over the loss of her tarot cards?

Discussion Question 3

Who sent Suhail with orders to kill Paige?

Vocabulary

augury, majestic, refuge, grandeur, bloodletting, enigmatic



Chapters 15 - 16

Summary

Chapter 15 – Fall of a Wall

Suhail brought Paige back to the Warden. He was upset that she was bloodied and that her tunic was torn. Suhail insisted that she apologize to the Warden. When she refused he cuffed her. When he started to hit her again, the Warden blocked him. He would deal with her in privacy. Paige gave him descriptions of the red-jackets who injured her. He would make sure they never harmed her again. He had ordered her a fine meal that he urged her to eat. Even though she initially protested, she ate every bit.

From her fight with the Overseer, she had shown her combat abilities. He noted that she had very good control over her fighting skills and wondered why she had difficulty controlling her spirit and leaving her body. Her backpack had been captured the night she was arrested. Its contents showed that she had support from an organization. And she must have been trained to climb buildings and shoot. A new part of their training would be for her to talk to him for one hour each night. The Warden assured her he would be treating her as his student not as his slave. He wanted to continue her training but she had a choice.

That evening Paige thought about Jaxon and how he, like the Warden, had always thought there was more to a dreamwalker than clairvoyant abilities. She really didn't want the Warden as her mentor; Jax filled that role. How could she trust a man who kept her locked up? When the bells tolled, she got ready and met the Warden who was already waiting for her. She told him she would continue training as long as he wasn't her "master." He held out the three pills for her. She wanted to know what the green pill was for. No one else took a green pill. He told her that she took it because she was different.

The Warden told her he was healing from his wounds by using her aura. He didn't take enough to weaken her. They walked to a particularly cold area. It was a cold spot, a place where the Netherworld could be accessed. He cut his wrist and allowed a few drops of his blood to drip onto the cold ground. He was opening the door between the worlds. Cold spots lead to the aether and they were what allowed them to come to the human world. As the ground opened shapes gathered around Paige and voices called out to her, "Dreamer! Dreamer!" The voices warned her not to enter. Warden told her she could not enter the Netherworld but her training that day would be facing the Netherworld. She would have two tests that night – both would test her sanity.

Chapter 16 – The Undertaking

The Warden led Paige down a footpath on the grounds of Magdalen. She sensed spirits all around her. She felt frightened and stayed close to the Warden. They came upon a



beautiful deer. The deer was named Nuala, an Irish name. Warden had named her. The Warden gave Paige an apple to feed to Nuala. He had the deer for company and raised it for Paige. The doe had been waiting for her. He told Paige she had the ability to not only sense the aether, she could affect it and affect other people and creatures. The fear that she had experienced at Oxford brought forth the true power within her.

Paige's killing of the underguard was what brought her to Nashira's attention. She knew Paige was a dreamwalker and wanted to possess her because she wanted to learn her secret. The Warden asked Paige to possess the mind of the deer. She was unsure if she could be successful. She wanted something smaller. He gave her a pendant to wear and took off to find a smaller animal. While he was gone Paige began to get a sense of Nuala's dreamscape but stopped short of leaping in because Nuala let out a snort. It was hurting her. The Warden returned. He had found a smaller body.

Caged in the Warden's hands was a butterfly; Paige agreed she would try to possess it. She told the Warden that she fell when she left her body and asked him to catch her. It was quick for Paige. She dislodged her spirit and she jumped. She did not startle the butterfly. She was in a beautiful world of colors and dreams. She found her sunlit spot which, if Jax was right, would allow her to control her new body. Paige panicked when she was blinded by a golden light and then felt and saw nothing. She snapped back into her body. The Warden was pleased with her progress. He saw that she had moved the butterfly's wings. The Warden had something he had to do. He would return for her shortly. It was cold and Paige sensed that more and more spirits were surrounding her.

Analysis

The Warden keeps his promise and protects Paige from Suhail. He doesn't seem worried as to how Nashira will take his new protective attitude toward his ward. The Warden also orders Paige a fine meal. He gives her the option of continuing her training. He promises not to treat her like a slave but rather like a mentor. His words remind her of her old life when Jax was her mentor. But for now she is stuck with a new reality and can't be immobilized by the past. She has to survive and if agreeing to have the Warden as her mentor is part of that survival, she will see it through. Looking around at the other captives, she is aware that things could be much worse. A new part of her training will be to talk to the Warden for one hour each night. He's not exactly what one would call spontaneous but he seems to have a special interest in her. The nature of that interest is not clear. He admires her skills as does his betrothed but there is also a personal element in the interest he has for her.

The reader learns how the Rephaim first entered the human world. It was through a door in a cold spot. The cold spot caused a schism which opened a passage way between the two worlds. The Warden tells her that the deer, Nuala, has been waiting for her. There is apparently a deeper meaning to those words. Perhaps he has been waiting for her, too. She is able to access the dreamscape of a butterfly and actually take over the body and move its wings. But it frightens her and she snaps back in her



body. The Warden is happy with her progress. He senses that if she did not hold herself back she could achieve even higher levels of success.

The Warden has to do something and leaves Paige in the dark woods by herself. She senses spirits are gathering around her. Could an Emite be gathering around her, too?

Discussion Question 1

How does the Warden prove that he is keeping his promise to Paige?

Discussion Question 2

What connection exists between the deer and Paige?

Discussion Question 3

Why doesn't Paige think she can access the dreamscape of the deer?

Vocabulary

spasm, hypothetically, mentor, paraffin, qualms, malevolent, penchant, nascent, quiescent



Chapter 17

Summary

Chapter 17 – The Will

When Paige was six-years old she and her older cousin Finn were in the heart of crowded Dublin. She wanted to see a movie; he wanted to see the statue of Molly Malone. Suddenly, the crowd erupted into calls for Scion to get out of Dublin. Finn's girlfriend, Kay, wanted to take Paige home because it might get violent. But Finn wanted Paige to stay to see history in the making. He told her that bad people were coming from over the sea who wanted to lock them up and not ever let them leave. Suddenly, tanks were rolling on the street toward them.

Paige woke from her slumber. Thirteen years later she could still hear the gunshots. Kay was shot in the heart which compelled Finn to go rushing toward the soldiers. Paige never saw him again. Warden still wasn't back. She was shivering from the cold and damp. She noticed a letter and a few supplies. The letter told her that she was in No Man's Land and her test was to return to Sheol I in as little time as possible. The Warden advised her to use her gifts.

Paige was angry. She'd show him she could survive without him. She found a case which contained another letter and some weapons. He cautioned her to be careful with the darts and that the acid would give her cardiac arrest. He ended the letter with the warning to not go south. She discovered a pistol, a flare gun, Zippo lighter, hunting knife and three darts in the case. She could sense no dreamscapes in the area. She was guided by the constellations. It was pitch black and misty. She knew from Liss that many humans had tried to escape through No Man's Land but had failed. There were traps and landmines everywhere. There was a clump of something at the bottom of a tree she stopped by. She looked closer and saw that it was a pile of human bones. She saw that the person was a victim of a landmine.

Paige spotted a spirit and asked it to guide her. It flew north and she ran after it. She walked about an hour, the spirit still with her. She took a rest and noticed the distinct spell of death. She spotted the carcass of a fox. She heard heavy footsteps, too heavy to be human. She put her torch out and hid. She heard something gnawing on the fox's body. She lit her Zippo but a sudden wind blew it out. Her spirit guide took off.

Paige fired a dart in the vicinity of the creature. It made a buzzing sound and ran toward Paige. She was sure it was an Emite. She was attacked from behind and thrown to the ground. She was hit with round missiles and stabbed repeatedly. She kept hearing a "Buzz, buzz!" Teeth clashed by her ear. She stabbed her knife deeply into the creature. She shot up with a hypodermic needle of adrenaline that was in her supplies; it stimulated her sixth sense. She leaped into the creature's dreamscape for just a moment. It screamed in pain and she snapped back to her body. She was captured in a



net. A voice told her to calm down; she was safe. The voice told her to attack to her right. Her spirit leaped out and suddenly she saw her body crumpled on the ground through the eyes of the deer.

Analysis

Although it seemed cruel for the Warden to leave Paige out alone in the dangerous No Man's Land, it is part of her test and she has to pass it. The test makes her stronger as she has to survive all the dangers and perils in the dark woods. All the while she is trying to find her way back to her residence she knows that most who have tried to escape through the area have died. The Warden's goal is to make her stronger and to hone her psychic skills. He promised that he would not let her die. Although it seems that he has abandoned that vow, perhaps he is watching and if she were to get into an untenable situation, he would step in and save her.

