

Daughter of the Blood Study Guide

Daughter of the Blood by Anne Bishop

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Plot Summary

Daughter of the Blood is the story of Jaenelle, an extremely powerful young girl destined to be Witch, an incarnation of Darkness itself. Jaenelle is still only a twelve year old girl, however, and is also kind and vulnerable. Unknown to her family, she often travels to the Realm of Hell where she meets the High Lord, Saetan. He becomes her secret tutor as well as a father figure.

Daemon, Saetan's son, is sent to serve the Queen of Chaillot, Jaenelle's grandmother. He meets Jaenelle and becomes her friend and protector. He hopes that one day she will be strong enough to defeat the evil Queen Dorothea and purge the corruption and cruelty from the Realm of Terreille. However, unknown to Daemon and Saetan, the 'hospital' that Jaenelle is sent to is actually a front for child abuse and rape. Jaenelle is targeted and retreats within her own mind. Daemon tries to save her, but only succeeds in healing her body; her mind is still shattered. Saetan promises to look after her body until she can find her way out of madness.

Terreille is a cruel place where matriarchal rule has been twisted into something corrupt and sadistic. Daemon and his brother Lucivar are forced to be sex slaves to the powerful Queens. They long for the prophesied coming of Witch, a powerful woman who will defeat Dorothea and restore Terreille to the fairer and kinder place that it should be. One day a child appears to Lucivar and he realizes that this must be Witch. He warns her not to go wandering in Terreille in case someone tries to hurt her.

Jaenelle visits the Realm of Hell where the demon-dead dwell, and meets the High Lord, Saetan. Saetan realizes who she is and agrees to become her tutor. He is constantly amazed by the powerful and seemingly impossible things she can do. He quickly warms to her and becomes a father figure to her. He revisits his old lover Cassandra, who also wants to protect Jaenelle.

Years pass and Jaenelle is now twelve years old. She builds a bridge from a place called Briarwood into Hell to help children find their way. Saetan wonders why so many children die at Briarwood and what it has to do with Jaenelle. One day she cries for help and Saetan merges his power with Daemon to give her extra power. Daemon is punished by the Queen he is serving, but Jaenelle visits him that night and heals him.

A month later, Daemon kills the Queen whom he is serving and visits an old friend who acted like a mother to him. He discovers the truth of his parentage - that Saetan is really his father and that the evil Queen Dorothea has been lying to him. Dorothea is furious that he killed a witch and decides to send him to a witch she does not like called Alexandra in Chaillot. When Daemon arrives, he hears stories about Jaenelle and her kindness. When he meets her, he is shocked to find that she is still a vulnerable little girl. He becomes her protector and her friend.

Jaenelle begins to mend Daemon and Saetan's relationship, encouraging them to get to know each other again. Unfortunately, Lucivar maims the witch that he is serving and is



sent to the salt mines as punishment. Daemon will not allow Jaenelle to try to save him as it is too dangerous. Jaenelle meets Daemon's old friend Surreal and gives her a message from her dead mother.

One night a party is held at Jaenelle's house. It is a children's party but is really just a front for older men to rape young girls. Surreal attends and tells Daemon the truth about Briarwood and what happens there. Daemon tries to persuade Jaenelle to leave with him, but she will not abandon her sister. When the doctor from Briarwood tries to rape Jaenelle's sister, she screams and tries to tell her family the truth. They do not believe her and send her straight back to Briarwood. Daemon uses all his power to escape, breaking many people of their own power in the process. However, he is too drained to be able to save Jaenelle. Saetan has no idea what is happening so he cannot help either.

Surreal rushes to save Jaenelle but is too late. She has already been raped. Surreal kills Jaenelle's abuser and then carries her to the Altar of Cassandra. Surreal, Daemon, Saetan and Cassandra try to heal Jaenelle. Daemon is able to convince Jaenelle to heal her own body, but she retreats to the depths of her mind and refuses to come out. Cassandra takes her unconscious body back to Saetan, where they will look after it until she is ready to come out of madness into the real world again. Daemon stays in Terreille to help Surreal and Lucivar.



Prologue, and Part One, Chapter One

Prologue, and Part One, Chapter One Summary

Jaenelle is Witch, a prophesied witch of the Blood who will help to restore the Realm of Terreille to the honorable and kinder place that it should be. She is incredibly powerful, but also incredibly vulnerable because of her young age. She is mentored by the Lord of Hell, Saetan, and guarded and befriended by his son Daemon. Although both try to keep her safe and hidden from Dorothea, a Queen who would destroy her if she knew of Jaenelle's power, neither see the real danger until too late. Jaenelle is being abused at a hospital for disturbed children, and on the night that Jaenelle is raped she almost loses her sanity and her life. Daemon manages to save her body and send it to safety with Saetan, but Jaenelle's mind is still shattered.

In the Realm of Terreille, a witch called Torsa weaves a Tangled Web or a spell that lets her see visions of the future. She uses this to give a prophecy to a Blood male called Daemon. She tells him that a prophesied witch is coming who will put an end to the corruption of the Blood, the magic-wielding ruling class. Torsa then tells Daemon that his friend Lucivar is actually his brother, before she finally descends into madness.

Hundreds of years later, Lucivar is being held in the Territory of Pruul as a slave, along with many other men. The men have attempted to escape and now one of them is being punished. Lucivar comforts the dying man, then eases his pain by snapping his neck to kill him faster. Lucivar longs for a friend, and suddenly a voice communicates with him psychically. He turns around and sees a small girl. He realizes she must be very powerful to have heard his cry and to have teleported to him using the Winds, a psychic web that connects different places in the Realm of Terreille. He sees that she is Witch, the prophesied powerful witch that Torsa foresaw. He makes her promise not to go wandering in Terreille anymore, as she is a child and so is vulnerable.

Meanwhile, Daemon is being forced to work as a sex slave for a witch called Maris. He hates this, and he resents the control of the matriarchal society led by Queen Dorothea. The female witches control him with a Ring of Obedience that causes him intense pain in his genitals if he disobeys them. Despite this he has still managed to kill many witches and is considered dangerous. Daemon finishes servicing Maris, then senses Torsa's psychic scent in the gardens. He goes to her. She shows him a vision of a shattered chalice and he understands that this represents Witch, and how her mind will one day come close to madness. He swears to find her and protect her.

Saetan, Lord of Hell, is sitting in his study when his friend Andulvar comes in to let him know that something odd is happening on the island of the Cildru Dyathe. The Cildru Dyathe are children of the Blood who are strong enough to enter a form of afterlife in Hell when they die. Most die through violence and so are wary of adults, preferring to live on their own island. Andulvar shows Saetan a colorful butterfly that was found on the island, despite it being usually a dark and colorless place. Saetan sends for the



leader of the Cildru Dyathe, a boy called Char, who tells him that the butterfly was created by a girl. Saetan asks to see her.

Five days later, Char brings the girl to Saetan, who is shocked to see that she is living and not one of the dead. He sees how powerful she is and realizes that she is Witch, the daughter of his soul. He agrees to help teach her the Craft.

Prologue, and Part One, Chapter One Analysis

The first chapter introduces the main characters of the story, giving each person a section seen from their point of view. It also introduces the world and society in which the story is set. This can seem very confusing at first, as the author deliberately withholds a lot of important information in order to make the reader pay attention and slowly build up a picture of how things work. The world consists of three separate Realms that are only connected by magical Gates. These are hard to access, and travel between the Realms is virtually non-existent. The first Realm is Terreille, which is where most of the story takes place. This is where normal living people live, as well as the Blood, who possess magical powers. This is where Jaenelle, Daemon, Lucivar and most of the other characters live. The second Realm is Kaeleer, which is a mysterious place where stranger and more powerful creatures live. After a war with Terreille a long time in the past, Kaeleer has been closed off to the people of Terreille and is all but inaccessible to them. Only Jaenelle appears to have the power to travel here.

The third Realm is called Hell, and seems to be where some of Terreille and Kaeleer's dead go when their bodies die. This appears to only be the case with powerful members of the Blood. In Hell, the dead become 'demon-dead,' continuing their existence in this Realm in much the way they lived in the Realms of the living. The dead keep the form in which they died, meaning that if they were killed as children they remain children, and they retain their death wounds forever. For example, Char, who was burned to death, has a permanently burnt and blackened body in Hell. The Cildru Dyathe are the demon-dead who died as children, and they prefer to remain on their own island in the Realm of Hell. Hell is a shadowy place, but is not necessarily depressing. Apart from the Cildru Dyathe, the dead seem to enjoy their existence as demon-dead. Despite having the same name, the Hell in this story is nothing like the Hell of Christian imagining. This is not a place of punishment and it is not where evil souls are sent when they die.

Terreille is called the Realm of Light and is supposed to be a kind and pleasant place to live, in which the Blood rule fairly and look after the land they are meant to protect. The most powerful of the female Blood, the Queens, rule their Territories from their own court of family and followers. Ideally, the male Blood should feel love and loyalty to their Queens and serve them through their own free will. However, things have gone wrong. Terreille is not a pleasant place anymore. The most powerful of the Queens, a woman called Dorothea, has corrupted most of the land, starting with the Territory of Hayll and slowly forcing the other Territories to submit to her dark vision. She loves power and cruelty, and seems to have a very strong sadistic streak. She has systematically destroyed and killed any other witches who represent a threat to her, and then built up



less powerful witches in her image, encouraging the same cruelty and lust for power. She keeps people in line using fear and pain. The male Blood are no longer allowed to serve those they wish to follow, but are forced to serve the Queens they are assigned to, and seem to be passed around at the female witches' whims. The males are now nothing more than slaves, and are usually forced to serve in sexual ways. This is why Daemon and Lucivar are so excited when Torsa predicts the coming of Witch, a powerful, semi-mythical witch who will set the world aright again and end the corruption.

The first of the main characters to be introduced are Lucivar and Daemon, two powerful brothers who have the same father but a different mother. Their father is obviously not around and remains something of a mystery to them. Lucivar's mother appears to be dead or absent, and Daemon's mother has not been introduced yet. Both Daemon and Lucivar are of the Blood, meaning that they can wear Blood Jewels and practice the Craft, the system of magic in this story. Both are Warlord Princes, putting them on an equal power level with the female Queens. However, in this matriarchal society men are not treated as equals, and Daemon and Lucivar are basically slaves. As a black Jewel wearer, Daemon is more powerful than anyone else in the Realm of Terreille, with the exception of Jaenelle who he has not met yet. As an ebon-gray wearer, Lucivar is only less powerful than Daemon and Jaenelle. This means that Daemon and Lucivar are more powerful than the witches they serve, most of whom wear much lighter colors that are weaker on the scale of power. The witches maintain control because their society has been beaten into submission, and with the use of Rings of Obedience that will cause intense pain in the genitals of any man who disobeys them. Nevertheless, Daemon and Lucivar are still very dangerous and have even killed witches and destroyed several courts of the Queens they were sent to serve. The main Queen, Dorothea, keeps them alive despite this rebellious behavior because she may need their powerful bloodline to create more powerful witches one day. They are therefore at a kind of stalemate. Dorothea knows that Daemon and Lucivar are more powerful than her and could destroy her, but she needs them too much to get rid of them. Daemon and Lucivar know they could fight harder against the witches, but until society changes, they would only be replacing one problem with another. Besides this, Dorothea cleverly uses them as each other's weakness, keeping them in line by threatening the other. Daemon and Lucivar are therefore content to wait until the rise of the prophesied Witch, when hopefully Dorothea will be defeated and the world can be returned to what it should be. They will then have a Queen who they will be happy to serve.

Daemon and Lucivar are both forced to serve as sex slaves for the witches. Both are from long lived races, and so both are well over a thousand years old. This means that they have been suffering, ordered around and oppressed for over a thousand years. Understandably, both have become quite bitter and hard people. They are wary and closed-off with others, reacting to the world mainly with hatred and suspicion. Daemon is known for being cruel and cold, and is nicknamed the Sadist because he mixes pain with pleasure in the bedroom. He is also known for being unable to get an erection. Bizarrely, this only increases his appeal among the witches, as he is seen as something of a challenge for them. He feels a deep distrust of and revulsion for Blood females, and will often treat them rudely and unkindly. He seems to enjoy pushing at the boundaries of his slave status, taking the punishment stoically when it comes. However, he can also



be kind, friendly and gentle with the landen, the ordinary non-magical people of Terreille who are not of the Blood. The landen serve the Blood as servants and laborers, putting them on a similar position with Daemon. They are treated as inferior by the snobbish Blood aristocracy. This makes it easy for Daemon to be sympathetic with and to identify with them.

Lucivar is similar to Daemon in some ways, as he remains strong and independent despite his years of slavery, and has developed the same bitter, suspicious attitude. However, he is a different race, being one of the winged Eyrien. This means that he is naturally more wild and fierce, and feels a deeper need for freedom. He is more likely to act rashly or to lash out in hot anger. If Daemon reacts in anger, it is usually a colder, more calculated rage. Despite both brothers' propensity for violence and bitter distrust of others, both of them have placed all their hope and faith in the prophecy of Witch. Despite their years of slavery they have not become too bitter and twisted to hope for a better future. Instead of turning against Witch as just another powerful female of the Blood, they are determined to help her and persuade her to fight against the corruption. This softens their otherwise hard characters, making them more sympathetic to the reader. They have not given up, so the reader can get behind them and share their hopes of freedom.

This first chapter also introduces the characters of Saetan and Jaenelle. Saetan is a fatherly figure who instantly warms to Jaenelle and sees her as the child of his soul. He wants to teach her and to bring her up to be a woman that he can support and be proud of. He becomes her mentor, but right from the start it is clear that he thinks of her more as a daughter. Jaenelle is a curious and headstrong girl who seems very determined to get what she wants. However, she is not cruel and power-hungry like the other Queens in Terreille. She seems very sweet and innocent, which is at odds with her great power. She is clearly a force to be reckoned with, and is already achieving great feats of power that others would struggle to do. Her power is frightening to others, even to Saetan who also wears the black, but her personality is not at all frightening. By visiting the Cildru Dyathe and creating a beautiful butterfly for them, she has already shown a willingness to help others, particularly those who are most desperate or in need. She also insists on Saetan drinking some of her own blood in order to heal the pain in his leg. This benevolence and kindness suggests that she may be able to heal the corruption of Terreille after all. She may be exactly what Daemon and Lucivar are hoping for.

Despite the name, Saetan has nothing to do with the Christian Satan, even though Saetan is also Lord of Hell. The use of these names, along with Daemon (like Demon) and Lucivar (like Lucifer) can often be a little confusing and jarring for the reader. It encourages a snap judgment, making the reader assume that these characters must be twisted and evil. Instead, they are the 'good' characters of the story, and in many ways are more moral and kind-hearted than the other residents of Terreille. Certainly Daemon, despite being referred to as 'The Sadist,' is much less sadistic than Dorothea and her witches, and less cruel than many other men including Kartane and Greer. This is ironic, twisting the expectations of the reader to show that names and appearances can be deceiving. Evil is not always what the reader might think it is, and this story will keep them guessing. Most characters in the story move in a gray area between good

and evil. The author's message seems to be that such absolutes are an idea created by religions like Christianity, and that 'good' and 'evil' do not really exist.



Chapter Two

Chapter Two Summary

Saetan seeks out Cassandra, a powerful woman who was once Witch and his lover. He believed that she had died, but Jaenelle told him that she is still alive. Cassandra faked her death but actually became a Guardian like Saetan, a form of half-life that is in-between living and demon-dead. They discuss Jaenelle and the importance of bringing her up with the right influences.

Saetan returns to Hell and visits the Keep at Ebon Askavi. This is the repository for the history of the Blood. He asks the librarian Geoffrey to look up two names that Jaenelle mentioned. Geoffrey finds the names listed in the Kaeleer records, the Shadow Realm that is supposedly closed off to people from Terreille. Clearly Jaenelle has been visiting there. She has also already visited Geoffrey and become friends with the Seneschal of the Keep, Draca.

Later, Jaenelle decides that she wants to learn to fly. When Prothvar refuses to teach her, she jumps off the high tower of the Keep. When questioned she reveals that she has already ridden the psychic winds at Askavi, in the Realm of Hell where they are most dangerous. These things only reinforce the message of how powerful Jaenelle already is at such a young age.

Surreal, a Blood witch who wears the gray, visits the Red Moon House in Beldon Mor. She works in the Red Moon brothels all around Terreille, masking her second job as an assassin. She sees a regular client called Philip Alexander. When Philip has gone, Surreal remembers her mother Titian. She remembers how Daemon gave them a place to live and paid for Surreal to learn the Craft. Titian could not teach her daughter herself because she was broken as a young girl and lost her power to use the Craft. She remembers coming home one day to find Titian had been killed. She was only a child at the time, and knowing she was in danger, she ran. She was raped not long after that, but managed to get through the ordeal without being broken. The anger and pain of this drove her to prostitute herself and kill the men who gave her trouble or refused to pay. One day, Daemon found her and taught her to kill more subtly, as well as persuading her to seek the safer and more comfortable Red Moon brothels. Surreal soon became a skilled prostitute and an even more skilled assassin, accepting both kinds of clients all over Terreille. Surreal also remembers getting a little drunk one night and flirting with Daemon. Daemon's obvious contempt for her and his cruelty made her feel afraid to ever see him again.

In Hell, Saetan is visited by Titian, who is now one of the demon-dead. She tells him that Jaenelle has become very important to her people in Kaeleer. She makes sure that Saetan's intentions with Jaenelle are good, and that he does not just want to use her power for himself.



Chapter Two Analysis

The author uses this chapter to emphasize how special and powerful Jaenelle is. The author does this by establishing rules for her system of magic and her universe, and then showing how Jaenelle breaks them all. She travels between the three Realms easily, something that is impossible for most people. She is allowed to visit areas and races that have deliberately closed themselves off from the rest of the world, particularly from the people of Terreille. Not only is Jaenelle allowed in these areas, she is actually treated kindly and regarded as a friend. Jaenelle wanders around Hell without fear, a place that most living people would not dare to enter, never mind explore. She was gifted with a Blood Jewel of every color as well as thirteen uncut blacks, the most powerful of the Jewels. Most people only obtain one Jewel, and no-one has ever been given black as a birthright Jewel before. In this, Jaenelle is more special than anyone else in the history of Terreille. Jaenelle also jumps off a high tower and levitates in the air, has the power to shake Saetan's hall, and confesses that she has ridden the magical winds at Askavi. The latter would be impressive enough if she had done so in the Realm of Terreille, but Jaenelle has used the Blood Run, the most dangerous of the winds, in Hell, the most dangerous Realm. If this were not enough evidence that she is extremely powerful and fearless, the other characters' reactions to her confirm this. They are constantly amazed and sometimes even a little afraid of her power.

Jaenelle herself, however, seems to be unaware of the affect she has on others. She does not seem to understand how powerful she is, and assumes that a lot of what she can do is normal. She has trouble with the simpler parts of the Craft, finding the harder lessons easier. For example, she can violently move all the objects in a room but struggles to magically find her slippers. This has resulted in her family thinking that she has no skill with the Craft, which is why she has to turn to Saetan to teach her. It is likely that Jaenelle's family, thinking her unskilled, has given her the impression that she is not very talented and nothing special at all. She therefore does not see how amazing the things she does are. Levitating on air, visiting Hell, and using the Blood Run at Askavi all seem very easy to her. It is therefore natural for her to assume that these are easy for everyone. This is why she is surprised when Saetan and the others react with fear and anger, and Saetan has to explain to her that they are worried about her safety. Jaenelle, therefore, comes across as quite a determined and headstrong character, but also a very innocent and often naive one. She is naturally curious and seems to take delight in every new thing she discovers. This makes her an appealing character to the reader, especially when contrasted with the pain, suspicion and cruelty of many other characters in the story. She is still very young, but at some points appears to be much wiser than her years. At other times she acts like the child she is. She is sweet and charming, but at the same time there seems to be a sadness or a hardness in her life that has forced her to grow up quickly. However, she never treats anyone unfairly, and shows kindness towards all the characters we see her interact with. She is a ray of sunshine in the shadowy Realm of Hell. It is easy to see how she has come to represent hope for so many people, and why so many people are desperate to protect her. Due to her young age she is still very vulnerable despite her power, and there are witches such



as Hekatah and Dorothea who would destroy her to stop her becoming a threat. As more people become aware of and interested in Jaenelle, the danger increases.

