

Finale Study Guide

Finale by Becca Fitzpatrick

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Plot Summary

Finale is the final book in the Hush, Hush Series by Becca Fitzpatrick. In Finale, Nora Grey has become the leader of the Nephilim army after the death of the Dark Hand. The Nephilim do not know Nora and do not trust her. Hence, Nora finds herself placed in a position of proving herself to her own people. It does not help that Nora's boyfriend, Patch, is a fallen angel and a sworn enemy of the Nephilim. Nora must find a way to make peace between her people and the fallen angels without breaking her vow or losing Patch. Finale is a tension filled novel that will satisfy the conflict developed in the previous Hush, Hush books.

Nora Grey has become leader of the Nephilim army in the aftermath of the Dark Hand's death. This is a role that Nora neither wants or needs. In fact, all Nora wants is to make peace between the Nephilim and fallen angels so that she and her boyfriend, Patch, can live in peace. Unfortunately, she made a blood vow that she would lead the army and the consequences of breaking this vow will lead not only to her death, but her mother's as well. At the same time, Nora owes the archangels peace for their help in killing her biological father, Hugh Millar, the Dark Hand.

Nora inherits her second lieutenant, Dante Matterazzi, from the Dark Hand. Dante wants to improve Nora's reputation with the Nephilim by making it appear that she has a strong, upstanding Nephilim to replace her fallen angel boyfriend. Dante volunteers himself as the best candidate and Nora finds herself forced to accept. Nora and Patch discuss this plan and decide it is for the best. For this reason, they limit the amount of time they spend out in public together.

Dante insists on training Nora, to help her build the strength and stamina that natural born Nephilim come to naturally. In order to do this, Nora must buy new running shoes. While she is out making this purchase, Nora is kidnapped by three Nephilim. Nora manages to escape and Patch comes to her rescue, thanks to a tracking device he placed in her jacket. However, Nora is unsettled by this and decides to go forward with Dante's plans. Nora and Patch stage a public fight to get the word out that they are no longer together.

Nora witnesses an archangel, whom she believes is trying to chain Patch in hell, speaking with Patch's former girlfriend, Dabria. Nora suspects this means that Dabria is blackmailing the archangel, Pepper, and this is why Pepper is after Patch. Before Nora can do anything about this situation, a group of fallen angels march into the bar and try to force Nephilim to take the oath of fealty to them, to allow them to possess their bodies during Cheshvan. Nora and her friend, Vee, escape before the fallen angels see them.

The following day, Pepper tricks Nora into leaving school to meet him. Nora thinks she is meeting Patch. When Pepper tells Nora he is kidnapping her to trick Patch into coming after her, Nora discovers that a drink Dante gave her that morning has given her such strength that she cannot help but escape him. Nora later confronts Dante and he



tells her the drink is enchanted with devilcraft, that he has been working with a Nephil who has been working on a weapon enchanted with devilcraft that can kill a fallen angel.

Nora immediately tells Patch about the devilcraft, which is illegal on earth by archangel law. They begin to hunt for the man, Blakely, who is working with it. They find him at a football game, but Marcie Millar, Nora's half-sister, interferes and warns the man off. Blakely stabs Nora with a knife enchanted with devilcraft, leaving her with an addiction to it. Blakely exchanges the knife for the antidote, but Nora does not take it. Instead, she becomes addicted and allows Dante to feed it to her.

Nora and Patch finally confront Pepper with a sting operation of their own design and promise to help him stop the person blackmailing him. Nora thinks it is Dabria, but is shocked to find it is Dante. Dante has turned traitor and is working with the fallen angels to control the Nephilim. Nora tries to stop him, but fails. Dante then calls a meeting with the Nephilim leaders. Nora thinks he will make her look like a traitor, so she calls a meeting of her own and challenges him to a duel. However, the night before the duel, Nora learns that Marcie was also working with Dante and that they have burned all the fallen angel's feathers, sending them all to hell, including Patch.

Nora is so depressed she almost does not go to the duel. However, when she arrives, she discovers that Dante has opened the gates of hell and forced all the fallen angels to swear a vow to him. Dante brings his army out of hell and begins slaughtering the Nephilim. Nora takes on Dante and wins, but only after the loss of her friends Scott. With Dante's death, everything sustained by devilcraft also dies, including all the fallen angels. Nora reunites with Patch and they vow to each other. This vow that allows Patch to regain feeling.



Prologue and Chapters 1-5

Prologue and Chapters 1-5 Summary

Finale is the final book in the Hush, Hush Series by Becca Fitzgerald.

In the Prologue, Nora is introduced to the Nephilim hierarchy and tested for loyalty. No one really trusts Nora, especially since she has been known to have a fallen angel as a boyfriend. However, Dante, the Dark Hand's lieutenant, stands up for her and insists the relationship with the fallen angel is over. The Nephilim want to mark Nora, but Scott, a boy who has sworn to protect her in the aftermath of her father's death, stops them. Nora is released.

In Chapter 1, Nora is at the Devil's Handbag, a local underage bar, where she is dancing with her best friend, Vee. Dante is there and he drags Nora outside to talk. Dante is concerned about Nora's reputation and feels that she should pretend to have a respected Nephilim as a boyfriend. Nora resists, especially when he suggests Scott, and is even more resistant when he volunteers for the role. Vee joins them and it is decided Dante will join the party. Nora quickly grows tired and leaves to drive herself home, but is confronted by an archangel named Pepper who wants to speak to Nora's boyfriend, Patch.

In Chapter 2, Nora goes home. A few minutes after going to bed she is joined by Patch. Nora tells him about the confrontation with Pepper and Patch promises to take care of it. He tells Nora that Pepper is being blackmailed and he thinks Patch is doing it. Patch is not, but he is worried if he meets with Pepper, Pepper will chain him in hell. Nora also tells him Dante's plan. Patch is not happy with it, but thinks it might not be a bad idea. The next morning, Vee talks Nora into going running with her. Vee drives to Scott's neighborhood and convinces Nora to run the track around his mom's apartment complex. It is clearly a ruse to get Scott's attention and it seems to work when Scott arrives home with Dante in tow. Dante runs with Nora and suggests that he train her to help her gain the strength and agility that most Nephilim are born with. Nora reluctantly agrees.