Just as the Warden suspected, her fear evokes the powers of her gifts. She, of course, is frightened to death of the Emite she encounters. These creatures crave human flesh. But fear doesn't immobilize Paige; it compels her to reach beyond her limits. She is able to get into the mind of the creature and defeat it. Finally, her spirit leaps and she finds herself looking at her body on the ground through the eyes of Nuala.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Paige say she hears the gunshots of the riot in Dublin thirteen years later?

Discussion Question 2

What is the acid for in the case that the Warden left for Paige?

Discussion Question 3

How is Paige able to see her own body crumpled on the ground?

Vocabulary

visceral, grassland, lurking



Chapter 18

Summary

Chapter 18 – The Good Morrow

Paige slept deeply, allowing her brain to recover from the terror. When she woke she found herself clamped to Warden's bed. The drapes were pulled around the bed. Paige peaked out when she heard voices. It was Warden and Terebell Sheratan speaking in a strange language. They were looking closely at some object. It was her phone! If they found the phone, they must have found the pamphlet with Jax's numbers. They could trace it back to Seven Dials. She had to get her phone.

The Warden pulled the drapes back on the bed after Terebell left. Paige demanded her phone back. It was safe with Terebell. They were keeping it from Nashira. Her red-jackets would be able to extract numbers for her syndicate friends. Paige denied that she was in the syndicate. She was angry with him because he left her in the woods with a buzzer. He assured her she had not been in danger. He knew that her fear would make her possess the deer. The Warden said they would meet in ten minutes for an hour of pleasant conversation.

The Warden gave Paige a drink of wine and amaranth flower. It would help heal any damage done to her brain. He told her to keep the pendant. It could save her from poltergeist. Michael, his slave, brought in coffee and warm fruit and nuts. The Warden was always careful to say "please" and "thank you" to Michael. She learned that the five guardian angels that Nashira had detested her. Nashira's guardian angels were really the spirits of clairvoyants that she murdered and trapped their spirits.

Paige rose in anger. She didn't want any part of him. How could he be betrothed to someone so cruel? But he had never killed a clairvoyant for its spirit he told her. And he had taken Michael in. Michael had been living on the streets with no food or money. He had a speech impediment and his parents no longer wanted him. His distress caused his dreamscape to collapse. The Warden taught him how to speak again. Paige was completely bewildered. She demanded to know who he really was and why he was helping humans. He could not tell her yet. He didn't trust her but she could earn his trust and would have the opportunity to do so.

Suddenly, she felt compelled to ask him for a favor. She asked him if he could help Liss. She lost all her tarot cards. He had no cards. Liss needed a link to the aether and a dose of amaranth. He opened a box of drugs. One was a red flower. In David's note, he had mentioned the sole method was a red flower. Did he mean the sole method of killing a Rephaim was with a red flower?

Paige visited Liss. She was in a bad way, suffering from spirit shock. Julian and one of the performers, Cyril, were looking after her. Suhail would be after her to perform. Her



eyes were open but she wasn't there. They had to get a deck of cards for her. Paige said she'd break into the House and get Liss a deck of cards and as many supplies as she could carry. Cyril warned her against it. She would die.

Paige told the others to start asking around to see if there was any interest in banding together and making a break for it. There would be safety in numbers. But the Rephs were immortal, Cyril told her. The Warden told her they are not immortal. She was beginning to believe he was a scarred one, a member of the Rephs who had rebelled against Nashira. The Overseer entered and tried to wake Liss. Julian, Paige and Cyril defended her and soon were tangling with the Overseer who was joined by Suhail, his superior. Suhail threw Paige over his shoulder and carried her away. Nashira wanted her.

Analysis

Paige suspects that the Warden is one of the "scarred" Rephs. She seems to be on the right track since he is keeping vital information about the Syndicate from Nashira. Just like the Rephaim who led the uprising in 1839, the Warden wants to help humans. He took in Michael who was homeless and mute and taught him how to speak again. Nashira is proving to be as evil as she seemed. She murders humans so she can trap their spirits and use the strengths they had when they were living.

Nashira may very well be planning to add a sixth guardian angel by murdering Paige. Nashira is desperate to possess the gifts that Paige has as a dreamwalker. It seems that Nashira and the Warden are heading for a collision of values and purpose. The Warden vowed to keep Paige safe and alive. But if Nashira wants her dead so she can have her spirit, how will the Warden fight Nashira and all her forces?

The Warden is not alone in his quiet rebellion. Pleione and Terebell are working with the Warden and are keeping things from Nashira. Surely, Nashira chose the Warden as her prince-consort and he had no option to decline. He seems to have no feelings for her and is plotting against her. Paige may have discovered what can kill the Rephaim. It is doubtful that she would use it against the Warden but she could use it against Nashira and her followers. The Warden tells Paige that she can win his trust and that she may soon have that chance. This is a foreshadowing of some kind of event or confrontation in which Paige may have to choose sides.

Discussion Question 1

What are the Warden and Terebell trying to keep from Nashira?

Discussion Question 2

How did the Warden help Michael?



Discussion Question 3

Why does Paige think the red flower may be important?

Vocabulary

glissade, loathing, submissive, mockery, locution, forte



Chapters 19 - 20

Summary

Chapter 19 – The Blossom

The Residence of the Suzerain was colder and darker than it was during orientation. Suhail stayed with Paige until Nashira came. Then she excused him. As Paige looked around the large room, she noticed a bell jar that had a dried up flower under its glass dome on the dining table. The blood-consort had kept Nashira informed of Paige's progress. Unfortunately, she had failed to take full possession of a dreamscape – even an animal's dreamscape. But she survived the Emim and the Warden recommended that she be promoted to red-jacket. Paige forced herself to say she'd done her best and was grateful for his recommendation.

Nashira was interested in her relationship with the Warden. She asked if he ever wanted to have light conversation with her. Paige denied it. A group of new red-jackets joined them. Nashira congratulated them on keeping the threat of the Emim down. A group of amaurotics entered carrying trays full of delectable food. Nashira boasted about Paige fighting off and wounding an Emite by herself. Nashira pointed out that the Warden was her blood-consort and was forbidden to fight with the Emim. A team of harlies came in to entertain the group. Nashira told the others that Paige was their very first dreamwalker. Nashira wanted more clairvoyants like her – those with advanced and powerful gifts.

Nashira announced that she would be sending Paige on an external assignment the next day. Carl and David and 30, a female red-jacket, would be going with her. Their mission was to find the whereabouts of the Seven Seals, part of a clairvoyant crime syndicate. The White Binder was a key member. Nashira had intelligence that the group would be in London the day after next. Paige had to admit she knew who they were because Nashira had seen her pamphlet but she still didn't admit to being part of the syndicate. But Nashira wasn't stupid. She probably knew exactly who Paige was.

Nashira said that as a dreamwalker, Paige should be able to recognize another dream walker – the one known as the Pale Dreamer. The Seven Seals would be meeting with Antoinette Carter, an Irish fugitive who was their leader. Nashira wanted to stop them from establishing a syndicate in Dublin. Their secondary goal was to apprehend the Seven Seals. Paige knew that Nashira wanted to target Jax, the White Binder.

Chapter 20 – A Little World

The year after Paige joined the syndicate, Jax was looking to add more members to the syndicate. He was able to seek out two tourists and convinced them to stay. Their names were Nadine and Ezekiel – they were young, half-siblings and from Boston. Nadine was a whisperer but Ezekiel's aura was more difficult to pin down. They had both made the decision to join the syndicate.



When Zeke and Nadine moved in Seven Dials, Zeke was entranced by a spirit named Pieter who took up residence in a corner of the main room. Nadine was a bit of a prima donna insisting that she have her own room. Jax told her she'd have what she would be given. It was obvious that Nadine didn't like his comment. Another syndicate member, Eliza, wandered in later. She was Jax's trance medium. Even at day's end, Jax couldn't figure out Zeke who, he concluded, was unreadable.

Analysis

Nashira's plans are now becoming clearer. She wants to snatch the top clairvoyants from the syndicate, capture the other members and stop them from establishing an organization in Dublin. She originally claimed that she didn't want to destroy humans she just wanted to control them. But it looks like she wants to do both.

