

Clockwork Princess Study Guide

Clockwork Princess by Cassandra Clare

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Plot Summary

Clockwork Princess is the third novel in The Infernal Devices Series by Cassandra Clare. In this novel, Tessa is engaged to marry Jem. Jem's illness flares up after a battle with a demon, causing them to move up the wedding date. Unfortunately, the wedding is permanently delayed when Tessa is kidnapped by her arch nemesis, Mortmain, and Jem makes the difficult choice to become a Silent Brother to save his life. Clockwork Princess is an exciting ending to the trilogy that completes Ms. Clare's series, The Mortal Instruments.

Tessa is trying on her wedding dress when Gabriel Lightwood arrives at the London Institute and announces his father has turned into a worm. Will informs everyone that Benedict Lightwood has been suffering from the demon pox and the worm is the type of demon he has become. Tessa goes with Gideon and Gabriel Lightwood, Will Herondale, his sister Cicely, and her fiancé Jem Carstairs to Lightwood House. As Will and the others fight the worm, Tessa takes charge of the Lightwoods' sister. As things resolve, Tessa joins Henry in Benedict's study where they find writing on the wall that refers to the Infernal Devices, automatons used by Mortmain.

When the battle is over, and Gabriel has killed his father, Jem collapses. Everyone, Will especially, are shocked to discover that Jem has been using his medication, the yin fen that he is both addicted to and which is the cause of his inevitable death, in large doses and is nearly out. Will goes to buy some more, but discovers someone has bought up all the yin fen in London. Without it Jem will die. Jem tells Will that he can try to find a cure. For this reason, Will and Tessa go to visit the wizard, Magnus Bane, in hopes that he might have some clue as to where they might find a cure, or at least more yin fen.

As Jem's illness worsens, Tessa begins to fear he will die before they can marry. Therefore, when Mortmain sends some yin fen and says that he will send more in exchange for Tessa, Tessa agrees. Jem will not let her, however, and tells everyone he would rather die than let her go to Mortmain. The choice is taken out of Tessa's hands the next day, unfortunately, when a group of automatons show up at the institute and kidnap her.

Jem collapses after Tessa is kidnaped. Will is torn between his need to go save Tessa and his need to remain with Jem. Jem settles the matter when he overhears Will discussing with Magnus the fact that Will is in love with Tessa. Jem tells Will that if anyone else should be with Tessa it is Will. Jem then sends Will to find Tessa and save her from Mortmain.

As Will travels to Wales where he believes Mortmain has Tessa, he feels the moment when the parabatai tie between he and Jem is broken. With this knowledge, he goes to Tessa and tells her Jem is dead. Will and Tessa consummate their love for one another and are surprised the following morning when Magnus finds them. Magnus and Henry have created a portal that allows the Shadowhunters from London to quickly travel to Mortmain's stronghold in Wales. Unfortunately, Henry touches something on the



automatons they have discovered and causes them to come to life. Henry is badly injured in the subsequent fight.

One of Mortmain's automatons takes Tessa during the fight. As Mortmain stops the actions of the automatons, he calls for Tessa. Aware that Mortmain plans to kill her friends and force her into marriage, Tessa uses her shapeshifting abilities to turn into an angel. This angel kills Mortmain, but it also leaves Tessa very ill. When they return to the institute, Will sits by Tessa's side and becomes convinced that the bond between she and Jem needs to be broken. For this reason, Will asks Charlotte to summon Jem who has by this time begun his transformation into a Silent Brother.

Jem comes and tells Tessa that he loves her, but he knows that Will loves her as well. They discuss the situation and decide that it is better that Tessa move on with her life with Will. They agree to meet once a year on the bridge in London where they first met. Jem returns to the Silent Brother city while Tessa and Will find their way to one another. Tessa and Will are eventually married and they live more than forty years as man and wife, including the birth of several children. As Will ages, Tessa does not. Eventually Will dies. Afterward, Tessa travels the world, only returning to London each year to see Jem. Then one year, Tessa is pleasantly surprised that Jem has finally found a cure for his illness and has left the Silent Brothers. At first Tessa is reluctant to love Jem only to watch him age and die as she did Will, but then realizes that she has continued to love him for more than a hundred years and cannot let this opportunity pass.



Prologue and Chapters 1-4

Summary

Prologue

In 1847, Aloysius Starkweather watches as his granddaughter dies as she receives the first of the Shadowhunter marks. Nearly twenty-five years later, Charlotte Fairchild introduces Will Herondale to newcomer James Carstairs at the London Institute.

Chapter 1. A Dreadful Row

Tessa is in her room trying on her golden wedding dress with Charlotte. They are interrupted by Tessa's fiancé, Jem Carstairs, who informs them that Gabriel Lightwood has arrived. Upstairs in the training room, Will and Cecily, his sister, gamble to force Will to write a letter to their parents. As Cecily wins the competition, Jem comes and tells them of Gabriel's arrival.

In Gideon's room, Sophie brings Gideon some scones he has asked for. Gideon tries to talk to Sophie, but she resists his attempts because of the change in social status between them now that Sophie is a servant and Gideon a guest of the institute. As they talk, Henry arrives and tells Gideon of his brother's arrival.

The Shadowhunters of the London Institute gather on the front steps and listen to Gabriel tell his story. At first they misunderstand him, but soon realize that Gabriel's father, Benedict Lightwood, has succumbed to the final stages of Demon pox and has become a worm-like demon. It is decided that Will, Jem, both Lightwood boys, Cicely, and Tessa will go to Lightwood house and confront the demon.

Chapter 2. The Conqueror Worm

As they arrive at Lightwood House in Cheswick, the Shadowhunters are surprised to discover that Tatiana, Gabriel, and Gideon's sister, are there. Tatiana rushes to her rescuers and tells them that a worm has attacked her husband. They rush to the gardens along the side of the house and discover that Tatiana's husband is, indeed, dead. Will orders Tessa to take Tatiana back to the carriages while he, Jem, the Lightwoods, and Cicely battle the worm. It is a difficult battle, and Will is nearly severely injured, but Gabriel is able to kill the worm as Cicely distracts it. At the same time, Tessa hears a noise in the house and finds Henry in battle with a demon in Benedict's study. Tessa helps him kill the demon. Then Henry and Tessa see writing on the wall that talks about the infernal devices, suggesting they are limitless.

Chapter 3. To the Last Hour

Jem has fallen ill. Tessa rushes to his side, while Will instructs everyone on how they will proceed. Tessa and Will rush Jem back to the institute where Charlotte calls the



Silent Brothers to help make him comfortable. Charlotte offers Gabriel sanctuary at the Institute, while Will and Tessa turn briefly to one another in their grief. Tessa and Cicely speak after Charlotte informs Will and Tessa that Jem wants to see Will, his parabatai.

Chapter 4. To Be Wise and Love

After the Silent Brothers have gone, Will sits with Jem. Will is shocked to discover the supply of medicine, yin fen, that is both causing Jem's illness and saving him from death, is nearly depleted. There should have been enough for a year, but Jem has been taking extra in order to live a more fulfilling life with Tessa. Will is angry, but he refuses to allow Jem to die. Jem tells Will that he releases him from his promise to not try to find a cure for his addiction. Will immediately sets out to find more. Cicely follows him, forcing Will to take her along as well.

