

Chosen at Nightfall Study Guide

Chosen at Nightfall by C. C. Hunter

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Plot Summary

Chosen at Nightfall is the fifth novel in the Shadow Falls Series by C.C. Hunter. In this novel, Kylie Galen returns to Shadow Falls after an attack on one of her friends suggests her old nemesis named Mario is in the area. Kylie struggles with her return, not only because of the sudden break with her boyfriend before she left, but because she worries about the teenaged chameleons like herself she left back at her grandfather's compound. As Kylie struggles to find a way to free herself of Mario's obsession, she is actually working to find a way to change generations of thinking. If she is successful, people like herself will live freely in the supernatural society, as well as a whole. Chosen at Nightfall is a satisfying conclusion to a popular young adult series.

Kylie Galen is having dinner with her grandfather and aunt when an alarm is raised in the chameleon compound. Kylie's grandfather immediately sends her and her aunt to the barn with the other young chameleons to hide until the reason for the alarm is found. Kylie soon discovers that the alarm was caused by several of her friends from Shadow Falls who have come to take her back to Shadow Falls. It has been discovered that the chameleon who has been trying to kill Kylie is in the area. It is thought that Kylie would be more secure if she returned to Shadow Falls. Kylie's reluctant grandfather agrees, and Kylie prepares to go back in the morning.

After Kylie is packed, she is trying to sleep when a teenage girl named Jenny comes to her window. Jenny tells Kylie that the leaders plan to keep her away from Shadow Falls rather than allow her to go. For this reason, Jenny has decided to help Kylie escape the compound that night. Jenny, it turns out, is the sister of Hayden Yates, a teacher at Shadow Falls who is also a chameleon and spy for Kylie's grandfather. For this reason, Kylie trusts Jenny.

As Kylie and Jenny flee the compound, they are approached by Derek, a friend of Kylie's. Derek takes over in helping Kylie flee while Jenny distracts the compound guards. They escape and are on their way to Shadow Falls when they are ambushed by Mario. Mario attacks them both, and there is a brief fight. Lucas, Kylie's ex-boyfriend, joins the fight. Mario uses a mind trick to make Kylie think Lucas is Mario, and Kylie nearly strangles him to death. In the end, Mario flees because of some dead spirits who come to Kylie's defense.

Kylie returns to Shadow Falls where she reunites with her friends, but she must also deal with seeing Lucas every day. While trying to find some peace at the Falls on her first day back, Kylie finds a sword. The sword glows whenever Kylie touches it. It also appears to have some magical qualities as it continuously shows up wherever Kylie is. At the same time, Kylie involves herself in helping Holiday, her mentor, discover whether or not she is pregnant. This leads to some drama when Kylie buys the pregnancy tests for Holiday and her mother becomes convinced she is the one who is pregnant.

Kylie never knew her father in life, but has spoken to his spirit and learned of his past. Kylie has wanted to know her father's adoptive parents, but this has proven to be a



struggle. Finally, however, Kylie meets the Brightens and learns more about her father's childhood. It seems to be the cap on an adventure that satisfies Kylie's curiosity.

As Kylie struggles in her own romantic life, she also struggles with her mother's choice of boyfriends. During a visit at Shadow Falls, Kylie begins to wonder if her mother's boyfriend is really who he claims to be. Then, while investigating the story of a ghost who has been visiting her, Kylie discovers that her mother's boyfriend is really the son of her nemesis Mario. Kylie rushes to rescue her mother, forced into a final showdown with Mario. To her surprise, Mario's son John kills Mario. Kylie manages to kill John.

After the fight, Kylie's father comes to her and explains that it is time to tell her mother everything. With her father's help, Kylie does just that. It takes time for her mother to accept it all, but she adjusts well enough to share the happiness of Holiday and Burnett's wedding day with Kylie and her friends.



Chapters 1-6

Summary

Chapter 1

Kylie is having dinner with her grandfather and aunt, but her appetite disappears when a particularly aggressive ghost appears to her and asks her to kill someone. As Kylie struggles to hide her disgust from her grandfather, an alarm sounds throughout the compound.

Chapter 2

Kylie and her aunt go to the barn with the other young chameleons. Kylie's aunt turns them both invisible, a skill Kylie has only recently learned. As they wait, Kylie feels the animosity of her fellow students who blame her for the alarm because of her outsider status. Kylie's grandfather comes to the barn and urges the chameleons to flee. Kylie hesitates, however, when she first senses and then sees her friend Derek, a fae, nearby. Derek is soon joined by Burnett James, the head of security from Shadow Falls. Kylie wants to become visible and speak to them, but her grandfather demands that she should continue to hide. Finally, Kylie defies her grandfather and appears to both Derek and Burnett. When she does, her grandfather and aunt appear as well. Burnett tells them they have reason to believe Mario, a chameleon who has been hunting Kylie for some time, is in the area. They want to take her to Shadow Falls to protect her.

Chapter 3

As Burnett and Kylie's grandfather argue, Lucas arrives. Kylie is shocked to see him especially since the last time she saw him he was kissing another girl and breaking Kylie's heart. Some of the other chameleons arrive, and there is a brief fight. Finally, Burnett convinces Kylie's grandfather to sit down and talk to him. They go back to her grandfather's house, and Kylie listens as her grandfather and Burnett talk. Burnett tells them a friend named Helen had been attacked. They believe the attacker was Mario. Kylie's grandfather insists he can protect Kylie, but Burnett insists they can protect her better at Shadow Falls. Finally, Kylie's grandfather allows her to make the decision about going or staying.

Chapter 4

Kylie chooses to return to Shadow Falls. Kylie's grandfather reluctantly agrees to allow her to go. Kylie walks her friends to the front gate, learns more about the friends she left behind, and agrees to meet them in the morning to return to Shadow Falls. As Kylie walks back to her grandfather's house, she is joined by Jenny, a young girl who is about Kylie's age. Jenny asks when Kylie is leaving, and then she runs off. As Kylie approaches her grandfather's house, she sees the other leaders of the compound leaving. Kylie speaks to her grandfather and aunt briefly before going to her room to



pack. When she lies down to sleep, Kylie discovers she cannot shut her mind off. Kylie is visited by the ghost again. Then a knock on the window frightens her.

