

Dark Magick (Sweep, No. 4) Study Guide

Dark Magick (Sweep, No. 4) by Cate Tiernan

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Plot Summary

Teenage witches Morgan and her boyfriend Calhoun have been dating for a month. It wasn't until she met Cal that Morgan found out she was adopted. Her mother and father were blood-witches from the historic coven Belwicket. Suddenly Morgan has powers she never had before, her real mother's magic tools and a boyfriend who is too good to be true. Then, Morgan and Cal accidentally kill Hunter Niall. Morgan's not sure who she can trust anymore as Cal and his mother Selene seems to have plans for her that she doesn't understand. When it turns out that Hunter survived, things get even more confusing for Morgan. Hunter seems to think that Cal and his mother are practicing dark magic and are responsible for the destruction of Belwicket. Hunter believes that Selene is leading a conspiracy that has left dead witches in her wake. Morgan tries to have faith in Cal, but her instincts tell her not to trust him. She finds out that he began dating her to get her mother's tools. When he tells her he loves her, she doesn't know if she can believe it. Meanwhile, Cal's mother and a group of Woodbanes from around the world are trying to get Morgan on their side in a war against other clans. It turns out that Hunter is a good witch, working for the council of elders to investigate Cal's mother Selene. Hunter is also on the trail that began at Belwicket, when a dark shadow destroyed many covens in Ireland and England.

Morgan has to have faith in her own strength to escape Cal's control. Hunter's warnings come true when Cal attempts to kill Morgan, by burning her alive. Luckily, Morgan's best friends find her before it's too late. Cal and Selene escape.



Ch. 1 Falling

Ch. 1 Falling Summary

The book opens with a cryptic journal entry by Giomanach, in November 1999. The entry is from a young man who was accused of his brother's death. His case was debated by a council of elders, and Giomanach was found not guilty. Giomanach says that two clans voted against him, Vikroth and Wyndenkell. He adds that Wyndenkell is his mother's tribe. Giomanach wished that they had voted against him. He feels responsible for his brother's death. Though he says he is innocent of doing the actual deed, Giomanach feels responsible because he gave his brother the idea to call on the darkness. He also says that he wanted vengeance for something and that also led to his brother "calling on the darkness."

The scene after the journal entry begins in the middle of action. Morgan is stumbling through the snow, supporting her half-conscious boyfriend, Cal. It is nighttime and they are freezing cold. Morgan is replaying the events of the last few minutes in her head. She and her boyfriend might have killed Hunter Niall. He fell off the cliff. Cal is badly beaten up. His face is swollen. When they reach Cal's house Morgan notices that Cal's mother's Selene Belltower is not home. Morgan is freaking out. She doesn't know what to do. She considers calling 911, just in case Hunter survived the fall off the cliff. Cal laughs at her. They both know that he couldn't have survived. But, Morgan feels like she must do something. It would be cruel to just leave him to die. Morgan lights a fire and takes off Cal's clothes that are wet with snow. His wrists are raw and blistered. Hunter had tried to tie him with a magical chain that burned. As she tends to Cal, Morgan tries to convince herself that what she did was right. Hunter was trying to kill Cal; he might have tried to kill her too. When Cal falls asleep, Morgan borrows his car to get home. She notices her birthday presents from that night littering the back seat. It was such a short time ago, but with Hunter's death, it all seems so trivial. It's three a.m. and so Morgan's family is sleeping. She calls 911 and tells them where Hunter fell in, hanging up and hoping they can't trace her call. Then, she uses her magic to call on Sky Eventide, Hunter's cousin. She sends out a message telling Sky where Hunter is and that he needs her help. She doubts that it will work, and she and Sky are not friendly. Nonetheless, she can't help but try.

Ch. 1 Falling Analysis

The first chapter introduces the reader to three important characters, Hunter—who appears to be an enemy—Cal and Morgan. It is significant that Morgan is full of doubt about what happened on the cliff, whereas Cal does not seem as bothered. The reader also gets an idea of the kind of relationship that Cal and Morgan have, in which Cal is usually in control. Morgan clearly depends on Cal a lot for stability and confidence. The first chapter is also an introduction that explains, through Morgan's inner dialogue, what happened in the previous books. One learns that Morgan is a witch, that she didn't know



about her powers until very recently and that she has some of her mother's Wiccan tools. We also learn that Sky Eventide and Hunter had been putting sigils around Morgan's house to cast some sort of spell. It is not clear to Morgan why. Most importantly, the introduction shows that Morgan is a decent person, who seems to be in a lot of trouble.



Ch. 2 Guilty, Ch. 3 Dread

Ch. 2 Guilty, Ch. 3 Dread Summary

Giomanach's journal entry, dated November 1999, describes how his Aunt Shelagh, his Uncle Beck and his cousin Athar held a party to celebrate after he returned home from the trial. Giomanach's uncle tells him he must let go of the past, but Giomanach cannot. He knows that his brother Linden called the dark spectre to avenge his family, but Giomanach gave him the idea. The spectre killed Linden. Giomanach's little sister Alwyn tells him that it was not Giomanach's idea at all. Linden told her that he liked messing around with dark magic, that it made him feel powerful. Little Alwyn had tried to tell them that Linden was practicing dark magic, but no one had believed her.

Meanwhile, Morgan gets up from a sleepless night sure that she killed Hunter. She tries to act normal around her family, who are excited over her 17th birthday, but on the inside all Morgan can think about is seeing Hunter fall backwards off the cliff with her mother's athame stuck in his neck. Morgan asks her mother to stay home sick. When the family leaves for mass, Morgan sneaks out, driving her own car back to the cliff where Hunter fell. She feels the need to be sure that Hunter is not alive. The ground is muddy from the night before. Again, Morgan remembers that Cal had put a binding spell on her. It makes her uneasy, remembering how trapped she felt. She wonders why Cal did it, if he didn't trust her, or if he wanted to protect her. Morgan is surprised to see Sky Eventide there. Sky claims that she felt Hunter's presence in that place, and that when he didn't come home the night before, she went out looking for him. Morgan pretends that she doesn't know what happened, but Sky tries to put a spell on her to tell the truth. Sky tells Morgan that she is ignorant, and ignorance is dangerous.

Cal's mother is home. Selene tries to comfort Morgan. She tells her that she got rid of Hunter's car, and that Morgan and Hunter were only acting in self-defense. As much as Morgan wants to believe this, she can't get rid of the guilt. Selene and Cal have told Morgan that they are not sure what clan they come from. But, Hunter claimed that Cal was Woodbane. Selene assures her that Hunter was a dangerous and deadly witch. He was obsessed with the Woodbane clan. According to Selene, Hunter killed his own brother.

Another journal entry from Giomanach dated April 2000 talks about scrying. Scrying is a kind of divination. Giomanach describes it as getting impressions. He scrys using a stone, a lueg. But, you can also use water or fire to look into the future, past or present. Giomanach tries to scry to find his parents, but all he can get are impressions of his mother as she was when he was little. The stone shows him a day when he was eight-years-old. He is filled with grief and longing for his dead parents.