Paige is in a real spot because she is being sent to identify the Pale Dreamer which is her own code name. She is also expected to identify and apprehend the other syndicate members. David and Carl are two of the red-jackets going with her on this mission. David may be on her side but Carl has shown no rebellious streak. If this trio is not successful, they will be thrown out on the streets to fend for themselves.

Nashira is curious about Paige's relationship with the Warden. It seems she's suspicious that they might have gotten closer than they should have. But Paige denies that there is any close relationship.

There are several unknowns. Does the Warden know about the mission that Paige is being sent on and how will he react?

Discussion Question 1

What kind of clairvoyants does Nashira want to snatch from the syndicate?

Discussion Question 2

What will happen if Paige fails in her mission?

Discussion Question 3

What kind of clairvoyants are Nadine and Zeke?

Vocabulary

mongrel, absinthe, camaraderie, imperative, analogous, concierge, withering, surreptitious



Chapter 21

Summary

Chapter 21 – A Burnt Ship

When the Warden saw Paige in her red jacket, for a fleeting second she saw fear in his eyes. He was worried about what she told Nashira. Paige assured the Warden that she kept his secrets. She asked him if he drank amaranth for his scars. He claimed it was just for old wounds. The Warden was surprised that Nashira would send Paige back to the same place she got her from. Paige explained that Nashira wanted her to lure out members of the Seven Seals. She thought they had a dreamwalker. Paige told him that three red-jackets would be going and one Rephaite – Situla Mesarthim – in addition to the Warden. The Warden said that she was no friend of his. She was probably picked to keep an eye on him.

Paige didn't sleep well thinking of her mission and seeing her colleagues again. Soon the Warden was at her door. It was time, he told her. The Warden would accompany Paige and Carl. The other two, 12 and 30, would be with Situla. They had to return before the day-bell rang. Nashira whispered to Paige that she knew who she was. If she didn't return with a dreamwalker, Nashira would assume that she was the Pale Dreamer.

The humans were blindfolded when they left Sheol I. After they passed through the checkpoints, they removed their blindfolds. Paige was thrilled to see familiar landmarks. She learned that 30's name was Amelia and that she was a cleromancer. In the car, Carl whispered to Paige not to try to escape. He said that the citadel was as much a prison as Sheol I was. Paige's senses were stimulated when the car passed through Section 4, her section. A Vigile who knew the Warden confirmed who was in the car and okayed their passage. The Vigile reminded them that they were prisoners and would be returned to Sheol I. He put a substance on their lips that temporarily sealed them shut. Warden gave them each a mask which bonded with their skin when they pulled it on. Her friends wouldn't recognize her and she couldn't call out to them. Warden pulled a mask on, too, to hide his less-than-human appearance.

They met up with the others in Trafalgar Square. Soon Paige sensed that Jax and the six remaining gang members were converging on the square. Antoinette Carter had also appeared on the scene. Situla struck first – she lunged for Antoinette and began to strangle her. Warden attacked Zeke and Carl sent a spirit for Eliza, rendering her helpless. Zeke wasn't a fighter and collapsed on the ground. David tried to take Jax on but Dani, also a member of the syndicate, knocked him down. Paige was the only one who had not engaged in the fighting.

Jax spotted Paige who he did not recognize and attacked her. He kicked and punched her and was ready to kill her. She had to resort to her spirit for help. She thumped into



his dreamscape and he fell over. Paige noticed a red laser beam on her chest – snipers! Nadine came after her and screamed for her to take her mask off. David cut her off with a flux dart. David grabbed her and was preparing to kill her when Paige leaped into his dreamscape and stopped him. Warden was facing Nick – her keeper and her best friend. Warden would kill him!

Jax attacked Paige. He sensed that she was a dreamwalker. She grabbed a gun but he knocked it out of her hand with his cane. He plunged his cane blade deep into her arm. Situla pursued Antoinette as she ran off. The Warden ordered Paige to follow them. Situla and Antoinette had a confrontation on a bridge. An archangel intervened, picked up Situla and threw her backwards. Situla evoked a spirit and the aether burst at the collision of spirits.

Paige ran off. In the chaos she had been hit in the hip by a bullet. Another shot rang out. She had to get to the Dials, to Nick. He could help her. But she was growing weak and wouldn't be able to make it. Suddenly, Nick grabbed her, calling her traitor. He pulled her mask off and was shocked to see that it was Paige. She couldn't speak and wrote out "Oxford" on the wall with the blood on her finger. Nick picked her up and ran but they were being followed by a Reph – it was the Warden. He grabbed Nick and told him that Paige was coming with him.

Analysis

Paige is caught between two worlds. She has to betray her friends or it will mean her death. Although she refuses to join the fight, Jax, not recognizing her, attacks her. It had to hurt her that her friend and mentor was trying to kill her. But of course he didn't know that it was her. But he was able to sense that she was a dreamwalker. Since Paige was missing from the syndicate, it did occur to him that it could be Paige which was reflected when he said, "You can't possibly be my Paige." (308) But he was in a fight for survival and had to assume that she was an enemy since she was with the other assailants.

Once again, Paige's gifts are stimulated by emotion. A combination of fear and anger when her friends are being attacked compels her to leap into the dreamscape of David to stop him from killing Nadine. It was the first time she'd possessed a human's dreamscape. Just as the Warden had concluded whenever she was stirred by emotion, she was uninhibited and was able to allow her abilities to emerge for peak performance.

Paige is terribly wounded when Nick discovers who she is. He is not angry and must understand the situation she had been unwittingly placed in. He plans to tend to her wounds but the Warden steps in. He claims Paige and announces that she will come with him. The Warden could have killed Nick but instead tells him to run. Once again, the Warden showed his humanness but not harming Nick. Since Paige will be returning without The Pale Dreamer, Nashira will assume that she was right – that Paige is the Pale Dreamer and a member of the syndicate.



Discussion Question 1

Why does the Warden put on a mask?

Discussion Question 2

Why aren't Paige and the other red-jackets able to talk?

Discussion Question 3

How does Paige stop David from killing Nadine?

Vocabulary

mercenary, chagrined, denizen, horde



Chapters 22 - 23

Summary

Chapter 22 – The Triple Fool

Paige was back in Oxford, in the Warden's bed. Her wounds had been treated. He assured her that he hadn't hurt Nick. She asked him why he didn't let her go home. He said there were reasons. Nashira had rescinded her red-jacket for trying to escape. She was a yellow-jacket now. David and Carl were unharmed. Situla was made latent and Amelia was dead – she had drowned. Antoinette Carter escaped.

The Warden told her that they were bound together by a life debt. They had saved each other's life. They would forever be connected by a golden cord. Their shared gift was a seventh sense formed by two spirits who save each other. No matter what happened, he would always be able to find her. He had no idea how to break it. Nashira had chosen him and he had no choice. He detested her. She was repulsive to him.

Paige wanted to enter his dreamscape. He knew that she could hurt him, mess with his sanity, but he trusted her not to. She leaped into his dreamscape and found his sunlit spot. He was covered in scars – which was how he saw himself. There was not much to see in the Warden's dreamscape. He told her he was a sleep-dealer. He could make people dream their memories. Now she understood why she had been dreaming about her past. It was the green pill, he told her, and it contained the herb salvia which made her dream her memories. She realized that he'd kept her drugged to get into her mind. He knew that she had loved Nick. She was angry and told him to stay away from her.

Chapter 23 – Antiquary

The Warden was in another room when Paige woke up. Michael came in with a big breakfast for her. Michael spoke for the first time in her presence, "Trust him," he said. He gave her a note from the Warden. He apologized for upsetting her. He gave her permission to go the House and get whatever supplies she wanted. He asked her not to judge too quickly. He called her "little dreamer."

Paige went upstairs and dressed. She went into the Warden's chamber and found a snuff box filled with herbs and drugs. She took a vial containing the pollen of the red flower. She thought it just might keep her safe. Paige headed for Liss' shack first. She was asleep in Julian's arms and was still suffering terribly from spirit shock. Paige went on to the House, determined to find a deck of tarot cards for Liss. She also made a mental note of the equipment and weapons she would need to cross No Man's Land.

