

Grave Peril Study Guide

Grave Peril by Jim Butcher

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

Grave Peril Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Chapter 1-4.....	4
Chapter 5-8.....	6
Chapter 9-12.....	8
Chapter 13-16.....	10
Chapter 17-20.....	12
Chapter 21-24.....	15
Chapter 25-28.....	18
Chapter 29-32.....	20
Chapter 33-36.....	23
Chapter 37-39.....	25
Characters.....	27
Objects/Places.....	30
Themes.....	32
Style.....	34
Quotes.....	36
Topics for Discussion.....	38



Plot Summary

Grave Peril by Jim Butcher is a story about Harry Dresden, a wizard in Chicago. The city is being tormented by ghosts and a mysterious nightmare. Harry will have to use everything he has in order to stop the evil forces at work and get himself, and those he cares about, out alive.

Harry Dresden is a professional wizard. Harry, with the help of Michael Carpenter, a Knight of God, has been battling ghosts that are suddenly becoming more and more agitated. While battling one of the spirits, Harry realizes that it has had a torture spell put on it. Harry begins to look into the circumstances surrounding the ghosts, even going into the spirit world, but is unable to come up with many answers.

Harry is called to the home of a friend who helped to take down a demon and sorcerer a few months earlier. The man has the same torture spell cast on him and part of his soul has been eaten. Harry is able to free the man but realizes that ghosts only go after those that are associated with their death. Harry and Michael are soon the target of this thing they dub the Nightmare. The Nightmare waits until you are asleep and eats part of you. Harry falls asleep and the Nightmare eats part of Harry's magic.

Harry and Michael go to a vampire ball to find who the culprit is but fall quickly into a trap. Harry and Michael are trying to find a way to escape when Harry's girlfriend shows up uninvited. Coming uninvited means that the girl has no protection and is game to be eaten. Harry, Michael, and Susan are outnumbered and Susan is taken by the vampires. Harry is able to call upon his anger and burns much of the vampire home and the creatures within it although Susan is never found.

Harry learns that Susan, along with others, are being held at the vampire estate in a secret room. Harry goes there and discovers that the Nightmare is actually the sorcerer he had helped to defeat a few months earlier, and is being controlled by the vampires. Harry goes to sleep intentionally and defeats the creature in his dream world and devours it. After eating the creature's magic Harry is very strong and is able to rescue Susan, who has already begun the transformation into vampire, and destroy the vampire estate. Susan refuses to marry Harry since she can't control her blood lust. Some of the vampires escape and a war is started between the vampires and wizards.



Chapter 1-4

Chapter 1-4 Summary

Grave Peril by Jim Butcher is a story about Harry Dresden, a wizard in Chicago. The city is being tormented by ghosts and a mysterious nightmare. Harry will have to use everything he has in order to stop the evil forces at work and get himself, and those he cares about, out alive.

Chapter one begins with Harry Dresden, a wizard, driving toward Cook County Hospital. Michael Carpenter, a Knight of the Cross, is with Harry. They are going to the hospital to stop a ghost that Harry was told would be attacking the hospital. The two of them drive very fast on the way to the hospital and Harry sees a cop pull behind him and turn on his blue lights. When the two of them reach the hospital they have time enough to get their equipment. Harry gathers his staff and other items of magic and Michael puts on his cape and gathers the Sword, Amorcchius, which has one of the nails that had been used to crucify Christ. There has been a rush of ghosts and other paranormal creatures that have become increasingly active and dangerous lately although neither Harry or Michael know why. They enter the hospital and ask the way to the nursery.

Chapter two starts with Harry and Michael heading to the nursery. When they get there Michael pulls out his sword and it thrums with energy, much of which comes from Michael's faith. They are looking for the ghost of Agatha Haggleshorn and they have clearly entered the presence of a powerful spirit. The entire maternity floor is dark and Harry can feel a presence. Harry enters the nursery room first where the babies are all asleep. Agatha Haggleshorn is singing to the children causing a sleep. The nurses are already asleep and Harry knows that her singing will soon cause them all to quit breathing and the officials will blame it on monoxide poisoning or something of that nature. Harry tries to stop Agatha but she manages to vanish into the spirit world, called Nevernever. Harry and Michael know that they must go after her or she will return and attempt the killings again. Harry's evil Godmother will be looking for him if he goes into the Nevernever but he knows that they have little choice. Harry tears a rip between the two worlds for he and Michael to step through.

As chapter three begins Harry is look back on how the day that lead him to Cook County Hospital started. Harry had been been at his office where he offers his wizardry services for most of the day. He had talked to his girlfriend, Susan Rodriguez, and discussing what it could be that was making the ghosts suddenly become frantic. Susan, a reporter for a paranormal tabloid, is interested in hearing Harry's theories but nothing makes much sense to Harry at this point. Susan and Harry make a plan to meet up later that night as they hang up. Harry finishes out his day at the office and goes to lock up. When Harry gets to the door there is a young girl there with black hair. She asks Harry for help and he realizes from the power coming from the girl that she is a practitioner. She tells Harry that she needs his protection or she won't be able to make it through the night.



Chapter four has Harry agreeing to see the girl in his office. She refuses to tell him her name since the name of someone, from their mouth, is very dangerous. She agrees to give Harry a false name and tells him to call her Lydia. Harry believes she may be trying to pull a scam and she claims to have the gift of Casandra's Tears. Casandra's Tears is a prophetic condition where the person has seizures and visions of the future. It is uncontrollable and is very hard to prove or disprove as the dreams are often vague and in odd terms.

Lydia tells Harry that in her vision she sees fire, and then wind and dark things and a dark war. She sees Harry in the middle of everything going on and that it is Harry that will carry the ability to change the path of the war. Harry is unconvinced but gives the girl a powerful charm he had made for himself and then tells her to go to Saint Mary of the Angels and tell Father Forthill that Michael's friend sent her. After the girl left Harry got a message from a spirit friend named Bob saying that Agatha Haggleshorn had been stirred up.

Chapter 1-4 Analysis

There has been a lot thrown at the reader in just a few chapters. The main character, Harry Dresden, is already noticing the sudden increase in paranormal activity. At this point in the story there is little showing the main character how much is behind the paranormal activity. The girl that has shown up on Harry's office doorstep is also connected to the plot of the story although this will be one of the very few times in the story that the girl speaks or is shown. The girl will go to the church but there will be more complications after that.

The author is giving a lot of information that deals with the magical elements in the story. Much of this will come into play later in the story. The importance of a person's name and the way it can be used will be used more than once in the story.

Not much has been seen of Michael yet in the story but in the next few chapters the reader will have the opportunity to learn more about him and how he is an asset to the team that he and Harry make up.

It has been explained that Harry loves Susan. Michael will feel that it is important for Harry to tell Susan that he loves her. Harry will get opportunities to tell Susan how he feels but something will seemingly hold him back. Despite this Susan will be the basis for many of Harry's decisions. In the next few chapters Harry's Faerie Godmother, Lea, will be introduced. Her involvement with the story will be complex. She ultimately works for herself and has no other motives although it is sometimes unclear exactly what she wants.



Chapter 5-8

Chapter 5-8 Summary

In chapter five Michael and Harry are stepping through the rip Harry has created into the Nevernever. The part of Nevernever that they have entered looks like Chicago at the end of Agatha Haggleshorn's life in the nineteenth century. Agatha accidentally killed her child, then killed her abusive husband and then chopped off her own hand. The ghost of Agatha is angry and suddenly has decided all children are hers to lull into an everlasting sleep. Ghosts aren't the people. It's a residual leftover image of the person the way they were when they died. The spirits disappear when their motives are completed or when they are destroyed.

Agatha Haggleshorn appears before them and the fight is soon on with Agatha screaming that the children are hers. Harry hears his Godmother's hounds and knows that she has found him in the Nevernever very quickly. Michael is able to stab Agatha with Amorcchius and Agatha's ghostly image lays dead. Harry is able to inspect the body and finds that she is coiled in a sharp barb wire. A torture spell that Harry has never encountered before but would have been enough to drive any ghost into a frenzy. Someone was purposely trying to drive her mad. Before Michael and Harry can leave Harry's Godmother finds them.

