

Daughter of Smoke And Bone Study Guide

Daughter of Smoke And Bone by Laini Taylor

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Plot Summary

"Daughter of Smoke and Bone" written by author Laini Taylor is a novel that tells the story of Karou and the journey she takes to balance two separate lives, to find out who she really is and to come into her own.

The novel begins by introducing Karou, a seventeen year old, blue-haired, tattooed artist who lives in Prague. At first, she seems to have the life of a normal seventeen year old however, as the story progresses through the next 20 chapters, it becomes clear that Karou's life is anything but normal.

The plot soon reveals that the fantasy characters- Brimstone, Issa, Yasri and Twiga-that Karou draws about in her many sketchbooks are actually real- they are chimaera and they have raised her from birth. As the story progresses, the reader learns that Karou is leading two separate lives, one in Prague and one in Elsewhere, where she goes around the world running errands for Brimstone.

Also during these first 20 chapters, the reader is introduced to the seraphim and, in particular, Akiva, who are at war with the chimaera. Akiva and his people are trying to end the war by closing off all of the portals that Brimstone uses to enter the human world and collect the teeth that are the source of his magical powers. At the end of chapter 20, Karou's life changes when she is forever cut off from her chimaera family by the burning of the portal doors.

Throughout chapters 21-34, Karou goes to great lengths in order to try and gain entry into the one remaining portal so that she can find Brimstone. But what she doesn't know is that Akiva has been following her and, when the two meet for the second time, Karou is ready to fight him, as Akiva tried to kill her during their first encounter.

But Akiva doesn't want to fight and it isn't long before Karou and Akiva realize their feelings for each other. Despite the odds being against them, they stay together and their connection grows stronger. But, at the end of chapter 34, Akiva discovers that Karou has a wishbone around her neck and he falls to his knees crying because he knows exactly who she is.

During chapters 34- 60, the reader and Karou begin to learn who Karou truly is. After a battle with Akiva's siblings, who are trying to hurt Karou and bring Akiva back to their world, Akiva convinces Karou that she must break her wishbone in order to find out the truth. After the wishbone is broken, Karou understands everything that Brimstone has done.

She knows that she used to be Madrigal, a beautiful chimaera who saved Akiva's life, fell in love with and had a relationship with him, dreamed of creating a peaceful world with him and was executed by her people for falling in love with the enemy. However, because of Madrigal's close relationship with Brimstone, Brimstone secretly saved her



soul, gave her a human form so that she could safely live a new life in a different, peaceful world and saved all of her memories in a wishbone.

In the last chapter, Karou (Madrigal) and Akiva finally understand the mysterious pull they've been feeling towards each other and they are ready to begin their relationship again. Karou is now more excited than ever to see Brimstone however Akiva is forced to tell Karou that he didn't know Brimstone had saved her and that, if he had, he wouldn't have killed him, Issa, Yasri and Twiga.

The epilogue reveals that, despite her anger, Karou doesn't kill Akiva. Instead she leaves him, which she also finds difficult to do, in order to go through the portal she's been searching for, as Karou believes that this isn't over.



Chapters 1-5, Impossible to Scare, An Unveiling of Sorts, Cranny, Poison Kitchen, Elsewhere

Chapters 1-5, Impossible to Scare, An Unveiling of Sorts, Cranny, Poison Kitchen, Elsewhere Summary

Chapter 1 begins by introducing the main character, Karou, a blue-haired artist. She is walking down the streets of the city in which she lives, Prague, and she focuses on how the day is an ordinary January Monday. She is on her way to school and thinking about school when she is approached from behind.

As her attacker is nibbling her, she knows that it is her ex-boyfriend, 20 year old Kazimir "Kaz." Although he's handsome and charming, Karou knows their relationship is over. She declines to participate in his new vampire tour in the city and she denies him the satisfaction of asking what his new job is, although she realizes later she should've asked.

In chapter 2, the reader meets Karou's best friend, Zuzana, when she arrives to school. Karou tells Zuzana that Kaz was bothering her again and Zuzana hopes that Karou is not going to forgive him. Zuzana and several other students marvel at Karou's sketches, which involve several main characters (Issa, Twiga, Yasri and Brimstone).

When Zuzana asks Karou how she comes up with these stories and characters, Karou tells her that it's real, just like the aquamarine of her hair. Karou learns what Kaz's new job is- being a nude model in art class. Karou can't help but blush and feel somewhat embarrassed but she is determined not to let his antics get to her.

Karou has a plan to get back at Kaz in chapter 3 but first, she shares how she first met Kaz. He enjoyed her obsession with his beauty and he found her beautiful and mysterious, too, always wondering about the odd trinkets in her pockets and the three scars on her stomach that looked like bullet holes.

Karou uses the beads on her necklace to wish itches on Kaz and the beads disappear as she does so. The itches are for coming to class today, for cheating on her and for taking her virginity, something Brimstone lectured her for. Kaz itched so badly that he left class and Karou wondered if she went too far.

Karou and Zuzana head to Poison Kitchen in chapter 4, their favorite restaurant and hangout. It is hidden away beneath the castle in the town. The reader learns that Karou and Zuzana have been going to Poison Kitchen for the past two and a half years, when they were 15 and worked on a school project together.



Karou shares that she can claim no nationality, that her native language is not of human origin and that Brimstone gives her languages for her birthday. While eating, Karou sees the shadow of a crow and knows that it's Kishmish, Brimstone's messenger. She learns that she needs to leave immediately to attend to an errand.

In chapter 5, Karou is traveling across town to meet Brimstone about the errand. As she does, she thinks about about denominations of wishes, scuppy being the lowest and a shing being the next highest, allowing her to wish for blue hair. When she arrives, Issa, a human/snake goddess-welcomes her.

She and the others like to see Karou's drawings, too, because it allows them to see the "normal" world. They enter through a door and Karou is no longer in Prague but in the place she grew up- Brimstone's shop. She has an argument with Brimstone- a mixture of human and various animals/reptiles- but he hushes her and sends her to Paris on an errand.

Chapters 1-5, Impossible to Scare, An Unveiling of Sorts, Cranny, Poison Kitchen, Elsewhere Analysis

Chapters 1-5 introduce the main character, Karou, a blue-haired, mysterious, tattooed artist; her friend, Zuzana; her ex-boyfriend, Kazimir "Kaz"; and several other characters in her sketchbook such as Brimstone, Issa, Twiga and Yasri. The first three chapters develop the characters of Karou and her friends, as well as the story line between them.

The reader learns that 20 year old Kaz, who is handsome and arrogant, cheated on Karou but want to be back with her. Zuzana, who is short and feisty, is Karou's best friend and descends from a long line of puppeteers. They attend a private high school in Prague- The Art Lyceum of Bohemia. As the story continues, it becomes clear that Karou has a secret life, as she is able to wish for things-like blue hair, tattoo removal and various blights to enemies- and reveals that the characters in her sketchbook are real.

The reader learns that Karou's first language is not of human origin and that Brimstone raised her, allowing her to earn wishes for errands that she completes. Karou's real life characters call themselves chimaera, although anyone who saw them on the streets would call them monsters. These chapters reveal that Karou works hard to find a balance between her life with her friends and her life with her other-worldly family, who appear to have a large amount of control and say in her life.



Chapters 6-10, The Angel of Extinction, Black Handprints, Gavriels, The Devil's Doorways, Hither-and-Tither Girl

Chapters 6-10, The Angel of Extinction, Black Handprints, Gavriels, The Devil's Doorways, Hither-and-Tither Girl Summary

In chapter 6, Karou leaves Brimstone's shop and the door opens to Paris, a magic that's allowed her to visit many places. Karou goes to the black market in Paris to buy illegal elephant tusks. As she drags the heavy tusks through the Paris metro system, she thinks about when she got shot and asked Brimstone if he cared about her, although she didn't want the answer because he and the others are her only family.

She thinks about how she's no longer innocent because her hands are dirty with the blood of illegal trade and animal deaths. When she gets to Brimstone's door with the tusks, she notices a black handprint burned into it.

In chapter 7, the reader learns that handprints, like the one Karou saw burned into Brimstone's door, begin appearing on doors all over the world. There have been some witness accounts but each witness sees a different being leaving the handprint.

But, each time, the witness has seen attractive men and women with mismatched shadows burning their handprints onto doors and then disappearing into the sky with the sound of unseen wings. One nun in Delhi caught one of the feathers and it burned the imprint into her hand, causing her to say that it was an angel. The reader learns that she was not entirely wrong.

Karou goes into Brimstone's shop in chapter 8, only to find that one of Brimstone's most valued traders, Bain, was there, receiving gavriels - the highest denomination of wish - for bringing Brimstone the teeth of bears, lynx, foxes and other animals. Karou is disgusted by Bain and angry that she receives only a shing for bringing the tusks.

As Karou contemplates going home she thinks how, no matter what she does, her apartment always feels empty- like her. She has some tea and pastries, identifies teeth with a grumpy Brimstone and is then ushered out when someone arrived at the second door because Karou is not allowed to see what's behind that door.

Chapter 9 introduces Akiva, one of the beautiful people with mismatched shadows who have been burning their handprints onto doors. Akiva is looking at one of the doorways now from above and wishing that he could go into Brimstone's shop and end everything. But, instead, he only burns his handprint into it.



He knows that the people on the street can't see him for who he truly is, as his enormous wings are only visible in his shadow. The reader learns that he and his companions, Hazael and Liraz, are putting handprints on the doors that are devil's portals into the human world and that, when they're done, the end will begin.

