

Fool Moon Study Guide

Fool Moon by Jim Butcher

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Plot Summary

Harry Dresden is struggling to pay for a meal, let alone his bills. Therefore, when Kim Delaney calls him and offers to buy him a steak dinner, he jumps at the chance. However, Kim's offer comes with a request for information. When Harry sees the circle Kim wants to learn about, he refuses to give her the answers she needs because he knows that Kim is not strong enough to control the depth of magic she wants to play with.

After Kim leaves, Dresden is joined by Karrin Murphy, the head of Special Investigations, a division of the Chicago Police Department that deals with unusual crimes. Murphy had been a steady employer of Dresden's, but had recently stopped hiring him. He believed that was because Murphy was angry with him for lying to her on a former case. However, he learns that she has backed away from him because their last case together left her under investigation by internal affairs.

Murphy wants Dresden to accompany her to a crime scene. When they arrive, Dresden is surprised to find that one of John Marcone's men has been torn apart by what appears to be an unusually large animal. As Dresden and Murphy discuss this murder, they are joined by several FBI agents. There is some argument as Murphy is accused of overstepping her jurisdictional rights. One of the FBI agents pulls a gun on Murphy. Dresden saves her from being shot.

Dresden uses magic to attempt to locate the murderer. He stumbles over a group of young people who appear to be following an older woman. Dresden is unable to find out who they are, however, because the woman seems aware that he is there and they escape.

Dresden speaks to a spirit he keeps in his lab and learns more about werewolves. There are multiple kinds of werewolves and Dresden believes that they are dealing with the worst kind. He takes the report he has written about this information to the police station. While there, one of the FBI agents asks him to check out a gang in Chicago who have a reputation that suggests they could be responsible for the murders. However, when Dresden arrives, he discovers that the gang is a group of werewolves who are insulted by his attempt to usurp their territory. The leader of the werewolves vows to kill Dresden.

Dresden learns of another murder. Murphy takes him to the new scene. Dresden is saddened to discover that the new victim is Kim Delaney and that she has been killed in the home of Dresden's newest suspect, Harley MacFinn. MacFinn is an environmentalist who has made an enemy of Marcone because they both want to buy specific parcels of land for opposing reasons. Dresden has also learned from a demon he has bribed for information that MacFinn's family was cursed by Saint Patrick making all the male decedents in his family loup-garous, the worst kind of werewolf.



Murphy arrests Dresden because she believes that he is involved in Kim's death somehow. While waiting to be taken to the police station, Dresden is joined in the car by Tera West, MacFinn's fiancé. She asks Dresden to help save MacFinn. He agrees and they escape together, but Dresden is shot in the process. West does the best she can to help Dresden before taking him to find MacFinn. MacFinn admits to killing Kim, but says it was because she was not able to work the magic as she had promised. Kim was not able to create a circle to hold MacFinn while he was in his loup-garou form.

Murphy and the FBI come after Dresden and MacFinn. Dresden and West get away, but MacFinn is caught. Dresden decides he must go to the police station to create the circle to hold MacFinn before he can turn into the loup-garou, but he does not make it there in time. MacFinn turns and kills several inmates before getting loose and going after the police. Murphy has made silver bullets from an inherited pair of earrings, making it possible to slow the creature, but they are not strong enough to kill him. Dresden manages to use magic to send the loup-garou away.

Dresden is chased from the police station by the werewolf crime gang. They manage to kidnap Dresden and take him to their hang out. Dresden wakes to find himself tied up, and learns that Marcone has made a deal with the gang to keep him alive. When Marcone arrives, Dresden manages to escape only to run headlong into the FBI. Dresden learns the FBI agents are another type of werewolf, werewolves that get their power from belts they wear around their waists. Dresden overpowers one and escapes.

Dresden and West, along with her group of young werewolves, go to Marcone's property where they know the FBI will be waiting for MacFinn to show up. Dresden and his pack of wolves are initially knocked down, but they manage to win the day when Dresden uses the stolen belt to turn into a werewolf himself and take out the FBI agents. Dresden also uses a pentagram his mother gave him to stop the loup-garou.



Chapter 1-7

Summary

Chapter 1. Harry Dresden has not been receiving work assignments from the police department for nearly a month, so his monthly budget has become very tight. For this reason, he jumps at the chance to have a steak dinner when Kim Delaney, a friend and sometime apprentice, offers to buy him one in exchange for some information. However, he begins to think twice about the offer when Kim shows him a drawing of a magical circle that is designed to hold in a powerful force from the Nevernever, the place where magical creatures originate. Dresden only tells Kim what it is, but refuses to tell her how to create it. Kim becomes angry and storms out of the bar. As she leaves, Karrin Murphy, Dresden's friend and occasional employer at the police department, comes in. Murphy tells Dresden there has been a murder and she needs his help.

Chapter 2. Murphy insists on driving Dresden in her car even though wizards are notoriously dangerous for modern technology, often causing things like lights, computers, and cars to malfunction because of the layer of magic that surrounds them. They drive out toward the airport, a place Dresden knows is not part of Murphy's jurisdiction, to a crime scene inside the new construction of a restaurant owned by John Marcone, Dresden's former nemesis. The body belongs to one of Marcone's bodyguards, a man Dresden knew only by the nickname Spike. The body was torn apart, as though by an animal, and Dresden sees a claw print under a nearby window. Dresden also sees broken glass with blood on it. He believes the blood belongs to the killer so he takes a shard and hides it in his pocket.

As Murphy explains to Dresden that there have been other murders over the past month, they are interrupted by the arrival of the FBI. The team, led by Agent Denton, come inside and tell Murphy that she needs to leave because this area is not her jurisdiction. When Murphy refuses, Denton instructs one of his agents, a woman named Benn, to remove her. There is a short scuffle. Benn pulls a gun. Dresden stops her from firing the weapon at Murphy. Murphy and Dresden allow themselves to be escorted from the scene by two other FBI agents.

Chapter 3. Dresden and Murphy go out to her car. They briefly discuss what happened on their last big case together. Murphy is still angry with Dresden for lying to her about important information.

