

Halfway to the Grave Study Guide

Halfway to the Grave by Jeaniene Frost

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Plot Summary

“Halfway to the Grave” by Jeaniene Frost is the story of Catherine “Cat” Crawford, college student and vampire hunter. As the story opens, twenty-two year-old Cat is driving in her truck in the middle of the night when she is stopped by the police. Her taillight is out. But she’s not worried about her taillight; what she has in the bed of her truck would be much more difficult to explain. She has the dead body of a vampire who is bleeding out. She had tussled with him earlier and drove a silver stake into his heart, ending his centuries-old life.

Cat has her own issues. Growing up she always felt different but could never pin down exactly why. There was a sadness that always loomed in her life. Her father had abandoned her and her mother and she had never even seen him. It was natural for her to wonder about him but her mother would never talk about him.

Cat was smart and did well in school but where she departed from her peers was in her physicality. She was faster, more agile and stronger than her classmates. A group of boys made the mistake of taunting her about her mother when she was fourteen. A powerful anger was summoned from deep within her. She tore at the boys and single-handedly made mince-meat out of all of them. When she went inside the glowing green eyes that she saw for the first time that looked back at her in the mirror told her that her differences with the other kids were not of a typical nature.

Justina, her mother, was forced to tell her the truth. Cat was too smart and savvy to lie to any longer. At sixteen Justina had been date-raped by a vampire. He of course was never part of her life and five months later, Cat was born. Justina always feared that her daughter’s vampire nature might someday come to the forefront and become the dominant part of her complex personality.

From that point on Cat began to hunt vampires with the goal of taking out as many as she could because they were all evil. She had the ultimate aim of finding and killing her father. She wanted to end his undead existence to avenge her mother and to hopefully resolve the pain in her life. There had always been part of herself that she detested. Would killing the monster that gave her life bring her peace?

While in the midst of her vampire hunting, she encounters a vampire nicknamed “Bones”, real name, Crispin. He is different than the other vile creatures she has dealt with. He is handsome and fun and sexy and he seems to look out for her welfare. He is immediately attracted to her and she is attracted to him as well; but, she initially resists getting involved with him. For one thing, it would kill her mother! For another, she doesn’t want to fall in love with a vampire!

Bones is persistent, and they have much in common. He is a vampire hunter, too. He hunts down evil vampires and stresses to Cat that not all vampires are bad. He recruits and trains her to help him hunt down the vampire Hennessey and his gang of vicious vampires who abduct and kill young women. Eventually, they are successful; and, in the



end Cat and Bones give into temptation and fall in love. But circumstances eventually force Cat to leave him for his own good. As she walks away from him, she recalls his words: If you ever run away from me. . . I will find you.”



Chapters 1 - 2

Summary

Chapter 1

Catherine Crawfield panicked when she was stopped by the cops for a burned out tail light. It was 4 a.m. She told the cop that she was out driving around because she couldn't sleep. How could she explain what was in the back of her truck?! The body was bleeding. When the cop shined his light on it, she told him it was juice leaking from cherries from her grandmother. He believed her. She was relieved when he stopped exploring or else he would have found the axe and dead body. He suspected she was out "sleeping around" like her mother. She swallowed her anger and asked him not to spread it around.

Catherine didn't know what she was until her mother, Justina, told her at sixteen. Even her grandparents, with whom she and her mother lived, didn't know. She always knew she had special abilities and powers. For the last six years, she'd been drinking heavily and doing her secret activities most weekends. The near-miss with the cops didn't stop her the next weekend. She went to the bar and fended off attention she got from the males. She was looking for a victim and finally spotted him. He was handsome and blond and not human – just what she wanted. She propositioned him, but he was busy. How was she going to kill him if she couldn't lure him away?!

Suddenly, the man was gone. But she was immediately approached by another man who was as dead as Elvis. She told him her name was Cat Raven. His was Kevin. He was twenty-eight and an architect. He made the mistake of "taking her home." He stopped at the car, and she ran screaming from it. He followed and caught up with her after she pretended to fall. He told her it would only hurt for a minute, but she quickly pulled out her stake, pierced his heart, and killed him. He would be prowling in the dark no longer.

Cat went to the same bar the next night. The first man she saw the night before was there and approached her. He had an English accent that annoyed her. They decided to leave together. He had ridden a motor bike to the bar and refused to drive Cat's truck even though she pretended to be drunk. He got in her truck, and she drove. He wouldn't tell her what his name was. After they parked, he refused to get out of the car – they could have sex there. He insisted they undress. When she took the stake to drive into his heart, she missed and suddenly there was a flash of light, a sharp pain, and silence.

Chapter 2

Cat regained her consciousness. She found herself undressed and in her underwear. Her hands were bound and she was in a dark space that was lit with only a dim lamp. The man insisted on knowing who she was working for. She told him that she worked



for no one. He didn't believe her and slapped her harshly several times insisting that she tell him. His white fangs gleamed as he leaned closer to her. He had followed her the night before and watched her kill Kevin. He sniffed her – she smelled like a vampire and a human. She told him that she was both! Her mother is a human, and she was raped by a vampire when she was a teenager. When her mother told her about her father, she vowed to kill every vampire she could hunt down.

The man threatened to bite her and kill her unless she answered a few questions. He wanted to know how she knew how to kill vampires. She learned through research and trial and error. When the vampires go for her neck, she pulls out her stake and kills them. She had killed sixteen vampires.

The man left her alone in the dark. She looked around and saw that she was in a cave. She tried with all her might to break free of the metal braces on her hands. Just then, he came back again threatening to bite her neck and thus kill her unless she told him who she worked for. She was praying silently and fell into a trance. He saw that her eyes had changed from gray to green. The man agreed to let her live if she agreed to work with him. He also hunted vampires but for different reasons. He could use her to lure them. The vampires immediately recognized him as another vampire, and he had trouble capturing them. She made a counter offer. Take her chains off and let them go at it. Winner takes all. If she wins, he dies. The man walked over with the key to unchain her.

Analysis

Chapter 1

Cat Raven hunts predators at night. Her victims are already “dead,” and her goal is to take them out so they can't hurt anyone else. She uses her attractiveness and sexual appeal to lure them. Then she gets them alone so she can kill them. She drives a stake in their hearts a sure sign that her targets are vampires. She has special powers which enable her to recognize the vampires although they don't seem to be able to recognize that she herself is a predator. Although she is killing these dangerous predators, the character of Cat is portrayed as “good” in that she is removing them from society so they can't kill innocents. The author is, therefore, making a hero out of a murderer – although Cat is murdering the already dead.

Chapter 2

This chapter establishes the premise of the story. The vampire that Cat thought she had lured to kill turns out to be a vampire but a vampire that also hunts down and kills other vampires. The reason he does so is not revealed yet. He has a purpose – he tells her he has his own reason to kill other vampires. Cat reveals that she is half vampire and half human. She kills vampires to avenge her mother who was raped by a vampire when she was a teenager. Cat was the result of that encounter. The chapter ends on a cliff hanger. After the man offers to spare her life in exchange for her help in luring vampires so that he can kill them, she makes a counter offer. Let her out of her chains



and they can fight it out. Cat is showing her strength of character and her confidence that she can take him out. Obviously, she really doesn't want to work with this vampire. She'd rather kill him. The vampire is game and at the end of the chapter is unlocking her chains. Obviously, Cat will live and the vampire will probably survive, too, because the story is far from over.

Discussion Question 1

What was in the back of Catherine's truck? What is Cat? How did she become a vampire killer?

Discussion Question 2

When did Catherine realize she was different and who told her? Why does Cat hunt down and kill vampires?

Discussion Question 3

How does Catherine kill her victims? Why does she kill them? What did it mean to the vampire when Cat's eyes turned green?

Vocabulary

Innuendo, blatant, sauntered, decipher, dissipate, bantering, fervent, lethargy.



Chapter 3 - 4

Summary

Chapter 3

Cat dressed quickly. The only thing missing were the gloves she always wore. They faced off in the cavern. He let her have first whack at him. He moved so fast that she missed him. The fight began and they both landed blows. She got the better of him and plunged the stake in his chest but it was too high and missed his heart. He was able to stop the blood flow. Through his prowess and quick movements, he finally defeated her and she passed out.

Later, she was shocked when she woke in his bed in a small limestone apartment. She was covered by a soft blanket. He had healed her wounds with a few drops of his blood. She was shocked. Vampire blood heals?! She wanted to leave but didn't see a way out. When they prepared to leave, she told him that her kidneys were bursting so he showed her to a river where she could relieve herself. He warned her not to try to run away. He finally told her that his name was Bones.

Later, they went over the strengths and weaknesses of vampires. Sunlight doesn't kill them. They sleep in the day because they are more powerful at night. Crosses only make vampires laugh. In fact, the whole religious thing is bunk. Bones told Cat that he trusted her with this information – trusted that she wouldn't use it against him. Shooting a vampire doesn't kill it but decapitating it does. But if a gun has enough silver bullets in it, it can kill a vampire if the bullets are fired into the heart. Poisoning, strangling, drowning – none of that works. Bones told Cat to always fight dirty.

Bones told Cat that he sensed she wanted to find her father and kill him. Bones promised that in exchange for her help he would help find her father. He told Cat that he knew what she was up to when they first met.

Bones told Cat that vampires are gifted with exceptional speed, heightened senses and physical strength far superior to human strengths. Their fangs contain a hallucinogen that makes victims forget they were bitten. Vampires usually take just a little blood from their victims and don't kill all of them. A very small percentage of humans are immune to vampire bites. A vampire often uses mind control over its victims. A vampire's teeth can rip humans into pieces. Cat recounted some of her vampire strengths – she's fast and can see in the dark. Her hearing is above average. But she doesn't have fangs and she doesn't think she has the powers of mind control.

Cat didn't know she was different until she was about fourteen. Her mother refused to talk about her father. She always liked the night and would wander in the orchard for hours in the dark. She first realized her power when she got into a fight with a group of boys who called her mother a slut. She beat the tar out of them. Later that night she



saw her eyes glowing in the mirror. About six months after that, she killed her first vampire.

Bones said they would work on her speed, flexibility and strength. Cat was insulted when he said they'd have to work on her looks, too.

Chapter 4

Bones began training Cat. It was grueling. He ran her through the forest at speeds faster than a car could travel. She practiced skills with weapons until her fingers bled. He forced her to lift boulders repeatedly. They practiced hand-to-hand combat. Bones would knock Cat unconscious then revive her with drops of his blood. He'd stretch her limbs beyond their limits. With Bones it was improve or die. Cat began to see the increase in her strength and stamina. She warned him that the blood he fed her better not turn her into a vampire. He told her not to worry. She'd have to be drained of all her blood and he'd have to open up his artery into her vein in order for her to become a vampire.

