

# **Immortal in Death Study Guide**

## **Immortal in Death by Nora Roberts**

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# Plot Summary

*Immortal in Death*, by Nora Roberts, writing as J. D. Robb, is a murder mystery featuring futuristic homicide detective Eve Dallas. Eve has been a New York City homicide detective for ten years and takes great pride in doing her job well, professionally, and keeping her private and professional lives separate. A recent case, the victim being a child, sparks memories from her unknown childhood that result in recurring nightmares that make it necessary for Eve to somehow connect the two distinct portions of her life. Fortunately for Eve, she has found a friend in Mavis, a loud pop singer with blue hair she had once arrested on a prior case, who cares deeply for Eve and her upcoming marriage to Roarke. Roarke is the mysterious and very rich man who has fallen in love with Eve Dallas and will not take any answer other than yes from Eve.

The story opens with Eve having to choose a wedding dress. Her only satisfaction in this endeavor is that her friend, Mavis, will be helping her to find an appropriate dress. This fact frightens Roarke, who rarely fears anything. Mavis leads Eve to Leonardo, her current lover, and a dress designer. While at the studio, Eve is attacked by a wild red-headed woman named Pandora who is a top model, and is later found violently murdered in Leonardo's studio with Mavis as the main suspect.

Eve's foray into the case is complicated by the fact that she is friends with the primary suspect and a secondary suspect is designing her wedding dress. Further complicating matters is a past that is hidden in her mind that chooses to come to light in her nightmares, becoming ever more graphic until she remembers everything that she had wished to forget forever. Rather than being a nurturing and loving father, Eve's father abused his young daughter sexually and physically for years. Finally, Eve was unable to take the abuse any longer and finally fought back. She suffered a broken arm, but her father paid with his life at Eve's hands. This causes Eve to reconsider everything that she stands for, and her first instinct is to leave the police force and leave Roarke. Because of his love for Eve and his own abusive past, Roarke understands Eve better than anyone and refuses to allow her to leave him and summons Dr. Mira, the police psychologist, to counsel Eve regarding her recent memory recovery. Dr. Mira compassionately tells Eve that what she suffered as a child was at the hands of a monster, and that her case would be one of pure self-defense, a position the Chief of Police upholds.

This behind her, Eve must now continue to work to clear her friend's name of the murder charge that is still attached to Mavis. A second, third, and fourth murder further confuse the case, but actually work to clear Mavis. By this time, Eve has discovered that the problem is an illegal drug that is designed to promise eternal youth, increased sexual drive and desire, as well as greater physical strength and vigor. Such a combination would take the world by storm. The only drawback is that the combination of the drug components is highly addictive and will cause death within five years. Eve's job is to bring the murderer to justice and she must work cooperatively with the Illegals Department of the police force, specifically agent Jake T. Casto, who makes no secret



that he admires Eve, probably more for her physical attributes than her mental ones. But, as he cannot have Eve, he chooses to sleep with Eve's aide, Peabody. This gives Casto firsthand knowledge of just about every step of the case. This works very well for Casto, because he is the murderer, and his position as an agent in Illegals puts him in a very good place to make a great deal of money while he obfuscates the murder cases because of his position and inside information.

The story deals with an off-planet plant, the nectar of which is critical to the creation of the drug Immortality. Two women, both of them models, will stop at nothing in order to retain their hold on a personal supply of Immortality, perhaps not really even knowing that by becoming addicted to the substance, they had already sealed their own fate. Friendship and love play a very big role in the story, giving Eve a family that she had never experienced in her life, and with that family she experiences the pains and responsibilities that come with it. Eve's professional abilities are unparalleled, but her life is on the line when she proves to be too smart for Jake. His only option is to kill her in order to protect his financial and professional future. Fortunately for Eve, her new family, made up of Roarke, Mavis, Dr. Mira, and Peabody know that she would not disappear the way she did, so they come to the rescue just in time. The story ends with a very much battered Eve, made-up and dressed to kill in time to attend her wedding to Roarke.



# Chapter 1

## Chapter 1 Summary

Immortal in Death by J. D. Robb is a murder mystery where homicide detective Eve Dallas must work to clear the name of her friend Mavis, and try not to be killed herself in order to attend her own wedding to Roarke. Set in New York City in 2058, the story involves the fashion industry, with top models vying for a source of Immortality, a drug that guarantees a fountain of youth with the annoying side effect of being highly addictive and eventually fatal. Just one dose is enough to kill, but for some, the main effects of the drug are worth the risks. Highly placed individuals have a lot to lose if Eve manages to uncover the truth behind the drug and what it can do. Their intention is to make as much money as possible before anyone discovers just how dangerous the drug really is.

Eve Dallas, a Lieutenant in the New York City police department, homicide division is getting married to a man known only by the single Irish name of Roarke. The idea fills Eve with terror. She is a good cop, one of the best, excellent at her job, able to track down killers and put them behind bars. She has been in the line of laser-fire and faced it with more composure than she does with the idea of shopping for a wedding dress. Roarke had proposed marriage just after a rough day at the office, both of them bruised and bleeding. Roarke knows Eve, and that was one of her weak moments. Now Eve finds herself in a commitment to both Roarke and her friend, Mavis, to actually meet with a designer Mavis knows to have a wedding dress designed specifically for her.

Eve's friend, Mavis, is not known for her taste either in music or in her clothing style. Eve could have let Roarke take care of the wedding dress for her, but her independent spirit firmly believes that she should select it and she should pay for it herself. When Mavis discovers Eve's intention to shop for the dress on the computer she takes matters into her own hands. The only good part about such a decision is that Roarke is very afraid of what Eve's dress will look like after her wild and crazy friend has a hand in it. That though cheers Eve up temporarily. The truth is that Eve loves Roarke very much and she will see the wedding through despite her reservations about marrying the richest man in the world and perhaps losing her independence.

Eve finds Leonardo's studio in Soho, in a third floor loft, with pictures in styles, shapes, and colors that make Eve's blood freeze. Some might work as a practical joke on Roarke, but even for Eve, his designs are too outlandish. Before she can turn and run, Mavis arrives and bulldozes Eve into the studio. Leonardo is a huge man, who looks less like a dress designer than Eve does. He knows of Eve and her reputation for being a dedicated and honest cop and compares what they each do to puzzles. Hers is mystery. His is design. He teases her a bit, but then designs on the computer a gorgeous dress in a bronze color to accentuate Eve's coloring, liking her to a goddess. The last step is to be measured, and in 2058 the electronic measuring device requires Eve to divest all her clothes. As she is standing naked being measured by a linebacker



of a dressmaker, a woman storms into Leonardo's studio ranting about a two-timing, back-stabbing individual. She leaps on Eve, who has no choice but to slug the newcomer.

## Chapter 1 Analysis

Eve Dallas is a New York City homicide cop who is very good at her job. She is strong, thorough, dedicated, and no longer lonely. She has agreed to marry one of the richest men in the solar system, and their feelings for each other are deep and passionate. They both have no family history and are both remade people, becoming something out of nothing. This similar background is one of the things that binds them together. Eve loves Roarke, but his status, position, and wealth overwhelm her. She is terrified about the idea of getting married and perhaps losing her independence, yet she also knows what life is like without him and that is not an option for her. Fortunately Eve has made a friend in Mavis, who is as unlikely a friend a NYC cop could have. Mavis works to push Eve beyond her comfort zone and is able to get Eve to see just how lucky she is to be marrying Roarke, a man who loves her beyond imagination. Mavis also encourages Eve to do things that she would never consider doing, such as hiring a designer to create a dress just for her wedding. Considering that Mavis has blue hair and loves skin-tight jumpsuits, Eve has a right to be concerned. Mavis is the Mina bird to Eve's conservative sparrow appearance. Eve has no time for fashion, clothing, or makeup. Mavis has tried it all and loves it. Roarke is very aware of Mavis's taste and is terrified that she will have any sort of hand in choosing Eve's wedding dress. His terror amuses Eve.



# Chapter 2

## Chapter 2 Summary

Despite being punched by a naked woman, the intruder, a tall skinny redhead named Pandora, verbally attacks Eve. The commotion brings Mavis back into the room and Pandora focuses her physical assault on Mavis now. Still naked, Eve finally finds her badge and orders Pandora to stop. Pandora is one famous interplanetary model who once had a relationship with Leonardo. Finding him with Mavis and Eve ignites Pandora's jealousy and she threatens to pull all Leonardo's backing from his fashion show in a couple of months. Mavis wants Eve to arrest Pandora for blackmail, but Pandora has broken no laws. Eve does find out that Roarke had once had a physical relationship with Pandora, which makes her jealous; but she is still secure in his love for her.

At the police station, Eve views a body taken out of the river. It is one of her informers, Carter Johannsen, a.k.a. Boomer. He was a petty thief, dealer in illegal substances, but because he was Eve's informer, she feels duty-bound to look into his death. She requests the assistance of Peabody, a female cop who wants to promote to detective. In order to process the request, Eve must ask her superior officer, Commander Whitney, for approval. Her last case had become too personal for Whitney and their friendship was lost over it. Eve is still obedient and respectful, but can no longer see him as a friend. That was lost because he was too personally involved in the case. He gives her three days, after which the case will be reassigned to a junior officer.

Visually recalling Boomer's body in the morgue brings back very unpleasant memories for Eve. When she was very young, her father beat and raped her repeatedly. She recalls the nauseating pain of the broken arm and his big hand clamped over her mouth to stop her screams. Eve's past still haunts her present.

## Chapter 2 Analysis

This chapter is less light-hearted. It shows Eve as the capable and competent cop that she is, able to maintain her equilibrium while naked, being assaulted by Pandora. She is also calm and composed when viewing the dead body of her informer, Boomer. This is behavior that is expected of a policewoman after ten years on the force. The two events that portray her very human characteristics are her meeting with Commander Whitney and her memory of her childhood. Commander Whitney had been a friend of Eve's until he got too personally involved in a case and Eve had to stick to procedure when he could not. He misses the friendship; it is unclear at this point whether Eve does as well. Critical to the understanding of Eve's character and her psychological make-up is the brief glimpse into her childhood with her father raping her and beating her so hard that her arm broke. The reader has to wonder why she had no one to protect her, to prevent the abuse. Eve wonders too.