Morgan's family holds a birthday dinner for her. She feels like a liar, pretending to enjoy her birthday while remembering the boy she killed the night before. When everyone has gone, she calls her boyfriend, Cal. She asks him why he put a binding spell on her. He



claims it was to protect her, but promises never to do it again. Morgan also admits that she called 911 and sent a message to Sky. Cal hates Sky. Cal warns her to be careful. If Sky finds out that Morgan killed her cousin, Morgan will be in danger.

At school the next day, Morgan asks her friend Robbie about Bree. After Bree and Morgan fought over Cal, Robbie stayed friends with both girls. Bree left Cal's coven, and together with another girl, Raven, formed a coven of her own. Sky leads their coven, and Morgan feels the need to warn Bree that Sky is dangerous. Morgan confronts Bree at school. Bree responds angrily, saying that Morgan is blind to how dangerous Cal is. Morgan slaps Bree and tells her that she is just jealous.

Ch. 2 Guilty, Ch. 3 Dread Analysis

The introduction of Sky Eventide increases the tension. If Sky is trying to find out what happened to Hunter, then Morgan might be in danger. The fact that Hunter calls Cal a Woodbane is intriguing though. Cal and Selene's claim that they don't know their ancestry could be a lie, or it could be that Hunter knows something that they don't. The reader also realizes that the journal by Giomanach is Hunter's journal. In which case, Hunter is not an evil witch, but a good one. So why is he after Cal? This question throws doubt on Selene and Cal. It makes Morgan question herself. Cal seems to be genuinely worried that someone will come after Morgan. This shows how much he cares for her. The reader also sees how much Morgan still cares about Bree. Probably, Bree still loves Morgan too; they are just so angry with each other.



Ch. 4 Haven, Ch. 5 Bound

Ch. 4 Haven, Ch. 5 Bound Summary

Hunter's diary from May 2000 describes the day his parents disappeared. He was just a boy. When he woke up in the morning they were gone. He took care of his little brother and sister. When Hunter grew up he found out more information about the night that his parents left. Twenty-three other people vanished or died the same night. Those who survived could only describe a dark cloud. Hunter puts in his diary his plans to visit one of the covens in Scotland that was destroyed that fateful night.

The story picks up with Morgan at school. It is still her birthday. She runs into her sister Mary K. Mary K is going to get a coffee with her boyfriend Bakker. Morgan wants to warn her sister against it, but she doesn't want to be overbearing either. Two weeks ago, Morgan found Bakker trying to rape Mary K, but Mary K forgave him. Robbie is going over the Bree's house. Only Morgan knows that Robbie is secretly in love with the beautiful Bree. Morgan hopes that he doesn't get his heart broken. Bree has a tendency to break boy's hearts. Morgan calls Cal. After everything that happened with Hunter, Cal is the only person Morgan feels she can trust. She still hasn't talked to him about that night, except on the phone. Cal tells her that he can't see her that night, because his mother has some witches from Europe staying over.

Morgan drops by Practical Magick. As the only Wiccan store in town, it serves as a hangout for other witches, to trade gossip, recipes and spells. Alyce, the matronly co-owner of the shop spots Morgan and immediately realizes something is wrong. Morgan lies and says that its school and family stress. David, the other owner also comes out and says hi. Morgan likes David a lot, and the thought of what these people would think if they knew she had killed Hunter terrifies Morgan. Morgan brings up the subject of her mother's tools. Alyce knew about Morgan's mother Maeve. It was Alyce that originally told Morgan Maeve's history. Morgan admits that she tried scrying, and got a vision of the place the tools were hidden in the place where Maeve died. Morgan admits that the only tool she tried to use was the athame. As an uninitiated witch, Morgan wasn't supposed to do magic unsupervised. Alyce doesn't scold Morgan, instead she advises Morgan to bind the tools to herself. Magically, it will be as if the tools are an extension of Morgan's body. No one else can use them effectively. Alyce gives Morgan a spell of binding. Alyce does say why she wants Morgan to do this, only that she has a feeling that it is important.

Giomanach finds out in June 2000 that two covens were destroyed in Scotland, in 1974 and then in 1985. Giomanach also hears that the council of elders is looking for new members. He decides to apply in order to find out more about the mystery of his parent's disappearance. He applies to become a seeker, which is what his Gaelic name means in English.



Morgan waits till her family is in bed before she pulls out her Wiccan books and her mother's tools along with the copy of the binding spell that Alyce gave her. Morgan takes everything up to the attic, and draws a circle on the floor with chalk. She meditates, and then, recites a ritual chant about the Goddess. It is a praise song, asking for guidance and blessings, as well as promising to use magick with honor.

When Morgan touches her mother's tools, words of a Gaelic song come into her head. She doesn't understand them, but she sings along. After she has finished the binding spell, Morgan pulls out the Book of Shadow to read her mother's journal. The entry is from 1981 describes her mother's attempts at scrying. A dark cloud seems to hover over Maeve's coven. Everyone is getting the same message that bad news is coming. A coven from Scotland, also of the clan Woodbane, is coming to visit Maeve's coven. As Morgan is reading this, she uses her mother Athame, a ceremonial dagger, to keep her place on the page. Suddenly, words appear beneath the blade. Maeve had added invisible entries. Some were they typical things a teenage girl would write in her journal, others were interesting spells like how to communicate with birds. Then, Maeve describes a man she has met named Ciaran, even though at the time Maeve is dating Morgan's father, Angus. Maeve goes on to describe her confusion about Angus, and how much more she feels for Ciaran. Morgan doesn't want to know anymore and closes the book.

Ch. 4 Haven, Ch. 5 Bound Analysis

The reader is shown even more of Hunter/Giomanach's history. His life has been painful and difficult, but there is a lot of love and goodness in him. He is searching, much like Morgan, for what happened to his parents. It seems that somehow the story of Hunter's parent's disappearance is linked to Morgan's own parents. The reader also gets a chance to see some of the other witches that are in Morgan's life. The store Practical Magick is a haven for her. David and Alyce seem like witches that are wholesome. In contrast to Selene and Cal, David and Alyce are trustworthy and stable. More doubts are cast on Cal and Selene and their mysterious visitors from Europe. What Morgan sees in her mother makes Morgan wonder about the nature of love. She thinks of Cal as her soul mate. From what she is reading, her mother did not feel the same for Angus. On the other hand, the way that Maeve describes Ciaran sounds a lot like the way Morgan sees Cal. Maeve was hungry for experience and knowledge, just like Morgan.



Ch. 6 Knowledge, Ch. 7Self

Ch. 6 Knowledge, Ch. 7Self Summary

The journal entry is by a different author, S'gath, but it is clearly Cal. He is angry at the burn scars that Hunter's chain left on his wrists. Cal expresses relief that Hunter is dead and cannot bother him again. Cal uses Hunter's Gaelic name, Giomanach.

