

Hush, Hush Study Guide

Hush, Hush by Becca Fitzpatrick

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Plot Summary

Hush, Hush by Becca Fitzpatrick is a story about Nora Grey, a sixteen-year-old girl living in Coldwater, Maine. Nora lives in with her mother, Blythe, in an eighteenth century farmhouse located on the outskirts of town. The house, located on Hawthorne Lane, has no neighbors. Nora's father, an accountant, had been murdered in Portland the previous year and the house is the only remaining connection to him. His death has deeply affected Nora in many ways, including the fact that she often feels as if she is being watched. While Nora believes that being watched by her father should make her feel protected, it does not.

Nora is an average sixteen-year-old girl. She is worried about grades, fitting in, and the condition of her Fiat Spider. Boys aren't much of an issue until she meets Patch and Elliot. Nora is much more focused on school and spending time with her best friend, Vee.

Patch Cipriano is a fallen angel posing as a high school boy. Nora describes Patch as being tall, dark and annoying, with black orbs for eyes. Nora leaves out the part about Patch's lean muscular arms, broad shoulders and seductive yet playful mouth because it makes her uncomfortable to think about him in that way. Elliot Saunders is a transfer student from Kinghorn Prep. Like Patch, Elliot has a sketchy past.

Patch is always by Nora's side, often saving her when bad things begin to happen. Nora is attacked on the highway by a masked man, another masked assailant attacks Vee after Vee dons Nora's coat, and more than one person breaks into Nora's house.

Nora is stunned to realize that she is the descendant of the Nephilim. Nephilim are a race of half-angels, half-mortals. Patch needs Nora because he desperately wants to become mortal. Killing Nora will allow him to do that.

The reader learns a lot about the legend of fallen angels and Nephilim. Although Patch knows he can become mortal by killing Nora, he can return to being an angel if he saves her life. There is a distinct war between good and evil.

An ancient Nephilim named Chauncey, aka Jules, is behind all the havoc and danger surrounding Nora. Nora manages to defeat Chauncey by jumping off a rafter in the high school gym, a move that would end her life. Patch gives into his love for Nora and saves her, giving up on his dream of becoming mortal but being able to keep Nora.

There is a great deal of paranormal activity in the story that prompts the reader to learn to suspend judgment of the logical. However, Becca Fitzpatrick is able to make it believable and enjoyable.



Prologue: 1-5

Prologue: 1-5 Summary

Prologue:

The story begins in the Loire Valley in France in 1565. Chauncey, the Duc de Langeais, leaves his girlfriend on the banks of the Loire. Chauncey gives the girl a silver buckle from his shoe and sends her on her way. The night is dark and the rain makes it hard to see. However, Chauncey grew up on the grounds and could easily find his way home. As he walks through a cemetery, he is approached and then accosted by a boy with wings who claims to be one of the Devil's brood. The boy demands that Chauncey do his bidding. Chauncey becomes enraged and defiant. The boy with wings tells Chauncey that he is a bastard and not the real Duc de Langeais. Chauncey's father was a fallen angel, making Chauncey a Nephilim.

Chapter 1: Coldwater, Maine, present day

The reader is introduced to Nora Grey, a student at Coldwater High School. Nora enters biology class to find Barbie and Ken cutouts placed on the chalkboard with fig leaves attached in the appropriate places. Next to Nora is Vee Sky, her best friend.

The kids in Coach McConaughy's class are not thrilled about learning the science of reproduction. Chuckles and comments come from the back of the class. The Coach talks about knowing another person well and why it is important. It can be assumed that people that sit together have done so for a reason. For example, Nora and Vee are best friends. The Coach decides that it is time for students to learn about others that they might not know as well. Everyone complains, but Vee is the most vocal. The Coach will not be dissuaded. Vee is moved to the back of the class, and in Vee's place a boy named Patch appears. Nora knows nothing about Patch. The assignment for the day is to learn as much as possible about the new person and write an essay about him or her.

Patch seems to know a startling amount about Nora. This is particularly strange, since Nora didn't even know his name until five minutes ago. Patch talks incessantly about Nora but will not answer any questions. Patch tells Nora to call him that night. Nora says she will not call him - ever.

After class, Nora and Vee grouse about the new seating chart.

Chapter 2:

Nora and her mother live in an eighteenth century farmhouse on the outskirts of town. The house, located on Hawthorne Lane, has no neighbors. The house tends to be surrounded in fog. "The house was at this moment veiled by gloom that resembled escaped and wandering spirits." Chap. 2, p. 18



Nora spends the evening working on algebra homework and chatting with the housekeeper, Dorothea. Nora laments the change in seating charts in biology. She describes Patch as being tall, dark and annoying with black orbs for eyes. Nora leaves out the part about Patch's lean muscular arms, broad shoulders and seductive yet playful mouth.

Dorothea finishes for the night and goes home. Nora wars with herself about calling Patch. She finally gives in. Patch says that he is busy. If Nora wants to talk to him she will have to go to Bo's Arcade where Patch is playing a game of pool. She says, "I stared at the phone in disbelief, then ripped a clean sheet of paper from my notebook. I scribbled Jerk on the first line. On the line beneath it I added, Smokes cigars. Will die of lung cancer. Hopefully soon. Excellent physical shape." Chap. 2, p. 21

Nora leaves the decision to a flip of a coin. Nora goes to Bo's arcade to find Patch. Inside, Patch is still evasive about his answers to Nora's questions. Patch is playful and it annoys Nora. Patch also continues to spout facts about Nora that he could not have known through regular channels.

Nora finally leaves Bo's Arcade and goes home. A noise wakes her from a sound sleep. Nora thinks about how a phantom presence had been in her life ever since her dad had been murdered in Portland. A shadow appears near the door. Nora convinces herself that it was no more than a cloud going in front of the moon or a piece of garbage being blown around by the wind. She says, "By the time I found the courage to get out of bed, the yard below my window was silent and still. The only noise came from tree branches scraping against the house, and my own heart thrumming under my skin." Chap. 2, p. 31

Chapter 3:

Coach McConaughy stands in front of the class, speaking to the students. Nora is preoccupied. She thinks about Patch's birthmark and how it is in a place very close to her own. Nora ponders Patch's source of information about her as she takes her iron pills. Nora is anemic. It is not a life threatening condition, but one that must be monitored.

Coach interrupts Nora's train of thought when he asks what she looks for in a potential mate. Nora stutters and asks the Coach to call on someone else. Coach calls on Patch. Patch and Coach engage in conversation, mostly centered on Nora, who is becoming extremely uncomfortable. Patch openly flirts with Nora and Coach seems to encourage it, while Nora wishes the earth would open up and swallow her whole. After class, Nora attempts to talk to Coach about what happened in class but Coach seems to have no interest in hearing Nora's argument or the request to switch partners. Even Nora's offer to tutor another student fails.

Nora and Vee emerge from the movie theater after seeing a horror movie. They go to the library so that Nora can write her review for the eZine. Patch is at the library. Vee talks about him non-stop. Vee thinks Patch is edgy, sexy, and mysterious. Nora says



she cannot get past his personality. A girl named Marcie sits at the same table with Vee and Nora. Vee and Marcie exchange insults. Vee tells Marcie that she has food stuck in her teeth; Marcie insults Vee's weight. Vee is always on some sort of strange diet.

Nora asks Vee to take her home. Vee says that the fog is too thick and she is too scared to drive in it. Vee suggests that Nora and her mother move into civilization instead of living so far out. Vee agrees to give her car to Nora for the night. On the way home Nora begins to drive through an intersection when a dark figure hits the hood of the Neon and rolls off. The person is wearing black clothes and a ski mask. He punches a hole through the window and tries to grab Nora. Nora speeds off while trying to stop from being hysterical.

Chapter 4:

Nora drives by her house and then heads back toward town. She calls Vee and asks to spend the night at her house. Vee agrees. Nora tries to find a way to tell Vee what happened. When Vee and Nora go out to inspect the damage, there is no dent in the door and the windshield is not smashed. There is only a tiny crack. Vee is elated; Nora is baffled and scared. Suddenly, the incident begins to fade from Nora's mind.