Inside the house, Paige heard harsh voices when she passed a closed door. She listened and recognized Ivy's voice. She was being grilled and tortured by a red-jacket. He was interrogating her about Paige's relationship with the Warden. Ivy knew that the Warden kept Paige well-fed and allowed her to stay clean. He saw him carry her from



the meadow but Paige had been exhausted from training. Paige found a weapons room. She saw the Scion logo on them. Weaver was sending weapons there! She found a large wall map and saw the printed word, "Train." Of course, they'd been brought there by train. Why couldn't they leave the same way? She took weapons for everyone and as many as she could carry.

Paige was behind some shelves when two Rephs walked in. One was Thuban. She was terrified but suddenly Terebell came in. Thuban said that the dreamer should have killed Jax. He would face a worse death now. Terebell pointed out that Nashira was after Carter not Jax. But Situla was determined to kill Jax. Thuban exhibited a threatening attitude toward Terebell and made a reference to the scars on Terebell's back. She conceded that she remembered Tom Tower but that she had cried for justice not for mercy. Thuban smelled the presence of a human and told Terebell to help him search the room. Just when he neared Paige's hiding place, an explosion in another room distracted him. Thuban and Terebell both headed for the door. Terebell whispered to Paige to run to the tower.

Once outside, Paige ran across a vast field toward the bell tower. She ran up a narrow passage way to a room filled with hundreds of glass jars filled with liquids of different colors. Some contained exotic plants. She spotted a deck of cards and grabbed it for Liss. She was suddenly confronted by Kraz Sargas, blood-heir of the Rephaim. She told him that Nashira didn't want her dead. But he was not Nashira, he told her. He would escort her back to Magdalen. He crashed one of the shelves on top of her giving her some cuts and scrapes. He pulled her up and began feeding on her aura. She struggled to free herself but his hand was clamped tightly on her throat. She pulled the red flower vial from her pocket and smashed it against his face. He fell to his knees. She pulled her revolver and shot and killed him. She didn't even blink.

Analysis

Paige learns that she is bound forever to the Warden because they had each saved each other's life. He tells her he will always know where she is which could come in handy if she is in danger. He also reveals that he detests Nashira. She chose him and he had no choice. When Paige enters the Warden's dreamscape, she sees him as he sees himself. He appears to be scarred all over his body indicating that he feels that he is flawed, even undesirable. She asked him why he hadn't just let her go home. He said only that there were reasons. He didn't elaborate but one reason could be that he's become attached to her and has feelings for her. Also, he is taking his vow to keep her safe to heart. He wants her there with him to protect her. In a note he asks her not to judge him too quickly. He refers to her by a pet name – little dreamer – another sign of affection.

Ivy is being grilled about the Warden's relationship with Paige. Nashira suspects that it is closer than it should be. When she is in the weapons room and two Rephs enter, she is saved by Terebell who distracts them. Thuban mentions that she has scars indicating that she was one of the Rephaim rebels who had risen up against Nashira and tried to



help the humans escape. It is obvious that Terebell is on Paige's side when she puts herself at risk with the menacing Thuban.

Paige is resourceful when the Sargas is sapping all her aura. She confirms her suspicion that the red flower pollen is deadly for the Rephaim. But Paige takes no chances that Sargas will recover from his exposure to the pollen. She has grown as a fighter and survivor due to circumstances and due to her training with the Warden. She shoots Kraz without hesitation.

Discussion Question 1

Why does the Warden look all scarred when Paige sees him in his dreamscape?

Discussion Question 2

Why is Ivy being grilled about the Warden's relationship with Paige?

Discussion Question 3

What does Paige learn about Terebell when she is hiding in the weapons room?

Vocabulary

interspersed, acrid, exorbitant, enigma, flaunting, disembowel, homage, miscreant



Chapters 24 - 25

Summary

Chapter 24 – The Dream

As Paige reached Magdalen, the Warden reached out and grabbed her and pulled her to safety. She told him she killed Kraz. He was no loss to the Warden and Nashira would want to keep it quiet because it would expose their morality. The Warden had arranged the explosion to distract Thuban. The Warden told Paige to clean her wounds. The Warden treated the laceration on Paige's cheek with an amber liquid. She learned that the train was only activated during Bone Seasons. There wouldn't be another for ten years.

The Warden told Paige that she was more to him than just a human. He had wanted to learn more about her and her life. That was why he tapped into her memories. He didn't rank humans like Jax apparently did based on her pamphlet that had been confiscated. Paige was upset that she had killed another being. The Warden told her she did the right thing; Kraz would have killed her. He learned from Michael that Nashira was aware of Kraz's death and had summoned the remaining Sargas to her residence. Paige feared that her spirit was dangerous.

The Warden brought up Nick again and that he learned from her memories that she loved him. But she didn't want to talk about him. If she overcame her memories, she would be free of them. He could help her. She reluctantly agreed to let him help. He made tea from the saliva herb. She drank it down and in only a matter of minutes she was out.

Chapter 25 – The Dissolution

Nadine was upset – ready to kill someone. The gang had placed Zeke on a chair in the middle of a circle. Everyone was trying to figure out his aura. Zeke had sat there for hours and was miserable. Eliza evoked a muse called JD who attacked him. Zeke begged for mercy. Paige asked Jax to stop. He didn't like that she was questioning him. Eliza called the spirit off. Jax wanted Paige to break into his dreamscape but she refused. Jax took a huge gulp of wine. Nick said that Jax was speaking like a madman. Jax drank more and ordered Nick to inject Paige with a mix of drugs. She learned nothing about Zeke's aura in his dreamscape. His memories were sealed. Nick dragged Paige away. She needed a break.

Nick and Paige ran along the rooftops, jogged on the street and climbed a tall building to a roof garden. Nick asked her about being in love and about feeling protective of the one you love. She was in love with him and thought he was talking about her. But as it turned out, he was talking about Zeke. Paige did her best not to cry or allow her hurt to show. Paige had loved Nick for nine years.



That night she decided to dance her pain away. She dressed in a slinky dress and went to an oxygen bar. She got the attention of several young men. One man, Rueben, approached her and bought her a drink. She regrettably had her first sexual encounter with him. It only made her think of Nick more.

Analysis

Paige is frightened of Nashira and with good reason. She has killed one of the blood-sovereign, Repham royalty. If she discovers that Paige killed Kraz she will be marked for death. But the Warden seems positive that he can protect Paige. He still wants to know more about her – especially her feelings for Nick. Does he think that Nick is his competition? Paige is a smart girl. She is aware that the Warden is treating her in a caring and tender manner.

Paige agrees to let the Warden into her memories again. Perhaps it's the easy way out for her because she is reluctant to tell him. Why not let him see for himself? Her memories reveal two important things. Jax is not a very good person. He is an alcoholic and is not reluctant to treat his gang members cruelly to get what he wants. Paige may have been deluding herself about the good old days with Jax. The Warden will learn that Paige was in love with Nick but also learn that Nick is gay and that Paige was hurt by the revelation and gave herself to a complete stranger. She did so to ease her pain but it only caused more pain. The Warden will learn that Paige is very inexperienced when it comes to matters of love and romance – if that is what he's trying to find out.

Discussion Question 1

How does the Warden react to Paige's confession about killing Kraz?

Discussion Question 2

What indications are there that Jax is cruel and self-centered?

Discussion Question 3

Who is Nick in love with?

Vocabulary

cloisters, immortality, cloying, volatile, obstinate



Chapters 26 - 27

Summary

Chapter 26 – Change

When she woke the Warden had nothing negative to say only that Jax treated her like a commodity while Nick liked her and cared about her welfare. The man she gave herself to was an amaurotic. His mind was bland. A clairvoyant's mind was rich like oil. She asked the Warden what his mind was like. Fire, he told her. Immediately, she thought of what oil and fire did when it was mixed – explode! The Warden saw another memory with a great deal of blood. But it meant nothing to her. He told her he would help her escape. She wanted to know his motives but he wouldn't say. It would be best if she didn't know in case Nashira nabbed her and interrogated her.

Paige fell asleep but was awakened by the Warden. He told her to hide. She hid in the door behind the drapes. Soon Nashira swept in and felt the bed. She accused the Warden of sleeping with Paige. She could smell her on the sheets. He told her he had no thoughts of anyone but her. She warned him she would send him back to the house if he betrayed her. And if there was a repeat of the 2039 escape attempt, she would spare no lives including his. She slapped him across the face for emphasis. Nashira said that Paige was ready. She had demonstrated the ability for mind possession. Nashira was elated. At last she would have the ability to dreamwalk.

