

City of Ashes Study Guide

City of Ashes by Cassandra Clare

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Plot Summary

Clary is a teenager who has led a typical life until she discovers she was born into a group of people known as "shadowhunters" who deals with the demons and monsters, keeping humans safe and monsters under control. When she makes this discovery, she also finds out that her father is a violent rogue who is gathering specific items with the intention of creating a demon army and going to war with the shadowhunters. Clary didn't know any of these things because her mother had hidden her ability to see the demons throughout Clary's childhood. Now Clary's mother is in a self-induced coma and she is dealing with the new situation with the help of her friends and some fellow shadowhunters. Key among her friends is Luke, a werewolf and former shadowhunter who has taken the role of Clary's father her entire life.

Clary learns that her father, Valentine, needs the blood of several creatures in order to complete the ritual that will summon the demons for his army. He kills children, including a fairy, and drains their blood as part of the ritual but still needs a werewolf child and a vampire child. Valentine kidnaps friends of Clary for this purpose. Simon, a former human friend of Clary's who is now a vampire, and Maia, a member of Luke's pack, are being held on Valentine's ship. Clary and Jace, a shadowhunter who Clary believes is her brother, are at the heart of the effort to save Maia and Simon. Other shadowhunters join them, hoping to defeat Valentine before he is able to complete his plan.

Aboard the ship, Clary confronts her father but is unable to kill him. Valentine believes he has killed Simon but Jace revives Simon with his own blood. This changes Simon's makeup and he is no longer endangered by sunlight. By this time, Clary and Jace have come to realize they have powers they haven't even begun to utilize. Armed with her stele - a small wandlike instrument used to draw magic runes - Clary allows her creativity to take over and she tears Valentine's ship apart, putting an end to the bloody battle between Valentine's demons and the shadowhunters trying to destroy him. The ship sinks and though the core group of characters remains intact, there were casualties.

As the book comes to a close, Clary realizes Luke has always been in love with her mother but has never said the words aloud. This prompts Clary to tell Jace that the feelings she has for him are not those of sisterly love, but Jace beats her to the punch, saying that he promises to love her as a brother. Clary feels forced to accept that. Clary then goes to the hospital to visit her mother and she encounters a woman on the steps who says she was friends with Clary's mother and knows that a self-induced spell is keeping her in a coma.



Prologue though Chapter 2

Prologue though Chapter 2 Summary

The story opens with the Prologue, titled "Smoke and Diamonds." A rogue shadowhunter named Valentine is in the penthouse of the Metropole in Manhattan. The apartment is uninhabited and Valentine has hired a young warlock named Elias to summon a demon named Argamon. The warlock asks for payment but Valentine says he'll pay only after Argamon is summoned. Elias carefully constructs a pentagram he believes will keep Argamon from escaping. Because the demon feeds on fears and Elias's fear is that Argamon will escape, the pentagram is ultimately useless and Argamon does escape, killing Elias in the process. Argamon then turns to Valentine but Valentine says he has possession of the Mortal Cup and that Argamon must obey him or "face the consequences," though he doesn't specify what those consequences might be. Argamon pledges obedience to Valentine.

Part one begins with a quote from Arthur Rimbaud that reads, "I believe I am in Hell, therefore I am." The first chapter, Valentine's Arrow, opens with a conversation between Alec and Jace. Alec says he'd trusted Jace who said dragon demons were "mostly extinct," and he is angry that they'd encountered the creature. Jace points out he said "mostly." Their argument continues until Alec's sister, Isabelle, intervenes. Isabelle says they'd encountered a demon they hadn't expected, but that it was "fun." Maryse Lightwood, mother of Alec and Isabelle, arrives. Maryse says her youngest son, Max, is in his room and her husband, Robert, hasn't returned to the Institute yet. Max arrives and begins to ask questions that indicate Maryse hasn't told him everything about their current situation.

Meanwhile, Simon and Clary are at Simon's house watching television while explaining anime to Clary. He flips channel and an old version of "Dracula" comes on. Simon seems unhappy and Clary realizes it's the first time since her mother became ill that she's taken time to notice how Simon is feeling.

Jace showers and returns to talk to Maryse alone. She calls him Jonathan and Jace says he doesn't want her to call him anything but Jace. She points out that Jonathan is his real name and asks how long he's known that he wasn't Jace Wayland, but was actually Valentine's son. Jace says he didn't know until it was revealed to him recently but Maryse says she doesn't believe him. Jace says he's still the same person he was but Maryse says she should have seen that he is Valentine's son. Jace pleads with her to believe him and she says she wants to, but can't. Maryse says she doesn't trust Valentine and she doesn't trust Jace because of the potential that Valentine has influenced him.

Meanwhile, Simon has left the room and Clary finds him. He asks if Clary sees anything different about him and she says she doesn't. Then he kisses her, which is out of



character for Simon. They are interrupted by a phone call from Isabelle who says Jace has left the Institute.

In chapter two, Maia Roberts has always hated Jace because he is a "beautiful boy," just like her older brother Daniel. Daniel had been unbearable cruel to her until an accident claimed his life. Not long after he died, Maia was turned into a werewolf and she left her home in favor of New York City where she joined a pack led by Luke. On this particular day she is at the Hunter's Moon, a bar frequented by werewolves. Jace arrives at the bar and is soon involved in a fight with another young werewolf named Bat. The bartender intervenes, telling Bat to leave Jace alone because Jace is a shadowhunter, then telling Jace he should go elsewhere if he doesn't want a fight. Bat leaves but rushes back inside with news that a young werewolf is dead in the alley. There is blood everywhere and the immediate reaction is that vampires are responsible.

Luke is called because he's the pack leader. Clary and Simon arrive as well. Jace reveals his conversation with Maryse, including her accusation that Jace is working as a spy for Valentine. It explains why he was willing to go into werewolf territory to pick a fight but the question of the dead werewolf child remains unanswered. Clary suggests Jace face Maryse like a man but he says he'd rather be an "angstridden teenager." Jace says he won't return to the Institute because Maryse doesn't want him there. Simon, waiting in the hall, meets Maia. They talk briefly and seem united in their dislike of Jace.

Prologue though Chapter 2 Analysis

There is a great deal of background information that isn't fully explained in the opening chapters. Valentine is a rogue shadowhunter who has become completely focused on his cause. He plans to use two specific instruments to raise an army to defeat the Clave, the governing body of the shadowhunters. Valentine had set out with this objective years earlier and had taken a group of other shadowhunters with him on his original mission, including Luke, Maryse and Robert Lightwood, and Jocelyn, his wife who is also Clary's mother. The plan had fallen apart and most of the shadowhunters punished on some level. The Lightwoods escaped lightly. Jocelyn, pregnant with Clary, had fled and lived in hiding until a chance encounter put Clary in touch with Jace. Luke was also a member of Valentine's group but he'd been forced out when he was turned into a werewolf.

Jace believes at this point in the series that he is Valentine's son, though the reader begins to realize that isn't true by the end of this book. Jace believed he was Jace Wayland, son of Michael Wayland. In truth, Michael had died years earlier and Valentine had taken Michael's place, raising Jace as his own. Valentine had then faked his own death and everyone thought Michael Wayland had died. When Jace learns the man who raised him was really Valentine, he accepts without question that he is the son of Valentine and Jocelyn and is Clary's brother. Everyone accepts it until much later in the story when doubts begin to arise.



Clary's mother has raised her in New York as a normal person, hiding the fact that they are shadowhunters by taking Clary every couple of years to a warlock who erased all memories of Clary's ability to see the demons that are constantly present. Jocelyn was taken hostage in the first book by Valentine and is now in a coma. Luke, who has always been in love with Jocelyn, spends most of his time at her bedside in the hospital.

There are signs that Simon might not be alright and the reader is led to believe that Simon is turning into a vampire. In the first book, Simon was turned into a rat and taken home by vampires who didn't realize his true identity. There's a fight and Simon bites one of the vampires. Though he later regains his human form, he has consumed vampire blood and it is having an effect on him by this point. He is not yet a vampire. It's noteworthy that the third book of the series focuses a great deal on Simon.



