

# **Cirque Du Freak #7: Hunters of the Dusk: Book 7 in the Saga of Darren Shan Study Guide**

**Cirque Du Freak #7: Hunters of the Dusk: Book 7 in the Saga of Darren Shan by Darren Shan**

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# Plot Summary

Hunters of the Dusk is the seventh book in the long young teenager series, Cirque Du Freak. The series follows the adventures of Darren Shan, a human boy who becomes a half-blood Vampire and eventually a Prince of the Vampires.

In Hunters of the Dusk, Darren has been at the Vampire Mountain for approximately six years and is restless. Mr. Tiny, the being who is said to have created Vampires, comes to the mountain to let the Vampire Clan know that the Vampaneze's leader, who has instigated a war against the Vampires, can be killed. Mr. Tiny says that Darren, Mr. Crepsley, Darren's mentor, and Vancha, another Vampire Prince, will have four chances to kill the Vampaneze leader before he is too powerful to kill. Hunters of the Dusk share the adventures of Darren, Mr. Crepsley, Vancha, and Harkat up to their first encounter and failure, with the Vampaneze leader.

Along the road to their encounter with the Vampaneze Leader, the group visits Lady Evanna, a mysterious and old figure in the Vampire world who is a witch and also is the only person able to bear a Vampire baby. She joins the group as an observer in their travels to find the Vanpaneze leader. It is Lady Evanna who is responsible, inadvertently, for leading the group to the Vampaneze leader.

During their travels, Darren begins training with Vancha March in unarmed combat. The group also learns that Vancha had been a half-blooded Vampaneze before he was blooded as a Vampire by Paris Skyle.



# Prologue, Chapter One, Chapter Two and Chapter Three

## Prologue, Chapter One, Chapter Two and Chapter Three Summary

Darren Shan, a young half-Vampire prince leaves the Hall of Princes on a mission to find the leader of the Vampaneze and stop him from annihilating the Vampires. Along the way he and his companions encounter a sorceress who tells them they will have four chances to defeat the Vampaneze Lord. The sorceress also tells the group that if they fail to kill the Vampaneze Lord only one of their group will remain alive to witness the fall of the Vampires.

In the Prologue, Darren Shan, the narrator of the story says that he was a human boy who became fascinated with a performing tarantula that belonged to a Vampire. He is caught and loses his humanity to become a half-Vampire. He now resides in the Vampire Mountain and, as happens in the previous books, is also a Vampire Prince. He says that the Vampires are now at war with the Vampaneze, cousins of the Vampires. The main difference between the two groups is that Vampires do not kill the human on whom they feed. Though the two groups lived with an uneasy truce for many years the truce was broken when the prophesized leader of the Vampaneze arose. That same prophecy states that this leader will bring about the complete annihilation of the Vampire Clan bringing the Vampaneze to total power.

Chapter One finds Darren meeting with the Vampire general, Staffen Irve, and the eldest Prince, Paris Skyle. Paris is more than eight hundred years old and has long, flowing white hair. Irve has been active in the field for the past three years in the War of the Scars, as it is called, and is reporting what has been happening in his area of the war.

Irve has attempted to interrogate any Vampaneze prisoners taken but none of them will reveal any information concerning their leader. The general reports that the leader has not been blooded and has not taken full control of the clan. It is his opinion that the leader needs to be killed before the leader takes full control.

When Staffen leaves Darren asks Paris if he wants to stop for the night but the old Vampire declines saying there is too little time. Mr. Crepsley, Darren's advisor and the owner of the spider Darren stole, joins the conversation. Mr. Crepsley also urges Paris to rest but Paris says he is old and will die soon and rest will not help.

In Chapter Two Darren is woke by screaming and he scrambles out of his hammock pulling his sword out. He realizes it is his friend, Harkat, who used to be human but whose soul was trapped on earth when he died. Mr. Tiny made Harkat a body to house his soul. Harkat is short with intense green eyes and can not smell or taste. His face has



been stitched together and he has no hair. Harkat saved Darren's life several times and Darren feels deeply indebted to him.

Harkat has yelled from a nightmare which reoccurs in which he is being attacked by dragons and sometimes there are shadowy beings in the background. Harkat apologizes for waking Darren and leaves to prepare for the arrival of more generals.

Darren runs his hand over his bald hair and says that he has changed little in the past six years since becoming a half-Vampire. He ages only one year for every five that he lives and will not be made into a full Vampire until he is an adult, ten to fifteen years yet. Darren's body is covered in scars and burns, many of them from his initiation. He says that most Vampires look like him. He is bald because his hair caught on fire during his trial. Darren dresses, runs his hands over his head to check for ticks, and prepares to get back to work.

In Chapter Three Darren talks about the Hall of Princes in which the blood stone, an important artifact is kept. Through the blood stone all Vampires can be located or an area scanned to see if there are any Vampires in that area. Only a full Vampire can use the stone by placing his/her hands upon it and thinking of the Vampire or the area in question. The stone is used by the generals to help run the war.

Mr. Crepsley has Darren look at the map to see if Darren notices anything unusual. Darren notices there is a town where there seems to be a high amount of Vampaneze activity. It is Mr. Crepsley's hometown and he states that it bothers him to think of his friends or family being terrorized by the Vampaneze. Darren asks Mr. Crepsley if there is any chance they can leave and go to his hometown. After six years inside the mountain Darren is ready for being outside. Mr. Crepsley says that unfortunately he is not able to leave the mountain to check out the situation in that town at this time.

## **Prologue, Chapter One, Chapter Two and Chapter Three Analysis**

Prologue, Chapter One, Chapter Two and Chapter Three analysis

In the Prologue the author gives some background to this book. It is the seventh book in a series and the Prologue ensures that readers might still enjoy the book even if they have not read the first six books.

Interestingly, in the Prologue Darren talks of making a tragic mistake in stealing the performing tarantula that belongs to a Vampire. Because of this mistake Darren says he has to give up his humanity and become a Half-Vampire. The author does not say in this book why this happened. It could have been a punishment from Mr. Crepsley for stealing or perhaps the spider bit Darren, who was a young boy at the time, and becoming a Half-Vampire was the only way to save his life. Nevertheless, the author gives just enough information so the reader is not completely lost in the story. It may be



also that the author hopes by not giving much information the reader's interest will be piqued enough to buy or read the first six books.

Darren also says he is a Vampire Prince, through events that are quite amazing. The author again does not give any hint as to how a young human thief managed to become a Vampire Prince.

Darren mentions he is living in Vampire Mountain learning the customs and rules of his people. Darren calling the Vampires his people indicates he has learned to accept his new life, which somewhat contradicts saying that becoming a Vampire was due to a tragic mistake. That would imply that Darren considers being a Vampire a tragedy. Later in the book we find that Darren is quite happy as a Vampire and appears to be glad it happened.

Darren talks about the war with the Vampaneze, cousins, so to speak, of the Vampires. The main differences between the two peoples are the purple skin the Vampaneze have and the fact that the Vampaneze kill the humans upon whom they feed. It is not indicated if this is the reason for the war or not. Although it has been fourteen years since Darren was changed into a Half-Vampire, he is still a young boy. He ages only one year for every five years he lives. His point of view is slightly disconcerting because at times he talks like a small boy and at other times he talks like an adult or a teenager.

### Chapter One Analysis

This book's point of view is from the first person with Darren being the narrator. Darren speaks of the war between the Vampires and the Vampaneze and tells about the difference in that war and when humans go to war.

Vampanezes and Vampires are limited to hand weapons for fighting. These might include swords, knives, clubs and some martial arts weapons. They are not allowed to use guns or distance weapons. It seems to be a code whereby a person attacking must put himself in as much danger as the person he is attacking. This is an interesting twist as in the human world Vampires are viewed as being immoral blood thirsty creatures and yet their war seems more moral than humans who drop bombs on unseen enemies.

Another way in which the author induces sympathy for the Vampires is in the way the Vampires care for one another. The oldest Prince, Paris Skyle, is eight hundred years old and is very tired from meeting with generals and planning tactics. All the Vampires in the room want him to go rest. Paris, though, demonstrate another sterling quality - that of commitment. Paris is not only likeable but is courageous, telling of his own demise before the end of the war.

When Paris does finally go off to bed Darren takes over. He says of himself that he is only a young, inexperienced Half-Vampire who became Prince more by default than merit. This shows a sense of humility in Darren not always seen in young children or teenagers, most of whom might believe they know more than their parents or teachers. It is also interesting to note that the Vampires put as much trust in Darren and gave him as much respect as any older Prince.



## Chapter Two Analysis

In Chapter Two we meet Harkat who is what is called a small person. Harkat is having nightmares and Darren often wakes Harkat from them. Darren is kind and concerned about Harkat's dreams and always listens to Harkat talk of them. This is also not usual in a boy Darren's age to be patient and listen to the same story over and over.

Darren says that Harkat has saved Darren's life several times and that Darren will always feel obligated to the little person. This shows a tolerance and lack of prejudice for such a young boy who was human not so long ago.

When Darren first became a Half-Vampire and a Prince he had to undergo an initiation. He failed the first one and passed well on the second one. He was injured badly and again, Harkat saved his life. Darren, as a new Prince, did not have to go through the initiation, but chose to do so. He thought the others would respect him more and he thought it was only fair that he have to do what everyone had to do. This shows a sense of integrity and fairness in Darren.

## Chapter Three Analysis

In Chapter Three Darren speaks of a Blood Stone which enables any full blooded Vampire to find another Vampire. This would be a potent weapon in the hands of an enemy and some of the Vampires want to destroy the stone so there is no possibility the Vampaneze could steal it. The reason they have not done this is because a legend or prophecy states the stone will save them in their greatest hour of need. This is a typical mechanism used in fantasy, that an object or a person could both save or destroy a group of people or the world. It creates suspense as the reader wonders how the object will be used. Will it destroy or save? Often, in a fantasy series, questions about the object, or person, is not answered until the last book of the series.

