

Eclipse Study Guide

Eclipse by Cate Tiernan

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Plot Summary

"Eclipse" by Cate Tiernan is the twelfth book in the Sweep series. When Morgan's birth father sends a dark wave to her town because she refuses to join him in his evil magick, Morgan, Hunter, and Daniel try to find a way to counter the destructive force. They find their solution in Alisa who has just discovered that she is a half witch with significant powers. "Eclipse" is an engaging novel that emphasizes the good that can be accomplished by overcoming one's fears.

During Kithic's Saturday circle, Ciaran, Morgan's evil birth father, appears to warn Morgan that he wants to talk to her. When Morgan and Hunter, her boyfriend and the leader of Kithic, cry for Morgan, they see a vision of an approaching dark wave, a powerful force of destruction, being sent to Widow's Vale. The next day, Morgan acquires an odd green-covered Book of Shadows from Practical Magick. Though Alisa, a local girl who is friends with Morgan's younger sister Mary K, is afraid of Morgan's uncontrollable powers, she is drawn to the Book of Shadows and steals it from the Rowlandses' house. When Alisa learns that the Book of Shadows belonged to her mother, Sarah Curtis, she realizes that she is half-witch. Devastated at the idea, she turns to Morgan for support. Ciaran visits Morgan and asks her to join him, but she refuses so he tells her that there will be penalties, alluding to the dark wave.

Meanwhile, Daniel believes he can create a spell to counter the dark wave, but the witch who performs the spell will likely die from their proximity to the dark wave which is already causing all the witches in Widow's Vale to feel ill. Though Alisa finds peace at Kithic's circle, she notices that Hunter and Morgan seem extremely sick. Since Morgan will not tell Alisa what is going on, Alisa questions Hunter and learns about the oncoming dark wave and Daniel's attempt at a counter spell. She realizes that the dark wave does not affect her as strongly since she is only half witch so she offers to learn the spell, suggesting that she may be able to survive the dark wave if she casts the spell. Daniel and Hunter begin coaching her.

As Alisa practices the Nal Nithrac spell to defeat the dark wave, Morgan feels guilty that everyone is in danger because of her relationship with Ciaran, so she convinces Ciaran to meet her at the local power sink. Ciaran tries to persuade Morgan to join him, insisting that she is too powerful to stand in opposition to him, but when she refuses, Ciaran is furious and puts a binding spell on Morgan. Morgan breaks Ciaran's concentration, uses his true name to force him to release her and places a binding spell on Ciaran before calling Hunter and Daniel for help. When Hunter and Daniel arrives, Morgan explains what has happened, so Hunter calls three additional witches to help strip Ciaran of his powers while Morgan convinces her half-brother, Killian, to come to Widow's Vale to take responsibility for Ciaran's care after his powers are stripped. Morgan feels guilty for stripping Ciaran of his powers, but she is relieved that the dark wave is no longer a threat.

Several days later, Morgan and Hunter still feel sick. When Morgan notices that a plant that has recently died, they realize that Amyranth, Ciaran's coven, is still sending the



dark wave to Widow's Vale, so they call Alisa. Though Alisa is not ready to perform the Nal Nithrac spell on her own, Hunter has an idea; Alisa performs the spell at the power sink while Morgan and Daniel maintain a mental connection to her from a distance, allowing Daniel to coach Alisa through Morgan. Although it is difficult, Alisa manages to cast the spell and defeat the dark wave. All of them are very happy that they defeated the dark wave. Alisa accepts her status as a half witch and plans to learn more about using her powers, while Morgan is simply happy that she is now able to look forward to the future now that Ciaran and the dark wave no longer present a threat.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

"Eclipse" by Cate Tiernan is the twelfth book in the Sweep series. When Morgan's birth father sends a dark wave to her town because she refuses to join him in his evil magick, Morgan, Hunter, and Daniel try to find a way to counter the destructive force. They find their solution in Alisa who has just discovered that she is a half witch with significant powers. "Eclipse" is an engaging novel that emphasizes the good that can be accomplished by overcoming one's fears.

Morgan arrives at Ethan's house with Bree and Robbie for their regular Saturday night circle. The circles have been different lately since Hunter has been in Canada, and though he has finally returned, Morgan is upset that her soul mate kissed another woman and also found a book written by one of her ancestors, Rose MacEwan, recounting the creation of the dark wave, one of the most destructive forces imaginable. Twenty minutes later, everyone in Kithic, Morgan's coven, is assembled, and Morgan is happy as everyone welcomes Hunter's return. He has just spent two weeks in Canada during which he found his long-estranged father, Daniel. Hunter sets the circle and raises their power, but just as Morgan is filled with the love and joy of the group, her birth father, Ciaran MacEwan appears in front of her without warning, announcing he has forgiven Morgan for betraying him to the council the last time they met, but now that he has removed the watch sigil she placed on him, he plans to visit her because he has questions for her. Morgan passes out when Ciaran disappears, and when she comes to and tells Hunter that she had a vision of Ciaran, Hunter calls it a night, assuring the others that he will make sure Morgan gets home. At Hunter's house which is safer since it is spelled and protected, Morgan repeats Ciaran's message to Hunter. Unfortunately, Daniel is staying with Hunter, but Morgan dislikes Daniel because he is reserved around her, and she wonders if his treatment results from her relation to Ciaran.

When Daniel joins Hunter and Morgan, Hunter tells Morgan that his father has been reading Rose's diary in hopes of finding clues to create a spell to disband a dark wave. Morgan hopes he is successful because she hates the fact that her blood relative created such an evil spell. When Morgan and Hunter decide to scry for Ciaran, Morgan sees a vision of black, choking smoke and her birth mother's image, causing her to wonder if she will suffer the same fate as her mother at Ciaran's hands. After they finish, Hunter explains that the smoke was a dark wave, and Morgan worries that the dark wave is coming for her, but Hunter reminds her that scrying can be unpredictable. The next day, Hunter and Morgan go to Practical Magick, Alyce's occult bookstore. Hunter is upset because the council will not tell him what is going on, but he assures Morgan that his father will grow to trust her when she worries that Daniel does not trust her. At Practical Magick, Morgan finds a Book of Shadows bound in a green cover which Alyce gives her.



Chapter 1 Analysis

Chapter 1 begins with a quote from Susanna Garvey, Cumberland, England, from "A Brief Colloquial History of Cumberland" by Thomas Franklinton, 1715 about the hand of God sweeping away heathen witches and their village being leveled and burned to the ground. The first chapter serves to introduce Morgan, one of the narrators and protagonists. It also explains some vague background information such as the implication that Morgan is a witch, that her ancestor practiced dark magic, and that her boyfriend, Hunter, has just returned from a trip to Canada during which he kissed another woman. Not only is Hunter the love of her life, he knows more about Wicca and magick than she can imagine learning. Hunter uses chalk to draw a perfect circle on the carpet, placing goblets holding representations of the four elements, earth, water, fire and air, in the four directions. Casting the circle, he dedicates it to the Goddess and God, invoking them to hear Kithic. Joining hands, the coven raises their power, and Morgan is filled with joy and love as they think of the rebirth that spring brings. With no warning, Ciaran MacEwan, her birth father, appears in front of her, causing Morgan fear and shock though he is only an image because she can only see the man who burned her mother to death sixteen years ago.

Ciaran announces that he has forgiven Morgan for putting a watch sigil on him the last time they met so the council could track him down and take him into custody. Because Ciaran is one of the most evil witches in existence, Morgan chose to betray him; "I had chosen good over evil" (p. 6). Morgan panics when Ciaran informs her that he has removed the watch sigil, praises her power, assures her of his forgiveness and tells her that he is coming to see her because he has questions for her. Hunter had not seen his parents for eleven years while they were hiding from Ciaran and his coven, Amyranth. Hunter's mother died before he found her, but he returned from Canada with Daniel. Morgan is uncomfortable around Daniel because he seems to distrust her because she is related to Ciaran who Daniel was hiding from for eleven years. This is proven when Daniel yells at Hunter for sharing his research with her, claiming that Ciaran's daughter should not be privy to their plans; however, Hunter defends his beloved and insists that she is not in cahoots with her father. Morgan and Hunter decide to try scrying for Ciaran, and when Morgan sees a vision of a dark wave, as Hunter later explains, she worries that the dark wave is coming for her. This foreshadows Ciaran's intention to send a dark wave to Widow's Vale if Morgan's answers to his questions disappoint him. Hunter follows Morgan home, insisting that they add an extra layer of protection to her home and asking her to visit Alyce tomorrow with him at Practical Magick, Alyce's occult bookstore. The next afternoon, Hunter seems edgy and distracted, and he explains that he tried to reach the council for news about Ciaran but got no response. Still, he is happy to be with Morgan because he missed her while he was in Canada. When Morgan asks if Daniel knows she is not in league with Ciaran, Hunter insists his father just needs more time, but Hunter knows Morgan is not like her ancestors; Morgan just wishes she could convince herself of the same. At Practical Magick, Alyce greets Morgan and Hunter, telling them she is expanding her store. While Hunter tells Alyce about his time in Canada, Morgan looks through the shop and finds a new, unusual Book of Shadows bound in a green notebook which Alyce gives her. Morgan's odd



attraction to this book foreshadows the book's importance to Alisa when she sees it shortly. As they leave, Hunter tells Morgan it is time to convince her of his undying love. They have both wanted to make love for a long time, but Hunter insisted on waiting until he returned from Canada. When he informs Morgan that Daniel is not home today, she eagerly agrees to go back to Hunter's house.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

On Monday afternoon, Alisa studies at Mary K's house. Mary K's parents are strict, but Alisa finds their home comforting since her evil stepmother-to-be has redecorated the house she shares with her father. Alisa used to find Kithic's circles to be amazing and natural, but she stopped going when Morgan made scary things happen like breaking things without touching them. Mary K and Alisa are discussing Mary's current crush when Morgan enters. As Mary and Morgan continue the conversation about boys, Alisa notices the books in Morgan's backpack, especially a green-covered book that looks like an old diary. Morgan notes that their mother's crocuses are dead though they just started blooming last week, but Alisa is only half paying attention because she is drawn to the green book and does not even realize that she is reaching for it until Mary calls her name. Alisa tries to shake her odd obsession with the book as Mary says that Alisa needs a crush so they can double date, but her eyes and mind return to the book. When Morgan says it is a cool book, Alisa is embarrassed to realize she is reaching for the book yet again, but when Morgan explains it is a Book of Shadows, Alisa tucks her hands into her lap because she has had enough freaky encounters with witchy things and people. Morgan is irritated as she realizes she forgot the flavor packet for their dinner, and when the fridge door opens and a butter dish shatters to the floor, Alisa jumps up, horrified because Morgan cannot control her powers. Her attention returns to Morgan's backpack, causing her to wonder "what was it about that book" (p. 31).