Sophie goes to Gideon's rooms to discover him grieving for his father. They fall into an embrace. Sophie discovers that Gideon has been hiding the scones that she has been bringing him under his bed and becomes angry that he would be so selfish as to cause her extra work to satisfy his own desires. Downstairs, Henry tells Charlotte about notes for a portal he has found among Benedict's papers that he believes he can make work. In Jem's room, Tessa suggests things Jem can do to prolong his life, such as becoming a vampire or a Silent Brother. Jem refuses both options, preferring to remain with those he loves as long as he can. After Jem has fallen asleep, Will returns and tells Tessa that he cannot find any yin fen anywhere, that someone has bought it all up. Will decides to search for a cure and his first stop is to see Magnus Bane, the warlock.

Analysis

In these first few chapters, the author reintroduces the characters from the first two novels in this series, specifically Will, Jem, and Tessa. Tessa is engaged to Jem, even though readers of the previous novels will know that she is really in love with Will. As the preparations for the wedding have begun, the past revisits the Shadowhunters at the London Institute when Gabriel Lightwood arrives and announces that his father has become a giant worm. Readers of the previous novels will recall that Benedict Lightwood was working with Mortmain, the Magister. In fact, Benedict Lightwood attempted to turn the Shadowhunters against Charlotte and become the head of the London Institute himself. When this failed, Mortmain ended his association with Benedict Lightwood, leaving him without the medication to control his Demon pox. This has now caused Benedict Lightwood to become a demon in the shape of a worm. Gabriel, who always stood steadfast beside his father, now finds himself in a position where he not only has to kill his father, but he also has to accept the kindness of Charlotte now that his father's actions have caused the family homes and fortune to be confiscated while his actions are investigated. It is a difficult situation for Gabriel, leaving the reader wondering if Charlotte is making a mistake in trusting him and allowing him to remain at the Institute.



The relationships between Tessa, Will, and Jem are complicated. Will and Jem are parabatai, meaning that they are connected spiritually, much closer than even brothers. They love each other deeply. If one should die, the other would feel as if a piece of their very soul has been ripped away. Therefore, the fact that Jem is dying leaves Will in a bad place. Will is determined to keep Jem alive no matter what he has to do even though there is no cure for the addiction that is causing Jem's failing health. At the same time, Will is deeply in love with Tessa. Will pushed Tessa away in a previous novel because he believed that everyone he loved was doomed to die. However, when he realized he was not cursed, he rushed to tell Tessa the truth, but she had already become engaged to Jem. For the sake of his parabatai's happiness, Will has made the choice to hide his love for Tessa, unaware that she is also in love with him. Tessa loves both men, and she struggles with her feelings because she does not wish to hurt either man. It is a complicated situation that leaves all three in a precarious position that can only be made worse, or perhaps better, by Jem's failing health.

Discussion Question 1

Who is Jem? What is causing his illness? Is there a cure? Why has Will chosen a dying young man to be his parabatai? What might happen if, and when, Jem dies?

Discussion Question 2

Why is Tessa engaged to Jem? What is her relationship with Will? Why do they ignore their feelings for one another? What happened in a previous novel to cause this separation between them? How do they each feel about Jem?

Discussion Question 3

Who is Benedict Lightwood? How did he become a worm? What does this situation prove to his sons about his actions in previous novels? What does his death suggest about his sons' future?

Vocabulary

Blame, chambers, addiction, burden, poison, danger, deserve, hatred, painfully, fragile, memory, effort, brilliant, goodness, abashed, helplessly, easier, pale, brocade, cloak, reverie, carriage, corruptive, force, kindness, expansive.



Chapters 5-9

Summary

Chapter 5. A Heart Divided

Will and Tessa go together to see Magnus Bane. Magnus is staying in the home of Woolsey Scott, a werewolf and leader of a local werewolf pack. Woolsey is not pleased to see Will and Tessa, openly teasing Tessa about her love for two men. Magnus, however, is clearly pleased to see Will. Magnus listens to Will's request for Magnus to help him find a way to save Jem. Magnus reluctantly agrees. Magnus then gives Will a ruby he wears around his neck that will glow when demons are near. Magnus hopes it might also work with Mortmain's automatons. When Will and Tessa leave, Will expresses his fear for Jem's life. Magnus also expresses fear, but his is for Will's future happiness.

Chapter 6. Let Darkness

Jem is better the next day. The Shadowhunters all gather for breakfast at the Institute. The Consul shocks everyone by showing up to talk to Charlotte about Benedict Lightwood. It is clear the Consul is not pleased with the way Charlotte handled the whole thing. When the Consul leaves, he takes the Lightwood brothers with him, presumably to be interviewed. Instead, the Consul takes the Lightwood brothers to a house of ill repute and tells them that he is suspicious of Charlotte and would like them to spy on her. At first, Gideon outright refuses, but the Consul makes it clear that their family name and their fortunes will be taken permanently if they do not help. So, they agree. However, Gideon tells Gabriel that they do not have to give the Consul good information, they just need to appear to be cooperating.

Chapter 7. Dare to Wish

Cecily is training alone, thinking about her relationship with her brother and his refusal to give up the Shadowhunter lifestyle. Gabriel joins her and gives her pointers on her Shadowhunter skills. Will finds them together and is instantly on guard against Gabriel, scaring him away. Will explains to Cecily that he and Gabriel have been rivals for many years.

Later in the day, Charlotte calls the Shadowhunters into the study and shows them a letter sent to her by Mortmain. Mortmain has bought up all the yin fen in London and is willing to give it all to Jem if Tessa will agree to go to him. Tessa immediately agrees, but Jem refuses. Jem takes the letter and the little amount of yin fen Mortmain sent with it into the fire. Will immediately pulls the yin fen out, burning his hands. Jem rescues him and begins the healing process of his hands with runes. Later, Jem, Cecily, and Charlotte discuss the situation and try to find a solution.

Chapter 8. That Fire of Fire



Gabriel and Gideon write their second letter to the Consul, reporting on Charlotte's poor advice to an uncle regarding his ill health. Tessa gets a message to meet Jem in the library. They talk for a short time, both realizing that they want to move their wedding up in light of the fact that Jem will soon die if he does not find a force of the yin fen. They decide to marry as quickly as possible. Jem makes the announcement to the others the next morning over breakfast. He receives a mixed response. The discussion is interrupted by the arrival of a carriage outside. Jessamine has arrived. The group goes outside to greet Jessamine. Will and Tessa stop briefly on the stairs to speak, but they are interrupted. Another carriage appears after the first. Inside are automatons who quickly and savagely attack the Shadowhunters.

Chapter 9. Graven in Metal

Tessa goes outside just in time to see the automatons attack. She grabs a sword to join the fight, but she's shocked to find herself face to face with a previous nemesis she thought was dead, Mrs. Black. Will rushes through the institute in search of Cyril, but the ruby around his neck begins to glow, and he realizes there is trouble. Will rushes outside just in time to see the second carriage pull away, unaware that Tessa has been taken captive in that same carriage. Jem rushes after the carriage on foot as Will joins the fight. When things begin to settle down, Will goes to Jessamine to move her to safety only to discover she has received a fatal blow. Jessamine tells Will once again that Mortmain is in Idris. Jessamine dies. Moments later, Jem returns. Just before he collapses, Jem tells everyone that Tessa has been kidnapped.

Analysis

Will wants to find a cure for Jem's condition. To Will, saving Jem is like saving a part of himself. Therefore, despite the fact that both boys are in love with the same girl, Will is desperate to save his parabatai even if it means giving up forever the girl he loves. At the same time, Tessa is torn between the two boys she loves. While Tessa is determined to save Jem, even to the point of being willing to give herself to Mortmain in exchange for the medication that will save Jem, she still finds herself drawn to Will. Tessa almost tells Will that she loves him even after agreeing to marry Jem a lot sooner than originally planned. It is a complicated situation that is further complicated by Jem's precarious situation, leaving the reader wondering whom Tessa will end up with and with whom she really wants to be.