Mr. Crepsley shows Darren a map on which a number of flags are stuck showing areas of activity of both friendly and enemy people. Mr. Crepsley shows Darren all the flags around the town where Mr. Crepsley was born. Crepsley wishes that he could go to the town and protect the people because there is so much Vampaneze activity in the area. This is probably a foreshadow of what might come in one of the following books. The foreshadow is almost strong enough that the reader might get the sense that the final confrontation between the Hunters and the Vampaneze Leader could even take place there. These are all techniques writers use to maintain suspense, tension and curiosity thereby insuring future books are sought after.

Mr. Crepsley is concerned about the humans living in his hometown because the Vampaneze kill humans upon whom they feed. He does not know the humans in this town but he says he considers them his spiritual neighbors and relatives. This shows a compassionate and caring side to Mr. Crepsley even though he is in essence second in command following Paris. This is a twist on many Vampire tales because of the concern Crepsley shows for humans he does not know. The more traditional Vampires tend to have a disdain for humans feeling superior to them and consider them prey.



The tone, thus far in the book has been fairly light, in spite of the war and deaths and concern for Paris. The narrative flow is paced for a younger reader and might be considered slow for an older reader. There is little suspense or action yet and the conflict so far is only alluded to by references to the war. The Prologue and first three chapters are setting up the plot and introducing the main characters. The book will ultimately have quite a number of characters for a young teen book but that is almost standard for fantasy. There is little dialogue in these first Chapters which would be logical since description and background information is the primary purpose of the first three chapters.





# Chapter Four, Chapter Five, Chapter Six, Chapter Seven

## Chapter Four, Chapter Five, Chapter Six, Chapter Seven Summary

In Chapter Four, the Vampire Prince, Mika Ver Leth returns to the mountain after five years in the field fighting. He is dressed in black, like his hair, and his eyes seem more grim than usual. Mika announces he has news but wants the entire mountain to assemble so he only has to state the news once. Mika asks if Seba has been keeping good care of his coffin.

All the Vampires assembled are anxious to hear his news and they push him to start talking. He tells them he has news of the Vampaneze leader but he does not know where the leader is located. He does tell them that the leader does not have a base and travels the road with guards learning of the Vampaneze life.

Mika also says the Vampaneze have been recruiting humans to fight for them but has not blooded those humans therefore the human soldiers are using guns, which is strictly forbidden for Vampires or Vampaneze. Mika tells the group that the Vampaneze Lord has not been blooded and that morale is low in the Vampaneze clan. Mika says the Vampaneze do not believe they can win the war and are talking of surrender and peace terms. This rouses the entire hall into excitement. Almost as one they retire to the lower level and get drunk.

In Chapter Five the young Prince, Darren, wakes for a hangover and does not know what is wrong with him as he has never drunk alcohol before. Harkat drags Darren out of bed and puts him into a cold shower.

After the shower Darren and Harkat go to see Vanez Blane, Darren's weapons tutor. He is blind but fights better than most sighted Vampires. Darren and Harkat leave Vanez and walk into the lower levels of the cave looking for Seba. Darren tells Seba he has been itching terribly and Seba says that Darren is coming of age. Seba shows Darren's spider which is different than most of the spiders in the mountains and Seba says it is the result of breeding with the spider Darren put down there. Seba calls them Ba'Shan spiders and says they are very intelligent and he is thinking about training them to fight the Vampaneze with their poison.

Suddenly Harkat takes off outside and Darren has to kick off his shoes and sprint to keep up with Harkat. Harkat stops near the woods and proclaims the Dragon Master is coming. Darren hears a voice call from the woods and it is Mr. Tiny.

In Chapter Six Mr. Tiny leads Darren and Harkat back into the mountain and says he has an announcement to make. Everyone fears Mr. Tiny because tragedy always



follows him. Mr. Tiny says that six hundred years ago he told the Vampires that the Vampaneze would wipe out the Vampires. Mr. Tiny claims that was a truth but not the truth. The truth, Mr. Tiny says, is that the future is more fluid than that and the annihilation of the Vampires can be prevented if the new Lord of the Vampaneze is killed before he is fully blooded. Mr. Tiny says this has to be done by Darren, Mr. Crepsley and one other Vampire whom he would not name but that Darren and Crepsley would meet on the road.

Mr. Tiny also says the Vampires had five chances to stop the destruction and that one chance is already gone since the Vampires killed Kurda Smahlt. They now have four chances and that for three of those the Lord will be completely at the hunters' mercy. If they fail in those three time there will be one final confrontation in which the fate of the Vampires and the Vampaneze will be decide.

In Chapter Seven Darren and Mr. Crepsley and Harkat leave the mountain to hunt for the Vampaneze Lord. Mr. Tiny tells Harkat that Harkat is having nightmares because Harkat needs to figure out who Harkat was before Harkat was turned into a little person. Mr. Tiny says if Harkat will come with him he will help Harkat learn what he needs to know. Harkat refuses saying that his heart tells him he is to go with Darren and Mr. Crepsley. Mr. Tiny says it will help Darren and Mr. Crepsley but will make Harkat's life more difficult. Mr. Tiny tells the hunters they might want to start their hunt by going to see Lady Evanna.

## **Chapter Four, Chapter Five, Chapter Six, Chapter Seven Analysis**

### Chapter Four, Five, Six and Seven Analysis

Chapter Four The big excitement in Chapter Four is the return after five years of Mika Van Leth, one of the Vampire Princes. He came with news about the Vampaneze leader. It is interesting that when Mika announces the Vampaneze appear to be tired of war and might ask for a truce that the entire hall immediately left the meeting area and went to get drunk. The tone has changed in Chapter Four from the more dark tones of war councils to getting drunk and celebrating and event that has not even happened.

Mika talks about the humans who have started working for the Vampaneze and using guns for weapons. This is the way the Vampaneze get around the no projectile weapons law. This puts the Vampaneze on a lower moral ground than the Vampires. The reader might even wonder why a human is willing to work for a group of individuals who kill other humans. The other advantage the vampets have over the Vampaneze is that they are not honor bound to tell the truth. One has to wonder why the Vampaneze are honor bound to tell the truth yet not honor bound enough to leave humans with guns out of the war.

The narrative flow remains about the same in Chapter Four as the preceding chapters although there is more dialogue. Again, there is little action and the conflict is referred to



and not seen in any of the scenes. No real suspense has been introduced in Chapter Four and there is little to propel the reader forward as there is no foreshadowing. This chapter seems to be a bridge between setting up the story in the first three chapters and beginning the real conflict and action in later chapters.

#### Chapter Five Analysis

Darren has woken from drinking too much ale the previous night. He is suffering from a severe hangover and his friend Harkat is wholly unsympathetic. If one is going to write a book for young readers where the very young main protagonist gets drunk then it is at least good that the consequences for the drinking be emphasized.

After Harkat helps Darren with his hangover by throwing Darren in a icy shower Harkat tells Darren that he feels strange or edgy and wants to go into the tunnels. This brief remark should pique the reader's interest as it might indicate something momentous is about to occur and this is indeed what happens at the end of the chapter when Mr. Tiny appears.

When Darren comments to Seba that he is very itchy and keeps scratching his skin Seba tells Darren he is coming of age. This is a great metaphor for getting older or wiser like a snake shedding its skin.

When Seba shows Darren a new spider species that is the result of breeding between the spider Darren put in the lower level and the indigenous spiders it is an ideal illustration of unintended consequences and how our actions can affect the environment.

When Harkat runs down the mountain with Darren racing after him Darren cannot figure out why Harkat is running. Harkat announces that the dragon master is coming. That comment is never explained but adds a little mystery and suspense to the story. It is also an incentive for readers to get the next book as the comment is not explained in this book.

The characters are beginning to group according to stereotypes: a few older, wise ones, some warriors who want to fight, a few young ones, a trusty friend and a respected leader.

#### Chapter Six Analysis

Chapter Six starts out with a pun. The man, Mr. Tiny is alleged to have manipulated many events in history including creating the Vampires. His name is Desmond Tiny and Darren says when you call him Des with his last name it was destiny.

Mr. Tiny is a mystery, and remains that way throughout the book. Answers concerning him will probably not occur until the final book in the series, if there is a final book. Mr. Tiny is another mystery that keeps readers going to the next book.



A bit of the macabre is also introduced when Mr. Tiny says he is short on time because he has to be at a small tropical island where a volcano is going to erupt the next day and kill everyone within a ten mile radius. Mr. Tiny calls this event great fun. We are also introduced to another type of beings, humans called guardians who donated their blood to Vampires. When a Vampire dies the guardians are allowed to have the internal organs and brains which the humans eat in a special ceremony. This is just close enough to cannibalism that it injects another darker element to the book. Darren's reaction to the guardians reminds the reader he is still a young boy - they make him nervous.

In a bit of tongue in cheek the Vampire guard makes a sign as Mr. Tiny walks by. It is the sign Vampires make when they think death is close. It is not certain if the Vampire makes the sign because he is afraid Mr. Tiny might kill him or because from the previous statements about the volcano it is obvious that Mr. Tiny takes a certain sadistic interest in death.

Mr. Tiny announces that the prophecy he made six hundred years ago was a truth but not the truth. This is an interesting statement considering that much of life seems to contain truths but not necessarily the truth. The distinction between a truth and the truth is interesting and is a nifty way for the author to get past the prophecy stated so long ago. Had the author not come up with a way to wiggle around the prophecy the series would not be interesting because there would be little suspense knowing the Vampaneze would win the war in the end.

