

Even Vampires Get the Blues Study Guide

Even Vampires Get the Blues by Katie MacAlister

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Plot Summary

Even Vampires Get the Blues is a novel by writer Katie MacAlister. In this novel, vampire Paen Scott has five days to find an ancient monkey statue in order to save his mother's soul. To help him find the statue, Paen hires Sam Cosse, a woman who is half human and half elf. As they search for the elusive statue, Paen and Sam discover a mutual attraction for one another. However, Paen is determined not to get involved in a committed relationship despite the fact that finding his beloved will allow him to recapture his soul after several lifetimes of living without it. Fortunately for Paen, Sam is not the type to take no for an answer. Even Vampires Get the Blues is a romantic turn on the vampire genre that is both exciting and humorous, leaving the reader rooting for both Sam and Paen despite their own attempts at self-sabotage.

Paen Scott is visited by a demon at his family home in Scotland who tells him that his father once used the services of a demon in exchange for a monkey statue. The demon is now asking for payment of services. However, Paen's father is on an expedition and unreachable. The demon tells Paen he has five days to find the statue and hand it over, or his mother will lose her soul. Due to the fact that Paen has lived his entire life without a soul, he knows how terrible this can be and he vows to do all he can to protect his mother.

Paen hires Sam Cosse, a woman who is half human and half elf, to help him find the statue. Almost immediately Paen and Sam recognize a mutual attraction between them. However, Paen makes it clear that he is not interested in a relationship, he simply wants to share a sexual experience with Sam. Sam agrees to this because she sees it as a challenge, a way of proving to Paen that sex without love is not as great as he thinks it is. However, before they can indulge in their newfound attraction, Sam receives a call from her cousin, Clare, telling her she has been shot.

Paen and Sam rush to where Clare has been watching the final scenes of a movie being filmed. Clare tells them that a man with a monkey accused her of having a statue and shot her for not telling him where it was. Clare, fortunately, is a fairy; therefore she was not injured. Sam speaks to the ghosts in the area where Clare was shot in hopes of getting more information about the shooter, but has no luck. However, when Clare tells Sam the description of the statue the man was looking for, Sam realizes it is a falcon statue that she was given earlier in an antique store.

Over the next few days, Sam continues her search for both the statue and a manuscript another client has asked her to locate. When Sam returns, after a fruitless search, Paen is waiting for her. They return to her apartment and in the middle of an intimate moment, Sam becomes aware of a poltergeist searching her apartment. Paen calls up a guardian who speaks to the poltergeist and learns it was sent there by a demon to find the statue.

The following day, Paen and Sam are on the way to her apartment when she asks him about the steps that bond a beloved and a vampire. Sam makes a joke of it, finishing the steps as they wait in traffic, but nothing happens. When they reach her apartment



building, Sam sees a man who is about to shoot Paen with a stake. Sam jumps in the way. When she wakes later, she learns that by sacrificing her life for Paen, she completed the steps and they are now bound to one another. Paen, however, is unhappy with this and attempts to end the relationship.

Sam shows the others the statue and then takes it out of the apartment to show a diviner friend. However, on the way Sam is taken by the same man who tried to kill Paen, Pilar, to the home of a mage expert she met previously. This man tells her he is looking for a monkey statue and he wants her to give it to him, not Paen. As Sam is leaving, Pilar shoves her and she is forced from her body. Paen helps her return, but when she comes back she discovers the statue is gone.

Sam and Paen go in search of Pilar to find the statue. Pilar turns on Sam when they find him and cuts her throat. Paen turns Sam into a vampire to save her life, but this causes her to lose her soul. For this reason, Paen insists they must find the manuscript Sam's other client is searching for because it will tell them how to save her soul. However, Sam insists they find the statue first. To this end, they track down Pilar again. They learn that Pilar is the monkey god the statue depicts and that he needs the statue to kill the demon god, Yan Luowang.

After Sam gets the statue back from the beyond, a battle ensues between Yan Luowang and Pilar. The statue is broken, but Sam manages to return its pieces to Yan Luowang, satisfying the deal Paen's father made with him. However, Yan Luowang is then sent back to hell and he takes with him the manuscript Sam needs to save her soul. Pilar, however, rewards Sam for saving his life by helping her restore her soul.



Prologue and Chapters 1-3

Prologue and Chapters 1-3 Summary

Prologue. Paen Scott is a vampire who is more than two hundred years old. Paen was born without a soul because his parents were not joined, a vampire to his beloved, when he was born. Paen is very good looking, therefore he does not have a hard time finding female companionship. However, Paen is not interested in a committed relationship even though finding his beloved, his soul mate, and being joined to her, is the only way he can restore his soul. For this reason, Paen avoids women even though his three brothers are often playing matchmaker for him.

Paen is in his library at the family home in Scotland when a demon, Caspar, appears. Caspar tells Paen that his father used the services of the demon Oriens to help him find his beloved. The search was successful and now Paen's father owes Oriens a monkey statue that he promised to give him for his services. Caspar tells Paen that because his father is incommunicado at the moment that Paen must fulfill this debt, or his mother will lose her soul. Paen has only five days. When Paen tells his brothers about this problem, his younger brother, Finn, offers to call a lingerie model he knows, Clare, who just opened a private detective business with her cousin.

