

# **Dead Witch Walking Study Guide**

**Dead Witch Walking by Kim Harrison**

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# Plot Summary

*Dead Witch Walking* by Kim Harrison is a story of a world in which witches, vampires, pixies and other creatures exist alongside humans, although not completely in peace. The main character in the story, Rachel Morgan, is a witch who quickly gets pulled into a conspiracy that goes deeper than Rachel realizes. Along with help of her friends, a vampire, pixie and a human, Rachel soon finds that there is more than one person looking to kill her, and it will take all of her will just to stay alive.

Rachel Morgan is a runner for I.S., Inlander Security. She has been given really horrible jobs of late, such as when Rachel is sent out to bring in a leprechaun for tax evasion. When Rachel captures the leprechaun, she decides to accept the three wishes from the leprechaun and let the creature go. Rachel uses her wish to be able to get out of her contract. She finds that her co-workers, Jenks the pixie and Ivy a vampire, want a wish also, and in return they will go with her and help her work off the bounty that they feel certain the head of the I.S. will put on Rachel for quitting.

Rachel is able to quit, but just as she was warned, there is a bounty put on her head. Rachel finds that she has been kicked out of her home and has to live in her new office with Ivy and Jenks. Rachel learns that a prominent businessman, Trent Kalamack, is suspected of dealing Brimstone drugs. Rachel decides if she gives Trent to I.S., she will be forgiven and the bounty dropped. Rachel begins to investigate and multiple death threats begin to pile up.

Rachel is able to sneak into Trent's office in the form of a mink but is captured. While Rachel is in captivity, Trent kills a man in front of her, and she learns that Trent is also a biodrug maker and distributor. Biodrugs were responsible for creating the Angel virus that nearly wiped out humanity and so it is a very illegal crime. Rachel, in the form of a mink, is put into a rat fight by Trent for humor, but Rachel is able to get away. Once home, she tells Ivy of what she has found and they make a plan to go to the FIB, Federal Inland Bureau, and tell them about Trent.

The FIB agrees to pay off the bounty on Rachel's head in exchange for Kalamack. Rachel is able to get them an informant and her bounty is paid off. Before the informant can be placed in protective custody, he is killed in an explosion. Trent is across the street watching. The next night, Rachel goes to sneak into Trent's office, fearing that if she doesn't get information on him she won't be safe. She learns while there that Trent believes Rachel has been summoning demons and so Rachel is safe. She is able to leave Trent's with Trent and his men in pursuit. Rachel and Trent have an undersanding and Rachel decides that is good enough for now.



# Chapter 1-3

## Chapter 1-3 Summary

*Dead Witch Walking* by Kim Harrison is a story of a world in which witches, vampires, pixies and other creatures exist alongside humans, although not completely in peace. The main character in the story, Rachel Morgan, is a witch who quickly gets pulled into a conspiracy that goes deeper than Rachel realizes. Along with help of her friends, a vampire, pixie and a human, Rachel soon finds that there is more than one person looking to kill her, and it will take all of her will just to stay live.

Chapter one begins with Rachel Morgan, a practicing witch, standing outside a bar. She is dressed rather seductively and people passing by obviously think she is a hooker. The small pixie on her dangling earring, Jenks, laughs, saying he told her so. Rachel works for I.S., Inlander Security, as a runner. Rachel is there to catch a leprechaun for tax evasion. It is I.S. that handles things that the human-run FIB can't handle. Rachel enters the bar thinking about all the bad cases she has been given lately. Rachel knows that she is a good runner but that for some reason her boss has it out for her. Rachel should be catching drug runners or something other than leprechauns who didn't file taxes.

After getting inside the bar, Rachel spots Ivy Tamwood, a vampire who Rachel used to work with when they were still interns at I.S. Ivy is very attractive, and although she is a living vampire and is sworn off drinking blood, Rachel is somewhat put on edge by being with Ivy. Ivy is there to catch two young vampires that are poaching underage people. Rachel waits to find her leprechaun but decides that she must not be there. Rachel begins to think that everyone has to sign a contract with I.S. and the last person to break their contract was found in little pieces on his porch. As Rachel gets up to leave, Jenks tells her that the woman behind the bar is the leprechaun using a disguise charm. Rachel is quick and is able to slap the cuffs on the leprechaun. Ivy has also caught her two marks and they decide to share a cab back to I.S. On their way out, the leprechaun offers Rachel three wishes if Rachel will let her go.

In chapter two, Rachel informs Ivy that she has had enough of I.S. and is going to quit. Ivy tries to talk her out of it and reminds Rachel of the last person who quit I.S. Rachel insists that she is different because they want her to quit. Ivy says Rachel will be caught, and so Rachel makes her first wish to not be caught. Rachel stops the cab and gets out and heads into a coffee shop with the leprechaun. Once inside, Ivy and Jenks follow. Ivy tries to talk Rachel out of it and then says she wants to quit with Rachel. This surprises Rachel, since Ivy has such a good career at I.S. Ivy offers Rachel protection from the vampires, since none of them would move against Ivy if Rachel gives Ivy one of her wishes. Jenks also wants a wish and will go to work with them. Pixies are independent contractors with I.S., and so Jenks has no contract to break. He wants a wish so that he and his wife won't be able to have any more children, since his wife has



offered to leave him over the large amount of children they have. Rachel is hesitant but finally agrees, and they shake hands as partners.

Chapter three begins with Rachel at work packing up her things. Her boss, Denon, had been very happy that Rachel had quit. He tells her that he had been trying to force her to quit for two long years. Denon recalls all the things that Rachel has had go wrong on her cases over the past two years and tells her that he sabotaged them all. Rachel is somewhat upset but is cleaning out her desk. Ivy goes into Denon's office and quits. He tells her that she can't quit and Ivy hands Denon a large amount of cash and tells him that this should be enough money to pay off the bounty he would have put out on her. Denon allows Ivy to leave and then comes to Rachel and informs her that she is going to pay for taking Ivy with her. Rachel tries to deny this but Denon doesn't care. He says that Rachel had better enjoy her paycheck as he slaps it down.

As Rachel stands stunned, a co-worker, Francis Percy, comes along and begins to torment Rachel about her predicament and explains that he is getting her case loads and has been promoted. As Francis turns to leave, he tells her that he is on a big case involving the illegal drug, Brimstone. Rachel tackles Francis, telling him she has nothing left to lose, and forces him to give up the name of the person who is said to be dealing. It is a very prominent businessman named Trent Kalamack. Rachel lets Francis go and begins to gather up her things. Before she touches her check, Jenks stops her and says that the check has been cursed with black magic and that Denon must have done it. Rachel uses salt water to dissolution the spell. As she leaves the building, she realizes that Denon was very serious about his death threat.

## Chapter 1-3 Analysis

Denon won't be seen again in the story, although he will be talked to and about several times. Denon has a very nasty temper and it would seem that whomever he works for has a temper as well. Francis will be seen several more times and his role in the story will be much more involved in the central plot that Rachel will soon find herself in. The name Trent Kalamack will be an important name. Trent won't be seen for several more chapters, but once he is seen he will prove to be the main antagonist in the story.

Ivy walked in and quit her job, costing her most of what she owned to do so. There is no reason given as to why Ivy was willing to quit her job and protect Rachel other than the fact that Ivy wanted a wish. Something is done with the wish but Ivy never reveals what it was.

Rachel will talk about her father a lot in the next several chapters. It seems as though she puts a lot of stock in what her father thinks. Later it will be seen that Rachel has trust issues and is slow to make friends or believe that anyone will be there for her. Despite this, she will eventually become close to both Ivy and Jenks.