Chapter 5

The knock is only Jenny. Jenny tells Kylie the elders are planning on forcing her to stay in the compound. If she wants to leave, she must go now. Kylie decides to trust Jenny. Jenny takes Kylie to the back of the compound where she can slip through a gate without anyone knowing. However, they must watch out for the security patrol. As they walk, Jenny describes the prison-like atmosphere most chameleons live in at the compound. Then they are surprised by someone approaching. Jenny tells Kylie to run, but her protective instincts make her turn back. Kylie discovers that their intruder is only Derek. Kylie explains the situation to Derek, and he agrees to go with Kylie. The guards approach as they discuss the situation. Kylie grabs Derek and makes him invisible alongside her.

Chapter 6

Jenny appears to the guards and saves Kylie and Derek from detection. However, as they wander off, Kylie becomes aware of another presence. She hides, but she soon becomes convinced it is her grandfather. When he is gone, Kylie and Derek slip out of the compound and begin running. About a mile away, they stop, and Derek tries to call Burnett. However, his phone battery is dead. They discover the reason when the ghost appears and warns Kylie of trouble. They run to a nearby cemetery. They are about to enter when Mario appears.

Analysis

The author uses these early chapters to reintroduce the reader to the main characters and introduce the conflict that will propel much of the plot. Kylie Galin was once a normal teenager, but she soon learned that she has unusual powers. Kylie was sent to a special camp where all the kids her age, and most of the adults, were special. Kylie soon discovers that there is a whole underground world where supernatural beings, vampires, faes, werewolves, and others live in harmony with one another. It takes Kylie a while, but she learns that she is of a species that is called chameleon, someone who can take on the characteristics of almost any other supernatural species. For that reason, she has come to live with her grandfather and aunt in order to learn about her powers and how to control them.

While trying to adjust to a life and a world she still does not fully understand, Kylie has been stalked by a chameleon who is threatened by Kylie's powers and has made several attempts to both understand her powers and destroy her. This nemesis named Mario has come back to the Shadow Falls area and poses a threat to Kylie. It takes Kylie's friends some time to persuade her grandfather to allow them to protect her because Shadow Falls has some connection to a government group that has been



responsible in the past for testing and killing some supernatural creatures, including Kylie's grandmother.

Kylie makes the choice to return to Shadow Falls even though it would mean facing her ex-boyfriend every day. Kylie has always felt more at home at the school than with her chameleon brethren. As she escapes the chameleon compound, however, Kylie runs into trouble, both from her fellow chameleons and from Mario.

Discussion Question 1

What is Shadow Falls? Why did Kylie leave? Why does she wish to go back now? What danger is forcing Kylie's hand?

Discussion Question 2

Who is Lucas? Why does Kylie not want him around? What did he do? Is this a forgivable offense?

Discussion Question 3

What is a chameleon? Why are they so secretive? What danger do they perceive in the world? Why do they force the young to stay in the compound and marry young?

Vocabulary

Memories, leathery, murdered, innocent, followed, unfortunately, rogue, breastbone, reached, cemetery, spirit, halt, vision, unsettling, presence, mysterious, betrayal, compound, chameleon, supernatural, vampire, fae, werewolf.



Chapters 7-15

Summary

Chapter 7

Kylie and Mario exchange barbs before a fight breaks out. Lucas surprises everyone by showing up and helping out. Kylie becomes aware of the dead spirits from the cemetery rallying. Mario seems to sense them as well. Then, Kylie sees a chance to kill Mario and takes it. But, it turns out that the man she is choking is really Lucas. When Kylie realizes what is happening, she turns around to confront Mario. The spirits rally behind her, and Mario becomes spooked and leaves.

Chapter 8

After Mario is gone, Lucas and Derek argue over what to do next. When Kylie wakes, Lucas shows a great deal of concern for her, causing her to be conflicted in her emotions. Burnett shows up and insists on taking them back to Shadow Falls immediately. Burnett is deeply concerned about Kylie and insists that she have someone with her at all times. Holiday is concerned as well and arranges to take Kylie to the falls the following day. Burnett then walks her to her cabin. However, when she goes into her bedroom, Kylie finds Lucas waiting for her.

Chapter 9

Lucas tells Kylie that he only got engaged to Miranda to get a place on the council. Kylie tells him to leave. Lucas agrees, but he promises that he will never give up on her. Kylie is emotionally overwrought when Lucas leaves. She wants to call her mother, but she realizes that she left her cell at her grandfather's place. Kylie decides she needs to see Hayden Yates. As she sneaks out, Burnett finds her. Burnett is angry and seems to think that Kylie and Hayden Yates have had a romantic relationship. Kylie refuses to tell him the truth in order to protect Hayden.

Chapter 10

When they arrive at Hayden's cabin, Kylie begs Burnett to let them talk alone. Burnett reluctantly agrees. Kylie, however, knows that Burnett has super hearing, so she asks Hayden to become invisible with her. Kylie and Hayden discuss the truth and how Burnett might react to it. Kylie convinces Hayden to come clean with Burnett. When he does, Burnett becomes angry, and the two men nearly fight. The ghost appears, upsetting Kylie. Kylie is exhausted, so she decides to go back to her cabin.

Chapter 11



Burnett makes Kylie promise not to keep any more secrets from him. Kylie goes into her cabin alone and decides to visit with her roommate, Miranda. They catch up on the local gossip and each other's life.

Chapter 12

Kylie uses Hayden's borrowed phone to call her mother where she is vacationing in England with her new boyfriend John. Kylie learns her stepdad has been trying to reach her and is upset that she has not answered her phone. She also learns that her mother is thinking of taking a full time job with her boyfriend. This makes Kylie uneasy, but she cannot convince her mother not to do it. When Kylie hangs up, she falls asleep and has a dream about Derek. She knows the dream is real as she and Derek have done this before. Kylie becomes emotionally overwrought again when she allows Derek to kiss her. Holiday is sitting in Kylie's room when Kylie wakes.

Chapter 13

They talk for a minute, and Kylie witnesses Holiday's sudden voracious appetite. Kylie thinks Holiday might be pregnant, but Holiday refuses to entertain the idea until the evidence becomes overwhelming.