Chapter 1. Sam Cosse, a woman who is half human and half elf, and her cousin, Clare Bennet, a fairy, are putting the finishing touches on their new detective office when they get a call from a potential client. The client, Owen Race, wants Sam and Clare to find a rare manuscript, Simia Gestor Coda, that was stolen from his collection. Sam accepts the case and immediately sets to work by visiting antique stores in the area that might have bought or sold such a manuscript recently. When Sam arrives at the last store, the owner is busy speaking to a customer. While Sam waits, she makes the acquaintance of a small monkey. Sam thinks the monkey belongs to the owner, so she coaxes it onto her shoulder to have an excuse to interrupt the owner's conversation. Just as Sam turns to walk to the owner, a black being appears in front of her and hands her a package.

Chapter 2. Sam asks the owner about the monkey, but the man seems to know nothing about it. Confused, Sam takes the package to her friend, Jacob, who is a diviner. Sam once trained to be a diviner too, but was kicked out of the program. Jacob tells Sam that there is nothing dark in the package despite the fact that it was delivered to her by a demon. Sam goes back to the office where she places the package, which turns out to be a brass falcon, in her landlady's safe before going up to the office. When Sam walks into the office, she discovers that they have another client. Paen introduces himself to Sam and explains to her his need to find a particular statue. Sam takes down his information and asks a few questions about the statue, surprised Paen seems to know little about it. Sam then suggests that she go to Paen's house so she can use her elf senses to learn where it might have gone. As Sam speaks to Paen, she is surprised to realize that she is hearing his thoughts in her mind as though they are communicating without spoken word.



Chapter 3. On the drive to Paen's house, Sam chatters non-stop due to the fact that she is deeply attracted to Paen and is very nervous. Paen sees a demon in the road and stops suddenly. After searching the road, he gets back into the car and realizes Sam has been slightly injured by his sudden stop. When he runs his fingers over the abrasion on her shoulder, Sam realizes he is hungry. Sam offers her neck to him. As Paen drinks Sam's blood, she becomes aroused. This causes Sam to leave her body, to engage in astral projection. Sam flies for miles until she finds herself in a strange room where the same dark man she had seen in the antique store speaking with the owner is searching through papers and a computer. The man seems to be able to see Sam even though she should be invisible. Then Paen's voice calls Sam back. Paen is upset that Sam seems disinterested in his touch. Sam explains that sexual arousal always causes her to project her mind. Sam has tried everything to prevent it, but nothing has worked. Paen suggests that his skills at intimacy could keep her grounded. Sam does not think so, but agrees to experiment if only to prove him wrong.

Prologue and Chapters 1-3 Analysis

The reader is introduced to the main characters and the conflict that will propel the plot in these early chapters. Paen Scott is a vampire. Vampires each have a soul mate, a beloved, to whom they can join their lives and spend eternity with. However, despite the fact that Paen's father found his beloved, Paen's mother, they were not yet joined when Paen was born so he was born without a soul. Paen is a good looking man and clearly lonely, but he refuses to spend much time with women because he is not interested in finding a committed relationship. Paen knows that there is one woman out there for him, his beloved, and that she can restore the soul he has never had. However, Paen is not interested in spending the rest of his life dependent on one woman. Paen finds women annoying, clinging, and he is not interested in such an existence.

Sam is half human, half elf. This combination has given Sam many attributes above the normal human ones, such as an ability to commune with structures, to see ghosts, and to travel to the beyond. This also gives Sam a much longer life span than other humans. Sam can also engage in astral projection, the ability to leave her body and visit distant places, but she cannot control when this happens. For Sam, it usually happens when she is sexually aroused, therefore she has never been mentally present for any of her past sexual experiences.

Paen's father had used a demon to help him find his beloved over two hundred years ago and now his debt is being called in. However, because Paen's father is not available, Paen, as the eldest son, must take on the responsibility of fulfilling this debt. If Paen does not find a specific monkey statue, his mother will lose her soul in five days. For this reason, Paen hires Sam because she once trained as a diviner and can find lost objects. This is the conflict that will propel most of the plot.

Sam and Paen are immediately attracted to one another and the reader must realize that because Sam can hear Paen's thoughts in her head that they must be soul mates. However, Paen makes it clear that he is not interested in a relationship even though he



volunteers to have an intimate relationship with Sam. This leaves the reader wondering if Sam is indeed Paen's beloved and how she might convince him to commit to a relationship with her. It also makes the reader wonder what it is about the joining of vampire to beloved that frightens Paen so much.



Chapters 4-8

Chapters 4-8 Summary

Chapter 4. Sam and Paen arrive at his family home, which is a castle, and he takes her on a brief tour that ends in his library. Sam immediately recognizes it as the place where she went while engaging in astral projection. When she tells Paen, he quickly inspects his things and insists that nothing has been disturbed. Sam then lays on the floor and begins to commune with the house. Sam learns a great deal of the history of the castle, but there is no memory of the statue in the house. Sam concludes that this means that the statue was never in the house despite Paen's assumption that it must have been. When Sam is done, Paen joins her on the floor and suggests they indulge their experiment. However, before they can get far Sam gets a call from Clare. She has been shot.