Karou shares at the beginning of chapter 10 that Brimstone has been sending her on undesirable errands most of the week and she hasn't had time to see her friends or complete school work. When she invites Zuzana to Poison Kitchen after school one day, she can tell that Zuzana is annoyed at her frequent absence.

After trying to explain what her errands are about in vague terms, they go to Poison but, on the way, Karou sees Kishmish. She decides to ignore him and enjoys her time with Zuzana, using another wish to clear their favorite table at Poison. But she can't avoid Kishmish when he brings a note that says "please."

Chapters 6-10, The Angel of Extinction, Black Handprints, Gavriels, The Devil's Doorways, Hither-and-Tither Girl Analysis

Chapter 6 reveals that Karou's errands involve her traveling around the world to gather various types of animal teeth that are, at times, illegal. Karou makes it clear in chapter 6 and in other chapters through chapter 10 that she doesn't like the errands she has to run, that she disagrees with the killing of innocent and beautiful animals and that she longs for the days of being innocent from this trade herself.

While Karou sees Brimstone and the others as her family, she seems to complete these errands as if she owes Brimstone a debt, although this has not been discussed yet. Chapters 7 and 9 introduce a new plot to the story- handprints being burned into doorways. The reader learns that beautiful and mysterious winged creatures are doing this and, in chapter 9, the reader learns that the creatures are burning their handprints into doorways that serve as devil's portals to humanity.

The text also suggests that a war is brewing between two sides, although it has not been discussed further at this point. Chapter 10 finds Karou struggling to balance her work life and personal life. She decides to ignore Brimstone's calls for her until she receives a note from him that says "please."



Chapters 11-15, Please, Something Else Entirely, The Graverobber, Deadly Bird of the Soul, The Other Door

Chapters 11-15, Please, Something Else Entirely, The Graverobber, Deadly Bird of the Soul, The Other Door Summary

Karou hurries to Brimstone in chapter 11 because he has never said please before. Issa asks Karou not to criticize him like she often does. Brimstone tells her that he was afraid she'd decided to follow her freedom when she didn't come. Karou asks for an explanation and Brimstone explains that there will be a day when she leaves them, as she must.

Karou had never thought of this possibility. Brimstone says that it's time for her to get more human teeth in Morocco and Karou notices that his teeth jars are near empty. Karou says she will never leave him and he dismisses this. Karou can't help wondering if something's wrong.

In chapter 12, Akiva sees Karou leave from the door that he is waiting to mark. He finds himself intrigued with her and is lost in following her direction for a moment. He returns to his task and marks the door from which she exited, making it the last door he is supposed to mark.

His companions, Hazael and Liraz, are almost done as well and they will go towards Samarkand. Instead of returning to the sky, Akiva is unable to resist following Karou through the streets of Marrakesh. From the way she carries herself and interacts with others, he knows she's not like Brimstone's other vendors and he is completely taken with her.

Karou is walking through the streets of Marrakesh in chapter 13, thinking about her background, her parents, if there was a different life she should be living. Karou meets with Izil, the graverobber, and Karou notices that Izil has a creature on his back-named Razgut, who is only visible in Izil's shadow.

Akiva watches with disappointment as Karou takes a small amount of teeth. Izil begs her to extract her own teeth in order to earn a wish that will free him from Razgut. Karou declines and walks away as Izil gets into a fight with Razgut. But when she hears terrible screams, Karou looks back and sees that Razgut is no longer invisible.

In chapter 14, Akiva knows the language of Razgut, who claims that Akiva has come to take him home. Akiva sees that Karou is staring at him and Karou clenches her fists. Izil



tells her warn Brimstone that the seraphim are here and she runs towards the portal door. Akiva follows her and strikes her with his sword several times.

When Akiva has Karou cornered with the sword raised for a final strike, she feels an impulse to flash her palms at him. The eyes tattooed on her palms casts Akiva back and Karou is able to narrowly escape. Akiva knows that she can only have the devil's eyes on her because she is not human.

Issa opens the portal door and Karou falls inside in chapter 15. Issa has an immediately angered reaction when she hears Karou used the word "angel" but she continues to care for Karou. Karou asks for Brimstone but Issa says that he's not here and can't be disturbed.

As she floats in and out of consciousness, she hears Issa and Yasri talk about how the angels might have gotten back into the human world, why they would attack Karou and if the angels knew who Karou was. Karou wanted to scream and ask who she was. After Issa and Yasri left, Karou saw the second door ajar and she decided to look through it.

Chapters 11-15, Please, Something Else Entirely, The Graverobber, Deadly Bird of the Soul, The Other Door Analysis

In chapter 11, Karou rushes to Brimstone and finds that he was worried she had decided to take her freedom, as he knows she will do one day. Karou is confused by this because she didn't know she had the choice to leave the chimaera and she didn't want to- she wants to be embraced fully. She is sent to Marrakesh to get more human teeth, as Brimstone is running low, and Karou wonders if something is wrong.

In chapters 12 and 13, Akiva sees Karou leave the portal door and, after burning his handprint into it, he decides to follow her through Marrakesh. He is disappointed to find out that she is doing Brimstone's work but he watches as Karou interacts with Izil, a graverobber whose appearance has declined because of Razgut-a creature that appears only in his shadow and is on his back because Izil wished for knowledge. After Izil and Razgut start fighting, Karou begins to leave but comes back when she sees that Razgut is no longer invisible.

In chapter 14, Izil recognizes what Akiva is and tells Karou to warn Brimstone that the seraphims are back. Akiva stabs Karou several times when she's running back to the portal door but her eye tattoos stun him enough for her to get away. The tattoos also let Akiva know that Karou is not human. In chapter 15, Issa and Yasri wonder if the seraphims know who Karou is and Karou decides to look through the second door because Brimstone is not there.



Chapters 16-20, Fallen, World Apart, Battle Not With Monsters, Not Who but What, True Story

Chapters 16-20, Fallen, World Apart, Battle Not With Monsters, Not Who but What, True Story Summary

In chapter 16, Akiva returns to Izil after not being able to catch Karou before she entered the portal door. He sees Razgut reaching out to him, calling him a brother. After looking more closely at Razgut, Akiva could see features that indicated a past beauty and he knew that Razgut was one of the fallen seraphs.

Before meeting Razgut, Akiva thought that the fallen seraphs were a legend but he could see now, looking at how broken and punished Razgut is, that it is true. Razgut continued to state that Akiva was here because his punishment was over and he was going home but Akiva focused on Izil, asking him about Karou.

As Karou passed through the second door in chapter 17, she finds another world with two moons, the look of old Europe but with bars encasing the whole city. After hiding from Brimstone and Twiga, Karou decides to follow them, finding dozens of slabs of dead chimaera. Karou takes a closer look, noticing that no two are the same.

But she does notice that they each have the hamsas - the eye tattoo. Karou knows this connection is important but doesn't know why. Karou notices that the hand of one chimaera is warm. Before she knew it, he sits up and throws her on the table, demanding that she identify herself. All Karou can do is scream.

In chapter 18, Akiva is still talking with Izil and demanding information about Karou, whose name means "hope" in the chimaera language. Izil tries to protect Karou but Akiva takes Izil and Razgut to the top of a minaret, continuing to demand answers.

Izil says that Karou was raised by Brimstone but he doesn't know where Karou came from. Izil seems to gain back his confidence and tries to intimidate Akiva. Akiva tells Izil that he has contributed to the war without knowing and he threatens Izil again. He thinks about Madrigal, her death causing him to fight in this war. To keep from talking further, Izil jumps off the minaret to his death.

Brimstone responds to Karou's screams but, when he approaches her, Karou knows that he's angrier than ever. He runs up the stairs with her and throws her carelessly back into his shop. Brimstone demands to know if he saw her hands and, when she said yes, Brimstone threw her out of the shop and onto the street.



Dizzy and hurt, she makes it back to her apartment to find that she doesn't have her keys and the scuppies don't work for this. The problem is solved when Kaz approaches her from behind and she throws him through a window. As she gets on the elevator, Kaz asks her "what are you?" This question haunts Karou.

In chapter 20, Karou spends the weekend alone in her apartment, tending to her wounds. Zuzana comes to visit when Karou is not in school on Monday and waits for Karou to tell her the truth about what happened, which Karou does. After telling her everything, which Karou finds surprisingly easy, Zuzana goes to leave but is stopped when Kishmish flies into the window on fire.

Kishmish dies in Karou's arms and she sees that he brought Brimstone's wishbone. Karou leaves her apartment immediately and goes to the portal door, with Zuzana following. She sees that the door is on fire and she knows now that her ties with the chimaera have been severed.

Chapters 16-20, Fallen, World Apart, Battle Not With Monsters, Not Who but What, True Story Analysis

In chapter 16, Akiva returns to Izil and demands to know about Karou. But as Razgut continues to call him brother, he sees that Razgut used to be beautiful and he knows that he is one of the fallen seraphs. In chapter 17, Karou's curiosity gets the best of her and she passes through the forbidden second door, only to find another world that is dark and full of chimaera. Without their knowledge, she follows Brimstone and Twiga to another part of the world and discovers dozens of chimaera.

More importantly, she notices that they all have the eye tattoo and she knows she's connected to them in an important way but she doesn't know how. Akiva tries to get more information from Izil in chapter 18 but, aside from learning that Brimstone raised Karou, he learns nothing and Izil jumps to his death in order to reveal anything else about Karou.

