

City of Heavenly Fire Study Guide

City of Heavenly Fire by Cassandra Clare

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Plot Summary

“City of Heavenly Fire” by Cassandra Clare is the sixth installment in the Mortal Instruments series by Cassandra Clare, and follows Clare’s efforts to kill her evil brother, Sebastian, thus stopping him from destroying Earth. When the novel begins, Clary’s boyfriend Jace is attempting to relax in order to control the Heavenly Fire inside him. Clary and Jace, along with their friends Jordan, his girlfriend Maia, Simon, his girlfriend Isabelle, and Alec are stunned to learn that Sebastian has attacked six Shadowhunter Institutes around the world, including one in Los Angeles. There are handful of survivors, all children. These include Emma Carstairs, and Julian Blackthorn and his younger siblings. Under such a threat, many of the Shadowhunters are evacuated to the secret dimension city of Alicante, in the land of Idris.

Sebastian sends a message to Jia Penhallow, Consul of the Grand Council, in which he says he will spare Alicante if Jace and Clary are given up to him. Meanwhile, Sebastian attacks and destroys Praetor Lupus on the North Fork of Long Island. Among the dead is Jordan. Maia is devastated. She begins to rally the wolf pack in New York to stand against Sebastian, but the wolf pack has little inclination to stand and fight alongside the Shadowhunters. They believe their leader, Luke, who is engaged to Jocelyn, Clary’s mother, is weak and ineffectual. A survivor of the Praetor massacre, Rufus Hastings, is urging everyone to abandon Luke and the Shadowhunters and to join with Sebastian. Sebastian, meanwhile, kidnaps representatives of each of the Downworlder races – Luke of the werewolves, Raphael of the vampires, Magnus of the warlocks, and Jocelyn. He intends to force them to join his side. They all refuse, and Raphael is killed for his refusal.

Maia comes to challenge Rufus for leadership in the pack, and defeats him. She then organizes the wolf pack to prepare to stand with the Shadowhunters should the need arise. She also kills Maureen Brown, rogue leader of the most powerful New York vampire coven, installing Lily as the leader in Maureen’s place. The vampires decide to ally with Maia and the werewolves, coming to realize that if they don’t all stand together against Sebastian, they will all be destroyed. A captured demon reveals plans for the forces of evil to attack Alicante the following night, so Maia sends on a warning to Jia.

Clary, Jace, Simon, Isabelle, and Alec decide to confront Sebastian. To do so, they must take a path to the demon dimension of Edom in Hell. The only accessible path lies through the Seelie Court of the Faerie People. Clary draws a portal to the Seelie Kingdom, where she and the others learn that the faeries have allied with Sebastian, and are helping him to attack Institutes across the world. Entering Edom, Clary, Jace, Simon, Isabelle, and Alec must journey across Hellish wasteland, through caves, and battle demons to arrive at a dark version of Alicante. In the Dark Gard, Sebastian confronts Clary and Jace while Simon, Isabelle, and Alec free Magnus, Luke, and Jocelyn. At the same time, the real world version of Alicante comes under attack from the Endarkened, demons, faeries, and wild faeries. Sebastian promises to spare Alicante if Clary agrees to rule Earth and Hell as his queen. Clary agrees with a kiss, but stabs Sebastian. As Sebastian dies, the evil drains from him, and he apologizes for



everything he has done. Luke then destroys the Infernal Cup, which kills the Endarkened. Without them, the entire attack on Alicante falls apart and is defeated. However, Clary and everyone else are now trapped in Edom.

Magnus summons his father, Asmodeus, one of the Nine Princes of Hell. He is willing to give up his immortality for a safe return to Earth. Simon intervenes, and requests his immortality be taken away because he never wanted to be a vampire. Asmodeus also wants to take away all of Simon's memories of his friends and girlfriend. Simon agrees to save the others. He goes back to live a normal, average human life while the others go on without him.

The faeries are punished for their scheming and violence. Jocelyn and Luke get married. Peace is returned to the world. The Blackthorn children and Emma are taken in by Uncle Arthur Blackthorn who comes to set up shop in Los Angeles to restore the Institute there. Isabelle and Clary, unable to let Simon go, seek him out in the human world. Clary confronts Simon, but Simon does not remember. Simon is then confronted by Isabelle and Magnus. Magnus uses magic to restore some of Simon's memories, while Simon's love for Isabelle reawakens others in him. By the end of the novel, Simon appears poised to continue recollecting his memories. He also agrees to date Isabelle to see what will come of it, and is very excited about its prospects.



Prologue – Part 1, Chapter 5, Measure of Revenge

Summary

Prologue, Fall Like Rain – It is December 2007 at the Los Angeles Institute. Emma Carstairs's parents are killed while investigating demonic activity at the beach caves of Leo Carrillo, unknown to Emma. Emma is best friends with Julian "Jules" Blackthorn, son of Andrew Blackthorn, head of the Institute. Emma's weapon is named "Cortana" for "short sword", a blade designed by the Wayland family and in Emma's family for generations. Julian has other full and half-related siblings including Mark, Tiberius "Ty", Octavian, Livia, Drusilla, and Helen. Helen is currently in Idris with her girlfriend, Aline. Emma has a crush on Julian. While Emma trains with Julian, Sebastian attacks the LA Institute. Julian and Emma try to round up the Blackthorn siblings. Emma discovers that Sebastian has the Infernal Cup and is forcing others to his side, including Katarina. Those joining Sebastian are now referred to as "The Endarkened". Unable to save the others, Julian and Emma burst through a portal to the Idris.

Part 1

Chapter 1, The Portion of Their Cup – Jace Lightwood is in Central Park with his siblings Isabelle and Alec, his girlfriend Clary, and his friends Jordan, and Simon. They are attempting to help Jace relax, but Jace says he cannot do this since he was brought up a warrior. Jordan heads out to meet his girlfriend, Maia. Alec is handling his breakup with Magnus Bane poorly, texting Magnus often. Jace thinks it is too much, so he breaks Alec's phone. They all know that it is only a matter of time before Sebastian returns to fight them. They all worry about whether or not the Clave will be prepared for the Endarkened. Much of it stems from disbelief that Shadowhunters could kill other Shadowhunters. However, wards are being shored up in Idris and Alicante, and the ward failure in Wrangel Island, seat of all the world's wards, is being addressed. The Iron Sisters are churning out thousands of weapons for a war, while the Warlocks of the Spiral Labyrinth are seeking a way to reverse the effects of the Infernal Cup. Jace's body still contains the Heavenly Fire of Michael the Archangel's sword, Glorious.

Jace swings by Magnus's place to tell Magnus he should get back together with Alec. Clary and Simon go Christmas shopping. Simon has no idea what to get Isabelle, his girlfriend, while Clary intends to get Jace some sheet music. Simon is still unhappy about being a vampire against his will. Clary's mother Jocelyn, and Jocelyn's fiancé Luke, then arrive to bring Clary to the New York Institute. There, Clary learns there have been attacks on institutes around the world, from Moscow to Los Angeles. All are victims of Sebastian and his growing army of Endarkened. Maryse reveals that all institutes have been ordered to be evacuated, with all Conclaves reporting to Alicante, with the wards around Idris being doubled. No one will be allowed in or out.



Chapter 2, Stand or Fall – In Idris, Helen tells Emma that Sebastian has attacked six institutes. All of the Blackthorn children have made it through. Mark has not been turned because Mark has faerie blood in him. It is revealed to Emma that her parents are dead. This hurts her greatly, so she hugs Cortana, causing herself to bleed. Meanwhile, Clary meets with Simon outside the New York Institute as the Shadowhunters begin the evacuation. Clary feels bad that Simon cannot go, but Simon says he will be okay. He knows Maureen Brown is looking for him, but also knows he can count on Jordan for help. Simon then meets with Isabelle. Isabelle worries for Simon's safety, thinking he could be hostage material for Sebastian. They almost confess they love each other. Isabelle confirms they are fully in a relationship now, and then leaves through the portal. Magnus arrives to talk to Alec, but insists he can't be with Alec because Alec is mortal. Magnus says he can't change who he is based on the past, but Alec believes he can.

Chapter 3, Birds to the Mountain – Jocelyn, Luke, and Clary will be staying in Amatis's house in Idris. Jocelyn tells Clary to dress in mourning clothes out of respect for the dead Shadowhunters at the coming Council meeting. Jocelyn has the silver box of Sebastian's old things, which Luke insists Jocelyn must tell the Council about. Jocelyn says she wishes she would have killed Sebastian when he was a baby. Jace, walking to the meeting with Clary, thinks Sebastian made sure Jocelyn would find the silver box as an insult, signature, or some kind of message. The Clave Council meeting is then convened at the Gard. Hundreds of Shadowhunters attend. Some cannot believe that Endarkened exist at all. Information is presented that a wounded Endarkened, formerly the Shadowhunter Amalric Kriegsmesser, has been captured. He is being studied by warlocks to see if anything can be done to undo the Infernal Cup's effects.

The Blackthorne survivors are brought out. Julian recounts the events of the attack. Emma then reveals she stabbed Sebastian in the heart, who laughed and said that he cannot be killed except with a weapon like Glorious. She then rushes out of the meeting. Aline grants Clary permission to speak to Emma. She gets Emma to open up to her by explaining she too has a boy best friend, and asking about Emma's stele, Cortana. Emma recounts details of the attack, such as Mark not being turned because he has faerie blood. Clary tells Emma she is a hero for what she has been through. She says heroes don't always win, and what makes them heroes is that they don't give up. Emma is amazed that Jace Lightwood is Clary's boyfriend. Emma tells Clary if she is Jace's girlfriend, she needs a better sword.

Chapter 4, Darker than Gold – Clary goes to see Jace, Alec, and Isabelle. Isabelle reveals the Council is at odds over whether or not Sebastian is invulnerable, how Jace who contains the Heavenly Fire might help, or if Sebastian can be captured. Isabelle believes the Council needs to worry about defeating, rather than curing the Endarkened. Jace and Clary stroll through Alicante, the City of Glass. They kiss, and as things heat up, so does Jace. He burns the stone wall against which he is kissing Clary. Clary then asks Jace for his help to find a new sword. Meanwhile, it is revealed that Sebastian has been sleeping with the Seelie Queen. The Seelie Queen meets with Meliorn, a knight and representative of the faeries on the Council. He reports that their own dark forces are awaiting orders at the Fortress of Edom. He also reports that the Council knows Sebastian is behind the attacks, that the faeries are not suspected of taking part, and



that the Blackthorn children survived. He reveals that Clary and Jace are in Idris, and that the Endarkened need more soldiers and weapons.

