

Evernight Study Guide

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Plot Summary

Bianca is a sixteen-year-old girl who has the distinction of being one of only a few vampires born each century. Because she was born and has continued to grow through childhood, she is very different from the others who are vampires, including her parents. Bianca has always known she is a vampire and has been taught not to share the secret. She drinks blood and has from birth, beginning with goat blood in her bottle as an infant. She has also been taught that she will one day die and become a full-fledged vampire, though she doesn't fully grasp what all this means to her. She is now very unhappy because her parents have moved her from their previous home to Evernight, a school set up exclusively to teach vampires.

Lucas is a twenty-one-year-old posing as a typical teenage student at Evernight, and one of the few human students who have been admitted to the school. In truth, he is a member of the Black Cross, an organization of vampire hunters, and is seeking to gather information about Evernight, apparently with the intention of helping his group kill all the vampires there. Lucas initially believes he is protecting Bianca from the vampires at the school but eventually learns she is a vampire as well. She accidentally bites him one night and with that loss of control learns for herself what being a vampire really means. After that accident, she is careful with Lucas and he seems to give in to allow her to bite him again, though this time more gently. Bianca and Lucas discover that he's gaining vampiric attributes, such as increased speed and strength.

When they take this information along with their questions to Bianca's parents, it's accepted that Lucas will become a vampire and that Bianca will soon make the final transition herself to become a full-fledged vampire. However, during what Bianca assumes is an innocent conversation one day, her parents discover that Lucas is a member of the Black Cross and realize that he's been plotting to kill them.

Lucas runs away and Bianca joins the group following him. When their fear of running water stops full-fledged vampires at the river, Bianca forges ahead and catches up with Lucas. He pleads with her to hear him out and she leaves town with him. They arrive in Boston and Lucas calls his mom, another vampire hunter, but doesn't reveal that Bianca is a vampire. They are at an old church where the Black Cross members are gathering weapons when the other vampires arrive and begin to burn the church. Bianca realizes Lucas will die if she doesn't leave with her parents and the others, and she does so. At her urging, they allow Lucas and the others to survive and Bianca returns with her parents to Evernight.



Prologue, Chapters 1 and 2

Prologue, Chapters 1 and 2 Summary

The story begins with a prologue. In this scene, Bianca Oliver is in an old church and flaming arrows are being hurled inside, setting the building on fire. Bianca knows the situation is occurring because of her. Bianca knows Lucas Ross will do everything he can to save her, and that if he dies it will be her fault. There are no options for escape and there are vampires waiting outside. The story then moves to chapter one which is set at an earlier date.

In chapter one, Bianca is preparing for her first day of school at Evernight Academy. Her parents are asleep and she knows they won't wake until their alarm goes off, which will give her two hours to get away. Bianca says she isn't really running away, but only plans to be gone for the day as a way of voicing her extreme displeasure over having to leave her previous home where she'd grown up, attended school, and had friends. She believes her parents will be angry that she's scared them, but that they'll realize she's serious when she says she can't stand to stay at Evernight, and that they'll leave. Bianca remembers a dream she had the previous night of a blood-red flower blooming in a stark landscape, and of a hedge filled with thorns. Evernight is in the background and in the dream it seems more dangerous than the thorns. When Bianca touches the flower, it instantly turns black and withers. As Bianca turns for one last look toward Evernight she sees a man who is apparently chasing her. She begins to run, amazed at how fast he can run. Then he tackles her and once they are on the ground he asks if she's seen who was chasing her. Bianca realizes he thought she was running from someone else and was trying to rescue her. He says he knocked her to the ground to hide from whoever was chasing her.

The boy is Lucas Ross, and he says he's also a student. He asks what Bianca plans to do once she's away from the school, and she explains that she was only trying to make her parents see how much she hates it here. He says he understands and had done the same thing when he was five. Lucas asks if Bianca is serious in her desire to leave Evernight and she assures him she isn't. She says she is going to get ready for the first day of school, "like a good girl."

Bianca asks why Lucas is attending Evernight if he obviously doesn't want to be there either. She says her parents are teachers so she's "stuck," but he apparently has a choice. He says his grandfather attended Evernight and was involved in a duel. He says he doesn't know the cause of the duel but that one of the stained glass windows in the great hall was broken. Bianca says she'd noticed one of the windows didn't match but didn't know why.

Bianca admits to herself that she likes Lucas and he seems to like her. As they arrive back at the school, Lucas urges her not to let her parents hassle her over the morning's



events, and she says they won't. Bianca heads back into the building and Lucas returns to the forest.

In chapter two, Bianca returns to her room where her mom, Celia, is just waking up. Celia asks if Bianca went for an early morning walk. She says that's where she went and doesn't bother trying to make a dramatic statement about it. Over breakfast, her father, Adrian, says Evernight is "important" for Bianca. He doesn't elaborate and she says she doesn't want to talk about it.

Bianca dons the school uniform and heads to orientation. There's a hush across the filled room when she enters, but the conversation wells up again after just a few seconds. Bianca says it's apparent that "gawky new girls" prompt only a brief perusal. She looks for Lucas but doesn't find him. The orientation is called to order by the Evernight headmistress, Mrs. Bethany, who says everyone has something to learn from the other students, and that she expects all to be treated with respect. She says students are here to learn to function in the modern day world and that they will not be treated as children, though there are rules.

Bianca goes to the dorm room she's to share with a girl named Patrice Deveraux, and says her appearance fits her name. Patrice's friend Courtney arrives at their room and Bianca is immediately cast as the outsider with the two girls talking about the exotic places they've been. Patrice and Courtney leave and Bianca unpacks her belongings, including a framed print of Klimt's "The Kiss," which is a favorite of hers.

Bianca returns to her parents' rooms for dinner and Celia says she believes Evernight will be good for Bianca because she seldom wandered out of her own neighborhood in her previous home in the small town of Arrowwood. Bianca is angry, and says her attendance at Evernight is all about what her parents want for her and not what she wants for herself. She leaves the table and goes for a walk on the grounds. She is outside when her father finds her. Adrian says he was harsh and that he respects Bianca as a mature young woman. She apologizes for "flying off the handle." Adrian says he and Celia had never expected to have a child and Bianca cringes as the "miracle baby speech." Adrian says he and Celia had dedicated themselves to Bianca and that they might have excluded everything else from their lives. Bianca returns to her parents' rooms with her dad and Celia promises Bianca will meet incredible people during her time at Evernight. Bianca thinks about Courtney, and knows she isn't interested in being friends with her. She also thinks about Lucas and realizes she already wants him for her own.

Prologue, Chapters 1 and 2 Analysis

The prologue sets up a suspenseful tone and leads the reader to believe the vampires are trying to kill both Bianca and Lucas. In fact, the vampires are only trying to kill Lucas and believe they are rescuing Bianca. The reader will understand as the story unfolds. As chapter one opens, Bianca reveals a dream about a withering flower. This also adds to the suspense and sets the stage for the reader to believe that Bianca is in danger at



Evernight. As Lucas and Bianca talk about the school, they agree that it's "spooky," which is yet another attempt by the author to set the suspenseful tone.

Lucas asks if Bianca really wants to get away from Evernight and Bianca believes he might be asking a serious question. It will later be revealed that it was a serious question. When it's made clear that Lucas is actually a vampire hunter, the reader will understand that Lucas would help Bianca escape the school immediately if that's what she wants.