Chapter six begins with Harry's Godmother explaining to Michael how Harry made a pact with her and she owns his life. Michael can do nothing to stop Lea if Harry has made a promise to her. Harry narrowly escapes although he has to lie to Lea in order to get away. Michael disapproves of the fact that Harry would lie since they are supposed to be the good guys. Harry and Michael are back in the nursery at the Cook County Hospital and the police arrive aiming their weapons at the two strangely dressed men sitting in the room with the crying infants. Michael announces he will do the talking.

Chapter seven starts with Michael and Harry in jail waiting to be bailed out. Charity, Michael's wife arrives to bail Michael out. She is in the last month or two of pregnancy but even in this condition she offers to do bodily harm to Harry if Michael ever gets hurt because of Harry. Harry's girlfriend, Susan, arrives to take him home. Harry begins to tell Susan he loves her but is unable to finish the sentence. Susan drives him home and when they arrive they find two vampires waiting for Harry.

Chapter eight introduces the vampires as Kyle Hamilton and his sister Kelly. They have come to invite Harry, since Harry is a member of the White Council, a wizard's council, to Madam Bianca's elevation in the Vampire Courts. Harry tells them he will not be coming. Kyle urges him to rethink it and leaves the invitation when they depart. As soon as they are gone Harry, Susan and Harry's cat, Mister, go into the house. Susan is excited about the invite and wants to go but Harry doesn't want to go since it might be dangerous. The invitation would protect Harry and one guest while at the party but there



is no way to guarantee there wouldn't be an accident while Harry was there and Bianca is an old enemy.

Chapter 5-8 Analysis

The White Council will be very often spoke of in the story. The emphasis will be that Harry should be working to keep them happy. Despite that he is a member of the White Council it will appear that Harry is more likely to take orders than able to give any. The White Council will be spoken off quite often in the story but there will be no other members of the council that will be met and at no time will the reader see Harry be in conversation with any member of the council.

Charity and Harry dislike each other as has been shown in the story. She blames Harry for much of what happens to her husband although it seems that she realizes the duty that Michael has. Charity will be in the story again and despite her distaste for Harry it will seem that she becomes forgiving on some level.

The fact that Susan wants very much to go to the vampire's party will be important later in the story. The fact that the invitation only covers Harry and one guest's safety will also play an important factor. The situation will change between this point of the story and when the ball takes place. It will be necessary that Harry take someone else. In many ways it will seem that Harry puts Susan on a back burner. She knows that what he is doing is important but if Harry had taken the time to talk to Susan a little more openly from the beginning of the story, and Susan talk more freely to Harry, it is possible that Harry would have avoided much of what happens to them.

There are still characters that haven't been introduced in the story. Kyle and Kelly work for Bianca. Although Bianca isn't met until much later it will become clear that she has a very central role in the happenings taking place. Kyle and Kelly will show up again in the book although they will be little more than goons carrying out orders from Bianca.



Chapter 9-12

Chapter 9-12 Summary

Chapter nine begins with Harry awaking to his door banging loudly. Harry grabs his gun and goes to the door expecting the worse only to hear Michael on the other side. Father Forthill had called Michael and told him that a girl, Lydia, had come to the church for refuge. Something had come to the church just after sunset and tore everything up outside trying to get in to the girl. Father Forthill couldn't see the creature but could feel it. Father Forthill believed the girl to be asleep but when he went to check on her later the back door was unlocked and she was gone. It is close to daylight and Harry and Michael head toward the church.

At the church Harry and Michael look over the immense damage done to the garden and the cars in the church parking lot. Father Forthill explains that the thing had been howling the girls name but she had been safe. Father Forthill is unsure why the girl would have went outside. There is nothing for Harry to follow from what is seen outside, leaving Harry to believe it must be a pure spirit and not a demon since demons leave a psychic trail. They head toward a medium that Harry knows in order to find out if anyone has any idea what is going on.

In chapter ten Harry and Michael arrive at Mortimer Lindquist's home. Mortimer has a bag packed and is leaving in a hurry. Harry stops him to talk and Mortimer explains that something is forcing the wall between the world of the living and the Nevernever to become flimsy and frail and it is allowing ghosts through very easily. In addition the wall is so frail because of the stress it is being put under that when a ghost is created now it is not a regular ghost but one with vastly increased strength and power. Mortimer says the thing that Harry is looking for is called the Nightmare but doesn't know much more than that.

Chapter eleven finds Harry returning home from Mortimer's house. In front of Harry's house are two detectives for Special Investigations, a police task force that deals with paranormal problems. They have come to take Harry to Micky Malone's house. The lieutenant Karrin Murphy sent the detectives to retrieve Harry. Once at Micky's house Harry finds that there is a disturbance there and in the yard Harry finds several small animals that have been tortured and killed recently.

In chapter twelve Harry makes sure he has an invite into the home since crossing a threshold to a home will weaken a creature considerably if there isn't a clear invitation. Once inside Harry is taken to Micky and finds that the former police officer is tied to his bed and is grinning and laughing madly. Karrin Murphy is there and explains that Micky's wife had called them this morning. Micky had stayed up late and then this morning became insane. She was able to get to a closet to hide with a cell phone and called Karrin not wanting the police to take him away and ruin Micky's reputation. Harry sends Karrin out of the room.



Chapter 9-12 Analysis

Mortimer has given Harry necessary information but it was small and was only truly helpful because Harry has no idea what he is dealing with at this point. The trip to Mortimer's house will be helpful to the reader in other ways. This is one of the times that the reader is shown the way that Harry Dresden feels on a humanity level. Often Harry is concerned with things that seem vain and self-centered. When Mortimer starts to leave Harry tries to console him and hopes the best for Mortimer. It is this hope that shines within Harry that gives a glimpse into what he is really made of since he has no reason to care for Mortimer or his well being in regards to his emotional health.

Micky Malone is a friend of Harry's. Harry feels ultimately responsible for the fact that Micky had to retire early. In the next chapter Harry will try to help Micky Harry will realize that helping Micky may be dangerous but Harry will also be able to realize the danger to Micky if he is left under the torture spell to long. Harry will decide to forgo his own safety in order chance saving his friend.

Karrin and Harry have a working relationship and in that respect that care for each other and their safety. Later in the story Karrin will also be in danger. The bond between these two, although seemingly rough, the relationship will be one that Harry seems to value.

The dead birds outside will be an important factor later in the story when Harry is able to figure out how the Nightmare is getting to people. At the time that Harry found the animals it is unclear how large an impact they made on him or if he realized the importance of them being there. The threshold rules have been explained in some limited capacity. In the following chapters the threshold will be expounded on. This will explain the strength that the Nightmare would have to have to cross the threshold and still have the ability to cast a minor spell, more or less one that could incapacitate it's victim.



Chapter 13-16

Chapter 13-16 Summary

Chapter thirteen begins with Harry and Micky alone in the room. Micky uses his wizard's sight to look at Micky. Wizard's sight allows Harry to see things the way they truly are, like demons walking around, or the way a person really is. When Harry looks at Micky he finds that Micky's soul has been chewed at and eaten and is covered in the same barb wire that wrapped around Agatha Haggleshorn's ghost. Micky is in incredible pain. Micky's soul has been chewed and tortured to the point that he won't last long enough for Harry to get help. Harry decides to try and take the barb wire off of Micky. It is cold and hurts Harry but he is able to get it off. The thing turns toward Harry and tries to wrap around Harry. Karrin bursts in and opens the window for Harry. Harry throws the barb wire out the window and blasts it with a fire spell destroying it. Harry gives Karrin a very vague idea of what is going on but admits that he isn't sure what he is chasing yet or why it attacked Micky Malone.

Chapter fourteen finds Harry on the phone with Michael explaining what happened to Micky Malone. After they hang up Susan calls and asks Harry about a serial killer that Special Investigations, along with Michael and Harry, had arrested named Leonid Kravos. Susan doesn't explain why she is asking other than the fact that she has heard some rumors she is investigating. Harry heads down to his lab where he and Bob, the ghost that lives in an old skull in Harry's lab, discuss the possibilities of what the Nightmare actually is. Bob listens to everything that Harry says and advises him to walk away from it. Harry refuses despite Bob's warning. Bob agrees to help Harry rather than make him take on something this dangerous alone.