Chapter 4. Murphy tells Dresden she has been under investigation for several weeks because of that same case. This is why she has not hired him recently. Dresden promises not to lie to her again. Dresden also promises to get a report to Murphy by morning outlining everything he knows about werewolves. Murphy drops Dresden at his car. He notices that he and Murphy have been followed, but the car stops following them once Murphy drops him off.



Chapter 5. Dresden decides to use the piece of glass he took from the evidence to find the killer. He works a spell, turning the glass into a compass, and follows it into the city. The compass takes him to an abandoned department store. Dresden sneaks inside and overhears a group of kids arguing about tearing someone apart. As Dresden listens, the kids are joined by an older woman whom Dresden recognizes as the woman who was following him and Murphy less than an hour before. The group leaves. Dresden decides to follow. However, he is attacked by something that forces his blasting rod from his hands. Still Dresden follows and is stopped again by a woman with a gun.

Chapter 6. The woman handcuffs Dresden, but when she rolls him over, Dresden discovers it is Murphy who has stopped him this time. They compare notes. Murphy followed the woman who had been following both of them to this place. She was searching the back when Dresden came out. Since no one came out the back or the front, Murphy wants to search the building. They find nothing. Murphy wants to issue an APB on the people Dresden saw, but he talks her out of it to keep the gang from turning on her until they can figure out if they really are the killers.

Chapter 7. Dresden goes home and has dinner before slipping into his lab to work on Murphy's report. Dresden wakes up Bob, the spirit he keeps in a skull in the lab. First they work on a couple of potions together. Then Bob tells him there are several different types of werewolves. Hexenwolves are werewolves that are created when someone wears a belt made of a wolf pelt that has been enchanted by a strong wizard. A lycanthrope is a type of werewolf where the person believes they are werewolves, but they do not actually change into the form of a werewolf. A werewolf is a wizard who can change into a wolf with a magic spell. A loup-garou is a person who has been cursed by a powerful wizard and has no part of his personality remaining while he is in the werewolf shape. A loup-garou is the most dangerous, but he only changes during the full moon.

Analysis

The first few chapters introduce the main characters and some of the conflict that will propel the plot. In the first chapter, Dresden meets with a sometime-student who wants to know about a circle with powerful magic that helps hold in some sort of creature. Dresden knows she is not strong enough to practice this type of magic, so he refuses to tell her. The girl, Kim Delaney, is deeply hurt by this and very angry, suggesting to the reader that this decision might come back to haunt Dresden later in the book.

Dresden works for the police department through Murphy in the Special Investigations unit. However, she has not hired him in a while, leaving him short on cash. For this reason, Dresden is suffering financially. Murphy suddenly shows up and tells him about a new case in which people are getting torn to pieces by something that resembles an animal attack. It is a complicated case made more complicated by Murphy's trouble with internal affairs because of the last major case she worked with Dresden.



Dresden tries to help Murphy on the case by tracking some blood that was left at the last crime scene. Instead of taking him to a gang of horrific killers, the blood takes Dresden to a group of college age kids. He is certain they are not the killers, but he cannot prove it. He is also sure they are some sort of werewolves and he does not want Murphy involved with them until they both better understand what is going on. For this reason, he refuses to help her put out an APB on them. Instead, he begins researching them through his spirit friend, Bob. What he learns is somewhat disheartening, especially since there are so many different types of werewolves and he is not certain which one they are dealing with.

Discussion Question 1

What is a magic circle? What does the one Kim Delaney is asking about hold? Why does Dresden refuse to tell her the truth about how to make the circle work?

Discussion Question 2

Why is Murphy under investigation from the Internal Affairs division of the Chicago Police Department? How does this affect Dresden?

Discussion Question 3

How many different kinds of werewolves are there? Why does Dresden assume the werewolf he and Murphy are up against is the loup-garou?

Vocabulary

Lycanthrope, hex, wizard, ungrateful, simmering, potion, response, idly, romance, commented, ingredients, elevator, deodorant, mumbled, sacrifice, century, rampage, wilderness, information, stimulant, declared, resistant, aggressive, psychological, continued, ingredients, talisman, powerful, werewolf, personality, transformation.



Chapter 8-14

Summary

Chapter 8. Dresden goes to police headquarters to give Murphy his report on werewolves. However, when he arrives outside Special Investigations, he is met by Agent Denton. Denton tells him that Murphy is with internal affairs and that he should not go in. Denton offers to take Murphy the report himself. Dresden agrees. Dresden calls Murphy to make sure Denton delivers the report before leaving. In the parking garage, Dresden runs into another of the FBI agents, Agent Harris. Harris convinces Dresden to check out a gang of criminals he thinks are part of the killings, the Streetwolves.

Chapter 9. Dresden drives to the hangout of the Streetwolf gang, the Full Moon Garage. The place appears deserted, but when he goes inside Dresden becomes aware of a large number of people in the darkness. They confront Dresden and he immediately realizes he made a mistake by going inside the garage. As he turns to leave, a chant of 'kill him' goes up. Dresden makes it outside. The gang is stopped from following him out by their leader, Parker. Dresden looks into Parker's eyes and engages in a soulgaze. Dresden can see that Parker is the leader, but he has grown weak by age and is being challenged. He must kill Dresden to retain control. However, he cannot kill Dresden in front of the others. For this reason, Dresden realizes he must get as far away as possible and keep an eye out for Parker.

Chapter 10. Marcone is waiting for Dresden when he arrives at his office. Marcone wants Dresden to come to work for him in exchange for Dresden only using his powers for Marcone. Dresden refuses despite the large amount of money he could earn. Marcone becomes angry, but before he leaves, he tells Dresden to check out Harley MacFinn and the Northwest Passage Project, confirming Marcone's fear that he will be one of the next victims.

Chapter 11. Dresden calls up a demon in his lab to get information on MacFinn. The demon asks for Dresden's name in exchange for the information. Dresden agrees, giving the demon three of his names, but omitting the fourth. The demon tells Dresden that MacFinn is an environmentalist who has been buying up property to create a large natural reserve for animals. MacFinn has found resistance in some business men, Marcone included. MacFinn is also a loup-garou, his family having been cursed by Saint Patrick when they lived in Ireland. After he sends the demon back to Nevernever, Dresden receives a phone call from Murphy alerting him to another murder.