Paige couldn't sleep so she got up. The Warden was on her mind. She had to find out what Arcturus Mesarthim wanted and if he would really help her. She found a note that he'd gone to the chapel. She decided to join him. She found him in a room playing an organ and came in and sat beside him. He understood that she wanted her freedom. It was what he desired most in the world. He told her that a human had betrayed the rebels in the 2039 escape attempt. Nashira didn't fear a new uprising as much as she feared Paige. She knew that Paige was one of the Seven Seals, the Pale Dreamer. Nashira feared that Paige had the power take control of Oxford.

All Paige wanted to do was leave. But the Warden wanted something else. He wanted to strike against the Sargas. He needed to show her something. They had to go to the abandoned building where Michael stayed. They had to be careful and not let the guards see them. The building was a safe house that was accessible by only a small group of people including Michael. Michael would help her. He had stolen a computer and turned out to be a computer genius. He could contact the Seven Seals for Paige and bring them to her. She didn't want them to come; they wanted to kill Jax.

At least it was a Plan B unless the prison break went awry. The Warden told her that during the Bicentenary celebration the train would be in service. She asked the Warden to help Liss. It would be a risk for him. Would she take her freedom right then and leave



Liss behind he asked her. She told him she wouldn't and would stay longer and help him if he would help her friend.

They brought the cards to Liss. She was in bad shape. Warden crouched down by her and applied the life-saving amaranth to her lips. He was making a sacrifice because it was the last dose that Nashira had allotted him. He would have to do without it and live with the pain of his scars. He had Paige and Michael spread the cards out. He pricked the tip of each of Liss' fingers and spread them across the cards. He said, "And from the blood of Adonis, came life." (387) Liss opened her eyes.

Chapter 27 – The Anniversary

It was September 1, 2059, the day of the celebration. Paige was dressed in a white dress. She looked gaunt and pale. The Warden gave her as much food as he could be it wasn't always available. Nashira had invited her to the ceremony as an act of good will. But Paige knew why she was invited and was prepared. Paige and Julian got a drug from Duckett that Michael would put into the wine the red-jackets drank. They would feel drugged and slow them down. Only Julian, Liss and Paige knew where the train was. They would send up a flare to mark the location for the others. Julian arranged for the harlies to set some buildings on fire in the middle of the city to distract the red-jackets. David made some references to her escape. She feared he would sabotage their plan.

Paige entered Guildhall where the celebration was being held. She spotted Cathal Bell, an official with Scion. She got him alone and asked if her cousin, Finn McCarthy, was still alive. Bell said he was sentenced to hang. Paige warned him that he would pay if Finn were executed. Bell's nose began to bleed. Paige lost herself in the crowd. Nashira called her to the front and boasted about her outstanding abilities. Nashira said that a third penal colony would be established in Stockholm. Nashira told the Warden to stay close to Paige. She would need her soon. Paige and the Warden saw that Liss was hanging on the silks high in the rafters. Paige and Warden were even now. All debts were paid. Nashira welcomed the guests to the Scion capital of Sheol I. Nashira introduced Gomeisa Sargas who spoke for a moment then introduced the featured entertainment, a play.

Analysis

Paige has a physical reaction when she compares her mind that is like oil to the Warden's whose mind is like fire. If the two minds met, it would be explosive. She finally starts to think of him in a romantic, sensual way but quickly dismisses it. Perhaps after recalling the painful memories of Nick, she longs to feel in love again. And the Warden has been kind and caring. But it is her judgment that it could never work with the Warden. They are worlds apart in more ways than one.

Warden takes a risk to help Liss and for doing so, Paige agrees to stay longer and help him. They agree that they are even – that all debts have been paid. They don't owe each other anything. But he vowed to always keep her safe and there is that life-long



bond between them that will always keep them connected. Their devotion to each other will not be severed. Warden understands that Paige wants her freedom. But there is something that Paige has probably never considered about Warden, he wants his freedom too. Is there a possibility that he might escape with the humans?

Paige overhears Nashira plotting to kill her. She is looking forward to stealing her spirit so she can have dreamwalker capabilities. Liss had been worried about Paige and the Bicentenary celebration. She feared it would mean danger for Paige. It appears that she was right. Nashira invites Paige to the celebration and could very well murder and capture her spirit in public. By murdering her publicly, she could send a warning to other clairvoyants that she is not to be toyed with. Nashira will feel all-powerful with Paige's dreamwalker abilities and will increase her power and spread her empire.

Discussion Question 1

What risk and sacrifice does the Warden take in order to help Paige's friend Liss?

Discussion Question 2

What means will the humans use to escape from Sheol I?

Discussion Question 3

What are Nashsira's plans for Paige?

Vocabulary

tantalized, commodity, resonated, mimicry, wanderlust, daunting



Chapter 28

Summary

Chapter 28 – The Prohibition

Beltrame, the Overseer, came on stage. He told the audience that their program enabled governments to rid their communities of clairvoyants. After his speech, the harlies came out to perform the life story of Edward VI. Beltrame was playing the King. The room went dark when a séance, which was part of the play, was performed. The Warden took Paige's arm and told her to come with him.

The Warden took Paige to the area underneath the stage. He heard Nashira say that Paige would be killed in the last act. The Warden would do everything in his power to get her back to the Citadel. The entry to the tunnel was located where they had trained. He tied her hair back in preparation for her flight. He pushed an errant curl from her face and suddenly they were in each other's arms. He kissed and caressed her. She held him tight and didn't want him to stop.

Suddenly, Nashira was standing there in the shadows. The Warden pushed Paige behind him. He had forced himself on her he told his betrothed. Nashira was carrying a bell jar with a beautiful flower inside. She crashed it to the floor. She told the Warden that she would hang his flesh from the walls of the city as an example to traitors. Thuban and Situla appeared and dragged him away. Nashira told Paige she would be taken to the stage where she would surrender her spirit.

Paige found out that both Terebell and Alsafi were on the Warden's side. He'd been taken to the gallery by Thuban and Situla. Terebell and Alsafi left to rescue him. Paige needed to delay Nashira. After the play, Nashira took the stage and told the audience that they had tried to educate Paige and teach her to control her abilities but she proved to be treacherous by nature. Paige saw her executioner – a gold sword that would soon behead her.

Michael, in the audience, slipped his hand into his pocket. He had a gun. Warden, Terebell and Alsafi entered the hall. Paige saw a knife on the floor left by the Overseer. It was her only chance and her spirit shot across the stage and broke Nashira's hadal zone. Spirits began to descend on Nashira from every direction. Her five guardian angels tried to defend her but they were outnumbered. Paige entered Nashira's dreamscape, grabbed the knife and plunged it into Nashira's chest. Paige's spirit snapped back into her body. Nashira lay there unmoving for a few moments. Then she pulled the knife out of her chest. All five of her angels flew at Paige and viciously attacked her. Just as Nashira had the knife at Paige's throat, Warden rushed up and stopped her.



Paige had been damaged by the conflict and her spirit harmed by accessing Nashira's dreamscape. Her vision was blurry and she was in and out of consciousness. The Warden told her that Nashira was still alive and that the Seals had come for her. When she finally opened her eyes, Nick and Jax and the other gang members were there to take her back. Paige feared for their safety.

The Warden said they had to fix her dreamscape right away or she could die. He could help her. Pleione had a vial of amaranth and gave it to the Warden. He dabbed some under her nose and on her lips. She recovered almost immediately. Some rephs burst in and Warden told them to go. He told Paige he'd meet them at Port Meadow. Before she'd leave she went and found Liss who was bleeding and near death. It was too late.

Gomeisa's voice rang out but Paige couldn't figure out where it was coming from. He had killed Liss. Paige wanted to avenge her friend's death but the Warden and Pleione urged her to go. The Warden pulled Paige to safety when a huge blade was thrown at her. Terebell flung thirty spirits at Gomeisa. But he laughed and quickly shattered them. Terebell's limp body was slammed into a pillar. Warden turned toward him but then the stage suddenly exploded.

Analysis

Finally, Paige understands the Warden's motivations. He is desperately in love with her. And she seems to feel the same about him. They embrace and kiss and can't stop. They were expressing pent up emotions that they'd both been repressing for months. But they are forced to stop when they realize that Nashira is standing in the shadows watching them. There are no more lies about the Warden's feelings about Paige and about Nashira. Her protector to the end, the Warden pushes Paige behind him and claims that he forced himself on Paige. He is trying to take all the blame so that Nashira doesn't take it out on Paige. But Nashira is a woman scorned and she will see to it that they are both punished. In fact, they will both die. She had planned to kill Paige that night and take her spirit and thus her gift. What she hadn't planned was to kill her blood-consort.