In typical fantasy fashion, Chapter Six finally gets to the quest stage of the story where a hero or several heroes or heroines must undertake a dangerous quest, usually involving a journey, in order to save the world, or their family, loved ones or community. This occurs when Mr. Tiny tells the Vampires that only if Darren, Mr. Crepsley and an unnamed Vampire chose to hunt the Vampaneze leader can the destruction of the Vampires be avoided. Of course, in true hero's journey tales, Darren says yes to the quest and prepares to leave. Suspense has now been notched up to a new level. What will happen on the journey? Will the hunters be successful? Will all of them survive? The ultimate answer to these questions do not occur by the end of this book, but fans of fantasy know, instinctively, that it will all work out for the good in the end.

### Chapter Seven Analysis

Chapter Seven is the lull between the two storms - that of the arrival of Mr. Tiny at the mountain and the departure of the fated hunters. There is mostly description of what is happening with Mr. Tiny's announcement and the mundane tasks of preparing to leave, such as Harkat and Darren getting a good day's sleep. Chapter Seven is short and has little meat to it. The primary event in Chapter Seven is Darren saying good-bye to all his friends in the mountain.



# Chapter Eight, Chapter Nine, Chapter Ten, Chapter Eleven

## Chapter Eight, Chapter Nine, Chapter Ten, Chapter Eleven Summary

In Chapter Eight, Harkat, Darren and Mr. Crepsley are traveling through the mountains and into the forests. They carry spare bottles of blood and hunt for food. During the day they sleep hidden under bushes and the trees. Darren is glad to be out of the mountain. Mr. Crepsley tells Darren that Darren's initiation was unusual as most princes would travel the world for a few decades before settling down into royal duties. Because of the war Darren is unable to do that and so the traveling is nice for Darren even if it is dangerous since they are hunting the Vampaneze Lord. Darren has forgotten how noisy human civilization is with the cars and electricity and planes. Darren and Crepsley feed off a few humans when the humans are asleep leaving them healed and with no memory of the feeding.

Darren's itching is becoming worse and they stop at a drug store so he may pick up some lotion. Mr. Crepsley tells Darren that Lady Evanna's hobby is breeding frogs. Darren finds this strange. Crepsley also tells Darren and Harkat to be certain not to call Evanna a witch. Harkat says he thinks there is a witch in his nightmares but he is not certain.

In Chapter Nine, Darren wakes feeling very good and he cannot figure out why until he realizes his itching has stopped. In the small pond by which they camped Darren sees a strange person behind him who has a long beard and wild hair. Darren whips around but no one is there. He finally realizes it is himself. When Darren returns to the camp he is almost attacked because Crepsley and Harkat do not recognize him. Crepsley tells Darren he has grown hair because of a possible purge, when Vampire blood begins to overcome human blood. Mr. Crepsley tells Darren he will also grow, probably a few years and Darren is excited that he might become a teenager.

Darren has a rough time with the purge. His ears and eyes become very sensitive and he has to wear a blindfold even at night as the moon hurts his eyes. His bones begin to fuse and lengthen and he has a lot of pain. Darren also experiences a huge surge of energy which he works off by running ahead and back to the other two and practicing fighting and exercising. After six weeks the purge finally stops and Darren is physically about fifteen years old. They stop at a store for Darren to buy clothes and a man sees the Vampire scars on his hands and acts startled. The man is buying guns. When Darren tells Crepsley he thinks the man recognized Darren as a Vampire, his mentor tells him some humans do know and they will simply keep a close watch behind them.

In Chapter Ten Mr. Crepsley, Darren and Harkat have determined three to four humans are following them. Mr. Crepsley says the humans will wait until daylight to attack.



Crepsley suggests they lay down as if they were going to sleep and wait for the attack. When they hear a gun cock Mr. Crepsley yells to attack. As Mr. Crepsley finishes the attacker he took on Darren grabs the rifle of his opponent and slings it away. The man pulls a long hunting knife and attacks, making a comment about Darren only being a child. Darren slices off three of the man's fingers which makes the man drop his knife and fall to the ground. While Darren is checking on Mr. Crepsley and Harkat, with Darren's back turned to the man, the human pulls out a grenade.

The human with the grenade tells Darren to inform Harkat and Mr. Crepsley to let the other human go. As Darren backs up there is a whistling sound and the grenade is knocked out of the man's hand. The same sound follows and a shuriken embeds itself in the man's forehead. Vancha March, a Vampire Prince, strode out of the trees and reprimands Darren for turning his back on a living person. Darren apologizes. Vancha March is the wildest and most traditional of all the Vampire Princes. He is dressed in animal skins and smells like a wolf. Darren apologizes for his error and Vancha tells Crepsley that Darren knows how to apologize well. Vancha tells the three companions that he is heading to Evanna's and has been tailing them for a few days. Vancha lays down and goes to sleep.

In Chapter Eleven, Darren, Crepsley and Vancha leave the vampet bodies where they killed them and again start on the road for Evanna's cave. Darren thinks Vancha is the strangest Vampire he has seen. Vancha believes in living the way the first Vampires lived and does not eat cooked meat, wear anything he hasn't killed and even cleans his teeth with a twig. Vancha will not sleep in a coffin because he says they are too comfortable. Vancha begins to work with Darren on Darren's fighting skills but Darren is swinging his sword half-heartedly. Vancha believes that weapons are tools of fear and fights with his own hands or throwing tools such as the shuriken. Darren asks Vancha to teach him how to fight bare handed.

Vancha claims his real enemy is the sun which he has been fighting for 200 years. Each few weeks he exposes himself to the sun in an attempt to build up resistance to it. In a hundred years he has only been able to increase his tolerance to be in the sun less than an hour. Vancha thinks Desmond Tiny made the Vampires intolerant of the sun because Tiny was afraid the Vampires would become too powerful.

## **Chapter Eight, Chapter Nine, Chapter Ten, Chapter Eleven Analysis**

### **Chapter Eight Analysis**

Darren is acting more like a young boy at the beginning of the journey. He is glad to be out of the mountain and even though he knows they are heading into danger he still looks upon the journey as a relief and an adventure. Darren mentions that being a Prince is a great honor but not much fun. This is probably a typical attitude for royalty who have to assume much responsibility at an early age. Crepsley tells him that most princes travel the world for several decades before assuming any responsibility and it is



too bad that the war interfered with that for Darren. This is a reference to the human cliché of sowing wild oats before settling down.

Harkat says when their quest is done he plans to return to the mountain. Crepsley jokes that Harkat might have Vampire blood in him and Harkat acknowledges that is a possibility. Harkat has been quiet since Mr. Tiny told him why he is having nightmares and wanting to know who he was before he became a little person is troubling him. It would be like a person getting amnesia and not knowing who they were.

Darren says perhaps Harkat was a prince but Harkat disagrees. Darren jokes that if he can become a Prince anyone can. This might indicate some feelings of being inadequate that Darren has. Darren asks Harkat why Harkat called Mr. Tiny the dragon master but Harkat cannot remember saying it. This could be a foreshadow that at some point in the series Harkat might find out that he was a dragon in his previous life.

Harkat has another nightmare and wakes Darren. When Harkat relates his dream to Darren they cannot come up with any meaning. Darren says that Vampires put great store in dreams as a link between past and present or future. This is in keeping with most more primitive societies emphasis on the importance of dreams. The tone in this chapter is light and the travelers are enjoying their journey. The tone changes slightly with Harkat's nightmare, but overall remains light. There is a great deal of dialogue which is not surprising since the hunters are walking together and talking would be a natural activity. The only suspense centers around Harkat's nightmares. There is no action other than walking and the plot is not advanced much in the chapter. The narrative flow is divided nicely between the dialogue and description.

### Chapter Nine Analysis

Darren wakes feeling very good and realizes the itching has stopped. When Darren goes to drink he sees a stranger in the water and believes someone is behind him. It takes him a while to realize that he is staring at himself with a lot of hair all over him. It's interesting that Darren might be so disconnected with himself that he does not recognize himself with hair. Of course, since Harkat and Crepsley does not recognize him the change might be so drastic no one would recognize himself.

Mr. Crepsley points out that Darren is experiencing the purge after a very short period of time as a half-vampire but that this might be true because of Darren receiving more blood due to being made a Prince. This is a peak moment for Darren as he is now moving out of being a half-vampire and Mr. Crepsley tells him there is no longer any turning back. The purge is very uncomfortable for Darren and metaphorically it is very symbolic of moving from boyhood to being a man.

Darren finished the purge in about six weeks but it did not eliminate his human blood. This means that he will have to undergo a second purge. Darren does not look forward to that but is glad to be able to continue to enjoy the sun until then.



When Darren goes into a store to buy larger clothing there is a human in the store buying guns who reacts to Darren's scared fingers. This short paragraph sets up the first encounter the hunters will have with fighting for their lives.

There is not much action or dialogue in the chapter. It is primarily a description of Darren's purge and what he has to do to deal with the purge. The suspense heightens when Darren encounters humans who reacts to him and foreshadows that distinct possibility the hunters will encounter the human again.

### Chapter Ten Analysis

Chapter Ten jumps right into preparing for a fight with humans who have been following the hunters, one of the humans being the man in the sporting goods store. Though Crepsley is an experienced and skilled fighter Darren has not has much experience and he is in the body of a teenager. Harkat can fight but he is small. The group worries about the firearms the humans are carrying.

The hunters pretend they do not know they are followed and attack the humans when the humans get close to the camp. Darren makes a major error by turning his back on a human he wounded and the group is rescued from that error by another Vampire who has been following them.