Ivy is told by Denon that she doesn't have bad luck, that she has him. This explains a lot to Rachel, but doesn't change much. Ivy will tell Rachel several times what a good



runner she is, although Ivy and Rachel don't get along. With the bounty on Rachel's head, it will soon become clear just how hard it will be for her to switch mind sets. She is used to being the hunter but doesn't have anything together for her own defense. Rachel also talks early on in the story about how she just buys the charms that she needs, and she is worried about making many of the spells that are seen in the spell books because of how complex they are. Despite her anxiety about these things, Rachel will prove to be very efficient when put under stress.



# Chapter 4-8

## Chapter 4-8 Summary

In chapter four, Rachel reaches her apartment and finds that all of her things are in the hallway. Rachel goes to talk to her landlord, but the woman won't open the door because word has already spread that there has been a price put on Rachel's head. Rachel demands the security deposit she gave and the remainder of this month's rent. The woman tries to refuse, but Rachel says that she will stay right there and get blown up in the hall if she has to. When Rachel begins to explain about the blood stain it will leave, the woman writes out the check to Rachel and tells Rachel that she is spreading the word that Rachel is dangerous to be around. Rachel goes over to her things and Jenks stops her from touching them. Someone has already been to her apartment and has spelled everything she owns. Rachel knows that a lot of it can be dissolved in salt water but that getting wet is going to ruin a lot of her stuff. Jenks says he knows someone who can come and get the stuff and dissolution it for her. Rachel goes downstairs to wait in the lobby until she can see the bus. Rachel decides she will head to the building that Ivy has rented for them.

In chapter five, Rachel is on the bus. When people pass, a man bumps into her. Rachel jumps and tells herself to calm down. When Rachel gets off the bus she walks towards a house and a man on the porch tells her that she has the wrong place, that the place across the street is where she is looking for. The man, Keasley, is an older gentleman, and he shakes Rachel's hand and touches her shoulder. He sits down and tells her to be more careful. In his hand he has a small twig that was left on Rachel's shoulder that he throws into salt water. A puff of sulfuric smoke rises. Rachel remembers the man on the bus and feels foolish. Rachel goes across the street but stops when she realizes that Ivy has rented them a church. Rachel doesn't like living in the church but finds that one of the clergy had been a witch and left behind spell books and the garden is heavily planted in everything Rachel needs to make her own amulets and charms, since buying them at the store is dangerous with spells that can be aimed at no one but her. Rachel worries, knowing everything is going far too easily at this point.

Chapter six begins and Ivy and Rachel are talking. Rachel has none of her own clothes and so is wearing Ivy's. They are eating crunchy Chinese food and talking about family when Ivy gets up and walks into the living room. Rachel follows with her crunchy carrots. Ivy suddenly attacks Rachel. Rachel screams for Ivy to get off. Ivy is trying but has a hard time. Suddenly Ivy flees the room, leaving Rachel alone.

In chapter seven, it is the following day and Rachel is in the kitchen. Ivy comes in and says she is sorry and hands Rachel a book that is a dating guide for vampires. Rachel tries to refuse to take it, but Ivy explains that it is so Rachel will know what not to do so that Ivy won't be getting signals that trigger her instincts. Rachel agrees to take the book and then tells Ivy that she is going to try and prove that Trent is running Brimstone so



that she can turn him over to I.S. in exchange for the bounty being removed off her head. Rachel and Jenks get ready to head to the I.S. records vault.

In chapter eight, Rachel has disguised herself with a potion she has made. She and Jenks make it to the records vault, but once there find that Francis Percy is there, and he recognizes Rachel through her disguise. Rachel sends Jenks on in to look at what files Francis has been looking at and tells him to go home after he is done. Rachel is trying to figure out what to do when she is suddenly confronted by two Weres. Rachel heads to the back of the building and tries to run out the back door when a third Were who has been waiting throws a spontaneous combustion spell at her. Rachel dodges and runs back in and hides for a moment. Francis is still up front, and Rachel is able to grab Francis as a hostage and tells him that since he is a strong man and she is a little girl that the Weres will believe he is helping her and he should run for safety. Rachel and Francis run different directions. Rachel knows that the Weres won't enter holy ground and so she will be safe once home.

## Chapter 4-8 Analysis

There have been only spells up until this point. The attacks will become more and more dangerous for Rachel as the story continues. There will be other creatures sent after her as well. Rachel is smart but seems to do things on a spur of the moment basis rather than plan anything out to any amount of detail. This is one area where she and Ivy will highly disagree and differ from each other.

Ivy has given Rachel a book about vampire dating. For Rachel, this book will be a guide of what not to do, but it will quickly be seen that there are many humans that see Rachel reading this book and begin giving her advice on the techniques used. This will cause Rachel a great deal of discomfort. Ivy's motives aren't clear. She seems to care for Rachel in some respect, and Rachel is unnerved by Ivy. Ivy has sworn off blood. It is never stated whether or not a vampire could have a lover without drinking the blood, but Rachel isn't interested in Ivy regardless.

Jenks and his family have moved into the garden in the back yard. There is little mention of this at this point in the book. In the next few chapters it will become more and more obvious that it means more to them than Rachel seems to understand. Closer to the end of the book it will be shown what an enormous thing it is for a pixie to have anything to call his own. The laws of the land don't necessarily apply to pixies and fairies. The reasons for this aren't stated, but it is eventually explained that pixies and fairies are free to kill each other and have their wars and no one says anything.





# Chapter 9-12

## Chapter 9-12 Summary

As chapter nine begins, Rachel is looking through the spell book for a transformation spell. It is a very complex spell and some of the ingredients are hard or impossible to find without going to the store. Rachel eventually finds one for a rodent and decides that those are the easiest ingredients. Once turned into a rodent, she will sneak into the records vault and find whatever it was that Francis was looking at that Jenks had set aside. Ivy gives Rachel an owl pellet from one of her pets so that Rachel can use the hairs from that. Once the potion is done, Rachel goes out to get Jenks and they head back to the records vault. Rachel knows that Francis has an appointment with Trent for an interview and Rachel intends to go with Francis.

In chapter ten, Jenks and Rachel reach an alley before the records vault and Rachel transforms herself. The spell hurts badly and Rachel passes out.

In chapter eleven, Rachel comes to and finds everything is black and white. She is surprised to find that she is much larger than a rat. She is not a rat but a mink. Jenks and Rachel go into a vent and through the ventilation system until they reach the record room that Francis had been in. Rachel finds all the information on Trent Kalamack that Francis had been looking at. After seeing what little there is to see about the Kalamack family, Rachel decides to shred her file before they leave.

Chapter twelve begins with Rachel and Jenks arriving home off the bus. The next door neighbor, Kelsey, warns Rachel that once her assassins know she can slip past them so easily they will change their tactics. Before Rachel can reach her door, Jenks yells for her to hit the ground. She narrowly misses being hit with a deadly splat ball. Jenks and his kids go off into the bushes to fight with any of the fairies that have stayed behind but find none. Rachel knows that Denon is getting serious, because fairies are very expensive assassins. When Rachel goes inside, there is a vampire there that offers to break Rachel in. Ivy tells him to back off that Rachel is hers. When the vampire is gone, Rachel becomes furious and says she doesn't belong to Ivy. Ivy tries to explain that she only meant Rachel is under her protection, but Rachel doesn't believe her.

## Chapter 9-12 Analysis

Rachel is put on edge by Ivy. When they had worked together before with I.S., it seems that they must not have been extremely close to each other. For whatever reason, Ivy is not telling Rachel the full story. This will be one of the plots that will not be resolved in this story. Trent Kalamack hasn't been introduced yet into the story, but there is more and more information about his background that is being revealed. These are all pieces to the puzzle, but only when Trent is seen does his true nature and character begin to be shown.