Bones told Cat she'd have to stop blushing at sexual innuendo. Bones referred to her as a virgin but she claimed she wasn't a virgin. She grew angry and didn't want to talk about it. During her fourth week of training, Bones announced they'd be going on a field trip. They drove down a country road where Bones said they needed to get some information from a man. Cat stressed that she would never kill a human.

They stopped in front of a cemetery. The man that Bones referred to was Winston Gallagher, a ghost who was hanged by a judge. But he was innocent of the crime he was accused of and had haunted the judge ever since. He told Cat to ask Winston for the names of young girls who recently died of unnatural causes in the area. Ghosts hated vampires which was why Bones was having Cat speak to Winston. Bones had her bring a bottle of moonshine with her which would lure the ghost out of his grave. The information would lead them to a group of evil vampires.

As Cat walked through the graveyard, she saw glancing images of ghosts all about. She found Winston's grave and stomped around, yelling for him. Finally, there was a movement and Winston appeared before her. Cat didn't realize it but the only way Winston could taste the whiskey was for her to drink it herself. He urged her to take a big gulp then he'd give her the names she wanted. She had to take many drinks but she finally got the names out of him. Cat was staggering drunk when she returned to the truck. Suddenly, Cat in her drunken stupor realized how attractive Bones was. He had to carry her to the truck. Bones drove them back while Cat passed out and slept with her head in his lap.

Analysis

Chapter 3



In this chapter, Bones and Cat are getting to know each other – even though it starts out as a fight to the end. Bones is a vampire while Cat is only half-vampire. Therefore, his strength and agility far outdistances hers. The story reveals more about Cat. She didn't know she was different until she was fourteen. Her mother, probably out of shame and confusion, would never talk about Cat's father even though Cat would ask about him. But when a group of boys began calling her mother names, Cat's vampire strengths surfaced and she beat them all up. This incident shows the protectiveness she has for her mother. It was about six months after that that she began killing vampires. Even though she didn't know that her father was a vampire at the time, she must have concluded that he probably was because she had the characteristics of a vampire. She didn't like what her father was and what he did to her mother and she didn't like what she was becoming because of him.

Chapter 4

The training is challenging but Cat is honing her vampire skills. She is becoming stronger and her senses are improving. On a "field trip" to the cemetery Cat is forced to get the names of murdered girls from an old ghost who lives in the cemetery. In order to get these names she had to bribe him with whiskey. But since he was a ghost he couldn't drink it and she had to drink it for him. She got the names of dozens of girls but she also got drunk. The author having Cat get drunk allowed her to abandon her inhibitions. She suddenly finds Bones attractive and makes a pass at him. But Bones is a gentleman as it turns out and realizes she is just drunk and he refuses to take advantage of her. But the attraction that Cat feels for Bones is probably real. The incident foreshadows a budding relationship between the vampire and half-vampire that will grow in the coming chapters.

Discussion Question 1

What is the deal that the vampire makes with Cat? Why does Bones want to hunt a certain group of vampires down?

Discussion Question 2

What strengths do vampires have? What vital information does Cat get from the ghost?

Discussion Question 3

What weaknesses do vampires have? What indication is there that Cat is attracted to Bones?

Vocabulary

Cavern, trepidation, fluidity, nosferatu, bidet, innuendo, jaunty, sentient, specter, brandishing.



Chapters 5 - 6

Summary

Chapter 5

Cat made excuses to her mother during her training. First, she said she was working as a waitress; but, when she had no money to show for it, she told her she had joined an extensive exercise program. Cat was surprised to see Bones literally fly from the floor of the cave to a high crevice. The next phase of their training would be to turn Cat into a seductress. Bones took Cat to a salon where she spent five hours getting the works. While she was there, Bones went shopping and got her a whole new wardrobe – a very sexy and alluring one. Cat didn't like her new look, but Bones assured her that it would attract vampires. The boots he bought her had a slot in them where she could store her stakes.

Next Bones planned to educate Cat on “nasty speech.” He had to get her accustomed to the way vampires would talk to her so that she wouldn't blush all the time. She became upset with him and called him a “dead killer.” He reminded her that she was a killer, too. He again tried to broach the subject of her sexual experience, but she didn't want to talk about it. She was stunned by his instructions on how she needed to behave with her victims. Afterward, they took a long run even though it was pouring down.

When Cat got home she took a long bath and recollected Bones' instructions on sex and nasty talk. She was upset and began “talking” to him. Her mother heard her, but Cat just said she was just talking to herself. Her mother wanted to talk after Cat got out of the tub. She was worried about her and her future. She had put off college when her grandfather got sick. She had to get back on track with her education and she had to deal with the monster that was inside of her. Her mother had worried about that ever since she found out she was pregnant. She looked so much like her father, and her mother had grown more and more frightened as she saw the abnormalities develop in Cat. She told Cat to get her education, get out of town and make some new friends. If her mother knew about Bones, she would be in a rage.

Chapter 6

Cat got all dolled up. She and Bones would be going out that night. She wouldn't be able to see him, but he would be watching her. If she got into a tough spot with a vampire, she was to signal him with the pager hidden in her watch. Bones revealed that they would be after a vampire named Sergio. His “head” would be worth \$50,000. That's when Cat realized that Bones was a hit man. They argued about the virtues of vampires versus humans. Bones emphasized that he would have never forced himself on Cat. He had killed innocents in his time, but it was long ago. Cat claimed that she had only killed vampires who tried to kill her first.



They drove to the bar separately. When she entered, the music was blaring. After an hour of sitting at the bar and fending off other admirers, she suddenly spotted a vampire. He was dark, and she assumed it must be Sergio. He spotted Cat and immediately came over and began hitting on her. A short time later, they left together. They drove away in his Mercedes. She convinced him to pull off the road. He grabbed and bit her wrist and began to suck the blood from it. They struggled, and Cat was able to drive both of her stakes into him but not into his heart. Sergio literally burst through the car, mangling the side of it. She rushed after him, and suddenly Bones appeared. Sergio was shocked that Bones had found him and realized that he had been set up. Bones tightened the stake that Cat had plunged into his back. He tortured Sergio forcing him to tell him where Hennessey was. He finally told Bones that Hennessey was in Chicago Heights. Bones pulled the stake out of his back, threw it to Cat, and let her kill the vampire.

Analysis

Chapter 5

Cat is getting into an uncomfortable area of her training. She doesn't like her transformation into a sexpot, but Bones reminds her it's all part of the deal. She has developed the strength and speed and prowess she needs to hunt vampires, but she doesn't seem ready for the seduction part of her duties. Cat feels pressure from her mother who wants her to get out of town and find new friends. She has always been frightened about Cat's abnormal abilities. Cat can't reveal her relationship with Bones. She knows that her agreement with Bones would devastate her mother, but Cat feels trapped. Bones had threatened to kill her unless she went along with his wishes. She will be able to avenge her mother with Bones' help. She hangs on to his promise to find her father so she can kill him.

Chapter 6

Cat and Bones go on their first mission which is to track down the vampire called Sergio. Another dimension of Bones' work is revealed when he tells Cat that the bounty on Sergio is \$50,000. The two "friends" argue about who is the worst. They are both killers, but Cat defends herself that she doesn't kill for money and has only killed vampires after they try to kill her. It is obvious that Bones doesn't want Cat to think of him as evil. What he is doing is ridding the earth of evil vampires. In his mind, all vampires are not evil. He himself has only killed a few innocents in his many years on earth and that was when he was young. There is a growing tension between Cat and Bones, and it has a lot to do with the growing attraction for each other and the feelings they are having for each other. "Hennessey" referred to by Bones will probably be a part of the story and appear in a subsequent chapter.



Discussion Question 1

What did Cat tell her mother she was doing when she was in training with Bones? What surprises Cat about Bones' plans to take out a vampire named Sergio?

Discussion Question 2

What fears does Cat's mother have about her future? How do Cat and Bones each defend themselves for the vampires that they have murdered?

Discussion Question 3

What part of Cat's training with Bones is upsetting Cat and why? What are Cat and Bones really arguing about?

Vocabulary

Extracurricular, seductress, makeshift, rejoinder, millennia, sardonic, manifest, incredulity.



Chapters 7 - 8

Summary

Chapter 7

Bones attended to Cat's wrist wound. He sliced his palm with a knife and pressed it on Cat's bite to heal it. Sergio damaged the car when he burst out of it. They loaded his dead body into the back of the car. Bones asked Cat to confirm that Sergio was really dead. He always cuts their heads off to be sure. They decided the Mercedes was not drivable. Bones made a call on his cell phone and asked whomever he called to pick them up. He told Cat she did a great job. But, Cat was upset. She wished she would have just been a normal girl with two normal parents. She longed to be a normal girl with the only thing she had to kill was time. Bones told her that "you play the cards you are dealt." Bones got upset with Cat when she inferred that he wouldn't know what a rough life was. They were getting close to a kiss when Ted, Bones' friend, arrived to give them a ride.

Ted's truck was equipped with a large trailer. Bones drove the damaged Mercedes onto the trailer. He went into the woods and quickly retrieved his motorcycle and drove it into the trailer. He then led Cat into the trailer. They'd be safer there where no one could see them. Cat asked who Hennessey was. Someone very dangerous, he responded. He'd be going after him alone. He'd been tracking him for years—eleven years. All Bones would say was that young girls weren't safe around him.

Cat asked about Bones' background. Bones was English, but he was in Australia in 1790 when a friend thought he was doing Bones a favor by making him into a vampire. He was twenty-four when it happened. His mother, Penelope, was a prostitute. She had Bones when she was fifteen. He lived at the bordello and could have turned to prostitution himself. Instead, he began stealing. When he was seventeen his mother died of syphilis. It was then that he became a prostitute to wealthy women. He still stole and one day was caught and sent to South Wales for imprisonment.

Ian, one of the inmates he was friendly with, escaped but came back about a year later. Bones was working the field. All the guards and other prisoners except Bones and two other friends were killed. Suddenly Ian appeared. He'd become a vampire. He offered to change his friends into vampires, too. Bones didn't want to be changed, but Ian transformed him anyway because he thought he'd appreciate it someday. Ian wanted to know about Cat's first love. She was very immature and the boy had used her. He dumped her and moved on to another girl.

The truck stopped and Bones hurried and got Sergio's body from the trunk of the Mercedes. He twisted his head off and put it in a trash bag. It was worth \$50,000. Bones had Cat stay in the trailer while he cashed in Sergio's head. He got his motorcycle down and told Cat to hop on. Ted would bury Sergio's torso and junk the car. He left Cat off at



her car. They had another job the next night he told her. Bones gave her half of the money. She earned it. She told him he could use his money to move out of the cave. He stayed in the cave because he wanted to he told her. An Indian friend gave it to him in 1831. He told Cat not to feel bad about the boyfriend who dumped her. He himself would have never taken advantage of a young girl like that.