In chapter two, Bianca's father says he can't believe Bianca is "already at Evernight Academy," which makes it sound as if it was a given that she would eventually attend there. It is later revealed that Evernight is specifically for vampires. It's not clear whether Bianca already knows this about Evernight but she doesn't seem to be equating her presence at Evernight with information vital to her as a vampire. Bianca has obviously been told that her time at Evernight is important for her. She seems to hate the fact that she's surrounded by new people more than by the fact that it's specifically Evernight.

There is a statement at the end of chapter two in which Bianca says she "already" wants Lucas "to belong only to me." That will be significant later because it's a vampiric trait to wish to have ownership of a person. That may partly explain the connection Bianca and Lucas feel later in the story.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

In chapter three, Bianca heads out for her first day of class. She sees Lucas and calls out for him to wait for her. When she catches up with him, he seems distant. She walks away from the encounter more discouraged than before and believes the connection she'd felt to be one-sided. Bianca enters her mom's classroom, her first class of the day, for history. A large boy sitting next to Bianca volunteers to answer the first question about the American Revolution. The boy's name is Balthazar More and Bianca notes that he's attractive and can almost make her forget Lucas. Bianca has already realized the students at Evernight are very competitive about their social lives, and now realizes that competitive nature will flow over into academics.

Later, Bianca learns there is to be an Autumn Ball but has trouble mustering excitement about it. Courtney invites Bianca to a party in the woods near the school. Bianca wants to say she doesn't want anything to do with the group, but lacks the courage to turn down the invitation. Patrice tells Bianca not to worry, that the other students will accept her because of her parents. Bianca believes that makes her an even bigger loser.

Bianca discovers a girl named Raquel Vargas who also doesn't fit in with the typical students at Evernight. Raquel is tormented by the other students because she is attending on a scholarship and obviously isn't rich. Bianca continues to wonder what happened between her and Lucas. They have chemistry together under Professor Iwerebon but Lucas never seems to look at Bianca. She notes that he's not overly shy and is willing to confront anyone he sees as being pretentious. This includes a student named Erich who is friends with Courtney and who joins the others in making fun of Raquel.

On the night of the party, Bianca joins Patrice sneaking out the window. When they arrive, Balthazar seeks out Bianca and asks for tips on "how to read" Celia as a teacher. Bianca tells about her mother's body language. Balthazar flirts with Bianca and she thinks the party might be turning into a fun event but Courtney shows up and demands Balthazar's attention. Balthazar says he's talking to Bianca but Courtney insists and Bianca leaves the party. When she arrives at the school, she finds Lucas watching the party through binoculars. She tells Lucas she didn't have fun and that she felt "threatened," but puts it down to her dislike of strangers. Lucas says it's better if Bianca stays away from the crowd that includes Patrice and Balthazar. Lucas and Bianca continue to talk and resolve what has kept them apart, Lucas saying he'd believed she was becoming an integral part of Patrice's group. Bianca points out they are roommates and she can't avoid Patrice altogether. Lucas warns Bianca that he's not popular with the other students and that she'll become more of an outcast if she spends time with him. He says the others may take out their hatred of Lucas on Bianca. The attraction between them is powerful and Lucas says she should remember his warning when their situation becomes complicated. They manage to sneak back in undetected.



Chapter 3 Analysis

Patrice says most female students had their uniforms tailored to fit them better, and Bianca says she hadn't thought of that. This is just one of the many differences between the Bianca and the young, full-fledged vampires who have been living their lavish lifestyles for many years. Bianca has felt excluded when the other girls talk about meeting in exotic places for elaborate vacations and parties. At one point, she asks Patrice about it and Patrice says she, Courtney, and some others "move in the same circles." She says Bianca will soon move in those circles as well. Bianca doubts Patrice's statement. It's another effort by the author to misguide the reader and it seems to be evidence of Bianca's immaturity that she doesn't think she will eventually live with and befriend other vampires. It is possible that Bianca has been raised around humans and doesn't yet fully understand that she can't continue that lifestyle once she's a full-fledged vampire.

There are plenty of points of misdirection in the book and the reader may jump to incorrect conclusions throughout the story. When Erich and Lucas argue for the first time outside the school, Bianca hears Lucas make a comment about Erich falling and then Erich falls. Bianca doesn't see how Lucas makes it happen and the reader may assume this is an indication that Lucas is a vampire and that he used his speed to make Erich fall.



Chapters 4 and 5

Chapters 4 and 5 Summary

In chapter four, Bianca is in bed - though fully dressed - when Mrs. Bethany walks Patrice into the room. She's surprised to see Bianca in bed but doesn't tell Mrs. Bethany that Bianca had been at the party as well. Later, Adrian asks Bianca about the party and she manages not to admit she was there without outright lying. They talk about school and Celia urges Bianca to try harder in Mrs. Bethany's class, English.

Bianca heads to class the following day, resolved to make a better impression on Mrs. Bethany. The reading assignment is "Dracula" and Raquel says, "Vampires?" Bianca feels an immediate crackling of electricity in the room. Mrs. Bethany is obviously angry at Raquel's questioning the assignment and challenges her to say why. Bianca knows she should be quiet but speaks up, saying the novel isn't very well written and cites the structure of the book as a reason. Mrs. Bethany isn't happy at being questioned but Balthazar commends her on her alternative suggestion, "The Turn of the Screw." They hear Courtney's voice and Balthazar runs.

Bianca encounters Vic later in the day and learns Lucas is in the woods. She follows and discovers Lucas coming out of Mrs. Bethany's cottage. He says he was ensuring his mother had signed the form that allows him to leave the grounds so that he and Bianca can go into Riverton together. His statement distracts Bianca so that she doesn't question whether his breaking into Mrs. Bethany's house was right. Instead, they discuss what they might do in town and agree they'll probably attend a movie.

One evening, Bianca goes to the bathroom late at night and hears someone crying. She finds Raquel who says she's afraid she's going insane. Raquel says she's having bad dreams and that she senses an evil presence at the school. Bianca makes a light comment but Raquel insists that she's really afraid. At Bianca's suggestion, she decides she'll buy sleeping pills when she goes into town and says that will help her sleep through the noises on the roof. She insists she isn't imagining that.

In chapter five, a group of the students head for Riverton for a few hours away from the school. Bianca is among them but Patrice and her friends are going to a party near the lake instead. When Bianca is on the shuttle that's taking the students to town, she notes that some of them are staring at her as if they needed to fear her loyalties. Bianca says some of the students in this group apparently believe she's part of Patrice's group, though she knows there's no danger of that happening. Bianca and Lucas discover the Alfred Hitchcock movie, "Suspicion," is showing at the theater. Both love movies and they buy their tickets. Once inside, they discover that Bianca's parents are the chaperones assigned to the theater. They say they'd chosen the theater assuming Bianca and Lucas would choose to eat out rather than attending a movie. Bianca notes that Lucas seems as "freaked out" as she feels but they opt to remain for the show.