## Chapter 3

### Chapter 3 Summary

Peabody accompanies Eve to Boomer's flophouse to see if any evidence or reason for his murder can be found. Eve has to get through three state-of-the-art locks in order to gain access to his room, which resembles a filthy hovel. The room is dirty, hot because the single window is locked, and food take-out boxes, dirty laundry, sheets, and towels strewn all over. It looks to the two officers as if Boomer was hiding out in the room, as if he were afraid of something. Eve knows he makes a lot more as a snitch than the dirty room requires. Under the filthy mattress, they find a packet of pale blue powder and a sealed disc. Eve believes these are why Boomer died. All they can determine from the disc is that it contains some kind of chemical formula, but the lab is backed up and Eve knows that her case has very low priority.

Finally, after a very long day, Eve arrives at Roarke's house at three in the morning. She had spent the time trying to track Boomer's latest movements and gathered that no one has seen Boomer in over a week. Exhausted beyond belief, Eve gets ready for bed when Roarke comes into their room. Suddenly, Eve remembers Roarke's illegal but vastly helpful computer and asks Roarke to run the formula for her so that she can see what it is. Roarke agrees and is then stymied. Because of all his business connections, both legal and shady, he thinks that identifying the formula will be easy; he has every formula in existence, or so he thought. Using known data they narrow the compound down to a stimulant with hallucinogenic properties, sexual enhancer, and cell regeneration capabilities. Cell regeneration intrigues them, as the fountain of youth is a big deal. Roarke asks Eve to get a sample of the powder in evidence. At first Eve balks, but realizing she has already taken a legal shortcut using Roarke's computer, she agrees.

### Chapter 3 Analysis

The thoroughness with which Eve and Peabody go through the room at Boomer's last known address is a testament to her dedication to her job. Everyone else thinks Boomer is merely a two-bit snitch. To Eve, he was a person and that matters to her. Her police methods do not change with the importance or notoriety of the victim. It is one characteristic that sets her apart from other cops. Until she met Roarke, she never skirted the law in her investigations. Roarke's money and his desire to circumvent Big Brother net him a computer that can run without being "seen" by governing entities. In 2058 there is little privacy. All calls are recorded, decontamination is communal and naked, and most citizens have their computers monitored constantly. Roarke dislikes such surveillance and Eve sees the benefit of information so readily accessible to a good cop. The reader has to wonder if people with less benign intentions have similar equipment.



# Chapter 4

## Chapter 4 Summary

Eve is awakened in the middle of the night with an audiovisual uplink call from Mavis, who is shaken and white and has what appears to be a smear of blood on her hand. A trace on the call locates Mavis at Leonardo's loft. Roarke is dressing to accompany Eve even before she ends the call. The security camera at Leonardo's is smashed, but Mavis appears to be uninjured. The blood is not hers. It is Pandora's, who is dead. Her face is bashed in with a cane or walking stick that Eve recognizes from her visit to Leonardo's loft only two days before. Roarke recognizes that Mavis will be a suspect in the murder and that she will need Eve to be both a good cop and a good friend. He also understands how hard this will be on Eve. Mavis tells her story, that Leonardo has been looking for her, even though she thought it would be easier on him if they split up until after his fashion show. Thinking they should talk, she comes to his loft. Seeing the mess and blood, she thinks that Leonardo has killed himself. Then she sees Pandora dead. She thinks something hit her on the head, but when she wakes up everything still looks the same. Mavis's face is scratched up from an earlier encounter with Pandora at Pandora's house. None of this puts Mavis in a good light. Mavis tells Eve that Pandora was jazzed up on something earlier in the evening and attacked her there.

Eve has to interview Mavis as she is the primary officer of the case. Mavis tells Eve at Pandora's house there was a party going on, a small one, with an actor, another model like Pandora, and a movie executive. Pandora attacked Mavis and Mavis thinks that Pandora was high on illegal drugs. After Mavis fought the catfight, she went barhopping and got very drunk and does not have much memory of the events. Eve tries to pin her down in terms of time and place to prove that Mavis did not kill Pandora. However, she is still a cop and has to do this interview by the rules and is cold, distant, and detached during the interview. Mavis feels hurt and betrayed. Eve is hurting too, but knows that it is better this way. Innocent until proven guilty is the lie that Eve feels they have to live by now. She fills Feeney in on Mavis's situation and establishes everything they have to cover to try to clear Mavis of the murder charge.

## Chapter 4 Analysis

When Eve gets the call from Mavis she first responds to the situation as a friend who knows her friend is either badly hurt or in danger. Once she arrives at Leonardo's loft, the situation changes. A corpse changes it. Pandora is dead. Mavis has had two recent fights with Pandora about Leonardo and the cop in Eve has to take over. As a friend, she tries to get as much unofficial information out of Mavis as possible. Once she calls the homicide in, it has to be done officially. The friend Eve knows she can be most helpful to Mavis if she becomes primary on the case. The cop Eve is someone Mavis really does not know. Eve has to push Mavis during the interview as hard or harder than she would any other witness or suspect. Mavis does not really understand what Eve is

doing and is badly hurt by her friend during the interview. A question arises whether or not Eve can keep her perspective on the case. This is foreshadowed by Commander Whitney.



# Chapter 5

## Chapter 5 Summary

Lieutenant Jake T. Casto of Illegals visits Eve in her office. He is big on looks and charm and wishes to talk about Boomer, their mutual snitch. Cautious by nature, Eve chooses not to reveal all she knows to Casto. She does tell him they recovered a new substance being analyzed by the lab as the possible motive for Boomer's death. Casto makes a pass at Eve, inviting her out to eat, knowing full well that she is due to be married. Handsome Jake tempts Eve ever so slightly.

Leonardo wakes up the morning after the murder on Mavis's living room floor, unable to remember much of the night before. All he knows is that he was drinking; something he does rarely due to the blank periods in his memory that drinking causes. When he notices the blood on his arm he goes to Eve's office to confess to the murder he just heard about on the news. When he reaches Eve's office, he falls to the floor in a dead faint. Before he fully understands, Eve reads Leonardo his rights and interviews him. Eve establishes Leonardo's former intimate relationship with the victim and his recent professional troubles with her. Leonardo admits that Pandora threatened to ruin him unless he broke off his relationship with Mavis, which he claims to have refused to do. He loves Mavis. Eve puts in a requisition for tests on the cut on his arm and the clothes he left at Mavis's apartment.

Eve approaches Commander Whitney to debrief him on her progress. Whitney knows of Eve's friendship with Mavis and counsels her to consider stepping down. He equates their positions to Eve's last case when he did allow personal feelings to get in the way. He directly apologizes for his inappropriate words at the time and assures Eve of his support. He also advises her to share her burden with someone. Then Eve tells the Commander about Boomer's case. Without revealing where she got the information, she informs him of how dangerous the drug is, especially unregulated. If the manufacturers know of the danger they can be held on premeditated murder charges. She asks for Peabody to assist her.

## Chapter 5 Analysis

Leonardo's involvement with Mavis makes the case even more difficult for Eve and she still does not shirk her duty. If anything, she presses the interrogations beyond what she would typically do to guarantee her fairness. His interview nets very little for Eve. His gaps in memory are frustrating, but her own observation when Pandora first attacked Mavis was that he stood by and wrung his hands rather than get involved. Despite his size, he is more inclined to a passive response. Eve seems to be suspicious of Lieutenant Jake T. Casto even while she is slightly attracted to him. She tells him of the drug found in Boomer's apartment but she does not share the information about the disc with the formula of the drug on it. She does share this and more with Commander

Whitney. This is evidence that while their friendship is still strained, she respects and admires her commanding officer.



# Chapter 6

## Chapter 6 Summary

Eve and Feeney interrogate Justin Young and Jerry Fitzgerald, the young actor and beautiful model who were both at Pandora's when Mavis arrived to talk to Pandora. Although Eve maintains her equilibrium during the interrogation, Feeney is in awe of Justin, having seen him in a number of soap operas. Jerry is another matter. Her beauty keeps Feeney entranced throughout the interview. Eve questions them separately, but their stories corroborate and make Mavis's position that much worse. They witnessed Mavis imploring Pandora to leave Leonardo alone, and Pandora attacks Mavis, scratching Mavis's throat with her razor sharp nails. Had Justin and Paul Redford not pulled Pandora off of Mavis they felt that Mavis could have been very badly injured. The couple then alibi each other for the rest of the night. Eve and Feeney grab copies of the security discs to verify the alibi Justin and Jerry had just given one another. All they did discover is that Pandora has a great many enemies.

At the ZigZag Club, Eve hopes to find video evidence of Mavis's visit the previous night. The manager, Dennis, is very cooperative, and while it does verify that Mavis was at the club, her injuries did not match the ones that she had when Eve responded to her frantic call. Mavis had more injuries to her face and more damage to her dress than she did in the ZigZag tapes. Eve's blood runs cold. Mavis has means, motive, and opportunity. Just then the lab report comes in and further implicates Mavis. Only her blood, only her fingerprints, only her hair is found at the murder scene. Eve has no choice now but to arrest her friend for the murder of Pandora.

## Chapter 6 Analysis

Interviewing suspects and witnesses is all part of Eve's job and she can usually tell when people are telling all the truth or just part of it. She feels that Jerry and Justin are telling the truth, but only part of the truth, and yet she is unable to shake their alibi, which seems to be airtight. Even the security tapes verify that. She also usually takes a second officer along with her so that she can have a second opinion, but in this case Feeney is so beguiled by their notoriety that he proves to be of very little assistance in the interview. Eve had been hoping that the lab report would exclude Mavis from the crime scene, but there is no chance of that now. Everything in the lab report indicates that Mavis and only Mavis was at the crime scene, and that she had everything necessary to have committed the murder in the eyes of the law. Eve cannot refute the physical evidence, and what she feared has come to pass; she must arrest her friend, a woman she has come to care for. Her professional and personal life are in serious conflict.