Chapters 3 and 4

Chapters 3 and 4 Summary

In chapter three, Clary arrives at the Institute where Jace and the other shadowhunters live. She recalls seeing it for the first time when the glamour had hidden the true appearance of the building. She now arrives with Jace but he doesn't have a key because Maryse took it. By using a blessing, he gains entrance to the building anyway, a method Luke says will work as long as Jace doesn't mean any harm to the inhabitants. When they enter the building, a cat named Church is waiting to lead them to Maryse. She is talking with a vampire named Raphael. Maryse doesn't initially recognize Luke but then calls him by the name he used when he was a shadowhunter, Lucian Graymark. He tells her he's now known as Luke Garroway. The projection of Raphael, who isn't really present because the institute is a former church and he couldn't enter, promises Maryse that the vampires, or Night Children, aren't behind the recent murders of a werewolf and a warlock, and she allows him to leave.

Luke tells Maryse that Jace is not in league with Valentine and that he is willing to swear to that by the Soul-Sword, a mortal instrument that can determine if a shadowhunter is lying. Luke is upset when he learns that Maryse has already called the Inquisitor into the situation but she says the Inquisitor was bound to come after the events of recent days, including the reappearance of Valentine when everyone thought he was dead. Jace points out that if he isn't there to face the questions, the Inquisitor will believe the Lightwoods conspired to hide him.

In chapter four, Clary, Simon, and Luke are back at Luke's place where Luke says he's already called the hospital and there's no change with Jocelyn. Clary says she feels as though her mother is waiting for something before she wakes. Simon, Clary, and Luke talk at length about their lives as they now stand. Luke says he isn't certain there is any "normal" situation. Simon reveals that he'd had a conversation with Maia, who he knows is a werewolf. Luke gives Clary the stele that had belonged to her mother. A stele is used by shadowhunters to create runes - sets of symbols that create something similar to magic. Healing runes, protection runes, and runes to lock or open doors are most common.

Jace dreams of Valentine just before Alec knocks on his door, announcing that Maryse wants to see him. As they walk toward the library, Alec says he's been for a walk to "clear his head" and that it does seem Jace has been hiding things from them. Jace arrives in the library to find a woman there, Inquisitor Herondale. Maryse introduces Jace as "Jonathan Morganstern," but he says his name is Jace Wayland. The inquisitor says claiming the name Wayland is a lie which makes him "just like Valentine." The Inquisitor compares Jace to a cuckoo. She says a cuckoo lays its eggs in the nest of an ordinary bird. When the cuckoo hatches, the parents "work themselves to death" trying to find enough food for the cuckoo baby, which is enormous compared to a normal bird. The analogy makes Maryse angry and she says she doesn't need the Inquisitor's pity.



The Inquisitor announces she's sending Jace to the prisons of the Silent City even though the cells there are used only to hold the worst downworlders.

Back at Luke's house, Maia arrives and announces she'll be staying a few days. Simon says he's glad someone will be around to "watch my girlfriend," referring to Clary. The term seems to catch Clary off-guard but she doesn't correct him. Simon walks Maia out when she leaves and then asks to sleep on the couch. Clary invites him to sleep with her in the guest room.

Chapters 3 and 4 Analysis

Glamour is magic used to hide the true appearance of things. The institute - where the Lightwood children study and where other shadowhunters stay while in the city - appears to normal people as an abandoned, dilapidated church with police tape across the door. Shadowhunters and downworlders are able to strip away the glamour in order to see the person, place, or event as it truly is.

There is a reference in chapter three to the past situation involving Valentine's group of rogue shadowhunters and their fall. Valentine led a group of young, idealistic shadowhunters against the Clave - the governing body of the shadowhunters. While they seemed to all believe in Valentine at the time, they later came to realize he was delusional in his beliefs and out of line in his actions. That group included Maryse and Robert Lightwood, Luke, and several others along with Valentine and Jocelyn, who was Valentine's wife and Clary's mother. Another member of the group was Stephen Herondale. Stephen was killed during his association with Valentine. His mother is Imogen Herondale, who is the Inquisitor. Her appointment as Inquisitor came because her desire for revenge made her focused on her job, especially where it pertained to those members who had sought to overthrow the Clave under Valentine's lead. The majority of the members of Valentine's group were pardoned or sentenced to some service. The exceptions were Luke who was turned into a werewolf and Jocelyn who most shadowhunters believed to be dead. Another of the group was Hodge, who had served as director of the Institute until Valentine's return.

Jocelyn has been in the hospital since Clary, Luke, and the others rescued her from Valentine's grasp. She is alive but unconscious and no one knows what's wrong with her. Jocelyn will not regain consciousness over the course of this book.

The antagonism between Simon and Jace is seen clearly from the beginning of their acquaintance. When it becomes evident that Clary will be going into another dangerous situation involving demons, Simon says she's only going because it will keep her close to Jace.



Chapters 5 through 7

Chapters 5 through 7 Summary

In chapter five, Jace arrives in the Silent City and is put in a cell. He realizes the anxiety he's feeling isn't typical for him but doesn't know why he feels that way. Just then one of the Silent Brothers, a monk named Jeremiah, staggers into the room. He's obviously terrified and falls down, dead. A huge "something" pushes through the door and a cloud rushes past him before his torch goes out.

Clary and Simon kiss for a while and then Clary goes to put on her pajamas. Simon falls asleep and Clary gets a text from Isabelle. As soon as she reads it, she leaves the house.

Jace wakes to Valentine's voice. Valentine says he isn't going to kill Jace but that he'd come to take the sword, Maellartach. The sword is the one the angel used to chase Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden. Jace asks what Valentine plans to do with it and Valentine says he wants to trust Jace but can't.

Clary arrives at the Institute and Church leads her to Isabelle who is surprised that Clary rushed over. Clary, Alec, and Isabelle talk about the situation. Isabelle believes Clary can convince Jace that cooperating with the Inquisitor is his best option. Clary learns that the Lightwoods and the Inquisitor have been called away because a Faerie child was killed in the park. When they learn that the Silent Brothers had tried to contact the Institute, Isabelle and Alec decide they'll have to go to the Silent City. Clary, who has been inside before, demands to go along.

In chapter six, the three arrive at the cemetery and Alec says the Silent Brothers should have sensed their presence and come to meet them by now. The fact that they didn't makes him worry. Alec cuts his palm and uses his blood as a key to open the entrance. Inside, it's pitch dark and Clary uses her witchlight stone to light the way. They find the brothers dead and Jace in his cell. Clary draws a rune with her stele and the door bursts from the hinges of the cell. Jace's shackles are also unlocked. Alec draws a healing rune on Jace's hand, rubbed bloody from his efforts to get free, and they make their way out of the Silent City. When they reach the surface, they find dozens of shadowhunters.

In chapter seven, several of the shadowhunters enter the Silent City. Maryse believes the dead Faerie in the park was a ruse to distract the shadowhunters from the Silent City while someone attacked the Silent City intending to steal something in particular. Jace reveals that Valentine attacked intending to steal the mortal sword. The Inquisitor believes Valentine stole the sword to keep it from being used to question Jace. Jace has seemed ill since Clary and the others rescued him from the Silent City and now he collapses on the grass. Alec, Isabelle, and Clary plead for him to be taken to the wizard, Magnus Bane, to be healed. Magnus arrives and agrees to heal Jace. He pledges to keep Jace captive and the Inquisitor agrees to allow him to go with Magnus. No one is



certain what's wrong with Jace but there is some discussion about demonic poison from his encounter in the cell.

Chapters 5 through 7 Analysis

The Silent City is located under a graveyard. The setting was introduced in the first book of the series. The monks who live there are mutilated and all have their mouths sewn shut. When Brother Jeremiah enters the room where Jace is being held, his mouth is open in a silent scream. He is obviously terrified which is out of keeping with the role of these men. The demon Argamon has arrived in the Silent City and that's why the monks are so afraid that they literally die of fright.