In the morning the girls go to Enzo's Bistro for a cup of steamed milk before school. They meet two boys, Elliot and Jules. Elliot has just transferred from Kinghorn Prep to CHS. Vee and Nora talk to Elliot and Jules for a while before Nora makes an excuse to leave. Nora realizes that if she wasn't still shaken from the previous night's events, Elliot could be a subject of interest.

Biology class is at the end of the day. Coach gives a pop quiz. Nora and Patch talk during the quiz. Patch refuses to try to get his seat changed. After class, Vee tells Nora that they need to do some snooping to find out the real truth about Patch.

Chapter 5: Vee's plan to snoop on Patch includes playing lookout while Nora makes up an excuse to see the nurse. Vee calls in a bomb threat and Nora manages to get into the student records room. Patch's file is empty.

Nora meets Vee at Borderline, a Mexican restaurant. Nora has forgotten that Patch works there. While Vee is in the bathroom, Patch sits and talks with Nora. Nora is becoming increasingly uncomfortable with Patch. Patch asks Nora to go to a party on Sunday. Nora says she cannot go out on a school night. Patch dubs Nora "angel". Patch continues to analyze Nora. Nora hates it yet at the same time is becoming increasingly curious about Patch.

Prologue: 1-5 Analysis

The Prologue provides the basis for the entire story. In 1565, Chauncey, the sixteen-year-old Duc de Langeais, is attacked in a cemetery as he walks home on a dark, foggy night. The boy who attacks him claims to be one of the Devil's brood. The boy immediately demands that Chauncey bow to his will. Chauncey is defiant and denies



that he would ever bow to another, and obviously lesser, man. Chauncey is attacked and becomes ill and weak until he eventually agrees to meet the boy on Cheshvan. The boy says he will need Chauncey for two weeks, which alarms Chauncey. The boy informs Chauncey that he is half Nephil - half mortal, half fallen angel. Chauncey is angry and his pride is hurt. He has convinced himself that he is royalty. When the boy turns, Chauncey views the long V-shaped scars on his back, revealing that the boy is a fallen angel. No more information is given on Cheshvan or Chauncey's role.

Chapter 1: Nora and Vee are introduced as being two average girls in high school. The girls want to be together in class, but Coach wants to prove a point and separates them. Nora's first meeting with Patch leaves her uneasy and intrigued.

Chapter 2: Nora and Dorothea's relationship is more of a friendship than an employer/employee type. Although Dorothea is the housekeeper, Nora also knows that Dorothea is there to watch over her, which Nora doesn't mind since her mother is out of town. Dorothea also brings a sense of comfort to Nora, who struggles with loneliness and the ongoing trauma of having lost her father. In some ways, Nora has also lost her mother who must travel for work.

It is obvious that Patch has some instantaneous effect on Nora. Nora is brave but not necessarily wise and falls too easily into Patch's plan.

Chapter 3: Coach seems to have some reason to humiliate Nora and to make her extremely uncomfortable. His behavior is inappropriate. However, when Nora mentions it after class, Coach completely dismisses Nora's complaints. This is a sign that there is some larger force at work.

The incident with Nora on the highway is terrifying to the girl. It is akin to a scene out of a horror movie, and Nora begins to wonder if it happened at all. Nora begins to keep secrets.

Chapter 4: The meeting with Elliot and Jules seems to be fortuitous. Elliot seems to be a nice guy. Vee is immediately taken with Jules. Nora likes Elliot but is too distracted by the events from the previous night.

Chapter 5: Vee's curiosity gets the better of her and she convinces Nora to spy on Patch. Vee's personality is stronger than Nora's and Nora tends to give in too easily. Nora is stunned when the school has no information on Patch. Suddenly, Nora must have answers.



Chapters 6-12

Chapters 6-12 Summary

Chapter 6:

Nora goes to morning PE and finds that Elliot is now in her class. Elliot tells Nora that he is a jock through and through. To prove it, he volunteers to become captain of one of the softball teams. The other captain is Marcie Millar, a sworn enemy to Nora and Vee. Marcie laughs when Elliot chooses Nora. While at bat, Nora hears a voice in her head. She thinks it belongs to Patch. Nora looks and sees Patch standing near the fence. Elliot gives Nora some pointers and she makes a good hit, although she is tagged out at second base. Elliot asks Nora if Patch is her boyfriend. Nora says that Patch is no more than her bio partner. Elliot asks Nora out on a date and she accepts.

Chapter 7:

Nora is at home in the kitchen, talking with Dorothea. Dorothea is talking about her new plan to think herself sexy. Every morning she writes on her bathroom mirror that she is sexy and tells herself that sixty-five is the new twenty-five. Dorothea asks Nora if she has any romantic interests in the works, who responds by saying, "Trust me, Dorth, there are no boys in my life." Okay, maybe there were two lurking on the fringe, circling from afar, but since I didn't know either very well, and one outright frightened me, it felt safer to close my eyes and pretend they weren't there." Chap. 7, p. 92

Vee calls, excited about their trip to Delphic Seaport. Nora decides not to wear any makeup for the evening, which earns her a chastising look from Vee.

Nora, Vee, Elliot and Jules go to the arcade. Patch is there. Jules immediately leaves for the bathroom and never returns. Nora tries to ignore Patch but Vee won't let it happen. Vee talks to Elliot non-stop about how much Patch wants Nora. Nora gets more agitated by the moment, reflecting, "I had no idea why Vee was doing this, other than that she had a penchant for making everything as dramatic as possible. Her idea of drama was my idea of morbid humiliation." Chap. 7, p. 101

Elliot wants to go over and talk to Patch, but Nora says no. Nora goes to talk to Patch instead. Patch tells Nora to meet him at the Archangel. Nora says no. Nora can hear Patch's voice in her head.

Chapter 8:

Elliot leaves to find Jules. Nora chastises Vee for her attempts to make Elliot jealous. Nora decides that she wants some cotton candy and leaves the arcade. Nora feels like someone is watching her. Nora runs into Patch. Patch tells Nora to stop running from him. They ride the Archangel.



Nora is creeped out by the faces of demons and fallen angels painted on the sides of the cars. While the ride is in motion, Nora's seatbelt comes undone and she falls out of the car. Nora screams for Patch to save her. He does.

Chapter 9:

Nora is badly shaken at her near-death experience. Patch acts as if nothing has happened. Patch asks Nora why she is so scared. "I spoke without thinking. 'Maybe it's just that I'm scared of - 'I cursed myself for even beginning the sentence. What was I supposed to say now? I was not about to admit to Patch that everything about him frightened me." Chap. 9, p. 125

Nora searches for Vee but she is nowhere to be found. Elliot and Jules are also gone. Nora tries to call Vee but cannot reach her. When Nora and Patch walk out to the parking lot, Nora notices that Vee's car is gone. She is stranded at Delphic Seaport. Patch offers to take Nora home. At first she refuses, but then eventually consents since it seems that she has no other choice.

Nora gets home and cannot find her keys. Patch has them. Patch says she dropped them at the arcade. When Nora gets her keys back, she finds that the door will not open. The lock or the door is jammed. Patch manages to open the door. Before Nora knows what is happening, Patch is inside the house. Nora's mother is not home.

Patch offers to teach Nora how to make tacos. Patch lures Nora into a close physical situation and Nora is transfixed, saying in exposition, "What had I been thinking? I'd come this close to kissing Patch. The same Patch who might just be invading my mind." Chap. 9, p. 134

Nora's mother calls and gives Nora a way out of the sticky situation.

Chapter 10:

Nora's phone rings after 2:00 AM. It is Vee. Nora cannot understand how her phone is fully charged; after all, when she had tried to call Vee hours earlier, the phone was completely dead. Vee wants details of Nora's evening with Patch. Vee and Nora both wonder if Nora is being lured by danger.