Chapter 14

Kylie and Holiday track down Hayden so that Kylie can return his phone. Kylie learns from Hayden that Jenny wants to run away, but he has convinced her to stay until she is of age and can leave without penalty. Later, Kylie, Holiday, and Burnett walk up to the falls. Kylie and Holiday sit behind the falls while Burnett remains on guard duty. As they sit there talking, an object appears in the water.

Chapter 15

Kylie pulls the object from the water and discovers it is an ancient sword. Kylie and Holiday ponder over it before showing it to Burnett. What surprises them most is that it glows when Kylie touches it. They take it to Hayden to find out if it is a chameleon, but he has never heard of such a thing. They take the sword to Holiday's office before going to lunch. Kylie feels conspicuous as everyone stares at her and tries to read her pattern. To protect Kylie, Perry, Miranda's boyfriend, moons everyone in the room. This lightens the mood, and Kylie feels almost normal again until she sees Derek and remembers everything that happened in the dreamscape.

Analysis

Kylie confronts Mario, but he tricks her, and she nearly kills Lucas. Although Lucas and Kylie have broken up because of his decision to become engaged to another girl to help his position in his pack, she still loves him and is filled with guilt over this occurrence. Luckily, the dead spirits living in the cemetery where the fight takes place back up Kylie, and she is able to make Mario leave. Kylie returns to Shadow Falls where she



reconnects with some of her friends. She also finds herself under constant protection by Burnett.

Kylie visits with Hayden Yates, the chameleon teaching at Shadow Falls who helped her in previous novels. Kylie and Hayden decide to tell Burnett the truth. Burnett is angry about the lies, but he quickly decides to allow Hayden to remain for Kylie's sake. Kylie slowly readjusts to returning to Shadow Falls, but Lucas's appearance in her cabin and the emotion there, as well as Derek's attempts to reignite their romantic relationship cause her a great deal of struggle. At the same time, a sword appears that leaves Kylie with another dilemma to solve.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Mario try to get Kylie to kill Lucas? How does he do this? Why does Mario want Kylie? What threat does he make as he leaves her?

Discussion Question 2

What is the relationship between Kylie and Lucas? How did it end? What does Lucas say to Kylie that makes the reader believe it is not over for him? How does Kylie respond to this?

Discussion Question 3

What is the sword? What does it do when Kylie touches it? How does Kylie feel about this? What does Burnett think the sword represents?

Vocabulary

Hurling, nightmare, dreamscape, romantic, sword, flashback, inconspicuous, posture, attacked, humor, intentions, tone, bounced, arched, eventually, forward, pattern, limelight, volume, bouncing, simultaneously, term, squinted.



Chapters 16-26

Summary

Chapter 16

Kylie speaks to Derek briefly and then goes to sit with her friends. Lucas comes over and sits beside her as Derek sits across from them. Kylie can feel the tension between both the boys and from the werewolf pack. When Lucas oversteps his bounds, Kylie leaves. Miranda follows her and tries to help console her. Together, they go back to their cabin where they find Della. They are so excited that they rush into her room without knocking. The girls move into the kitchen where they are shocked to find the sword.

Chapter 17

Holiday and Burnett arrive. They cannot figure out how the sword got to the cabin, but they take it back to Holiday's office. Kylie remains with her friends and catches up. They are surprised when the sword suddenly appears in the living room. They call Holiday and Burnett again.

Chapter 18

The next morning, Kylie learns that in the Campmate hour, Fredricka has given a pint of blood to spend an hour with her. They talk about Lucas, and Fredricka urges Kylie to give him a second chance, suggesting that Lucas is giving up everything for Kylie.

Chapter 19

After a tough day in class, Kylie is cornered by Holiday who wants her to go to a drugstore in town and purchase two pregnancy tests. Holiday does not want Burnett to know until she is certain. Kylie agrees. Kylie picks three tests and is embarrassed when the elderly clerk clearly thinks the tests are for her. Kylie is further mortified when she realizes Holiday did not give her enough money for the tests. Kylie uses an emergency credit card her mother gave her to pay for her purchases. As she turns to leave, Kylie is shocked to find her grandfather behind her.

Chapter 20

Kylie's grandfather gives her her cell phone and assures her that he was not part of the plan to keep her in the compound. Kylie's grandfather leaves, but not before Burnett becomes aware of something going on. Burnett confronts Kylie, and she tells him the truth. Burnett accuses Kylie of manufacturing an excuse to go to the drugstore to see her grandfather. Kylie denies it, but Burnett takes her purchases from her and pours them out on the front seat of the car. As Burnett realizes what they are and begins to yell at Kylie for her irresponsible behavior, Kylie goads him on, aware of how big a hole he is digging for himself in light of the truth.



Chapter 21

When the truth comes out, Burnett is so shocked that he does not say another word all the way back to Shadow Falls. Kylie feels guilty and worries she has caused unnecessary problems for Holiday. Kylie learns that Hayden told her grandfather where she would be. She then takes a call from her stepdad. Kylie realizes she still has Holiday's phone, so she goes to her office to return it. When she arrives, she discovers that Holiday has taken all the pregnancy tests, and they are all positive. Holiday is worried about Burnett, but these fears are put to rest when Burnett returns with flowers. The next morning, Kylie finds several emails on her computer from her mom, her stepdad, and her best friend Sara. After reading a few of them, she rushes off to breakfast with her roommates. At Campmate hour, trouble breaks out when a girl who has a crush on Perry pays to spend an hour with him.

Chapter 22

Miranda turns the girl into a kangaroo with pimples. Then, she quickly turns her back. Perry becomes angry, making Miranda even more upset. Kylie tells Perry he should apologize and urges him to go after Miranda. Derek takes over as Kylie's shadow. They go for a walk, and Kylie tells him that they can never have a romantic relationship again. Derek takes it well despite his obvious disappointment. Then they each get a text from Burnett ordering them to the office. When they arrive, Kylie is surprised to find her stepdad there.