Simon, Jordan, and Maia get together at their apartment. Simon speaks of Clary saying that he and Isabelle need to define their relationship. Simon decides to get takeout, but a dark Shadowhunter tries to kill him. Jordan and Maia leap to his defense and take out the Endarkened. They order Simon to leave through the fire escape. On the sidewalk, he is surrounded and taken prisoner by vampires from the Hotel Dumort clan. Among them are Zeke and Lily, who say that Maureen sends her regards.

Chapter 5, Measure of Revenge – Jordan and Maia are panicked because they cannot find Simon. They travel out to Praetor Lupus headquarters on the North Fork of Long Island. It has been destroyed by Sebastian, and dozens of werewolves are dead. Sebastian then kills Jordan. Magnus goes to Hunter's Moon, a bar run by Sneaky Pete and catering to primarily werewolves. Bat Velasquez, temporary head of the Manhattan wolf pack to which Luke runs, is drinking there. Catarina, another werewolf, speaks to Magnus about how much Alec seems to mean to him, and how a war with evil is coming. Catarina encourages Magnus to be with Alec, and to help the mortals.

Catarina, serving on the Great Council in Magnus's stead, gives him his position back so he can go to Idris to see Alec when the Great Council of all Shadowhunters and Downworlders is convened. She reveals as well that all Downworlders are to dine with Meliorn of the Fair Folk the night before the Council. Bat then gets a call from Maia, and reports the destruction of the Praetor to Magnus. Simon wakes up in a cage. He is being kept and dressed by Maureen, who insists she will let him out when he is ready, when he falls in love with her. Maureen explains she is now queen of the coven. Simon realizes it is all his fault.

Analysis

"City of Heavenly Fire" by Cassandra Clare is the sixth installment in the Mortal Instruments series by Cassandra Clare, and follows Clare's efforts to kill her evil brother, Sebastian, thus stopping him from destroying Earth. As the novel begins, the reader is introduced to the full fury of Sebastian's hatred and evil through his merciless attack on the Los Angeles Institute. Here, the effects of war can clearly be seen in Sebastian's brutal handling of even children. Sebastian has no qualms about killing unarmed and innocent Shadowhunters, or converting them to his side through the Infernal Cup. The reader recognizes that the politics of war for Sebastian are simple: join him or die.

Meanwhile, the reader will note that Jace says he is only ever truly at peace when he is at war. This might seem like a comedic statement, but Jace intends it seriously. He has been raised to war, meaning that war has become his natural state. Nevertheless, he attempts to relax and to control the Heavenly Fire that burns within him. This is best seen through the scene in Central Park when all of Jace's friends attempt to help him relax. Here, the theme of friendship is explored through the efforts of everyone to help Jace gain control of himself and the immense power he now wields, in addition to the



fact that they simply enjoy spending time with one another. The loyalty borne of this friendship will have tremendous importance much later in the novel.

Guilt also proves to be an important theme early on in the novel. Choices have consequences, some good and some bad. This is reflected in the characters of Jocelyn, Simon, and Alec. Jocelyn has been carrying guilt with her for months, ever since it was revealed that her adoptive son Sebastian had turned evil and allied himself with Hell. Jocelyn blames herself for not having killed Sebastian as a baby when his demon influence was discovered. Simon, meanwhile, carries guilt for having unintentionally begun the transformation of Maureen from a normal girl into a vampire. Maureen has been on a rampage across New York, feeding like crazy and coming to lead the most powerful of New York vampire clans. Simon blames this all on himself. Alec also struggles with guilt for having conspired to take away Magnus's immortality without Magnus's permission. This has led to the two breaking up in the previous novel, but it is not something which Alec has been able to get over.

The choices that characters have made also come to heavily influence the theme of the past. The guilt that Jocelyn, Simon, and Alec all face are due directly to the past choices that they have made. Jocelyn's refusal to kill Sebastian as an infant ultimately leads to Sebastian's survival and ability to grow up as the right hand of the forces of evil. Simon's refusal to adapt to his life as a vampire leads to a hunger-induced reaction where he feeds on the first person he can find – Maureen – and making possible her transformation into a vampire. Now, she is on a rampage across New York. Alec's selfishness in trying to rob Magnus of his immortality so that Magnus will not live beyond Alec and be with someone else has led to their breakup and heartache on both sides.

But just as Alec and Magnus struggle with the aftermath of their relationship, the relationships between Clary and Jace, and Simon and Isabelle grow stronger. Clary and Jace are ever as committed to one another as before, but Jace harbors the fear – borne of love – that he will somehow get Clary hurt in all the turmoil that is coming. Likewise, Clary seeks to defeat Sebastian, but worries about Jace getting hurt in the process. This is worry borne of love. Meanwhile, Simon and Isabelle continue to grow closer, having overcome most of their trust issues. Isabelle still worries that Simon may have feelings for Clary, but Simon insists this is not so. The love that is growing between them – obvious but unspoken – leads to the heartbreaking leaving scene when Isabelle must go to Alicante, and Simon must stay behind in New York.

Discussion Question 1

Why are many of the world's Shadowhunters evacuated to Alicante? What is hoped this will accomplish? How do Clary and Jace feel about this move? Why?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Jace explain he only ever feels truly at peace when he is at war? How do the others, especially Clary, take this statement? Why?



Discussion Question 3

Do you believe that Jocelyn bears responsibility for Sebastian's evil reign as she claims she does? Or do you believe that Luke says what is happening isn't Jocelyn's fault? Why?

Vocabulary

exaggerated, verdigris, thwart, baffling, philosophy, orifices, abruptly, inopportune, impish, invulnerable, materialize, perfunctory, quirked, attuned, loftily



Chapter 6, Brother Lead and Sister Steel – Chapter 10, These Violent Delights

Summary

Chapter 6, Brother Lead and Sister Steel – Emma and the Blackthorn kids now live in the well-furnished attic of the Penhallows' house. Helen appears to tell them that Sebastian's attack on the London Institute was unsuccessful, and that Uncle Arthur Blackthorn is alright. This makes the Blackthorn kids, now known as the "War Orphans", feel better. Emma and Julian hope Sebastian is captured and executed slowly in public in Angel Square. Meanwhile, Simon wakes up to find Raphael inside his cage. Raphael says he and Simon are on the same side against Maureen, who is insane and follows no laws. Raphael has been ordered to attend the Council, and wants to take Simon with him as proof the Council can trust him. The Council can then be told about Maureen, at which time official action can be taken against her, leaving Raphael to assume command of the vampire clan.

Meanwhile, Clary and Jace go to Diana's Arrow, a weapons shop. There, Clary is given Heosphoros by Diana. The name "Heosphoros" means "Dawn-bringer", and is the smaller of a set of two swords commissioned by Valentine Morganstern from Wayland the Smith. The larger, "Phaosphoros" for "Light-bringer", is currently carried by Sebastian. The two swords are made of gold, black gold, and adamas. Heosphoros is worthless because nobody wants to buy a Morganstern sword, which is why Diana says it is a gift. She goes on to speak of the London Institute surviving Sebastian's attack because the London Institute had special wards no one knew about. Clary then goes with Jace to the Hall of Accords to cleanse and consecrate her sword. Jace worries that he himself is too much like Sebastian, because even though he was under Sebastian's spell, he liked plotting and destroying. Clary insists he is nothing like Jace.

Word then comes that the Adamant Citadel is under attack by Sebastian and his dark legions. Robert Lightwood is organizing relief, and Jace learns that they are going to try to capture and bring back the Endarkened. Jace believes it will be a slaughter, that the loved ones of the Endarkened will hesitate and be killed. Robert says he is following the orders of the Clave. Some fifty Shadowhunters respond to the call to help the Citadel. Clary and Jace decide to go, too.

Chapter 7, Clash by Night – Robert has refused to allow his children, Isabelle and Alec, to go to the Citadel. Isabelle confronts her father with the knowledge that she knows he cheated on their mother, Maryse. Isabelle accuses her father of being glad her baby brother, Max, is dead so that he doesn't have to stick around anymore. Robert insists this is not true. Suddenly, Alec collapses in pain, speaking of the need to open a portal. The battle between Sebastian's Endarkened and the good Shadowhunters is raging when Clary and Jace arrive through the portal to the Citadel. They watch as Jason, a turned Shadowhunter, kills his sister who has hesitated to kill him.



More Endarkened arrive, which Jace realizes is part of a trap. He directs Clary to draw an escape portal. She is captured instead by Amatis. Clary wants to know how Sebastian has gained so many Endarkened, but Amatis ignores the question. Suddenly, Jace arrives. Clary turns the tables on Amatis and takes her prisoner. Sebastian and Jace confront one another. They battle and Jace is injured. The injury rebounds on Sebastian. The Iron Sisters come to Jace's defense, and Sebastian escapes through chasms he opens up in the earth. Brother Zachariah moves to help, but the Heavenly Fire from Jace sets Zachariah on fire. Jace is horrified, but Clary comes forward to heal him. She passes out as she does so.

Chapter 8, Strength in What Remains – Raphael and Simon arrive in Alicante, and sense something is wrong. Raphael travels to the house given to the vampire representative on the Council. Simon and Isabelle find one another on the streets. She is thrilled to see him, and embraces him. She wants to kill Maureen. Magnus studies Sebastian's silver box. He senses no dark magic about it. Magnus reveals the extra protection the London Institute has is a ghost sworn to the place who warned them about the attack in advance. Magnus reveals that he has learned through Maia and Catarina Loss that Sebastian has no issue with Downworlders, and will only attack those who side with the Shadowhunters. Jocelyn and Luke worry the Downworlders will abandon the Shadowhunters because of this and the Praetor massacre. Helen Blackthorn then arrives with news of Clary.

Maia wakes up from a nightmare. Her brother, Daniel, comforts her. Maia is still stunned that Jordan is dead. She insists that Jordan's Praetor pendant should be given to Simon. She also reveals that Sebastian has wanted a message passed on about how he will only stop when he has died or has achieved revenge. Bat reveals to Maia that because Luke is in Idris, his loyalty to the pack is being questioned by a massacre survivor, Rufus Hastings. Bat himself, as a Luke appointee, is also under suspicion. Meanwhile, Alec meets with Isabelle and Simon to explain that he felt some sort of connection to Jace, that something happened with the Heavenly Fire that isn't good. Everyone rushes to the Basilius hospital for the return of the survivors. Luke reveals to Simon that Sebastian's wounding of Jace caused the Heavenly Fire to rebound on Sebastian. Clary has saved Jace's life but injured herself as well. Luke also reveals that he has learned that Jordan is dead, and that Maia wanted Simon to have Jordan's Praetor Lupus pendant.