Chapter 8

When Cat arrived at the cave the next night, Bones told her that their target that night was Crispin. Crispin was a vampire who changed his hair color often and had an accent. He was over 200 years old. They drove together that night but it was to a different club.

It was a vampire club, and there was a long waiting line around the industrial looking building. Much to the annoyance of those waiting in line, the female bouncer allowed Cat and Bones to enter immediately. Once inside, Cat was amazed by the place. It was filled with vampires of all description. There were other “beings” in the club, too, like ghouls and ghosts. Bones told Cat to stay at the bar while he made his way through the crowd. While Bones was gone, two human boys approached Cat. They bought her a drink and stayed to talk. As soon as Bones returned, the boys were intimidated and hurried off.

Cat thought Bones was teasing when he introduced himself as Crispin. But that was his name before he changed it when he became a vampire. When his eyes had opened the first time in his dark grave after becoming a vampire, all he saw were bones around him. From then on his name was “Bones.” He brought Cat there to the vampire club to have a night off, to have an evening of dancing and partying. Cat wasn’t interested. She didn’t know how to dance. That didn’t stop Crispin who practically picked her up and took her to the dance floor. He promised not to bite.

Cat had fun and, eventually, the dancing turning into kissing. After a while he told her that if they left, he could not promise to behave himself. Just when they were in the throes of a new romance and desire, Bones looked across the room and was completely stunned. He was looking directly at Hennessey.

Analysis

Chapter 7

Bones is showing more and more affection for Cat. He heals her bite wound and he is sympathetic that her first boyfriend hurt her. He makes it a point to tell Cat that he’d never taken advantage of a young innocent girl like that. Bones is trying to convince Cat that he wouldn’t hurt her. Cat is having her feelings about Bones, too, but she is trying to resist them. When they are alone in the car, they were getting close to expressing their feelings but were interrupted when Ted came to give them a ride.



Cat does have more empathy for Bones when he tells the long story of his life. He didn't want to be a vampire. In fact, when offered the opportunity he turned it down. But his friend thought he was doing a favor and turned him into a vampire anyway. That was over 200 years ago and Bones has been among the living dead ever since.

Although Bones is generous and shares the bounty for Sergio equally with Cat, she is going to have a difficult time explaining to her mother where she got all that money. She needs it to return to school but what excuse could she make to her mother about suddenly having \$25,000?

Chapter 8

Bones is full of surprises. His real name is Crispin. He wanted to reward Cat for all her good work and took her to a club where they could just have fun. The fun turns to romance and is stopped just before it was about to get very serious. Does Cat really want to get romantically involved with a 200 year old vampire? She's going to have to give that a lot of thought!

Cat is saved from a possible romantic tryst with Crispin, and the drama of the story is heightened when the dangerous Hennessey shows up at the club. It is the vampire that Crispin has been hunting down for eleven years. There is sure to be a violent encounter between the two rival vampires.

Discussion Question 1

What emotions were Cat and Bones feeling when they were interrupted by Ted's arrival? What was unusual about the new club where Bones took Cat?

Discussion Question 2

What does *quid pro quo* mean? What was Cat getting at when she used the phrase when speaking to Bones? What other identity does Bones have and why?

Discussion Question 3

How, when, and where did Bones become a vampire? How did Bones get his name?

Vocabulary

Expeditious, erratically, flippant, mesmerizing, paranoid, grotto, faux pas, preponderance, quaffed.



Chapters 9 - 10

Summary

Chapter 9

Bones figured that Hennessey must have gotten word that Sergio had gone missing. Bones didn't want Cat to be involved in any encounter with Hennessey. It was too dangerous. But Cat was insistent, and he reluctantly agreed to let her help him. The plan was for Cat to sit at the bar alone and lure him over to her. It worked; soon Hennessey was heading her way. Hennessey sat down by Cat and came on to her, but soon Bones appeared behind him. The two men traded barbs. Bones ordered Hennessey out of the seat next to Cat, but Hennessey wouldn't budge. It was obvious that the two vampires hated each other. The bartender sensed that things were getting heated and reminded them that there was no fighting in the bar.

Cat pretended to be upset with Bones telling her she'd get a cab home. Bones stormed off, and Hennessey moved in on Cat plying her with drinks. When she went to the ladies room, she saw Bones feeding on the neck of a woman. He bit his thumb and healed the woman's wound with his blood. He saw Cat watching him. Cat was upset with Bones, but he explained that he was just feeding and hadn't hurt the girl. Cat was still upset when she returned to the bar. Hennessey left the bar saying he wanted to get reacquainted with Bones. When Hennessey returned, he and Cat left the bar.

After driving for a while, Hennessey stopped the car. He pulled Cat into the bushes, stripped her, and plunged his fangs into her neck. She was able to press the pager in her watch just before she passed out.

Chapter 10

Cat woke up as Bones was pressing his wrist against her mouth feeding his blood to her. When her vision cleared, she saw a dead vampire lying nearby, his head twisted from his body. But, it wasn't Hennessey. Bones told her that he got away. The dead man was a vampire who was hidden in Hennessey's trunk. He jumped out and fought off Bones while Hennessey sped off. Cat told Bones that she thought she had been drugged. Bones confirmed that her pupils were dilated – a sign of having been drugged. She was sure that the two human boys, not Hennessey, had drugged her. While Cat continued to recover, Bones dug a grave and threw the dead vampire into it. Cat, still drunk, made a pass at Bones who once again didn't take advantage of her.

Cat woke up in Bones' bed. He assured her that nothing had gone on between them. Bones had caught the boys who drugged Cat. They had doubled the dose on another girl and killed her. He found them in the woods with the girl not realizing she was dead. Bones killed both of the boys. Now that Cat was sober, she made sure to stay away



from Bones. He became upset with the conflicting signals from her and showed her the door.

Analysis

Chapter 9

Bones is still not revealing why Hennessey is so dangerous – more dangerous than other vampires. He reluctantly allows Cat to help him lure Hennessey, but when Cat is caught alone with him, she is in great danger. He is sucking blood from her neck when she passes out. She was able to signal for help with the pager in her watch.

Bones will probably feel very guilty and responsible for Cat's predicament. He knew how dangerous Hennessey was but allowed Cat to help him and eventually wind up alone with him. Bones moves very quickly and will no doubt show up before Hennessey is able to finish the job and kill her. But at this point, the reader does not know what happened when Hennessey left the bar to get reacquainted with Bones. Could he have knocked him out or even killed him? If so, who would help Cat?

Chapter 10

The tension is growing between Cat and Bones. She feels affectionate toward him when she's drunk, but when she's sober she is afraid of the situation and stays away from him. Bones is growing confused about her. He's frustrated because he's attracted to Cat and senses that she feels the same way.

They put their personal relationship aside, and their focus returns to Hennessey who is dangerous and on the loose.

Discussion Question 1

Why do Cat and Bones pretend to be angry with each other in front of Hennessey? Who drugged Cat?

Discussion Question 2

What event indicates that Cat doesn't really accept who Bones is? Why did Bones kill the two human boys?

Discussion Question 3

How is Cat able to call for help when she is bitten by Hennessey? Whom does she call? Why is Bones growing frustrated with Cat?

Vocabulary

Treacherous, equilibrium, lethargic, emphatic, straightaway.



Chapters 11 - 12

Summary

Chapter 11

Stephanie who is in Cat's physics class, waited for her after class. Stephanie had missed a few days and asked to borrow Cat's notes. Stephanie invited Cat to go out to a club that night. Cat came by Stephanie's apartment that evening to pick her up. Stephanie told Cat she dressed like a troll and gave her a dress to borrow. Cat decided she would wear what she had on – her jeans. Stephanie began insulting her and suddenly pulled a gun on her. She just needed to make her rent and the landlord would like Cat. Stephanie threw a pair of handcuffs at Cat and ordered her to put them on.

Cat lunged at Stephanie who fired at Cat but missed her. Stephanie was surprised at Cat's speed. They struggled for the gun. It went off and shot and killed Stephanie. Cat rushed to the phone and called Bones. Ten minutes later he was there. Cat felt horrible. She had taken a human life. But Bones said the place was reeking of vampires. Bones wiped everything down to get rid of any fingerprints that Cat may have left. He threw some of Stephanie's belongings in a bag and rolled Stephanie up in a blanket. They hurried down to Cat's truck.

Chapter 12

Ted met Cat and Bones before they got to the cave. Cat's stomach turned when Bones told Ted to feed Stephanie's body to the ghoul of his choice. Cat assumed Ted buried the bodies. Cat demanded that Bones tell her about Hennessey. But Bones wanted to know more about Stephanie first. Cat retraced their evening together. Bones seemed to suspect that Stephanie was connected to Hennessey. Back at the cave, he asked Cat if she heard of the Bennington Triangle.

Bones had taken Stephanie's laptop from her apartment. He powered the computer up and saw that Stephanie had been tracking Cat's movements along with some other girls. Bones explained that the Bennington Triangle referred to an area in Maine where several people disappeared back in the fifties. Similar events occurred in Mexico just a few years before. Only parts of the victims were discovered. There was evidence that the victims had been long-term sufferers of torture. Hundreds of girls were missing and suspected to be victims of these crimes. The same type of incidents began to occur around the Great Lakes and in Ohio just recently. Bones was growing more and more certain that Hennessey was behind all of it. Lately, the victims had been girls that society had shunned, didn't care about. He was sure that Stephanie and Sergio were mercenaries who were hunting down girls for money. Bones was certain that Hennessey couldn't have carried all the murders off by himself.



Bones suspected that even though Stephanie wasn't a vampire, she was probably hyped up on vampire blood. Cat agreed – that was probably why she was so strong. Bones revealed that he didn't want Cat involved in the Hennessey case because it was dangerous and because he didn't want to give her another reason to hate vampires. The conversation turned intimate. Bones told Cat that he had wanted her since the moment he first saw her. The two could no longer deny their attraction for each other and give into their temptations. They woke the next morning and Cat inexplicably shot out of bed, grabbed her keys and ran out of the cave without an explanation.

Analysis

Chapter 11

The one girl who befriends Cat at school turns on her. Cat accidentally kills her in a struggle. She feels horrible because she had never killed a human before. But it seems as though Bones suspects that she is working for vampires – possibly even Hennessey. It is telling that when Cat is in trouble the first person she thinks of calling to help her is Bones. She has confidence in him that he will be there for her.

Chapter 12

The relationship between Cat and Bones deepens in this chapter. They are beginning to trust each other at least to some degree. He tells Cat more about Hennessey who he suspects is a serial killer and perhaps has made it into a cottage industry. Bones is still protective of Cat and doesn't want her involved but she literally insists. It's obvious that she wants to hunt and kill evil vampires but it is also obvious that she wants to be part of Bones' life. Bones finally agrees to let her help hunt down Hennessey. He confesses that he wasn't only worried about her safety but also didn't want her to have more reason to hate vampires. What he was most worried about was what she thought of him.