Jaenelle is also in danger of being broken at a young age, and so losing her powers. In this story, a witch can be broken if she is raped, as she is at her most vulnerable when she loses her virginity. If the experience is violent and traumatic, it can cause the witch to reach too far inside herself for her power, falling down into darkness and destroying her power. This is what happened to Titian, Surreal's mother. This is what nearly happened to Surreal, but she managed to hold herself firm and come back from the brink. This is strong foreshadowing for the danger that will become a very real threat to Jaenelle later in the story, and for the tragic events of the final chapter. This has already been hinted at in the foreshadowing of the broken chalice, which represents Jaenelle's mind. If Jaenelle is broken, or becomes too overwhelmed by her great power, she could fall into her own mind and end up in the Twisted Kingdom, which is a metaphor for madness. This has already happened to Tersa, once again emphasizing the danger for the reader, and foreshadowing what will come.

The reader is introduced to a new character in this chapter: Surreal. Surreal is still a somewhat mysterious character. Like Daemon she has been a little corrupted and hardened by the bad things that have happened to her, but like him she has not given up on the world. She can still feel kindness and she dislikes cruelty, though she is cold and harsh when dealing out her own punishments for people she thinks deserve them. She has a rather tenuous friendship with Daemon, who has treated her kindly but also made it clear that he wants nothing to do with her sexually. Daemon is suspicious of women who use their sexuality for their own gain, or who try to dominate men. Surreal is a prostitute who secretly works as an assassin, and she particularly enjoys killing men. It is easy to see how the two might be uneasy and distrustful around each other. Surreal is currently in Chaillot, which is where Jaenelle lives. Titian, Surreal's mother, has informed Saetan that Jaenelle is important to her people, so it seems likely that Surreal will become involved in protecting her at some point in the future.

Surreal explains to the reader the complicated position of Philip Alexander. This seems largely irrelevant at this point, but will become very important to the story as Philip is revealed to be Jaenelle's father. Understanding Philip helps the reader to understand how he behaves with Jaenelle and her family. Philip is a bastard, meaning that he was born out of wedlock and unacknowledged by his father. Because of this he is treated as an inferior and is not allowed to inherit. This means that his brother, Robert Benedict, gets everything in life while Philip is left to beg and rely on his older brother for support. This has made him quite bitter and resentful of the privileged people who are born legitimately into Blood families. It also made him determined to find his own way in life rather than rely on his brother. He became a consort and escort for the Queen of Chaillot, Alexandra Angelline. Unfortunately, it seems that he could not get away from his brother, who married Alexandra's daughter Leland. Philip wears the gray, and so is more powerful than his brother, but still has to watch his brother getting everything he wants so easily. This is made worse by the fact that Philip is secretly in love with Leland, Robert's wife, which the reader finds out later in the story. Jaenelle is Philip's daughter with Leland, but he cannot acknowledge her, and Leland must pretend that Jaenelle is



Robert's daughter. This explains why Philip might have ambivalent and even resentful feelings towards his own daughter, and why she might be largely ignored and unappreciated by her family. This explains why Jaenelle feels the need to go wandering, finding new friends, mentors and parent figures where she cannot get them at home. Already, Saetan is more of a father to her than either Philip or Robert.



Part Two, Chapter Three

Part Two, Chapter Three Summary

It is now five years later. Saetan goes to the SaDiablo Hall in his Territory in Dhemlan, in the Realm of Kaeleer. He meets the caretaker, Helene, and instructs her to open up the hall and refurbish it, as well as to create a suite of rooms for Jaenelle.

Surreal comes home to find Tersa in her apartment. Tersa tells her to warn Daemon about the High Priest of the Hourglass. Surreal promises that she will.

Philip talks to Jaenelle, telling her that they are sending her back to a clinic for disturbed children. They think that the stories she tells of far off places and magical creatures are all made up. She begins to tell him that Dr. Carvay is not a healer but something else, but he cuts her off before she can finish.

Saetan talks to Char about something new on the Cildru Dyathe's island. It is a bridge, leading dead children from Terreille into Hell, who might otherwise have not had the strength on their own. Saetan realizes that Jaenelle built it. Char tells him that the children who come over it all died at a place called Briarwood. They wonder what horrible things must be happening at Briarwood and what connection it has to Jaenelle.

Saetan goes to see Cassandra and asks her about Briarwood, but she has not heard of it. She tells Saetan that there is a psychic mist preventing her or anyone from Hell from going into Beldon Mor. She guesses that Jaenelle is protecting her privacy, and that she might be afraid of how her family would react if they became aware that she is friends with people from Hell.

Saetan is trying to sleep when he gets a desperate call from Jaenelle. He quickly goes through a gate to Terreille and calls her. She tells him she needs his help. He knows he does not have enough power alone, so he calls to Daemon and asks him to lend him some power. He tells Daemon that he is the High Priest of the Hourglass. He quickly explains why he needs the power, and Daemon tells him to take what he needs. Saetan uses the extra power to amplify the psychic link, letting Jaenelle search his mind for the information she needs. She finds it, says thank you to both of them, and then quickly leaves.

The witch Daemon is working for at the moment, Cornelia, senses his use of his Jewel, which is forbidden for slaves. She instructs her guards to strip him and give him fifty strokes of the lash as punishment. As he is trying to recover in his bathroom afterwards, phantom hands help him into the bath and take care of him. They dress his wounds and rub ointment on them, and help him into bed. The wounds are already starting to heal and will leave no scars when they do. Daemon falls asleep thinking about the kindness of Witch.



Part Two, Chapter Three Analysis

Five years have passed and now Jaenelle is twelve years old. It is quickly apparent that she has changed Saetan's life considerably. He is now opening up his old family hall in Kaeleer, spurred on by the intention to give her somewhere a little more pleasant to visit than Hell. He also hopes that she will one day come to live with him there, a hope he communicates to Cassandra. Cassandra is not sure this is very fair to Jaenelle, as she should spend time with the living, and particularly her own family, instead. Saetan is disappointed at this, as he sees that she is right but wishes she was not. Saetan has come to see himself as Jaenelle's father and thinks it natural that she will live with him one day. He thinks of himself as her family and is jealous of her real family. He loves tutoring her and spending time with her, and even planning her new suite of rooms gives him pleasure. At the beginning of the story he was a very reclusive character who was ready to give up on his half-life as a Guardian and seek oblivion. Now he is full of life once again and interested in the world. Now he has not only moved out of his study and begun to act the Lord of Hell again, he has even come out of Hell into Kaeleer. Jaenelle has literally as well as figuratively brought Saetan into the land of the living again.

It is not just Saetan whose life Jaenelle has changed. She has given Daemon hope again, and has shown him that kindness still exists in Terreille. She has shown him what a true Blood witch can be, proving that the Blood is not all corrupted. She has made the people of Hell love her and the people of Kaeleer support her. She is already changing people's lives for the better, even though she is still only a child. However, she is a strangely absent character herself. There are no sections told from her point of view, and though she is an important character the reader knows very little about her. Her life and her family are not shown to the reader, and her secret thoughts and feelings are not explored. This makes her very mysterious. We see her through the eyes of others, and through her actions, as a kind and innocent but strong young girl. Whether this assessment explains all there is to know about Jaenelle is an important question.

The reader begins to see hints in this chapter that there is something dark in Jaenelle's life, and must wonder if there is something going on beneath the surface. Philip tells Jaenelle that she is being sent back to Dr. Carvay. He seems to be suggesting that she is a disturbed child with deranged episodes in which she sees things that are not really there. She has clearly told Philip and her family stories of visiting far off places and seeing magical creatures. They think that she is a little mad, and that she needs to have these delusions cured by a doctor. Jaenelle has obviously been told that she is seeing things, and that none of this is real. Jaenelle is starting to mistrust herself, wondering if this could be true. This is possibly why she avoids visiting Hell again after this, until Saetan proves his existence by calling to her when she needs him. Jaenelle clearly does not like the doctor that Philip sends her to, and she begins to say something bad about him before Philip cuts her off. Philip mentions that her delusions have gotten more disturbing and dangerous. The reader knows that she is not deluded at all, and so this suggests that the disturbing and dangerous things are actually true. What bad things have been happening to her, and what was she going to say about Dr. Carvay? Things are beginning to look a little sinister.



This assessment is quickly backed up by Char, who tells Saetan that Jaenelle has built a bridge from a place called Briarwood into Hell. This bridge helps dead children find the island of the Cildru Dyathe. This forces the question, why are so many children dying in this place called Briarwood, and what connection does it have to Jaenelle? Could Briarwood be this hospital for disturbed children that Jaenelle is being sent to? If this is the case, it looks as though something very bad is happening there, and that Dr. Carvay may be a very evil man. Unfortunately, Philip does not believe Jaenelle, and so she is in great danger. Again, this assessment is backed up soon after when Jaenelle desperately asks Saetan for help. Obviously something terrible is happening to her, but this is left a mystery. The reader can now be sure that there is something very wrong in Jaenelle's life, and that she is in trouble. A very sinister picture is beginning to build up.



Chapter Four

Chapter Four Summary

A month after Jaenelle's cry for help, she finally visits Saetan again. She is extremely thin and has rope burns and blood on her wrists and ankles. Saetan begs her to live with him rather than go back to the abuse, but Jaenelle says she will not leave the others who need her protection. Saetan does not ask her what is happening.

Lucivar and Daemon have been sent to the same house, serving different witches. Lucivar is still serving Zuultah and Daemon is serving Cornelia. Daemon talks with Lucivar about his hatred for the Queens, and how he is worried that Witch, their one hope, is in danger. He gets called by Cornelia, goes up to her room and unleashes his anger with the black Jewel, killing her.

When Dorothea hears about this she is furious. She knows no other Queens will take Daemon in their courts for a long time now, so she will have to bring him back to her. She knows he is in Hayll at the moment, and decides to let him come to her instead of forcing him with the Ring of Obedience, and so risk making him angry.

Daemon meets Torsa in a park in Draega, the capital city of Hayll. She tells him that the Priest is his father. She also warns him that 'the chalice is cracking,' meaning that Jaenelle is in danger. Daemon then goes to visit Manny, the cook at Dorothea's palace, who acted as a mother to him when he was growing up there. He asks her who the Priest is, and she tells him about his early childhood. His father had wanted to claim him on his Birthright ceremony but Dorothea would not let him, saying that Daemon belonged to the Hourglass. After Saetan was forced to leave, Dorothea also drove off Daemon's real mother and pretended that a witch called Hepsabah was his mother instead. Daemon now learns that his real father is Saetan, and that his real mother is Torsa.

Meanwhile, Surreal concludes that she needs a holiday and decides to visit Chaillot again. She stays at the Red Moon house there.

Chapter Four Analysis

The chalice motif is repeated again in this chapter, again foreshadowing the events at the end of the story. Here, the chalice seems to represent Jaenelle's fragile state, just as later chalices will be used as a metaphor for the fragile state of a person's mind. When a person is falling into despair and madness, it is like a delicate chalice cracking. Torsa tells Daemon that the chalice is beginning to crack, meaning that something terrible is happening to Jaenelle, something that threatens her life and sanity. If Daemon cannot help her, she could lose all her power and potential. Daemon heeds Torsa's warning, but does not pay enough attention to the message she is trying to convey. She wants Daemon to help Jaenelle, but what she really wants is for Daemon, Lucivar and Saetan



to work together, as only then can they save her. At the moment, Saetan and Daemon know that something bad is happening. Daemon does not know who Jaenelle really is or where she lives, so he cannot help her. Saetan knows where Jaenelle lives, but he cannot get there himself because of the psychic mist that keeps people from Hell out. If Saetan and Daemon shared their knowledge, and allowed Lucivar to help, their combined strength might be enough to help her. At the moment, no-one is talking to anyone else, meaning that Jaenelle is unprotected.

This is what Tersa means when she tells Daemon that a triangle has four sides. The three sides of the triangle are Saetan, Daemon and Lucivar, the father, the lover and the brother. They are all connected, but are held together by the important but hidden fourth side: Jaenelle. Jaenelle binds them together, as they have all sworn to serve her, and are all dedicated to her safety. In a triangle, each side touches the other, and it could be said that each side holds up the others, keeping the shape from falling apart. This is how Saetan, Daemon and Lucivar must be. They must work together closely and support each other to ensure that the middle, Jaenelle, is protected. If the sides do not trust each other the shape will fall apart and it will be Jaenelle that is left weak and suffering as a result.

Saetan's background as a father is explored a little further in this chapter. Saetan loved his children and desperately wanted to be a good father to them, to be present in their lives. Unfortunately, he was denied the right to be active in Daemon's life by the Hourglass society. The Hourglass is a society for Black Widows, the most powerful people of the Blood. Saetan is a Black Widow himself and is the Priest of the Hourglass. This means that he is bound to all the other members, to all other Black Widows, with a code of honor. This honor prevents him from stepping over the ceremonial circle to take Daemon from them. Because of this, Daemon was brought up as a sex slave, forced to serve, and tortured when he disobeyed. The effect this had on him is evident in this chapter, as Daemon explains to Lucivar that he cannot stand a woman's touch anymore, that he hates all the Blood Queens, and that he feels tainted, dirty and used, as if they have raped everything good out of him and his life. This could have been prevented if Saetan had stepped over the circle and forced the witches to give him his son. He could have protected Daemon and made sure that nothing bad ever happened to him. Instead, he abandoned him in order to preserve his own honor. Saetan's concern for honor has caused him to let one child down. Now the same threatens to happen with Jaenelle. Saetan is too worried about overstepping his place and invading her privacy. He knows he is not her real family, and thinks this means he cannot interfere. However, there is clearly something very bad happening to Jaenelle, and if he is really determined to protect her, he needs to find out what this is. If he worries too much about honor and his place, then Jaenelle could end up suffering as Daemon did.



Chapter Five

Chapter Five Summary

Kartane SaDiablo is Dorothea's son. He grew up with Daemon, and though he was spoiled because he was the privileged son of Dorothea, it was always Daemon he went to for comfort and friendship. Then one day Daemon killed a woman he was forced to serve, and Dorothea quickly sent him away to a different court. She then turned her attention to Kartane and forced him to serve her sexually. He was disgusted that his own mother would do this. He began to release his anger by having violent sex with younger and younger girls. In the end he was raping young virgin witches and deliberately breaking them so they could not practice the Craft anymore. His mother allowed this with no questions asked as long as he only targeted non-aristocratic Blood. Daemon, however, did not approve, and lectured Kartane. Kartane said he did not have to listen to a bastard, and Daemon was shocked and hurt. Since then, Daemon has hated Kartane and the two are no longer friends.

Now Daemon returns to Dorothea's court and sees Kartane again. They are both called into a room where Dorothea and some other witches are planning the evening's entertainment. They bring a man in, tie him up and cut off his genitals, which they call 'shaving,' forcing Kartane and Daemon to watch. Afterwards, Kartane is so disgusted that he longs to go somewhere he can assert his dominance. He decides to go to Chaillot where he has started a 'hospital' in Beldon Mor for disturbed young girls. This is a front for his cruelties, and he is training Robert Benedict to break young girls there just as he does.

Daemon also reacts to the 'shaving' with anger, throwing a young witch out of his room and going on a violent rampage. Dorothea is desperate and turns to Hekatah, the High Priestess of the Hourglass, for help.

Meanwhile, in Hell, Hekatah tries to get Saetan to tell her about Jaenelle. She knows Saetan is training a powerful young witch, but does not know anymore than this. She wanted to use the child in her own power games, as she is desperate to gain power in Terreille again, but she fears Saetan's influence will be too strong now. She decides to try to use Daemon against the girl instead. She suggests to Dorothea that she send Daemon far to the west, to a Queen who Dorothea might like to see dead. Dorothea decides to send Daemon to Chaillot.

Chapter Five Analysis

This chapter offers some insight into the background and character of a man who will become one of the main villains of the story. His name is Kartane, and like Daemon, he is a sex slave for Dorothea and her Queens. He is Dorothea's son, but this does not stop her abusing him and using him for her own sexual pleasure. Understandably, this



has affected him badly. Like Daemon, he has become corrupted by the constant cruelty, developing a suspicious and cynical view of the world, and now finds that normal sex with women disgusts him. He reacts to the violence shown to him with violence of his own, and reacts to being dominated with the need to dominate others. He takes pleasure in raping and hurting young virgin witches who cannot fight back, and breaking them before they can get too powerful. This prevents them from being able to use the Craft, which eliminates a potential Queen who could have become another of Kartane's torturers. By showing how Kartane has been corrupted and twisted into the sadist and rapist he is now, the author shows that labels such as 'good' and 'evil' are too simplistic. Kartane's actions could be labeled as evil, but the reader can understand how he has come to be the person he is. The reader can even feel sorry for him to a certain extent, especially after reading the shocking and graphic description of the 'shaving' in this chapter, in which a man's genitals are cut off merely for Dorothea's amusement. Kartane is not evil; he is broken, twisted, tortured and corrupted. He is as much a victim of cruelty as his own victims are. He even thinks that by breaking young girls he is preventing them from becoming cruel witches later in life and so saving other men from their torture and abuse. This is his justification for what he does. This does not excuse him, but it does humanize him, making him a more interesting character.

This idea that 'good' and 'evil' are not as simplistic as people believe is reinforced by the author turning traditional symbols of good and evil on their head. Daemon, Lucivar and Saetan are all good characters who want to protect Jaenelle, despite the association their names carry. Hell is generally a good place, whereas Terreille, called the 'Realm of Light', is a place of cruelty and fear. Jaenelle is hurt, failed and abused by the people who are supposed to protect her, her own family. The world of Terreille is a matriarchal society in which women keep men for breeding or as sex slaves, turning the traditional idea of the patriarchal and misogynistic dystopia on its head. Jaenelle is not like the other witches; she is kind and caring and a generally good character, despite the fact that she is the incarnation of Darkness and witchcraft. All the 'good' characters in the story wear the darker colored Jewels, with three of them wearing black, the traditional color associated with evil. In these ways, among others, the author twists the idea of good and evil to create a world in which the reader is constantly kept guessing. As a result, the reader is forced to re-evaluate their ideas of good and evil, and to question how they judge people based on names and appearance when these first impressions may be wrong. The author also forces the reader to see how associations of good and evil drawn from traditional religions have a strong influence on our perception of the world, and suggests that these may be too simplistic.

Ironically, although Kartane thinks that what he is doing is the only solution to the problem of Dorothea and the other Queens, he is actually no better than they are, and could be making the situation worse. Kartane justifies his actions with the knowledge that he is preventing young virgin witches from becoming cruel Queens like Dorothea. However, this is flawed logic. Kartane only targets non-aristocratic girls because Dorothea would not let him touch the ones from important families. These young girls are unlikely to become the powerful and privileged aristocratic Queens he is used to. The latter are the ones who abuse men and take pleasure in dominating others. The non-aristocratic witches are not really the problem, and Kartane is not helping Terreille



by breaking them. Besides this, the girls have not yet become cruel and sadistic, and could have had a chance of becoming more caring witches if he had let them develop in the Craft. It is only Dorothea's influence that has caused the corruption, so the next generation of witches may bring about an end to the problem. By raping them and breaking them, however, Kartane is more likely to turn them to cruelty and sadism, just as the cruelty shown to him has corrupted and twisted him. He is only taking part in an endless cycle of abuse and violence, helping it to continue rather than stopping it. Unfortunately, Kartane cannot see this. He also cannot see that his idea of utopia, in which men rule and dominate women, is simply the same situation but reversed. It is not better, and will only lead to the same kind of abuses of power, just from a different source.