Chapter 9, The Arms You Bear – As Clary regains consciousness, she has the afterimage of a rune composed of wings connected by a single bar. Jocelyn is there as she wakes up, assuring her that Jace is fine. Jocelyn reveals that Clary has nearly killed herself healing Jace, expending too much energy to save him. It is revealed that Magnus is responsible for saving Clary's life. Jocelyn is angered that Clary and Jace decided to join a battle they were ordered not to join. Clary reveals she went to warn people that the Endarkened could not be reasoned with or turned back. She reveals that Luke's sister is now Sebastian's second-in-command. Jocelyn questions where Clary found Heosphorous, saying she sold it to a weapons shop years ago. Clary explains it was given as a gift. Clary is then told about Jordan's death and the destruction of



Praetor Lupus, which horrifies her. Simon then comes to see Clary. Clary is grateful he is safe.

Maia, meanwhile, confesses to Bat that she was no longer in love with Jordan when he died. Bat tells her she can't blame herself for it. Jace goes to see Brother Zachariah. Zachariah has been transformed by the Heavenly Fire into a young man, a parabatai whose other half is dead. Zachariah says he became a Silent Brother to save himself from dark magic, but has been healed and restored by the Heavenly Fire. He tells Jace the Heavenly Fire means that Jace is the weapon of Heaven. He tells Jace to make sure he is worthy. Returning home from Raphael's for some blood for Simon, Clary discovers Sebastian waiting in her bedroom.

Chapter 10, These Violent Delights – Sebastian reveals he is there to offer Clary a second chance, a chance at mercy when he wins the war. If Clary stands with him, he will not Turn her into an Endarkened. He will also spare Jace. However, if Clary refuses, he will turn everyone she loves into an Endarkened and force her to watch until she herself is Turned. Clary refuses, saying she will never join Sebastian, and that she will never love him. Clary then strikes Sebastian with Heosphoros, cutting him. Sebastian pins Clary down, demanding to know where she got the weapon. Jace suddenly appears, causing Sebastian to stop. Jace thinks Sebastian is looking for approval for what he has done, since he has given them so many second chances. Sebastian stabs Jace in the chest, then disappears. Clary and Jace then recover. Jace knows Sebastian is afraid of the Heavenly Fire. Jace admits he is afraid of Sebastian because Sebastian is so clever.

Magnus attends dinner with Meliorn, Luke, and the other Downworlders. The discussion of whether or not to abandon the Shadowhunters is had. Magnus opposes this while Meliorn and Raphael believes the Shadowhunters should be left to deal with Sebastian. The wine served to everyone has been drugged, and Magnus and the others pass out as the Endarkened arrive. Maia, meanwhile, does her best to settle in with the Manhattan wolf pack again. Leila Haryana cautions Maia about her loyalty to Luke and Bat. Maia decides to confront Rufus for turning everyone against Luke and for encouraging everyone to stay out of the war. Maia insists that Sebastian will come for them too, just as they did to Praetor Lupus. Angered, Rufus challenges Bat for leadership of the New York pack. A duel is set for the following evening in Prospect Park. Bat then tells Maia to get out of town.

Analysis

Simon is not the only one having to deal with his choices. Maureen Brown's vampire clan, Raphael included, as well as countless innocent people in New York, have all had to pay the price as well. Raphael is so desperate to get rid of Maureen that he is willing to help Simon escape to Alicante to help him press the case to have the Council officially deal with Maureen. The desire to put an end to Maureen's reign of terror is contrasted against Clary and Jace's desire to put an end to Sebastian's reign of terror.



The reader should very specifically note that the sword given freely to Clary comes from her ancestors. It is a weapon made of gold, black gold, and adamas – a silvery metal of Heaven – which means that Heosphorous is not truly a weapon of the world. The reader will recall that it will take a nonearthy weapon to kill Sebastian – and Clary has just been given the means to do just that without recognizing it.

As has been seen in the previous chapters, the politics of war are unfolding at an alarming rate. As established in the previous novel, the faeries have fallen in with Sebastian. This is confirmed through Sebastian's sleeping with the Seelie Queen and use of faeries in disguise during the battle at the Citadel. Clary questions Amatis as to how Sebastian could have gained so many followers so quickly, but it is a question that Amatis ignores. Meanwhile, Sebastian also attacks and destroys Praetor Lupus to remove a threat to his power, demonstrate his own power, and to throw the Downworlders into disarray, causing them to consider joining his side. It is all the politics of war, as Sebastian's intrigues lead to internal fractioning on the part of the wolf pack. Sebastian is following the old military maxim of dividing and conquering.

As noted in earlier chapters, friendship here proves to be invaluable. Note Maia's fiery resolve that the werewolves should not join Sebastian. Here determination is not just one of military importance and strategic significance, but one of friendship. Through friendship with Clary and the others, Maia's loyalty to the side of good is unchallengeable. Going against the side of good would not be merely a moral or an existential mistake, but it would be a betrayal of her friends. A small handful of werewolves join with Maia against Rufus, including temporary leader, Bat. Bat challenges Rufus for the command of the wolf pack. It is a fight he knows he will lose, but he has no choice. He will not submit to the side of evil.

However, the politics of war are seen again elsewhere through Meliorn's dinner for the Downworlders. The discussion is had as to whether or not the Downworlders should remain allied with the Shadowhunters, whether they should look to their own interests, or whether they should ally with Sebastian. All attendees are drugged under Sebastian's orders, causing them all to lose consciousness before an actual decision can fully be reached. Sebastian's kidnapping is an attempt to help them make up their minds – a critical move in his machinations.

Discussion Question 1

Why is there a division among the werewolves about who should lead, and whether or not the pack should stay with the Daylighters? What position does Maia take? Why?

Discussion Question 2

What is confusing to Clary about the forces of Sebastian during the assault on the citadel? What does this cause her to wonder about? Why? What is the actual truth behind this?



Discussion Question 3

Why is Sebastian attempting to divide the Downworlders between clans, and even among themselves? Has he been successful so far? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

haphazard, alacrity, consecrate, tableaux, exasperation, ichor, omnidirectional, sashaying, virile, tedious, overmatched, resilience, amity, enunciating, rictus



Chapter 11, The Best is Lost – Chapter 15

Summary

Chapter 11, The Best is Lost – Consul Jia arrives to tell Clary and Jace the Council meeting has begun. The Council is in an uproar. Jia reveals that Luke and Jocelyn have not responded to their messages, and that no Downworlder representatives can be reached. No one is at Meliorn's house. Foul play is suspected. Simon will have to stand in as the representative for the Night Children. It is also discovered the council chambers have been vandalized with graffiti from Sebastian saying he has come. Clary, Jace, Alec, and Simon meet up to discuss the disappearance of the Downworlders. Meanwhile, members of the Council discuss whether is right they are all in Idris or should be out protecting the world as they are charged to do from Heaven, and how they can possibly combat Sebastian.

Suddenly, Matthias Gonzales, head of the Buenos Aires Institute and now an Endarkened disguised as a Clave guard, seizes Jia at knifepoint. He tells the Council that none of them are safe, and only by giving up Jace and Clary can anyone be safe. Likewise, the Downworlder representatives have all been taken hostage. They will be killed and their races turned against the Daylighters if Jace and Clary are not given up. Matthias asserts that while those on the side of good cannot win the war, they can survive it. They will be sealed up in Idris, safe but never to leave again. Alec then shoots Matthias in the hand. Matthias tells them they have two days to decide, then disappears in a burst of flame. Jace confirms he is willing to go.

Robert believes only the werewolves can be counted on in the coming battles. Jace reveals that other Downworlders feel like second-class citizens to the Shadowhunters. He speaks of a party once where, after the Downworlder guests left, the plates they ate from were all thrown out. Simon says that Sebastian is using cracks to break the side of good. There are even cracks among the Daylighters. Brother Enoch and Brother Zachariah then arrive to report that Amalric is dead, that nothing could be done to bring him back. A funeral for all of the dead will be held, after which the Council will reconvene to discuss things. Maia meets with Lily the vampire. Maia suggests an alliance between vampires and werewolves, but Lily won't discuss it with Maia until Maia is head of the pack.

Chapter 12, The Formal Nightmare – The dead are ceremoniously burned in funeral pyres. Zachariah, though he longs to see the woman he loves, refuses to abandon the Daylighters and Idris. Emma sneaks in the Lightwood residence to meet with Clary and Isabelle. This is impressive to everyone since the house is under heavy guard. Emma reveals she remembers overhearing Matthias talk with Sebastian about rituals being performed in Edom, a place not supposed to exist. Jace thanks Emma and sends her on her way home. Alec points out numerous references to Edom in the Bible and the



Enochian texts. Alec believes Edom can be reached through an old path outside the jurisdiction of the Shadowhunters, in the Seelie Court. Meanwhile, Rufus Hastings and Bartholomew Velasquez meet to duel for leadership of the New York pack. Rufus quickly overcomes Bat, but then Maia interrupts the battle. She challenges Rufus and defeats him.

Chapter 13, Paved With Good Intentions – Jace, Clary, Simon, Isabelle, and Alec decide to portal to the Seelie Court. They end up in the tunnels outside the throne room. They overhear the Seelie Queen speaking of her alliance with Sebastian, and the giving of a half-faerie Blackthorn boy to Gwyn of the Wild Hunt as a gift. The Seelie Queen asks that Gwyn be present at the next hunt. Gwyn agrees and leaves as Meliorn arrives. He asks what is to be done with the Downworlder prisoners. It is then that Jace and the others make themselves known. Alec shoots and kills Meliorn. They notice his shoes have pitch on them, with pitch being the substance of the streams of Edom.

They demand the safe return of the prisoners. The Queen says she has no jurisdiction. They demand safe passage on the road to Edom. She agrees, promising she will say nothing of their arrival. She brings them to the path to Hell. Down the path, they meet Mark Blackthorn, who has managed to sneak away from Gwyn and his group. Clary reveals that Mark's siblings, despite what he has been told, are all alive and safe. Jace urges Mark to go and tell the Shadowhunters all he knows. Meanwhile, the Queen tells Sebastian that Jace and the others are coming. While she may have promised to say nothing about them coming to her court, she did not promise to say anything about them leaving her court.