Chapter fifteen continues with Bob explaining how completely dangerous the Nightmare is. In order to let Bob help look for what is behind the ghost Harry agrees to give Bob permission to come out of the skull and shadow Mister, Harry's cat, for the night while Harry tries to conjure a spell to find Lydia.

In chapter sixteen Harry is downtown and starts the spell that will trace the magic protection bracelet Harry gave to Lydia. Soon Harry is on a trail that leads him to an abandoned textile company. Harry knows that waiting for help is preferable but the sun is setting and the Nightmare will be much more powerful then. Harry decides to follow the spell rather than wait for help. The spell hones in on a van with darkened windows. Harry walks up to it and opens the door and finds Lydia with eyes open but completely unresponsive. Harry wonders at her being left alone and then suddenly realizes that she was nothing more than bait. Harry turns to find Kyle and Kelly behind him. Kelly's saliva lands on Harry's face during the fight but Harry is able to ward them off though he isn't able to retrieve Lydia. The vampires spit has an addictive drug in it and Harry soon begins to feel the effects.



Chapter 13-16 Analysis

There had been mention before in the story about the effects of a vampire's saliva and the fact that it had a drug-like effect. Since everything is given to the reader through Harry's experiences, the reader will be able to see first-hand just what happens from the chemical. This will not be the last time that this chemical is used in the book. Lea has a similar effect on Harry. While her effect on him could be called a drug, it seems that it is much more magical than chemical. The truth of Lea's effect on Harry won't ever be explained.

Harry's cat, Mister, is a seemingly menial character, but his ability to carry Bob around with him will be the combination that is able to save Harry's life in the following chapters. It will also be in the next chapters that Bob is able to figure out what the Nightmare is and how it is getting around. This will be important in Harry discovering how to battle the creature, although it will not be until much later in the book that Harry is able to figure out motives and who is truly behind the attacks.

Susan won't show up again in the next few chapters except for a phone call to Harry while he is working. Despite this, she will be the key to Harry being able to call the power necessary to save himself and many others.



Chapter 17-20

Chapter 17-20 Summary

As chapter seventeen begins Harry has managed to drive himself home despite the effects of Kelly's saliva on his skin. Harry is disoriented but manages to calm himself down to think about what has happened. Harry knows that Lydia was alive despite the fact that she was obviously drugged. What Harry doesn't know is why the Nightmare has attacked both Lydia and Micky Malone or why the vampires wanted Lydia so badly. Harry besides to go to sleep. Harry immediately begins to dream.

Harry recognizes the dream as the night that the Special Investigation police force, Harry, and Michael went to stop Leonid Kravos. Leonid Kravos is a sorcerer. Their magic is focused only at killing or hurting people. Harry takes out a ken doll that he had taped a hair to which belonged to Leonid, retrieved from a crime scene. Harry casts a spell and Kravos turns. The demon that Kravos has been using turns to battle Michael with his Sword, Amorrachus. In real life Harry knew that Michael killed the demon and Harry was able to strip Kravos of his powers. The dream didn't follow the true happenings. The demon killed Michael and Micky Malone, and Karrin Murphy were killed as well. The demon steps over to Harry and begins to eat him. A cat runs to Harry and scratches his face.

Harry wakes up from the dream and feels something rippling along his skin. Bob, still shadowing Mister, had come to save Harry. Bob then explains that after watching Harry he thinks he knows what the Nightmare is and that it tried to eat Harry.

Chapter eighteen continues with Bob explaining that Harry is torn up in spirit and that when Bob and Mister heard Harry screaming they came to wake him as quickly as possible. Harry tells bob he had a dream and Bob says that the reason the Nightmare can get in to people, even through their thresholds, is because the people went to the creature when they dream. Harry isn't sure that the demon that Kravos had been controlling could be the ghost that he saw. While demons don't have ghosts it is possible that the sword that Michael uses creates an exception to the rule. The vampires have something to do with it since Kyle and Kelly were intent on grabbing Lydia. Bianca blames Harry for the death of one of her girls.

Down in the lab Harry uses a simple spell to light a candle but has enormous trouble and has to put a large amount of effort into it. Bob asks Harry where the creature had been eating him and Harry points to his stomach. That part of the body is where the chi is and contains Harry's magical source. Harry will recover but it might take a long while. Since it ate Harry's magic, the Nightmare is now stronger. Even though the Nightmare is strong it can't go after just anyone. It is a spirit and it has to have a connection between Lydia, Micky Malone, and Harry. Harry can't think of one until he takes Lydia out of the equation. Harry immediately decides to find Karrin Murphy since the demon will be looking to payback the people that took it down.



Chapter nineteen has Harry driving to find Karrin. Harry believes that Michael will have the best chance out of all of them defending himself. Michael doesn't answer his phone before Harry gets to Karrin's office. Harry walks in and people are shocked and surprised to see Harry, since Harry had just walked past them. When Harry asks where Karrin is they say that she just went into her office with Harry. Harry busts in to find the Nightmare has taken on a physical form that looks exactly like him with slightly different clothing on. The Nightmare has it's long fingernails in the side of Karrin's head and she is completely unresponsive. The creature is strong but flees Harry leaving Karrin slumped in her chair dreaming of unimaginable pain. Harry is able to put a spell on her so that she won't dream until he can defeat the creature. Harry sends one of the detectives to the evidence room to get the book that Kravos used to summon the creature. Harry hopes that with the creatures name Harry will be able to defeat it.

The story continues in chapter twenty as Harry races towards Michael's house to warn him about the creature. When Harry arrives Michael is holding a sleeping child and seems rather calm about the news. Michael invites Harry in. When Harry sits down he finds a note from Charity telling Michael she went out for ice cream to the store. Michael and Harry walk to the door and when Michael opens it he finds Father Forthill stands at the door and begins to ask a question then realizes that he is need to baby sit and Michael and Harry head out the door toward the only store that is open. When Harry and Michael reach the store Michael goes in the store. Harry finds Charity's car torn to pieces and sees Charity being dragged down the street to a cemetery. It's beginning to rain and Harry debates going to get Michael but knows that Charity may not have that kind of time. Harry enters the spooky cemetery.

Chapter 17-20 Analysis

Harry entered the cemetery on a rainy night and being sensitive to spectral activity will make Harry feel more vulnerable. Despite this he still braves the conditions in order to try and save Charity. Harry will begin to feel that much of what has happened is his fault. In the following chapter Harry will have to make some decisions that will change much in the way that the story progresses. Susan also will be willing to give up a lot in order to try and save what she loves. These decisions will be made in part because the characters will be desperate at that junction, but also in part because the full extent of their bargains won't be known to them.

The cemetery is spooky to Harry. It is unclear the reasons but Harry's Faerie Godmother will be able to find him here. It is in the cemetery that Harry will make many mistakes in regards to himself, Michael, and the Nightmare. Harry's Faerie Godmother will exploit Harry's momentary weakness to get what she desires. It will be unclear How much she helps Harry but Harry will begin to see how much control she has over him when he will be taken to the hospital later in the story. Then Harry will remember how easily she found him when he stepped into the Nevernever to battle Agatha Haggglethorn. After Harry realizes how much control his Faerie Godmother has over him this will begin to make sense. Harry had believed himself out of her reach but will realize that this had been an illusion to himself.



Karrin has been injured and won't be around to fight anymore in the story. Karrin will return for a scene at the end of the story with Harry. Their relationship will remain strong and intact even though Harry seems to feel responsible to some extent for what has happened and not finding the answer sooner.



Chapter 21-24

Chapter 21-24 Summary

Chapter twenty-one finds Harry walking through the graveyard thinking he should wait on Michael when he hears Charity scream. This pushes Harry forward toward the pregnant woman. Harry finds Charity being held by the monster. Harry and the monster begin to fight. Harry is able to get Charity out of the way. The Nightmare hits Harry hard and Harry lays on the ground when Harry's Faerie Godmother shows up. She tells Harry that she will give him what he needs to defeat the monster if Harry will agree to make their bargain good and come with her now, tonight. Harry begins to resist but sees the Nightmare over Charity and quickly agrees. Lea tells him that what he needs to defeat the monster is all around him and she is gone. Harry is angry feeling like she gave him nothing and realizes he can stand, although he doesn't feel good.

