

# **Dark Flame Study Guide**

**Dark Flame by Alyson Noël**

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## Plot Summary

Dark Flame is the fourth installment in The Immortals series by Alyson Noel. In this novel, Ever finds herself unhappily bonded to her enemy, Roman. Ever tries several times to break this bond until she finally realizes that the bond is not magic gone wrong but her own darker side made more powerful by her own obsession with obtaining the antidote she needs to repair the damage another antidote did to her soul mate, Damen. Dark Flame is not only another intense novel filled with immortal characters, but a lesson in the battle between light and dark that takes place in everyone.

Ever tells Haven that she has made her immortal to save her life. Haven does not get angry as Ever expected, but is excited by the idea that she will now be better and brighter than she has been in the past. Ever is concerned by Haven's reaction, especially when she turns on Ever and Damen when they attempt to ration her consumption of the elixir. Ever is even more concerned when Haven turns to Roman in her desire to embrace every aspect of immortality.

Ever runs into Jude and discovers that his arm is in a sling after their last encounter. Still convinced that Jude is one of Roman's rebels, she attempts to prove his immortality by slicing his arm. However, Jude is not immortal and the wound requires a trip to the emergency room. Now that Ever can trust Jude again, she turns to him in a search for help in breaking a bond she accidentally created between herself and Roman.

Ever finds herself increasingly attracted to Roman. There is a dark monster inside of Ever that comes to life every time Roman comes near her, causing her to find it increasingly impossible to control her own actions. This monster was created when Ever performed a magic spell attempting to force Roman to give her that antidote that will allow she and Damen to touch again. Instead, Ever has bonded herself to Roman and cannot control the increasingly demanding monster.

After a particularly unpleasant episode with Roman, Ever finds herself standing at the bridge in Summerland where the dead cross over. Ever wonders what would happen if she attempted to cross over. Jude appears and Ever finds herself confessing all to him, including her immortality and her bond to Roman. Jude promises to help. However, it is Ava who finally gives Ever the answers she really needs. Ava teaches Ever how to let go of the darkness that is fueling the bond between she and Roman.

Ever goes to seek answers in her desire to get the antidote from Roman and learns about his terrible childhood. Ever realizes that Roman has never been loved and she decides to offer him her unconditional love in one last attempt to get the antidote. Roman shows her the antidote and promises to give it to her if she will show him where Drina is. Unfortunately, Jude walks in on a scene he does not understand and kills Roman in a misguided attempt to protect Ever. By doing this, Jude removes Evers' last chance to get the antidote she needs.



# Chapters 1-6

## Chapters 1-6 Summary

This is the fourth novel in a series of novels about a group of Immortals. The first immortal was Damen who became immortal when his father created an elixir that made those who drank it immortal and infused them with certain powers. Over the hundreds of years since, Damen has shared the elixir sparingly with others and one of these people, Roman, has created his own formula and created still more immortals.

Damen has been in love with Ever for more than four hundred years, but she always dies before he can give her the elixir until now. Jude has also been in love with Ever for hundreds of years, but he is not immortal and cannot remember his past lives.

In Chapter 1, Ever takes her best friend Haven to her favorite cupcake store and tells her that she made her immortal when Roman attempted to poison her. Haven does not believe that Roman would have killed her and refuses to stay away from Roman.

In Chapter 2, Ever goes over the rules of immortality with Haven, mainly that she cannot tell anyone. They talk about Roman again. Accepting Haven's decision not to stay away from Roman, Ever asks her to help get an antidote from Roman. Ever needs to reverse the effects of another antidote that makes it impossible for Ever and her soul mate, Damen, to touch.

In Chapter 3, Ever visits Damen and tells him how Haven took the news of her new immortality. They discuss Ever's concerns over Haven. When Ever leaves a short time later, the twins, Romy and Rayne, remind Ever that tonight is a new moon.

In Chapter 4, Ever goes home and tries to avoid her aunt and her aunt's new boyfriend who happens to be Ever's history teacher. In her bedroom, Ever prepares for and performs a magic spell that she hopes will break the bond with Roman that she accidentally created in a prior spell, but it only seems to make it worse.