Chapter 12. Dresden goes to the address of the latest murder, MacFinn's Chicago mansion. He is shocked to discover the victim is Kim Delaney. Murphy shows him the circle in MacFinn's bedroom Kim had tried unsuccessfully to create and then to the basement where a more elaborate circle was damaged. Murphy arrests Dresden,



convinced that he had something to do with the murder and that he is still hiding something from her.

Chapter 13. Murphy has one of her men take Dresden out to her car as the FBI arrives. Dresden wants to explain things to Murphy, but he knows she will not believe him while she is angry. As he waits in the car, the woman from the abandoned department store arrives. The woman, Tera West, slips into the car and tells Dresden she will help him escape if he will help MacFinn. She says that MacFinn is her fiancé and that he is unable to control himself when the moon is full. She wants Dresden to create the circle that Kim was trying to make to contain the loup-garou form. Dresden agrees. They slip from the car but are spotted by the FBI agents. Benn begins firing and manages to hit Dresden in the shoulder. Tera helps him over a fence, but she is trapped when the FBI approach. Dresden uses magic to turn his blood drops into fog.

Chapter 14. Dresden wakes in a motel room with Tera. His shoulder has been bandaged. Tera is anxious to go find MacFinn, but Dresden refuses to leave until she answers some questions. Tera resists him. Dresden tries to engage in a soulgaze with her, but cannot, so he suspects she is not human. Tera has called the police so that they are forced to leave anyway. Dresden goes with her to Wolf Lake Park where they find MacFinn hiding out in a small campsite. MacFinn attacks them as they enter the park.

Analysis

Dresden is pulled into a turf war of sorts with a group of lycanthropes. The lycanthropes are a gang of criminals living in Chicago, a group that the FBI Agent Harris thinks might have something to do with the murders. However, Dresden can see immediately that they do not have any idea about the murders when he is pulled into a soulgaze with their leader. Unfortunately, he has upset them by walking into their territory without permission, causing the leader, Parker, to be placed in a position where he has to kill Dresden to prove his continuing worth as a leader of the gang. This situation suggests trouble for Dresden as the plot continues to unfold.

Dresden learns from Marcone about a man named MacFinn. MacFinn is an environmentalist who has run into trouble with some businessmen, including Marcone. MacFinn is also a loup-garou, a type of werewolf that results from an ancient curse. MacFinn becomes the number one suspect in the murders, especially when Kim Delaney is found murdered in his home. However, Murphy believes that Dresden is part of the killings, so she has him arrested. MacFinn's fiancée, Tera West, helps him escape, but Dresden is shot in the process.

Dresden is now on the run with a group of lycanthropes after him as well as the police. It is a difficult situation that only grows more difficult when he finds that his only ally is a woman he is pretty sure is not human and whom he cannot trust.



Discussion Question 1

Who is Kim Delaney? Where is she found murdered? Who killed her?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Murphy distrust Dresden? Why does she have him arrested?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Tera West help Dresden escape police custody? What does she want from him? How does he know she is not human?

Vocabulary

Windpipe, strength, anywhere, practicing, unwounded, exaggerated, motions, grateful, bemoaning, horizon, mercifully, moonrise, vampires, bothered, folklore, wanted, injury, harmless, changed, unfamiliar, origin, probably, suburbs, surrounding, precision, randomly, nervously, constantly.



Chapter 15-21

Summary

Chapter 15. Dresden uses magic to stun MacFinn. When he recovers, Tera helps him to his feet. They greet one another affectionately. Afterward, MacFinn admits that he likely killed Kim, but he rarely remembers what happened while he was in his loup-garou form. MacFinn also tells Dresden that someone purposely messed up his original circle of protection, the one thing that kept him from killing in his loup-garou form. He hired Kim to make a new one and she said she could, but hers failed. Now MacFinn needs Dresden to make a new one. Dresden agrees, but tells them they must get out of the park because the police would be there soon. The name of the park would give them away. Before they could leave, however, Dresden hears Murphy's voice. Tera runs off to distract the police while MacFinn and Dresden run in the other direction. MacFinn, however, insists on separating.

Chapter 16. Dresden makes it to a nearby gas station and waits for MacFinn, but he never shows up. Dresden calls his 'on again, off again' girlfriend, Susan Rodriguez. She agrees to come get him in exchange for a story. As he waits, Dresden becomes aware of Tera. She has come to the gas station, but is naked and alone. Dresden gives her his duster. Tera tells Dresden that the FBI caught MacFinn and Murphy took him downtown. They agree that Dresden must get to MacFinn before the sun goes down. Susan arrives, unhappy to see Dresden with a naked woman. Dresden tells her the story and asks her to take him to his apartment. The apartment is being watched by the police. Tera creates a distraction while Dresden slips into the apartment. Then they head to police headquarters while Dresden takes a potion that will keep others from seeing the real him.

Chapter 17. With the potion, Dresden manages to get into the police station and into the holding area. However, before the jailer lets Dresden into the area with the prisoners, he can see on the security monitors that MacFinn has already turned into the loup-garou. As he watches, several prisoners are brutally murdered. The jailer, unaware of what is happening, opens the door. The loup-garou immediately charges it, killing the jailer when he comes through. Dresden seals off the cells to protect the other inmates and then uses magic to break out of the outer door. The loup-garou follows. Dresden fights it, but is not strong enough. He is down and about to be killed when Murphy appears.

Chapter 18. Murphy fires a small gun at the loup-garou and surprises Dresden by doing damage. The loup-garou flees long enough for Murphy to tell Dresden that she made some bullets out of silver earrings she inherited from her aunt. Dresden's report informed Murphy that the only thing that could kill a loup-garou was inherited silver, which is why she made the bullets. Murphy organizes her cops and goes after the loup-garou, leaving Dresden with a rookie cop to go into the office and wait. Dresden realizes there is a spell he can use to stop the loup-garou temporarily, but he needs his things



that Murphy confiscated when she arrested him. He gathers his things from the office as chaos reigns outside the office.