Chapter 5. Clare is most upset about her ruined dress despite the fact that she was just shot. Due to the fact that she is a fairy, Clare healed almost instantly, therefore only her dress has suffered from the incident. Clare tells Sam that a small, dark man approached her and demanded she give him a falcon statue. Clare had no idea what he was talking about, so he shot her. Sam immediately realizes this must be the same man from the antique store and Paen's library. Sam tries to commune with the area where they are, an open field where a movie is being shot. Sam learns some of the history of the area and then finds herself faced with some ghosts living in the area. However, the ghosts speak an ancient language she does not understand, so she mentally joins with Paen so he can translate for her. The ghosts know nothing about the shooting, but are apparently very upset about the fight scenes the filmmakers are staging. The ghosts try to use the grounding of the area to materialize and join the fight, but Sam talks them out of it. They decide to call it a night. Finn agrees to watch over Clare and Paen takes Sam home, deciding to continue their experiment later.

Chapter 6. Sam spends the next two days in Glasgow trying to find information on both the statue and Mr. Race's manuscript, but comes up empty handed in both cases. At the train station, Sam is surprised to find Paen waiting for her in a kilt. Paen drives Sam home and they begin to engage in their experiment again. However, as Sam becomes aroused she once again begins to float out of her body. As Sam passes through the living room of her apartment, she sees a multi-armed being searching for something. When Paen brings her back to her body, Sam tells him there is an intruder and he rushes naked into the living room, but there is nothing there. Paen, however, finds some stones scattered throughout the living room that tell him a poltergeist was there.

Chapter 7. Paen decides to call a guardian. When she arrives, the guardian speaks to the poltergeist. They learn that the poltergeist was sent to Sam's apartment by a being called Pilar who wanted him to search for the falcon statue. When the poltergeist describes Pilar, Sam realizes it is the same dark man who shot Clare, was in Paen's



library, and she saw in the antique store. The guardian lays some protection around Sam's apartment and Paen leaves her to sleep.

Chapter 8. The following day, Sam goes to meet a mage expert to ask him questions about Mr. Race's manuscript. The expert, Caspar Green, tells Sam that the manuscript was written by a mage in Marco Polo's service who wrote about the original species, including vampires. The manuscript disappeared thousands of years ago and no one knows for sure what happened to it. From there, Sam meets her friend Jacob at a local insect zoo where she plans to scry for the statue. Sam and Jacob set up behind the butterfly display. As they are about to begin, Paen contacts Sam through their mental connection and she agrees to wait for him before continuing. When Sam conducts the ritual, she sees the statue in a tomb of sorts. However, she must stop unexpectedly because light emanating from her body is attracting the butterflies.

Chapters 4-8 Analysis

Sam investigates Paen's home, but finds that the statue was never there. This confuses Paen because he believes the statue must have been in his father's possession at one point for him to have offered it as payment for services rendered. This suggests that the Scott family never owned such a statue. At the same time, Clare is shot by a little man who wants the falcon statue Sam was given in the antique store. This suggests to the reader that Sam got the statue by accident and that this dark man is the true owner. The man clearly is determined to find the statue because he was also seen in Paen's library searching through his papers and computer and he sends a poltergeist to Sam's apartment to find it. This statue has suddenly become very important, but the reader must wonder why the strange man would search at Paen's if this falcon statue is unrelated to the monkey statue Paen is searching for.

Sam is having little luck finding the statue, or Mr. Race's manuscript, and is becoming frustrated. For this reason she decides to search using the same diviner trick that caused her to be kicked out of the diviner program. Sam sees little except the impression that the statue is entombed. This can mean a lot of things, but Sam chooses to believe the literal meaning, that it is in a tomb somewhere around Edinburgh.

The relationship between Sam and Paen appears to be growing. They are together quite often despite a brief, two day separation. Paen seems somewhat confused by Sam and by his attraction to her, but he is more than willing to continue their little experiment. Sam, on the other hand, is clearly falling hard for Paen. Knowing Paen's reluctance to become involved in a romantic relationship, the reader knows this cannot be moving to a good conclusion. This is underscored by Paen's reluctance to use the mental communication skills he and Sam have developed since meeting. Sam, however, finds the whole thing amusing and is clearly hoping for a future with Paen.



Chapters 9-15

Chapters 9-15 Summary

Chapter 9. Paen tells Sam and Jacob that a demon told him Owen Race had the monkey statue. This shocks Sam because Owen Race is her other client. Paen demands to know why Race hired Sam, but she refuses to tell him outside of the fact that she is looking for a manuscript for him. Paen then takes Sam to her apartment where they finally conclude their experiment.

Chapter 10. Paen and Sam are in the car on the way to her office when she begins asking about the steps to join a vampire with his beloved. It seems they have completed all the steps except the exchange of fluids from the vampire to the beloved. Sam pricks Paen's finger and drinks the blood, but nothing happens. Paen insists this is because she is not his beloved. When they arrive at Sam's office, she goes first to open the back door so Paen does not have to be in the sunlight too long. When she turns to call to Paen, she sees Pilar standing off to the side with a crossbow pointed at Paen. Without thinking about it, Sam jumps in front of Paen, taking an arrow in her shoulder.