The monster turns to face Harry. Before the Nightmare can attack Michael steps in between them. Michael tells Harry to get his wife to safety and he will kill the Nightmare. Harry tries to carry Charity but she is too heavy and tells him that her water has broke and the baby is trying to come. The creature is able to get to Charity and holds her hostage. Michael is forced to drop his weapon. The creature picks up a rock to kill Charity with when Harry suddenly remembers that running water will drain a physical image from a ghost if they pass over it. It has been raining hard and Harry tackles the beast, still in Harry Dresden appearance as they slide down an small hill to a gathering of gently running rainwater. The creature sputters and dies as Harry lays on it, it's spirit form returning to Nevernever.

Michael picks up his wife to take her to the hospital and Harry is instructed to get the Sword for Michael. Before they leave the graveyard Lea shows back up and demands that Harry go with her. Harry refuses saying the beast isn't dead yet. Lea doesn't care saying that she had made no bargain requiring it's death. Harry is furious and swings Michael's holy sword at Lea. Michael tries to stop him but is too late. The sword is flung from Harry's hands, having been used for a purpose it was not intended, and Lea is able to pick it up. Lea would not have been able to pick up a holy sword had not it been defiled first. She thanks Harry and walks away saying she will take Harry another time. Michael stands crying holding his wife.

Chapter twenty two finds Harry and Michael in the hospital. Charity is fine but the baby is struggling and the doctors aren't sure it is going to live. Harry apologizes to Michael for loosing the sword but convinces Michael the best thing that they can do is try to finish off the creature before it comes back for them. Harry went down to the ER only to have the doctor announce that the blood on him isn't his and the cut on his forehead isn't there. Harry looks himself over and realizes that Lea has much more control over him than he realized and it would take a great deal of connection to a person to mend their wounds.



As chapter twenty three begins Michael and Harry are back at Harry's lab. Harry is trying to call the demon using the name that Kravos had written down for the creature in his leather bound book. Harry calls the beast to him but the creature doesn't come immediately. This is odd but Harry doesn't have much time to think about it before he is confronted with the Nightmare. Harry puts a spell on him that forces the creature to come to Harry before going to anyone else. The creature will be unable to spill the blood or attack anyone before Harry. Michael finds this to be a bad idea. Harry had felt another feeling when touching the Nightmare in the summoning spell. The feeling was the person that was controlling the Nightmare. If Harry can get close enough to that person and touch them then he will know who it is that is controlling the Nightmare. Harry pulls out an invitation to the vampire ball for Bianca and tells Michael that they are going.

Chapter twenty-four has Michael and Harry sitting in Michael's truck about to go in to Bianca's ball. Michael prays before they go in. It is a masquerade ball and Michael is in his full Knight Templar attire. When they reach the door to enter a limo pulls up and a man and woman get out of the car. The man is Thomas from the White Court Vampires and the woman is Justine, his human date. They make pleasant introductions and enter the ball. Thomas explains how the evening will go and that there will be gifts given to those attending not in Bianca's court. When they enter Harry is introduced and the party falls completely quiet. Harry had chosen to dress in a cheesy vampire outfit with fake teeth and pale white make up. The only sounds coming from the party are sounds of knives, swords, and guns as Harry descends the steps.

Chapter 21-24 Analysis

What Harry had been wearing wasn't known to anyone until he was in the ball. If his true feelings about vampires hadn't been known at this point in time it becomes very clear at this juncture that he finds them to be worth very little. Michael take a much different attitude in regards to not wanting to make fun of them, but will be unable to abide their behavior in regards to the humans that are attending the party. Despite the two men's differences in the way that they conduct themselves at the party they will make a good team and will need each other while there.

Harry had decided last minute to go to this party to see if he could discover who is behind the Nightmare control. Harry is still missing large portions of the puzzle. Earlier in the book Harry had told Bob that Bianca blamed Harry for the death of someone near to Bianca. The girl that Bianca is referring to will appear later in the story in ghost form. Bianca blames her for the death of this girl but it was Bianca that killed her. Bianca will claim that it was Harry that made Bianca so enraged that she murdered the girl. Bianca seems to be so controlled by her feelings of rage, and guilt, coupled with her vampire nature that she is beyond reasoning.

The young man and woman that Harry and Michael met when they entered the party will continue to play a large part as the story continues. There is much that isn't known about them. Michael and Harry will never fully trust Thomas, and with good reason,



although it seems that they would not have been able to defeat the Nightmare had Thomas not been there to help.

Thomas is a White Court Vampire member. Later in the story the other courts will be discussed and the differences made clear.



Chapter 25-28

Chapter 25-28 Summary

Chapter twenty-five starts with Harry and Michael walking down the steps at the vampire ball. Michael and Harry realize there might be a fight begin soon due to Harry's costume. Suddenly Thomas begins to laugh and make fund of the Red Court Vampires show of hospitality. Harry then apologizes publicly to Bianca saying he didn't mean to insult anyone, only to dress for the masquerade ball. Bianca makes several comments to Harry while standing at the front of the party and Harry and Michael are safe for the moment. Harry and Michael realize that the vampires are slowly starting to surround them.

Kelly and Kyle approach Harry and Michael. Kelly begins to make fun of Michael and say that she had thought for a moment he might actually be a Knight Templar. Kelly reaches out to wrap her arms around Michael and she bursts into flames where she had touched Michael. The vampires collectively take a step away from Michael and Harry. Kyle whispering threats to Harry as he leaves. Harry drinks a glass of whine as Thomas approaches him. After Harry has finished the wine Thomas warns him that the wine was drugged.

Chapter twenty-six has Harry realizing his mistake in drinking anything at the party. It wasn't Harry's glass that was poisoned but all wine. That provides the Red Court Vampires with proof that it wasn't aimed at Harry. The drug in the wine is the vampire narcotic. Harry knows that he can't leave because the Nightmare will just hunt him down and continue to attack, but he is in danger if he stays. Harry decides to stay and find out who is the force behind the Nightmare. Harry and Michael are suddenly surprised when a robed figure shows up. Harry pulls back the cloak to find Susan. Susan stole Harry's invite and had it copied. By coming without an invite Susan has no promised protection.

As chapter twenty-seven continues Harry turns around to find Lea behind him. Harry suddenly becomes very weak in Lea's presence. Lea explains that Harry feels this way because he has broken his word to her three times and now his powers are trying to force him to come with her. Lea agrees to take away Harry's weakness if Susan will give her a year worth of Susan's memories. Susan agrees and Harry immediately feels relief. Michael offers himself for the sword but Lea only laughs explaining that Michael is too pure and unbendable and would be able to kill her once he was near the sword and refuses. Lea offers to trade Michael the sword for one of Michael's children but this only angers Michael. Once Lea is gone Harry checks on Susan only to have Susan confused as to who Harry is and doesn't remember him.

In chapter twenty-eight Harry soon realizes that Lea took a year worth of Susan's memories, but took all the memories that pertained to Harry, Lea, and Michael. Harry and Michael decide it is to dangerous to stay any longer and try to leave with Susan. They are stopped on the stairs by a woman named Mavra. Mavra, a member of the



Black Court Vampires, tells Harry that the invite was for him and one guest and so Harry must decide who will die, Michael or Susan. Susan didn't come unprepared and has garlic, holy water, two crosses, and a gun. The Black Court Vampires were nearly wiped out because they are the vampires that the Dracula stories portray. Harry feels Mavra's aura and realizes she is the one that has been controlling the Nightmare. Harry refuses to leave either of his guests. Harry is able to keep Mavra from killing either Michael or Susan but then the lights change. Justine and Thomas come closer to Harry's group and explain that the time for Bianca to begin giving gifts has begun.