Because she needs saved from an attack by a chimaera, Karou screams for help in the other world. Brimstone rescues her but he's so angry with her, he throws her out of his shop. It isn't until the end of chapter 20, when Kishmish flies to her apartment on fire with Brimstone's wishbone and dies, that Karou discovers the portal door is on fire and she's severed from the chimaeras forever. She is not aware at the time that all of the portal doors are on fire, suggesting that the end- spoken about by Akiva in a previous chapter- has begun.



Chapters 21-25, Hope Makes Its Own Magic, A Piece of Empty Candy, Infinite Patience, Flying is Easy, Never Peace

Chapters 21-25, Hope Makes Its Own Magic, A Piece of Empty Candy, Infinite Patience, Flying is Easy, Never Peace Summary

Chapter 21 begins with Karou remembering spending time with Brimstone and the others as a little girl. She remembers talking about the different denominations of wishes and how Brimstone told her that even the strongest wish has its limitations- that he hopes for things instead of wishing and that "hope makes its own magic."

Karou never quite understood what he meant but she knew that no amount of hoping was opening the portal doors again. Chapter 21 reveals that Karou has been visiting Brimstone's traders to collect wishes and, in this chapter, she visits Bain. After a physical altercation, she steals all of his wishes and, most importantly, two gavriels, the second highest wish denomination.

In chapter 22, the reader learns that the portal doors have been closed for three months and that Karou has struggled to focus on anything else. Karou reveals that Zuzana knows of her other life and believes her, because of witnessing Kishmish's death and the power of scuppies, and that Karou is rich because of money, land and real estate Brimstone left her around the world.

Still in Idaho after visiting Bain, Karou uses the first gavriel to wish herself the ability to fly. As Karou floats upwards, she remembers speaking with Razgut after the portals closed, how he saw her loneliness, how he knows of one more portal to which they must fly.

Akiva sees Prague for the first time as he flies over it in chapter 23. He observes that, perhaps, Astrae looked like this before being taken over by the beasts. He sits perched on a rooftop that overlooks Karou's apartment and he remembers finding Karou's address when he found her sketchbook that had a return address in it. Akiva sees that Karou's apartment has been dark for the past two days but he came to Prague for Karou and he sits patiently, waiting for her return.

Karou finds that flying is easy in chapter 24 as she soars among the stars in Idaho. She enjoys exploring what she can do with different speeds and heights but, after going so fast and getting cold, Karou decides to land and get a cab the rest of the way to the airport. On the way to the airport, she talks to Zuzana and promises that she will be back in time for Zuzana's puppet show.



Karou is stopping in Paris to get Zuzana a present and, at the end of the chapter, Karou reveals that she will soon be saying goodbye to her friends, life in Prague and to "normal" for the foreseeable future.

In chapter 25, Akiva watches as Karou returns to her apartment in Prague. He wonders why he left his own world to return to Karou's world in order to watch her. Akiva has felt a similar feeling before with Madrigal, who the text suggests was Akiva's love interest and is no longer living.

He thinks how Hazael and Liraz, his half brother and sister, were raised to fight and how Madrigal taught him there was another way to live. Now that she is gone, he wonders if he really is a monster like Izil said and he is frustrated at himself for not understanding his intrigue with Karou and his inability to leave her world.

Chapters 21-25, Hope Makes Its Own Magic, A Piece of Empty Candy, Infinite Patience, Flying is Easy, Never Peace Analysis

In chapter 21, Karou finds herself unable to accept that the portal doors are closed to her forever so she begins traveling around the world to visit with Brimstone's traders in order to steal their wishes and she gets the two gavriels she needs from Bain. It is not until chapter 22 that the reader learns that Karou needs the gavriels in order to wish herself and Razgut the ability to fly so that Razgut can take her to the one remaining portal that he knows about.

In chapter 24, Karou enjoys flying and wonders if Brimstone would approve of her wishes and of how she is continuing to pursue him. She reveals at the end of chapter 24 that she is returning to Prague one last time in order to see her friends and to say goodbye to the "normal" half of her life for the foreseeable future.

Chapters 23 and 25 focus on Akiva, who has left his own world in order to return to Karou's world, as he is fascinated with her. His fascination with her is a source of frustration for Akiva because he doesn't understand it.

The reader learns that Akiva had a relationship at some point with Madrigal, who let him know that he didn't have to live the life of war he was bred to live. But now that Madrigal is gone, Akiva struggles with whether or not he is now truly a monster or if he is still capable of the life he and Madrigal tried to achieve.



Chapters 26-30, A Soft Wrongness, Not Prey but Power, Attitude of Prayer, Starlight to the Sun, You

Chapters 26-30, A Soft Wrongness, Not Prey but Power, Attitude of Prayer, Starlight to the Sun, You Summary

Karou is on her way to Zuzana's puppet show in chapter 26 when she begins to get the feeling that something is wrong, off. She stopped and looked around, thinking of how Bain said she would live like prey, but noticed nothing and kept going. When she arrived to Zuzana's show, consisting of a large marionette engineered to look like it was controlling Zuzana-a smaller marionette - Karou felt slightly more at ease.

However, the way Zuzana and her boyfriend, Mik, interacted, as well as the realness of the show, brought forth her strong feelings of loneliness. While she waiting for Zuzana on the Charles Bridge after the show, the feeling of wrongness came again.

In chapter 27, Karou is on her way home and, when she continues to feel that something is wrong, she becomes convinced that she is being followed. To avoid large crowds, she takes a small alley and is surprised by Svetla, an unfriendly acquaintance who is in Kaz's vampire tour. She forces herself and Svetla into a small niche in the wall.

As her pursuer gets closer, her eye tattoos begin to burn and she knows that it's the angel. She jumps out, attacks him and, because he is surprised, she has the power. But he doesn't fight back. He jumps into the sky, saying he wants to talk, and Karou flies up with him.

Along with a small crowd of people who gathered under the angel and Karou in chapter 28 was Kaz. He saw that Karou was flying and was not that surprised. Instead, he was jealous because she was flying with someone that even Kaz had to admit was beyond beautiful. Kaz claimed that it was part of his tour and that Karou was his girlfriend, which angered Svetla.

There were several times that Karou attacked the angel but, at one point, the angel took Karou's palms and pressed them together while they talked. Just when it seemed that Karou and the angel were getting along, Karou attacked him again and he fell to earth like a comet.

In chapter 29, Karou notices that she's attracted to Akiva but remembers all that he did and focuses on her anger, attacking him until he holds her palms together. Akiva can't find the words to explain why he's trying to talk to her, however Karou understands



because she's feeling the connection, too and Karou realizes that she didn't feel empty when he was touching her.

After her tattoos made him fall, she went to the ground and they took a bow in order to give the impression of a performance. After escaping the crowd, they continue talking and Karou learns that her tattoos are given only to chimaera soldiers and that there is a war going on.

To escape the crowd, Karou takes Akiva to her apartment in chapter 30. As they talk, she struggles to understand whether or not they are enemies. He talks in spurts about the war and about the chimaera and how there are different races that are allied. Karou says that he's her family's enemy and, therefore, hers and they have a tense exchange about who they are.

Akiva shares that he was raised to be a soldier but that he came back to Karou's world just to be with her. After he falls asleep, Karou draws him and falls asleep herself, only to wake up and see him standing over her with her knives.

Chapters 26-30, A Soft Wrongness, Not Prey but Power, Attitude of Prayer, Starlight to the Sun, You Analysis

In chapter 26, Karou begins to notice that something doesn't feel right and she wonders if she's being followed and becoming prey like Bain suggested she would. Karou experiences a strong sense of loneliness again when she sees Zuzana's puppet show and Zuzana's relationship with her new boyfriend, Mik. In chapter 27, Karou becomes convinced that she is being followed and she soon learns that she is right.

But when her eye tattoos begin burning she knows that it isn't Bain who's following her but the angel, just like Razgut said. She catches the angel by surprise and is able to successfully attack him but, to her surprise, he isn't fighting back. In chapter 25, Kaz gives his account of seeing Karou and the angel flying in the air, fighting, talking and the angel falling to the ground after Karou's final attack.

Chapter 29 introduces a new dynamic to the story when Akiva and Karou realize that they each feel the connection to the other. Karou even notices that she doesn't feel lonely when Akiva is touching her. After escaping the crowd by playing off their fight as a performance, Akiva tells Karou that her eye tattoos are only given to chimaera soldiers and that a war has been going on for a thousand years. Karou learns that Akiva has come back to her world just to be with her and she is struggling to decide whether or not Akiva is truly an enemy.



Chapters 31-35, Right, Both Place and Person, Preposterous, What's a Day?, The Tongue of Angels

Chapters 31-35, Right, Both Place and Person, Preposterous, What's a Day?, The Tongue of Angels Summary

In chapter 31, Karou wakes up feeling threatened but Akiva quickly backs away with the knives and apologizes. Karou wonders about the connection she's feeling with Akiva. After going to the bakery, they fly to the top of a bell tower to watch the sun rise. As they sit there, Akiva notices her beauty and how she is trying to keep her tattoos from facing him.

Akiva thinks about his shock at how much she trusts him and she shares that her earliest memory is a positive memory of Brimstone. He asks Karou if it's her that doesn't know Brimstone and he tells her that the price for magic is pain.

Karou learns that the teeth she's been collecting for Brimstone are the pain that pay the price for his magic at the beginning of chapter 32. Akiva tells her about his world, called Eretz (Earth in Hebrew), and how the chimaera started to fight against the seraphim for trying to rule that world.