Chapter 2 Analysis

Chapter 2 begins with a quote from Mariska Svenson, Bodo, Norway, 1873 about the strengths and weaknesses of the barrier between the world and the netherworld. It never breaches by itself, but the spell of a witch can rend it. The second chapter in this novel changes perspectives to introduce Alisa, the second narrator and protagonist in "Eclipse." Alisa is friends with Mary K, Morgan's adoptive sister. Tuning into Alisa's view of things immediately alerts the reader to the fact that her father is engaged to and has impregnated a much younger woman, a fact that Alisa is not happy with, foreshadowing the importance of Alisa's relationship with Hilary in this novel. Additionally, Alisa readily admits that she is frightened by Morgan and her freaky witch powers. Mary K is a good friend, but her adopted sister, Morgan, freaks Alisa out. Alisa feels Morgan is dangerous because she is a witch, born to it like some other kids around here. She stopped attending Kithic's circles when Morgan caused things to break, yet Mary also told Alisa that Morgan has healed their aunt by touching her injury. As Alisa and Mary discuss boys, Morgan enters, and despite her discomfort around Morgan, Alisa's attention is immediately drawn to the green-covered book in Morgan's backpack, further foreshadowing the importance of the odd Book of Shadows that Morgan found in Practical Magick. Morgan's comment about her mother's crocuses dying foreshadows the appearance of the dark wave. Alisa is mortified when she finds her attention



absorbed by the book, and she even unwittingly reaches for it until Mary and Morgan call her name. Alisa chides herself when she learns that the book is magick since she is still frightened of that concept, and the reason for her fear is illustrated when a butter dish shatters on the floor for no apparent reason, another example of Morgan's uncontrollable magick as Alisa sees it. She needs to get away before something worse happens. She feels it is appropriate as Morgan retrieves a broom to sweep up the mess, but when Morgan says Hunter's name a moment before the front door opens, Alisa knows she heard him with her freaky witch ears. Alisa's continued obsession with the green-bound Book of Shadows, despite her revulsion at the idea of it being a freaky witch book, foreshadows Alisa's discovery of why she is drawn to this book and why it is so important to her, but most imminently, it foreshadows Alisa taking Morgan's book.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Feeling Hunter's presence, Morgan goes outside and learns that Hunter has just come from a meeting with the council where he learned that Ciaran dismantled the watch sigil two weeks ago and has not been seen since. Morgan is furious that the council did not alert them since Morgan put the watch sigil on Ciaran, and Hunter agrees that the council seems to have forgotten that they cannot act with impunity since they have an obligation to the witches they represent. Though Hunter and Morgan have not felt Morgan, they assume he is nearby and will visit Morgan, so Hunter insists on vigilance. Deciding to scry again, Morgan sneaks Hunter inside before her parents get home, nearly running into Alisa who is rushing out of the house, and this causes Morgan to lament the odd things that seem to happen around Alisa. In her bedroom, Morgan and Hunter's scrying leads to a vision of a woman writing sigils in the air, but before Morgan can identify the woman, a rolling wave of fire sweeps over her, ending the vision. Mary taps on the door to warn Morgan that Mom just pulled up, so Morgan clears evidence of the circle and goes downstairs to finish dinner. She does not hear Hunter leave, but his car is gone when she looks out the window half an hour later, making her feel incredibly alone.

Chapter 3 Analysis

Chapter 3 opens with a quote from Peg Curran, Tullamore, Ireland, 1937 about Michael Orris hiding when he saw a black curtain fall over the land, and he returned home to find nothing but smoking stones. He never made his initiation because he did not want to be anything like a witch. Morgan goes outside when she feels Hunter's presence, noting he does not look happy, but she is unnerved by the broken butter dish, fearing Ciaran is letting her know that he is watching. Hunter has just come from a meeting with the council about Ciaran dismantling Morgan's watch sigil two weeks ago. The council claims that they did not share this information because it is on a need-to-know basis, but Hunter thinks they are embarrassed that they let him slip through their fingers again; they had not stripped his powers in hopes that he would lead them to the rest of Amyranth, and now he has escaped. Morgan finds the image of Ciaran being stripped of his powers horrifying, but it is worse to imagine him coming after her with his full powers. Neither Morgan nor Hunter have felt Ciaran, but they assume he is nearby and will visit Morgan as he promised. Hunter insist they need to be vigilant, and though he plans to demand the council take real action, he also notes that the council is being managed badly and seems to be falling apart. When Hunter suggests scrying again, Morgan sneaks him inside, although her parents will be home soon. She nearly runs into Alisa on her way out, and when Alisa looks startled, Morgan remembers the butter dish and thinks it is unfortunate that these things happen when Alisa is around, indicating that Morgan even blames her lack of control with her powers on the strange things that seem to happen; however, it also foreshadows the discovery that Morgan is



not responsible since Morgan only seems to lose control when Alisa is around. Hunter asks Alisa how she feels since she was hospitalized a month ago for the flu, but she is better now. Morgan watches Alisa rush off for a moment before leading Hunter to her room to cast a circle and scry. A vision of a woman's figure appears with her back to Morgan as she writes sigils in the air.

Morgan wonders who the woman is, but as she turns, a rolling wave of fire sweeps toward her and she crumples beneath it before the image blinks out. Morgan is confused and disappointed because she does not understand what the vision means. Mary informs Morgan that their parents have arrived, so Morgan leaves Hunter upstairs, feeling very lonely when she looks out the window and sees his car gone half an hour later.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Alisa feels guilty for stealing from Morgan as she stares at the green book on her bed. Though she cannot explain it, she feels like the book belongs to her, and she is shocked when she opens the book and sees her mother's maiden name, Sarah Curtis. Thinking that this is why she is so drawn to the book, Alisa reads that Sarah kept this diary from age 15, 1968-1971. Alisa is instantly mesmerized by the book as she finds that this Sarah Curtis has many similarities to her mother, such as where she is from and her relationship with her parents; however, her certainty that this book did not belong to her mother since her mother could not be a witch is reaffirmed when she finds a mention of Sarah's brother, Sam, since she knows her mother was an only child. Suddenly, Alisa's jewelry box, which once belonged to her mother, crashes to the floor, and with an inner voice telling her to open it, Alisa finds a hidden latch that opens to reveal letters to her mother from her brother, Sam. Alisa realizes her mother was a witch which means she is half witch and everything she thought about her mother is a lie! She throws the jewelry box into the wall, and it shatters. Dad comes to check on her and encourages Alisa to tell him what is wrong, but she cries harder and eventually convinces him to leave. She just found out that she is completely different than she has thought for fifteen years, and she needs to talk to someone who will understand, causing her to think of Morgan. On Wednesday morning, Alisa waits for Morgan in the parking lot, and Morgan seems surprised since Alisa usually avoids her. Alisa confesses that she took Morgan's green book and needs to talk to Morgan about it. She explains that her mother wrote the book and was a witch, gaining Morgan's full attention. Morgan notes that it must have been a shock to learn she is half witch, and Alisa clarifies that she does not want to be a witch. Morgan understands because she went through the same thing. Furthermore, Alisa admits that she is frightened by the things that Morgan and Hunter do, and she has just found out she is like them. Morgan invites Alisa to Kithic's circle on Saturday, saying that talking to people helped her and Kithic can be Alisa's support group.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Chapter 4 begins with a quote from Clyda Rockpell, Albertswyth, Wales, 1964 about tolerating witches of mixed or unknown clans whose view of magick is contrary to what is known to be true. Those other clans do not fit in if witches choose to keep their lines pure. Staring at the green book on her bed, Alisa knows she is a thief and that Morgan will know she stole the book. Still, neither Morgan nor Mary acted strange in school today, so maybe Morgan has not missed the book yet. Alisa cannot explain it, but she feels like the book belongs to her and it feels like she is dreaming as she watches herself do things without knowing why. She feels a faint tingle when she touches the cover, and opening the book, she is shocked to see her mother's maiden name, Sarah Curtis. This fulfills the earlier foreshadowing concerning the importance of the book Morgan found at Practical Magick and Alisa's strange affinity towards it. She is hooked



from the first page, but the book just gets stranger as she learns that this Sarah Curtis is from Gloucester, Massachusetts, just like her mother. Still, she knows the book cannot belong to her mother because she got it from Morgan and it is a witch book. As she continues reading about witch ceremonies and rites, she finds other similarities to her mother such as her parents' objection to her attending an out-of-state college and her affinity for lilacs. Alisa is relieved when she reads about Sarah's brother, Sam, because her mother was an only child, and as she continues reading about spells and witchcraft, she knows this cannot be her mother, though the similarities are daunting. Alisa's jewelry box, which belonged to her mother, crashes to the floor, indicating and foreshadowing that Alisa is the one who causes all the weird events that she blames on Morgan, and Alisa thinks this is all very strange; obviously, there were two Sarah Curtises, one being her mother and the other being a witch who was just like her mother. Dumping the contents of the jewelry box, Alisa feels something telling her to open it, and when she finds a hidden latch, the bottom opens to reveal letters to her mother from her brother, Sam, about how much he misses her. Alisa realizes that her mother really was a witch, meaning she is half witch and her whole life has been a lie. She throws the box into the wall, shattering it, but when her father comes to check on her, she refuses to discuss things with him. Alisa is sure he did not know Mom was a witch or he would have told her, so though part of her wants to confide in Dad, she does not want to ruin his memories of her mother or for him to look at Alisa as a witch. Still, Alisa's need to talk to someone about her recent discovery and subsequent confusion drives her to seek out Morgan the next day. Alisa confesses to taking the book and tells Morgan everything she has learned about her mother being a witch. Morgan is sympathetic and suggests that talking to Kithic could help Alisa. When Alisa asks if she can keep the book, Morgan notes that she believes it already belongs to Alisa.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Morgan arrives at Hunter's house, assuring him that nothing else has happened, and he promises her that they will be ready to battle Ciaran together. When Hunter starts talking about what Daniel has found in Rose's book and his work on the spell to defeat dark waves, Daniel objects to talking to Ciaran's daughter about this, so Hunter insists that Morgan is not in league with Ciaran and has even endangered herself in her efforts to capture her father. Backing down, Daniel explains the spell to cast dark waves works by creating an artificial opening between the two worlds and calling on dark spirits from the netherworld to enter this world, forming a dark wave of negative energy to destroy positive energy. Daniel believes he can create an opposing spell to permanently seal the division between the two worlds or disband the dark energy, but Rose was careful not to include that information he needs in her writing. Morgan asks to see Rose's book, and when Daniel objects, Hunter insists that Morgan has unusual powers and may be able to connect to Rose's writing since she is a descendent. As Morgan slowly moves an athame over the book and begs it to show her, strange blue writing appears. Daniel is excited because this is just the kind of information he needs, and he grudgingly thanks Morgan. Morgan decides to go home since she does not feel well, but when she reaches her front porch, Ciaran appears behind her. Ciaran tries to convince Morgan to take her rightful place as the heir to his power, insisting that her adoptive family cannot understand her power and that she is the most promising of his children. When Morgan insists she will never want Ciaran's dark power, he warns that unless her power is allied with his own, it presents too much of a risk to him, threatening her family and friends. Morgan still refuses, so Ciaran claims it is a pity that things must end this way, disappearing just before Morgan realizes she can use his true name to control him. Morgan calls Hunter as soon as she goes inside, and the next day, Hunter sits in his car outside the school all day to guard Morgan. After school, Morgan and Hunter discuss Ciaran's threat with Daniel who believes that Ciaran means to send a dark wave to Widow's Vale to target Kithic. In fact, he is certain that a dark wave is coming because the air feels dead and oppressive. Daniel will work harder to find a spell to counter the dark wave, but he warns that this type of spell must be cast by a blood witch who is physically close to the origination of the dark wave which he guesses will be at the local power sink, in the Methodist cemetery at the edge of town, which amplifies the wave's power. Daniel continues that the witch who casts the spell will likely sacrifice himself by being so close, and he volunteers to cast the spell, insisting it makes the most sense since he is the crafter. Hunter insists he should cast the spell because he is stronger and more likely to survive, but Daniel objects, warning they only have about a week.