When Morgan arrives at school with her little sister, there is nowhere to park. Mary K. gets out, and Morgan drives to a more secluded parking lot across from the school. To Morgan's surprise, Selene is there waiting for her. Morgan idolizes Selene, who is powerful and knowledgeable. Cal told Selene that Morgan found the Belwicket tools. Selene asks Morgan where the tools are and how she found them. Morgan is flattered by Selene's interest, and even more so when Selene's seems impressed that Morgan can scry with fire. Selene offers Morgan help in working with the tools, but Cal shows up. He seems angry that Selene is there. When Morgan tells them that she bound her mother's tools to herself, they both react with shock. Selene says there are ways to unbind them, but Morgan can't imagine why Selene would want her to do that.

Cal and Morgan walk to the school together, but he is distant with her. At school things are not going well. The kids from Cal's coven are out of sorts. Cal is acting strange with Morgan. Robbie is upset because Bree is with another guy, and Jenna broke up with Matt. Meanwhile, Mary K is thinking about having sex with her boyfriend Bakker. Morgan and Cal haven't had sex yet, so Morgan can't offer any advice. Mary K doesn't feel ready, but she wants to please Bakker.

Giomanach's journal entry is from July 2000. He tried to join the council of elders but they turned him down. They think Giomanach is out for revenge over his brother, mother and father's deaths. When he tells his cousin Athar about it, she understands. She tells him it's not about vengeance; it's about redemption. Giomanach resolves to try again until the council allows him to join.

Cal comes over to Morgan's house. It's the first time they have talked about what happened with Hunter. Cal tells Morgan the same thing that Selene did, that it was self-defense. Morgan asks him why Selene was so interested in the Belwicket's tools. He says she's just curious, that mystery surrounds the disappearance of Belwicket. Cal says that it was strange for Morgan to bind them to herself. Morgan is embarrassed, but she felt that they were her tools. Cal says he understands. Morgan asks Cal about power in witches. Selene said that Morgan was a powerful witch. Cal says that some witches are more powerful than others, but it depends on study. Selene, he says, is probably 85 on a scale of 1-100. Morgan asks about Cal's power. He says he's a 62. He tells her she is a 95. She thinks he is joking, but he is serious.

That night Morgan tries scrying again. She sees two future versions of herself. The first is an older Morgan that looks evil and is making a potion in a dark cave. The other



vision is a pregnant version of herself. She looks at peace. When Morgan tries to pull out of the vision, she makes herself sick. The magic was too strong. She is so scared by the incident that she calls Cal, but something keeps her from telling him what she had been doing.

Ch. 6 Knowledge, Ch. 7 Self Analysis

Cal's entry is intriguing. He seems like an angrier person in his diary than he ever is with Morgan. Selene's interest in Morgan's Belwicket tools is understandable. However, there is something predatory about Selene waiting for Morgan outside her school. Cal's annoyance at his mother makes her presence even stranger. When Cal and Selene both react badly about Morgan binding her tools, they seem almost dangerous. Morgan's hesitation to share the tools with Selene is a hint to the reader that Morgan doesn't completely trust Selene. The reader also learns, through Cal, that Morgan has something extremely special. She is a natural power. What Morgan sees when she scrys are two possible futures for herself. It seems that she is on the cusp of deciding the direction of her life.



Ch. 8 Symbols, Ch. 9 Secrets

Ch. 8 Symbols, Ch. 9 Secrets Summary

Robbie confesses to Morgan that he made out with Bree. Everything was going great, until he told her he loved her. Morgan wonders if Bree might use Robbie. Now that Bree is hanging out with Raven, and is in Sky's coven, Morgan is not sure if Bree is involved in dark magic. Morgan tells Robbie to just enjoy the kissing, and hold off on the love talk. Matt is dating Raven now, which adds tension to Cal's coven, as Matt's ex Jenna is in the coven too. Cal tells everyone to do some homework for the meeting they have coming up. He tells them to identify the stones, elements, runes and seasons that they connect with the most. Morgan approaches Bree at school. They don't fight again. Bree seems embarrassed and Raven is rude.

Morgan goes over to Cal's house after school, so they can be alone. Once they are up in Cal's attic room, he tells her that he has a confession to make. He lied when he said he didn't know his clan. He's Woodbane, just like Morgan. He also admits that his family is traditional Woodbane, meaning they didn't renounce evil like Belwicket. Cal's father left Selene to be with Hunter's mother. Cal was still very young when that happened. His father married a Wyndenkell. Hunter and Cal are half-brothers. Hunter is half-Woodbane. While Cal is explaining that he loves Morgan and doesn't want any more secrets, Selene bursts into the room. She felt their energy and knew that Cal was telling Morgan the truth. Cal kicks her out and seals the door with spells. Then Cal and Morgan start kissing on the bed. Morgan wonders if they are going to have sex, finally. Cal pulls away and tells Morgan he has something to show her.

Cal's diary entry describes what it is like to have a powerful witch as a mother. Cal had always done exactly what Selene told him to do. Now that he has met Morgan, he feels differently. He confesses that he is in love with Morgan. When he was sixteen, Cal and his mother lived in California. They met a very powerful young witch. Selene told Cal to get close to her. Then, Selene killed her. Cal vows that the same thing won't happen again.

Cal takes Morgan down to the pool house. A secret door leads to his seomar. A seomar is a secret place, where a witch goes alone to work magic. Morgan lights a candle with her mind, which impresses Cal. Making fire is a rare gift. The room feels evil to Morgan. She has trouble breathing. Every inch of the walls and ceiling is covered in runes and spells. The effect is overwhelming and Morgan has to leave. Cal tells her he has never shared it with anyone, and that someday they will make magic there together. Morgan has a feeling that she couldn't do magic there and wouldn't want to. She doesn't tell Cal her doubts, because she is afraid of hurting his feelings.



Ch. 8 Symbols, Ch. 9 Secrets Analysis

The reader is learning more and more about Cal. His journal entry describing the woman in California shows that Selene and Cal are involved in some serious dark magic. The reader also sees that Selene is manipulative and dishonest. Cal's relationship to the girl in California is a parallel to his relationship to Morgan. When Cal describes how traditional Woodbanes practice magic, he says it without shame or remorse. Morgan's feeling of suffocation in Cal's secret room is very important. It shows that deep down she is revolting against Cal. Morgan loves Cal, but she doesn't actually know him. The reader is realizing that Cal might not be good for Morgan.



Ch. 10 Undercurrents, Ch. 11 Link

Ch. 10 Undercurrents, Ch. 11 Link Summary

Giomanach's journal entry from October 2000 describes his little sister's initiation. Giomanach's family is very close. He regrets that his parents couldn't be there. He wonders if they are alive, but he can't feel their energy. Giomanach met Selene and Cal at a coven meeting. They seemed hostile towards him, but he understands considering the circumstances of Giomanach's father abandoning them. Giomanach also notices that Selene and Cal seem much caught up in the traditional Woodbane.

Morgan is very disturbed by learning that Cal lied to her about being Woodbane. She also wonders what he meant by being a 'traditional' Woodbane. It is Thanksgiving and Morgan makes a small Thanksgiving altar outside in the woods. Suddenly she feels someone. She is sure that it's Hunter, but realizes that it must be Sky. She is upset at the idea that Sky is prowling around her house.