# Chapter 7

## Chapter 7 Summary

There is simply too much evidence against Mavis. The warrant for her arrest has been drawn and Eve knows that she is the one who must arrest her. Roarke is there and comforts her, promising to help her find some evidence that will clear their friend. He also has secured the best criminal defense team in the country. Eve is very moved by his gesture. He is not close to Mavis, but because Eve believes in Mavis's innocence, so does Roarke. At first Mavis thinks that Eve is simply filling her in on the case until Eve reveals that Leonardo has confessed to the killing. Mavis vehemently denies Leonardo's ability to kill Pandora and Eve agrees that the evidence does not support his claim, that the evidence still points to Mavis alone. Eve asks Mavis to trust her. Mavis still does not understand just how difficult this will be on both of them. Mavis does agree to put complete trust in Eve. This makes Eve's job even more difficult, because as the primary investigator she must make it very obvious that there is no partiality or preferential treatment of Mavis because of their friendship. If anything, Eve has to treat Mavis with more aggression than a usual suspect simply to avoid such an accusation. The burden of it all nearly breaks Eve, and prompts her to make an appointment with Dr. Mira, the police psychologist, something Eve has avoided doing for years.

Coming home after such a trial, Eve has no reserves to deal with Summerset, Roarke's valet. Summerset accuses Eve of being an incompetent investigator as well as being an incompetent friend for failing to protect Mavis from the harsh reality of the situation. Usually Eve can hold her own against Summerset, but the events of the day have stripped her of all reserves and have left her exposed and vulnerable. Roarke, seeing her plight, decides she will sleep that night rather than work, and drugs the food he persuades Eve to eat. While Eve eats, Roarke tells her the story of his history with Summerset. When Roarke was a very young boy, Summerset found him in an alley suffering broken ribs, a broken shoulder, and a concussion from his father's latest beating. Summerset and his daughter took Roarke in, cared for him, and taught him their business of confidence games. Summerset also gave Roarke something he'd never had before, a family. When Roarke was sixteen, Summerset's daughter Marlina was fourteen and infatuated with Roarke. After Roarke turned down her sexual offering, Marlina went out of the house, only to be picked up by men who had a score to settle with Roarke. The men extracted their revenge on Marlina, raping and torturing her to death. Summerset never blamed Roarke for Marlina's death, but the two have remained connected all this time. Roarke tells Eve this story to help her to see that one cannot always protect those they love. By the time Roarke's story is done, Eve realizes that she has been drugged.



## Chapter 7 Analysis

Eve is facing a difficult situation in her professional life that threatens to spill over into her personal life. Eve is a very good homicide detective and is known for her thoroughness. When the murder suspect is Mavis, Eve is in a very difficult position. She has had very little experience with developing friendships and she has absolutely no positive family experience. With her relationship with Roarke becoming formalized with her upcoming wedding, Eve must consider all the implications of what a relationship can do, both positively and negatively. On the positive side, Eve realizes that having someone on her side cheering her on is a huge morale booster. On the negative side, having to arrest Mavis for a murder Eve is positive her friend did not commit is sounding loud alarms for her. Given that her profession was all she had before both Roarke and Mavis had come into her life, Eve had devoted herself to becoming the very best detective homicide has ever known. Now, having to arrest Mavis and possibly exposing Roarke to unwanted media attention, Eve no longer has a clear path between right and wrong. Professionally, Eve knows what she must do, but the emotional toll on her could possibly be too much.





# Chapter 8

## Chapter 8 Summary

The next morning Eve is very irritated with Roarke's underhanded trick of drugging her to sleep, despite the fact that she needed it desperately. She seeks him out at breakfast, ready to have it out with him only to be disarmed as usual by his charm and bowl of oatmeal he insists that she eat before having a crepe like Mavis, who is calmly sitting at the table eating breakfast. What distracts her is a Mavis who is calm, peaceful, and no longer afraid of the murder charge against her. Mavis believes in Eve as the very best the police force has to offer, in the lawyers hired as the best legal defense team money can buy, and in the love of Leonardo. In her opinion, all the media attention can only help her recording career. Such blind faith makes Eve even more determined to find the true identity of the killer. Her anger at Roarke forgotten, Eve and Peabody head over to interview Paul Redford, of Redford Productions. Redford left Pandora's party last and is a person of considerable interest.

On the way over to Redford Productions, Eve manages to get Peabody to admit that she is attracted to Jake T. Casto of Illegals. Both officers agree that he is a great looking man. As a movie producer, Redford is a rich and powerful man. He welcomes Eve and Peabody into his office openly, and as if he has nothing to hide. He freely admits that he and Pandora have been off and on sexual partners, and often were in business deals together, but denies any feelings of affection for her. He informs the officers that Pandora's party was designed to rub Jerry Fitzgerald's nose in the fact that Pandora and not Jerry was to be in Paul's film. He also tells them that Pandora took a pill followed by champagne that she told Paul was her reward. It gave her intense sexual energy and left her high for most of the evening. He believes the drug was responsible for her behavior when Mavis stopped by during the party to ask Pandora to leave Leonardo alone. Pandora raked Mavis's throat and it took Paul and Justin to pull Pandora off of Mavis. After the interview, Eve and Peabody compare notes, both women believing that Redford is not telling all that he knows. His alibi is shaky and they intend to verify it. A search warrant gives them access to Pandora's house, where they search for the box and the drug Paul claims Pandora took, but do not find it. What they do find is the security camera had been turned off remotely for a critical ninety minutes, indicating someone with access to Pandora's code may have come to remove evidence. Eve is certain this case ties into her other case of Boomer's death, with the unknown drug substance being the link.

## Chapter 8 Analysis

After a good night's sleep and an aborted attempt to pick a fight with Roarke for drugging her the night before, Eve realizes that Mavis is better, stronger. She is no longer afraid. This gives Eve some relief from the guilt she felt from the previous day when she had to book Mavis, her friend, on murder charges. It also gives Eve a



renewed sense of responsibility that her friend is counting on her. Eve will move heaven and earth to get the charges against Mavis dropped. This empowers Eve to return to her job able to do the work she does best. As soon as she picks Peabody up and heads to Paul Redford's office, Eve is once again a clear-headed, astute detective, capable of interviewing suspects and people of interest in order to reach the truth. This is how she can best serve Mavis. During their morning breakfast, Eve does try to put her upcoming marriage to Roarke and all the financial plans for it on hold, stating that Roarke will surely understand. Neither Roarke nor Mavis understand and make it clear to Eve that the wedding is on regardless of how the case turns out. This is new thinking for Eve. She has so completely compartmentalized her life that she is unaccustomed to juggling personal and professional needs and expectations. This is entirely uncharted territory for Eve, indicating a new area of growth for this character.



# Chapter 9

## Chapter 9 Summary

Eve knows intuitively that the case against Mavis and the murder case of Boomer are related but she needs proof. She talks to Chief Technician Dickie Brenski to see if she can get him to accelerate the speed of his report on the unknown powder found in Boomer's apartment. Brenski is not a man to be pushed, pressed, or persuaded unless it is his choice. Eve hates to stoop to the level of bribery, but she finally offers the tech two box seat tickets to the Yankee-Red Sox game the next night. This is enough to get the tech to give them the report on Boomer, which has an unknown element, the same one Roarke is unable to identify. The powder is comprised of amphetamine, anti-aging properties, and energizers that will enhance sex drive, followed by violent mood swings, with increased physical strength. When the effects wear off, the only thing that will make the user feel better is another dose. This cycle continues until the user finally dies. When they get the toxicology on Pandora (for an additional bribe of two locker room passes) they discover an identical unknown element in Pandora. The two homicides are definitively linked by the unknown element, the deaths, and the manner of death. Both victims were viciously beaten to death. This is exciting news for Eve. It makes Mavis look less likely as a suspect.

Back at Eve's office, she and Peabody find Jake T. Casto making himself at home, asking for Eve's help in getting the toxicology reports from the lab. Casto flirts with both women, trying to sweet-talk them into giving him information. Eve pretends she has no information, but when they are summoned to the office of the chief of police and security, she realizes that Casto suspects otherwise. Jake makes a move to take over both cases, but Eve's boss, Whitney, goes to bat for her, denying that she will allow her personal feelings to interfere. Eve remains primary, but is ordered to cooperate with Jake in Illegals. She then asks Jake what he used to bribe the tech and laughs at the answer, a case of unblended scotch.

Eve has her meeting with Dr. Mira, something she has been avoiding for a very long time. Facing her past is terrifying to Eve. Hooking up with Roarke has sparked the release of unpleasant and unhappy memories of her childhood, wherein her father raped and beat her repeatedly. There appears to be no adult in Eve's young life who protected her. Eve is afraid of the memories, there is something in them that terrifies her.

## Chapter 9 Analysis

The reader has to wonder why Eve is unwilling to readily cooperate with Casto. He flirts offensively with both Eve and Peabody, which might account for it. It could also be that Eve is very sure of the evidence clearing Mavis and she can leave that job to no one but herself. While Casto has a good record, Eve seems distrustful of him, but has no real



solid reason for her feelings. He is also enlightening for the reader to feel that they are finally getting into Eve's mind, her past, and her secrets. All these things play a very significant role in who Eve is today, what motivates her, and why. She and Roarke have similar backgrounds, childhoods wherein their parents, fathers specifically, abused them. Roarke has made a tremendous success of himself and Eve is certainly trying, but the untapped memories of her past terrify her and are likely holding her back.



# Chapter 10

## Chapter 10 Summary

After her session with Dr. Mira, Eve comes home really ready to have it out with someone. She was hoping Summerset would oblige, but he fails to appear when Eve gets home. She uses the wall sensor to locate Roarke, who is working out in the gym. This news suits her just fine, she feels in need of a very physical workout. As she approaches the state of the art gym, she marvels at the expensive luxuries Roarke has amassed. He believes that they are needed for survival in a world that seems to move faster day by day. Eve realizes that Roarke knows how to balance work and relaxation, and that she needs to spend time learning just to be Eve. When she sees Roarke, working out, dripping with sweat, Eve is overpowered by desire. They wrestle for a bit, Roarke not wanting to take advantage of Eve with his superior strength. Eve has no such scruples and wins the wrestling match, and the pure desire takes over for both of them. After a very passionate interlude, they share a meal of wine and steak and Eve is able to share her concerns about the murder cases. Despite the fact that she can intuitively connect Pandora's case with Boomer's, she has no specific facts. She does focus specifically on the three people at Pandora's party the night Pandora was killed.