Chapter 25-28 Analysis

Harry hasn't completely realized what is going on yet. There are a lot of people at the party that Bianca considers rivals. In the next chapter Harry will suddenly realize his mistake in coming to Bianca's party. There have been many characters shown that have something very personal against either Michael or Harry. It would almost seem that Bianca had known that Harry would bring Michael to the party although Harry's first thought was to take Susan if he had really intended to go. It was Michael that had killed Mavra's children and grandchildren. Michael was also the one that killed one of the ancient dragons. Despite this it will appear that Bianca's main goal is to destroy Harry or to make him fully suffer.

Michael has told Harry that he doesn't trust Thomas. Harry doesn't trust Thomas either, but will soon be forced to take Thomas' help. Thomas will eventually show himself to be working for himself above all else. Thomas will prove himself to be a liar. Since he is only in the story for the last few chapters it is uncertain how to tell if he is telling the truth. There are many things that Thomas will claim that can't be proven as lies or truth. Justine's character will also be shown more in the next set of chapters. Justine is a minor character in many respects but there is much about her that has yet to be revealed.

Lea is at the party but it is unclear her motive at this point. Harry will believe it because she is in league with Bianca and Mavra. The truth of Lea's motives will only be shown in part but will still be a shock to Harry.



Chapter 29-32

Chapter 29-32 Summary

As chapter twenty-nine begins Harry is feeling fear and going over the facts in his head. After listing the facts in his head Harry suddenly realizes he has walked into a trap. Bianca has invited her enemy's there in order to kill them as a show of power. Thomas was sent because he is the lowest in the White Court and his presence is an insult to Bianca. Justine convinces Harry to include her and Thomas in their plans for escape. Harry is called forward for his gift and receives a tomb stone saying he died doing the right thing. When Harry gets back to the group they see Lea give Michael's sword to Bianca. Lydia is brought out, still in a trance, and set before Bianca. Mavra steps forward with Amorcchius. Michael explains that if the sword sheds innocent blood then it will be unmade. Harry knows the odds aren't good but decides to do the right thing even if it kills him.

Chapter thirty shows the battle beginning. Harry, Thomas, Michael, Susan and Justine are fighting and managing to hold their own against the vast number of vampires. They decide they must take out Bianca. Justine steps to close to Bianca's people and is taken captive. The fighting stops as Bianca holds the girl hostage. If Thomas will walk away from Harry and the others then Bianca will allow him to take Justine and leave. Thomas puts down his sword and walks away from the group. Once Thomas is away Bianca goes against her word and announces that Thomas is to be killed. The vampires are able to take Susan. Harry can hear Susan screaming then it goes silent. Harry has such rage within him that suddenly he is able to call on very powerful magic and begins to set every vampire in the place on fire. The smoke is thick and Harry and Michael barley make it out through a tunnel in the smoke. Once outside Lea explains that it was her that saved Harry. Lea doesn't want Harry like he is, frail and run down, and tells him to go rest.

Chapter thirty-one begins with Harry waking up remembering the fire and all those people he had killed. Harry is sickened by the thought. Michael comes in and sits with Harry. It had been to dangerous to take Harry to a hospital and so Michael had watched over Harry at his house. Michael had been able to save Lydia but couldn't find Susan, Justine, or the Sword. Something is also still wrong with Michael's baby although the doctors aren't sure what. Michael says he knows the girl, Lydia. Michael recognizes her from when they arrested Kravos. Lydia had been one of the girls he had captured and given drugs to. There is a knock on the door and Thomas enters holding a case. Harry and Michael agree to kill him but Thomas holds up the case and inside is Michael's sword, Amorcchius. Michael begins crying. Thomas knows that Susan and Justine are being held by Bianca and that Bianca and several others are held up in another part of the house that didn't burn. Harry uses magic to wake Lydia up to ask her questions about the inside of Bianca's house. As he is completing the spell Michael says something about how tired Lydia looks, as if she hasn't really slept at all. Harry suddenly



realizes that the Nightmare has Lydia but it is too late and Lydia's possessed eyes open and the dark voice tells Harry goodbye.

In chapter thirty-two Harry and Michael are fighting Lydia but Amorracchius can't spill her blood since she is an innocent. Harry conjures a spell while Michael fights her and calls the demon's name. Lydia just laughs and there is no reaction. It is at this point that Harry realizes the Nightmare is not Kravos' demon but Kravos. Lydia is upon Harry again and about to kill him when Thomas comes up behind Lydia and begins feeding on the vast emotions. The vampire saliva renders Lydia in a euphoric state and gives Harry time to get another exorcism spell together, this one for Kravos. Lydia is sleeping, having relief from the Nightmare, as they look over Michael's broken ribs. Harry decides Kravos, with help from the vampires, must have committed suicide after the wall between this world and the Nevernever was weakened, allowing Kravos' ghost to take on more power when the ritual was complete.

Harry has Bob lead the three of them through the Nevernever to Bianca's house. Thomas had related how many guards there were and Harry decided this might be the safest way. On the way through the Nevernever Harry and the others hear the baying of Lea's hounds. It isn't long before she is upon them and asks Harry how he feels.

Chapter 29-32 Analysis

Thomas arrives at Harry's house to ask for help in retrieving Justine. Despite the fact that he brings the sword back to Michael, Harry will ultimately realize that this person is only interested in helping himself. Thomas will continue with Harry and Michael for a while but Harry will have to continue on his own after a time.

The reasons that Lea wants Harry aren't fully explained. The reader has been told that she wants his life but it has been shown in the story to this point that Lea also needs Harry to be whole emotionally. It is possible that part of this reason is because Lea wants Harry's powers and needs him to be healed but a lot of the specific details to Lea will be left up to interpretation.

The fact that Harry kills the people in the house will seemingly torture him. Harry has seemed unconcerned with the lives of the vampires up until this point. There were people in the vampire house that were killed and Harry will focus on these a great deal but it also seems that Harry is worried about all the life he took and not just the people. This rather contradicts the way that Harry talks to Michael at the hospital saying that they might have to kill someone but that person has it coming. Harry's actions and words don't always seem to match. Harry will talk like the lives of those intertwined with the Nightmare are of no consequence, but when Harry has to take life he will obviously take it much harder.

Harry has discovered that the Nightmare is actually Kravos and not the demon. Once Harry has discovered this it appears that he feels it was obvious. The reason that

Kravos never was an option to Harry appears to have been simply that Harry believed Kravos to still be alive.



Chapter 33-36

Chapter 33-36 Summary

Chapter thirty-three has Lea standing in front of Harry. Thomas and Michael distract Lea for just a moment while Harry eats something. Lea is confused at Harry's sudden willingness to go with her. Harry then explains that he has taken a strong poison while Thomas and Michael had her distracted. Lea believes he is lying but smells his breath and finds it to be true. Harry tells her that he would rather die than go as her prisoner anywhere. Harry might live if he makes it to the hospital within the next few hours but even then the poison is so strong there is no guarantee. Lea is furious screaming that she owns Harry. Harry disagrees pointing out that she owns him for the next couple of days while he becomes sick and dies. Even Lea's magic isn't strong enough to counteract the effects of the poison. Lea agrees to make a pact with Harry that allows him his freedom for a period of time providing that Harry stays in the mortal world.

Lea begins to leave but then decides that although Harry has safe passage that Thomas and Michael don't Michael's ribs are broken from Lydia's attack and is unable to run. Michael decides to stay back and battle Lea and Harry forces Thomas to stay back as well. Harry has realized that he can't trust Thomas. When Harry reaches the place where Bob says is the entrance into Bianca's home Bob tries to stop him but Harry doesn't slow down. Once through Harry is surrounded by Bianca, she had been watching this door as well and Bob had felt the weakening there. Harry is covered by the hideous vampires and everything goes dark.

Chapter thirty-four finds Harry awakening. Harry is nude and as he looks around he sees Justine, also naked, huddled in a corner. Justine is acting odd and Justine explains that she needs Thomas to make everything calmer emotionally. Harry and Justine are locked in the room. Justine goes to sleep and suddenly opens her eyes and begins to speak. Kravos has taken over her body. Kravos tells Harry that Bianca had ordered no visitors but he wanted to see Harry. Kravos tells Harry the reason that Bianca didn't let her children eat him was because Harry has too much of the poison in his body. Kravos promises that when Harry begins to die he will slip into Harry's mind and finish him off. In the corner something moves and Justine becomes upset asking Harry not to go over there. In the corner Harry finds Susan. Justine explains that Bianca has changed her. Susan's eyes are completely black.