Chapter 11. When Sam wakes, she learns that she and Paen are now joined. This means she is now immortal. However, Paen seems reluctant to tell her what else it means. Sam then calls Mr. Race to set up a meeting between him and Paen. Clare and Finn go downstairs to get the falcon statue so they can study it and try to figure out why Pilar wants it so badly. While they are gone, Sam takes Paen to the beyond, a world that only elves, fairies, and demons can visit. When they get back, Paen tells Sam he is not interested in a committed relationship and does not feel as though they owe each other anything. Sam is heartbroken.

Chapter 12. Sam, Paen, Finn, and Clare look at the falcon statue, but do not see anything special about it. Sam puts it into her bag to take to Jacob, thinking he might see something they are missing. However, on the bus she runs into Pilar. Pilar forces Sam to go to Caspar Green. Caspar tells Sam he knows she is looking for the monkey statue for Paen and he would like for her to give it to him instead. Sam refuses. As she attempts to leave, Pilar pushes Sam, causing her to experience astral projection.

Chapter 13. Sam calls to Paen with their mental connection and asks him to bring her back to her body. When Sam returns, she finds herself in her office. Sam goes to Jacob to ask him to look at the statue, but when she goes to get it, she discovers it is gone. Sam goes back to her office and tells the others what has happened. When Paen learns the mage expert is Caspar Green, he tells them that he is the same demon who came to call the debt in. It seems they have no more leads. Sam, however, decides to go see a seer. No one likes the plan because seers are notorious for asking hefty payments for their services. Paen tries to fire Sam, but she will not let him.



Chapter 14. Sam goes to Rosslyn Chapel where she has arranged to meet Kelsey Franklin, a local seer. In exchange for Sam's immortality, Kelsey tells Sam that the statue is within nine miles of their current location, that Pilar was the last to possess it, and that it is not entombed in the way that Sam thinks.

Chapter 15. Sam returns to her office where she finds Paen waiting for her. They argue, then make up when Paen admits his love for Sam. Later, when Sam tells Paen that she gave away her immortality for information, he becomes enraged. They discuss ways to get it back, but none of them seem possible. Then they discuss the information Sam got from the seer. It is then that they realize the statue must be inside the falcon statue. They decide they must go find Pilar so that they can find the statue. They locate Pilar in the Real Mary King's Close under Edinburgh and overhear him trying to convince the poltergeist to go into the beyond to retrieve the statue. When Paen confronts Pilar, he cuts Sam's throat.

Chapters 9-15 Analysis

Sam and Paen are told that Owen Race has the statue. This shocks Sam since Owen Race is her other client, the man looking for the manuscript that supposedly deals with the origin of several ancient races. Despite this, they have few leads as to where the statue might be. Sam is growing more and more desperate, so she seeks out a seer to learn more. This is almost completely fruitless except in the fact that she and Paen finally realize that they had the statue in their hands, but allowed it to be stolen away. The monkey statue and the falcon statue are one in the same.

Paen is determined to convince Sam that she is not his beloved even though she is beginning to suspect she is. When Paen tells her all the steps necessary to create the joining between vampire and beloved, she jokingly finishes the steps by sucking his blood. When nothing happens, Paen uses this to convince her that she is not his beloved. However, when Sam sacrifices her life for Paen, she quickly discovers that she is. Paen is unhappy with this turn of events for reasons that the reader, and Sam, do not fully understand yet. Paen pushes Sam away, breaking her heart and convincing her that he does not want her, therefore she does not need the immortality he has given her. She does not want to live forever if she cannot be with the man she loves. However, Paen loves Sam, as the reader already knows, and he makes amends with her. Unfortunately, it is too late to save her immortality.



Chapters 16-20 and Epilogue

Chapters 16-20 and Epilogue Summary

Chapter 16. As Sam lies dying in his arms, Paen turns her into a vampire to save her. However, this results in Sam losing her soul. Paen is guilt ridden for his actions and Sam is tortured by the lack of a soul. When Clare learns what has happened, they discuss ways to get her soul back, but none of them are actionable. Their only hope is to find the Simia Gestor Coda. Paen wants to search for it immediately, but Sam insists they find the monkey statue first to save his mother's soul.

Chapter 17. Sam learns that the only way a Moravian male vampire can survive is by drinking blood, but when a vampire is joined with his beloved the only blood he can drink is that of his beloved. Therefore, had Sam died, Paen would have died a slow, painful death.

Clare and Finn go in search of the poltergeist while Paen and Sam go to see Mr. Green. Caspar Green reveals to Paen and Sam that he is not just a demon, but an ancient demon god who commissioned the Jilin God hundreds of years ago in order to hold the spirit of a demon killer, Sun Wukong. This failed, but the statue remains a source of Caspar's power, which is why he wants it. Paen and Sam then go to see Mr. Race, but learn he is not home. Then Finn contacts Paen through their mental connection and tells him that Clare has been kidnapped.