They have a tense conversation about who the world really belonged to and whether or not the chimaera are beasts. Karou sees his tattoos that tally the amount of kills he's completed and she knows it represents chimaera. But Karou sees another side of him, sees his gentleness, feels tied to him and feels like he's where she's supposed to be.

In chapter 33, Zuzana joins Akiva and Karou at the café where they're having tea. Zuzana is immediately taken by his beauty. Zuzana also points out that Akiva looks obviously in love with Karou and Karou agrees but refuses to believe it and reminds everyone that they're enemies.

Karou translates the conversation for Zuzana and Akiva and, during the conversation, Karou learns that she's been on the news and that police are looking for her and Akiva. Karou shares her plan to leave and Akiva learns that Razgut is taking her to the portal. He offers to go with her for safety and she agrees, happy that she doesn't have to part with Akiva yet.

Karou silently says goodbye to the school and to the Poison Kitchen in chapter 34, knowing she won't be back for a while. While walking through the town, Akiva tells Karou that her life is in Prague, that she should stay and that he could stay with her.



Although she likes the idea, Karou tells him that she has to know what's happening to Brimstone and the others.

Akiva is moments away from kissing Karou when he reaches down and finds Brimstone's wishbone on her neck. He rips it off and falls to his knees, crying. Akiva envelopes her in his wings, which are now visible, and says that he knows who she is.

In chapter 35, Akiva sees that his words have hurt and scared Karou. Akiva is experiencing several emotions at the fact that what he's wanted all along is here but it's too late. Just then, Hazael and Liraz arrive- they've been following him. Akiva whispers to Karou not to let them see her hands because they won't understand.

Akiva, Hazael and Liraz get into an argument about Akiva leaving their world again and wanting to be with a human. Hazael and Liraz begin to question if Karou is human and they suspect she's not. Liraz challenges Akiva about Karou's hands and Karou surprises everyone by speaking their language and inviting them to see her hands.

Chapters 31-35, Right, Both Place and Person, Preposterous, What's a Day?, The Tongue of Angels Analysis

Chapters 31 through 35 serve to develop further the relationship between Karou and Akiva and to advance the plot significantly as well. In chapters 31 and 32, Karou and Akiva wake up in Karou's apartment and, as they watch the sunrise together, Karou can't help but notice a strong connection with Akiva and she knows he's feeling it, too.

Even though they're supposed to be enemies, Karou can't help but feel like Akiva is right for her and that he's where she needs to be. However Karou also learns in chapter 31 that the price for Brimstone's magic is pain and she now knows what purpose the teeth have served. In chapter 33, Zuzana meets Akiva and knows instantly that he's in love with Karou. Karou has noticed it, too, but can't bring herself to believe it.

Chapter 33 also reveals that the police are looking to speak with Karou and Akiva and Karou knows that it's time to leave town. Akiva offers to go with her and she agrees because she doesn't want to be separated from him yet.

In chapter 34, Akiva offers to stay in Prague with Karou and they come moments away from kissing. But Akiva finds Brimstone's wishbone on Karou's neck and falls to his knees, crying, because he knows now who she is. Akiva's brother and sister, Hazael and Liraz, enter in chapter 35 and the reader learns they've been following him since he left their world.

They are suspicious about Karou and whether or not she's human. Liraz demands to see her hands and Akiva is ready to fight. But Karou surprises them all by speaking their language and offering Liraz the opportunity to see her hands. At this point, Akiva has not

revealed who he knows Karou to be but the text suggests that it may not be a good thing.



Chapters 36-40, To Do Else Than Kill, Dream-Lost, Ungodly, Blood Will Out, Almost Like Magic

Chapters 36-40, To Do Else Than Kill, Dream-Lost, Ungodly, Blood Will Out, Almost Like Magic Summary

At the beginning of chapter 36, Karou shares that she made a wish to know the angel's language. She uses her eye tattoos as weapons and Liraz and Hazael are thrust backwards. Akiva knows he has to make a choice between his siblings and Karou. Akiva chooses Karou and tells his siblings they have it in them to do more than kill.

Akiva tells Karou to meet him in Marrakesh and that he will stop them from following her. Karou agrees to wait as long as she can but she can't promise that she'll wait because she knows that she would choose her family over Akiva. As she leaves, the angels draw swords.

Chapter 37 begins with Akiva being severely wounded and lying on the beach. He looks around at the other corpses and sees the hyena-lizard he was battling with and killed. He hears the enemy coming closer and knows they will kill him when they find him alive. But then he saw her- a creature with bat wings, gazelle horns and human/gazelle legs.

She had two crescent-shaped blades and looked at him with birdlike curiosity. She was undeniably beautiful and, instead of killing him, she saved his life. They had a strong connection but Akiva didn't know if he was dreaming. Afterwards, Akiva knew it wasn't a dream- that she is out there.

Akiva reveals in the beginning of chapter 38 that Madrigal was the chimaera that saved his life. Akiva remembers Hazael preparing to update his tally tattoo and how he said he got no kills because he couldn't stand the thought of Madrigal being a mark on someone's hand.

After Karou left, Liraz went after her but Akiva went into the sky and they locked swords. After pushing her away, Hazael pleads with them to stop fighting and Akiva states that he doesn't want to hurt them. He wants them to think past fighting and decides to tell them that a chimaera saved his life and that he fell in love with her.

In chapter 39, Akiva remembers how the thought of seeing Madrigal again turned into a hope and, later, into a plan. Through his memories, the reader learns that the seraphim ruled Astrae for millennium before it was taken over by chimaera, who destroyed all its magic and held it for centuries.



Akiva's father, Joram, started the war against the chimaera and, thanks to a negative encounter with his father, Akiva took an interest in other species and in magic. He used the pain in his wounded shoulder to achieve magic and accomplished invisibility, which was needed to find Madrigal. He also learned to speak Chimaera as part of his plan to find Madrigal.

Akiva is on his way to Marrakesh to meet Karou in chapter 40. His siblings, although disgusted with him, let him go for now without any bloodshed. As he's flying over the Mediterranean Sea, Akiva thinks about the wishbone in his hand and how Madrigal also had one.

He remembers how she explained that the wishbone doesn't grant wishes but provides hope, which is like magic, and how he lost himself after he lost her. Akiva knows that the truth of the wishbone could make Karou hate him and he contemplates dropping it into the sea so that they could love each other. He thinks that she never has to know.

Chapters 36-40, To Do Else Than Kill, Dream-Lost, Ungodly, Blood Will Out, Almost Like Magic Analysis

Chapters 36 through 40 focus mostly on Akiva and his background. The chapters also begin to piece together the reasons that Akiva finds himself so enamored with Karou. In chapter 36, Karou uses her eye tattoos to fight with Liraz but Akiva steps in and, for the first time, chooses the truth over the bond with his siblings.

Because he wants to live a life that has more to it than fighting, Akiva chooses Karou's side over his siblings. Akiva tells Karou to meet him in Marrakesh and he stays behind to fight his siblings if necessary.

In chapter 37, Akiva shares that Madrigal was a chimaera who saved his life and with whom he fell in love. The text suggests that there are many similarities between Madrigal and Karou. In chapter 38, Akiva pleads with his siblings to accept that they can have more in their life than just fighting and he tells them for the first time that his life was saved by a chimaera and that he fell in love with her.

Chapter 39 provides information about how the war between the seraphim and the chimaera started. The chapter also provides details about Akiva's one interaction with his father and how it caused him not only to take an interest in other species but in magic. Akiva decides to use magic as a way to find Madrigal. In chapter 40, Akiva reveals that Madrigal also had a wishbone and he thinks about how the truth of Karou's wishbone will likely make her hate him.

Akiva contemplates dropping the wishbone into the Mediterranean Sea, since Karou would never know, so that he can love her and so that she will have the ability to love him. Akiva has yet to reveal who he knows Karou to be or the truth of the wishbone.



Chapters 41-45, Aleph, Ache and Salt and Allness, Snap, Whole, Madrigal

Chapters 41-45, Aleph, Ache and Salt and Allness, Snap, Whole, Madrigal Summary

Chapter 41 finds Karou waiting for Akiva in Marrakesh. She has been there two days and nights. Karou wondered how long she would wait but her body was telling her that she wanted Akiva. She bought fingerless gloves so that her tattoos would be covered and she could touch him without causing pain. But when Akiva arrives, he is solemn and cold.

He gives her back the wishbone, asks if she still wants to know who she is and says they need to go somewhere more private to break the wishbone. Akiva assures her that Brimstone was holding it for her and, although bracing himself to be hated by her, Akiva falls into an embrace with Karou.

In chapter 42, Karou takes Akiva to her hotel room and Akiva knows the time to reveal the truth of the wishbone has come. But Karou feels that she is not ready and suggests they wait. Akiva wants nothing more but he knows it won't get easier. For a moment, Karou thinks she sees Akiva in a different time but doesn't understand it.

With hands on the wishbone, Akiva pulls away and says that he needs Karou to remember that he loves her and would've always found her. They begin to kiss and they get more intimate before Akiva pulls away and says that Karou needs to know the truth now. They break the wishbone.

Chapter 43 is one sentence long and it depicts how such a small, brittle object can make such a clean snap.

Another short chapter, chapter 44 shares that Karou feels the wind after the snap and feels that she is rushing into herself. She is now whole.