When Rachel was willing to go into the records vault with little planning, it seemed to put Ivy on edge to some small degree. Later on, as the danger increases, Ivy will become more and more agitated at the thought of Rachel risking her life. It also seems that Ivy cares a great deal for Jenks, although she will show this in a very different way.

Rachel has read through some of the book that Ivy gave her and has realized that wearing a piece of clothing that belongs to the vampire, following them out of the room when they leave, talking about family and eating crunchy foods are all signals to give to a lover. Rachel seems to understand a little more of what is going on at this point but still is unable to completely distance herself from Ivy and the feelings that Ivy seems to have for her. When the other vampire showed up and Ivy had to intervene to help Rachel, it makes Rachel very angry to think that she can be controlled by any vampire in that manner. It will eventually be shown that Rachel's greatest fear is dying in Ivy's arms without a will to stop it.



# Chapter 13-17

## Chapter 13-17 Summary

Chapter thirteen begins with Rachel and Jenks waiting for Francis in the parking lot. When Francis arrives, Rachel is easily able to convince him to drive them by threatening to spell him. They drive for a time, but eventually Rachel and Jenks realize that Francis isn't going to cooperate at all, and so she puts a sleep potion on him and puts him in the trunk.

In chapter fourteen, Rachel reaches the Kalamack estate and claims to be Francine, explaining that the guy who makes the appointments hates her and so gives the wrong name all the time. She is let in and Jenks goes off with the intent of getting close to Trent to find out if he is human or Inlander. Once inside, Rachel is eventually taken to Trent's office. Rachel realizes that her cover has been blown and so she smiles to the camera on the wall and begins going through Trent's desk. Rachel finds disks labeled with diseases. Rachel takes one and puts it in her pocket as Trent walks in. He calls Rachel by her name and explains that he wasn't expecting her yet. He asks what she has on him and why she is interested in him. She says she was looking for evidence he was dealing Brimstone. Trent offers to pay off I.S. if Rachel will agree to work for him on one of his plantations. Rachel says she quit her job but not her morals and refuses the job offer. Jenks is brought in in a container and she is told she may leave and that Trent won't call the authorities. Before she leaves, Trent makes her give the disk back and Rachel realizes that he is more frightened of whatever is on those disks rather than Brimstone charges.

In chapter fourteen, Rachel tells Ivy what she has found out. Ivy says Rachel must be considered a threat and says she doubts however that Trent is into biodrugs as Rachel is suggesting. Rachel announces that she is going back the next night and Jenks says he is going with her. Ivy explains to Rachel how dangerous a biodrug runner could be if that is what Trent is in to, explaining that on top of that, Rachel and Jenks have no plan. Rachel says her plan is to go in as a mink. Ivy screams at them to go on and get killed as she leaves the room.

In chapter fifteen, Rachel wakes up with Ivy standing over her. Rachel punches Ivy in the stomach but Ivy whispers that there are fairies in the house. They were attacked, but Jenks and his kids were able to kill them. Jenks is badly hurt and Jenks's wife, Matalina, is brought in to take care of Jenks. Ivy tries to talk Rachel out of going to Kalamack's, but then Ivy says she will help because Rachel won't last another week if she can't get free of her bounty.

In chapter seventeen, Matalina is telling Jenks that he can't go with Rachel. Jenks is not well, but Rachel is surprised at how fast he has healed. Rachel tells Matalina that she will keep an eye on Jenks and that if she says for him to go home that he must go home that minute. Matalina finally agrees. Ivy goes and puts on a dress and holds a large



hand bag. The plan is for Ivy to have a mink and a pixie in her purse as she peruses the Kalamack gardens and then to forget her purse.

## Chapter 13-17 Analysis

Ivy is beginning to show more of herself to Rachel. It seems to almost be embarrassing for Ivy to admit that she cannot control some of the urges that she has. She is described by Rachel in terms of what makes her seemingly perfect. She still has a predator look about her in most of the descriptions, but Rachel has been thinking about the fact that Ivy's career at I.S. was perfect, that Ivy is beautiful and that Ivy's family is a prominent vampire family. Rachel often compares herself to Ivy. It seems as though Rachel feels less than Ivy physically and in other ways too. Despite this, Rachel will quickly become the leader of their group.

Jenks's wife has not been readily talked about up until this point in the book. As the story continues, it will become more clear to Rachel why Jenks used his wish to keep his wife. Matalina tells Rachel that she doesn't trust her. It is clear that Matalina really does care for Jenks. Matalina will never tell Rachel that she has learned to trust her, but it will seem to be implied later in the story.

The meeting with Trent was very revealing about the man in many ways. Rachel now knows that Trent is into much more than Brimstone. Despite this, Trent has very loyal followers and is quite deadly. He has no aversion to having someone killed, and as seen in the next few chapters, has no problem in killing someone himself. Rachel's plan to go in as a mink seems to be very smart in several ways, but it is soon seen that there is a lot that Rachel has not counted on. There is too much unknown about Trent Kalamack for anyone to be able to fully understand him as an adversary.



# Chapter 18-21

## Chapter 18-21 Summary

In chapter eighteen, Rachel and Jenks are in Ivy's handbag, headed for the gardens. The bag is left conveniently under a chair. When it is dark, Rachel and Jenks head toward Trent's home. They are easily able to find their way into Trent's home. They hide when Trent and his right hand man, Jonathan, walk by. Jenks is able to get a clear smell of both of them but says that neither one are anything that he recognizes, although they both smell the same. When Trent and Jonathan are gone, Rachel and Jenks go into the office. Rachel has time to briefly look things over before Trent comes in. Rachel hides under the desk and gives Jenks the signal to go home. Jenks leaves, but Trent soon realizes that Rachel is there and asks her to come out. Rachel attacks, trying to make her way to the door, but is grabbed and thrown down onto the desk. Rachel blacks out, feeling as though she must be dying.

In chapter nineteen, Rachel wakes up in a cage with an exercise wheel and pellets. Rachel is introduced as Trent's pet mink, Angel. Rachel soon hears someone announce that Francis Percy is there to see Trent. Francis walks in and begins to explain how Rachel subdued him. Rachel suddenly realizes that Francis has been working for Trent. Francis is obviously scared and Trent tells Francis that he has outlived his usefulness since the I.S. is watching him so closely. Trent dismisses Francis after Francis begs for a second change. Jonathan says they should cut Francis from the payroll but Trent says that he has other plans.

Chapter twenty begins with Trent's secretary Sara Jane feeding Rachel some of her left over lunch. Rachel has slept well over the past two days, realizing that here in a biodrug lord's office she is safe from the I.S. death threats. Suddenly a man enters Trent's office and they talk about Rachel. The man works for Trent regarding the biodrugs but is shocked to learn that Trent is intending to use Rachel in the rat fights. The man argues that it is a human and Trent suddenly begins asking about the man's daughter. The man realizes his family is being threatened and gets up to leave. Trent poisons the man and waits until he is dead. Once the man has stopped breathing, Trent calls Sara Jane to call the paramedics, claiming that a bee stung the man and he was allergic. Rachel realizes that Trent isn't just running the biodrugs, but that he is producing them, and that he has just killed a man in cold blood over it. Jonathan comes in and Trent gives Jonathan permission to torture Rachel. Trent says he will break Rachel one way or the other and that she will work for him. Rachel realizes that either she will die in the rat fights or at the hands of Jonathan.

In chapter twenty-one, Jonathan is torturing the mink in the cage when Sara Jane comes in to feed Rachel. When Sara Jane leaves, she says she is dizzy. When Trent comes in, he and Jonathan are talking about drugging 'her' and Rachel realizes that they drugged Sara Jane's food in order to drug Rachel. Rachel soon blacks out as she is put into a cage to go to the rat fights.