Chapter 18. Finn tells Paen and Sam that Pilar took Clare while they were searching for the poltergeist. Sam realizes that Pilar has taken Clare because she is a fairy and can go into the beyond. Sam takes Paen and Finn to the same place where the movie was being shot, a place that contains a lodestone that provides an entrance to the beyond. When they find the lodestone, they find Pilar and Clare. Paen and Sam confront Pilar with the ghosts of the area. Sam offers herself in exchange for Clare and Pilar agrees. Pilar tells them that he took the statue from Sam and hid it in the beyond, but he cannot go after it because he is touched with darkness. Pilar needs Clare and Sam to get it. Sam then realizes that Pilar is Sun Wukong, the demon killer. Pilar confirms it and tells her he needs the statue to destroy Yan Luowang, Caspar.

Chapter 19. Sam and Clare go into the beyond and search for the statue. They have little luck, so they realize they must go into Caspar's apartment. Sam worries that Caspar might see her despite the fact that he is in the human world and she in the beyond, so she asks Paen to create a distraction. Sam finds the statue, but trips as she is leaving, drawing Caspar's attention. Paen pulls Sam and Clare out of the beyond through their mental connection. However, Caspar follows them out and the ledge where they are standing collapses.

Chapter 20. Sam, Clare, and Paen dig themselves out of the rubble to find Caspar and Pilar beginning to fight. The ghosts join the fight, as do Paen and Finn. Sam approaches



Pilar in an attempt to get the statue from him. Pilar grabs her around the throat and tells her that he needs the statue to destroy Caspar. They argue briefly. Paen comes over and starts to kill Pilar for hurting Sam, but she asks him not to, so Paen just cuts his arm, forcing him to release Sam. Pilar then throws down the statue and it shatters. Sam quickly gathers the pieces and throws them at Caspar, claiming that now that he has the statue he has to release Paen's mother from her debt. Caspar then disappears with the manuscript that tells how to save Sam's soul. Paen confronts Pilar for hurting Sam. Pilar takes Sam and helps her recover her soul in exchange for her saving his life.

Epilogue. Sam and Paen are now engaged to get married. Finn and Clare consider doing the same.

Chapters 16-20 and Epilogue Analysis

Sam becomes a vampire in Paen's attempt to save her life, but it results in her losing her soul. It is a sad situation that leaves Sam unable to connect with humanity and hearing a constant wind in her body. Paen feels guilty, but if he had allowed her to die, he would have died too since he cannot take blood from anyone but her. Now Paen is determined to help Sam recover her soul, but the only way to do so is to find the manuscript of Simia Gestor Coda. However, Sam wants to save Paen's mother first and insists on finding the monkey statue first.

The search for the monkey statue becomes intense when Sam and Paen learn that Caspar is the god that originally ordered the statue created so that he could capture the soul of the demon killer, Sun Wukong. This did not work, but the statue still contains a great deal of Caspar's power, making it important for him to find it. However, Pilar is also searching for the statue. Sam finally figures out that Pilar is the monkey god that the statue represents, the demon killer Sun Wukong. This is why Pilar has been searching for the statue and why he has attempted on several occasions to kill Sam, Paen, and Clare.

Sam manages to recover the statue, but then a battle begins between Pilar and Caspar. Sam wants the statue, but Pilar is determined to use it to destroy Caspar. In the end they both get what they want, but Caspar takes the manuscript, which was hidden in the statue, with him to wherever he has gone. This leaves Sam and Paen afraid she will never get her soul back. However, Pilar helps her in exchange for the fact that she stopped Paen from killing him.

In the end, everyone gets what they want, the bad guy is gone, and the lovers make a commitment to one another. It is a happy ending for all.



Characters

Paen Scott

Paen is a vampire who is more than two hundred years old. Paen was born without a soul because his parents were not yet joined, something that happens when a vampire and his beloved complete a seven step process. For this reason, Paen must find his beloved and be joined with her in order to get his soul back. In return, his beloved will gain immortality, but she will be the only person Paen can take blood from for the rest of his life; therefore, he will die if she dies.

Paen is unhappy with the conditions of finding his beloved and being bonded to her; therefore he goes out of his way to avoid looking for his beloved despite his brothers' frequent attempts to set him up with women who could possibly fulfill the role for him. For this reason, Paen avoids commitment of any kind with women.

A demon comes to Paen and tells him that he must find a monkey statue, the Jilin God, to fulfill a debt his father owes to a powerful demon. Paen has five days to find the statue and he has no clue where to begin. For this reason, Paen hires a private detective, Sam Cosse, to find it for him. When Paen and Sam meet, there is an automatic connection between them that quickly leads to an intimate relationship. However, Paen refuses to accept that Sam might be his beloved until the steps are completed and his soul is restored.

Sam Cosse

Sam Cosse is a woman who is half elf and half human. For this reason, Sam has many of the attributes of an elf, but some of them manifest in unusual ways, such as the ability of astral projection that only manifests when Sam is sexually aroused. This causes a great deal of trouble for Sam. At the same time, Sam uses many of her elf powers to find missing things which is why she has decided to open a private detective business with her cousin.

Sam begins the search for Paen's statue in his home, but finds no evidence that Paen's family ever owned it. It later turns out that they never owned it, but Paen's father agreed to help find it when the demon decided he should. Paen has therefore been charged with finding the statue because he is his father's eldest child and his father is incommunicado.

Sam eventually tracks the statue and finds it in the beyond. However, it turns out there is a great deal more involving the statue than either Sam or Paen knew. This leads to a big battle between two powerful demons. In the end, Paen and Sam fulfill the debt.