When the humans are dead Prince Vancha reprimands Darren for his mistake. Darren takes the chastisement like a mature teenager, accepting full responsibility and apologizing. This is a good illustration of how Darren is able to take responsibility for his behavior.

Prince Vancha is a stereotype of an eccentric but competent, older mentor. He wears furs, will only eat certain foods and does everything as the first Vampires did. Having an eccentric, highly knowledgeable and gruff mentor for a younger person is a technique used in many fantasy books. One of the most famous example being the wizard Gandalf in the Lord of the Rings trilogy.

The light tone of the previous chapter changed to one of concern and then violent fighting. Following the battle, the tone is then lightened by the arrival of the eccentric but good-natured, in a gruff way, Prince Vancha. The narrative flow sped up during the fight scenes which is a technique for action oriented scenes to seem more immediate and pressing. The sub-plot of the vampets has been finished and so the next chapter will likely introduce the next sub-plot, that of meeting the witch Evanna.

### Chapter Eleven Analysis

The hunters left the vampets where they killed them as Vanch says they are not worthy of burial. This is partly because they use guns and grenades and partly because they are allying themselves with Vampaneze who kill humans.





Vancha views the news about the quest upon which Mr. Tiny has set them with a great deal of skepticism. He seems to recognize or at least believe, that Mr. Tiny only manipulates others for Mr. Tiny's own agenda.

Darren finds Vancha to be strange and like most young people judges Vancha based on what Darren thinks is appropriate views or behavior. Vancha is scornful of Vampires who rely too much on weapons and pushes Darren to charge him with a sword. Vancha gives Darren a small cut on his nose to show him what can be done when an unarmed Vampire is attacked by an armed one. Part of this is because the original Vampires used on their strength, teeth and nails to fight.

Vancha takes an unpopular position about the Vampaneze saying that they are noble and true and the main problem with them is that they kill the humans upon whom they feed. Vancha also suggests that he does not regret nominating Kurda Smahlt for a Prince position. Vancha claims that Kurda was doing what he thought was best and followed his heart. The fact that most Vampires consider Kurda a traitor does not bother Vancha at all. He is obviously a man who sticks to his convictions no matter what others' think and his life style makes it obvious Vancha does not succumb to peer pressure.

Vancha claims his main enemy is the sun and that he has done battle with the sun for the past two hundred years. Vancha says that there is no biological or moral reason that Vampires should not be able to stand in the sun and he stands in it occasionally, even getting burned to try and build up a tolerance. In two hundred years he has not been successful. To persist at trying to be in the sun for two hundred years shows a great deal of perseverance. Vancha also claims that their sun weakness was Mr. Tiny's doing because he did not want Vampires to get too strong. This shows again the disdain Vancha has for Tiny.

With standing by his convictions, living his life the way he believes Vampires are supposed to, in spite of what others think of him and with his perseverance to trying to overcome the sun weakness, Vancha could turn out to be the ideal mentor for young Darren.

This chapter has little action and is primarily a means by which the reader can learn about Vancha and some Vampire history.



# Chapter Twelve, Chapter Thirteen, Chapter Fourteen

## Chapter Twelve, Chapter Thirteen, Chapter Fourteen Summary

In Chapter Twelve, the moon is full when Darren, Crepsley, Vancha and Harkat arrive at Evanna's cave. Darren has to be shown the hidden entrance. Vancha shows him how the frogs protect Evanna's home with their poison. The four travelers sit outside of her entrance waiting for her to invite them inside. Vancha tells Darren to be certain not to call Evanna a witch. After they have been outside her entrance a half hour Evanna comes out. To Darren she is the ugliest woman he has ever seen. She is dressed in ropes and she is squat with long, wild hair. One eye is brown and the other is green. She has a long mustache and thick beard. Vancha hugged her and then suddenly Crepsley kicked out a leg at her. Crepsley was fast but Evanna grabbed him and pulled his chin upward. He was having a difficult time breathing and finally surrenders.

Evanna tells Harkat he has visited her before he was a little person but she is not allowed to tell him who he was. Evanna comments that she thought Darren would be younger and Crepsley tells her that Darren went through a purge on the way to her place. Darren accidentally calls her a witch and she changes into something that looks more animal than human. Darren is frightened. Suddenly Evanna tells Darren not to be taken in by appearances and she becomes a beautiful woman. Evanna points out that Crepsley got the long scar on his face from her when he was tipsy and tried to kiss her.

Some of Evanna's frogs have faces from their pigment. She offers her sympathy to Crepsley for Crepsley's mate, Arra Sails, being killed then puts Arra's face on some frogs. Vancha, Darren and Evanna leave Crepsley alone with Arra's face.

In Chapter Thirteen, Evanna lays out a feast for the three travelers to eat. Vancha spits in a spittoon she provides and she makes comments about him being so uncouth. Vancha tells Evanna he does not think of her as a woman but as a witch and then runs for the door. Vancha calls Evanna the Lady of the Wilds and Darren asks why she is called that. Vancha tells Darren the story of Evanna and how she was created so that Vampires could sire children on her. She has not had any children yet but she might some day. Every so often a male Vampire will show up and ask her if she is ready to have a child. During the story Vancha reminds everyone of Mr. Tiny's cruel nature. Evanna says she spent the first 400 years of her existence primarily deciding upon a name. Vancha also mentions that the legend is that Mr. Tiny created Vampires out of wolves and humans.

In Chapter Fourteen, Darren and Vancha began Darren's training in unarmed combat in the morning. Evanna finds fighting in any form childish. Darren questions her judgment. Suddenly, Darren cannot stand because all the strength has gone out of his body. He



flops on the floor. When Evanna releases Darren, he asks her if he could learn to do that. She says maybe if he wants to be her apprentice. He declines the offer. Evanna tells them she saw that the three hunters would come to her when they started their hunt. She also tells them she cannot let them know where the Vampaneze Lord is located. She says she plans to accompany them on their next part of their journey. Though she will not tell them why she is going with them Crepsley says they would be honored to have her. Vancha complains about witches' being so secretive. She confirms Mr. Tiny's prediction about the group having four chances to kill the Vampaneze Lord but she also tells them that if they fail all four chances only one of them will remain alive to see the Vampaneze win the war.

## Chapter Twelve, Chapter Thirteen, Chapter Fourteen Analysis

### Chapter Twelve Analysis

In the beginning of Chapter Twelve the four hunters arrive at Evanna's house where Darren learns that appearances are often deceiving. When Darren first looks at the area there seems to be a small grove of trees. As he stares the trees disappear and a pond appears. Darren is learning that perceptions can be incorrect. He has yet to learn this about the appearances of people, such as Evanna although he is beginning to understand that his initial judgment of Vancha based on Vancha's appearances is wrong. Another way in which Darren finds out appearances are deceiving is when he is told the frogs protect Evanna and he scoffs, asking how can frogs protect someone. Vancha shows him a frog's tongue which is full of deadly poison which can kill in thirty seconds.

If the trees, Vancha and the frogs are not enough for Darren to learn about perceptions and judgment Evanna, with her appearance, and then her altered appearance drives the point home once again. Evanna first appears as an incredibly ugly woman and Darren judges her based on that. When she then appears as a beautiful woman, Darren's opinion changes. But Evanna says she cares nothing for beauty that she will be as she is comfortable and that looks mean nothing. One can hope that Darren takes that idea to heart.

Vancha says to Darren that Evanna takes care to watch her tongue and when she speaks she always says the truth. This is another idea for Darren to process especially after Mr. Crepsley had remarked earlier in the journey that humans chatter like monkeys.

It is interesting when Evanna brings up Arra's death that Mr. Crepsley says Arra died valiantly. Arra had been his mate at one time and meant a lot to him and it is telling on his personality that he would talk about her valor and not his feelings.

The tone in this Chapter is fairly light, with Darren learning about Evanna and all them being teased by her. The idea of someone breeding frogs to have pictures on their



backs is humorous. The narrative flow is slow with much description and dialogue and there is little action or advancement of the plot.

There is some symbolism in the revealing of the illusions around Evanna's dwelling. When Evanna tells Harkat he has visited her before he would like to know when and why but she cannot tell him as he has to find out for himself. His illusion as a little person must be uncovered to find out who he is underneath the physical body he wears.

#### Chapter Thirteen Analysis

Evanna is a vegetarian and does not allow anyone to eat meat in her home. That is interesting because one can assume, based on her history and what is known about her, that she is a vegetarian because she does not believe in killing. It is interesting that Evanna is feels that way since Mr. Tiny created her from a wolf and a human, one a predator and the other an omnivore, and some would say humans are the worse predators on the planet.

Another interesting idea which surfaces in this Chapter is that Vampires have what appears to be some sort of religious beliefs in that when Vampires die they go beyond the stars to Paradise. They do not believe in a hell and believe that souls of evil Vampires are trapped on earth although some mention a place "below paradise."

Considering that almost all Vampires came from humans it is interesting that they have invented their own beliefs and culture.

An idea Vancha advances is that legends change in the telling and with history. He says that the story he tells of Evanna's beginnings happened 1700 years previously and there is no way to know for sure if it is completely accurate. This would certainly reflect human historical accounts.

The tone, narrative flow and dialogue in this Chapter is about the same as for Chapter Twelve. The plot is not significantly advanced although there is some foreshadowing when Evanna says she needs to speak to someone. It is Evanna meeting with a Vampaneze group which gives the hunters their first attempt at the Vampaneze Lord.