Gideon and Gabriel are blackmailed by the consul into spying against Charlotte. The Consul has learned that the Council wants to appoint Charlotte as the new Consul after the current one retires. This leaves him desperate to find a way to discredit her because the current Consul dislikes all women, but Charlotte especially. For this reason, he forces the Lightwoods to spy on her, but they do not take the threat seriously and send him ridiculous information, such as Charlotte's fondness for hats. This shows the reader that both Lightwood boys feel a certain loyalty to Charlotte. However, it leaves Charlotte vulnerable to other attempts by the Consul to discredit her, leaving the reader concerned for any help Charlotte might receive in the future.



The attack on the Institute comes in the form of automatons. Readers of the previous two novels in the series will recognize these automatons as belonging to Mortmain, the mundane who wants Tessa to help him with an unknown weapon and become his wife. Therefore, it is no surprise when Tessa is kidnapped. It is clear that the offer of the yin fen for Jem was just a distraction as Mortmain executed his real plan to get Tessa. Now the reader must wonder who will rescue Tessa as Jem once again collapses from his worsening condition.

Discussion Question 1

Who is Mortmain? What does he want with Tessa? Why does Jem refuse Mortmain's offer of the medication he needs? What will happen if Jem does not get this medication?

Discussion Question 2

Why do Jem and Tessa move up their wedding date? What is the new wedding date? How do the others react to their decision? What does this decision imply about Jem's future?

Discussion Question 3

What does Tessa nearly tell Will on the stairs? Why does she do this? What happens to Tessa when she joins the fight against the automatons? Why do the automatons attack? Who is injured? Who is killed?

Vocabulary

Confessions, death, uninflected, questions, flicked, institute, assumed, injured, automatons, creatures, applying, murmured, expression, fluttering, spasmodically, tightened, eyelids, suddenly, understood, fluttering, generous, punctured, urgently, realized.



Chapters 10-14

Summary

Chapter 10. Like Water upon Sand

Cecily gets Gabriel to call Will away from Jem's sickbed and tells him that she knows where Mortmain is. He is in Wales on the mountain, Cadair Idris. The Consul returns, but he is not convinced that Cecily's guess about Mortmain's whereabouts is accurate. The Consul refuses to gather a force to go to Cadair Idris and rescue Tessa. When the Consul leaves, he corners Gabriel Lightwood and convinces him to do some spying on Charlotte on his own.

Will is sitting with Jem, debating with himself about what his next move should be, when Magnus arrives. Will speaks with Magnus about his feelings for both Jem and Tessa, expressing his need to go to rescue Tessa, but also his need to remain by Jem's side as he lay dying. Magnus tells Will to go after Tessa and promises to remain by Jem's side in his stead. As Will stands to go, Jem grabs his arm and asks what he means by saying he loves Tessa.

Chapter 11. Fearful of the Night

Will confesses to Jem that he loves Tessa, but promises Jem that Tessa does not return his feelings. Jem tells Will to go save Tessa. Will hesitates, knowing that Jem will die in his absence. However, his love for Tessa and Jem's insistence push him into action. Will sneaks away, but is caught by Cecily. Cecily wants to go with him, but Will refuses. Cecily promises to keep quiet about Will's actions as long as Will agrees to visit their parents when he returns. Tessa wakes in the carriage and finds herself alone with Mrs. Black. Mrs. Black reveals that she was beheaded by Will and Jem, but that Mortmain gave her her life back and has promised her a new body when she returns to Mortmain with Tessa.

Chapter 12. Ghosts on the Road

Will rushes out of London and pushes his magical horse to its limits as he crosses the countryside, trying not only to catch up with Tessa, but outrun his guilt for leaving Jem. Charlotte is upset when she learns Will has left, but feels her priority is in keeping Jem alive for Will's sake as well as Jem's. At the same time, Tessa jumps out of the carriage and falls over the edge of the road and down a steep embankment. In a roadside hotel, Will dreams of Tessa and finds he cannot properly rest. In London, Gabriel and Cecily go to a small shop that specializes in selling items used by members of the Underworld where Gabriel is rudely introduced to some of the materials his father often ordered from that shop. Gabriel throws the owner through the window and into the nearby river. At the Institute, Henry shows Magnus the plans for the portal and Magnus suggests ways in which to make it work.



Chapter 13. The Mind has Mountains

As Tessa falls, expecting to die, she is surprised to find that her clockwork angel, which she has worn around her neck most of her life, has come to life. The angel safely transports Tessa to the bottom of the ravine before returning to its previous size. Sophie sits with Jem at the Institute and he tells her that he knows of Will's love for Tessa. As they discuss it, Sophie lets slip that she knows Tessa loves Will too. Will continues his journey. On the side of the road beside a ravine he finds the jade pendant Jem gave to Tessa upon their engagement. He calls to her briefly before continuing his journey. At the Institute, Charlotte sits with Jem. Jem tells Charlotte he no longer wants them to search for a cure for him. Charlotte makes the announcement to the others, warning them to quickly say their goodbyes. Cecily is deeply troubled about Jem's decision because she is frightened of what it means for Will. Her fears and emotions give Cecily something in common with Gabriel and they spend some time together discussing their personal tragedies.

Chapter 14. Parabatai

Will settles in a roadside hotel for the evening that is run by Underworlders, making it easier for him since he does not have to hide his Shadowhunter traits. However, as he sits down to eat, Will is struck with a horrible pain where his parabatai rune is. Will steps outside to deal with the pain, and with it the realization that Jem is dead. While alone, a group of werewolves surround Will and goad him into a fight. Will is happy to fight, to help him with the emotional pain of losing Jem. However, Woolsey shows up and breaks up the fight. Will leaves. At the same time, Tessa wakes near the river and begins walking.

Analysis

Jem is dying. This reality causes life to stand still at the London Institute as those who love him begin to grieve and those who do not, try their best to stay out of the way. Will is determined to remain at Jem's side until the end, but the realization that Tessa has been kidnapped and could be in danger, causes him to struggle with his divided loyalties. Will knows that his place is at Jem's side, but he loves Tessa and no one else is doing anything to help her. In the end, Jem accidentally learns of Will and Tessa's love for one another and he does the only thing he believes himself capable of doing: he takes himself out of the equation. It appears to the reader that Jem has simply decided to die in order to free both Tessa and Will to follow their hearts.

Will leaves Jem with a heavy heart to rescue Tessa. However, when Jem appears to have died and Will feels the pain in his parabatai rune, he nearly dies from the grief. It is a very difficult time for Will despite the fact that he has known it was coming even before he agreed to be joined with Jem in the parabatai ritual. The reader is left wondering if Will will be able to overcome his grief in order to allow himself to love Tessa.



As Will and Jem struggle, Tessa is lost in the English countryside after fleeing from Mrs. Black. At the same time, Gabriel and Cecily have grown quite fond of one another and Gideon and Sophie are drawn to one another despite their differences in social standing. This suggests to the fans of Ms. Clare's other novels, the *Mortal Instruments* Series, that one of these couples, or both, are the ancestors of the beloved characters of those novels, Isabelle and Alec.