The conversation between Jace and Valentine is strained. Valentine is obviously surprised that Jace doesn't simply fall in line with Valentine's requests. He can't imagine anyone who would go against him and seems to believe that the years he lived as Jace's father would guarantee Jace's obedience and loyalty. Jace, however, has become jaded toward his father. He has come to believe that Valentine killed Jace's grandparents. Though the family connection isn't what Jace believes it is, Jace's emotions are very raw at this point and he's struggling to figure out what he really feels. The conversation ends with Valentine saying Jace can find him when he needs to do so.



Chapters 8 and 9

Chapters 8 and 9 Summary

Chapter eight is the first chapter of part two, "The Gates of Hell," which opens with a quote from Dante's "Inferno." The chapter opens with Clary dreaming. In the dream, she's a child wearing oversized pajamas. She's on the seashore with her mother and Jocelyn draws a rune on Clary's arm, using a piece of driftwood instead of a stele. She says Clary will now be protected but when Clary turns, a huge wave is bearing down on her. She wakes and finds the seashore had been a dream but there is a rune on her arm. She finds that Luke has already gone to the hospital. Simon arrives and accompanies Clary to Magnus' apartment. Jace recounts the moments leading up to his encounter with his father in the Silent City. They talk about the theft of the sword and what it means, then about the deaths of several downworlder children recently. It seems vampires might be to blame but Magnus doesn't believe that's the case. It's Magnus who figures out Valentine is seeking to perform the Ritual of Infernal Conversion, which will ultimately allow him to call demons to become an army for him. Magnus says Valentine will have to heat the sword until it's hot four times, cooling it in the blood of a downworld child each time. He has already killed warlock child and a Faerie child. He has already killed a werewolf child as well, but was unable to collect the blood from that child, so he still needs to kill a werewolf and a vampire child in order to complete the conversion.

After this conversation, there is an argument over Isabelle's idea to go to the Queen of the Faerie with their information about Valentine, hoping she will help them stop Valentine. Magnus agrees to allow Alec to remain in Jace's place. Jace, Clary, and Simon meet Isabelle at Turtle Pond. They wade to the middle of the pond where there's a door to the Seelie Court. They are met by a Faerie named Meliorn who obviously knows Isabelle. It seems they may have dated and that prompts Clary to question the possibility of an alliance of that type between a Faerie and a shadowhunter. Jace says such a relationship always ends when the Faerie grows tired of the human.

Clary and Simon are warned not to eat or drink anything because they would then be bound to the Faerie kingdom forever, unable to leave. They are also warned that the Faeries can be tricky and that they have to remain on guard. They talk with the Faerie Queen, trying to convince her that vampires weren't behind the deaths, including the murder of the Faerie child. The Queen says she doesn't really care about a war between Valentine's demons and the shadowhunters, but Jace says if Valentine defeats the shadowhunters, he'll attack downworlders next, including the Faeries.

The Queen makes a reference to the fact that Faeries keep many secrets. She challenges Jace to ask Valentine "what blood runs in your veins." Jace says he hadn't planned to ask Valentine anything, but promises to do so because the Queen commands him to do so. Clary is given a drink but doesn't drink any of it because of Jace's warning. However, a small Faerie pricks Clary's finger and she sucks the tiny



wound, which had a drop of liquid from her drink on it. When it's time for them to leave, the Queen says Clary can't leave because she's consumed their food. The Queen says she'll release Clary if Jace kisses her. They argue but to no avail and Jace does kiss her. Clary immediately loses herself in the kiss. When it's finished, the Queen says everyone in the court is "entertained," though she believes Jace and Clary are more so. Simon is obviously hurt by Clary's reaction to Jace's kiss.

When they're out of the pond, they debate what they'll do next. Isabelle says no one is at the Institute and suggests they go there. Clary turns to ask Simon but Jace points out that Simon is already gone and he doesn't respond when Clary calls out to him.

In chapter nine, Isabelle, Clary, and Jace arrive at the Institute to find it almost deserted. Clary goes with Jace to his room where she borrows a dry shirt to put on. Clary questions Jace about the kiss and Jace repeats what the Queen had said - that she was doing Jace a favor. Clary says that can't be the truth but Jace points out that Faeries don't lie, though they may be underhanded and tricky in their dealings. Jace admits that the Queen was right, and that he wants desperately to have a relationship with Clary. Clary says it isn't possible because they are siblings. Jace accuses Clary of using Simon to distract herself from her feelings for him. She denies it but Jace doesn't believe her. Jace says there has to be a way but Clary points out that it's simply impossible, and that everyone who knows they are siblings would be sickened by the idea of them in a romantic relationship. When she uses the word "sickened," Jace leaves the room.

Clary falls asleep and wakes to find Jace in a nearby chair. They are wakened by the doorbell of the Institute. Clary is certain it's Simon, who hasn't been answering her phone calls the entire evening. Jace, Clary, and Isabelle arrive at the front door to find Raphael and Simon, who appears dead. Raphael says Simon isn't dead yet but that he will die shortly, and that he will then rise again as a vampire. Raphael says that Simon had broken into the vampire lair. Raphael recognized him as Clary's friend and stopped the vampire attack before they killed him. Raphael says Simon's return to the vampire lair was prompted by the fact that Simon bit him while Simon was a rat. Clary realizes that Jace would normally be considering killing Simon before he could rise again and Clary says she won't let Jace hurt Simon.

Chapters 8 and 9 Analysis

Simon and Jace bicker almost constantly and Simon notes that Jace always refers to him a "mundane" whenever he can't come up with any other negative comments. The relationship between Simon and Clary is becoming more complicated as Simon tests the waters of their new status. He has referred to her openly as his girlfriend and when she is injured slightly, he kisses her. He also stands up to Jace when Clary is butting heads with Jace. Clary seems unsure of the situation and says kissing Simon is comfortable. It seems destined to fizzle out because Clary doesn't care for Simon the way Simon cares for her. That's exactly what will happen later. Clary seems incapable of stopping the bickering between Simon and Jace and at one point Isabelle calls her on



that, saying that Clary could put a stop to it if she wanted. Clary may be battling her emotions at this point. She obviously cares about Jace in a way that a sister shouldn't. She obviously doesn't feel the same level of affection for Simon that he feels for her. But she can't bring herself to completely eliminate the possibility of a relationship with either of them.

There are hints that there are problems with Simon. In the first book of the series, Simon was turned into a rat and accidentally taken into the lair of vampires. There was a fight there and Simon bit a vampire. During this part of the series, Simon has blanched every time someone mentions vampires and he seems completely repulsed by the idea of vampires. As it turns out later in the book, Simon is drawn to the vampires because he has consumed vampire blood.



Chapters 10 and 11

Chapters 10 and 11 Summary

In chapter ten, with Raphael guiding them, they take Simon to a cemetery and bury him in a shallow grave. Raphael explains that Simon has to dig his way out of the earth in order to be reborn as a vampire. Jace takes Clary a short distance away until Simon's body is covered. Magnus arrives with animal blood from a butcher shop. Clary is there when Simon rises and he's so thirsty for blood that he attacks her initially. Raphael steps in, feeding Simon who is covered in blood by the time he's sated. Raphael says Simon's next feeding won't be "so messy." Clary is as repulsed as the others and runs into the woods, gagging.

In chapter eleven, Clary arrives at Beth Israel hospital where her mother is. Clary takes a seat beside Jocelyn and begins to talk, pouring out all her troubles and fears. Clary says she knows she's made mistakes. She suddenly realizes Luke is at the door and has been listening awhile. As they head home together, Luke tells Clary that Simon's situation wasn't Clary's fault. Luke says Simon would have felt drawn back to the vampires because he'd tasted their blood but Clary argues that he'd been following her when he got himself turned into a rat in the first place. Luke says the one thing Simon always wanted was to be with Clary, and that he wouldn't accept anything else. Luke says that loving someone means you want to be with them, regardless of where they are. Clary says that loving someone takes the choice away. Luke then says that Simon should tell his parents about his vampirism and compares it to a teenager telling his parents he's gay.

When they arrive at Luke's house, Simon is waiting. Luke says he's going to the store and reminds Clary to lock the door behind her. Simon says he isn't certain what he's going to do and fears running out of blood. Clary promises to make sure that doesn't happen. A while later, there's a commotion and they see Luke's truck on the lawn. Luke says a demon had been attacking Maia and he'd run over it. When Maia regains consciousness, she says she was attacked by a Drevak demon. Luke removes the quills left by the demon.