#### Chapter Fourteen Analysis

At the beginning of Chapter Fourteen Evanna shows her humor again when Vancha tells her Darren wants to learn to fight with his hands and she asks if his sword is too heavy for him. Although the comment is funny one gets the sense that her pacifistic views and her reverence for life is being underscored and that she has little use for war or fighting.

Darren is showing his age when he constantly asks Evanna questions about what she does and how she does it. She invites him to apprentice with her but does admit that her apprentices rarely stay long. Although Evanna has a reverence for life she is also saddled with a bad temper.



When Evanna says she will travel with the hunters for a while but take no part in the search Vancha comments that she has never traveled with Vampires before. She says she tries to avoid most Vampires as she tires of them constantly asking her to bear a child.

When Vancha complains that Evanna is too secretive Evanna seems to take slight offense and suggests maybe she would not travel with them. Mr. Crepsley tells her they would be honored and that times are difficult right now and it is hard not to be suspicious of people.

At the end of the Chapter, Evanna informs the four hunters that if they are not successful in killing the Vampaneze Lord all but one of them will die and the one left will watch the fall of the Vampires. This is another clear inducement from the other to get readers to buy the next book.

This Chapter still has little action, quite a bit of dialogue but builds the suspense with some of Evanna's mysterious words.



# Chapter Fifteen, Chapter Sixteen, Chapter Seventeen

## Chapter Fifteen, Chapter Sixteen, Chapter Seventeen Summary

Chapter Fifteen begins with the travelers leaving Evanna's cave and all of them, except Evanna, were quiet and feeling subdued about her prediction. Later near dawn as they were making camp Vancha bursts out laughing and teases everyone about feeling so depressed. He reminds them that most of the prophecy was known before they left the mountain and for the rest of it, who wants to be around if the Vampaneze wins anyway. The unlucky person will be the one who survives. When what Vancha said sinks in everyone's spirits lift. When deciding where to go to follow their heart Vancha asks Darren where he would like to go. Darren says he'd like to be with the Cirque Du Freak again. Everyone agreed that would be a good place to go so they cast their die for fate.

In Chapter Sixteen Mr. Crepsley finds out the location of the Cirque Du Freak and finds out it is about three weeks away. When they reached civilization again in a week Darren asks Mr. Crepsley why they don't take a bus or train. Mr. Crepsley tells Darren that Vancha does not approve of human transportation. Darren ruminates on the differences between the humans and the Vampires. The humans are full of technology and the Vampires are of the past. Vampires war with swords and other hand weapons while humans soar above the clouds and drop bombs. That night, Harkat has another bad nightmare. Evanna has Darren help her to ease Harkat's nightmares. Darren is to concentrate on the Blood Stone while Evanna has her hand on Harkat. Darren enters Harkat's dream and speaks to someone called the Lord of the Crimson Night. The Lord of the Crimson Night calls Darren the Prince of the Damned and Darren becomes afraid but Evanna whispers to him that it is just a dream and Darren returns his focus onto the Blood Stone.

Darren asks Evanna who the person was that spoke to him and she calls him the Lord of the Shadows or the ruler of eternal night. She says the Lord of the Shadows has not come into his own but will someday. Darren tells her there was something familiar about the man and she says there should be. Then she tells him, for himself only, that the Lord of the Shadows is Darren.

A couple nights later the group met up with the Cirque Du Freak and there was much happiness as Darren and Mr. Crepsley greeted all their friends. Evra Von one of their good friends is amazed when Harkat speaks as he has never heard any of the little people do so. Hibernius, the head of the Cirque asks them if they would like to eat and they all speak in the affirmative. Evra introduces his son to Darren who is called Shancus after Darren Shan. Darren is pleased and promises the boy a birthday present. Vancha sees an old friend, Truska, who he claims went skinny dipping with him many



times in the ocean. They spent a few hours mingling and catching up with everyone then went to bed at dawn.

In Chapter Seventeen Darren and Harkat strolls the Cirque and notes the old acts that are gone and the new acts which have joined. Darren realizes how much he has changed. When he was with the Cirque before he was a child and that was how people treated him. Now, though he does not look much older something within him has changed and he is treated more as an adult. Darren realized that with all his desire to grow up his childhood is almost gone and he is going to miss it. Darren reflects that for twenty-five years he was the boy prince and he is no longer that but he is not sure yet what he is.

Darren and Mr. Crepsley are invited to put on a show but they do not know what to do since Mr. Crepsley no longer has spiders. Mr. Crepsley says he can do magic tricks and Darren can be his assistant and with their Vampire speed and strength they could put on a good show.

Truska cuts Darren's hair for the show and she tells him that Mr. Tiny came through there and met with Hibernius. After Mr. Tiny left she said Hibernius was troubled and told her she might want to return to her home as dark times are coming. Darren passes Mr. Tall's trailer and sees Evanna and him coming out. Evanna is dressed in a black cloak. He hears some of their conversation and Mr. Tall says he wishes Evanna would not do what she is about to do. She tells him that they cannot take sides. Even though Darren knows it might not be right he decides to follow Evanna and see what she is doing. He is shocked when she meets with others at a camp and they are Vampaneze.

## **Chapter Fifteen, Chapter Sixteen, Chapter Seventeen Analysis**

### Chapter Fifteen Analysis

Although all of the hunters knew from the beginning they were on a dangerous quest Evanna's prophecy made it seem even more real and the group leaves Evanna's more quiet than usual. They wandered aimlessly, barely talking and made camp. As they were making camp Vancha suddenly starts laughing and pokes fun at all of them including himself for being so morose. When Mr. Crepsley asks Vancha what is so funny about having a death sentence being given to him Vancha points out that they knew all along and he points out the good information they received from Evanna. He also points out that he would rather die than watch the Vampires destroyed. His entire reasoning cheers everyone up. This is a good lesson for Darren in looking at a situation in a different light.

Vancha is not keen about just wandering around following their hearts. He says that fate is a cruel master. This is the type of comment one would expect from someone like Vancha who lives his life exactly the way he thinks he should.



When Vancha then says that he has no heart so someone else will have to pick the direction Darren says he would like to see how his friend Evra is doing so they decide to follow Darren's heart and find the Cirque Du Freak. As it turns out, of course, it is there where they have their first encounter with the Vampaneze Lord.

There is still little action in Chapter Fifteen. There is a great deal of dialogue and quite a bit of information is given. One can see the build up of suspense as the reader is compelled to keep reading to find out what happens if there is a first confrontation. The narrative flow and tone are almost identical to Chapter Fourteen.

### Chapter Sixteen Analysis

When Darren asks Crepsley why they do not take a train or bus or car to their destination he says that Vancha will not use human transportation. It is slightly ironic that Vancha claims human cars are noisy and smelly considering what automobiles have done to the environment. He also claims that if the gods of the Vampires wanted them to fly they would have wings. This underscores again Vancha's old fashion ways.

When Darren asks Crepsley if he has been on a plane his mentor tells him only with the Wright Brothers and that did not end well. This is a fun bit of information imagining a person walking around who was alive when the airplane was invented and lends a certain authenticity to the story.

Darren observes how the vampires have little in common with humans who uses technology and wages war from airplanes dropping bombs on unseen enemies. Of course, the implication is that human warfare is immoral. That is also ironic considering that humans believe vampires are immoral and that is why they cannot stand sunlight.

Evanna makes a mysterious reference to the fact that Darren bonded with dragons in another place and time. This cryptic remark is never addressed in this book. Darren may find out what she is talking about but not in *Hunters in the Dusk*. Small tidbits of alluding to interesting ideas or facts about characters in this series that are not answered in this book is another way to keep readers wanting the next book.

When Darren encounters the Lord of Destruction, the Master of Shadows in Harkat's dream Evanna takes him aside and tells him that in one possible future that person is Darren. This idea is not addressed again in this book and is not cleared up until the last couple of books in the series. It is foreshadowing events in later books in the series.

When Darren meets up with his old friends from the Cirque Du Freak he comments how much things have changed in all of their lives. This is an astute observation as the only constant in life is change.

Also at the Cirque we see a lighter side of Vancha as he teases Madame Truska about skinny dipping in the ocean with her.





This Chapter is simply a fill in building up to the main action of the encounter with the Vampaneze Lord. There is little action and many characters are briefly introduced from the Cirque Du Freak although most of those characters have been in previous books.

### Chapter Seventeen Analysis

Darren is pleased that Evra's first born is named after him and this suggests the depth of Darren and Evra's friendship. Darren observes that when he lived with the Cirque most people treated him as a child and now they do not even though he does not look much older. He realizes that something has changed in him that makes him come across as more mature but he does not seem to know what it is. Darren feels some nostalgia for his younger days and comments how he can never go back to his childhood, like all people cannot.

It is obvious that Mr. Crepsley misses performing and he works hard at coming up with an act to get back on the stage. This is interesting considering his personality often comes across as dry.

Madame Truska tells Darren that Mr. Tiny came by a few months ago and Mr. Tall was troubled when Tiny left. Mr. Tall told Truska that perhaps she should return to her land as things could get very bad in the near future.

A slight slip up of Darren's acquired Vampire honor is when he sees Evanna talking to Mr. Tall he listens in on the conversation and then follows Evanna to see her meeting with the Vampaneze. He says to himself he shouldn't do it but he does.

When Darren sees Evanna talking to the Vampaneze he immediately knows why she has been so secretive.

This Chapter is the last one before the confrontation with the Vampaneze and it nicely leaves the reader hanging at the end when Darren sees that the people to whom Evanna is speaking are enemies. The suspense has peaked because the reader now knows there are Vampaneze in the area and there must be a fight since the entire book has been getting the reader to this point.