Morgan's aunts come over with their families for Thanksgiving, so Morgan doesn't have a chance to do anything about Sky until that night. Morgan uses her mage sight to see if there is anyone outside. She realizes that she hasn't talked to Cal all day. She feels nervous about him ever since he showed her his secret room. Getting into bed, Morgan reads through some Wiccan textbooks before she turns to her mother's Book of Shadows. Maeve had sex with Ciaran. He says that he loves her, but Maeve is broken hearted when she finds out that Ciaran has a wife and children in Liathach. He says that he was forced to marry to untie two covens. Maeve sees her future without Ciaran as boring and dull. Ciaran was her soul mate, and now she has lost him. Maeve thinks that Ciaran would leave his wife for her, but she doesn't want him to. Morgan goes to bed dismayed by her mother's life.

Morgan is troubled by all the mysteries in her life, Hunter's death, Cal lying, Selene bursting in on her and Cal, her mother's life and Sky sneaking around her yard. When Cal calls Morgan is relieved just to hear his voice. Friends of Cal's mother are visiting again. They are all Woodbane and want to meet Morgan. Suddenly, Morgan feels a panic. She feels like she should run away. The emotion is overpowering. Cal urgently tries to convince her to come over. Morgan hangs up on him and hides under the kitchen table. The desire to run is so strong in her, that she gets in her car and leaves.

Cal's diary entry is about Morgan. He says that the Woodbanes have been gathering for weeks. Cal has been exposed to some very powerful magic, but the intensity he feels right now is different. He knows it has to do with Morgan and believes she is going to lead the war.

Morgan ran to Practical Magick. It was closed, but David let her in. He could see she was upset and leads her to the back of the store. Hunter is sitting in the back. Both Morgan and Hunter jump at the sight of each other. Morgan can't believe he isn't dead.



She is relieved but scared. Hunter accuses her of trying to kill him. Morgan responds by accusing him of trying to kill Cal. Morgan wonders if she can trust David. David tells her that she isn't seeing the big picture. He asks her who she trusts. She says that she only can trust herself. David tells them that they need to be united to face the storm that is coming. Morgan needs to know the truth, so she connects her mind to his. They both read each other. Morgan realizes that Hunter is not evil and was doing his job in going after Cal. Hunter works for the council, and he was sent to investigate Selene and Cal. Hunter learns that Morgan is not involved in Selene's plans, at least not willingly. They can see each other's past. They decide to trust each other. Morgan asks why Hunter left sigils around her house. Hunter tells her they were protection spells. Then

Sky bursts in, angry that Morgan is there. Morgan tells Sky about sending out a message when Hunter went off the cliff. At first, Sky doesn't believe Morgan because it would take a lot of power to send a message like that. Hunter tells Sky what he learned about Morgan through joining minds. They try to convince Morgan that Cal is bad, but she can't believe it. Morgan storms out.

Ch. 10 Undercurrents, Ch. 11 Link Analysis

The things that Morgan is learning about Cal leads the reader to believe that Cal may be bad. When Hunter shows up, and turns out to be working for the council, it makes the reader wonder what else Cal might have lied about. Seeing into her enemies head makes Morgan realize how skewed her judgment has been. David's words about difficulty coming, and awareness of the bigger pictures shows how small Morgan's understanding is of what is going on. The situation is much bigger than Morgan's relationship with Cal. There is something going on that other witches, mature witches like David and Alyce, know about.



Ch. 12 The Bigger Picture, Ch. 13The Circle

Ch. 12 The Bigger Picture, Ch. 13The Circle Summary

In October 2000 Giomanach writes in his diary that his little sister Alwyn has been initiated. The ceremony involves putting an athame to the eye of the initiate and commanding them to step forward. Giomanach is proud of her, and wishes that his parents had lived to witness it. He wonders if her life would have been better as a normal person, but it's not worth thinking about. They are a family of blood witches and that is their destiny.

While Morgan was at Practical Magick Cal stopped by looking for her. She calls him to tell him that Hunter is still alive. Cal is disappointed that Hunter survived. Cal makes Morgan feel guilty for being on Hunter's side. Morgan decides not to tell Cal about joining minds with Hunter. She apologizes for hanging up on him. They plan to meet the next day with the coven.

Morgan's little sister is going out with Bakker. Mary K. complains about having a curfew. Morgan reminds her that Bakker is seventeen and Mary K is only fourteen. Morgan goes on to say that she doesn't trust Bakker after what he did to Mary K. Mary K. tells Morgan that Bakker is not the same person, he's changed. Morgan doubts it. While Morgan is in the kitchen she suddenly feels Hunter's presence outside. She grabs her coat and runs into the backyard. Hunter is impressed that Morgan has magesight. He tells her that magesight is common in Woodbanes. Hunter tells her he is there to redraw the protection sigils around her house. Cal has put down sigils to protect Morgan from Hunter. Hunter is putting down sigils to protect Morgan from Cal. Morgan asks him to leave her alone, but Hunter is concerned with the big picture, and Morgan is just a small part of it. Hunter tells her that as the daughter of Maeve, she is involved in the history of Belwicket. The great wave of darkness destroyed all of Belwicket. Hunter has found eight other covens that were destroyed. Hunter has been investigating for two years and still doesn't know the source of the evil wave. As Hunter is talking to her, Morgan notices how handsome he is. She tries to remember what Hunter did to Cal. Hunter knows he can't stop the evil wave, but he can stop the people who are summoning it. Hunter tries to kiss Morgan, but she pulls away. They are interrupted by Mary K. crying Morgan's name. She is out in front of the house, in Bakker's car. Bakker was trying to force Mary K. to have sex with him, again. Morgan threatens Bakker and takes Mary K inside. Hunter leaves.

Ch. 12 The Bigger Picture, Ch. 13The Circle Analysis

Hunter is making Morgan's life much more complicated, but he has answers. Hunter is more aware of what is going on in the witch world; he's more experienced. Most of all,

Hunter and Morgan's histories are intertwined. Both of their parents were killed by the same force of darkness. Hunter is out there chasing it. Morgan may want to stay true to Cal, but she knows that Hunter is telling the truth. She tries to dislike Hunter, but he is clearly a good witch. If what Hunter tells her is true, Cal and Selene are bad witches.



Ch. 14 Finding, Ch. 15 Visions

Ch. 14 Finding, Ch. 15 Visions Summary

Giomanach's petition to become a seeker for the council of elders was rejected. The council doesn't trust Giomanach's motives. He resolves to try again, and keep studying in the meantime.

It's been a week since Morgan turned seventeen. So much has happened since then. Morgan goes to Mass with her family, but sneaks out during communion. The priest talks about faith, and Morgan feels like the message is for her. Morgan resolves to devote herself seriously to Wicca. When Morgan gets home she gathers her mother's tools and goes out for a drive. She goes far out of town, to a field she, Bree and Robbie had played in when things were less complicated. Morgan takes off her own clothes, and wears her mother's robe. She sets up her circle, lights candles. IN four cups she puts each of the four elements. She uses a little bit of dirt for earth, snow for water, a candle for fire and incense for air. Morgan meditates and prays to the Goddess. She feels the enormous power of her magic overtake her, the buildup of power, and then she gives a blessing of thanks to the Goddess. A powerful wind, like a tornado surrounds her. She falls to her knees in the snow, overwhelmed. When she comes out of the trance, Sky Eventide is standing in front of her.