Chapters 10 and 11 Analysis

The story has many specific settings and each is described in great detail. The cemetery where Simon returns as a vampire is one of these. Luke's house is another. The Institute, the cemetery above the Silent City, and the Seelie Court are others. The details of these settings include sights, smells, and sounds. At the Seelie Court, there are roots growing through the walls. Aboard Valentine's ship, there are rusty mechanisms and an overall green glow, indicating demonic power.



Simon's conversion to a vampire is something of a surprise because Simon has been vocal in his dislike of the vampires since he was taken from a party in the first book. Jace asks Clary whether Simon would want to be changed to a vampire and the bigger question there is whether Simon might prefer to die. Clary doesn't seem to give the question any real thought but refuses to allow Simon to die. It's not clear what she's thinking when Simon rises again. She insists on being there for him but he attacks her, unable to recognize anything above his thirst for blood. When he's drinking the blood brought to him from a butcher shop, Clary is horrified and runs away.



Chapters 12 and 13

Chapters 12 and 13 Summary

In chapter twelve, Clary convinces Simon to call Jace with the news of Maia's attack. Jace is immediately concerned, fearing that Clary has been hurt, and Simon says that Jace - Clary's brother - has no right to sound so brokenhearted over his recent lack of communication with Clary. After Simon relates the situation to Jace and hangs up, Clary says she hates that she's always afraid and always on the lookout for the next attack. Simon and Clary return to the living room where Maia is resting. She says Luke has gone to move the truck before the neighbors remarked on it sitting on the lawn. Maia says she's thirsty and Simon pours her some water. When he gets close, Maia jumps to her feet and attacks, recognizing Simon as a vampire. She's furious and he's hurt at her reaction. Maia says vampires are "infected with demon energies," but Clary counters, saying lycanthropes - or werewolves - are the same. Maia says the problem is that the demon energies were always at war with each other. She predicts Simon will soon begin to hate werewolves, even Luke.

Magnus arrives and begins treating Maia. When Jace asks about Luke, they begin to search for him. They find the truck outside and Jace says Dravak demons travel in groups. They begin to search and Jace realizes Raum demons are in the vicinity. They find Jace nearby and find themselves in a battle. Clary is in trouble when the demon simply "skitters backward, tentacles waving." One of the demons jumps into the water. They take Luke back to Luke's apartment where Magnus begins working on him as well.

In chapter thirteen, Raphael arrives with a demonic-powered motorcycle. Jace takes it to the river where Valentine has a ship. Jace arrives on the ship but immediately senses that something is horribly wrong. He soon sees Clary but passes out a short time later. When he recovers, Valentine is there and asks how Jace found the ship. Jace says he tortured the Raum demon into giving up Valentine's location. Valentine says Clary isn't actually on the ship but that Jace's vision of her had been the result of the demon Argamon, and Valentine questions the fact that Jace's greatest fear is that something will happen to Clary. Valentine offers Jace a deal. Valentine says he plans to destroy the Clave because they've become corrupt. He says the demons will soon realize that the Clave has become weak, and that will prompt them to attack anyway. He says at that point there will be no way to fight off the demons. He also believes the Clave will simply give up when they see Valentine's demon army. Valentine says that if Jace will join him against the Clave, Valentine will not kill any of Jace's friends, including Luke. Jace realizes Valentine won't keep the demons from killing Luke, Clary, and anyone else who stands between Valentine and his goal. Jace says he's made his decision as the chapter comes to a close.



Chapters 12 and 13 Analysis

In chapter twelve, the perspective switches to Simon. He is watching Clary and notes that she's stronger and more confident than he's ever given her credit for. In some ways this is a coming of age story and Simon is maturing dramatically even as he faces his own situation.

Clary notes that Simon's appearance is changed, his features "smoothed." Clary says she's wondered if there was a "rule" preventing ugly people from becoming vampires. However, she also notes that Simon is handsome. Over the coming chapters, Simon will change in slight ways and Clary notes that he becomes more handsome and attractive as time passes.

Alec is gay, a fact that he tries to hide from others though it's obvious to everyone. Early in the book, Alec has a mark on his neck and Jace asks about it. Alec says he fell but it's obvious Jace doesn't believe it. When they are at Luke's house after Luke is attacked, Jace points out that he knows that Alec is seeing

When Raphael arrives at Luke's house with the motorcycle for Jace, he says that giving Jace the motorcycle makes them "even for Simon." This indicates that Raphael feels a sense of responsibility for turning Simon into a vampire, and that Jace holds Raphael responsible. This contradicts the derision Jace always exhibits for Simon. Though Jace acts as if he doesn't like Simon and that he couldn't care less what happens to Simon, this makes it seem that Jace does care about Simon's fate. It may be just because Clary cares, but that seems unlikely.

There is a great deal of foreshadowing in the book. Many of the chapters end with hints that something is about to happen. These are obviously the writer's efforts to keep the reader involved. Chapter thirteen ends with an example of foreshadowing. Valentine makes Jace an offer to join him against the Clave. It seems highly unlikely that Jace would join Valentine under normal circumstances, but Valentine has promised that he won't harm Clary, Luke, or the Lightwoods if Jace agrees to join Valentine's cause. Jace is smart enough to realize that Valentine hasn't promised no harm will come to them - only that he won't personally do them harm. Jace refuses but this isn't revealed immediately and the reader may wonder if Jace agrees to join Valentine in an effort to keep his friends safe.



Chapters 14 and 15

Chapters 14 and 15 Summary

Part Three, Day of Wrath, opens with chapter fourteen. Clary, Luke, Magnus, and Maia are talking and Magnus reveals that Jace is no longer with him. Jace and Alec arrive and it's revealed that Jace left Magnus's side the previous night, though he wasn't supposed to. Luke questions Clary about the previous night and she says the demon she was battling simply ran away. They can't figure out why and Clary shows them the rune she has on her arm - the leftovers of the dream in which she's on the beach. No one has seen that rune before and everyone is baffled about it. Clary repeats what the Faerie queen had said - that Valentine had "experimented" on Clary and Jace. She points out the rune she'd used in the Silent City that unlocked everything when it really should have only unlocked the door of the cell. Clary says she believes she can create new runes and use the normal runes in extraordinary ways.

They call on Clary to draw immediately and she sits in front of her sketch pad. She has trouble coming up with an idea until Jace suggests she try a "fearless" rune, which doesn't exist. She struggles at first but gets lost in the idea of "fearless" and creates a rune. Jace wants to try the rune but it's pointed out that he never seems to be afraid of anything, which means the rune wouldn't have an effect on him. Alec volunteers. They are trying to come up with a way to test the rune when Maryse and the Inquisitor show up with Robert Lightwood. Alec immediately moves toward his father and announces that he's involved in a relationship with a downworlder. Before he can admit that it's Magnus, Magnus stops him. Everyone knows this means the rune works.

The Inquisitor is immediately on the attack, announcing that Jace has seen his father and that he is obviously in league with Valentine. The Inquisitor announces that Jace has been watched and Jace is furious. Jace is restrained but several of the others try to defend him. However, Alec says Jace was in the wrong and Alec's apparent defection hurts Jace more than anything else about the situation. As everyone is leaving, the Inquisitor says she'll be keeping an eye on Clary, which prompts Lucian to step closer in an obvious show of protection.

In chapter fifteen, Luke predicts the Clave will find Jace guilty but because of his age he will probably only be stripped of his runes so that he is no longer a shadowhunter. Clary knows that Jace would rather die than face that fate. Maia hears the conversation from Luke's bedroom and decides it's time for her to leave. She is in a deserted street near the river when a demon appears to her as her dead brother, Daniel. Maia is immediately terrified and knows she's going to die. It's actually Argamon, feeding on Maia's worst fear. Valentine arrives and stops Argamon. He asks Maia how old she is. When she answers that she's fifteen, he says that's "perfect."