Lucas and Bianca later find a quiet diner where they have slices of pizza and talk. Bianca says she's always had a crush on Cary Grant and Lucas says it isn't normal for a teenager to like the ancient movie stars. He hints that she likes Grant because her parents have taught her to do so. He also points out that bringing Bianca to Evernight isn't a means of helping her become acclimated to the world, as they said, but is actually a way of secluding her. Bianca grows angry as Lucas because he is critical of her parents but he says he is only questioning her because he cares about her. As their voices are raised, a man from Riverton intervenes. He's been drinking and says he wants to protect Bianca from Lucas. She says she's fine but the man continues to push until he and Lucas get into a fight. Bianca realizes from the way Lucas handles himself that he's been in fights before, and that fact worries her. They return to the meeting place for the bus ride back to the school and Bianca makes it clear she doesn't want to hear Lucas' explanation.

Chapters 4 and 5 Analysis

The scene in which Mrs. Bethany assigns reading about a vampire is another opportunity for the author to make references to vampires. Later, Bianca encounters Raquel in the restroom. Raquel is crying and says she doesn't feel safe at the school. She says she senses an "evil presence" and then says it's "sucking the life" out of her. She laughs, pointing out the term she used and again refers to vampires. It's obvious to the reader by this point that vampires will be involved in this story but the reader is, at this point, still unsure who the vampires are. It has been hinted that Lucas is a vampire but that isn't true. Little attention has been paid to Erich at this point but it will later be revealed that he's standing on the roof above Raquel's room, making noises that frighten her.

Bianca's parents have urged that she do her best in Mrs. Bethany's class and it seems the request is because they want Bianca to do well but also because Mrs. Bethany is their boss, therefore they want to make a good impression. However, it will later be revealed that Mrs. Bethany is respected among the vampires and when they are about to chase Lucas, Bianca's parents defer to Mrs. Bethany.



Chapters 6 and 7

Chapters 6 and 7 Summary

In chapter six, Bianca and Raquel talk the following day and Bianca relates the scene at the diner. Raquel says that anyone with that much violence inside him should be avoided. Bianca has dinner with her parents that weekend and her father allows her to stay longer than normal. They spend some time looking at the stars and listening to music. Bianca asks that her father put on Frank Sinatra's "Fly Me to the Moon" first, and he complies. One day during a break from class, Lucas's roommate, Vic, asks Bianca what happened between her and Lucas. She initially believes Lucas might have sent Vic but learns that's not the case. Vic teases her, saying she still gets to be his friend, and describes it as a "custody agreement" following her "divorce" from Lucas. He makes Bianca laugh and she notes that only Vic would refer to a "bad first date" as a divorce.

Over the next two weeks, Balthazar and Bianca begin spending a great deal of time together. Balthazar says he can't wait to graduate so he can try out all the things he's learned for himself. He says he wishes Bianca could be happier at the school. One day Bianca and Raquel are sharing lunch in her dorm room when they hear a commotion in the hall. Raquel immediately identifies it as a fight, saying she's learned the sound from attending the "meanest school in Boston," where she lives. They rush to the hall to find Erich and Lucas in a fight. The fight ends and Lucas is clearly beaten, bloody and bruised. Lucas sees Bianca and says he'd warned her it would eventually come to this. She walks to the library where she encounters Balthazar. She tells him briefly about the fight and he suggests that going out would cheer her up. He invites her to attend the Autumn Ball with him and she hesitates, then accepts.

In chapter seven, the girls are busy preparing for the dance. Bianca says Patrice has been dieting until it's almost impossible to see her reflection in the mirror and she's looking pale. Patrice's dress arrives from Milan and Bianca's mother alters the dress she'd chosen from a catalogue. She admits the results are beautiful and with her mother's help with makeup and hair, she feels beautiful as well. Others note how pretty she is as well, and Patrice gives a nod of approval. As Bianca dances, she realizes she's on the verge of fitting in with the other students at Evernight and then remembers Lucas' warning that fitting in isn't a good thing. Bianca asks to go for a walk and she and Balthazar leave the building. Balthazar says it's clear Bianca is thinking about someone else and she admits it's Lucas. Balthazar says Lucas seems to be a good person but warns about the temper everyone has seen. Bianca says she might never be with Lucas because of his temper, but says Balthazar deserved to know what she feels about Lucas.

At peace with each other, they look at the stars and Lucas interrupts, obviously thinking he'll have to fight Balthazar. Balthazar says he'll go inside, leaving Bianca and Lucas alone. Bianca initially objects, realizing she owes Balthazar the courtesy of remaining



with him because he's her date for the evening, but Balthazar assures her he doesn't mind and Bianca remains outside with Lucas.

Lucas and Bianca go to the gazebo where Bianca asks that they talk about things that matter to them. Lucas says he hadn't meant to be rude about Bianca's parents but can't help but compare them to his own mother, who is "intense." Lucas says they should go back inside because it's cold out, but they kiss. The kiss turns passionate and Bianca can hear the beating of his heart. She bits into his throat, and tastes blood rushing over her tongue. Lucas gasps in shock as Bianca begins to drink. When Lucas passes out, Bianca realizes she's in trouble and she shouts for help. Courtney is the first to arrive. Bianca is covered with blood and Lucas is limp on the gazebo floor. Courtney says it's "about time you grew up and became a vampire like the rest of us."

Chapters 6 and 7 Analysis

There are a couple of interesting scenes between Bianca and Patrice that makes their relationship a little less clear than most. Patrice seems to barely tolerate Bianca most of the time but occasionally does something nice for her. It seems likely that she's been chosen as Bianca's roommate and is perhaps expected to serve some purpose as Bianca matures toward a full-fledged vampire - perhaps that of a role model. When Courtney is inviting Patrice to a party early in the story, Patrice extends that invitation to Bianca though Courtney apparently doesn't want to. When Bianca is talking to Balthazar in the hall, Patrice swoops in, demanding Bianca's attention. On the surface, it seems rude and that Patrice is butting into what might be a budding relationship. However, Patrice tells Bianca that leaving Balthazar wanting more from their conversation is a sure way to keep him interested. Patrice may not be as rude and self-centered as some of the other young female vampires, including Courtney, or it may be that she's following instructions from Mrs. Bethany. Her motives are never revealed.

It's a boost to Bianca's ego that she's attracted Balthazar's attention but she feels certain she only wants to be Balthazar's friend. Later, it will be revealed that Balthazar feels more for Bianca but he allows her to set the rules and they remain friends.

Balthazar tells Bianca that Evernight and the people who belong there are her future. Bianca says she doesn't want to belong and Balthazar predicts she'll have trouble over that. The conversation seems innocent on the surface until the reader learns that Bianca is really a vampire and that most of the others at Evernight are also vampires, therefore should be part of her support network for the rest of her life.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

In chapter eight, Bianca is nearly hysterical, asking if she'd killed Lucas. She's allowed to go to Mrs. Bethany's cottage where Lucas is being kept in bed. Adrian says a vampire has to drink more than a pint of blood to harm a human, but Bianca learns humans tend to slip into a trance of sorts after the initial shock of the bite. Adrian says that means Lucas won't remember what happened. Bianca argues but eventually gives in to the demands that they'll have to fabricate a story to explain Lucas' injury. Mrs. Bethany is obviously angry but lenient because she says Bianca is only the third vampire she's met since 1812 who was born rather than made. Bianca says her parents had warned her she'd someday feel the urge to bite, but hadn't really understood until it happened. Later that evening, Celia reminds Bianca that she won't become a true vampire until she kills someone. She says at that point Bianca will fall asleep and will wake as a full-fledged vampire. Bianca repeats what her mother has told her in the past - that she will choose the time to become a vampire. She expects her mother to agree but Celia says that Bianca has now tasted living blood and that it might not be easy for her to refuse it in the future.