Unlike Kartane, Daemon shows a willingness to break out of the cycle of violence. He lectures Kartane and clearly disapproves of his actions. He is not as corrupted as Kartane, and his humanity has not been broken. He has suffered the same kinds of cruelty, but he has managed to stay strong and hold out hope for a better world. He refuses to do to others what has been done to him. If he reacts with violence, it is directed at those who deserve it, rather than innocent people who are easier to dominate. Through this, he shows himself to be a more admirable character than Kartane, and someone who the reader can respect as well as sympathize with. Unfortunately, however, Daemon does not seem to do anything to stop Kartane. He lectures him, but he does not punish him or kill him, or even attempt to save his victims. He knows very well what Kartane does, and it seems that he could do more to prevent this. In the end, this lack of action will come back to haunt him, as Kartane will be responsible for breaking Jaenelle.

Finally the clues about what is really happening to Jaenelle are beginning to fall into place. Kartane has opened a hospital in Beldon Mor for disturbed young girls, where he secretly abuses them and encourages his protégé Robert Benedict to do the same. Surely this must be the place where Philip has sent Jaenelle to get better, and the 'Briarwood' where Jaenelle has built a bridge to Hell to help murdered children. Now the reader knows that Jaenelle is in very grave danger, not just from Kartane but from her own relation, Robert Benedict, Philip's brother. Given how angry Kartane is after the shaving, and how he has decided to visit Beldon Mor to take out his revenge, it is clear that he is a strong threat to Jaenelle's safety and sanity. Ironically, he is right under Daemon's nose, and Daemon does not even see the danger. Now Daemon is also being sent to Chaillot. Jaenelle's enemy and protector are both on their way to her, as well as the more ambiguous figure of Surreal. Who will reach her first and what consequences will this have for Jaenelle? The reader is left with this cliffhanger at the end of Part Two of the story.



Part Three, Chapter Six

Part Three, Chapter Six Summary

Daemon arrives at Alexandra Angeline's house in Beldon Mor. He is introduced to Alexandra, her daughter Leland, Leland's husband Robert, and Robert's daughter from his first marriage, a fourteen-year-old girl called Wilhelmina. Daemon can sense that Witch has been in the house, but she is not here now. He searches the rooms for a trace of her, and finds her psychic scent strong in a child's room. He wonders if she might be a carer or a healer for Leland's child, who is away at the moment.

Daemon walks with Wilhelmina in the gardens every day. One day she goes into an alcove where a plant called Witchblood grows. She says her sister planted it to remember some witches who died violent deaths. She tells Daemon that her sister is in Briarwood. Daemon asks the cook about Briarwood and the cook explains that it is a hospital for disturbed children. She then tells him about Jaenelle. She tells him that Jaenelle once saved her granddaughter from being mauled by angry dogs, and then healed her arm even though it seemed ruined beyond healing. The cook never told Jaenelle's secret, as Jaenelle prefers to keep her real powers hidden from her family. After this story, Daemon realizes that Witch must be Jaenelle, and that she is actually only a child.

Daemon goes riding and is given a very temperamental stallion that is hard to manage. The stallion heads straight for a certain tree, and then seems disappointed when there is no-one there. Daemon questions the stable servants and finds out that a stable boy called Andrew rides the horse to that tree and then swaps horses with Jaenelle. The stallion loves Jaenelle and is only happy when she is there.

Surreal visits the Sanctuary where Cassandra lives, hoping to get answers about her mother's people from the Dark Altar there. Cassandra says she will give Surreal the information she wants if she agrees to spy on Daemon. Cassandra knows that Daemon is now in Beldon Mor and is worried that he might hurt Jaenelle. She cannot go into Beldon Mor herself to watch him, so she needs Surreal to do this. Surreal is reluctant, but says she will at least find out where he is.

Part Three, Chapter Six Analysis

Jaenelle is still a very absent character, but the reader is able to find out more about her in this chapter through other characters. It is clear that Jaenelle's family are a little ashamed of her, as they do not like to talk about her and seem annoyed when Daemon casually brings up the fact that there is another child he has not met yet. Wilhelmina, on the other hand, seems to care about her sister a lot, as she is very quiet and withdrawn, and mentions her sister with sadness, clearly missing her. Every day she walks past an alcove in the gardens and hesitates outside it, and one day she finally decides to go



down the little path that leads into it. There, she points out the Witchblood that Jaenelle planted. She is in tears when she tells Daemon that Jaenelle is at Briarwood. Her quietness and reluctance to talk about Jaenelle seem to come from her family rather than herself. She loves her sister but is afraid to mention her, and will only talk to Daemon about her in their secret place. Jaenelle is obviously something of a taboo subject, a dirty little secret that the family is ashamed of. Even the servants seem to feel the same need to talk about her quietly and in secret.

It is the servants' accounts of Jaenelle that really offer an insight into her character. Cook tells Daemon a story about her granddaughter being mauled by dogs, and Jaenelle saving her and then healing her. Not only did Jaenelle manage to stop the dogs and prevent them from causing harm again, she healed a wound that even trained healers would not have been able to cope with. This shows her incredible power, but also her compassion. She does not have the same elitist views as other members of aristocratic Blood families, who tend to treat servants as inferior beings who are not worth caring about. Jaenelle does care about them, and will not let another child suffer. It is clear that she has inspired a lot of love in her sister, perhaps acting in a protective manner with her. She has already shown a protective side when she told Saetan that she had to remain where she was being abused in order to help the others. Here the protective side is seen again as she felt compelled to help Cook's granddaughter and to ensure that she was never hurt again. Other servants, such as the stable boys, feel a lot of respect for her, as she can handle the temperamental horse that everyone else has difficulty with. All the servants seem to love her and they are all willing to keep her secret. In these ways, she is similar to Daemon, who naturally gets on better with servants than with other members of the Blood or the aristocracy.

Wilhelmina is an appealing character, and comes across as just as sweet, innocent and uncorrupted as her sister. She seems to be Jaenelle's main friend and support in her otherwise uncaring family. If Daemon wants to protect Jaenelle from harm, he will most likely have to protect Wilhelmina too. However, it seems that Jaenelle may not be the only one who is being abused. The reader already knows that Robert Benedict, Wilhelmina's father, is Kartane's protégé, meaning that he enjoys raping and torturing young girls. Daemon notes that Wilhelmina has a strong fear of men, but that she seems to be more relaxed and open around him because he is Ringed and so not a threat. From this, it seems likely that Wilhelmina has reason to fear sexually powerful men. Wilhelmina also mentions Briarwood as an evil place, and Cook seems to disapprove of it too. Wilhelmina points out the Witchblood that her sister planted, a plant that only grows when a witch has been killed violently. Wilhelmina says that her sister planted each one to remember someone by, and it seems likely that these are to mourn young witches killed at Briarwood. On top of this, there is a strange power-play in the house, in which Robert Benedict appears to have a lot more control than a male would ordinarily have in a Queen's court. This observation has been confirmed earlier by Dorothea, who noted that the male bloodline is particularly strong in Chaillot and beginning to dominate the women. This all adds up to a sinister picture in which Robert and Kartane's cruelties go unchecked, and Jaenelle is in serious danger. The reader already has an idea of what is happening at Briarwood, and perhaps even in this house, and now the clues are beginning to be laid out for Daemon. Will he spot them in time?

The reader knows what he does not, and they also know that because of the mist around Beldon Mor, he is the only one who can protect Jaenelle. This creates a lot of dramatic tension and suspense.



Chapter Seven

Chapter Seven Summary

One day, Jaenelle finally comes home. She is looking thin and frail. Daemon's reaction to her is intense, and at first he is afraid that he is attracted to a child. He is relieved when he finds that it is her soul, and not her body, that draws him to her.

The next day he walks with Jaenelle and Wilhelmina, hanging behind to let them talk privately. They go to the alcove and sit there, but Jaenelle senses that Graff, Wilhelmina's tutor, is looking for her. Jaenelle then senses that Leland wants Daemon, and pulls him along to the house, magically pushing him through a closed door. Later that night he finds her in the library, secretly reading books about the Craft. He magically vanishes some of the conspicuous books to let her know that he is on her side.

Jaenelle visits Saetan again in Hell. He takes her to the SaDiablo Hall in Kaeleer so they can find something for her to eat. As they hear Helene's footsteps approaching, Jaenelle suddenly grows cold and begins calling on her power, ready to attack. Saetan stops her and explains that Helene is a friend. He realizes that Jaenelle was trying to protect him from a stranger she thought could be a threat.

After they eat, Saetan shows Jaenelle her new suite of rooms at the Hall. She is very pleased with them. She asks if they can begin her lessons again the day after tomorrow and Saetan agrees.

Chapter Seven Analysis

In this chapter, Daemon finally meets Jaenelle, and is shocked to find that he is attracted to her. When he realizes that it is her soul he is drawn to and not her body that he desires, he is relieved. He finds her a sweet and pleasant child and quickly makes friends with her. She is not as nervous around him as Wilhelmina, and seems generally more confident than her sister. She seems to recognize straight away that Daemon is a friend and that he is someone she can be herself with. Their relationship quickly becomes similar to that of siblings or friends of the same age, with Jaenelle treating Daemon more like an accomplice in mischief than one of the adults. He goes along with this, making rude noises of displeasure when he is being called by Leland, which makes Jaenelle giggle. Daemon is comfortable with this relationship and finds it irritating the few times Jaenelle reminds him that he is an adult and so belongs to a different world than her. She calls him Prince instead of addressing him by name, but when he tells her to call him Daemon, her insistence on giving him a more respectful title seems to be friendly teasing rather than seriousness. Jaenelle helps to bring out Daemon's younger, more fun side, as well as a more gentle and protective nature. She is good for him. Even his interaction with the adults becomes friendlier, leading to him being treated a



little better by them in return. He is kinder to Leland, and because of this she seems more at ease and natural. This immediately makes her less annoying to him. Already Jaenelle is affecting him, making him a more positive and happier person.

However, the author inserts a section in the middle of the chapter in which Daemon is called to Alexandra Angelline's bedroom. This reminds the reader that Daemon is still a sex slave and is still expected to obey and to perform. He is still being used and treated as though he were little more than an object for others' pleasure. His interaction with the younger girls is as an escort and a non-sexual companion. He may enjoy spending time with Jaenelle, but he is not being allowed to do this for his own benefit. He has a job to do and a role to fulfill. Daemon is still not free, and will not be until Jaenelle is old enough to become a Queen and help him. The innocent, carefree time Daemon spends with Jaenelle is contrasted strongly with the uses the adults put him to, making the latter seem even more twisted and distasteful in this light.

The reader is reminded again of Jaenelle's power in this chapter. Saetan is overwhelmed when he learns that Jaenelle has not been using the Gates to travel between the Realms. In fact, until now, she did not even know that the Gates exist. She has been travelling on the psychic Web, using the psychic winds to move between the Realms. Until now, everyone had thought that this was impossible. This is not the first time Jaenelle has broken seemingly impossible rules, and once again it emphasizes how dramatically more powerful she is than any other being in this story, even than the previous Witch, Cassandra. Draca also points out that when Jaenelle reaches for her power, she spirals down towards it instead of just descending straight down for it as other members of the Blood would do. This makes her something different from the Blood, even as she is one of them. She is Blood and Other, the same and different. She is more powerful than they can imagine, more like older races such as the dragons. When she spirals down, she risks causing a maelstrom that will affect everything around her. Draca even insists that if she spirals down fully, it could be the end of the Blood. This worries Saetan, as he observes that she has already learned to hate. When Helene approached them in Kaeleer, Jaenelle felt an instant hatred for a stranger and moved to protect Saetan, the man she has come to see as her father. She was ready to kill Helene, and even began spiraling down to gather her power. This shows how dangerous she really is, and how even a small thing could provoke her into doing something disastrous. If she is learning to hate, then she risks being corrupted and twisted like Kartane. The reader can already guess at some of the terrible things being inflicted on her at Briarwood, which could cause her to lose her humanity and her kindness entirely. Will she crack, like Kartane has done, and like him use her powers to hurt other innocent people? Could this be the end of the Blood, as Draca warns? The author makes a point of showing the readers Jaenelle's other side, the part of her that is Witch and reflects the Darkness. She is a sweet and innocent child, but she is also an unstoppable power that is not quite like anyone else. It is important to remember that there are these two opposing sides to her.



Chapter Eight

Chapter Eight Summary

Jaenelle is talking to Daemon in the library one night when she sees his snake tooth under one nail. This is a natural weapon that Black Widows develop. It is tipped with poison and needs to be milked regularly. Once milked, the poison has to be replaced, and this is achieved by the Black Widow drinking more poison. If he or she drinks the wrong kind of poison, they will die. Daemon has been unable to get his hands on an appropriate poison, so he has not milked his snake tooth in a while. Now it is inflamed and painful, and if he does not do something soon, it could kill him. Jaenelle asks Saetan what to do on her next trip to see him. Saetan is also a Black Widow and keeps a stock of poisons. He makes a concoction for Jaenelle to give to Daemon and instructs her on how to milk the tooth. Jaenelle returns to Daemon and heals him.

Surreal is visited by Philip again, who is angry and rough in bed with her. He tells her that Daemon is spending evenings with Leland and that she boasts about it. Surreal explains that this is a trick, to make the servants and everyone else think that Daemon is her regular lover. Then when they are used to it, she will quietly dismiss Daemon and Philip will be able to spend time with her without suspicion from anyone. Surreal also warns Philip not to anger Daemon if he wants Daemon's co-operation in this.

Daemon is looking for Jaenelle when he runs into Wilhelmina coming out of her lessons with Graff. He tries to ask where Jaenelle is but Wilhelmina interrupts him and insists he come to help her practice music. When Graff has gone, Wilhelmina tells Daemon that he must never ask where Jaenelle is, because when she is missing she is having lessons with her secret tutor. Daemon knows she must be talking about Saetan.

Jaenelle arrives and invites her sister and Daemon to come riding. Jaenelle rides Dark Dancer, but when she senses Philip and Leland coming, she quickly changes back to the pony. Daemon senses her anger and hurt that Philip and Leland do not act as proper parents should to her, and that they do not believe her stories, thinking her disturbed instead. Daemon is angry, as they are the ones who should protect her. Later that night, Daemon talks to Jaenelle in the library about her tutor, and tells her to give Saetan his greetings.

Meanwhile, Dorothea and Hekatah are working together to bring down Jaenelle, who Hekatah thinks may be a threat one day. They hire a man called Greer to go to Beldon Mor and offer Daemon a hundred years freedom for himself and his brother if he will kill Jaenelle.

Chapter Eight Analysis

Daemon places a lot of blame on Jaenelle's parents Robert and Leland, her real father Philip, and her grandmother Alexandra, deciding that Jaenelle is not safe because of



them. This is because they do not know the truth about who she really is and what she can do. They doubt her stories, telling her that she is disturbed. They are embarrassed of her, and may harm her even more if they think she is making up dangerous lies such as being tutored by Saetan himself. On the other hand, if they believe her or find out what she can do, Daemon is afraid that they may see her as a threat and hurt her because of this. Daemon is perhaps not giving Philip and Leland, and perhaps even Alexandra, enough credit. Philip comes across as a nice man when he is with Surreal, a little too absorbed with his love for Leland perhaps, but well-meaning nonetheless. He tries to be kind and thoughtful to Surreal even though he is paying her for sex and it is Leland who he really loves. Many other men she services do not treat her with respect or care, and she notes that this is why she likes Philip. Philip seems to believe that he is helping Jaenelle by sending her to Briarwood, and is completely unaware of what really happens there. He can also be quite protective of Jaenelle, such as when he thinks Daemon has upset her and deliberately rides next to her to keep Daemon away. Leland is genuinely in love with Philip and does not act like the other cruel and power-hungry witches in the story. She is nothing like Dorothea or Zuultah. Neither Philip nor Leland seem like direct threats to Jaenelle. They are only a danger in that they do not know what is happening at Briarwood and so continue to send her there. They have let their daughter down by not believing her, but they have never intentionally harmed her. When Saetan and Daemon themselves find it hard to believe some of the things Jaenelle does, and would have thought it impossible if they had not seen it with their own eyes, then it is understandable that Philip and Leland think she is making things up.

Daemon is intent on seeing Philip and Leland as a threat, but this blinds him to the real danger. Philip seems just as intent on seeing Daemon as a threat, and this also blinds him to the truth. It is ironic that they are both suspicious of each other, when it is Robert who is the real danger. He is the one who is helping abuse children at Briarwood, and Jaenelle and Wilhelmina are in grave danger as they are living right under his nose. If Daemon really wants to help Jaenelle, perhaps telling Philip and Leland the truth about Jaenelle and getting her to prove her power beyond doubt, which should be easy enough for her, would be the best thing to do. He should at least try to stop them from sending her back to Briarwood. Rather than hating Philip and Leland and treating them as enemies, Daemon would do better to try to open up communication between them and Jaenelle. However, there is perhaps a little jealousy at work here, as Daemon wants to be Jaenelle's sole protector. He even resents Saetan's influence with Jaenelle, so it stands to reason that he would feel antagonistic towards her parents. Her parents have ignored her and been embarrassed of her, and Daemon cannot forgive this even if it would be better for Jaenelle if he did. His natural reaction is to keep things secret from the aristocratic witches and to see himself as opposed to them, as he is used to being abused by them. He does not want to trust or confide in them, and he would rather keep Jaenelle all to himself anyway. It is impossible to say whether telling Leland and Philip the truth would have avoided the end tragedy or made things worse, but it never even occurs to Daemon to try.



Chapter Nine

Chapter Nine Summary

Jaenelle is progressing in her lessons with Saetan. She tells him that Daemon sends his greetings, and Saetan tells her to return the sentiment for him.

Greer arrives at Beldon Mor and tells Daemon about Dorothea's offer. He tells Daemon that they do not know who the girl they want killed is yet, but that he should look out for a blonde child with a strange aura. Daemon mocks him and makes it clear he is not interested in the deal.

Daemon communicates with Lucivar psychically to tell him about Greer's offer, since it concerns his freedom too. Lucivar tells him not to hurt Jaenelle for his sake, and that if he does he will hunt him down and kill him. Daemon is relieved that Lucivar also wants to protect Jaenelle.

As Daemon is walking with Jaenelle in some public gardens in Beldon Mor, Surreal approaches him. She warns him that a witch staying at the Altar of Cassandra is interested in him and the girl. Just then, Jaenelle runs up and tells Surreal that she has a message for her, that Titian sends her love from Hell. Daemon assures Surreal that Jaenelle is for real. Surreal asks her to return her love to her mother Titian.

Daemon visits the Altar of Cassandra and threatens Cassandra. She thinks that he is working for Dorothea so she attacks him. He stops her and explains that he is also on Jaenelle's side and is determined to protect her. He asks her about Saetan and she tells him that Saetan is not interested in being Jaenelle's lover but in being her steward and protector.

