

# **Bloody Bones Study Guide**

**Bloody Bones by Laurell K. Hamilton**

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# Plot Summary

Bloody Bones by Laurell K. Hamilton is a novel centering on the life of Anita Blake, animator of the dead and vampire executioner. Blake is called to raise a cemetery of dead in order to prove ownership of the land where they rest. Anita becomes involved in a battle for power with the local Master Vampire, fairies, and various creatures of the night for her life and the life of a young local boy.

Anita Blake is called by her boss to raise a cemetery of dead for a developer near Branson, Missouri. Blake takes the job, seeing it as a challenge and an opportunity to train her apprentice, Larry Kirkland. The two head to Branson for what Anita thinks will be a difficult job, but nothing else. Arriving, Blake discovers that the developer, Raymond Stirling is willing to pay Anita to lie about the dead, telling her that his entire fortune is invested in the land and that if it belongs to the Bouvier family he will have lost everything. Anita tells the man she will not lie for him.

Receiving a call from St. Louis, Anita is told of a possible vampire kill in the area. As a member of the Regional Preternatural Investigation Team, or Ripit, Anita heads to the area with Larry. Upon arriving, Anita finds an uncooperative Sergeant Freemont and three dismembered boys. Anita is not sure what killed the young men, and the sergeant is less than willing to cooperate. Anita does discover that there may already have been a similar murder, and Freemont agrees reluctantly to allow her to examine the crime scene photos. Anita receives another call; another vampire victim is in the area. Arriving at the home of the Quinlan family, Anita discovers that their daughter Ellie has been drained and killed by a vampire she invited in. Discussing this with the family, Anita finds out that Ellie's boyfriend has disappeared recently. This young man is most likely the vampire that she welcomed. It seems to Anita that Ellie intended to be a vampire as well, but her parents want her staked before she can rise again

Anita works with the local law enforcement to hunt the vampire that killed Ellie, and the group is surprised in the woods by a group of vampires instead. It turns out that the battle is a distraction; others are at the Quinlan house retrieving Ellie's body and kidnapping young Jeff Quinlan. Anita is forced to call on her "boyfriend," Jean Claude, the Master of the City of St. Louis, to negotiate the release of Jeff Quinlan with the Master of Branson. Jean Claude comes to help Anita, believing he will be able to negotiate with Serephina, the local master.

Anita and Jean Claude are stunned to find that Serephina is much more powerful than Jean Claude had known her to be. One of the reasons might be that she has been drinking the blood of Magnus Bouvier, the man who has been battling Raymond Stirling for the land on the mountaintop. Bouvier is a fairie and holds captive in the hills the creature known as Rawhead and Bloody Bones. Bloody Bones had been captured after a relative of Magnus's had used the creature to gain power, and now the Bouvier family must keep the creature imprisoned as penance. Magnus, however had been drinking the blood of the creature to gain power. Serephina had been drinking Magnus's blood in turn, striving for immortality.



A battle of strength and wills takes place, with Anita unwilling to give up the fight for the life of Jeff Quinlan. Serephina is able to penetrate Anita's dreams, revealing a deep connection between the two of them. Using Anita's dead mother as a type of bait, Serephina is able to challenge Anita in a way that no one else has before. Raising the dead for Stirling on the mountaintop turns out to be part of Serephina's plan as well. The power that Anita possesses has been abused to break Rawhead and Bloody Bones from its prison. Stirling had been used by Serephina as well. Once the vampire's goal is completed, there is no further use for Stirling, and Serephina's minions use the developer as food.

The battle between good and evil comes to a climax when Anita is forced to face down Serephina and Rawhead and Bloody Bones. The vampire wishes to be immortal and believes drinking the blood of the creature will make her so. When Bloody Bones discovers her deception she is almost killed, but Anita kills the creature instead, realizing that Bloody Bones is responsible for the gruesome deaths in the area. Angered, Serephina takes Anita instead, using her friend Larry as a bargaining tool. Anita is forced to give herself to the vampire to save her friend's life. Serephina will have Anita's blood. As a necromancer, or person who can raise the dead, Anita's blood is powerful as well.

Able to break free of Serephina for a short time, Anita alerts the authorities to her location. Rather than killing the vampire easily, Anita is forced to struggle and fight her own desire to save Serephina. Having been bitten by Serephina, Anita carries Serephina's mark, and Serephina is able to call to Anita and invade her thoughts. Through a mighty internal struggle and with the help of those around her, Anita is able to stop herself from saving the vampire. Jeff Quinlan is lost to the vampires, but all the others are dead or dispersed.

Anita is left to struggle within herself. Second thoughts of how she could have done things differently preventing so much loss of life overwhelm her at times. Blake also is still involved with two men, a werewolf and the vampire, Jean Claude. This struggle seems to be harder than it had been. By dealing with Serephina, Anita realizes that things are not black and white. Shades of grey cloud the issue. Where she had thought Jean Claude a monster because he is a vampire, Anita is forced to take a second look. Jean Claude had proven himself a good man, though a dead one, in the battle with Serephina, and Anita can no longer classify him as simply a monster.



# Chapters 1-5

## Chapters 1-5 Summary

In Chapter one, Anita arrives at her office at Animators Inc, to meet with her boss, Bert Vaughn. Bert is bidding on a project that involves raising multiple zombies from a cemetery that has been disturbed by a construction crew. Bert is confident that Anita can accomplish the task, and Anita is intrigued, wondering if she can do it. Blake agrees to try.

In chapter two Bert calls Anita and tells her that Animators Inc has the contract and to be at the office at 2PM. Anita packs for the trip and heads over to Seckman Junior High to see her boyfriend Richard Zeeman. The two had a date scheduled for the next day and Anita wanted to tell him she would be out of town. The attraction that Anita feels for Richard is stronger, and she regrets her decision to not have sex before marriage most when she is with Richard. The two discuss Anita's trip, and Richard asks if Anita will tell Jean Claude that she is going away as well. Anita reminds Richard that it is daytime and the Master of the City is in his coffin. Richard is not happy, but Anita reminds him that she has to date both of them so Jean Claude does not kill Richard.

In chapter 3, Anita travels by helicopter with her assistant Larry Kirkland and Lionel Bayard, a junior partner with the firm Beadle, Beadle, Sterling and Lowenstein. Bayard is a bit distant and Blake wonders if he is hiding something. The junior partner refuses to discuss business, telling Anita that if she needs to know anything Mr. Sterling will tell her.

Arriving at the bottom of the mountain, Anita is introduced to Raymond Sterling and his assistant Ms. Harrison. Sterling and Anita's personalities clash immediately, but a tentative truce is called. Blake is told that the fate of the development project rests on her ability to raise the zombies in the cemetery that had been dug up on the mountaintop. If any of the dead are Bouvier's, the family will not sell the land to the firm.

In chapter 4, Anita goes to the top of the mountain with Sterling. Sterling asks Anita to lie if any of the dead she raises turn out to be Bouvier's. Anita refuses once and again when Sterling offers her money. Sterling has invested everything in the site, and if they can not use it, he will lose his and his investor's funds. While arguing his case, Anita receives a phone call from Dolph, a St. Louis police detective assigned to the Regional Preternatural Investigation Team, or RIPT. Dolph wants Anita to check into the discovery of three dead bodies found in the area. Anita agrees, and Sterling tells her that he will supply the car he promised. When Blake tells Sterling that she will try and be back before dark the man is not happy, but Anita reminds him that the police take precedence.



## Chapters 1-5 Analysis

The reader is introduced to the main character in the novel BLOODY BONES, Anita Blake. Anita is a zombie raiser who works for Animators, Inc. Anita is also a licensed vampire executioner who also works with the local preternatural police squad in St. Louis. Anita is hired to raise a group of zombies from a cemetery that has been excavated at the site of a new resort being built in the Ozark Mountains outside of Branson. The developers have invested heavily in the project but may lose everything because the land belongs to the Bouvier family. The Bouvier's have told the developers that if the land holds any dead Bouvier's, they will not sell it. Raymond Sterling, the developer, offers Anita a bribe if she will lie and say that none of the dead are Bouvier's. Anita refuses, which Sterling had known she would.

The reader learns a few things about Anita Blake aside from her ethics. Small in stature but very self-confident, Anita is dating two men. Richard Zeeman, a junior high school teacher who also happens to be a werewolf, and Jean Claude, a vampire. Jean Claude had threatened to kill Richard if Anita did not give him a chance to date her as well, so Anita finds herself in the difficult position of being involved with both men. Though not happy about the situation, Anita feels she is doing what needs to be done in order to protect Richard from Jean Claude.

Anita also works with the St. Louis police department investigating any deaths that might be preternatural. Dolph, the lead investigator relies on Anita so much so that when he is unable to examine a murder scene near Branson, he is comfortable enough to send Anita in on her own. Dolph knows Anita can handle herself and trusts that if there is something that she can not deal with, she will call him in immediately.

Anita has already demonstrated her lack of patience with people who are not straightforward or who treat her with disrespect. Blake has no problem speaking her mind; as the story progresses her bravado and her sarcasm will lead her into some problematic situations.



# Chapters 6-10

## Chapters 6-10 Summary

In chapter six, Anita and Larry drive to the scene. Larry is excited and nervous about his first trip to a murder scene, and Anita tells him to keep in the background and behave himself. Concerned that he might get sick, Anita tells him to make sure that he does not vomit on the victim as she had once. Larry wonders if the scene will be awful. Anita tells him that with three victims missing body parts, it is pretty likely.

In chapter seven Anita meets Sergeant Freemont, the lead investigator at the murder scene. Freemont is not happy about Anita being on the scene and expresses derision when Blake cannot immediately identify what has killed and dismembered the three young male victims, very violently. When Anita comments that they need to be watchful before someone else is killed, she judges by Freemont's reaction that there is already another murder. Freemont admits there is, but they had assumed the young couple had been killed by the victim's ex-boyfriend. The thought of a serial killer, especially one that might be a vampire makes Freemont uneasy who agrees to share the crime scene photos with Anita. Freemont is obviously not happy that Anita had noticed things about the scene that she had not and tells Anita that if they find a vampire she will stake it herself.

In chapter eight, Larry and Anita leave the scene and Anita wants to stop for something to eat. Larry is disgusted by the thought of food after the carnage in the woods. Anita decides that now is the perfect time to go to Bloody Bones, the restaurant owned by Mangus Bouvier, the man who refuses to sell his land to Raymond Sterling.