Discussion Question 1

How did Stephanie lure Cat to her apartment? What is the Bennington Triangle?

Discussion Question 2

Who was Stephanie working with? What were the two reasons Bones didn't want Cat to be a part of the Hennessey case?

Discussion Question 3

Why did Cat feel more upset about killing Stephanie than the others she killed? What might have caused Cat to leave so abruptly in the morning?

Vocabulary

Amicable, ebullient, profound, qualms, cryptic, inconsequential, provocatively.



Chapters 13 - 14

Summary

Chapter 13

Cat was worried about her mother. It would break her heart if she got involved with a vampire. When she arrived home, her grandparents were on the porch. Her grandfather was angry. He called her mother out on the porch claiming that Cat had been sleeping with the Devil. Her grandparents were both ashamed of her. Cat ran inside and looked at her neck and chest. There were hickeys all over her. She privately told her mother that the guy was someone who also hunted vampires and that their relationship wasn't serious. Her mother was worried that she'd get pregnant like she did. Cat decided it was time she got her own apartment.

Justina drove off to buy protection for Cat while she took a shower and washed her hair. She heard a car door slam and looked outside. It was a cab and Bones was emerging from it! She ran down stairs to hear Bones telling her grandparents that he was a nice young girl there to pick up their granddaughter. He repeated it several times. It was obvious he was using mind control on them and that it was working. They were happy that Cat was finally going to have a nice friend.

Bones discovered where another vampire club was that might lead to Hennessey and his ring of murderers. It was located in Charlotte and he bought a plane ticket for both of them. Cat did not hesitate to say she'd go with him. They flew out that night and got to Club Flame before midnight. Immediately, a vampire named Charlie began hitting on Cat. Soon they left and she was in the car with him. He was verbally abusive to her. After a long drive, he pulled into a small apartment complex. They went upstairs to his apartment. He shoved her inside and she pretended to trip and wound up on the floor. She had her hand near her boot. He called out and said "Dean, got another one." Soon Dean emerged from another room, buck naked. They were about to assault her when Bones leveled the door with one kick. Cat drove her stake into Dean's groin. She flung the second stake at him when he came after her. She took one of the stakes and drove it in him. He stopped moving. Bones easily defeated Charlie. They found a girl in the back room. She had severe puncture wounds, was unconscious and was bleeding heavily. Bones said not to call an ambulance. He'd take care of her after he dealt with Charlie.

Charlie explained that girls like one bleeding to death in the other room were worth about \$60,000. First they have them work the breathers and then they auction them off to vampires. Charlie revealed that there were about twenty hunters like him. But Hennessey planned to open up his operation world-wide. The Internet would help to facilitate that expansion. Eventually, Bones shoved Charlie deep into the metal springs of a bed in another room trapping him there. Bones demanded to know the name of the



other hunters. Charlie refused to tell him so Bones poured gasoline all over him and lit a match.

Chapter 14

Cat carried the girl outside where Bones gave her a bit of blood to tide her over. They had to leave because the fire department and the cops would be coming. When the cops find Charlie's dead body it will have reverted back to its actual age and it will appear that he died there long ago. He was leaving Charlie there to send a message to Hennessey. Bones called a friend of his, Tara, who agreed to take the girl and tend to her. When they arrived, Cat helped carry the girl to Tara's house. Tara was African-American and was waiting for them on her porch. She ran an abused women's center and Bones had brought other girls to her in the past. While Cat and Tara had coffee in the kitchen, Bones brought the girl back to life. She screamed loudly as he allowed her to remember everything and then he capped off her memory.

Tara had been abused by her husband. One night when she walked to her car in a parking lot, he was preparing to shoot her when Bones intervened. He attacked her husband and snapped his neck. He got Tara and her kids out of her fleabag apartment. She was ever grateful to him ever since and helped him whenever she could. Later, Bones was upset because he sensed that Cat didn't trust him. Cat said that last night had been a mistake. They needed to focus on getting Hennessey. But Bones said he didn't think their night together was a mistake because he was in love with her. Cat told him that it would never work out – they needed to stop before it went any further. Cat told Bones that if he does love her, there can't be anyone else while they're together.

Analysis

Chapter 13

Cat's grandparents are upset with her. They don't suspect that she had been with a vampire but it was obvious from the hickies all over her neck what she'd been up to. They went through their daughter's pregnancy when she was young and they probably fear that Cat will face a similar fate. Although Cat ran away from Bones the night before, her feelings for him are too strong to resist and she quickly decides to fly with him to Charlotte. She wants to be with Bones but she also wants to help in tracking down the evil vampire, Hennessey. She is probably thinking ahead hoping that it will lead to finding her father.

Cat and Bones are making headway in their quest to take out the Hennessey gang. They make contact with a very important member of the gang – one of the hunters, Charlie. Although Cat is committed to the venture, she still has doubts about Bones. While she has feelings for him and is very attracted to him, she reminds herself that he is a vampire – just like her father who raped her mother and abandoned her. It's something that Cat will have to resolve in her own time although she continues to get more deeply involved with him as the story unfolds.



Chapter 14

More of Bones' background and his good character are revealed in this chapter. He saved Tara from an abusive husband which demonstrates that he cares for the plight of women. Cat couldn't help but feel positive about Bones when Tara described how Bones literally saved her life. The relationship between Bones and Cat is still rocky and conflicted. Bones senses that Cat doesn't trust him which hurts him. He finally reveals that he is in love with her. Cat is blown away and doesn't know how to respond. She likes him but she doesn't want to get hurt and she has to worry about how her mother would feel about him. Getting dumped by her first boyfriend still leaves a sting. She tells him that they're can't be any other women in his life if he really loves her. Will Bones be able to live up to that standard?

Discussion Question 1

Why were Cat's grandparents upset with her? Why does Cat still not trust Bones completely?

Discussion Question 2

How did Bones convince Cat's grandparents that he was harmless? How did Tara become acquainted with Bones?

Discussion Question 3

What does the Hennessey gang do with the girls they capture? Why is Cat confused and uncertain when Bones tells her that he is in love with her?

Vocabulary

Bellow, blanched, vehement, residual, scenario, cajole.



Chapters 15 - 16

Summary

Chapter 15

Cat prepared all week for the move to her new apartment. She used some of the money she got for the first job with Bones for furniture. She split the rest with her mother, telling her she took it from one of the vampires she took down. Her mother helped her clean her apartment and settle in. The night she moved in Bones came over and stayed the night. Tim, a neighbor, left a gift basket off for her and invited her over for coffee. He was very nice and they got along well. Cat felt she had found a friend.

As soon as Cat walked in the cave that night, she sensed that someone was lurking and it wasn't Bones. She wasn't armed so she picked up some rocks and proceeded cautiously. She was afraid that Bones was in trouble. A tall man with spiky black hair came into view. She threw a barrage of rocks at him. She charged him, knocked him over and was soon straddling him. He told her that Bones was on his way back. It turned out that the fellow was Bones' best friend. Cat didn't know whether to believe him or not. When Bones came back he addressed the man calling him, "Charles". He told Charles that he better have a good reason for having Cat on top of him.

Chapter 16

The vampire was Charlie, Bones' best friend. He told Bones that he never enjoyed a woman astride him less than he did when Cat straddled him. Charlie, also known as "Spade", was good-natured and just laughed off Cat's assault on him. Spade was one of the other prisoners that Ian turned into a vampire in South Wales. Spade had some information on the whereabouts of one of Hennessey's flunkies. Spade didn't think that Cat should go after Hennessey but she soon convinced him that she was fully capable of hunting him down. Charles full identity was Baron Charles DeMortimer.

In the middle of the night, Cat approached a vampire who was standing on a corner. She asked him if he had any heroin. He said he could get some for her and to come with him. He held the door of his car open for her and then hit her on the head as she entered. As he drove, she pretended to be passed out. When his car was rammed from behind, she pulled her stake out and stabbed the vampire but not in the heart. Bones was in the car behind and had rammed the vampire's car. Cat took over driving while Bones got the vampire, Tony, in the back seat with him.

Bones pressed Tony for information on Hennessey. After threatening to kill him, Tony told Bones that Hennessey could be in Lansing, Michigan, with a woman named Lola. He'd give Bones her address. Bones told Cat to head to Michigan. Bones decided to take Tony with them. When they got to Lola's apartment, her car wasn't there. Bones hid in the shadows and soon Lola drove up in her red Ferrari. Cat saw that Lola, who



looked Asian, wasn't human. Bones rushed her and nabbed her. She told him that Hennessey and the others would kill him. Bones demanded to know where Hennessey was but Lola said that he hadn't told her where he was staying. She did know where his enforcer, Switch, was.

Cat was watching them and saw two forms drop down from the roof. She called to Bones to warn him. Cat threw three silver knives at the intruders which allowed Tony to pounce on her. They struggled and she was able to plunge a stake in his heart. She rushed outside to see that one of her knives had struck Lola in the heart. Bones had torn off heads of the men who had attacked him from the roof.

Analysis

Chapter 15

Cat shows her love for her mother and her generosity by sharing her money with her. Of course, she lies to her mother about where she got the money but at this point, she can't tell her the truth. It's a little unusual that a male neighbor would leave a gift box for a new neighbor in an apartment building. Could Tim be working for Hennessey? The Tim character may be just a red herring but his behavior is a little suspicious.

Chapter 16

It was a case of mistaken identity when Cat attacked Charles, Bones' best friend. But it was a natural mistake. She can tell who is a vampire but she can't tell if they're good or bad. It is obvious that Cat has become quite skilled at luring the vampires in. She is very confident and seems to be fearless. She feels safer knowing that Bones is always there to rescue her.

Cat felt she killed Lola and Tony out of necessity. But Bones would prefer that she just wound the vampires and keep them alive. They could learn more about Hennessey through live vampires. But Cat felt she did the right thing. This issue may prove to be a bone of contention between them as the story progresses.

Discussion Question 1

What did Cat do with the \$25,000 she earned? Who is Lola? Was she human or vampire?

Discussion Question 2

Is Tim to be trusted? Why did Cat kill Tony and Lola?



Discussion Question 3

Why didn't Cat believe that the tall vampire was Bones' friend? Who is Switch? Why is it important for Cat and Bones to find him?

Vocabulary

Klutz, beauteous, scoundrel, pathetic, malevolent, albeit.



Chapters 17 - 18

Summary

Chapter 17

When Bones dropped Cat off at her apartment, Tim was there to greet her. It was immediately obvious from Bones' glare that he was suspicious or jealous of him or both. He was rude to Tim and Cat made him apologize. After Bones' drove off, Tim asked if Bones was her boyfriend and commented that he didn't seem to like him very much.