# Chapter Eighteen Chapter Nineteen Chapter Twenty

## Chapter Eighteen Chapter Nineteen Chapter Twenty Summary

In Chapter Eighteen, Darren runs back to the Cirque and tells Mr. Crepsley, Vancha and Harkat what he has seen. Vancha growls about treacherous witches and insists they must go and fight the Vampaneze. Mr. Crepsley and Darren argue against attacking the Vampaneze but Vancha insists even if the Vampaneze are not there to attack them if they let them go they could go out and kill some of Vancha, Darren or Crepsley's friends.

When the Vampire group reaches the copse they make their plans. Vancha says he will disable a couple by hitting them in the legs with his shurikens. Darren says he should just hit them in the head or throat but Vancha says that is not honorable. Vancha throws his stars and the shrieks of the injured alerts the others. Darren, Mr. Crepsley and Harkat jump into the fight. Darren loses his thumb to one of the Vampaneze's swords but manages to kill his opponent. Vancha is fighting desperately with an extremely large Vampaneze who wields a huge axe. Darren helps Harkat with the last of them except for one and a servant who moves away from the fight. The Vampaneze with the servant came after Darren and cut him up badly, then, when he saw they were going to lose he ran back to the servant.

Harkat and Mr. Crepsley takes over Vancha's fight and Vancha and Darren go after the last Vampaneze and the servant. Darren stumbles and Vancha gets the lead. As Vancha is about to attack the Vampaneze he freezes and does not attack. The Vampaneze looks at him grabs the servant and flits away. When the last Vampaneze is dead the group surrounds Vancha and asks why he stopped the attack. With great reluctance Vancha tells them he could not fight the tall Vampaneze because it was his brother.

In Chapter Nineteen, Vancha tells the others that his real name is Vancha Harst and that the Vampaneze he did not fight is Gannen Harst. He said that he and his brother were half-blooded Vampaneze at the same time and that the person who blooded them was a good person and a good teacher. Vancha says that the Vampaneze man explained the whole life style but said that when they killed a human it was swift and painless. Vancha said the man told him and his brother that the human even lived on as they absorb the memories and spirit. Vancha says he could not reconcile himself to the killing and left. Although Vancha was an assistant and normally the Vampaneze don't allow them to leave he was allowed. Vancha says his brother Gannen plead for his life and Gannen said if he killed Vancha he would have to kill Gannen also. The master let Vancha go saying to avoid all Vampaneze.



Vancha says he wandered for a long time but with the Vampaneze blood it was difficult to feed without killing. Vancha met Paris Skyle who blooded Vancha as a Vampire. At the time Vancha did not know that Paris could die by blooding him or he would not have allowed Paris to do it. Vancha says all the Princes know about him except Darren because Vancha had not met Darren yet. Mr. Crepsley says it is frustrating and regrets not going after the servant.

Evanna brings Darren's thumb to him. Crepsley asks if she will heal it back on but she refuses because Daren followed her and eavesdropped. Crepsley and Vancha sew the thumb back and put their spit on it to heal then binds it to his fingers. Evanna tells the group she is on no side in the War of the Scars and she thinks they are all silly boys spitting at each other. Evanna also laughs at Crepsley when he tells Vancha no one would strike his own brother and not to feel bad at not attacking Gannen. Evanna then tells the group that the man in the robes was no servant but was the Vampaneze leader. They now have only three chances to kill him.

In Chapter Twenty, the Vampire group bury the Vampaneze dead. Evanna makes them do it as they were just going to leave the bodies. When the group returns to Cirque Du Freak Vancha locks himself in a trailer with a bottle of brandy. Mr. Tall knew what happened and had been expecting the confrontation but he was not able to tell the Vampires that the Vampaneze were trailing the Cirque. Mr. Tall claims that had he stepped in the consequences would have been dire. Darren, Harkat and Crepsley tends each other wounds. While doing this they hear yelling. They run towards the sound and find Vancha tearing off his clothes in the sun. Vancha says it is wrong that because he spared his brother, who at one time saved Vancha's life, then the Vampires' greatest enemy has escaped. Vancha will not listen to Harkat or Crepsley and Darren calls him a coward and a fool. Darren says if Vancha stays in the sun then Darren, Harkat, and Crepsley are left to continue the hunt on their own without the third Vampire that is supposed to be a part of the hunt. Vancha admits to being an idiot and gets out of the sun.

Evanna is returning to her cave and the others decide to send Vancha to the mountain to let the other Vampires know what is happening and then meet up with them later. Mr. Crepsley comments that there are now three of them until Vancha meets back up with them. Darren says it was like it was three years ago and Harkat asks where they are going to go. They decide for that moment to just start walking.

## **Chapter Eighteen Chapter Nineteen Chapter Twenty Analysis**

### Chapter Seventeen Analysis

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#### Chapter Eighteen Analysis

Darren returns to the Cirque and tells the others what he saw. Vancha curses her and says witches are treacherous. Mr. Crepsley says that Evanna is not selling them out because if she wanted to harm them she could have done it many times.

Vancha wants to attack the Vampaneze immediately before they attack the hunters. Mr. Crepsley is not so sure that the Vampaneze are there to attack them. This shows a difference in the two Vampires' personality, Vancha tends to be impulsive whereas Mr. Crepsley takes any decision slowly and considers all the facts. The two argue some with Vancha insisting that even if the Vampaneze are not here because of the hunters that after Evanna tells them they are here then the Vampaneze will attack.

When that does not sway Mr. Crepsley then Vancha points out that they are at war and it is their duty to attack the enemy when they find him. Vancha is even willing to fight Evanna if she takes the side of the Vampaneze. This is a comment on war in general that Vancha is willing to attack a friend because she is talking to those he considers enemy. Darren pulls out the trump card when he suggests the Vampaneze Lord could be there and that Tiny said to follow their hearts and his heart tells him to attack. Interesting to use the heart as a rationale to attack and kill others. These hunters may be reflecting some values seen in the real world.



The rest of the chapter is the fight scene and all the action to which most of the book has been building up. Evanna refuses to heal Darren's thumb because he was dishonorable in listening to her conversation with Mr. Tall and in following her. It was a painful lesson for him.

The end of the chapter has Vancha confessing that he did not stop the servant because the other person was his biological brother. Vancha says he has always feared this night would come when he would have to face his brother in battle and he knew he could not hurt him.

There is little dialogue in this chapter. The narrative flow speeds up in the fight scene, as is typical in conveying action. The suspense has been satisfied and the basic plot conflict resolved. The last two chapters will clean up the odds and ends.

### Chapter Nineteen Analysis

When Vancha is telling his story about him and his brother Darren begins to make a judgment about the Vampaneze killing humans and Vancha cuts him off saying it is not the time to have moral debates. This shows Darren's age as most more mature people would know not to interrupt Vancha's story.

With the story we see again Paris's integrity, compassion and courage. He took Vancha in and blooded him as a Vampire even though he could have died with the process. Vancha repays him by becoming such a sterling example of a Vampire that Vancha is elected a Prince.

It is ironic that the other Princes accepted Vancha but worried about Vancha's loyalties because of Gannen. Their concern was proved out when the Lord escaped because Vancha could not attack his brother.

When Vancha keeps apologizing for not killing Gannen Mr. Crepsley tells him that no one would expect him to strike his brother. In fact Crepsley says that anyone who would strike a brother is no man at all. It would seem if the Vampaneze had the same beliefs and honor as the Vampires this war would not occur.

Evanna says she takes no sides and she views this war as between a bunch of silly boys. It is interesting that it is a woman who sees war in this manner. Evanna also seems to take some delight in telling the group that the person who looked like a servant was the Vampaneze Lord. She mentions that sometimes it's best to make something precious look like trash.

Chapter Nineteen returns primarily to dialogue. The main action and conflict is over and the resolution has occurred.

### Chapter Twenty Analysis

Evanna forces the hunters to bury the dead Vampaneze and it is touching when she sent each of the dead off with what be considered the equivalent of a prayer.



When the group returns to the Cirque they speak with Mr. Tall who already knows what happened as he saw it before hand. Mr. Tall, like his sister Evanna, has some ability to see the future. Mr. Tall also tells them that Gannen Harst, Vancha's brother is the main protector of the Vampaneze Lord and if they had killed Gannen their future task would have been easier. This makes Vancha feel even worse.

When Vancha decides to kill himself Darren's maturity can be seen as he challenges Vancha's honor and courage to keep Vancha from suicide.

When it is decided that Vancha should return to the mountain and let the others know what has happened Darren realizes he is going to miss this Prince who he thought was weird when they first met.

The three others, Darren, Mr. Crepsley and Harkat head out on the road, not knowing where they are going. Crepsley makes the observation they are now three and Darren says it is just as they were six years ago when he, Harkat and Crepsley left the Cirque Du Freak for Vampire Mountain. And so the friends have come full circle, the loose ends are wrapped up, except for those the author uses to pique reader interest in the next book.



# Characters

## Darren Shan

Darren Shan is the main protagonist of *Hunters of the Dusk*. Darren is a young boy who, in the first novel, steals Mr. Larten Crepsley's performing spider, Madame Octa. When Darren is bit by the spider the hospital cannot treat him for the poison. Darren goes to Mr. Crepsley and agrees to become a Vampire in order for Mr. Crepsley to heal him. Darren fakes his own death and leaves friends and family behind to become Mr. Crepsley's assistant. Darren hates Crepsley in the beginning and has a difficult time adjusting to his new life. In *Hunters of the Dusk*, Darren is chosen by Mr. Tiny to be one of the hunters of the Vampaneze Lord. The book is about the first encounter with the Vampaneze Lord where Darren, Vancha, Harkat and Crepsley fail to kill him.