In chapter nine Anita and Larry wind their way through country roads to Bloody Bones. The road leading to the bar is lined with trees that are broken, apparently cut, chopped in a violent manner. The powerful strikes remind Anita of the injuries to the bodies at the crime scene.

Inside the bar there is an unnatural stillness, and a handsome man is behind a bar that is surrounded by women. As Anita pushes through she can feel something in the air, and is startled when a woman near her seems to change in appearance. The man is Magnus Bouvier and he joins Anita at a table after she accuses him of magic, a crime. Magnus argues that it is a simple misdemeanor, but Anita points out magic used by someone not human is a felony. Bouvier is a fairie. At the table Magnus tries to glamor, or put a spell on, Anita and Larry. Anita can sense it and tells him to stop. Magnus wonders what Anita is and she tells him she is a necromancer, someone who can raise and control the dead.

Conversation turns to the land that Sterling wants to buy from the Bouvier's. Magnus simply states that the land has been in the family for centuries and money is not



everything. As they leave Anita asks Bouvier about the trees along the road. Magnus tells Anita sadly that he had gotten drunk and done the damage himself.

In chapter ten, Anita receives a call from Dolph. There is another vampire victim, but this one seems to be straight forward. Anita discovers that though Freemont had called Dolph, she had not informed him of the possibility of a vampire serial killer. Dolph is upset and assumes that Freemont is a loner who wants the glory of the case. Anita is given an address in Monkey's Eyebrow, Missouri where she will meet the local sheriff at the scene of the latest murder.

## Chapters 6-10 Analysis

In chapters six through ten, the reader is given a bit more insight into the character of Anita Blake. A complex person, small details are revealed throughout the novel, rather than overwhelming the reader with information at the outset.

Anita, while tough, also takes the time to teach Larry Kirkland. Anita is a bit put off by Larry's excitement about the crime scene they will visit and wonders if he has ever seen a body outside of a funeral or the recently raised zombie. Larry admits that he has not and begins to realize that the scene of a violent murder might not be fun. Anita tells Larry about how she had vomited on a victim once, hoping to alleviate his concerns. The ploy works. Larry is as prepared as he can get and knows Anita will not look down on him if he should vomit at the scene.

The character of Sergeant Freemont is introduced. Freemont plays an important role in the novel. Freemont displays the typical jurisdictional anger that Anita has grown accustomed to when dealing with the police, but seems to have a chip on her shoulder being a woman as well. Anita senses that Freemont feels the need to prove herself, and in doing so may be jeopardizing others. The fact that this is apparently the second vicious murder also confirms her suspicions. Even though Freemont admits there may have been more killings by the same perpetrator and agrees to share the photos of the other scene with Anita, the sergeant balks at calling Anita for help if a vampire turns out to be responsible.

Meeting with Magnus Bouvier turn out to be an interesting event. Magnus Bouvier and his sister own Bloody Bones, a restaurant, and also the mountain that Sterling wishes to purchase. The bar at Bloody Bones is very popular, as Magnus is performing what the clientele believes are love charms. Anita realizes that Magnus is actually a fairie and is using glamor on the people present. A brief appearance by Dorrie, Magnus's sister, tells Anita that the siblings do not agree about what Magnus is doing. This will also play into the novel later. Magnus tells Anita that he is the one who had destroyed the trees outside his establishment in what would have been a show of awesome strength. The trees had been chopped in a similar fashion to the victims at the crime scene. This fact does not escape Anita's attention, and she feels compelled to give Dolph Magnus's name when he calls her about another vampire victim.





Anita's feelings about Sergeant Freemont are confirmed when Dolph tells her that Freemont had not mentioned the previous murder in her jurisdiction or the information that Anita believed there might be a serial killer that happened to be a vampire on the run. Dolph believes Anita without questions, showing the level of trust the two have for each other.



# Chapters 11-15

## Chapters 11-15 Summary

In chapter 11, Anita and Larry head to the latest murder scene. Arriving at the home they meet Officer Zach Coltrain, who is not very impressed with them. When they knock on the door, a small dog starts barking incessantly, and they are let in by Beth St. John, the wife of the local sheriff. Anita meets with David St. John who wonders about Anita and Larry's experience. Anita tells him of her three years on the Regional Preternatural Investigation Squad. St. John is much more welcoming, as this is his first experience with a vampire killing.

The body of Ellie Quinlan is on her bed, barely clothed. Anita tells the angry sheriff that Ellie Quinlan had invited her killer into her room, judging by the way she had been dressed and her open window. St. John informs Anita that Ellie's parents want her staked before she can rise as a vampire in three days. Anita reminds St. John that Ellie might have planned to come back as a vampire and staking her would be murder. Blake does however agree to stake the vampire that killed Quinlan, angry that the killer had left the girl's body behind. Anita warns St. John that going after a vampire at night is dangerous, and someone might get killed. After ordering St. John to gather the supplies needed, including communion hosts to protect the entrances of the home, Anita goes to meet the family.

In chapter 12, Anita sits with the devastated Quinlan family—Jeffrey, Sally, and Jeff Jr. The boy holds Raven, the family poodle. Mr. Quinlan tells Anita that he wants Ellie staked to save her immortal soul. Anita asks the family to wait a day and think things through and make sure they would rather have their daughter dead, than at least be able to see her as a vampire. Quinlan refuses. Changing tactics, Anita asks about the dog and if she barks when anyone comes near the house. Jeff Jr. tells Anita that the dog had been barking outside Ellie's door, and when the girl had not let the dog in, they had discovered her body. Anita asks if anyone in the area has gone missing recently, and Jeff tells her that Ellie's boyfriend Andy was last seen two weeks ago.

In chapter 13, Anita talks to Jeff about his sister's relationship with Andy. The young man tells Anita that they had been very close, but when Andy had disappeared Ellie had not seemed as upset as one would think. Anita tells Jeff that Andy is probably the vampire that killed Ellie. Jeff is confused, saying that Andy wouldn't kill Ellie because he loved her. Anita explains that to a vampire it would not be murder, as he would see it as bringing Ellie over to his side.

In chapter 14, Larry and Anita along with several police officers wait for David St. John to arrive with a court order to hunt and execute the vampire that killed Ellie. Officer Wallace from the state police takes offense when Larry suggests Wallace is afraid of the dark. Anita senses personal issues and her night vision allows her to see the scars on Wallace's neck. Anita allows Wallace to feel the scars that cover her neck. Wallace's



former partner had been attacked and killed by a vampire, and Wallace had barely escaped with his life. Anita admits she is scared to hunt a vampire at night and that he should feel no shame in fear. As long as the officer feels he can hunt and remain alert, there is no reason that he can not be part of the hunt.

In chapter 15, St. John arrives with the warrant and the party heads into the woods. The group banters back and forth until Anita tells them the vampire knows they are there. As if by magic a vampire materializes in front of David St. John and tosses him across the clearing. Several more vampires appear and the group is quickly battling for their lives. Officer Granger is being attacked as well as Officer Wallace. Faster than Anita can imagine, another vampire appears with a sword and kills Officer Coltrain. Shots are fired and the vampires flee. Anita senses a powerful vampire presence, and Officer Granger rises, drawing his weapon and aims at Larry. Anita is forced to kill him. She explains to the devastated Wallace that his partner was being controlled by the vampire that had controlled the group that attacked them. Before they can gain their senses, loud screams are heard from the Quinlan house. The group rushes back to find the strange vampire with the sword standing in the room, the body of Beth Quinlan on the floor behind him, a female vampire feeding from her. David St. John fires at the female, shooting her until she dies. Before Anita can shoot the vampire with the sword, he escapes. The Quinlan's inform Anita that the vampires have taken Jeff

## Chapters 11-15 Analysis

Anita's feelings about the young woman killed by the vampire are mixed. Her experience shows her that Ellie had been a willing victim, inviting the vampire into her home. St. John is angry with her explanation, calling Ellie a good girl. Anita explains that being murdered does not make you bad, but it is clear that the vampire had known Ellie. The sheriff tells Anita that the family wants the girl staked before she can rise. Anita explains that executing Ellie would be murder, as the girl apparently wanted to become a vampire.

The meeting with the family is disturbing to Anita. Mr. Quinlan is naturally devastated by the loss of his daughter as is his wife and son; however, he is adamant he wants his daughter staked to prevent her rising in three days. Mr. Quinlan is worried about his daughter's immortal soul and is sure he wants her staked. Anita is very graphic, agreeing to stake Ellie and cut off her head, the only way to be sure a vampire cannot rise. Mrs. Quinlan does not say anything, following her husband's lead, no matter how devastating her loss, or her chances of having a relationship with her daughter, even as a vampire, would be lost.

Jeff Jr. has more information about his sister than her parents, being closer to her age. The relationship with Andy is confirmed by the boy, as well as his disappearance two weeks ago. Anita is quite sure Andy is the vampire that killed Ellie, explaining to Jeff that in Andy's eyes, and most likely Ellie's, there was no murder; they had simply agreed to be together. This does not alleviate Anita's anger at Andy. If the young man had loved



Ellie, he would have taken her with him, not left her behind on display to be staked by her devastated family.

Anita has the sheriff gather the equipment they need to hunt the vampire, including consecrated hosts to guard the entries of the house, should the vampire return. This is an important fact, as the vampires obviously do return and gain access. Though Ellie had invited her killer, the hosts at windows and doors should have prevented them re-entry.

The hunt for the killer of Ellie does not go as Anita expected. Though she is always cautious and warned the sheriff that some might be injured or killed, a relatively new vampire should be a fairly easy target. Unfortunately, the younger vampire seems to be part of a larger group that quickly overwhelms them. One officer is killed immediately with another seriously injured. When the attack seems over, Anita senses the presence of a very powerful vampire which uses its powers to control Granger. Anita is forced to kill Granger, devastating his partner, Officer Wallace. Wallace has now lost a second partner to a vampire. Larry stays with Wallace when the screams come from the house and Anita and St. John rush to the family. Jeff Quinlan is gone, taken by the vampires. His father tells Anita that the strange vampire with the sword had mesmerized his son, forcing him to remove his cross and taking him away.

Sheriff St. John cradles his wife's body in his arms, singing to her softly after killing the female vampire that had killed her. Anita had told St. John that some might be killed in the vampire hunt, and the sheriff had accepted this, knowing it was his job to protect the public. It had not occurred to the man that his young wife might be a victim.