Paige stands up to Nashira in a battle royal. The Warden keeps the vow he made long ago and saves Paige from certain death. Paige is reeling from her experience and suffers from blurry vision and loss of consciousness. But no one is out of danger because Nashira also survived the battle. At this point, her exact condition is unknown. Nick and Jax are there to take Paige back home. But Paige is concerned that they will be harmed. But does Paige want to leave? Is she willing to leave the Warden behind after it is obvious that they have fallen in love?

Discussion Question 1

Where did Nashira plan to kill Paige?



Discussion Question 2

How does Nashira plan to punish the Warden?

Discussion Question 3

How did Terebell try to defeat Gomeisa and what happened to her?

Vocabulary

epidemic, regalia, calliope, licentious, incantations, gossamer, erratic



Chapter 29

Summary

Chapter 29 – His Parting from Her

The explosion blew Paige across the room. Nick grabbed her and pulled her toward the door. She was worried about the Warden. She tried to connect to him through the golden cord – but there was nothing. Paige figured that Julian might have set off the explosion. On their way to the train, Paige and Nick had to fight off several Rephs, including the vicious Aludra who was attacked by an Emite just when she had Nick in her grasp. Carl told them that the Buzzers had been released into the city. They'd have Emim to fight off during their escape attempt. Paige was relieved to see the Warden standing at Port Meadow when they arrived. Warden led them to the tunnel that would lead to the train. Paige shot off a flare to signal the others who wanted to escape.

Jax became upset with Paige for shooting off the flare. It would let their pursuers know where they were. He slammed her against a post. Jax was verbally abusive with her. Paige told him that she was quitting the syndicate. But she couldn't quit, he told her, she signed a contract. She was his property. He was not about to give up a dreamwalker. Paige sensed that he would kill her first. Michael joined them and insisted on carrying Paige's backpack. Soon Terebell, Pleione and Alsafi appeared. They came for Arcturus. They left word for him to meet them in the clearing.

The Warden showed them the opening to the tunnel. A poltergeist had been wedged inside a lock covering the entrance. The Warden encouraged Paige to persuade the poltergeist to leave. When it spoke a warning to them, she recognized the voice. Suddenly NVD officers were charging through the field heading for them. Paige encouraged the prisoners who had gathered for the escape to stand up to the NVDs and defend the meadow. Facing the NVDs made Paige almost prefer fighting off poltergeist. Paige concentrated on the poltergeist and made contact with it. It was Seb, the boy she had failed to save. He was an angry and restless spirit. She understood his bitterness. He should have lived longer but did he want to be confined to this tiny space forever?! She could send him to the outer darkness where no one could trap him again. He could decide if he wanted to come back later. Seb agreed to leave and free the entry.

Paige wanted the Warden to come with them. She wanted to be with him. But he couldn't go with her. He had to hunt Nashira from the shadows. If he was not successful, he would find her because she would still be in danger. He would keep his vow to always protect her. He told her to run to the train – run little dreamer, he said. The train was already moving and Nick pulled her onto the train with no time to spare. Warden faded into the darkness. She'd never see him again. But she did trust him.



Analysis

Paige is truly torn between two worlds. She has fallen in love with the Warden, a beautiful being who is not human, and she wants to return home. When her friends come to rescue her, it is bittersweet for Paige. She wants to be free again and get out of the horrid place she has been imprisoned in but she will have to leave the man she has grown to love. He is an older man – she is nineteen and he is 200+ – but putting that aside, Paige has found a loving and caring man who she is attracted to on many different levels.

Paige pleads with him to go home but he must stay and finally defeat Nashira who survived the battle with Paige and her special gifts. But he tells her if Nashira is not stopped, he will find her because she won't be safe. The inference is that Nashira won't rest until she recaptures Paige. Paige must say a sad goodbye to the Warden who she thinks she will never see again. But they are eternally linked and it is likely that she is wrong – that the Warden will be in her life again. There is a hint that life back with the syndicate will not be so sweet. Jax has shown the tendency to be cruel and guided by self-interest. Paige may need the Warden's help in dealing with him.

In the bio about the author, it is mentioned that this is the first in a series of seven planned books. From the way the book ends, it is rather obvious that Paige and the Warden will meet again.

Discussion Question 1

What stops Aludra from killing Nick?

Discussion Question 2

Who is the poltergeist that is preventing access to the tunnel that leads to the train?

Discussion Question 3

Why doesn't the Warden escape with Paige?

Vocabulary

ordnance, cumbersome, incendiary



Characters

Paige Mahoney

Paige Mahoney is nineteen-years old and lives in Scion-London in the year 2059. She is a member of a criminal syndicate in the citadel's Underworld. She is extraordinarily gifted in clairvoyance. She is classified as a dreamwalker and is known on the street as The Pale Dreamer. Paige has the ability to virtually leap into another's mind and access his or her dreamscape where she can learn what that person sees, thinks, senses and even plans.

When she was sixteen, she quit school. Her father is a respected scientist with Scion, the corrupt organization that took over the government years before. Her father knows that Paige is very bright but thinks she has no ambition and is not interested in an education and will wind up with a menial job. When taking the train to her father's house, two Scion soldiers peg her for a clairvoyant – an illegal status – and try to arrest her. But she fights and evokes her powerful gifts. One soldier winds up dead and the other wishes he was.

Paige is eventually arrested for the murder and shipped off to Sheol I which is a prison camp formed by the Rephaim race, beings that look almost human except for their yellow eyes. The leader of the Rephs, Nashira, wants to steal Paige's psychic gift and directs her blood-consort, who is known as the Warden, to train her and become Paige's keeper. The Warden hones both her combat skills and her clairvoyant gifts. And while he does so, he begins to fall in love with her.

All Paige wants to do is escape from the horrible prison but she too is beginning to have strong feels for the Warden who is surprisingly kind and caring and almost "human." In the end, with the Warden's help, she is able to escape from the camp. She fears that she will never see the Warden again but they formed a connection that he told her would last through eternity.

The Warden

Arcturus, Blood-Consort and Warden of the Mesarthim, also known as the Warden, is betrothed to Nashira, the leader of the Rephaim race. The Warden is a member of the Rephaim race and looks almost human except for his yellow eyes that glow in the dark. He has been chosen by Nashira to be her blood-consort prince. He is more than 200 years old but appears to be young and handsome.

When Paige is arrested and sent to Sheol I for incarceration she is selected by the Warden to be in his charge. He will train her in combat skills and help her hone her clairvoyant gift. The Warden lives in Magdalen, a luxurious residence in Founder's Tower. Paige lives at Magdalen during her incarceration and is given her own quarters.



The Warden has a lot of secrets. Paige begins to sense that there is more to him than the stoic countenance that he displays. As time passes, the Warden begins to have strong feelings for his captive. He tells her that they have a connection that will never be broken because they had saved each other's lives. He wants to protect her and keep her from danger and stress. Eventually, it is revealed that the Warden was a member of a group of Rephs who led an uprising against Nashira twenty years before. It was thwarted and the rogue Rephs were severely scarred for life – scars that would be painful forever.

While the Warden and Paige are plotting her escape, they can no longer deny the attraction and feelings that they have for one another. He helps her escape but he can't go with her even though she pleads for him to stay with her. He has to stay and defeat Nashira, but if he doesn't he will find Paige because she'll be in danger. Since they have the ties that bind, they will undoubtedly meet again.

Jaxon Hall

Jaxon Hall is the mime-lord of the Seven Seals, a criminal syndicate in Section I-4 which is part of the underworld of Scion-London. He oversees the activities of the voyants who work under him.

Nick

Dr. Nicklas Nyard is a member of the Seven Seals, working in Section I-4 of the criminal syndicate of Scion-London. He is a physician and was the first to discover Paige's extraordinary psychic abilities.

Nashira Sargas

Nashira Sargas is blood-sovereign and the leader of the Race of Rephaim. She is 6'6" in height and has the powers of five guardian angels. She murdered five clairvoyants, trapped their spirits and forced them to be her guardian angels so she could use the gifts they had as living beings. Nashira is after Paige for her special gift.

Liss

Liss is a harlie, or performer, clairvoyant at the prison camp. She has the skill of foretelling futures by using tarot cards. She is in spirit shock when one of the Rephs throw her cards into a fire and destroy them. She and Paige are friends.