Part 2

Chapter 14, The Sleep of Reason – Arriving in Edom, Clary has a vision of the brother and sister she never had. Simon has a vision of being famous from his music, and being in a relationship with Clary but being in love with Isabelle. Isabelle has a vision of being in a relationship with Simon and being guided to a surprise birthday party for herself. Among those present is Max, her dead brother. Alec has a vision of being in the Hall of Accords where he is toasted by his father for being a warrior hero and winning the war. He also envisions Magnus being with him again. When Alec and the others come to, they realize they are in Hell, a wasteland of fire and darkness. They will have a day or two to get to Sebastian.

Chapter 15, Brimstone and Salt – Magnus, Luke, and Raphael wake up in a circular dungeon prison cell. Magnus says he is sure they are in the demon dimension of Edom. Magnus also believes Jocelyn is being kept elsewhere, and won't be hurt because she is leverage against Clary. Meanwhile, Clary, Jace, Isabelle, Simon, and Alec continue their journey toward Edom. A demon suddenly attacks, which Alec shoots and Jace kills with his stele. The group then rushes into a cave which is marked by runes to protect against demons. They decide to spend the night there. Clary admits to Jace that she only ever wanted a normal life. Jace reminds her she was never only normal. Meanwhile, Isabelle is unhappy that Simon is not safe back in New York. She thinks he only came along out of love for Clary, but Simon insists it is Isabelle he loves now.



Exploring, they come to the end of the cave where they can see a torn landscape, a demon city, and too many flying demons to count.

Sebastian has been keeping Jocelyn separately from the others. He confronts her in her cell and brings her to force an answer from Jia and the Clave. Jia and the Clave have decided against striking a deal with Sebastian. Sebastian tells Jia that Clary and Jace are already gone. Maia, meanwhile, has taken over the New York pack. Much of it is administrative work, which bores her. Bat helps her to adjust to the job. Maia's primary concern, however, is the capture of the Downworlder representatives by Sebastian. Catarina Loss and Malcolm Fade of the warlocks come to see Maia about the situation. Maia presses upon them the importance of sticking together in the face of Sebastian and evil. Maia decides to reach out to all Downworlders, including Maureen Brown.

Analysis

The politics of war continue to unfold as Sebastian plots his move against the Shadowhunters. The Council is in an uproar due to the disappearance of the Downworlder representatives, and graffiti left by Sebastian's henchmen in the council chambers. The councilmembers now all recognize that Sebastian is indeed a threat, but their determination about how to respond is mixed. Many believe the Institutes should be reoccupied, while others believe that hunkering down for the assault they know will come is the best option for survival. Sebastian throws the council into greater disarray when he promises safety in exchange for Clary and Jace being surrendered to him. It is a calculated, political-strategic move which is intended to throw the council further off their game, and to divide them.

Clary, Jace, Isabelle, Simon, and Alec decide to save the council some trouble by venturing to Edom themselves. Their decision to go is not just one of political considerations – to give the council one less reason to be divided – but is a moral decision aimed at ending Sebastian's reign of terror. That Isabelle, Simon, and Alec decide to accompany Clary and Jace into the dimensions of Hell is testament of their friendship and loyalty to one another. Here, the theme of friendship again proves to be essential to the novel, and friendship itself invaluable to the plot. It is not the last time that friendship will be essential to unfolding events.

As friends, Isabelle, Simon, Jace, Clary, and Alec come to discover that the faeries have secretly allied themselves with Sebastian. They are providing weapons, materiel, and manpower to Simon's efforts. The theme of the politics of war can again be seen through the faerie betrayal of the Downworlders and the Shadowhunters. The politics of war continue to play out when Clary and the others confront the Seelie Queen over her duplicity. They compel her to show them the way to Edom, but the Seelie Queen double-crosses Clary and the others when she alerts Sebastian to their coming.

The politics of war also play out in Bat's challenging of Rufus for leadership of the wolf pack, and Maia's subsequent challenging of Rufus. With the wolf pack firmly in her control, Maia sets to work in order to unify the Downworld in order to stand against the



evil forces of Sebastian. Maia. To this end, she will even reach out to Maureen Brown and her clan, the most powerful vampire group in New York. Maia's moves are politically strategic moves to avoid war if possible, but to be able to fight a war if necessary.

Sebastian is not taking any chances. He is doing everything he can to make sure he emerges victorious. The politics of the war he has fashioned are wide-reaching. He has taken the official representatives of the Downworlders to force them to his will. He has gained additional troops and allies in the faeries, both wild and of the accords. He commands the demons of Edom. And Sebastian has also taken Jocelyn to use as a hostage and leverage against Clary should the need arise.

Love also factors into this section of the novel through Simon's decision to journey along to Edom. Isabelle is beside herself with worry and even some anger that Simon should choose to abandon the safer atmosphere of New York. The truth is that Simon loves Isabelle, is friends with Clary, Alec, and Jace, and has a moral interest in seeing evil defeated. The past also holds sway on Isabelle's worries and concern about Simon. She believes that Simon still harbors romantic feelings for Clary, but Simon insists this is not true.

Discussion Question 1

To what ends does Sebastian go to secure victory for himself? Which of Sebastian's moves appears to give him the greatest chance of success? Why?

Discussion Question 2

For what reasons is Isabelle angry with Simon for leaving New York? Is there any truth to these reasons? Why or why not?

Discussion Question 3

Why are the Shadowhunters divided on what they should do with regards to fighting Sebastian? Based on Sebastian's political moves, which Shadowhunter option appears to have the best chance of success? Why?

Vocabulary

blazoned, triptych, desecration, vengeance, conservative, mandate, fanatic, saffron, noncommittal, vitreous, subsumed, conspiratorially, dubious, tantamount, sundered, megalomaniac, impulsively



Part 2, Chapter 16, The Terrors of the Earth – Chapter 21

Summary

Chapter 16, The Terrors of the Earth – Emma and Julian look out over Alicante at night, saddened for what they have lost. Julian worries about being able to take care of his younger siblings. Emma says everything will work out, and that Julian's Uncle Arthur might be able to help. They then overhear Jia and Patrick irate because Clary, Jace, Alec, and Isabelle are gone. Maia, Maureen, and their respective groups meet at Toys R Us after hours on 42nd Street. Maureen thinks an alliance between them will be good because they can then join Sebastian's coming invasion of Idris. Maia agrees, and has Maureen drink blood from her wrist to seal the alliance. Maureen immediately dies.

Maia reveals she has been injected with Holy Water. The vampires are angry. Maia explains that Sebastian will kill them all after he is done with the Shadowhunters. Everyone must be united, or everyone will fall. Lily then assumes command of the vampire clan. Meanwhile, Alec tells Jace, Clary, Simon, and Isabelle that he always feels as if he is fighting two wars, one against the enemy, and the other against the Clave. He explains the Clave isn't always right, and doesn't always do the right thing. Simon and Isabelle report seeing the demon city, and three moons. Jace admits he is glad to have Alec and Isabelle as step-siblings, or he would have ended up like Sebastian. Jace and Alec are then confronted by a demon in the guise Sister Magdalena. The demon tell Jace his desire is to rule Edom, and that he is already exactly like Sebastian. Enraged, Sebastian channels the Heavenly Fire to burn up the demon.

Chapter 17, Burnt Offerings – Clary goes to Jace, who is surrounded by ablaze of Heavenly Fire. The fire dies down. Jace reveals to Isabelle, Alec, and Simon that he now knows how to control the Heavenly Fire. Meanwhile, Magnus is becoming ill. His father, a demon, is making Magnus sick so Magnus will be forced to call upon him. Maia and Bat begin contact all the Downworlders that they can. Jia Penhallow receives a message from Mark Blackthorn saying the Fair Folk, the faeries, are the enemies of the Shadowhunters. Gwyn ap Nudd, the Gatherer of the Dead, a faerie with no loyalties or oaths to the accords, leads the faeries. Julian confirms it is his brother's handwriting. He agrees to testify before Council one last time if they will try to save Mark. Sebastian reveals to Jocelyn he intends to rule over a conquered Earth with Clary. Jocelyn realizes Sebastian is seeking somebody to love him, to approve of what he is doing. Sebastian admits this is a weakness. They then see the light from Jace's Heavenly Fire through the window, which excites Sebastian to know that Jace is getting closer.

Chapter 18, By the Waters of Babylon – Food and water are running short for Jace, Clary, Isabelle, Simon, and Alec as they journey across a desert. They come upon a wrecked version of Alicante. A carved history reveals that in this city, the Downworlders



and demons all warred against the Shadowhunters, who with only skeptrons but no seraph blades, no Iron Sisters, and no Silent Brothers, were massacred. They realize they are in another dimension, a warning of what could happen. They come across the tomb and statue of Jonathan Morgansetern. Jace decides to take the statue's skeptron, which has a red jewel embedded in it like Clary's pendant necklace. It triggers a trap where demons arrive to attack Jace and the others. They fight on the run. Isabelle is knocked unconscious with demon poison. Simon feeds on her to draw the poison out.

The betrayal of the faeries is discussed among Pia, Zachariah, Patrick, Maryse, Robert, Kadir Safar, Diana Wrayburn, Thomas Rosales, and several others. They also discuss the possibility of destroying the Infernal Cup, which would in turn might kill all the Endarkened. Zachariah believes that they can turn the faerie betrayal into an advantage, but it will require help from the Spiral Labyrinth.

Chapter 19, Into the Silent Land – Simon is allowed to feed on Alec to revitalize himself. Sebastian comes to taunt Luke, Raphael, and Magnus. Sebastian comes to offer Raphael safety if Raphael joins with him. Raphael will be given command of all vampires in New York as a reward. To seal the deal, Raphael must kill Magnus. Raphael refuses, saying he owes Magnus a life debt from many years before. Sebastian then kills Raphael. Meanwhile, Maia, Bat, Lily, and Catarina go to Beth Israel Hospital to see a dog-sized demon called a Dantalion being kept in the morgue. Lily films the demon telling them that Sebastian will be attacking Alicante the following night.

Chapter 20, The Serpents of the Dust – Because Isabelle is recovering, the group cannot travel that night. Alec takes first watch. Jace joins Alec to talk. He knows how much Alec is hurting with Magnus being held prisoner. Jace then thanks Clary for saving him from the Heavenly Fire. They bathe in a lake and then have sex. Meanwhile, Isabelle thanks Simon for saving her life. They kiss passionately and tell one another they love each other. Meanwhile, Maia sends a warning message about Sebastian's coming attack to Jia at Alicante.