Chapter 23

Kylie's stepdad wants to take her out, but Burnett does not like the idea. Holiday, however, convinces everyone that it would be okay for Kylie's stepdad to take her to lunch in a few hours. As they discuss it, Kylie's sword suddenly materializes on Holiday's desk. Holiday barely manages to hide it before Kylie's stepdad sees it. They usher Kylie's stepdad out of the office. Later, Kylie has lunch with her stepdad, and they discuss a possible trip to the Grand Canyon. Kylie slips into the bathroom and is shocked to be joined by Monique, Lucas's former fiancé. Monique wants to know why Kylie has not forgiven Lucas, promising that she and Lucas did not even like each other, let alone do anything sexual. Monique tells Kylie that Lucas has given up everything to be with Kylie. Lucas breaks into the room, and he and Kylie argue before Kylie marches out.

Chapter 24

Kylie and her stepdad return to Shadow Falls just in time to find Kylie's mother pulling up with John. Kylie is shocked when her mother approaches her and accuses her of being pregnant. An argument ensues until Holiday arrives and soothes things over. At the same time, Kylie realizes the Brightens have arrived. She hopes they do not get the wrong impression from her mother's anger.

Chapter 25



When Kylie finally meets the Brightens, she finds them to be very kind and understanding people. They even give her some pictures of her father when he was young, which Kylie cherishes. Afterward, Kylie goes back to her cabin and overloads on chocolate with Della.

Chapter 26

Della tells Kylie about her mission and some things that happened with Steve. Kylie urges Della to let Steve into her life, but Della is reluctant because of a previous bad relationship. This conversation makes Kylie wonder if maybe she should give Lucas a second chance. That night, Lucas sneaks into her bedroom again. They talk; Kylie begins to soften, but she will not admit that she still loves Lucas.

Analysis

Kylie finds herself romantically trapped between her former lover Derek and Lucas, her new ex-boyfriend. This leaves her feeling conflicted and unsure of which way to go. While Kylie is angry with Lucas for getting engaged to another girl, she has to admit that he did not cheat on her openly and dramatically like Derek did. Kylie also realizes that she has stronger feelings for Lucas. For this reason, Kylie makes it clear to Derek that they can no longer be romantically linked despite Derek's clear desire to be so. At the same time, Kylie listens to arguments as to why she should forgive Lucas, but she cannot make herself do so. It is difficult, however, especially when some of the arguments in Lucas's favor come from his friends and former fiancé.

At the same time Kylie is struggling with her romantic life, she finds herself caught up in parental drama. Kylie buys pregnancy tests for Holiday only to have her parents assume that she has bought them for herself. When Kylie is confronted quite publicly, she feels as though her mother is being hypocritical for accusing her of such a thing when she has just returned from an overseas trip with her lover. To make this more complicated, it takes place in front of the Brightens, the adoptive parents of Kylie's father. This upsets Kylie because she wants to make a good impression.

Kylie is proving herself to be quite a mature person in this novel. Kylie has grown a lot over the past few years since learning she is a supernatural creature who can employ the abilities of other supernatural creatures and communicate with the dead. However, Kylie is still a teenager with teenage problems that leave her struggling with everyday life even as the shadow of her nemesis hangs over her head.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Kylie buy three pregnancy tests? Who asked Kylie to buy them? Why was Kylie asked to buy them? How does she use them to humiliate Burnett? How do these tests come back to haunt Kylie?



Discussion Question 2

Why does Monique confront Kylie? For what reason? What does she tell Kylie? How does this make Kylie change her way of thinking about Lucas?

Discussion Question 3

Who are the Brightens? Why is it important for Kylie to meet them? How does the initial meeting go?

Vocabulary

Disappointed, reasoning, pregnancy, ghosts, completely, emotions, existed, pompous, vision, manipulating, admission, matter, protected, windblown, presence, fluttering, floral, supernatural, affirming, schizophrenia, unnatural.



Chapters 27-34

Summary

Chapter 27

Since Kylie's mind is filled with all her problems, she struggles through her classes. She stops to speak with Hayden after class to tell him that the sword had magically appeared on her lap. Hayden insists that the magical sword has nothing to do with Kylie being a chameleon, which leaves Kylie continuing to struggle to find out its purpose. Kylie thinks it has something to do with her ghost, but he cannot confirm it. Kylie goes to Holiday's office with the sword, and Burnett convinces her to hold it again.

Chapter 28

Nothing happens when Kylie holds the sword except that it glows and gives her a sense of security. Derek suggests they call Lucas to look at the sword because he is a sword enthusiast. Kylie reluctantly agrees. Lucas sees the sword and an inscription that appears when Kylie holds it. Instantly, he recognizes it as a Holy warrior sword. Lucas thinks that Kylie is a rare warrior and that is why the sword has appeared and continues to seek her out. Lucas agrees to give Kylie lessons with the sword despite Kylie's hesitation. Afterward, Derek walks Kylie to her cabin. They discuss Lucas, and Derek advises Kylie to forgive him. Then Kylie tells Derek about her ghost.

Chapter 29

The next day Kylie begins her lessons with Lucas.

Chapter 30

As Lucas teaches Kylie stances, the ghost shows up and starts talking to Kylie. Kylie tries to hide it from Lucas because he does not like ghosts, but she becomes distracted. After a break, Kylie and Lucas spar, and he begins to talk about their relationship. This upsets Kylie, and she breaks one of the wooden swords. Kylie gets a call from her mother accusing her of hiding her relationship with the Brightens. Kylie becomes angry and says some things she later regrets. Lucas tries to comfort Kylie, but she runs away. As Kylie continues her lessons over the next few days, the ghost comes to her and tells her she must kill Mario.

Chapter 31

Kylie's mother comes for parents day, but she brings John. Kylie is less than polite toward John, not hiding her distaste for him. When her mother steps outside, John tries to convince Kylie that he loves her mom.

Chapter 32



For an instant while speaking alone with John, Kylie suspects John is not human, but the moment passes. Later, Kylie has a lesson with Lucas, and the ghost shows up, telling her she needs a better teacher. Lucas again tries to talk to Kylie about their relationship. Kylie tells him she cannot be with him if it means he will lose everything. Lucas claims he does not care. That night, the ghost wakes Kylie and insists they practice the swords. Kylie reluctantly goes into the living room with the ghost and begins to spar. Kylie is unhappy with how much better the ghost can spar than she can. Suddenly, someone breaks into the cabin, and Della rushes out to stop him.