Discussion Question 1

How does Jem learn of Will's love for Tessa? How does he come to believe that Tessa returns these feelings? Does she? Why does Jem send Will after Tessa? Why does Jem decide he no longer wants a cure found for his condition?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Will have so many dreams about Tessa? What do these dreams imply about Will and Tessa? Does Tessa have dreams of Will? What does this suggest about Tessa's feelings for Will?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Will feel pain in his parabatai rune? What is this rune? Where did Will get it? What does the pain suggest? Why does Will pick a fight with werewolves afterward? Who saves Will from fighting with the werewolves? Why?

Vocabulary

Respect, diminished, consuming, tedious, dagger, hatred, cowards, casualness, cleared, terrifying, encompassing, impetuous, direction, stables, darted, vanished, unconscious, unprovoked, unrecognizable, werewolf, plastered.



Chapters 15-20

Summary

Chapter 15. Stars, Hide Your Fires

Tessa has a vivid dream about Will and wakes to find herself in an old cottage she found near the river. Tessa hears a noise and realizes the automatons have found her. Tessa uses her shapeshifting abilities to take on the shape of the old woman who once lived in the cabin. However, Mrs. Black is with the automatons, and she is not tricked by Tessa's disguise. At the same time, Will wakes from where he fell from his horse on the roadside. Will buries a dagger that once belonged to Jem in a show of grief before continuing his journey to find Tessa.

At the Institute, Charlotte has used a letter Will sent her about finding Tessa's pendant to try again to get support from the Consul, but again it fails. Then Charlotte receives a visit from Aloysius Starkweather. Starkweather tells Charlotte that he believes his granddaughter was stolen from her crib as an infant and replaced by a human, causing her death upon receiving the first of the Shadowhunter runes. Starkweather believes that his real granddaughter was raised by a human family and impregnated by a demon with her second child after her marriage to a mortal man. Starkweather believes that child to be Tessa. This explains Tessa's unique abilities. It may also explain Mortmain's obsession with Tessa. Gabriel overhears this conversation and writes a letter about it to the Consul.

Chapter 16. The Clockwork Princess

Tessa wakes in a cave room where she discovers she is trapped by an invisible barrier. Mortmain comes into the room and tells Tessa that he wants her to use her shape shifting ability to become the warlock who adopted him so that he might speak to him one last time. In exchange, Mortmain will send the yin fen he has bought up in London to Jem. Mortmain also tells Tessa how the fairies exchanged a human child with Starkweather's granddaughter and how Mortmain himself arranged for a demon to impregnate the woman in order to create a unique life form that he could use in the future. Mortmain believes that if he and Tessa have children, they will be a new race of Underworld creatures.

Will continues his journey, pushing his horse so hard that he collapses under him. Will walks the horse into a Welsh village near the mountain to rest before attempting his rescue. At the same time, Tessa agrees to help Mortmain speak to his father only to realize that she is helping Mortmain create an automaton that will be capable of destroying the entire Shadowhunter race. The creature Mortmain has created is impervious to Shadowhunter weapons and encases a demon.

Chapter 17. Only Noble to be Good



Charlotte calls Gabriel into her study to check on his emotional condition as he continues to struggle with the death of his father. Gabriel is so touched by this kindness that he rethinks his decision to work with the Consul against Charlotte. Gabriel confesses what the Consul has asked him to do, but insists he never told him anything.

Upon learning that even with the news of Starkweather's information regarding Tessa, the Consul is refusing to support Charlotte's desire to rescue Tessa. Henry and the others encourage Charlotte to go around the Consul and seek support on her own from the Council and other Shadowhunters. Charlotte agrees when she learns that Henry will have the portal working soon. All the Shadowhunters agree to go. Bridget and Sophie also ask to be included. It is when Sophie volunteers that Gideon announces to everyone that he believes Sophie should ascend to be a Shadowhunter so that they might marry. Sophie is shocked by this, but when Gideon later asks her properly, she accepts.

Chapter 18. For This Alone

Mortmain takes Tessa to watch his new automatons in action, unaware that Will is in the village that the creatures are attacking. Will barely escapes with his life. Later, Tessa has a dream in which the clockwork angel speaks to her. Mortmain has already told Tessa the angel was designed for his adoptive mother, but modified for her. The angel inside is linked with Tessa's life and unable to allow her to come to mortal harm. Tessa wants to destroy it so that she might kill herself before being forced to marry Mortmain, but the angel will not allow it. The angel tells Tessa his name and how he came to be trapped in the necklace. At the same time, Will makes his way to the top of the mountain and discovers the only way in is through a lake.

Chapter 19. To Lie and Burn

Will is sucked down through the lake and into a cave inside the mountain. It is dark, and Will is aware of danger as he walks through the long corridors. Will sees a large room down below where he stands that is filled with automatons. This gives him a chill as he again wonders what Mortmain is planning. Will continues through the tunnels in his search for Tessa. Will finds Tessa in a room that is decorated kind of like a hotel room. However, in his haste to get to her, he has sealed himself behind the invisible barrier as well. Will and Tessa talk. Will tells Tessa that Jem is dead. Together they grieve. In their grief, they find comfort in one another. After consummating their love, Will falls asleep. Tessa notices that her clockwork angel has left a white star on Will's shoulder.

Chapter 20. The Infernal Devices

Henry and Magnus create the portal and explain to the others how it will work, encouraging Cecily to think of Cadra's Idris to help them go there. Gabriel is reluctant to allow Cecily to go through the portal, but when she simply walks through, he quickly follows. Charlotte is worried that no other Shadowhunters have arrived to support them. When three Silent Brothers arrive to offer their help, they bring with them the news that the Consul has convened a meeting at the exact time the Shadowhunters were to come



to the Institute. The meeting is to decide who will replace Charlotte as head of the London Institute.

As Charlotte and her Shadowhunters walk through the portal, the Consul is arguing at the Council meeting against allowing Charlotte any support in her attempts to stop Mortmain. Many argue in Charlotte's favor, causing the Inquisitor to wonder about the Consul's motives. In fact, the only one to argue on the Consul's behalf is Tatiana, a woman who clearly has ulterior motives. As the arguments become very heated, automatons march into the room and begin killing the Shadowhunters, beginning with the Consul.

In Cadraïd Idris, Magnus finds Will and Tessa sleeping together. Magnus wakes them and encourages them to dress in the gear he has brought. The other Shadowhunters have gathered in the room where the automatons wait. Henry begins to fiddle with their circuitry, accidentally turning them on. Henry is badly injured when one automaton picks him up and shakes him violently. One of the Silent Brothers rushes in to help and is killed.

Analysis

Charlotte repeatedly asks the Consul for help in rescuing Tessa and her requests are frequently denied. The Consul clearly does not believe that Charlotte's information is accurate or that he should place his own reputation on the line for her. It is clear that the Consul is trying to ruin Charlotte because he does not want her to replace him as Consul. Charlotte is not fully aware of the Consul's motives, but she is beginning to realize that he is not there to help her. For this reason and because she finally learns the truth of Tessa's birth that proves Tessa is of the Shadowhunter race, she decides to act on her own. This is a dangerous move for Charlotte that could potentially backfire, but Charlotte knows that Will is in danger and, at the least, she must stop him from sure death.

Tessa has learned the truth of her own birth. It turns out she is both Shadowhunter and demon, reflecting some of the events in the writer's other series, the Mortal Instruments. This explains Tessa's shapeshifting abilities, as well as her other, untapped, abilities. It is a birth that should have been impossible, but has proven to be possible thanks in part to the soul of an angel stuck inside the clockwork angel Tessa always wears. This angel's existence is linked with Tessa's life, forcing it to ensure Tessa's survival. This makes the reader wonder to what extreme the angel might go for Tessa.