# Chapters 16-20

## Chapters 16-20 Summary

In chapter 16, Anita meets with Sergeant Freemont at the Quinlan home. Freemont is not happy that Anita did not call her. Anita assumed that calling the state police would have notified Freemont as she was investigating a vampire kill so close by. It is clear by Freemont's reaction that Freemont had not told her superiors that the three boys had been killed by a vampire. The sergeant tells Anita that she had not found a reason to inform them, believing that Magnus was the suspect for whom she was looking. She tried to arrest him that morning, but he used glamor to escape. Freemont wonders why the vampires came back and taken Jeff as well as Ellie. Anita has no idea. Two federal agents arrive, Agents Bradford and Elwood. Sergeant Freemont is quick to point out that if Anita had called her, the tragedies at the Quinlan's might have ended with Ellie. Anita is not willing to stoop to the blame game and waits outside for her turn for an interview.

Agent Bradford asks Anita if it is true that the master of the city might be of help and how to get in touch with the lead vampire. Anita thinks she might be able to help but refuses to say how. Outside she calls Jean Claude, the Master of St. Louis. Jean Claude agrees to fly down that night and help her free Jeff Quinlan if possible. After Anita explains the murder of the three young men and the strange vampire that had been in the Quinlan house, Jean Claude seems to know to whom she is referring.

In chapter 17, Larry and Anita head to the cemetery to meet with Stirling and his associates. Stirling is not happy about the wait and Anita is less than gracious. When Larry questions her behavior, Anita tells him about her worries over Jeff Quinlan. Larry is disgusted at the thought of Jeff being in the hands of a pedophile vampire. The two agree that all they can do is their jobs and concentrate on the cemetery. Anita draws herself together and tries to read the ground. Her power, combined with Larry's draws several ghosts from the ground. Their power is very strong. Before more can happen, Magnus shows up and begs Anita to stop. Stirling orders Beau, the foreman to shoot Magnus. Beau refuses. Anita and Larry have guns as well and Stirling backs down but is very angry. The party heads down hill while Anita speaks briefly with Magnus. Magnus refuses to answer why he does not want her to raise the dead, instead escaping while Anita and Larry fire at him. Anita realizes there is something more going on than a battle for the hilltop for a resort.

In chapter 18, Larry and Anita drive to the hotel to pack. Having not done Stirling's bidding, Anita assumes that they will be thrown out of the paid accommodations. In her room Anita is startled to find Jean Claude. Anita is not happy that they must wait until tomorrow night to meet the Master of Branson, but the sun is rising and Jean Claude, being a vampire, must sleep. As Anita explains that they might have to change hotels due to her refusal to let Stirling have Magnus killed, Lionel Bayard arrives, apologizing for the way the evening went and offers a bonus if Anita continues working for Stirling. Anita refuses the bonus and wonders aloud why the dead in the cemetery are 100 years



older than Bayard had told Bert at the outset. Bayard tells Anita that it was simply an error.

Larry is upset about having to leave Jeff with the vampires but understands when Anita reminds him dawn is coming quickly. Jean Claude tells Larry that Xavier must sleep as well. Larry answers a knock on the door and Jason, a werewolf, enters. Jason is Jean Claude's "pet." Larry and Jason leave to fetch the luggage and Jean Claude's coffin. Anita sets her bed up on the couch, relinquishing the bedroom to the vampire so he can sleep safely during the daylight hours.

In chapter 19, Jason and Larry return with food and the luggage. The coffin has disappeared. Anita believes that the Master of Branson is showing a sign of strength by keeping Jean Claude's coffin. Anita, Larry and Jason sit around the food and Jason teases Anita. When she takes exception to the teasing, Jason reminds her that Richard and Jean Claude tease her, but Anita reminds Jason that she is dating them and he is not scary enough. Jason immediately begins to transform, acting more like a werewolf. Larry draws his gun and Anita grabs hers; Jason calms himself. Announcing that he had to try but that Anita is his dominant, Larry questions this as he is the one who had pulled his weapon first. Jason and Anita try to explain as best they can, but Larry does not seem to be afraid. At this point, Anita decides Larry will have to attend the meeting with the Master of Branson. He shows no fear, and Anita has been protecting him too long. Anita tells Larry that Jason will share her room, which Larry takes as a personal attack and he leaves angrily. Jason sleeps with Jean Claude, stating that sometimes he likes a morning snack.

In chapter 20, Anita calls Agent Bradford and gives him the name of Xavier. Bradford makes it clear that hearing from Anita does not please him. Bradford asks Anita how she got the information but she does tell him. The two bicker but Anita wins out. Bradford wants information about the private plane that had arrived that evening, but Anita plays dumb, promising that there is no coffin in her room. Bradford is not happy about Anita's involvement but tells Anita he does not believe anything Sergeant Freemont told him. Anita has to be satisfied that Bradford will not shut her out if a vampire is found and so Anita goes to sleep.

## Chapters 16-20 Analysis

Anita meets with Sergeant Freemont after the catastrophe at the Quinlan house. The vampires had been able to enter through the dog's door, the one entrance not guarded by a communion host. Anita would have thought to cover the dog's entrance, but the Quinlan's had not. This thought nags at Anita and is evident when she discusses things with Jean Claude.

Freemont shows her true colors again when speaking with Anita. It seems Freemont wants to make a name for herself and is willing to sacrifice anyone to get it. This is evident when the agents from the FBI show up on scene. Freemont tries to mislead the agents into believing Anita is at fault for the entire episode. Unlike Freemont, Anita is



more than willing to take her share of responsibility when it comes to the missing boy, Jeff Quinlan. At this point, all Anita wants is to save the boy.

When Anita calls Jean Claude to gather information about the local master vampire, Jean Claude is quite interested in the murder that took place beforehand. Jean Claude tells Anita he might know of a vampire that has an interest in young boys. Anita asks Jean Claude to come to her aide and help with the local Master Vampire of Branson. Jean Claude agrees, though he warns Anita it might be considered an act of aggression. This will become important later in the novel.

Finally meeting with Stirling at the mountain, Anita and Larry walk the cemetery that had been destroyed by the heavy equipment. The souls Anita senses are at least 100 years older than she had been told. The walk through is interrupted by the arrival of Mangus Bouvier, begging Anita not to continue. Anita is intrigued but has no time to investigate further, as Stirling orders Beau, the foreman to shoot Mangus. Anita and Larry are both armed and are able to prevent bloodshed, but Stirling is not happy. Anita realizes that Stirling has been trying to get Mangus on the land so he can shoot him for trespassing. There is obviously something going on beyond the land dispute.

Arriving at her hotel, Anita is stunned to find Jean Claude and not happy that the group needs to wait until the following night before meeting the Master of Branson, though with daylight fast approaching, there is no other option. Jason arrives and he and Larry go fetch the luggage. Jean Claude reveals Xavier's name but no further information to Anita. When Larry and Jason return, Jean Claude has already closed himself in Anita's room to keep himself safe from the dark. The news that the coffin is missing is a clue as to the type of vampire they will be dealing with in Branson. To steal the security of another Master is a show of force.

Larry gets angry at Anita for protecting him and Anita realizes that Larry is right. He will never learn to respect the monsters they deal with if he does not understand of what they are capable. Though Anita does not want Larry to become jaded, she knows he could die if she keeps shielding him from the worst of the monsters, vampire or werewolf.



# Chapters 21-25

## Chapters 21-25 Summary

In chapter 21, Anita is awakened by an angry Dorcas Bouvier, looking for Magnus. Charging to the bedroom, Dorrie is startled to find Jean Claude and Jason. Anita explains to Dorrie that the police would have simply questioned Magnus if he had not used glamor on them and run. Dorrie can not understand why her brother ran, as he would not have killed the boys. Something else is up. Dorrie asks Anita if Magnus told her their family history. Explaining, Dorrie tells how Llyn Bouvier came to the area and married into the local tribe. When he came to this country he brought another fey creature with him, Rawhead and Bloody Bones. Anita is shocked, as Bloody Bones is a creature from nursery rhymes. Dorrie tells her that the creature is real. Llyn had made a deal with the creature, to draw its blood and make a potion to give Bouvier more power. The other fey had driven him out, and he had realized the error of his ways and stopped drawing the creature's blood, locking it away to keep those in the area safe. The offspring of Llyn Bouvier had retained the added abilities for which Bouvier had bartered.

Anita wants to see where the creature is contained to be sure it is safely locked away. Dorcas agrees to take Anita and Larry to the secret area the following day.

In chapter 22, Anita spends the day waiting for night to fall and meet with the Master of Branson. Dolph is the only law enforcement person who will speak to her regarding the current situation. There has been no sign of Jeff Quinlan, or his sister, Ellie.

Jean Claude wakes up and speaks to Anita regarding the meeting that evening with Serephina. Anita wonders if Jean Claude is in danger, and the vampire tells Anita that Serephina has the right to challenge them because he has entered her territory. Jean Claude is not particularly worried, however, because vampires reach their maximum power within the first three centuries of existence, and he has known Serephina a very long time.

The group prepares for the evening, dressing carefully in order to impress the Master of Branson. There is a protocol that must be maintained, and respectful presentation is important. When all are dressed, Larry, Anita, Jean Claude and Jason go to meet with Serephina.

In chapter 23, Anita drives deep into the woods to a house that looks deserted. Jean Claude informs Anita that the Master has created the feeling of abandonment to discourage anyone from coming near. Some of the older vampires do not like the law that has made vampires valid citizens; they prefer the old ways.

In chapter 24, the door opens on a young female vampire who introduces herself as Ivy. Ivy addresses Jean Claude and becomes angry when he shows a bit of his power. The





female is a Master, but a young one, and she grows angrier still when Jean Claude captures her with his eyes, mesmerizing her. Jean Claude orders her to bring them to Serephina.

Another vampire arrives, Bruce, a young man. Bruce is much more cautious near Jean Claude. Ivy directs the group to a stairway and requests that Anita walk beside her. Ladies first, and if Anita is not a lady, then she would be in danger. At the bottom of the stairs, Ivy grabs Anita, but Jean Claude reminds Ivy that if she harms Anita the truce is broken. A door opens and a very tall, grotesque vampire enters, Janos. Jean Claude expresses some surprise that Janos is with Serephina, as he is more powerful. Janos gestures to the torture chamber they are standing in, indicating that Serephina has provided it for loyal service.