Giomanach is finally accepted to the council as a junior member. His first task is to investigate a man in Cornwall that is souring cursing his neighbor's milk cows. Athar goes with him for moral support.

Sky is watching Morgan suspiciously. Sky asks Morgan who she is. The power that Sky just witnessed in Morgan is unheard of in an uninitiated witch of Morgan's age. Sky asks her who she has studied under. Morgan has only learned from Cal. Morgan admits to Sky that the tools of Belwicket call to her. It seems like they want to be used. Sky seems to understand. Morgan asks about Sky's background. Sky, also called Athar, is Hunter's cousin. Morgan wants to know what Sky has been teaching Bree. Sky has been teaching them how to recognize dark magic, to protect them from Cal. Sky refuses to explain why the council is investigating Cal and Selene, but she admits that Morgan is not knowingly involved. Sky and Hunter believe that Selene is planning to use Morgan. But, Morgan believes Cal will protect her. In order to convince Morgan that Cal is bad, Sky guides Morgan in a scry. Morgan sees that Sky is in love with Raven. She also sees that Sky is worried about Hunter. Then, Sky shows Morgan what Cal is doing in the present. HE is in a group of witches. They are asking Cal why he hasn't brought them Morgan. They had commanded Cal to date Morgan in order to bring her into their group. Cal promises them that he can get Morgan.

After scrying, Morgan feels sick. She can't believe Cal is using her, that it was all make believe. According to Sky, Hunter is investigating Selene because he believes she is leading a conspiracy to destroy all non-Woodbane covens. There is no link between



Selene and Belwicket. But tragedy follows everywhere Selene goes. She finds other Woodbanes and destroys the non-Woodbanes.

Ch. 14 Finding, Ch. 15 Visions Analysis

Morgan's decision to embrace her faith in Wicca is a turning point for her character. From the beginning of the story, the reader watches Morgan try to reconcile what she was before with what she has become. Morgan is not renouncing her old life or her family. Morgan is embracing her own individuality. It is relevant that when she does so, her witch power is suddenly greater than it has ever been. Similar to the Catholic idea of faith, when Morgan dedicates her power to the Goddess, she receives power in return. Morgan and Sky are very different. In some ways, Sky is everything Morgan is not. Sky has a sense of her own identity. Sky is bold and brave. But learning that Sky is in love with Raven, makes her a little more human. Morgan can relate to Sky more, learning that Sky loves, just like Morgan loves. Before Morgan had her witch powers, she was always overshadowed by Bree. Morgan understands what it is like for Sky to be in love with Raven, and feel inadequate.



Ch. 16 Truth, Ch. 17 The Seomar

Ch. 16 Truth, Ch. 17 The Seomar Summary

Cal's journal entry is about his father's disappearance. Cal doesn't know if his father is alive or dead. His mother hadn't told him anything. He was nine years old, when Hunter's father and mother disappeared. Cal thinks it's convenient that Giomanach is gone; it means that Hunter doesn't have his father's power to help him.

Morgan must find out from Cal if everything that Sky told her is true. Morgan wonders why Selene is interested in her. Does she think that Morgan is potentially evil enough to join her? Morgan remembers the image of herself in the future, gnarled and evil. Morgan desperately hopes that what she saw when she scryed was not real. First, Morgan hides her mother's tools in Bree's backyard. As she is leaving, Robbie and Bree try to stop her. But, she already knows what they are going to tell her. Sky just told her everything. Morgan calls Cal, and tells him to meet her at the old cemetery.

Morgan asks Cal honestly if his mother wants to hurt her. She tells him what she saw when she scryed. For a moment, Cal doesn't know what to say. He denies that what she saw was accurate. He tells her that she is his soul mate and to trust him. Morgan accuses him of sleeping with Bree. He admits it, but it was before Morgan and Cal got together. At first he didn't realize how powerful Morgan was, and he went after Bree. Morgan accuses him of lying. She says that his love is a lie, and that he only wants her because she is Woodbane. He begs her to listen to him. He tells her the truth, that he was supposed to make her fall in love. Then, he fell in love instead. Morgan tells him that whatever his mother is planning, she won't be a part of it. Cal is taken back. He gets angry and violent. All the while he is telling her that he loves her, he puts a binding spell on her and shoves her into his car.

When Giomanach first used the braigh on another witch, he went home and cried. Athar took him out and got him very drunk.

Cal admits that he has to bring her back. They would hurt him if he didn't. He tries to blame it on Morgan. He says that she is being selfish not going along with the plan. Hunter drives her back to his house and then locks her in his secret room, his seomar. Morgan can hear the others outside. She begs them to release her, but they won't.

Ch. 16 Truth, Ch. 17 The Seomar Analysis

The foreshadowing of Morgan doubting Selene and even Cal comes to fruition. Selene and Cal always wanted something from Morgan. The tables are completely turned, as Morgan realizes that the people she thought were enemies were trying to protect her. Hunter and Sky are actually the good witches. Morgan's faith in Cal has put her in enormous danger.

Finding out that Hunter was devastated when he first used the braigh, shows that he has no wish to hurt anyone. In contrast, when Cal uses his power to control, he does so without remorse.



Ch. 18 Trapped, Ch. 19 Burn

Ch. 18 Trapped, Ch. 19 Burn Summary

In June 2001, it is ten years since Giomanach's parents disappeared. He remembers in his diary the weeks before his parent's disappearance. They had seemed tense and tired. Giomanach's father was having trouble scrying. IN retrospect Giomanach can see that something was pressing on them, some invisible evil.

Morgan wakes up in Cal's seomar. She doesn't know how much times has passed, but she can move again. She is in pain and feeling sick. The walls are full of oppressive spells. She recognizes the energy of the dark magic that Cal has practice there. Morgan tries not to think about what Selene is planning for her. She sees red stains on the floor that look like blood. Morgan feels sure that no one knows where she is. She left home six hours before, and told no one. After trying to get out and failing, Morgan despairs. She draws protective symbols around him with the blood from her broken fingernails. She feels strengthened by her own spell work. She thinks of her heritage in Belwicket. She remembers the power that everyone sees in her. Morgan concentrates on a spell to open the door. Just when she thinks it's working, she smells smoke. Cal has set the place on fire. She can hear the flames, and see the color of fire through the cracks in the door. She begins screaming. Outside she hears an argument between Cal and Selene. Selene tries to stop Cal from burning Morgan, because she wants the Belwicket tools. Cal doesn't want his mother to have Morgan. When he swore in his diary that he wouldn't repeat the situation in California, this is what he meant. He would take Morgan's life rather than let his mother take her.