In chapter thirty-five Harry decides to try and reach Susan knowing that when she gets hungry enough she will feed on both Justine and him and they won't be able to stop her. Harry takes Susan and she begins to feed Harry fights his way through Lea's spell and finally tells Susan that he loves her. In that moment Susan remembers Harry and is able to stop feeding on him. Susan doesn't turn back into a human but she is able to control herself. Harry suddenly has a plan and lays down to go to sleep. Susan says that Kravos will kill Harry. Harry tells her that he knows this and he is counting on it.



Chapter thirty-six begins with Harry beginning to dream. Harry begins to openly mock Kravos. Before long Kravos chokes Harry until Harry dies. Suddenly Harry's heart begins to beat again. Kravos is confused until someone behind Kravos explains that Susan is doing CPR on Harry's body in the real world. When Kravos turns around he finds Harry's ghost. Harry's ghost and Harry are able to kill Kravos. Harry turns into a wolf like monster in his dream and eats Kravos all up. With the task finished that Harry's ghost was created for it disappears. Harry wakes up feeling the large amount of magic coursing through him and tells Susan and Justine to stay behind him. Harry puts on a pair of ducky boxer shorts he finds and steps into the hallway where Kyle and Kelly are standing.

Chapter 33-36 Analysis

Earlier in the story it had been explained that Kravos was a sorcerer and his magic had been for nothing more than causing harm to people. This factor is important now that Harry has eaten Kravos. When Kravos ate part of Harry's magic he was able to have some of Harry's spells and power. The same will be true of Harry now that he has eaten Kravos. As the chapters continue Harry will be able to conjure spells that he didn't know before he had consumed Kravos. There will be so much power in Harry that he will be unable to control it if he doesn't find a release.

Susan has been changed by Bianca but the change isn't complete until Susan commits her first kill. Harry has waited until now to tell Susan that he loves her. It is unclear if the words would have had the same effect if Harry had said them earlier to her in the story. Harry admits that these words aren't magic but the impact of them is strong enough to counteract the vampire effect beginning to take hold of Susan. Despite the fact that Susan has been turned by Bianca Harry will refuse to give up on her.

Kravos had been the Nightmare and he is now destroyed but this doesn't end the threat. Mavra and Bianca had been behind Kravos, controlling his actions. Harry will be able to confront Bianca but Mavra won't be seen again in the story.



Chapter 37-39

Chapter 37-39 Summary

Chapter thirty-seven finds Harry in battle with Kyle and Kelly. Harry is easily able to defeat them and continues on to the main hall. Along the way Harry, Susan and Justine find a pile of bodies on the floor with a hose gently running away any leftovers. There are dozens of bodies that have recently been fed on. Harry suddenly hears his name and finds Bob sitting on a shelf. Harry finds all his things with Bob and Bob explains that he had convinced the vampires that Harry had booby trapped his stuff so that it will explode if tampered with. Harry hands Bob to Justine and finds that Susan has vanished. Justine recalls that Bianca has mind control over many of the vampires. Harry leaves Bob with Justine and tells her that he will save her if he can.

Harry heads to the top of the stairs and opens the door. Harry enters a room and finds dozens of vampires and several men with large guns and Bianca holding Susan in a trance. Harry laughs at Bianca and asks if all this is really for a guy with two sticks standing in a pair of rubber ducky boxers. Bianca orders the men to fire.

Chapter thirty-eight has Harry standing taking fire from the men but is easily able to deflect the bullets. The guns begin to jam and contort until none of the men have a weapon. The human guards quickly flee the room. Bianca has Harry wait for a moment and brings out a man that works for the vampire council. The man tells Harry that Harry's actions are just cause for open war between the White Council of wizards and the vampires. Harry knows how devastating this would be and the losses that would be incurred. Bianca tells Harry that she will allow the threat of war to be dismissed if Harry will allow Bianca to keep Susan. Harry refuses and Bianca can't believe that Harry would risk such a war just for one soul. Harry glowers and announces that he can think of nothing more worth a war than this. Bianca shouts for her vampires to kill Harry. Harry has enough magic with the addition of Kravos that he is able to defeat the mass of vampires. Bianca is too strong for Harry but he is able to call forth the mass of ghosts, with the Nevernever wall still weak from Kravos' activity, that Bianca and her others killed. The ghosts well up and kill Bianca. Susan is freed of the trance and she, Justine and Bob get Harry out of the house as it burns. Susan and Harry say how much they love each other as Harry falls into a sleep.

Chapter thirty-nine finds Harry in the hospital sharing a room with Charity Carpenter. Charity still is angry with Harry but her and Michael have decided to name the baby boy, who suddenly got well when Kravos was destroyed, after Harry. Justine and Thomas say their goodbyes as well. Mavra managed to escape back to her home before the fighting began at Biancas. Susan calls Harry while in the hospital but doesn't see him. When Harry goes to her place to try and see her Susan is gone. Harry uses magic to track her down and ask her to marry him. Susan tells him in the day light it isn't bad and at times she can feel almost human but it isn't ever completely gone. Susan tells him not to find her again and that she can't control herself around people, especially Harry.



Harry spends all his time in his lab looking for a cure to the vampire venom injected into Susan. Bob finally begins to get worried and tells Harry that the White Council has sent a letter. The war has started and the council are heading to Chicago to talk to Harry and find out what happened at Bianca's house. Susan sends Harry a card at his birthday with only three words written on it.

Chapter 37-39 Analysis

The three words written on the birthday card aren't revealed. Harry simply says that he will let the reader decide what the three words must have been. It seems that the three words would have been 'I loved you.' The fact that the story is the third in the Dresden Files series explains in part why the author left the book so open at the end. While many of the "bad guys" in the story were taken care of there are several left over. The specifics as to how Michael and Thomas escaped Lea are vaguely explained but the story focuses mainly on Harry and his exploits.

What becomes of Lea after the story is over is left unsaid. Also the reader won't know what becomes of Micky Malone. He simply had one scene in the book where Harry had to rescue him. Lydia is rescued as well and then sent into hiding by the church. Although Michael does remember that Lydia had been one of the people that Kravos had been using to help in his demon conjuring it isn't revealed if he chose her because she had the gift of Cassandra's Tears or if she had acquired this unworldly power because of her affiliation with Kravos. What becomes of her after the church sends her into hiding won't be explained.

The White Council members are never met with the exception of Harry. Despite this the biggest unanswered questions at the end of the book will be what they are going to do with Harry now that Harry is being blamed for the war that is beginning. Bianca didn't kill Susan or succeed in fully changing her into a vampire, but it appears that she did exact her revenge on Harry in other ways since Harry and Susan can't be together.



Characters

Harry Dresden

Harry Dresden is a wizard that lives in Chicago. He is the main character of the story and the point of view shown in the story will come from Harry. Harry appears to be self-centered when the story begins but will show that he is willing to give his own life in order to save those around him. Little is known about Harry's parents other than the fact that his mother is the one that passed the gift on to him. His mother made some deal with a Faerie named Leanansidhe. Later Harry will make a deal with her and give her his life in return for power enough to destroy a wizard after Harry. Harry will have to evade Leanansidhe while he is trying to stop a Nightmare that is attacking everyone close to Harry.

Harry doesn't claim to be a spiritual person although he believes strongly in the power of faith and in God. Harry will work with a man who Harry considers to be truly righteous, Michael, and although Harry doesn't agree with everything that Michael believes they are a good team. Harry has trouble stating his feelings and will keep himself partitioned off to a small degree. It will become important for him to state his feelings later in the book when his girlfriend, Susan Rodriguez, becomes bitten by a vampire. His declaration of love will be enough to keep her from turning into a complete vampire but not enough to restore her humanity. Harry's decision to love Susan completely will be enough to start a war between the Vampires and the Wizarding Council.