Chapter 19. Dresden goes out into the hallway and finds utter chaos. Several cops have been brutally killed. Dresden uses magic to force the loup-garou out of the building. Then he uses magic to gag and blind the loup-garou until dawn, in hopes of keeping it from hurting anyone else. When all is said and done, several cops are dead and Murphy is left with a broken arm. Dresden walks out of the station and leaves with Susan and Tera.

Chapter 20. Dresden has a dream in which he is talking to himself. His other self tells him that he needs to review the evidence closely, that he is missing something obvious. It is during this dream that Dresden realizes that MacFinn could not have killed all the victims because he only changes shape during the full moon, but some were killed just before the full moon and others as the full moon waned. He also realizes that Tera is unlikely to blame because, despite the fact she is not human, she would not have set up MacFinn because her love for him is not feigned.

Chapter 21. Dresden wakes in Susan's car to learn that they are being followed. Dresden does not want Susan to get hurt, so he jumps out of the car after instructing her to call the police from the nearest gas station. He drinks his final potion, one that makes him forget the pain of his multiple injuries. Dresden causes all four tires on the truck carrying Parker and two of his people to blow. They crash, but are uninjured. They come across the road and threaten him. Dresden manages to fight them for a time, but is eventually overcome when the potion runs out and his powers begin to diminish.

Analysis

Dresden meets MacFinn. MacFinn is a kindly man who has no control over what he does when he changes into the loup-garou. In fact, he feels remorse for the deaths he has caused. There is nothing he can do to stop it, however, because of the curse placed on his family so many generations ago. Dresden wants to help him, but before he can they are found by the police. MacFinn is taken into custody, but Dresden cannot call Murphy to warn her about MacFinn because he is currently on the run from her and the rest of the police department. For this reason, he uses a potion to sneak into the police department, but he arrives too late. MacFinn has already switched into the loup-garou form and is killing people.

Dresden and Murphy manage to outsmart the loup-garou and stop it, for the moment. However, Murphy still wants to arrest Dresden, proving she no longer trusts him. At the same time, Dresden discovers that the Streetwolf gang are still looking for him. Dresden is injured and kidnapped by the Streetwolf gang. It is a difficult situation that leaves Dresden unable to stop the real killers, whom the reader already knows is not the Streetwolf gang.



Discussion Question 1

Why does MacFinn turn into a werewolf? Why can he not control it? What happens when he is angry at a particular person or group of people when he changes?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Dresden sneak into the police station? What is his intention?

Discussion Question 3

Why does the Streetwolf gang kidnap Dresden? What is their intention?

Vocabulary

Captors, access, surveillance, inflicts, agony, pathetic, lackey, lumbered, garage, satisfied, victory, traced, instead, explosions, disappoint, reassessing, occasions, believe, jailer, arrested, failed, clumsy, engraved, rune, asphalt, retreating, magic, funneled, unknown, quaver, signal, companions, heartbeat, desperate.



Chapters 22-28

Summary

Chapter 22. Dresden wakes, his injuries bandaged and a blood transfusion infusing through his arm. Dresden is surprised to still be alive, even if he is tied up with duct tape. He begins working the tape off and is almost free, except for the tape on his ankles, when Parker comes out of the garage office. Parker and another of his gang are arguing over whether or not Dresden should be kept alive. Parker insists he is keeping Dresden alive to satisfy a deal with Marcone, but the other thinks they should ignore Marcone's desires. Parker subdues this other man and then comes into the garage where Dresden hides the state of his bindings and begins to engage Parker in conversation.

Chapter 23. Parker is about to hit Dresden with a tire iron when Marcone walks in and threatens to kill him if he does not stop. Marcone then turns to Dresden and tries to make the same deal with him that he made earlier. When Dresden acts as though he accepts, Parker becomes angry because he was promised the right to kill Dresden. A fight breaks out. Dresden manages to escape, but runs right into Denton and his people. Dresden turns and runs back into the garage. Denton and his people follow, joining the fight between Marcone and Parker.

Chapter 24. Dresden hides as Denton and his people change into wolves and kill everyone in sight. Parker's people have arrived, so it is a complicated fight. However, Marcone and his man manage to get away. As they fight around him, Dresden hears someone trying to dig under the corner of the garage where he is sitting. Dresden uses a wrench to hit the paw he sees there, but then Tera's voice tells him they are there to help and he should stop. Then Dresden can hear fighting. As he watches Denton, Benn, and Wilson fight over Parker, Dresden finishes the hole Tera and her people have begun and escapes into an alley behind the garage. Dresden sees a wolf fighting with Tera and several other, smaller wolves. He engages in the fight, drawing the bigger wolf to himself.

Chapter 25. Dresden manages to find a belt around the waist of the wolf and pull it off. The wolf instantly turns into Agent Harris. When Harris is subdued, Dresden has to convince Tera and her wolf pack not to kill him. Dresden interrogates Harris, learning that it was Denton who offered each of them the belts, but he refused to say where he got them from. Harris also confirms that it was Denton and the others who had been committing the murders in a warped sense of justice and that they were planning on setting the Streetwolf gang up for the murders. When they learned of MacFinn through Marcone, they decided to break his circle to use him as another possible suspect. They also plan to have MacFinn kill Marcone at a meeting that night. Dresden tells Harris to tell Denton he will be at the meeting.



Chapter 26. Dresden, Tera, and the kids are picked up in a van driven by Susan. They go to a house in the nice part of town owned by the parents of one of the kids. Everyone goes inside, but Billy, the leader of the group of kids, the Alphas, asks Dresden to stay back for a minute. He insists that he and his Alphas go with Dresden that night to confront Denton. Dresden initially refuses, but then relents when Billy promises they will follow his orders only.

Chapter 27. Dresden goes into a bedroom with Susan. She carefully cleans and dresses his many wounds. Afterward, they make love and rest for a short time. When they redress, Susan gives Dresden a new, leather duster she has bought for him. Then Tera comes and tells them it is time to go. Susan insists on going along so that she can drive.