In Chapter 5, after dinner with her aunt and Munoz, Ever goes for a run. Ever's run takes her to Roman's store where she runs into her boss, Jude. The last time they saw each other, Ever threw Jude across her backyard because she saw a Ouroboros tattoo on his back that is similar to the ones Roman and his rebels wear. Ever scoffs at the sling Jude is wearing and accuses him of faking it for the non-immortals. When Jude refuses to admit his immortality, Ever cuts his arm. Ever is shocked when Jude's wound does not immediately heal.

In Chapter 6, the police come to the hospital to talk to Ever, but Jude defends her, claiming that he injured himself in a home improvement job gone wrong. Ever is grateful. Ever takes Jude home and he begins asking questions about her ability to move so quickly and to manifest objects out of thin air. Ever refuses to answer his questions.



## Chapters 1-6 Analysis

These chapters pick up without explanation from where the last novel ended. Ever tells Haven, her best friend, that she made her immortal when Roman poisoned her. Ever was forced to choose between Haven and the antidote she needs to fix a problem created by another antidote. Ever chose Haven and made her immortal. Haven is excited by this news, surprising Ever with her reaction. Ever is concerned about Haven's reaction and even more concerned about the speed with which the elixir seems to be impacting Haven. However, Haven is just a minor problem in Ever's life at the moment.

Ever was made immortal nearly a year ago when Damen fed her his special elixir after a car accident that took the lives of Ever's parents and sister. Damen then told Ever that he has been in love with her for more than four hundred years, but each time they came together, Ever was killed by his ex-wife, Drina. This time Damen managed to save Ever before Drina could kill her. However, Damen was nearly killed by his enemy Roman, another immortal who has created a rebel group, and the antidote Ever gave him to save his life also made it impossible for them to touch. Now Ever needs the antidote to repair this problem but Roman is the only one who has it and he is refusing to turn it over. As a result, Ever tried to bond him to her so that he would give her the antidote, but instead she bonded herself to Roman.

Ever feels she has made many mistakes since learning of her immortality and she is obsessed with attempting to fix these mistakes. However, the more Ever tries to fix her mistakes, the more mistakes she makes. This includes Ever's relationship with Jude. Jude has been in love with Ever in each of their lives over the last four hundred years, but Jude does not know about his past lives because he is not immortal. Ever thinks Jude is immortal and that he is part of Roman's rebels, but learns that he is not. This complicates the situation for Ever because she has placed herself in a position where she has admitted too much to Jude and broken the first rule of immortality: not to tell anyone.



# Chapters 7-14

## Chapters 7-14 Summary

In Chapter 7, Damen attempts to ration Haven's access to the elixir, but she becomes angry and announces that she will get all she needs from Roman. Haven then accuses Ever of being jealous.

In Chapter 8, Ever and Damen are concerned about Haven's attitude, but do not know what to do about it.

In Chapter 9, Ever and Damen go to Summerland where they visit a reproduction of the Chateau de Versailles. Damen once was friends with Marie Antoinette so he shows Ever the chambers where he slept when visiting her and tells her about their friendship.

In Chapter 10, Ever has fallen asleep and Damen wakes her. It is the most restful sleep Ever has had since her bond with Roman. Ever tells Damen about what happened with her and Jude. When they return to the earth plane, Ever intends to go to Jude's store, but finds herself outside of Roman's. Roman welcomes Ever to the dark side, but then Haven appears and sends her away.

In Chapter 11, Ever runs until she arrives at Jude's store. Ever gives Jude his medication and apologizes again for her actions. Ever then asks Jude if he can help her find a way to break the bond she has with Roman. Jude tells Ever what she did wrong the second time and then promises to look into it for her.

In Chapter 12, Ever and Damen go to Miles' going away party. Ever runs into Roman and nearly embarrasses herself by throwing herself at him. Later, Damen gives Miles a list of places to see in Venice, hoping to distract him from a little antique shop Roman has encouraged him to go see.