Bianca wakes the next morning with acutely sharpened senses but she learns that it will wear off over the course of the day. She sets out for Mrs. Bethany's cottage and meets Lucas, headed her way. Lucas seems pale but basically alright and Bianca is relieved. But then he questions what happened, saying Mrs. Bethany told him he'd fallen on the railing of the gazebo, but doesn't remember any of the accident. Bianca says she panicked when she saw he was injured and Lucas seems to accept that. Bianca pledges silently that she'll keep him safe from everyone, even herself.

Chapter 8 Analysis

Bianca has been taught about her role and her eventual transformation. She says her parents have explained the details and those are as familiar to her as hearing them say she needs to brush her teeth. They've even discussed how it might be done. Bianca might find someone near death in a nursing home or hospital, and taking their life might end the suffering of someone who is ready to die. Another possible scenario is to plan ahead so that Bianca can bite the same person more than once, thereby achieving her own immortality and turning that person into a vampire as well. In Bianca's words, that would mean she's giving that person the gift of immortality as well. Bianca has grown up with these explanations and others - including that vampires don't want living donors and would rather purchase animal blood from a butcher than face a living victim. Bianca has accepted these as truth but she's now growing up and is going to begin thinking for herself. She'll question a great many things she's been taught but her loyalty to her parents and those ingrained teachings won't be easily put aside.



Chapters 9 and 10

Chapters 9 and 10 Summary

In chapter nine, Bianca says she feels as if she and Lucas belong together, but she battles the feeling that she's lying to him, especially when he continues to question the accident. One weekend, Lucas joins Bianca and her parents for dinner. She says her parents are perfect hosts, even eating some of the food they prepare for Lucas.

Only vampires attend the class called "modern technology." It teaches the operation of basic technology, such as microwaves and iPods. Several of the vampires are making comments about Bianca biting Lucas. Erich says Lucas must have "an aftertaste" but several point out that fresh blood is good, regardless of the source. The teacher gets the conversation back on track. Bianca admits to herself that she sometimes thinks she "would do anything" for the opportunity to drink Lucas's blood again, and that feeling scares her.

One day Lucas and Bianca are exploring a secondhand clothing shop in Riverton. They are on their way out when Bianca spots a brooch with a flower that looks exactly like the one she'd dreamed of the night before she met Lucas for the first time. She is entranced and the clerk says it's a Whiteby Jet, used during the Victorian-era as mourning jewelry. The price is two hundred dollars, and Lucas pulls out a credit card and makes the purchase. Bianca argues that it's too expensive but Lucas pushes the argument aside. Bianca hasn't given thought to the fact that Lucas' family must be rich, but with only a few exceptions, all the students at Evernight are very wealthy.

They reach the gathering spot for the trip back to the school to discover that Raquel has left the group. Bianca says she, as Raquel's friend, might be able to help find her and remains behind with a small group of the adults. Bianca chooses a direction and finds Raquel near the river. She almost calls out to Raquel but hears Raquel cry out and keeps silent, getting nearer until she can see Erich. Bianca announces her presence, assuming Erich will back off. Instead, he tells Bianca to go away but she stands her ground. Erich begins making veiled threats that he's going to tell Raquel they are vampires. Bianca knows Raquel will believe him because she's already afraid, and that Erich will say he's justified in killing her then. Bianca says she's going to talk to Mrs. Bethany and Erich gives in, watching the girls leave. Bianca does report it to Mrs. Bethany and is surprised that Mrs. Bethany seems to believe Bianca without question.

In chapter ten, Bianca knows that Erich is still scaring Raquel. Bianca's parents have told her most vampires don't choose live victims and she wonders if Erich is an exception. Bianca knows that Erich doesn't feel love for Raquel but admits that he might feel as possessive toward Raquel as she does toward Lucas, and knows that can be a problem. Raquel says she is still being wakened during the night by sounds on the roof and Bianca decides to confront Erich. She finds Erich on top of Raquel's room and in the ensuing scuffle, she bites him. A vampire can tell the emotions of another vampire



through the taste of the blood and Bianca is immediately overwhelmed by the hate she feels in him. Bianca's fangs are sharp and her adrenaline is pumping as she confronts Erich. He says he's had enough of Evernight anyway, but that he believes he deserves a good meal before he leaves. He jumps from the roof and Bianca turns to confront a new sound. She quickly realizes it's Lucas and Bianca realizes Lucas knows she's a vampire.

Chapters 9 and 10 Analysis

One day Bianca apologizes to Raquel for not spending much time with her. Raquel says she understands, but Bianca seems to feel the need to explain more than Raquel asks. She brings up the concern Raquel had voiced about Lucas' temper and says he's really in control. Raquel laughs, saying she understands that Lucas "love sunshine and barfs roses." This kind of dialogue is fairly common throughout the story and is obviously the author's efforts at keeping the dialogue true to the speaker.

Human students have only recently been admitted to Evernight. There is no indication why human students are being allowed in and that question arises later. The students are all wealthy and the vampires have usually gained their wealth by long-term investments or savings. There are a few students who are attending Evernight on scholarship and, again, there's no indication why. When Bianca stops to think about the fact that Lucas' family must be rich for him to attend Evernight, she remembers the story he'd told about his grandfather shooting out a window at the school. With that thought, Bianca assumes this is simply further truth that Lucas' family is wealthy. The reader may assume that Lucas' family is also a vampire race because only vampires have attended Evernight until very recently. This will soon be proven untrue but the author clearly uses this as another opportunity to build suspense.

There isn't a great deal of information offered up about the past lives of most of the vampires but there are occasionally hints. When Bianca is going to help search for Raquel at Riverton, Adrian says she is growing up and is obviously capable of taking care of herself. He says Evernight has played a role in her emerging maturity and she counters, saying her father is acting as if he'd gone to high school. Adrian says, "adolescence was lousy in the eleventh century, too."



Chapters 11, 12, and 13

Chapters 11, 12, and 13 Summary

In chapter eleven, Bianca tries to talk to Lucas but he runs away. She can't decide whether she should talk to her parents but decides to wait, hoping she can make Lucas understand that she means him no harm. She sneaks to his room and finds the bed made and his possessions gone. She looks out the window and sees Lucas leaving the grounds along with other students who are going elsewhere for the Christmas break.

On the day of the first significant snowfall, Bianca and Balthazar go for a walk together. He says he died in 1691 and that he had a sister, Charity. He says Bianca is fortunate to be alive and that she can't realize that's a gift. He says the vampires at Evernight are hateful to the humans because they are jealous. He says he would give up everything - including the centuries of living, the immortality, and the wonders he's witnessed - if he could be alive again. Bianca is obviously skeptical and can't imagine that her parents are wishing for that. However, she knows Balthazar is a trustworthy person and wishes she were as truthful. She determines that she can't let lies stand between her and Lucas so she goes to a computer and sends him an email, telling him everything about herself, her race, and Evernight. She tells him she bit him the night of the Autumn Ball and that she doesn't expect that he'll ever trust her again, but that she is putting a great deal of trust in him by revealing so much of her family's secrets.