In Chapter 3, Nora gets money out of her piggy bank and goes shopping for new running shoes. When she is finished, she calls Patch for a meeting. As they are talking, Nora is kidnapped by three Nephilim. The Nephilim take Nora to a remote cabin and tell her that they believe her unworthy of her role as Nephilim army leader. Nora manages to escape and scars the trio off.

In Chapter 4, Patch finds her through a tracking device he placed in her jacket and drives her back to town. Nora and Patch decide their relationship is too dangerous for her and that they should stage a public fight. When Nora gets home that night, she begins to lay the foundation by telling her mother she broke up with Patch. The next



morning, Nora has her first training session with Dante. It is brutal, but she manages to keep up fairly well.

In Chapter 5, that night, Nora and Vee go to the Devil's Handbag again. Nora and Patch decided this would be the best location for their fake fight because it is a popular hangout of the Nephilim. Then Nora runs into Marcie who announces she has decided to move in with Nora and her mother.

Prologue and Chapters 1-5 Analysis

Nora Grey, the heroine of the previous Hush, Hush novels, has become the leader of the Nephilim army. Nora does not want this job, but if she goes back on the promise she made to her biological father, Hugh Millar, she and her mother both will die. For this reason, Nora takes the role seriously and tries to do all she can to fulfill it properly. This includes pretending to break up with her soul mate, Patch, and pretend to be involved with her lieutenant, Dante.

Nora's position is very precarious and it is clear that many Nephilim do not support her. Nora is kidnapped by Nephilim who want her replaced as leader of the army. Nora manages to prove herself to these three, but she is failing to prove herself to other Nephilim. For this reason, she and Patch stage a public fight and she agrees to Dante's plan to pretend to be his girlfriend.

Nora is not a typical seventeen-year-old girl with typical teenage problems. Nora has the weight of the future of an entire race on her shoulders. Not only this, but Nora is also responsible for her mother's safety and for deciding whether two races, fallen angels and Nephilim, will go to war. It is a lot for Nora to take on her shoulders. For this reason, Nora seems willing to allow the people around her to take responsibility for some of these things. Nora allows Dante to take over more control of the army and the building of her reputation that she probably ought to simply because he is her lieutenant and his confession of a vow to help her lead the army make her trust him. At the same time, Nora trusts her boyfriend, Patch, who is a fallen angel with a strong reputation among his people. Nora is something of a figure head, but a capable figure head who seems to really have the best interest of those she loves at heart.



Chapters 6-11

Chapters 6-11 Summary

In Chapter 6, Marcie disappears in the crowd. It is time for the fight with Patch. The fight goes as planned. Nora spots the man who kidnapped her. Nora warns Patch and has Vee attempt to get the man's name. Nora rushes outside to tell Patch that Vee could not get any answers, but sees Pepper speaking with Dabria, Patch's ex, instead. Nora goes back into the bar just in time to see a bunch of fallen angel's come into the bar in an attempt to force Nephilim to submit to an oath of fealty so they can possess their bodies during Cheshvan.

In Chapter 7, Vee takes Nora home and asks what is going on. Nora refuses to answer, prompting Vee to tell her she has a secret too, but she will not tell Nora until Nora confesses hers. Nora wakes the next morning to find Dante waiting for her. They have another training session. Afterward, Dante gives her a drink that is not what it was supposed to be. Nora chokes and Dante leaves.

In Chapter 8, Nora recovers from the drink and prepares for school. In her first class, Nora gets a text from Patch asking to meet. Nora sneaks out of school and goes to meet Patch, only to find that Pepper took Patch's phone and used it to trick her. Pepper wants to keep Nora hostage until Patch comes to rescue her and talk to Pepper.

In Chapter 9, Nora manages to escape Pepper using skills she did not have previously. Nora calls Dante and arranges a meeting. Dante tells Nora that the drink he gave her was enchanted with devilcraft and that he has been working with a man who is trying to develop a weapon, using devilcraft, that will kill a fallen angel. Dante also says that the drink is to enhance Nephilim powers and he plans to give it to all the soldiers in their army. Dante tells Nora she must choose between her loyalty to the Nephilim and her loyalty to Patch since the use of devilcraft is illegal on earth by archangel law.

In Chapter 10, Nora goes out to her car and finds Patch waiting for her. They go to his new home in a townhouse near Casco Bay. Nora immediately tells Patch all that happened that day, including Pepper and Dante's confession of using devilcraft. Patch wants to stop Dante and Blakely, the man he is working with.

In Chapter 11, Nora wakes the next morning expecting to find chaos in the Nephilim world due to the beginning of Cheshvan, but nothing has happened. Nora goes on another training session with Dante. Dante begins to teach Nora how to use the mind to control the thoughts in a fallen angel's head. Dante is surprised at how well Nora does. When Nora returns home, she discovers her mother has allowed Marcie to move in.



Chapters 6-11 Analysis

Nora is drawn into Patch's problem with Pepper when Pepper attempts to kidnap her. However, a bigger secret on Dante's side allows her to escape. Unfortunately, this secret proves to be very dangerous. When Nora learns that Dante and one of the Black Hand's men are using devilcraft to attempt to create a weapon that will kill a fallen angel, Nora knows that she must tell Patch and help him stop this. Devilcraft is very dangerous and it is outlawed by the archangels. For this reason, the first thing Nora does is tell Patch.

Dante has taught Nora how to use her strength and her mind against her enemies. Dante keeps telling Nora she is not good enough, but even he admits she has a special gift with mind control. This could prove to be helpful to Nora in the near future.