Chapter 33

The intruder proves to be Lucas, Derek, Chris, Jonathon, and Burnett. There has been an alarm, and they have come to secure Kylie. Kylie is left in the care of her roommates and Lucas while the school grounds are searched. The next day, Kylie and Lucas practice again, this time with real swords. That night, thinking about the ghost, Kylie asks to relive the ghost's final moments of life.

Chapter 34

When she does, she discovers the woman was murdered by someone close to her husband in a sword fight while her young son watched. This memory sounds familiar to Kylie, so she rushes off to Derek's to ask him about it. When they arrive at his cabin, Kylie is shocked to find Jenny in bed with him.

Analysis

Kylie continues to struggle with the sword. She does not understand what it is or how it keep appearing wherever she is. Lucas sees the sword and realizes it is an ancient sword for a Holy warrior. Lucas explains that there have not been any Holy warriors in many generations, but they are special supernaturals whose job it is to protect the innocent. For this reason, Lucas agrees to train Kylie with the sword. This gives Lucas the opportunity to have time alone with Kylie and work to regain her trust. It seems to be working as Kylie finds herself fighting him, but with less and less determination each time they meet. What really worries Kylie now is not so much the fact that Lucas lied to her, but that he will lose everything if he chooses a mate who is not a werewolf.

At the same time Kylie deals with the sword, the ghost comes to her more and more often. However, this ghost is reluctant to tell Kylie who she is or why she has come. All Kylie knows is that the ghost wants her to kill Mario, something Kylie is not adverse to doing, but afraid she is incapable of doing. The ghost helps Kylie by practicing with the sword with her. Eventually, Kylie learns that the ghost was murdered in front of her son, a story that is familiar to Kylie. Perhaps this will help Kylie identify the ghost and figure out how to help her so that she might move on. As she searches for answers, however, Kylie comes across another secret when she finds Derek and Jenny in bed together.



Discussion Question 1

What is a Holy warrior? How does Lucas come to believe Kylie is one of these warriors? How does Kylie feel about this idea?

Discussion Question 2

What does the ghost want Kylie to do? For what reason? How does the ghost help Kylie prepare for this task?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Kylie continue to avoid recommitting to Lucas? Why does Lucas keep pursuing Kylie? How does Kylie feel about this?

Vocabulary

Accidentally, rightness, masculine, recognize, jealous, vanished, expression, befuddled, shocked, confused, decided, answers, scowl, emotionally, pleading, glared, inhaled, familiar, tickled, remember, answers, accord.



Chapters 35-44

Summary

Chapter 35

Kylie wakes Derek, and he quickly explains that Jenny came to him after running away from the compound because she knew that Kylie would be closely guarded. Derek promises nothing has happened between them. Kylie decides that they should go to Hayden about Jenny. Kylie then asks Derek about her vision and realizes the ghost is Lucinda Esparza, Mario's daughter-in-law. Kylie tells this to Burnett and Holiday. Derek and Kylie convince Burnett and Holiday that nothing is going on. Derek then walks Kylie to her cabin and promises to do some research for her. When Kylie falls asleep, she dreamscapes in Lucas's mind. Kylie tells Lucas that she might consider taking him back if he promises not to give up his desire to be on the council. The next morning, Kylie learns at Campshare that Steve has bought an hour of her time. Steve asks Kylie's advice on winning Della. Kylie tells him to be more aggressive, making Della angry.

Chapter 36

Kylie tells Hayden about Jenny's decision to run away and the planned wedding that fueled her motives. Hayden promises to let Jenny stay when Kylie tells him she has a plan to make things better. Later, Kylie tracks down Lucas and asks for another lesson. Lucas tells Kylie of his plan to get on the council. During sparring, Kylie becomes distracted and accidentally stabs Lucas.

Chapter 37

Kylie heals Lucas, and this leads to an intimate moment. They are interrupted by a call from Burnett. Kylie tells Lucas that she has decided to allow the FRU to test her. Everyone argues against it, but Kylie insists. When the FRU agent tells them that they will declare chameleons a species if they can test two, Hayden volunteers to be tested as well. Burnett reluctantly agrees. Holiday, Burnett, Hayden, and Lucas go with Kylie to the FRU facility. Kylie is told that the tests will only be a blood test and a brain scan. However, during the brain scan, Kylie passes out.

Chapter 38

When Kylie wakes, she learns that the testing is over, and she is okay. The FRU agrees that they will make chameleons an official species, giving them the freedom to become a part of the supernatural society. Kylie hopes this will free the chameleons from their fear of the FRU and society as a whole. The following day, Kylie and Hayden tell Burnett and Holiday about Jenny. They agree to allow Jenny to enroll in the school if they can get permission from her family. Later, at Campshare, they learn Steve has paid to spend an hour with Della.



Chapter 39

Della is reluctant to go with Steve, but eventually goes. Jenny goes to the mess hall for the first time, and she is nervous about how everyone will react; but, she is pleased to be part of the group. That night while swimming with friends, Kylie talks to Lucinda about her past life. Lucinda tells Kylie that because she is a Holy warrior, the spirits watch over her closer. Lucas joins Kylie, and they talk about his grandmother for a time. At the cabin that night, Kylie goes into her bedroom to change and finds Lucas waiting. A short time later, Kylie receives a phone call from Sara informing her that Sara has begun dating Kylie's former boyfriend. Kylie is surprised that she is not upset by the news. A couple of days pass. Kylie continues to practice the sword with Lucinda. One night Kylie climbs into the shower after a particularly hard workout and is joined by the ghost of Lucas's grandmother.

Chapter 40

Lucas's grandmother warns Kylie not to let Lucas find her body alone. Kylie rushes from her cabin to find Burnett. Together they rush to the grandmother's house, but they arrive after Lucas has found her. Kylie goes into the house despite the danger of Lucas's grief and calms him, helping him through the initial moments of grief before he sends her away. The next morning, Kylie and Holiday go up to the falls together. Kylie and Holiday talk about the future.