Chapter 21, The Keys of Death and Hell – The demonic version of Gard Hill is covered in the Endarkened. Clary, Jace, Alec, Simon, and Isabelle wonder how they can get inside. They decide on disguising themselves as the Endarkened. They cover themselves in runes to blend in. They then ambush a handful of passing Endarkened and steal their clothes. The group then begins the journey to the Dark Gard. Inside, Sebastian is waiting for them with a devious smile. He calls them all fools. He summons dozens of demons, telling them to kill everyone but Clary.

The demons attack. Using the skeptron and the Heavenly Fire combined, Jace kills all the demons. Sebastian says they will pay in blood, and rushes upstairs. Clary realizes by blood, Sebastian means the blood of their loved ones. They must split up to find Jocelyn, Magnus, and Luke. Endarkened Shadowhunters emerge to chase after them. Meanwhile, Emma goes over crime scene photos of her parents' bodies. She, Julian, Ty, and the others can see Shadowhunters out in force in the streets below. They carry bags of salt and grave dirt from the Spiral Labyrinth, which will keep faeries away. Jia rallies them all together, telling them they will defeat Sebastian and the forces of evil.



Analysis

Maia's desire to unite the Downworlders brings to the fore the theme of the politics of war once more. Her meeting with Maureen leads to Maureen's death, the installation of Lily as new leader of the vampires, and an alliance between the vampires and werewolves against Sebastian, and for the Shadowhunters. Maia's move is swift, calculated, and wildly successful. She removes a threat in and of Maureen herself, and removes the threat of division among Downworlding groups.

Sebastian, meanwhile, reveals nearly the entire extent of his plan to his mother. Sebastian desires not merely to conquer and rule over Earth, but to conquer and rule over all of Hell as well. Sebastian's megalomaniacal tendencies are staggering. He is essentially declaring war against anyone and everyone but himself. Jocelyn attempts to rationalize Sebastian's behavior – not to justify it, but to understand it. Sebastian rails about not being loved as a child, and always seeking approval never given. Yet Jocelyn comes to realize – as does the reader – that no matter what Sebastian's excuses are for his actions, his actions are inexcusable. Sometimes, people are simply evil – and Sebastian is proof of this.

Sebastian, meanwhile, continues to try to exert influence over the Downworlders and to shore up his own gains and increase his own chances of success. To do this, he plays on the politics of war once more, between Raphael and Magnus. Raphael will be spared and will be made head of the New York vampires if only Raphael will kill Magnus, who has refused flat-out to join Sebastian. Raphael refuses based on a life debt to Magnus, and is killed himself instead.

Sebastian's move is cruel and cutthroat, but it also works against him. He now has no real vampire representative to entreat with in Edom. Unbeknownst to Sebastian, even if Raphael had accepted the offer, he would have had no vampires to command as Maureen had been overthrown, and the popular Lily installed in Maureen's place. It is the first sign that things might be coming undone for Sebastian. He has controlled all events and situations up until this point. Raphael's refusal, and Maia's success in New York, lead to Sebastian's control being undermined. However, Sebastian seems to regain control when Clary, Jace, Isabelle, Simon, and Alec arrive at the Dark Gard. He is waiting for them as they arrive. His fallback plan – using the lives of those they love against them – begins to unfold. This is seen through Sebastian telling Clary and the others that they will pay in blood for what they are doing.

At the same time, the themes of love and guilt return as Clary, Simon, Isabelle, Alec, and Jace make their way to the Dark Gard. Alec, knowing that Magnus has been taken hostage, feels terrible. He feels as if everything that has happened is his fault, stemming back to his desire to take away the immortality of Magnus. At the same time, Clary and Jace worry for one another immensely, as do Simon and Isabelle. Indeed, Simon and Isabelle confess their love to one another, raising the stakes and the drama as the final showdown with Sebastian looms.



Discussion Question 1

What rationalizations are made for, and by Simon, for his behavior? Do you believe these are defensible rationalizations for what he has done? Why or why not?

Discussion Question 2

Is Sebastian's killing of Raphael a benefit or a hindrance to his plans? Why?

Discussion Question 3

What does Sebastian want to rule over in addition to conquering Earth? Why?

Vocabulary

flummoxed, elongated, daintily, incredulously, whorls, ritualistic, credence, desiccated, necromancy, fastidious, devoid, inordinately



Part 2, Chapter 22 – Epilogue

Summary

Chapter 22, The Ashes of Our Fathers – Alicante comes under attack from the forces of Sebastian, including Endarkened and the faeries. The Shadowhunter children are sent to the Accords Hall, but Emma wants to fight. Julian begs her to come to safety, and she reluctantly agrees. She helps Julian to bring the Blackthorn children along through the city. Emma must fight evil faeries as they go, using a knife to cut one down. Brother Zachariah arrives, and takes down Endarkened and faeries in quick bursts of light. Suddenly, Gwyn and the wild faeries arrive. They are not deterred by salt and grave dirt.

Alec arrives to free Magnus and the others. Magnus is very grateful to see Alec. Isabelle and Simon check Luke for injuries, then rush out to free Jocelyn. Clary and Jace chase Sebastian to the Dark Gard council room, where he is inscribing runes on the floor. He summons a maggot demon, a Behemoth. Jace slays it. Sebastian acknowledges that he knows Jace can kill him. Sebastian then knocks Jace out by using magic to throw him into the wall. Sebastian reveals he now only desires to conquer Earth, but to rule Hell as well. He says he does not want to rule alone. He says Clary is his to do with as he pleases because he loves her. He shows her scenes of the battle raging in Alicante. No one can hold out against Gwyn's Wild Hunt. Sebastian tells her that if she joins him, he will spare Alicante and seal it up forever. Clary accepts, believing she has no choice.

Chapter 23, Judas Kiss – The forces of evil finally break into the Hall of Accords. Emma thinks it is all over. Among them is Julian's father Andrew, now Endarkened. Andrew moves towards Ty, but Julian kills their father first. Sebastian seals the borders between worlds, forcing Edom and Hell to contract, and forcing everyone to his throne room. Simon is among the first to arrive. He is stunned to see Clary on the throne. Jace regains consciousness. Sebastian explains that Jace expended most of his energy the other night, so calling on the Heavenly Fire is no longer an option. Isabelle and the others realize that when the borders are fully sealed, they will not be able to leave the Hellish domains. Jocelyn and the others attempt to reason with Clary, telling her that billions will die if she consents to being queen. Clary refuses, and officially accepts being queen. Jace is forced to renounce Clary to Sebastian.

Sebastian orders all to bow before Clary. He is delighted with his victory, and announces the paths between the worlds are closed. Clary gives Sebastian a kiss, then stabs him with Heosphorous, a weapon made of Heaven's Fire. Sebastian is enveloped in flames and collapses. When the fire burns out, he has become his former self, Jonathan. He orders his legions of Endarkened to hold off, and apologizes to Clary and to everyone else. He says when he dies, he won't be able to hold off his evil minions. He explains that he was never meant for good like Jace, so he will not survive. What everyone is seeing now is a ghost of the person who could have been. He instructs Luke to throw the Infernal Cup into the Ring of Runes on the floor, destroying it and all the Endarkened with it. Jonathan says he has never felt so light, and then dies.



Magnus then reluctantly summons his father, Asmodeus, one of the Nine Princes of Hell. He will return them to Earth for a price. Magnus must give up his immortality. Because he is so old, he will die instantly. Simon offers up his own immortality instead. Asmodeus agrees, but also wants all of Simon's memories that would harm his friends. The memories he takes are the ones of Simon ever knowing Clary, Isabelle, Jace, and all of his experiences with them. Simon agrees against the protests of Isabelle. Everyone is sent back, but Simon is not among them.

Chapter 24, Call it Peace – The Faerie Folk are punished. They will take all responsibility for the loss of life and damage, will be responsible for the costs of rebuilding broken wards, the reestablishment of Praetor Lupus, Alicante, and all faerie armies will be dissolved. Magnus cautions the terms are too harsh, but he is outvoted. The Faeries accept the terms. Arthur Blackthorn will be taking in his nieces and nephews, and setting up shop at the Los Angeles Institute. Emma learns she will be allowed to go back to the Institute in Los Angeles as well, even though no one will be trying to get Mark Blackthorn back because he is now among his own kind. Clary and Jace go to Lake Lyn. There, Clary throws Jonathan's silver box into the water. Jace decides to take on the last name of Herondale so the line does not end with him. Alec and Magnus decide to get back together. Isabelle and Clary miss Simon. They learn from Jia that Simon is back at home, living with his mother and sister. Clary calls Simon, but Simon has no idea who she is. She pretends to be from his English class, and then hangs up.

Epilogue: The Beauty of a Thousand Stars – It is now May, 2008. Isabelle, Clary, and Magnus, watch Simon leave school. Clary goes over to speak to him. Simon doesn't recognize her, but tells her she should come check out his band sometime. His band's name is "The Mortal Instruments". Magnus and Isabelle then meet up with Simon. Magnus reveals the secret world to Simon, of God, the Devil, angels, demons, magic, spells, and everything else to Simon, seeing if it might jolt his memory. He insists Simon could be a Shadowhunter. Simon is confused but interested in learning more.

Jocelyn and Luke get married. A reception follows at which vampires attend alongside Shadowhunters and werewolves, all in the name of peace and unity. Robert makes peace with Alec for Alec's being gay. Magnus is late in arriving, and brings Clary aside to where Isabelle is waiting with Simon. Some of Simon's memories have been successfully restored, but he has forgotten nearly everything else. He remembers that Clary is his best friend. He also remembers Izzy to some extent, and has dreamt of her. He agrees to try out a relationship with her, to see if they could find what they once had. Zachariah is reunited with his love, Tessa Gray, an American warlock. Tessa meets Clary. When Clary was a baby, Tessa had helped to put protective wards on Clary. Clary's last name was an assemblage of F for Fairchild, and "ray" for "Gray", or "Fray". Tessa gifts Clary with an old copy of "The Shadowhunter's Codex". Jace later gives Clary an old Herondale ring, with one for himself as well. He points out the back of the Codex contains a stanza by Milton about loving and serving freely.



Analysis

As the novel comes to a close, the reader will recall Heosphoros – made of gold, black gold, and adamas – being given to Clary. Clary uses Heosphoros to mortally wound Sebastian after pretending to be on Sebastian's side. It is the greatest statement of politics of war in the novel. Sebastian's overconfidence, his supreme self-assured narcissism, ultimately become his undoing. He lets his guard down because he believes he has already won when he hasn't. This enables Clary to make her move, and strike Sebastian down.