In chapter twelve, Lucas is among the group of returning students. Patrice says she went skiing in Switzerland over the holiday. Raquel also returns and says her parents urged her to finish the year. She says she lost her "favorite bracelet" anyway and wanted to look for it. It's discovered the Erich is missing. One day Lucas apologizes for not answering Bianca's email and suggests they find somewhere to be alone to talk. In chapter thirteen, Bianca leads the way to a storage room on the fourth floor. Lucas suggests they find someplace else but Bianca says there isn't another option and Lucas takes a seat on a trunk. Lucas soon confesses that his love for Bianca overrides his fear. They begin to kiss and Bianca warns that it's difficult for her to maintain control. She bites him again, but more gently this time, and she forces herself to stop quickly. She asks if he can handle that, promising she won't let it go farther, and he says he wants to be with her, regardless of the consequences.

Chapters 11, 12, and 13 Analysis

One day Bianca and her parents are talking about the reason for Evernight. Bianca has already realized that many of the students in her technology class don't at all understand simple technology. She knows these vampires may have a tough time finding their way through mundane routines that are a necessity if they are to live among humans. Bianca asks her parents what the vampires that seem too old for school do to get the information they need to catch up. Celia says there are other places



especially for that purpose - including exclusive spas. Adrian says there are plans in the works for a "fake rehab" in Arizona.

Bianca is fully aware of the love her parents share. She witnesses their obvious affection for each other. Her father has been alive for about six hundred years and her mother for several hundred less. She knows that life wouldn't have been as good for them without that love. It's with this image in mind that Bianca realizes she wants Lucas in her life and comes up with the idea that she needs to try to explain to him. There is some minor discussion about the need for direction and the ability to be distracted with eternity stretching out in front of a vampire but that isn't fully explored as a theme.

Balthazar's comments about the jealousy among the vampires is not really borne out by the words of the vampires but it does make sense that they would want something out of their reach, especially when there is so much they can achieve and attain because of their immortality. This is another potential theme that isn't fully explored.



Chapters 14 and 15

Chapters 14 and 15 Summary

In chapter fourteen, Bianca and Lucas talk and she apologizes again for having lied to him when she bit him the first time. He says he understands why it's so easy to forget. Bianca wakes the following morning with heightened senses again. She soon discovers that Lucas is feeling ill and Vic wants him to see a doctor but Lucas refuses. Lucas says it can't be the result of Bianca biting him because he didn't feel that way after the first bite. Bianca repeats what her parents have told her about it taking multiple bites for a victim to turn into a vampire. Lucas is immediately on alert, saying he isn't dead and that he doesn't want to become a vampire. He is furious that Bianca doesn't have answers but realizes Bianca's parents have taught her about her own metamorphosis, but not what will happen to a victim. They can't decide whether to ask someone about the changes Lucas is experiencing but decide to wait.

Lucas is soon able to leap onto a tree limb and do handstands on the branches of a tree. Bianca says her parents are similarly skilled and they continue to have questions about this change but no one to ask. He is soon able to run very fast and can hear very well. Bianca offers him blood one night to see if he really is changing, but spits when he tastes it. Bianca finally convinces Lucas they need to ask her parents and he eventually agrees.

When Bianca tells her parents, they are furious and say they'll have to bring Mrs. Bethany into the situation. She says that Bianca has effectively marked Lucas as her own and that she can now sense the change in him. That will prevent other vampires from touching him. Mrs. Bethany lays out the future for him, saying he will be more drawn to Bianca as time passes and that he won't be able to resist the craving. She says he will likely choose to become a vampire when the time comes. She says she should have anticipated this event when she opened Evernight to humans but hadn't given it a great deal of thought. She warns Lucas against sharing the information. Bianca realizes only later that Mrs. Bethany hadn't told Lucas what would happen if he denied the pull to become a vampire. She wonders if that means he isn't really free to choose.

In chapter fifteen, spring is arriving and Lucas is studying vampire history. Bianca sometimes wonders at Lucas's fascination but continues to hope he'll become a vampire and be with her forever. One day, Bianca's parents are entertaining Bianca, Lucas, Patrice and Balthazar. They are listening to music when someone mentions fire and they inform Lucas that fire is one of the few things that can kill a vampire. Lucas asks for other means by which a vampire might die. He learns that a stake can only temporarily disable a vampire and Balthazar says a vampire needs to always have a friend who will remove it.



There is some teasing about Lucas and Bianca trying to find time alone at Evernight and Lucas says it's a "challenging place to date." Bianca says it couldn't have been easy for his grandfather either, and Lucas pales as Bianca begins to recount the story Lucas told her the first time they met. Everyone else in the room is completely still and Patrice asks if Evernight let humans in prior to this term. Balthazar says it's never happened before. Bianca jumps to the conclusion that Lucas' ancestor was a vampire but Adrian grabs Lucas by the throat. A fight ensues and Lucas tries to shove a stake into Balthazar and then into Adrian. In a moment of inaction, he tells Bianca that he loves her, breaks away and runs from the school building.

When Mrs. Bethany arrives, Adrian says Lucas is part of Black Cross, an elite group of vampire hunters. Mrs. Bethany decides they'll have to go after him and Balthazar joins the team that will be hunting for Lucas.

Chapters 14 and 15 Analysis

Lucas is adamant that he doesn't want to become a vampire. His complete rejection of the idea hurts Bianca who has already begun to dream of going through the ages with Lucas, just as her parents have gone through time together.

One day Courtney is acting very snobbish and Balthazar questions her about her own past, eventually driving home the point that she's only been a vampire since 1984. Bianca knows the point is that anyone who hasn't been a vampire for at least a half century is a "newbie." Balthazar continues to stand up for Bianca and he obviously likes her though she is openly seeing Lucas now.

As Bianca comes to realize the truth about Lucas, she realizes that he'd come to Evernight to kill her and her kind. She also knows he'd planned to use the speed and power gained after Bianca bit him in his fight against her kind. Bianca now knows that Lucas had originally protected her because he thought she was a human surrounded by vampires but that he'd been using her since he learned the truth.



Chapters 16 and 17

Chapters 16 and 17 Summary

In chapter sixteen, Mrs. Bethany leads the group going after Lucas. The group consists of Mrs. Bethany, Adrian and Celia, Balthazar, and Professor Iwerebon. There is a discussion that Lucas might have a stash of weapons somewhere on campus and Bianca realizes they are in the storage room on the fourth floor. Bianca remembers Lucas' reluctance to go to the storage room on the fourth floor and directs the group there. They find the remains of a vampire in the trunk and know that Lucas killed Erich and left his corpse there. Bianca insists that she accompany the group. Mrs. Bethany says Bianca can go. Celia objects, saying Bianca is only a child but Mrs. Bethany points out that Bianca is part of the reason Lucas knows so much about the vampires. Mrs. Bethany then says Bianca could complete her transformation tonight as well, obviously indicating she intends for Bianca to kill Lucas.

Bianca has trouble keeping up with the group as they travel through the woods toward Riverton. But when they come to the river, the adult vampires struggle. Crossing running water takes a great deal of courage for them but Bianca feels no hesitation. She rushes ahead saying she has to handle this situation on her own. Bianca believes Lucas will be planning to catch a bus but that he'll be hiding until time for the bus. She goes to the second hand shop where he'd purchased the brooch and finds him there.

Lucas says he hadn't planned any of this and that he had no choice in his life. He says his family has always been vampire hunters and that he was expected to follow, just as she's expected to follow her parents' plan for her to become a vampire. Lucas asks Bianca to go to Boston with him, saying they can take a little more time together to talk over their situation. He promises to help her return whenever she's ready. She agrees.