Jace is taken to the Institute and confined by a magic circle that is created by the Inquisitor's swords. The Inquisitor tells Jace she plans to trade him to Valentine for the



Mortal Instruments in Valentine's possession. Jace says Valentine won't make the trade but the Inquisitor says a parent's love for a child means the parent will do anything for that child. Jace tries to convince her but she refuses to listen even when Jace says Valentine is trying to destroy the Clave because he believes he's right to do so. The Inquisitor says Valentine deserves to hold Jace's dead body, knowing there's nothing he can do to change it. She is obviously referring to her own feelings when she was holding the body of Stephen.

Clary and Luke discover Maia has left and Luke begins to worry when he can't reach her, fearing that the Raum demon might have tracked her down. Clary calls Simon, believing Maia might have gone there, and while they're talking Simon announces that someone is trying to break into his house. Alec arrives where Jace is being held and explains that he'd seemed to side against Jace so the Inquisitor won't be watching him. Alec says they have to figure out a way to free Jace. Clary and Luke rush to Simon's house where they hear a battle then Valentine talks to Clary, saying he expects to "have a say in your choice of friends" in the future. Then he hangs up leaving Clary to wonder whether Simon is already dead. Back at the Institute, Alec helps Jace free his hands then suggests that Jace jump over the top of the magic wall, some thirty feet. Jace argues at first, then he jumps.

Chapters 14 and 15 Analysis

The Inquisitor makes a reference to her son, saying he was "just a child when he ..." She breaks off there, obviously unhappy that she'd said so much, but Luke jumps on that statement. He says the Inquisitor's actions are being driven by "what happened to Stephen." Later, it is revealed that the Inquisitor's son, Stephen, had joined Valentine's group and was killed. He was married and his wife commits suicide. Stephen's death comes soon after the death of the Inquisitor's husband and Stephen's wife was apparently pregnant when she died. This is all important to the story because it explains why the Inquisitor has been so ruthless in tracking Valentine. It also explains why she doesn't contact other members of the Clave now with the information that Valentine is nearby and planning to build a demon army. Her desire for personal revenge will be her downfall. There is also a hint later that Jace may be some relation to her but that is not explained in this book.

Luke and Clary are talking about Jace's fate and his motivations immediately after the Inquisitor's group departs. Clary doesn't believe Jace would go to Valentine but Luke isn't so certain. He points out that Jace is still very young and that most youngsters of this age still have an emotional bond to their parents. He says that Jace has lived for several years with the Lightwoods and look upon them as his father. When they refused to allow him to remain with them, he might have gone looking for Valentine out of emotional need. Clary says she'd hoped Jace would have turned to Luke and Luke says he'd hoped for that as well.



Chapters 16 and 17

Chapters 16 and 17 Summary

In chapter sixteen, Clary and Luke arrive to find Simon's house in perfect arrangement with no signs of a struggle. His cell phone is in his room with a text message that reads, "Now I have them all." Luke realizes it means Valentine has all the children for the Ritual of Conversion. They debate whether Valentine's choice of Maia and Simon are aimed at hurting Clary or Jace. Clary believes that Jace did something to Valentine the previous night on his ship that made him mad enough to target Simon and Maia specifically.

Alec goes to Isabelle's room where they are joined by Jace. Isabelle asks how Jace escaped and he says it appears he and Clary each have powers they haven't tested before. Jace says he plans to go to Valentine's ship but insists Isabelle and Alec remain behind to convince the Inquisitor to send shadowhunters to the ship once it's apparent Valentine won't hand over the Mortal Instruments.

Simon wakes on the ship and finds Maia shackled nearby. Maia says she'd seen demons when she arrived on the ship. Luke and Clary arrived, summoned by Jace, and meet him outside the Institute. There's a strange woman who appears on the scene but she's gone before she can be identified. Valentine arrives in the cell where Simon and Maia are being held. He throws silver dust on Maia which burns her and enrages Simon. He holds the "Angel blade" toward Simon and Simon is burned by the presence of the sword. Valentine then slashes Simon's throat with the sword.

In chapter seventeen, Clary, Luke, and Simon drive to the riverside where they meet Magnus. On the way, Luke reassures Jace that the Inquisitor will call on the Clave for reinforcements. Jace says she has blocked the Lightwoods' access to the Clave and that she's "obsessed" with the idea of trading Jace for the Mortal Instruments. Once they meet Magnus, there's a discussion of how to reach and ship and what to do once they get there. Jace convinces Clary to use the fearless rune on him and she does. Magnus enchants Luke's truck and they drive across the surface of the river to Valentine's ship.

Back at the Institute, Valentine appears as an apparition and refuses the Inquisitor's offer to trade Jace for the Mortal Instruments. The Inquisitor objects, pointing out that Jace is Valentine's son. Valentine counters, saying "children make their own choices." He says he offered to keep Jace safe but Jace refused to side with Valentine against the Clave. The Inquisitor says that Jace, as Valentine's "spy," will be put to death by the Clave and Valentine says he can't help that.

Jace and Clary talk as they make their way to Valentine's ship. He reminds Clary that Simon might already be dead but she refuses to believe it's possible. Magnus is using magic to allow them access to the ship but the demons rush out to meet them. Jace, Clary, and Luke fight off the initial wave. Magnus is obviously being drained of energy in



his efforts against Valentine and Clary is worried about him. Then a demon swoops in and flies away with her. Jace and Luke dive into the water, swimming toward the ship.

Back at the Institute, it's obvious that the Inquisitor has made a grave mistake. Maryse and Robert call on all the shadowhunters they can locate to join the battle now that the Clave has not been called on in time to intervene.

Chapters 16 and 17 Analysis

The question of how Simon and Clary came to have these special powers is not answered in this book. Clary turns to Luke with the question of what Valentine did to her and Luke apparently knows the answer. However, when Clary asks the question, they are on the way to the river to meet Magnus and confront Valentine. Luke says it isn't the time to discuss that question. What's interesting is that some time has apparently passed before the opening of the next book and the question apparently still hasn't been addressed when that book begins.

There are several references to Biblical teachings, ideas, and stories. When Clary and the others are at the water's edge, Magnus quotes the Bible verse about Cain. He says he has always believed Cain might have been protected by a rune. The Bible says Cain was "marked" and Magnus says that mark "certainly protected him." Clary counters, citing the fact that Cain killed his brother. Jace points out that he and Clary are currently planning to kill their father. Clary argues that it isn't the same but can't explain how it's different.



Chapters 18 and 19

Chapters 18 and 19 Summary

In chapter eighteen, Clary is dropped in the ship's hold near Maia who tells her that Simon is dead. Jace and Luke get aboard the ship and are met by countless demons. Jace begins to fight and Luke turns into a werewolf to join the battle. Back in the hold, Clary can't believe that Simon is dead but Maia says she saw it happen, and that Simon's body had been left in the cell. Clary comes up with a new rune to create an opening in a wall and she and Maia begin trying to find their way out of the hold. Valentine finds Clary but Maia escapes.

Back on the deck, a large group of shadowhunters arrive and join the battle with Jace and Luke. Luke is injured and Jace tries to reach him but the Inquisitor pulls him aside. She creates a barrier around them and insists on talking to Jace. The Inquisitor says she owes Jace an apology and promises Alec and Isabelle won't be punished for helping him escape. A portion of Jace's shirt has been eaten away by demon poison, leaving his shirt bare. The Inquisitor points to a scar on Jace's shoulder and asks how he got it. He says it was a childhood injury. She then asks if he truly believed he was Michael Wayland's son and Jace is furious. He screams at her, saying he hasn't lied to her about anything. He fears she's going to say later that he refused to fight against Valentine's demons, so he pushes his way past her barrier and rejoins the fight.

Jace is immediately confronted by a huge demon and the Inquisitor steps in front of him, taking the sting of the demon in her chest and saving Jace's life. He rushes to her and she whispers something in his ear as she dies. He doesn't understand but doesn't have time to think about it. Jace, Alec, and Isabelle united to face a huge demon and Jace tries to get Alec and Isabelle out of harm's way. He is still fighting when he falls through a weak spot in the deck.