Ironically, Clary's striking down of Sebastian brings about the greatest display of guilt in the novel. As the evil in Sebastian bleeds away, the ghost of what Sebastian could have been – Jonathan, a good person – remains for only a few moments. Sebastian-turned-Jonathan apologizes for everything he has ever done. It is a stunning confession and acknowledgment of guilt by Sebastian, and a small effort to atone for what has been done in the past. Here, the past and guilt combine together in Sebastian's final moments alive.

However, Clary, Jace, and the others now find themselves trapped in the demon dimensions with no chance of escape. To do this, Magnus must call upon his father, Asmodeus. But Asmodeus will not let them go home for free. He demands a hefty toll in Magnus's immortality. Magnus is willing to give up his life, essentially, out of love for Alec and loyalty to his friends. Simon steps forward instead to offer up his own immortality since he never wanted to be a vampire, out of love for Isabelle, and out of loyalty to his friends. The theme of friendship is on clear display in the sacrifices that Magnus and Simon are willing to make.

However, Simon's immortality is not enough for Asmodeus. He demands something more – and targets Simon's friendship with Clary, Jace, Isabelle, Magnus, and Alec. He will extract all of Simon's memories relating to his friends as the price for freedom. Simon consents – and is returned to his mortal life while everyone else is restored to the New York Institute. However, Isabelle's love for Simon, and the friendship that Clary, Jace, Magnus, and Alec have for Simon causes them all to refuse to let Simon go. They reconnect with Simon, manage to restore many of his memories, and make it possible for Simon and Isabelle to begin a relationship with one another again.

Discussion Question 1

Although Alec has longed for Magnus to be mortal, he opposes Magnus's offer of his immortality as the price of freedom. Why?

Discussion Question 2

How is Clary able to defeat Sebastian? Why does Sebastian not suspect his downfall when Clary agrees to join his side?



Discussion Question 3

Why does Simon offer up his immortality and his memories to ensure his friends are freed? Do you believe this was a wise decision? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

unerringly, behemoth, carrion, invulnerable, vexing, renounce, banality, dispensation, dalliances, inflexible



Characters

Clary

Clarissa “Clary” Adele Fray is the 16-year-old Shadowhunter daughter of Jocelyn, sister of Sebastian, best friend of Simon, and girlfriend of Jace. Clary begins the novel by trying to help Jace relax in order to better control the Heavenly Fire inside him. When word comes that Sebastian has demanded the Council hand over Clary and Jace or face destruction, Clary and Jace decide to confront Sebastian themselves by going to Edom. There, Clary pretends to side with Sebastian in order to stab and kill him. Clary is horrified soon after when Simon must give up his immortality and memories of his friendship and the magical world in order for Asmodeus to provide a pathway back to the living. Months later, Clary helps to revive Simon’s memories as much as possible, so that he may again join them.

Simon

Simon Lewis is a 16-year-old vampire, is the boyfriend of Isabelle, and is best friend of Clary. He is tall, thin, and incredibly sensitive. Simon never wanted to be a vampire, but was changed earlier in the series to save his life. He travels with Clary and the others into Edom. Amidst the destruction, Simon and Isabelle declare their love for one another. When a toll must be paid for Simon and the others to return to the world, Simon offers up his own immortality and memories of his friends. He returns to everyday life as a result, but later has many of his memories restored through magic by Magnus. As the novel ends, Simon and Isabelle resume their relationship.

Isabelle

Isabelle “Izzy” Lightwood is the 16-year-old adoptive sister of Jace, and the daughter of Maryse and Robert Lightwood. A Shadowhunter, she is the girlfriend of Simon and very good friends with Clary. Isabelle is stunningly beautiful and very brave. She accompanies Clary, Jace, Simon, and Alec into Edom to confront Sebastian. Isabelle struggles with her love for Simon, worrying that he still has feelings for Clary, even though he doesn’t. She is devastated when Simon gives up his memories of her to save everyone, but is later thrilled when Magnus is able to restore parts of Simon’s memory. As the novel ends, Simon and Isabelle resume their relationship.

Alec

Alexander “Alec” Lightwood is 18, and an openly homosexual Shadowhunter. He is reeling from a breakup with boyfriend Magnus after Magnus became angry that Alec was plotting to take away his immortality. Alec is beside himself with worry when



Magnus is taken prisoner by Sebastian, and relieved when Magnus is freed. As the novel ends, Alec and Magnus decide to resume their relationship.

Jace

Jonathon “Jace” Christopher Herondale, a Shadowhunter, is the 17-year-old adoptive brother of Isabelle, and Alec and boyfriend of Clary. He is tall, slender, muscular, and has blonde hair. He is incredibly brave, and has been raised to be a warrior. Now a vessel for the Heavenly Fire following his separation from Sebastian in the previous novel, Jace endeavors to help Clary defeat and kill Sebastian.

Sebastian

Sebastian, a quasi-demon, is the half-brother of Clary, and the son of Jocelyn and Valentine Morganstern. Sebastian is naturally evil, having not only been raised to be cruel but having such inclinations since birth. He is a megalomaniac, narcissistic, and murderous. Sebastian’s goal in the novel is not only to conquer Earth, but to rule Hell as well. He engages in numerous political and military strategies to this effect, seeking to divide and conquer his enemies and opponents. He longs for approval, however, and seeks to gain love and approval from Clary. Clary pretends to come over to his side so that she can stab and kill Sebastian. As Sebastian dies, the evil drains from him, and a shadow of who he could have been – a good Jonathan Morganstern – survives long enough to apologize for what he has done.

Jocelyn

Jocelyn is the mother of Clary, and the fiancée of Luke. Jocelyn has long blamed herself for Sebastian’s reign of terror, wishing she had killed him as an infant and avoided everything that followed. Jocelyn is taken prisoner by Sebastian for use as a hostage against Clary, but is freed as Sebastian’s plot falls apart. In the epilogue, Jocelyn and Luke finally marry.

Magnus

Magnus Bane is an immortal warlock who has lived for four centuries. He is the ex-boyfriend of Alec, and is the son of the demon Asmodeus, one of the Nine Princes of Hell. Magnus serves as representative of the warlocks at the Great Council. He is taken prisoner by Sebastian until he is freed by Alec and the others. Magnus is willing to give up his life so Alec and the others may flee from the demon dimensions, but Simon steps forward instead. Simon gives up not only his immortality, but his memories as well. Magnus endeavors to use magic to help restore Simon’s memories, and by the epilogue of the novel, Simon is beginning to remember some things. Additionally, Magnus and Alec have gotten back together.



Maureen

Maureen Brown is a pretty, 14-year-old rogue vampire who has come to head the most powerful vampire clan in New York. She is powerful and cruel, and her wild ways have become dangerous to vampires and Downworlders in general. Maureen is entreated to a meeting with Maia seeking an alliance, after which time Maureen drinks Holy Water-infused blood from Maia, killing Maureen instantly. With Maureen gone, Lily takes control of the vampires, and the vampires form an alliance with Maia in support of the Shadowhunters.

Emma

Emma Carstairs is a girl of 11 or 12 who is training to be a Shadowhunter at the Los Angeles Institute. She is incredibly kind and adventurous, and is heartbroken when demons kill her parents early in the novel. Emma becomes a source of strength for Julian Blackthorn and his siblings, and returns to the Los Angeles Institute with them at the end of the novel. Emma's character is explored further in the sequel series, "Dark Artifices".



Symbols and Symbolism

Heosphoros

Heosphoros is the name of the sword that Clary wields during the novel, ultimately using it to fatally stab Sebastian. Heosphoros is the shorter of a set of two swords made of gold, black gold, and adamas commissioned by Valentine Morganstern from Wayland the Smith years before. Heosphoros means “Dawn Bringer”, and the sword’s unearthly aspects due to the presence of adamas means that the sword is deadly to Sebastian. Sebastian himself wields the longer of the two swords, “Phaesphoros”, meaning “Light Bringer”, but this is useless after Sebastian is stabbed.

Adamas

Adamas is an incredibly rare, silvery metal ore that is mined from Heaven. Weapons crafted of adamas, such as Heosphoros and seraph blades. Adamas is an effective agent for killing demons and other Hellish creatures. Sebastian is fatally wounded by a sword containing adamas, because it is so widely needed, and so seldom available except through Heaven, adamas exceeds even gold in value among the Downworlders and Shadowhunters.

Heavenly Fire

Heavenly Fire is fire generated from Heaven itself, transferred to Jace in the previous novel. The Heavenly Fire makes Jace a weapon for good as a blade of sorts for Heaven. Jace spends months attempting to adequately gain control of the fire, but has little luck. The fire has cleansing properties, such as when Brother Zachariah catches alight from the Heavenly Fire, transforming him into his former self prior to entering the order of Silent Brothers. By the time Jace learns to control the Heavenly Fire in Edom, he has expended so much energy he is unable to wield it at all during the final confrontation with Sebastian.

Runes

Runes are drawn using steles in the novel. Runes are patterns and drawings of lines and shapes generating magical effects. Runes can be used for healing, strengthening, quickening, explosions, and so on. Clary, Jace, Simon, Isabelle, and Alex cover themselves in additional runes when infiltrating the Dark Gard at Edom. These runes increase their power against Sebastian and his demon legions.



Holy Water

Holy Water is water blessed by an agent of God, usually a priest or pastor. Holy Water is used to kill and fight demons, possessions, and other evil creatures. In the novel, Maia uses Holy Water to kill Maureen Brown, ending Maureen's reign of terror.

The Shadowhunter's Codex

The Shadowhunter's Codex is a textbook about Shadowhunter history and important information relating to other creatures such as demons, vampires, werewolves, warlocks, and other Downworlder creatures. The Codex is meant to be a primer for new Shadowhunters, and forms the most fundamental basic level of knowledge for them. Tessa Gray gifts Clary with a very old edition of the Codex at the end of the novel, a statement of pride and honor in the way that Clary has turned out as a young woman.

Seraph blades

Seraph blades are the primary weapons of Shadowhunters. They are used in battle against demons and other enemies. They are noted for being composed of the Heavenly metal adamas, which makes seraph blades unfailingly effective against the undead.

Steles

Steles are a kind of tool and weapon used to draw runes. They are composed of adamas and wielded by Shadowhunters. Together with seraph blades, they form the core of a Shadowhunter's personal arsenal. In a tight spot, the stele itself can be used as a sharp weapon.