Will arrives to save Tessa, but he traps himself in her prison. This leaves them with little to do but comfort one another in their grief over Jem. Tessa finally confesses to Will that she has loved him all along. He tells her that he has loved her, too. They turn to one another, leaving the reader wondering if now that Jem is out of the picture if they might find some happiness with one another. That is, of course, if they survive the next few hours.



Discussion Question 1

Why is the Consul reluctant to help Charlotte? Who is right? What might happen when the Clave learns that Charlotte knew where Mortmain was and the Consul did nothing to help? Why does this not worry the Consul?

Discussion Question 2

Why is everyone surprised to learn Tessa's mother is a Shadowhunter? Why have Shadowhunters never had children with demons before? What does this special mix of races make Tessa? What does it suggest about her abilities? Her mortality?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Gabriel eavesdrop on Charlotte? What does he write in a letter to the Consul? What does Gabriel do with the letter? What does this suggest about Gabriel's character?

Vocabulary

Staff, brutally, seized, animating, consciousness, witchlight, rune, illumination, grotesquely, absence, presence, symbol, swilling, containment, demon, onward, remorse, boldness, uniform, military, slaughter, remorse.



Chapters 21-24 and Epilogue

Summary

Chapter 21. Burning Gold

Will and Tessa rush to the room, and Will tells them that they cannot use their Shadowhunter weapons on these automatons. Will urges Tessa to stay out of the way, leaving her with Magnus, as he rushes to help Cecily. One of the Silent Brothers joins Will and Cecily. As he does, Will is shocked to realize that this Silent Brother is Jem, his former parabatai. Will has many questions, but there are too many automatons for them to battle. Magnus is distracted. When he moves away from Tessa, she is grabbed by the automaton Mortmain showed her the day before, Armaros. Armaros takes her into a small alcove where her friends cannot see her.

As Cecily continues to fight, she sees Charlotte sitting on the floor beside Henry with only Bridget to keep the automatons from them. Cecily rushes over to encourage Charlotte to let Henry go, but she refuses. Magnus comes and does something that awakens Henry, proving he is still alive. However, he cannot move his legs. Magnus places them in a magical shield while they try to decide what to do. Henry reveals a gadget he had in his pocket that he hopes will cause the demons to leave their automaton bodies long enough for them to escape. Cecily throws it. As it begins to work, Mortmain arrives and orders his automatons to stop. Mortmain then orders Armaros to bring Tessa to him.

Tessa realizes that once Mortmain has what he wants, he will kill all her friends. Tessa is desperate to find a way to stop Mortmain. Then Tessa remembers her clockwork angel and the dream she had. Tessa uses her shape shifting ability to become the angel. The angel then kills Mortmain. With Mortmain's death, all the demons who live in his automatons die too.

Chapter 22. Thunder in the Trumpet

Tessa falls into a high fever when she returns to her own shape. Charlotte takes everyone home and calls the Silent Brothers. The Silent Brothers do all they can to help Tessa and Henry, but they cannot heal either of them. Will sits with Tessa and listens to her speak to Jem in her delirium. Will goes to Charlotte and asks her to have Jem come see Tessa so that they might break their bond. Charlotte has already been warned that because Jem has begun the process of becoming a Silent Brother, he cannot continue to acknowledge people from his past.

Charlotte receives a visit from the Inquisitor who presents her with a letter from the Council asking her to become the new Consul. Charlotte hesitates, but finally decides to take the position on the understanding that she will continue to live at the London



Institute so she can train Will to take her place. Charlotte also asks that Jem be allowed to visit the Institute to break his bonds with the people of his past.

Chapter 23. Than Any Evil

Jem comes to Tessa and gives her a medication that helps bring her out of her delirium. Tessa and Jem talk for a while. Jem tells Tessa why he chose to become a Silent Brother, and Tessa tells Jem how she feels about Will. They agree that life must go on for both of them, but Jem also agrees to meet Tessa once a year at the bridge where they first talked. Afterward, Jem goes to Will to say his goodbyes. When Jem is gone, Will goes to Tessa. Tessa begs him not to ask her to marry him simply based on what happened in the mountain. He agrees.

Chapter 24. The Measure of Love

Sophie ascends to become a Shadowhunter. Afterward, the Shadowhunters return to the Institute for their Christmas celebrations. Tessa thinks of the last few weeks as Will has awkwardly courted her until she finally convinced him to be himself around her. As Will joins Tessa in the study, they are approached by a stranger. The man tells them he is Jem's uncle and he wants to give Will an ancient sword that has been in his family for many generations. Will refuses and walks out. Outside, Will sees Jessamine. Jessamine yells at Will for taking so long to propose to Tessa. For that reason, when Tessa comes outside, Will asks her to marry him. The next day, Will, Tessa, Cecily, and Gabriel use Henry's portal to go to Wales and visit Will and Cecily's parents.

Epilogue

It is 2008. Tessa is on the bridge, waiting for her annual visit with Jem. Tessa thinks back on the past one hundred and thirty-some odd years of her life. She and Will married and had several children. Will died after they had been together for more than forty years. While he lay on his death bed, Jem came and played the violin for him. Afterward, Tessa left the country, traveling all over the world to avoid the reminders of Will's death and the inevitable deaths of her children and grandchildren. For the past several generations, the only thing that brings Tessa back to England is her yearly meeting with Jem. This time is different, however. When Jem arrives, he is no longer a Silent Brother. He's a healthy young man in his late teens. Jem tells Tessa he wants to be with her as they had planned so many years ago. Tessa hesitates because she is afraid of Jem's mortality. However, Tessa chases Jem down, determined to be with him because she believes that Will and Jem are the only two men she will ever truly love.

Analysis

Tessa's rescue has finally arrived. Inadvertently, they walk into an ambush that places their lives in danger. Tessa proves to be the only one who can stop the massacre that threatens to kill everyone she loves. Tessa uses her shape shifting abilities to turn into the angel who has been protecting her before her birth. This not only leaves Mortmain



dead and his automatons useless, but it also frees the angel. However, it places Tessa in a bad way that seems likely to end her life.

Will is deeply in love with Tessa. When he is ill, all he can focus on is her. However, when she calls out for Jem repeatedly in her delirium, Will once again sacrifices his own needs and desires for Tessa by making a request for Jem to come to see her. This act seems to work because it frees Tessa of her bond to Jem and allows her to move forward. Will, too, finds a way past his grief to find happiness in Tessa. As the series comes to an end, the reader is happy to see a good end for these characters. However, it is not over. Tessa does prove to be immortal, as Magnus predicted. This allows for Tessa to outlive Will. However, since Jem is a Silent Brother, he also leaves for a very long time. When Jem finally finds a cure for the yin fen addiction, he leaves the Silent Brotherhood and returns to Tessa. They pick up where they left off so many years before. The reader can almost hear Will offering his blessing to the happy couple.

The other characters in this novel also move on with their lives and find happiness. Charlotte becomes the new Consul despite the attempts of the previous Consul to discredit her. Henry creates the first motorized wheelchair and continues his life as an inventor. He has several more children with Charlotte. Gabriel and Cecily marry, as do Gideon and Sophie. They all continue to be good friends. It is a happy ending to a highly entertaining series.

Discussion Question 1

How does Tessa turn into an angel? Why does she do this? What does the angel do once it manifests? Why? What happens to the angel when it is all over?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Will request that Jem come see Tessa despite his Silent Brother vows? What does Jem say when he comes? Why is Will surprised when Jem comes to tell him goodbye? How does Jem's visit change things for Will and Tessa?