The next morning Nora and Vee go shopping at Victoria's Secret. Nora feels like she is being watched. This time Vee sees the stranger as well. The girls develop a plan. Vee takes Nora's jacket and umbrella and walks out into the rain. Nora takes Vee's car. They plan to meet at the cemetery where they can corner the would-be stalker. The plan fails miserably. Vee is attacked and is on the ground when Nora arrives. Vee has been beaten and her arm is broken.

Chapter 11:

Vee goes into surgery for the broken arm. Nora suffers through a day of school, counting the hours until she can see Vee. Nora learns that there is a new school



psychologist, Miss D. Greene. Miss Greene wants to see Nora. The meeting does not go well. Miss Greene seems to know entirely too much about Nora's life. Nora protests some of the questions asked by Miss Greene. At the end of the session, Miss Greene tells Nora to stay away from Patch.

Nora goes to the library to kill time until she can go to the hospital to see Vee. Nora finds an article about Elliot. Elliot had supposedly transferred because he lost his scholarship. Nora learns that Elliot had been questioned in the death of his girlfriend, Kjirsten Halvorsen. The death was ruled a suicide but no one was ever truly satisfied with the ruling. The article says, "After eighteen-year-old Kjirsten Halverson's body was found hanging from a tree on the wooded campus of Kinghorn Prep, police questioned sophomore Elliot Saunders, who was seen with the victim on the night of her death." Chap. 11, p. 152

Elliot appears at the library out of nowhere and scares Nora. Nora's mother calls to say that she is coming home.

Chapter 12:

Nora goes to the hospital to see Vee. Vee is heavily drugged with pain medication and is completely incoherent. Nora tries to tell Vee about Elliot. Vee talks about the stalker who was wearing a ski mask. Vee thinks that the stalker is probably Patch. Nora thinks that it's Elliot. Nora knows that she needs to get more information about Elliot.

Chapters 6-12 Analysis

Chapter 6: Nora is surprised to see Elliot in PE. Elliot tries to impress Nora and it seems to work at least for the time being. However, Nora cannot stop thinking of Patch. For the first time, Nora feels as if Patch is putting words into her head. Nora is happy, however, when Elliot completely disregards Marcie Millar.

Chapter 7: More of Nora's home life is examined. Vee is overly excited about the trip to Delphic Seaport. Vee becomes annoyed with Nora's fascination with Patch and pushes for Nora to become interested in Elliot. Vee also wants Nora to try harder to be attractive to boys. At Delphic, Vee makes Nora extremely uncomfortable when she won't stop talking about Patch. Vee is being a drama queen in Nora's eyes. The discussion with Patch backfires and Nora finds herself under his spell. Both girls find it strange that Jules has disappeared.

Chapter 8: Nora seems to be powerless to make her own decisions when it comes to Patch. Nora decides that Vee does not understand, so she sneaks off to meet Patch. The ride on the Archangel is a pivotal point in the story. Patch attempts to kill Nora by making her fall out of the ride but then saves her at the last moment.

Chapter 9: When Nora discovers that she has been left behind by Vee and the others, she is baffled. She is not so surprised that Elliot and Jules are gone, but she cannot



believe that Vee would leave her alone so far from home. It seems to be entirely too convenient that Patch is on the scene and offers to take Nora home.

The scene at the farmhouse could have gone terribly awry. Patch keeps his libido in check and despite Nora's weak protestations, leaves her without harming or seducing her.

Chapter 10: The mystery thickens when Vee calls Nora to find out what happened to her. Vee claims that they did not leave Delphic and wonders why Nora decided to go home with Patch. Nora learns that Jules never returned. Nora also notices that her previously dead cell phone is now fully charged. This is the first time that Nora is convinced that there are paranormal forces at work.

The attack on Vee could have been prevented if the girls weren't so careless. This is the part where Nora and Vee diverge regarding the fact that Patch may be the attacker.

Chapter 11: Elliot changes drastically at this point. Nora feels abandoned by Vee, who is even less helpful since the accident. Nora is now afraid of Elliot.

Chapter 12: Nora decides she will have to do the detective work on her own.



Chapters 13-18

Chapters 13-18 Summary

Chapter 13:

Not long after Vee is released from the hospital, she and Nora go to The Borderline to eat dinner and to launch a plan to spy on Patch. It is Patch's night off, so it is assumed that it would be safe to make the trip. "After nearly an hour of begging, Vee and I had convinced her parents that we needed to celebrate her first night out of the hospital over chiles rellenos and virgin strawberry daiquiris. At least, that's what we were claiming. But we had an ulterior motive." Chap. 13, p. 166

Nora is surprised to find out that Elliot and Jules are meeting her and Vee for dinner. Nora is not pleased. Once the girls are at the restaurant, they learn that Jules is sick again and will not be joining them after all. Nora decides that she wants to abort the plan, but Vee refuses. Nora excuses herself from the table and goes to the ladies' room, where she dons a platinum blonde wig, miniskirt and stiletto heels. Nora interrogates the bartender. Part way through the plan, Nora learns that Patch is at work and that he had agreed to cover a shift for someone. Nora flees to the bathroom to change. When Nora looks up, she sees that Patch is standing in the ladies' room. Patch questions Nora about her appearance. He also finds her list of questions and says that she can ask him anything directly, that she does not have to sneak around to get information.

Nora returns to the table and feigns illness so she and Vee can leave. Elliot is not pleased.

Chapter 14:

Nora goes home to the farmhouse. She is not expecting her mother to arrive home until later. Nora practically jumps out of her skin when her mother sits up on the sofa. Blythe wonders why Nora is so jumpy. Nora sits down to catch her breath, and says in exposition, "My imagination had conjured up a pair of ruthless eyes behind a ski mask. Now that I was positive he wasn't a figment of my imagination, I had an overwhelming desire to tell my mom everything from the way he'd jumped on the Neon to his role as Vee's attacker." Chap. 14, p. 186

After a few minutes, Blythe tells Nora that they may have to move. The house is too expensive and she is struggling to pay the bills. She promises to give it three more months. Neither wants to give up the house, but it may be inevitable.

Nora sees that her mother is upset and knows that she cannot talk to her about the man in the ski mask. Nora does mention Patch but downplays his role in her life.

Blythe gets a call from her office and has to go to pick up some paperwork. Nora settles in to do her homework. Nora goes upstairs to change and finds that her room has been



tossed. Nora sees a man in a black ski mask in the mirror. She runs downstairs and calls 911.

Two police detectives arrive at the house. Neither seems to take much, if any, credence in what Nora has to say. When the police go into Nora's bedroom, everything seems to be back to normal. "I stepped inside the room, but it lacked the familiar touch of comfort and safety. There was an underlying note of violation and menace." Chap. 14, p. 194

The police become annoyed when Nora cannot identify the intruder. Nora apologizes for calling and the police leave.

Chapter 15:

Vee is incredulous when Nora says she thinks Elliot is guilty of murder.

"No offense, babe, but this is starting to get ridiculous. First he attacked me. Now he's a killer. I'm sorry, but Elliot? A murderer? He's like the nicest guy I've ever met. When was the last time he forgot to hold the door open for you? Oh, yeah, that's right...never." Chap. 15, p. 197

Nora also brings up facts about Jules disappearing from illness every time they get together. More and more questions arise. Nora realizes that there was something missing from her bedroom after the previous night's break in - the article on Elliot and the investigation at Kinghorn Prep.

The conversation takes place in the biology lab where the girls are supposed to be focused on learning how to take blood pressure. Coach eventually intervenes and forces Nora to work with Patch again.

After class, Nora goes to her appointment with Miss Greene. Once again, Miss Greene chastises Nora for being alone with Patch and warns her to stay away.

Chapter 16:

Nora and Vee meet in the hallway by Nora's locker. Nora mentions that she had an appointment with Miss Greene and is on her way to the library. Vee refuses to tag along as it would violate her once-a-week library rule. The girls go their separate ways.

Nora does more research on the Kinghorn Prep incident. She calls her mother, who talks her out of going to Portland at night. Nora agrees to go home. On the way out of the library, Nora is approached by Marcie Millar. The girl is nasty and horrible as usual, even when she pretends to be slightly concerned about Vee's condition. A security guard breaks up the name calling session and the girls go their separate ways.