Seb

Sebastian Pearce is a 12-year-old human who has no clairvoyant skills. He was imprisoned by mistake but the Rephs won't release him. Paige tries to help him but Nashira kills him in front of Paige to send a message.

Pleione Sualocin

Pleione Sualocin is a Rephaim who organizes the newly arriving human prisoners. She looks almost human except for her yellow eyes. Although she initially seems to be uncaring, she winds up helping the humans escape.

Paige's Father

Paige's father is a respected scientist for the citadel of Scion. He knows his daughter is smart but fears she won't amount to much. He had no idea that she was part of the clairvoyant underworld.

Hector

Hector is the malevolent Lord of the Underworld. He really has no more power than the mime-lords. But he has a hit squad and Paige is on it.



Symbols and Symbolism

The Syndicate

Paige works for the syndicate which is a criminal organization of voyants that is part of Scion's underworld.

Flux

"Flux" is a dangerous substance that was injected into Paige when she tried to escape from the Scion soldiers. It never goes away through a natural process and can only be made ineffective with an antidote.

Mollisher

Paige is a mollisher – a young clairvoyant, like an apprentice, who is working under a mime-lord. Sometimes they are referred to as "molls" (like gun molls) and can mean that they are the lovers of the mime-lords.

Aether

The aether is the spirit realm which can be accessed by the voyants. It is sometimes referred to as the Source.

Dreamscape

The voyants access the interior minds of people through their dreamscapes which is the place where memories are stored.

Threnody

A threnody is a kind of spell. It is used to banish spirits to the dark outer world.

Mime-Crime

In Scion, it is a crime to use clairvoyance ability to make money. It is a high crime and is punishable by death.



Busking

Busking is performing clairvoyant acts for money. Those who participate in busking are breaking the laws of Scion and but are not welcome in the voyant crime syndicate.

Amaurotic

Amaurotics are normal people who do not have clairvoyant abilities.

Gallipot

A gallipot is a specialist in psychotic drugs like Flux. A gallipot was called in to give Paige an antidote after she was injected with Flux.



Settings

Scion-London

Paige is a clairvoyant in Scion-London in 2059. Her status is illegal and she, like many people with her skills, is recruited by a criminal syndicate that operates in the citadel's Underworld.

Paige's Father's House

Paige tangles with two NDA soldiers and murders one of them. She flees to her father's house where she is hunted down. She crawls out of a first floor window, climbs on the roof and is shot with a dart filled with flux as she tries to hold onto a drain pipe.

Sheol I

The Rephaim race established a prison camp called Sheol I in the area where the old city of Oxford once was. Humans are the only beings incarcerated there.

Magdalen

Paige is selected by the Warden and he becomes her keeper. He lives in Magdalen, a luxurious residence in Founder's Hall. Paige lives at the Magdalen residence during her imprisonment.

No Man's Land

Paige is cautioned not to set foot on No Man's Land. It is riddled with land mines and traps and the dreaded Emim, creatures that have a thirst for human flesh, are known to roam there.



Themes and Motifs

Deceit

Deceit is a common theme throughout the story of “The Bone Season”. The administration of Scion-London in 2059 has made it unlawful for anyone to practice clairvoyant skills. Their official reason is that voyants are scammers and frauds. But they are deceiving the public because their real reason is that they fear that the powerful clairvoyants could take back the government for the people. Their law is unfair because the voyants have gifts that can help people. Due to their lies and deceit, an entire underworld of clairvoyants has sprung up and represents a constant threat to the government.

Paige Mahoney is the protagonist of the story. She quit school when she was sixteen to join the criminal syndicate, the clairvoyant underground. Her father is a respected scientist with Scion. He knows that his daughter is bright but fears she will not amount to much because she’s not ambitious or interested in school. Paige does not want to hurt her father by telling him that she is part of a criminal syndicate, so she lies to him. She tells him that she is a bartender and that she lives with her boyfriend. Her deceit is exposed when the NVD officers track her down at her father’s house to arrest her for murder.

When Paige winds up in a prison camp called Sheol I, which is in the area that used to be the city of Oxford, she is placed under a keeper who is called the Warden. He has many secrets that he keeps from Paige – some good and some bad. She becomes angry when she realizes that he drugged her in order to read her memories. Nashira is the leader of the strange race of beings called the Rephaim. She is a daunting figure from her stature – she is 6’6” in height – to her formidable psychic powers – she has the help of five powerful guardian angels at all times. She is very welcoming to Paige when she is first incarcerated but she is as deceitful as she is intimidating. What she plans to do with Paige is make her her sixth guardian angel. She plans to kill Paige, trap her spirit and steal her extraordinary gifts.

Paige and the Warden are drawn to each other. Although they come from different worlds, there is an undeniable attraction and connection. Paige deceives herself about her feelings but only for a while. In the end they allow the barriers between them to crumble and they fall into each other’s arms.

Survival

The desire to survive is a natural and inherent part of the human condition. The humans in the story of “The Bone Season” are no exceptions. But there are other beings in this story that introduces the readers to the Rephaim race. These beings are from the Netherworld and appear to be almost human. Although they really don’t have many



human traits, one trait they have in common with the humans that they resemble is that innate need to survive.

Paige Mahoney is a young resident of the citadel of Scion-London in the year 2059. She is a criminal, at least according to the corrupt administration that had taken over London some years before. Her crime is that she is a clairvoyant and any and all acts displaying “unnatural” psychic abilities have been made criminal. To survive and avoid detection, Paige and others like her have formed a criminal syndicate of clairvoyants in the Underworld.

When Paige is traveling to her father’s house, she is stopped at a checkpoint by vicious Scion soldiers who suspect that she is clairvoyant. As they are about to apprehend her, her special gift goes into high gear out of her desire to survive. Her adrenaline boosts her strength and agility and she kills one soldier and leaves the other soldier wishing he was dead. But she is then a hunted criminal and is soon taken down by a team of soldiers.

Paige is apprehended and incarcerated at the Rephaim penal system called Sheol I. While there she is challenged by beings and creatures and events that she could have never imagined. To survive, she has to be subservient at times and bold and crass at other times. She is able to assess the situation and decide what will allow her to survive until she gets the chance to escape.

The Warden is Paige’s Rephaim keeper at Sheol I. Although at first he seems to just be one of them, a remote and unfeeling being from another world, he begins to show that he has some human traits. The Warden had been tortured in the past for rising up against Nashira, the leader of the Rephaim. Despite the fact that he betrayed her, she can’t resist his handsome and virile bearing and chooses him to be her prince-consort. He can’t stand the sight of her but he has learned his lesson. He knows he must play along with her to stay alive.

In spite of their differences, The Warden and Paige ultimately fall in love. But in the end to survive, she knows that she must escape. She begs him to come with her but he cannot. For the survival of his race and the humans incarcerated at the penal colony, he must stay and defeat and destroy Nashira once and for all.

Trust

Trust is a difficult thing for most people to feel about others – even among family members and friends. And it doesn’t take much for one to lose trust in another. . . one lie, one broken promise and that trust begins to crumble and sometimes can never be restored. In the story of “The Bone Season” there are plenty of reasons for most of the characters to trust no one. But in the end there is one shining spot when two beings come together and share a mutual trust that will surely last forever.

Paige Mahoney is a young Brit who lives in Scion-London in 2059. She is gifted with a high-level of clairvoyance. She can access the dreamscapes of others and know what



they think, feel and remember. But she is limited in using her gift. The Scion government that took over London some time before has made the practice of clairvoyance in any form a crime. Paige and others like her can't be themselves and cannot trust the government to support them in any way. Therefore, they feel compelled to form a criminal syndicate of clairvoyants in the SciLo Underground. Trust is a rare commodity in Paige's world. She and the others like her have to constantly look over their shoulders and lie about their identities and who they are.

When Paige is arrested for a crime, she is sent to Sheol I, a penal compound established by the Rephaim on what was once the grounds of Oxford. Although their appearance is close to human, they are a separate race and species and came to earth when a schism occurred between their homeland, Netherworld, and the earth. Paige is told that she is being trained to improve her combat skills and to hone her psychic gifts. In truth, her skills are being heightened so that Nashira, the leader of the Rephaim, can murder her and steal her gift. But Paige is not fooled and doesn't trust Nashira for a minute.