Chapter 41

That night, Kylie sits alone on the porch looking through some research Derek has sent her. Kylie is shocked to see John's face in wedding photos of Lucinda and her husband. Kylie realizes that John is actually Mario's son John. Kylie grabs her sword and flies to the beach house where her mother is staying with John. Kylie slips into the house with the help of a dog. Kylie makes her way down the hall and finds the master bedroom where her mother has been drugged. As Kylie is attempting to sneak her mother out of the house, Mario and John arrive.

Chapter 42

Mario challenges Kylie to a fight. John insists they leave the master bedroom. They go to the living room where Mario pulls a sword on Kylie. As they begin to fight, John turns on his father and kills him. Kylie fights John, but John is stronger than she is. However, Lucas suddenly arrives and attacks John, giving Kylie the upper hand. Kylie kills John as Lucas leaves. Kylie is then visited by her father.

Chapter 43

Kylie's father tells her it is time for Kylie's mother to know the truth. Kylie's father assures her that he will help Kylie tell her mother. He also tells Kylie that he is to become her personal guardian spirit. Kylie calls Burnett and Holiday. They arrive with help from the FRU and clean up the mess. Kylie then wakes her mother and tells her



the truth about herself and Shadow Falls. Kylie spends the weekend with her mother, helping her deal with the information she has revealed to her.

Chapter 44

Kylie returns to Shadow Falls with her mother in time to attend Holiday and Burnett's wedding. Lucas shows up and tells Kylie his plan to get on the council has worked, which frees them to be together. It also appears that Della and Steve and Derek and Jenny have become couples. As Kylie watches the wedding, she feels that everyone is with the person and in the place where they belong.

Analysis

Kylie realizes that the ghost who has haunted her throughout the novel is Mario's daughter-in-law, which explains the ghost's determination that Kylie kill Mario. At the same time, it also helps Kylie discover that her mother's boyfriend John is also Mario's son. Kylie finally confronts Mario and John with her new sword skills. As Kylie fights Mario, John kills his father so that he might take control of his empire. With Lucas's help, Kylie kills John.

Kylie has changed things for all chameleons. Kylie has been tested, allowing for the FRU to declare the chameleons a species so that they may freely become a part of the supernatural society. Kylie hopes this will change things for teenagers like Jenny who are trapped by the fears of their elders. At the same time, Kylie's father tells her it is time to explain things to her mother. Kylie does so, convincing the poor woman of everything Kylie has had several years to absorb. It is a move that makes life easier for Kylie by freeing her to be who she is while at the same time ensuring her bond with her mother and finding a way to have her father closer to her. It is a win win situation for Kylie.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Kylie allow the FRU to test her after fighting it for so long? What does she hope to accomplish with this move? What does she accomplish?

Discussion Question 2

Why has Jenny come to Shadow Falls? How does this encourage Kylie to try to make change among the chameleons? Who helps Kylie in this fight?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Kylie continue to keep Lucas at arm's length? What does she want him to do before they get back together? Is Lucas successful? How?

Vocabulary

Beginning, wedding, important, release, pretend, conversation, concern, contact, clarify, spar, swords, recognize, actually, love, ongoing, quests, scheduled, reminded, assured, actually, instinctual, folklore, difficult, species, difficult.



Characters

Kylie Galen

Kylie is a chameleon, a supernatural being who can take on the traits of any other supernatural being, such as a witch, vampire, or fae. Kylie is also a protector, which means when she feels someone is in trouble, she develops great strength and courage so that she can fight to save them. Kylie did not know these things about herself until she was in her late teens and went to a camp where other supernaturals were open about their nature.

Kylie has recently met her father's biological family and learned from them some of the truths about her species that she could not learn elsewhere. Now, Kylie knows more about what her powers are and what she can do with them. However, Kylie continues to learn how different she is not only from other supernaturals, but from other chameleons. When a sword shows up and keeps appearing wherever Kylie happens to be, she discovers that she is not only a protector, but a Holy warrior. This is a new aspect to her powers that Kylie is surprised to learn about herself.

Kylie has a nemesis named Mario who has been trying to kill her since before her powers began to manifest. Mario has found a way to make Kylie come to him. When this happens, Kylie is prepared, thanks to the sword and her training from Lucas. In the end, Kylie ends up defeating not only Mario and his equally evil son John. Kylie also tells her mother the truth about her traits and is able to induct her into the supernatural world with the help of her deceased father.

Lucas

Lucas is a werewolf. Kylie and Lucas were dating, but Kylie discovered that Lucas was engaged to another werewolf. Kylie has since learned that Lucas only did this to appease his father and win a spot on the pack council, but it does not change the idea that Lucas has cheated on her. Kylie shuts Lucas out of her life, but he is insistent on forcing himself into her life, often showing up where she is and offering his help with her sword training. In the end, Kylie realizes that she can forgive him for lying to her, but she cannot allow him to be kicked out of his pack because of his love for a non-werewolf. For this reason, Kylie refuses to take Lucas back until he can find another way to become a member of the council. In the end, Lucas does win his spot on the council and Kylie welcomes him back with open arms.

Derek

Derek is a fae whom Kylie dated when she first came to Shadow Falls. Derek cheated on Kylie, something she is overly sensitive about because her previous boyfriend also cheated on her. For this reason, Kylie firmly ended their relationship. However, now that



Lucas and Kylie are no longer together, Derek hopes to win her back. For a short time, Kylie and Derek enter into a flirtatious relationship, but Kylie quickly sees what is happening and she shuts it down. Kylie does not want to give Derek the wrong idea. However, she and Derek become good friends, and he helps her identify a ghost that has been plaguing her for weeks.

Burnett James

Burnett James is a vampire who runs security at Shadow Falls. When Helen is attacked by Mario, Burnett goes to Kylie's grandfather and insists that Kylie return to Shadow Falls where she can be properly protected. Kylie's grandfather hesitates, but he agrees when he realizes that Kylie wants to be at Shadow Falls with her friends.

Burnett is a fatherly type who is strict with Kylie's protection. This strongly contrasts with Burnett's personal feelings toward the idea of fatherhood. Burnett does not want to be a father because he does not believe he would be good at it, but he soon learns that he has little choice because his fiancé is pregnant. Burnett accepts the responsibility despite his doubts and marries his lady anyway.