Analysis

Dresden has been kept alive by Parker and the Streetwolf gang because of a deal between them and Marcone. However, Parker's people are not pleased. Marcone wants Dresden to work for him and uses his current situation as a motivator. Dresden surprises him by appearing to agree, but then escapes. A fight breaks out between Marcone and Parker that is made more confusing when Parker's gang shows up and the FBI shows up. Hiding from the chaos, Dresden realizes that the FBI agents are Hexenwolf, the type of werewolf that are created when they touch a belt that has been made magic by a powerful wizard. It is this realization that not only helps Dresden fight them, but discover who the real killer is. The FBI agents have been committing the killings all along, setting up others to take the blame.

Dresden knows that not only does he have to stop MacFinn, but he also has to stop the FBI agents. For this reason, he decides to go to a meeting he knows is planned to take place between Marcone and MacFinn that night. Dresden hopes to end the whole thing then. However, he cannot call Murphy and he has no choice but to trust Tera and her Alpha werewolf group. Dresden is still not sure of Tera's true motivations, so this is a risky move, but he decides to go forward anyway. He needs the help.

Discussion Question 1

Why did Parker not kill Dresden right away? Why does Marcone make a deal with Parker in regards to Dresden? Does he hold up his end of the deal?

Discussion Question 2

How do the FBI agents transform into werewolves? What does this suggest about them?



Discussion Question 3

What is the relationship between Dresden and Susan? Why is he worried about her safety? Why does he allow her to go along with the trip to Marcone's? What are her true motivations?

Vocabulary

Extended, subconscious, contrast, vanished, wizard, expectant, narrow, paranormal, considered, uncertain, familiarity, wickedly, material, indescribably, complete, matte, sensuous, snarling, returned, compassionate, horizon, feminine, outlined, horizon, piercing, liquid, abandoning, deliciously, willingness, featherlight, reappearing, delicately.



Chapters 28-34

Summary

Chapter 28. Dresden leads Tera and the Alphas to Marcone's house where they stop to find a way onto the property. Tera searches and finds a broken place in the wall. Dresden instructs her to take the Alphas that way while he will climb the wall where they are at and wait for them. Tera reluctantly agrees and helps him over the wall. Dresden waits, but Tera and the Alphas take too long.

Chapter 29. Dresden makes his way through the woods to Marcone's house on the opposite side of the property. When he arrives at the edge of the woods, he sees Denton and his FBI agents shoot Billy with a dart. Dresden realizes that Denton and the others were waiting for Tera and her Alphas and that they took them all out. Dresden listens to Denton speak with Marcone about their next move. They believe that Dresden is there somewhere and that MacFinn is still to come. For this reason, they decide to begin searching the woods.

Chapter 30. Dresden is stuck where he is because if he moves they will likely hear him. Therefore, when Denton comes close to him, he manages to get Denton's gun from him and take him hostage. Dresden has Denton call to his people and tell them to move out in the open. However, when they do, Denton tells Wilson and Harris to get something from the woods. Dresden is shocked to see they have Murphy. They threaten to kill Murphy. Dresden is momentarily distracted, allowing Denton to get his gun back.

Chapter 31. Dresden engages in a soulgaze with Dresden. He sees Denton getting the belts and how the power of the belts has changed him. Denton is bewildered by the soulgaze, distracting him long enough that Marcone is able to get a laser lock on him. Denton fires on Marcone's bodyguard, taking him out. Wilson and Harris take Marcone down while Benn takes Dresden. Dresden and Murphy are shoved into a deep pit where Tera and the Alphas are already waiting. Marcone is hung above them, bait for the loup-garou. Dresden explains everything to Murphy, finishing just as the loup-garou arrives.

Chapter 32. Dresden asks Marcone if he still has a knife he is notorious for carrying. Marcone's knife was taken, but he has another. He cuts a length of rope so that Dresden can climb out of the pit. Dresden keeps the loup-garou busy until Tera can use the rope to climb out of the pit. She engages with the loup-garou in her wolf shape. Dresden rushes off to deal with Denton and his people. Dresden is wearing the belt he took from Harris earlier in the day. He changes into the wolf shape and attacks Benn, injuring her so that she cannot chase him. Wilson comes out of the woods. Wilson attacks Benn causing Harris to think he is one of the Alphas. Harris shoots Wilson. Wilson returns to his human form and engages in a gunfight with Harris until they are both dead.



Dresden then goes into the woods in search of Denton. They fight each other in their wolf form. Dresden gets the better of Denton and is about to kill him when Susan suddenly appears. Dresden, who had become enticed by the power of the belt, comes back to himself enough to back off and turn back into a human. Murphy comes into the woods with the Alphas. Dresden insists they leave, but Murphy insists on staying to help with the loup-garou.

Chapter 33. Dresden returns to the pit to cut Marcone down. The loup-garou is in the pit. Dresden runs back toward the woods. He remembers that the pentacle he wears on his neck is silver and he inherited from his mother. He begins to spin it in a circle above his head and infuse it with his magic. He thinks if he throws it at the loup-garou, he can kill it. However, just as he is ready to let go, Murphy appears in front of him, her gun pulled. She begs him to get down as the loup-garou approaches behind her. Dresden throws the pentacle and falls back.

Chapter 34. Dresden realizes that Denton was behind him and Murphy saved him by shooting him. Dresden saved her by killing the loup-garou. Tera joins them, injured but alive. She is saddened by her fiancé's death.

Susan filmed the fight with the loup-garou from some distance. The video is viewed by thousands on the internet, saving Murphy's job because she looks like a hero. Internal affairs stops investigating her and she is given more respect. However, the video disappears and people stop believing in Dresden's part of the battle. Tera goes back to the northwest, where, Dresden realizes, her true form is timberwolf. The Alphas admire Dresden and want him to be some sort of leader to them, but the idea makes him uncomfortable.

Analysis

Dresden arrives at Marcone's property to stop the loup-garou and the Hexenwolves. However, it is a hard fought battle that Dresden nearly loses several times. If not for a wolf pelt belt he took from Harris, Dresden might not have gotten the better of Denton and his people. He does win and even manages to stop the loup-garou once and for all. Dresden is a hero but no one knows it because the general public no longer believes in magic. Not only that, but there appear to be forces working in the cover of darkness to keep people from being aware of magic and the creatures that exist in the Nevernever. There also seems to be someone working against Dresden personally. He knows the FBI agents received their belts from somewhere, but he never learned specifically from who. However, some mysterious person told them about Dresden and his knowledge of the Nevernever, suggesting that someone wanted Denton and his people to hurt Dresden, if not kill him.