Paige's keeper known simply as the Warden is a stoic seemingly remote member of the Rephaim. Paige tolerates him because she has no choice but she doesn't trust him. But the Warden feels the same way. He doesn't trust Paige. Despite their differences – and there are many – they begin to have feelings for each other. Through a series of events, the Warden is able to prove that he would do anything to protect Paige and save her life. Paige in return risks it all to help him.

In the end, they must part, but the Warden has grown to have complete trust in Paige. And the last words in the book are said by Paige: "I would never see him again. . . I was certain of one thing: I did trust him. Now I had only to trust in myself." (452)



Styles

Point of View

“The Bone Season” by Samantha Shannon is told in the first person from the perspective of the protagonist, Paige. She is a voyant in the underworld of the Citadel of Scion-London. Through Paige’s point of view, the reader is able to step into the world of a voyant in the year 2059. Through her words and thoughts we understand how she is able to access the dreamscapes of the minds of others by using her advanced clairvoyant skills. The reader also learns that there are great demands on an individual with the rare gift that has been bestowed upon Paige.

According to the brief biography on author Shannon, she is a twenty-two year-old author who began writing at the tender age of fifteen. Obviously, Shannon has a wonderful imagination and has created a whole new world of adventure, peril and life and death struggles. The author has created a main character who is in the same age category as she is. Therefore, the author is able to project the sensibilities and concerns of a real young girl onto the brave and strong young woman she creates in this story. Although the book definitely has appeal to young girls – teens and twenties – the action is fast and not for the faint of heart and the drama is sharp and sophisticated and has broad appeal.

This book is the first in a series of seven planned books. Paige, the protagonist, will undoubtedly grow and mature along with the author.

Language and Meaning

In reading “The Bone Season” we enter life in the underworld in the citadel of Scion-London in the year 2059. As such, there are many terms and phraseology unique to this story and, of course, unknown to the reader. To help readers out, there is a handy glossary of terms that will assist in understanding the story. There is also an organization chart at the beginning of the book for familiarity with the many clairvoyant classifications and their relationship with each other in this strange new world. “The Bone Season” only occurs every year. Its name is sourced from the French word, “bonne” which means “good” but the prisoners at Sheol I would disagree with that title.

Paige is a dreamwalker – a person who can virtually, and with intensified training, literally breach the mind of another and access its dreamscape. The dreamwalker is able to know what the person sees, feels and thinks. Other classifications of clairvoyants include oracles, soothsayers, binders, mediums, seers, augurs and even “unreadables” – those who have strong clairvoyant powers but cannot be pinned down to one classification.

Paige is imprisoned in Sheol I which was established by the Rephaim race, beings who look almost human except for their yellow eyes. Humans who do not have clairvoyant



gifts are known as amaurotics. Emim are feared creatures that enter earth's sphere from the Netherworld through "cold spots." When a clairvoyant gets out of hand, the NVD soldiers can inject them with "flux" which is almost fatal for the psychics. The earth is known as "meatspace" and Paige's earthen boss is known as a "mime-lord." Paige is a mollisher which is a young clairvoyant, a protégé. There are bad spirits that are flung at people but they can be nullified by a threnody, an incantation that will banish them.

The story is filled with new words and new definitions of old words. Once the reader grows accustomed to all the strange terms, they present no barrier to understanding or enjoying the story.

Structure

"The Bone Season" by Samantha Shannon is separated into twenty-nine medium-sized chapters. Preceding the book is a useful quasi-organizational chart entitled, "The Seven Orders of Clairvoyance" which shows the various classifications of clairvoyants. Following that is an aerial map of "The Penal Colony of Sheol I – the Official Territory of the Suzerain" which is where the prison that Paige was taken to after she was arrested for murder is located.

A Glossary following the story provides helpful definitions of the words used in this 2056 story. It is a handy reference and very useful because of all the unique and creative words that are used in the book. There is also an "Acknowledgements" section in which the author bestows credit on those who helped her in publishing her book.

"A Note on the Author" provides a brief bio of Samantha Shannon. Just twenty-two-years old when the book was written, Shannon was born and raised in West London. She began her writing career at the tender age of fifteen.

Fans of "The Bone Season" will be thrilled to know that it is the first in a planned series of seven books.



Quotes

A life-support machine kept my vitals ticking over. I looked dead, and in a way I was: my spirit was detached, in part, from my body. It was a crime for which I could have faced the gallows.

-- Paige (Chapter 1 paragraph Page 3, paragraph 3)

Importance: This captures the method used to enable Paige to hack into the minds of others.

I'd killed someone. I'd actually killed someone. Jax had always said I was capable of it – bloodless murder – but I'd never believed him.

-- Paige (Chapter 2 paragraph Page 20, paragraph 7)

Importance: This is Paige's realization of what she had done. She killed herself in self-defense but the gravity of committing homicide is hitting her. Plus, she knows that the Scion soldiers will be pursuing her.

I noticed three odd things about the woman. First, her eyes were yellow. . . the second thing was her aura. She was a voyant but I'd never encountered this type before. . . And the third – the one that chilled me – was her dreamscape. Exactly like the one I'd felt in I-4, the one we hadn't been able to identify.

-- Paige (Chapter 3 paragraph Page 36, paragraph 6)

Importance: This is Paige's first encounter – and the book's introduction of – a member of the mysterious Rephaim race.

So, you bandage wounds and feed the amaurotic slaves. How quaint.

-- The Warden (Chapter 7 paragraph Page 97, paragraph 3)

Importance: This is the Warden's acknowledgement of Paige's kindness. Although the Warden is a Rephaim, he doesn't fail to notice her good qualities.

[Paige] "So you want me to keep your secret. And in exchange?" [The Warden] "I will try to keep you safe. There are an infinite number of ways you could die here.

-- Paige and the Warden (Chapter 12 paragraph Page 178, paragraph 8)

Importance: The Warden wants Paige to keep quiet about his injuries. For doing so, he will protect her in this very dangerous place.

It must be a dilemma. Your morals say 'no' but your survival instinct says 'yes.

-- The Warden (Chapter 15 paragraph Page 210, paragraph 9)

Importance: The Warden encapsulates Paige's problem about her life in Oxford. She must go along with things she doesn't want to do or believe in, in order to survive.



He cut into his wrist. Three drops of ectoplasm fell onto the ice. The cold spot cracked down the middle and the air turned white. Shaped gathered around me. Voices. Dreamer, dreamer. I put my hands over my ears, but it didn't block them. Dreamer, do not go beyond. Turn back!

-- Paige (Chapter 15 paragraph Page 218, paragraph 8)

Importance: The Warden opened "the door", a cold spot between earth and the Netherworld. It was not safe for Paige to enter the Netherworld. Spirits were warning her not to come in. A cold spot allowed the Rephaim to enter the human world centuries before.

I became aware that I couldn't hear the Buzzer anymore. My hands were sweat-slick. I could hardly grip the gun. I could be dead at any moment. Dead meat.

-- Paige (Chapter 17 paragraph Page 242, paragraph 9)

Importance: Paige is alone in the woods and is being stalked by an Emite, or Buzzer. They crave human flesh and have killed and maimed many human inhabitants of Oxford.

You have great potential. If you do not attempt to reach that potential, I shall see to it that you never walk the sheltered halls of Magdalen again. You can rot outside with the rest of the fools.

-- Nashira (Chapter 19 paragraph Page 277, paragraph 1)

Importance: Nashira has given Paige a huge assignment. If she fails, she will be thrown to the street.

The syndicate exists because of Scion. Scion exists because of the Rephaim.

-- Paige (Chapter 26 paragraph Page 379, paragraph 12)

Importance: Paige has come to understand the domino effect that the Rephaim had on London and the underground.

Our program enables governments to root out and segregate clairvoyants while they are still young, without the expensive necessity of mass execution.

-- Beltrame (Chapter 28 paragraph Page 404, paragraph 2)

Importance: Beltrame, the Overseer, explains the relationship between Scion and the Rephaim. They have an agreement that works for both factions. Scion wants to get rid of clairvoyants and the Rephaim want them.

You could have been more. So much more. As it happens, you will be nothing. Everything that you were will be mine. Alsafi, take this bag of bones to the stage. It is time for her to surrender her spirit.

-- Nashira (Chapter 28 paragraph Page 413)

Importance: Nashira just caught the Warden and Paige in a romantic embrace. Nashira

tells Paige that this is her end. She will be killing her publicly on stage and will trap her spirit and use her clairvoyant abilities.