In chapter nineteen, Clary tries to fight Valentine but every effort is blocked, even down to verbal arguments. Valentine desperately needs to find Maia to complete his ritual and he says he plans to get the shadowhunters to find Maia, then trade Clary for her. Clary predicts they won't trade but Valentine believes they will. Back on Luke's truck, Alec plans to return to the fight on the ship but sees that Magnus is becoming weak. Alec remains, lending Magnus his energy to help sustain Magnus's spells.

Jace encounters Argamon posing as Valentine with the news that Clary is dead, but he recognizes the demon for what it is and kills it. Jace then finds Simon. Simon is obviously near death and Jace knows that if he had enough blood, he'd revive. Jace cuts his wrist and drops the blood into Simon's mouth. Simon revives and Jace heals himself from the blood loss with a healing rune. Simon and Jace find Valentine and Clary. Valentine realizes Jace gave Simon his blood and says Simon has "no idea" what he's done, but he doesn't elaborate. Valentine tries to goad Clary into killing Simon but she refuses. She gets a stele and begins to draw, letting her hands take over when



she's unsure what she should be doing. The ship is literally torn apart as the rune is finished and Clary is thrown into the water with the others. She regains consciousness in the bed of Luke's truck, headed for shore. Clary gets an update, including that several shadowhunters were killed and both Isabelle and her father were injured. It becomes clear they aren't going to make land before the sun rises and Simon knows he's going to be dead in a matter of minutes. However, when the sun rises, nothing happens to Simon.

Back at the Institute, Jace packs, preparing to leave. Maryse pleads with him to stay and he finally gives in.

Chapters 18 and 19 Analysis

Valentine is talking to Clary about ordinary things and the conversation seems wildly out of place for the situation. The author uses the conversation to present information about various aspects of the story line that have remained a mystery. Valentine says that Luke is in love with Jocelyn, a fact that Clary denies. She believes they are just friends and can't imagine that's not the case. She believes Luke and Jocelyn would have married or lived together if their relationship had been anything more than friendship. She'll later ask Luke about it and discover that Luke has offered to marry Jocelyn but never confessed his love for her. Valentine also points out that mundanes are unable to see the threats that live around them, including the demons that routinely visit the human world. Valentine says it's human nature to be afraid of things and to place blame. Since humans can't see the demonic presences, they find threats in other humans. He says this creates "generations of misery." This makes sense to some degree. Human nature is such that people will unite against a common enemy but often fight among themselves in times of "peace."

When Luke became a werewolf, he was a member of Valentine's group. Valentine reportedly gave Luke a knife after he became a werewolf and told him the honorable thing would be to commit suicide. Luke didn't and Valentine tells Clary that he should have killed Luke himself. Valentine says Luke is a demon but Clary sees Luke only as the man who has served as a surrogate father to her and who loves her. Valentine begins to tell stories of things other "demons" have done, such as killing young children and small animals in ruthless ways. Clary says she doesn't want to listen but Valentine says he has killed demons because they, as a whole, are evil. Clary hates that Valentine has set her up this way. She says it's impossible to disagree with him without looking as if she's a supporter of demons who kill innocent children. This is likely the kind of arguments Valentine used to create his initial group of followers.

The Faerie Queen had pledged to help when the time came to battle Valentine if she could. At the edge of the river, just before they head out to meet Valentine's ship, Jace throws a small piece of paper in the water. Clary doesn't question it but it's later revealed that it was a note to the Faerie Queen asking for help. She had in turned called on water fairies to be nearby and a fairy had dragged Clary to safety after the boat exploded.



Epilogue

Epilogue Summary

In the Epilogue, Clary goes to visit Simon who is still amazed at his ability to withstand sunlight. Simon says Raphael is angry about Simon's transformation and has no idea what caused it. Simon tells Clary that he doesn't think they should continue trying to have a romantic relationship. Clary questions him and Simon says he wants to stop hoping that Clary will someday fall in love with him. He says he would rather see someone else and hope he can someday fall in love with someone who loves him in return.

Luke is waiting when Clary leaves Simon's house. He says he can't help panicking whenever she isn't with him and that he plans to keep a close eye on her for the coming years. They head to the hospital and Clary questions Luke about his relationship with Jocelyn. He says he'd never told Jocelyn that he is in love with her and Clary says she thinks he should. Clary says she'd once asked her mother why she didn't date and that Jocelyn said she'd already given her heart away. Clary now believes it's Luke Jocelyn loves. Luke is amazed and says Clary has made him realize that a person who can't be truthful with loved ones also can't be truthful to himself. Clary asks Luke to drop her by the Institute, promising to go to the hospital later.

Clary encounters Jace and they go to a restaurant together. They talk about Valentine and what he might be planning next. Clary plans to tell Jace that she loves him but Jace broaches the subject first. He says he has decided that he's going to be everything a brother should be to Clary, and that he's not going to allow anything more between them than brotherly love. Clary is hurt but leaves without saying anything to contradict Jace. At the hospital, she sees a woman who is hidden from the mundanes by glamour. The woman introduces herself as Madeleine and says she knows why Jocelyn remains in a coma and that she can show Clary how to wake Jocelyn from her sleep.

Epilogue Analysis

The epilogue obviously serves as a lead in for the next book of the series, "City of Glass." The woman Clary meets at the hospital is the same woman she'd seen intervening in Jace's escape from the Institute just before the battle with Valentine. Madeleine's role in the story is not explained at this point and her presence in the next book is short-lived as she dies early.

Luke's conversation with Clary about his life, his relationship with Jocelyn, and his determination to keep Clary safe are evidence of his love for Jocelyn and Clary. Luke teases Clary, saying he's going to keep a close eye on her for the next few years and that he's going to let her date when she's about thirty.



Characters

Clary

Her real name is Clarissa and she has grown up without knowing about the Shadowhunters or that her mother has spent all of Clary's life hiding from them. Clary is a self-confident teenager with an artistic ability. Clary learns that she has always been able to see through the "glamour" that hides the demons and other ugly truths from the human world, but that her mother has taken her regularly to visit a warlock in order to have the memories erased, keeping Clary in the dark about her true abilities. Clary eventually comes to realize that her mother was trying to keep her safe from the lifestyle of the shadowhunter and from Clary's father, Valentine. Clary is not particularly afraid of the new life she's thrown into and fights for her newfound friends. A major struggle Clary faces is her feelings for Jace, who Clary believes is her biological brother. She feels love for Jace that she knows is not an acceptable emotion. There is a great deal of bigotry among the shadowhunters and the various "downworlders," such as vampires, werewolves, and faeries. Clary doesn't feel this, probably at least partly because she wasn't exposed to it as a youngster. Her attitudes begin healing some of that hatred and Jace saves Simon when it appears Simon is already dead because Clary would have expected it of him.

Jace

He has been raised as Jace Wayland but is told that his real name is Jonathan Christopher Morgenstern. Jace is a Shadowhunter who spent most of his childhood in exile with the man he believes is Michael Wayland though it was actually Valentine who raised him. Jace believes Valentine is his father and accepts this as fact though he hates the idea and feels love for Clary that is not acceptable for a brother-sister relationship. Jace is arrogant and self-confident but is also a thoughtful person who is highly devoted to those he loves. When he finds Simon aboard Valentine's ship, Jace's first thought is that he let Clary down by not saving him. When it's evident that blood would save Simon's life, Jace slits his own wrist. Jace comes to believe that he hasn't tested the limits of his abilities but the reason he is able to jump from the top of a building, landing unharmed, is not explained. When Jace confronts Valentine about the emerging situation, Valentine promises to spare the lives of those Jace loves if Jace will join him. Jace is obviously torn but stands up for what he believes is ultimately right. Jace has a wisecrack answer for almost everything though his humor is often an attempt to hide his true feelings. For example, Jace defends Simon when they go into the faerie court but later says he's "disappointed" that Simon didn't "have the presence of mind just to get drunk and pass out in some gutter."



Simon

A mundane, he is a normal teenager who grew up with Clary and who is deeply in love with her. Simon ingests a potion at the home of a wizard and turns into a rat. In this form he bites a vampire and, though he returns to his human form apparently no worse for the wear, he is unable to stay away from the vampires because he has consumed vampire blood, and is eventually turned to a vampire himself. Simon is seriously wounded by Valentine and left for dead. He is saved by Jace who gives Simon his own blood to rejuvenate him.