In chapter 45, Madrigal is flying through the air and through the trees, gathering pollen on her feathers/skin that will numb the lips of her lover. She finds herself in battle but she is also in love. Looking out into the crowd, she sees only one face and hears only one voice: Akiva's. She introduces herself as Madrigal Kirin, a chimaera who tried to think of a new way to live. The last sentence of the chapter mentions a blade that moves quickly.



Chapters 41-45, Aleph, Ache and Salt and Allness, Snap, Whole, Madrigal Analysis

In chapter 41, Karou and Akiva are finally able to meet in Marrakesh as planned. While waiting for Akiva, Karou thinks about her feelings towards him and remembers how Brimstone told her that one day, she would know her time to leave him.

Karou feels sure that Akiva is her sign, although she feels sure that Brimstone wouldn't have wanted her to leave him with the enemy. When Akiva arrives, he is cold with Karou because he is trying to brace himself for her to hate him.

But he is unable to fight his feelings for her and, in chapter 42, Karou and Akiva share an intimate moment. However, Akiva stops the moment and says that Karou must know the truth about herself now and they break the wishbone.

Chapters 43- 45 are extremely short but depict what Karou experiences once the wishbone is broken. She seems to experience Madrigal's memories and she feels whole. Chapter 45 ends with the implication that Madrigal was killed.



Chapters 46-50, Sudden, Evanescence, Pure, Teeth, Sugared

Chapters 46-50, Sudden, Evanescence, Pure, Teeth, Sugared Summary

Chapter 46, less than a page long, finds Karou grabbing her neck and gasping in relief when she feels that it's intact. She looks at Akiva and says his name with a new tone, a tone that is rich and from her whole self. Karou takes off her gloves and stares at her eye tattoos, understanding now everything that Brimstone has done.

In chapter 47, Madrigal is discussing the circumstances of her death- an execution for all to see. She remembers how her wings were pinned back for humiliation but how they could never make her repent. She was guilty of treason because she loved the enemy. Part of her execution was that Akiva was forced to watch.

As she stood on the scaffold, lowered to her knees and put her cheek on the rock, Akiva screamed the most horrible scream she'd ever heard. Madrigal knew that the leaders wanted her to scream and beg but she refused because she needed her energy and focus. After her death, she is going to save Akiva's life.

Chapter 48 reveals that Madrigal was the last remaining child of her tribe, that she was adopted by a family of chimaera and that she lives in the caged city of Loramendi. Madrigal is described as being of high-human aspect, as she has the head and torso of a woman but also gazelle and birdlike features.

The chapter finds Madrigal being found by her adoptive sister, Chiro, who chastises her for not being more excited about being courted by the son of the Warlord, Thiago, who is of high-human aspect and has features of a white wolf.

Chiro tells her that she is lucky because Thiago doesn't like just anyone, he likes purity- which Madrigal has because she does not have the hamsas (eye tattoos). Chiro has little patience for Madrigal's "problems" because she has the chance to die in her own skin, unlike Chiro, who already knows what it's like to die.

Madrigal shares in chapter 49 that the chimaera use the thurible to gather the souls of their fallen soldiers in order to preserve them. The reader learns that Brimstone's job is to create new bodies for these souls and that he uses the teeth to do so. Without the teeth, the chimaera would no longer exist.

Madrigal remembers being Brimstone's apprentice and how he resisted sharing his burden. But Madrigal learned that magic relies on pain and that teeth are used to draw pain from others. The reader learns that the hamsas are magic paid for by the pain of death. As she prepares for Thiago, Madrigal hopes the angel she saved is still alive.



In chapter 50, Madrigal is getting ready for the ball and to meet Thiago. She thinks that her dress is too revealing but Chiro and their friend, Nwella, think she looks beautiful. Madrigal shares that Thiago was not always high-human and that he would look at and approve sketches of his next body.

Madrigal can't help thinking that she has to make a decision about her life tonight. Chiro's tone when complimenting Madrigal doesn't sound sincere and she remembers when Chiro was mad at her for not making her high-human. Chiro and Nwella sprinkle Madrigal with unwanted sugar and they leave for the ball, with Madrigal not knowing that she will soon be in love.

Chapters 46-50, Sudden, Evanescence, Pure, Teeth, Sugared Analysis

Chapters 46- 50 take the reader back in time in order to depict Madrigal's life. Chapter 46 is short but it confirms that the wishbone is now broken and that Karou understands everything Brimstone did. In chapter 47, the reader receives an account of Madrigal's execution and learns that she is executed because she loved the enemy- Akiva- who was forced to watch the execution.

Madrigal reveals at the end of chapter 47 that she has a plan to save Akiva's life after her death. Chapter 48 goes even further back in time to a conversation Madrigal had with her adoptive sister, Chiro.

The reader learns that Madrigal is being courted by the son of the Warlord, Thiago, because she is beautiful but because she is pure, meaning without the hamsas. But Madrigal isn't sure if she wants to be with Thiago or if she wants to live her own life.

In chapter 49, the reader learns that Madrigal was an apprentice to Brimstone, that Brimstone's job was to create new bodies for the saved souls of their fallen soldiers and that he uses teeth in order to do so. The chapter also reveals that the hamsas are a magical weapon paid for through the pain of death.

In chapter 50, the reader can sense that Chiro is jealous of Madrigal and that most women in their city would be happy to be courted by Thiago. Unlike Chiro and many of the others, Madrigal does not know what it's like to have a fate that is to die over and over again. The chapter ends with Madrigal going to the ball and with the text suggesting that she is about to be swept away by love.



Chapters 51-55, The Serpentine, Madness, Love is an Element, Meant, Children of Regret

Chapters 51-55, The Serpentine, Madness, Love is an Element, Meant, Children of Regret Summary

In chapter 51, Madrigal, Chiro and Nwella join the traditional dancing and kissing taking place on the Serpentine, the main street of Loramendi. Madrigal immediately notices that she is not being treated the same as years past- she is drifting alone through the crowd because everyone knows she belongs to Thiago.

But someone does take her arm and begins dancing and "kissing" (rubbing masks) with her. He was wearing the head of a horse that completely covered him and he told her that he knows exactly who she is because he came here for her. He thanks her for saving his life and Madrigal sees his eyes- she knows who it is.

Madrigal and the angel are swept together by the crowd. He shares that he only came to thank her and she thinks he's mad because of how much danger he's putting himself in. The angel says that it has been easy getting to her, that it seems they were meant to be, but Madrigal keeps denying this, telling him that she is taken by Thiago, which repulses the angel.

Just then, Chiro and Nwella come up behind her and Madrigal leads them away from the angel. She sees Thiago for the first time and his gaze spooks her. She leads Chiro and Nwella into a dance and wonders where the angel is.

Madrigal is participating in the street dance in chapter 53 and, although no one is ignoring her, they are not as engaged with her as they are with the other girls. Except one dancer, with a tiger mask this time, who fully grabs her hand.

Madrigal knows it's the angel and, while she is happy to see him, she tells him that he must go because it's too dangerous. He asks Madrigal if she loves Thiago and she realizes he's the first one to ask her that. Madrigal says that love is a luxury, although the angel says it's a needed element. She loses track of the angel and she is delivered to Thiago's arms.

Madrigal greets Thiago and as he looks with her at lust, he tells her she's beautiful, and she feels the urge to run from him. Thiago invites Madrigal to dance and she hesitated long enough for Thiago to notice but, with a shove from Chiro, Madrigal was escorted to the dance floor by Thiago.



Throughout the dance, she changes partners and is relieved to get away from Thiago each time. During one rotation, she is happy to find that her partner is the angel, Akiva. Being with him, Madrigal knows that she can't go back to Thiago. She wants to fly away but, instead, Madrigal and Akiva sneak off into the crowd.

Chapter 55 tells the chimaera story of the sun and two sister moons, Nitid and Ellai. The son, although betrothed to Nitid, lusted for Ellai and he forced himself upon her. Ellai, however, stabbed him and the blood of the son became seraphim- "children of fire." The tears of heartbroken Nitid became chimaera- "children of regret." Madrigal takes Akiva to the temple of Ellai- the goddess of assassins and secret lovers- where they can be alone. They take off each other's masks and admire the beauty of the other. They draw near each other and embrace in a kiss.

Chapters 51-55, The Serpentine, Madness, Love is an Element, Meant, Children of Regret Analysis

In chapter 51, Madrigal enters the festivities, which include traditional dancing and kissing exchanges, and notices that everyone is steering clear of her. She knows that everyone else knows that she belongs to Thiago.

Madrigal is surprised when someone is brave enough to grab her hand and dance with her and she is even more surprised to find out that it is the angel whose life she saved. Chapter 52 reveals that the angel has come back to thank her for saving his life but it is clear that they have a strong connection.

Also in chapter 52, Madrigal feels uncomfortable with Thiago's gaze towards her so she stalls meeting him for one more dance. But in chapter 53, despite sharing another happy moment with the angel, she is twirled into Thiago's arms at last.

She is hesitant to dance with Thiago in chapter 54 but Chiaro thrusts her into it. Madrigal can't wait to get away from Thiago each time she changes partners and, when her partner is the angel, Akiva, she knows that she can't accept Thiago's marriage proposal. Madrigal and Akiva sneak away and, in chapter 55, they are finally alone and can express their true feelings for each other.



Chapters 56-60, The Invention of Living, Revenant, Victory and Vengeance, The World Remade, If Found Please Return, Epilogue

Chapters 56-60, The Invention of Living, Revenant, Victory and Vengeance, The World Remade, If Found Please Return, Epilogue Summary

Chapter 56 begins with Akiva telling his people's legend of where seraphim and chimaera came from. They decided that both of their legends were dark, and they decided to make up their own. Before Madrigal had to return, Akiva asks about her wishbone.