After class that evening, Cat took a shower and went right to bed; she was exhausted. There was a knocking on her door. It was her mother. They had plans to go to the movies but Cat forgot. Cat begged off and promised to make it up to her. Justina saw that Cat had no food and that she looked very pale. She asked if she was drinking blood. Cat assured her mother that she wasn't turning into a vampire. The door was still open and Tim stuck his head in. Justina mistook Tim for Cat's boyfriend and Cat decided she would let her think that he was her boyfriend. Justina thanked Tim for helping Cat take out some demons.

Cat got Tim aside and explained why she pretended he was her boyfriend. Bones was English, she told him, and her mother hates foreigners. Talking to Justina again, Tim said he'd be sure to help drive out the demons with the power of Jesus. Just when Cat was giving Tim a hug goodnight and thanking him, Bones walked in. Cat made it clear to Bones to leave Tim alone. He was just a friend.

Chapter 18

After searching for two weeks, they didn't find a trace of Switch. Some of the police reports that had been filed about missing girls disappeared. It was obvious that Hennessey was busy at work. Hennessey was playing it safe but, according to Bones, that wasn't like him. Bones guessed that either some vicious vampires or some humans in high position were protecting him. It could be corrupt cops who were helping him. Just then Charles called. One of Hennessey's men wants to make Bones an offer to trade sides. They went to see Charles who was with Francesca, a dark-haired vampire. She was the most beautiful woman Cat had ever seen.

Bones and Francesca already knew each other. Bones got right down to business telling Francesca that he knew she worked with Hennessey and she knew that he was after him. But Francesca wanted Hennessey dead, too. He had been her master for over ninety years ever since he destroyed her convent. Cat asked if Hennessey knew how much Francesca hated him and if so how could she get close enough to him to help them. Francesca responded that Hennessey did know she hated him. But her hatred was not enough to free her from his control so it did not concern him. He thinks that she fears him too much to betray him, Francesca added. For helping Bones defeat



Hennessey, Francesca wanted to be under Bones' protection. Bones agreed to take her under his wing after he killed Hennessey.

After the meeting with Francesca, Cat asked how vampires were created. Cain felt guilt and shame after he killed Abel and created his own people – vampires. Cain is the undead version of God. He watches over vampires. Bones felt proud of Cat because she acted like a vampire at the meeting with Francesca.

Analysis

Chapter 17

The story is progressing to an ultimate confrontation between Bones and Justina. Bones is around her apartment and her mother is known to stop by unannounced. Her mother may be visiting more often since she's worried that Cat isn't eating right and may be "drinking blood." This situation has to be stressful for Cat. Tim seems to visit Cat quite often. They may just be friends but it is still not clear that he is just a friend and has no ulterior motives – that is, that he's not involved with the vampires.

Chapter 18

Both threads of the story see progress in this chapter. First, they are narrowing down the location of Hennessey and have someone in his close circle – Francesca – who is willing to betray him. The story of the romance between Cat and Bones is also showing growth. Cat is instantly jealous of the beautiful Francesca and is open about her worries that Francesca could be interested in Bones. After their meeting with Francesca, Bones tells Cat that she acted like a vampire at the meeting. Her jealousy over Francesca confirmed to Bones that Cat considers him her man.

Discussion Question 1

Why did Cat tell her mother that Tim was her boyfriend? Why did Cat feel threatened by Francesca?

Discussion Question 2

Why did Justina think that Cat was drinking blood? Who is the undead version of God for the vampires?

Discussion Question 3

How did Tim interpret Justina's comment about his helping Cat fight the demons? Why did Bones think Cat acted like a vampire at their meeting with Francesca?

Vocabulary

Festering, disheveled, indictment, hostile,feudalism, barbaric, paragon.



Chapters 19 - 20

Summary

Chapter 19

After ten days of spying, Francesca confirmed that Hennessey was still on the hunt for more girls. She learned that Hennessey had a mysterious human partner known as “Your Honor”. Bones figured that could explain the missing police reports. One day in a bar when Cat was dressed for vampire hunting, someone called to her. She turned and was stunned to see that it was Danny, her first love. He was amazed at her appearance. She didn’t want anything to do with him. She tried to walk away from him but he pursued her. Suddenly, Bones materialized behind him. Danny introduced himself to Bones and offered his hand to him. Bones took his hand and squeezed it so hard that he broke it. He only let go after Cat pleaded with him to stop. Bones quickly escorted Cat out. They decided to go to another bar. The incident had drawn too much attention.

Two more weeks of hunting had not produced any results. They were no closer to Hennessey or Switch. One evening Bones was over at Cat’s apartment. They had ordered a pizza and when there was a knock, Cat hurried to the door. She opened it and immediately slammed it shut. It was her mother! Her mother called to her through the door to open up. Cat panicked; she had Bones hide in a closet.

Justina looked around the apartment, amazed at all the new furniture. Her mother knew she had bought a few new things but nothing like what she was seeing now. Justina wanted to take Cat out to dinner but Cat feigned a migraine. After Justina left, Bones told Cat that she was bearing the guilt of her father. How many vampires did she have to kill in order to destroy the guilt and shame? Bones left so Cat could have time to think.

Chapter 20

Four days passed without hearing from Bones. Cat hung out with Tim quite a bit. They were watching “Men in Black” on the TV one night when Tim told her that secret agents, “men in black”, actually did exist. She thought to herself that vampires do, too. Tim asked her why she and Bones broke up. But she denied that they broke up – it was just a cooling off period. She told him about shoving Bones in the closet when her mother came by. Tim asked why her mother hated foreigners so much. She said that an Englishman date raped her mother. Tim said it was ridiculous for her to hate all Englishmen.

Suddenly, it occurred to her that Tim was right and so was Bones. It was so simple. She couldn’t go her entire life ignoring her bloodline. She grabbed the phone to call Bones. He was waiting for a phone call from Francesca. Something was up. He told her to get



ready; he'd pick her up shortly. Tim asked Cat if she would go out with him if it didn't work out with Bones.

As soon as Bones picked Cat up he told her that he feared that Francesca had been caught. She was getting close to figuring out who was helping Hennessey. It was someone in a high position. She called just a short time ago saying she wanted out of their agreement. It was getting too hot for her. Suddenly the phone call was cut off and he had not been able to get hold of her again. They headed to a club called "Bite" which did not allow any violence. Maybe Francesca was there.

Francesca wasn't at Bite or anywhere else they checked. By dawn they were out of ideas until they heard about an accident with a fatality on the highway. Cat knew it was Francesca when she saw the long black hair of the deceased and the arm that was already skeletalized. Bones sped away from the scene. He was upset. He was sure that it wasn't Hennessey or any of his hunters who killed Francesca. He suspected that she felt trapped and killed herself. He feared that Cat could be in great danger. He told her she was done with the case.

But Cat convinced him that she had to be part of the hunt. Besides, he was always there to rescue her. She also told him that she would no longer deny who she was. She planned to tell her mother about him and about their feelings for each other. Bones was overjoyed. They kissed and embraced. Cat told Bones that she wanted his blood in her. After repeatedly getting her reassurance, he sunk his fangs into her neck. She was in ecstasy. When they woke the next day, Cat told Bones that he had all of her. She told him she loved him.

Analysis

Chapter 19

Cat gets revenge against Danny, her first love who used and dumped her. First, he is amazed by how gorgeous she is. She enjoys telling him to get lost. When Bones breaks Danny's hand Cat has little sympathy for him. The inevitable happens when Bones is at Cat's apartment and Justina stops by. The incident confirms to Bones that Cat needs to do some soul-searching. She is half-human and half-vampire. She cannot live her life trying to deny her vampire self and feeling shame and guilt for being part vampire and for the sins of her father.

Chapter 20

Cat does not do well without Bones. Tim is no replacement for him. But it was a simple thing that Tim said that made Cat realize what she had to do. Tim told her that it was ridiculous to hate an entire nation just because there was one bad seed. She knew that she belonged to Bones and that she could no longer deny her love for him or deny who she really was. Bones was smart to stay away for a few days. It allowed Cat to think about their relationship and her own identity without pressure from him. He allowed her to come to terms with the situation in her own time.



Cat takes that self-realization a step further when she totally commits herself to Bones. She demonstrates her trust in him and her love for him by telling him that she wanted his blood to run throughout her body.

Discussion Question 1

Who could “Your Honor” be? What simplistic thing did Tim say that made Cat see the light?

Discussion Question 2

What happened when Justina came by Cat’s apartment while Bones was there? Why was Francesca’s death a pivotal point in the investigation for Bones?

Discussion Question 3

Why did Bones abruptly leave Cat’s apartment after Justina left? Why did Cat want Bones to bite her?

Vocabulary

Pivoted, meticulous, dementia, morbid, cursory, countenance.



Chapters 21 - 22

Summary

Chapter 21

Cat hadn't been home in four weeks but she promised her mother she'd be home for Christmas. She told her mother she'd been studying but of course most of her time was spent hunting for the Hennessey gang. They had followed all the paper trails they knew of and had been able to eliminate the police chief and the judges. Could it be the mayor? They began to watch and trail the mayor. She invited her mother over that weekend for a talk. She planned to tell her about Bones.

Two police detectives came to her door. She hid a few things and then opened the door. She wasn't sure they were cops. Their badges could be fraudulent. Detective Mansfield told her she could call the department and verify their badge numbers. They asked her about Felicity Summers. She was a twenty-five year-old mother who disappeared six years before. Her decomposed body was found just a few weeks before in Indiana although her car was recovered in a nearby lake. They asked why she thought someone would dig up an old corpse buried near that lake, dress it in modern clothes and cut its head off and rebury it. They had a tip that someone looking just like Cat was seen leaving a club with a man driving Felicity's car. She'd been identified as that girl. These old corpses were showing up all over. The detectives were sure she knew who was behind it. She needed to tell them or risk being arrested for accessory to murder and spending the rest of her life in jail. She closed the door on them. They told her through the door that it was Danny Milton who had identified her.

Cat left for the cave but went to the mall first to throw off the cops in case they were following her. She drove toward the cave and parked a good distance away from it and jogged the rest of the way. She was met at the mouth of the cave by Bones. She fell into his arms and told her about Danny and the cops. Immediately, Bones told her to get in touch with her mother. She and Cat's grandparents were in danger. Hennessey would find out about Danny identifying her and would strike out at her family. He told her to have her mother come to the cave and bring her grandparents. Cat called her mother but there was no answer. They immediately took off for her mother's house.

There was blood all over the house. Both her grandparents were dead and her mother was missing. Bones picked up Hennessey's scent and that of three other vampires who had been with him. They kidnapped Cat's mother. They left a note in her grandfather's shirt where they took her. The two detectives arrived when they headed for the motorcycle. The cops pulled their revolvers and got the drop on them. They focused on Bones and forgot about Cat who pulled two knives from her boot and hit both detectives on their wrists, making them drop their guns. Bones and Cat sped off.