In chapter 25, two human girls are brought in and chained to the wall. Janos tells Jean Claude and Anita that the girls will provide entertainment. Two female vampires retrieve whips and prepare to whip the girls. Janos tells Anita that Larry and Jason can stand in for the girls. Larry and Jason agree. Janos tells Jason that he must have sex with the two females. Jason is surprised that the two attractive vampires are punishment. As the three begin to fondle each other, the female vampires begin to rot, skin slipping from their bones, and trailing green liquid over Jason. The werewolf is horrified. Anita asks Jean Claude to help Jason. Jean Claude agrees to try and speaks to Anita in her head. Unsure how long he can keep Janos at bay, Anita must get one of the opposite group to break the truce, so they can safely fight. Jean Claude openly challenges Janos, and Anita approaches Ivy, challenging her as well. Goading the female, Anita angers her to the point where Ivy strikes out at her, effectively breaking the truce.

## Chapters 21-25 Analysis

Dorcas arrives at Anita's hotel room, angry that her brother has disappeared, believing him to be with Anita. Dorcas, or Dorrie, has a vision that Anita and Magnus had been together the night before. Dorcas is looking for her brother, as he has been missing since running from the police. Dorrie is disturbed that Anita has given her brother's name to the police as a suspect in the murder of the young boys. Anita agrees, which shocks Dorrie a bit. Both women agree that Magnus must be running for some other reason. This is an important fact. Magnus is running for several reasons.

Dorrie provides Anita with the information about Rawhead and Bloody Bones, the fabled creature that her ancestor brought to the area. The creature is now locked away, supposedly safe, but Anita wants to be sure this is true. Dorrie stated that the creature is larger than a giant, and the one time it had escaped it had killed nearly everyone.

Several facts about vampires are revealed by Jean Claude which help the reader better understand the way things work for them. Jean Claude speaks of a council which governed the vampires through the centuries. Though there are many guidelines that should be followed as a matter of protocol, the one main rule was to not be discovered. Now that vampires are considered legal citizens, most function daily as normally as



possible. Serephina's home base, hidden deep in the woods outside Branson, gives one a better idea of her character. The Master of Branson does not want to integrate into society; she prefers things the way they were with vampires as mysterious monsters.

The group also must dress for the occasion. Jean Claude makes it clear that the meeting with Serephina should follow some protocol, as he is visiting master in her city. Anita is a bit worried that Jean Claude might be in danger because of his trespass into Branson, but he does not seem to be worried. Having known Serephina for centuries Jean Claude is aware of her level of power. This turns out to be an underestimation on Jean Claude's part, and they discover that the danger is very real, not just from Serephina, but from the other vampires with which she has surrounded herself.

The two girls that are brought into the torture chamber are a direct taunt for Anita. As a licensed vampire executioner, Blake is well known in the vampire world. Janos knows that Anita will not allow the girls to be harmed and torturing them would cause Anita to break the truce. When Larry and Jason offer themselves in the place of the two girls, Anita is not happy but concedes they might have won the rounds. The two rotting vampires that try to make love to Jason change that. The werewolf is obviously near hysterics, no longer the macho shapeshifter that he appears to be. Jean Claude challenges Janos in order to help the vampire, but without Anita's help there is little he will be able to do. Anita wisely confronts Ivy, as the young master vampire seems to have issues with self control. Mocking Ivy for not being able to hypnotize her with her gaze, Anita causes Ivy to strike out, thereby breaking the truce and enabling the group to fight back.



# Chapters 26-30

## Chapters 26-30 Summary

In chapter 26, Anita struggles to her feet and begins to battle. Jean Claude is quickly overcome by Janos. Larry fights while trying to protect the girls from harm as well. After a hard fight, Anita struggles to Jean Claude's side where he lies on the floor, very still. Afraid that he is truly dead, Anita sees no alternative but to give the vampire blood. Blake slits her wrist and holds it to Jean Claude's mouth and he begins to drink, draining blood from her quickly. Larry announces someone at the stairs and Jean Claude is finally aware enough to let Anita go. Jason takes her place and offers more blood. A flag of truce is waved from the stairway and Magnus descends. He offers his blood to Jean Claude as well, but the vampire declines. Magnus extends Serephina's apologies, telling the group that they are aware that Ivy broke the truce. Anita wants the girls to go free, and Magnus asks if that would be apology enough from Serephina. Anita agrees, and the group climbs the stairs to meet the Master of Branson.

In chapter 27, Anita senses ghosts as they near the door. Jean Claude tells her that Serephina can call ghosts, one of her talents, like weaving shadows. The ghosts swarm Anita and her group, but they push through. Serephina waits and greets them. The vampire sits on her throne with Magnus at her feet. Janos enters and dumps Jean Claude's splintered casket at his feet. Jean Claude tells Serephina that Xavier is in the area killing humans, and as Branson is her area, she must stop him. Serephina does not care, even when she learns that vampires must keep to human laws. When Anita expresses disgust at the vampire's attitude, Serephina turns her attention to Blake. Striking out at Anita and cutting her as Janos did, Anita gasps and looks up at the vampire, becoming mesmerized by her. Anita immediately feels as if Serephina will love and protect her forever. Anita is almost taken in but breaks free of the spell upon her. Angry, Anita tells Serephina if she will not stop Xavier she will get a warrant of execution her. Serephina lashes out again, but this time slices Ivy, who screams as she bleeds. Serephina once again draws Anita to her eyes, now the eyes of Anita's dead mother. Struggling mightily, Anita breaks free of the vampire's power again. Impressed that Anita has broken her power twice in one night, Serephina lets the group go, telling Anita that she will help find the boy Anita seeks. Knowing that if Serephina chose, she could keep them with her, Anita gratefully leaves.

In chapter 28, Anita returns to the hotel and recaps the night with Larry, Jean Claude and Jason. Anita tries but can not explain to Larry why she saves Jean Claude when she tells Larry that vampires are monsters. Larry wants to know how Anita can stand to date Jean Claude, believing that he is a monster. Blake has no explanation, other than she feels that she is a monster herself at times. Jean Claude thanks Anita for saving his life, knowing that she could have been rid of him had she let him die. Jean Claude tells Anita that he is unsure how Serephina became so strong, and that he is very surprised she let them go.



In chapter 29, Jean Claude bathes. Larry and Jason are out getting food and the vampire provides some information for Anita, uncharacteristically. The Master of St. Louis had been a whipping boy when he was human, centuries ago. The constant playmate of an entitled youth, Jean Claude had been whipped rather than the wealthy lad, sparing the only heir to family fortune. Turned into a vampire for his beauty and passed around to other vampires as a possession, Jean Claude had been given to Serephina as a gift by another vampire, and she had offered him the gift of power to be free of the other vampires. Jean Claude had not realized that one is born with the power to be a Master, the power can not be given to you.

In chapter 30, Jean Claude and Anita kiss and head for more until Jean Claude accidentally nicks Anita's tongue, drawing blood. Anita asks him to get dressed but the vampire is pleased that Blake has finally given in to her desire, even if only for a moment. Jean Claude asks Anita to talk to him as the sun rises, and she senses the fear in his voice. Unsure of what will happen when the sun comes up, Anita watches the vampire at his invitation. Anita is shocked when Jean Claude tells her that it hurts, and she watches him seem to die. Anita watches Jean Claude carefully, wondering if she had really felt a soul leave Jean Claude's body, or if she imagined it.

## Chapters 26-30 Analysis

Anita and Jean Claude are both stunned by the strength that Serephina seems to have. Anita can sense that the vampire is no more than six hundred years old but seems much stronger. Jean Claude has explained that a master vampire reaches their maximum potential after a few hundred years, but Serephina seems to have grown stronger. Despite Serephina's strength, she has surrounded herself with others that are strong as well. One is left to wonder if the Master of Branson keeps these vampires around her for protection or to prove her worth.

The fact that Serephina is able to make Anita believe that she is seeing her mother in her eyes is important and will cause more problems for Anita later in the novel. Anita is able to exhibit her own strength and seems to impress Serephina, who allows the group to leave after the first confrontation. Serephina seems to be toying with the group, specifically with Anita.

Magnus's presence is a puzzle to Anita. Though she does not like the fairie, Anita has trouble understanding why he would allow himself to be used by the master, or why Serephina wants him, for surely she wants him for something.

Anita's relationship with Jean Claude moves forward when she is forced to give him her blood to revive him. Though Anita has wished many times to be free from the vampire, seeing him lifeless causes inner conflict and Blake realizes she is not willing to let him go. When Larry asks how Anita can possibly date a vampire when she calls them monsters, Anita explains it simply: she is a monster as well. The life she leads, executing vampires and raising zombies, has made her different from others, perhaps too different to fit in with normal people again.



Anita knows that she is attracted to Jean Claude but has never admitted it to herself fully, finally giving in to her lust for him after his bath. Only when Jean Claude accidentally draws blood does Anita stop what surely would have resulted in sex. Thankful for stopping when she did, Anita is also disappointed in herself, though she will not admit it. When Jean Claude shares the story of his youth and then allows Anita to see him as the sun rises, exposing his vulnerabilities, Anita can not reconcile the "life" Jean Claude seems to have, that she senses leave him as the sun rises behind the curtains.



# Chapters 31-36

## Chapters 31-36 Summary

In chapter 31, Anita wakes up from a disturbing dream of her mother. Upon awakening, Anita still smells the perfume her mother wore, Hypnotique. Disturbingly, Larry smells it as well. It seems Serephina has invaded Anita's dreams. Larry and Anita discuss their upcoming meeting with Dorcas, and Anita wonders why Stirling wants to kill Magnus. The Fairie is not the only Bouvier wishing to stop the development; killing Magnus would not solve Stirling's legal problems. Larry is confused about Serephina's reasoning for helping get back Jeff Quinlan. Anita explains that Xavier has challenged her authority by killing in her territory. Despite all that has happened, Anita can see no reason to alert the authorities to Serephina's whereabouts. They have no reason to arrest the Master.

In chapter 32, Anita and Larry meet Dorcas at the restaurant. Magnus is not with her, and Dorcas tells Anita that she will not turn her brother over to the authorities. Anita and Larry follow Dorcas through the woods to the mound where Rawhead and Bloody Bones is imprisoned. Dorcas becomes enraged when she sees her brother rise from the flowers on the mound, blood around his mouth. Magnus has been drinking the beast's blood to gain its power. Serephina can call Magnus because he has been drinking the blood. The vampire drinks from Magnus so she can fight for immortality. Dorcas is disgusted, angry that her brother is doing the same thing that caused the Bouvier family to have to guard Bloody Bones for so many years. Anita tells Magnus that she will not raise the dead for Stirling, so that Bloody Bones will remain imprisoned. Magnus suggests that Anita only raise a few of the dead, keeping the beast imprisoned, but proving the land belongs to Bouvier's. Anita agrees.