## Chapter 18-21 Analysis

The rat races are illegal, but when Trent arrives there it will be seen that there are a great many influential people there and that Trent has many contacts to talk to and business he can conduct while there. This doesn't seem to be shocking to Rachel. The rat fights are frightening to her but she decides two things. The first is that she won't kill for Trent. The second is that she won't give up and be killed by a rat. It is unknown at this point what she could do to escape her fate, but it is clear that she will have to think of something quickly.

In the next few chapters, Ivy and Rachel will continue to argue about plans. Rachel believes that Ivy plans the fun out of a situation. This seems to indicate that while Rachel does take her job seriously, there is also some excitement in it and she does enjoy what she does. Ivy, on the other hand, feels that Rachel wouldn't have been in situations, such as being a pet mink in a cage, if she had a back up plan for when things inevitably went wrong.

Trent says that Jonathan was much like Rachel is before Trent broke Jonathan. He says that Jonathan didn't even know he was being broken and that he would kill a person that suggested that Trent had done anything. It has been seen repeatedly that Jonathan seems to look out for Trent almost as a brother rather than a butler or assistant, but towards the end of the story it will be seen that Jonathan carries out all of Trent's orders. While at the rat fights, Jonathan's enjoyment at the blood sport will also be shown.



# Chapter 22-25

## Chapter 22-25 Summary

In chapter twenty-two, Rachel slowly wakes up and hears people talking. She knows that she is now already at the rat fights and that she is being entered by Trent. She is not put into the fights until later so that the drugs can have a chance to wear off. Before long, Rachel is thrown into a pit with a rat named Baron, who has fought and killed several rats already. Rachel dodges his first attack and kicks. Then she dodges another. She knows that she won't kill for Trent but that she doesn't want to be killed either. Rachel is trying to figure out what to do when Baron gets a hold of her nose but doesn't hurt her. After a moment Rachel realizes that Baron is a person, just like her. Baron realizes the same thing and they begin trying to communicate without drawing attention. Before long Rachel and Baron realize that both of them have to die in order to be free of their owners. After a confusing battle they both have a death grip on the neck and go down. The men go into the pit to retrieve the animals and both spring to life and run. Rachel is running when Jenks arrives and takes her to a kitchen where there is a hole under the sink. Rachel spells out for Jenks to get the rat and she continues to work on the small hole. When Jenks returns, there are dogs after them. Rachel and Baron are just barely able to get away into an underground tunnel just big enough.

Chapter twenty-three begins with Rachel eating everything she can find in the fridge and Baron taking a shower. Jenks had phoned Ivy, who had come and picked them all up on her bike. Rachel and Ivy agree that if he survived the rat fights that he must be a hunk. When he steps out of the shower Ivy mouths the word 'Geek', but Rachel disagrees. Barron's real name is Nick. He is human but was turned into a rat when he 'borrowed' a book from a vampire he was working for. The vampire gave him as a gift and his new owner thought it a good idea to make money off of him since he would be more intelligent than an average rat. Rachel begins to talk aloud about everything she learned while in his prison cage with Trent. Ivy advises her to be quiet around Nick since they both will be safer the less Nick knows. Rachel ignores her. Nick suggests that since I.S. might not be interested in helping Rachel that they should go to the FIB with what they know, since the FIB is human-run and will stop any kind of biodrugs since humanity was almost killed from the last biodrug created. Rachel says she has to go back to Trent's office to get the information about the next biodrug drop. Ivy is angry that Rachel would consider going back. Rachel says she is going to get a strong spell to help her and Nick says he can get her into the library at the university because he worked there before he was turned into a rat. Ivy is very suspicious of him.

In chapter twenty-four, Rachel, Nick and Jenks arrive at the University and make their way to the basement books where the black magic spell books are kept locked up. Nick knows where the spare key is hidden. Jenks stays outside to keep a lookout. Rachel stops before she goes in and asks Jenks if he is going to watch her back. Jenks assures her that he is. Rachel can't help but remember the way her father had died. While inside, Rachel and Nick only have a moment to look around when Jenks sticks



his head in and says that the amulet he has turned red but he can't see anything. Suddenly a demon dog appears and asks which of them is Rachel Mariana Morgan.

In chapter twenty-five, the demon dog attacks and Nick is quickly injured. Rachel tries to fight the beast off, but whenever she slices at it with her silver blade the thing dissolves into mist. It explains to her that it is supposed to make her die the worst death she can imagine and says it is clear she isn't afraid of dogs. The thing shifts into a man and pins her to the ground. It begins to try and remove her panties but she gouges its eyes. It screams in pain and then says that Rachel isn't afraid of being raped. The beast grabs her once again and asks about her deepest fear. Slowly the beast changes into Ivy and laughs, saying that this is a horrible death. The beast begins to bite Rachel over and over again.

Suddenly Nick is behind them and casts a spell that imprisons the beast in a circle of Nick's blood. Nick tells Rachel it is a demon and Jenks is sent to get Ivy before Rachel bleeds to death. Nick holds Rachel, trying to stop the bleeding from the multiple puncture wounds on the neck but is able to do little. The demon tells Nick that if Nick lets him go then he will go and kill the man that sent him to them and will take Rachel home so that she won't die. Rachel tells Nick not to do it but Nick is scared that Rachel will die. Slowly Nick rubs a piece of the blood circle away. The demon leans near Rachel and makes her sleep.

## Chapter 22-25 Analysis

Nick has shown here that he is resourceful but also that he knows more about the world of the Inlanders than the majority of humans do. Being able to capture a demon, even with a book, is something that most Inlanders can't do and most humans wouldn't be interested in. As the story continues, there will be more questions about Nick that will not be able to be answered. Nick and Ivy don't like each other but it is clear that they are very similar in some respects.

Rachel reveals a lot about her father in these chapters. The fact that she makes Jenks say out loud that he has her back is significant to Rachel and her character. When it was clear that Rachel was in trouble, there was no one she could turn to. Rachel knew Ivy before they both quit to go into business together, but there is no indication that they were friends. While living together, they are both constantly learning something new about each other. Rachel never makes a mention of any family or friends that she has from before this book began. It is clear that whatever happened to her father made enough of an impact on her that she is not willing to let her trust fall easily onto people. This is more to protect herself than for any other reason it seems.

The demon never says that it is going to go and kill any particular person, it only says the person who summoned it and sent it after Rachel. Rachel initially thinks it must be Demon. There is never an explanation as to who sent the demon, and in this book the demon won't be seen again. In the next chapter, the full extent of Nick releasing the



demon will be seen. It is something that will easily be carried on into other books, but the plot won't be concluded in this part of the series.



# Chapter 26-29

## Chapter 26-29 Summary

In chapter twenty-six, Rachel begins waking up and Nick has her home already and is explaining to Ivy and Matalina what has happened. Rachel is not lucid and has lost a lot of blood. Ivy says Rachel stinks of infection. Matalina suggest they take her to a hospital, but Rachel is lucid enough to refuse this, explaining that if she goes in then she won't be coming out. Matalina goes to get Keasley from next door. Jenks arrives and is outraged that Nick let the demon take them home. When Keasley arrives, Ivy goes to let him in and she tells Rachel to stay put. Rachel agrees but wonders if she could make it to the kitchen if she tried hard enough.