Madrigal remembers how Brimstone instilled in her that she must break the wishbone for something worthy and, with Akiva, she knew that it was. They made a wish over the wishbone, knowing that the real magic in it was hope, and they saw each other every night for the next month. They talk about inventing a new way of living and about trying to change others to do the same.

Chapter 57 brings the reader back to Karou and Akiva. Karou realizes that she is Madrigal, that somehow Brimstone had gotten her soul and given her a new body, using the wishbone to hold her memories. She felt strong love for Brimstone, as he had given her a childhood and art, along with a life that was not in a war-torn world.

Karou looks at Akiva, both astonished that the other lived, as Akiva was a prisoner at the time of Madrigal's death. Madrigal remembers being able to see her death but she didn't watch because she had to save Akiva and needed to get into her new body, which she used diamonds to make.

Chapter 58 returns to Madrigal as she is begin questioned by Chiro about where she was the night before. Chiro observed that Madrigal was smiling in her sleep and Madrigal answered that she was because she is happy. But as they look out their window towards the palace, they notice a banner that says "victory and vengeance."

Madrigal knows that Thiago is back and she instantly becomes worried. Madrigal asks Chiro if she thinks Thiago has forgotten about how she left him and disappeared and Chiro suggests that Madrigal could die and come back unattractive to ensure Thiago was through with her. Madrigal should've known then that something was wrong.



While in jail awaiting her death, Madrigal is visited by Brimstone in chapter 59. After talking about her actions, Brimstone lets her know that he is not ashamed of what she did and that he, too, dreams of a peaceful world. Brimstone shares many secrets and history with Madrigal. He also tells her that Chiro is the one who told Thiago about her and Akiva.

Brimstone says that Chiro can be easily pushed aside. He asks Madrigal the recipe for the smoke and, when Thiago is taking Madrigal to her execution, Brimstone says that Chiro will give her the final blessing. Initially misunderstanding, Madrigal then sees Brimstone's plan and she knows what to do.

Chapter 60 begins with Madrigal using willpower to force her soul into Chiro's body. In Chiro's body, Madrigal found Akiva and she freed him. However, he slammed her against the wall, knocking her unconscious, and that is the last memory Karou has as Madrigal. Overcome with joy that they are here now and alive, Karou kisses Akiva but he doesn't respond.

He reminds her of her promise to remember that he loves her and Akiva shows Karou the piece of paper from her sketchbook that allowed him to find her. Karou knows that she left her sketchbook in Brimstone's office and Akiva apologizes, not knowing that Brimstone saved her. Akiva tells Karou that it's too late because Brimstone, Twiga, Yasri and Issa are dead.

Karou flies with Razgut into the sky to find the portal. She knows that Akiva was alive to kill her family because of her actions. Although she hadn't the strength to kill him, and she knows he would've made it easy for her to do, Karou left him. The distance between them feels wrong to her and she wants to "unknow" what Akiva did. As she follows Razgut into Eretz, she knows that this is not the end. (to be continued)

Chapters 56-60, The Invention of Living, Revenant, Victory and Vengeance, The World Remade, If Found Please Return, Epilogue Analysis

In chapter 56, Akiva and Madrigal are building their relationship and they spend a month of nights together, loving and dreaming about how they change their worlds and live in peace. Karou and the reader learn in chapter 57 that Karou is Madrigal. Somehow, Brimstone had gotten her soul, given her a new body and given her a new life in a world where she could have a childhood, art and peace. Karou feels extreme fondness, love and gratitude towards Brimstone for giving her this life and she and Akiva enjoy each other, as they are both still alive.

Chapter 58 begins to foreshadow that something is going to wrong for Madrigal, as Chiro begins questioning her on where she is at night. Thiago also returns from battle in chapter 58, causing Madrigal to feel anxious because she hasn't seen him since she left



him at the party and disappeared- a disrespectful thing to do to the Warlord's son who was courting her.

Madrigal and the reader learn secrets and history from Brimstone in chapter 59, as he visited Madrigal in jail before her execution. Most importantly, Brimstone tells Madrigal that Chiro is the one who turned her in and that Chiro's soul is weak and easily pushed aside. Madrigal didn't know what that meant at the time but when she learned that Brimstone asked Chiro to do her final blessing after her death, Madrigal knew she would be able to take over Chiro's body with her soul, which she did in chapter 60.

Although Akiva made Karou promise to remember that he loved her, indicating he would have bad news, it seems that Akiva and Karou are going to live in bliss because she remembered everything and still wanted to be with Akiva. However, Akiva began to apologize for his actions because he didn't know that Brimstone had saved her.

It isn't long until Karou learns that Akiva killed Brimstone, Issa, Yasri and Twiga. The epilogue reveals that Karou left Akiva, although parts of her still want to be with him, and that she is traveling with Razgut to Eretz because she believes that this is not the end.



Characters

Karou/Madrigal

For the majority of the book, the reader knows Karou as a 17 year old, blue-haired, tattooed artist who lives in Prague. She experiences the normal teenage problems, like ex-boyfriend troubles and worrying about completing her homework on time, but her life is far from normal. The reader quickly learns that Karou was raised by an alternative race, the chimaera - specifically Brimstone, Issa, Yasri and Twiga - and that she lives a secret life where she visits them and runs errands for Brimstone, her father figure and boss.

Karou reveals that goes around the world collecting teeth for Brimstone, a job she doesn't like or understand, but that she earns wishes for doing so. She has used these wishes to give herself blue hair, the ability to speak over 20 languages and to cause minor irritations to others. Despite feeling that the chimaera are her family, Karou feels throughout the majority of the book that a large part of her is missing.

She also has many questions for Brimstone and the others, although they go unanswered, which is another source of frustration for Karou. Because of Karou's search for knowledge and answers, she ends up making a grave error, offending Brimstone and getting thrown out of his office. She is unable to make up with him because, soon after, the portal doors are burned by the seraphim.

Although unlikely, Karou begins to develop feelings for one of the seraphs responsible for burning the portals, Akiva, and, for some reason, she can't fight her attraction and pull to him. Karou feels complete with him.

For the rest of the book, and with Akiva's help, Karou searches for a way back to Brimstone and, in the process, she learns the truth about herself by breaking the wishbone that she has been carrying since the closing of the portals. During the last third of the book Karou learns that, before she was Karou, she was Madrigal, a beautiful chimaera who dreamed of living in a peaceful world.

She saved the life of one of her enemies, Akiva, and fell in love with and had a relationship with him, which led to her people executing her. Because of Madrigal's close relationship with Brimstone, Brimstone saved her soul and gave her a new human life in a peaceful world where she would be safe.

After learning this, Karou feels that the missing piece in her life has been filled in and she understands exactly who she is. She is ready to start her relationship with Akiva again but, unfortunately, Akiva admits to killing Brimstone and the others, as he didn't know that Brimstone saved Karou/Madrigal.



Karou is beyond angry, as she knows that Akiva was alive to do this because of her. Although angry and still aching for him, Karou leaves Akiva behind and enters through the last portal, feeling that this fight is not over.

Akiva

Akiva is a seraph who is more beautiful than can even be described. The reader learns that, although Akiva is a soldier who's been trained to kill, he often finds himself questioning whether that is all there is to his life. He seems to be experiencing an inner struggle about whether or not he is truly a monster and he shares that, after the death of Madrigal, his loved one, he lost himself and turned back to the only way of life he knew.

Akiva is part of the seraphim people, a people who have been at war with the chimaera for a thousand years. Akiva is first introduced in the book as one of the mysterious, beautiful winged people who are burning their handprints into doors. The reader quickly learns that Akiva and his two siblings are doing this as part of their plan to burn the portal doors that Brimstone uses to enter through the human world and end the war.

But when Akiva sees Karou leaving one of the portals, he is intrigued and can't stop himself from following her. During their first encounter, Akiva tries to kill her when Karou tries to warn Brimstone that the seraphim are back. Akiva is unsuccessful but sees that she has the marks of a chimaera soldier finds himself feeling a strange pull towards Karou. He doesn't understand his developing feelings for her but, for the rest of the book, Akiva poses no threat to Karou.

The plot reveals that Karou also experiences this strange pull for Akiva and they develop a relationship that turns into a romantic love. Just when Akiva feels he can relax in his relationship with Karou, he discovers the wishbone that Karou wears around her neck at all times. This discovery affects Akiva so deeply that he falls to his knees and sobs because he knows who Karou is and that he will likely never have a relationship with her.

After convincing Karou that she needs to break the wishbone to find out the truth, Karou agrees and learns that she is Madrigal, the chimaera with whom Akiva had a romantic relationship. Delighted to know they are both still alive and finally able to be together in a peaceful world, Karou proceeds to try and continue a relationship with Akiva.

But Akiva's heart is heavy and he knows that Karou will never forgive or love him when she knows what he's done. At the end of the book, Akiva reveals that he killed Brimstone, Issa, Yasri and Twiga. Although he apologizes to Karou and states that he never would have done it if he'd known that Brimstone saved Karou/Madrigal, Karou leaves him. Akiva suffers the loss of finding what he's always wanted only to find out that it's too late for him to have it.