In chapter 33, Anita and Larry meet Stirling on the mountaintop with Lionel Bayard and Ms. Hamilton. Stirling urges Anita to get on with things; he wants things wrapped up. Anita sacrifices a goat with Larry and the two perform the ritual to raise the dead. Anita explains how to combine power to Larry and walks him through the ritual. Anita can feel the power of the land she stands on, with the centuries-old dead that have been buried on this hill to keep Rawhead and Bloody Bones imprisoned. The beast urges Anita from its resting place to complete a circle of blood and free it. Anita struggles internally against Bloody Bones, and Larry can sense her turmoil. Anita looks up and sees Ivy. Refusing to close the circle, even to keep herself and Larry safe, Anita reaches for her gun as Ivy leaps, knocking the gun from Anita's hand.

In chapter 34, Larry is unable to get a clear shot at Ivy, who tells him to drop his weapon or she will kill Anita. Anita rolls with the vampire and is able to free her cross, blinding the vampire. Ivy retreats, but Anita and Larry are unable to find their guns in the dark. Anita retrieves her machete and strikes at Ivy. She is able to kill the vampire, but Ivy's blood closes the circle, causing the magic that Anita and Larry had created to raise the dead. The power is overwhelming and Anita can do nothing to stop it. Blake can feel the moment when Rawhead and Bloody Bones breaks free of its prison. Drawing on the



power around her, Anita raises the dead, asking them to identify themselves. Most of them are Bouvier's. Stirling pulls a gun, ready to kill Anita and Larry, rather than lose his investment. Stirling tells Anita that Rawhead and Bloody Bones had come to him in a dream, promising him the land if it were free. Stirling intends to kill Magnus and his sister, keeping his promise to the beast. Harrison and Bayard have guns as well, and they will do as their boss tells them to, though Bayard is not as pleased with this as Harrison seems to be. Anita orders the zombies to move in front of her and Larry as Stirling orders the others to start shooting. Bayard expresses his worry and Stirling shoots him. Stirling and Harrison advance and Anita orders the zombies to kill Harrison. They calmly attack Harrison, and Larry begs Anita to make them stop. She does so, but Stirling has circled around them with his gun. Stirling tells Larry to put the zombies in their graves, and as Larry crawls away, Anita takes the chance and attacks Stirling. Larry is able to find a gun and Anita breaks Stirling's arm to get his gun from him. The man lies on the ground wounded; Harrison is on the ground as well. Bayard is dead. Anita orders the zombies to the ground and they go. While Anita tries to control the urge to kill Stirling and Harrison, Janos arrives, announcing that the vampires have Jeff Quinlan.

In chapter 35, Kissa walks up with Jeff Quinlan. Stirling begs Janos to help him, telling the vampire that Anita attacked them. Janos informs Stirling that he had witnessed the scene and knows Stirling is lying. The vampire tells Stirling that Serephina had allowed Bloody Bones to visit his dreams so Stirling could arrange for Anita to free the beast. Anita wonders why and Janos tells her that Serephina wants to drink the blood of the beast so she will be truly immortal. Anita and Larry are ordered to drop their weapons or Kissa will kill Jeff. Anita is not happy about being disarmed twice in one night but does as she is told.

In chapter 36, Xavier walks out of the trees with the two female rotting vampires. Janos tells Anita that Anita will come with him to the party that Serephina has planned. Anita declines but is informed that she has no choice. Xavier has been part of Serephina's group all along, making more vampires for the master to control. The group surrounds Stirling as Ellie Quinlan crawls into view, starving for blood. Stirling begs Anita to help him and though she would be happy to see him die, Larry will not allow it, and the two draw their crosses from inside their shirts. The vampires retreat, but Kissa has a gun and threatens to shoot. Anita and Larry are forced to remove their crosses, and the group begins to close in again. Ellie Quinlan feeds with Xavier from Harrison, while the females descend on Stirling. Anita makes them mesmerize him, so she does not have to see his terror. Harrison and Stirling are killed while Anita and Larry are forced to watch, unable to stop them.

## Chapters 31-36 Analysis

The realization that Serephina can enter her dreams is disturbing to Anita. Jean Claude is able to do so, but Anita carries his mark. Larry is worried Serephina has marked Anita in some way, but Blake is not sure if this is so. The fact that Larry can also smell the perfume that Anita had smelled in her dream means that the Master of Branson is very



powerful indeed. Anita wishes to kill Serephina, but Larry is still young and has not become disillusioned with things as Anita has. Larry believes the law must be upheld. Anita knows Serephina has an enormous amount of power and can not be underestimated. Jean Claude had underestimated her believing that they were of equal power. The fact that there are so many master vampires around Serephina give the reader insight into how powerful Serephina actually is.

The meeting between Dorcas, Anita and Larry brings the beast Rawhead and Bloody Bones into focus. Magnus, as a member of the Bouvier family, is supposed to keep the creature locked away so that it can kill no more. Magnus has been drinking the blood of the creature instead, seeking power. One of the things that Magnus shares with Bloody Bones is its immortality, which is why Serephina calls Magnus. The Master of Branson wants to be immortal as well and believes that drinking the fairie's blood will make her so. The vampire promised to free Magnus of his duties as guardian of the creature and allow him to retain the power he has. Anita knows Serephina lied to Magnus, but he is now bound to Serephina, unable to break his ties. Magnus informs Anita that Serephina fears Anita. This is news to Anita, as Serephina showed no fear; instead she demonstrated that Anita and her friends were in great danger.

Anita agrees to raise a few of the dead for Stirling after speaking with Magnus. To raise more would let Bloody Bones loose. Magnus believes that if Anita only raises a few, Stirling will be satisfied that the land belongs to the Bouvier family. When Anita and Larry start the ritual, Anita is able to feel the power of the dead that are buried on the hill, dead that have been laid to rest in this location in order to keep Bloody Bones in his prison. Anita fights the power that pulls her to complete the ritual, realizing that the power on the hilltop is too strong and Bloody Bones will be let loose. The arrival of Ivy, orchestrated by Serephina, closes the circle of blood, and enacting the spell to raise the dead. Serephina sent Ivy for this purpose, but Anita does not discover this until Janos arrives. Stirling does not care that the dead are Bouvier's. Rawhead and Bloody Bones had appeared to him in his dreams, promising him the land and everything he desires. Anita is disgusted by Stirling and his greed and lack of respect for life. This is ironic, as Anita does not care if Stirling dies. Only Larry's conscious makes Anita act to save the developer. Anita struggles internally quite a bit over her lack of remorse, or concern for others. This seems to go back to her belief that everyone is a monster to some degree. Stirling is a bigger monster than she is, as he is evil, so Anita can reconcile his death in her head. Larry can not, though Anita knows that sooner or later, Larry will grow jaded as well.

The reader learns that Xavier has been acting with the knowledge of Serephina all along, allowing the vampire to kill within her territory. Janos explains this, telling Anita that Serephina was "recruiting." Stunned, Anita realizes that things are much worse than she had originally thought. Serephina had allowed them to believe she would help the group save Jeff Quinlan. In reality she had known where the boy was all along.





# Chapters 37-41

## Chapters 37-41 Summary

In chapter 37 Jean Claude arrives, startling Janos. Jean Claude refused Serephina's personal invitation. Janos decides not to argue the point as long as Jean Claude and the others will attend the "party" willingly. Janos and his group fly, stunning Larry. Jeff Quinlan is taken with them. Anita and the others walk back to the jeep where Jean Claude has left clothes for Larry and Anita. They change and Anita arms herself with knives and guns. Jean Claude watches, seemingly amused. They pile in the jeep and head to Serephina's. Anita tells Jean Claude about Rawhead and Bloody Bones and Serephina's plans. Jean Claude tells Anita that Serephina lusts for power and wonders how the vampire has gotten as powerful as she is. Janos is very powerful but has chosen to follow Serephina. Somehow, somehow, the Master of Branson has found a way to become master to many. Jean Claude tells Anita that unless they can find some way to defeat Serephina, they are all doomed.

In chapter 38, the group arrives at the home where Serephina stays. Jean Claude tells Serephina to give them Jeff and they will leave in peace. Serephina laughs and turns her eyes to Anita, calling her by the pet name her mother had used. Jean Claude asks Serephina what she wants. The Master of Branson tells the group that she will own them all, as well as Jean Claude's businesses and possessions. Serephina does not approve of vampires living among humans and plans on retaining control until things return to normal. Striking out, Serephina slashes Jean Claude's face, spraying blood on Anita. Jean Claude urges Serephina to stop playing games and she challenges him. Anita can feel his power spread outward. Serephina rises in the air, and Jean Claude urges Anita to draw her cross. She does, as does Larry. Magnus moves forward, but Serephina stops him and calls out. Rawhead and Bloody Bones emerges from the basement. Serephina moves to feed from the creature, but with Jean Claude's encouragement, Anita shoots at her. Janos steps in the way to save his master. Anita shoots at the creature as Serephina feeds from his wrist. Bloody Bones tells Serephina to free him as agreed and she refuses. Anita tosses salt on the creature, freeing it temporarily from the power binding it to the vampire. Grabbing a sword seemingly from the air, Bloody Bones impales Serephina to the wall, slicing at her. Turning the sword on Magnus, the creature impales him as well. Before he can deliver the killing blow, Anita asks if he is responsible for the deaths in the area. Bloody Bones admits it, simply stating that killing children is what it does. Anita shoots it as many times as possible, but it keeps coming. Xavier leaps in front of the creatures and uses his sword to injure it as well. Anita and Larry fire into Bloody Bones, finally killing it. Xavier tells Anita that Jeff Quinlan is in the basement as well. Anita discovers that Xavier had bespelled her briefly and those around her are in danger. Larry is tied to the throne; Jean Claude is under many vampires; Jason is gravely injured. Janos tells Anita that Serephina will have her since she has destroyed Bloody Bones. Anita turns herself over to Serephina to save Larry. Jean Claude looks on, devastated. Anita remembers nothing else as Serephina uses her magic to entrance her, making Anita see her mother in her eyes.



In chapter 39, Anita awakens in a coffin with Serephina. Struggling, Anita is able to lift the lid of the coffin and free herself, finding out that she is inside the restaurant, Bloody Bones. Magnus is there, guarding in case Anita were to awaken during the day. Janos and the female vampires are sleeping on the floor. Magnus tells Anita that Xavier and Jeff are in the other coffin. Running, Anita makes it outside, but Magnus overtakes her and carries her back to the bar. The two struggle over a knife, and Magnus wins. Attempting to lock Anita in the coffin with Serephina, Blake's blood falls on Ellie. Anita senses the power and calls Ellie to life, telling her to seize Magnus, which she does. Anita runs from the building, as does Magnus dragging Ellie with him after her. Ellie is engulfed in flames when the sun hits her and she melts into Magnus, setting him on fire as well. Anita can sense Serephina calling to her and she struggles to flee.