In chapter seventeen, they catch the bus and breathe easier once they pass a crossroad that might be the last chance the vampires catch up with the bus. Lucas reveals that vampires killed his father and Lucas says there's no way for Bianca to know for certain that her parents aren't killers. They arrive in Boston, tired and cold. They have no money and pawn the brooch to pay for a room for the night. They sleep in the same bed, though both are too exhausted to be amorous. Lucas' mother, Kate, arrives in the room the next morning, waking them.

Chapters 16 and 17 Analysis

While Bianca is still dealing with the realization that the man she loves has lied to her, she's forced to help her parents and Mrs. Bethany begin to form a plan to go after Lucas. She quickly puts together the realization that Lucas had been reluctant to go into the storage room with her for a reason. Many old records are stored in boxes in that room. When Mrs. Bethany realizes Lucas has been there, she says Lucas probably has



a great deal of information he can share with other members of the Black Cross. Adrian says most of those records are so old that they probably aren't of much use because the more recent information is kept on computer. Bianca immediately realizes that Lucas had access to that information as well. She remembers the day she'd seen Lucas sneaking out of Mrs. Bethany's cottage. At the time, Lucas said he wanted to be sure he had permission to go into town with Bianca, but she now knows that was a lie as well.

Bianca finds Raquel's bracelet among Erich's remains, which supports the idea that Erich was stalking Raquel. When Bianca tells Lucas that Erich's body has been found, he says he knew it was only a matter of time before Erich killed Raquel. He challenges Bianca, saying she knows it as well, if she'll only admit it.

The situation with the running water is another case in which the author uses misdirection. It's noted that the other full-fledged vampires never traveled into town on the bus with the human students because of their dread of running water. When Bianca goes into town with Lucas the first time, the bus is crowded with students and the reader might assume some of those are vampires, but the author never mentions any of the vampires on the bus.

Bianca insists that most vampires aren't killers, but Lucas doesn't buy her explanation. She says she is certain that Lucas is jaded enough to believe that people will take the easy way out, and she points out that a live human can - and probably will - fight back if he's about to be bitten. Lucas argues, saying these are the stories her parents have told her and that she's parroting them. Bianca insists she isn't but isn't stopping to think how good she felt when she was biting Lucas.



Chapters 18 and 19

Chapters 18 and 19 Summary

In chapter nineteen, the battle begins with Balthazar firing flaming arrows into the building, setting the church on fire. The old wood is soon engulfed in flames. Bianca finds Lucas and realizes he'll do anything he has to in order to protect her. She knows he won't stop trying until he's dead and with that knowledge, she knows what she has to do. Lucas realizes what she's planning and says there has to be another way, but she knows there isn't. She tells Lucas she loves him, and runs to Adrian and Celia. She then convinces her parents to let Lucas and the others leave the building. They move away from the back door though Mrs. Bethany is angry, and soon hear Lucas and the others running away. Mrs. Bethany begins to question Bianca. She says Lucas made her leave Riverton with him. When Mrs. Bethany seems unwilling to believe that, Bianca points out that Lucas escaped Adrian and Balthazar, and that they are strong, full-fledged, vampires.

Back at school, weeks pass. Raquel tells Bianca to forget Lucas and move on. The humans believe that Lucas had gotten into trouble and ran away rather than face the consequences. The other vampires know more, including that Lucas was a member of Black Cross and that Bianca helped strengthen him and gave him information. With that knowledge, the other vampires hate Bianca. One day Vic asks to talk to Bianca and he gives her a letter. Bianca knows immediately it's from Lucas. He wouldn't be able to write to her because the letter would be intercepted but Vic's mail is not monitored. The letter is a print of the painting Bianca likes, "The Kiss." Her brooch is in the envelope. The letter promises that they'll be reunited some day. Bianca knows she has to destroy the letter, but doesn't do it right away.

Chapters 18 and 19 Analysis

The question of why there are human students at Evernight arises in Bianca's mind as she parts from Lucas in Boston. Mrs. Bethany is questioning her and Bianca thinks about the possible motivations behind that decision. Bianca can't begin to guess why Mrs. Bethany allowed the human students in but knows that it indicates a weakness on the part of Mrs. Bethany. While Bianca can't guess at the reason, she does know that Mrs. Bethany's weakness makes her just another vampire, like all the others. With that knowledge, Bianca has less trouble meeting Mrs. Bethany's interrogation.

There are a number of typical and atypical vampire "truths" included in the book. At one point, Lucas questions Bianca's parents about what can kill a vampire. Lucas believes a wooden stake would do the job but Balthazar says all a vampire needs is a friend to remove the stake and the wound would heal. While the vampires are attacking the Black Cross at the church, one of the Black Cross members pulls out a water gun. It's evident he has it filled with holy water and the vampires say they aren't afraid of that.



The man says there are few priests able to create true holy water. When he squirts the holy water onto the vampires, they react in pain. When Bianca arrives in the church, she almost immediately feels queasy. She says vampires don't erupt into flames at the sight of a cross, but that it's not pleasant to be on sacred ground. Earlier in the book, Bianca also dispels the myth that vampires can't stand sunlight. She says a vampire who hasn't eaten in a long time might succumb to sunlight, but that a healthy vampire won't.



Characters

Bianca Oliver

A young teenage vampire, she has the distinction of having been born a vampire unlike most other vampires who are turned into a vampire by another vampire. Bianca knows she drinks blood and that not everyone does, but she doesn't realize there's anything really strange about this. She's been raised to know she will eventually turn into a full-fledged vampire with all the powers and restrictions, but this is another aspect of her life she doesn't realize is out of the ordinary. Bianca is torn very early in the book between what she's been taught by her parents and what Lucas is telling her. Bianca is loyal to her parents but she's also very smart and begins to question what they've told her. Bianca's love for Lucas is strong but her devotion to her parents is also strong. She hasn't yet developed the same affinity for the vampire race as a whole and lacks the loyalty expressed by her parents and other vampires. Ironically, Bianca chooses to like some people - including Vic - because he's very unlike the vampires at Evernight. Bianca is very smart and makes good grades in her academic pursuits. She loves old movies and music, and Lucas accuses her of liking those things because her parents like them. While that may be true, Bianca is beginning to do more thinking for herself as the story comes to a close.

Lucas Rosee

Another of the students at Evernight, he meets Bianca in the woods when she believes he's chasing her and he believes she's running to escape someone. Lucas appears to be just another student who has been invited into Evernight, but he's actually a member of the Black Cross, an organization dedicated to hunting and killing vampires. Like Bianca, Lucas has been raised from birth to keep his family's activities secret. Lucas is already twenty-one and has already begun to question some of the actions and ideas of his family. While Lucas' job is to infiltrate Evernight and bring information to his family and other members of the Black Cross, he's also determined to keep other human students at Evernight safe. When he is certain a vampire named Erich is stalking a human named Raquel, he kills Erich. Lucas tries to convince Bianca that her parents and other vampires aren't as innocent as they make themselves out to be. He challenges her to realize there is a dark side to the vampire race and that she has to get out of it. Lucas' own dedication to his family is not as strong as it might once have been, evidenced by the fact that he takes Bianca into his family circle and hides who she is when it would have been easy for him to expose her as a vampire. As the story closes, Lucas says Bianca is stronger than he and that he wouldn't have been able to part from her in order to save the members of the Black Cross as she did.