Brimstone

A chimaera who served as Karou's father figure and boss. He also had a close relationship with Madrigal, as Madrigal was his apprentice for many years. Brimstone is described as having the head and horns of a ram, having bulging muscles, a bushy tail and a formidable presence. He is one that does not answer questions but who seems to have all of the answers.

Brimstone expects Karou to complete errands for him on a regular basis, for which he rewards her with small wishes, but he seems to rely on hope more than magic. It is later revealed that the teeth are Brimstone's source of magic, as pain is the source of magic, and that he needs a constant supply of teeth so that he can make new bodies for chimaera who have died but whose souls have been saved.

Throughout the book, Brimstone gives very little verbal affirmation to Karou but it is clear that he cares about her deeply. The depth of his feelings for her are made even clearer during the last part of the book when it is revealed that he visited Madrigal in prison before her death, implies that he was not ashamed of her for falling in love with the enemy and dreaming of a peaceful world with him and develops a plan to save Madrigal's soul.

It is not revealed until later in the book that Brimstone went even further by gathering Madrigal's soul and giving her a whole new human form, a childhood, art and a new life in a different, peaceful world. After the portals are forever burned closed by the seraphim, Brimstone never sees Karou again and, at the end of the book, it is revealed that Brimstone was killed by Akiva.

Issa

A chimaera who helped raise Karou. She is described as being serpent from the waist down, human from the waist up, having a beautiful face and having the hood and fangs of a cobra. Throughout the book, she appears to have a caring, motherly role towards Karou and she is also the "gatekeeper" for Brimstone's portals. Throughout Karou's life, Issa knew that Karou was Madrigal but kept the secret so that Karou could have a peaceful life. It is revealed at the end of the book that Issa was killed by Akiva.

Twiga

A chimaera who helped raise Karou. He is described as having a giraffe-like neck and, based on the text, Twiga was a "right hand man" of sorts for Brimstone. He appeared to be involved in judging the quality of teeth and in helping to gather the souls of dead chimaera soldiers. Twiga also kept the secret of Karou being Madrigal and he was also ultimately killed by Akiva.



Yasri

A chimaera who helped raise Karou. She has human eyes and a parrot beak, along with orange curls along her neck. Yasri worked in the kitchen in Brimstone's shop and was another caretaker figure throughout Karou's life. Yasri knew the secret of Karou being Madrigal and was also ultimately killed by Akiva.

Zuzana

Karou's best friend and confidant. She is also a talented artist and puppeteer who descends from a long line of puppeteers. Zuzana is described as short, feisty and somewhat cynical but she is also an understanding and accepting person. When Karou tells Zuzana the truth about her two lives, Zuzana believes her and is supportive of her during the various complications that happen when Karou's two worlds begin to meet. Also in the book, Zuzana has a relationship with Mik.

Izil

A grave robber in Marrakesh with whom Karou has monthly meetings in order to gather teeth. Izil is described as a man who was once a personable doctor but who has quickly declined in appearance over a few years. His shadow reveals that he has a creature on his back, Razgut, who is hard on him and has turned Izil into a mule.

Izil received Razgut due to a wish he made for knowledge and he begged Karou to take out her own teeth in order to earn a wish powerful enough for him to be released from Razgut. Izil is questioned by Akiva about Karou and, after revealing a small amount of information, he threw himself off of a high ledge in order to avoid revealing any other information about Karou.

Razgut

A fallen seraph who was cast out of his world, severely maimed and unattractive, and is now attached to the back of Izil. After Izil's death, Razgut remained in Marrakesh. He warned Karou that Akiva was looking for her and he made a deal with Karou that, if she brought back wishes strong enough to give them the power of flight, he would take them to the last remaining portal. It is not until the epilogue that Karou takes Razgut up on his offer.

Thiago

A chimaera who is a well-respected yet entitled and arrogant son of the chimaera Warlord. He is of high-human aspect, meaning he has the torso and head of a human, but he has white wolf aspects to his appearance as well. He is a self-proclaimed purist



and, for that reason, he decides that he wants to marry Madrigal, as she is beautiful and does not have the marks of a chimaera soldier.

Thiago courts Madrigal but is turned down by her when she disappears with Akiva. Thiago is the one who ordered Madrigal's execution, tortured Akiva and revealed many chimaera secrets to him while doing so and ordered that Akiva watch Madrigal's execution.

Chiro

Madrigal's adoptive sister. Unlike Madrigal, Chiro is not of high-human aspect and it is clear that she is not only jealous of this but of the fact that Madrigal is being courted by Thiago, whom she loves, and that Madrigal does not have to live with the fate of dying over and over again. Chiro is responsible for telling Thiago about Madrigal and Akiva but, ultimately, it is Chiro who saves Madrigal's soul, as Madrigal's soul easily takes over Chiro's body.

Hazael

Akiva's half-brother and a seraph soldier. Hazael was one of the seraphim responsible for burning his handprint into the portal doors that ultimately burned. Although he disagrees with Akiva's choice to stay with Karou, he is described as a dreamer and has a softer, more accepting personality

Liraz

Akiva's half-sister and a seraph soldier. She too burned her handprint into the portal doors that were burned. Described as cold and calculating, Liraz vehemently disagreed with Akiva's choice to stay with Karou instead of returning to their world and she engaged in a battle with him, although she eventually disengaged.

Kazimir

Karou's 20 year old ex-boyfriend. By all accounts, Kaz is handsome but also arrogant and relentless in his pursuit to win Karou back after she ended their relationship because of his infidelity. Kaz has a vampire tour that runs in the city of Prague, of which Karou has been a part in the past. Throughout the book, Kaz seems to have suspicions about who or what Karou is and is not surprised when he sees her flying.

Mik

Zuzana's boyfriend and a talented violinist.



Nwella

Madrigal and Chiro's friend.

Profesorka Fiala

Karou and Zuzana's art teacher at school.

Joram

Seraphim emperor and the father of Akiva, Hazael and Liraz. He is described as cold, uninvolved and uncaring, producing children with many different woman for the sole purpose of creating more soldiers.

Nitid

One of the sister moons in the chimaera legend on the origin of chimaera and seraphim. According to their legend, the chimaera are a product of the tears Nitid shed when she found out that the sun, to whom she was betrothed, raped her sister. This makes the chimaera "children of regret."

Ellai

One of the sister moons in the chimaera legend on the origin of chimaera and seraphim. According to the legend the sun, betrothed to Nitid, lusted after Ellai and raped her. Ellai stabbed the sun, causing him to bleed, and the seraphim are the blood of the sun- "children of fire."

Bain

One of Brimstone's most trusted traders. He is described as fat with a ratty beard and bad teeth. Karou steals the gavriels out of his beard in order for her and Razgut to be able to fly to the last portal.

Kishmish

Brimstone's crow-like messenger who told Karou when she was needed. He was one of the first to die when the portals were burned.



Objects/Places

Prague

The city in which Karou lived and one of the main settings of the novel.

Elsewhere/Loramendi

Elsewhere refers to the name Karou gave the location of Brimstone's shop. The book reveals that his shop was located in the city of Loramendi, the city where chimaera lived.

Eretz

The name of Akiva's world.

Marrakesh

Where Karou and Akiva met several times during the book.

Atrae

The name of the seraph capital.

Scuppy

The lowest form of wish. Karou often kept several of these on a necklace.

Shing

Second on the scale of wish denominations. Karou earned these for her errands.

Lucknow

Third on the scale of wish denominations.



Gavriel

Tourth on the scale of wish denominations. Karou searched for these in order to wish herself and Razgut the ability to fly.

Bruxis

Gifth and highest wish denominations. This level of wish could only be earned by extracting your own teeth.

Teeth

Karou goes around the world collecting teeth for Brimstone. The teeth are the source of Brimstone's power and allow him to create new bodies for dead chimaera soldiers whose souls have been preserved

The Thurible

Contains incense that provides a pathway for the chimaera souls to follow so that they can be preserved and given new bodies.

The Wishbone

Carried first by Brimstone and then by Karou, it contained Madrigal's memories and, when broken, allowed Karou to learn who she truly was.

Brimstone's Shop

Where Karou would go when summoned by Brimstone to complete errands.

Portal Doors

Doors that look ordinary from the outside but led to Brimstone's shop and/or opened to various locations around the world from Brimstone's shop.

The Art Lyceum of Bohemia

Karou and Zuzana's school.



The Poison Kitchen

Karou and Zuzana's favorite café.

Black Handprints

The handprints of Hazael, Liraz and Akiva that were burnt into Brimstone's portal doors to identify which doors needed to be burned.



Themes

Self-Discovery

"Daughter of Smoke and Bone" is the tale of Karou, an apparently normal human girl who lives a double life, between the human world and Elsewhere, the magical land she is connected to. As such, Karou has something of a split identity. The two worlds did not seem to connect well, and she often felt alienated and alone as a result. Karou often said that she felt like she belonged somewhere else.

It turns out that these feelings corresponded to reality in the book. For, Karou was running errands for Brimstone, who knew but did not inform her that she was in fact Madrigal reborn in human form. Her original identity, Madrigal, was deeply connected to an apparent enemy, Akiva, who she once had a romantic relationship with. The new relationship with Akiva and Karou is initially antagonistic but becomes more complicated as the two discover Karou's true identity, and are reminded of their old love affair that it is itself tainted by the fact that Akiva killed her closest friends.

The theme of self-discovery should be clear to anyone who reads the book, then, as the entire plot of "Daughter of Smoke and Bone" is built around the fact that Karou, not to her knowledge, has a secret identity that inevitably comes out during her interaction with the other characters in the book. Thus, the book is the gradual and often abrupt revelation of Karou's true past that, in turn, impacts her future.