Chapter 22



Bones only drove the motorcycle so far and then parked it, hiding it in the brush. He took over a car from a passing driver through mind control. Cat was bewildered by the note that the vampires left for Bones. It only said, "Recompense. Twice past day's death." It meant nothing to her but Bones understood its meaning. The note indicated that Hennessey wanted to meet at 2 am. They had hours to wait so Bones got a motel room where they could talk. Hennessey wanted him in exchange for Cat's mother. Cat wanted to go in his place but he wouldn't even consider it. He planned to rip off the head of every vampire that hurt Cat's family.

They made love and once again Bones bit Cat's neck to allow the strength of his blood run in hers. She felt the strength grow within her. She had a sudden urge to bite him and didn't want to stop. He told her she would learn to control her urges. Suddenly, her sense of smell was greatly heightened. Bones told Cat to unleash all her anger and kill every vampire or human – whoever stood in the way of rescuing her mother.

Analysis

Chapter 21

Ironically, it is Bones who will try to save Justina. They were too late to save Cat's grandparents from Hennessey and his vampires. Apparently Justina was kidnapped by the Hennessey gang and Bones and Cat are on their way to rescue her. Perhaps Justina will have a different opinion of vampires once Bones tries to save her. Hennessey and his minions were unable to capture Bones or Cat so they did the next best thing and attacked Cat's family members. It is obvious that Hennessey is ready for a confrontation since the location where they took Justina was found on Cat's grandfather's body.

If the police detectives are real policemen, Cat will have to face assault charges for slinging her knives at them and wounding them. But if she and Bones are able to capture the serial killers that have been murdering for decades, perhaps she will be pardoned from her crimes.

Any moment of sympathy that Cat had for Danny's broken hand had to all disappear when she learned that he turned her in to the police.

Chapter 22

Cat is allowing her vampire nature to come to the forefront. She is no longer fighting or denying it. She has increased senses and she has the urge to drink blood. It may have been at least a partial plan of Bone's to transform her before they had to face Hennessey and his vampires. He knew she needed the strength of a vampire in order to fight them. Her true test will be when she faces the vampires and tries to rescue her mother.



Discussion Question 1

What was Cat planning to talk to her mother about? How did Bones commandeer a passer-by's car?

Discussion Question 2

Why did Cat go to the mall and then jogging before she went to the cave? Why didn't she call Bones on the phone? How does Bones know that Hennessey wants to meet at 2a.m.?

Discussion Question 3

Why did Hennessey and his gang strike out at Cat's family? Why does Bones want Cat to have vampire blood in her before they confront Hennessey?

Vocabulary

Quivering, effigy, occult, cryptically, predatory, vengeance, hepatitis.



Chapters 23 - 24

Summary

Chapter 23

Cat and Bones drove to the same place where Cat tried to kill Hennessey and where they found Francesca. It was where Hennessey insisted on meeting. The plan was to allow them to take Bones inside the building where Justina was. When Hennessey double-crossed them, Cat was to come in with weapons blazing. There was no Plan B. As soon as they arrived, they were surrounded by six vampires. One of them was Vincent, also known as Switch. Cat had to hold back her rage as Switch taunted her about killing her grandparents. Cat demanded to know where her mother was. They were told to follow them and when they arrived at the target location she was instructed to leave as soon as her mother got in the car. When they arrived at the ramshackle house, Switch told Bones to come in and they'd send Cat's mother out. Bones said to have her stand at a window so he can see her and then he'd come in. Cat was terrified when she saw her mother's face suddenly shoved up against a window. Switch told Cat they'd bring her mother out and then they could leave.

Cat called the police and told them where she was and that she had injured the detectives earlier. Switch came out and Cat stepped on the gas. He jumped on the hood and smashed through the windshield as she rammed into the front window of the house. She leapt into the house flinging silver knives everywhere. She was in a fury. All Bones could do was duck. Her mother was tied up and cowering in a corner. They had been in the process of chaining Bones but he got loose and used the chains as weapons hurling them and wrapping them around a vampire's neck. Cat nearly flew across the room when she saw a vampire going for her mother. She untied her mother and told her to go outside. Cat maimed and killed one vampire after the other. Bones put away the others. Suddenly, the scream of sirens could be heard.

A short while later the police were ordering everyone outside to come outside. Bullets were flying when the police lit up the scene and saw the vampires, six of whom were still "alive." The vampires turned on the cops. Cat saw Hennessey and Switch make a run for it. She went after them. She had one big knife left and was determined to get Hennessey. They fought and struggled and finally Hennessey was pressing his fangs against her neck. She took her silver knife and plunged it into his back. He stiffened immediately and his mouth went slack and fell away from her neck. Bones ran after Switch who had raced into the woods. One of the vampires had caught Cat in the shoulder with a knife. Suddenly, a trembling cop was standing over Cat holding his gun on her. He told her she was under arrest and she thought, "Thank God". It could have been much worse.

Chapter 24



Summary

Cat was read her rights and then Lieutenant Kirkland pushed her toward his car even though she was injured. He shoved her in the backseat. When she complained he told her to shut up. Lieutenant Isaac was behind the wheel and hit the gas. He taunted her about throwing her life away and killing her grandparents and selling out her mother. She sniffed the air and recognized the smell. She catapulted into the front of the car. Isaac fired his gun but missed her. She got the better of him and tortured him into telling her who sent him to kill her.

It was Oliver, he told her. That wasn't the mayor's name. Who was Oliver, she demanded. Ethan Oliver – Governor Ethan Oliver. Isaac told her that Oliver wasn't a vampire, he was a human. Oliver plans to run for president. It was the governor who saw to it that police reports disappeared in exchange for a steady stream of young girls. Hennessey also agreed to clean the streets up of the homeless and other degenerates to give Oliver a good record to run on for president. Oliver wanted Isaac to kill Cat and then plant a bomb at the hospital where some of the abused girls were recovering. He wanted nothing to point to him.

They drove to the governor's mansion. There were three or four vampires inside along with about six human guards. Holding his own gun on him, Cat ordered Isaac to drive to the front and tell the governor that he brought him a surprise. As they neared the house Isaac alerted the others. She shot Isaac whose head exploded; blood was everywhere including all over her.

Soon a vampire attacked the car and yanked the door from the frame. She shot him in the mouth. She got the better of another vampire and slid inside where there a gunfight was in progress. The governor was on the phone calling for help. He pulled a gun and shot Cat in the shoulder and the leg. She told him that it was all over. Hennessey and his gang were history. And there wasn't going to be an explosion at the hospital that would destroy the evidence that could connect him to the murders. The police arrived just as Oliver prepared to kill Cat but she used mind control to stop him. He was frozen as he watched her eyes glow green. She lunged for him and strangled him to death. The police came in and Cat surrendered to them.

Analysis

Chapter 23

There was complete trust between Cat and Bones. They worked as a team to get Cat's mother back. In fact, they worked together like machinery, an indication of their abilities as well as their trust in one another. Finally, Hennessey was taken down and it was Cat, not Bones, who took him out. She had taken Bones' advice and allowed all her anger to emerge. She didn't hold anything back. Now that the serial killers were taken out, she still had one more act of vengeance. Her original quest was to find and kill her father. Could she have already accomplished that?!



The chapter ends on several cliffhangers. Cat is being arrested and her future is now in question. Bones ran off in the woods after Switch. Did he catch him and kill him? Will he devise a way to get Cat out of jail? Even though Cat took out some really bad actors, the police could not just let her go after all the carnage they discovered. Whether Justina got out safely or not has not yet been revealed.

Chapter 24

Analysis

It is Cat who solves the mystery of the important human who was behind the murders. Although Cat always relied on Bones to rescue her, this time she was on her own. And, she was on her own at the most critical and dangerous time of their investigation. The powerful governor of the state was the power behind the serial murderers. The irony will not be lost on Cat that even though the vampires were involved in the diabolical plot, it was a human who headed the killing machine.

The chapter ends when the police come on the scene at the governor's mansion. Cat is once again arrested. It will be a challenge for her to convince the authorities as to what exactly was going on. But since she stopped the bombing of the hospital, perhaps there will be enough evidence to prove her case. Once the dust settles, she will be more concerned about what happened to Bones and what happened to her mother.

Discussion Question 1

What was Bones' Plan B? What was Isaac taunting Cat about?

Discussion Question 2

Who was Bones after at the end of the chapter? How does Cat realize that Isaac is a vampire?

Discussion Question 3

Why was Cat glad to be arrested at the conclusion of the chapter? Why could Cat hear the police sirens before the governor did?

Vocabulary

Jaded, nonchalant, spasmodically, rasped, degenerates, presumably, permeated.



Chapters 25 - 26

Summary

Chapter 25

Cat was in the hospital and under arrest. There were three guards outside her door. Doctors had been coming in and out all day. They were astonished at how fast she had healed. Two FBI agents, Williams and Bradley, from the Paranormal Behavior Division, stopped by. Cat had no interest in talking to them. Bones would be coming for her and they along with her mother would go into hiding. Agent Williams explained that they investigated unnatural occurrence of homicides. Agent Bradley was recruited to head a special unit to fight vampires. The house where her mother was kept and the Governor's mansion were riddled with corpses that were hundreds and even thousands of years old yet dressed in modern attire.

Agent Williams had read her entire file including the circumstances of her birth. No one would believe her mother's statement that she had been raped by vampire. Cat had the same strain of mutation in her blood as these corpses. Cat denied that it was true. To prove his point, Agent Williams ordered Agent Bradley to shoot Cat in the head. Cat yanked off the metal bed railing that she was cuffed to and went after both agents. She had them on the floor and holding Bradley's revolver on them. Just as Williams thought, she had just proved her superhuman abilities. After things calmed down, Williams made Cat an offer. They would change her identity and back her up with troops and agents in exchange for her agreeing to work with them and hunt down vampires. They knew that the governor was corrupt but had never been able to prove it. Cat initially declined the offer. Williams told her he'd bring her mother in to see her.

Cat's mother was wheeled in. She was in a rage. She confronted Cat about Bones. The vampires who kidnapped her told her all about him and about their relationship. He used girls like Cat. Cat defended him but Justina did not want to hear anything positive about him. She blamed him and Cat for the deaths of her parents. Justina told Cat that if she continued her relationship with Bones she never wanted to see her again. She told the FBI that Cat had been corrupted by a vampire. The agents were hunting him down. The agents returned after Justina left Cat's room. She decided there was only one way to protect both her mother and Bones. She had to take the FBI's offer. Cat told Williams she'd take his offer with certain conditions. She would command any team that hunts vampires; they started right away and would leave Bones alone; her term of service would end after ten years; they would set her and her mother up in separate residences; and, they would take care of the girls who were rescued from the Hennessey gang.