Discussion Question 3

Why is Tessa still young and alive more than a hundred years later? What has caused this? Why is Jem still alive as well? What does this mean for their future? Why does Jem assume Tessa will not want him? Does she? Explain.

Vocabulary

Haphazardly, ordinary, pavement, rubbish, anniversary, shockingly, pollution, fashion, assumed, bracelet, fastened, fluttering, amplified, railway, squared, hardly, incredible,



ability, lovingly, grandchildren, together, stranger, language, excellent, prose, respected, reciting, laughingly.



Characters

Theresa 'Tessa' Grey

Tessa is the heroine of the novel. Tessa was born and raised in New York. After her mother's death, she came to London to live with her brother Neal. When Tessa arrived, she was met by a woman she did not know and forced to do things she did not realize she could do. It turns out that Tessa is the child of a demon and a Shadowhunter, a new breed of person that makes it possible for her to take on the shape of a person or creature whose essence she is able to touch in an object. Mortmain, the Magister, knows of this power because he was the one who arranged for Tessa's conception. As a result, Mortmain plans to use Tessa as a weapon against the Shadowhunters, whom he despises because they killed his adoptive parents who were a warlock and a witch.

Tessa has survived her previous encounters with Mortmain and his minions. At the beginning of this novel, Tessa is looking forward to her wedding to Jem, a Shadowhunter who helped save her from Mortmain in the previous two novels. However, tragedy again enters Tessa's life, first when Jem becomes ill and runs out of the medication that could save him and then when Mrs. Black reenters her life and kidnaps her in order to return her to Mortmain.

Tessa gives Mortmain what he wants in hopes that he will save Jem. However, Tessa quickly discovers that by shifting into Mortmain's father, she has allowed Mortmain to create a weapon that will destroy all the Shadowhunters. Tessa then learns that Jem has died. Due to this news, Tessa finally reveals to Will Herondale that she has been in love with him since they first met. Unfortunately, soon after this confession, both Tessa and Will learn that Jem is not dead, he has only been converted into a Silent Brother. This causes a great deal of grief for both Will and Tessa who both feel as though they have betrayed Jem.

In the end, Tessa saves everyone from Mortmain by shifting into an angel and killing him. This leaves the Shadowhunters to live in peace. However, Tessa becomes very ill and overcome with grief for Jem. Jem comes to see Tessa and they make everything clear, making it possible for Tessa to move on with her life with Will. Will and Tessa are married. After Will's death, many years pass where Tessa lives alone because she is immortal and afraid to watch those she loves die. In the end, however, Tessa is reunited with Jem and makes the choice to love him again.

William 'Will' Herondale

Will Herondale is a Shadowhunter. Will met Tessa when he rescued her from the Dark Ladies' home. Will fell in love with Tessa from the moment he met her, but he pushed her away because he believed he was cursed and anyone he loved would die. For this reason, Tessa turned to Jem for comfort and ended up falling in love with him. On the



day Will learns there is no curse and he can love Tessa, she tells him she has become engaged to Jem.

Jem and Will have a very special relationship. Will had pushed away everyone he might love out of fear of them dying because of his curse. However, Jem is already dying when Will meets him, so Jem is the one person Will lets into his heart. Will and Jem become parabatai, a relationship that binds them closer than brothers. Therefore, when Will learns that Jem is engaged to Tessa, he does nothing to steal her back out of respect for his parabatai.

When Will believes Jem has died, he struggles with his grief, but allows himself to turn to Tessa. They consummate their love only to discover the following day that Jem is not dead, but has become a Silent Brother. This leaves Will feeling betrayed, but when Jem comes to speak to him, he realizes that Jem has simply done the only thing he could do to save his own life. Jem gives Will permission to care for Tessa. In the end, Jem and Tessa are married and live happily together for more than thirty years. Will, as a mortal, dies long before Jem or Tessa, leaving them to find love again when Jem cures his illness and leaves the Silent Brothers.

James 'Jem' Carstairs

Jem Carstairs is a young Shadowhunter whose parents were murdered while working in the Institute in Singapore. Jem comes to the London Institute where he meets Will. Will believes he is cursed and that any person he loves will die. So, Will refuses to make friends until he meet Jem. Jem is already dying because he has become addicted to a medication called yin fen. For this reason, Will and Jem become very close, even undergoing the ritual of parabatai to become spiritually bond to one another.

When Jem meets Tessa, he falls deeply in love with her. Unaware that Will is also in love with Tessa, Jem asks Tessa to become his wife. All is well until Jem becomes ill. Jem has begun taking extra medication so that he might be more vital for Tessa, but he is running out. When Will tries to buy more, he discovers that someone has purchased all the yin fen in London. This means certain death for Jem. Jem gives Will and his friends permission to search for a cure, but a cure is unlikely. In the end, Jem chooses to become a Silent Brother, in part to save his life, but also in part to allow Will and Tessa to be together.

Jem lives more than a hundred years as a Silent Brother. When he finally finds a cure, Jem leaves the Silent Brotherhood and becomes mortal once more. Jem meets Tessa and asks her if they can resume their relationship. At first Tessa hesitates, but then she accepts Jem's proposal with an open heart.

Cecily Herondale

Cecily is Will's sister. Cecily originally came to the London Institute to convince Will to go home. However, Cecily has since fallen in love with the Shadowhunter lifestyle.



Cecily decides she wants to remain in London and be a Shadowhunter even though it will mean having to never see her parents again. The Law says that Shadowhunters cannot socialize with those exiled from the Clave as Cecily's father was when he married a mundane. It takes some work for Cecily to convince Will her feelings are true, but he comes around when he recognizes her passion and sees her fight well in battle. In the end, Cecily remains in London and marries Gabriel Lightwood.

Gabriel Lightwood

Gabriel Lightwood is the son of Benedict Lightwood. In a previous novel of the series, Benedict tried to have Charlotte removed as head of the London Institute and to replace her himself. His bid failed. It also turns out that Benedict Lightwood was working with Mortmain and that he had a fascination with demons. It is this later hobby that has caused Benedict to contract the Demon pox. At the beginning of the novel, Gabriel arrives at the London Institute to announce that his father has transitioned into a demon and that he is a worm. Gabriel battles his father with the other Shadowhunters and ends up shooting the fatal arrow into his father's eye.

Gabriel struggles with trust and loyalty in the wake of his father's death and the knowledge of the kind of man his father was. Gabriel soon realizes, however, that his father was wrong in his habits and dealings. In the end, Gabriel is given the opportunity to turn against Charlotte, but he chooses not to. Gabriel becomes a loyal member of the London Institute and marries Cecily Herondale.

Gideon Lightwood

Gideon Lightwood is Gabriel's brother. Gideon knew years before his brother that their father was not a good man, therefore he handles his father's death easier. Gideon's focus in this novel is on Sophie Collins, the young woman he once trained as a Shadowhunter whom is now a servant at the Institute. Gideon loves Sophie, but he cannot convince her that their relationship is a good thing. In the end, however, Gideon convinces Sophie to ascend so that they might marry.

Sophie Collins

Sophie is Charlotte's servant at the London Institute. Sophie wants to become a Shadowhunter, but she is afraid that if she does, it will change her relationship with Charlotte. However, Sophie loves Gideon and wants to marry him. In the end, Charlotte is very supportive of Sophie's desire to ascend and even performs the ceremony as one of her first duties as Consul.



Charlotte Fairchild Branwell

Charlotte is the head of the London Institute, having been given the job after her father's death. The Consul appointed Charlotte in the hopes that she would be easy to control. The Consul has since turned on her in the realization that Charlotte has a mind of her own. When the Consul learns that Charlotte is in the running to become Consul after his retirement, he does all he can to try to sabotage the efforts. In the end, however, Charlotte wins out and becomes the first woman Consul of the Clave.