Chapter 5 Analysis

Chapter 5 opens with a quote from Doris Grafton, New York, 1972 that before the dark wave could be reproduced anywhere, the most witches could have pulled off was an



epidemic like the plague, but that was hit-or-miss. Sitting in front of Hunter's house, Morgan tries to work up the nerve to walk in as she is reluctant to see Daniel again. Casting out her senses, she does not feel Ciaran so she rushes to the front door which Hunter opens before she knocks, and she assures him that nothing else has happened, but she cannot shake her bad feeling since she knows that Ciaran could be anywhere. Hunter assures her that they will be on their best guard and battle Ciaran together. During dinner, Hunter suggests that Daniel should tell Morgan what he thinks about Rose's book and the spell against dark waves, and when Daniel objects, Hunter tells Morgan that there are clues Daniel believes he can use to craft a spell to dismantle the dark wave. Daniel argues that this is premature and he does not think that Ciaran's daughter should be included in the conversation. Hunter tenses as he quietly insists that Morgan is not in league with Ciaran, reminding his father that Ciaran tried to kill Morgan and Morgan is currently in danger because Ciaran wants to confront her about putting a watch sigil on him for the council. Yielding, Daniel explains how the dark wave works and describes how he plans to create a spell to counter the dark wave; however, Rose did not include the information he needed. Luckily, Morgan is able to coax the secret writing to appear because she is Rose's descendent, showing herself to be useful to Daniel. Morgan decides to go home because she does not feel well, but Hunter is sure the writing will be visible long enough for Daniel to transcribe it. Hunter wants to sleep in his car outside Morgan's house, but Morgan convinces him to help Daniel decipher the spell because she knows Ciaran will find her and talk to her when he wants to whether Hunter is with her or not. There is nothing to do except face it when coming up against someone like Ciaran.

Feeling crappy when she gets home, Morgan decides to go straight to bed, but when she reaches the porch, Ciaran calls her name and she turns to face him, foreshadowing the confrontation between Morgan and Ciaran. Ciaran insists he has forgiven Morgan for the watch sigil and wants to convince her to join him and take her rightful place as heir to his power. Morgan refuses, but Ciaran insists she is powerful and only he can show her how to use her power because they are so much alike. When Morgan objects that she is innocent and he is a murderer, Ciaran accuses her of being close-minded and judgmental before reminding her that he is her only biological family and her adopted family cannot understand or respect her power since they are not witches. He also admits he is selfish because Morgan is the most promising of his children and the daughter of his soul mate. Morgan insists she will never want his dark power, but Ciaran insists she will change her mind; her power must be allied with his or it presents too much risk, but Morgan can save herself, her family and friends by making the right decision. Furious that he threatens those she loves, Morgan still rejects him, so Ciaran says it is a pity things must end this way but she leaves him no choice. Just as Morgan realizes she can control him because she knows his true name, Ciaran vanishes, so she rushes upstairs to call Hunter and tell him that Ciaran contacted her. This exchange between Morgan and Ciaran demonstrates Ciaran's interest in Morgan as well as Morgan's absolute refusal to join her father in his evil magick. Ciaran's threats foreshadows the approaching dark wave, sent to demolish Morgan's family, friends and coven because of her refusal to join her biological father in his terrorizing magickal practices. The next day, Hunter is outside when Morgan and Mary leave for school, and he sits outside of school in his car all day, showing his concern and love for Morgan.



Worried about Ciaran hurting her family and friends, Morgan has to believe that she and Hunter will fix the situation. When Morgan and Hunter discuss Ciaran's threats with Daniel, Daniel suggests that Ciaran plans to send a dark wave to target Kithic as he has felt the oppressive nature of the air in Widow's Vale lately. Hunter does not want to tell the other members of Kithic for fear of their disbelief and panic. Daniel plans to work harder to find a spell to fight the dark wave; however, he warns that the witch must be physically close to the place the dark wave originates, likely the power sink at the edge of town, and the witch will most likely die because of being so close to the dark wave. Daniel volunteers to cast the spell since he is creating it and will know it best, plus he is not adverse to dying and being reunited with his soul mater. Hunter objects to losing his father so soon, but Daniel refuses to consider the possibility that Hunter is strong enough to cast the spell without dying. This foreshadows Daniel's completion of the spell to counter the dark wave and also his belief that he is the only one strong enough to cast it. Yet, Morgan and Hunter's objection to Daniel's intended sacrifice foreshadows their willingness to try another alternative when the opportunity presents itself. Morgan cannot believe this is all happening because of her, and she cannot believe that Hunter may lose the father with whom he was so recently reunited. When Hunter claims it cannot get worse, Morgan reminds him that it can always get worse, and they both know that is true. This foreshadows the fact that their situation is going to get worse.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Alisa plays sick, deciding school is ridiculous compared to her recent discovery. She recently found out that blood witches exist, and now she has learned that she is one so she is scared, just as her mother was scared and stripped herself of her powers before she met Dad. Sarah was a Rowanwand, a good witch devoted to knowledge, but Alisa hates school, and she is relieved at the thought that perhaps the witch gene is recessive and she is only a carrier since Dad is not a witch. When Hilary returns from the store with lunch and magazines for Alisa, Alisa feels guilty at the hurt in Hilary's eyes when she insists she wants to be left alone; though Hilary will never be her mother, they will be related soon, and the baby she carries will be Alisa's half sibling. Alisa's new CD player pops loudly, and she smells burning electric, causing her to think of all the things that have broken around her lately. Remembering her mother's description of weird telekinetic things happening, Alisa thinks of all the weird things she blamed on Morgan and realizes some things happened when Morgan was not near her. On Saturday night, Dad drives Alisa to Thalia's house for Kithic's circle. It took all day to psych herself into going, but it is the only place she can find information or help. She notes that Hunter and Morgan look ill. Hunter casts the circle, asking everyone to share their view of magick. Everyone sees magick as a basic, positive energy, except Alisa who sees it as scary, uncontrollable and dangerous. Most of Kithic look shocked, but Hunter is calm accepting and Morgan is understanding. As Alisa holds hands with the other as they chant, she feels calm and cheerful, realizing this is a positive, gentle kind of magick. When the circle ends, Morgan takes Alisa's hand and leaves an imprint of Wynn, happiness and peace, for Alisa to take with her from the circle.

Chapter 6 Analysis

Chapter 6 begins with a quote from Dinara Rafferty, ICOW Elder, Loughrea, Ireland, 1994 which states that the International Council of Witches believes that the dark wave of destruction is the most evil spell created and the very antithesis of what being a witch should be. Alisa opts to skip school, deciding that her recent revelation that she is half witch is more important. Alisa also thinks about the fact that her mother's family disowned her when she relinquished her powers and wonders if her family still lives in Gloucester. Alisa wonders if being a witch is like other genetic anomalies, hoping that the witch gene is recessive and she will not manifest powers. Her irritation at the thought of Hilary being part of her family soon results in Alisa's CD player burning which leads Alisa to realize that lots of things seem to break around her lately, and when she compares her mother's description of the weird telekinetic events surrounding her, Alisa realizes that she has been blaming Morgan unjustly. Particularly, she realizes that several things happened when Morgan was nowhere around. Alisa feels like she has been blind as she faces the awful truth that the destruction has been her all along. She ponders what hope a half witch can have when her mother, a full witch, could not control



her powers. When Alisa attends Kithic's circle on Saturday night, she notices that Hunter and Morgan look ill, foreshadowing her involvement with their attempt to stop the dark wave. Hunter seems to be catering toward Alisa as he asks everyone to share their view of magick; everyone except Alisa sees it as positive, but Alisa sees it as frightening, unruly and hazardous. Still, Alisa finds peace as she joins the others, holding hands and chanting, and at the end of the circle, Morgan offers her an imprint of Wynn, giving Alisa happiness and peace to take with her when she leaves the circle.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

After attending church with her family on Sunday, Morgan goes to Hunter's house where they are joined by Daniel. Morgan wonders why they all feel so bad, and Daniel explains that it is the effect of the oncoming dark wave as the spells to call it have been started and the people and place have been targeted. He warns it is only a matter of days, and they will all feel worse as it draws closer. Daniel has been busy crafting the spell, but it would be stronger if he had more time to give it additional specificity. It would also be more powerful if he could use something particular against its creator to specify the spell's target. Morgan realizes she has something that once belonged to Ciaran, so she rushes off, promising to return. Morgan drives out of town to the place bearing her spell in a small clearing and uses a crowbar to dig into the earth and retrieve her bundle. Back at Hunter's house, she hands Daniel a pocket watch engraved with Ciaran and her mother's initials. Morgan forces herself to relinquish it to Daniel since he can use it more than she can, plus it is probably better not to have a reminder of love that ended so tragically. She explains that she got this back the last time she saw Ciaran. Daniel warns that it will be completely destroyed, but Morgan assures him that she does not need it anymore, though she knows she will feel its loss. In the living room, Hunter comforts Morgan and thanks her for making the sacrifice. She assures him that the watch is not as important as her life, her family and her friends.

Chapter 7 Analysis

Chapter 7 opens with a quote from Molly Shears, Ireland, 1996 about the first time she saw a dark wave. She was not yet strong enough to take part, but she watched and nearly wept with glory as it purged the land of everything unclean. After church on Sunday, Morgan joins Hunter and Daniel to discuss the dark wave. She learns that the dark wave is the reason that they all feel so ill and that it will get worse as the dark wave draws nearer. Hunter has contacted Alyce and Starlocket to aim positive energy at Widow's Vale and Kithic, but he notes that there is little documented evidence of anyone even trying to resist a dark wave, indicating the futility of their attempts. When Daniel notes that his spell would be more powerful if he could use something against its creator, Morgan realizes she owns something that once belonged to Ciaran so she rushes away to the outskirts of town where she retrieves a gold pocket watch with her mother and Ciaran's initials. It also has her mother's image engraved on it and is the only thing she owns that is part of both of them, but the spell cannot hurt her dead mother and Ciaran's vibrations run through the watch. Morgan gives the watch to Daniel to use in his spell, even though it is obvious that she does not want to relinquish the precious item; however, Morgan decides to make the sacrifice for the greater good, knowing that the watch is not as important as her life, her family and her friends. Hunter comforts Morgan, showing how well he knows her by understanding the sacrifice she

has just made. Feeling a rush of desire as Hunter kisses her worries away, Morgan wonders if they will ever make love or if they will die before they get a chance.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

After school on Monday, Alisa complains of a headache as they study at Mary K's house. When Mary K suggests that Morgan can help them with their difficult Algebra homework, Alisa offers to go and find Morgan. She finds Morgan laying on her bed, but Morgan insists that she is not sick before asking how Alisa feels, and Alisa can tell that there is something Morgan is not telling her. While looking at a magazine at home that night, Alisa has a terrible feeling, and she is convinced that Morgan and Hunter know about it but are not sharing. Since she knows Morgan will not tell her, she decides that she must ask Hunter. Alisa asks Hilary for a ride to Hunter's house. Daniel opens Hunter's door and notes that Alisa is a witch but he gets a strange reading off her. Hunter introduces Alisa and Daniel, explaining that Alisa feels strange because she is only half witch. Daniel excuses himself when Alisa asks what is going on with Hunter and Morgan, and Hunter explains that a dark wave is coming to Widow's Vale, clarifying that a dark wave is a force of destruction that dark witches use to kill other witches. Hunter says the dark wave is likely the reason Alisa has a headache, but her symptoms are less severe since she is only half witch. He tells her about Ciaran and Daniel's spell, including the fact that the witch who casts it will be susceptible to the powers of the dark wave. As a horrifying thought seeps into Alisa's head, she uses Hilary as an excuse to make a hurried exit. That night, Alisa cannot sleep as she thinks that a half witch may have enough power to cast the spell while still being human enough to survive the dark wave. After school, Alisa goes to Hunter's house and shares her idea. Hunter is speechless, but Daniel objects. Hunter agrees that Alisa is untrained and they have no idea if she can cast the spell so they cannot risk it; however, Alisa points out that they have no backup plan in case Daniel is overcome by the dark wave before completing the spell, so she is their only choice. Daniel argues against sending an uninitiated half witch to her death, but Alisa argues the alternative is condemning all of Kithic to their deaths. Hunter and Daniel discuss the idea in private for ten minutes, and when they return, they agree to assess Alisa's powers and have her study parts of the spell since being a half-witch works in their favor.