Cheshvan has begun. This is the time in which the fallen angels are able to take over the bodies of Nephilim and use them to feel, something they cannot do in their own bodies. However, as it begins, the fallen angels do not claim their Nephilim hosts. This is surprising to both Nora and Patch, making them wonder if something is up.

Marcie moves in with Nora and her mom. Marcie has always been Nora's enemy, even after they learned they share the same biological father. Therefore, Marcie's desire to live with Nora and her mother is surprising and leaves Nora questioning Marcie's motives as well as her control over Nora's mother. This seems to be a mystery whose resolution will not bide well for Nora's future.



Chapters 12-19

Chapters 12-19 Summary

In Chapter 12, Marcie attempts to be nice by giving Nora a nurse's excuse she needs to avoid trouble at school. At the same time, Nora manages to learn from Marcie that Blakely has a brother who plays football for the high school team and he has never missed a game. Nora is pleased to have this information, but unhappy that it comes at the price of promising to allow Marcie to be present when she questions Blakely, supposedly about the murder of their father. After school, Nora goes to Patch and tells him what she has learned. They formulate a plan to catch Blakely and question him. On the way home, Nora is pulled over by a cop she is familiar with from past trouble. Nora realizes the man is not human, but she does not know what he is.

In Chapter 13, on Friday, Nora meets Marcie at the football game as previously planned. They walk through the stadium, watching for Blakely. When they finally spot him outside the fence, Marcie manages to go after him alone while Nora is calling Patch. Nora chases, but when she catches up to Marcie, she discovers that Blakely has taken over her body. Blakely takes Nora hostage when Patch joins them and stabs her with a knife that has been enchanted with devilcraft.

In Chapter 14, Nora wakes at Patch's and discovers that the wound did not heal instantly as it should have. This has got Patch concerned about Nora's health. Patch tells Nora that Blakely will come after the knife so that they cannot use it against him with the archangels, whom Patch no longer trusts. Patch agrees to allow Nora to help with this plan. Patch then takes Nora home where Marcie confronts her about the possession. Nora is unconsciously mean to Marcie, causing her to go off angry.

In Chapter 15, Dante comes to wake Nora for their training session. When Nora joins him, she discovers that he has a man with him. The man is the Nephil who kidnapped her. Dante has beaten him badly. Nora orders Dante to let the man go. Later, after their workout, Dante and Nora are forced to hide from a group of fallen angels, the same from the Devil's Handbag, come looking for them. Nora goes home to begin her chores and is slightly surprised when Marcie enlists Scott's help in doing her part of the chores.

In Chapter 16, after chores, Marcie talks Nora's mother into allowing them to have a Halloween party the following week. Nora's mother even volunteers to take Marcie shopping for supplies. Marcie tries to talk Scott into being his date, but it does not quite work. Patch comes to Nora that night and they catch up with one another. As they talk, Blakely calls to arrange a switch, the knife for an antidote for Nora.

In Chapter 17, Nora does not believe that she needs an antidote for anything and insists that she go with Patch to meet Blakely. He refuses, going against the promise he made the previous night. Nora is angry, but she allows Patch to leave. Nora wakes the



following morning with an overwhelming hunger as well as nausea. Dante makes her workout anyway. Nora steals some devilcraft from Dante's bag.

In Chapter 18, Nora drinks all the devilcraft at once and quickly falls asleep. When she wakes, she feels better. Downstairs, Nora finds Marcie busy planning the party for that Thursday night. Vee arrives and fight nearly ensues between her and Marcie. Nora leaves a short time later to meet Patch. Nora is still angry with him and they argue for a few minutes. Patch gives Nora the antidote and she decides not to take it. Instead, she uses mind control to make him think she did.

In Chapter 19, Nora leaves Patch as the cravings come back. She gets Dante's address from Scott and makes her way to his house. Dante gives Nora three bottles of devilcraft when she tells him she plans to lead the army to war against the fallen angels. As Nora leaves, Patch calls to tell her he is near. They talk briefly.

Chapters 12-19 Analysis

Nora learns from Marcie where to find Blakely, so she and Patch set up a plan. However, Marcie ruins it only to suffer when Blakely uses her body to speak to Nora. Marcie is possessed, something that is unpleasant. This suggests that Marcie is a victim, but the reader must wonder why Marcie interfered with the plan in the first place. It could be Marcie's entitled personality, or it could be something deeper that could be leading Nora down a dark path.

Nora is stabbed with a knife that is enchanted with devilcraft. This leaves Nora in a weak state much longer than her Nephil body should have been. It also apparently leaves her with a strong addiction to devilcraft because of the amount of devilcraft that entered her body. Nora begins showing signs of addiction almost as soon as she learns of the possibility. It causes Nora to steal from Dante and take devilcraft from him even though she swore to never drink it again. Later, it causes Nora to go to Dante to ask for more. This addiction can prove to be very dangerous for Nora since it is an illegal substance and it leaves her weak and sick when she does not have it.

Dante kidnaps and beats a member of his own army when he learns that he is the one who kidnapped Nora. This appears to be a sign of loyalty on Dante's part. Dante is supposed to be all about helping Nora run the army. However, they disagree on how to handle the situation and Dante seems uncertain about Nora's leadership. In the end, Dante does as he is told, but this highlights once again Nora's weakness in running the army and Dante's strengths. It also seems to show the reader a darker side to Dante's personality.

Nora and Patch have a difficult time when Patch refuses to honor a promise to allow Nora to help hunt down and stop Blakely. To this end, Nora lies to Patch. This could potentially come between the two of them and cause troubles in the future. At the same time, it shows Patch's determination to keep Nora safe in direct contrast with Dante's

attempts at the same thing. The reader is left with no doubt as to who is most motivated to protect Nora.



Chapters 20-30

Chapters 20-30 Summary

In Chapter 20, the day of the party arrives. Marcie unkindly forces Nora to do most of the work. As the party begins, Nora is happy to see Patch arrive in costume. They sneak off to the bathroom to make amends. Nora's mother catches them and banishes Patch from the house. Nora returns to the party just minutes before fallen angels arrive. They hunt for Nora until she is forced to show herself. The innocent are allowed to leave, but the lead fallen angel pins down Nora and tells her to swear the oath of fealty.