Mrs. Bethany

The headmistress of Evernight, she is a vampire who seems to have some hidden agenda with her decision to allow human students at Evernight. Mrs. Bethany is very strict and very powerful, and Bianca is surprised when her parents defer to Mrs. Bethany's demands.

Celia Oliver

Bianca's mother, she is a teacher and one of the few vampires to give birth to a living child. She is protective of Bianca and seems very much in love with Adrian. Celia is a popular teacher who quickly gains the appreciation of those taking her history class.

Adrian Oliver

Bianca's father, he is a teacher at Evernight and is also very protective of Bianca. Adrian is probably the first to realize that Lucas as a member of the Black Cross, judging by his reaction when he hears the story of Lucas' grandfather.

Patrice Deveraux

The preppy vampire girl who is assigned to be Bianca's roommate. Patrice and her friends are jet-setters and often talk about the foreign countries they've visited. When Bianca bites Lucas for the first time, Patrice says it's "about time" Bianca began acting like a vampire.

Raquel Vargas

A student who attends Evernight on a scholarship, she is from Boston and is out of place among the wealthy young people at Evernight. Bianca seems to feel she and Raquel might be friends because they are both outcasts. Raquel confides in Bianca that she's having nightmares about Evernight and that she feels an evil presence and that there's someone on the roof at night.

Vic

Lucas' roommate, he is somewhat eccentric and is sometimes seen with Hawaiian shirts under his school uniform blazer.



Balthazar More

A student at Evernight, he is very large and seems to like Bianca. Patrice and some of the other girls seem to find Balthazar very attractive though he tends to run from their attention. When a group goes after Lucas and the Black Cross, Balthazar is among them.

Erich

The vampire who stalks Raquel, apparently with the intention of killing her. Bianca learns that Erich is tormenting Raquel but doesn't realize he intends to kill her. When Lucas figures it out, he kills Erich by chopping off his head, then puts Erich's body in a trunk.

Kate Ross

Lucas' mom, she is a member of the Black Cross and a controlling person, especially when it comes to Lucas. When she arrives at the hotel, she picks the lock and enters the room, but when she discovers Lucas in bed with Bianca, she doesn't chastise either of them for it.



Objects/Places

Evernight Academy

The name of the exclusive school where Bianca's parents are teachers, and where Bianca attends classes. The main goal of the school is to provide modern-day information for vampires to allow them to function in the world.

Riverton

The town near Evernight, it's a small place and Bianca says there's little of interest.

The Autumn Ball

The major fall event at Evernight.

Suspicion

The Alfred Hitchcock movie Bianca and Lucas attend in Riverton on their first trip to town together.

Milan

Where Patrice's dress for the Autumn Ball comes from.

Whitby Jet

The name of the pin Lucas buys for Bianca on their trip into Riverton.

Boston

Where Lucas's group is located and where Raquel lives.

The trunk on the fourth floor

Where Lucas puts Erich's remains after killing him.

Arrowwood

Where Bianca lives with her parents prior to her arrival at Evernight.



Themes

The power of love

The power of love is an important theme in "Evernight" and appears in several forms between several people. One of the most important aspects of this theme is the love of Adrian and Celia for their daughter, Bianca, and her love for them. They are a very close family, much more so than most other parents and children because of the circumstances of Bianca's birth. They refer to her often as a "miracle" because of the rarity of a vampire couple giving birth to a child. Bianca adores her parents and accepts them without question, at least partly because they have taught her about vampires since birth. This love has, in some ways, blinded Bianca to the truth about her people. The fact that she loves her parents so deeply means she is unwilling to believe they might be anything less than truthful. It makes it more difficult for her to accept that some vampires are ruthless hunters and killers. Another important aspect of this theme is the love between Adrian and Celia. They have a deep love for each other and Bianca hopes to have a love like this of her own someday. Because of the example set by her parents, she has no reason to believe she and Lucas will be any different. Finally, the love between Lucas and Bianca is seen as an example of this theme. The book is the first of a series and Bianca and Lucas believe their love is strong enough to bring them back together despite the forces trying to keep them apart.

The influence of family

Both Bianca and Lucas are products of their family's influences and each is following the paths set out for them by their families. In the case of Bianca, she has been taught from birth that she is a vampire and that she is to keep it a secret. She does so, even when she becomes very close to Lucas, and she initially considers it simply another person she must keep from learning the truth. However, she eventually comes to believe that keeping that from him is a lie and that it's wrong to conceal the truth. Lucas has already been urging her toward that conclusion, telling her from early in the story that she allows her parents to dictate her life to a ridiculous degree. His examples are the music and movies she likes. Bianca argues that she likes those things because of her personal preferences but Lucas believes she likes them because her parents have led her to like them. Lucas may be trying to help Bianca see this because he's fighting it in his own life as well. He says that his mother is controlling and it's not until Bianca learns that Lucas is a member of an organization that hunts vampires that she realizes exactly what he means. Lucas' family has belonged to this organization for generations and he has been raised to keep their activities a secret, much like Bianca though for different reasons.



Coming of age

In some ways, this is a very typical coming-of-age story though some aspects of the maturing process for Bianca is not normal at all. Bianca is, in some ways, a typical teenager facing typical challenges. She is very close to her parents but is learning to make her way among her peers when she meets and falls in love with Lucas Ross. Bianca and Lucas begin kissing one night and they become carried away. Bianca loses control but not in the way typical of a teenage girl. Instead, she bites Lucas and takes a great deal of blood so that he passes out. When she realizes what she's done, she is very upset but other vampires simply take it as a sign of her emerging maturity. She is warned how to handle herself in the future and some of her childhood teachings suddenly make sense. An interesting aspect of this is that Bianca will eventually have to drink a human blood from a living victim in order to become a full-fledged vampire herself. Another aspect of this theme is seen in Bianca's understanding of what vampires are and what they do. She tells Lucas that vampires prefer to drink blood from animals, usually purchased from a butcher shop, rather than from living victims. She cites her parents' reasons - that living victims might fight back and that it's dangerous for the vampire. However, it's not until Lucas pushes her that she accepts that to be a story her parents have told her. She knows how different it felt when she fed off Lucas' blood for the first time and that most vampires would prefer that feeling to the simple nourishment of blood from a butcher shop. Bianca's willingness to think for herself is another example of her emerging maturity.



Style

Point of View

"Evernight" is written in first person from a limited perspective. The point of view is that of Bianca, a young vampire who doesn't fully understand that she is different from other teens. Because of this limited perspective the reader is kept in the dark about a key issue - that Bianca is a vampire - until the story is well underway. The suspense is built partly because of the prologue in which Bianca says she is in a burning building with Lucas and that vampires are waiting for her outside. The level of suspense continues to increase as it becomes more evident there is something wrong at the school. The first twist is that Bianca is a vampire, though an unusual one in that she was born rather than made. The second twist is that Lucas is a member of an organization that hunts vampires. Because the reader is limited to Bianca's perspective, several facts are revealed to the reader only when they become known or important to Bianca. The fact that she's a vampire only is revealed when Bianca lets her emotions get away from her and bites Lucas. At that point, she yells for help and the reader discovers that others are also vampires. Lucas spends time with Bianca's family and friends over the coming chapters and it's revealed that he's a member of the Black Cross only when Bianca learns that fact. Other aspects of the story that are kept from the reader include the fate of Erich, a vampire who was stalking a human student named Raquel. Erich seems to have decided to leave Evernight but it turns out that Lucas killed him and left his body in a storage room at the school. The limited perspective is appropriate to the story and is the only way the author could have preserved her need for surprises.