Nora is walking toward the street when she meets Patch in an underground tunnel. They have a verbal sparring match, during which Nora throws out questions that never receive real answers. Eventually, Nora gives in and accepts Patch's offer of a ride home. Patch asks Nora out on a date for Saturday night. Nora does not refuse.



Chapter 17:

It is Saturday afternoon. Nora is at home struggling with finishing homework. Blythe is at yoga. Nora decides that she is going to keep the date with Patch. Shortly after Nora finishes getting dressed for the evening, the detectives return to the farmhouse. They ask Nora a lot of questions about going to the library and about her relationship with Patch. Finally, Nora learns that someone has attacked Marcie Millar. One detective says, "Did you want to show her what happens when girls like her don't keep their mouths shut? Did you think she deserved to get a little roughed up? I knew girls like Marcie when I went to school. They ask for it, don't they? Was Marcie asking for it, Nora? Someone beat her up pretty bad Wednesday night, and I think you know more than you're saying." Chap. 17, pp. 226-227

Patch arrives shortly after the police leave. Nora tells him about Marcie and asks if he is involved. Patch denies knowing anything about it. Nora also questions Patch about his new Jeep. Patch says he won it in a poker game at Bo's Arcade.

Patch takes Nora to Bo's and teaches her how to play pool. Nora meets Rixon, an old friend of Patch's. The men playfully wrestle. Patch's shirt gets ripped and Nora sees a large V-shaped scar on his back. It reminds her of the pictures of the fallen angels on the Archangel. Rixon tells Nora a little bit about Patch's past. "'Before our good friend Patch here got mixed up in pool, the lad favored Irish bare-knuckle boxing. Wasn't very good at it.'" Chap. 17, p. 234

Chapter 18:

Patch pulls into the Topsham exit and stops at a brewing company where he buys dinner. While Patch is inside, Nora waits in the Jeep. She searches it. In the glove compartment she finds a flashlight covered in what appears to be blood. Nora immediately thinks about Marcie Millar. When Patch returns, Nora confronts him with questions.

Back at the farmhouse Patch gives Nora a snow globe of Delphic Seaport. Nora thinks the globe is beautiful. Later, the park would look haunted.

Blythe exits the house and introduces herself to Patch. She asks him questions about swimming and his GPA. She is concerned when she learns about Bo's Arcade because it has a bad reputation.

Chapters 13-18 Analysis

Chapter 13: Vee is released from the hospital. The attack hasn't slowed Vee down and the girls go ahead with their plan to spy on Patch. Nora is not pleased when Elliot meets them for dinner. Nora is no longer comfortable with Elliot and Jules' mysterious disappearances raise a red flag. Nora wants to abort the mission, but as usual, Vee overrules her. The plan is not successful and Patch seems to know immediately when Nora is finished interrogating the bartender. Patch keeps insisting that Nora ask



questions directly but he never seems to give straight answers, if he gives any answers at all.

Chapter 14: Foreshadowing is used to predict even more issues with Elliot and Jules. The rift between Vee and Nora widens when it comes to Patch. Nora is more worried about her mother than herself. The issue of her father keeps returning when Nora learns that she and her mother might have to leave the farmhouse.

The man in the ski mask reappears and terrifies Nora. Nora is almost convinced that it is Elliot although she has no proof. The detectives are suspicious and skeptical to the point of being completely ineffectual. Nora knows she will not receive any help from the police without proof.

Chapter 15: Vee refuses to believe that Elliot is capable of murder. No matter what Nora says, Vee makes up a reason why it cannot be true. This further isolates Nora. Patch uses every opportunity to get close to Nora and to manipulate her.

The episode with Miss Greene borders on the bizarre. There must be some way in which the woman knows Nora's plans and actions. Nora cannot help but feel spied upon. Nora is also curious why Miss Greene is so adamant about avoiding Patch.

Chapter 16: Nora ignores her senses and forges ahead with her plans to expose Elliot. Nora almost feels desperate at times.

The confrontation with Marcie at the library is typical for teenage girls. It also shows how truly nasty Marcie's personality is and how loyal Nora is to Vee.

The appearance of Patch, as always, is less than a coincidence. Patch is determined to be close to Nora and when he picks up on the fact that she is attracted to him, he uses it against her.

Chapter 17: Nora is stunned by the story told by the detectives. She feels protective of Patch and does not want to believe that he would have anything to do with Marcie's attack. Still, Nora has doubts.

The meeting with Rixon adds another dimension to Patch's personality. Another pivotal moment occurs when Nora spots the V-shaped scars on Patch's back. Nora immediately connects those scars with those of fallen angels. This shows that Nora is beginning to trust her instincts and not rely totally on logic.

Meeting Rixon also adds another layer to Patch's personality and makes him seem a little more "normal" in Nora's eyes.

Chapter 18: Patch only shows mild signs of anger when Nora searches his Jeep. Patch knows that Nora still does not believe him but feels that he must be careful about what he reveals to her.



Chapters 19-24

Chapters 19-24 Summary

Chapter 19:

Nora calls Vee and tells her about the evening. Naturally, Vee wants details. Nora has other things on her mind, such as the V-shaped scars but can't seem to bring herself to talk to Vee about it. "I know I've said this before, but Patch doesn't instill a deep sense of comfort in me," Vee said. "I still have nightmares about the guy in the ski mask. In one of my nightmares, he ripped off his mask, and guess who was hiding under it? Patch. Personally, I think you should treat him like a loaded gun. Something about him isn't normal." Chap. 19, p. 247

After hanging up from Vee, Nora goes into Blythe's office and logs onto the internet to research fallen angels.

Chapter 20:

Nora has a bad night filled with mysterious noises. The next day, Elliot arrives at the farmhouse. He is drunk and acting in an erratic manner. He demands to talk to Nora because he wants to convince her that he is not a bad guy. Nora tries to get rid of Elliot and he punches the side of the house. He tells Nora that they are going camping over spring break because Jules is under a lot of stress and needs to decompress. Elliot refuses to take no for an answer. He begins to get violent. Blythe comes into the kitchen and Elliot backs off and leaves. Blythe asks about Elliot. Nora makes up a story so she doesn't worry her mom who is planning to attend a wedding that evening.

Nora and Vee talk on the phone. Vee thinks Nora is crazy for giving up the opportunity to go camping on spring break. Nora tries to explain what happened with Elliot, but Vee doesn't want to hear it.

Nora takes a bus to Portland to learn more about Elliot and the death of his girlfriend. Nora goes to Blind Joe's, the place where Kjiirsten worked. Nora ends up being extorted by a waitress, who reluctantly gives up information on Elliot and Kjiirsten.

Chapter 21:

The weather turns cold. Nora receives a text from Vee. Vee is also in Portland - at a party with Elliot and Jules. Nora is immediately alarmed. Vee says that the boys went to pick something up at Kinghorn Prep and left her alone at the party. Nora says she is on her way, but once she arrives, she is taking Vee and going home.

Nora tries to find her way to Highsmith Street. She eventually bribes a homeless woman by giving up her coat and hat. Minutes after Nora leaves the woman's side, the woman is gunned down in the street. Nora reaches for her phone but it is gone. She thought



she left it in the pocket of her coat, but when she tries to retrieve it from the dead woman, the phone is gone. Nora panics over the thought that the shooter might return. She goes to a phone booth and calls Patch. Patch arrives on the scene. Nora uses his phone to text Vee. Vee says the boys couldn't get what they went for and they decided to go home.

On the way back, the Jeep dies and a fierce storm appears.

Chapter 22:

Nora and Patch are forced to get a motel room. Nora is upset over having to be alone with Patch, worried about the fact that the electricity and phones are out and that her mother will be worried sick.

Nora thinks about the situation as she showers to ward off the chill. "Early on I'd felt drawn to Patch by a mysterious force field. Now I felt drawn to him by something entirely different. Something with a lot of heat involved. A connection tonight was inevitable. On a scale of one to ten, that terrified me about an eight. And excited me about a nine." Chap. 21, p. 284

Nora leaves the shower and enters the room after she makes Patch blow out the candle. While Patch showers, Nora sits and thinks about her predicament.