Henry Branwell

Henry is Charlotte's husband. Henry is the classic nutty professor, the kind of inventor who is brilliant, but often confused by everyday life. Henry finds instructions for a portal that can transport Shadowhunters quickly from place to a place among Benedict Lightwood's papers. Henry and Magnus use these instructions to make the portal a reality, a portal that will be used in the Mortal Instruments series.

Magnus Bane

Magnus Bane is an immortal warlock who appears in both the Mortal Instrument and the Infernal Devices series. Magnus Bane helped Will in a previous novel discover that his curse is not real. In this novel, Magnus promises to help find a cure for Jem's illness, but he fails to do so before Jem is so close to death that he chooses the Silent Brotherhood over a cure. Magnus cares deeply for Will and helps him in every way he can, including helping Tessa deal with her immortality before and after Will's mortal death.

Mortmain

Mortmain is a mundane, a human who was stolen by warlocks as an infant and raised as a warlock. Mortmain helped switch the Starkweather granddaughter with a mortal child. Due to his knowledge that this mortal child was really an unmarked Shadowhunter, Mortmain arranged for her to conceive the child of a demon. This child, Tessa, is born with the power to shape shift and with immortality. Mortmain uses Tessa to further his plan to destroy all Shadowhunters. In the end, Tessa uses her shape shifting ability to kill Mortmain and end his reign of terror.



Symbols and Symbolism

Scones

Gideon orders scones from the kitchen at the Institute, even though he does not like them, so that he might have an excuse to see Sophie.

Clockwork Angel

Tessa wears a necklace that is a clockwork angel that actually works. Tessa learns later that the necklace has the essence of a real angel in it whose existence is tied to her own, forcing this angel to come to her rescue each time she is in danger of dying.

Jade Pendant

When they are first engaged, Jem gives Tessa a jade pendant that once belonged to his mother.. Tessa keeps this pendant even after Jem becomes a Silent Brother, showing it to him over a hundred years later to prove her love never died. This is also the pendant Will finds when Tessa is kidnapped that proves she has been taken to Wales.

Small Box

Jem gives Will a small box that once belonged to his mother. He kept his yin fen inside of it. Initially, Will refuses it because the box will remind him of Jem's illness.

Letters

Charlotte and the Consul write many letters in this novel, both to each other and to the Council of the Clave. These letters express the Consul's unhappiness with the idea of Charlotte becoming the new Consul upon his retirement and Charlotte's struggles to get support when she learns where Mortmain is hiding.

A Tale of Two Cities

Both Will and Tessa are avid readers. One of their favorite books is A Tale of Two Cities. Will gives Tessa a copy of this book with an inscription he wrote when he learned he was not cursed to express to Tessa the depth of his love. Will gives the book to Tessa while courting her after Jem becomes a Silent Brother.



Yin Fen

Yin Fen is a drug that is highly addictive that causes its user to become ill when the drug is no longer used. Jem is dying of this addiction when he makes the choice to become a Silent Brother.

Automatons

Automatons are robot-like creatures that Mortmain is fond of creating. These creatures are used by Mortmain to be his bodyguards and his henchmen as he wages a one man war against the Shadowhunters. Toward the end of the novel, Mortmain creates automatons that are infused with the spirits of demons and impossible to kill with Shadowhunter weapons.

Shadowhunters

Shadowhunters are a race of mortals who were created to protect the human race from creatures of the Underworld, including warlocks, witches, fairies, vampires, and werewolves. These mortals were created by an angel of Heaven.

Silent Brothers

Silent Brothers are a group of Shadowhunters who have taken their runes to another level, creating immortal, superhuman beings who are capable of healing. They can withstand extreme battles. Jem becomes a Silent Brother in this novel to save himself from dying of his yin fen addiction.



Settings

1879

This novel is set in 1879. This is a time when carriages were still the main mode of transportation and women still wore corsets. This time period is most important as it impacts Charlotte Branwell. Charlotte is the head of the London Institute. She was appointed because the Consul thought that as a woman she would be easily controlled. Instead, Charlotte has shown herself to be a strong leader of the local Shadowhunters. She is tough, yet fair. For this reason, the Council wants to promote Charlotte to Consul when the current one retires. But, the current Consul fights this idea because he does not like the idea of a woman in such a position of power. In the end, however, Charlotte wins out.

London Institute

The London Institute is the headquarters of the Shadowhunters in London, a place where Shadowhunters can find safety and training among mundanes. Most of the novel takes place at the London Institute which is housed in a large home in London and run by Charlotte Fairchild Branwell. Will and Jem have grown up here while Gideon, Gabriel, and Tessa have found refuge here.

Cadair Idris

Cadair Idris is a mountain near the estate where Will's parents live. Cadair Idris is rumored to be hollow. When Jessamine tells Will he is a bad Welshman, he and his sister realize that this is because Mortmain has made this hollow mountain his hideaway. When Tessa is kidnapped, Will goes here to save her. It is also here where Will and Tessa finally admit their love for one another and consummate their relationship for the first time. Later, Tessa changes into an angel and kills Mortmain here.

Wales

Will and Cecily grew up in Wales. When Will's father chose to marry a mundane, he was exiled from the Shadowhunters. He fled to Wales. It is against the Law for Shadowhunters to visit those who have been exiled, but Charlotte allows Will and Cecily to break the Law and use the newly created portal to visit their parents for an hour at the end of the novel.



Themes and Motifs

True Love

As this novel begins, Tessa is preparing for her wedding with Jem. Tessa and Jem became engaged in the previous novel despite the fact that Tessa was in love with Will, Jem's parabatai. Will pushed Tessa away because he believed he was cursed. If she loved him, she would die. For this reason, Tessa had opened her heart to Jem and now loves them both.

When Jem becomes ill, Tessa stands by him, agreeing to marry him sooner than originally planned. Tessa is fully committed to her relationship with Jem even as she continues to nurse a broken heart for Will. Even a werewolf can see Tessa's conflicted feelings, accusing her of having found true love not once, but twice.

When Tessa is kidnapped and Jem collapses, clearly near death, Will is conflicted. He cannot decide if he should follow his heart and go after Tessa or remain at the side of his best friend and parabatai. Will chooses Jem, but Jem tells him to go after Tessa after realizing how deeply Will loves Tessa. Not only this, but upon learning that Tessa returns Will's feelings, Jem decides to become a Silent Brother. Silent Brothers cannot be married, requiring Jem to give up Tessa and leave her free to marry Will.

In the end Tessa marries Will, and they have more than thirty amazing years together. When Will dies, Tessa is devastated, especially since she is immortal and continues to live for more than a hundred years. However, when Jem finally finds a cure for the yin fen addiction, he returns to his mortal life and asks Tessa if they can go back to their previous relationship. Tessa hesitates to love someone who will die, but realizes how lucky she is to have a second chance with true love.

Bond of Parabatai

Will once believed himself to be cursed. For this reason, Will pushed away everyone he loved because loving him could cause their deaths. This included lovers, family, and friends. However, when Will learned that Jem was already dying, he felt safe in allowing Jem to become his friend. Due to this fact, Will and Jem became closer than brothers. In fact, they underwent a ceremony that made them parabatai, partners in everything.