In chapter twenty-seven, Keasley and Matalina begin working on Rachel. Keasley and Matalina are working when Ivy comes and begins standing over Keasley. Soon he is forced to tell Ivy to go away because she is hovering. Ivy leaves in a huff. After a time, the wounds are better and Rachel begins to be lucid. Rachel tells Matalina that the garden spot can be her and Jenk's if they will do the upkeep on the plants. Matalina looks odd and thanks Rachel and then flies away. Keasley and Rachel have a minute alone, and he tells her that she has become the leader of this group and she should accept it rather than hold everyone at arm's length. Rachel says that she feels like she owes them because they have saved her life, but Keasley says that isn't the way it has happened and she mustn't see it that way. In regard to the demon, Keasley warns her that she has a choice to either let the wound on her hand fester forever and never fully heal or to accept to owe the demon a favor in return for taking her home. Keasley suggests she let it drip blood; however, he tells her that if she does agree to owe the demon then she can argue about the favor and what it will be, although the demon might try to argue this. Soon Jenks comes back in and says that Matalina is going crazy, crying happily, and asks what is going on. Rachel looks at a clock and realizes that she doesn't have much time to tell the FIB about Trent's biodrug shipment before it is scheduled to leave the airport.

Chapter twenty-eight has Rachel in the bathtub looking at the mark left on her wrist from the demon. Ivy and Jenks went to the FIB to tell them what they know about Trent. When she gets out of the tub, Nick says he knew the demon would want payment from him but didn't realize he would want it from Rachel as well. She says it is fine, and eventually she asks what she needs to do if she is going to accept the monster's offer. When she tells Nick that she does accept the offer, there is a sharp pain from her wrist. When Rachel gets the bandage off, she finds her wound completely healed with only an odd circular scar in the middle. While Nick and Rachel are eating, they get a call from Jenks explaining that Ivy hurt several of the policemen at the FIB after they tried to restrain her. Rachel and Nick get dressed to go and talk to the FIB.

In chapter twenty-nine, Rachel and Nick are in a cab and reach the FIB. Once inside, Rachel meets Captain Edden. They talk and Rachel relays what she knows of the



biodrugs, where they will be picked up and who is involved. Captain Edden asks Rachel if she would consider working as a consultant for the FIB. He explains that since they are human-run, then they often are left unknowing what they are dealing with, such as what was seen with the situation Ivy got into. Rachel agrees, with the understanding that if she gives them Kalamack, then the FIB will pay off her contract from Denon. Rachel is reluctant to make the deal but figures she has already made a deal with a demon and that this can't be much worse.

## Chapter 26-29 Analysis

Nick went into the library basement and seemed to know what he was looking for and was able to stop the demon with a book. It seems odd that he has so many skills for a simple librarian human. In the next set of chapters, it will also be explained that Nick had a bank account from before he was turned into a rat. This will prove to be enough money to put Nick back on his feet quickly. Rachel knows that he most likely didn't get this money from being a librarian but there is no indication that she ever confronts him about this. Many of Nick's actions will be questionable, to say the least.

Rachel is thick in it now and it seems that getting the bounty off her head is within her grasp. There is still a lot of steps to go through, and by this point in time Rachel is beginning to learn enough about Trent Kalamack that she has what no other investigator has been able to get on him. Information and knowledge about the way he moves and thinks. Trent is so willing to kill those who get in his way that it is obvious that he doesn't stand for any kind of threat, no matter how small. This alone should make Rachel just as worried about Trent as she is about the I.S.

It is clear after hearing Captain Edden talk that there is a great amount of competition going on between FIB and I.S. Despite this competition, when Edden calls Denon in the next chapters and tells him to drop the bounty on Rachel, it seems that Edden and Denon spend time with each other and are familiar with each other. Little is known about Captain Edden and it is possible that he is not necessarily a good person, but it is clear to Rachel that Edden doesn't like dirty cops and it will be shown that Edden is capable of keeping his word.



# Chapter 30-34

## Chapter 30-34 Summary

In chapter thirty, Rachel, Nick and Jenks are driving to the airport to stop Trent and his shipment of drugs. While on their way there, they call to stall the plane and learn that the plane has been stalled by I.S. Rachel is worried when she sees Francis Percy drive the other direction. Rachel tells Edden to turn everyone around and to follow Percy, who is headed to the bus stop. Edden is reluctant to turn his troops around but does as Rachel asks, letting her know that she is betting her own life on this gamble. When they reach the bus station, they see that Francis is heading to the baggage claim with what Rachel knows is the biodrugs. Rachel puts on a disguise charm and goes to slow Francis up until the other FIB agents can get there. Francis is irritated at the old woman pulling at him for a moment before he recognizes Rachel. He tries to run, but Rachel tackles him as Edden is yelling for them to stop. Suddenly there is an explosion and Rachel turns to find that three witch assassins are standing behind her.

In chapter thirty-one, Francis is killed and Rachel fills that she is responsible. She becomes angry, screaming that they made her kill them. She doesn't have the power that the other witches do and she charges the closest witch. They aren't expecting this since witches don't normally fight physically. Rachel is able to break three of his fingers before another attacks her with a spell. Rachel fights the other witch while Edden closes in and begins making arrests. Rachel leaves the witches and walks over to Francis's body. Rachel disliked Francis immensely but didn't believe he needed to die. Suddenly Rachel realizes he is breathing and she begins laughing at Francis. Rachel is still badly wounded and weak from her demon fight. She tries to stand up and passes out.

In chapter thirty-two, Rachel is back at the FIB headquarters where Francis is yelling that he needs protection but will give them everything they need to get Trent put away for life. Inside the case that Francis had been carrying is a load of tomatoes. The FIB agents stand shocked when Francis yells that the drugs are inside of them. Rachel squishes one and a vile is inside. Rachel realizes that humans have an aversion to tomatoes since it was a tomato that carried the virus that nearly wiped humanity out. Trent had put his drugs in something that no human would touch but looked normal regardless. Edden calls Denon for Rachel and has the contract dropped on her. After Edden has hung up, there is an explosion outside. Rachel and the others run outside to where Francis was being loaded and find the van engulfed in flames. Across the street, Rachel sees Jonathan. Trent is in a black car. Trent is badly injured and is covered in bandages and makes eye contact with Rachel as he leaves. Edden admits that there is little chance that they can find anything on Trent now with Francis dead.

In chapter thirty-three, Rachel is planing another trip to Trent's home. She doesn't want him to go to jail any longer but is hopeful that she can find something that will force him to leave her alone. Rachel and Ivy had planed out a detailed scheme of how to get in and out and what to do if something went wrong. Nick helped Rachel and Jenks get



onto the estate. Rachel is able to get a disk from Trent's office but is caught by Trent once again. He tells her that there was a demon sent after him and is obvious to Rachel he believes she did it. It is only now that Rachel realizes that both she and Trent had been targeted by what is most likely the same person. Rachel is forced to give the disk back. He tells her that he is going to give her a ten minute head start before he starts hunting her. Rachel turns to run and there is a gun shot. Rachel runs and Jenks directs her. Rachel is about to fall to pieces when she finally hits a main road and Ivy is there waiting for her with a bike. They ride off. Rachel turns to see Trent saluting her.

In chapter thirty-four, Rachel is at home having a barbecue with Ivy, Jenks and his family, Nick, and Keasley. When Keasley shows up, he has a package for Rachel that came while she wasn't home. Ivy grabs the package, announcing that Rachel can open her own mail when Trent stops sending her messages. Inside the package is Rachel's pinky ring. Trent had broken in and taken it just to prove he could. Rachel sees the message says that if she decides she does want to work for him to just call. Ivy warns Rachel to let it go. Rachel keeps a straight face and announces that he won't get away with this. She says she is going to break back into his house and steal his glasses and then mail them to him on his birthday. Ivy becomes inflamed that Rachel would go back when Rachel and the others began to laugh. Ivy gets very quiet when she realizes that it was all a joke. Rachel is happy that the steaks are about done and decides that everything else can wait until later.