## Chapter 10 Analysis

Eve's connection with Roarke will likely be her salvation. For the first time in her life, someone truly loves her and she is unsure how to handle it, but does know that she wants it. Her wrestling match with Roarke is more than mere desire, it is validation that her relationship with him is bringing her back to life. Before, life was only about finding killers. Now it is about accepting love and family.



# Chapter 11

## Chapter 11 Summary

With the information coming in seeming to be more frustrating than determining, Eve realizes that she needs to return to the streets, alone, to see just what she can discover. At the Down and Dirty Club in the East End, she approaches Crack, the huge black owner whose face is covered with tattoos and who wears a pink loincloth with a feathered vest for work apparel. He teases Eve about becoming one of his dancers. Eve knows he is teasing. She understands men like Crack, it is a part of her life where she is very comfortable. She questions Crack about Boomer's last time in the club. Crack remembers the snitch had left very much afraid, but he has no memory of who might have frightened him. Eve shows him photos of Pandora and her three guests the night of Pandora's murder, as well as photos of Mavis and Leonardo. Crack recognizes Jerry, Justin, and Pandora, but cannot put them together with Boomer that night. He does remember big talk about having full pockets and that Boomer spent some time with Hetta Moppett. Then, when Eve asks Crack about a new drug blend on the streets, Eve realizes that friendly camaraderie goes only so far. She bribes Crack and learns that the blend is called Immortality. Eve warns him off the stuff because it is eventually fatal.

Following up on the lead on Hetta Moppett, Eve discovers her to be a Jane Doe who has had her face bashed in. Eve puts all her information together in a bid to have the prosecuting attorney drop the charges against Mavis. While Eve's case has merit, the PA believes the physical evidence is too strong. Eve feels that she has no choice but to go to the media. Her last case put reporter Nadine Furst in Eve's debt for saving her life. Eve tells Nadine about the connection between the three deaths, but requests it be reported anonymously. For one of the deaths, that of Anna Moppett, Mavis has an ironclad alibi. Additional detective work on Eve's part show that Paul Redford had been paying a substantial amount of money to Pandora. This is enough information to call for another interview with Redford the following day, this time at the police station. Finally at home, Eve discovers Roarke on a business trip to Chicago and Mavis, Leopold, and two of their friends are partying, waiting for Eve to appear. Trina, who has rainbow colored curls, is to redo Eve's hairstyle. Biff is Leonardo's fabric specialist. Eve agrees to allow them to "redo" her, just to keep Mavis's spirits up.

## Chapter 11 Analysis

Perhaps afraid of the intimacy and how she seems to need Roarke's closeness, Eve dodges out the next morning without seeing anyone in person. She hopes that work will clear out the fearful nightmare that had awakened her just at dawn. Work, she knows, might not heal, but it does take her mind off the things that really terrify her. The unknown memories of her mind that seem, somehow, to have been released are determined to confront her. So, it is to work Eve goes, but at the end of the day, she realizes that it is Roarke she wants and needs, but he is gone on a business trip to

Chicago. Knowing that Mavis is barely hanging on by a thread, Eve allows Mavis and her colorful friends to effect a complete transformation of her in anticipation of her wedding.



# Chapter 12

## Chapter 12 Summary

Mavis's idea of a makeover does not stop at a haircut. Trina starts with a shampoo and head massage, and to keep Mavis happy, Eve simply closes her eyes and succumbs to the ministrations of Trina, Leonardo, and Biff. She protests briefly when Trina opens Eve's robe and plasters her bare breasts with a lotion or potion designed to make her breasts smooth and soft. Through all the chaos, the thought keeping Eve silent and compliant is that through all this, Mavis is being occupied and is not focused on the ominous prospect of the murder charge. Eve will do anything if it means that Mavis is not suffering. She even agrees to stand naked in front of all four in order for Leonardo to fit her with a foundation designed to wear under her wedding dress. The design surprises Eve, who expects it to be very uncomfortable. The entire experience surprises Eve, but she is willing to put up with it to help Mavis keep her mind off the murder charge and the fact that she has just lost her job at the Blue Squirrel. Eve keeps her mind off the makeover and puts it to work on the case; knowing she will be called on the carpet for the Channel 75 news leak. She is positive that she, Peabody, and Feeney need to put all their data together to discover the link with all three murders. Finally, Leonardo, Trina, Biff, and Mavis are done with her and Eve can go to bed. In bed, however, Eve finds no peace.

The dreams are coming faster, more frequently, and with greater detail. The one tonight starts again with the flashing red light. She is once again eight years old. She is hungry, scared and the best she can hope for is for her father to come in too drunk to want to rape her again. While she is waiting, hunger becomes a paramount concern. There is a single chocolate roll, which she wolfs down, then an old lump of moldy cheese. Eve finds a knife and is cutting off the mold when her father returns. Angry because she is eating without permission, Eve's father begins to beat her. Eve fights back as the beating turns, as usual, into rape. Her arm is broken and she stabs her father with a knife. A nightmare, her dream causes Eve to cry out like a child. Roarke is not home and it is Summerset who comes to her aid. Their relationship is filled with animosity, but her frightened childlike cries remind Summerset of what his daughter may have experienced. Roarke returns home just in time to take over calming Eve.

## Chapter 12 Analysis

Eve is fighting a battle between her personal and her professional life. She has always identified herself through her work, largely because she has very little experience with family and friends. Now that one of her friends is accused of murder, Eve experiences the same need to protect and defend a loved one, and submits to Mavis and her friends' ministrations; anything to keep Mavis's mind off her terrible predicament. Then Eve's dream that night reminds her of her horrible childhood where she was not ever protected. The man, her father, beat and raped her repeatedly. The red light is likely the



trigger for Eve; the reason it terrifies her so is because of her father's blood running all over after she stabs him.



# Chapter 13

## Chapter 13 Summary

Roarke has been with Eve long enough to know about her recurring nightmares and knows, generally, how to deal with them. He immediately knows that this nightmare is one of the very worst so far. He tries to give Eve the tranquilizing drink Summerset has prepared for her, but Eve resists the use of any sort of drug. Knowing her as well as he does, Roarke complies by offering a drink of water. Eve relates that the dreams have been coming more and more frequently, and with more details than ever before. Eve relates the last attack of her father in graphic detail to Roarke, who becomes more and more angry and incensed over Eve's experience. When Eve relates the point where she stabbed her father over and over, she compares herself to other murderers, which angers Roarke. Eve wants to leave Roarke, turn in her badge, and isolate herself until the investigation she believes is necessary is over. In answer, Roarke calls Dr. Mira to come to his home in the middle of the night to counsel Eve. She helps Eve to realize that the feelings are still so intense because while the event happened over twenty years ago, her dreams cause her brain to understand that it has just happened. She assures Eve that her killing of her father was self-defense, and even is able to get Eve to concur that should she be presented with such a case herself Eve would dismiss it.

Roarke has Eve call her first meeting of the day with Peabody and Feeney at their home, where Eve can continue to regain her composure. Peabody fills Eve in on Hetta's last known movements prior to her murder. Feeney reports that he has found the male tattooed stripper Mavis claims to have watched after leaving Pandora's house that fateful evening. Unfortunately, this simply puts Mavis in the right vicinity at the time of Pandora's death. He also reports that the security camera at Leonardo's had been smashed; at Pandora's it was remotely disabled, and at Justin Young's there were no blips, but there is back door not covered by security cameras. Eve considers why all four were together the night of Pandora's murder. Their subsequent interviews were too composed. Eve decides to re-interview all three of them to see if she can shake something up. Before Roarke leaves Eve, he reminds her of their appointment to choose flowers for the wedding. He also gives her the name of a plant specialist who might help identify the plant that the unknown ingredient in Immortality comes from. When Roarke leaves, Peabody turns envious eyes in Eve's direction; and then the subject of Jake Casto comes up. Peabody caught him tailing her and they ended up in bed together. Eve encourages Peabody, after all, she and Roarke became involved in the middle of a case.

## Chapter 13 Analysis

Roarke's anger is due to what Eve's father did to her when he was supposed to be protecting her. Roarke would like nothing more than to be able to kill her father himself. His anger is then transferred to Eve when she tries to distance herself from him and

indicates her intention to leave the police force. A call to Dr. Mira helps him to get Eve to see that her intentions are wrong. The murder of her father was more than justified. He tells her he will never leave her and he intends to stand by her side. Eve has never in all her life experienced such constancy and devotion. It is a humanizing trait. What is interesting is that she knows instinctively to be there for someone else; the very purpose of her job is to give a voice to the dead. She now is championing her friend, Mavis. It is time for her to learn that she is worth of similar treatment.



# Chapter 14

## Chapter 14 Summary

Eve times her entrance to Cop Central so that she is exactly on time for her interview with Paul Redford, but manages to bypass her desk where she is certain a message from Commander Whitney has summoned her to his office. By avoiding her desk she can, with a clear conscience, state that she did not receive the message. Eve is convinced that Paul Redford is somehow involved and his payments of three hundred thousand dollars to Pandora are suspicious. She was either blackmailing him or he was paying her for something. Eve interrogates Redford, straightforward at first, then she bounces from topic to topic, from whether he has Pandora's security code to why he was paying so much money to Pandora. Initially his demeanor is calm and confident, but as the interrogation continues, Eve can see signs that she is making Redford nervous. Finally, Redford realizes he needs the benefit of counsel and terminates the interview.

The reprieve gives Eve the opportunity to look up Dr. Engrave, the horticulturist Roarke had recommended. Dr. Engrave is interested in chemistry and plants and is able to identify the unknown substance in the Immortality mix as the nectar from a controlled off-planet species whose import to earth is strictly controlled. Only a licensed lab or horticulture expert is allowed to import Immortal Blossom from Eden Colony to Earth. The nectar has the qualities of creating younger looking skin, increased elasticity, and appearance of youthfulness. The nectar works as an activator and creates a highly addictive chemical that results in more youthful appearance, increased sex drive, and more strength and energy. Eve barely manages to keep her appointment with Roarke at the floral shop where her interest should have been on the flowers for her wedding; however, she is much more interested in whether or not the owner can give her a list of everyone who has imported an Immortal Blossom. Something on the list pleases her and she runs from the flower shop, leaving Roarke to choose the flowers for their wedding.