Discussion Question 1

Why did Denton and Marcone make a deal together when Denton wanted Marcone dead? Why did Marcone trust Denton?



Discussion Question 2

How did Denton and his agents turn into werewolves? Why?

Discussion Question 3

How does Dresden stop the loup-garou? Why? Is this the deal he made with MacFinn and Tera?

Vocabulary

Features, feline, comfortable, coincidence, meaningful, crusade, coincidence, stronghold, murdered, outright, demons, clichéd, summoning, reluctantly, possibility, reminder, wrinkled, recovered, reversion, government, instability, hoax, perpetrated, decrying, exclusive, pressure, disappearance.



Characters

Harry Dresden

Harry Dresden is a powerful wizard and one of a few who uses his knowledge and power as a means to make a living. Dresden often works with the police department to help solve crimes while also taking jobs from private persons wanting to investigate possibly haunted places or items.

Dresden is struggling financially when this novel begins because Murphy, the head of special investigation with the police department has not been giving him jobs. Dresden believes it is because she no longer trusts him because he had to lie to her. However, it also learns that it has something to do with an internal affairs investigation into an investigation Dresden and Murphy ran together.

Dresden begins to help Murphy search for a killer who kills people like a wild animal. Dresden quickly realizes that it is werewolves who are killing these people and that there are several types of werewolves in existence and most of these are involved in the investigation in some manner. Dresden works the case despite being injured multiple times and being arrested by Murphy twice. In the end, Dresden and Murphy work together to stop the bad guys and win the day.

Karrin Murphy

Karrin Murphy is a cop with the Chicago Police Department. Murphy oversees the Special Investigations unit, a unit of the police department that investigates odd crimes. This job has brought Murphy to Dresden, a wizard, to assist her in many of her investigations. However, their last, major investigation caused a man to die and a business establishment to burn down. This has placed Murphy under investigation for her actions and her decisions to work with Dresden. For this reason, Murphy has not sought out Dresden's help in quite a while.

Murphy is under a great deal of stress with the internal affairs investigation into her actions with Dresden. She also feels she cannot trust Dresden any longer because he lied to her during that investigation. Therefore, when she comes across a crime scene in which Dresden seems to have had prior knowledge, she arrests him. They are enemies for a time, but then Murphy begins to trust Dresden again. In the end, they save each other's lives.

Tera West

Tera West is MacFinn's fiancée. She seeks out Dresden to help rebuild the circle that can contain MacFinn when the moon is full and he turns into a loup-garou, a type of werewolf. However, Dresden is unable to help MacFinn. In the process of trying,



however, Dresden and Tera becomes something like friends. Dresden knows from early in their relationship that Tera is not human, but it is not until everything is over that Dresden realizes that Tera is a timberwolf who has somehow gained the ability to become human.

Harley MacFinn

Harley MacFinn is a member of a family that was once cursed in Ireland by Saint Patrick. At least one male member of each generation of MacFinn's family is cursed to become a loup-garou when the moon is full. Not only this, but each generation is destined to have at least one heir so that the curse does not die. MacFinn learned to control his curse by having a wizard draw a circle in his basement that will contain him when the moon is full. However, the FBI agents break into his house and damage the circle so that MacFinn will appear guilty of the crimes the FBI agents, as Hexenwolf, were committing. MacFinn turned to Dresden's student, Kim Delaney, to fix the circle, but her magic was not strong enough. For this reason, MacFinn killed Kim while in the loup-garou form. Dresden tries to help MacFinn, but ends up having to kill him when the loup-garou threatens to kill him and Murphy.

John Marcone

John Marcone is a criminal boss in Chicago. Dresden has come up against Marcone before. In fact, there is a rumor that Dresden works for Marcone and worked with him to kill his biggest nemesis. However, Dresden dislikes Marcone and refuses several times to work for him. Marcone is the main target of Denton and his group of Hexenwolves. Due to this fact, Dresden finds himself in a position where he must save Marcone's life. However, Marcone also helps Dresden, although his motivations are not completely unselfish.

Agent Denton

Agent Denton is a good man and a good cop. However, he allows his frustration with his inability to put away criminals who deserve it to color his common sense. Denton accepted several wolf pelt belts he was told would turn whoever wore them into werewolves in order to use them to kill the criminals he could not arrest. Denton's plan was to kill Marcone and blame it on the Streetwolf gang, a gang of lycanthrope werewolves who were also a criminal gang in Chicago. However, Denton and his people could not control their growing dependency on the power of the belt and lost sight of what it was they were trying to do. In the end, Agent Denton's people were killed and Denton faced off with Murphy, also dying in the end.



Agent Benn

Agent Benn is Agent Denton's subordinate and lover. Agent Benn is a very angry, out of control woman, as illustrated by the fact that she pulled a gun on Murphy and Dresden when they refused to leave a crime scene they had to right to be at. Agent Benn becomes something of a guard dog toward Denton and the others, always the first to act aggressively. It is clear to the reader that Benn is the Hexenwolf most affected by the belts.

Agent Harris

Agent Harris is a young, redheaded man who works for the FBI with Agent Denton. Harris is the one who tells Dresden about the Streetwolf gang and sends him to their garage in hopes that they will kill him. Harris is also the one Dresden is able to change into human form by removing and stealing his wolf pelt belt during the fight at the Streetwolf gang's garage. Harris tells Dresden about Agent Denton first obtaining the wolf pelt belts and how they had originally planned only to use them to kill criminals they could not get off the street any other way. They were the ones behind the murders and Harris not only admits this, but seems proud of it. It is through Harris that Dresden first becomes truly aware of the addictive power of the belts.

Susan Rodriguez

Susan Rodriguez is a reporter for a small, Chicago-based paranormal tabloid. Susan and Dresden have been involved off and on for some time, but Dresden worries that Susan is only interested in him because he is a wizard and he can provide her with information for her stories. The reader questions this opinion, however, when Susan places herself in danger even after she has gotten most of the information for her story in order to be close to Dresden. Susan will likely remain an important part of Dresden's life.