Giomanach writes in June 2001 that he visited the village near Ballynigel in Ireland. No one wanted to talk to him about the past. They were afraid, but an old woman approaches him. The old woman tells him someone else had come asking questions. A woman had come the year before, talking about two witches that had escaped and went to New York. Giomanach recognizes the old woman's description. It was Selene. Two witches from Belwicket escaped to American, and a year ago Selene was here looking around.

The smoke is suffocating Morgan. She's given up shouting for help. She's ready to die, when she hears her friend Bree's voice. Robbie is yelling her name too. She starts screaming for them to help her. Bree tells her to stand against the back wall. A minute later Robbie and Bree have driven the car right through the wall. There is no sign of Cal or the other Woodbane witches.

Ch. 18 Trapped, Ch. 19 Burn Analysis

The book concludes with a set up for another book. The reader now knows that Hunter has been investigating Belwicket and came to American looking for Morgan's parents.



The reader also now knows that Selene was also snooping around the ruins of Belwicket. Selene must know more about what happened in Belwicket. She may even be after Morgan specifically. Morgan's friends, her true friends, save her life in the end. The reader sees how far Cal has been manipulated by his mother, and how much darkness there was hidden in him. As Morgan had expected the first time in Cal's seomar, the place held dark times for her.



Characters

Morgan Rowlands

The seventeen-year-old heroine of the book, Morgan is an adopted child. At the opening of "Dark Magick," she has only known her true identity as a blood witch for a few months. She is the descendant of a family of witches. Her mother, Maeve, was a famous and powerful witch from the famous Belwicket Coven. Her father and mother were killed under suspicious circumstances, which Morgan is still in the processing of uncovering. Since realizing her identity as a blood witch or a witch that is born with powers as opposed to someone who learns magic. Morgan has been learning all she can about Wiccan, while balancing her new boyfriend Cal, her ex-best friend Bree and her enemies Hunter and Sky. When Hunter tries to kill Cal, a series of mysteries unfolds.

Calhoun, Sgath

Calhoun or Cal is Morgan's handsome boyfriend. He and his mother Selene recently moved to Widow's Vale. Cal has a strong education in magic, and is teaching Morgan how to use it. The reader is led to believe that Cal is a good witch, but as it turns out, he is part of the dangerous movement that destroyed Morgan's parents' Coven, Belwicket. Cal's family might have been responsible for Morgan's family's death. Cal is the half-brother of Hunter, Giomanach. Their father left Cal's mother because of her dark magic and re-married to Hunter's mother. Cal's father went missing, and Cal suspects that his mother was the killer. Cal is half-Woodbane, a clan famous for its power and infamous for its tendency to dark magic. Morgan's clan is also Woodbane. On his mother's behalf, Cal was given the task of convincing Morgan that he was in love with her in an attempt to bring Morgan into their plans to defeat other clans. Cal fell in love with Morgan, but continued to manipulate her. Cal's mother wanted the power of Morgan's history and access to Morgan's mother's tools. When Morgan refuses to be part of Cal's dark plans, he tries to kill her by trapping her in a room and setting it on fire.

Hunter, Giomanach

Until half way through the book, the reader doesn't know who Giomanach is. His journal entries at the beginning of each chapter seem unrelated to the story. However, when it turns out to be Hunter, the reader learns his true identity and his history. Hunter's parents disappeared. They went into hiding to protect their children. He hasn't seen them in ten years. Hunter is a seeker for the council of witches. He is in New York for two reasons: first, to track down Cal and his mother Selene, who the council suspects of being involved in dark magic. Secondly, Hunter is investigating the dark magic that destroyed the Belwicket Coven and many others. Hunter has reason to believe that two witches escaped from the devastation and went to America, probably Morgan's mother



and father. Being an orphan, Hunter is very close to the surviving members of his family, particularly his cousin Sky. His brother died trying to find their parents, and Hunter lives with the guilt that it was his fault. He was tried for being responsible for his brother's death, but the charges were cleared. Still, he carries that reputation around with him. Hunter does not get along well with Morgan, because he thinks she might be involved in the dark magic of Cal's mother. When Hunter finds out that Morgan is innocent, he tries to protect her from Cal. Hunter is Cal's half-brother. He is half Woodbane.

Sky Eventide, Athar

Sky is introduced as a bad character. She is unpleasant, haughty, and considers Morgan her enemy. Sky is Hunter's cousin. After Morgan stabs Hunter, she sends out a message to Sky with her mind, telling her where Hunter's body is. Sky came to America to protect Hunter. She is incredibly loyal to her cousin. They grew up together in England. Sky is mentioned as Athar in the journals, her Gaelic name. The reader doesn't know that Athar is Sky until halfway through the book. When it is revealed that Sky is Athar, a more complete picture of who Sky is emerges. Sky is very brave, very loyal and very wise for her age. She tries to protect Morgan, even though they do not like one another. Sky starts a coven of her own to counteract the bad magic that Cal is spreading. Morgan thinks that Sky is teaching her coven, including Bree, dark magic.

Selene

Selene is Cal's mother. She is introduced to the reader through Morgan's point of view. At the beginning of the book, Morgan is drawn to Selene's warmth and prowess as a witch. Since Morgan grew up around non-witches, she wishes that she had had a mother like Selene, someone who could teach her how to be a witch. However, as the story progresses Selene reveals a different side of her personality. First, she shows a keen interest in using Morgan's mother's tools. Selene is angry that Morgan bound the tools to herself by magic. Selene and Cal are both Woodbane, the same clan that Morgan is from. Woodbane's have a reputation for using dark magic. Selene turns out to be a bad Woodbane, hungry for power and willing to kill to get it. Hunter believes that Selene is leading a conspiracy to kill all the non Woodbane witches. Selene and Cal move from place to place, seeking out Woodbane witches to either recruit them or kill them.

Mary K.

Mary K is Morgan's little sister. In Morgan's relationship to Cal and Selene she is unsure of herself. The interaction between Morgan and Mary K reveals a stronger side to Morgan's personality. Mary K. has an abusive boyfriend, Bakker. Morgan saves Morgan from being raped by Bakker twice in the book. Morgan tries to look out for her little sister and give her good advice. Mary K. is nervous about having sex with Bakker, but he continues to push her and manipulate her in an attempt to convince her to have sex with



him. When Bakker attempts to rape Mary K for the second time, Morgan sits down with Mary K, and their parents, to convince Mary K to stay away from Bakker.

Bakker

Bakker is the stereotypical bad boyfriend. He is trying to push Mary K, Morgan's little sister, to have sex with him. At the beginning of the book, the reader learns that Bakker tried to rape Mary K. Morgan arrived just in time and pulled him off of Mary K. Mary K went back to Bakker, thinking that he had changed. Bakker attempts to rape Mary K again, when Hunter and Morgan are nearby. Morgan intervenes and tells Bakker to stay away from Mary K.