When Will learned he was never really cursed, he went to Tessa to tell her the truth of his feelings only to learn that she and Jem were engaged. Will loved Jem enough to want him to be happy, so he kept his feelings to himself. Then Jem became sicker, and it grew clear that he would soon die. Will fights to find a cure for Jem and to find more of the drug he requires, but Will fails. It is a difficult time for Will because he knows that if Jem dies, he could never be with Tessa or live the life he wants for himself.



When Tessa is kidnapped, Will goes after her to save her from Mortmain. On the road, Will suddenly has a horrible amount of pain from his parabatai rune. Will knows this means that Jem has died. Will is so overwhelmed with guilt that he picks a fight with some werewolves. However, he continues to go after Tessa so that he might save something that Jem loved. The following day, Will and Tessa join a fight against the automatons only to discover that one of the Silent Brothers who came to help the Shadowhunters is Jem.

Will is angry with Jem for not telling him the truth and hiding his choices. However, Jem comes to Will and explains his decision, making it clear to Will that not only does he not harbor any ill will toward Will for his feelings for Tessa, but that he wants Will to make Tessa happy. It is only for this reason that Will is able to finish grieving for his friend and move on with his life.

Trust versus Discrimination

Charlotte is a strong female leader as the head of the London Institute. However, this novel is set in a time period when women are considered a fragile sex, unable to lead as a man might. For this reason, the Consul treats Charlotte with disdain. This disdain increases when the Consul realizes that the Council wants her to take over his job when he retires.

As the Consul wages a quiet war against Charlotte, he forces the Lightwood brothers to spy on her. This causes some tension between the brothers as Gideon fully trusts Charlotte and respects her while Gabriel is still unclear on Charlotte's motivations. Gabriel turns on Charlotte, agreeing to spy on her behind everyone's back, including Gideon. However, when Charlotte shows concern for Gabriel in the aftermath of his father's death, Gabriel begins to see in Charlotte what his brother has already known. Gabriel chooses to trust Charlotte even as the Consul continues to distrust her. The distrust is based solely on her gender.

Styles

Point of View

The novel is written in the third person omniscient point of view. This novel is told through the narration of multiple characters, including Tessa, Jem, Will, and Charlotte. By using this type of point of view, the author allows the reader to see multiple events through the eyes of multiple characters so that the reader is aware of all that is going on even when those events take place outside the knowledge of the main characters.

The point of view of this novel works well with the plot. There is a lot of action in the plot of this novel. Not all of the events involve the main characters. For this reason, the author has used the third person point of view to give the reader all the information necessary to follow the events in the plot without becoming too confused or missing something important simply because a main character is not involved.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is simple English. The author uses a language in this novel that is a little more sophisticated than the language in her previous series of novels due in part to the setting of this novel. The language of this novel reflects the time period in which it is set as well as the social and educational backgrounds of the main characters.

The language of this novel works well with the plot because it reflects the setting and the sophistication of the characters. However, it is not so sophisticated that the intended audience, young adults, might become confused. The story is written in the tone of the nineteenth century novels that are often mentioned throughout the book.

Structure

The novel is divided into twenty-four chapters as well as a prologue and epilogue. Each chapter is fairly long and consists of multiple scenes seen through the eyes of multiple characters. The novel is told through both narration and dialogue, showing a story rather than just telling one.

The novel contains several main plots and multiple subplots. One of the main plots follows the relationship between Jem, Will, and Tessa. Another main plot follows the struggle between Charlotte Branwell and the current Consul. One subplot follows the romance between Gideon and Sophie, while still another follows the growing romance between Gabriel and Cecily. Each plot comes to a satisfactory ending at the end of the novel.



Quotes

Pain. It was normal to feel some pain at the bestowing of a Mark, but what he saw in Adele's eyes - was agony.

-- Aloysius Starkweather (Prologue paragraph 21)

Importance: This is the moment when Aloysius Starkweather realizes that his granddaughter is not a Shadowhunter and begins his suspicions that his real granddaughter was stolen by the Underworld people.

The dress was a deep gold silk, as was the custom for Shadowhunters, who believed white to be the color of mourning, and would not marry in it, despite Queen Victoria herself having set the fashion for doing just that.

-- Tessa (Chapter 1 paragraph 2)

Importance: This quote establishes the time period in which the novel is set and the differences between the Shadowhunter race and mundanes, or humans.

How had she not seen he was so ill?

-- Tessa (Chapter 3 paragraph 8)

Importance: This quote shows the shattering of Tessa's comfortable world when she becomes aware that her happiness with Jem is a fragile one because of his chronic illness and impending death.

If I had held a revolver to your head, James, and pulled the trigger, would it really matter if I did not know that there were no bullets in the chambers?

-- Will (Chapter 5 paragraph 16)

Importance: This is how Will expressed his guilt to Jem upon learning he was not cursed.

The weight of the sword in her hand was comforting, almost as if it served as a barrier between herself and her feelings.

-- Cecily (Chapter 7 paragraph 17)

Importance: This quote is significant because it shows the struggle Cecily is having with herself as she struggles between a desire to return home to Wales and her desire to become a Shadowhunter.

But if Magnus had contacted him, Will would have told her; he was honorable. They were all honorable. If they had not been, she thought, looking down at her hands, perhaps everything would not be so awful.

-- Tessa (Chapter 8 paragraph 4)



Importance: This quote shows the reader how difficult things have been for Tessa in hiding her feelings for Will while he remains a good friend to both her and Jem.

She had always wondered how you could be alone with someone else, really. If you were with them, weren't you by definition not alone? But she felt entirely alone now, for Will seemed to be somewhere else completely.

-- Cecily (Chapter 10 paragraph 28)

Importance: This quote shows the reader how lost Will is in light of Jem's impending death and how it pushes out everyone, including his sister.

Tessa,' Jem said. 'She knows despair, and hope as well. You can teach each other. Find her, Will, and tell her that I loved her always. My blessing, for all that it is worth, is on you both.

-- Jem (Chapter 11 paragraph 57)

Importance: Jem says this to Will as he encourages Will to go rescue Tessa from Mortmain after learning that Will is in love with Tessa. This is Jem's way of protecting Tessa and of guaranteeing the happiness of both his fiance and his parabatai upon his death.

Her angel necklace was lifting over her head, as if an enormous hand had reached down out of the sky to remove it. A metallic blur surrounded her, a pair of great wings opening like gates, and something caught at her, arresting her fall. Her eyes widened--it was impossible, unimaginable--but her angel, her clockwork angel, had grown somehow to the size of a living human being and was hovering over her, its great mechanical wings beating against the wind.

-- Tessa (Chapter 13 paragraph 2)

Importance: This quote is Tessa's realization that her clockwork angel has just grown and become a true angel to save her from falling to her death. This is later explained when Tessa learns the necklace contains the essence of an angel whose existence is tied to her life.

Tessa?' Will said, and she realized it was Will in her arms, Will who was dying, Will breathing out his last breath--and there was blood on his shirt, just over his heart, a spreading red stain--

-- Tessa (Chapter 15 paragraph 9)

Importance: Tessa has a dream in which this scene takes place. This happens about the time Will feels the pain in his parabatai rune that makes him think Jem has died.

No one believed themselves a villain.

-- Tessa (Chapter 15 paragraph 38)

Importance: Tessa thinks this as she realizes she has helped Mortmain create a demon



that is impervious to Shadowhunter weapons, making them nearly impossible to destroy.

Jem was mortal now. He would grow old like Will, and like Will he would die, and she did not know if she could bear it again. And yet.

-- Tessa (Epilogue paragraph 81)

Importance: This quote is the moment Tessa realizes that she has a second chance to love Jem, and she should take it.