Chapter Nine Analysis

Now the different players in Jaenelle's life are finally becoming aware of each other. Cassandra and Daemon meet, and some of the confusion that they, and Saetan, have been feeling towards each other is cleared up. Cassandra had assumed Daemon was an enemy, that he was working for Dorothea and intended to harm Jaenelle. Daemon thought the same about her. Saetan has been wary and suspicious about Daemon and Daemon has felt similarly towards Saetan. Daemon was not sure what Saetan's intentions towards Jaenelle are, wondering if he means to be her lover and so a rival for Daemon. Now Daemon knows that Saetan intends to be Jaenelle's steward and acts as a father figure to her. Saetan and Cassandra know that Daemon loves Jaenelle and would never hurt her. Daemon knows that Cassandra is on his side. Daemon also now knows that Lucivar agrees with the need to protect Jaenelle, and that he is willing to sacrifice his own freedom for this. Now they all know where each other stands, they can finally begin to work together for the good of Jaenelle, rather than get in each other's way or waste time being afraid of each other.



Jaenelle's influence is positive on all the people she has touched. She is bringing people together in many different ways. Saetan and Daemon had no relationship at all before they met Jaenelle. Saetan missed his son and often wondered about him, but never contacted him. This is partly because of his own guilt and fear of rejection, and partly because he was not sure if Daemon had become cruel and evil like Dorothea and the witches he serves. Daemon did not even know who his father was, and thought that he had been abandoned simply because his father did not care. He also did not know that Tersa is really his mother. Daemon and Saetan's contact with Jaenelle soon brought them into contact with each other, unraveling many of the secrets surrounding Daemon's parentage. With Jaenelle's help, son and father have found each other again, and have realized that the other is a good person despite everything. Their common interest, Jaenelle, proves to both of them that they can be on the same side, and could rebuild some kind of meaningful relationship after all. They have been suspicious and wary of each other at first, but Jaenelle's trust and innocence is encouraging them to trust each other more. Jaenelle's influence has also brought Saetan and Cassandra back together, re-forming an old friendship and trust. Finally, Jaenelle is also beginning to reunite Surreal and her mother Titian, carrying messages between the two and so helping to heal some of Surreal's pain. Inadvertently, Jaenelle has also given Surreal a clue about who her mother's people are, helping to address her feeling of lost identity. In these ways, Jaenelle brightens the lives of the people she meets, bringing people together and letting trust and love grow out of suspicion and cynicism.



Chapter Ten

Chapter Ten Summary

Daemon is not used to spending time with a child and finds many of Jaenelle's awkward questions difficult to deal with. He asks her to take a letter to Saetan. Saetan reads it and replies, telling Daemon that he has trouble with Jaenelle's awkward questions too, and to refer her to him if she ever asks something too difficult.

One day Jaenelle is playing in a tree in the alcove in the gardens. She levitates on the air and slowly floats back to the ground. Daemon asks her to teach him how to stand on the air, and she tries to show him. He can't do it, so she links her mind with his, letting him feel how she does it. This is successful. Later, Daemon plays with Jaenelle in the snow, building a snowman and having a snowball fight.

When Leland has a party and demands that Daemon serve her friends as a sex slave, he dresses up in his sexiest outfit. Jaenelle comes into his room and sees him dressed that way. She looks at him in surprise, then asks if she could wear something like that when she is older. He helps her try on the hat. When she leaves, he decides he will save this outfit for her alone, and dresses in something different for Leland and her friends.

One night Daemon senses Jaenelle's pain and goes to the window. He sees her walking through the gardens in her nightgown and bare feet, and calls to her. He pulls her in through his window and washes the mud off her, then puts her to bed. He realizes that she must have been planting another Witchblood plant to mourn for a dead witch. She tells him that her friend Rose was killed by Uncle Bobby because she would not 'lick his lollipop.'

Chapter Ten Analysis

Daemon begins to see how Jaenelle is changing him. She is making him a happier, softer person. He no longer has such a cynical and jaded view of the world. He is not as naturally inclined to be suspicious of things and people, and finds it a little easier to trust and love. He sees the beauty in the world again and is beginning to find joy in life. Jaenelle is restoring some of his innocence that was lost long ago. He notes that it feels as though she is somehow giving him back his lost childhood, which was taken from him when he was forced to serve as a sex slave for the witches. He never had the chance to be carefree, to play and to explore the world in the way that a child does. Now he is doing exactly this with Jaenelle. Together they play in the gardens, go for walks and ride horses, climb trees, play in the snow, build a snowman and have a snowball fight. This is far from the cold, reserved and joyless character that Daemon was at the beginning of the story. Jaenelle plays in the same way a normal child would, but adds a new element to this with her magic. Now climbing trees involves levitating,



and snowball fights include using the Craft to form perfect snowballs out of powdery snow. Through all this, Jaenelle is happy to include Daemon, teaches him how to work magic that he does not know how to do, and treats him as just another friend, rather than an adult who cannot relate to her. She makes Daemon feel wanted and included for who he is, rather than for his sexuality, which is a completely new experience for him. She has filled his life with magic, both literally and figuratively, and every day she is changing his life and him for the better.

However, Daemon is not allowed to forget that he is merely a sex slave in the Angelline house. Leland informs him that she is having a party and that he is expected to serve her and her friends. He is brought back down to earth with a bang, reminded of the fact that he is a whore and will be treated as such. This makes him angrier than usual, as he feels as though he has had his childhood robbed from him all over again. He was feeling more innocent and vulnerable than ever now that he is opening himself up to Jaenelle, so this seems particularly cruel to him. He resents being made to feel dirty and used when he wants to be Jaenelle's companion instead. He wants to be something more than merely a sexual object; he wants to be a friend and a protector, and to be accepted and loved as Jaenelle does. Leland and her friends remind him of everything that Jaenelle is not. This is reinforced by Jaenelle not reacting to his sexy clothes in the way he expected. She is not attracted to him, seeing the outfit as more of a fun costume than something sexual, asking if she can wear something like it one day. She even tries on his hat, and seems more fascinated in it than in Daemon's body. This slightly puts him out, as he wants her to find him attractive, but at the same time pleases him because it shows that Jaenelle is not like the others. Even when she is older and can appreciate his body, she will still always appreciate him for who he is.

Now Daemon has finally been made aware of Robert's cruel, dangerous side. Jaenelle tells him that Uncle Bobby, meaning Robert, killed her friend Rose because she would not 'lick his lollipop.' She then looks at Daemon's crotch and asks him what he calls it. This obviously means that Rose would not perform oral sex on Robert, and so was killed. Now Daemon is aware of exactly what has been going on to make Jaenelle so angry and resentful at times. She has seen her friends abused cruelly and killed when they will not comply. Daemon does not yet know that Rose is a child too, or that the cruelty happens at Briarwood, but these should be easy enough to piece together from the evidence. Daemon is angry, and determined to protect Jaenelle from being hurt. However, when Jaenelle herself is so determined to protect her own friends, Daemon may find it difficult to keep her safe.



Chapter Eleven

Chapter Eleven Summary

Lucivar is imprisoned in one of Zuultah's cells and given only food and water that is laced with a drug called safframate, which acts as an aphrodisiac but prevents physical release in sex. Eventually Lucivar gets so thirsty that he gives in and drinks the water. He is then strapped to the bed while Zuultah's whole coven of witches uses him for their pleasure. After enduring a whole night of this Lucivar is finally untied from the bed, but he is taken straight to Zuultah for her own pleasure. By this point he is a bit delirious, and in sexual desperation he bites Zuultah. When he comes back to his senses he realizes that he has maimed her genital area.

Kartane brings this news to Daemon, and tells him that Lucivar has been sent to the salt mines as punishment. Daemon knows that the salt mines will be the death of Lucivar, as his wings are vulnerable to the damp and rot underground, and he will die if he loses them. Jaenelle comforts Daemon and says she will go help Lucivar, but Daemon tells her that it is too dangerous.

Chapter Eleven Analysis

In the previous chapter Daemon began to regain some of his trust and happiness, and discovered his lost childhood again with the help of Jaenelle. This chapter contrasts the hope of the previous chapter with the torture and misery that Lucivar is going through, emphasizing how corrupt the current system is, and how desperately things need to be changed. The chapter ends with the news that Lucivar is being sent to the salt mines, which is a terrible place for his people. He will not be able to extend his wings or fly inside the mines, and his wings are extremely vulnerable to damp and rot. If he loses his wings, this would be worse than death for Lucivar, whose wings represent his freedom, his masculinity and his identity. Lucivar's suffering reminds the reader that he could have been free for a hundred years instead of being tortured and imprisoned by Zuultah. Here, the reader sees everything that Lucivar is willing to give up to keep Jaenelle safe. This emphasizes how much she means to him and to Daemon; she is their hope for a better world in which things like this are no longer allowed to happen.



Chapter Twelve

Chapter Twelve Summary

Winsol is approaching, a holiday held during the longest days of winter, celebrating Darkness and Witch. Daemon helps Wilhelmina and Jaenelle to learn ball dancing. When Cook brings sandwiches in, Daemon dances with her. Graff walks in and catches them, and threatens to tell Lady Angelline to fire Cook. Jaenelle summons her power and threatens Graff into silence, forcing her to alter her memory of what she saw.

Later, Jaenelle comes to see Daemon and finds him looking at an old photo of Lucivar. She asks Daemon for a copy of it, and for a photo of him too, but she will not tell him what she wants the pictures for. When she visits Hell, Jaenelle also asks for a photo of Saetan. She tells Saetan that she wants to purchase two swivel photo frames, and asks if her diamond will be enough to pay for them. It was a present given to her by a grateful parent after she healed his daughter's foot. Saetan promises he will see to it.

Next time Jaenelle visits, Saetan gives her the frames and tells her that he put the leftover money in a bank for her. She is upset that she cannot get all her friends Winsol gifts, so Saetan suggests getting something special for someone who really needs it. After Jaenelle leaves, Saetan goes to see Draca, who shows him the present she has bought Jaenelle from them. It is a full-length black dress made from spidersilk.

Saetan takes some presents to the Cildru Dyathe's island. When he gets there, he sees a huge evergreen tree, covered in winking lights and decorations. It was put there by Jaenelle, using her magic. Next time Jaenelle comes to visit, Saetan praises her kindness towards those who have nothing. He asks her how she made the tree and she tells him that she went to the Arachnian race in Kaeleer to learn. Saetan is amazed, as the Arachnians are dangerous and do not allow visitors. Jaenelle gives Saetan a present, and when she has left he opens it. It is a frame with photos of Lucivar and Daemon in it.

On Winsol, Jaenelle is largely ignored by her parents, and given gifts that show how little they know about her. She gets upset and runs from the room. Daemon follows her. She tells him she could not give him the gift she wanted to in front of her family. She tells him about the dress Saetan gave her. Daemon gives her a secret gift of a silver bracelet. Jaenelle kisses him to thank him, and he gives her a chaste kiss on the lips in return. Later that night, he finds her secret gift on his bed. It is a frame with a photo of Saetan in it.

Chapter Twelve Analysis

Jaenelle's kindness, friendship and love really shine through in this chapter. She is concerned about giving gifts to all her friends for Winsol, a winter holiday that celebrates Darkness, and is anxious to make sure nobody is left out. When she realizes that it will



be impossible to get everyone a gift she is upset, but she does not care whether they get her anything or not. When Saetan suggests that she just give gifts to those who really need them and would otherwise be deprived, Jaenelle adopts this idea wholeheartedly. She creates a magical tree for the Cildru Dyathe, the children who have lost everything and now live on a colorless and depressing island in Hell. She makes it bright, with beautiful decorations and winking lights. Most of these children would not even have even experienced such a thing in life, as they come from abusive or uncaring families. They are amazed and excited by it, and touched by Jaenelle's kindness. Saetan is also extremely moved and very proud of Jaenelle, as helping the children at Winsol is something that he also cares about. Jaenelle also gives gifts to Daemon and Saetan, partly because they are so important to her, and partly because they are both cut off from their family and feeling lonely at this time of year. Instead of simply buying token or expensive gifts, Jaenelle really takes time to think about her presents. She works out for herself that Saetan is Daemon's father, and is perceptive enough to see that they miss each other and wish they could be together. She decides to gift them with photos of each other. Not only is this a perfect and very thoughtful gift, it also symbolizes how Jaenelle has been instrumental in repairing their broken relationship and bringing them closer to each other.

Jaenelle's thoughtfulness and generosity is not found in her own family. Her parents ignore her and she feels very left out of the festivities. The gifts they buy her prove how little they know her, and suggest that they do not even care enough to find out what she might like. Jaenelle is extremely upset by this, as she wishes she could have the same love from them that she gives to others. This only makes her more aware of how her biological family is not really her true family, as they do not act like family at all. Instead, Daemon and Saetan are more like a family to her, but she cannot be with them in the way she would like at Winsol. She cannot see Saetan, and though she is with Daemon, she cannot be too friendly with him when her family are around. The fact that she has to buy him a token present rather than what she would really like to give him also upsets her. They are forced to exchange their true gifts in secret. The photos that Jaenelle gives to Daemon and Saetan only emphasize how alone and separated Jaenelle is. She is not really a part of her own family, but she is not really a part of Saetan and Daemon's either. She has not included herself in their photo frames, even though both of them would probably have loved and appreciated it if she had. Even though they consider her part of their family, she does not see this yet. She still feels as though she has no-one and no place to fit in.

Jaenelle is on the cusp of becoming a teenager. In a year or two she will begin to develop as a young woman as puberty begins. The first signs of this change are now beginning to show. She is starting to wonder about boys and men, and to push the boundaries of her world a little more. She asks awkward questions that Daemon and Saetan struggle to answer. For Winsol, Draca and Saetan give her a black dress, which Saetan refers to as her first 'widow weeds.' This is obviously a ceremonial dress that marks her as a powerful Black Widow, and is a big day in her development as a witch. Daemon gives her a silver bracelet that will go with her new dress, a present more appropriate for an older girl or woman. When Jaenelle thanks Daemon for this gift, she seems to pick up on some kind of changed emotion, and kisses him instead of hugging



him. It is a very chaste kiss, more about curiosity than desire, but it shows how she is beginning to think about Daemon in a different way. He kisses her back, again chastely, but with enough tenderness and emotion to make her think about it. Jaenelle is still an innocent and naive child in many ways, but these indications show that she is beginning to grow into the beautiful, formidable woman that she will be one day.



Chapter Thirteen

Chapter Thirteen Summary

Daemon appears at Cassandra's altar and demands to see Saetan. Saetan arrives and talks to Daemon, who is angry because he is scared for Jaenelle. He tells Saetan that Jaenelle is acting strangely, as if she is not really present inside her own body. Saetan tells him that she must have cast a spell to create a shadow, a fake version of herself that will pass for her but will not be able to hold interesting conversations. This is to fool people so that Jaenelle can be somewhere else doing something else. Daemon is relieved to hear this as it means that there is nothing wrong with Jaenelle, although they are both still worried about where she might be.

When Jaenelle finally does come back, she tells Daemon that she was helping Tera get out of the Twisted Kingdom in order to come back to sanity. Now Saetan is getting Tera to a cottage in Kaeleer where she will have friends who have been through the same thing. Daemon is grateful for this.

Later, Daemon is in his room when Jaenelle comes in. She remarks that he has no facial hair, and that she did not understand what Graff meant when she suggested that Daemon should be shaved. Daemon reacts angrily and Jaenelle realizes that 'shaved' means something different. She asks Saetan what it means and he explains. She insists that he teach her how to do it and he agrees, though he is worried about why she wants to know.

Surreal attends a party at the Angeline house. She quickly realizes that it is a party where men who are attracted to young girls, what she calls 'uncles,' can find a girl to have sex with. This is disguised as a children's party. Surreal tells Daemon and explains about Briarwood, telling him that Kartane built it. Daemon puts all the pieces together and realizes what has been happening to Jaenelle and her friends. He tells Surreal to leave the party, then finds Jaenelle and tries to persuade her to escape. She will not leave, partly because she needs to protect her sister, and partly because she is afraid Saetan will disown her. The latter is because she believes the lies that she has been told at Briarwood, that she is 'sick.'

Daemon finds Kartane and warns him to stay away from Jaenelle. Just then, there is a shriek from upstairs and Daemon senses Jaenelle reaching for her power. He runs upstairs and finds Wilhelmina cowering in a corner with her dress partially undone. Jaenelle is standing defensively over her and yells at Dr. Carvay that he cannot have her sister. She threatens to shave him. Alexandra is shocked and tells the doctor to take Jaenelle away. When Daemon protests she uses the Ring on him. Daemon knows he will make things worse if he fights, so he lets them take Jaenelle, planning to save her later.



Chapter Thirteen Analysis

Finally the secret of Briarwood is revealed and Daemon knows exactly what has been happening to Jaenelle and her friends. At first he feels angry that Saetan did not stop this, then he realizes that Saetan must not have known the truth, as Jaenelle deliberately kept him out. Surreal knew about Briarwood but did not know that it had anything to do with Jaenelle. Daemon knew Jaenelle was sent to Briarwood but until now he did not know what it really is. He knows exactly what Kartane is like, but had no idea that Kartane had anything to do with Briarwood. Daemon was the one who had the biggest clues as to what was happening to Jaenelle, but he did not have quite enough information to figure out exactly what was going on. With some better communication, they might all have worked it out sooner and been able to help Jaenelle, but their reluctance to talk to each other has let Jaenelle down. On top of this, Jaenelle deliberately and successfully kept the secret from all of them. When Daemon pushes her, she reveals that she did so because she is afraid they will reject her if they know the truth. She has begun to believe the lies the adults tell her about Briarwood, that she is sick and disturbed. She wonders if the things she has seen and experienced really are true, or whether they are make-believe as the adults tell her. She thinks her sickness is weakness, and that Saetan will no longer want to be her tutor if he thinks she is weak. She is afraid of losing the only people who feel like her real family. Saetan has given Jaenelle no reason to think he would reject her like this, but her own family's disdain for her lack of Craft abilities has shown her that this kind of rejection is very possible from the people who should be closest to her. She does not want to make Saetan and Daemon ashamed of her in the way that her real family are. This makes Daemon very sad as well as angry, as Briarwood is not just abusing her body but affecting her mind and her concept of herself. Briarwood and her family have made her feel inferior, despite the fact that she is really very special.

The author leaves the chapter on a very tense and suspenseful note, as Jaenelle is taken straight into the jaws of danger. She is sent back to Briarwood, and Daemon knows that if he tries to stop this he will only make things worse. He will have to figure out a way to get her out of there without turning her family against them, so that he can smuggle her out to live with Saetan without her family stopping them. Things are not hopeless yet, as Jaenelle has not yet been broken and can still be saved. Now that Jaenelle has caused this scene in front of her family, Daemon and Saetan's hands have been forced. Her family will no longer accept her, and have made it clear that they will never believe anything she tells them. Daemon is only a sex slave, and one who has already caused suspicion and concern, so he will not be believed either. Daemon also heard Alexandra talking about how if the legend of Witch were real, it would benefit everyone to kill her as a child before she could become a powerful and evil Queen worse than Dorothea. From this, Daemon knows that he will get no help from Alexandra. They can no longer try to protect Jaenelle in her own home, but will have to move her to Kaeleer to live with Saetan. Jaenelle is reluctant to go, but there is now no other solution. This will not be easy, as Jaenelle will be well guarded at Briarwood, Daemon will be kept under a suspicious watch now, and Jaenelle is determined not to leave her

sister in danger. Daemon will have to work out how to save Jaenelle, as well as figure out a way to keep Wilhelmina safe too.



Chapter Fourteen

Chapter Fourteen Summary

Daemon goes to Alexandra's room and demands that she remove Jaenelle from Briarwood. She tries to use the Ring but he psychically slaps her to the floor. She says she cannot get Jaenelle until the next day, as she needs Robert's authorization as well as hers, and Jaenelle is drugged right now anyway. Daemon agrees to give her until tomorrow afternoon, but promises that he will make her suffer if she does not do as she says. That night he uses his magic to bury Alexandra alive deep in the gardens. She does not have the power to get out, and is terrified. As she panics, Daemon moves her back to her bed, then tells her that this is what will happen to her if she does not get Jaenelle out of Briarwood.