En route to the lab, Commander Whitney calls Eve and berates her for missing their meeting, which she had skillfully arranged to do. He then reprimanded her, in vague terms to protect her privacy, for believing for even a moment that the department would be interested in opening the old murder case of her father's murder. Lastly, he asks about the news leak to Channel 75. Eve is able to easily sidestep that question.

## Chapter 14 Analysis

Eve is embroiled in the case with her own personal conflicts creating an emotional turmoil, but her professionalism keeps her focused on the job. Eve knows she is getting close to an answer. This is especially true now that she has been able to get the identity of the drug's unknown element. It gives her a place to look, and people, like Paul

Redford, to question. By sticking to the process of detective work, Eve is making headway into the case.



# Chapter 15

## Chapter 15 Summary

Redford returns to resume the interrogation at the police station, this time with the benefit of counsel represented holographically. After assuring Redford's counsel that their cooperation has been noted, Eve starts in again about the money Redford was paying to Pandora. The break allowed Redford time to come up with a story; that he had been investing in Pandora's new business venture and that although he is an excellent business man, his dealings with Pandora had him duped. He thought Pandora was in a legitimate business, but she had been lying to him all along. Eve then questions him about his horticulture license and the purchase of the Immortal Blossom from Eden Colony. Redford says it was to be a gift for Pandora. Eve immediately orders it to be confiscated and is able to get Redford booked on drug charges, though she would prefer to be able to book him on murder. Casto adds his opinion that Mavis is likely not the killer, trying to help Eve persuade the prosecutor to drop the charges against Mavis. Casto then tries to persuade Eve that Redford is responsible for all three murders, but Eve does not buy it; the violence and the brutality at each murder scene speaks of a much more personal motive than possible professional hits set up by Redford.

Nadine intercepts Eve in the parking garage, trying to get more information. Eve refuses, but does listen with interest when Nadine tells her that Jerry Fitzgerald and Justin Young had just had a public argument and split up, publicly. Eve finds this interesting and yet is not sure how the information fits into the entire picture. That night, Roarke fights with himself and his feelings of anger at the way Eve was treated as a child. He finds it difficult to love her physically the way he used to. Eve does not quite understand. In her mind, she feels that what her father did to her was not sex but rather an obscenity.

## Chapter 15 Analysis

Eve is back in control of herself, doing what she does best, investigating murders. She has suspected Redford of being involved somehow in the case and is pleased to be able to pin illegal drug possession with intent to distribute a deadly drug. Despite Casto's support, the PA is still unwilling to drop the charges against Mavis. Eve is grateful to Casto for supporting her opinion that Mavis is an unlikely murder suspect; she is not as willing as Casto to jump on the Redford-as-suspect wagon. Despite the fact that she really wants to clear Mavis, Eve has enough integrity to be absolutely certain before she brings charges against someone else. Casto's easy acceptance of Redford as the murderer has the reader wondering about his motives. He just as easily believed in Mavis's guilt earlier.



# Chapter 16

## Chapter 16 Summary

Chapter sixteen opens with yet one more homicide. This time it is a mid-level drug dealer who appears to live in the run-down neighborhood where he is found. The MO of the murder is the same, including facial beating and disfiguring the corpse beyond recognition. His live-in girlfriend identifies him after she screams into the crime scene. Eve has to knock the woman out to prevent her from contaminating the scene. The murder weapon is found just yards from the body, causing Eve to believe that the murderer is toying with them. Roarke watches Eve as she processes the crime and the scene. He realizes that in spite of the wounds she experienced in her youth, she is healing on her own. She does not need his help to heal, merely his acceptance of who she is. The latest murder, however, does appear to clear Mavis, as her whereabouts are accounted for.

Leonardo's fashion show is next on Eve's agenda; specifically, an interview with Jerry Fitzgerald, his top model. Eve is suspicious about their public break-up, convinced that it is a ploy. She works to rile Jerry before one runway appearance. She can tell that Jerry is irritated and purposefully provokes Jerry into assaulting her with a glass of champagne. Immediately, Eve arrests Jerry and sends her to the station with a uniformed cop. This gives Eve and Roarke just enough time to search Jerry's dressing room to take a few ounces of her blue energy drink to analyze. Eve is positive that it contains Immortality.

## Chapter 16 Analysis

Roarke has had trouble figuring out how to handle Eve once he knew the degree to which she had been abused and debased. Watching her process the most recent murder scene allows Roarke to see that she is a smart and capable woman who will conquer the demons that have plagued her. She has some tough times ahead, but from Roarke all she really needs is acceptance, not to be fixed. Eve's focus, when she is on a case, is laser direct, and she is determined to prove that Jerry Fitzgerald is connected to Pandora and Redfield and the Immortality illegal drug somehow. At Leonardo's wildly successful fashion show, Eve provokes Jerry into assaulting her to give Eve probable cause to search her dressing room for Immortality.



# Chapter 17

## Chapter 17 Summary

After finding the blue health drink in Jerry's dressing room, Eve radios for Peabody to meet her outside Justin Young's apartment. Despite their obvious and public attempt to show a rift, Eve believes that once Jerry is released she will go directly to Justin's apartment. Roarke has accompanied Eve to the stakeout, as they went directly from the fashion show to the apartment complex. Eve is surprised when Casto is there as well, but he and Peabody were together when the call came in. Because he is interested in getting his captain's bars, Casto refuses to be left behind on anything. This encounter is the first time Roarke and Casto meet, and even though Eve has agreed to marry him, Roarke is fiercely jealous. He believes that Casto is dangerous, that he has sexual designs on Eve. Eve laughs it off, but Roarke is not convinced. As Eve suspected, Jerry arrives at Justin's apartment where they make love desperately and passionately and then they watch Jerry drink her blue health drink. A timely call from Dickie confirms that the blue juice has the Immortality drug in it. It is enough to arrest Jerry and Justin and start the grueling process of interrogation. At five in the morning Roarke takes Eve home for some sleep; without Roarke's insistence, Eve would have skipped her sleep.

## Chapter 17 Analysis

The pieces are all falling into place for Eve. The three people who were at Pandora's the night of her murder are all connected, in some way, to Immortality. This is all too easy in the reader's eyes. There just seems to be something missing. Mavis has been Eve's primary reason for pursuing the identity of the murderer and the actual identity still remains to be seen. Roarke plays a larger role in this chapter when he meets Jake Casto, sizes him up and decides that he does not like him. Roarke is very territorial when it comes to Eve. He is not so inclined to think that Casto is as harmless as Eve thinks.





# Chapter 18

## Chapter 18 Summary

Eve finally has her three primary suspects at the police station undergoing simultaneous interrogation. She assigns Jake Casto to interrogate Redford, Peabody to question Jerry Fitzgerald, and Eve chooses to work on Justin. Three hours into the interview process, Eve manages to get Justin to admit that the alibi he and Jerry gave is weak, that they both know the security code to the back entrance of his apartment building. In Eve's mind this makes it possible for one or both of them to have slipped out, undetected, and kill Pandora. Finally, Justin agrees to give testimony against Paul Redford if they agree to cut him a deal. Justin hates Paul because it was Paul who introduced Jerry to Immortality in the form of a health drink.

Eve arranges for a change of interviewers and she then works on Paul Redford. She manages to get him to admit that he is working on a drug formulation of Immortality, and had sold some to Jerry as a health drink, claiming that he was unaware of its addictive and lethal qualities. He claims he was racing Pandora to be the first to bring a safe version to market. He claims he told Jerry of the problems with the health drink, but her hatred of Pandora spurred her on. Jerry did not want Pandora to look younger than she did. Eve disagrees, stating that by getting Jerry hooked on the drug and then continuing to sell it is what makes Redford a dealer. Seeing that there is no way out of the charge, Redford accuses Jerry of killing Pandora.

Eve now confronts Jerry, who is showing visible signs of withdrawal. Eve starts out more gently, telling Jerry's lawyer that they do not intend to charge Jerry with using an illegal substance since Paul Redford introduced her to it and Jerry was unaware of its addictive nature. Then Eve turns into a barracuda. Jerry is the last of her three suspects for Pandora's murder and so far no one has confessed. She does get Jerry to admit she hated Pandora and that she wanted her dead. Jerry's lawyer intervenes, stating that any admission of guilt made under duress is inadmissible.

## Chapter 18 Analysis

This scene is designed to show the reader the vast skills Eve possesses as a homicide detective. By separating the three suspects and questioning them for very extended periods of time she hopes to get one of them to either break down and confess or point the finger of blame at another suspect. She relies on Justin's love of Jerry to make him break down first. He does. He accuses Paul Redford of getting Jerry addicted to Immortality. Redford eventually admits this, but claims that Jerry's hatred of Pandora makes her the best suspect. By the time Eve interrogates Jerry, all she can get is an admission of guilt brought on by withdrawal symptoms. Eve still does not have a solid suspect for the four murders.



# Chapter 19

## Chapter 19 Summary

Casto is infuriated that Eve is not charging Jerry with the murder of Pandora. He even threatens to take it over Eve's head. She urges him to do just that, but she absolutely will not charge Jerry until the woman is coherent enough to understand the charges and admit to them. Instead, Eve arranges for Jerry to be admitted to the Midtown Rehabilitation Center for Substance Addiction. At four the next morning, Eve is awakened with a call that Jerry is dead of a presumed overdose. At the Rehab Center, Eve begins the difficult task of sorting out the events. A patient with violent tendencies broke through his restraints and the subsequent chaos had everyone running to assist, including the female officer assigned to guard Jerry's room. During that short period, Jerry got up, managed to go to the drug hold on another floor, pick the locks on the door and the drug holds themselves, take a big dose of Immortality, morphine, and Zeus before she died. Eve is furious and very suspicious. It seems just too pat. Peabody and Casto help her to interview everyone. Casto buys into the bad luck theory, but Eve is dogged. She believes that Jerry had to have help. Casto then brings up the possibility that Jerry overdosed on purpose. For her, looks, youth, beauty, and freedom were everything. Perhaps Jerry could not stand the idea of being in a jail cell without Immortality. Eve is still stubbornly opposed to the idea that Jerry acted alone. She believes that Jerry's motivations were passion, love, and envy, not money. The person who is behind the murders is motivated by the great amounts of money Immortality can bring.