Chapter 8 Analysis

Chapter 8 starts with a quote from Melissa Felton, California, 1996 about her awe as her coven leader opened a rift in the world, time and life to call upon the dark power, and she thanks the Goddess every day that she found her coven, Amyranth. Alisa shows a less severe form of suffering from the approaching dark wave as she experiences a headache, compared to the feelings of illness that the full blood witch experience. She still has not told Mary K that she is half witch because her friend still is not comfortable with Morgan's involvement with Wicca. When Mary suggests asking Morgan for help with their homework, Alisa finds Morgan sick in her bedroom and is sure that Morgan is not telling her something, so later, she decides to ask Hunter. Daniel



notes that Alisa feels odd to him, and Hunter explains that she is only half witch. Alisa questions Hunter about his and Morgan's apparent illness, and surprisingly, Hunter explains everything that is going on. Alisa cannot believe this is happening, yet she feels the truth of it in her bones. Hunter suggests that Alisa's symptoms are less severe due to her only being half witch, reaffirming the earlier presumption. When he tells her about Daniel's spell and the fact that Daniel will likely die while casting it, Alisa has a horrible idea so she flees to avoid discussing it; however, she cannot sleep that night for thinking about the dark wave and her frightening idea. She does not want to strip her powers as her mother did because she just learned that she has them. She separates the things her powers have done from what Morgan has done and realizes that Morgan only uses her powers for good. Alisa does not want to be half witch, but since she is, she must decide whether to strip her powers, try to use them or pretend this is not happening. The next day, Alisa presents her idea to Hunter and Daniel who refuse adamantly until she reminds them that the alternative is sending all of Kithic to their deaths and she is likely to survive the dark wave because of her mixed heritage. Daniel finally yields and agrees to train Alisa. Alisa is scared, but she cannot back out now. Her mother destroyed her powers because she was afraid of them, but Alisa needs to explore the possibilities first because if she can harness her powers to use for good, it will be better than having no powers at all.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

Morgan is swept with guilt that her family and friends are in danger because of her; even Hunter may lose the father he just found, and though she knows Hunter will forgive her, she doubts she can forgive herself. As a series of crazy thoughts shoot through her mind, Morgan finally decides to confront Ciaran and use his true name against him since "to know something's true name is to have ultimate power over it- it can deny you nothing" (p. 112). Once her family is asleep, Morgan draws a chalk circle in her walk-in closet and sends a message to Ciaran to meet her at the power sink before crawling into bed until Ciaran's voice enters her mind to tell her one hour. Arriving at the power sink twenty minutes early, she parks on the shoulder, and after casting out her senses to make sure that neither Ciaran nor any other witch is nearby, she waits to meet Ciaran, pacing until Ciaran appears in front of her with no warning. He is surprised she called and hopes she will make him happy by saying "we're going to be the most remarkable witches the world has ever seen" (p. 115). Morgan does not have an exact plan because she first needs to be certain about Ciaran's plans. She asks if she feels so bad because of the dark wave, and Ciaran confirms it, offering to help her symptoms and protect her before it starts next time. Morgan insists that she is not joining and asks why he will not just leave her alone since she and Kithic are nothing and cannot hurt him; however, Ciaran agrees that Kithic is nothing, but he tells Morgan that she possesses the power to devastate anything in her path or create unimaginable beauty because she is the last witch of Belwicket and the *sgiurs dan* which comes every several generations to change the course of her clan. She has more power than she realizes, and Ciaran would be foolish to let such power stand in opposition to his own, so she will either join him or die. When Morgan swings her fist, Ciaran grabs her wrist and puts a binding spell on her. Morgan knows that Ciaran must concentrate to keep her in the spell, so she sets fire to some damp leaves, causing an explosion that sends the pine bark outward. Ciaran's concentration weakens when he prepares to defend himself, and Morgan uses the opportunity to say his true name and sketch runes, ordering him to remove the binding spell. Morgan reminds Ciaran that she has power over him so he is bidden to do her will, and she orders him never to hurt her again. Ciaran repeats the order as if it costs him, and Morgan puts a binding spell on him to be safe, reminding him that he has no power because she has his true name. It is 2:26 a.m. and Morgan is exhausted, but she sends a witch message to Hunter that she needs him and Daniel at the power sink now.

Chapter 9 Analysis

Chapter 9 opens with a quote from Selene Belltower, New York, 1999 about the great power in darkness and the great ecstasy in power. Morgan feels ill, but nothing alleviates it. She tries to just act normal and not think "about the fact that I and everyone I love might be dead in a week" (p. 109). On Thursday, she goes downstairs for a Diet



Coke and looks at her family, realizing they could all die because of her when their only crime is adopting her and loving her. She feels guilty as she thinks that Hunter will lose his dad if Daniel manages to avert the dark wave, and though she believes Hunter will forgive her, she does not know that she will be able to forgive herself. After dismissing several insane ideas, Morgan decides to confront Ciaran and use his true name against him. After her family goes to bed, Morgan sends a witch message to Ciaran to meet her at the power sink, and he responds that he will meet her in an hour. Morgan gets dressed and puts her car into neutral, letting it roll downhill slowly until she is sure her parents will not hear the engine starting. She heads to the power sink. When Morgan was younger, she was afraid of the dark, but now she is afraid of becoming irreversibly evil or having her soul taken by force, showing the changes that have occurred since finding out she is a witch, though this feeling is mainly due to Ciaran's involvement in her life. Ciaran finally arrives and expresses the desire that she will join him. Morgan questions him about the dark wave, and after confirming his intentions, she refuses to ever join him because she is not evil like he is. Furious, Ciaran insists that Morgan is very powerful so he cannot allow her power to oppose his own. Though he does not want to hurt her, he will choose his life over hers. When Morgan tries to hit him, Ciaran grabs her wrist and puts a binding spell on her. Morgan feels stupid for lashing out instead of using his true name against him. Morgan causes a distraction which weakens Ciaran's concentration long enough for her to use his true name to force him to release her. Ciaran is furious as his arms and lips move against his will, and though he tells her not to make this kind of mistake, Morgan fills with contempt that he dared to put a binding spell on her and planned to kill her family and friends. After ordering him to never hurt her again, Morgan puts a binding spell on Ciaran and sends a witch message for Hunter and Daniel to join her at the power sink immediately.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

Daniel irritably coaches Alisa on the correct pronunciation of the nal nithrac spell. It is past midnight and Alisa has school tomorrow, yet she apologizes to Daniel, reminding him that this is new to her. When he starts to protest that perhaps the spell is too difficult, Alisa reminds Hunter and Daniel that the dark wave is not affecting her nearly as much as it affects them, and looking defeated, Daniel resumes his lesson. Alisa continues saying the spell and practicing the sigils, finally finishing the second part of the spell ten minutes later to Hunter and Daniel's satisfaction. Hunter comments on Alisa's power, and she notes it seems to be getting stronger, asking if it is unusual for a half witch to have power. Daniel notes that witches rarely conceive with pure humans, and when they do, their offspring is nearly always powerless. He wonders if Alisa's high level of power has something to do with her mother stripping herself of her powers, suggesting that Alisa has her own half witch powers in addition to her mother's power as a full witch. When Morgan interrupts by sending a witch message for Hunter and Daniel to meet her at the power sink, Alisa decides to stay at Hunter's house to continue practicing.

Chapter 10 Analysis

Chapter 10 begins with a quote from Ciaran MacEwan, Scotland, 2000 which states the secret of a successful dark wave is in creating its limitations. The spell cast must be clear and have unemotional intent, acting from a calm, logical decision rather than anger or revenge. Daniel coaches Alisa on casting the spell to fight the dark wave. Alisa is exhausted as she practices the horrible, spiteful spell which Daniel has been teaching her since last Thursday to fight the dark wave. When she reminds him that all of this is new to her, he begins to protest that perhaps the spell is too difficult for an untrained witch, but Alisa insists on continuing, reminding them that she is not affected as badly by the dark wave. Alisa insists on continuing as she realizes she has pride invested in this because though her powers scare her, it seems wrong to give them up because "I'm in control of me. My powers were not in control of me" (p. 125). Alisa completes the second part of the spell to Daniel's satisfaction, and Daniel says they will be in good shape if she can perform the other three parts of the hour-long spell as well. Hunter and Alisa talk about the fact that her powers seem to be strengthening, and noting that it is unusual for half witches to demonstrate such power, Daniel suggests that perhaps Alisa has her mother's full witch powers in addition to her own as a half witch since her mother stripped her powers. Hunter and Daniel agree that she can learn to control her telekinetic power after they defeat the dark wave, but as they share a hopeless look, Hunter frowns and announces that Morgan is at the power sink and wants him to bring Daniel. Alisa decides to continue practicing at Hunter's house, but when he cautions her to call 911 if anything weird happens, she wonders what is wrong. Alisa continues practicing the forms again once they leave and she is left alone.



Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

Morgan feels guilty about what she has done to Ciaran, and when Hunter and Daniel arrive, she explains everything that has happened, causing Hunter to stare at the revelation that she knows Ciaran's true name. She does not know what to do now. When Daniel attacks Ciaran, Hunter helps Morgan drag his father away, but when she claims it is the council's job to decide what happens to Ciaran next, Hunter objects that the council has already made mistakes, so they will strip Ciaran's powers now. Morgan knows this is their only realistic option, but she refuses to participate in the five-witch rite, so Hunter calls three other witches. As Morgan sits on a bench, Hunter joins her and comments that she never told him that she knew Ciaran's true name, so Morgan explains that it felt wrong to share the information, and Hunter seems to understand. Alyce, Bethany and Silver arrive to help with the rite, and as Hunter prepares the circle, Morgan focuses on thwarting Ciaran's attempts to escape. Morgan sends a message to her half-brother, Killian MacEwan, to come to Widow's Vale without telling him what is so important; he is the only person she can think of that will agree to care for Ciaran after his powers are stripped. Hunter announces that it is time to begin, and the witches carry Ciaran into the center of the pentacle, causing Morgan to use Ciaran's true name to stop him when he tries again to break free. After the witches arrange themselves at the points of the pentacle, Hunter casts the circle and invokes the aid of the Goddess and God. He announces that Ciaran shall no longer be a witch, know their power or harm any living creature, telling Ciaran he has been judged and will have his powers stripped from him. Morgan strengthens the binding spell as Ciaran struggles against it.

When Hunter tells Morgan to release the binding spell, Ciaran springs up, but Hunter finishes the rite, causing images to appear that define who Ciaran was and who he has become. The images show a happy boy fading into his initiation, followed by Ciaran courting various women, including Morgan's mother. Then, the images grow darker, showing the evil spells he has cast and his time with Morgan as they see the "destruction of everything that had made him who and what he was" (p. 143). Ciaran lays unmoving as Hunter announces "Ciaran MacEwan, witch of the Woodbanes, is now ended" (p. 143). Morgan feels too guilty to sit next to Ciaran, but Hunter joins her, and the other witches offer comfort and concern before leaving except Alyce who stays by Ciaran. An hour later, Killian arrives, looking at Morgan and Ciaran in astonishment after Morgan explains everything that has happened; he cannot believe that Ciaran has been stripped of his powers. Killian agrees to take Ciaran to a safe place until he is better, so Hunter helps get Ciaran to Killian's car. Sitting next to Morgan, Alyce notes that this is hard and points out that Morgan would be a monster if this did not hurt her. Alyce leaves when Hunter returns, and Morgan finally begins to cry, allowing Hunter to comfort her. Hunter assures her that he loves her and everything will be alright, but Morgan has no idea how he can say that.



Chapter 11 Analysis

Chapter 11 opens with a quote from Frederica Pelsworthy, *Notable Decisions of the Twentieth Century*, Adam Press, 2000 which states a coven leader from Dover wanted to use a dark wave on the city to reduce the chances of the flu epidemic spreading. Her reasoning was sound, but of course, the council could not approve. After ten minutes of holding Ciaran in the binding spell, Morgan feels guilty for nothing letting him sit down first, even as she realizes that sometimes she is so pathetic that she cannot stand herself.