## Chapter 30-34 Analysis

The main plot in this story was resolved in terms of Rachel being able to quit I.S. and have the bounty removed. She didn't get focused on the new business she was starting but it seems that the situation helped her to put together a team in a very quick manner. It is clear that these characters could all easily return in the other books that will be in the series. There is a relationship that seems to be growing between Nick and Rachel but there is nothing that is ever definitively stated about their feelings or if they are actually seeing each other more than just a casual date. Nick has a lot he has not explained, and to some extent Rachel doesn't seem to want to know about it at this point. She appears to be so concerned with simply staying alive for the majority of this book that when Jenks says something, Rachel stops him and asks that he please not tell her anything foul that Nick is into.

None of the questions surrounding Ivy have been explained either. There is the question of why she wants to be with Rachel so much and what Ivy did with her wish. Jenks has hid little from anyone, but it seems that he has grown to assume the role of a type of guardian or perhaps a conscience for Rachel. It seems clear that these characters will be with Rachel in at least one other book in the series.

The question of who Trent is, what he is creating the biodrugs for and why he wants Rachel are also questions that haven't been answered. Trent and Jonathan both seem to be the same type of creature but there is never an answer as to what they are. At the end of the story, Trent tells Rachel he knows that she sicced a demon on him. This



confuses Rachel, because she had assumed that it was Trent that had sent the demon after her. Since there may have been two demons, Rachel isn't sure who is responsible for having conjured the demon or demons. It is possible that Trent has lied to Rachel about this, but there is no reason for Trent to lie that is easily seen.

One of the things Rachel seems to fight with is relationships and her ability to trust people. By the end of the book, it is seen that she is looking at those in her house as a family and friends. In many ways, this seems to against what her father had been teaching her. The exact circumstances surrounding her father's death isn't explained in this book either.



# Characters

## Rachel Mariana Morgan

Rachel Mariana Morgan is the main character in the story, and the point of view comes solely from this character. Rachel is a witch who is working for I.S., Inlander Security, as a runner. Rachel has been getting horrible jobs to do and decides that she will quit I.S. and go out on her own. Her plans are complicated when her boss decides to punish Rachel when another runner, Ivy, decides to quit with Rachel. Rachel is quickly seen to have trust issues. It is rather understandable why Rachel is wary of Ivy, since Ivy is a vampire and always has some hunger from blood, but it becomes clear in the story that Rachel's trust issues go much deeper than could be explained quickly. Rachel often refers to her father and the fact that he died. Over the course of the story, it will slowly be revealed that Rachel's father was killed because he depended on someone to watch his back and that this person didn't. When her father lays dying, he tells Rachel to work alone. Despite this warning, it becomes obvious that Rachel needs help due to the depth of the trouble she is in.

Rachel is feisty and it is clear that this helps her greatly in her job as a runner, but the same things that make her a great runner also add to what makes her reckless and at times get her in trouble. Rachel will fight against Ivy often in the story because Ivy demands on having everything thought out in painstaking detail. When Rachel is in the middle of her actions, it is often shown that she has an adrenalin rush and Rachel is aware when this rush wears off. This adrenalin rush may be part of the reason that Rachel sees no reason to plan things out since she seems to feed on this rush to some small degree.

Rachel is a practicing witch but believes in doing things the legal and moral way. It is seen that there is more to Rachel than simply being a witch. Rachel is attacked by three witches, assassins, and Rachel physically attacks them. This throws them off and they are defenseless for a moment because witches don't think along these lines. This helps to show Rachel's resourcefulness and ability to think on her feet.

## Ivy Tamwood

Ivy is a vampire who had worked as a runner with Rachel years earlier. When Rachel announces that she is quitting, Ivy says she wants to go with Rachel. The real reason that Ivy wants to quit with Rachel is never explained. Ivy is a very powerful vampire with a very powerful family. She is smart and very calculating. There are many things about Ivy that are confusing to Rachel, who knows that Ivy has a good career and doesn't understand why Ivy would want to quit.

Despite Ivy's obvious power and abilities, it becomes obvious that Ivy is seemingly fearful of something. Ivy will never explain what it is that she is scared of. Ivy is a living



vampire, and so she still has a soul and is slightly less powerful than a dead vampire. Ivy has sworn off 'practicing', which simply means that she doesn't drink blood from a living host. Although she has not had any blood in the last three years, she still craves it badly, and becoming roommates with Rachel causes clear problems for them both. The fear that Rachel has of Ivy makes Ivy angry.

Although she seems to be mainly angry at the front of the book, by the end of the story it is clear that Ivy's emotions come off as anger when she is worried or concerned for Rachel.

## Trent Kalamack

Trent is a very powerful man and the main antagonist in the book. Many of the characters in the story spend a great deal of time both trying to figure out how to catch Trent in his illegal activities and figure just what Trent is. People can be easily identified as human, vampire, witch, or one of the other creatures, but Trent is the exception to the rule and he will claim no background. Trent is known by Rachel to be a killer and is also a dealer in biotechnology and illegal Brimstone.

Trent is able to capture Rachel while she is in the form of a mink. Trent takes Rachel to an illegal rat fight while she is a mink and Rachel is able to escape with another captured human who is transformed. Someone sends a demon to attack Trent but it is never explained who it is. Trent tries to have Rachel killed but then backs off, believing her to be a worker of black magic.

## Jenks

Jenks is a pixie who is Rachel's backup. Rachel gives Jenks a wish from her leprechaun and Jenks uses it to wish he was sterile so that his wife won't leave him. Jenks has a wonderful sense of smell and can tell what kind a creature a person is by their smell. Jenks knows that Ivy no longer is a practicing vampire but that she was at one point in time due to her smell. Jenks fights off the fairies and saves Rachel's life more than one time.

## Nick Sparagmos

Nick isn't introduced until the second half of the book. Rachel meets Nick while she is transformed into a mink and Nick is a rat. They are both thrown into a pit to fight till the death but are able to escape. Although he doesn't have to, Nick stays to help Rachel after the escape. Nick is able to save Rachel from a demon and makes a deal with the demon to take them home. Nick doesn't realize at the time, but the demon will be owed a favor for the demon's help. This leaves a mark on Rachel that most don't recognize but Rachel knows the demon will come to collect.





## Francis Percy

Francis is a warlock that recently became a witch. Francis hates Rachel and is very glad to see her gone. Rachel soon learns that Francis is working for Trent Kalamack running brimstone and biotechnology. Francis is arrested and decides to tell all he knows about Trent but is killed while under police custody.

## Johnathan

Johnathan is Trent's right hand man. Much like Trent, no one is sure what Johnathan is in regards to being human or something very different. While Rachel is a mink, Johnathan torments her continually by poking her with a stick and hitting her cage. When Francis is killed, Rachel finds Johnathan standing nearby, watching. Trent tells Rachel that Johnathan used to be a slave but he was broken by Trent and didn't even realize it was happening and now Johnathan would kill anyone that suggested that Trent had done something to him.

## Denon

Denon is Ivy and Rachel's boss at I.S. When Rachel comes in and announces that she is quitting, Denon is very happy and tells her that he has been trying to get her to quit for two years. Denon explains that he has sabotaged all of Rachel's assignments in that period of time so that she would appear incompetent and would leave. Denon puts a hit out on Rachel when he realizes that she is leaving with Ivy.

## Keasley

Keasley is an older man that lives across the street from the church where Ivy and Rachel live. Rachel first meets Keasley when she mistakenly thinks his house is the place that Ivy has rented for them. Keasley reveals himself to be a witch and helps heal Rachel when she is nearly killed by the demon while at the library. Keasley doesn't take payment from Rachel for his help but he tells her that later on he will need her trust and it may be a high price.

## Matalina

Matalina is Jenk's wife. She doesn't trust Rachel at front and tells Rachel this. Rachel quickly grows to like Matalina. It is Matalina who helps to stitch up Rachel when she is injured by the demon. Rachel gives the garden to Matalina and Jenks if they will agree to keep the upkeep on the herbs in the garden.