In the process of looking for the statue, Sam becomes immortal when she is joined with Paen as his beloved. However, she gives up this immortality to get information from a



seer about the statue. Sam is killed shortly thereafter, causing Paen to have to turn her into a vampire to save both of them from death. At the same time, Sam loses her soul. Paen promises to get it back, but the only way to do so is to find a book called the Simia Gestor Coda. However, this manuscript is taken by Caspar Green shortly before he is destroyed. Fortunately, Sam had saved the life of Sun Wukong and, in return, he helps her recover her soul.

Finn Scott

Finn Scott is Paen's brother. Finn is a happy, well-adjusted vampire who loves women and lives his life in a carefree manner. Finn had befriended Clare before the opening of the novel and it is this acquaintance that leads Finn to suggest Paen use Clare and Sam's private detective business to find the statue. When Clare is shot, Finn volunteers to become her bodyguard. In a short time they become lovers and appear to have a love as tender as Sam and Paen's.

Clare Bennet

Clare is Sam's cousin. Clare is an underwear model. They grew up together when Clare's mother, a fairy, gave Clare to Sam's mother so that she might grow up in the mortal world. Clare does not believe she is a fairy and therefore does not believe she has special powers or any of the other things that come with being a fairy. However, Clare cannot help but display fairy behaviors, such as eating flowers and indulging in a passionate libido. Clare is something of a comic relief in this novel.

Pilar

Pilar is a strange, dark creature Sam first sees in an antique store where she has gone to find out information about the Simia Gestor Coda. Later, Sam sees Pilar in Paen's library while she is experiencing astral projection. Pilar then goes to Clare and shoots her when she cannot tell him anything about a falcon statue that Sam accidentally received earlier in the day. Pilar then shoots Sam in the shoulder with a crossbow in an attempt on Paen's life. Finally, Sam learns that Pilar is working for Caspar Green, and suspects he also works for Owen Race, to find the statue and the manuscript of the Simia Gestor Coda. In the end, Sam learns that Pilar is really Sun Wukong, a monkey-like god that kills demons. It is in Pilar's image that the Jilin God was made.

Caspar Green

Caspar Green first comes to Paen as something of a freelance demon who tells him about the debt Paen's father owes to the demon Oriens. Later, Sam meets Caspar Green and believes him to be an expert on mages. However, Caspar Green expresses an interest in the Jilin God, making Sam wonder what is his true motivation. In the end, Sam and Paen learn that Caspar is not only Oriens, but that he is a demon god of



death. Caspar commissioned the Jilin God to contain Sun Wukong, but failed. However, the statue still contains his power and Caspar needs it back because his powers are waning. Pilar uses the statue to destroy Caspar by breaking it. In the end, Caspar disappears, but he takes the manuscript, Simia Gestor Coda, with him.

Jacob

Jacob is a diviner. Sam met and became friends with Jacob during her time studying to become a diviner, an experience that ended when she was kicked out for sending several other students through a worm hole during a scrying incident. Jacob remains Sam's friend and sends clients her way for her business, including Owen Race.

Owen Race

Owen Race is Sam and Clare's first client. Owen Race hires Sam and Clare to find a missing manuscript from his collection, Simia Gestor Coda. This manuscript is said to have been written by a mage in the employ of Marco Polo and disappeared thousands of years ago. It turns out that Owen Race is really Pilar and he has hired Sam to keep her too distracted to find the Jilin God.

Reuben

Reuben is a poltergeist that Pilar hires to search Sam and Clare's apartment for the falcon statue. Sam sees him while experiencing astral projection. Paen hires a guardian to interrogate Reuben and they learn that he was hired by Pilar. Later, Sam and Paen see Pilar speaking to Reuben, trying to talk him into going into the beyond to retrieve the falcon statue.

Uilleam

Uilleam is a ghost who lives in Dunstan Moor. Sam meets Uilleam when she goes to the moors to see Clare after receiving a panicked phone call that Clare had been shot. Uilleam has little information about the shooting, but he is able to show Sam that the ground of Dunstan Moor is special to the supernatural world, that it has a lodestone that is like a gate into the beyond. Later, Uilleam and his friends help Paen and Finn fight a battle against Caspar and his demons.



Objects/Places

Apport

When the poltergeist comes to Sam's apartment to search for the falcon statue, he leaves behind apport, or small stones, wherever he touched something.

Lodestone

A lodestone is a powerful place that is naturally grounded in the beyond. Pilar uses the lodestone at Dunstan Moor to force Clare and Sam to cross into the beyond and retrieve the Jilin God.

Astral Projection

Astral projection is the ability of the spirit to leave the body and move freely through space and time. Elfs have this ability, but because Sam is only half elf she cannot control when it happens to her.

Falcon Statue

Sam is mistakenly given a falcon statue while in an antique store. This falcon statue turns out to be the Jilin God hidden underneath a cheap falcon statue.

Jilin God

The Jilin God is a monkey statue that Oriens wants in payment for a debt owed him by Paen's father. Paen is charged with finding the statue and giving it to Oriens in place of his father when his father becomes incommunicado on a trip to Bolivia.