Darren is a young boy at the beginning of *Hunters of the Dusk* and goes through a purge in which he becomes a teenager of about fifteen years old. Darren, as a human, was a responsible, caring boy who was loyal to his friends and tried to stay out of trouble. Darren has become a Vampire Prince and is well liked and respected by the other Vampires despite his young age. Darren's curiosity and interests are the same as a human boy his age. He is sometimes bored with life as a Prince and is very excited to be setting off on a quest.

On the quest Darren makes several mistakes and pays for one of them by Evanna's refusal to put his thumb back on after it is cut off in a sword fight. Vancha and Mr. Crepsley sew the thumb on and put Vampire spit on it to heal. By the end of the book Darren has learned a great deal about being a Prince and an adult in the Vampire world.

## Larten Crepsley

Larten Crepsley is an older Vampire around two hundred years old who bargains with Darren in the first book to become a Vampire in order to save Darren's life. Although in the beginning, Darren hates Mr. Crepsley, eventually he grows to like and respect him and Mr. Crepsley becomes his mentor, and when Darren becomes a Prince, his advisor.

Larten roamed the earth by himself for many years and obtained a bad scar on his face from Lady Evanna when he attempted to kiss her without permission. Larten has an easy relationship with Darren where they tease each other but he does retain the final say on what will or will not be done.

Larten is a red haired Vampire with a long scar on his cheek. He was mated with Arra Sails who was killed when the mountain was attacked by the Vampaneze. Lady Evanna puts Arra's picture on some of Evanna's frogs to help Mr. Crepsley with his grief.



## Vancha March

Vancha March is a Vampire Prince who is about 300 years old. He was blooded as a Vampaneze at the same time as his brother, Gannen but left the Vampaneze because he could not stand the thought of killing humans to feed. A Vampire Prince, Paris Skyle too Vancha in and, at the risk of his own life, Paris bloods Vancha as a Vampire and the conversion works. Vancha is the fourth Vampire Prince and a good friend of Larten Crepsley. He has green hair and wears animal skins and has reddish skin. Vancha considers the sun to be his primary enemy and has fought it for 200 years attempting to be able to tolerate being in the sun. Vancha does not believe in fighting with weapons and he begins to teach Darren how to fight with his bare hands. Vancha is the Vampire Hunter who fails in the groups first encounter with the Vampaneze Lord as Vancha's brother was the Lord's guard and Vancha could not make himself fight his brother. Darren talks Vancha out of killing himself over his failure with the Vampaneze Lord.

## Harkat Mulds

Harkat Mulds is a little person who must work for Mr. Tiny in payment for being saved from death by Mr. Tiny. His face looks like it was stitched together from many parts. He is the only little person known to be able to talk. He is a loyal friend to Darren and volunteers to go on the hunt even though Mr. Tiny tells him it could be deadly for Harkat. Harkat has saved Darren's life at least twice, according to Darren. Mr. Tiny and Lady Evanna both tell Harkat he, himself, must find out who he was in his previous life. Harkat's favorite weapon is an axe and he is deadly with it in spite of his size.

## Lady Evanna

Lady Evanna is Mr. Tiny's creation. She was created in order for the Vampaneze and Vampires to be able to procreate. She can be impregnated by either clan. Some call her a witch but she insists that term not be used. She has some prophetic abilities as well as magical ones. She breeds frogs, many of whom are poisonous and protect her dwelling. Evanna claims she spent most of her first 400 years choosing a name. She refuses to take sides in the War of Scars and will talk to both Vampires and Vampaneze. Darren follows her when she meets with a group of Vampaneze which includes the Vampaneze Lord and this results in the Hunters' first encounter with the Vampaneze Lord. She is angry with Darren for following her and eavesdropping and so refuses to heal his thumb which has been cut off. She can appear in any form, an ugly woman or a beautiful one but she claims to prefer the ugly form. She adds to the prophecy that Mr. Tiny gave the hunters.

## Mr. Tiny

Mr. Tiny is a powerful being who might be human. No one knows from where he came or how old he is. He seems to be sadistic, taking great delight in mayhem and death. It





may be that his long life has given him a certain amount of cynicism about life and death and possibly some of his apparent cruelty comes from being bored. When Mika, one of the Vampire Princes angered Mr. Tiny in the Vampire mountain, Tiny cracked the ceiling and caused other damage and threatened to bring the entire mountain down. His first name is Desmond and he likes to refer to himself as Des Tiny which put together says destiny. Vancha believes Tiny created the Vampires by putting together wolves and humans and he also thinks Tiny is the one responsible for the Vampires' intolerance of sunlight. Mr. Tiny also creates the Little People when he retrieves a dead soul from the Lake of Souls. They are then required to serve him for some years. No one knows much about Mr. Tiny and very little information is given about him in this book.

## **Cirque Du Freak**

Evra Von, Madame Truska, Shancus Von, Merla Von, and Rhamus Twobellies are some of Darren and Mr. Crepsley's friends in the Cirque Du Freak. Evra Von is called the Snake Boy because his skin is covered in scales and he has a large snake companion. Merla Von is Evra's wife and the mother of his three children. Merla can detach her ears and use them as boomerangs. Madame Truska is from a distant land and speaks a language that sounds like seals. She has been skinny dipping with Vancha March. Rhamus Twobellies is very obese and can eat anything in a short amount of time.

## **Gannen Harst**

Gannen Harst is Vancha's Vampaneze brother and the main protector of the Vampaneze Lord. He saved Vancha's life when Vancha left the Vampaneze and Vancha feels indebted to him.

## **Vampaneze Lord.**

Not much is known about the Vampaneze Lord except that

## **Paris Skyle**

Paris is the oldest Vampire Prince, almost 800 years old. He has white hair and is respected by everyone. He is courageous and hard working. He is the one who saved Vancha by blooding Vancha as a Vampire.



## **Objects/Places**

### **Vampire Mountain**

This is the home of the Vampire Clan and where Darren is residing at the beginning of the book.

### **The Blood Stone**

This stone allows a full-blooded Vampire to locate any Vampire in the world who has put his/her blood into the stone. Most Vampires come to the mountain at least once in order to place their blood in the Stone.

### **Shuriken**

These are hand-made stone stars that Vancha March uses as weapons.

### **Short Sword**

This is the type of weapon Darren uses for combat.

### **Evanna's Cave**

This is where Lady Evanna lives and is protected by her poisonous frogs.

### **Frogs**

Lady Evanna raises and breeds frogs to perform various functions, such as guarding her place her showing pictures of Vampires.

### **Battle Axe**

This is the type of weapon Harkat uses for combat.



# Themes

## Coming of Age

Darren is a young boy who has almost accidentally become a Vampire Prince. At the beginning of the book, Darren is still a boy in body and in much of his thinking and behavior. By the end of the book he has a teenager body and has matured in his thinking. He has learned to accept responsibility for his mistakes. He has learned to trust those who travel with him. Darren has accepted that he might die on this quest. From being excited as a younger boy about getting out of the mountain for the quest to coming to the realization that he is on a dangerous and vitally important mission, Darren has grown up and become a more thoughtful, responsible young man. Coming of age stories can be found throughout human history and across all genre. It is an important rite in human society. In modern times, there are landmarks, such as getting a driver's license, signing up to vote in an election or being old enough to buy alcoholic drinks. Though these activities are not as dangerous as the ones in which Darren participates the meaning is the same, to grow up, to leave behind childish thinking and behavior.

## Courage

Courage is demonstrated many times in *Hunters of the Dusk*. The first incident we see is when it is suggested to the Vampire Prince, Paris Skyle that he go rest after working on the war for many days. Paris protests and tells Mr. Crepsley that he will die soon enough and that he will not likely see the end of the war. He is courageous when stating this, being almost matter of fact about it and being determined to do what he can for the clan before he dies. Darren shows remarkable courage when he accepts the dangerous mission to find the Vampaneze Lord. As a young boy he certainly has much more to lose than an eight hundred year old Vampire like Paris. Darren again shows his courage when in battle and continues in spite of losing his thumb. Vancha shows his courage by not only being willing to fight with the others but by trying for a hundred years to defeat the sun. Even though Vancha has to take days to recover from his encounters with the sun he still continues to walk out into with great courage. Harkat shows great courage by deciding to follow his heart and be with Darren and Crepsley on the quest rather than going with Mr. Tiny and ending the ordeals of the nightmares. Darren again shows his courage when he confronts Vancha and calls Vancha a coward and a fool when Vancha decides to commit suicide. Over and over again, the main characters demonstrate courage.

## Honor

The Vampires and the Vampaneze live by a strict code of honor. Neither of the clans will lie when questioned or use any weapons other than a hand weapon. This honor is shown by the way they fight. It is also obvious that there are other types of honor



involved in the Vampire life. When Darren is confronted with the quest to kill the Vampaneze Lord he comments in his narration that after living six years with the Vampires he could not even consider not going on a mission, even one as dangerous as this, because of Vampire honor. When Darren is made a Prince he does not have to undergo the painful and possibly fatal initiation but he feels that honor dictates he does so. Vancha carries honor even farther living as the first Vampires did in a fairly primitive manner. When Vancha fails to attack his brother and thus allows the Vampaneze Lord to escape his honor tells him he must punish himself and prepares to die in the sun, a particularly painful death. When Darren points out to Vancha that honor means he should not kill himself but stay with the mission Vancha immediately understands that true honor will mean that he suffer with his guilt and help to complete the mission. Honor also dictates that the Vampire clan follow their Princes and respect them. Even though Darren is a young boy and has been a Vampire for a short period of time Vampires who are hundreds of years older than him obey him with no differences between him and the other Princes. This obedience is tied into their honor. Vampaneze seem to stretch the honor code about weapons by employing humans who will use guns to kill Vampires. This disgusts the Vampires.