## Chapter 19 Analysis

Just as Eve believes they are close to cracking the case, another stroke of bad luck hits. Jerry Fitzgerald is dead. It appears to be an overdose of Immortality. Casto believes Jerry is the murderer and took her own life to avoid being jailed for the rest of her life without the drug. He claims it is a very common occurrence among junkies. Casto also feels that Eve feels sorry for Jerry and as a result does not charge her. Peabody tries to smooth things over between Eve and Casto, but Eve insists she will never do anything just for a promotion, while it appears that Captain's bars are what motivate Jake to push ahead with the theory that Jerry is the killer. Eve is much more cautious, believing that Justice is far more important than promotions.



# Chapter 20

## Chapter 20 Summary

Eve cannot let go of the case. According to her supervisors, Jerry is guilty of murder and drugs make it more plausible. The public eats it up. Eve refuses to believe it. Roarke is fascinated with her ability to continue to focus and stick with a case even after it is officially closed. He appeases her by listening to her as she reviews the case yet again. Roarke gives Eve information that a second Immortal Blossom had been ordered, and Eve immediately gives orders for that florist to be questioned. This is the night before their wedding. Mavis, finally, gets Eve to go with her to Crack's Down and Dirty Club for a girls' bachelor party. In attendance are Nadine Furst, Dr. Mira, Peabody, Trina, and Mavis. Eve is very touched by the gesture. Because she wants a clear head for her wedding the next day, Eve sticks to mineral water, but does order platters of food so her friends have something in their stomachs besides booze. "Damn it, she thought as she felt her throat burn. She loved the whole snockered lot of them. Peabody included, she decided, and opted to take a short peek into the toilet to make sure her aide hadn't passed out or drowned" (Ch. 20, p. 282).

On her way to the restroom to check on Peabody, Eve is accosted, given an injection, and forced into a nearby privacy room. Apparently her call to question the florist was the last straw for Casto. He is behind all the murders and the manufacture of Immortality. Casto tells Eve everything, his ego will not allow him to just kill Eve without boasting. Fortunately for Eve, the dose of the drug was small and she had not consumed any alcohol, so she is less drugged than Casto believes. She fights him, but almost loses when the door to the room bursts open and her new family of friends pour into the room to her rescue. Eve is slightly hung over from the drug Casto injected into her and a little beat up, but she is thrilled to be marrying Roarke. She has learned a lot about what it means to have family and friends.

## Chapter 20 Analysis

Eve's tenacity and persistence is what make her such a good detective. She will never suffer an injustice to be done on her watch, and that is exactly what she believes happened to Jerry Fitzgerald. In Eve's mind, Jerry is deserving of pity because she got hooked on Immortality. She just knew in her heart that Jerry was incapable of such brutal murders. This quality is what draws people such as Nadine, Mavis, Peabody, and Dr. Mira to her. Learning to love and accept herself allows Eve to love and accept others without suspicion.



# Characters

## Eve Dallas

This is the main character in J.D. Robb's Immortal series of futuristic detective novels. She is tough, determined, independent, detail oriented, dedicated, and completely in love with her fiancé, Roarke. She would prefer not to depend on anyone for anything, but through her love for Roarke, Eve discovers that caring for people is what comes naturally. She does not necessarily like it, but realizes that in giving you receive. Eve knows that she is a good cop, something that she takes pride in. Her past includes some very horrible abuse at the hands of her father, physical and sexual, and she has recurring nightmares that are slowly becoming more and more graphic in nature. Her amnesia of the time before she was found at eight years old is starting to break down as the case of Pandora and Mavis continues to unfold. Finally, her dream gives her the terrifying secret that has remained locked in her brain for over twenty years, that the last time her father assaulted her, he broke her arm, and she stabbed him with a knife. Her dedication to upholding the law leads Eve to consider turning in her badge and leaving Roarke until an investigation into her father's death is completed. Dr. Mira and Eve's boss both tell her that to charge a suffering eight-year-old with a crime like that is ridiculous and that there is no way they would open such a case. Her act of murder was totally in self-defense. This has torn at Eve's internal ability to have absolute control over herself and she knows that she is making mistakes in the investigation because of this distraction.

What bothers her the most is that her friend, Mavis, is counting on her to clear up the murder charge so that Mavis and Leonardo can move on with their lives. Eve's dedication to her job forces her to mercilessly treat Mavis as a suspect, an act that nearly devastates Mavis. By finding her way through her own past, Eve is finally able to piece all the events of the murders together, but because she was distracted, she misses the fact that Casto is a dirty cop until he tries to murder her. She manages to elude him long enough for her friends to come to her rescue. Eve ends up marrying Roarke, feeling a little hung over because of the drug Casto pumped into her the night before, and beaten up from his attack, but she is able to marry Roarke freely because she knows it is a choice, and that she now has the family she never thought she would have in Roarke and in her friends.

## Roarke

Roarke is a mysterious, Irish businessman, who owns most everything in New York City, and is a business broker for many entities, including several "off-planet" business deals. Roarke is handsome, smart, very wealthy, and knows when to invade Eve's space and when to allow her to be an independent woman. For many men, being the husband of a homicide detective could cause a great inferiority complex, but Roarke is completely at ease with who he is and does not derive his self-worth from anyone but himself. He



loves Eve totally and completely, and would prefer that she take better care of herself, but he also knows that if he were to insist on coddling her that he would lose her. Throughout the story, Roarke tries to give Eve assistance in such a way that she does not feel that she has lost her independence, and Roarke does a very good job of this until he actually meets Jake T. Casto of *Illegals*. He knows immediately that there is another dog sniffing his tree and he is consumed by jealousy. He almost does not want to leave Eve alone with the man, but realizes that he must trust her to do her job, and sometimes that will include working with a very sexy man such as Casto. Even so, Roarke is still suspicious of Casto, and does some investigating on his own, enlisting the help of Feeney to see where Casto is in the grand scheme of things. He discovers Casto's involvement just at the time that Casto is trying to dispatch Eve.

## **Mavis Freestone**

Mavis Freestone is Eve's funky friend, accused of murdering Pandora. She is not the kind of person to become so angry that she will lose control and murder someone. Her pattern of behavior is to try to placate people, which she did try to do by going to Pandora's home the night of the woman's death to plead with her to be nice to Leonardo, which only instigates a cat fight between the two women, where Pandora scratches her neck with her very sharp claws. Mavis loves Eve and is delighted that Eve has found true love in Roarke. She lives with Eve and Roarke during the investigation, mainly for her protection so that Eve can do everything she possibly can to help her friend. Mavis trusts Eve, but is terrified of going to jail for the rest of her life. She is in love with the designer, Leonardo, and believes that he can do no wrong, and when he is accused of the murder she stands up for him. When Eve has to put Mavis through the horrible interrogation, Mavis is hurt and beaten, but by the next morning she realizes that she is under the protection of the best detective in the police force and has the best counsel money can buy, courtesy of Roarke. She is rejuvenated and firmly believes that her friends will clear her name.

## **Feeney**

Feeney is Eve's computer crimes expert. He is always somewhat down and seems to look at the bad side of things, but whatever Eve wants him to do, he is willing to try. Feeney also admires and respects Roarke, and thinks that Eve and Roarke are well matched because neither of them can leave a case alone until it is solved. He likes to go home to his wife, he enjoys his food, especially pastries, and has learned to take life in stride.

## **Leonardo**

Leonardo is a fashion designer, former lover of Pandora, current lover of Mavis, due to have a huge fashion show showcasing Pandora, but after her death goes with Jerry Fitzgerald.



## **Deidre Peabody**

Deidre Peabody is Eve's assistant officer, aiming for detective. Peabody admires Eve and believes that she will progress in her career if she learns to work as Eve does. Peabody also gets personally involved with Casto, who charms her in order to stay close to Eve's investigation. He does not care for Peabody, he merely uses her.

## **Jerry Fitzgerald**

Jerry Fitzgerald is a model and the girlfriend of Justin Young. She gets hooked on Immortality in the form of a blue health drink. At first she does not know what is in it.

## **Justin Young**

Justin Young is an actor and the boyfriend of Jerry Fitzgerald. He loves Jerry and will do anything to protect her. He hates Paul Redford because Paul gets Jerry hooked on Immortality.

## **Paul Redford**

Paul Redford is a movie producer and businessman who initially goes into business with Pandora to create a form of Immortality, but then when he discovers he can get the necessary ingredients himself, he chooses to become independent of Pandora.

## **Pandora**

Pandora is the first murder victim. She is a beautiful woman who has created many enemies for herself. She discovers Immortality and decides to go into business creating the drug, despite its addictive and lethal characteristics. She is also a heavy user of Immortality, believing that it is making her younger and more beautiful. Because she double crosses Jake Casto, he kills her for his share in the Immortality market.

## **Jake T. Casto**

Casto is the Illegals investigator, a handsome and very charming man and a very dirty cop. Casto uses his position in Illegals to get close to the people who know how to traffic illegal drugs, and he finds out about Immortality. He decides that being a cop just does not cut it for him any more; he knows that within a few years Immortality will be restricted, but he intends to make his fortune from the very beginning.



## **Commander Whitney**

Commander Whitney is Eve's commanding officer. He provides understanding for Eve when she has to go through an investigation that is very close to home for Eve. He is also very understanding when Eve wishes to confess to the killing of her father, and tells her that the department considers the case to be permanently closed.

## **Summerset**

Summerset is Roarke's valet and the man who saved Roarke when he found Roarke as a child beaten and battered on the streets of Dublin. He and Eve have a hateful relationship, but he does give Eve assistance the night she has the most horrible of her nightmares and Roarke is not there.

## **Feeney**

Feeney is the Electronic Division detective who works for Eve. He is the one who trained Eve initially.

## **Dickie Brenski**

Dickie Brenski is the laboratory technician Eve and Casto must use to try to identify the unknown substance in the drug Immortality. He is subject to bribes and commonly called Dickhead.

## **Trina**

Trina is the hairdresser who gives Eve a phenomenal cut.

## **Biff**

Biff is a fabric consultant.

## **Dr. Mira**

Dr. Mira is the police psychologist who helps Eve to handle her flashbacks and handle the difficult issues that she has when someone is terminated at work. She also cares very much for Eve, and is considered to be a friend by the end of the story.



## **Boomer**

Boomer is a snitch and homicide victim.

## **Hetta**

Hetta is the call girl last seen with Boomer, murdered in a similar manner to Boomer and Pandora.