Michael Carpenter

Michael is a Knight of the Cross. He uses a sword called Amoraachus, a sword that contains one of the nails used to crucify Christ on Calvary. Michael will help Harry fight against demons, ghosts and other unworldly creatures. Harry says that Michael's power comes from his faith and from the fact that Michael is truly righteous and humble. Michael is married, to Charity, and they have several children together. Michael's first concern is God and his will. Michael will constantly have to reprimand Harry for taking the Lord's name in vain. Harry will attempt to keep his words and opinions to himself to some small degree out of Michael.

Michael is calm and will not raise his voice when things become dangerous but Michael is very strong and his strength will be apparent in more ways than just physical. Michael will become most dangerous when his wife and his children are threatened. Much of what happens in the story will be about Harry but when they get to the party thrown by the Red Court Vampires it will become clear that Michael has done much before he ever met Harry. There will be a dragon at the party and a vampire of the Black Court that will confront Michael for the death of their kind. Harry will recognize Michael as a source of strength and dependability that he can't fight without.



Leanansidhe

Harry Dresden's evil Faerie Godmother, also referred to as Lea. Lea takes away Susan Rodriguez's memories regarding Harry. Lea wants Harry alive so that she can control him and so will save Harry's life but is very dangerous.

Bob

Bob is an apparition who works for Harry gathering information from the spirit world. Bob works on smutty romance novels. Bob resides only in a skull that sits in Harry's lab.

Susan Rodriguez

Harry's girlfriend. Harry loves Susan but they will not be able to be together because Bianca changes Susan. Although Susan doesn't turn fully into a vampire she will be unsure if she can control herself around Harry and will leave him.

Karrin Murphy

The Lieutenant of Special Investigations. Karrin will be attacked by the Nightmare and Harry will be forced to send her into a deep sleep to preserve her sanity.

Madame Bianca St. Claire

A very powerful vampire that blames Harry for the death of someone she cared about. Bianca is a member of the Red Court Vampires.

Mavra

Mavra is a member of the Black Court Vampires. She is a very powerful vampire. Michael killed Mavra's children and grandchildren.

Lydia

Lydia is the young girl that comes to Harry Dresden claiming that she has the gift called Casandra's Tears. Lydia is being chased by the Nightmare and the Vampires. Lydia's real name is Barbara and is put into hiding by the Church after Harry defeats the Nightmare.



Thomas Raith

Thomas Raith is a member of the White Court Vampires. Thomas will return the Sword, Amorcchius, to Michael in return for their help to save Justine from the Red Court Vampires.

Father Forthill

Father Forthill is the priest at St Mary of the Angels Church. Father Forthill will babysit Michael's children while Harry and Michael are fighting the Nightmare.

Charity Carpenter

Michael's wife. Charity is abducted by the Nightmare and her unborn child is injured. Charity hates Harry and threatens Harry if anything happens to Michael.

Justine

Justine is the human with Thomas. Justine is an emotional wreck and needs Thomas feeding off her emotions to keep her in balance. Justine will be taken prisoner by the Red Court Vampires with the intent of feeding her to Susan when she turns.

Mortimer Lindquist

Mortimer is a small time medium. Mortimer used to have the gift but has lost it by misusing it. Mortimer gives Harry information on where the Nightmare comes from.

Leonid Kravos

A sorcerer who was controlling a demon and performing human sacrifices. Harry, Michael and the members of Special Investigations take Leonid to jail and are able to destroy his demon. Leonid will become the Nightmare after he sacrifices himself.

Agatha Haggleshorn

The ghost that Harry and Michael destroy at the hospital. Agatha, in life, had smothered her child trying to keep it quiet, then killed her abusive husband, and finally taken her own hand and cut it off. Agatha is trying to kill the infants in the maternity ward at Cook County hospital.



Objects/Places

Chicago

The majority of the story takes place in this city. Harry lives here and has his wizardry practice in this city.

Nevernever

The Nevernever is the spirit world. Harry will have to go to the Nevernever more than once in the book although it is dangerous for him. Harry's evil Faerie Godmother, Leanansidhe, lives in the Nevernever.

Mister

Mister is Harry's extremely fat house cat. Bob will ride around with Mister. Mister clawing at Harry's face is what will save him from being eaten by the Nightmare.

Red Court Vampires

The Red Court Vampires is the clan that Madame Bianca belongs to. This group of vampires feed on blood and will try to kill Harry and Michael.

Black Court Vampires

The Black Court Vampires is the clan that Mavra belongs to. This type of vampire are the ones that closely resemble Dracula and so their weaknesses are well known. There are few of these vampires left due to the Dracula books but the ones left are very powerful.

White Court Vampires

Thomas Raith belongs to the White Court Vampires. This is a group of sexual vampires that feed off emotion rather than blood.

White Council

Wizarding Council of which Harry Dresden is a member.



Casandra's Tears

A condition in which the person can see glimpses of the future. The character known as Lydia has Casandra's Tears.

St Mary of the Angels Church

The church where Harry sends Lydia to hide. Father Forthill is the priest at this church.

Amoracchius

The Sword made from one of the nails used to crucify Christ. Michael wields the sword but it is lost when Harry tries to use it to break his oath with Leanansidhe.

Scooby-Doo Lunchbox

Harry Dresden carries his ghost hunting equipment in this box when he fights Agatha Haggleshorn.

Cook County Hospital

Cook County Hospital is where Michael and Harry fight Agatha Haggleshorn. This is also the hospital where Charity Carpenter is taken after she is attacked by the Nightmare and goes into labor.

Special Investigations

Special Investigations is the task force that specializes in the paranormal. Karrin Murphy is the Lieutenant of the Special Investigations.



Themes

Good Versus Evil

Good Versus Evil will be a central theme in the story. Harry Dresden, the main character in the story, will be fighting to stop the creature that is referred to as the Nightmare. The creature creates torture spells and eats part of people's soul. Most of the beings that will be met along the way will be creatures that aren't human and that are easily considered evil, such as the vampires and the demons. There are also some people in the story that will be considered evil, such as Leonid Kravos. Kravos will be described more in action than physical appearance. Kravos had been doing human sacrifices and writing down how each one went. Kravos, despite his human appearance, will become one of the most vicious monsters in the story.

There are several good characters as well in the story. The white knight is Michael. Michael Carpenter is a servant of God and seemingly has no flaws. Michael will be the flawless good in the story along with Father Forthill, and to an extent, Charity. When Lydia is talking to Harry when they first meet she tells him that she has seen Harry in the center of the battle and that Harry is the one that has the power to change the direction the battle will go. Harry isn't pure the way that Michael is but it is clear that he desires to do the right thing. One of the vampires will have Harry a tombstone made engraved with "He died doing the right thing."

The Importance of Love

The theme of love comes out several times in the story. Michael is a character that represents purity and good. Michael has his love for God as well as his love for family. This love will be a source for Michael's power and will also drive this character's actions and decisions. Michael will explain to Harry early on in the book that it is important for Harry to tell his girl friend, Susan Rodriguez, how Harry feels about her. Harry admits that he loves her. Despite the fact that Harry loves Susan he will be unable to say the phrase until Susan has been bitten by the Red Court Vampires and is beginning to turn.

Susan would have become a full vampire if Harry hadn't been able to snap her out of it. Harry's character will explain to the reader that there is nothing magical about the words "I love you" in connection with Harry being a wizard. Harry says that some words are simply powerful. Those three words will be enough to save Susan from completely turning although they don't restore her humanity. When Harry is trying to escape the Red Court Vampire house he will be given the option of leaving Susan, the woman he loves, or starting a war between the wizards and the vampires. Such a war would be massively devastating and Harry knows it. When the head of the Red Court Vampires asks Harry if one woman is worth that Harry responds that he can think of nothing that would be more worth starting a war.



The Need for Self-Control

The main character in the story, Harry Dresden, is a wizard. Though he admits that there are some spells that are easily worked that many of them take extreme concentration. The need for self-control will be shown through Harry and his actions in the story as well as other characters who are unable to use any self-control. Harry is unable to use self-control when he is faced with his Faerie Godmother and will use Michael's Sword to try and break his oath with the woman. Because he used the Sword for unjust purposes it will drop to the ground and be lost to Michael for a time. Harry explains later that he should have known and thought before he acted.