Chapter 26

Justina softened up a bit after Cat told her she accepted the position with the FBI. She felt it would keep her from a life of evil. Cat disagreed with that statement but knew she



had to accept the offer anyway. Agent Bradley and another agent, Pete, was to drive Cat and Justina to a helicopter pad that would take them to a waiting military plane. Suddenly as they drove a man was standing in the middle of the road – it was Bones. The car crashed into him. Pete drew his gun and shot through the windshield at Bones but he kept coming. He ripped the car door off and threw it like it was a Frisbee. Cat told Bones not to kill the agents. They weren't going to hurt her. He picked up both agents and threw them aside. He grabbed Justina's arm and wouldn't let go though she struggled and cursed at him. Cat knocked her mother out with a punch to her jaw. Agents from another car were firing on them. Bones picked up the wrecked car and hurled it at the other agents' car.

Bones threw Justina, bound and gagged, over his shoulder and he and Cat ran through the woods to his waiting car. It was a new Volvo SUV that he bought for Cat. They were going to head for Indiana where Rodney, a friend of his, would set up Cat and her mother with new identifications.

Analysis

Chapter 25

In this chapter, Cat learns what true sacrifice is. She is smart and knows that if she doesn't take the offer from the FBI, she, her mother and Bones will all be vulnerable to vicious attacks from vampires. Bones would also be hunted down by law enforcement. She agrees to take on the position of vampire hunter for the special FBI Unit but lays out her demands which are all met. The only people Cat loves on earth are her mother and Bones. She will do anything to protect them even if it means she will be estranged from them.

Cat has a lot of repair work to do with her mother but that may have to be put on hold for a while. But Cat will make sure she is protected and will probably try to chip away at her mother's abhorrence of her relationship with Bones.

Cat never dreamed she would ever be on the side of law enforcement. But being a vampire hunting FBI agent seems to be the perfect job for her.

Chapter 26

Bones had other ideas for Cat's future. His love drives him to seek her out and claim her as his. He can't let go of her. Her mother will just have to get used to him. Of course, Cat is happy to be with Bones again but her future and that of her mother would entail a life of secrecy and deception. Her mother will resist being involved with Bones but she may have no choice.



Discussion Question 1

Why did Agent Williams tell Agent Bradley to shoot Cat in the head? What is Justina's reaction to Cat becoming an agent with the FBI?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Cat at first decline the offer from the FBI? Why did Cat punch her mother and knock her out?

Discussion Question 3

What are the conditions that Cat demands to accept the position with the FBI? What steps will Bones take to make sure that no one can track Cat and her mother down?

Vocabulary

Spontaneously, paranormal, cellulite, unsavory, repugnance, velocity, acrid, maelstrom, exasperated.



Chapter 27

Summary

Rodney was a ghoul. He didn't seem surprised for Justina to be handed over to him bound and gagged. It probably wasn't an unusual sight for him. Cat took her mother to the bathroom to clean up. She ran hot water creating enough steam to allow her to write on the bathroom mirror. She wrote that they would leave the next day without Bones and that he didn't know. She settled her mother in a bedroom in the basement and went upstairs to spend the night with Bones.

Cat told Bones that she loved him and would love him forever. Meeting him was the best thing that ever happened to her. She hoped to herself that he would remember her words when she was gone and wouldn't hate her as much for leaving. Bones and Rodney planned to leave in a few hours to make final arrangements for their departure. They would take Rodney's car and leave the Volvo there. When Bones and Rodney left, she embraced Bones. She was devastated that she wouldn't see him again. But she had to leave to keep him safe. Besides, it would never work. She'd grow old, and he wouldn't. He said it was cold out and gave her his jean jacket to wear.

As soon as Bones and Rodney were gone, Cat and Justina hurriedly got ready and left. A short time later, an FBI helicopter was hovering over Switch's dead body. Cat had been able to locate it from what Bones told her. FBI agents surrounded Cat and the dead body of Switch. Williams looked at the corpse that was now wearing Bones' jean jacket. He noticed that the corpse was just a pile of bones. Cat said that it was fitting since that was his name – Bones!

Later, at a military hospital in Houston Williams told Cat that Catherine Crawford was dead – officially killed by the FBI while trying to escape. When Cat and her mother were moved to a military facility, Cat allowed herself to think about Bones. As she drifted off that night, she remembered that he told her if she ran from him he would find her.

Analysis

Cat found a way of making both her mother and Bones safe. She fooled the FBI into thinking that Bones was dead which would get the authorities off his back. Cat learned a lot from Bones. She learned how to recognize vampires and hunt them down and kill them. She also learned how to trick people which came in handy when she convinced the FBI that Bones was dead.

Even though Cat left without a hint as to where she went, Bones is a determined person and has fought many battles over the centuries. Surely when he puts his mind to it, he will find Cat again.



Discussion Question 1

What type of being was Rodney?

Discussion Question 2

Whose body is really in the woods?

Discussion Question 3

How will Bones react when he realizes that Cat has run off?

Vocabulary

Ghoul, imposition, feisty, ruthlessly, perimeter.



Characters

Cat

Catherine “Cat” Crawfield is a twenty-two year-old young woman who is a college student. She lives with her mother and maternal grandparents. On weekends she hangs out at local pick-up bars where vampires are known to frequent. She lures these undead beings with her charm and sexual appeal. She leaves with them and when they get her alone to bite her and drink her blood; she explodes into anger and kills them with her silver stakes.

Cat is a vampire hunter for several very personal reasons. Her mother was sixteen when she was raped by a vampire. Cat was born five months later and is half-human and half-vampire. The vampire part of her is where she gets her fighting skills and her human side calls up her anger and vengeance for her mother. She has a difficult time accepting her dual identity and, because of her father, feels that all vampires are evil.

When Cat encounters the handsome Bones, a two-hundred year-old vampire who looks twenty-four, there is an immediate attraction. Cat tries to fight it but when Bones takes her on to help in his mission to rout out an vicious group of vampires headed by the evil vampire, Hennessey, she realizes that all vampires aren't bad and eventually, that Bones is good and even worthy of falling in love with.

Bones

Bones is a two-hundred-seventeen year-old vampire whose given name is Crispin. When he was imprisoned in South Wales centuries before, a vampire friend turned him into a vampire against his will. He didn't want to be transformed into the living dead but his friend thought he was doing him a favor. Physically, Bones is frozen at twenty-four years of age. He appears to be a handsome young man with a great physique and dark smoldering eyes.

Bones is a good vampire who has been on a mission for over a decade to hunt down and defeat Hennessey and his gang of vicious vampires who prey on young women. Bones is sure that the gang is behind decades of serial killings that are now occurring in the area where Cat lives.

When Bones meets Cat it is instant attraction on his part. But because she hates vampires and thinks they are all evil, it takes him a while to convince her that they aren't all bad. Bones is amazed that Cat is half vampire and half human. He takes her on to work with him in hunting down the Hennessey gang. As time passes, he falls in love with her and doesn't want her involved in the dangerous undertaking. But Cat is stubborn and she vows to stick with Bones until they defeat the gang.



Cat must leave him in the end for his own good and to protect him. But Bones once told her that if she ever ran off, he would chase her and find her again.

Justina

Justina is Cat's mother. She was raped by a vampire when she was sixteen. Five months later, Cat was born. Justina hates vampires and fears that Cat's vampire nature may one day dominate her. Justina is devastated when she learns that Cat is involved with the vampire named Bones.

Kevin

In the opening episode of the story, Cat meets up with Kevin in a bar. She recognizes him as a vampire and lures him away. When he tries to bite her neck and drink her blood, she drives a stake in his heart.

Winston Gallagher

Winston Gallagher was a ghost that Cat had to rouse from the grave. She needed to get the names of young girls who had recently died unnatural deaths.

Grandparents

Cat lives in a small house with her mother and maternal grandparents. To get back at Cat, the vicious Hennessey gang kills the grandparents and kidnaps Cat's mother.

Hennessey

Hennessey is an old nemesis of Bones and is the head of a vicious gang of vampires that prey on young, attractive human girls who eventually wind up dead.

Governor Ethan Oliver

Bones always sensed that there was an influential human behind the Hennessey gang. He was proven correct when it was revealed that the governor of the state was the human behind the abductions and killings.

Francesca

Francesca is the most beautiful woman that Cat had ever seen; in spite of the fact that she's over a hundred years old. Francesca is a vampire in Hennessey's circle, but she betrays him to help Bones and Cat.



Tim

Tim is a human neighbor at Cat's new apartment. He gives Cat a good piece of advice. Don't judge a whole group by just a few bad apples.



Symbols and Symbolism

Glowing Green Eyes

The vampires' eyes turn green when they become aroused by blood. It symbolizes their supernatural and sensual nature.

Silver Stake

A silver stake in the heart is one of the only ways to kill a vampire. It represents how difficult it is to defeat a vampire.

Silver Bullets

Normal gunshots don't kill a vampire but uploading a gun filled with silver bullets into the heart of a vampire will kill it. This also demonstrates the difficulty in killing a vampire.

Vampire blood

Vampire blood represents life; it is used to heal wounds and extend life to humans who are injured. Ironically, it is the blood of the undead that gives life.

Religion

Religion is brought into the story to give the vampires dimension and a point of comparison to humans through Bones' explanation that Cain created the undead from his guilt over killing Abel. Cain became the God of the Undead.

Governor

The governor of the state is behind the gang of evil vampires. He symbolizes power and influence.

Mind Control

The vampires are given the ability to control their victims through mind control which gives them a supernatural power and an excuse for humans giving into them.



Animal instincts

Vampires have enhanced senses like animals. They are faster, stronger, and more agile and have heightened senses which compensates for their state of being undead. It is another point of comparison where the undead is superior to humans.

Femininity

Cat is depicted as strong and able as both a human and as a vampire. In either identity, she symbolizes a strong woman.

Justina

Justina is Cat's mother who is completely against Cat's relationship with Bones. She symbolizes society's resistance to those who are different.



Settings

The Bar Scene

Cat Crawfield is a vampire hunter. She hangs out at night clubs where vampires are known to frequent. There are multiple episodes in “Halfway to the Grave” that take place in these pick-up bars. One is appropriately named “Bite.”

The Cave

Bones lives in a cave on the outskirts of the town where Cat lives. It is a large cave that is modernized and equipped with the latest in electronics.

Cat’s Family’s House

Cat lives in a small house with her mother and with her maternal grandparents. Many scenes take place there, the most memorable of which is the gruesome scene when Cat and Bones find the dead bodies of her grandparents and the house splattered with blood.

Cat’s Apartment

After Cat became involved with Bones, she decided to move out of her mother’s house so she could have privacy.

Governor’s Mansion

Cat forced a vampire to reveal that the human behind the Hennessey gang was none other than the governor of the state. There is a huge shoot-out at the governor’s mansion when Cat confronts the governor himself.