## **Crack**

Crack is the proprietor of the Down and Dirty Bar. He is a huge black man who likes to wear colorful loincloths and feathered vests as his costume of choice.

## **Dr. Engrave**

Dr Engrave is the plant expert Roarke refers Eve to for more information on the Immortal Blossom. She also tells Eve that she likes petunias because they are so simple and uncomplicated.

## **Nadine Furst**

Nadine Furst is the Channel 75 reporter Eve saved in a previous case, giving Eve a sympathetic news reporter to whom she can go for information and to get the word out.

## **Cockroach**

Cockroach is the last murder victim killed in a similar fashion, but used as a red herring, or to simply show the police that the murderer is still one step ahead of them.





# Objects/Places

## Leonardo's Apartment

Where Eve meets the designer of her dress and is attacked by Pandora who will soon be dead, killed in Leo's apartment.

## Security Cameras

In 2058 all businesses, homes, even flop-houses have security cameras that record who goes in and out. Leonardo's was smashed, Pandora's was altered, and the security camera at Jordan Hudson's and Jerry Fitzgerald's apartment did not cover the back door.

## Bag of Powder

Boomer died hiding this new drug.

## Immortal Blossom

The nectar is the source of Immortality, the plant is grown on Eden Colony and is not native to earth.

## Hair

Mavis's hair is blue, Trina's hair is multi-colored corkscrews, Pandora's bright red, and Eve's is like deer fur, multi-colored gold/brown/bronze colors.

## Wedding Dress

Not a traditional white, but a beautiful bronze/copper color to complement Eve's coloring.

## Auto Chef

Automatically prepares meals, but still must be manually stocked.



## **Cars**

Travel horizontally like they do today, but are also capable of vertical ascent and then they can fly.

## **Cop Central**

The police station.

## **Coffee**

Most people do not drink coffee in 2058 because of the demolition of the rain forests; Roarke is one of the few people who can get real coffee.

## **Soy Hot Dogs and Hamburgers**

Because meat is rare in 2058, people eat soy hot dogs and hamburgers.

## **Gymnasium in Roarke's House**

Built with the finest equipment available.

## **Shower in Roarke's House**

This answers to voice command for water temperature.

## **Red Light**

Eve continually remembers a red light from her nightmares coming true, and the idea of the blood coming from her father when she killed him with the knife.

## **Case of Unblended Whiskey**

This is the bribe Jake T. Casto uses to get information from the lab technician.

## **Measuring Device**

A measuring devise is used by Leonardo to measure her weight and body dimensions.



## **Pandora's Nails**

Pandora raked Mavis's neck with her nails.

## **Jerry Fitzgerald's Blue Juice**

Blue juice is a drink Jerry purports to be a health drink, but is actually a derivative of the Immortality drug.

## **Starlight Station**

An off-planet station.

## **White Petunias**

Eve remembers that the plant expert says that petunias are so simple and so easy, and Roarke chooses white petunias for Eve's wedding bouquet, representing more simplicity in her life.

## **Pandora's Box**

The box that Redford claims Pandora used to hold her Immortality drug.

## **Boomer's Disc**

Boomer's disc is hidden taped to the bottom of his mattress with the bag of Immortality powder that contains the chemical formula for Immortality.

## **Unknown**

The substance Eve, Roarke, and Dr. Engrave determine is the lethal and addictive portion of the drug, Immortality.

## **Droids**

Droids are robots that do mundane activities and can be programmed to record specific information.



## **Clearcoat**

Clearcoat is a chemical formulation that detectives use to cover their hands to keep from contaminating a crime scene.

## **Down and Dirty Club**

The bar where Boomer and Hetta were last seen and where Casto almost succeeds in killing Eve at her bachelor party the night before her wedding.



## Themes

### **The Innocent and Dead Must Be Protected and Defended**

Eve has issues of abandonment from her history as a child that have affected the way she looks at her job. She had no adult intervention, no one to champion her from a brute, a bully, a sexual predator. She believes that everyone needs to be protected, and her past as an abused child creates a need in her to be the one to protect the rights of the dead. One of her previous cases involved a child who died as a result of abuse and it affected her very badly, bringing back to her memory all the horrific and ghastly episodes of abuse that she suffered as a child at the hands of her father, a man who was supposed to be her protector. As a homicide detective she has dedicated her life to those who no longer have a voice because they were murdered. It is her main goal in life to be the voice for each individual who has died whether they have status, position, or were even deemed worthy of such support. When her informer, Boomer, is murdered, even her commanding officer gives her only three days to solve the murder, otherwise he intends to turn the case over to a junior officer. Eve does not consider Boomer's death to be any less important than one who has greater notoriety like Pandora. She intends to investigate Pandora's death even though her friend is the primary suspect. Eve castigates herself to ensure that she does not break any rules when it comes to protecting Pandora's right to have her killer brought to justice. Similarly, she intends to work around the clock to ensure that Mavis is not convicted of a murder that she did not do. Eve's personal integrity allows her to walk that very fine line between personal involvement and doing the right thing. Because of Eve's past as an unprotected child, she is driven to protect the rights of the innocent like Mavis, and the dead like Boomer and Pandora.

### **Personal Involvement in One's Job Can Have a Detrimental Eff**

Eve has plenty of integrity when it comes to her job, but her responsibility as a detective causes complications. She realizes that she is personally involved in the case because her best friend, Mavis, is the primary suspect in a murder investigation in which she plays the role of primary investigator. Because she believes herself to be the best there is in the department, Eve will not consider stepping down from the investigation, believing that she will be able to maintain objectivity and bring the killer to justice. She has never changed her professional standards in her investigative techniques and she has no reason to believe that she will start now that her friend is in trouble. Even Commander Whitney believes that Eve has what it takes to remain objective enough to follow through on the case, regardless of where it goes. Whitney tells everyone, including Casto, that she will do what she needs to, and the reader is essentially given to understand that if Mavis is guilty, Eve will bring her to justice. Whitney supports Eve



because he wishes to regain her friendship, something he lost in the previous case when he became too personally involved in a case and he lost his perspective. Eve managed to step in and do the right thing. Because Whitney desires Eve's friendship, he allows her to stay on a case that might be a personal disaster for her. Despite her tremendous integrity, the pressures of the case weigh on Eve and her nightmares become worse and worse. Her personal relationship with Roarke suffers a little, though she is very fortunate to realize that he loves her exactly for who she is. The final difficulty by being so personally involved in the case is that Eve fails to smell out a rotten cop, Jake T. Casto. This failure very nearly causes Eve to lose her life. While being personally involved in a case can have a detrimental effect on an individual, it does not necessarily preclude a successful conclusion as happens in *Immortal in Death*.

## **Personal and Professional Life Must Be Blended**

Eve Dallas has led a life of independence with the vast bulk of her time spent on her professional career. Initially the Eve Dallas that the reader has come to know would have absolutely run screaming if she had come home to find four people waiting to cut her hair, give her a makeover, put all manner of lotions and potions all over her body to make her skin glow, to stand naked in front of four people to be fitted for her wedding dress, two of the people being men, neither of whom is her fiancé. Eve would not have put up with that, but because Mavis is the primary suspect in the murder investigation, and that she had just been released from the Blue Squirrel where she had a job, Mavis is very emotionally fragile and Eve knows that she has to support her friend any way she can. Mavis is smart enough to realize that Eve is the only one who can clear her name. If she cannot do so, then Mavis is going to stand trial for murder and likely be convicted. Eve has a great responsibility in two ways, one as a professional investigator, the other as a friend. While she is conducting the investigation, she has to balance those responsibilities with her responsibilities as a friend. Eve is learning how to blend those two characteristics, something she has never done before.

Eve has come to understand that she has always divided her professional life from her personal life. She was attempting to do this when she mentioned to Mavis that even though she has her upcoming wedding, Roarke will understand if they have to postpone or cancel the wedding in order for Eve to accomplish what she needs to accomplish professionally. Both Mavis and Roarke were there to function as a conscience for Eve, to make her realize that you cannot work one part of your life independently of the other. Eve somehow has to learn to meld the two aspects of her life, both professional and personal. She had done a very good job of compartmentalizing her life and creating a professional life as her only life. When Roarke and Mavis entered her life, suddenly she had emotional ties that were the beginning of a personal life for Eve. Now she cannot compartmentalize those two things as separate entities. She believed that Roarke will understand needing to cancel the wedding, and Roarke disagreed, he will not understand that kind of need. Eve is being guided and lovingly directed by the two people who care for her into how properly to become both professional and personal in how she approaches her life. This is not something that is easy for Eve. Before, it was

much, much easier if she could just shut the door on her personal feelings. Now, Eve must learn to blend the two aspects of her life.



# Style

## Point of View

The point of view of *Immortal in Death* is that of third person omniscient. The vast majority of the story is seen through the eyes of Eve Dallas, the main character of the story. It is her story, her troubled past that is one of the main themes of the book and so her voice carries throughout the book. From time to time Roarke's thoughts are interspersed to give the reader a better understanding of his position on Eve's situation and at one time the reader is even given a very human side of Summerset when his point of view relates how his past experience his daughter had causes him to be much more sympathetic and understanding of Eve than he has ever been before. Other than that, the point of view of the story is solely Eve's.

Eve's character development as a homicide detective is one of a genuine desire to bring murderers to justice. She believes that the dead cannot speak for themselves, and so it is her job to give the dead a voice. Eve's past has a very direct bearing on what Eve has chosen to do for a profession. As a child, Eve was sexually and physically abused by her father, from whom she escaped only by stabbing him to death. The memory of the stabbing has been hidden, even from Eve herself, only to return to haunt her in her dreams. As a child, Eve was tortured and abused by an adult whose job it was to nurture and care for her. Such a horrific past causes Eve to want to have enough power to make some sort of difference in the world. Without the knowledge of her past, Eve has been in homicide for over ten years. Her story is one of personal development and growth. However, in order for her to grow, she must come to terms with her past, and the fact that she has kept herself distanced from all other people. Roarke and Mavis are the only people she has allowed to enter her circle, giving her the family she believes she never had. Through Eve's eyes the reader becomes acquainted with a woman who is strong and resilient and will succeed regardless of her past defeats. Her story is one of fear, pain, and how love and friendship can triumph.