In Chapter 13, Ever tries to tell Damen about the spell that bound her to Roman, but cannot due to the magic. Ever tries to talk Damen into going to Summerland with her where she knows she will be able to tell him, but he refuses to go. Damen thinks Ever is addicted to Summerland.

In Chapter 14, Ever goes to Summerland alone where she is shocked to discover she has been banished from Great Halls of Learning. However, she runs into her old enemy Ava and discovers that Ave has free access to the Great Halls.

## Chapters 7-14 Analysis

Haven is convinced that Ever is jealous of her because now Haven has all the powers of immortality that will make her stand out and be less of a nobody. Ever's bond with Roman makes this seem even more likely and fuels the growing angst between her and



her former best friend. This leaves the reader convinced that Haven will grow to be trouble for Ever in the future.

Ever's bond to Roman makes her act inappropriately each time she goes near him. For this reason Ever becomes more and more determined to break the bond. However, all avenues seem cut off for her, including her ability to talk to Damen about it and her ability to get answers in Summerland from the Great Hall of Learning. For this reason, Ever becomes frustrated and frightened that she will not be able to repair this mistake.

Jude becomes closer to Ever when she turns to him to ask that he help with her unfortunate bond to Roman. The fact that Ever turns to Jude and not Damen suggests that there could be growing affection between her and Jude. This is a possible cause of trouble in the future between her and Damen.



# Chapters 15-23

## Chapters 15-23 Summary

In Chapter 15, as Ever and Jude talk in his shop, Ever feels Roman coming near. Ever takes Jude with her to Summerland.

In Chapter 16, when they arrive in Summerland, Ever shows Jude how he can make things appear by just thinking about them. They go on several adventures in places all around the world. Ever then takes Jude to the Great Halls of Learning. While he is inside, Ever conjures a horse and rides it to a strange place she does not understand.

In Chapter 17, while Jude and Ever talk on the steps of the Great Hall, Damen appears. Before Ever can explain, Damen disappears.

In Chapter 18, Ever walks around Summerland and finds herself in front of the house where the twins lived before coming to live with Damen. After talking to a neighbor for a few minutes, Ever goes inside. Ever sees a picture of herself and her sister that was taken the day of the accident. Then Ever sees a painting of Rayne and Romy's aunt whose eyes cause her to realize who their aunt was.

In Chapter 19, Ever goes straight to Damen and tells him that Ava is Rayne and Romy's aunt, but Damen already knew this. In fact, the twins are getting set to move in with Ava. Damen then tells Ever that he knows she is addicted to magic and she needs to fix it. Ever insists he is wrong.

In Chapter 20, Ever begins to lose her ability to manifest things. Ever goes to Roman's house and throws herself at him. Again Haven walks in on them and breaks them apart.

In Chapter 21, Ever goes to Jude's shop where she sees the day's date circled on the calendar. Ever collects that things she needs for another spell and goes to a private cave she knows near the water. This time the spell seems to have worked to sever the bond between she and Roman.

In Chapter 22, it is Ever's birthday and Damen takes her to Summerland where he shows her an invention he created that allows them to relive their previous meetings in their past lives. They are able to kiss and touch, but cannot change the past.

In Chapter 23, back on the earth plane, Damen takes Ever to Ava where a surprise party has been arranged. Ever is saddened that they do not try to surprise her and that Haven has not attended. Later Ava tries to explain why she left Damen alone and took off with the elixir on the day Roman tried to kill him. Ever remains weary of Ava.





## Chapters 15-23 Analysis

Ever takes Jude to Summerland, showing him how to make the trip and all the wonders of the place. This is the next step in revealing all to Jude, making the reader wonder how long it will be before Jude learns about immortality and his connection to Ever and Damen in his past lives.

Ever's connection to Roman continues to grow stronger, coming to the point where it has affected her appearance and begins to take away her magical powers. This causes Ever to worry even more about fixing the problem. Finally the spell to reverse the bond seems to work, but Haven has already caught Ever with Roman three times, leaving the reader curious if Ever will ever be able to repair this crumbling friendship. The reader also grows concerned about Ever's relationship with Damen until the broken spell finally allows them to be honest with one another and spend some time together.