Themes and Motifs

Sacrifice

One of the main themes in “Halfway to the Grave” is sacrifice. There are many instances of sacrifice in the story from the literal to the metaphoric. Much blood is spilled, or sacrificed, throughout the story. Blood flows from the prey of vampires as the fiends sink their fangs into the throats of the innocents. They drink in their blood in order to sate their hunger and feed the thirst of the undead. Although this sacrifice is not voluntary, it is none the less the sacrifice from one being in order for another being to continue its existence.

Justina was just sixteen when she was raped by a vampire. Five months later she gave birth to Catherine, her child who was half-human and half-vampire. Justina devoted her life to her daughter and sacrificed her own happiness to tend to her unusual child. Always worried that Cat’s vampire nature will eventually dominate her daughter, Justina is forever in a fretful state looking for signs that her daughter has turned.

Cat herself has sacrificed the normal life of a young woman by devoting herself to avenging her mother. Her ultimate goal is to find and kill her vampire father so that she can vanquish her anger and find some resolution. When Cat and Bones meet, they are immediately attracted to each other. Although Cat fights off these feelings for a time, she eventually gives into temptation and to her passions. The two fall in love but in the end Cat must leave Bones for his own survival. She sacrifices her own happiness to protect the ones she loves from evil forces both in terms of humans and vampires.

Abandonment

Cat is driven by the revenge in her heart and hurt that stems from a father who abandoned her on so many levels. Cat’s mother was date-raped when she was sixteen. That was bad enough on its own but adding the fact that the man was a vampire adds a tragic dimension to the situation. Five months after the vampire raped and abandoned her, she gave birth to her only child, Catherine Crawfield whom everyone called “Cat.”

Cat always felt different from everyone but never could put her finger on why she felt that way. It haunted her as a child and even more so when she came into her teens. She felt cheated that she did not have a father like her other classmates. She felt unloved and abandoned that the man who had given her life obviously wanted nothing to do with her. She had a mother and grandparents who loved her but there was always that missing piece in her life. To make matters worse, her mother refused to talk about her father. He was a mysterious presence that forever loomed in her life even though she had never seen him.

When she was fourteen, Cat began to see more and more differences with her peers. She was stronger, more agile and could move faster than everyone. And when a group



of boys taunted her and called her mother a “slut” a powerful anger rose from within – an anger that she could not control. She made short shrift out of the boys and beat them all up single-handedly. When she went inside and looked in the mirror, her eyes were glowing a bright green. Her mother finally had to tell her about the identity of her father. She was horrified that the abandoned father was a vampire. Now she was glad he wasn't in her life and, in fact, she was horrified to think that he was still walking the earth.

Cat felt even more abandoned than she had when she thought her father was a human. Not only did she not have a father in her life, but he turned out to be an unfeeling, undead monster. She fought back the only way she could. She began hunting vampires looking for him and hoping to avenge her mother's hurt and her own anger over having a bloodsucking fiend for a father.

Trust

Cat started out in life with definite disadvantages. She didn't have a father and she always felt different from everyone although she couldn't pinpoint why. She withdrew within herself and built up walls against others since she never felt comfortable in her own skin. Other kids taunted her about her mother and family which made her feel all the more isolated.

As it turned out, she had plenty of reason to feel different. When she was fourteen, she beat up a gang of boys who was taunting her and besmirching her mother's honor. A rage emerged from deep within her – a rage that she could not control – and she let loose on the boys who were sorry they ever opened their mouths. Although she defeated them, it did nothing to build trust in her fellow students. It was then that her mother told her that her father was a vampire and that she, therefore, was half vampire.

It was quite a shock to hear such news about herself. She withdrew even more. Her own mother had lied to her all those years and the father who had given her life was in fact a fiend and monster. If you can't trust your parents, who can you trust?! Cat's first love interest used her and then unceremoniously dumped her – another breach of trust that she had to live with and caused even more barriers to be thrown up before her.

It is no wonder that she was reluctant to get involved with Bones even though she had feelings for him and was attracted to him. He was a vampire for starters – the same ilk as her father. And he was a young man like her first love who hurt and abandoned her. Building trust was something that Cat had to work through all her life. She will probably always tend to hold her trust close to her vest.



Styles

Point of View

“Halfway to the Grave” by Jeaniene Frost is a work of fiction that is written from the perspective of the protagonist, Catherine “Cat” Crawfield. She is a young college student who lives at home with her mother and grandparents. At least that is the face that she presents to the public at large. In reality, she is half-human and half-vampire. In her off-time, she is a vampire hunter. Since the book is written from the perspective of Cat Crawfield, the reader is able to understand the ambiguous existence that she must live. The reader feels her angst at being abandoned by her father and possibly idealizing who he is only to learn as a young teen that her father was a vampire and she, therefore, is a very unusual half-breed.

The story is told in the first person which allows the reader to understand Cat’s fears and trepidations as she exists on the weekends for only one person – to hunt down vampires. Her underlying quest is to hopefully one day find the vampire who gave her life yet represents the factor that will make it literally impossible for her to ever have a normal life.

As Cat begins to fall in love with Bones, a two-hundred year-old vampire, whose physical being is frozen at a handsome twenty-four-years of age, the reader understands her fears and her reluctance to give in to the feelings that are there from the very first encounter she had with the handsome and fundamentally good vampire. When Cat decides she has to leave Bones at the end of the story, she shares her pain with no one other than the reader.

Language and Meaning

“Halfway to the Grave”, A Night Huntress Novel, by Jeaniene Frost, is written in a contemporary style and is riddled with strong and explicit language. Since “vampires” are the main subject of the story, there are many references and phrases about these creatures. They are frequently referred to as the “undead” connoting their existence in a state halfway between the living and the dead. There are many instances of the vampires attacking their prey and sinking their fangs into the necks of their victims and drinking their blood.

The mutilation and murder of humans as well as of vampires occur throughout the story and are described in vivid detail. For example, one of the only ways to kill a vampire is by decapitation. Bones, the lead male vampire in the story, is described as literally tearing the heads off of vampires with whom he is battling. The scene when Cat, the protagonist, and her vampire lover, Bones, discover the bodies of her grandparents after they were attacked and killed by rampaging vampires is not for the weak-stomach



crowd. There are also episodes between Cat and Bones that are somewhat sexually explicit.

“Halfway to the Grave” is not for the prudish or tenderhearted and those who read it must be prepared for a raw and abrasive story of a vampire huntress, her vampire lover and their battle with evil vampires, ghouls and ghosts that lurk throughout the story.

Structure

“Halfway to the Grave”, A Night Huntress Novel, by Jeaniene Frost, is separated into twenty-seven chapters. The pace of the story is fast and there is skillful use of foreshadowing and cliff hangers to engage the reader and keep the story continuing at a good clip.

The subtitle of “Halfway to the Grave” is “A Night Huntress Novel” indicating that this book is but one of a series. There are threads of the story that remain unknown at its conclusion. Since the series will apparently continue, there is some certainty that these unresolved issues will be addressed in a subsequent book.

There is a slight feeling of dissatisfaction and disappointment that certain elements of the story remain unknown at its end. For example, one of Cat’s main goals in the story is to find and kill her vampire father to avenge her mother and to achieve personal resolution. Since this scenario was presented at the beginning of the story as one of her reasons for vampire hunting, it is a mistake not to even mention it at the end of the story.

Of course, also unresolved is the love story between Cat and Bones. Although she leaves him at the conclusion of the story – still loving him but leaving him for his own good – she recalls his words: if she runs from him he will find her again. Obviously, the book leaves off on a cliffhanger to be taken up in the next book and leads the reader to believe that Cat and Bones will meet again.



Quotes

Turning to give a rebuff, I stopped short when I saw my admirer was as dead as Elvis.
-- Cat (Chapter 1 paragraph Page 6, 5)

Importance: A little humor added to Catherine's quest for a victim.

You're the bait. I'm the hook.
-- Bones (Chapter 2 paragraph Page 23, 4)

Importance: The vampire will allow her to live if she helps him capture and kill vampires he is hunting down. It sets the premise for the story.

Sunlight doesn't do anything but give us a bad sunburn. Our skin won't explode in flames like it does in the movies.
-- Bones (Chapter 3 paragraph Page 32, 5)

Importance: Bones lectures Cat on vampires and what kills them. He wants her to learn more about vampires because she will be working for him.

Always fight dirty.
-- Bones (Chapter 3 paragraph Page 37, 7)

Importance: Bones was giving Cat advice on how to fight with vampires.

You play the hand you're dealt just like everyone else in this bloody world. You have gifts people would kill for, no matter that you scorn them.
-- Bones (Chapter 7 paragraph Page 89, 7)

Importance: Bones responds to Cat's complaint about being a half-vampire. Bones shows his concern for her by urging her to accept who she is.

First dates. They can be quite something, can't they? Either perfume or poison, with usually no in between.
-- Hennessey (Chapter 9 paragraph Page 121, 8)

Importance: Hennessey is coming on to Cat and trying to find out who she is with.

Dinner for whichever ghoulish you feel like rewarding, but make sure they clean their plate. I don't want any part of her resurfacing.
-- Bones (Chapter 12 paragraph Page 149, 8)

Importance: Ted disposes of bodies for Bones. Bones is dropping off the body of Stephanie who was accidentally killed by Cat. Cat overhears the exchange between Bones and Ted and she is disturbed that the body won't just be buried.



Each one of those honeys is worth 'bout sixty large when it's all put to bed. We doll them up and have them work the breathers first, then we auction 'em off to one of ours." (Chapter 13, page 183)

-- Charlie (Chapter 13 paragraph Page 183, 9)

Importance: Charlie to Bones explaining what they do after they capture young girls -- an operation that is headed by the evil Hennessey.

Yet I happen to know firsthand how devastating it is when someone you love is murdered. There's nothing worse, and I don't want him going through that.

-- Charles (Chapter 16 paragraph Page 214, 2)

Importance: Bones' friend is warning Cat not to go after Hennessey because if something happened to him Bones would be destroyed. His statement indicates that Bones must have told Charles how he feels about Cat.

You can't wish away the vampire in you, and you shouldn't keep atoning for it. You should figure out who you are and what you need, and then don't apologize for it. Not to me, to your mum, or to anyone.

-- Bones (Chapter 19 paragraph Page 259, 8)

Importance: Bones is making her face who she is – that she is half human and half vampire and she can't continue to deny the part of her that is vampire.

How could he risk his life when he is dead? Dead and he brought death with him. It's because of him those murderers came to our house and it's your fault for involving yourself with him. If you wouldn't have been sleeping with a vampire, my parents would still be alive! (Chapter 25 paragraph Page 330, 4)

Importance: Justina confronted Cat about her relationship with Bones. She is angry and hurt that her daughter is involved with a vampire.

I could almost hear Bones' voice. He was whispering that same promise he'd made to me months ago when our relationship started. . . if you run from me, I'll chase you. And I'll find you. . . .

-- Cat (Chapter 27 paragraph Page 331, 6)

Importance: Cat recalls how Bones said he'd never let her go.