The Alphas

The Alphas are a group of college age students who can transform themselves into werewolves. The Alphas are well-meaning kids who turned to Tera West to help them do good things with their powers. In this way, they became involved in the murders taking place throughout Chicago that were made to look like a group of lycanthropes were committing them. The group wants to stop the bad guys, but they are young and somewhat naive, incapable of facing such dark magic. However, they do win Dresden's respect and he does find himself drawn to them even after everything is done.



Symbols and Symbolism

Blasting Rod

Dresden has a blasting rod he uses to help him cast spells.

Pentacle

Dresden has a pentacle amulet left to him by his mother after her death at his birth. Dresden uses this amulet to help him with his magic sometimes. When Dresden is fighting the loup-garou, he realizes that the pentacle is silver and inherited, the criteria for the only objects that can kill a loup-garou. Dresden uses the pentacle to kill the loup-garou and save Murphy.

Shield Bracelet

Dresden has a shield bracelet infused with magic that helps protect him in dangerous situations.

Partial-Hiding Potion

Dresden has Bob help him brew a partial-hiding potion. Later, Dresden uses the potion to help him sneak into the police department to stop the loup-garou even though he was wanted for escaping custody the day before.

Stimulant Potion

Dresden has Bob help him make a stimulant potion. Dresden uses this potion when he faces down the Streetwolf gang. However, it makes him feel too good, too invincible, causing him to use too much of his power and it leaves him vulnerable when it wears off.

Wolf Pelt Belts

The Hexenwolf use wolf pelt belts to turn into werewolves. These belts are infused with magic that becomes addictive, causing those who use them too often to lose their own personalities and become the wolf permanently.



Circle of Protection

Kim Delaney comes to Dresden with a drawing of a circle that is meant to hold something powerful from the Nevernever. Dresden knows that Kim is not strong enough to make such a circle, so he refuses to tell her about it in fear that any knowledge would cause her to attempt it. Dresden later learns that Kim was asked by MacFinn to recreate this circle to hold him during a full moon when he became a loup-garou. Kim is killed when the circle fails to hold MacFinn.

Duster

Dresden always wears a duster because he likes the way it looks and that it hides many of his magical implements. However, his duster is damaged in his flight from the police and later he gives it to Tera to hide her nakedness. Susan gives him a new one made from leather. This one, too, is damaged in his fight against the Hexenwolf and the loup-garou.

Handcuffs

Murphy arrests Dresden at Kim Delaney's crime scene after becoming convinced that he has lied to her again. Dresden escapes and ends up wearing Murphy's handcuffs for several days like they were bracelets.

Snoopy Dog Stuffed Animal

Dresden uses a Snoopy stuffed animal to use magic that blinds and gags the loup-garou for a single night after the loup-garou attacks and kills several police officers at the police station.



Settings

Chicago

The book is set primarily in Chicago. Dresden travels multiple parts of the city, from the lower middle-class neighborhood where he lives, to the poverty struck areas where the Streetwolf's rule, to the rich areas where MacFinn has a home.

Police Station

MacFinn is taken to the police station to the same floor where Special Investigations is housed. Dresden knows he will become a loup-garou when the moon comes up, so he attempts to get there before that happens to make a circle of protection around him, but he is too late. The loup-garou gets out of the cells and attacks anyone who gets in its way. Dresden is able to use magic to stop it for that night, but must make a plan to stop it permanently.

Dresden's Lab

Dresden has a lab in the basement of his apartment where he houses many of his magical implements, as well as Bob, the spirit trapped inside a skull who often helps Dresden with potions and information. It is here that Dresden learns from Bob about the different types of werewolves and where he conjures a demon to learn about Harley MacFinn.

Streetwolf Gang's Garage

Agent Harris sends Dresden to the garage where the street gang, Streetwolf, has their hangout. The lycanthropes are not pleased with Dresden's invasion of their territory and promise to kill him. They eventually go after him and bring him back to the garage as a prisoner, but a fight breaks out between the lycanthropes and the Hexenwolves, allowing Dresden to escape.

Marcone's House

Marcone has a large mansion on a large amount of property in Chicago. It is here that the Hexenwolves have planned an attack by the loup-garou against Marcone. Dresden attends this meeting and kills the loup-garou as well as the Hexenwolves.



Themes and Motifs

Supernatural

This novel is about a wizard who knows about things most modern people no longer believe in. Dresden is a wizard who is one of the most powerful in the modern world. He has knowledge of the Nevernever, the place where supernatural creatures live and flourish, of the white counsel that governs the use of magic, and of the demons who often interfere in the lives of modern humans.

In this novel, Dresden is drawn into the investigation of multiple murders that take place around the full moon and appear to be done by some sort of animal. Dresden was of the opinion that werewolves no longer existed in North America, so he knows little about them. His friend, the spirit Bob, tells him about werewolves, and Dresden quickly finds himself coming into contact with a sample of each type as the novel progresses.

As the novel unfolds, the reader meets four different kinds of werewolves, a timberwolf who can become human, a demon, and a wizard who uses magic to get out of multiple tight situations. For this reason, supernatural is the major theme of this novel.

Trust

As the novel opens, Murphy finds herself struggling to trust Dresden. Dresden lied to her during a previous case, a case that has since landed Murphy in trouble. For this reason, she is reluctant to work with Dresden even though she knows she desperately needs his help. Dresden is the only person who knows about the Nevernever and the creatures that cross the boundaries of reality and threaten the people of Chicago.

As they investigate the murders that have taken place in Chicago, Murphy makes Dresden promise he will never lie to her again. However, when Kim Delaney is murdered in a home with two circles just like those on a paper Murphy found in a bar where Dresden and Kim were meeting, she thinks he lied to her again. Murphy has Dresden arrested and struggles to learn to trust him again.

At the same time, Dresden has struggled with trust since the end of his relationship with Elaine, a young lover who betrayed him and his mentor years before. Dresden is in a relationship with Susan Rodriguez, but he does not trust that she is with him for him and not the information he can give her for her job as a reporter. At the same time, Dresden struggles to trust Murphy as much as she struggles to trust him. This becomes an issue between them when they find themselves caught between two killers, Agent Denton and the loup-garou. In the end, they save each other's lives, but continue to struggle with trust.