Ever's meetings with Ava are upsetting because Ever blames Ava for her current inability to touch Damen. However, Ava seems to be a kind, honest person and she reassures Ever that she no longer means her and Damen any harm.



# Chapters 24-35

## Chapters 24-35 Summary

In Chapter 24, Ever arrives home after her birthday party and talks with her aunt for a few minutes. Then Ever finds a card from Roman offering a truce if she comes to his house before midnight.

In Chapter 25, Ever goes to Roman's house and he again promises a truce. However, Roman wants Ever to prove that the antidote is really the one thing that she wants more than anything else. As they talk, Ever realizes that their bond is not broken, just dormant. The dark flame inside Ever bursts into full light and draws her to Roman. They began to touch and Ever realizes that when Roman looks at her he sees Drina. In the last seconds Ever is able to break the spell and pull away from Roman.

In Chapter 26, Ever finds herself in Summerland after fleeing Roman. Ever stands at the bridge where the dead crosses over and wonders what would happen if she cross over, even though she knows that immortals go to a dark, lonely place when they die. Jude appears and Ever suddenly finds herself telling him everything, including the secrets of her immortality.

In Chapter 27, Jude takes Ever to Ava and encourages her to make amends.

In Chapter 28, when Ever speaks with Ava, Ava tells her that the bond between her and Roman is not magic but her obsession with Roman and the antidote. The bond is the darkness inside Ever and she needs to rid herself of it. Ava begins by teaching Ever some cleansing meditation techniques.

In Chapter 29, Ever goes to Damen to tell him what has happened, but finds herself unable to tell him everything. As they talk, Miles calls and sends Ever some pictures he took in the antique shop Roman sent him to. The pictures of some portraits painted of Damen and Drina over a span of more than a hundred years. Ever is shocked by the arrogance in Damen's face.

In Chapter 30, Ever continues her cleansing routine with Ava. When she feels pure again, Ever goes to the Great Halls of Learning and is allowed inside. The Great Hall shows her Roman's life story and she realizes he has never known love.

In Chapter 31, Ever goes to Haven and makes amends.

In Chapter 32, Ever is caught giving psychic readings in Jude's store by her aunt. Later, Ever tells Jude she is going to Roman's to try one last time to get the antidote.

In Chapter 33, Ever finds Roman meditating, attempting to find Drina on the other side. Ever tells him that she has decided to stop hating him and to love him unconditionally.



Then Ever offers to show Roman where Drina's soul resides if he will give her the antidote. He agrees, placing the antidote in his shirt pocket.

In Chapter 34, Ever takes Roman to the dark place where immortal souls go after death. Jude bursts in and sees Roman lying nearly on top of Ever and thinks he is attacking her. Jude pulls Roman away and kills him by punching his heart chakra. Gone are both the antidote and the recipe. Haven walks in and blames both Ever and Jude for Roman's death.

In Chapter 35, Ever tells Damen all and he promises that they will find a way to make things work.

## Chapters 24-35 Analysis

Ever goes to Roman and realizes that the bond between them is not as broken as she had thought it was. In fact, Roman manages to convince Ever that she wants him more than the antidote. Ever nearly gives in to Roman, but then she realizes that she looks like Drina to him and that it is not her he wants. This is enough to remind Ever about her connection to Damen and she fights him. This episode shows the reader the depth of Roman's love for Drina, Damen's ex-wife, and gives some insight into his psyche.

Ever learns from both Roman and Ava that the magic that is compelling her to feel attraction to Roman is really just the dark side of herself that has become obsessed with hating Roman and trying to get the antidote. Ever learns how to deal with this dark side of herself and is returned to a more normal state. In fact, Ever makes amends with everyone around her. However, this amends is torn apart when Jude kills Roman and takes away Ever last chance of ever getting the antidote that will allow her to touch Damen again. It also seems to have made Haven Ever's mortal enemy, replacing Roman in future novels.