Holiday

Holiday is the leader of the Shadow Falls school. She is a fae who often has a calming effect on the people around her, including her bullheaded fiancé Burnett. As Holiday helps Kylie deal with the chaos that is her life, Kylie helps Holiday accept her unplanned pregnancy. Kylie is credited with getting Holiday and Burnett together in the first place, therefore her help is greatly appreciated with the upcoming wedding.

Kylie's Mother

Kylie's mother is a middle-aged woman who married a man she did not love in order to give her unborn child a good life. The marriage was good for many years, but then Kylie's stepdad cheated on her mother. This led to the dissolution of the marriage. Now Kylie's mother finds herself a single woman enjoying the attention of potential beaux for the first time in many years. Kylie's mother has begun dating a man named John whom Kylie neither likes nor trusts. In the end, Kylie's fears are justified, and she manages to convince her mother of the truth.

John

John is the boyfriend of Kylie's mother. Kylie dislikes John because of his behavior toward her and her mother's overwhelming devotion to him. Something about John simply annoys Kylie, and she finds herself struggling with this fact in her attempts to help her mother find happiness. In the end, however, Kylie discovers that John is a chameleon and the son of Mario. John is pure evil, and he wants nothing more than to



use Kylie's mother to destroy Kylie. Kylie, however, manages to stop John with Lucas's help.

Mario

Mario is Kylie's nemesis. Mario is a rogue chameleon who wants to kill Kylie because Kylie is the only other chameleon who has powers similar to his own. Kylie has been chased by Mario for a long time, including a brief period when Mario kidnapped her. In this novel, Kylie faces Mario near a graveyard and is able to get the better of him thanks to the spirits who reside there. Later, however, Kylie discovers that Mario has been using his son to get to Kylie through her mother. When Kylie accepts Mario's challenge of a sword fight, she is shocked when John turns on his father and kills him.

Lucinda

Lucinda is the ghost who haunts Kylie throughout the novel. Lucinda was once married to John, but Mario and John decided she was in their way and had her killed. Lucinda was murdered in front of her son. Lucinda now haunts Kylie in an attempt to get her to kill Mario. Kylie is put off by the violence that seems to surround Lucinda and Lucinda's inability to tell her anything about herself. In the end, however, it is the connection between Lucinda and John that alerts Kylie to the danger her mother is in.

Jenny

Jenny is a chameleon who lives on the compound with Kylie's grandfather and other chameleons. Jenny helps Kylie escape the compound after learning the elders were not planning to let Kylie return to Shadow Falls with Burnett. Later, Jenny is told she will be married to a young man she does not love, so she runs away to Shadow Falls. It is because of Jenny and other chameleons that Kylie gives in to the FRU and is tested. In the end, Kylie has made it possible for the chameleons to stop fearing the FRU and the supernatural society as a whole.



Symbols and Symbolism

Chocolate

Kylie and her roommates often drown their sorrows in chocolate.

Pregnancy Tests

Kylie buys pregnancy tests for Holiday, leading to everyone thinking Kylie is pregnant, including her mother.

Cell Phone

Kylie accidentally leaves her cell phone at her grandfather's house, forcing her to borrow the phones of her friends for the first half of the novel. When she gets her phone back, Kylie gets unwanted texts from Lucas.

Letter

Lucas's grandmother informs Kylie of a letter for Lucas that she has left in her house shortly after her death.

Emails

Kylie communicates with her parents and her best friend from home over email. She receives an email from Sara that tells her about Sara's relationship with Kylie's former boyfriend.

Pictures

The Brightens bring Kylie childhood pictures of her biological father.

Emergency Credit Card

Kylie has a credit card that is to be used only for emergencies. However, when Holiday doesn't give her enough money to buy the pregnancy tests, Kylie charges the purchase on the credit card. This leads to Kylie's mother finding out about the purchase and jumping to the wrong conclusion.



Sword

Kylie finds a sword at the falls that seems to be magical as it keeps showing up wherever she is. Lucas tells Kylie that this sword means that Kylie is a Holy warrior.

Pack Council

Lucas's pack has a council that governs the behavior of every werewolf in the pack. Kylie insists that Lucas find a way onto the council that does not require marrying a werewolf before she will agree to reunite with him.

FRU

The FRU, or Fallen Research Unit, is a group that does research on supernatural beings. In the past, the FRU did testing on chameleons that caused some of them to die painful deaths, including Kylie's biological grandmother. For this reason, the chameleons do not trust the FRU and actively hide from them. The FRU has wanted to test Kylie, but both Burnett and her biological grandfather have forbidden it. However, Kylie agrees to the testing in this novel in order to make the chameleon species an official species and give chameleon teens the freedom to live outside of secret compounds.



Settings

Chameleon Compound

Kylie is staying with her grandfather and great-aunt on the chameleon compound when the novel begins. This compound is a hidden community where the chameleons hide from the FRU and other supernaturals because of past problems with the FRU. Kylie has learned a great deal about her abilities here. When Burnett comes to take her back to Shadow Falls, Kylie realizes that only Shadow Falls feels like home.

Shadow Falls

Shadow Falls was only a summer camp when Kylie began going there, but it has since turned into a boarding school. Shadow Falls, run by the fae Holiday, is a place for supernatural children. It is back to Shadow Falls where Kylie goes after learning Mario is in the area and has attacked one of her friends.



Themes and Motifs

Betrayal

As the novel begins, Kylie is pining after Lucas. Lucas was Kylie's boyfriend, but she learned at the end of a previous novel that he was engaged to another werewolf. After seeing Lucas go through the engagement ceremony and kiss this other girl, Kylie left Shadow Falls and Lucas behind. In this novel, however, Kylie has returned to Shadow Falls because her nemesis Mario is thought to be in the area.

As Kylie readjusts to being at Shadow Falls, she finds herself constantly coming into contact with Lucas. Also, friends of Lucas keep pulling her aside and telling her that Lucas never cheated on her and she should take him back. This causes Kylie to wonder if the fact that two of her previous boyfriends slept with other girls is the reason she is reluctant to take Lucas back.