When Hunter and Daniel arrive, she keeps part of her concentration on Ciaran, though she knows he cannot budge the binding spell since she has always been good at them. She explains everything that has happened up to this point, causing Hunter to stare when she explains how she used Ciaran's true name. She called them because she does not know what to do now. Daniel attacks Ciaran, and it takes both Hunter and Morgan to drag him away. Daniel wants to kill Ciaran, but Morgan argues that it is the council's job to decide what happens to Ciaran. However, Hunter objects that the council has already bungled this twice, so they need to strip Ciaran of his powers now. Ciaran's menacing eyes show real fear, and though Morgan hates the idea of seeing Ciaran stripped of his powers, she knows there is no other realistic option as Ciaran will continue to create the dark wave and will always be a threat if they release him. Looking away from Ciaran's disappointment, rage and regret, Morgan points out that they will need five witches, refusing to participate herself. As Hunter sends out witch messages, Morgan pulls Ciaran into a sitting position and sits on a bench, concentrating on the binding spell. She does not trust herself to speak, though she is certain in her heart that they are doing the right thing.

Sitting next to Morgan, Hunter comments that she never told him she knew Ciaran's true name, and she explains that she learned it the night they shape-shifted because part of his spell required the use of his true name, but she never told anyone because it felt wrong to tell. Hunter suggests that maybe she did not want Ciaran to be that vulnerable to anyone else because, regardless of whatever else he may be, he helped create her. Morgan admits that she could not kill Ciaran because she hoped he would be different, but she wants nothing to do with his skill or knowledge. Two cars arrive containing Alyce Fernblake, Bethany Malone and an unknown witch who is introduced as Silver Hennessy. Hunter prepares the circle as Morgan refuses to look at the growing rage and panic on Ciaran's face. Morgan can feel Ciaran trying to break free occasionally, and she approaches Hunter to suggest that they should call Killian, her half-brother, to come get Ciaran after the ceremony since no one else will want to take care of him. She sends a witch message to Killian to come to Widow's Vale, telling him it is important but not why, and he agrees. Announcing it is time, Hunter proceeds with the rite, aided by the other four witches as Morgan watches and focuses on maintaining the binding spell incapacitating Ciaran. Watching the rite, Morgan knows that she will forever be scarred from the experience. Hunter announces that Ciaran will lose his powers, and images show all that Ciaran was and has become as everything that made him who and what he was is destroyed and Ciaran's life as a witch ends. With the rite completed, the other

witches leave. When Killian arrives, he cannot believe that Morgan stripped their father of his powers, but he agrees to take care of Ciaran. Alyce comforts Morgan, noting that Morgan would have to be a terrible person for this not to affect her. Morgan allows Hunter to comfort her, but she feels like nothing will ever be right again.



Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Summary

By 5 a.m., Alisa is freaking out because she needs to get home and does not know where Hunter and Daniel are. Just as she tries to decide whether she should start walking, they return and apologize for taking so long. Hunter explains what happened, warning it was especially hard on Morgan who is waiting outside to drive Alisa home. He guesses there will not be a dark wave now, so Alisa will not need to torture herself with the spell anymore. Outside, Morgan looks horrible too, and Alisa apologizes for tonight and for how she has treated Morgan for the past couple months. Morgan drops Alisa off down the street so Dad will not hear the car, and turning to see tears on Morgan's face, all Alisa can think to say is sorry. Alisa wakes up later that morning, not caring about being late for school, and when she tells Hilary she is sick, Hilary calls the school and sends Alisa back to bed. Later, Alisa wakes again when Hilary brings her lunch, and Alisa realizes she should try to get along with Hilary since she and her baby will soon be part of her family, whether she likes it or not. When Hilary asks about school, Alisa is fascinated as Hilary tells her about hating high school and how much better life in college was. Alisa watches Hilary's favorite soap opera with her, wondering where the real Hilary has gone and enjoying the hour of not thinking about magick, witches and dark waves.

Chapter 12 Analysis

Chapter 12 starts with a folk saying about there being a thin line between light and dark, pain and pleasure, love and hate, life and death, and this world and the next. Just as Alisa decides to walk home, Hunter returns and explains what has happened, telling her that there will not be a dark wave after all. Alisa cannot believe it is over, and though she is glad there is no dark wave, she was kind of excited to see how well she did. Hunter and Daniel still look awful, so Alisa tells them to take care of themselves, wishing she could do something to help. Morgan drives Alisa home, and Alisa wishes there was something she could do since Morgan looks horrible, but all she can do is say that she is sorry. Entering the house, Alisa finds that the dawn of a new day feels peaceful as she looks out the window. When Alisa wakes late for school, she tells Hilary that she is sick, so Hilary calls the school and even brings Alisa lunch. The two end up talking about school and watching television together as Alisa realizes she should try to get along with Hilary since Hilary will soon be part of her family; her growing acceptance of this fact is evidenced by the fact that nothing explodes when she has this thought as it did the last time she considered accepting Hilary. She thinks about Dad coming home and how happy he always is when he sees Hilary and Alisa together, and she is glad they will not be wiped out by magick anytime soon.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

After sleeping all day, Morgan wakes up at 5 p.m. still feeling horrible. Hunter calls to check on her and wishes she had told him she knew Ciaran's true name. He does not want to make her feel guilty, but he thought they had total trust and honesty between them. When Morgan reminds him of Canada, Hunter agrees that they have a long ways to go, but he wants to work to get there because he wants total trust and honesty between him and Morgan. Morgan explains she felt she had to keep Ciaran's true name close in case she or Hunter needed it, and she notes that Ciaran met her at the power sink because he trusted her or was sure he was much stronger than her. Though he was stronger, he should not have trusted her. Hunter insists that Morgan did the right thing, even for Ciaran because every evil he has done will revisit him threefold, so Morgan prevented him from making it worse. They make plans to catch up tomorrow; Hunter is eager to get away because Daniel is driving him mad because Hunter has decided that he wants nothing to do with the council since they have endangered him and Morgan, but Daniel does not see it that way. Morgan is stunned that Hunter would quit being a Seeker since it is such a large part of who he is, and Hunter is happy when Morgan says she will support his decision to do whatever he wants, though he does not yet know what he will do. They agree to talk about it tomorrow, but Morgan believes it could be a good thing because "I want to look toward the future instead of dreading everything in the present" (p. 160).

In the morning, Morgan begins to think she really has the flu, but it is nice to walk up to Hunter's door without looking over her shoulder. Hunter lets Morgan inside, admitting he still feels bad but suggesting it may take a while; he is not sure since he has never been around a dark wave before. While snuggling with Hunter, Morgan admits that she feels guilty for betraying Ciaran because she felt there was something good in him from long ago, and Hunter assures her that time will dull the pain. When Daniel returns, he and Hunter bicker over the groceries, but as Morgan looks at the potted cactus by the window which was blooming last week and is now dead, a cold feeling comes over her. She tells Hunter and Daniel that the cactus is dead. Daniel knew something was wrong but could not see what, and he knows that Morgan is right. Hunter agrees that the dark wave is still coming; either Ciaran cast it before meeting Morgan or Amyranth is still continuing with him. Daniel tells Hunter to call Alisa.

Chapter 13 Analysis

Chapter 13 opens with a quote from Saffy Reese, New York, 2001 stating "the thing about magick is: sometimes it looks like one thing, but it turns out to be something quite different" (p. 154). When Morgan wakes the next day, still feeling sick, she tells Mary K that it is just a bug, deciding to avoid dinner with her family because she does not feel like eating or talking to anyone since she is still feeling weighed down by the knowledge



of what she did last night; she saved her family, friends and coven at the expense of her father. Ciaran looked dead after the rite, and she knows he will go insane without magick, but he has killed so many people, including her own mother. There is no rite that Morgan knows of to restore his magick, so now Ciaran is harmless and the dark wave will not come. She feels a mixture of guilt and relief at her thoughts. Hunter calls to complain about Morgan not telling him that she knew Ciaran's true name, and he insists that he wants to work toward having total trust and honesty between them, a thought that makes Morgan happy. He also assures Morgan that she did the right thing for everyone, even Ciaran who she has prevented from doing more evil. Morgan points out that nothing is ever black and white, and though Hunter agrees, he reminds her that last night was more good than bad, and sometimes, that is all anyone can hope for. Hunter continues the conversation by telling Morgan that he is considering quitting the council because he is not happy with how they have endangered him and Morgan; his father objects to the idea, but Morgan lends her full support for Hunter to do whatever he wants. The next morning, Morgan still feels sick, foreshadowing the realization that the dark wave is still coming. She is hopeful that Amyranth will not take up Ciaran's cause because it feels purely personal and she is sure she does not matter to Amyranth at all. At Hunter's, Morgan confides that she feels guilty for betraying Ciaran. When Daniel returns home, Morgan notices that a plant is dead, indicating that the dark wave is still coming and fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing. Daniel and Hunter agree with Morgan's assessment of the situation and decide to call Alisa.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

It seems darker and more ominous each time Alisa looks out the windows as she concentrates on the third form which is harder than the first and fourth parts of the spell but not as hard as the second. She has been practicing with Daniel for six hours as Hunter and Morgan watch, yet she still cannot believe the dark wave is coming after all. As Daniel continues to coach her, Hunter assures her that she is doing a great job. When Daniel curls up on the floor, unable to even pretend that he can cast this spell himself, Hunter whispers that this is up to Alisa. Alisa agrees but worries she will not be able to cast the spell successfully when the time comes. Hunter announces that the dark wave is coming, and when he notes that Alisa is not ready, Daniel offers to do it, but Hunter and Alisa both object. Luckily, Hunter has an idea.

Hunter explains his idea as they stand in the weird air of the power sink in the Methodist Cemetery. Since Daniel is not strong enough to connect to Alisa through Tath Meanma, Morgan and Daniel will retreat to a safe distance, and Morgan will connect to both Alisa and Daniel. Morgan will be in the field across the road, with Daniel further away, maintaining contact with the two while Hunter stays with Alisa to coach her. A cold wind smacks Alisa in the face, and she sees a cloud of what appears to be fine ash approaching Widow's Vale. Announcing it is time to go, Hunter leads Daniel away while Morgan connects to Alisa. Hunter prepares the circle, placing four bowls containing representations of the four elements in the four directions as Alisa sets the gold pocket watch Daniel gave her in the center of the circle. Ready to begin the first part, Alisa invokes the aid of the Goddess and God, beginning the spell. Morgan encourages her as she perfectly completes the first part, and Alisa feels Daniel's urgency as she continues into the second part of the spell, Morgan coaching her when she forgets a part. Morgan reminds Alisa that she is strong and can do this, so Alisa begins the third part of the spell, the actual form of the spell itself. Seeing the cloud's approach, Alisa is sick at the thought that they are going to die, and she cannot move as Morgan coaches her. She is sure that she will not finish in time. Alisa notices Hunter hunched by a tombstone, looking like he has aged thirty years, and Morgan urges her on. Alisa launches into the third part of the spell, feeling like she is waiting to die, and the first blast of darkness is only twenty yards away when she finishes the third part of the spell. Alisa is frozen with fear as Morgan and Hunter yell for her to ignite it, but she shakily whispers the words to set the spell in motion, feeling a surge of energy shoot out of the ground, through her and out of her head. She senses the warmth, light and happiness that is her magical power, and the air and earth open in front of her as the gold pocket watch explodes, the blast sending Alisa into a tombstone. The dark wave is here, but it rushes into the bith dearc Alisa created as she passes out. Alisa wakes in pain as Morgan tends her wounds and assures her she will be better soon. Sitting next to them, Hunter says she did it, she saved them. Crying, Alisa says Morgan did it because she told her what to say, but Morgan insists Daniel coached her; she was just the messenger. Alisa cannot believe that it worked and everyone is still alive, and when she



notes that she used her powers in wonder, Morgan smiles and agrees that she sure did. They stare at each other for a long moment, and Alisa "realized the Morgan and I understood each other. We had bonded. We were witches" (p. 180).