Later, Nora accidentally touches Patch's scars and is cast into another time and place.

Chapter 23:

Nora stands in the lower level of Bo's Arcade. Patch is playing cards. Nora insists on speaking with him immediately. Nora tries to interrupt the game but no one can hear her. A cashier comes downstairs and tells Patch that someone wants to see him. It is Miss Greene.

It becomes immediately obvious that Miss Greene and Patch were lovers. Nora is confused. Miss Greene - Dabria - speaks to Patch and tries to get him to go home with her. Patch refuses. Dabria explains that Patch can get his wings back if he saves a human life. Patch refuses and says that he has something better in the works. Dabria tells Patch that he should be grateful for the opportunity. She begs Patch to come back to her. Patch knows that Dabria is lying about something. They discuss The Book of Enoch. Both know that it is forbidden for angels to read the book. Dabria finally admits that Patch has to save a human life and that the person has already been chosen. Dabria refuses to give Patch the name until he manages to get it out of her. The person Patch must save is Nora.

Nora stops touching the scars and the connection breaks. Patch is angry that Nora touched him and was able to tap into the past. Nora knows now that Patch needs to save her to become an angel again or kill her to become human. Patch intends to kill her. Nora struggles with Patch and eventually tells him to get it over with, to kill her. Patch says if he wanted her dead, she would be dead.



Patch explains his past with Dabria and how going to the dark side was a mistake. Nora tries to get away from Patch. "I should have been terrified and frantic. I should have been doing everything in my power to escape. The most irrational part of all was that I still didn't want to believe he would kill me, and no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't smother that illogical speck of trust." Chap. 23, P. 301.

Nora has several realizations including the fact that Patch can put thoughts and words in her head. She also figures out what happened on the Archangel. Patch admits that he was going to kill her that night but couldn't go through with it.

Patch admits that he has many secrets. Nora says that if Patch wants her to trust him that he should let her touch the scars again. Patch says it is not a good idea and then explains that he is unable to control what Nora might see. "I knew Patch lived a life of closed doors and harbored secrets. I wasn't presumptuous enough to think even half of them revolved around me. Patch lived a different life outside the one he shared with me. More than once I'd speculated what his other life might be like. I always got the feeling that the less I knew about it, the better." Chap. 23, p. 305

Finally Patch agrees to let Nora touch the scars.

Chapter 24:

Nora is lying on her back in the grass. It is night and there is a sliver of moon and distant thunder. Nora looks around and realizes that she is lying next to a human skeleton. Nora spots Patch crouched atop a headstone. Rixon calls out from beyond, asking if Patch intends on inhabiting the dead. He goes on to say that Cheshvan starts that night. Rixon tries to convince Patch to go with him so that each can inhabit a human body for the two weeks, as granted by Chauncey. Patch broaches the subject of the Book of Enoch. Rixon scoffs and says that it is nothing more than a bedtime story. Rixon tells Patch that he should inhabit a Nephil body and enjoy it. Patch talks about his plan to kill Chauncey and become human. Rixon says that Patch needs to forget about it and take the guardianship. The men end the conversation with a playful wrestling match.

Nora pulls her hand away from Patch's scars and is more confused than ever. "I was forced to accept that maybe now wasn't the time to rely on the logical half of my brain. Maybe this was one of those times when I needed to step out of bounds. Stop playing by the rules. Accept the impossible." Chap. 24, p. 312

Nora asks why Patch would want to possess another person's body. He explains that his body is a lot like glass. It is real but it has no feeling. He is able to feel emotions but nothing on a physical plane.

Patch also talks about Dabria and her purpose in showing up at CHS. Nora begins to wonder if Dabria was the person that attacked both her and Vee.

Patch admits that the Jeep didn't really die. He goes to get it so that he can take Nora home. Patch also plans to go to the school to find out more about Dabria's actions.



Chapters 19-24 Analysis

Chapter 19: Vee continues to try to convince Nora to stay away from Patch. "I know I've said this before, but Patch doesn't instill a deep sense of comfort in me," Vee said. "I still have nightmares about the guy in the ski mask. In one of my nightmares, he ripped off his mask, and guess who was hiding under it? Patch. Personally, I think you should treat him like a loaded gun. Something about him isn't normal." Chap. 19, p. 247

Vee is convinced that Patch is most likely the person that attacked Nora and also attacked her and broke her arm. Nora still has doubts.

Chapter 20: The appearance of Elliot only confirms Nora's fears about his instability. Elliot is obviously a man on the edge and his drunkenness only adds to the fact that he is unbalanced. It is surprising that Nora does not tell Blythe about Elliot's behavior as Blythe would take measures to ensure Nora's safety. Nora is unsure why Elliot is so desperate to get her to go camping but knows that there is no way she will go, despite Vee's attempts to change her mind.

The trip to Portland is foolish but seems to be necessary to further separate Vee and Nora. Nora is almost desperate at this point to get information on Elliot; so much so that she is willing to spend a lot of money at Blind Joe's to get the information from the waitress.

Chapter 21: Nora continues to be tested. There is no coincidence that Vee, Elliot and Jules are also in Portland and the same time as Nora. The bullet that hit the cleaning lady was obviously meant for Nora. For once, Nora is glad that Patch has invaded her mind as it allows her to remember his phone number. It also seems to be a test because once she is rescued by Patch, Vee seems to be safe as well, as if Vee is somehow being used as a pawn.

Chapter 22: The incident in the hotel is both enlightening and terrifying for Nora. She finally begins to understand what she has learned about fallen angels and Nephilim but has a hard time marrying that information with any sort of logic.

Chapter 23: The truth about Dabria comes to light. Her warnings about Patch make sense now. They were not being issued to protect Nora, but rather, Dabria wanted to be sure that Nora would not take Patch away from her. Nora can see in Dabria's face that she can be deceitful and dangerous. Although Nora can see that Patch is cold toward Dabria, she is jealous.

Chapter 24: The insights with Patch continue. Nora learns about Cheshvan and how Rixon is tied to Patch. It shows great trust on Patch's part to allow Nora to touch his scars as he cannot control what she sees.



Chapters 25-30

Chapters 25-30 Summary

Chapter 25:

Nora waits in the room for Patch. The phones are still dead. Nora knows that her mother is going to be angry. Just as Nora is preparing to go and meet Patch, the electricity comes back on.

Patch takes Nora back to the farmhouse. She sneaks into the bathroom to retrieve the emergency cell phone and calls her mother. She tells her that the road washed out and she was forced to get a room. Afterward, Nora calls Vee but there is no answer. Nora goes into the kitchen to take her iron pills. Dabria enters the room. She does not possess her usual calm demeanor. Her hair is a mess and her eyes are ringed with black.

Dabria confronts Nora and says that she wants Patch. Nora says Patch is gone. Dabria says she wants to kill Nora so that Patch will come back to her. Nora says that Dabria is obviously overestimating Patch's feelings for her. Dabria tells Nora that Patch intends to kill her. Nora disagrees. Dabria points to the mark on Nora's wrist and says that is what marks her as a descendant of a Nephil. She is the descendant of Chauncey, Patch's vassal. Patch must kill Nora.

Dabria pulls out a knife and says that she must kill Nora first. Nora says Patch is coming back soon. "'I'll make this quick,' she continued. 'I'm an angel of death. I carry souls to the afterlife. As soon as I finish, I'll carry your soul through the veil. You have nothing to be afraid of.'" Chap. 25, p. 324

Nora tries to talk her way out of the situation, although it is clear that Dabria is crazy. She tells Dabria that she is going to a lot of trouble to get back someone that betrayed her. Dabria swore that her intention was to find out what Patch was up to and that she never meant to fall for him again but it happened anyway.

Dabria expresses her disdain for mortals and her disgust that Patch had fallen for one. "He didn't even care that the girl was made from the dust of the earth! You - all of you - are selfish and slovenly! Your bodies are wild and undisciplined. One moment you're at the peak of joy, the next you're on the brink of despair. It's deplorable! No angel will aspire to it!" Chap. 25, p. 326

Dabria goes on to blame her disheveled condition on the fact that she has been on earth too long, submerged in human filth.