Setting

The story is set in the United States in the modern day. The majority of the action occurs at Evernight, a fictional school that has been exclusively for vampires until recently. The school was built in the 1700s, a fact noted by Bianca early in the story, and the building reflects that time period. There are several specific settings within the school that are important to the story, including the dorm room Bianca shares with a full-fledged vampire, the suite where her parents live, the woods nearby, and the gazebo where Bianca first bites Lucas and realizes what it means to be a vampire. Bianca and Lucas go to a room on the fourth floor of the school where Bianca bites Lucas for the second time. This is also the room where Erich's body is later found. The school is secluded but there is a nearby town called Riverton. The town is separated from the school by a small river and this creates a barrier of sorts for the full-fledged vampires who can cross running water but hate it. The town is small and typical of a rural mid-western town. There is a theater, an antique store that has a great deal of junk, and several places to eat. A pizza place is one of the food options available and where Lucas is involved in a fight that arouses Bianca's fears about him. The final chapters of the story take place in Boston, first at a run-down hotel and later at an abandoned church. The author



describes all aspects of the story with details obviously meant to give the reader a clear picture of the various settings.

Language and Meaning

"Evernight" is written in an informal tone in everyday language. The characters speak English and the story is divided between dialogue and narrative. The dialogue seems reasonable to each of the characters. For example, Mrs. Bethany's words are more formal than those of the students, as would be appropriate for the headmistress of an exclusive school. Both narrative and dialogue are used to drive the action of the story and the story moves rather quickly. Foreshadowing is seen in several places in the book. Long before Bianca finds out the truth about her parents, Lucas hints that there's something wrong with her life. He says her parents have taught her to love the things they love and have kept her in seclusion though they claim to be seeking to give her a greater understanding of the world. Lucas points out that Evernight is not the place one would go to give a young girl a broader sense of what the world is really like. It's only after the reader learns that Bianca is a vampire that her parents' decision makes sense. The overall tone of the story is one of hope and love though there is an undercurrent of suspense and evil. The author builds that suspense in several ways. As the story opens, Bianca is running away from her parents and the school and Lucas suggests she's subconsciously afraid of her parents or what they stand for. This is one example of the author's efforts to create a level of suspense that is only explained much later in the story.

Structure

The book is the first of a series. Though the story can stand alone, most readers will want to know what happens to Bianca and Lucas. The book is very open-ended and readers who expect a tidy conclusion will be disappointed.

"Evernight" is divided into nineteen chapters of varying lengths. The story opens with a prologue in which Bianca, the main character of the story, is in a burning building with Lucas, the young man she loves. There are flaming arrows being hurled into the building, setting the building on fire. In Bianca's account of the situation, the building is soon blazing and there are vampires waiting outside. The prologue is designed to build suspense and is a scene from near the end of the book. What the reader doesn't know from this prologue is that Bianca is a vampire as well and that the vampires are attacking mainly because she is inside the building with Lucas. In chapter one, Bianca is running away from her new home at Evernight Academy where her parents have accepted teaching jobs and where she is to attend school the following year. While she is leaving the grounds, she encounters a new student, Lucas Ross, who scares her though he is only trying to help. The pair make a connection that blooms into love over the following semester. In chapter seven, it's revealed that Bianca is also a vampire and in chapter eight, Lucas begins questioning what happened to him when Bianca bit him. In chapter ten, Lucas discovers that Bianca is also a vampire. In chapter twelve,



students return after the Christmas holiday and Lucas and Bianca begin to reconnect. Over the next few chapters, the relationship grows and Bianca bites Lucas again, though with much more control, which makes Lucas exhibit vampiric powers. In chapter fifteen, it's discovered that Lucas is a member of the Black Cross, an organization that dedicated to hunting vampires, and he is chased out of the school. As the story comes to a close, Bianca and Lucas have a short amount of time together but she is then forced to choose between returning to her own kind or seeing Lucas killed. The story ends with the scene in the prologue and a pledge between Bianca and Lucas to reunite some day.



Quotes

"He's not the sharpest knife in the drawer, I decided as I casually wandered in the general direction of the carriage house. Despite that, Vic seemed like a nice guy. Not the Evernight type at all." Chapter 4

"Don't you ever feel like there's something at this school that's ... evil?" Chapter 4

"After the mess with Lucas, it felt good to be flirted with - as if I really were beautiful and fascinating instead of the shy, awkward girl in the corner." Chapter 6

"If your school actually is a dank, scary dungeon from hell, Halloween decorations are sort of beside the point." Chapter 6

"Before, I'd never thought of keeping my family's secret from Lucas as lying I'd been taught to keep that secret since I was a tiny child, drinking blood from the butcher shop out of my bottle." Chapter 9

"I'd had to put up with Patrice spending hours in front of the mirror trying to see herself as her reflection faded more and more, approaching invisibility." Chapter 10

"However, vampires like getting presents as much as anybody. Add some time off from school, and you've got a holiday even the undead can enjoy." Chapter 11

"You'd think being bitten by a vampire would be one of those things that would stick in your memory." Chapter 14

"Not until much later that night did I realize that Mrs. Bethany had never told Lucas what would happen if he didn't choose to become a vampire. She didn't offer it as an option." Chapter 14

"Of course, some vampires did die, like, finally die; if you didn't get any blood for months and months, or even if you didn't drink blood for a shorter time and then were exposed to the sun - that could get you. My parents had made that clear when I was a little kid who didn't want to finish her glass of goat's blood." Chapter 15

"He'd even coaxed me into biting him again - and giving him the strength and power to truly fight back. He'd used me to become a more efficient killer, and then he'd tried to murder my parents, and he'd lied about everything, all along." Chapter 15

"I jumped but I was the only one - all the Black Cross fighters, including Lucas, were instantly on guard, weapons in their hands, to face the enemies at the door. The vampires. Standing in front of them all were Mom and Dad." Chapter 18



Topics for Discussion

Describe Bianca. What are her strengths? Her weaknesses? Is she a likeable character? Why or why not? In what ways is she a believable character? Are there any aspects of this character that are not believable?

Describe Lucas. What are his strengths? His weaknesses? Is he a likeable character? Why or why not? In what ways is he a believable character? Are there any aspects of this character that are not believable?

Compare Bianca's life to that of Lucas. How have their lives been dictated by their families? What is the attitude of each toward their families?

There are some aspects of this story that are very typical of vampire stories while other aspects are atypical. List two examples of each along with an explanation of why you find this typical or atypical. You may cite specific vampire stories in your explanation.

Describe Evernight. Why is Bianca attending school there? Why is Lucas attending there? What is the overall purpose of the school? Is it effective?

Who is Kate? Balthazar? Patrice? Courtney? Vic? What is the role of each in the lives of Bianca and Lucas? What is their role in the story?

What will happen to Lucas and Bianca? Bianca is expected to eventually become a full-fledged vampire. Do you believe she will? Bianca believes Lucas's love for her will convince him to eventually become a full-fledged vampire. Do you believe he will? Support your answers with examples from the story about the characters of each.

Describe what you believe to be the most important theme of the story. Give three examples of this theme.