In Chapter 21, Nora refuses and begins to fight. The fallen angel is much stronger, but Nora is able to use her mental abilities to convince him that he has been staked in his wing scars. The man is disabled. Dabria shows up then and tells her that Patch has sent her to get Nora to safety. Nora does not believe her, but leaves the house anyway.

In Chapter 22, Nora returns to the house to find Patch there. He tells her he did send Dabria, causing some tension between them. Patch takes the fallen angel out of the house just as Marcie, Vee, and Scott arrive. Vee and Scott volunteer to help with the clean up.

In Chapter 23, the next morning during her training session with Dante, he reveals to her that he has been working on a way to possess fallen angels. To train her to do this, he brings out a young female fallen angel he has brought for this purpose. Nora learns the technique, but dislikes it and quits prematurely. Nora then asks Dante about Pepper, telling him how Pepper thinks Patch is blackmailing him. Dante has little information about Pepper, but when Nora mentions Dabria, he tells her he has pictures of Dabria and Patch together.

In Chapter 24, Nora cannot stop thinking of the possibility that Patch is cheating on her with Dabria, therefore she is not receptive to Marcie's invite to go shopping. Nora finds herself forced to agree anyway. After shopping, Nora asks Marcie to take her to Dante's house, but when they arrive she discovers that he has moved out and he never owned the house as he told her he did. When she arrives home, Nora finds the pictures waiting for her. Several clearly show Patch and Dabria kissing.

In Chapter 25, Nora goes to Patch's townhouse to confront him and finds Dabria there. Dabria tells Nora that she and Patch have been working together to find Blakely, but that she messed up and allowed several members of Blakely's bodyguard team discover her following her. Patch rescued her and she gave him a kiss in gratitude.

In Chapter 26, when Patch arrives, he sends Dabria home. Nora and Patch make up. Patch then tells Nora he is no closer to finding Pepper's real blackmailer. For this reason, Nora suggests a plan to find out the truth from Pepper himself. Nora goes undercover with Scott. They manage to get into a secret gambling room at the Devil's



Handbag. Pepper is there and agrees to speak to them when they threaten to reveal his secrets to his gambling partners. In the alley, Pepper tells them that he swore an oath that will not allow him to reveal his blackmailer's identity, but that he is supposed to meet him that night to enchant some archangel weapons. Nora tells him to make the arrangements, but that she and Scott will go in his place.

In Chapter 27, everything is arranged. Pepper agrees to leave Patch alone, but cannot guarantee Patch will leave him alone.

In Chapter 28, Nora and Scott arrive at the location, the local cemetery. Scott goes to meet with the blackmailers while Nora waits in one parking lot and Patch in another. However, Scott never sends the preplanned signal. Nora is attacked from behind by someone with Scott's devilcraft enchanted whip.

In Chapter 29, Nora manages to get free with the help of a stray dog she uses mind tricks on. Nora is surprised it is Dante who has attacked her. Nora ties up Dante's hands and convinces him to talk to her by having the stray dog attack him again. Dante tells Nora that he has been working with the fallen angels to tip the war in their favor. Dante has decided the Nephilim has no chance of winning and he wants to be on the winning side. When Nora threatens to go to the Nephilim hierarchy, he tells her no one will believe her over him. Dante then escapes his bonds and runs.

In Chapter 30, Nora rescues Scott from where he has been tied with a whip enchanted by devilcraft. Nora then rushes to the south gate where she finds Patch similarly tied up. Patch is unconscious but slowly comes around as Nora removes the devilcraft. They return to Patch's townhouse where Nora tells him everything Dante said. They decide to meet with Pepper and learn everything they can about the situation. Pepper admits that he had wanted to hire Patch to kill Dante, that was why he had been trying to find him. Patch agrees to do it, but he tells Pepper he wants him to get all the stored fallen angel wings in heaven. Patch and Nora have agreed this is the best way to end the war between the fallen angels and the Nephilim. Pepper is reluctant, but eventually agrees.

Chapters 20-30 Analysis

Nora is attacked at her own home during Marcie's Halloween party. The fallen angel who has been stalking her has finally found her and wants to make her his vessel during Cheshvan. Nora manages to get away by using mind control techniques. However, it makes it clear that the war between the Nephilim and the fallen angels is nowhere near a resolution and that Nora is in danger from both sides of the conflict. The reader will also note that just before that tack Marcie sent Nora's mother away and she was nowhere to be found as it began. Also, the apple Marcie forced Nora to bob for had the fallen angel's name on it. This would suggest that perhaps Marcie had something to do with this incident.

Nora and Patch decide that it is finally time to confront Pepper and learn what he really wants from Patch. Nora and Scott confront him and learn that he is being blackmailed,



but it is not by Patch. Nora agrees to meet the blackmailer in order to find out what is really going on, expecting the blackmailer to be Patch's former girlfriend, Dabria. Instead, the blackmailer proves to be Dante who has switched sides and chosen to fight with the fallen angels. This shocks Nora, but Patch seems prepared for the idea.

Nora now knows that Dante is out to replace her as the leader of the Nephilim army and to lead the Nephilim to permanent slavery by the fallen angels. For this reason, Nora must stop him, as well as the fact that if Dante replaces her as leader of the Nephilim, she and her mother both will die. To do this, Patch suggests they have Pepper get for them all the feathers of the fallen angels kept under lock and key by the archangels. With the feathers, Nora can use it as blackmail to force the fallen angels to agree to peace. However, if these feathers are burned somehow, all the fallen angels on earth will be chained in hell with no hope of returning to earth. Patch has a single feather among these many feathers.