Chapter 14 Analysis

Chapter 14 begins with a quote from X, an Amyranth leader, London, 2002 where he states that he sees a day when all witches are united under one common cause and doctrine. The Woodbanes will be safe from their enemies as their will only be one great clan instead of seven, the Woodbanes. That is the vision he is working towards. The penultimate chapter focuses on Alisa as she practices the spell to defeat the dark wave with Daniel while Hunter and Morgan watch. She knows that she is not ready yet, but Daniel cannot even pretend that he is able to cast the spell alone. Hunter and Alisa both object when Daniel offers to cast the spell after Hunter announces the dark wave is coming, but fortunately, Hunter has an idea. Hunter's idea consists of Morgan using her powers to maintain a connection with Alisa and Daniel, allowing Daniel to coach Alisa through the spell using Morgan as a conduit. Alisa finds it strange to be connected to Morgan's mind. Morgan assures Alisa that she will have all the support she needs, and this spell will set her life on an exhilarating path. Hunter helps Alisa set and cast the circle, and Morgan coaches Alisa through the spell, prompting her when Alisa forgets certain parts. Alisa tries to focus on the spell and ignore her fear as she sees a dark cloud approaching Widow's Vale, indicating the need for her to hurry. Alisa completes the first part perfectly and launches into the second part. It takes an exhausting thirty minutes, but Alisa stays in the circle, even when she feels a cold wind and heavy weight pressing down on her. Moving into the third part, Alisa is frozen with fear, but Morgan urges her to continue. The dark wave is very close as Alisa finishes the third part of the spell, but the completion of the spell this far foreshadows that Alisa will manage to defeat the dark wave. Alisa freezes yet again, launching into action and igniting the spell at the last moment. She feels a rush of magic shoot through her and into the air, creating a gap between her world and the netherworld which swallows the dark wave. Alisa passes out, regaining consciousness to learn that she has defeated the dark wave, fulfilling the recent foreshadowing. Asking about Daniel, Alisa sees him kneeling fifteen feet away as he closes the bith dearc forever. This is the first time that anyone has defeated a dark wave, and now they can teach others to do it and possibly stop Amyranth for good. Alisa is pleasantly stunned at the realization that she successfully used her powers to save Widow's Vale, and looking at Morgan, she realizes they understand each other because they are both witches. This indicates that Alisa has accepted her status as a half witch and is unlikely to strip herself of her powers as her mother did.



Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

Back at Hunter's house, Hunter cannot believe it is over, but Morgan just wants life to get back to normal. Daniel notes they did well, and Alisa looks pleased when Hunter agrees that they make a good team. Morgan cannot wait for the other witches to hear about this; there has been no defense against dark waves for so long, but now there is. When Daniel invites Morgan to call him by his first name, she is glad he is finally accepting her. He hopes that the spell will work in other places when needed, agreeing it is great news for the entire witch community. Alisa cannot believe how good it felt when the power flowed through her, and Hunter notes that she now needs to be formally trained. Morgan realizes that she is late for dinner, laughing when Daniel offers to call her parents and explain. Hunter walks her outside, and Morgan is happy that they really stopped the dark wave and can now look toward the future, like figuring out what Hunter wants to do if he leaves the council and if they will ever get time alone together. Hunter agrees they need to talk soon and kisses her goodbye. On her way home, Morgan realizes that the dark wave is gone and Ciaran is no longer a threat, and she hopes to someday come to terms with how that happened. Now, she and Hunter can think about their future together, so she feels light and free as she reaches home. Looking at the ground, Morgan laughs when she notices that her mother's crocuses have miraculously sprung back to life.

Chapter 15 Analysis

Chapter 15 starts with a quote from Daniel Niall of Turloch-eigh claiming the Nal Nithrac spell is lengthy and difficult but not impossible for one witch to perform. It can be utilized against any dark wave but must be as accurate as possible as to the place, time and people involved. It is also a great value to have an item that carries the vibrations of the dark wave creator, but that is not always necessary. The last chapter of this novel shows Hunter, Morgan, Daniel and Alisa back at Hunter's house. They are all excited that they vanquished the dark wave and can return to their normal lives. Alisa is especially happy that she has begun learning her powers, while Morgan is particularly pleased that Daniel seems to finally be accepting her. Daniel points out that other witches will now be able to use his spell to fight dark waves, a fact that all of them enjoy. Hunter plans to formally train Alisa, foreshadowing Alisa's continued education as a witch in future books in this series. Morgan realizes she needs to leave because she is late for dinner, but she is excited that she and Hunter will finally be able to look forward to their future together. She feels light as she realizes that neither the dark wave nor Ciaran are a threat any longer. The novel ends as Morgan looks at the ground and notices that her mother's flowers have been restored to life, proving that the dark wave truly is gone.



Characters

Morgan Rowlands

Morgan Rowlands is one of the narrators in "Eclipse" as well as being a main character and protagonist. She is a seventeen-year-old blood witch living in Widow's Vale with her adoptive family, the Rowlandses. Her birth father, Ciardan MacEwan, killed her birth mother, Maeve Riordan, when Morgan was an infant. During Kithic's Saturday circle, Ciaran, Morgan's evil birth father, appears to warn Morgan that he wants to talk to her. When Morgan and Hunter, her boyfriend and the leader of Kithic, scry for Morgan, they see a vision of an approaching dark wave, a powerful force of destruction, being sent to Widow's Vale. Ciaran visits Morgan and asks her to join him, but she refuses so he tells her that there will be penalties, alluding to the dark wave. Daniel believes he can create a spell to counter the dark wave, but the witch who performs the spell will likely die from their proximity to the dark wave which is already causing all the witches in Widow's Vale to feel ill. Having recently discovered that she is half witch, Alisa offers to help learn the spell.

As Alisa practices the Nal Nithrac spell to defeat the dark wave, Morgan feels guilty that everyone is in danger because of her relationship with Ciaran, so she convinces Ciaran to meet her at the local power sink. Ciaran tries to persuade Morgan to join him, insisting that she is too powerful to stand in opposition to him, but when she refuses, Ciaran is furious and puts a binding spell on Morgan. Morgan breaks Ciaran's concentration, uses his true name to force him to release her and places a binding spell on Ciaran before calling Hunter and Daniel for help. When Hunter and Daniel arrive, Morgan explains what has happened, so Hunter calls three additional witches to help strip Ciaran of his powers while Morgan convinces her half-brother, Killian, to come to Widow's Vale to take responsibility for Ciaran's care after his powers are stripped. Morgan feels guilty for stripping Ciaran of his powers, but she is relieved that the dark wave is no longer a threat. Several days later, Morgan and Hunter still feel sick, and when Morgan notices that a plant that has recently died, they realize that Amyranth, Ciaran's coven, is still sending the dark wave to Widow's Vale, so they call Alisa. Though Alisa is not ready to perform the Nal Nithrac spell on her own, Hunter has an idea; Alisa performs the spell at the power sink while Morgan and Daniel maintain a mental connection to her from a distance, allowing Daniel to coach Alisa through Morgan. Although it is difficult, Alisa manages to cast the spell and defeat the dark wave with Morgan and Daniel's aid. All of them are very happy that they defeated the dark wave. Alisa accepts her status as a half witch and plans to learn more about using her powers, while Morgan is simply happy that she is now able to look forward to the future now that Ciaran and the dark wave no longer present a threat.



Alisa Soto

Alisa Soto is one of the narrators of this novel, alternating with Morgan, as well as one of the main characters and protagonists. She is a fifteen-year-old living in Widow's Vale who discovers that she is half witch. Alisa fears Morgan's uncontrollable powers, but she is drawn to a green-covered Book of Shadows that Morgan acquires from an occult bookstore, so she steals the book. When Alisa learns that the Book of Shadows belonged to her mother, Sarah Curtis, she realizes that she is half witch, and devastated at the idea, she turns to Morgan for support, and Morgan suggests that Alisa should attend Kithic's circles as a sort of support group. Though Alisa finds peace at Kithic's circle, she notices that Hunter and Morgan seem extremely sick. Since Morgan will not tell Alisa what is going on, Alisa questions Hunter and learns about the oncoming dark wave and Daniel's attempt at a counter spell. She realizes that the dark wave does not affect her as strongly since she is only half witch so she offers to learn the spell, suggesting that she may be able to survive the dark wave if she casts the spell. Daniel and Hunter begin coaching her.

As Alisa practices the Nal Nithrac spell to defeat the dark wave, Morgan confronts Ciaran, and his powers are stripped, so everyone believes that the dark wave is no longer a threat. When they realize that the dark wave is still approaching Widow's Vale, they call Alisa who resumes practicing Daniel's spell to counter the dark wave. Though Alisa is not ready to perform the Nal Nithrac spell on her own, Hunter has an idea; Alisa performs the spell at the power sink while Morgan and Daniel maintain a mental connection to her from a distance, allowing Daniel to coach Alisa through Morgan. Although it is difficult, Alisa manages to cast the spell and defeat the dark wave. All of them are very happy that they defeated the dark wave. Alisa accepts her status as a half witch and plans to learn more about using her powers, while Morgan is simply happy that she is now able to look forward to the future now that Ciaran and the dark wave no longer present a threat.

Hunter Niall

Hunter Niall is Morgan's muin beatha dan, or soul mate as well as the leader of Kithic and a Seeker for the International Council of Witches. He recently returned from Canada where he found his estranged father, Daniel. Hunter tries to protect Morgan when he learns that Ciaran has removed the watch signal Morgan placed on him and wants to talk to Morgan. He also helps Alisa learn the Nal Nithrac spell to counter the dark wave. Hunter considers leaving the council because of their failure to capture Ciaran which results in endangering Hunter and Morgan. Hunter leads the group of five witches who strip Ciaran of his powers, and he also aids Alisa in setting the circle at the power sink in the Methodist Cemetery before she casts the Nal Nithrac spell.



Ciaran MacEwan

Ciaran MacEwan is Morgan's birth father who killed Morgan's mother, Maeve Riordan, when Morgan was an infant. He is the leader of Amyranth, a coven of evil witches, and he contacts Morgan because he wants her to join him since she is too powerful to stand in opposition to him. When Morgan refuses, Ciaran sends a dark wave to Widow's Vale, but Morgan confronts him at the power sink and manages to cast a binding spell. She then calls Hunter, Daniel, Alyce, Bethany and Silver who strip Ciaran of his powers. Killian MacEwan, Ciaran's son and Morgan's half-brother, collects Ciaran to care for him until he heals from the stripping of his powers.

Daniel Niall

Daniel Niall is Hunter's estranged father who he finds during his trip to Canada. Daniel returns to Widow's Vale to live with Hunter. He hates Ciaran as he left his children for over eleven years to hide from Ciaran, so as a result, Daniel distrusts Morgan since she is Ciaran's offspring. When they learn that Ciaran has sent a dark wave to Widow's Vale, Daniel works on creating the Nal Nithrac spell to defeat the dark wave, but he knows that casting the spell will kill him because of his proximity to the dark wave. Once Alisa volunteers to try the spell since she is half witch and will likely survive proximity to the dark wave, Daniel teaches her the spell. When the time comes, Daniel mentally connects to Morgan who is mentally connected to Alisa, allowing Daniel to coach Alisa through the spell and defeat the dark wave. After these events, Daniel learns to trust Morgan.

Maeve Riordan

Maeve Riordan is Morgan's birth mother from the Belwicket coven. She was also Ciaran's soul mate, but he killed her because she did not want to be with him.

Rose MacEwan

Rose MacEwan is Morgan's ancestor who was the first person to create a dark wave. Daniel uses her Book of Shadows to create the Nal Nithrac spell to combat the dark wave.

Mary K. Rowlands

Mary K. Rowlands is Morgan's adoptive sister and Alisa's friend.



Hilary

Hilary is Alisa's future stepmother who is twenty-five years old and pregnant. Alisa hates that Hilary lives with her and her father, but she begins to accept that Hilary will soon become part of her family.