## **Edden**

Edden is the detective working for the FIB. He agrees to pay off Rachel's bounty if she will help him get Trent. Edden says that he will hire Rachel and her company from time to time and pay them for their help in working with non-humans.



# Objects/Places

## The Hollows

The Hollows is where much of the story takes place. It is located across from Cincinnati. It is in the Hollows that Rachel is forced to live in an abandoned church after she is evicted from her house when her landlord learns that Rachel has had a bounty put on her head.

## Church

Ivy finds a church for them to rent. It is supposed to be their office but Ivy, Rachel and Jenks and his family wind up living there. The church has a large kitchen with two stoves which makes Rachel happy, since she will have a place to brew her potions. The church lays on a ley line which Rachel can draw power off of for her spells.

## Charms

Rachel has several charms that do various things. She makes several more later in the story thanks to the books left in the Belfry when the parishioner who was also a witch moved out. Rachel had been using the charms to apprehend criminals, and she quickly finds that most of them are useless for a defense if you are the hunted. Rachel gives one of her charms to Francis Percy when he is arrested to help save him from Trent, although it doesn't help.

## Tomatoes

Tomatoes are considered a vile thing to humans. It was from a tomato that the virus emerged that wiped out most of humanity. Although the tomatoes that are left are not harmful to humans, most won't touch them for any reason. Trent is smuggling biotechnology inside the tomatoes, realizing that humans will not inspect the tomatoes since there is a deep seated fear around them.

## Brimstone

Brimstone is a mind altering drug that Rachel often arrested people for while she worked for I.S. Brimstone is another illegal industry that Trent has tapped into but that no one can catch him at. Rachel is offered a job with Trent and she suspects that it is work helping to produce the brimstone.



## Biodrugs

Biodrugs have been outlawed after such experiments produced the Angel virus that killed off most of humanity. Trent is producing and selling biodrugs, which is illegal and most humans fear it. It is said in the book that while dealing brimstone gets you put in jail, dealing with biodrugs will get you burned at the stake. Trent moves his biotechnology by having vials that are hidden inside tomatoes.

## Mink

Rachel transforms herself into a mink with a home-made transformation spell. Rachel gets the hair from an owl pellet. When Rachel first transforms herself, she is shocked to find that she is a mink and not a mouse. While in the form of a mink, Rachel will break into I.S. records vault and then later into Trent's home. While in this form, she will be captured by Trent with no way to undo the spell without salt water. Rachel is forced to fight in a rat pit when she refuses to work for Trent.

## Demon

Rachel is confronted by a demon while in the library of the university looking for a spell. The demon is able to look deep within Rachel and find what death would scare her the most, which is dying at Ivy's hands. The demon almost kills Rachel but is stopped by Nick. Nick agrees to let the demon go if it will take them home so that Rachel can have a chance to live. Nick doesn't realize that by allowing the demon to take them home, he and Rachel will both owe the creature a favor, which leaves a scar that other witches and those that know about demons can recognize.

## Pixie Dust

The pixie dust that Jenks and his family have seems to have multiple purposes. This dust can be used to slow bleeding, and Matalina seems to use it often when helping to work on Rachel and Jenks's wounds. Jenks also uses this dust to detect certain traps, and the dust can be thrown at someone and create horrible itching rashes on the person.

## Ley Line

There is a ley line that lies right under the church that Rachel and Ivy are living in. The ley line is used by some witches often, but the ley line connects the witch to the ever-after where the demons live. Rachel doesn't want to use this power much but she does use it when she feels it is necessary.

## **Inlanders**

This is the term that refers to the non-humans that have come out into the open after the Angel virus nearly wiped out humanity. Inlanders include witches, vampires, leprechauns, weres and other creatures.



# Themes

## Good Versus Evil

There are several different plots in the story that show a fight between good and evil. The most obvious fight of good versus evil is seen between that of Rachel and Trent. Rachel isn't an absolute saint. It is quickly seen that she has faults and that she is flawed in many respects. Despite this, she has morals and standards that she believes to be true and right. It is these morals and standards that help to drive Rachel and her decisions. Trent seems to have no conscience at all. Anything that Trent wants or feels like doing, he seems to act on with little or no regard of anything or anyone that might get hurt. Rachel is kept as his prisoner for some time. It is unclear at first why he is keeping her locked up. There is a faint glimmer of hope that Trent may be keeping her locked up because he is going to help in some way or perhaps he is kind in some respect. This is quickly dismissed when Trent kills another man after calmly, and discretely, threatening the man's daughter. Rachel is appalled and often comments how perplexing Trent is. She explains that he is both beautiful and frightening all at the same time. Despite the fact that they will battle with each other in one way or another for the entire book, it is clear that they respect each other for multiple reasons at the same time.

Another way that good versus evil is seen is in Ivy. She too is like Trent in that she is monstrous and lovely all at the same time. The difference between the two is the paths that they choose. Ivy wants badly to be good and to keep her soul intact. She doesn't want to feed on people. She doesn't refuse this because it isn't a desire. Ivy explains that she still wants blood. It is because she believes it to be wrong and she doesn't want to be a monster. There are times in the story when Ivy seems to be at war with the two conflicting sides of her emotions and the world that she is living in and the feelings that she is going through.

## The Need for Friends

There is never an introduction in the story to characters that Rachel seems to have close relations with. The only people that are seen from Rachel's past are those that she works with. Her father is mentioned several times in the story. It is known that Rachel was only about thirteen when he died, she recalls this close to the end of the story when a FIB agent, also a father of a thirteen-year-old, is killed while trying to take Francis Percy in for his statement. Rachel explains over the course of the story that her father died because he trusted someone to watch his back and that person failed. Rachel is told by her father while he lays dying to never work with anyone, to always work alone. It seems very likely that this kept Rachel segregated from close relationships.



Rachel has trouble letting her trust fall to anyone and she is always certain that she must be on guard. This will insult Ivy to some degree. It isn't until much later in the story that Rachel is able to voice some of her fears to Jenks when he is set outside the door to keep watch. Later Rachel realizes that if no one else in the world cares if she lives or dies, at least Ivy cares. This seems to give Rachel a lot of comfort. Eventually, she grows to truly call this small group of people friends, and they seem to be a type of family although they have extreme differences. The need for friends and people you can trust is something that Rachel has to come to terms with emotionally since it seems to make her feel vulnerable.

## The Quest for Power

Power is a very simple driving force that is quickly seen in this story. There are two readily seen quests for power. The first is that of Rachel in her quest to rid herself from working for I.S. and then from the price that has been put on her head by her old boss at I.S. The kind of power that Rachel is looking for is leverage more than it is anything else, but she must look for spells and hone her own skills in this quest. The second readily seen quest for power is that of Trent Kalamack. Trent seems to believe himself above the law. He doesn't worry about the fact that anything he does is illegal. He takes part in dealing the illegal drug brimstone, takes part in the outlawed practice of biotechnology, kidnaps Rachel, is seen to kill one person in the story and is thought to have killed two others, although there is no concrete evidence in those cases. Trent is a very powerful man who is constantly looking for more power. After Rachel breaks into his house several times, he breaks into her house and takes her pinky rig and then mails it back. He does this only to prove that he can.

There are other quests for power that take place in the story. Many of these won't be answered because the story is a series and they are seemingly left open for the next books that will follow. There is a clear quest for power shown by Rachel's old boss, Denon. The reason that he wants power isn't fully seen, but Ivy explains that while Denon is frightening to many, he is being used by others more powerful than he is. For this reason, Denon is afraid and wishes to have more power. There is also a quest for power seen in Francis Percy. Francis agrees to work for Trent Kalamack in order to get more prestige and power. This backfires when Francis is caught smuggling Trent's illegal biotechnology. There are many other quests for powers that are seen in the book in addition to these few.