In chapter 40, Anita flags down a ride and calls the police. Agent Bradford tells Anita that Larry had brought the police back to Serephina's home after the vampires had taken her. The police had found dozens of bodies buried in her basement. Anita tells Bradford they need to burn the bar, anyone who is not a vampire will come out.

Anita calls Larry and tells him to bring her clothes and her weapons. Larry tells her that Jean Claude and Jason are alive and agrees to bring what she needs.

Within a few hours Anita is back at Bloody Bones with Larry and the police. A gas truck sprays the building with gasoline, but Anita can sense Serephina inside. Blake shouts to Larry to disarm her, as Serephina can still control her thoughts. Anita tells Bradford to cuff her and put her in a police car, but she struggles with them when they do so. Anita can sense Serephina's fear inside the building. When the flame is lit, Anita beats at the glass of the car until she breaks it, struggling free and runs to the building. She cries out for her mother as many hands stop her from rushing into the flames; they finally medicate her, knocking her unconscious.

In chapter 41 Anita spends a few days in the hospital, recovering. Anita learns that Stirling's company finally purchased the land from Dorcas Bouvier. With Bloody Bones dead, Dorcas is free of the family curse. Serephina is also dead, but Anita suffers from nightmares still. Anita is not sure what to do about her personal life and the two men in it. Richard makes her feel safer than she has since she was a child. Jean Claude does not make her feel safe at all. Anita knows Jean Claude is no longer a monster to her, and that thought worries her most of all.

## Chapters 37-41 Analysis

The novel moves at a much faster pace as the final confrontations between Anita and Serephina arrive. Jean Claude arrives at the mountaintop with Jason, startling Janos and his vampires. Janos is curious as to how Jean Claude could refuse Serephina. When Anita is alone with her friends, Jean Claude explains to her that he was forced to flee from Serephina, and that the Master of Branson is much more powerful than he had imagined. The news that Jean Claude does not believe Serephina can be defeated without intervention does not please Anita. Jean Claude has always been very careful to



stay within the guidelines of the council. That he would be willing to step outside the guidelines is a bit unnerving.

Serephina reveals her goals to Anita and Jean Claude. Xavier has been working with her all along, and the master had always known the location of Jeff Quinlan. Serephina has nothing but contempt for the vampire council and the fact that they have decided vampires should live among humans. Serephina longs for the days when vampires lived in shadows and darkness and plans to increase her underlings until that day comes again. The master plans to have Anita as well as Larry, considers keeping Jason as a wolf, and putting Jean Claude back into the position of servant to all.

The creature, Rawhead and Bloody Bones arrives, monstrous in size and strength. Serephina intends to drink from it, and Jean Claude urges Anita to do something. Shooting the creature, Anita is surprised to find that it seems to have some rational thought, telling her not to create a problem where there is none. When Bloody Bones discovers Serephina never intended to free it as she promised, it attacks her, wielding a sword with such speed, it is frightening. The actions remind Anita of the murders in the area. The beast confirms that he is the killer, simply doing what it was made to do, punish bad children. Anita has no choice but to kill the creature and she and Larry try to, getting unexpected help from Xavier who is trying to save his master. When the creature is dead Anita speaks briefly with Xavier who uses the time to mesmerize her. Under the vampire's spell, Anita's friends are quickly overcome, and she is forced to sacrifice herself to save Larry.

Waking in the vampire's coffin, Anita does whatever she can to get free, including battling Magnus with a knife. The blood that falls on Ellie Quinlan awakens the power within Anita, and she is able to raise the vampire as a zombie. Using Ellie, Anita is able to escape the bar and get to safety. The police finally believe her and she is able to tell them how to kill Serephina. Jean Claude told her many times that fire was the only sure way, so fire is the plan. Anita will not go near the interior of the bar, knowing Serephina will call to her. Even outside, however, the vampire is able to call to her. The internal struggle Anita goes through, trying to keep herself from saving the vampire is a classic struggle between good and evil. Anita is able to win the battle but only with the help of her friends. Though Anita is a loner, she is unable to defeat evil alone.

The aftermath of the battle is still overwhelming to Blake. She is dating two men, also a representation of good versus evil. Richard is alive, though a werewolf. Jean Claude is dead and a vampire. Anita has learned in the past few days, however, that vampires come in all shapes and sizes and Jean Claude can no longer be classified so simply.

The reader is left to wonder if Anita will make a choice between the two men, or perhaps, these men are two halves of a whole, and Blake needs both of them

# Characters

## Anita Blake

Anita Blake is the main character in the novel *BLOODY BONES*, by Laurel K. Hamilton. Anita is a necromancer, or someone who is able to raise the dead, as well as a licensed vampire executioner. Anita is a strong woman, though small in size, with a deep sense of justice and honesty. Hired by Raymond Stirling to raise the dead in a cemetery to prove ownership of the land, Anita becomes entangled in a series of events that force her to draw on her inner strength to persevere.

While on the scene in Branson Anita is called in to investigate a possible case of a vampire serial killer. The deaths lead Anita into a situation that puts her life as well as her soul into jeopardy. Blake is forced to call Jean Claude, the Master of the City of St. Louis for help in dealing with Serephina, the master vampire in Branson. Serephina is able to enter Anita's dreams and tap into her thoughts, using the memories of Anita's dead mother to try and control her. Through her inner strength and fortitude Anita is able to win the battle for her soul, but in the process loses something of herself as well.

Through each battle Anita proves her strength of character and personal convictions, fighting the battle of good vs. evil continually. Anita represents good in the novel but is in a unique position, as she allies herself with those she considers monsters, forced to choose between the lesser of two evils.

## Jean Claude

Jean Claude is the Master of the City of Branson, which means he is the vampire in charge of the area. Jean Claude believes himself to be in love with Anita Blake, the main character of the novel. A vampire for centuries, Jean Claude had at one time been the whipping boy for a young wealthy boy. Chosen as the playmate of the young man because of his beauty, Jean Claude would be whipped in place of the only child of a wealthy family. Freed from this fate and cast into another, Jean Claude was made a vampire, only to be passed among vampires as a possession because of his fair face. Ironically, Jean Claude was freed of this fate by Serephina, who promised him power. The truth, however, is that Jean Claude had been born to power, and he had served Serephina for nothing.

In helping Anita deal with the evil deeds of Serephina, Jean Claude disproves Anita's belief that all vampires are monsters. Though he is dead, Jean Claude shows that he is inherently good, unlike Serephina. While Jean Claude can be cruel if the need arises, he is not cruel simply for cruelty's sake. Fighting alongside Anita to save the young Jeff Quinlan, Jean Claude puts himself in harms way, simply because Anita asked him to do so. Willing to do whatever it takes to help Anita, Jean Claude shows the reader that even monsters can not be judged as a group but must be seen individually.



## Serephina

The Master of the City of Branson Missouri, Serephina is an evil vampire, many centuries old. Serephina longs for power and immortality and will stop at nothing to get it. Using the powers of the vampires around her and drawing on the blood of other creatures such as the fairie, Magnus Bouvier, Serephina uses everyone to her advantage. Tapping into the dreams of Raymond Stirling, Serephina convinces the developer to use Anita Blake to free the imprisoned Rawhead and Bloody Bones. Serephina hopes to control the creature, imprisoning it herself and drinking its blood to gain the beast's immortality. Serephina also wishes to become master to Anita Blake in order to control Anita's powers of necromancy and the dead.

Serephina does not agree with the vampire council's decision to live among humans legally and longs for the days where vampires moved in darkness, taking who and what they wished. Serephina longs for the time when the situation reverses itself and she can once again do what she wishes without fear of mortal law. While waiting for this time, Serephina surrounds herself with other master vampires, building an army of strength, making herself extremely hard to destroy.

Serephina's greed is also her undoing. Unwilling to operate within the law, allowing those who reside in her territory to do as they wish, the vampire draws the attention of Anita Blake who is on a quest to save the life of Jeff Quinlan. A battle of wills takes place, and though Serephina uses Anita's loyalty to her friends to her advantage, in the end Anita finds the inner strength to destroy Serephina.

## Larry Kirkland

Anita Blake's apprentice, Larry Kirkland is a young man training to raise the dead. Larry also wishes to be a vampire executioner and looks to Anita as his teacher and friend. There are times when the two do not agree, but Larry tries to understand Anita as best he can. Though the two are close in age, Anita has seen and done things that Larry can only imagine. These things have altered Anita in some way, but Larry still tries to maintain a balance in his life, following the letter of the law.

While searching for Jeff Quinlan and dealing with the vampire Serephina, Larry begins to realize what Anita struggles with and grows to have a deeper understanding and respect for his mentor.

## Jason

A werewolf, Jason is a young man, and companion to Jean Claude, the vampire. Jason does Jean Claude's bidding and allows the vampire to drink his blood, as the blood of a werewolf gives a vampire more strength than that of a mere human.



Jason proves his loyalty repeatedly, sacrificing his own safety for Jean Claude and Anita while on the search for Jeff Quinlan. Injured many times, Jason is able to heal from most wounds that would be fatal to a human.

## **Magnus Bouvier**

A fairie, Magnus Bouvier owns and operates the bar Bloody Bones with his sister. Magnus is also the caretaker of the creature Rawhead and Bloody Bones. The creature had been brought to the land by a relative of Bouvier's and the family was forced to keep the creature imprisoned and act as its caretaker as penance for the actions for their fore-bearer.

Magnus longs for power and to be free of his duties as caretaker. Drinking the blood of Bloody Bones gives him powers and immortality but also leaves him open to the wills of Serephina, the master vampire in the area. Serephina promises Magnus power and to free him forever from the creature. Dealing with Serephina leads to multiple problems for Magnus, as he more or less sells his soul for his desires.

Magnus is killed trying to do the bidding of Serphina and keep Anita captive for the vampire.

## **Dorcas Bouvier**

The sister of Magnus Bouvier, Dorcas does not know that her brother has been drinking the blood of Rawhead and Bloody Bones. Dorcas, or Dorrie, leads Anita to the site where Bloody Bones is held captive, and they discover Magnus there, drinking the blood of the creature to enhance his magic and gain immortality. Dorcas is also a fairie but does not long for the powers that Magnus wants and is not corrupted by Serephina.