Chapters 31-41 and Epilogue

Chapters 31-41 and Epilogue Summary

In Chapter 31, Scott calls to warn Nora that Dante has called a meeting with the Nephilim hierarchy the following night. Nora and Patch know that this means Dante plans to claim Nora is a traitor. Nora must stop him. Patch advises Nora to call a meeting of her own and challenge Dante to a duel. Nora agrees despite the fact that she is afraid she would not win such a duel. Later, Nora confesses to lying to Patch about the antidote. She takes it then, removing the devilcraft from her body.

In Chapter 32, Nora's meeting is arranged. They are to meet at Hank Millar's previous home. Patch tells Nora that Scott has agreed to allow him to possess his body so that he can be there, too. Nora is very nervous as she arrives at the meeting because she knows she has many enemies there. However, she does well in declaring the duel despite Dante's protests. Patch helps move the duel to two mornings from then to give Nora time to practice with a sword.

In Chapter 33, Nora goes to Vee's and tells her everything. In turn, Vee reveals that she is also Nephilim. Scott has filled Vee in on everything and she promises to support Nora in whatever comes next.

In Chapter 34, Nora and Patch spend the following day practicing with sticks to help Nora learn how to swordfight. Afterward, Nora goes to Patch's place to clean up while he goes for dinner. Nora is shocked to find Blakely has broken in.

In Chapter 35, Blakely tells Nora that Dante had him making only devilcraft objects that could kill Nephilim, her in particular. Blakely promises to tell Nora and Patch more if they will meet him at his house. Nora agrees, but only if Blakely will help Nora convince the Nephilim that Dante has turned traitor. However, when Nora and Patch go to Blakely's home, they discover that he has been mortally wounded. Blakely tells Nora that the sword that Dante will use in the duel can kill him, too.

In Chapter 36, Pepper calls to say he has the feathers and the dagger that will kill Dante, but he is frightened that Dante is searching for him and refuses to hold on to them much longer. Patch convinces him to take the feathers to his former residence under Delphic Amusement Park. Patch sends Nora, with Scott, to get the feathers while he goes after Dante.

In Chapter 37, Nora and Scott go to Delphic where they find the pile of feathers already on fire.

In Chapter 38, Nora begins searching the burning pile for Patch's feather, but cannot find it. She leaves Scott to search while she goes to get blankets. Nora runs into Marcie who admits to working with Dante all along, to moving in with Nora and her mother to keep an eye on her, and to burning the feathers. Nora returns to Scott to discover the



feathers are beyond saving. As Nora and Scott leave, they find Patch's crashed motorcycle on the road. Nora knows that this means his feather has burned.

In Chapter 39, Nora sleeps in Patch's home and refuses to let reality in even when Vee comes to wake her. However, when the dream turns to a nightmare, Nora comes awake and knows Patch would want her to compete in the duel. When Nora arrives, she finds that Dante is running late. Then they hear the sounds of approaching fallen angels. The leaders call for Dante, but he has yet to arrive. Vee and Scott refuse to leave at Nora's request.

In Chapter 40, Dante is leading the army of fallen angels. It appears that he opened the gates of hell and made his army of the imprisoned angels. Nora finds herself fighting Rixon, a former friend of Patch's that he put in hell himself. Nora defeats him and takes his sword before going in search of Dante. Nora begins fighting Dante, but he is bigger and stronger. When it seems he had the advantage, Scott joins the fight. Scott finds well, but Dante eventually gets the better of him and kills him. Dante turns to Nora again. They fight for a minute. Nora uses the tricks Dante taught her to possess him. Nora then throws Dante's body on his sword. He dies instantly.

In Chapter 41, with Dante's death, all of devilcraft dies, including the fallen angels who made an oath to Dante and agreed to allow devilcraft to be their sustaining force. Nora returns to the parking lot where she returns into the cop she has had so many run ins with. He tells her that he is an archangel who had come to stop devilcraft, but she did it for him. Then he offers her some advice. A short time later, Nora discovers Patch wandering the battlefield. Patch makes a blood oath to Nora. When Nora cuts herself, she does it as the archangel recommended. When they mingle their blood, Patch is able to feel again.

In the Epilogue, three years later, Nora and Patch attend Vee's wedding in England.

Chapters 31-41 and Epilogue Analysis

Nora learns that Dante is going to tell the Nephilim she is a traitor, successfully taking away the army and insuring hers and her mother's deaths. Nora must stop this, so she agrees to Patch's plan to call a duel with Dante. Before the duel is to take place, Patch promises he will use a dagger that Pepper will supply to kill him. However, things do not go according to plan. Dante is much smarter than either Patch or Nora gave him credit for. Not only has Dante become a traitor, but he has decided to betray both sides and become leader of all. To this end, Dante discovers Patch and Nora's plans and uses them to his advantage.

Nora and Patch make Pepper promise to give them all the fallen angel feathers the archangels keep in safe keeping. Before he gives them to Patch, however, Pepper either gave the feathers to Marcie, or he allow Marcie to follow him to Patch's former home. In either case, Marcie gets the feathers and burns them. This causes all the fallen angels on earth to be pinned in hell for all eternity. Including Patch.



Nora is lost without Patch. She loves him and feels she cannot survive without him. However, Nora knows that she must save her mother. To this end, Nora agrees to go forward with the duel against Dante, unaware of his plans. It turns out that Dante has taken hostage of all the fallen angels, releasing them from hell in exchange for their lifetime of servitude. Dante has risen an army of fallen angels and he leads them against the Nephilim.

Nora has learned a great deal about fighting from both Dante and Patch. Hence, Nora is able to defeat Dante, but not before it causes Scott his life. In the end, Nora and Patch have finally gotten what they want, the right to be together without interference from anyone else. However, it has come at a terrible price.



Characters

Nora Grey

Nora Grey is the teenage protagonist of this novel. Nora is the daughter of a human and Nephilim. Nora recently killed her biological father after a long battle between him and her. Now she finds herself the leader of the Nephilim army her father once led. Nora must lead this army or she and her mother will die. To this end, Nora tries to appease the Nephilim leadership and convince them that she is loyal to the Nephilim cause. The only problem is that her boyfriend, Patch, is a fallen angel. Fallen angels are sworn enemies of the Nephilim.