The Nightmare, Kravos, is told by the head vampire of the Red Court to leave Harry to her. While Kravos does follow orders to a great extent he becomes impatient and refuses to listen to her. Had Kravos not went into Harry's mind when Harry went to sleep Harry would have been unable to escape his imprisonment and burn down what was left of the Red Court Vampires. Michael also will be a character that must exert self-control. Michael feels deeply committed to God and when he enters the ball of the Red Court Vampires Michael will feel certain that he must do something in order to stop the feeding that is going on. Despite Michael's need to rush up and attempt to save the people at the ball he is able to control himself until they are ready to fight.



Style

Point of View

The story is written in first person point of view, past tense. The view comes from that of only one character, Harry Dresden and the view is limited based only on what Harry sees and feels. There will be times in the story when Harry realizes something but the character will be forced to wait until Harry chooses to reveal it to find out what he is contemplating. The point of view in the story will be crucial since much of what happens involves a past history, and emotional state, of the main character. Without insight into Harry and what he is feeling and remembering the reader would lose much information about Harry and the plot that is beginning to develop.

Since the story focuses largely on the main character's magical ability there is a lot of exposition in the story that reveals facts concerning the magic, ghosts, and other facts that aren't otherwise directly discussed in the book. The point of view will keep the reader focused on what is happening to Harry but the main character will have strong emotions and the reader will feel easily connected to the other characters.

Setting

The story takes place in a modern-day Chicago as we know it, with the exception that there is paranormal activity that takes place on a regular basis. There are vampires, ghosts, demons, and the main character is a wizard. Despite the fact that the story focuses on characters that are either paranormal or have a link to the paranormal the setting in Chicago is one in which the average person doesn't believe in such things. All this combined will create a conspiracy feel to much of what is going on.

Although much of the story takes place in Chicago the main characters will travel through the Nevernever more than once in the story. The Nevernever is the spirit world. The characters will first travel to this world in the story in order to battle a tormented ghost that is attempting to kill children. The Nevernever will not have defined laws in regard to space and time. This will leave it rather unstable in regards to how things look. The look of a place in Nevernever will depend greatly upon the place that the characters enter, or the entity that is involved. Much of the story will focus on the fact that the increased number of ghost hauntings that are occurring are due in part to a wavering wall between the real world and the Nevernever.

Language and Meaning

The language in the story is very informal coming from the majority of the main characters. Their speech will be easily understood because it is modern although there will be terms and phrases that the reader may not immediately recognize due to the fact that they have been created for Harry Dresden's fictional world. While this book is not



the first in the series the reader will be given an explanation as to what the phrases and words mean so that it will be clear and understood.

There are a few characters in the story that will in a much more informal tone. These characters are primarily the vampires and the Nightmare that Harry Dresden is fighting. The vampires will talk this way, presumably, because they are centuries old. Although there are younger vampires there is not a large difference made between the two in regards to their speech. The Nightmare that Harry will battle, Leonid Kravos, will use a lot of Thees and Thous and will refer to Harry simply as Wizard. While the speech will sometimes be confusing it will create a clear distinction between characters. The use of the language will add to the tone of the story and make it much more enjoyable.

Structure

Grave Peril, by Jim Butcher, is 378 pages long and consists of thirty-nine chapters. Each chapter will end and begin with a change in scene, time, or when a significant finding has occurred. The way that the book is structured makes the book easily read. Grave Peril is the third book in the Dresden Files. Despite the fact that the book is not the first in the series the reader will be given all necessary information in order to understand the events happening. The book will start off rather fast paced but the author will use this method to give the reader a lot of necessary information, such as Harry Dresden's wizarding abilities and status, as well as the significant role that Michael Carter and his sword play.

The book contains one central plot. While this plot never truly changes the reader's perception of it changes as the main character learns more information. There are also several subplots in the story including a love that has developed between Susan Rodriguez and Harry. Harry will have to stop the Nightmare and all those behind it. This will be the main plot. While this is developing the situation will become more complex when Harry's evil Faerie Godmother will try and force him to come with her. Michael will lose his blessed Sword, and Michael's son will become sick and in danger of dying.

Most of the plots in the story will be answered by the end of the story. The love that Michael and Susan have will be left unanswered because Susan will be in danger of changing into a vampire. The last chapter of the book will also announce that the wizard and the vampires are going to war and Harry is going to be questioned on the matter. These events will all presumably leave the Dresden Series open for the next in the series.



Quotes

"Fire,' she whispered. 'Wind. I see dark things and a dark war. I see my death coming for me, out of the spirit world. And I see you at the middle of it all. You're the beginning, the end of it. You're the one who can make the path go different ways.'" Chapter 4: Page 30

"Let me get this straight. This creature, this thing, has been torturing powerful spirits for a couple of weeks with this barbed-wire spell. It tore up a bunch of stuff on consecrated ground. Then it blew through somebody's threshold and tore his spirit apart, and slapped a torture-spell on him?" Chapter 14: Page 115

"The guy we're after is a sorcerer. It's sort of like being a wizard, only he spends all his energy doing things that are mostly destructive. He isn't good at doing anything that doesn't fuck someone up." Chapter 17: Page 138

"The demon, hungry for its revenge, would come after those who had struck it down. The ghost would only remember those who had been there, whom it had focused on in those last moments." Chapter 19: Page 153

"The ghost of a demon I killed two months ago is rampaging around Chicago, getting into people's dreams, and eating their minds from the inside." Chapter 20: Page 164

"She threw back her head in a rich laugh. 'Kill you? I never intended to kill you, my sweet, barring moments of frustration. Our bargain was for your life-not your death.'" Chapter 21: Page 177

"Harry made a bargain with me long ago-and broke it, once then, and once a few nights past. He swore to uphold it again, last night, and broke it thrice. Now he reaps the consequences of his actions. His own powers turn against him, the poor dear, to encourage him to fulfill his word, to keep his promise." Chapter 27: Page 240

"If you try to stop us from leaving, if you try to hurt anyone under my protection, you'll be dealing with a Wizard of the Council, a Knight of the Sword and a girl with a basket full of garlic and holy water. I don't care how big bad and ugly you are, there won't be anything left of you but a greasy spot on the floor." Chapter 28: Page 253

"This whole thing,' I said. The facts started falling into place, about two hours too late. 'It's been a setup from the very beginning. The ghosts. The Nightmare demon. The attacks on our family and friends. All of it.'" Chapter 29: Page 258

"Killed them. I killed those kids. My magic, the magic that was the energy of creation and life itself had reached out and burned them to death." Chapter 31: Page 287

"Leonid Kravos!' I thundered. I repeated the name, and saw Lydia's eyes fly open wide in shock. 'Begone, Kravos! You secondrate firecaller! Begone! Begone!' And with the



last word, I stamped my foot down, releasing the power of the exorcism down, into the earth." Chapter 32: Page 306

"All of this. For a guy with two sticks and a pair of yellow ducky boxer shorts, you must think I'm a real dangerous man." Chapter 37: Page 362

"The vampires. The Council's at war. I guess Paris and Berlin went into chaos almost a week ago. The Council is calling a meeting. Here." Chapter 39: Page 378



Topics for Discussion

Explain the relationship between Harry and Michael. Why was Harry willing to "jerk" on Michael's heart strings to get him to help him defeat the nightmare if he really cared about Michael? Is their relationship equal?

Harry says the words "I love you" to Susan and it is enough to stop her from killing Harry. Explain why those words had the power to stop Susan even though Harry admits they aren't magic.

Speculate on the reasons that Harry chose to take the poison rather than go with his Godmother.

Why did Harry first believe that it was the demon that was responsible for the Nightmares and not Kravos? What was shown early on that should have given Harry a clue that it was Kravos and not the demon?

Was Harry right to put his love for Susan ahead of the threat of war between wizards and vampires? What does it say about Harry's character that he choose Susan?

Charity dislikes Harry immensely but agrees to name her child after him. Explain the reasons that Charity dislikes Harry so much. Does she dislike him as much as she pretends to? Why does Charity agree to name the child after Harry?

The creature is called the Nightmare even before they know that it gets to people by their dreams. Did giving it the name Nightmare give anything away to the reader? What made the Nightmare a frightening enemy for Harry and Michael?