Simia Gestor Coda

Simia Gestor Coda is a manuscript written by a mage of Marco Polo that talks about the origins of several races including the Dark Ones. Paen has searched many years for this manuscript so that he might find a way to recover his soul without being joined to his beloved. Later, Paen needs to find this manuscript to help return Sam's soul after he turns her into a vampire. This is also the manuscript that Owen Race hires Sam to find.



Beyond

The beyond is a place that exists outside of the mortal world where elves, fairies, and other mystical creatures often live. Sam is able to travel here before losing her soul because of her mother's elf blood and she takes Paen there through their mind connection.

Dunstan Moor

Dunstan Moor is an open area just outside of Edinburgh where Clare goes with Finn to watch the filming of a movie. This is where Clare is shot by Pilar and where Clare is later taken by Pilar to force her to retrieve the falcon statue from the beyond.

Scott Castle

The Scott family lives in a castle outside of Edinburgh. Paen is the primary caretaker of the castle.

Edinburgh

The novel takes place in Edinburgh in Scotland.



Themes

Finding One's Beloved

In the Moravian vampire world, a vampire's beloved is a woman with whom he has a special psychic connection to whom, after they complete seven steps, he will be bonded for the rest of his life. This woman will become immortal once the bonding takes place, but she will also be the only person from whom he can take the blood he needs to survive for the rest of his life.

Before Paen's birth, his parents found one another and knew that his mother was his father's beloved. However, due to the fact that a war was going on, they were not joined before Paen was born. For this reason, Paen was born without a soul. The only way for Paen to get his soul back is to be joined to his beloved. However, due to the rules of joining, Paen has decided that he does not want to find his beloved. Paen does not want to be dependent on one woman for the rest of his existence.

When Paen and Sam meet, there is an immediate connection between them. This connection is intense and includes a mental connection that allows them to speak to one another without words. Paen knows that this means Sam is his beloved, but he does not want her to know it. Even when Sam jokes about the seven steps and voluntarily finishes what she thinks is the last step without any effect, Paen continues to deny who she is. However, when Sam puts her life in danger for him, the joining happens. Paen is unhappy with it and tries to push Sam away. In the end, however, they both admit to the love they feel for one another.

The love story between Paen and Sam is a huge part of the plot. Sam fights her feelings for Paen because they have only known one another for a short time, but is the first to finally realize that she loves Paen. Paen continues to fight his love for her, unwilling to admit even after their joining that he loves her. This causes Sam to give up her immortality, something that places both she and Paen in danger. However, in the end they both succumb to their love.

Family

Paen learns at the beginning of the novel that his father owes a debt to the demon Oriens and that if it is not paid, his mother will lose her soul. As the eldest child, Paen is responsible to pay this debt in his father's absence. Paen takes this very seriously because he knows what it is like to live without a soul and he does not want this for his mother. Paen loves his mother too much to force her to live such a tragic situation.

Sam has opened a business with her cousin. Clare and Sam grew up together and are very close. They share a business and a home, both looking out for the other. When they meet Paen and Finn, brothers, they become their lovers.



Family is a theme of this novel because it is a motivator in the actions of the novel. If not for family, for Paen's love of his parents, he would not fight so hard to find the Jilin God. If not for Clare, Sam might not have come to Scotland and begun her business, leading her to meet Paen. If not for Finn, Paen might not have found Sam and her business, saving his mother and his own soul in the process.

Supernatural

This novel is about a family of vampires who turn to an elf and a fairy to help them solve a problem. The vampires in this novel are very much like humans except for a sensitivity to the sun and a need to drink blood. Only the male vampires, however, require the blood to survive while female vampires can give or take the blood requirement.

Sam is a sun elf. She requires the power of the sun to help her power her elf powers. When Sam falls in love with a vampire, this need for sunlight becomes something of a problem, especially when touching her causes Paen to become sunburned. Later, when Sam is nearly murdered, Paen turns her into a vampire to save her life. This takes from Sam her love of the sun and her soul.

This novel has a great many supernatural themes in it. For this reason, it is important to mention supernatural as a theme of the novel.



Style

Point of View

The prologue of the novel is written in third person with Paen Scott as the narrator. The rest of the novel is written in the first person point of view with Sam Cosse as the narrator. Sam takes the reader on an intense ride of both mystery and love.

The point of view of the prologue allows the reader to be present when Paen is confronted by the demon, Caspar. This episode introduces the conflict into the plot, showing the reader how Paen learned of his need to find the Jilin God in five days or cause his mother to lose her soul. The rest of the book is seen through the first person narration of Sam Cosse. Sam is a half elf who once trained to be a diviner and is a good finder of lost objects. Sam and Paen have an instant connection that later proves to be predestined when they learn that Sam is Paen's beloved. This point of view allows the reader to develop an intense relationship with Sam, rooting her on in her search for the Jilin God and crying beside her as she struggles to convince Paen that finding his beloved is not such a bad thing.

Setting

The novel is set in Edinburgh, Scotland. The setting is a rich, historic location that gives the novel a sense of the mystical with a great deal of supernatural elements. There is a castle and a modern city, a collection of the past and the future that adds rich symbolism to the plot.