Skeptrons

Skeptrons were wielded by the Shadowhunters in the dimension of Edom before their deaths. The Shadowhunters of Edom developed skeptrons instead of seraph blades. The skeptrons were very powerful, and one is clutched in the statue hand of Jonathan Morganstern in the demonic version of Alicante's tombs. Jace wields a skeptron in battle against Sebastian's forces late in the novel to great effect.

Sebastian's silver box

Sebastian's silver box is a small, square storage unit with Sebastian's initials on it. Old memorabilia from Sebastian's childhood is kept in the box, and the box is in turn kept by Sebastian through much of the series' novels. At the end of the novel, Clary throws the

silver box into the lake where Raziel was summoned in the previous novel. It is a measure of closure for Clary.



Settings

The Los Angeles Institute

The Los Angeles Institute is a Shadowhunters Institute located in Los Angeles, California. It is run and administered by the Blackthorn family. It is attended by the Blackthorn family, including son Julian, and by other Shadowhunters in training such as Emma Carstairs. The Institute comes under attack by Sebastian during the prologue, and Emma and the Blackthorn children flee from the Institute to Idris. Uncle Arthur Blackthorn takes the responsibility of restoring the LA Institute, and for caring for his nieces, nephews, and Emma. As the novel ends, they return to the Los Angeles Institute.

Alicante

Alicante is the Shadowhunter City of Glass. It exists in the hidden realm of Idris. It is the headquarters and refuge of the Shadowhunter universe. It serves as the seat of government, and a fortress during Sebastian's final assault. Clary, Jace, Simon, Isabelle, Alec, and others travel to Alicante under evacuation orders, and later leave to confront Sebastian. Alicante becomes a temporary refuge for Emma, Julian, and the other Blackthorn children while they await the overcoming of Sebastian. Alicante is seriously damaged during the final battle, and the responsibility for funding reconstruction efforts are taken on by the faeries for their treachery.

Idris

Idris is a mountainous country hidden from human view in Europe between France, Germany, and Switzerland. It is where the city of Alicante is located, and the place becomes a refuge for the Shadowhunters when evacuation orders are sent out to all the Institutes. Idris is described as a beautiful land of sunlight, green pastures, and snow. It is most commonly accessed through portals, but can also be reached through mountain passes when the snow is not bad.

Dark Alicante

Dark Alicante is a parallel version of Alicante located in the demonic realm and dimension of Edom. Dark Alicante is formerly a good version of Alicante that has been overcome by the forces of evil. Jace, Clary, and the others journey into Dark Alicante in their pursuit of Sebastian. There, they discover the history of the place. The Shadowhunters there were not able to rally the Downworlders to their side, and were ultimately destroyed because they stood alone. The Downworlders in this realm were also subsequently destroyed because they stood alone and turned on one another.



Dark Alicante proves to be a warning to Clary and the others would could happen in their own world if they fail.

Three Arrows Farm

Three Arrows Farm is a large piece of property with a lake and house owned by Luke. Located in upstate New York, Three Arrows Farm is where the Angel Raziel is summoned in the previous novel, and plays host to Jocelyn and Luke's wedding in the current novel. It features prominently in the epilogue, where Clary throws Jace's old silver box into the lake waters.



Themes and Motifs

Love

Love is an important theme in the novel “City of Heavenly Fire” by Cassandra Clare. The form of love dealt with in the novel is principally romantic, and affects various characters in different ways, with each character in turn affecting the plot of the novel and the series. Two couples in particular – Jace and Clary, Simon and Isabelle – come to heavily influence the plot through love.

Clary and Jace have struggled with their relationship throughout the entire Mortal Instruments series. In the present novel, they remain together, and grow stronger in love. This is reflected in the constant care and concern they show for one another, and their willingness to risk even their own safety for the other. When Sebastian demands they be handed over, Jace and Clary are willing to go voluntarily, so long as the other does not go. In the end, they decide to confront Sebastian together. While traveling through Edom, and Jace becomes subsumed by Heavenly Fire, Clary rushes through the flames, endangering her own life in order to help Jace control the flames. Their love and unity prove essential to guide Clary through her most challenging time – pretending to side with Sebastian in order to defeat him.

The love and relationship between Simon and Isabelle proves to be momentous in the novel as well. Simon and Isabelle have been growing stronger together, and more in love over the last few novels. In the present time, they are declaring their love for one another, and it is clear that their love for one another supersedes all other things. For example, when the Shadowhunters are ordered to evacuate New York, Isabelle is terrified that Simon will be left behind, and Simon is worried beyond explanation that Isabelle, as a Shadowhunter, is being hunted by Sebastian.

When Simon arrives in Alicante later on, Isabelle is both overjoyed and terrified to see him. She is happy to see the young man she loves, but also terrified that he is now in danger from Sebastian by being present in Alicante. Simon and Isabelle together decide to help Clary and Jace in Edom, not merely out of friendship for them, but out of love for each other. When a sacrifice must be made for Asmodeus to return Isabelle and the others to the real world, it is Simon who steps forward primarily out of love for Isabelle. It is love that later compels Isabelle to seek to restore Simon’s memory, and to not give up on him.

Guilt

Guilt is an important theme in the novel “City of Heavenly Fire” by Cassandra Clare. Guilt – feelings of, and/or actual responsibility for mistakes, accidents, or intentional bad deeds – is central to the plot. Guilt especially drives and motivates many of the characters in the novel, but especially Jocelyn, Simon, Maia, and Alec. Understanding



their feelings of guilt helps the reader to better understand who they are as characters, and why they do the things they do.

Jocelyn expresses real guilt early in the novel about Sebastian's reign of terror. Jocelyn believes she should have killed Sebastian while Sebastian was a baby, because then everything going on in the present would never have happened. She believes that everything that is happening is her fault, though Luke argues that it is not her fault. To the very end, Jocelyn never stops seeking a way to defeat Sebastian. Even when her situation appears hopeless, she is still antagonistic toward Sebastian – a form of seeking redemption by refusing to submit without a fight.

Simon also expresses guilt in the novel relating to Maureen Brown. Simon, having previously denied his vampiric nature, could not stop himself from feeding on Maureen. As a result, Simon inadvertently began the process for Maureen's turning into a vampire. As a result, Maureen went on a wild rampage across New York, ultimately coming to head the most powerful vampire clan in New York. Simon blames himself for Maureen's path of destruction, including all of the people who died because of it. In addition to his love of Isabelle and his friendship with Jace, Clary, Alec, and Magnus, Simon chooses to give up his immortality and his memory as a measure of redemption to the dead. His decision to accompany Raphael to Alicante is also a question of seeking to have Maureen deposed through legal means by way of the Accords and the Council.

Maia and Alec also feel guilt in the novel at various points. For Maia, guilt comes because of the death of Jordan. Maia, dating Jordan, let Jordan believe she was still in love with him when she was no longer in love with him. She feels horrible that he went to his grave believing a lie – though she is reminded by others that at least Jordan died confident in the knowledge that he wasn't alone. Alec, still reeling from his breakup with Magnus, blames himself that things did not work out with Magnus because Alec plotted to take away Magnus's immortality. He seeks to make up for the causes of the breakup. He goes through great lengths to do this, helping to rescue Magnus from Sebastian and risking his own life in the process. By the end of the novel, the two have gotten back together.

Friendship

Friendship is an important theme in the novel "City of Heavenly Fire" by Cassandra Clare. In the novel, friendship influences events in the plot in very important ways, especially as things pertain to Simon and Clary, and to Alec, Isabelle, Magnus, and Maia.

When the novel begins, Jace is trying to relax and exert control over the Heavenly Fire. Clary, Simon, Isabelle, Jordan, Maia, and Alec all seek to help him do so. They are present in the park not only to help Jace, but because they enjoy spending time with one another. This unity between them also leads to a sense of loyalty and trust – things which will prove to be invaluable in later chapters of the novel.



Sebastian's reign of terror, and his determination to take Clary and Jace as prisoner, lead to the others rallying around them and the Shadowhunters. For Simon, Isabelle, Alec, Magnus, and Maia, friendship is just as important as being on the side of good. Indeed, their allegiance to the side of good is strengthened by their mutual friendship with one another. Maia's seeking to rally the Downworlders together against Sebastian is given strength not merely as a question of survival or strategic alliance with the Daylighters, but based on her friendship with Jace, Clary, Isabelle, Simon, and the others.

Likewise, when Jace and Clary decide to plunge into Edom to confront Sebastian, they are joined by Simon, Isabelle, and Alec. Simon, Isabelle, and Alec will not let Jace and Clary stand alone against Sebastian. Their courage and their bravery against Sebastian owes itself not only to the battle of good against evil, but the friendship that exists between Jace, Clary, Simon, Isabelle, and Alec. This proves to be incredibly important as, when at the Dark Gard, Simon, Isabelle, and Alec endeavor to free the prisoners, allowing Jace and Clary to deal with Sebastian.

Friendship also proves to be tremendously important when the group of friends find themselves trapped in the demon dimensions. Only a sacrifice by one of them will allow the others to go free. Magnus is willing to give up his life for this, but it is Simon who steps forward – out of love for Isabelle and friendship with Clary and the others – to make the sacrifice instead. The irony is that the sacrifice made for his friends means that Simon will be deprived of the memory of all of his friends. However, Simon's friends do not give up on him. Through the end of the novel, they are endeavoring to restore his memories and bring him back to their world.

The Past

The Past is an important theme in the novel "City of Heavenly Fire" by Cassandra Clare. Thematically, the past – incidents, events, situations, and circumstances in a person's history – can largely affect the present. The past has tremendous bearing on the novel in various ways, especially in light of immediate past events in the previous novel.

"City of Heavenly Fire" begins with the Los Angeles Institute coming under attack, the result of the war that Sebastian launched in the previous novel. The forces of good, including the Shadowhunters, are reeling under the onslaught of the attacks. Meanwhile, Jace attempts to find a way to control his use of Heavenly Fire, an ability given to him in the previous novel through Clary's separating of Jace from Sebastian with a sword from Heaven. Both Clary and Jace have sworn to take down Sebastian, and this vow becomes their guiding force in the current novel.