Destiny

Until the very end of the book, it is not clear that Karou's previous identity was Madrigal, who was connected romantically to Akiva. However, once this critical fact is revealed, the reader is able to piece together an internal dynamic to the story. Because of Karou's true nature, hidden from her by the wishbone around Brimstone's neck, that Karou later comes to wear for herself. The symbol of the wishbone, therefore, signals that in some sense Karou was not herself, that some critical features of her identity, namely her memories, were hidden from her in plain sight. It would surely have come up sooner or later that the wishbone had great significance for her life, as it functions as a sort of forbidden fruit throughout.

While Karou would not necessarily have discovered her true identity, had Brimstone lived and continued to wear the wishbone himself. But the driving force in the story is that there is a sort of instability across the worlds that Karou inhabits and an internal recognition of this instability, one that goes to the heart of Karou's personality and emotional and spiritual longings. Thus, destiny in Daughter of Smoke and Bone is not some inevitability imposed by internal forces, but rather the inevitability created by the web of deception surrounding her and the divided sense of self within her. The division



and circumstance of Karou's life eventually forces the uncovering of her final revelation about herself.

Love Doesn't Conquer All

The underlying reality of "Daughter of Smoke and Bone" is that Karou does not know her true identity as Madrigal. As Madrigal, Karou represented her people, which include Brimstone and the others. And her love connection with Akiva, who represents the opposing side, led them to want to make peace between the two of them. The relationship between Karou and Akiva is built up throughout the book, as the two find themselves inexorably drawn together by their nascent emotional bond. It is clear that, unbeknownst to them, they were replaying their old relationship.

Akiva eventually kills Brimstone, Yasri, Issa and Twiga due to their conflict. However, at the time he did not know that Brimstone had saved Madrigal after her execution by resurrecting her as Karou. And when he encourages Karou to break the wishbone and recover her memories, he makes her promise to still love him even though by breaking the wishbone, Karou will find out what he did. Thus, the love connection between Karou and Akiva is unstable, built up Karou's ignorance of Akiva's destruction of her family.

When Karou breaks the wishbone, she learns of Akiva's actions. And while she does not kill him, she leaves him and ends their relationship. No matter how strong their love was, it could not survive the realization that Akiva had killed Karou's family. Thus the book ends with the conclusion that even romantic love cannot heal a rift that deep.



Style

Point of View

The point of view of "Daughter of Smoke and Bone" is third-person, and almost omniscient. While various chapters take the perspectives of different characters, it is clear that there are many facts that they do not know about the others. However, these facts are still available to the reader, even if they are concealed in the minds of the various figures in the story. The author does not reveal everything at once, and uses the shifting points of view to build the entire plot of the story. For instance, Brimstone knows that Karou is Madrigal, but Akiva and Karou do not. And Akiva knows that he killed Brimstone and Karou's other family, but Karou does not.

There are in fact only three distinct perspectives that exist in the book: Karou, Madrigal and Akiva. None of the chapters proceeded from Brimstone's point of view, even though it is clear that the author makes clear that he knows something important that he is concealing from Karou. Around Chapter 40, the story begins to take Madrigal's perspective more often. But as the story progresses, it becomes clear that Madrigal and Karou share very important personality traits, such that the reader recognizes a connection that is ultimately revealed to be an identity. Through this creative unification of points of view, the author is able to build up and resolve the key plot elements and tensions in the book.

Setting

"Daughter of Smoke and Bone" has four main settings. The first setting is Prague, where Karou lives in her own apartment (decorated with items she finds around the world) and goes to school. Karou hangs out with her best friend Zuzana and goes to her favorite café, the Poison Kitchen. The book regularly describes Prague's countryside, such as castles and art, that Karou finds beautiful.

The next setting is Brimstone's Shop that Karou calls "Elsewhere." Karou doesn't know where Brimstone's Shop is located because she arrives there through what appears to be a normal door that is in fact a portal. It later turns out that the shop is in Loramendi, the chimaera city where Brimstone and the other chimaera live, which is opposed to Astrae, which is where the opposing seraphim live. Brimstone's shop has another door that leads to an area full of jars and jars of teeth from all sorts of living beings, teeth that turn out to have magical power.

The third setting is Marrakesh, a city in Morocco. Karou travels to Marrakesh once a month to collect teeth from a grave robber, who always has them in great supply. Akiva follows Karou to Marrakesh, where Akiva first tries to kill Karou. And after they connect, they meet on purpose there after Akiva fights the other seraphim to get them to leave



her alone. And it is in Marrakesh that Karou breaks the wishbone. This is where the book ends as well.

The last setting is Loramendi, the world of the chimaera where all of Madrigal's memories happen and it is also the place where Karou is thrown out of Brimstone's shop.

Language and Meaning

Given that "Daughter of Smoke and Bone" is a novel for teenage girls, it shares many of the linguistic elements common to such books. First, it is a relatively easy read in that the text is fairly clear. There is much more focus on social interactions and relationships than, say, on abstract objects that present some key puzzle. Instead, all of the fantasy is in the service of the relationships between Karou/Madrigal and Akiva. There is no dirty language in the book and only the mildest sexual implications.

The author uses a lot of foreshadowing. For instance, different characters', when the author takes their perspective, will allude to information that other characters lack. These allusions play an important role in the book as they build up to the climax where the most important factors are revealed. The author effectively used language to imply connections between characters even though one must keep reading to uncover the connection.

Another important feature of the book is that the author introduces a number of new terms, such as scuppy, which is the lowest denomination of "wish." An additional example is "shings," another larger denomination of wishes.

As for meaning, the author made it easy to understand and relate to the characters. The author balanced dialogue and descriptions of thoughts and feelings in a lucid fashion, adding to the accessibility of the book. And this despite the fact that the characters were often fantastic in nature.

Structure

"Daughter of Smoke and Bone" has sixty relatively short chapters in addition to an epilogue, 418 pages in total. The book divides roughly into three parts, Chapters 1-20, 21-34 and 34-60. The first third of the book introduces the characters and discusses Karou's two separate lives and how she attempts to balance them. The reader learns that she runs errands for Brimstone, collecting teeth around the world in order to fuel the chimaeras' magical power. Akiva and his siblings are introduced when they are attempting to block and destroy the portals Brimstone uses to collect teeth.

In the second third of the book, the portal doors are burned and Karou is completely shut off from her chimaera family. This part also starts to develop Karou's relationship with Akiva, as he has been following her due to her involvement with the chimaera. Akiva is interested in why he is so drawn to Karou. He also learns that Karou wants to



access the final portal to Brimstone's Shop. Their relationship grows from a friendship into a romantic connection. The second part ends when Akiva sees that Karou now has the wishbone and he realizes who she is and why they can never be together.

In the last third of the book, Karou learns who she really is, gradually. Madrigal starts to play a larger role, as one might expect. The third part thus builds towards Karou's final realization that she is, indeed, Madrigal and that Akiva had killed her chimaera family, ensuring that despite their love they can never be together.



Quotes

"Blessings. Did Kishmish make it back?" (5, 33)

"Elsewhere." (5, 35)

"Sure. I'd drag tusks across Paris every night if I could, it was such a treat." (6, 47)

"No, Karou. I thought that you had taken your freedom." (11, 73)

"I know you, deadly bird of the soul! I know what you are!" (14, 94)

"The girl. I want you to tell me about the girl." (16, 107)

"You think he's making necklaces? Fool. You've had everything to do with our war, but you were too stupid to see it. You tell me that battling with monsters has made me a monster? Doing business with devils, what has that made you?" (18, 123)

"What are you?" (19, 130)

"Wishes are false. Hope is true. Hope makes its own magic." (21, 143)

"I'm not going to hurt you. What happened before, I'm sorry. Please believe me, Karou. I didn't come here to hurt you." (29, 195)

"Why does everybody ask me that? I'm me. Who are you?" (30, 206)

"It's not free, Karou. Magic has a price. The price is pain." (31, 221)

"Karou, what were the errands you did for him?" (32, 223)

"I could stay here with you." (34, 247)

"Karou, I know who you are." (34, 250)

"I won't let you harm her. There are other ways to live. We have it in us to do else than kill." (36, 262)

"A chimaera saved my life. And I feel in love with her." (38, 278)

"We're going to break the wishbone." (41, 295)

"No matter what happens—I need you to remember that I love you." (42, 303)

"Angel-lover!" (47, 316)

"This is for Chiro." (49, 329)



"You." (51, 352)

"We dreamed together of the world remade." (59, 401)

"They're dead, Karou. It's too late. They're all dead." (60, 416)



Topics for Discussion

Explain the sense in which Karou lives a double life in the beginning of the book. Describe her two roles, and the ways in which she tries to reconcile them.

How are Madrigal and Karou related to one another? Use examples from the book to illustrate your points. Further, do not immediately start with the relationship revealed at the end of the book, but begin where Madrigal is introduced.

Why does Karou leave Akiva? Why doesn't she kill Akiva?

Discuss Karou's mixed feelings about running errands for Brimstone. Give two examples.

Explain why Madrigal did not want to marry Thiago and how her resistance plays into the plot.

What are the five denomination of wishes, from lowest to highest? What are wishes used for in the book?

Explain the social background conflict in which Karou is caught up between the chimaera and the seraphim.

Analyze Akiva's inner conflict, between being raised to kill and having a deeper, richer personality.