Kylie struggles with her feeling of being betrayed when it comes to Lucas. At the same time, Kylie watches as one of her other friends struggles with the same feelings after having been in a relationship with a boy who openly cheated on her. In the end, however, both girls manage to find a way to trust again and move on with their lives.

Secrets

Burnett is a good man who only wants to protect the students at Shadow Falls. To do this, however, Burnett needs to know everything that is going on around him. For this reason, Burnett does not appreciate secrets. As this novel unfolds, Burnett learns some of the truth behind actions that took place in previous novels, such as the fact that Hayden Yates is a chameleon who has been working secretly to help Kylie's grandfather watch over her.

Burnett is not the only one who dislikes secrets. Kylie, too, dislikes them. For this reason, she has cut herself off from the one boy she truly loves because of the secrets he kept from her. Kylie also suspects that her mother's boyfriend John is hiding secrets. It is soon revealed that those secrets are big enough to destroy Kylie's entire family.

Love

Love is a theme of this novel because Kylie is something of a love guru, and much of her time is spent either helping her friends find love or dealing with her own love life. Kylie is credited with getting Holiday and Burnett, Miranda and Perry, and Helen and Jonathan together. For this reason other students come to Kylie quite often. This includes Della's on again, off again beau, Steven.

As a teenager, love is a constant concern in Kylie's life. Kylie has already been in love three times and betrayed three times. However, the latest betrayal proves to be more of a misunderstanding than a true betrayal. For this reason, Kylie finds herself forgiving and moving on, one very important aspect to love.

Styles

Point of View

This novel is written in the third person point of view. The author remains in Kylie's mind throughout the novel, keeping the narration tight on this one character. This allows the reader to always know what is going on in Kylie's mind, but it keeps the reader from knowing what is happening without Kylie's knowledge.

The point of view of this novel works well with the plot because the author keeps things simple by remaining with one character. The author also helps the reader build a relationship with one character, leaving the reader with a deep concern for what happens to this one character. Kylie is a mature young woman, but she is a teen and sometimes her thoughts can be a little repetitive. The point of view is appropriate for the characters and the intended audience, making it work well with the plot.

Language and Meaning

The novel is written in simple English. The novel centers around a teenage girl. It is written with young adults in mind, therefore the language of the novel remains simple and uncomplicated.

The language of this novel is appropriate to the plot. The author does a good job of telling her story in a language that is suitable to both the audience and the main character. There is not a lot of slang in the story, but it is easily the kind of language one would expect to hear from teenagers and their friends.

Structure

The novel is divided into forty-four chapters. Each chapter varies in length, some quite long while others are fairly short. The story is told in both narration and dialogue, showing a story rather than simply telling one.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows Kylie as she struggles to repair her romantic relationships while hiding from her nemesis. One subplot follows Kylie's relationships with her roommates. Another subplot follows Kylie's relationship with her mother. All plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

And proper people probably wouldn't appreciate an uninvited ghost getting their dining room walls bloody.

-- Kylie (Chapter 1 paragraph 1)

Importance: This quote introduces a ghost named Lucinda, and it reveals Kylie's distress at being visited by such a ghost at the dinner table.

The idea that Lucas might be the one watching out for her, when he'd been the one to hurt her so deeply, sent another wave of pain to her chest.

-- Kylie (Chapter 4 paragraph 33)

Importance: This quote shows Kylie's reaction when she notices that Lucas has been assigned to watch over the chameleon compound the night before Kylie is to return to Shadow Falls. Kylie is angry with Lucas for betraying their romantic relationship.

As much as she resented it, Mario was right; if he didn't harm Derek, she couldn't draw upon her powers to fight him.

-- Kylie (Chapter 7 paragraph 14)

Importance: This quote gives an illustration of how Kylie's protector powers work. This quote also shows Kylie's conflict as she and Derek confront Mario.

She was jealous. She felt her relationship with her mom had just found solid ground when John had come along and snagged her mom's attention. Was it wrong for Kylie to want to be the most important thing in her mom's life for a while?

-- Kylie (Chapter 12 paragraph 4)

Importance: This quote shows that Kylie is still very much a child, while, at the same time, showing how mature and insightful she can be when it comes to analyzing her own feelings.

Like she wouldn't be careful picking up something that looked like it has been used to decapitate hundreds of victims.

-- Kylie (Chapter 15 paragraph 31)

Importance: This quote shows Kylie's response to the sword that is delivered to her at the falls.

She felt...shocked. This was the first time that he'd chosen her over one of his own kind.

-- Kylie (Chapter 18 paragraph 27)

Importance: This is Kylie's reaction when Lucas warns Fredricka against hurting Kylie when Fredricka pays to spend an hour with Kylie at Campshare.



Kylie had never seen pimples so bad. Of course, she'd never seen a kangaroo with pimples, period.

-- Kylie (Chapter 22 paragraph 8)

Importance: This is Kylie's reaction to Miranda turning Nikki into a kangaroo for buying an hour with Perry, Miranda's boyfriend.

The vamp stared at her glass of blood laced with chocolate.

-- Kylie (Chapter 26 paragraph 1)

Importance: This quote points out the small differences between human teenagers and supernatural teenagers.

Kylie could swear his eyes brightened. A nonhuman kind of bright.

-- Kylie (Chapter 32 paragraph 8)

Importance: This quote marks the first moment Kylie begins to wonder if John is a supernatural.

It was a lie, she could see it. He'd been trying to make the FRU do right by her the whole time. She knew she loved this man.

-- Kylie (Chapter 38 paragraph 35)

Importance: This quote marks the moment Kylie realizes that Burnett has been forcing the FRU to admit to mistakes they made in the past with the chameleons in order to make them more willing to live a more open existence.

The power you have is in the sword. The power is in the sword.

-- Kylie (Chapter 42 paragraph 11)

Importance: This is advice Lucinda gives to Kylie as she prepares to fight both Mario and John.

Everything had changed.

-- Kylie (Chapter 44 paragraph 78)

Importance: This quote sums up what Kylie sees in the people around her as the novel comes to an end. It is a good realization, one that makes Kylie optimistic about the future.