Alyce

Alyce is the co-owner of Practical Magick, the only witch store in Widow's Vale. She is a warm and motherly woman. Alyce has a sixth sense about things. When Morgan comes to the store after Hunter is thrown off the cliff, Alyce knows something is wrong. She presses Morgan for information. Morgan tells her about the tools that she found, tools that once belonged to Maeve. Alyce advises Morgan to magically bind the tools to herself. She brings Morgan an old book that teaches how to magically bind something to oneself. Alyce seems to know that Morgan's mother's tools are valuable. Someone might want to steal them or use them for dark magic.

David

David is the co-owner of Practical Magick, along with Alyce. Morgan is not as close to David as she is to Alyce. When Morgan has a panic attack, she goes to Practical Magick on a day that it is closed. David lets her in. As it turns out, David is on friendly terms with Hunter, who didn't die when he fell off the cliff. He has been hiding in the back of David's store. David convinces Morgan to trust Hunter. David is an intelligent and patient witch. Of the many characters in the story, David and Alyce are the most trustworthy, and the only witches that don't seem to want anything from Morgan, except to guide her when she is in trouble.

Maeve

Maeve is Morgan's birth mother. Morgan didn't know anything about Maeve or her powers as a witch. Not until Morgan started dating Cal and he recognized her powers. Morgan found out that she was adopted, that Maeve was her real mother and that Maeve had been killed for mysterious reasons. Maeve was a very talented witch from Ireland. Maeve's coven Belwicket is famous because it was full of powerful witches and because it was destroyed by dark magic. Maeve immigrated from Ireland to New York when her coven was destroyed. She came with Morgan's father Angus. Morgan found some of Maeve's things through scrying—a way of seeing into the past, future and



present. Morgan found her mother's Book of Shadows, which included a diary of her mother's life. In the diary, Morgan finds out that her mother had been in love with another man that was not Morgan's father. The man left Maeve broken hearted. They believed they were soul mates, but he had a wife and child.

Bree

Bree was Morgan's best friend. When Cal and his mother moved to town, both Morgan and Bree fell in love with Cal. Bree was used to getting any boy that she wanted. Bree is beautiful and confident. When Cal went out with Morgan instead of Bree, Bree was so jealous that she broke her friendship with Morgan. Bree tells Morgan that Cal made love to her. Morgan thinks that Bree is lying, but the reader finds out later that Bree was telling the truth. Bree starts hanging out with Sky Eventide. Despite being hurt and angry at Morgan, Bree still loves her. When Cal tries to kill Morgan, it is Bree that finds her, saving Morgan's life.

Raven

Raven was a friend of Morgan and Bree's. After Morgan and Bree's friendship falls apart, Raven and Bree start hanging out together. Raven is judgmental and superficial. She began her own coven as a rival to Cirrus. She named it Kithic, a Gaelic name that means left-handed. Raven is a bad influence on Bree.

Cal's Coven

Sharon, Jenna, Ethan, Robbie, Matt

Cal's Coven, Cirrus, is made up of Morgan, Sharon, Jenna, Ethan, Robbie and Matt. This group becomes something like family to the lonely Morgan, especially after Morgan and Bree have a falling out. Only Morgan and Cal are true blood witches. Cal shares his knowledge of witchcraft with the group, and teaches them how to access their inner power. It turns out that Cal was using the coven as a recruiting ground for his mother. Originally, Raven and Bree were part of Cal's coven. But, when Morgan and Bree fight, Bree and Raven leave Cal's coven and start their own.



Objects/Places

Wicca

Wicca is witchcraft or magic. In the small town of Widow's Vale, there are a surprising number of witches. Cal and his mother, Selene, are drawn to the town because they feel the presence of witches. Wicca takes many years of study to master. Blood witches, like Morgan, have an easier time practicing Wicca, as they are magical without even studying. Morgan begins practicing Wicca when she finds out she is a witch, but she doesn't know much about it. Cal, having grown up practicing Wicca, knows a lot more about Wiccan history and practice.

Belwicket

Belwicket was a coven, or group of witches. It was in Ireland, but a mysterious darkness destroyed Belwicket and killed everyone in it. Morgan's mother and father, Maeve and Angus, managed to escape before Belwicket was destroyed. Belwicket was a Woodbane coven. Though Woodbane has a history of practicing dark magic, Belwicket was a good coven, famous for its magical power. Because, Morgan's mother and father came from Belwicket, the history of the coven fascinates Morgan.

Seomar

A seomar is a secret place that a witch uses to practice their magic. It is usually a place that is private and sometimes hidden. Cal shows Morgan his seomar, which is a hidden room that he built behind his pool house. Morgan gets a sick feeling in Cal's seomar, because he has practiced dark magic there. A seomar is a place of power, because magic leaves a trace.

Coven

A coven is a gathering, or group, of witches that practice Wicca. It is a meeting where witches practice their magic together, similar to a church service. It can also be a place, like Morgan's mother's coven Belwicket. In that sense, it is more like a village of witches that have chosen to live close to one another to create their own miniature society. All covens answer to the council of elders. The council polices all the covens to ensure that they are not practicing dark or evil magic.



Athame

An athame is a ceremonial Wiccan dagger. Morgan finds her birth mother's athame among the tools from Belwicket. Morgan throws her mother's athame at Hunter when Hunter and Cal fight. The athame sticks in Hunter's neck.

Woodbane

There are seven great clans in Wicca. Woodbane is one of them. Woodbane has a complicated reputation. On the one hand, Woodbanes are famous for their power. Woodbane witches usually have a natural power in magic. The other side of Woodbane's reputation is that they are associated with dark magic. Morgan's family comes from the Woodbane clan. Morgan is usually proud of that fact. However, when Hunter admits to being half Woodbane, it is clear that being Woodbane is something not everyone can be open about. Wiccans tend to distrust Woodbanes. As it turns out, Hunter is also half Woodbane.

Practical Magick

Practical Magick is the local Wiccan store in Widow's Vale. For Morgan Practical Magick is a place of solace. She goes there when she feels like she has nowhere else to turn. The presence of other witches and the wisdom of the owners, David and Alyce are a comfort to Morgan. Since Morgan didn't grow up Wiccan, there is a lot about the religion that Morgan doesn't know yet. By going to Practical Magick, Morgan finds a place where she belongs.

Maeve's tools

Morgan learns where her mother's tools are in a vision. They are hidden in the place her mother died. The Belwicket tools are treasures. When Alyce learns that Morgan has them, she warns Morgan to bind the tools to herself so that no one else can use them. In contrast, Selene wants Morgan to unbind the tools so that Selene can use them. Morgan has hesitations about letting anyone else use the tools, but they were not just her mother's. They may explain the mystery of how Belwicket disappeared. Along with the tools, Morgan found her mother's robe. Morgan wears it when she practices magic.

Widow's Vale

The town where the book is set is a small town in upstate New York. There is not much going on, except for the presence of so many witches. When Maeve and Angus fled Ireland they came to this region and settled. Cal and Selene are not from the area, but Morgan grew up there. Morgan has lived a pretty typical life, up until she found out she was adopted, and her real mother was a witch.