# Characters

## Ever

Ever is nearly seventeen. Ever's parents, sister, and dog were killed in a car accident nearly a year ago. Ever was in the same accident, but she was fed a special elixir in the aftermath that made her immortal and saved her life. After moving to Laguna Beach to live with her aunt, Ever met Damen. Damen told her that he is immortal and has been in love with her for more than four hundred years. Damen then tells her that he has made her immortal.

Now Damen and Ever are soul mates, but they cannot touch because of an antidote Ever gave Damen to save his life also made it lethal for him for them to touch. Damen is covered with a magic force field that protects him, but Ever desperately wants to find the antidote that will allow them to touch again. Due to this, Ever has accidentally bound herself to the man who has the antidote, Roman.

Ever spends the novel trying to keep away from Roman even though the dark magic inside of her forces her to go to him and act irresponsibly in his presence. In the end, Ever learns that it is the darkness inside of her that has caused this bond with Roman and she works to rid herself of this darkness. At the same time, Ever learns that Roman has never known love in her life and she attempts to use love to convince him to give her the antidote. However, Jude kills Roman before Ever can succeed.

## Damen

Damen is the first immortal. Damen's father created the elixir that makes humans immortal and gave it to him. Over the years Damen has shared the elixir with others. One of these, a young man Damen saved from the Black Plague, has created an elixir of his own and turned an unknown number of people.

Damen has been in love with Ever since he first met her in his original lifetime. However, each time Damen gets close to Ever, Drina, his ex-wife, kills her. This time, Damen gets to Ever in time and gives her the elixir to save her life. However, Roman tried to kill Damen and the antidote that saved his life also made Ever's touch lethal. For that reason, Damen is forced to live with a magic force field around him to protect him from Ever.

## Jude

Jude is the third cog in the love triangle with Damen and Ever. Jude has always existed in each of Ever's lifetimes and has been in love with her for four hundred years. Jude is human, however, and does not recall his past infatuations with Ever or their tragic ends. However, when Ever takes him to Summerland and the Great Halls of Learning, Jude



learns about these past lives and his connection to Ever, making him determined that one day they will be together.

## Roman

Roman was a young man when Drina encouraged Damen to give him the elixir to save him from the Black Plague. Roman was never loved. Roman's mother died in childbirth and his father blamed him. Later, Roman was mistreated in an orphanage and never found anyone who would love him. However, Roman became fixated with Drina when she saved his life by making Damen give him the elixir. Due to his unhappiness and lack of love, Roman becomes a rogue immortal, creating his own elixir and changing an unknown number of people. Roman also holds the antidote that could enable Damen and Ever to touch, but refuses to give it to her.

## Haven

Haven has been Ever's quiet, mousy best friend since her move to California. However, when Roman attempted to kill Haven with poison, Ever turned Haven into an immortal. The rush of becoming immortal and all the powers that come with it change Haven, causing her to lash out at Ever and accuse Ever of being jealous. When the magic spell pulls Ever to Roman over and over again, this only seems to underscore Haven's idea that Ever is jealous of her. Ever and Haven make amends briefly, but when Haven discovers Ever and Jude over the remains of Roman's body, Haven turns on both of them.

## Miles

Miles is Ever's other good friend in California. Miles travels to Venice in this novel and finds a small antiques shop that Roman told him about. In the shop, Miles finds several painted portraits of Damen and Drina from many centuries past. This causes Miles to wonder about Damen and his true history.

## Ava

Ava was once a friend of Ever. However, when Ava left Damen to Roman and took off with the elixir, Ever stopped trusting her. However, in this novel Ava tries to explain herself to Ever and they eventually find some common ground. Ava helps Ever get rid of the darkness that has bound her to Roman.