Kartane visits Briarwood and has Jaenelle brought into his room. She is heavily dosed with safframate but this does not seem to have affected her. Kartane tries to see into her mind, in order to work out what Daemon sees in her, but all he sees is darkness and lightning. He has the sensation that a terrifying beast is rising out of the depths of her mind towards him. He quickly breaks the connection. Jaenelle tells him that he is 'one of them' and that he is working for Dorothea no matter what he thinks. She opens the door with her magic, and he runs out of the room. He decides to send Greer in to teach her a lesson.

Surreal is creeping into the Briarwood estate when Jaenelle appears to her in a vision. Surreal also sees the ghosts of children who died there, and Jaenelle introduces them, explaining how they died.

Daemon wakes up the next day and says his goodbyes to Cook, to the servants and to Dark Dancer. The horse is so distraught that he will never see Jaenelle again that he throws himself into the ditch and dies. Meanwhile, Alexandra talks to Greer about sending Daemon back to Hayll. Greer agrees to bring armed men to take Daemon to the Hayllian embassy, but insists on having the controlling ring for Daemon's Ring of Obedience.

As Daemon confronts Alexandra, Greer tries to capture Daemon. Daemon uses his power to get away, but Greer uses the Ring to cause him such pain that it is hard to move. With Cook's help he gets out of the house, where the ghost of Dark Dancer appears and carries him to the tree. Here he uses his magic to fall through the ground to the grave he built for Alexandra. Once he is safe inside, he summons his black Jewels and unleashes all their power to break the Ring of Obedience. However, having used all his power, he is forced to stay in the grave until he recovers.

Dark aftershocks from Daemon's use of his power ripple across Terreille. Those who ride the waves and do not try to fight them, such as Lucivar and Surreal, are okay. Jaenelle sends out a psychic warning telling everyone what to do, but not everyone



listens. Philip puts up a shield to protect Leland and Alexandra, and he is broken back to the green Jewel. Others lose all their powers or even die. Wilhelmina is fine, and somehow makes her offering to the Darkness during the storm. She now wears Sapphire. Dorothea survives because another witch happened to be wearing the control ring at the time. Greer also manages to get the ring off in time, and has survived.

Chapter Fourteen Analysis

Jaenelle comments to Kartane that he is 'one of them.' She means that he also suffered abuse as a child, just like the children at Briarwood. Through the constant torture, rape and abuse, Dorothea broke Kartane's spirit, turning him into a twisted, sadistic man who can only find pleasure in hurting others. Now he perpetuates the cycle, abusing other children and ensuring that they will become twisted adults too. Although a man cannot be literally broken through sex and lose his powers as a girl can, Kartane has been broken in almost every other way possible. Jaenelle is right when she concludes that he is one of them. Kartane does not want to hear or accept this, as it means that Dorothea has molded him into her own image, into something cruel and corrupted. He does not want to think that he is like her, or that he might somehow be doing her bidding without realizing it. Dorothea wants to break the Territory of Chaillot to make it weak enough for her to take over and corrupt as she sees fit. Kartane thinks that he is thwarting Dorothea or paying her back by abusing young witches, but he is actually doing exactly what she wants. Kartane likes to think that he is carving his own freedom, but he is just acting like the slave he is. Kartane is furious when Jaenelle points this out because part of him knows that it is true. He hates her for forcing him to see this, which is why he is now determined to make her pay.

Now everything is changing quickly, and the power in Chaillot has shifted. Daemon has managed to break the Ring of Obedience, and in doing so has broken a lot of other people's power. Philip has been broken back to his birthright color, meaning that he can only use green. He had used gray, which made him one of the most powerful people in Terreille. Only Daemon, Lucivar and Jaenelle had more power, and Surreal is the only person who was equal with him. Now he has lost this power and is just an average member of the Blood again. Alexandra has been broken completely, as have many others, and some, like Graff, have even died. Greer is still a threat, but without the Ring of Obedience he will not be able to control Daemon. There is now nothing stopping Daemon from unleashing his full power, making him the most powerful person in Terreille besides Jaenelle. He is certainly the most powerful force in Chaillot. Wilhelmina has somehow made her Offering to the Darkness during the chaos, and now wears Sapphire. This means that she is more powerful than anyone else in her family. Suddenly, the positions of power have changed. Wilhelmina has a lot more strength against her family, and Philip will not be able to stop her. Daemon, the sex slave and servant, is now free and powerful. Unfortunately, despite this positive change, things do not look good for Jaenelle. She is drugged and cannot fight back, and is having trouble even getting back to her body. Daemon has used all his power breaking the Ring of Obedience and is helpless until he recovers. Saetan has no idea what is going on. Jaenelle is all alone and unable to protect herself. Now that the full horror of Briarwood



has been revealed in Surreal's section of this chapter, the author creates a lot of tension by placing Jaenelle back in the middle of it all. The reader knows that the adults at Briarwood will not flinch from any kind of torture and abuse, and that Jaenelle has two very angry men, Kartane and Greer, intent upon hurting her.



Chapter Fifteen

Chapter Fifteen Summary

Surreal wakes up from a nightmare about Jaenelle dying. She hurries to Briarwood, where the ghost of Rose meets her and shows her where to go. Greer is raping Jaenelle, using Kartane and Robert's combined strength to create a shield around the room. Using her gray Jewel, Surreal is easily able to break the shield. She quickly kills Greer and picks up Jaenelle, who is unconscious and bleeding badly. She takes Jaenelle and hurries from Briarwood to Cassandra's altar.

Meanwhile, Saetan senses that something is wrong. He needs to penetrate the mist around Beldon Mor and asks Draca what to do. She takes him to a secret place in Hell, where there is a huge web with a Jewel in the centre that blends all the colors of the other Jewels. Saetan uses this to see what is happening to Jaenelle.

Surreal calls to Daemon and tells him that Jaenelle is bleeding. She tells him to meet her at Cassandra's altar. Daemon is on his way when Saetan contacts him and asks to join his power with his. Daemon agrees, and Saetan's presence joins him in his mind.

Daemon reaches the altar, where Surreal and Cassandra are waiting. Jaenelle is losing a lot of blood from where Greer has torn her open before raping her. They attempt to heal her but none of them are strong enough. As Surreal goes to fight off any of the 'uncles' who come against them, Daemon dives into Jaenelle's mind to try to bring her back, as only she has the skill to heal herself.

Daemon reaches too far into Jaenelle's mind and falls, shattering his own mind. He sees her in her Witch form, as a grown woman with a horn in her forehead and little hooves instead of feet. She begins to repair a crystal chalice, which represents Daemon's mind. Jaenelle refuses to come out of her own mind, saying that she would rather never go back to her body. She identifies herself as Witch rather than Jaenelle. Daemon begins seducing her, convincing her that if she wants to be with him, she will have to rise out of her mind as it is too deep and uncomfortable for Daemon. Eventually he manages to trick her back into her body. Saetan then speaks to her and convinces her to heal herself. However, she is not willing to stay, and dives back into her mind. Saetan ties a psychic thread around her ankle, and Daemon tells her to use it to find her way out when she is ready.

Cassandra takes Jaenelle's body through the Gate to Hell, where Saetan will protect her. Daemon stays to help Surreal, with the intention of helping Lucivar later. He is very weak now, but Surreal helps him to escape as the 'uncles' from Briarwood get through the last of her shields. She takes him to the Red Moon house in Chaillot to hide.



Chapter Fifteen Analysis

The symbol of the crystal chalice, representing a person's mind, is explored again in this chapter. The chalice is described as being crystal because crystal is delicate and shatters easily just like the mind. Once broken, it can be put back together carefully, although there is the sense that it will never be quite the same again, just as a crystal chalice repaired after breaking would still have crack lines, and would be much more fragile than before. A chalice is an appropriate image because it holds things, just as the chalice of the mind seems to hold a person's sanity and grip on reality inside it. When the chalice is broken, the person falls into madness. The chalice symbol is linked to the idea of the four-sided triangle, which is also repeated in this chapter. Before, the four-sided triangle seemed to represent Daemon, Lucivar, Saetan and Jaenelle, with the former three making up the three sides of the triangle and Jaenelle being the centre. This suggested that Daemon, Lucivar and Saetan are all working together to support each other in order to protect Jaenelle, and that if they fail, Jaenelle will suffer. This proved to be true. Saetan had no idea what was going on in Chaillot, and so could not support his side of the triangle well enough. When Daemon used up all his power, his side collapsed. Jaenelle was left vulnerable and exposed, and was damaged because of this. As the middle of the triangle, Jaenelle is the vital purpose that keeps the others together. Without her, Daemon, Saetan and Lucivar's lives would mean nothing. Saetan communicates this to Jaenelle when he tells her that if she does not heal herself, he and Daemon will be destroyed.

Now the four-sided triangle idea is applied to every person of the Blood. The idea of a four-sided triangle is nonsensical and so it may be easier for readers to think of a normal three-sided triangle, with the middle shape as a 'fourth side.' Each member of the Blood is made up of three sides that support the other sides, just like a triangle. In a triangle, all three sides seem to lean on each other, and without one of them, the shape would completely fall apart. These sides are the body, the chalice or mind, and the Jewels. The fourth side, or the bit in the middle of the triangle, is the Self. This is protected and enclosed by the other sides, and if those sides fail, the Self will be vulnerable and risks being lost. The reader can see how this has happened to both Jaenelle and Daemon. Daemon descended too far into Jaenelle's mind, leaving his body behind. Eventually, he went too deep, losing all contact with his body and the outside world. The other two sides of the triangle now did not have the body to lean on, and the chalice, representing Daemon's mind, shattered. He now risks losing his Self. Thankfully, Daemon is doing a good job of holding on to it, and Jaenelle immediately heals his chalice. He quickly persuades her to come back up to their bodies. This means that all the sides of Daemon are restored in time, and his triangle is once again secure and solid.

Jaenelle is not so lucky. She suffers such abuse and trauma that she does not want to return to her body. She is already cut off from it because of the drug she has been given, and now she abandons it completely. Without the body to anchor her to the world, she falls too deep into her own mind and her chalice breaks. Two sides of the triangle are missing, and so Jaenelle is beginning to lose her Self as well. She refers to



herself as Witch and tries to deny that she is the same person as Jaenelle. She is losing her grip on reality, claiming that what she sees in her mind is just as real as what is in the world above. She has fallen into the Twisted Kingdom, a metaphor for insanity. However, Jaenelle still has one more side of her triangle left: her Jewels. In other words, she still has her magical powers. Daemon persuades her to use these to return to her body, and Saetan persuades her to heal the body. Now her body is waiting for her when she decides to reclaim it, and she will be able to use the power of the Jewels to do so. Her chalice is still shattered, but her Self seems to be at least partially restored. There is still hope that she may be able to rebuild what was lost and return to the world of sanity.

Jaenelle has never been a character in the story whose point of view is shared and so the reader has had to guess her thoughts and emotions from what she says and from what other characters see in her. From the other characters' perspectives, the reader receives a greater insight into how she sees the world and how she has been affected by all the years of abuse. She has begun to believe all the lies she has been told, and now thinks that she is sick and disturbed. She has been told that she made up stories and lied about the things she saw, and now because of this she has difficulty telling the difference between reality and dreams. She thinks that everything is just a dream, and that the Twisted Kingdom is therefore as real as the real world. She has slowly been poisoned to the world, seeing it as a cruel and corrupt place, and she has finally now given up on it completely. This must have been coming on gradually for a long time, as each new abuse and psychological trauma convinced her slowly that it would be better to be lost within her own mind than to suffer. The reader can see here how much the abuse has tormented Jaenelle and messed with her head. It is going to take a lot of work to persuade her that her body is worth having, and that life and the world can be good after all.

This tragic ending comes with a strong sense of inevitability. The reader could see this all building up for a long time, as more and more clues were dropped as to what had really been happening at Briarwood. Unfortunately, Jaenelle's protectors and friends were all helpless to stop it, and it seems as though Jaenelle was doomed from the start. Now all Daemon and Lucivar's hopes for a better world have been dashed, and they have all lost the one person they love more than anything else. However, the end is not completely hopeless. Jaenelle's body has been healed and Cassandra has taken it to Saetan. Jaenelle has shown that she can repair broken chalices, so there is a chance that she is not lost forever. She has a psychic thread given by Saetan which she can use to find her way out of the Twisted Kingdom when she is ready. She is now finally free of the abuse, and will have a much better life with Saetan, who is now finally able to protect her properly. When she emerges from the Twisted Kingdom she will have the right environment to heal and grow stronger. Daemon is also free from the Ring, and will now be able to help Lucivar as well as Jaenelle. Jaenelle still has a lot of healing to do and a lot of issues to deal with, but it seems as though the worst may have passed.



Characters

Jaenelle Angeline, Witch

Jaenelle is the focus of the story and one of the main characters. However, the reader never sees events from her eyes, and is never allowed to see her private thoughts and feelings. She remains quite a mysterious character, and the reader is forced to judge her based on what she says and what other characters see. She seems to be a fairly normal, precocious child. She is very curious about the world, and loves being introduced to new things. She is very brave and thinks nothing of wandering into a new place and meeting new people. She often does not consider the things she does dangerous, which causes Saetan, Andulvar, Prothvar and Daemon a lot of anxiety. She is adventurous and likes to play. Despite being extremely powerful, the reader is regularly reminded that she is a normal little girl, who is innocent, naive, and vulnerable.

Jaenelle's power is emphasized over and over again throughout the story. The author places a lot of emphasis on how she seems to be able to do the impossible, constantly amazing Saetan and others with what she can achieve. To Jaenelle, these things seem normal because she has always been able to do them, and so she often does not understand why others are so taken aback. At several points she breaks seemingly fundamental magical rules. For example, she manages to travel between the Realms without using the magical Gates, which no-one else has ever been able to do. She travels to different races in Kaeleer that were either thought mere legend, or who are extremely dangerous and closed off to strangers. She claims to have received her Jewels from Lorn himself, a very ancient and semi-mythical member of the Blood, who was one of the ancient dragon race. These incidents, among many more, serve to show how powerful Jaenelle is compared to everyone else. This is unnerving, as she is still only a child and does not act like a force to be reckoned with. Only occasionally does she suddenly seem older and wiser, and speaks with a very dangerous voice. These are the times that her true nature appears to show itself, and the readers see a hint of the woman she might become. Despite this, however, she is vulnerable, sweet and kind, and the reader feels a lot of sympathy for her. It is easy to understand why Daemon and Saetan feels so protective of her, even though she is much more powerful than them.

Jaenelle shows her kindness and thoughtfulness at several points in the story. She quickly becomes very fond of Saetan, seeing him as a father figure. She is protective of him and determined to help him. She insists on giving him her own blood to help heal his injured leg. She brings light and life back into his life, and makes him happy to be alive once again. Saetan had been feeling very tried and ready to give up on life, but Jaenelle reminded him of things like adventure, joy and excitement. Through her, he rediscovers the joy of living. She literally brings him out into the living world again, as he emerges from Hell and begins to renovate his old hall in Kaeleer. He is given new hope and new reason for living in Jaenelle. Jaenelle affects Daemon's life in a similar way. Daemon had become very jaded and suspicious, but Jaenelle opens him up and forces him to see the joy in the world again. She helps him to rediscover a lost childhood, and



he loves her dearly for this. Both Daemon and Saetan have been given new life by Jaenelle, but she has also affected them for the better by reuniting them as a family. Jaenelle is very good at bringing people together, as she quickly makes friends with people all over Hell and Kaeleer. She brings a lot of people hope that they thought they would never have again. This is not just because she is so powerful, but because she is kind and generous as well. She gives the Cildru Dyathe a magical tree and decorations at Winsol, and feels a strong urge to protect all her friends at Briarwood. She is also very protective of her sister. This shows that she is not only kind, but willing to sacrifice for those in need. She enjoys making people's lives better. It is ironic that a character who represents Darkness incarnate would bring light into so many people's lives. This is why she stands for hope for a better world, and why she is so important to so many.

Jaenelle is not just a very powerful witch, she is Witch itself. She is the spirit of Darkness, an ancient power contained in the body of a Blood female. She is therefore part Blood and part something else, as Draca points out. She is Jaenelle, as well as something older and deeper that lives inside Jaenelle. Daemon sees this other side of her when he descends into her mind at the end of the story. The part of her that is Witch is represented by a humanoid woman with a horn growing from her forehead, a fawn's tail and little hooves. When Daemon talks to Witch she seems powerful, curious and angry. She is merged with Jaenelle, so that while she seems older and different, she has the same childlike naivety and curiosity, and Jaenelle's hatred for the things she has experienced. At this point in the story she is trying to disassociate herself from her body and so refuses to acknowledge that she is Jaenelle. Daemon forces her to see that they are linked, and that they are the same person. He loves Jaenelle and he loves Witch, and does not want to be without either part of her.

Jaenelle is affected by years of abuse, both physical and psychological. She is sent to a 'hospital' for disturbed girls, where men known as 'uncles' secretly like to rape and hurt the children there. Jaenelle has been sent here because of the stories she tells that her parents do not think could possibly be true. Jaenelle is told that she is a liar and that she is sick, and she begins to believe this. At the end of the book she has been hurt so much by this that she cannot tell reality from dream anymore. She thinks everything she has seen has been a lie, and so has little regard for reality, preferring to stay in the Twisted Kingdom in madness. She has slowly been forced to see the world as an evil and cruel place, and finally gives up on it. Clues warn that this is happening throughout the story, as the reader sees times when Jaenelle suddenly appears older and tired, as if weighed down by her experiences. She becomes more sad about her life, and even Daemon finds it harder to cheer her up. When she is raped at the end of the story, this is the final push that disconnects her from the world, proving to her that it is not worth being in it. She would rather stay inside her own mind where she is protected from the pain. This is tragic, as Jaenelle was such a happy, kind and curious girl who became broken through terrible abuse. The reader could see this happening, but all Jaenelle's protectors were powerless to stop it. However, there is still hope at the end of the book, as Jaenelle's body is rescued and healed, and is now protected by Saetan. Jaenelle has proven that she has the ability to heal shattered minds, and so will one day be able to heal her own. When she is ready, she will be able to find her way out of the Twisted Kingdom and join Saetan for a better life free from the abuse.



Saetan SaDiablo, the High Priest of the Hourglass, Prince of

Saetan, often referred to simply as 'the Priest' is one of the main characters of the story, as well as one of the characters whose perspective is shared in the novel. He is a Guardian or a person who extended his life by taking on a kind of half-life - not quite living and not quite dead. He lives and rules in Hell, the Realm where powerful members of the Blood dwell as demon-dead when their bodies have died. He has existed here for a very long time, and has become tired of life. He no longer ventures into Hell and sits in his private study, keeping himself apart from the other denizens of Hell. He has only kept himself alive this long because of the prophecy Cassandra gave him that the daughter of his soul would one day come and would need his help.

When Jaenelle arrives in Hell he instantly knows that she is the daughter of his soul, and that she is Witch. He is amazed by her powers, and entranced by her sweet but mischievous personality. He begins to teach her the Craft, as she has no-one to teach her in her own family. As he sees more and more of her, he quickly falls in love with her in a fatherly way, wishing that he could be her real family and finding himself feeling jealous of her biological parents. He gives her food and plays with her as well as teaching her, and answers all her questions about life. He often finds himself out of his depth, as it has been a long time since he was used to having a child around, and he does not quite know how to deal with her more awkward questions and behavior. It quickly becomes apparent that she does not have a very loving home and that he is replacing a missing father figure in her life. He clearly means as much to her as she does to him, and he is touched to see how much she loves and wants to protect him.