Luke

A werewolf who Clary has known as Luke, he is really a former shadowhunter named Lucian Graymark. Luke was very close to Clary's mother when Clary was a child and Clary looks at him as a father. When Clary's mother is in the hospital and it isn't clear whether she'll survive, Luke spends almost all his time at her bedside. Luke was among the original group of the Circle. Because he is now a werewolf, he is no longer part of the Clave or the shadowhunters.

Maia

A young girl who was brutalized by her brother before being turned into a werewolf. Maia sometimes tends the bookstore for Luke and fills in for him a great deal while Luke is visiting Jocelyn in the hospital. Maia seems to make a connection with Simon though Simon's love for Clary is so consuming that it takes him some time to realize it. Maia is kidnapped by Valentine as part of the ritual for summoning an army of demons, but she escapes.

Alec Lightwod

Brother of Isabelle, he is deeply in love with Jace and spends a great deal of time protecting both Isabelle and Jace. He is skilled as a shadowhunter but focuses less on killing demons than on protecting others. He is embarrassed that he is in love with Jace and that he's attracted to the wizard, Magnus Bane.

Magnus Bane

The high wizard of Brooklyn, he is self-confident to the point of arrogance and often seems bored with the situations involving Clary and the others. When Luke and Maia are bitten by demons, Magnus arrives and works magic to save them from the poison. Magnus is called on to create the magic that allows the shadowhunters aboard Valentine's ship. Magnus is very attracted to Alec and seems unperturbed that Alec is in love with Jace.



Isabelle Lightwood

Alec's sister, she is self-confident and able to take care of herself in almost any situation. She is initially unfriendly to Clary but admits soon after the opening of this book that she is pleased to have a girl for a friend.

Max Lightwood

Younger brother of Alec and Isabelle, he worships Jace. Max is a happy child who is growing up to be a shadowhunter like the rest of his family.

Maryse Lightwood

The woman who has raised Jace since he was about ten years old and his father apparently died. Maryse believes Jace is the son of Michael Wayland, who was her friend. She is angry when she comes to believe Jace is really Valentine's son and she tries to force Jace to stay away from her. It seems that Maryse is less a mother to Jace, her adopted son, than to her own children in some ways, but she is very dedicated to him in others. Maryse is self-confident and capable. When the situation involving Valentine becomes serious, she takes control.

Inquisitor Herondale

Her name is Imogene and she has the authority to question Jace about his connection with Valentine. She believes Valentine is responsible for the death of her son, Stephen. When she takes Jace into custody, she fully believes Valentine will give up the mortal instruments to save Jace. She comes to realize a truth about Jace's parentage but dies before she has a chance to tell anyone other than Jace, who doesn't understand the significance of her final words.



Objects/Places

Shadowhunter

A person who sees things as they really are, therefore sees the demons and other magical creatures. Shadowhunters are basically the justice-keepers of the underworld.

Mundane

The term used to describe ordinary humans who are not shadowhunters and who are unable to see demons and other magical creatures.

Church

The name of the cat who lives at the Institute and who serves as a guide, taking those who arrive in the building to the locations of those they seek.

The Institute

Housed in a former church, this is the headquarters of the shadowhunters in New York.

Glamour

A means of hiding the truth from humans. A shadowhunter might use glamour to hide themselves or even to disguise an entire building. Only other shadowhunters are able to see through the glamour.

The Clave

The governing body of the shadowhunters

Bone City

Located under the cemetery, it's the location of the cells where Jace is being held when Valentine kills the Silent Brothers to get the sword.

Maellartach

Otherwise known as the Mortal Sword, this is the sword Valentine gets from the Silent City.



Night Children

The vampires.

Lycanthrope

The werewolves, also called Moon Children.

Steele

The small wandlike piece of equipment every shadowhunter carries, it has the ability to create charms through the use of runes.

Runes

Groups of symbols used to accomplish specific goals, such as healing, locking, or unlocking.



Themes

Prejudice

The various species and kinds of people tend to be very prejudiced toward each other. Maia and Simon are attracted to each other but when Maia realizes Simon is a vampire, she is repelled. Simon, who has not been a downworlder long enough to develop those prejudices, is angry at Maia's reaction. Isabelle hints at being interested in various people, mainly downworlders, and the indication is that she is doing so because her parents wouldn't approve. These alliances could be compared to that of various races and/or cultures of civilization throughout the ages. There have always been cultures, races, or even cliques that considered others beneath them. The fact that Simon is a mundane as the story opens makes him the target of disdain from the shadowhunters though Jace is the one who is most vocal about his feelings toward Simon. When Jace is upset over the situation with Maryse, he goes to a werewolf bar and picks a fight by making dog jokes. The prejudice borders on hatred though there is some interaction and mutual respect among the various races. The shadowhunters have a duty to protect downworlders as a whole from demons but they have also had this prejudice handed down through the generations. As is often the case with prejudice of this type, it crumbles somewhat when people from the various races begin to learn about each other on an individual level. Jace has likely never known any vampire as personally as he knows Simon and Jace's dislike of Simon doesn't dissolve completely, but does change somewhat. When it's evident that Simon is near death on Valentine's ship, Jace gives Simon his blood in order to save Simon's life.

The Importance of Family

Jace was raised by Valentine who he believed was named Michael Wayland. When Valentine died, Jace is taken in by the Lightwoods. Jace misses his family connections, and shows some mental anguish over the lack of that close parental bond. It seems he would have formed that bond with Maryse Lightwood but there has apparently always been something preventing Maryse from making that full connection. Jace points out that Maryse had sang a specific song to her biological children but had never sang to Jace. Maryse says it's because Jace was never afraid of the dark but Jace contradicts her, saying that every child is afraid of the dark at some point. When Jace learns the man who raised him was really Valentine, he knows others expect him to renounce his father as an evil man, but Jace cannot. Though he hates what Valentine is trying to do and even though Valentine abandoned him, Jace knows Valentine as his father. That bond exists and Jace tries to explain that to Alec by pointing out that Alec wouldn't be able to renounce his own parents. This theme is also seen in the character of Inquisitor Herondale. The Inquisitor's son died and she has spent most of her life angry over that loss. Inquisitor Herondale apparently figures out something about Jace's parentage just before she dies trying to save him, but those details are not revealed in this story. In another aspect of this theme, Clary has been raised by her mother, Jocelyn, with Luke



serving the role of a close relative. When Jocelyn is hospitalized, Clary is alone but Luke steps in and serves the role of guardian. Luke considers Clary and Jocelyn his family even though he serves as leader of a werewolf pack.

Belief in demons and downworlders

The very idea that vampires, werewolves, faeries, wizards, demons, and magic exist are necessary and that belief becomes an important theme in the story. Shadowhunters and others use "glamour" to hide the truth from normal humans, called "mundanes" in this story. The shadowhunters and downworlders can see through the glamour but mundanes see only what the glamour intends them to see. For example, the Institute appears to humans as an abandoned, dilapidated church but is actually a formidable building used by downworlders in the city. Clary has always been able to see through the glamour but her mother has taken her periodically to see a wizard who erases her memories of those things. When Clary is finally able to see through the glamour, she learns that demons and downworlders exist. With this knowledge, she is faced with the need to fight alongside other shadowhunters in order to save the world. While the shadowhunters, including Luke and Jocelyn, have always accepted the presence of demons and other downworlders, Clary is forced to confront the knowledge and accept it. Similarly, Simon is brought into the situation because of his connection to Clary and when he learns that demons and downworlders exist, he is forced to accept it as fact. Another example of this theme is seen in the young werewolf Maia. Maia was a normal teenager who had lived through an abusive childhood until her abuser - her older brother - was killed. Much later, Maia was bitten by a werewolf and turned into one herself. Maia says she came to believe in werewolves and vampires because she could understand they were "people with a disease," but that it took much longer for her to believe in demons.