As the novel begins, Nora finds herself forced into a position where she must convince the Nephilim that she is loyal. To this end, Nora and Patch fake a fight in public to make everyone think they have broken up. Nora then allows Dante Matterazzi, her second in command, claim a relationship with Nora. This should act as a way to win Nora more favor among the Nephilim since Dante is highly respected. However, Dante proves to be using Nora to move himself into a position to take over her role as leader of the Nephilim.

Nora simply wants peace between the two races. Hence, she does all she can to help Patch find ways to stop the fallen angels from hurting the Nephilim while still appeasing her vow to lead the army. Things become even more difficult as Nora discovers that Dante has become a traitor, working with the fallen angels against the Nephilim. Nora must take down Dante and do it in such a way that it will allow her to keep her vow and still be with Patch.

Patch

Patch is a fallen angel. Patch and Nora have been dating for some time when the novel begins. However, Nora's role as the new leader of the Nephilim army places their relationship in danger. Nora must hide this relationship. Patch agrees and helps her stage a public fight that makes it appear that they are broken up.

As Nora works with the Nephilim to keep her vow as leader of the army, Patch struggles with problems of his own. Patch has an archangel after him and he thinks this archangel wants to chain him in hell because he thinks Patch is blackmailing him. For this reason, Patch struggles to find the identity of the real blackmailer. At the same time, Patch and Nora learn that Dante and someone else is working with devilcraft to stop the fallen angels. Devilcraft is illegal on earth by archangel law and Patch feels a responsibility to stop it.

Patch and Nora eventually come to the conclusion that Dante has been blackmailing Pepper the archangel, in order to make him enchant some angel weapons. It turns out Pepper never meant Patch any harm, he simply wanted Patch to kill Dante. Patch



agrees, but in exchange he wants Pepper to bring him all the feathers of the fallen angels to be used by Nora as a way to end the war between fallen angels and Nephilim. This backfires when Dante somehow learns the plan and is able to get the feathers first, burning them and sending all the fallen angels on earth to hell, including Patch. The next day Dante opens the gates of hell and forces all the fallen angels to make a vow to him and to accept devilcraft as their sustaining force. When Dante is killed, so are the angels. However, Patch escaped hell without taking the oath or the devilcraft and is quickly reunited with Nora.

Dante Matterazzi

Dante was Hugh Millar's second in command and is now Nora's. Dante convinces Nora that he cares about her and that he made a vow to Hugh that he would help her lead the army. However, it turns out that Dante is working with the fallen angels. Dante has decided that the war is going to go badly for the Nephilim and he wants to be on the winning side. Dante then attempts to use his influence with the Nephilim hierarchy to stop Nora from whatever she plans to do next. This backfires when Nora approaches the Nephilim hierarchy and challenges Dante to a duel for control over the army.

Dante has enlisted the help of Marcie Millar, Nora's half-sister, and used her to learn everything Nora is doing. For this reason, Dante is able to find Pepper and the feathers before Nora and burn them. Dante then forces the fallen angels to swear an oath to him and take devilcraft as their lifeblood. However, when Nora kills Dante on the battlefield, everything touched by devilcraft dies with him. This includes every fallen angel who took the oath.

Marcie Millar

Marcie Millar is Nora's half-sister. Nora and Marcie are not close. In fact, Marcie has bullied Nora since they were young. However, learning about the Nephilim and all that it means to their lives has caused Marcie to appear softer and more open to Nora. Despite this, Nora is still shocked when Marcie bullies her way into the home Nora shares with her mother. Marcie attempts to be making overtures of friendship. However, Nora soon learns that Marcie moved into the house simply so she could watch Nora for her mother and Dante. Marcie is the one who tells Dante everything Nora is doing, allowing him to outwit her at every turn of the game. Marcie ends up dying a few years later due to the genetic elements that cause all children born of two Nephilim children to die.

Pepper Friberg

Pepper Friberg is an archangel. Pepper enjoys being on earth, acting like just another human. Pepper has an affection for gambling. However, archangels are very powerful. When Patch learns that Pepper has been looking for him, he assumes that Pepper wants to chain him in hell. For this reason, Patch avoids Pepper for as long as he can.



Patch also makes an attempt to find whoever is blackmailing Pepper in hopes that the truth will keep Pepper from chaining Patch in hell. In the end, however, it turns out that Pepper is being blackmailed by Dante for reasons not involving Patch and that he wanted Patch to kill Dante. In the end Pepper gets the feathers of all fallen angels for Patch, but is either robbed by Marcie and Dante or he leaves them unattended and Marcie finds them. The reader is not told what happens to Pepper at the end of the novel.

Dabria

Dabria is a fallen angel. Dabria and Patch were lovers in heaven and when they fell, they fell together. However, since being on earth they have stopped seeing one another. During the time that Patch is searching for Pepper's blackmailer and the source of the devilcraft, Dabria becomes something of a helper to Patch. This causes deep jealousy on Nora's part that is fanned by Dante's interference. In the end, however, Dabria proves to be a minor player in the novel. Dabria dies on the battlefield when Dante is killed by Nora.

Hank Millar

Hank Millar is Nora's biological father. Hank was also the Black Hand, the leader of the Nephilim army. Hank wanted to destroy the fallen angels to keep them from forcing the Nephilim to be vessels to them during Cheshvan. However, Hank was also a dark, evil man who caused many problems for Nora in previous novels. For this reason, Nora found herself with no choice but to kill Hank. Before his death, Hank made Nora swear an oath that she would lead his army. If Nora fails, she and her mother die.

Vee Sky

Vee Sky is Nora's best friend from childhood. Nora does not know it, but Vee is also Nephilim. Vee is always there for Nora and when Nora finally confides in Vee about her relationship to Hank and everything that has unfolded, Vee finally tells Nora her secret. Vee is present on the day of the duel with Dante and does all she can to help Nora. Vee and Scott had recently become boyfriend/girlfriend and his death was devastating to Vee. Fortunately, she finds love again three years later and marries.