## Romy and Rayne

Romy and Rayne are twins that Damen and Ever discovered in Summerland. Romy and Rayne lived during the Salem Witch Trials and were sent to Summerland by their aunt



who was an accused witch. The girls have been waiting in Summerland for their aunt's return. However, they are discovered by Riley first, Ever's dead sister. In the end of a previous novel in the series, Damen takes the twins to live with him and they help Ever discover magic. In this novel, it is discovered that Ava is the twins' aunt.

## **Drina**

Drina is Damen's ex-wife. Drina also was an immortal. Every time Ever was born and came close to finding Damen again, Drina would kill her. However, when Ever's parents and sister are killed in a car accident at the beginning of this series, Damen reaches her before she can die and gives her the elixir. Drina continues to plague Ever in the previous novels of the series until Ever finally kills her by hitting one of her chakras. In this novel, Roman continues to be obsessed with Drina. Each time Ever tries to seduce him because of the dark flame, Roman sees Drina in her. In the end, Ever tries to get the antidote she needs by showing Roman where Drina's soul resides.

## **Riley**

Riley is Ever's sister. Riley died in the car accident that also took the lives of Ever's parents. However, in the first books of the series Ever is able to see Riley and speak to her until she encourages her to cross over. In this book, Ever visits the house where the twins lived in Summerland and sees evidence of Riley's time there. Ever also receives a picture album for her birthday that she believes Riley sent.



# Objects/Places

## Pictures

Ever finds a picture of herself and Riley taken the day of the car accident in the twin's house and later finds a photo album that contains the same picture on her birthday. Ever believes this is a gift from Riley since the pictures from that day were never developed.

## Athame

An athame is a ceremonial knife that Ever uses in her attempts to reverse the bonding spell she created between herself and Roman. Ever also cuts Jude with a manifested athame similar to her own.

## Book of Shadows

Jude owns a copy of the Book of Shadows and has allowed Ever to use it. However, Ever becomes cautious of the book when she realizes that Roman has some unknown connection to it.

## Twin's House

Ever visits the house where the twins lived in Summerland and discovers a portrait of their aunt that alerts her to the fact that Ava is their aunt.

## Roman's House

Roman has gathered great wealth in his long life and this is reflected in his house. Unlike Damen, Roman has retained most of his possessions and has no qualms about the wealth he has gathered.

## Damen's House

Damen has gathered great wealth in his long life and much of this is reflected in his house. Damen has recently gotten rid of much of his wealth and possessions, but retained the house for the twins.



## **Jude's Store**

Jude owns a store in Laguna Beach where he sells books, gives classes on psychic ability, and has a psychic give readings. Ever works for Jude.

## **Roman's Store**

Roman has a store in Laguna Beach where he sells antiques.

## **Great Hall of Learning**

The Great Halls of Learning is a place in Summerland where people can go to learn about just about anything. It is a magical place where all a person has to do is think of a problem and the Halls will offer a solution.

## **Summerland**

Summerland is a magical place where all souls go when they first die before they cross the bridge to the next place. Those who are alive or are immortal can also visit Summerland.





# Themes

## Light Versus Dark

In this novel, Ever finds herself magically bonded to Roman in a way that makes her act in ways that she might not otherwise. Ever is desperate to break this bond because she does not want to be with Roman, she does not even like Roman. However, the more Ever fights this bond, the more intense it becomes. Finally it comes to the point in which Ever begins to lose her power and her beauty and health that come with immortality begin to fade.

Ever makes amends with Ava and Ava tells Ever that the darkness inside of her is what is causing her to be bound to Roman. Ava says that everyone has darkness inside of them and that by Ever focusing on her hatred of Roman and her need for the antidote she has caused the bond to grow stronger. Ava shows Ever how to let go of this darkness and by doing so, Ever is able to find a way to get the antidote from Roman. Unfortunately, Roman is killed before he can hand it over.

## Grief

Grief is a theme of this novel because Ever is still grieving her family and her own mortality. Although Ever encouraged her sister to cross over to the other side, she still misses her and wishes she could conjure her up whenever she needs to talk. Ever has experienced a terrible loss and she is still coming to grips with it.