Justice versus Criminals

Denton is a good cop who becomes frustrated by his inability to get enough evidence against men like Marcone to put him away. For this reason, Denton finds himself searching for alternative methods of trapping the criminal. When Denton is offered several wolf pelt belts that can turn anyone who wears them into werewolves, he takes them. Denton devises a plan to murder the criminals and set up other criminals for the crime.

Denton and his agents become Hexenwolves and kill criminals. However, they quickly become addicted to the taste of blood and fury of the kill. This causes them to begin killing others who do not necessarily deserve to die. They become wild animals who kill for the thrill rather than for a purpose, losing who they were to begin with. In his attempt to get justice against criminals, Denton and his people have become the criminals.

Styles

Point of View

The novel is written in the first person point of view of Harry Dresden. Dresden is a strong wizard who hires himself out to help people in the modern world who believe enough in magic to seek him out.

The first person point of view is a tight point of view that depends on everything the main character sees and feels. This point of view allows the reader to know that the main character will never be so badly injured that he will die or be unable to communicate. This takes a little tension from the plot. However, in this novel the reader must wonder if it is possible for Dresden to die and then continue the narration from some sort of afterworld because he is a warlock. This adds that tension back into the novel. It also allows the reader to become very close to the main character, to care deeply what happens to him, and to have some emotion invested into the outcome. For this reason, this point of view works well in this novel.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is mostly simple English. The novel is set in Chicago, Illinois, therefore most of the language is of a modern, American vernacular. However, as a wizard, Dresden is often using nonsense or made up words with his magic. These add a sense of exotic into the plot.

The language of this novel is simple and appropriate to the characters. The language is neither sophisticated nor simplistic, but a vernacular a modern reader would be accustomed to in everyday language. The language does not include any foreign words, but does include the occasional made up word when Dresden uses these words with his magic spells. The language works well with the overall plot of the novel.

Structure

The novel is divided into thirty-four chapters. Each chapter varies in length. The novel is told in a linear fashion, though it does have occasional flashbacks in order to explain Dresden's past or his past relationships with the various characters.

The novel contains two main plots and several subplots. One main plot follows Dresden's life as a wizard and the events that brought him to his current place in life. This plot is not fully developed and the reader anticipates that more information will be presented in later novels in the series. The second main plot follows Dresden's involvement in the investigation into the murders of several people in Chicago during the full moon by a werewolf. A subplot follows Dresden's relationships with Susan Rodriguez and Karrin Murphy. Another subplot follows Dresden's involvement with the

FBI, the Streetwolves, and the Alphas. All plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

Sometimes I hate having a conscience, and a stupidly thorough sense of honor.
-- Harry Dresden (Chapter 1)

Importance: This quote illustrates part of the reason why Dresden refused to tell Kim Delaney about the circle of protection she wanted to know how to create, the thing that would get her killed later in the novel.

She had been protecting me. I hadn't even considered what those rumors Marcone had spread might do to anyone besides myself.
-- Harry Dresden (Chapter 4)

Importance: This quote illustrates Dresden's realization that the rumors about him and Marcone have affected Murphy, causing her to come under an internal affairs investigation.

I saw that he was the leader of the lycanthropes called the Streetwolves, men and women with the minds and soul of beasts, and that he was aging, was not as strong as he once had been. Others, like the woman earlier, were beginning to challenge his authority.
-- Harry Dresden (Chapter 9)

Importance: This is the first meeting between Dresden and the Streetwolves. This is what Dresden sees in the soulgaze and what makes him realize he has just made a mortal enemy out of Parker, the leader of the Streetwolves.

I can roll with the punches as well as anyone. But I hated feeling that I had betrayed a friend.
-- Harry Dresden (Chapter 13)

Importance: These are part of the thoughts going through Dresden's head when Murphy arrests him.

If the potion worked, I would look like background to any casual observers, a part of the scenery that they wouldn't glance at twice.
-- Harry Dresden (Chapter 16)

Importance: This describes the potion Dresden uses to slip into the police station to help MacFinn even though he had escaped from Murphy twice after his arrest.

Third, when the first bullet hit the loup-garou's chest, blood flew, and the creature faltered and buckled, as though surprised.
-- Harry Dresden (Chapter 18)



Importance: This is Dresden's reaction to seeing Murphy shoot the loup-garou with silver bullets.

I know, I know. It sounds really stupid in retrospect, even to me.
-- Harry Dresden (Chapter 21)

Importance: This is Dresden's comment on his decision to jump out of a moving car to save Susan and Tera from the Streetwolf gang.

And abruptly, a wolf-pelt belt was sliding out from beneath the grey suit jacket of Roger Harris, the forensic specialist for the local FBI office, the kid with the red hair and the big ears.

-- Harry Dresden (Chapter 25)

Importance: Dresden has discovered that the FBI agents are Hexenwolves, a type of wolf who get their power to transform from a special, magically-infused belt.

I tried to think of something smart to say. Something that would reassure her, calm her, help her to feel better, to understand what I felt for her. But I wasn't even sure what it was that I felt.

-- Harry Dresden (Chapter 27)

Importance: Dresden struggles to find a way to reassure Susan before his trip to Marcone's to face the loup-garou and the FBI Hexenwolves, but he cannot find anything to say.

Alone. It's one of those small words that means entirely too much. Like fear. Or trust.

-- Harry Dresden (Chapter 29)

Importance: This touches on Dresden's inability to trust and his desire to work alone. This is how Dresden normally feels, but being alone as he prepares to face the loup-garou and the Hexenwolves bothers him in a way it never had before.

It was easier than any magic I'd ever done, leaping into me with a sort of hungry eagerness, seeping into me, making pain and fatigue and fear vanish and replacing it with nothing but strength, ferocity. (Chapter 32)

Importance: Dresden describes what it feels like to use the magic of the wolf-pelt belt.

Some people just can't deal with the thought of the supernatural being real.

-- Harry Dresden (Chapter 34)

Importance: Dresden says this to explain why evidence of the loup-garou simply disappeared.