Book of Shadows

Along with the Belwicket tools, Morgan has another relic from her birth mother. Morgan finds the Book of Shadows in Selene's library. It's an official diary that her mother kept, but Morgan discovers that Maeve also wrote secret entries, only visible under Maeve's athame. The secret entries tell the story of the man she fell in love with. She cheated on Morgan's father Angus, but Ciaran her had a wife and child. The man was Maeve's soul mate.



Themes

Faith

The theme of faith is very important in the books. The Catholic Church that Morgan grew up in is compared to Wiccan. They are both religions that require faith. Morgan is putting her faith in Cal. Throughout the book, this misplaced faith gets her into more trouble. Similarly, Morgan's little sister is putting faith in a boy as well. The parallels between the different types of faith show how important it is to have faith in yourself. Morgan gets strength from putting her faith in the Goddess, and having faith in her own power. Her power comes from faith in Wicca. When Morgan realizes where she should put her faith, she becomes her most powerful.

Betrayal

The opposite side of faith is betrayal. Finding out who she can trust is the moral test that Morgan goes through in the book. She feels betrayed by her best friend Bree, but in reality it is Cal that is betraying her. Despite growing evidence that Cal is not trustworthy, Morgan continues to rely on him, setting herself to be betrayed by the man that she loves.

Identity

Linked in with the theme of faith, the theme of identity is the heart of the story. ON the surface, Morgan is trying to reconcile her old life with her new one. IT is difficult to let go of her catholic faith and replace it with Wiccan, but when she does, Morgan feels empowered. Underneath the surface, Morgan is trying to figure out who she is. She knows that she is Woodbane. When she finds out that Cal is Woodbane too, Morgan has to define what it means to be Woodbane for herself. As Morgan finds more out about her birth-mother, she finds more out about herself. There are parallels between Maeve's life and Morgan's. In the end, Morgan has to decide for herself who she is and what she believes.

Coming of age

In order to find one's identity, one has to mature. The book is a coming of age story. In the beginning, Morgan is relying on Cal. She doesn't know enough about Wiccan to truly understand it, so she turns to other witches for advice and guidance. As the story progresses, Morgan is forced to rely more on herself. The people she trusted seem untrustworthy, and Morgan has to face herself. Coming to grips with herself, matures Morgan. She finds that she can make decisions for herself, and must, if she is to be independent.



Style

Point of View

The story is recounted in the first person. The reader sees everything through Morgan's head. This style is continued in the use of diaries, so Maeve, Cal and Hunter all have first person accounts in the book. Because the reader is seeing most of what is happening from Morgan's point of view, Morgan is considered an unreliable narrator. As an unreliable narrator, Morgan doesn't always see the truth. She is deceived by Cal and Selene. Her anger can cloud her judgment as well. Morgan thought that Hunter and Sky were evil. An unreliable can make the plot more interesting and intriguing because not everything is straightforward. Seeing through Morgan's eyes keeps the reader guessing as to what is really going on, who is trustworthy and who is dangerous.

Setting

The setting is mainly in Widow's Vale, a small town in upstate New York. Widow's Vale has a history of magic, as does the entire region surrounding the town. Widow's Vale is gentle and slow paced town, where everyone more or less knows each other. There are portions of the book that are told in diaries, in those portions the setting is the Belwicket coven in Ireland. The diaries of Hunter take the reader to England. However, the ongoing action all takes place back in Widow's Vale.

Language and Meaning

Dark Magick is a young adult novel; as such it is very easy to read. The vocabulary and the style are accessible even for younger readers. Because the book is about witches, there are many words that come from the Wiccan religion. For example, Morgan finds her mother's athame—a small magical dagger. The book is plot driven, so the simplicity of the content keeps the reader moving along at a rapid pace, caught up in the story not the words.

Structure

The novel is a continuation of a plot carried over from a previous book. There are eighteen chapters, each beginning with a diary entry. In the beginning of the book, it is not clear who is writing the journal entries. The diary is recounting things that happened in the past, but not very long ago. The story is plot driven, with secrets revealed slowly and many twists and turns that keep the pace moving along. With the journal entries it is almost as if two plots are happening at the same time. The plot of the diary shows how events have led to the current time. The main plot is concerned with the present, with Morgan learning how to be a witch, while avoiding enemies and dark magic.



Quotes

"Things you make, cook, sew, decorate—those are all expressions of the power and homages to the Goddess" (Chapter 2).

"'Seomar,' Cal corrected my pronunciation. 'It's a private place, usually used by one witch alone, to work magick. Different from a place where you meet with others'" (Chapter 13).

"Emerald is good for attracting love and prosperity, to strengthen memory, to protect its user, and also to improve eyesight" (Chapter 13).

"I felt myself joined by other life forces, other spirits. The large oak lent me its strength, the pine its flexibility. I took purity from snow and curiosity from wind. The frail sun gave me what warmth it could. I felt a hibernating squirrel's small, slow heartbeat and learned reserve. A fox mother and her kits rested in their den, and from them I took an eager appetite for survival. Birds gave me swiftness and judgment, and the deep, steady thrumming of the earth's own life force filled me with a calm joy and an odd sense of expectation" (Chapter 14).

"Scrying doesn't always mean you see a picture—it can be more like receiving impressions" (Chapter 3).

"I remember it rained the day Mum and Dad disappeared. When I woke up that morning they were already gone" (Chapter 4).

"You aren't after vengeance. You're after redemption...But, Giomanach, I'm not sure which is the more dangerous quest" (Chapter 7).

"Mom raised me as she saw fit. She has plans for me, my Future. I've never really discussed them with her, only listened to her tell me about them. Until recently, it never crossed my mind to disagree. It's flattering to have someone prepare you for greatness, sure of your ability to pull it off" (Chapter 9).

"The war machine is starting to churn. And my Morgan will be the flamethrower" (Chapter 11).

"Belwicket had been the name of Maeve's coven in Ireland. When it was destroyed by a mysterious, dark force, Maeve and her lover Angus, had fled to America" (Chapter 4).

"Fire is a fragile lover, court her well, neglect her not; her faith is like a misty smoke, her anger is destructive hot." (Chapter 3).

"One cannot escape one's destiny - if you hide from it, it will find you. If you deny it, it will kill you. A witch I was born, and my family, too, and witches we'll always be, and give thanks for it" (Chapter 12).



Topics for Discussion

When does Morgan start to suspect Selene? Why?

Why is Hunter after Cal and Selene?

Morgan is a Woodbane, why does it make her nervous that Cal is one too?

Why does Morgan change her mind about Hunter? What do they do to trust each other?

The beginning of each chapter is a journal entry from the past. How does this help the story along? Why does the writer choose to give information through journal entries? Are journals reliable?

What happened to Morgan's family? Is she in danger?

Does Cal really love Morgan? What proves that he does or does not?

Name three instances that show that Morgan is especially powerful for a witch.

Who in the story can Morgan truly trust?

What is Selene planning and how does Morgan play a part in her plans?

Why does Morgan feel overwhelmed by Cal's Seomar? How does this affect you as a reader? Does it make you distrust Cal?

Why did the author choose upstate New York for a setting in a book having to do with witches?