As Ever is dealing with the grief of her losses, she also finds herself faced with the loss of one of her closest friends. After turning Haven immortal, Ever discovers that Haven thinks she is jealous and has decided to cut her out of her life. Ever misses her friend and grieves that Haven is so put out with her that she refuses to come to her birthday party.

Finally, Ever finds herself grieving a future she had taken for granted. Ever thought that she and Damen would be intimate with one another once they accepted that they were soul mates. However, when Ever fed Damen an antidote to poison Roman had given him, she also caused him to be lethally allergic to her touch. For this reason, Ever and Damen cannot touch, let alone be intimate with one another. As a result, Ever focuses on getting the antidote from Roman, causing the darkness that makes her become bonded to him.

## Trust

Ever has made a great many mistakes since becoming immortal and has begun to lose her ability to trust those around her. Ever convinces herself that Jude is a member of Roman's rogue group of immortals when she sees a tattoo on his back, but later



discovers he is not immortal. For this reason, Ever forces herself to trust Jude, trusting him too much and exposing the truth of immortality to him. This leads to Jude killing Roman in the mistaken thought that he is trying to hurt her.

Ever does not trust Damen with the truth of her bond to Roman. Even after Damen knows the truth, Ever continues to keep some truths from him in fear of how he will react. Due to Ever's distrust of Damen, she turns to Jude and this leads not only to Roman's death, but to a fanning of the flames of Jude's desire for Ever. Hence, trust is a major theme of the novel.



# Style

## Point of View

The novel is written in the first-person point of view. This point of view allows the reader to know the intimate thoughts of the main character, but keeps the reader from the thoughts and emotions of the other characters in the novel. In this way, the reader develops an intimate relationship with the main character but is kept in the dark about the thoughts of the other characters until the main character learns what those might be.

The point of view of this novel works with the plot of this novel because this novel is basically an introspective of Ever and how she managed to become so wildly attracted to Roman, her biggest enemy. Hence, the first-person point of view allows the reader to see Ever's struggle from a front row seat. However, this point of view keeps the reader in the dark in regards to the other characters until Ever becomes aware of their emotions and motivations, leaving some questions unanswered in the novel.

## Setting

The novel is set in Laguna Beach, California. Although this is a West Coast, beach-type setting, the characters in the novel spend little time on the beach. In fact, most of the novel takes place inside Roman or Damen's house. The novel also uses the setting of Summerland quite often in this book. Summerland is a magical place where the soul goes immediately after death. Immortals and the living can also occasionally go to Summerland. Ever discovers in this novel that when she goes to Summerland, the magic that binds her to Roman is not effective. For this reason, Ever spends a great deal of time in Summerland in this novel.

The setting of this novel is mostly a backdrop to the wealthy homes that belong to several of the main characters. The novel could be set almost anywhere in the United States and not alter the plot of the novel. However, Summerland is a unique place that the main character of the novel knows little about, therefore it remains something of a mystery to the reader as well. Summerland is a mystical place that provides almost any setting the main character could desire, therefore it is almost a character in the story as it provides some answers as to the plot, but also creates many questions.

## Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is simple English. The novel is written with a young audience in mind, therefore the language is simple and lacking in the sophistication that might be found in a more literary novel. The language does not contain any foreign words or phrases that the reader might not understand, therefore the reader is not faced with words or phrases that are incomprehensible.



The language of this novel is suitable to the novel because it is consistent with the main characters and the intended audience of the novel. The genre of the novel allows for the author to create a whole new language to describe the powers and history of immortality, but instead the author has used words that most of her readers will understand, making the language of the novel simple and easy for the reader to comprehend. For this reason, the language works well with the plot.

## Structure

The novel is divided into thirty-five chapters. The chapters are fairly short and are used to divide the scenes that fill the narration. The author tells the story in a linear fashion, building on novels written previously to this one. Unfortunately, the author does not provide a preface or other method to help readers who have not read the previous novels to help them understand the characters and the events in this novel.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows the main character as she struggles to break the bond between her and Roman. One subplot deals with Ever's grief over her inability to touch Damen. Another subplot deals with Jude's four thousand year old love for Ever. All the plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



## Quotes

"She's immortal, it's not like she'll bruise" (Chapter 1, p. 6).