Jaenelle literally as well as figuratively pulls Saetan out of darkness into the world of the living again. He begins to emerge from his study and take an interest in Hell again. He engages with his friends and family and finds pleasure in everyday life again. He looks forward to her visits and she teaches him to feel joy and excitement once more. Eventually he decides to go back to Kaeleer and interact with living people there. He still has a Hall in Kaeleer and he begins to renovate it in order to make it an attractive place for her to visit. He decorates a suite of rooms especially for her, hoping that she will eventually live there. Jaenelle gives him hope and love that he thought had been lost long ago. In so many ways she changes his life for the better.

Saetan is the father of Daemon and Lucivar, but was forced to abandon both of them against his will. This is partly due to trickery from Dorothea and her witches, but also partly because of the need to protect his own honor. Saetan now feels guilty about this, knowing that his abandonment caused both his sons to be enslaved and tortured all their lives. He hates to think of the pain and suffering they have experienced, but does not dare contact them in case they hate and blame him. He misses them and wishes he could be a proper father to them. Jaenelle manages to begin healing this relationship when she realizes that Daemon is Saetan's son. She buys picture frames and gives them photographs of each other. She unites them with a common cause, and they even laugh with each other about how difficult she can be sometimes. Although Saetan's first



reaction is to regard his son with suspicion and some hostility, Jaenelle quickly persuades him that Daemon is a good man. With her help, father and son can begin to mend their broken relationship and get to know each other.

Saetan is a very powerful man. He wears the black Jewel and is also a Black Widow. He is feared by many people, and can be very quick to anger. However, he is also kind and patient, loyal and understanding. He has a deep sense of honor and will respect another person if they respect him. Jaenelle puts a mist up around her home in order to keep him out, and he respects this even though it hurts him. He would not dream of invading her privacy, which is why he has no idea what has been happening at Briarwood. However, when he fears that Jaenelle is in grave danger, he breaks this faith with her and penetrates the mist to see what is happening to her. His failure to help Daemon and Lucivar was partly caused by his pride and honor, and he is determined not to let this happen again. Jaenelle's life is too important, even if it means invading her privacy to save it. Saetan is a very likeable character, which is ironic considering the associations his name carries. This seems to be the author's way of warning the reader not to judge people on first impressions, and not to see the world in black and white.

Daemon Sadi, The Sadist

Daemon's full name is Saetan Daemon SaDiablo. Saetan is his father, and he chose to name his son after himself. Unfortunately, Daemon was lost to him as a child when Dorothea and her witches claimed him, and Daemon has been forced to serve as their sex slave ever since. They call him Daemon Sadi and never told him who his real father is. They also lied about the identity of his mother, making him believe it is Hepsabah and not Tersa. Daemon is a Hayllian, an extremely long-lived race. He is currently around 1700 years old. He wears the black Jewel, making him the most powerful person in Terreille after Jaenelle. Like his father, he is also a Black Widow. Like Saetan he is a point-of-view character and one of the main characters in the story.

Daemon is known as 'the Sadist' because he likes to use pain in the bedroom. This is a somewhat ironic nickname, as in this story Daemon is shown doing little more than throwing mild insults at people, whereas Dorothea and others like her are much crueler. Dorothea and the other Queens appear to derive pleasure from causing males pain, even going so far as to cut off a man's genitals for entertainment. Kartane, Greer, Robert Benedict and other 'uncles' derive pleasure from torturing and raping young girls. All these characters seem to fit the term 'sadist' much better than Daemon. In fact, Daemon disapproves of harming anyone who has not deserved it, and berates Kartane for raping and hurting children. He hates what Dorothea and the others do to men, and their use of pain for their own pleasure disgusts him. All sexual contact with Blood women makes Daemon feel dirty and sick, and he has a strong aversion to cruelty. This makes him sympathetic and more likeable to the readers, while at the same time maintaining an aura of danger and mystery because of his name, and because of the fear that others show of him. Despite appearances and his name, he is not really such a bad man at all, and is very loving and protective of Jaenelle. As with Saetan, this is the author's way of telling the readers not to judge by first impressions.



Daemon has become very jaded and suspicious because of the abuse and cruelty he has suffered. He hates the current system of rule, and longs for someone to take down Dorothea and the other Queens, and so reestablish a fairer and kinder Terreille. He is forced to serve as a sex slave and has come to hate all Blood women because of this. He does not like seduction, flirting and overtly sexual behavior, something that he makes very clear to Surreal when she shows her interest in him. He is not above killing Blood witches who push him too far, and is only kept in control because of the Ring of Obedience, and through threats to his brother Lucivar's life. Although he has come to hate the world and has a very depressing view of life, he does still hold out hope for a better world. He has pinned all his hopes on Witch, whose coming Tera prophesied to him. He is obsessed with the idea that when he finds her he will be her lover and that she will be a Queen worth saving.

When Daemon does find her, however, he is shocked. Jaenelle is a very young child of twelve, and he cannot even think of being her lover. Instead, he has to quickly adapt to being her friend, acting more brotherly towards her. He is very protective of her, but is helpless to do anything but be her companion for now. He finds himself becoming just as bemused as Saetan, as he is unused to a child's behavior and games. He finds her awkward questions difficult, and her mischievous behavior hard to handle. He finds himself being swept up in her childish games and schemes, and loving them while trying to protest. He soon realizes that Jaenelle is changing his view of life, making him less jaded, more loving and trusting, and more open to the wonders of the world. He is rediscovering his lost childhood, which Dorothea never allowed him to experience. Jaenelle has brought him out of his hatred and shown him how good the world can be after all. He loves her dearly for this, and dedicates himself to her completely. He tries to act appropriately around her, but is constantly aware of how much desire he has for her. He is relieved when he sees that it is her spirit he is attracted to and not her child body. Daemon is very gentle and caring with Jaenelle, showing a softer side of himself that makes the reader warm to him.

Lucivar Yaslana

Lucivar is Daemon's brother and Saetan's son. He is Eyrien, one of the long-lived races of Terreille, and like Daemon he has lived for well over a thousand years. Like all Eyriens he is wild, hot-headed and fierce, and he has large membranous wings. His wings are incredibly important to him, and he would rather die than lose them. He is very brave, and like Daemon he will fight and kill witches who push him too far. Unlike Daemon, he is not always cautious about doing this at the right time. This gets him into trouble. Lucivar is often used as a bargaining tool with Daemon, keeping Daemon in line by threatening his brother. Lucivar and Daemon have a lot of respect and love for each other and hate to think of the other one suffering.

Lucivar is the first character in this story to meet Jaenelle, but he is not a main character in the book. He quickly warms to Jaenelle and sees her as the hope for their world. He warns her not to endanger herself and makes her promise not to go wandering in Terreille. Later, when Daemon tells him that Dorothea will give them both a hundred



years freedom if he kills Jaenelle, Lucivar is horrified and angry. Daemon is pleased that his brother is on their side and agrees about the need to protect Jaenelle.

Lucivar wears the ebon-gray Jewel, making him the most powerful person in Terreille after Daemon, Jaenelle, and Cassandra.

Tersa

Tersa is a female witch who was broken a long time ago but has managed to regain some of her power. At the beginning of the story she sees the coming of Witch in her Tangled Web, but then falls into the Twisted Kingdom and becomes insane. She is secretly the mother of Daemon, but he does not find this out until later in the story. Tersa appears to him occasionally and gives him warnings about the danger of Jaenelle losing her own sanity. Towards the end of the story, Jaenelle goes into Tersa's mind and manages to restore her sanity.

Dorothea SaDiablo

Dorothea is the Queen of Hayll, a Territory in Terreille, and is one of the main antagonists of the story. She is power hungry and longs to rule over all of Terreille. To do this she is slowly corrupting each Territory, killing off any competition, keeping others weak, and plotting with Hekatah, an evil Queen in Hell. Dorothea is the one who took Daemon from his father and put the Ring of Obedience on him, forcing him to be her sex slave. She enjoys torturing men, and even abuses her own child Kartane. She is the epitome of everything that has gone wrong in Terreille, and everything that Daemon hopes Witch will put an end to.

Zuultah

Zuultah is the Queen of Pruul, a Territory in Terreille. She is the Queen whom Lucivar is currently serving as a sex slave. When she doses Lucivar on too much safframate, an aphrodisiac drug, Lucivar bites off her genitals while in a drug-induced confusion. She sends him to the salt mines in Pruul as a punishment.

Cassandra, Witch

Cassandra is a Guardian, like Saetan, but does not live in Hell. She was the last incarnation of Witch, and is still a Black Widow. She lives at the Dark Altar of Cassandra, pretending to be just a normal Priestess there. She wears the black, but openly wears her birthright red Jewel to fool people into thinking she is less powerful than she is. She was once Saetan's consort and a powerful Queen, but took on the half-life of a Guardian, faking her death, in order to stay and wait for the next Witch. She wants to advise and protect Jaenelle, but cannot get through the mist that has been



placed around Beldon Mor. When Jaenelle is raped at the end of the story, Surreal brings her to Cassandra's altar, where they attempt to heal her.

Surreal

Surreal is a prostitute and assassin who wears the gray, though she wears her birthright green in public to make herself seem weaker than she really is. Her mother, Titian, was broken a long time ago by Kartane, and it is likely that Surreal is Kartane's daughter. Titian could not provide Surreal with lessons in the Craft as she had lost her own powers. Daemon agreed to let them use a flat and give them money, if they promised to look after Tera whenever she was in town. When Titian was killed, Surreal fled, and was found and helped by Daemon. Because of this, Surreal has a soft spot for Daemon and has been a good friend to him. However, she is also a little afraid of him and wary around him, as he treated her unkindly when she flirted with him.

Surreal is a very confident and powerful woman who knows what she wants and is determined to get it. She is a little bitter, like Daemon, because of the cruelty she has seen and the rape she experienced as a young girl. She misses her mother and longs to learn more about her race. She thinks Kartane killed her mother, and is determined to get revenge, but later learns that it was actually Greer who committed the murder. When no-one else can help Jaenelle, Surreal breaks into Briarwood and kills Greer, then carries Jaenelle to safety. She cares about Jaenelle a lot despite only having met her briefly, partly because of her kindness and partly because she is the one hope for a better Terreille.

Hekatah

Hekatah was once a Black Widow Priestess and ruler of Hayll, as well as Saetan's wife after Cassandra's supposed death. Now she is divorced from Saetan and dwelling as one of the demon-dead in Hell. She works behind the scenes to try to get rid of Jaenelle. She longs to gain power in Terreille again and is currently trying to use Dorothea to this end.

Char

Char is the leader of the Cildru Dyathe, the children demon-dead who met violent ends. Char was burned to death, and so still has a blackened body in Hell. He is less nervous around Saetan than the other children, and brings news about Jaenelle to him when she first visits.

Mephis and Peyton

Mephis and Peyton are Saetan's sons from a very long time ago and now are both dwelling as demon-dead in Hell.



Andulvar Yaslana

Andulvar was once a Warlord Prince of Askavi, but is now demon-dead. He is an Eyrien who wears the ebon-gray, like Lucivar. In this story, he acts as a friend and tutor for Jaenelle when she visits Hell.

Prothvar

Prothvar is Andulvar's grandson and is also demon-dead. He wears the red Jewel.

Lorn

Lorn is a semi-mythical and powerful person who Jaenelle actually meets, and later Saetan talks to. He is the Last Prince of the Dragons. He is the one who gives Jaenelle her birthright Jewels.

Geoffrey

Geoffrey is a demon-dead historian and librarian at the Keep in Ebon Askavi in Hell. He helps Saetan to track down some of the people who Jaenelle talks about meeting.

Draca

Draca is the demon-dead seneschal (caretaker and overseer) of the Keep at Ebon Askavi in Hell. She is one of an ancient lizard race, and can be a little reserved and cold with people because she has been treated with unkindness in the past. She loves Jaenelle and will do anything for her. She is a good friend to Saetan. She is much older than most people in Hell, and so knows things that no-one else does. It is she who takes Saetan to a hidden web in Hell where he can penetrate the mist to see what is happening to Jaenelle. It is here that Saetan is able to talk to Lorn.

Philip Alexander

Philip is a Blood male who was born a bastard and not acknowledged by his father. This means that he has always had to rely on his brother, Robert Benedict. Determined to get by on his own, he entered service in the Court of Queen Alexandra of Chaillot. He fell in love with Alexandra's daughter Leland, but Leland was married to Robert. Philip is very bitter about this. He has secret affairs with Leland, and Jaenelle is convinced that Philip is really her father.

Philip is very protective of the family he serves. He comes across as a nice and well-meaning man, and he is kind to Surreal. He is completely obsessed with Leland and does not see much else. He puts Jaenelle into Briarwood for her own good, not realizing



that it is a place of abuse. He wears the gray, but he is broken back to his birthright green at the end of the story, when he attempts to protect Leland and Alexandra from the shockwave of Daemon's power.

Robert Benedict

Robert is Philip's brother, and has got everything in life that Philip never had. Robert is legitimate and one of the aristocracy, making him a good marriage prospect. He marries Leland and is the official father of Jaenelle, even though Jaenelle thinks Philip is her father. Wilhelmina is his child from a previous marriage, though Jaenelle is convinced that Wilhelmina is not Robert's daughter either. Robert is an arrogant and cruel man. He is Kartane's protégé and one of the 'uncles' at Briarwood who likes to rape young children. He does not seem to care that his own daughter has been put into this awful place.

Alexandra Angeline

Alexandra is the Queen of Chaillot and Leland's mother. She is trying to restore powerful matriarchal rule in Chaillot, but she is not powerful enough to fight the strong men there. She is largely just a figurehead ruler.

Leland

Leland is Alexandra's daughter and Jaenelle's mother. She is married to Robert but in love with Philip. Her mind seems to be constantly full with wondering how to spend more time with Philip, and she does not pay much attention to her daughter.

Wilhelmina

Wilhelmina is Jaenelle's sister. She is Robert's daughter from a previous marriage, so technically not related to Jaenelle, who is really Philip's daughter. However, Jaenelle is convinced that Wilhelmina is also Philip's daughter, conceived when Adria, a Black Widow married to Robert, wove a dream web in order to secretly mate with Philip. Wilhelmina loves Jaenelle and Jaenelle is fiercely protective of her. Wilhelmina is quite powerful in the Craft, wearing the purple dusk and later the sapphire. She is shy and sweet, not as outgoing as Jaenelle and more content to be a follower rather than a leader. She is nervous around men, but quickly warms to Daemon.

Kartane

Kartane is Dorothea's son. He was given a privileged upbringing, but it was always Daemon who he turned to when he was upset. Later, however, he made Daemon an enemy by calling him a bastard and treating him with disdain. Kartane was forced to be



a sex slave by his mother, which disgusted him and corrupted him. Now he gets pleasure from hurting others and particularly enjoys raping and breaking young girls. He sees this as a service to society, as he is preventing future cruel Queens from using their powers. He does not see that he is just as bad as his mother now. It is Kartane who set up Briarwood, the place where Jaenelle is abused. At the end of the story, he arranges Jaenelle's rape at the hands of Greer.

Kartane has experienced some terrible abuse, and the reader can feel sorry for him even if they hate him for his actions. He is stuck in a cycle of violence and abuse, committing the same horrible actions that were done to him and ensuring that his victims grow up to do the same.

Dr. Carvay

Dr. Carvay is the doctor in charge of Jaenelle's 'treatment' at Briarwood. He is also one of the men who abuses the children there.

Manny

Manny is the cook at Dorothea's house in Hayll. She acted as a mother towards Daemon when he was growing up. It is Manny who tells Daemon the truth about his real father and mother.

Dark Dancer, Demon

Dark Dancer, also known as Demon, is a very spirited stallion that Jaenelle likes to ride. He is part Blood and part landen, meaning that he can never be part of either group. Other horses cannot communicate with him, but other Blood do not know what he is. Only Jaenelle talks to him, which is why he loves her so much. At the end of the story he kills himself when he realizes that he will never see Jaenelle again. He comes back as a ghost to help Daemon escape.

Graff

Graff is the old, mean, female teacher of the Craft, who tutors Wilhelmina.

Greer

Greer is a cruel and sadistic man who killed Titian and likes to rape young girls. He does Dorothea's bidding and is known as 'Dorothea's hound.' It is Greer who rapes Jaenelle at the end of the story. He is killed by Surreal.



Cook

Cook is the cook in the Angelline house in Chaillot. She quickly makes friends with Daemon and tells him all about Jaenelle. At the end of the story she helps Daemon to escape.

Andrew

Andrew is the stable boy who rides Dark Dancer to the tree in order to exchange him with Jaenelle's pony. Like all the servants, he loves Jaenelle and is protective of her.



Objects/Places

The Blood

The Blood are people of any race who can use magic or the Craft. Usually they wear Jewels, which give them added power, although some members of the Blood do not wear Jewels.

Blood Jewels

The Jewels are jewels that hold magical power. They come in thirteen different colors ranging from white to black. The darker the color, the more powerful the Jewel. Members of the Blood usually receive a Jewel as a birthright at a special ceremony. Later in life they can amplify their power in a ritual called the 'Offering to the Darkness', during which they are gifted with a darker-colored Jewel. They can descend a maximum of three ranks from their birthright Jewel when they do this. For example, Wilhelmina wears a purple dusk Jewel, but when she makes her Offering she descends to sapphire, making her more powerful. When the Jewels are used their power is drained, and a person must spend time resting before the Jewel recharges and they can use it again. Most of the Blood wear their Jewels in the form of necklaces or rings. Sometimes the darker colored Jewels are hidden so as to fool people into thinking the person is weaker than they are. For example, Surreal wears her birthright green, but when in need of more power, she calls in her gray. Daemon does not wear his black Jewel openly, but calls it in when he needs the power. This is because, as a slave, he is not supposed to use the power of his Jewels.

The Craft

The Craft is the name the Blood give to their system of magic. This is innate in a person who can use it, but its intricacies must be learned in order for them to be able to use it properly. Some of the Blood are stronger in the Craft than others. Jaenelle's family think she has no skill in the Craft, but she actually simply has trouble learning the easier lessons. Saetan realizes this, and starts her with the more complicated lessons first.

Tangled Web

A Tangled Web is a spell that can be woven, using spidersilk to create a literal web, in order to see visions of the present, past and future, or to create strong illusions. Tangled Webs are difficult to create, and if it goes wrong it risks pulling the weaver into insanity. Jaenelle learns how to weave Tangled Webs from the Arachnians, a race of spider-like creatures that live in Kaeleer.



Witch

The word 'witch' without a capital letter can be used to indicate any member of the Blood who can use the Craft, as well as any female who wears the Jewels. The word 'Witch' with a capital 'W' is the name of a specific, semi-legendary and very powerful individual. Witch appears to be an incarnation of Darkness itself, and is only born into the world very rarely. This does not appear to be a reincarnation, as the previous Witch Cassandra is still alive when the new Witch Jaenelle is born. Rather, it seems to be a force that can live inside a person. This is why Jaenelle seems to be a normal member of the Blood, while at the same time being something else. When Daemon descends into Jaenelle's mind, he meets the part of her that is Witch, which appears to him as a humanoid woman with a horn in her forehead, a fawn's tail, and little hooves instead of feet.

Landen

The word 'landen' refers to the non-Blood of any race. These are usually treated as inferior to the Blood and often take on a servant's role in the courts of the witches.

Warlords, Princes and Warlord Princes

A Warlord is a Jeweled male who is technically equal in status to a female witch. Historically they have served female witches with loyalty and love. However, Dorothea's cruelty has corrupted the world, and now Warlords are usually treated as slaves by the witches. If they are members of the aristocracy, Jeweled males might be married to witches in order to breed more powerful members of the Blood. A Prince is a Jeweled male who is technically equal in status to a female Priestess or Healer. A Warlord Prince is the highest rank a male can reach, and is technically just a little lower in status than a Queen. However, no Jeweled males are treated with respect anymore, and even Warlord Princes are enslaved. This is the case with Lucivar and Daemon.