Nora runs out of the kitchen, even though she knows that she is running away from the only two exits. Dabria was blocking her way out of the house. Nora runs upstairs into her mother's room and hides in the fireplace. Dabria sets the room on fire. Nora weighs



her options and finally hides in a closet. She calls 911. Nora hears someone come into the room. She throws a shoe out of the closet and hits Patch. Nora quickly tells Patch what is happening. Patch gives Nora the keys to his Jeep and tells her to go to Delphic and wait. Nora runs out of the house. She calls Vee. When she finds out that Vee has gone to a party, Nora decides to go looking for her. Nora asks Vee's mother to search the promenade.

Chapter 26:

Nora goes to the movie theater to look for Vee. Patch comes in and there is an argument. No one can see Patch and so they think Nora is crazy. Patch and Nora go into the ladies' room. Nora tells Patch everything Dabria said and begins to ask more questions. Patch says he will tell her everything, including the story about his mortal girlfriend. "The first time I saw her, I was still an angel. It was an instant, possessive lust. It drove me crazy. I didn't know anything about her except that I would do whatever it took to get close to her. I watched her for a while, and then I got it in my head that if I went down to Earth and possessed a human body, I would be cast out of heaven and become human." Chap. 26, p. 338

Patch goes on to relate how and why the plan failed.

Nora continues to ask questions about his plans to kill her and what happened to Dabria. Patch reveals that he tore off Dabria's wings. "She wasn't going to keep her wings after plotting to kill you. The moment she tried to get back into heaven, the avenging angels would have stripped them. She had it coming sooner or later." Chap. 26, p. 342

Chapter 27:

Nora tells Patch that Vee, Elliot and Jules broke into the high school. She also relays the information about Elliot's alleged participation in the Kinghorn Prep death. Patch says that Elliot doesn't strike him as a killer. Nora says they should call the police. Patch says it is not a good idea, that all of them, including Vee, would be arrested for B and E.

Patch and Nora get outside to find out that someone had driven nails into two of Patch's tires. They bribe a fellow classmate who works at the theater to borrow his car.

Nora and Patch arrive at the high school. Everything is dark. Patch tells Nora to stay in the car and he will investigate.

Chapter 28:

Nora waits for twenty minutes and cannot shake the feeling that she is being watched. Elliot calls to tell her that he can see her from the second story window of the school. Nora says she doesn't want to play. Nora decides to go inside to find Vee and Patch. She realizes that the electricity has been shut off. Nora trips over something as she is walking down the hall. It is Jules. He is dead. Nora becomes even more scared, wondering if Vee, too, has been killed. Nora continues to walk down the hall until she



reaches the library. She finds Elliot who has been badly injured and is most likely dying. Someone pushes Nora from behind. She turns to see someone in a ski mask. It is Jules. Nora protests that she just saw him in the hallway. How could he be alive? "You're giving me too much credit. It was all you, Nora. If your mind wasn't so weak, I couldn't have done a thing. Am I making you feel bad? Is it discouraging to know that out of all the minds I've invaded, yours tops the list as the easiest? And most fun," Chap. 28, p. 356

A cat and mouse game begins through the school. Jules catches Nora and then she manages to escape. Along the way, Jules explains that he was the one behind everything. Elliot was merely a pawn. Jules follows Nora into the bio lab. Nora stabs Jules in the leg with a scalpel. Nora runs.

Chapter 29:

Nora continues to search for Vee. She finally finds her in the eZine room on the third floor. Nora tells Vee that they need to split up. Whoever gets free can make a run for it and call the police. Vee gets away.

Jules traps Nora in the gym. He continues to explain how he was trapped in the cemetery when he was sixteen years old. He also explains that he has to kill her and Patch. Patch comes into the gym. Jules says that unless Patch stays away, he will kill Nora. Patch enters Nora's body and uses her to attack Jules. There is not much time. Nora realizes that her only way out is to climb up onto the rafters and climb out through an air duct. Jules laughs at her and says she will never do it because she is afraid of heights. Nora begins to climb. Partway up, Jules tricks her into thinking that the ladder has come loose and that she is falling. Patch enters her mind and shows her that Jules is playing tricks on her. Nora becomes trapped on top of the rafters when Jules appears. Nora knows there is only one solution. In order to kill Jules, she must kill herself. Nora throws herself off the rafter.

Chapter 30:

Nora hears a door open and close. She hears something that sounds like wings. Everything goes black.

Nora's eyes open and she realizes that she is in her bedroom. She is alive. When she landed on the gym floor, Patch saved her. As a result, he got his wings back. He decides that being Nora's guardian angel might be a good thing.

Blythe comes home to find police tape on the door. Nora tells her about Dabria but leaves out the rest of the story. Patch arrives and announces that he is the one that will install the new security system in the house. Patch and Nora go into the front yard, where he finally kisses her.



Chapters 25-30 Analysis

Chapter 25: Once again, Nora is able to calm her mother. There was a modicum of truth in what Nora told Blythe, but it was still a lie. Blythe seems to be oblivious to Nora's actions for the majority of the time.

Nora's confrontation with Dabria is near fatal. Dabria has clearly lost her mind and is so consumed with her lust and love for Patch that she has violated all of the rules she was supposed to uphold. Dabria's disdain for mortals has turned to hatred, and that hatred has been transferred to Nora.

Chapter 26: Nora is scared for Vee which shows when she does not cover for Vee with her mother. It is unclear why Nora goes to the movies to search for Vee, particularly since the girls had recently seen and disliked the movie.

It is not surprising that Patch would show up and at times, render himself invisible to others. It is also unclear how and why Patch is not able to fix the Jeep.

Chapter 27: Vee continues to ignore all warning signs and sees the B and E as a game, never picking up on the danger involved. Elliot and Jules know that Nora will rush to Vee's aid.

Chapter 28: Patch is gone for too long and Nora cannot sit still and wait any longer, not knowing what is happening inside. Things become crystal clear when Jules reveals himself to Nora. Nora never suspected Jules but it all begins to make sense. Jules always disappeared when Patch was around because Patch could identify Jules as being Chauncey. Many other occurrences now make sense as well when Jules tells Nora how easy it was to trick her mind and invade her thoughts. Nora has become stronger throughout the story but there is no question that Jules is still much too powerful for her to resist for very long.

Chapter 29: The final showdown takes place in the gym. Jules gives a full confession as all murderers do at the end of the story. Patch plays only a minor role at first, until he invades Nora's body and gives her the strength to hold off Jules. The decision to throw herself off the rafter was entirely Nora's.

Chapter 30: Patch's love for Nora is what causes him to give up his quest for mortality. Jules' death is ruled a suicide which would seem logical except for the fact that he didn't attend CHS. Keeping secrets will be extremely difficult.

Blythe is still wary of Patch but seems content to let Nora make her own decisions.



Characters

Nora Grey

Nora Grey is a sixteen-year-old girl living in Coldwater, Maine. Nora lives in with her mother, Blythe, in an eighteenth century farmhouse located on the outskirts of town. The house, located on Hawthorne Lane, has no neighbors. Nora's father, an accountant, had been murdered in Portland the previous year and the house is the only remaining connection to him. His death has deeply affected Nora in many ways, including the fact that she often feels as if she is being watched. While Nora believes that being watched by her father should make her feel protected, it does not.

Nora is an average sixteen year old girl. She is worried about grades, fitting in, and the condition of her Fiat Spider. Boys aren't much of an issue until she meets Patch and Elliot. Nora decides that having these boys in her life makes things much too complicated. Nora confides her housekeeper Dorothea: "'Trust me, Dorth, there are no boys in my life.'" Okay, maybe there were two lurking on the fringe, circling from afar, but since I didn't know either very well, and one outright frightened me, it felt safer to close my eyes and pretend they weren't there.'" Chap. 7, p. 92

Nora is best friends with Vee, a loud, brash girl who seems to be Nora's soul sister as well as the devil on her shoulder. Throughout the story, Nora and Vee are often at odds with what should be done regarding Patch, Elliot and Jules. Nora is also at war with herself as she is frequently overwhelmed with the power of others and how she is, at times, so easily influenced.