## Tolerance of Differences

The Vampires encounter many creatures and beings who are different than themselves and yet judge each of them based on behavior. Harkat is a strange looking Little People whose face looks like it has been sewn together out of pieces and yet he is Darren's best friend. Evanna appears often as a very ugly woman with a beard and mustache and yet both Mr. Crepsley and Vancha are friends with her. At the Cirque Du Freak almost everyone there is a freak of some kind and yet they accept each other and are accepted by the Vampires. Although Mr. Crepsley tells Darren that humans chatter like monkeys Mr. Crepsley still wishes he could go to his hometown and protect the humans from the Vampaneze. Even somewhat intelligent spiders are protected and cared for by Seba. This tolerance of others is deeply entrenched in Vampire society. When Darren judges both Evanna and Vancha on appearances, Mr. Crepsley reprimands him and Darren acknowledges that he was wrong.



# Style

## Point of View

Hunters of the Dusk is written in the first-person perspective from the viewpoint of Darren Shan. The language is at a level which young readers, in their early teens, would be comfortable. Because the point of view is from a young boy the language reflects how a younger boy might view his situation, surroundings and people.

The point of view is effective for the readership of this series. Being in the first person enables young readers to put themselves in the place of the narrator thereby making the book seem more real.

Since Hunters of the Dusk takes place in the real world to which significant differences have been added the first-person perspective is also effective because the narrator describes much of what he sees and hears. This makes the world become very real to young readers.

## Setting

Hunters of the Dusk is set in the real world with significant differences. In this enhanced world Vampires and Vampaneze exist, as do Little People, those beings created by Mr. Tiny. Although there are humans in this world and the same technology as the real earth the supernatural powers of Mr. Tiny, the Vampires, Evanna and Mr. Tall do not exist in the real world. No specific mention is made of exactly where in the real world Hunters of the Dusk takes place.

The book starts out at Vampire Mountain, the home of the Vampire Clan. Later Darren and his companions begin to walk in the world to look for the Vampaneze Lord though no recognizable names are given.

A couple of chapters take place at the Cirque Du Freak and at Evanna's Cave.

## Language and Meaning

Hunters of the Dusk is a part of a series of fantasy novels which are classified as young adult or youth in the library system. The language is easy to understand and read, although there are some terms which are not used in conventional English language. Most of the words used in connection with magic exist in the English language, though with a different meaning. The meaning of the words that are different from "real" English are easily understood in context. Some of the creatures that inhabit the world of Emperor Mage do not exist not in "real" life and are named with words that do not have meaning in the English language and some of the creatures have names that are "real" on the earth. Some examples of such creatures are Vampaneze, Vampires, Little

People, Witches, Ba'Shan spiders and Guardians, which are humans who allow Vampires to drink their blood.

## Structure

Hunters of the Dusk is divided into 20 numbered chapters and a prologue. The chapters run about 8 pages each. The entire book is 208 pages without any forward or afterword.

There is one major plot in Hunters of the Dusk, which is to hunt down and kill the Vampaneze Lord. There is a minor subplot, which is not highly developed about who Harkat was before he died and Harkat's nightmares.

The book is a fast read, with simple language that is easy to follow and enough action that the plot is moved along quickly.



## Quotes

"It was the age of tragic mistakes. For me, the tragedy began fourteen years earlier when, mesmerized by a vampire's amazing performing tarantula, I stole it from him" (Prologue, p. 1).

"As a Prince I was expected to deal with every sort of subject under the moon. I was only a young, inexperienced half-vampire, who'd become a Prince more by default than merit, but the members of the clan placed their trust completely in their Princes" (Chapter 1, p. 9).

"'Was this nightmare the same as the others?' I asked" (Chapter 2, p. 13).

"The Stone of Blood was a magical artifact. Any vampire who came to the mountain...laid their hands on the Stone and let it absorb some of their blood. The Stone could then be used to track that vampire down" (Chapter 3, p. 20).

"They aren't honor-bound to tell the truth, they don't have to follow ancient customs - and they don't have to limit themselves to hand-to-hand weapons" (Chapter 4, p. 27).

"The third was a small, smiling white-haired man, who struck more fear in me than a band of invading vampireze" (Chapter 5, p. 44).

"The possibility of refusing the challenge never entered my thoughts. Six years of living among vampires filled me with their values and beliefs. Any vampire would lay down his life for the good of the clan" (Chapter 7, p. 55).

"Humans always chatter like monkeys," Mr. Crepsley said. "It is their way" (Chapter 8, p. 67).

"You have entered the final stages of half-vampirism. There is no turning back" (Chapter 9, p. 75).

"'I erred, sire," I said stiffly. "I was worried about my friends and I made the mistake of pausing when I should have pushed ahead. I accept full responsibility, and I apologize most humbly" (Chapter 10, p. 90).

"'Evanna guards her tongue closely, but when she speaks, she speaks the truth. If she says our destiny lies on the road, I'll gladly go along with you'" (Chapter 11, p. 95).

"'...Death is the worst this world can throw at you, Darren — if you accept it, it has no power over you" (Chapter 11, p. 99).

"'I feel comfortable this way. Beauty means nothing to me. Looks are the least important thing in my world'" (Chapter 12, p. 115).



""Names are vital to beings of destiny. I have a role to play in the future, not just of the vampire clan, but of every creature in the world. The name I chose would have bearing on that role"" (Chapter 13, p. 129).

"We'd known from the start that this would be a dangerous quest, with death never far from us. But it's one thing to anticipate your possible end, quite another to be told it's a certainty if you fail" (Chapter 15, p. 139).

"Vancha was right. If we failed, the one who survived would have the worst time of all. He'd have to watch the vampires perish, and bear the blame. If we were to fail, death along the way was the best any of us could hope for" (Chapter 15, p. 143).

""I don't like it,' Vancha grumbled. 'Fate's a cruel mistress. What if destiny doesn't lead us to him?' 'Mr. Tiny said to follow our hearts,' Mr. Crepsley repeated stubbornly"" (Chapter 15, p. 143).

""I'm thinking about how much things have changed,' I sighed. 'You married and with kids. Me with worries of my own. Life used to be much simpler"" (Chapter 17, p. 163).

"We have neither allies nor foes among the creatures of the night. If you or I took sides, we could destroy everything. As far as we're concerned, both must be equal, neither good nor bad" (Chapter 17, p. 167).

""Any man who would strike a brother is no man at all. You did what any of us would have done" (Chapter 19, p. 194).

"The divide between vampires and vampaneze is of no interest to me. I look upon you as silly, warring boys, who will one night come to their senses and stop spitting angrily at one another" (Chapter 19, p. 195).

""Don't waste time regretting lost chances,' she said. 'You weren't destined to face Gannenharst at this stage of the hunt. Vancha was. It was fate"" (Chapter 20, p. 201).

"Who gave you the right quit? What makes you think you can abandon the quest and damn us all" (Chapter 20, p. 203).





## Topics for Discussion

Do you think becoming a vampire was a fair punishment for stealing a spider? Why or why not? Use examples from *Hunters of the Dusk* to support your answer.

Discuss how knowing he is going to die soon might affect Paris and his life. Use examples from *Hunters of the Dusk* to support your answer.

Discuss why it is or is not reasonable that the vampires follow a young boy's orders simply because he has been declared a Prince. Use examples from *Hunters of the Dusk* to support your answer.

Discuss the ways in which Darren might change going from being a young human boy to a Vampire Prince. Use examples from *Hunters of the Dusk* to support your answer.

Darren is covered in scars from his initiation trials. Discuss the reasons for initiation and why it is or is not helpful. Use examples from *Hunters of the Dusk* to support your answer.

Mr. Tiny appears to enjoy violence and death. What do you think are the reasons someone like him might be that way. Use examples from *Hunters of the Dusk* to support your answer.

Do you think a young teen book should have a young boy getting drunk in it? Why or why not? Use examples from *Hunters of the Dusk* to support your answer.

Discuss what might be the symbolism between Darren getting itchy and possibly coming of age. Think of a snake shedding its skin. Use examples from *Hunters of the Dusk* to support your answer.

Mr. Tiny distinguishes between a truth and the truth. What do you think this means?

The Vampaneze and the Vampires are restricted in their use of weapons of war. The Vampaneze decide to get humans to work for them who can use guns. Do you see this as a violation of honor? Why or why not?

What do you think the fact that the Vampaneze uses humans with guns says about the Vampaneze as beings? Use examples from *Hunters of the Dusk* to support your answer.

Darren makes a mistake and turns his back on an undead enemy and has to be saved by Vancha. Discuss whether you think Vancha handled Darren's mistake properly and if Darren handled Vancha's comments properly.

Vancha tells Darren that a person who fights without a weapon has an advantage. Discuss what Vancha meant by this. Use examples from *Hunters of the Dusk* to support your answer.



Why do you think Darren says his present life is a tragic mistake?

Vancha says that Evanna is careful about what she says but she always speaks the truth. Discuss examples of this and any examples of her talking when you feel like she did not tell the truth.

Darren says there is not even a remote possibility that he would not leave to hunt the Vampaneze Lord. Why do you think he feels that way? Use examples from *Hunters of the Dusk* to support your answer.

Mr. Crepsley tells Vancha that the Prince was correct for not attacking Garren. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? Use examples from *Hunters of the Dusk* to support your answer.

Evanna tells the group not to spend time regretting lost chances. How might this advice apply to your life? Use examples from *Hunters of the Dusk* to support your answer.

Vancha tells Darren that death is the worst thing that can happen to a person and that if one accepts this, then death has no power over you. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? Use examples from *Hunters of the Dusk* to support your answer.