Priestesses and Healers

A Priestess is a female witch who cares for sanctuaries and altars. Cassandra is a Priestess. A healer is a female witch who heals illnesses and wounds. Priestesses and Healers are equal in status.

Queen

A Queen is a female witch who rules over the Blood. Queens usually rule a specific Territory, where they maintain their own court. They choose lesser witches and Blood males to serve them. Ideally, Queens should be stewards of their land who rule fairly and wisely. Under Dorothea, however, this system has been corrupted and Queens



have become petty, cruel, and power hungry. Dorothea is the Queen of Hayll but has aspirations to bring all the other Territories under her rule. Alexandra Angelline is the Queen of Chaillot.

Black Widow

A Black Widow is a very powerful witch who can heal the mind, weave Tangled Webs, create illusions and use poisons. A Black Widow is born with a Snake Tooth under one fingernail, which can be used as a weapon and is tipped with poison. This needs to be milked regularly or the witch risks losing her finger or her hand. Once milked, the poison needs to be replenished. The Black Widow usually does this by diluting some of her own poison and drinking it. It is extremely rare for a male to be a Black Widow, and this has only happened twice, once with Saetan and once with Daemon.

Black Widows are born that way rather than studying to become one. They often become members of a special society for Black Widows known as the Hourglass. Saetan is the Priest of the Hourglass. Black Widows who are not accepted by the others are left in the dark about their own abilities and how to take care of their Snake Tooth. This leads to a lot of them dying young. Dorothea keeps things this way on purpose because she wants to be able to control any threats to her power. Jaenelle is set to become a Black Widow, and is taught about what this means by Saetan.

Terreille

Terreille is one of the three Realms that make up the world in this story. The other two Realms are Kaeleer and Hell. The Realms are like different realities that exist on the same physical plane. In other words, a specific place might exist in all three Realms, but it will appear differently in each one and be populated with different people. An example of this is Ebon Askavi, which exists in all three Realms. The people from the different Realms do not interact, and it is very difficult to travel between them. In order to go from one Realm to another, special magical Gates must be used. Terreille is called the Realm of Light and is the 'normal world' of the story. This is where Daemon, Lucivar and Jaenelle live. Terreille used to be a very pleasant place to live, but now it has become corrupted and cruel. It is separated into lots of small Territories that are each ruled by a Queen.

Kaeleer

Kaeleer is one of the three Realms. It is known as the Shadow Realm as it is more mysterious than Terreille, and because it is a little closer to the Dark Realm of Hell. Many kinds of fantastical magical creatures live here, and its inhabitants are generally more powerful than those of Terreille. Whereas Terreille is currently a cruel and depressing place to live, Kaeleer appears to be a little kinder and more peaceful. The races there keep themselves to themselves and do not welcome visitors except for Jaenelle.



Hell

Hell is the third of the three Realms. It is a very dark and colorless place populated by the dead. This is where members of the Blood go when they die, if they are powerful enough to cling to their sense of Self when the body is gone. These dead are known as 'demon-dead.' Hell is ruled by Saetan, who is technically not one of the dead. He is a Guardian, a man who has extended his life at the price of taking on a kind of half-life, somewhere between living and dead. He is a benevolent ruler, and Hell, despite being a place of death, seems like a kinder place to live than Terreille. Jaenelle visits Hell often to see Saetan and the demon-dead with whom she has made friends.

Eyrien

The Eyriens are one of the long-lived races in Terreille. They can live for thousands of years. Eyriens come from the Territory of Askavi in Terreille, and are born with wings. Their wings are incredibly important to them; losing them is worse than death. Lucivar and Andulvar are both Eyrien. Eyriens are a proud and fierce race, more outspoken and hot-headed than other races.

Dhemlan

The Dhemlans are one of the three long-lived races in Terreille. Dhemlan is also the name of a Territory that exists both in Terreille and Kaeleer. Both of these Dhemlans were ruled by Saetan at one point, and he still rules Dhemlan in Kaeleer. This is where the SaDiablo Hall is located, where Saetan creates a special suite of rooms for Jaenelle. This is where she is eventually intended to live.

Hayll

Hayll is a Territory in Terreille that is currently ruled by the cruel and sadistic Queen Dorothea. The capital of Hayll is the city of Draega. Hayll is where the race of Hayllians come from, the third long-lived race in Terreille. Daemon is Hayllian, and like Lucivar he has lived for well over a thousand years.

Pruul

Pruul is a Territory in Terreille ruled by Queen Zuultah. This is where Lucivar is sent to serve as a sex slave.

Askavi

Askavi is a Territory in Terreille. The Black Mountain, Ebon Askavi, is the only place that is found in all three Realms. In Hell, Ebon Askavi has a Hall that houses records and



knowledge about the Blood. This is also meant to be the private sanctuary of Witch. In Terreille, Askavi is where the Eyrien race comes from. This is Lucivar's birthplace and home.

Chaillot

Chaillot is a Territory in Terreille ruled by Queen Alexandra Angelline. This is where Jaenelle lives, in the capital city of Beldon Mor. This is also where Briarwood is located.

The Twisted Kingdom

The Twisted Kingdom is another name for madness. When a member of the Blood is lost inside their own mind, they are said to be lost in the Twisted Kingdom. This has happened to Tersa.

The Winds

The Winds are also known as the Web. This is a web of psychic threads that a person can travel on using the power of their Jewels. The threads connect different places in Terreille, as well as different places in Kaeleer and Hell, but do not connect the three Realms to each other. In order to travel between the Realms, magical Gates must be used. The exception to this rule is Jaenelle, who has somehow worked out how to travel between the Realms using the Winds alone. The Winds provide much faster travel than coach or horseback.

Ring of Obedience

The Ring of Obedience is a device used for keeping Blood males in line. The Ring is placed on the male's penis, and intense pain can be sent to it using the controlling ring, which is worn by the female witch. This is what allows Dorothea and the other Queens to control Daemon and Lucivar, despite the fact that these men are much more powerful than the witches.

Guardian

A member of the Blood can become a Guardian, taking on a kind of half-life that is between living and dead. This extends their life for a lot longer than normal. At first Guardians can do all the things normal living people can do. Eventually, however, they stop eating normal food and drink blood or blood-wine instead, and can no longer walk in sunlight. Saetan and Cassandra are both Guardians. Both of them took on this extended life so that they could one day meet Jaenelle.



Cildru Dyathe

The Cildru Dyathe are demon-dead children who live in Hell. They experienced violent deaths as children, and so do not trust adults. They choose to live together on a harsh and depressing island in Hell. Saetan speculates that they chose this miserable place to live because it is honest about its brutality and will not deceive them. There are no places for cruelty to hide here. Saetan feels sorry for the Cildru Dyathe and tries to cheer them up with presents. Jaenelle visits them often and weaves a spell to give them a tree and decorations at Winsol.

Red Moon House

The Red Moon Houses are brothels found all over Terreille. The Red Moon House in Chaillot is owned by a woman called Deje who is a good friend of Surreal. Surreal uses this Red Moon House as a base at several points in the story, and it is here that she brings Daemon to hide him at the end of the book.

Spear and Distaff

'Spear' refers to males, and 'distaff' refers to females. When Saetan is using a psychic call from spear to distaff, it means he is communicating with a female. Being 'speared' is a term for sex, and being 'broken on a spear' is when a female witch loses her powers through the trauma of being raped. The virgin night is when a witch is particularly vulnerable, and her chances of being broken are much stronger the younger she is. This is why Kartane begins raping young girls.

Briarwood

Briarwood is a hospital for disturbed young girls in Chaillot. This is actually a front for a place in which older men can rape and abuse young girls. It was set up by Kartane, and its clients are known as 'uncles.' Robert Benedict is one of these. This is where Jaenelle is sent when she tells stories about the things she does and sees. Her parents, Philip and Leland, do not know what goes on at Briarwood and think that they are helping her by sending her there.

Witchblood

Witchblood is a plant that grows where a witch has been violently killed, or where she has been buried after a violent death. Jaenelle plants some in the garden of her house in memory of the girls killed at Briarwood.



Safframate

Safframate is an aphrodisiac drug that makes the user desperate for sex, but unable to achieve physical release during it. Lucivar is drugged with this by Zuultah in order to make use of him over and over in an orgy. Jaenelle is also drugged with this at the end of the story, leading to her consciousness drifting away from her body.

Winsol

Winsol is a festival held when the winter days are longest. It is a holiday to celebrate Darkness and Witch, during which presents are given to loved ones and dancing and festivities are held.



Themes

Innocence

The story revolves around a twelve-year-old girl called Jaenelle, who is an incredibly powerful witch, but at the same time an innocent child. One side of her is Darkness incarnate, capable of doing incredible and seemingly impossible things. This is the kind of power that frightens people. The other side of her is a typical child - naive, curious, adventurous and just beginning to explore everything that life has to offer. The author explores the ways in which these two sides of Jaenelle merge and clash. She seems to ask the question. Can great power ever co-exist with innocence or will it always corrupt it?

Jaenelle at first appears to be quite a normal twelve-year-old girl. She is adventurous and insatiably curious, constantly wondering at what she sees in the world. She likes to explore and loves being introduced to new things. When she enters Hell for the first time, it does not occur to her to be frightened of the people there and she is not daunted by the prospect of wandering around a strange place. It does not often occur to her that the things she does might be dangerous, which is why she causes the adults of the story so much anxiety when she is climbing trees, visiting strange people, levitating and jumping off buildings. This is the extreme innocence of childhood. It suggests that Jaenelle has not yet learned that strange people and places can be dangerous, and that she cannot imagine all the bad things that could happen to her. She still sees the world as a wonderful place rather than viewing it with the suspicion that adults often develop. She also appears to be entirely innocent in her power. She can literally do the impossible, and her raw power is enough to stagger and frighten some of the most powerful people in any of the Realms. She is clearly a force to be reckoned with, but Jaenelle does not quite realize this. She knows she is powerful and that she can do things others cannot. This is tempered by the fact that she finds the more basic lessons very difficult. She never shows that she thinks of herself as a force beyond imagining. She does not use her power as a threat, a bargaining tool or a way to get what she wants. She only ever calls on her power when she feels very threatened, or to play childish games. She is still more concerned with having fun than with holding power over others. Life is still a game to her, and through her, Daemon and Saetan are able to revisit some of their own lost childhood innocence.

However, it is when Jaenelle is forced to call on her power to defend others that the screen of innocence seems to slip away. She realizes how great and frightening her power is, and she begins to see that she is different from everyone else. This upsets her, as she feels like she will always be alone. This is made worse by a family who often ignore her, and when they do pay attention to her make it clear that they are embarrassed of her. Jaenelle feels isolated and pushed aside. She hates to think that she might frighten or shame people. These are the feelings that quickly begin to destroy childhood innocence, revealing to the child that the world is not always a fair or happy place, and that people can let you down. When Jaenelle is feeling vulnerable in this



way, other characters note how much older or how tired she looks. Jaenelle also looks older and tired when she draws her power to defend Saetan, and when she uses her power to confuse and threaten Graff. This shows that she is beginning to associate great power with responsibility and eventually isolation. She knows she is not the same as everyone else, and that she is carrying a burden that must be used right. Perhaps in these moments she sees how easily she could become a monster, a force for evil. Again, this kind of power destroys innocence, as it forces Jaenelle to see herself in a new light.

Jaenelle's perfect veil of innocence begins to dissolve as the story progresses, showing that it may have been partly a mask. Jaenelle might not be so innocent and naive as she seemed at first. When she tells Daemon about the Witchblood, when she plants some for Rose, when she looks at him with her deep Sapphire eyes, and when she talks to Daemon about how she cannot leave, she gives herself away. Daemon realizes that there is a much older person, one who has already experienced too much pain, lurking under her child's exterior. She has been marked by her experiences, which make it impossible for her to be a child all the time. She still tries to cling to her innocence and joy in the world, but these are constantly fading as she sees more and more cruelty. Abuse, both physical and psychological, takes its toll on Jaenelle, forcing her to see the world with an adult's eyes, to understand the danger she is in and to try to protect her friends and sister from it. Jaenelle does a good job of hiding this, as she does not want Saetan to think her weak or disown her, but the reader can see the clues. Later, the reader finds out exactly what has made Jaenelle this way. She has seen terrible abuse, torture and rape of children at Briarwood, and eventually has been subjected to this herself. This has created a strange mix of innocence and maturity. Jaenelle has seen more than most children, and understands how cruel men can be, but she also has very little experience of sex and does not understand it properly. This is revealed in her often naive questions, and her tendency to treat Daemon more like a big brother than an older man. At the same time, Jaenelle is on the cusp of womanhood, and is beginning to test her boundaries. She kisses Daemon at Winsol. It is a very chaste kiss, but it marks the start of her exploration in this area. Jaenelle's age, power, responsibilities, and games, as well as the abuse she has seen and suffered, have all contributed to the odd mixture of innocence and adulthood inside her.

This strange mix inside Jaenelle is represented by her inner psyche. When Daemon dives into her mind, he sees a strange figure before him. She is an adult woman with a fully developed body, but she is recognizably Jaenelle. She has an older face, but the same innocence and child-like curiosity are in her eyes. She has a horn, a tail and little hooves, representing the part of her that is Witch and so is different from everyone else. She is literally Darkness incarnate, but she is still also Jaenelle. Daemon recognizes this in her familiar voice and way of speaking. She is powerful, and seems mature, but she reveals her naivety in the questions she asks Daemon. She appears to have some idea of what sex is, but does not really understand the concept beyond the abuse she has experienced. She is easily tricked by Daemon, trusting him in her deep, child-like way. Daemon is even slightly repelled at one point when he is trying to seduce her and she offers to kiss his hurt better, talking with a child's voice. This is a summary of everything that Jaenelle is. She is innocent, but also far from innocent, powerful but



vulnerable, abused but uncorrupted by it, tired of the world and jaded by it, but at the same time clinging on to her child-like curiosity and need to explore. She is Blood, like Daemon and Saetan, but also something else, as she is also Witch. At the end it seems like her innocence may have been completely destroyed, but she does not seem broken. There is still hope that she may be able to regain a sense of who she is and so come back from the brink of despair.

Perversion and Corruption

Contrasted with Jaenelle's child-like innocence, there is a lot of corruption and perversion in Terreille. This appears to have begun with Dorothea, the Queen of Hayll. The Queens are supposed to be stewards of the land who rule benevolently and fairly. Dorothea is not like this at all. She is power-hungry and enjoys dominating others. She quickly killed anyone who might be a threat to her and continues to keep the Territories weak. She is spreading her corruption throughout Terreille in an attempt to become the ruler of everything. The power she has is not enough, and she will stop at nothing to gain more. This is a clear demonstration of the old saying that power corrupts. Dorothea's power has caused her to become somewhat paranoid, destroying anything that might be a threat. She also hates the idea of anyone being stronger than her, and so deliberately keeps the Blood males in their place by forcing them to be slaves. She dominates Daemon and Lucivar, despite them being more powerful than her, with the use of the Ring of Obedience, a device that will send intense pain into a man's genitals if she chooses. Not only does Dorothea make use of this, she actually enjoys doing so. Her power and her corruption have turned her into a sadist who gains pleasure from the pain of others. She is so perverted she has even turned her own son into her sex slave, and at one point in the story she derives amusement from forcing him to watch another man's genitals being cut off. Dorothea has encouraged and bred this sadism into the other witches in her court, and is now spreading the corruption throughout Terreille.

Dorothea's abuse has enduring effects on the people she tortures. Daemon and Lucivar have become jaded and bitter and Daemon is now disgusted by any sexual contact with Blood females. However, the worst example of Dorothea's influence is Kartane. Kartane was disgusted when his own mother made him service her, and quickly became as bitter as Daemon because of the abuse he suffered. However, unlike Daemon, Kartane became something twisted and broken. He began to act like his mother, needing to dominate others to feel pleasure. He soon found that he liked raping and abusing young girls, the younger the better because they were so vulnerable. He enjoys this, gaining sexual pleasure from others' pain, proving himself to be a sadist made in his mother's image. Kartane does not want to see that he has become his own mother through her abuse, and that he is just as bad as her. He tries to justify what he is doing by saying that he is stopping more witches from harnessing their power and so becoming a new Dorothea. He does not see that he is simply perpetuating the cycle of violence and abuse that he is caught up in. His mother abused him, so he abuses others, and they will likely grow up to be abusers themselves. This is a pattern that is often seen in our world too. This kind of corrupt cycle can never end until someone is willing to break it. Perhaps Jaenelle could be that person, the victim who does not turn to the same crime



but tries to stop it instead. Meanwhile, it leaves the reader with an uncomfortable question; how much is Kartane to blame for his terrible actions, and could he ever be forgiven? Jaenelle does not seem to think so. She recognizes that he is owed a blood debt from Dorothea, but points out that he owes many others a blood debt too. In other words, Dorothea is to blame for Kartane's injuries, but only Kartane is to blame for the injuries he has created. It is ultimately up to the reader to decide what they think.

Perversion and corruption penetrate to the very heart of this story, as it becomes apparent that Jaenelle has also suffered from it. Briarwood, the 'hospital' for disturbed girls that Jaenelle is sent to, is secretly a place for older men, called 'uncles,' to rape and abuse young children. The perverted details are given to the reader slowly at first. First the reader is made aware that children die at Briarwood, then that Rose was killed for not giving oral sex. The party for the 'uncles' at the Angelline house makes it clear that Briarwood is place where young girls are raped. However, it is not until Surreal visits Briarwood that the true horrific nature of the place is revealed. This is explained in sickening detail. One girl's leg was cut off and served for dinner. Another girl's eyes were daubed with honey and she was left hanging from a tree for the crows to peck. She struggled too much and hanged herself. Other girls were beaten to death. These stories are all given in a very straightforward, matter-of-fact manner, as if this is perfectly normal for Briarwood. The lack of emotion in the ghosts' voices shows how the girls have been beaten until all the fight is gone from them. This all creates an emotional reaction from the reader, who is extremely disturbed by everything they have read. This shows just how corrupt Terreille has become and how desperately someone like Jaenelle, as well as the goodness inside her, is needed.

Family

Family is a recurring theme in this story. Jaenelle's family all let her down, and it soon becomes apparent that she is not really one of them. They are embarrassed of her, and at best ignore her. At Winsol they give her presents that make it clear they know nothing about her, and do not care enough to find out. She does not have a happy home, and longs for a real parent-daughter relationship in which she can feel loved and protected. Jaenelle finds this in Saetan, who loves her like a father and becomes the surrogate father she so desperately needs. He teaches her, answers her questions, feeds her and looks after her. He indulges her as a loving father does, but also scolds her when she does something dangerous. She does not know how to react to this at first, until she realizes that he is scolding because he worries about her. It proves how much he loves her. This is not something Jaenelle has experienced before, and she is extremely moved by it. It quickly becomes clear that Jaenelle's relationship with Saetan is far more meaningful than her relationship with her biological parents.

Jaenelle's relationship with Daemon also soon becomes something greater than what she has with her biological family. Daemon is initially tasked with being her escort, but he quickly makes friends with her. He acts with her as an older friend or brother might, joining in her games and laughing with her. Through her, he rediscovers his own lost childhood. He accepts her in ways that no-one else does, and never thinks her strange



when she does something unexpected. He believes all her stories and trusts her completely, which is something her own family have failed miserably at. Daemon takes the role that Saetan cannot fulfill. He is there for Jaenelle every day as a friend, joining in her childish pranks and games. He also begins to take on the role of an older boy whom Jaenelle is curious about. She kisses him, and Daemon kisses her back, giving her something to think about even though it is a very chaste kiss. He is determined to be her lover one day, and so has a slightly odd relationship with her. He is content to be a friend and nothing more for now, but he stops himself from falling into the 'older brother' category completely.