Patch

Patch Cipriano is a fallen angel posing as a high school boy. Nora describes Patch as being tall, dark and annoying with black orbs for eyes. Nora leaves out the part about Patch's lean muscular arms, broad shoulders and seductive yet playful mouth because it makes her uncomfortable to think about him in that way.

Patch thrives on being an enigma, in part because it is necessary to protect Nora. However, Patch lets some things slip out on occasion. Rixon, Patch's friend, also fills in some of the blanks, as does Dabria. Nora does know that Patch is a pool shark and gambler at cards. Patch often wins big so he spends most of his free time at Bo's Arcade.

As a fallen angel, Patch does not have the ability to feel any of the sensations that are routinely experienced by mortals. However, angels can still feel emotion, which is why Patch falls in love with Nora.



Although Patch has been sent to kill Nora, he spends the majority of the time in the book saving her from some bad situation, such as the aftermath of the shooting in Portland and her final confrontation with Jules in the gym.

Vee

Vee is Nora's best friend. She is brash and loud. Vee is constantly concerned with her weight, as are nasty people like Marcie Millar. Nora envies Vee's body and most of all, her hair.

Elliot

Elliot Sauners is an eighteen-year-old boy who transferred from Kinghorn Prep after being suspected of murdering his girlfriend. Elliot, who pursues Nora, is really Jules' hand puppet.

Jules/Chauncey

Jules is the current incarnation of Chauncey. Chauncey was a sixteen-year-old boy who was tortured by a fallen angel. As a nephilim, Chauncey is immortal and has turned himself into Jules for the express purpose of becoming human and killing Patch.

Dabria Greene

Dabria Greene is an angel posing as a guidance counselor at Coldwater High School. Unfortunately for Nora, Dabria is in love with Patch and turns bad with the intentions of killing Nora. Dabria becomes a fallen angel.

Coach McConaughy

Coach McConaughy is the coach and biology teacher at Coldwater High School. It is in Coach's class where Nora first meets Patch.

Marcie Millar

Marcie Millar is a cheerleader at Coldwater High School. She is a nasty girl who always has terrible things to say about everyone. She is also a vixen in the making.

Blythe Grey

Blythe Grey is Nora's mother. She works out of town at an auction house. Like Nora, Blythe is still trying to recover from the murder of her husband.

Dorothea

Dorothea works as a housekeeper and companion at the Grey house. Dorothea is a sixty-five-year-old woman who is trying to reinvent herself.



Objects/Places

Coldwater High School

The main part of the story takes place in Coldwater, Maine. Coldwater is a small town outside Portland, which is a major city in Maine. The region is somewhat rural.

Nora Grey, Vee Sky and others attend Coldwater High School. Patch Cipriano and Elliot Saunders become transfer students at the high school, both because of the fact that Nora goes to the school there. The same can be said for Dabria Greene, who feels the need to be close to Patch and to destroy Nora.

Coldwater High School is much like every other high school in America. Friends meet between classes to discuss the activities of the day. The only class discussed in the story is biology, which is supervised by Coach McConaughy. Many of the students are not pleased that the current topic in class is the reproductive system. Nora is particularly annoyed since she has been thrown together with a new partner - Patch Cipriano. When possible, Nora and Vee still sit and work together.

As in every high school, there are people that don't like each other. In this case, Marcie Millar is the enemy. Marcie is a vixen wanna-be and cheerleader that takes great pleasure in torturing Nora and Vee.

The final showdown between Nora, Jules and Patch takes place in the school gym.

Nephilim

Nephilim are a race of half-angels, half-mortals. The origin is Biblical in nature. The story of the angels falling from heaven is legendary. Supposedly the angels sent to watch over the Garden of Eden became lustful and hungry for power; seeking to rule what lay beyond the boundaries of Eden. Because they defied their earthly purpose, the angels were stripped of their wings. When the fallen angles mated with mortal women, they created a hybrid race known as Nephilim. The Nephilim are half-angel, half-mortal. They are immortal and cannot be killed except under certain circumstances. Although they walk among the mortal world, they are often in danger of being destroyed. Nora is the descendant of Chauncey, the main Nephilim in the story. In order to become completely mortal, Chauncey must destroy a human vassal. Chauncey has chosen Nora. Chauncey must also kill Patch.

The legend of the Nephilim is written in the Book of Enoch, which the fallen angels are forbidden to read. Patch believes that the secret to his mortality lies within the book. The Nephilim were supposed to have been destroyed by the Great Flood but experts believe that the Nephilim survived and still walk the earth.



Book of Enoch

The Book of Enoch is a Biblical text often referred to in the story. It tells how a fallen angel can inhabit a mortal body and become human. Patch puts great stock in the Book of Enoch, as does Jules, while others scoff at the possibility that the story could be true.

Coldwater, Maine

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Portland, Maine

Portland is a major city in Maine. It is the location of Kinghorn Prep, the school attended by Elliot and Jules. It is also the location of Highsmith Street, the destination for Nora when she was convinced by a bag lady to give up her coat and hat. Shortly after, the bag lady was gunned down. Nora had to call Patch to come and rescue her from the horrific scene.

Bo's Arcade

Bo's Arcade is the name of Patch's favorite hangout. Patch often plays pool or cards for money and he always wins big. Bo's is known for being a rough place and it initially scares Nora.

Borderline

Borderline is the name of the Mexican restaurant where Patch works as a busboy.

Nora's House

Nora and Blythe live in an eighteenth century farmhouse located on the outskirts of town. The house, located on Hawthorne Lane, has no neighbors. The house tends to be surrounded in fog. "The house was at this moment veiled by gloom that resembled escaped and wandering spirits." Chap. 2, p. 18

Vee constantly tells Nora that she and her mother need to move into civilization.



Delphic Seaport

Delphic Seaport is an amusement park that is located thirty minutes outside Coldwater. It is the home of the Archangel and is also the site of the first attempt on Nora's life by Patch.

Vee's House

Vee lives in a house in Coldwater, Maine. She inhabits a basement bedroom that is often shared by Nora.



Themes

Nephilim

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High School

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As in every high school, there are people that don't like each other. In this case, Marcie Millar is the enemy. Marcie is a vixen wanna-be and cheerleader that takes great pleasure in torturing Nora and Vee.

The final showdown between Nora, Jules and Patch takes place in the school gym.



Fear

Fear is one of the main themes in the story. At first Nora admits to being fearful that she will be murdered like her father. Dark alleys, closets and corners scare Nora, although she is determined to live her life to the fullest despite the fear.

The real fear sets in when a man with a ski mask lands on Vee's car while Nora is driving home at night. Nora cannot see the man, who is dressed entirely in black. The man punches a hole through the windshield and grabs Nora. Nora manages to get away. The incident is foggy in Nora's mind, and she begins to wonder if she is imagining things. The fear worsens when it becomes clear that Nora is being followed. Nora is nearly hysterical after Vee gets attacked. Nora does not know what to do when Vee refuses to believe her story.

Nora becomes extremely fearful of Elliot, particularly after she suspects that he murdered his girlfriend. Elliot's erratic behavior only heightens Nora's concerns.

Nora has a near death experience while riding the Archangel with Patch. Nora is badly shaken during and after the experience. Patch acts as if nothing has happened. Patch is also responsible for a great deal of Nora's fear which only worsens when Nora learns about Patch's mission to kill her. In addition, Nora's strange and powerful attraction to Patch makes it hard to stay away.