# Style

## Point of View

The point of view in the story is written in first person in past tense. The point of view in the story will come only from Rachel. The point of view is limited to what Rachel has direct knowledge of. Despite the limited point of view, Rachel is very perceptive and what she perceives of people and situations is explained in detail. This will often relay any needed information. The story will focus highly on the plot surrounding Rachel leaving her I.S. job and the dealing of illegal biotechnology. While this is the main focus of the story, there will also be a lot of focus on the emotional growth of Rachel. She will spend much of the story being uneasy and unable to befriend anyone to the degree needed for a lasting relationship. The death of her father weighs heavily on her and is often what she refers to mentally. Much of the story will be focused on her emotional growth, and the ways that her growth is relayed is through her inner dialog.

This book is a part of a series and there has been a whole world created for this series. For this reason, Rachel will often seem to lapse into daydreams that will explain what has happened to bring the world to the point it is at. There will be times when the story focuses heavily on dialog but also times when there will be nothing more than Rachel's inner thoughts and observations to explain what is happening.

## Setting

The story takes place in the city of Cincinnati. The main part of the city that is focused on is a place referred to as The Hollows. It is here where Rachel goes to live after she is evicted from her apartment after her landlord learns that Rachel has a price on her head set by I.S. In this fictional world that author Kim Harrison has created, there are many mythical creatures. Most of these creatures are easily understood, such as humans and leprechauns. There are many other creatures that, while their titles are familiar, the creatures are unique in their attributes that they have been given. The world is made up of just as many Inlanders as it is humans. The Inlanders are the name given to those that are witches, vampires, werewolves and other creatures.

The majority of humanity was wiped out when humans were experimenting with biotechnology. A virus got out in a tomato and killed off a great amount of humanity. Non-humans survived for the most part. Some got the flu while others had no symptoms at all. The exception is that of elves which had interbred with humans and were just as susceptible to the virus. The elves are now extinct.

The setting is rather intricate and so much of the story is spent giving a background to the way that the world now runs. There are rivalries going on between pixies and fairies and between some of the human population and Inlanders. The reason for much of this





is understandable, and although there was never any war, the tension sometimes seems to be that of people that have recently battled.

## Language and Meaning

The language in the story is fairly easy to understand and the characters stick out. They talk differently from each other, which helps in identifying who is speaking. Some, such as Jenks, will appear to have a very strong accent and unique words that they use. Some of the characters, such as Ivy, will speak much more formally. This is due in part to the age of some of the creatures. The vast majority of the average characters will speak in a very easily understood manner, but the author has created a unique world, and so there are words that will have unique meaning, or be unique, to this work. Early on in the story, Rachel smells brimstone. There is no explanation at that moment why it is noteworthy that she smells brimstone. Later on she explains that Brimstone is a mind altering drug and that they work very hard to try and bring down anyone who is thought to be a dealer. Biodrugs is also looked at in the story since it has been outlawed. One is not allowed to look for treatment of diseases, such as Huntington's, Alzheimer, cancers or others. This is because biotechnology is blamed for the near extinction of the human race that happened just a few short years earlier. There is never a discussion about the subject, but it seems that the general consensus is that it is better that a few die from diseases rather than risk a second virus be created to finish killing off humanity.

In addition, there is also talk of the FIB, Federal Inlander Bureau, and I.S., Inlander Security. The explanation for these two organizations is that they are what polices the world now that the non-humans have come out to live in normal society. The FIB is run by humans and the I.S. by non-humans, or Inlanders. Despite the vast information that is given and the new language, the meanings are often easily understood when taken into context.

## Structure

The story consists of 416 pages and is divided into thirty-four chapters. These chapters vary slightly in length but will all be about the same. The chapters will either note a change in setting or will end with the introduction of a significant event. The structure is easily followed and makes the book easy to read. There is no table of index in the book to label the chapters, and the chapters are only numbered without any words or titles to indicate what will be found in that chapter.

This story is part of a series and so many of the plots will be left open until the next book. In *Dead Witch Walking*, Rachel is working to get the price taken off of her head while she tries to get Trent imprisoned for dealing in Biodrugs. Rachel is able to get her bounty removed but Trent is able to walk away free. It seems that this is a plot that may be revisited in the next books. Also, there is a question of the demon mark that Rachel will eventually have to look at repaying for the rush trip home. It is unclear if Rachel will continue to live with Ivy, but they seem to be growing on each other. If Ivy is seen again

in other books, it is possible that much of Ivy's life could be plots that are finished in other books.



## Quotes

"This was insulting. I had been with the I.S. for three years-seven if you counted my four years of clinicals-and here I was, doing intern work." Chap. 1, p. 6

"Ivy possessed both the vamp virus and a soul, caught in the middle ground until she died and became a true undead." Chap. 1, p. 11

"Rumor had it the I.S. had been the one to put the price on his head for breaking his thirty-year contract." Chap. 1, p. 19

"It had been almost forty years since a quarter of humanity died from a mutated virus, the T4 Angel." Chap. 3, p. 37

"It looked like Denon was serious about his death threat. Absolutely swell." Chap. 3, p. 50

"Generally, though, apart from a small section around the university, humans lived in Cincinnati and Inlanders lived across the river in the Hollows." Chap. 5, p. 59

"If I can prove Trent is dealing in Brimstone and give him to the I.S.,' I said, 'they'll forget about my contract.'" Chap. 7, p. 91

"But what scared me almost as much was the thought that I might have to make and use a black spell to keep myself alive." Chap. 9, p. 108

"You were jailed for running Brimstone. But you were staked, burned and scattered for running biodrugs." Chap. 14, p. 170

"I wasn't sure if it horrified me more that Trent was flirting with the same technology that wiped out half the world's population, or that he was blackmailing people with it, threatening their loved one." Chap. 20, p. 235

"Trent caught you red-handed, and instead of turning you in, he put you in the city's rat fights to try and break you so you'd agree to work for him?" Chap. 23, pp. 262- 263

"Demons don't do anything for free,' he said. 'You owe it a favor.'" Chap. 27, p. 325

"Running my finger across the print, I read aloud, 'TK seeking to reopen communication with RM concerning possible business venture.'" Chap. 33, p. 395

"Someone had called two demons-one for me, one for him-and it hadn't been anyone at the I.S." Chap. 33, p. 405

"A vamp, a human, and a posse of pixies were an odd sort of family, but it was good to be alive in the night with my friends." Chap. 34, p. 410

"Trent had taken the ring from my sleeping finger for one reason only. To prove he could." Chap. 34, p. 414



## Topics for Discussion

Describe Rachel's personality. What traits does she have that make her a good runner? What traits hinder her? Explain.

Describe Trent Kalamack. Speculate on the possible reasons why no one can figure out if Trent is an Inlander or a human. What reasons would he have for keeping this information hidden?

Explain the relationship that exists between humans and Inlanders. Explain the reasons for this relationship.

Why does Trent insist on keeping Rachel alive rather than simply killing her while he has her trapped as a mink? Explain your answer.

Compare Ivy and Rachel. Speculate on the reasons that Ivy chose to quit I.S. to begin working with Rachel.

Matalina tells Rachel at one point in the book that she doesn't trust Rachel. Does Matalina feel differently by the end of the story? Explain your answer and what evidence is given to support your opinion.

There was a demon sent after Trent and after Rachel. Speculate on which characters in the story would have had the resources and inclination to use demons. Explain your answer.

Describe the differences between I.S. and the F.I.B. What is gathered about these organizations and their rules that putting a bounty on former employees is an acceptable practice? Explain.