Jaenelle's biological family seem to always be letting her down, and Saetan and Daemon are there to pick up the pieces. At Winsol, when her family make her feel unwanted, Daemon and Saetan both get her very special and meaningful gifts. When Jaenelle's parents do not believe the stories she tells, they send her away to Briarwood, a hospital for disturbed girls. This shows tremendous lack of trust and must feel like a horrible rejection, but even worse than this, Briarwood is a place of secret rape and abuse. Philip, Alexandra and Leland do not know this, but they have let her down nevertheless. Robert knows exactly what kind of place Briarwood is, and shows what a despicable person he is for putting Jaenelle there. It is clear that Jaenelle would not only be happier, but she would also be safer, if she were to live with Saetan and Daemon instead. Saetan has even created a home for her, decorating a new suite of rooms especially for her. Jaenelle refuses to leave, however, as she is determined to protect her friends at Briarwood and her sister at home. Her sister, Wilhelmina, is the only person in the family who loves her and makes her feel welcome, and Jaenelle will not let her down. This shows what Jaenelle's idea of family is; she will not give up on the people she loves, no matter what their connection to her is.

It is not just Jaenelle's family who are explored in the story. Saetan's family is also fragmented and in need of repair. He was forced to abandon his two sons early in their lives, and he has felt deeply guilty about it ever since. His sons are Daemon and Lucivar, two men who have been suffering their whole lives without his protection. Although Saetan longs for a relationship with them, he does not dare contact them in case they hate him. Jaenelle fixes this by bringing Daemon and Saetan back together. She shows them that they have a common cause, and that they are not so different from each other. She proves to each of them that the other is a good person. She gifts them with photos of each other, reminding them what they could have. With her help, they begin to mend their relationship again. Jaenelle is a big part of both their lives and is loved by them both, and she slots easily into the happy family they are beginning to form. As Tera points out, she is the glue that holds them together. She is like the middle of the triangle, formed and protected by the other sides, and they would be meaningless without her. This story shows that family does not have to be about blood and biological connections, but is really about love and understanding, acceptance and trust. Jaenelle is described as being the daughter of Saetan's soul and this connection is clearly more important than any biological link.



Style

Point of View

The story is recounted in the third person from several different points of view - primarily, Saetan and Daemon with a few sections that follow what is happening to Lucivar, Surreal, and Kartane. A few other characters have one or two sections from their point of view. The character whose point of view is conspicuously lacking is Jaenelle, the principal character around whom the whole plot revolves. Jaenelle is the most important of the main characters and it is her story that is really being shared. It is unusual for an author to choose not to give such an important character her own voice, but there is a very good reason for this. Jaenelle represents the hope for a better world that many of the characters are desperately clinging on to. She is extremely powerful, but also still only a child, and so is vulnerable, curious, and kind. She has not yet been corrupted by the cruelty found in her world. By seeing her through other characters' eyes, the reader sees how important she is to different people, how she changes their lives for the better, and how she slowly pulls them out of their own despair and depression. The reader is forced to judge Jaenelle through what she says, and how others view her actions. This creates a sympathetic and favorable image, reminding the reader why Jaenelle is not only so important, but also so loved.

There is another important reason why the reader never sees events from Jaenelle's perspective. The story explores how someone as innocent and caring as Jaenelle could be slowly broken until she has no faith left in the world. It explores how someone with so much power could also be so vulnerable. The story is a tragedy that shows how events lead, with a depressing sense of inevitability, towards Jaenelle's abuse and destruction. So many hopes rest with Jaenelle, but she will be broken before she can fulfill any of them. By not showing Jaenelle's point of view, the reader can see, from various different characters, how she is slowly beginning to weaken and tire, and to grow more sad and jaded with the world. The reader is never given a view of Jaenelle's private thoughts and feelings, and so must draw conclusions about her from what other characters' see. This is ultimately frustrating, as the reader has enough knowledge to see exactly what is going on. However, the characters themselves do not communicate well enough and never pool their knowledge and experiences. This means that they are all unaware of what is happening to Jaenelle, and are helpless to stop it before it is too late. This creates a lot of dramatic tension as the reader wills Jaenelle's friends and protectors to work it out in time. By keeping Jaenelle's thoughts private, the author also leaves much of what happens at Briarwood a mystery. The reader pieces things together slowly, drawing them towards the horrifying conclusion when all Briarwood's secrets are finally revealed. This makes the revelations seem even worse.

Finally, by ignoring Jaenelle's point of view, the author is emphasizing Jaenelle's feelings of isolation, as well as her vulnerability. As Witch she is always going to be different from everyone else, and no-one will ever truly understand her. She already feels the beginnings of this isolation. As a child who does not have a happy home, is



ignored by her parents or made to feel ashamed, and who is forced to travel far and wide to find friends, Jaenelle is a girl who is desperately trying to hide her loneliness. The reader, like Daemon and Saetan, can sympathize with her, but they can never quite connect with her, as she is always keeping everyone at arm's length in order to protect herself and her feelings. Jaenelle is also being abused, but her parents will not listen to her and no-one is protecting her. By not providing her point of view, the author emphasizes how alone and vulnerable she is and how everyone seems to have abandoned or failed her.

Setting

The story is set in a fantasy world made up of three Realms. The first Realm is Terreille, where most of the characters live and where Jaenelle's home is located. Terreille is split into Territories ruled by Queens. Jaenelle lives in the Territory of Chaillot, in the capital city Beldon Mor. She lives in a large manor house with extensive grounds and gardens, which belongs to her grandmother, Lady Alexandra Angelline, the Queen of Chaillot. This is where Daemon is sent halfway through the story, and where he meets Jaenelle and begins to serve her. The manor house is externally very pretty, but it hides secrets, abuse, neglect, and misery. The gardens reflect this idea, as they are beautiful and perfectly maintained, but they hide a secret alcove in which Witchblood grows, marking the deaths of Jaenelle's young friends. Briarwood is another example of a place that looks benign and pretty, but hides horrifying violence and abuse. It is the 'hospital' for disturbed young children that Jaenelle is sent to, in which older men secretly rape and torture the young girls. Everything in Chaillot is not quite what it seems. The civilized exterior hides a dark, corrupt underbelly.

The other Territories in Terreille are less subtle about their corruption. Dorothea's influence has caused most of the Queens' courts to become places of torture, sadism and pain. Men are enslaved and forced to serve their Queens sexually. Non-Blood are treated as inferiors who do not matter. The whole Realm is becoming a place of cruelty and power politics, where the matriarchal rule of their society has been twisted into something sadistic and nasty. The centre of this corruption is at Dorothea's house in Hayll. This is where Daemon and Kartane grew up, and where they have suffered long years of abuse and humiliation. It is ironic that Terreille is known as the 'Realm of Light' as it has become a very dark and disturbed place. This is why so many characters turn to Jaenelle as their only hope for the future, as only she can destroy Dorothea and return the Realm to the more peaceful, happy and kinder place that it should be.

Most of the story is set either in Chaillot or in Hell. Hell is the third Realm, a place of darkness and shadows where the Blood go after they die, if they are too strong to let go of their Self once the body is gone. They become 'demon-dead' and continue with their existence in Hell. Hell is ruled by its High Lord, Saetan. Despite the name, Hell has nothing to do with the Christian idea of Hell, and Saetan is not meant to be anything like Satan. The Saetan of this story is quite a kindly old man who feels very fatherly towards Jaenelle. He rules with honor and fairness, and ironically Hell seems like a much nicer place than Terreille. Jaenelle visits Hell often to see Saetan, and to be taught about the



Craft by him. Eventually, Saetan realizes that Hell might not be the best place for a young girl to be spending all her time, so he ascends to the second Realm, called Kaeleer. Kaeleer is known as the Realm of Shadows because it is mysterious and full of semi-legendary magical races. It has been more or less closed off to the people of Terreille for a long time now, but Jaenelle is allowed to wander wherever she likes. Here, Saetan opens up his old hall and creates a beautiful suite of rooms for Jaenelle. This is where he intends her to live one day, and presumably where she is taken at the end of the story in order to be safe.

Other places in Terreille featured in the story are the Red Moon House in Chaillot, where Surreal establishes her base, and Pruul, where Lucivar is forced to serve the Queen Zuultah. This is another cruel and depressing place. In Hell there is Ebon Askavi, a mountain that exists in all three Realms, where a hall containing information about the history of the Blood is located. This is also Witch's dark sanctuary. This is where Draca, the hall's seneschal, resides. Like Saetan, she also creates a suite of rooms for Jaenelle's use. Also in Hell is an island belonging to the Cildru Dyathe, children demon-dead who died violently. This is a rocky, barren and depressing place. Saetan reflects that the Cildru Dyathe like to live here because it is honest and does not try to hide its brutal nature. They feel safe here. Considering the two-faced nature of some of the cities in Terreille, particularly Chaillot, this is understandable. Jaenelle visits the Cildru Dyathe's island many times in order to cheer the children up, and eventually builds a bridge here from Briarwood so that her friends can cross over when they die.

Language and Meaning

The language in the story reflects the setting, which appears to be semi-modern but lacking many conveniences that modern readers are used to. For example, modern plumbing, dildos, city apartment blocks and photography exist, but cars and trains do not seem to. This weird mix is perhaps because the world has magic in it, and so some things are simply not needed. If a person needs to get from one place to another quickly, they can travel on the psychic Winds. The language reflects this slightly odd setting, as people tend to speak in an old-fashioned manner, but will combine archaic words and phrases with more modern sayings.

Language also reflects the character who is speaking. Daemon is more taciturn than others, and tends to talk in short, clipped sentences. He snarls a lot and does not like to engage in mindless chatter or pleasantries. When he is with Jaenelle, however, he opens up and begins to express his feelings a little better. When he is talking to someone he is suspicious of, such as Saetan, he is often reduced to one-word replies and growls. He is notably more harsh and disapproving when talking to adult female members of the Blood, often giving pithy or sarcastic responses. When he is forced to serve a Queen or to comply with court etiquette he will talk in a silky smooth voice with exaggerated politeness, making it very clear that he is thinly veiling a threat.

Some of Saetan's speech closely mirrors that of Daemon, as the two are much more alike than they realize. However, Saetan is more open and friendly and much less bitter



than Daemon. He speaks in longer sentences and will elaborate on his feelings more often. He tends to explain things better to Jaenelle when she asks questions, taking on the fatherly role whereas Daemon acts as her friend and accomplice. Saetan's speech is also a little more stilted and old fashioned, reflecting the fact that he is thousands of years old.

Jaenelle speaks very differently from Daemon and Saetan. She is younger and more carefree. She also speaks with a childish innocence. She is less careful about watching what she says. When she is with Daemon and enjoying being a child, she will gush and chatter like any young girl. However, when she is drawing on her power, or when she has seen or experienced something horrible, she becomes more closed off. This reflects the fact that she is becoming weary with the world, and that she feels isolated and rejected.

Surreal speaks very differently again. Like Jaenelle she is much younger than Daemon and Saetan, and she is the character who most notably seems to talk like a modern person. Her dialogue is more punchy, and she will not hold back on saying what she really thinks.

There are three important cases of symbolism and metaphor in the story that are repeated several times throughout. One is the Twisted Kingdom, which represents madness. In a world where death is a very physical and tangible place called Hell, it makes sense that people would think of insanity as a place too. A common metaphor found in the story is the use of the chalice to represent the mind. A crystal chalice is fragile but beautiful, just like a person's mind. With each crack it gets weaker until it eventually shatters. A single traumatic event might also cause a chalice to shatter suddenly. The chalice can hold liquid inside, but when it breaks the liquid spills and is lost. When the mind shatters, a person's thoughts and consciousness are lost within the Twisted Kingdom. The chalice and the mind can be mended, but just like a real chalice, the cracks in the mind will still show and the person will never be the same again.

Linked to this metaphor is the symbolism of the four-sided triangle. This is harder to understand, as it is nonsensical to have a triangle with four sides. It is easier to imagine a three-sided triangle with the middle shape as the 'fourth side.' Each side of the triangle leans on and holds up the others, supporting and protecting the bit in the middle, the fourth side. In this story, the four-sided triangle can represent Daemon, Saetan and Lucivar, holding together and supporting Jaenelle. If they do not work together, or if one of them fails, Jaenelle will suffer and could be lost. Just like the triangle, the three sides, Daemon, Saetan and Lucivar, are meaningless without the middle, Jaenelle. She is the reason they exist. The four-sided triangle is also used to represent a person of the Blood. They are held together by three supporting sides, the body, the chalice (or mind), and the Jewels, which protect the Self or the part in the middle of the triangle. If one of those sides fails, the Self risks being lost. Without the Self, the other three sides are meaningless.



Structure

The story is split into three parts, and each part is split into chapters. Each chapter is split into numbered sections that tend to follow different characters. The numbered sections have a heading that indicates which Realm the events are taking place in. At first this is very confusing, forcing the reader to pay attention and try to piece together what the world of the story looks like. There is no map provided, and a lot is left to the reader's imagination. This encourages the reader to really engage with the story and the setting. Each section within the chapters tends to be very short, keeping the narrative switching quickly between different people and places. Again, this is very confusing at the beginning, but quickly gives the reader an impression of a huge, expansive world with intricate politics and rules. This technique draws the reader in, creating intrigue with mystery. The short sections also help to give the story a feeling of pace, despite the fact that the plot is actually quite slow moving. A lot of attention is given to characters, their back story and why they act as they do, which naturally slows down the action. The author quickly makes it clear that this is a character driven story rather than an action driven one.

The three parts of the story are split according to how the characters know and are interacting with Jaenelle. In the first part, Jaenelle is seven years old. She communicates with Lucivar, then meets Saetan. Daemon is aware of her but does not know where she is. The break between the first half and second half allows for a time shift. Jaenelle is now twelve years old and Saetan has been teaching her all this time. This makes it more believable that he has developed a very strong fatherly bond with her. In the second part of the story, the reader begins to be given clues that something is not quite right with Jaenelle, and that she may be suffering some kind of mistreatment. Meanwhile, Daemon uncovers truths about his family, and is finally sent to Chaillot. In the third part of the book, Daemon meets Jaenelle and begins to interact with her. She is no longer as isolated as before, but it quickly becomes apparent that she is in great danger. This gives the three parts of the story a distinctly different feel. The first part is hopeful; the second gains a more sinister edge; and the third steadily spirals into tragedy.



Quotes

"They wear Blood Jewels but don't understand what it means to be Blood. They talk of honoring the Darkness, but it's a lie. They honor nothing but their own ambitions. The Blood were created to be the caretakers of the Realms. That's why we were given our power" (Prologue, p. 3).

"She's a child! Too young to understand that much power and not emotionally ready to accept the responsibilities that come with it. At her age, she's too open to influence" (Chapter Two, p. 44).

"He tried to suppress the thought of Jaenelle sliding into madness, unable to cope with what she was, but the anxiety rolled from him in waves. No one else in the history of the Blood had worn the Black as a Birthright Jewel. No one else had had to shoulder the responsibility - and the isolation - that was part of the price of wearing so dark a Jewel at so young an age" (Chapter Two, p. 69).

"Whether she'd intended to or not, his fair-haired daughter of the soul had certainly thrown him back among the living." (Chapter Three, p. 75).

"I can't stand being touched by them anymore. Ever since... I can't stand the feel of them, the smell of them, the taste of them. They've raped everything I am until there's nothing clean left to offer." (Chapter Four, p. 98).

"They deserved what he did. They were foul things only fit for breeding and a man's pleasure. It was right to break them young, good to break them young before they became things like the ones sitting here. Break them all. Destroy them all. Blood males should rule, must rule" (Chapter Five, p. 127).

"...during those months when she'd been gone, she'd learned the one lesson he had never wanted her to learn. She had learned to hate" (Chapter Seven, p. 185).

"And she was still his gentle, inquisitive Jaenelle, the daughter of his soul. Nothing anyone could say would change that" (Chapter Seven, p. 194).

"From a distance, particularly in dim light, she seemed like such a frail, plain child, friendly enough but not terribly intelligent. From a distance. When you got close enough to see those eyes change from summer-sky blue to sapphire, it was hard to remember you were talking to a child, hard not to feel a shiver of apprehension at the sharp, slightly feral intelligence just beneath the surface that was drawing its own conclusions about the world" (Chapter Eight, p. 198).

"But because of honor, he hadn't been there. Because he believed in the Blood Laws and Protocol, he had accepted the lie when Dorothea denied him paternity. And because he had accepted the lie, Daemon had been raised as a bastard and a slave, an outcast who had no place in Blood society" (Chapter Eight, p. 200).



"Not Lady Jaenelle Benedict. She didn't try to be mysterious, she simply was. She walked in full sunlight shrouded in a midnight mist that swirled around her, hiding, revealing, tantalizing, frightening. Her honesty had been blunted by punishment" (Chapter Eight, p. 218).

"She's so wise in her innocence, so innocent in her wisdom" (Chapter Nine, p. 233).

"The difference was Jaenelle and the incalculable ways she worried, intrigued, fascinated, incensed, and delighted him. More than that, now, when he was so long past it, she was giving him - the bored, jaded Sadist - a childhood. She colored the days with magic and wonder, and all the things he'd ceased to pay attention to he saw again new" (Chapter Ten, p. 256).

"He wore the Black; Jaenelle was the black. But with her, the Black was not only dark, savage power, it was laughter and mischief and compassion and healing... and snowballs" (Chapter Twelve, p. 276).

"She was only twelve. For all her Craft, for all her magic, for all her strength, she was still only twelve" (Chapter Thirteen, p. 313).

"Crystal chalices that held the mind. Jewels for power. The images swirled and shifted, over and over. When they finally came to rest, they formed the Blood's four-sided triangle. Three sides - body, chalice, and Jewels - surrounding the fourth side, the Self, the spirit that binds the other three" (Chapter Fifteen, p. 362).



Topics for Discussion

Why has the author chosen not to tell the story from Jaenelle's point of view? What effect do you think she is trying to create? How might this connect to the story and to what is happening to Jaenelle?

Discuss the theme of innocence in this story. What makes a person innocent and how is innocence destroyed?

Discuss corruption and perversion in this story. What people and places are corrupt and why? What does cruelty and corruption lead to? How does it affect people?

Discuss the character of Kartane. Is he evil or is he also a victim? Can you feel sorry for him? Do you think his crimes could ever be forgiven or should he be made to pay for what he has done?

How does the author make the reader feel sympathy for Jaenelle? In what ways does she persuade the reader that Jaenelle is a likeable character and how does she make the reader feel sorry for her?

Discuss the idea that things are never black and white. Does the author ever show any examples of extreme good or evil or is everyone shades of gray? Why do you think the author use names that are traditionally associated with evil?

Who do you think is the main antagonist of the story and why? In your answer, you should consider Dorothea, Hekatah, Kartane, Robert Benedict, Dr. Carvay, and Greer.

Discuss the character of Daemon. Do you think he is a sympathetic or likeable character? How does he change throughout the story and why? Does he act differently when he is around Jaenelle?

How is the idea of family explored in this story? Which people does Jaenelle consider to be her family and why? How is Saetan's relationship with his sons portrayed? What does the author have to say about what 'family' means?

How is Jaenelle's relationship with Saetan different from her relationship with Daemon, and from the way she interacts with her family? How does Jaenelle affect the lives of these different people?

In what ways does this story turn the usual conventions of a fantasy story on their head? You might like to think about the setting, the matriarchal society, modern elements in a fantasy world, the corruption and other 'dark' elements, the characters, and their names.