Patch asks Nora why she is so scared, and she responds by saying, "I spoke without thinking. 'Maybe it's just that I'm scared of - 'I cursed myself for even beginning the sentence. What was I supposed to say now? I was not about to admit to Patch that everything about him frightened me." Chap. 9, p. 125



Style

Point of View

Hush, Hush by Becca Fitzpatrick is written in the first person point of view, through the eyes of the main character, Nora Grey. The use of first person in the story works well in that the reader is able to understand the modern world of angels, fallen angels and nephilim through the eyes of one of its uninitiated. The reader is taken on a journey along with Nora and is enabled to see inside the mind of a supposedly normal high school girl as she wends through a complicated case of angels, murder, and betrayal.

The use of first person makes the story seem slightly less fantastic to the point that the reader can grasp what the future might be like if nephilim and fallen angels were going to make themselves known to mere mortals. Of course Nora is the descendant of Chauncey, which means she is not a mere mortal, but none of this is known to Nora until late in the story.

While third person omniscient may have enabled the reader to get a broader view of the life of a nephilim, guardian angel or fallen angel, as well as the inner workings of the heavenly hierarchy, the use of first person lends an air of authenticity to the story and allows the character of Nora Grey to become real.

Setting

There are several settings used in Hush, Hush by Becca Fitzpatrick. The first is the Loire Valley in France. This location is featured in the prologue when Chauncey is forced into becoming a vessel. Chauncey claims to be the Duc de Langeais, a royal. However, Chauncey learns that he is nephilim and is attacked.

The main part of the story takes place in Coldwater, Maine. Coldwater is a small town outside Portland. The region is somewhat rural, particularly the part where Nora lives with her mother, Blythe. Nora and Blythe live in an eighteenth century farmhouse located on the outskirts of town. The house, located on Hawthorne Lane, has no neighbors. The house tends to be surrounded in fog. "The house was at this moment veiled by gloom that resembled escaped and wandering spirits." Chap. 2, p. 18

Vee constantly tells Nora that she and her mother need to move into civilization.

Another main setting in the story is Coldwater High School, which is attended by Nora and Vee. Patch and Elliot become transfer students at the high school, both because of the fact that Nora goes to the school there. The same can be said for Dabria Greene, who feels the need to be close to Patch and to destroy Nora.

Portland is a major city in Maine. It is the location of Kinghorn Prep, the school attended by Elliot and Jules. It is also the location of Highsmith Street, the destination for Nora



when she was convinced by a bag lady to give up her coat and hat. Shortly after, the bag lady was gunned down. Nora had to call Patch to come and rescue her from the horrific scene.

Language and Meaning

The language used in *Hush, Hush* by Becca Fitzpatrick tends to be relatively informal and relies a great deal on dialogue between the characters. Because Nora is a typical high school student, the jargon that might have been used to describe the world of the nephilim is not overly archaic or difficult or something that requires much explanation. The words and phrases used by Nora and Vee are common and there is little need for explanation of unfamiliar terms, save for the basic terms and descriptions of nephilim and their abilities.

Although several of the characters in the story are ancient, there seems to be little reference to outdated languages.

The language used by Nora is very descriptive and is used in such a way that the person she is speaking to can fully understand the meaning and context of what is being said. The same applies to other characters, even Chauncey/Jules, who would otherwise tend to speak in a more formal manner befitting his true heritage.

The dialogue between Nora and Vee is direct and indicative of two girls that have been good friends for a long time.

Structure

Hush, Hush by Becca Fitzpatrick is a work of fiction. The book is 391 pages in length and is comprised of thirty chapters plus a prologue. The prologue is five pages in length. The shortest chapter is seven pages in length; the longest chapter is twenty-one pages in length. The average length of a chapter is thirteen pages.

The prologue sets up the base for the entire story. The prologue begins in the Loire Valley in France in 1565. Chauncey, the Duc de Langeais, leaves his girlfriend on the banks of the Loire. Chauncey gives the girl a silver buckle from his shoe and sends her on her way. The night is dark and the rain makes it hard to see. However, Chauncey grew up on the grounds and could easily find his way home. As he walks through a cemetery, he is approached and then accosted by a boy with angel's wings. The boy demands that Chauncey do his bidding. Chauncey becomes enraged and defiant. The boy with wings tells Chauncey that he is a bastard and not the real Duc de Langeais. Chauncey's father was a fallen angel, making Chauncey a Nephilim.

Chapter 1 turns to Coldwater, Maine in the present day. The balance of the story is chronological from that point forward except for a few brief glimpses into the past through storytelling or through Nora's glimpses into it when she touches Patch's scars.



Quotes

"I stared at the phone in disbelief, then ripped a clean sheet of paper from my notebook. I scribbled Jerk on the first line. On the line beneath it I added, Smokes cigars. Will die of lung cancer. Hopefully soon. Excellent physical shape."
Chap. 2, p. 21

"By the time I found the courage to get out of bed, the yard below my window was silent and still. The only noise came from tree branches scraping against the house, and my own heart thrumming under my skin."
Chap. 2, p. 31

"Trust me, Dorth, there are no boys in my life." Okay, maybe there were two lurking on the fringe, circling from afar, but since I didn't know either very well, and one outright frightened me, it felt safer to close my eyes and pretend they weren't there."
Chap. 7, p. 92

"I had no idea why Vee was doing this, other than that she had a penchant for making everything as dramatic as possible. Her idea of drama was my idea of morbid humiliation."
Chap. 7, p. 101

"I spoke without thinking. 'Maybe it's just that I'm scared of - ' I cursed myself for even beginning the sentence. What was I supposed to say now? I was not about to admit to Patch that everything about him frightened me."
Chap. 9, p. 125

"What had I been thinking? I'd come this close to kissing Patch. The same Patch who might just be invading my mind."
Chap. 9, p. 134

"After eighteen-year-old Kjirsten Halverson's body was found hanging from a tree on the wooded campus of Kinghorn Prep, police questioned sophomore Elliot Saunders, who was seen with the victim on the night of her death."
Chap. 11, p. 152

"After nearly an hour of begging, Vee and I had convinced her parents that we needed to celebrate her first night out of the hospital over chiles rellenos and virgin strawberry daiquiris. At least, that's what we were claiming. But we had an ulterior motive."
Chap. 13, p. 166

"My imagination had conjured up a pair of ruthless eyes behind a ski mask. Now that I



was positive he wasn't a figment of my imagination, I had an overwhelming desire to tell my mom everything from the way he'd jumped on the Neon to his role as Vee's attacker."

Chap. 14, p. 186

"Before our good friend Patch here got mixed up in pool, the lad favored Irish bare-knuckle boxing. Wasn't very good at it."

Chap. 17, p. 234

"Not wanting to dwell on the insanity idea, I concentrated on my original argument."

Chap. 22, p. 286

"She wasn't going to keep her wings after plotting to kill you. The moment she tried to get back into heaven, the avenging angels would have stripped them. She had it coming sooner or later."

Chap. 26, p. 342



Topics for Discussion

What were Nora's thoughts when she first realizes that Patch may be a fallen angel? Does Nora doubt her sanity? Why is she hesitant to discuss it with Vee?

Have you ever had a friend like Vee? How might you react if your best friend continually tried to push you into situations that made you feel uncomfortable or unsafe? Has this ever happened to you? What did you do? What would you have done in Nora's place?

Why was Nora immediately disturbed by Patch? Did Patch do anything in particular that made Nora uneasy? Why do you think Coach ignored Nora's pleas? Do you think Patch any influence over Coach? What steps could Nora take to get rid of Patch?

Examine the role of Dabria Greene. Do you think it is possible for an unqualified person to be hired in her position? Did Dabria use special powers to get the job? What might happen to Dabria next? Do you think she will ever reappear in Patch's life? Will Dabria try again to kill Nora?

At the end of the story, Elliot is badly injured but is expected to make a full recovery. What do you think will happen to Elliot? Was he under the influence of Jules, or does Elliot also have a dangerous or evil side?

Explain how Patch was able to bring Nora back to life. Why did Jules die? Did the timing of the incident have anything to do with it? Explain the rules of a nephilim inhabiting a mortal body.

Explain the concept of the nephilim. What are they? How were they formed? Are they good or evil? Who in the story qualifies as nephilim? Why does Patch want to become human? How would it be possible? What Biblical references are made to explain fallen angels, avenging angels and nephilim?