The setting of the novel is interesting because many vampire novels are not set in such a location, but in places like Russia, Transylvania, and other points in Europe. This setting gives the whole vampire idea a twist, suggesting it has a richer history than other novelists have ever attempted to explore. At the same time, the novel's setting gives the impression of history and the modern world existing simultaneously, just like the beyond and the modern world. The setting gives the ideas and themes in the novel more illustration, more power, making it work well with the plot.

Language and Meaning

The novel is written in simple English that makes the novel easy for readers of all ages to read. Although the novel is set in Scotland and some of the characters speak with an accent, the dialogue does not include difficult grammar or other writing techniques that make it difficult to understand. There are little or no foreign phrases in the novel despite the discussion with ghosts who do not speak English. The language is true to the age and education level of most of the characters, giving the novel a sense of authenticity.



Structure

The novel is divided into twenty chapters and contains a prologue and epilogue. Chapters vary in length, some long while others are fairly short. Told in a linear time line, spanning only five days from beginning to end, the story is written in both narration and dialogue, showing the complete plot line rather than telling it.

The first main of two main plots follows Sam, Paen, Finn, and Clare as they search for both the Jilin God and the Simia Gestor Coda. Another main plot follows Sam and Paen's love affair. One subplot follows Pilar's attempts to find and take the falcon statue from Sam. Another subplot follows the developing relationship between Clare and Finn. All the plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

"Only a Beloved can redeem a Dark One's soul. But I don't need a woman to live a happy life." Prologue, pg. 10

"Oh dear. He wanted a Diviner, and I was anything but one." Chapter 1, pg. 24

"He spent the time it took us to circle around the castle to a parking area at the back to give me a quick history of the place. By the time he escorted me into the main building, I knew it was approximately six hundred years old, had been inherited by his father via his grandmother's mortal family, and although it was beset with a dampness issue that no amount of modern technology could seem to fix, it housed nothing more extraordinary than a family of vampires." Chapter 4, pg. 54

"He shot my dress, yes." Chapter 5, pg. 67

"He smiled. Right into my head. It was such a sweet, gentle brush against my mind, I thought for a moment that I'd imagined it." Chapter 7, pg. 101

"Run! Run for your lives! Killer butterflies!" Chapter 8, pg. 112

"Call it elf sense, call it heightened awareness, call it Sally if you like, but something sent my peripheral awareness into overdrive as Paen ran toward me." Chapter 10, pg. 129

"Grief swamped me so strong that I could taste its bitterness on my tongue." Chapter 12, pg. 141

"I glanced at the sky as I stepped into the building, wishing for approximately the five hundred and seventeenth time that my personal magnetism didn't stop watches." Chapter 14, pg. 161

"When I said a Dark One can't survive without his Beloved, I meant it. Once he finds her, human blood taken from anyone but a Beloved is poison. Likewise, the Beloved's blood is unacceptable to any other Moravian." Chapter 17, pg. 195

"The silence that followed the roar of rocks and shrieks of the soft, squishy humans (or variations thereof) as they fell to the ground was almost as deafening in its absence as the sound was previously." Chapter 20, pg. 224

"The irony of you proposing to a sun elf? Yes, my darling Paen, I do indeed realize that I'm going to have to learn to love the moonlight." Epilogue, pg. 239



Topics for Discussion

Who is Paen Scott? Why does Clarice come to see him in the prologue? What does she want from him? Why does he refuse her? Why does Paen think his brother sent Clarice to him? Who is Caspar? Why does Caspar come to see Paen in the prologue? Why is it Paen's responsibility to do what Caspar asks of him? How does Paen feel about this obligation?

Who is Sam Cosse? What does she do for a living? With whom? What is Sam's first job? What does she do to complete this job? Where does Sam get the falcon statue? What does she do with it? Who comes looking for the statue? For what reason? Who is shot for this statue? How does Sam react to this situation?

How does Sam respond when she first meets Paen? How does he respond to her? For what reason? Why does Paen tell Sam that he is not interested in a committed relationship? How does Sam respond to his thoughts on the subject? What does Sam agree to do with Paen? For what reason? To what does this experiment lead ?

What is the Simia Gestor Coda? Why is Sam looking for it? Why does Paen want to find it? How does Sam go about finding the manuscript? For whom is she looking for it? Does Sam know that Paen wants to find it? Does Sam know why? Why does this manuscript become important for Sam later in the novel? Why does Paen make it a priority over finding the Jilin God? Do they find it?

What is the Jilin God? Why does Paen need to find it? Where does Sam think it might be? Why does she believe it is entombed? What does this mean? Who else wants the statue? For what reason? Why does Sam refuse to give the statue to this other person? Where is the statue eventually found? By whom? Does Paen pay his debt to Oriens? How?

Who is Caspar Green? What does he want from Paen? How does Sam come to meet Caspar Green? Why does she go to him? What does he tell her? Why does Pilar take Sam back to Caspar later in the novel? Why does Sam feel uncomfortable around Caspar? Does he know? What does he think? Who does Caspar turn out to be?

What is a diviner? Why did Sam train to become a diviner? Why did she not complete her training? Why is Clare afraid of Sam scrying? Who is Jacob? What is his relationship to Sam? Why does Sam go to Jacob frequently in this novel? What are the results of these meetings? How does Jacob know Owen Race? Why did he send Owen Race to Sam's new business? What is the significance of this later in the novel?