## **Sergeant Freemont**

The police officer investigating the mysterious murders in the area, Freemont is not willing to work with Anita on the case, hoping to solve the murders and gain the glory for herself.

## **Raymond Stirling**

A developer, Stirling wishes to build a resort on what is the family plot of the Bouvier's. Stirling hires Anita to raise the dead to prove that they are indeed Bouvier's. Stirling proves himself to be a corrupt man at the outset when he offers Anita money to lie for him. Though this is reason enough not to trust the man, it turns out that Serephina has been able to infiltrate his dreams, promising him wealth and power if he is able to free the creature Rawhead and Bloody Bones. Stirling uses Anita Blake to accomplish this but discovers he will have nothing in the end.



Raymond Stirling is murdered and used as a food source for the vampires controlled by Serephina.

## **Lionel Bayard**

An associate of Raymond Stirling, Bayard begins the novel as a loyal employee willing to do whatever Stirling asks of him. As the novel progresses this changes, and Bayard is murdered by Stirling for refusing to kill Anita and Larry after they raise the dead in the Bouvier family plot.

## **Richard Zeeman**

Anita's boyfriend, Richard is a werewolf and a teacher at the local junior high school. Richard is dating Anita and is not happy that she is dating Jean Claude as well.

## **Ms. Harrison**

The secretary of Raymond Stirling, Ms. Harrison is killed when vampires feed from her and Stirling at the Bouvier family plot. Harrison had been willing to kill for her employer and had come close to death minutes before when Anita had been forced to use the zombies to protect herself and Larry.

## **Beau**

The foreman at Stirling's development site.

## **David St. John**

The sheriff in charge of investigating the death of Ellie Quinlan.

## **Beth St. John**

The wife of David St. John, Beth is killed by the vampire, Jonas, when a group of vampires return to the home of the Quinlan's to retrieve the body of Ellie Quinlan and kidnap Jeff Quinlan.

## **Officer Zach Coltrain**

An officer at the site of the Quinlan case.



## **Ellie Quinlan**

A young woman, Ellie is killed by her former boyfriend, a new vampire. Ellie willingly invited the vampire into her room, and Anita believes that Ellie had every intention of returning as a vampire herself.

## **Jeff Quinlan Jr.**

The younger brother of Ellie Quinlan, Jeff is kidnapped by the vampires to become the plaything of Xavier, a vampire who also happens to be a pedophile. Anita struggles throughout the novel to save Jeff, but is unable to do so. Jeff dies in the blaze set at Bloody Bones that destroys Serephina and her entourage.

## **Jeff Quinlan Sr.**

The father of Ellie and Jeff Quinlan.

## **Sally Quinlan**

The mother of Ellie and Jeff Quinlan.

## **Officer Granger**

An officer on the scene the night Ellie Quinlan is murdered. Granger takes part in the hunt for the vampires and is killed.

## **Officer Wallace**

An officer on the scene the night of the Quinlan murder, Wallace has already had dealing with vampires. His former partner had been killed in an attack.

## **Agent Bradford**

The federal agent that is called in to investigate the murders in the area. Bradford does not wish to have Anita involved in the case but in the end turns to her to help kill Serephina and her entourage.

## **Agent Elwood**

Agent Bradford's partner.





## **Dolph**

A police officer in St Louis, Dolph is the commander of the Regional Preternatural Investigation Team, or RPIT. Dolph contacts Anita to investigate the murders in the Branson area.

## **Ivy**

A master vampire associated with Serephina, Ivy causes Anita and her group to win a battle against Serephina's vampires. Ivy is punished by Serephina, sacrificed at the hands of Anita to release the creature Rawhead and Bloody Bones.

## **Bruce**

A young vampire, Bruce is killed during the original confrontation between Anita and Serephina.

## **Janos**

A master vampire aligned with Serephina, Janos works with Serephina to reach her goals, using his amazing speed and strength to do her bidding.

## **Andy**

The boyfriend of Ellie Quinlan, Andy is the vampire responsible for Ellie Quinlan's murder. Andy is killed in the woods outside the Quinlan home.

## **Rawhead and Bloody Bones**

The creature held captive and watched over by the Bouvier family, Rawhead and Bloody Bones is also a creature from a fairy tale, spoken of to scare children into good behavior. Bloody Bones is held captive to keep it from killing children as it had the last time it had escaped. Serephina wishes to control the creature in order to gain its power and immortality. The creature wishes to be free of its prison in order to do what it must, kill.

Rawhead and Bloody Bones is freed inadvertently by Anita but killed by her as well when it reveals itself to be the killer sought for the murders in the area.

## **Xavier**

A vampire and a pedophile, Xavier is a master vampire working with Serephina to gain power and eventual control. Xavier is the vampire that is responsible for the death of Andy, and as a direct result, Ellie and Jeff Quinlan.



## **Objects/Places**

### **Branson**

The city in Missouri where Anita is called to raise the dead from a cemetery that has been overrun with construction equipment.

### **Bloody Bones**

The bar that is owned by Magnus Bouvier and his sister Dorcas.

### **Animators, Inc.**

The company for which Anita works. Animator's Inc. contracts Anita and others to raise the dead.

### **Beadle, Beadle, Stirling and Lowenstein**

The development firm that hires Anita to raise the dead from the cemetery on top of the mountain, hoping to prove that the Bouvier family does not own the land.

### **Monkey's Eyebrow**

The small town outside of Branson where the Qunilan family lives.

### **Glamor**

The ability that fairies have to entrance people, making them think and believe certain things.

### **Daoine Sidhe**

High court of fey creatures, the Daoine Sidhe governs the actions of the fey.

### **St. Louis**

The city in Missouri where Anita lives and Jean Claude is Master Vampire.



## **Hypnotique**

The perfume that Anita's mother had worn before she died, which Anita smells often. Serephina is able to invade Anita's thoughts and senses, and the scent of the perfume is one of the signs.

## **Serephina's Coffin**

Anita wakes up in Serephina's coffin, embraced by the vampire in sleep, after sacrificing herself to save Larry, Jason and Jean Claude. The coffin could be interpreted as a womb, as Serephina has taken on the identity of Anita's mother to mesmerize her.

## **Guilty Pleasures**

The vampire bar that is owned and operated by Jean Claude in St. Louis, Missouri



# Themes

## Power

Power is central to the novel *BLOODY BONES* by Laurel K. Hamilton. Serephina is the Master of the City of Branson Missouri. Serephina was given the territory when Jean Claude, Anita's boyfriend and Master of the City of St. Louis, relinquished it. Jean Claude did not see a need to maintain such an empire and saw fit to give the area to another. The vampire council deemed Serephina a good fit for the area and made her master.

Serephina was not only unappreciative of being made master of the area, it seems she resented receiving the land from someone who had once been below her. The Master of Branson set her sights on taking not only Jean Claude's properties and possessions, but also his life, attempting to make him what he once was, the plaything of others. The pull of power that Serephina longed for was her downfall in the end, causing her to lose all that she had schemed to have, as well as her life. The vampire could not maintain the things she wished to control. Anita Blake is one of the things that Serephina wished to possess, but Anita's inner strength persevered, allowing her to break free from the control of Serephina with the help of Anita's friends.

A different type of control in the novel is that wielded by Anita Blake. Blake is a necromancer, or a person who raises the dead. Anita believes in her own strengths but also questions them. When her boss asks her to raise a cemetery full of century old corpses, Anita agrees to do so, not only to help a client, but also to see if she is capable. Though Anita is a basically humble person, dealing with life as it comes, the possibility of proving that she is capable of such a task is a thrill to her. The chance to attempt such a feat and share it with her apprentice, Larry, is too much for Blake to resist.

## Right vs. Wrong

In *BLOODY BONES*, Anita Blake seems to be surrounded by dilemmas where she is involved with right vs. wrong. At the outset, Anita is hired by Raymond Stirling to raise the dead in a centuries-old cemetery to prove the ownership of the land where the dead rest. Stirling offers Anita a large amount of money to lie should the dead prove that the land belong to the Bouvier family. In this case Anita does not give the offer a second thought. She has been paid to identify the dead and will not lie, regardless of who the deceased turn out to be.

Anita does not have the clear cut sense of right and wrong in several other instances throughout the novel, though. Serephina is the Master of the City of Branson, or the lead vampire. Serephina is on a quest for ultimate control and immortality and will do anything, or hurt anyone to reach her goals. Anita is targeted from the outset, as



Serephina wishes to control the dead and believes that drinking the blood of a necromancer will allow her to do so. The vampire senses Anita's deep strength but also Anita's weaknesses and uses them to Serephina's advantage. Using the specter of Anita's dead mother, Serephina is able to confuse Blake and cloud her thoughts. Anita knows the only way to be truly free of this danger is to kill Serephina. This upsets her apprentice, Larry, as he believes that regardless of Serephina's deeds, the only option is to do things legally. Killing a vampire without a warrant of execution is murder. Anita knows this to be true, but her sense of self preservation is stronger than her will to maintain the letter of the law. In the long run, Anita does the right thing, waiting until a warrant is issued for Serephina's death. Anita's sense of right and wrong keeps her from simply killing Serephina, though doing so would have saved the lives of many.

## Monsters

The novel BLOODY BONES is filled with monsters of all types. At the outset, Anita tries to explain to her apprentice, Larry, that all vampires are monsters and he needs to remember this to keep himself safe. The contradiction in this is that Anita is dating a vampire, Jean Claude, the Master of the City of St. Louis. Anita has a difficult time making herself understood by Larry, who can not reconcile Anita's willingness to work with one vampire while trying to destroy another. Throughout the novel, the reader sees the difference between the vampires clearly. Though both are classified as monsters in Anita's mind, Serephina is clearly evil, while Jean Claude seems to have adapted to life in the mainstream of society as much as he is able.

Vampires are not the only type of monster in the novel. Raymond Stirling can be classified as a monster as well. Though human, Stirling allows himself to be taken over by greed, surrendering his morals for the sake of power and money. Serephina is able to tap into this greed and use it for her benefit. Entering Stirling's dreams, the vampire convinces him that freeing the creature Rawhead and Bloody Bones from its prison will be the catalyst to his obtaining all he wants. Blinded by his greed, Stirling arranges to have Anita free the beast. Stirling is betrayed by Serephina and used as food for her entourage of vampires when he accomplishes what she desires.