"My entire world now whittled down to the space between his gaze and mine" (Chapter 4, p. 33).

"Having ruled out anorexia and just plain old bulimia to explain my odd behavior and even odder eating habits - she's now onto something new, leaving no doubt that a trip to our local bookstore's self-help aisles will be squeezed into her weekend's agenda" (Chapter 5, p. 35-36).

"Damen turns toward me, the word trouble coursing from his mind to mine" (Chapter 8, p. 71).

"I walk. Walk until I've no idea how far I've gone. Walk until I'm sure Damen can no longer see me" (Chapter 18, p. 151).

"My body shaking with longing, anticipation, as the dark flame inside me burns so brightly it threatens to incinerate my insides. Closing my eyes and sensing him, feeling him" (Chapter 20, p. 172).

"I gaze down at my hands, surprised to find them so rough and calloused though immediately recognizing them from my Parisian life, when I was Evaline, a lowly servant facing a life of mind-numbing manual labor until Damen came along" (Chapter 22, p. 188).

"And that's all it takes. One passing glance at the bounty before me and my body begins to tremble, my knees start to sag, and my pulse quickens in a way so horrible, so dreadfully familiar, a new understanding slowly creeps over me" (Chapter 25, p. 211).

"Foolish Ever, don't you realize there's no longer any difference between you and your —monster? You are the monster. It's your dark side, your shadow self, and you've now joined as one" (Chapter 25, p. 224).

"Before I can knock, Damen is there. But then, he's always been there" (Chapter 29, p. 247).

"But you can't give away what you don't have" (Chapter 30, p. 268).

"Damen's the one who loves more. He'd do anything for you. You're just along for the ride" (Chapter 31, p. 278).

"Either way, we'll ride it out together. That's how it is with soul mates. That's just what they do" (Chapter 35, p. 320).



## Topics for Discussion

Who is Ever? How did she become immortal? Why? Why has she made Haven immortal? What were the choices Ever was faced with at that time? Why did Ever choose Haven? What would have happened if Ever had not chosen Haven? How does Haven take the news of her immortality?

Who is Damen? How old is Damen? Why does Damen refuse to give Haven more of the elixir? Why does Haven want more of the elixir? Who does Haven claim she can get the elixir from? Why does this worry Damen? What is Damen's connection to the inventor of the elixir? Why is he the only one who knows the original recipe? Who else has made a form of the elixir? Why?

Who is Ava? Why is Ever unhappy with Ava? What did Ava do? Who does Ava learn she is related to? What does Ava do about this relationship? Why? How does Ava convince Ever that she does not mean her or Damen harm? How does Ava help Ever deal with her bond to Roman?

Who is Jude? Why does Ever cut Jude at the beginning of the novel? What is Ever trying to prove? What does she prove? Why does Ever decide to trust Jude in asking him to help her with her bond to Roman? How does Jude help Ever? Why does Ever later take Jude to Summerland? What does Jude learn while visiting the Great Hall of Learning? How does this change things between Ever and Jude?

Who is Roman? Who does Roman see each time Ever tries to seduce him? Why does Roman see this person? What was Roman's relationship to this person in past books? Why does Roman finally open up to Ever and allow her to take him to see where the immortal soul goes after death? What happens to Roman during this experience? Why?

What does Ever need from Roman? Why does Roman refuse to give it? Why does Ever need it? What does Ever do to try to get this thing from Roman? How does Ever's plan go wrong? What happens when Ever comes close to finally getting what she wants? How does this happen? What does this mean for Ever's future?

Why does Ever spend so much time in Summerland in this novel? What benefit does Ever get from being in Summerland? What does Ever see when she travels on a horse in Summerland? What is this place? What might it mean to Ever? Why does Ever later go to the house where the twins lived in Summerland? What does she find there? How does Ever finally get the answer to her dealings with Roman? What does she do about it?