Sarah Curtis

Sarah Curtis is Alisa's birth mother who was a full-blood witch but stripped herself of her powers. Alisa discovers Sarah's Book of Shadows and learns that she is half witch.

Killian MacEwan

Killian MacEwan is Ciaran's son and Morgan's half-brother. Morgan calls Killian to care for Ciaran after Ciaran's powers are stripped.

Alyce Fernblake

Alyce Fernblake is the owner of Practical Magick, an occult bookstore, and a member of the Starlocket coven. She aids in stripping Ciaran of his powers.

Bethany Malone

Bethany Malone is a member of the Starlocket coven who aids in stripping Ciaran of his powers.

Silver Hennessy

Silver Hennessy is a member of the Starlocket coven who aids in stripping Ciaran of his powers.



Objects/Places

Widow's Vale, NY

Widow's Vale, NY is the main setting of "Eclipse" where the novel takes place. Widow's Vale is a small American town where Morgan and the other characters live. Ciaran sends a dark wave to Widow's Vale when Morgan refuses to join him, but Morgan, Alisa, Hunter and Daniel defeat the dark wave.

Kithic

Kithic is Morgan and Hunter's coven in Widow's Vale. They hold circles every Saturday evening. Though Ciaran threatens Kithic, Hunter and Morgan decide not to tell the other members of their coven for fear of causing widespread panic.

Amyranth

Amyranth is Ciaran's evil coven who continues to send the dark wave to Widow's Vale after Ciaran's powers are stripped.

Practical Magick

Practical Magick is Alyce's occult bookstore where Morgan and Hunter visit her. While visiting Alyce, Morgan finds a green Book of Shadows that turns out to have belonged to Sarah Curtis, Alisa's mother.

Rowlandses' House

Morgan lives at the Rowlandses' house with her adoptive family. Alisa often visits Mary K and Morgan to avoid her father and Hilary, her father's twenty-five-year-old, pregnant fiancé.

Sarah Curtis's Book of Shadows

Morgan finds Sarah Curtis's Book of Shadows at Practical Magick, and when she takes it home, Alisa is oddly drawn to the book. She steals it, but as she reads it, she is shocked at the similarities between the Sarah Curtis who wrote the book and Sarah Curtis, her mother. Eventually, Alisa realizes the book belonged to her mother, meaning she is half witch.



Gloucester, Massachusetts

Sarah Curtis was from Gloucester, Massachusetts, and after learning her mother was a witch, Alisa realizes she may have living relatives in Gloucester.

Methodist Cemetery

The Methodist Cemetery at the edge of town is where the local power sink is located, so this is where Morgan meets Ciaran, where Hunter and the others strip Ciaran of his powers and where Alisa confronts the dark wave.

Power Sink

The local power sink, a gathering of power, is located in the old Methodist Cemetery at the edge of town. Morgan meets Ciaran at the power sink, and Hunter, Daniel, Alyce, Bethany and Silver join them to strip Ciaran of his powers. Later, Alisa, Morgan, Daniel and Hunter return to the power sink to cast the Nal Nithrac spell to defeat the dark wave sent by Ciaran and Amyranth.

Dark Wave

The dark wave was first created by Rose MacEwan, Morgan's ancestor. It is a wave of destruction summoned from the netherworld. Ciaran summons a dark wave to Widow's Vale against Kithic and their families because Morgan refuses to align herself with him.

Nal Nithrac Spell

The Nal Nithrac spell is the spell that Daniel creates to use against the dark wave that Ciaran sends to Widow's Vale. Alisa successfully casts the spell and banishes the dark wave while joined to Morgan and Daniel since the wave is less dangerous to her since she is only half witch. Morgan and Daniel are excited because the Nal Nithrac spell is the first success in countering a dark wave.

Bith Dearc

A bith dearc is a rip in time and space between the world and the Netherworld. These are opened to summon the dark waves, but with Morgan and Daniel's help, Alisa opens a bith dearc during the Nal Nithrac spell and sends the dark wave back to the Netherworld.



Themes

Magick

As "Eclipse" is a book about witches, magick is arguably the most important theme in this novel. The novel begins with Morgan arriving at Kithic's Saturday night circle during which her birth father, Ciaran, appears in a vision in front of her to warn he is coming to talk to her. She and Hunter scry for Ciaran and receive a vision of an approaching dark wave. Daniel works at developing a spell to counter the dark wave and save Widow's Vale, but the spell he comes up with is will likely kill the witch who casts it because of the necessity for them to be in close proximity to the dark wave. Feeling guilty that all of this is happening because of her, Morgan convinces Ciaran to meet her at the local power sink. When she refuses to join him yet again, Ciaran casts a binding spell on Morgan, but she distracts him, using his true name to force him to free her so that she can lay a binding spell on Ciaran. Morgan then calls Hunter, Daniel and three other witches who come out to the power sink to strip Ciaran of his powers.

In contrast to Morgan who has already accepted her witchy heritage, Alisa is unnerved by Morgan because things always seem to be destroyed by Morgan's uncontrollable powers. Still, Alisa is drawn to an odd green-covered Book of Shadows that Morgan acquires from an occult bookstore, and after stealing it, Alisa reads it and learns that her mother was a witch, meaning Alisa is half witch. She turns to Morgan for support, and Morgan suggests that Alisa should attend Kithic's circles as a sort of support group. Alisa finds peace at Kithic's circle, but she notices that Morgan and Hunter seem ill, a result of the pending dark wave, and when she questions Hunter and learns about the oncoming dark wave, she suggests that she may be able to survive casting the spell because she is only half witch. Daniel trains Alisa on the Nal Nithrac spell, but after Ciaran is stripped of his powers, Alisa is somewhat disappointed that she does not get to prove herself, though she is relieved to learn her town is no longer in danger.

Unfortunately, Morgan and Hunter soon realize that they still feel ill and plants are still dying, signifying that Amyranth, Ciaran's coven, is still sending the dark wave to Widow's Vale. They call Alisa who resumes practicing with Daniel, but when Hunter announces that the dark wave is near, Alisa still is not ready; luckily, Hunter has an idea. At the power sink, Morgan mentally connects to Alisa who stays at the power sink while Morgan retreats to a nearby field where she also connects mentally to Daniel. Through this series of mental connections, Daniel is able to coach Alisa through the Nal Nithrac spell, and together, they defeat the dark wave. Alisa is amazed that she used her powers to save Widow's Vale, and she finally accepts that she is a witch. Morgan is happy that Ciaran and the dark wave are no longer a threat, allowing her and Hunter to begin looking forward to their future.



Family Issues

One prevalent theme in "Eclipse" is the idea of family issues. Both of the main characters and protagonists, Morgan and Alisa, deal with difficult situations within their family systems, as does Hunter. Hunter has recently returned from a trip to Canada where he was reunited with his father, Daniel, whom he has not seen in eleven years because Hunter's parents were hiding from Ciaran. Unfortunately, Hunter's mother died before Hunter could find her. Alisa is unhappy with her family because her birth mother died long ago, when she was a toddler, and her father has recently moved his twenty-five-year-old, pregnant fiancé, Hilary, into their home. Alisa struggles to accept Hilary, finally coming to terms with the situation by the end of the novel. In addition to that, Alisa is drawn to and steals an odd green-covered Book of Shadows from Morgan. Reading it, she learns that her mother, Sarah Curtis, was a witch, making Alisa half witch. Sarah stripped herself of her powers because they scared her, but Alisa decides to learn about her powers before making her decision.

Morgan's family troubles are more extensive than either Hunter's or Alisa's. To begin with, Morgan lives with the Rowlandses, her adoptive family because her birth father, Ciaran, is evil, and he killed her birth mother when Morgan was an infant. Additionally, Morgan struggles with the knowledge that her ancestor, Rose MacEwan, created the dark wave. On top of that, Ciaran appears to Morgan during Kithic's circle. Ciaran announces that he has forgiven Morgan for putting a watch sigil on him the last time they met so the council could track him down and take him into custody. Because Ciaran is one of the most evil witches in existence, Morgan chose to betray him; "I had chosen good over evil" (page 6). Ciaran wants to talk to Morgan now though. When Morgan refuses to join Ciaran's evil magickal empire, he sends a dark wave to Widow's Vale. Morgan reaches out to him, but since she still refuses, Ciaran claims she is too powerful to exist in opposition to him, so he binds her powers. Luckily, Morgan distracts him, uses his true name to force him to release her and binds him until Hunter, Daniel and three other witches meet her at the power sink to strip Ciaran of his powers. In addition to troubles with her own family, Morgan also struggles with the fact that Daniel distrusts her because of her relationship to Ciaran, his enemy. By the end of the novel, Daniel realizes that Morgan is nothing like her father and begins to accept her.

Accepting Oneself

Throughout "Eclipse", both protagonists constantly question who they are and what their motives are. Thus, an important theme in this novel is their journey to accepting who they are. Morgan dislikes the fact that her father and her ancestor are both dark witches who practice evil spells, and though Hunter assures her that she is nothing like them, she cannot convince herself of the same, despite rebuffing Ciaran's attempts to lure her to his side. Because of Morgan's heritage, she is able to coax Rose MacEwan's secret writing to reveal itself, allowing Daniel to construct the Nal Nithrac spell. When Ciaran confronts Morgan and tries to convince her to join him as his rightful heir, she objects that she is not a murderer like he is, causing Ciaran to threaten everyone that Morgan



loves. Daniel mentions that his spell would be more powerful if he had something to use as a focus point on the one who summoned the dark wave, so Morgan relinquishes a gold pocket watch that once belonged to Ciaran, sacrificing the only thing she owns with her mother's image to save her town. Later, Morgan confronts and binds Ciaran, allowing Hunter and four other witches to strip his powers. Morgan continues to fight against the dark wave, showing that though her heritage is dark, she is definitely a good witch.

Although Alisa is frightened of witchcraft and specifically Morgan's uncontrollable powers, she is drawn to the green-covered Book of Shadows that Morgan acquires from Practical Magick. She steals the book and learns that it belonged to her mother, a witch. This means that Alisa is half witch, a concept that frightens her beyond belief. She turns to Morgan who understands how terrified Alisa must be and suggests that Alisa can attend Kithic's circles and use the coven as a support group. Alisa learns that her mother stripped herself of her powers, and though she considers that idea and hopes that she will not manifest powers, she soon realizes that she has already shown powers; many of the frightening things that Morgan has made happen were actually a result of Alisa's uncontrolled powers. At Kithic's circle, Alisa confesses her fear of magick, but by the end of the circle, she feels calm and cheerful. After learning about the approaching dark wave, Alisa considers the idea that she may be able to survive casting the spell since she is only half witch. She does not want to strip her powers as her mother did because she just learned that she has them. She separates the things her powers have done from what Morgan has done and realizes that Morgan only uses her powers for good. Alisa does not want to be half witch, but since she is, she must decide whether to strip her powers, try to use them or pretend this is not happening. This decision leads to Alisa learning how to cast the spell and saving Widow's Vale from the dark wave. As a result, she is proud of her use of her powers and accepts the fact that she is a witch.

Style

Point of View

The point of view in "Eclipse" is the first-person perspective. This point of view is limited but reliable. The narrators, Morgan and Alisa, narrate this story from alternating perspectives, and the fact that the point of view is limited is proven by the fact that each of the protagonists are only able to share their own thoughts and what they witness personally or are told. This is important as it maintains the focus on these two characters and the challenges they face. Morgan's primary issue in this novel is her encounter with Ciaran, her refusal to join his evil magic practices and her attempt to thwart him by stripping his powers. Alisa struggles with the fact that she has just learned that her mother was a witch, meaning Alisa is half witch. Additionally, both of these girls are forced to face the fact that Ciaran has sent a dark wave, a destructive force of magick, to demolish their small town of Widow's Vale, especially targeting Kithic, their coven.