The past also bears heavily on many of the other characters as well. Simon is deeply guilt-ridden about having an unintentional hand in Maureen Brown's transformation into a vampire. His decision to attend the council at Alicante with Raphael, as well as his decision to give up his own immortality and his memories of his friends, speak to Simon's decisions to right the wrongs of his own past. Jocelyn seeks to psychologically



undermine Sebastian by being defiant toward him when she is taken prisoner. Jocelyn blames herself for not having killed Sebastian years before when Sebastian was a child – and now endeavors to do what she can to frustrate his efforts.

At the same time, Jocelyn attempts to understand what from Sebastian's past motivates him, though her exercise in seeking to understand is not a seeking to excuse his actions. Sebastian seems to want love and acceptance, things which he claims were denied to him in childhood. For Sebastian, the past is wholly relevant to the present and what he is trying to do in conquering Earth and Hell. His desire that Clary should rule as his queen is a sickening acknowledgment of his desire for familial loyalty and love – seeking to have in the present when he erroneously believes he never had in the past.

Politics of War

Politics of war is an important theme in the novel "City of Heavenly Fire" by Cassandra Clare. The politics of war includes the diplomatic intrigues, negotiations, alliances, betrayals, and strategies opposing sides conspire in to defeat the other. In the novel, the politics of war are largely determined by Sebastian.

When the novel begins, Sebastian has secured an alliance with the Fair Folk against the Shadowhunters. Sebastian is not only sleeping with the Seelie Queen, but he is commanding her faeries in battle against the Shadowhunters. Likewise, Sebastian allies himself with the wild faeries who do not adhere to the Accords. Sebastian further supplements his forces with demons and the Endarkened – Shadowhunters turned evil through the Infernal Cup.

Sebastian seeks to further stack the decks against the Shadowhunters by fractioning the tentative peace between them and the Downworlders, including warlocks, vampires, and werewolves. Sebastian takes representatives from each of these factions as hostage as leverage to entice them to join his cause. Even further, he seeks to exploit bigotry among them to weaken their resolve, dwelling on hatred that has long existed between the groups, smothered but never quite put out. For example, a story is told of Daylighters throwing out plates that Downworlders ate on following a party – a sign of superiority and bigotry.

However, Sebastian is firmly on the side of evil. Despite their differences, not all Downworlders join with Sebastian. Based on friendship and moral goodness, Maia forms an alliance between the werewolves and the vampires against Sebastian. Sebastian's insistence that Raphael kill Magnus and join his side leads in Raphael's refusal, and Raphael's death. Whether or not Sebastian would have gotten Raphael's word of alliance wouldn't have mattered as by then, Maia had turned the wolves and vampires completely against Sebastian.

Sebastian further hopes to force Clary to be his queen by taking Jocelyn prisoner. He believes this is his trump card: if everything else fails, he will be able to force Clary into a desired set of actions by threatening the life of Jocelyn. Unfortunately for Sebastian,



Sebastian's assumption of victory and premature celebrating is a strategic error that leads to his downfall. He does not anticipate that Clary's acceptance of the queen's throne is a ruse and a means to betrayal. Clary uses the politics of this ruse to mortally wound Sebastian.



Styles

Point of View

Cassandra Clare tells her novel “City of Heavenly Fire” in the third-person limited-omniscient narrative mode. The third-person narrator acts as a common thread that links together numerous characters and various subplots that ultimately intertwine into a single overarching plot that focuses on Clary’s efforts to defeat Sebastian and destroy his army of evil. The third-person narrator allows the reader to jump between characters, situations, and subplots easily, since the style of the narration does not change. Subplots between Maia’s efforts to united Downworlders to Clary’s journeys in Edom are easily transitioned between. The limited-omniscient aspect of the narration adds a level of suspense and drama to the novel, as the reader, narrator, and characters only learn about events in real-time. This includes events ranging from the attacks on the Institutes to when Sebastian wishes to begin his final assault on Alicante.

Language and Meaning

Cassandra Clare tells her novel “City of Heavenly Fire” in language that is straightforward, contemporary, and brief. This is done for at least three reasons. First, the novel’s target audience is that of young adults. The language used is reflective of the age and education of the target audience, as well as the time in which the novel was written –the 2010s. Secondly, the majority of the characters of the novel are young adults, especially between the ages of 12-18. As a result, the language used is reflective of their age range and the time in which they live. Third, the straightforward and brief language gives the novel a sense and atmosphere of urgency, adding to the suspense surrounding Clary’s confrontation of Sebastian and the fate of Alicante as it falls under attack from Sebastian’s forces of evil.

Structure

Cassandra Clare divides her novel “City of Heavenly Fire” into two primary parts preceded and succeeded by a prologue and an epilogue. Each part is further subdivided into chapters, with twenty-four chapters between both parts altogether. The chapters themselves are numbered from 1 to 24. The first part of the novel deals with events leading up to the journey of Clary and the others into Edom. The second part of the novel deals with events leading up to the confrontation of Sebastian by Clary, and the final battle for Alicante. The prologue deals with the attack on the Los Angeles Institute and the introduction of the characters who will become main characters in the next series, “The Dark Artifices”. The epilogue involves the efforts of Magnus, Isabelle, and others to restore Simon’s memories, as well as the wedding between Jocelyn and Luke.



Quotes

All steel must be tempered – subjected to great heat, almost enough to melt or destroy the metal – to make it stronger... Temper us in the fire, and we grow stronger. When we suffer, we survive.

-- John Carstairs (Prologue, Fall Like Rain paragraph 10)

Importance: When the novel begins, Emma's father explains to her the importance of new weaponry, and how it becomes stronger. He equates the stress weapons must undergo to become stronger to the trials in human life that make people stronger. His words are prophetic, as John and his wife will soon be murdered by demons. It will be the greatest challenge of Emma's young life – and will serve to make her stronger in the long run.

I am coming.

-- Sebastian (Part 1, Chapter 1, The Portion of Their Cup paragraph 29)

Importance: Sebastian's chilling warning to the members of the Clave, and to Clary and Jace, is that he is coming. Sebastian's warning portends war, destruction, and death. It leads many to believe that Sebastian is unbeatable, and strikes fear and terror into the hearts of many members of the Clave.

Heroes aren't always the ones who win.

-- Clary (Part 1, Chapter 3, Birds to the Mountain paragraph 164)

Importance: Here, Clary points out the sad truth that heroism is not defined by victory, but by making a moral stand in the name of what is right. Heroism is doing what is right, even if one loses. Likewise, heroes never give up. They keep fighting, even if they get knocked down.

You nearly killed yourself healing Jace, Clary. You're going to have to be careful. You don't have boundless reserves of energy.

-- Jocelyn (Part 1, Chapter 9, The Arms You Bear paragraph 12)

Importance: Jocelyn's motherly warning to Clary underscores two important things. First, that Clary must be very careful about healing Jace, since so much energy is expended by Clary in the process. Secondly, this underscores just how much Clary loves Jace, that she gives to him without thinking about her own safety. This has its benefits and its dangers, and will prove to be more dangerous for Clary and beneficial for Jace in future chapters.

It is not a curse to be rid of; it is a weapon you have been entrusted with. You are the blade of Heaven. Make sure you are worthy.

-- Brother Zachariah (Part 1, Chapter 9, The Arms You Bear paragraph 151)

Importance: Here, Brother Zachariah explains to Jace that his containing of the



Heavenly Fire means that he himself can be a weapon. To be worthy, he must be in the right, and must be able to control the fire in order to wield it. Jace himself may be the key to defeating Sebastian, though whether or not Jace will have the ability to do so remains to be seen. It will all depend on how he manages to confront Sebastian, and whether or not he has the energy necessary to expend the Heavenly Fire.

That's what I'm afraid of... That I don't have any more miracles in me.
-- Clary (Part 2, Chapter 15, Brimstone and Salt paragraph 52)

Importance: As Clary, Jace, and the others journey through Edom to confront Sebastian, Clary begins to worry about whether or not she will be able to see things through. She worries that, unlike in the past where she has managed to do the right thing at the right time and in the right place, she has no more such miracles in her. She is having a crisis of self-confidence. But Jace reassures her that she does indeed have what is needed to see things through.

It is better to rule in Hell than serve in Heaven.
-- Sebastian, after Valentine Morganstern (Part 2, Chapter 22, The Ashes of Our Fathers paragraph 41)

Importance: As Sebastian's plot becomes known to everyone – that he wants to rule Earth and Hell – he reveals just how sick and twisted he has become. His desire to rule over Evil rather than to serve in the name of Good demonstrates his megalomania and narcissism. It further demonstrates just how badly Sebastian needs not only to be defeated, but to be killed to prevent an elongated reign of terror.

I do not want to rule alone.
-- Sebastian (Part 2, Chapter 22, The Ashes of Our Fathers paragraph 45)

Importance: Ruling Earth and Hell are not enough for Sebastian. Sebastian is seeking love and approval for what he has done, and what he intends to do. He wishes to have Clary rule Earth and Hell with him as a measure of love and support. This will be done against Clary's will, and demonstrates that Sebastian will do whatever he wants to get what he wants.

Heroes save worlds. They don't destroy them.
-- Clary (Part 2, Chapter 22, The Ashes of Our Fathers paragraph 178)

Importance: In continuing to talk about heroes, Clary disagrees with Sebastian's notion that he is a hero. Sebastian contends he is heroic because he intends to conquer Earth and Hell. He contends he is heroic because he will be victorious, and because he has manipulated events to his desire. Clary argues that heroes are meant to save worlds, not destroy them. Heroes are about preserving life and hope, not destroying them. But Sebastian will hear none of it.

I'm sorry.
-- Sebastian-returned-Jonathan (Part 2, Chapter 23, Judas Kiss paragraph 133)



Importance: As Sebastian dies, the evil drains out of him. Sebastian becomes Jonathan, the being he could have been had he never been intended for evil, and if he had tried to be good against his evil nature. In the greatest statement of irony and tragedy in the novel, Sebastian apologizes for everything he has done.

It exists.

-- Isabelle (Epilogue paragraph 71)

Importance: In an effort to restore Simon's memory, Magnus and Isabelle speak to Simon about the world in which they exist, in which the truth is known about God and Heaven, the Devil and Hell, magic, and races of creatures in between. Isabelle states that all of it is real, that all the legends and stories are indeed true. It is the beginning of the restoration of Simon's memory.

Ghosts are memories, and we carry them because those we love do not leave the world.

-- Zachariah (Epilogue paragraph 188)

Importance: In the epilogue, Brother Zachariah speaks of the power of the past, and of love. While the souls of those on Earth may go to Heaven, the memory of them remains in the hearts of others because of love. With love, the dead never truly leave. The past will forever shadow the present.