Style

Point of View

"City of Ashes" is written in third person from a relatively omniscient perspective. The point of view changes from one character to another as scenes and events change. For example, the book opens with Valentine in a room with a young wizard named Elias who is summoning a powerful demon named Agramon. That scene is presented largely from Valentine's perspective. The demon arrives and breaks through the bonds Elias created. The reader doesn't know why Agramon breaks out until much later when Valentine tells Jace about it. Most of the time, the perspective reverts to Clary when she's present in the scene. At one point, Clary talks to her mother while her mother is unconscious in the hospital. She doesn't realize Luke has entered the room until she's done with her narrative and Luke reveals himself. This is an example of the action from Clary's point of view. There are exceptions. In chapter twelve, Clary and Simon are sent to the kitchen while Luke tends Maia's wounds. There, Simon watches Clary as she is "biting her lip like she always did when she was upset." This is Simon's perspective of the scene, and gives the reader some insight into both Simon and Clary, including that Simon has spent years watching Clary and knows her so well that he recognizes this small sign of her distress. The use of the omniscient perspective is appropriate because no single character is in all the scenes.

Setting

The story is set in modern day New York with a fictional story line. The time and place settings are obvious because there are references to places and technology that establish both the time and location. An important piece of technology is the cell phone. Most of the characters rely on cell phones though there is a great deal of magic involved in the story and some of the communication is apparently done magically. For example, there are portals that allow traveling from one place to another through the use of magic. When Valentine "arrives" at the Institute to talk with the Inquisitor about her threat to kill Jace, he does so as an apparition, apparently similar to that of a hologram of sorts. However, when Jace, Clary, Magnus, and Luke go to the boat where Valentine is holding Simon and Maia, they stay in touch with Alex and Isabelle by cell phone. There are many specific settings within the story. A great deal of the planning and character interaction occurs at Luke's apartment which is near his bookstore and the Institute where Jace and the Lightwood children study. Other specific settings include the boat where Valentine is creating his army of demons, Simon's house, an abandoned hotel that is home to vampires, and a cemetery. There is a great deal of detail about the various settings, including how they look, smell, sound, and feel. For example, Jace notes the sound of "oily water" slapping against Valentine's boat. The use of the overall setting of New York is an important aspect of the story because it lends a level of credibility that might not otherwise exist.



Language and Meaning

There are many words and phrases that are specific to "City of Ashes", and in many cases they refer to the jobs of the shadowhunters or the tools of their trade. The "steele" and the "rune" are prime examples. The steele refers to a wandlike tool carried by every member of the shadowhunters. This tool's main purpose is to create spells or charms. For example, Isabelle uses her steele to lock the door so that Max can't follow them to the Bone City to try to rescue Jace. The steele is used on several occasions to heal someone who has been hurt and Clary uses her steele to open the door of the cell where Jace is being held. In most cases, these words are defined so the reader will understand the references. There are also places in which the characters use derogatory language toward members of different species. The young werewolf at the Hunter's Moon is referred to as a "cub" by the bartender. In another place in that same setting, Jace calls the werewolf an even more derogatory name but that word is omitted from the book just as if it were a curse word the reader would recognize. The story is written in a straight forward manner though many of the words are those of an advance vocabulary. The sheer volume of difficult words may mean some readers don't understand pieces of the story. The overall tone of the story is one of hope though there is an undercurrent of fear and suspense.

Structure

The story is divided into three "parts." They are titled A Season in Hell, The Gates of Hell, and Day of Wrath. These titles are dark and foreboding, obviously intended to make the reader expect danger and suspense. The first part consists of seven chapters. They are titled Valentine's Arrow, The Hunter's Moon, The Inquisitor, The Cuckoo in the Nest, Sins of the Fathers, City of Ashes, and The Mortal Sword. Part two consists of chapters eight through thirteen. These chapters are titled The Seelie Court, And Death Shall Have No Dominion, A Fine and Private Place, Smoke and Steel, The Hostility of Dreams, and A Host of Rebel Angels. The final part includes chapters fourteen through nineteen. They are titled Fearless, The Serpent's Tooth, A Stone of the Heart, East of Eden, Darkness Visible, and Dies Irae. The book ends with an epilogue. The book is the second book of Mortal Instruments series. The first of these is the City of Bones. While the City of Ashes can be read and enjoyed as a stand-alone book, readers without the knowledge of the first book will find they don't have the full story on some aspects of the book. For example, it's never fully explained in this book how Clary comes to know Jace, Alec, and Isabelle. The details of that meeting are fully explained only in book one. Another important aspect of the book is the relationship between Jace and Clary. There is obviously some sexual tension between them but the reader doesn't have the full story of their meeting and the romance that is budding between Jace and Clary before they learn they are siblings. The story is the second of a trilogy. The book could theoretically be read as a stand-alone novel but the reader may not fully understand the events without having read the first of the trilogy. The book does not come to a satisfactory conclusion and leaves a great many questions unanswered, obviously an effort on the part of the author to encourage the purchase of the final book of the series.



Quotes

"There was ale by the yard, and nobody ever carded you to see if you were under twenty-one. Being a lycanthrope made you grow up fast, and as long as you sprouted hair and fangs once a month, you were good to drink at the Moon, no matter how old you were in mundane years." Chapter 2

"Vampires and werewolves were just people with a disease, that much she understood, but expecting her to believe in all that heaven and hell crap, demons and angels, and still nobody could tell her for sure if there was a God or not, or where you went after you died?" Chapter 2

"The place smelled smoky and gamy, a little like - Clary had to admit it, though she wouldn't have said so to Luke - wet dog." Chapter 2

"That you freed a possible criminal by trading away your brother to a warlock who looks like a gay Sonic the Hedgehog and dresses like the Child Catcher from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang?" Chapter 8

"Every time I annoy him, he retreats into his No Mundanes Allowed tree house." Chapter 8

"The Clave is hopelessly corrupt and must be destroyed and built again." - Valentine, Chapter 13

"Magnus winked at her. 'I was alive when the Dead Sea was just a lake that was feeling a little poorly.'" Chapter 14

"Only now they stood in front of him, a cacophony of demons: the bone-white Raum that had attacked them at Luke's; Oni demons with their greed bodies, wide mouths, and horns; the slinking black Kuri demons, spider demons with their eight pincer-tipped arms and the poison-dripping fangs that protruded from their eye sockets - . Jace couldn't count them all." Chapter 16

"Other crack teams get bat boomerangs and wall-crawling powers; we get the Aquatruck." - Clary as they are driving to Valentine's ship in Luke's truck. Chapter 17

"I supposed we have only ourselves to blame, your mother and I; having kept you two apart so long, you never developed the revulsion toward each other that would be more natural between siblings." Chapter 18

"'I'll just be your brother from now on,' he said, looking at her with a hopeful expectation that she would be pleased, which made her want to scream that he was smashing her heart to pieces and he had to stop." Epilogue

"I mean I can show you how to wake your mother up." - Madeleine, the final sentence of the Epilogue



Topics for Discussion

Describe Clary. What kind of character is she? What is her life like as a shadowhunter? Is she likeable? Believable? What are her strengths and weaknesses?

Describe Jace. What kind of character is he? What is his life like and what are some of the hardships he's faced? Is he likeable? Believable? What are his strengths and weaknesses?

Describe Valentine. What made him into the villain he is? What is his role in the story? What are his plans for the mortal instruments? What is his connection to Jace and Clary? Do you believe he is Jace's father? Why or why not?

Who is Simon? What is his connection to Clary? To Jace? What kind of character is he? What caused him to become a vampire? What is the strange change that he undergoes near the end of the book? Can this change be explained in this book?

Who are Isabelle and Alec? What are their roles in the lives of Jace and Clary? What is their relationship to each other? What kind of characters are they? What are their strengths and weaknesses?

Describe Luke. What is his role in Clary's life? What is Luke's history with the shadowhunters and why is he now living outside the shadowhunter society? What are Luke's strengths and weaknesses as a character? Is he likeable? Believable? Why or why not?

Describe the life of a shadowhunter. What is the role of a shadowhunter in modern society? If you were a shadowhunter, what would your role be in the shadowhunter society?

Who is Max? Maryse? Imogen? Maia? Jocelyn? What are their roles in the story?

Who is Magnus Bane? What is his role in the story? What kind of character is he? Is he likeable? Why or why not?