The distribution of exposition and dialogue in this novel is fairly equal. This is effective as the dialogue serves to progress the narrative's actions and to reveal the relationships between characters. Meanwhile, the exposition maintains its focus on Morgan and Alisa, detailing their feelings about the challenges they face and other extraneous matters. The viewpoint of this novel alternates between that of Morgan and that of Alisa as the two protagonists narrate alternating chapters throughout the book, allowing the reader to become very well acquainted with both witches.

Setting

"Eclipse" is set in the real world, with the difference between the real world and the world of the novel being that, in the novel, witches and magick exist and play an influential role in things. The novel is set in Widow's Vale, New York, a small American town. The characters are a combination of regular humans, blood witches who were born to their magickal heritage and Alissa, the only known half witch to manifest significant powers.

Widow's Vale, NY is the main setting of "Eclipse", where the novel takes place. Widow's Vale is a small American town where Morgan and the other characters live. Ciaran sends a dark wave to Widow's Vale when Morgan refuses to join him, but Morgan, Alisa, Hunter and Daniel defeat the dark wave. Practical Magick is Alyce's occult bookstore where Morgan and Hunter visit her. While visiting Alyce, Morgan finds a green Book of Shadows that turns out to have belonged to Sarah Curtis, Alisa's mother. Morgan lives at the Rowlandses' house with her adoptive family. Alisa often visits Mary K and Morgan to avoid her father and Hilary, her father's twenty-five-year-old, pregnant fiancé. Sarah Curtis was from Gloucester, Massachusetts, and after learning her mother was a witch, Alisa realizes she may have living relatives in Gloucester. The Methodist Cemetery at



the edge of town is where the local power sink is located, so this is where Morgan meets Ciaran, where Hunter and the others strip Ciaran of his powers and where Alisa confronts the dark wave. The local power sink, a gathering of power, is located in the old Methodist Cemetery at the edge of town. Morgan meets Ciaran at the power sink, and Hunter, Daniel, Alyce, Bethany and Silver join them to strip Ciaran of his powers. Later, Alisa, Morgan, Daniel and Hunter return to the power sink to cast the Nal Nithrac spell to defeat the dark wave sent by Ciaran and Amyranth.

Language and Meaning

The language used in this novel is casual and informal. Sentences are constructed fairly properly. The style of language utilized is chosen because it is comprehensive for the target audience of teenagers and young adults. This is reinforced by the fact that the narrators speak like typical American teenagers, creating a familiarity between the narrators and the audience. This choice of language aids readers' comprehension as it makes the novel very easy to understand. The more difficult or fantastical concepts are fully explained, allowing readers to immerse themselves in the world of "Eclipse" where witches roam free, practicing magick. This alternate reality is easy to accept because of the similarities with the readers' real world.

The language utilized in the novel tends to characterize the characters as well as their motivations, maintaining a focus on the two protagonists, Morgan and Alisa. The distribution of exposition and dialogue in this novel is fairly equal. This is effective as the dialogue serves to progress the narrative's actions and to reveal the relationships between characters. Meanwhile, the exposition maintains its focus on Morgan and Alisa, detailing their feelings about the challenges they face and other extraneous matters. The language used enhances comprehension of the novel's concepts and, overall, makes the narrative quite easy to understand.

Structure

"Eclipse" is comprised of fifteen chapters and one hundred, eighty-four pages. The chapters average between ten and fifteen pages in length, and Morgan and Alisa alternate as the narrators for each chapter. The chapters are numbered, rather than titled, and they are fairly short but quite detailed. The entire narrative occurs in just over a week, so chapters range from detailed focus on a period of minutes or hours to more vague summaries of a longer period, such as a day or two.

"Eclipse" by Cate Tiernan is the twelfth book in the Sweep series. When Morgan's birth father sends a dark wave to her town because she refuses to join him in his evil magick, Morgan, Hunter and Daniel try to find a way to counter the destructive force. They find their solution in Alisa who has just discovered that she is a half witch with significant powers. "Eclipse" is an engaging novel that emphasizes the good that can be accomplished by overcoming one's fears. The novel is fairly quick-paced, and it is very easy to read. The narrative is mostly linear with some background information provided,

especially as it pertains to Morgan and Ciaran. Overall, "Eclipse" is a very entertaining and enjoyable book to read.



Quotes

"I began to feel the incredible lightening of my heart that told me I had connected with the Goddess. It wasn't like she spoke to me- but when I made a real connection to magick, the magick that exists everywhere, my worries dropped away. Pure, unquestioning joy filled my heart and my mind, and I felt a rush of love for everyone in my circle- even me- and everyone outside of my circle. It was this connection that made coming back to magick so necessary for me. It was a question and answer, reason and instinct, need and fulfillment all at the same time" (Chapter 1, p. 5).

"What did it mean? Was this an image of the future? Was this directed at me? Did it mean I would suffer the same fate as Maeve, at Ciaran's hands" (Chapter 1, p. 13).

"Magick. So it was a witch book. Well, that oughta cure me. I'd had enough freaky encounters with witchy things- and witchy people" (Chapter 2, p. 29).

"The image of Ciaran having his powers stripped was disturbing- I'd seen it happen before, and it was horrifying. But the image of Ciaran coming after me with full powers- maybe being in Widow's Vale right now- was much, much worse" (Chapter 3, p. 33).

"It was hard- no, impossible- to explain. But when I had seen that book fall out of Morgan's backpack, it was like it was my book that I had lost a long time ago, and here it was. So I took it back" (Chapter 4, p. 39).

"I, Alisa Soto, was the daughter of a witch and a nonwitch. I was half witch. Half witch. Everything I had always thought about my mom my whole life had been a lie" (Chapter 4, p. 47).

"I do know, sweetie. But all we can do is be on our best guard. And know that if he does try anything, we'll battle him together" (Chapter 5, p. 55).

"Morgan is not in league with Ciaran. Ciaran has tried to kill her. She herself put a watch sigil on him for the council. Now he's on his way here, or is already here, to confront her about it. They are on opposite sides. She could be in mortal danger" (Chapter 5, p. 57).

"I want to talk to you. I wanted to tell you I forgive you for the watch sigil. I wanted to try once again to convince you to join me, to take your rightful place as the heir to my power... But you can. Of course you can. You can do anything you want. Your life can be whatever you decide you want it to be. Only I can really show you how to use it. Only I can really understand you- because we're so much alike" (Chapter 5, p. 63).

"You can ask me from now until I die, but I won't ever join you. I can't. In the circle of magick, I'm in the light. My power comes from the light, not the dark. I don't want the power of the dark. I will never want the power of the dark" (Chapter 5, p. 65).

"Magick is basically energy, life force, chi, whatever you want to call it. The same magick that makes a flower bloom, produces fruit on a tree, brings a baby into the world



is the exact same magick that can light fires spontaneously, move objects, and work invisibly within the universal construct in order to effect change - such as casting a protective spell, a fertility spell, or a healing spell" (Chapter 6, p. 82).

"It's the effect of an oncoming dark wave. It isn't even in force yet, but the spells to call it have been started and the place and people targeted. It isn't going to be long now. A matter of days" (Chapter 7, p. 87).

"It suddenly struck me that my parents' relationship was the epitome of magick itself: darkness and light. A great, great love and a great, great hatred. Passion, both good and bad. A powerful joining followed by an irrevocable tearing apart. The rose and the thorn" (Chapter 7, p. 91).

"You're a witch... I get a strange reading off of you" (Chapter 8, p. 101).

"I was half witch. I might be able to call on the power, enough to cast the spell against the dark wave. And I was half not witch. So I might very well be able to survive the dark wave itself" (Chapter 8, p. 105).

"My whole family might be dead in a week; this house might no longer exist; these three people who had been the only family I'd known, who had taken care of me and gotten mad at me and loved me- they might be killed. Because of Ciaran. Because of me. Through no fault of their own. Their only crime being to have adopted and loved me" (Chapter 9, p. 110).

"I found Ciaran extremely compelling and charismatic, and the idea that he was a blood relation still confused me. For him, I was the child most like him, the one he wanted most to teach. Yet we both despised aspects of each other, and we had never really trusted each other" (Chapter 9, p. 113).

"Kithic is nothing. An amateurish circle of mediocre kids. But you, my dear- you are not nothing. You possess the power to devastate anything in your path- or to create unimaginable beauty... You don't understand who you are, what you are. You're the last witch of Belwicket. You're the daughter. You're the sgiurs dan... The signs say that it's you, Morgan. The destroyer comes every several generations to change the course of her clan. This time it's you who will change the course of the Woodbanes- just as your great ancestor Rose did centuries ago. So you see, you have more power than you realize. And I simply can't let that power be in opposition to my own. It would be... foolish of me to go against fate" (Chapter 9, p. 116).

"Ciaran of Amyranth, I have power over you. I have your true name, and you are bidden to do my will. You will never hurt me again" (Chapter 9, p. 121).

"I realized that I had some pride invested here. I wanted to be able to do this. Not to look good in front of Hunter and his dad, but because I was my mother's daughter. She'd come from a whole line of witches, yet she'd been so freaked out by her powers that she'd stripped herself of them. That seemed kind of cowardly to me. My powers scared me, too, but it seemed so wrong to give up like that. I felt like, I'm me, I'm in



control of me. Doing the spell was a crash course in learning to channel my powers" (Chapter 10, p. 125).

"No, not the council. They've bungled things twice with him already. No- it's up to us. We have to strip him of his powers" (Chapter 11, p. 133).

"Ciaran MacEwan, we have met, and in the name of witches everywhere, we have passed judgment on you. You have called on the dark wave, you are responsible for untold deaths, you have participated in other rites of darkness that are abhorrent to those who follow the Goddess. Tonight you will have your powers stripped from you" (Chapter 11, p. 139).

"I watched it mindlessly, enjoying having an hour from my life gone, an hour in which I didn't have to think about magick and witches and breaking things and dark waves. I looked around the house, at Hilary, thought about my dad coming home. His face always lit up when he saw Hilary and me. That was cool. Thank God they weren't going to get wiped out by magick anytime soon" (Chapter 12, p. 153).

"I saved my family, my friends, my coven. At the expense of my father" (Chapter 13, p. 155).

"Well, I want to work to get there. I want us to grow closer, to earn each other's trust, to be able to count on each other more than we count on other people. I do want us to have total trust and honesty between us. That's how I want us to be" (Chapter 13, p. 157).

"That's one way of looking at it. I don't know. Nothing is ever black and white. Decisions are never crystal clear" (Chapter 13, p. 158).

"Thursday was so awful. I don't think I'll ever get over it. No matter how much good I was doing, I still know I betrayed my father. And despite how bad he was, there was something in him that I felt I knew, something good, from long ago. That was the part of him I liked" (Chapter 13, p. 162).

"The dark wave is still coming. Either Ciaran cast it before he came to see you, or Amyranth is continuing his work without him" (Chapter 13, p. 164).

"Focus. I'm going to leave now, but we'll stay joined. Soon you'll feel just a bit of Mr. Niall. We'll stay with you the whole time. You will be able to do this. You have all the support you need. You're a strong, beautiful witch, and with this one act, one spell, you will set your life on an exhilarating path" (Chapter 14, p. 171-172).

"You did it. Alisa, you did it. You performed the spell. It worked. You saved us" (Chapter 14, p. 179).

"We really stopped it. We stopped the dark wave...Now we have to look toward the future. Like figuring out what you want to do if you leave the council. And if we're ever going to have time alone together" (Chapter 15, p. 183).



Topics for Discussion

Who is Ciaran MacEwan? Why does he create a dark wave?

How does Alisa learn she is half-witch? How does she feel about it?

Why is Daniel Niall so reserved around Morgan? How does this change?

How do Morgan, Alisa, Hunter, and Daniel stop the dark wave?

How does Morgan incapacitate Ciaran? How does she feel about it?

Compare and contrast Morgan and Alisa.

What is the council? Why does Hunter consider leaving the council?