## Greed

Greed for power and control is central to the novel BLOODY BONES. Several characters allow greed to take over their lives resulting in their ultimate downfalls. Raymond Stirling desperately wants to own the land that the Bouvier family owns. Stirling is willing to pay Anita Blake to lie for him, which she refuses to do. Stirling's greed is his downfall. Serephina is able to infiltrate his dreams, promising him wealth and power if he uses Anita to free Rawhead and Bloody Bones from its prison. Stirling does so, but Serephina uses the man as food for her entourage of vampires in the end.

Serephina is also overtaken by greed seeking power and immortality. The vampire uses anyone and anything she can in her quest. More powerful by far than Jean Claude, he



and Anita eventually discover Serephina is boosting her strength by feeding off creatures with powers of their own. The Master of Branson has been feeding from Magnus, hoping to gain the immortality that he has taken from Rawhead and Bloody Bones. Serephina also wishes to control the dead and believes if she were to be master of Anita it would be possible. In her quest to control all, Serephina underestimates those she deals with, specifically Anita Blake. Anita does not wish to be owned by anyone, and her strong sense of justice will not allow her to give into the dark strength of Serephina. The master is ultimately killed by Anita, the one person Serephina could not control completely.

# Style

## Point of View

The point of view in BLOODY BONES, by Laurel K. Hamilton is first person. The story is told by the main character, Anita Blake. This is necessary as the reader is given insight into the thoughts and actions of Blake. As Anita Blake deals with many different things that are fictional, such as vampires and zombies, the reader is better able to understand the feelings and deeds of the characters in the novel.

The novel is written in equal parts dialogue and descriptive passages, which allows one to get a better sense of the characters as well as their surroundings. At times the descriptions do not have an important impact on the storyline but do give the reader a better idea of the behavior of the characters.

## Setting

The novel takes place for the most part in and around Branson, Missouri. Though Anita is from St. Louis, she is sent to Branson to raise the dead in a cemetery to resolve a land dispute. While in Branson, Anita travels in the surrounding areas, investigating suspicious murders and vampire kills.

One location that Anita visits is the small town of Monkey's Eyebrow. Monkey's Eyebrow is the location of the Quinlan home where Ellie Quinlan is found dead, the willing victim of a vampire. Though Ellie is willing, her younger brother is not and is kidnapped by the group of vampires associated with Serephina.

Anita also spends time in and around Bloody Bones, the bar owned by Magnus and Dorcas Bouvier. Within the bar Anita discover Magnus's use of fairie magic to bespell the patrons into believing simple things such as how people look and their attraction for each other. Outside of the bar in a meadow through the woods, Anita visits the prison that holds Rawhead and Bloody Bones, the creature that the Bouvier family is bound to guard due to their ancestor's deeds.

Anita also visits the home where Serephina resides in the outskirts of Branson. Within the walls of the house and in the areas outside, Anita is subjected to the acts of Serephina, a master vampire who longs for ultimate power and immortality.

## Language and Meaning

The language in Bloody Bones is modern and fast paced allowing the reader to easily follow the storyline and the action that takes place. Though most of the characters speak with contemporary vocabulary and syntax, some of the vampires speak in a more formal manner, distinguishing themselves because they are centuries older.





The novel is fantasy, containing werewolves and vampires, as well as fairies and other creatures, but is written as if these creatures actually exist in modern times. Anita's career as a necromancer, or a person who raises the dead, as well as her secondary position of vampire executioner are explained in such a way that the reader can easily accept that such things are necessary.

BLOODY BONES takes place over a relatively short period of time, and the author keeps the narration and dialogue moving at a fairly fast pace but the reader can still keep track of the details.

## Structure

BLOODY BONES is divided into forty one chapters of varying lengths, from five pages to twenty. Each chapter is numbered and contains at least one key factor for the plot of the novel or an insight into the behavior of a main character.

The main plot of the novel revolves around Anita Blake and her search for justice in good vs. evil. Anita is brought to Branson, Missouri to raise the dead and prove ownership of the land in which they rest. While in the area, Anita is called to investigate several murders, including a vampire kill. A young man is kidnapped by vampires and Anita feels responsible for him. While trying to rescue the boy from a horrible fate, Anita must face her own demons and struggle to survive.

The novel moves at a fairly fast pace, encompassing a few days of activity in the life of Anita Blake. There are times when the descriptive passages seem to offer a bit too much detail, such as the clothing the characters are wearing, but generally the novel is extremely enjoyable, offering yet another glimpse into the life of Anita Blake, animator and executioner.



## Quotes

"I opened my mouth to say no, and closed it. I had raised an entire cemetery once. Not all of them had been two centuries old, but some of them had been older, nearly three hundred. And I raised them all. Of course, I had two human sacrifices to ride for power. It was a long story how I ended up with two people dying inside a circle of power. Self defense, but the magic didn't care. Death is death." Chapter one, pg. 5

"He took a deep breath of the gentle air and said, 'I want you to say they aren't Bouvier ancestors, even if they are.'

He looked at me when he said it. Watched my face.

I smiled and shook my head. 'I won't lie for you.'

'Can't you make the zombies lie?'

'The dead are very honest, Mr. Stirling. They don't lie.'

He took a step towards me, face very sincere. 'My entire future is riding on you, Ms. Blake.'

'No, Mr. Stirling, your future rides on the dead at your feet. Whatever comes out of their mouths will decide it.'

Chapter 4, pg. 29

"I didn't really want to go vampire hunting. It was almost dark. Hunting vamps after dark was a good way to get killed. Especially one that could control minds like this one could. A vampire can cloud your mind and even hurt you, if its control is good enough, and you won't mind. But once its concentration is off you, onto someone else, and that person starts screaming, you'll wake up. You'll run. But he boys hadn't run. They hadn't woken up. They'd just died." Chapter 8, pg 56

"Larry sat to my right. He'd watched me and scooted his chair a little back from the table so he could see the room too. It was almost frightening how seriously Larry watched what I did. It would keep him alive, but it was like being followed around by a 3-year-old with a carry permit. Kind of intimidating."

Chapter 9 pgs 64-65

""This wasn't rape, Sheriff. Ellie Quinlan invited her killer into this room.'

He paced to the far window and stood like Larry had, staring out into the darkness. He wrapped his arms around himself like he was hugging himself. 'How am I going to tell her parents, her kid brother, that she let some...thing make love to her? Than she'd been letting it feed off her? How can I tell them that?'

'Well in three night, two counting tonight, Ellie can rise from the dead and tell them herself.'"

Chapter 11, pg 88

""Remember the three rules of vampire hunting. One: Never, ever look them in the eyes. Two: Never, ever give up your cross. Three: Aim for the the head and the heart. Even with silver ammo, it won't be a killing blow anywhere else.' I felt like a kingergarten teacher sending her kiddies off to a hostile playground. 'Don't panic if you get bitten. The



bite can be cleansed. As long as they don't mesmerize you with their eyes, you can still fight."

Chapter 15, pg 112

"Visions of such things would get you talking of demons, which Quinlan had done briefly. The police ignored him, and I didn't back up his story. Quinlan had never met a real demon or he wouldn't have made the mistake. Once you've been in the presence of demons, you never forget it. I'd rather fight a dozen vampires than one demonic presence. They don't give a shit about silver bullets."

Chapter 16, pg. 138

"I prayed as we walked up the hill. I prayed and felt a measure of calm return. No visions. No angels singing. But a feeling of peace flowed over me. I took a deep breath, and something hard and tight and ugly in my heart let go. I took it as a good sign that I'd get to Jeff in time. But part of me was skeptical. God doesn't always save someone. Often He just helps you live through the loss. I guess I don't entirely trust God. I never doubt Him, but His motives are too beyond me. Through a glass darkly and all that. Just once I'd like to see through the damn glass clearly."

Chapter 17, pg. 141

"Lying to the FBI seemed like a bad idea, but I wasn't sure what they'd do with the truth. The Feds were investigating vampire crime, and suddenly a new vamp shows up in town. The least they would do was to question him. The worst...well, there was the vampire in Mississippi that had been accidentally transferred to a cell with a window. The sun rose, and...French fried vampire. An ACLU lawyer had sued the cops' asses, and won, but that didn't bring the vamp back. Admittedly the dead vamp was one of the newly dead. Jean Claude would have escaped fairly easily, but just escaping from the law by using vampire powers would get a warrant for his arrest. Sort of like what was happening to Magnus."

Chapter 20, pg. 185

"I'd pictured Jean Claude dead. I'd even thought about killing him myself once or twice, but now that his death was a fact I didn't know how to feel. It didn't seem fair somehow. I'd brought him here. I'd asked him to come, and he came. And now he as dead, well and truly dead. And it was partially my fault, partially my doing. If I killed Jean Claude, I wanted to actually pull the trigger and watch his eyes as he died. Not like this."

Chapter 26, pg. 242

"She spread her arms wide. 'Come to me, child, and I will always be with you. I will hold you forever.'

Her voice was everything good; warmth, food, shelter from all the things that hurt, all the disappointment. I knew in that moment that all I had to do was step into her arms and all the bad things would go away.

I stood there with my hands balled into fists. My skin ached to have her touch me, hold me. Blood still dripped down my hand from where she'd cut me. I rubbed my fingers into the cut, making the pain sharp.

I shook my head.



'Come to me, child. I will be your mother forever.'  
I found my voice. It sounded rusty, choked, but it came.  
'Everything dies, bitch. You aren't immortal, none of you are.'  
Chapter 27, pg. 263

""Say the word, Serephina,' Jean Claude said. 'Say it and be done with these games.'  
His voice was bland, as normal as it ever was. His voice gave nothing away, not pain, or fear, or terror.  
'Challenge: is that the word you want to hear, Jean Claude?'  
'It will do.' His power crawled over my skin like cool fire. the power lashed out suddenly;  
I felt it sweep past me like a giant fist. It slammed into Serephina, scattering the air currents. Kissa caught the edge of it and fell back from the throne, thrown nearly prone among the cushions."  
Chapter 38, pg 343



## Topics for Discussion

Why does Raymond Stirling want Anita to raise the dead in the cemetery on top of the mountain?

How does Sergeant Freemont cause problems during the investigation of multiple deaths in and around Branson? Why?

What is Anita's relationship with Jean Claude? Does it seem that Anita is in denial?

Anita appears to be a very tough person with little emotion. Is this true?

Why is Magnus Bouvier against selling his land to Raymond Stirling? What has Magnus done to endanger the lives of all around him?

What does Serephina want? How does she expect Magnus to help her?

What does Serephina do to Anita? How does Anita stop her?