Scott Parnell

Scott Parnell is a former tormentor of Nora's turned protector. Scott is also Nephilim and he vowed on the death of Nora's stepfather, Harrison Grey, that he would always protect her. To this end, Scott arrives as Nora is battling Dante and steps in to help. Unfortunately, Dante gets the better of Scott and Scott is killed trying to keep his vow.

Blakely

Blakely was a colleague of the Dark Hand. In this novel, Blakely is the one who is developing weapons with devilcraft to supposedly kill fallen angels. However, Blakely reveals to Nora that Dante has only had him working on weapons that will kill Nephilim, her in particular. Blakely is killed by Dante with a sword he made to allow Dante to kill Nora. Before he dies, however, Blakely tells Nora that the sword will kill Dante as well, but Dante does not know because the first thing he did was have Blakely make him immune to devilcraft.



Objects/Places

Oath of Fealty

An oath of fealty between a Nephilim and a fallen angel is an oath that allows the fallen angel to possess the Nephilim. This oath is often given under duress by the Nephilim.

Mind-Tricks

Mind-tricks are mental tricks that Nephilim and fallen angels can use to cause others to think or act in the way the controller wants. Nora uses mind tricks to stop a fallen angel from forcing her to take the oath of fealty for possession during Cheshvan.

Mind-Speak

Mind-speak is a method of speaking between Nephilim and fallen angels that allows two people to talk to one another without speaking out loud. The words simply come into the other person's mind.

Sword

Dante has a special sword made to kill Nora with during their duel. Instead of a duel, Dante raises an army of fallen angels and attacks the Nephilim. Nora is able to use this sword to kill Dante.

Devilcraft

Devilcraft is a kind of witchcraft that can be used to injure or kill Nephilim and fallen angels. It can also be used to make Nephilim stronger, as in the use of the drink Dante gives to Nora and causes her to become addicted to.

The Black Hand

The Black Hand was what the Nephilim people referred to Hank Millar as. Hank Millar was the previous leader of the Nephilim army.

Nephilim

Nephilim are a race of people who were created when fallen angels had children with humans. This race of people are exceedingly tall and often very strong. Nephilim can also communicate with one another through mind-speak. Nephilim who reproduce with



one another often have children who are sickly and who die at a young age. Nephilim who reproduce with humans have human children who can be transformed into Nephilim in a ritual. It is the latter that created Nora.

Fallen Angels

Fallen angels are angels who were expelled from heaven for a specific crime. Fallen angels can be sent to hell if their feathers are burned. Fallen angels can also be incapacitated if they are staked in their wing scars.

Archangels

Archangels are very powerful angels who are the law enforcement entity both in heaven and on earth.

Cheshvan

Cheshvan is a Hebrew holiday that last a month. During the month of Cheshvan, fallen angels are able to possess Nephilim bodies. This is done because fallen angels cannot feel in their own bodies, but when possessing a Nephilim they can.

Coldwater, Maine

Nora and her mother live in a farmhouse outside of Coldwater, Maine.



Themes

War

The main conflict of this novel revolves around the Nephilim desire to break free of their oaths of fealty to the fallen angels, preventing them from being possessed during Cheshvan each year. Hank Millar thought the only way to stop the fallen angels would be to go to war. To this end, he raised a large army and convinced the Nephilim people of the need for war. Even after Hank Millar's death, Nephilim are still planning war.

Nora wants peace. Nora's boyfriend is a fallen angel and he has convinced her that there has to be a way in which the Nephilim and the fallen angels can live in peaceful harmony. However, Nora has made a vow to lead the Nephilim army and if she fails to keep this vow, she and her mother will die. To this end, Nora and Patch continue to fight to find a way to bring peace to their people.

In the end, it is a Nephil who is supposed to be loyal to Nora and the army who brings on the war. Dante makes a deal with the fallen angels and sabotages Nora every step of the way. Eventually Nora's hand is forced into a confrontation with Dante that turns into the first and only major battle of the Nephilim/fallen angel war. Nora kills Dante, an act that destroys all the fallen angels who have sworn fealty to him, effectively finding the end to the conflict.

Deceit

Nora has struggled since learning who she really is and what kind of man her biological father was. This struggle comes to a head when she kills her biological father and finds herself at the head of his army. Now Nora must trust those around her to help her through a situation she knows little about and cares little about.

Nora's most trusted ally is Dante, her father's second in command and now hers. Nora believes that Dante wants to see her succeed, therefore she does all she can to do what he says she should. In the end, however, Nora learns that Dante was always worried only about what was best for Dante. Dante has turned traitor, deciding he would rather be on the winning side rather than the noble side.

Before Dante's deceit is discovered, however, Nora believes she has been tricked by someone much closer to her. Nora's boyfriend, Patch, seems to have been cheating on her. Nora confronts Patch, learns it is untrue, but is left with the uneasy feeling that she can trust no one. In the end, however, Nora learns who her most trusted allies are and who will do anything to get what they want.

Love

Dante and Nora's love is something love songs are written about. They have known each other only a short time, but from the time they met they have known they are meant to be together. For this reason, they do not allow a simple thing like a war between their races, to stop them.

Nora and Patch only want the right to be together. However, the Nephilim race and the fallen angels are at odds with one another because of the tradition of fallen angels using Nephilim's bodies for the month of Cheshvan to feel and experience things they cannot in their own bodies. It is an invasive thing that Nephilim do not like and would rather avoid. For this reason, the two races are sworn enemies, making Nora and Patch a supernatural Romeo and Juliet.

In the end, Nora and Patch know they must find a way to make peace. They do this, but at a high cost, especially for the fallen angels. They are, however, together when the dust settles and it is this that is all that matters.



Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the first-person point of view. The narrating character is Nora Grey, a teenage girl who has recently found herself in the middle of a war between two mythical races, the fallen angels and the Nephilim. To make matters more complicated, Nora is in love with a fallen angel while her father is Nephil. Nora and Patch must make peace between their races or be torn apart by angst not of their making.

The point of view of this novel works well with the plot. Like most teen novels recently published, this novel makes the female protagonist the first-person narrator. Nora tells her story with as much humor and wit as a teenager in her situation would employ. This point of view allows the reader an intimate relationship with her, making the reader care deeply about what happens to her and her fallen angel lover, Patch.

Setting

The novel is set in a rural area in Maine. Nora and her mother live in an old farmhouse in the outskirts of Coldwater, while most of Nora's friends live in the city. Patch once lived under an amusement park in Coldwater, but has recently moved to a townhouse in the city near Casco Bay.

The setting of this novel is sufficiently rural enough that the reader can imagine that such happenings as attacks on a Halloween party by fallen angels could reasonably go unnoticed. It also seems fitting that the fallen angels would have an entire hidden community under an amusement park. Hence, the setting of this novel works well with the plot.

Language and Meaning

The novel is written in simple English. The narrator is a teenage girl. Despite this, the language tends toward a more sophisticated language, filled with large words that it is unlikely such a girl would use in her everyday language. However, this girl is not an average teenager, therefore it is likely that she would use this type of language.

The language of this novel works well with the plot in the fact that it does not talk down to the reader, but it is not so complicated that even young readers will not understand the author's intent. There is little slang in the novel, but there are many words that readers might not be familiar with if this is their first experience with a novel from this series. However, the language is pretty basic making it appropriate for the novel and its intended audience.

Structure

The novel is divided into forty-one chapters with a prologue and epilogue. Each chapter is fairly long. The story is told in a linear fashion. The author has provided the reader with just enough backstory to make this novel interesting even to a reader who has not read the previous novels.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows Nora Grey as she tries to find a way to make peace between the fallen angels and Nephilim without breaking her vow to lead the Nephilim army. A subplot follows Nora's relationship with her second in command, Dante. Another subplot follows Nora's attempts to help boyfriend, Patch, find out why archangel Pepper is trying to find Patch. Finally, there are subplots that follow the relationships between Nora and half-sister, Marcie, friend, Scott, and best friend, Vee. All the plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

"I'm not a party girl. The earsplitting music, the gyrating bodies, the inebriated smiles - not my thing" (Chapter 1, p. 13).

"I'd spent the past seventeen years having no knowledge that the girl who stole my chocolate milk in elementary school and adhered feminine pads to my school locker in junior high shared my DNA" (Chapter 3, p. 36).

"Our bodies didn't belong to fallen angels" (Chapter 6, p. 62).

"If I needed an excuse to stay away from Dante, whom I no longer trusted, it was as good as any" (Chapter 8, p. 72).

"I'd just found the lead I so desperately needed" (Chapter 12, p. 101).

"Before I could blink, he plunged the knife into my side, and it was as though I'd been pushed in a raging furnace" (Chapter 13, p. 114).

"I'd take one bottle, and it would be enough. I'd feel the rush of power once more and I'd be satisfied. Just once more" (Chapter 17, p. 138).

"A vindictive part of me wanted to tell her it looked like a craft store had thrown up on our lawn, but the truth was, she'd done a nice job" (Chapter 20, p. 154).

"Dabria kissing Patch. Right there in the photos" (Chapter 24, p. 191).

"The vengeance smoldering in his gaze told me all I needed to know" (Chapter 31, p. 234).

"One man—a Nephil—ran in front of the army, wielding a blue-gleaming sword. A sword created to kill me. Even from this distance, Dante's eyes seemed to cut through all distractions, hunting for me" (Chapter 40, p. 285).

"This was it. Together. Forever. As we left it all behind, the sun warmed my back, lighting the way before us. I knew of no better omen" (Chapter 41, p. 299).



Topics for Discussion

What is Nephilim? How did Nora become a part of this race? Why is she the leader of the Nephilim army? What will happen if Nora does not lead this army as promised? Why does Nora not want war? Who does want war? Why? How does Nora plan to avoid war and still keep her promise?

Who is Nora? Why is she supposed to end her relationship with boyfriend, Patch? Why does Dante want her to pretend a Nephilim is her boyfriend? Who are the prospects? Why does Nora begin training with Dante? What is it supposed to teach her? Is it successful? What will Nora do with these new skills? Why?

Who is Patch? Why does he think that an archangel wants to chain him in hell? How might this come about? Why does Patch agree to pretend to break up with Nora? What will this mean to their future? Why does Patch go after Blakely? What does he want to learn from him? How will this help Nora's attempts to make peace between the fallen angels and the Nephilim?

Who is Dante? Why is Dante helping Nora train each morning? What things does he teach her? Why does Dante feel that Nora is ill prepared to lead a Nephilim army? Is he right? Why does Dante blackmail Pepper? What does Dante want from this arrangement? What does this mean to the war against the Nephilim and the fallen angels? Why does Dante claim that Nora can do nothing to stop him?

Who is Pepper? Why does Pepper want to meet with Patch? What does Patch believe Pepper wants? What is the reality? Why does Pepper want Dante dead? Why does Pepper agree to get all the fallen angel feathers for Patch? What does Patch plan to do with them? What happens to them in the end? What more than likely happened to Patch?

What are fallen angels? What happens if their feathers are burned? Why do the fallen angels possess the bodies of Nephilim each Cheshvan? Why do the Nephilim want this to end? How do the Nephilim go about trying to stop this under the Black Hand? Why does Nora end up killing the Black Hand? How does this impact the Nephilim people? How does this impact the fallen angels?

What is a vow? What role do vows play in this novel? What happens when a vow is broken? What vow did Nora take? For what purpose? How does Nora attempt to fulfill her vow? Is she successful? What vow do the Nephilim take for fallen angels? How has this vow lead to unrest between the two races? How can this be rectified? Is it? Explain.