## Setting

The setting of *Immortal in Death* is New York City in the year 2058. It is a time of interplanetary travel, soy hamburgers and hotdogs, no guns on the streets, and a drug scene that rivals that of the 1960s. In Eve Dallas's New York, cars can drive on the street or have the ability to hover and fly a minimum of ten feet off the ground, yet still have malfunctioning air conditioners. Guns have been banned for over fifty years, and there is still a homicide department that has a backlog of cases because it still takes manpower and human brainpower to figure out the puzzle. Only a human can figure out another human. New York City in 2058 boasts an AutoChef in every home and even in some cars. It produces ready-to-eat hot meals on request. The only drawback is that it still must be stocked with food manually. Most unpleasant or repetitive jobs are given to droids rather than humans, droids who can be programmed to do things as simple as





collect rent in rundown flop-houses to being programmed and designed to be the objects of desire for teen-aged boys. Many humans still prefer to interact with humans, but some humans do like the anonymity of being served by droids. Rather than rubber or latex gloves, homicide detectives use a spray-on fixative to protect their hands from blood and other unsavory bodily fluids, while preserving a crime scene from being contaminated by extraneous fingerprints or DNA.

The human need to be the youngest looking and most beautiful human in existence is the motive behind the production of Immortality, a drug that gives the results of youth and sexual drive and energy and physical ability at the cost of death within five years. Drug addiction is no less a threat in the future than it is in today's society. Upper and lower classes are still distinct and apparent. There are the poor and the very rich and everything in between. Society in the future seems very much the same as it is in today's world. The only difference is that there are some scientific changes. Human beings, their hungers, drives, and motivations, are very recognizable.

## Language and Meaning

The language of *Immortal in Death* is that of modern-day American English. Because the main character is a homicide detective, the reader is exposed to a few base descriptions and definitions, especially when discussing homicide victims. When a subordinate makes an error in judgment, Eve's vocabulary becomes graphic and direct. The rest of the time she is as normal and natural as a woman in 2058 can be. There appears to have been a sort of sexual revolution, a reduction in modesty as evidenced by the opening chapter of the book where Eve just disrobes completely in order to be accurately measured and weighed by a hand-held device at Leonardo's studio where her wedding dress is to be created. In encounters with Summerset, Eve's language deteriorates in direct correlation to her feelings for Roarke's butler. At one point in the story, during her most graphic nightmare, Eve's voice returns to that of a child, a sound that chills Summerset to the bone. He had no idea that Eve had been so abused when she was young. Eve has very candid and normal discussions with all her peers, coworkers, and friends. When she is interrogating suspects her language becomes very fast-paced in order to throw them off. When she is questioning possible witnesses she has to adapt to her surroundings, either to entice them or bribe them into giving her information. Most of the story is told in dialogue with some exposition to help define the scene for the reader. The language is very fast-paced, allowing the story to move forward more and more quickly toward the end of the story, giving the much needed sense of urgency appropriate for a murder mystery. Each character is given a unique voice, making it very clear for the reader who is talking and how they are affected by the current scene. Language that is written in the way the characters speak create a sense of reality in the story, making it a very good experience for the reader.



## Structure

*Immortal in Death* is written as a chronologically designed story beginning with an initial scene that introduces the reader to the main character, Eve Dallas, who is about to be married to Roarke, an Irishman known only by a single name. He is purportedly one of the richest men in the world and he has fallen in love with Eve Dallas, a homicide detective. The opening chapter establishes Eve in futuristic 2058 New York City where her friend Mavis, with her bright blue hair is determined to help her pick out a wedding gown. At the studio, Eve is naked and attacked by a very angry red-headed woman named Pandora, who dies mysteriously at Leonardo's studio. The main suspect is Eve's friend, Mavis. The story begins with a personal look into Eve's life, then incorporates her professional life in a very intimate way, progressing chronologically through the events of the case that becomes more convoluted with each step. The book is comprised of twenty chapters, with two to four scenes per chapter. Most scenes move in a logical fashion from point to point; however, there are several flashbacks that relate the abuse Eve suffered as a child at the hands of her father. Usually the purpose of the flashbacks is to help the reader to understand Eve's mindset at different points in the story. The story-telling style leads the reader through the life of Eve Dallas exactly as she lives it. When Eve is alone and having introspective thoughts, the reader is allowed access to those thoughts. When Eve is talking with anyone, friends, witnesses, police detectives, the conversation flows naturally with well constructed dialogue and access into her thoughts and opinions that remain unvoiced to the other characters. J.D. Robb will frequently use cliff-hanger endings at the end of her chapters to entice the reader into starting just one more chapter. The book is written in a fast-paced style that makes for a very stimulating reading event.



## Quotes

"Getting married was murder. Eve wasn't sure how it had happened in the first place. She was a cop, for God's sake. Throughout her ten years on the force, she'd firmly believed cops should stay single, unencumbered, and focused utterly on the job. It was insane to believe one person could split time, energy, and emotion between law, with all its rights and wrongs, and family, with all its demands and personalities." Chap. 1, p. 1

"As she rode up in the stifling excuse of an elevator, she could feel her back stiffening. Telling herself it was petty and that it should have been over, didn't seem to matter. Resentment and hurt left over from a previous case wouldn't completely fade." Chap. 2, p. 24

"Affixed to the bottom of the mattress were two small packs. One was filled with pale blue powder, the other a sealed disc. She tugged both free. Clamping down on the urge to break open the powder she studied the disc. It wasn't labeled, but unlike the others, it had been carefully encased to keep it free of dust." Chap. 3, p. 33

"'I have to say those things to you. I have to ask those questions, and you have to answer them.' She put a firm hand over Mavis's. 'I may have to ask them again, and you'll have to answer them again. Look at me, Mavis.' She waited until Mavis shifted her gaze. 'I don't know what the sweepers will pull in, what the lab reports will say. But if we don't get real luck, you're going to need a lawyer.'" Chap. 4, pp. 51-52

"'But no longer friends—not even remotely.' He nodded, accepting her silence. 'However, because of my behavior during your investigation of a case that was very personal to me, you should be aware that I fully understand what you're going through on this one. I know what it is to be torn between loyalties, Dallas. While you may be unable to discuss your feelings in this case with me, I strongly suggest that you do so with someone you can trust. My mistake in the other investigation was in not sharing the burden. Don't make the same one with this.'" Chap. 5, p. 65

"'Never thought to ask her. Just wasn't interested. But at a guess, I'd say this was something new. I've never seen her so powered up, and though it pains me to say it, she looked better, younger. Skin tone and texture. She had, well, a glow on. If I didn't know better, I'd say she'd had a full treatment, but we both use Paradise. I know she wasn't in the salon that day, because I was. Anyway, I asked her, and she just smiled and said she'd found a new beauty secret, and she was going to make a pile on it.'" Chap. 6, p. 77

"She dropped her hands and saw Summerset step silently out of a room to her right. He was as usual, dressed in his stiff black, his stern face set in disapproving lines. Hating her seemed to be something he did with almost as much seamless skill as he ran the household." Chap. 7, p. 87



"'No, you listen.' Mavis stood up, her bright blue hair glinting in the sunlight. 'I'm not letting this mess screw up something this important to me. Pandora did her best to fuck with my life and Leonardo's. And she did worse by dying. She is not going to fuck with this. These plans are not on hold, Dallas, and you just better make time in your schedule for the fitting.'" Chap. 8, p. 96

"Because death's an insult anytime. When somebody hurries it along, that's the biggest insult of all." Chap. 9, p. 117

"I don't know a lot about the modeling game, but I've been doing some research. At Fitzgerald's level, it's pretty high stakes. Money, prestige, media. Having top bill on a show that's being anticipated as much as Leonardo's is worth big credits, full-blown coverage. She'll step right into Pandora's shoes on it now." Chap. 10, p. 135

"The nightmare had been one of the worst so far. It had squeezed her by the throat, battered her awake in a sweaty, whimpering mess. Her only relief had been that dawn had been breaking when it had reached its peak. And she'd been alone in bed with Roarke already up and in the shower." Chap. 11, p. 138

"Screams, her screams, because his fists were hard and merciless. Pain, blinding, numbing pain that was nothing beside the fear. The fear because however horrible, this would not be the worst he did to her." Chap. 12, p. 164

"'Tolerate me, Roarke. I'm a good cop. I know what I'm doing when the badge is on. It's when I take it off I'm not so sure of my moves.'" Chap. 13, p. 176

"'I'm disappointed in you, Lieutenant.' He spoke slowly, his eyes hard on hers. 'That you would consider wasting the department's time and manpower on such a matter. We have no intention nor desire to investigate formally, or to launch any informal inquiries into the incident. This matter is closed, and will remain closed. Is that understood, Lieutenant?'" Chap. 14, p. 191

"His words were a sharp slap on a naked cheek. She nodded once, slid down into bed, and turned away from him. 'All right. But what happened to me when I was a child wasn't sex. It was an obscenity.' She closed her eyes tight and willed herself to sleep." Chap. 15, p. 212

"Her movements were brisk, her face impassive. But there was pity in her eyes as they studied what had once been a man. She was, he thought, capable, strong, and resilient. Whatever wounds she had, she would live with. She didn't need him to heal, but to accept." Chap. 16, p. 214

"Before she could do more than chuckle, he'd snagged her wrist, leaned in close. 'You belong to me.' Her eyes fired, her teeth bared. The show of temper had him relaxing immediately. 'It goes both ways, darling, but in case you haven't noticed, it seems only fair to tell you, I'm very territorial over what's mine.' He kissed her snarling mouth. 'I do love you, Eve. Ridiculously.'" Chap. 17, p. 235



"'I don't care,' she exploded with a wild look to her cautioning lawyer. 'She deserved to die. She wanted everything, never cared how she got it. Justin was mine. I would have been headliner at Leonardo's show if she hadn't found out I was interested. She went out of her way to seduce him, to have me cut out so that she could take the job. It would have been my job, it should have been my job all along. Just like Justin was mine. Like the drug was mine. It makes you beautiful and strong and sexy. And every time anyone takes it, they'll think of me. Not of her, of me.'" Chap. 18, p. 259

"But he was right about one thing and it's eating at me. I didn't have the stomach for what I did to Fitzgerald in the interview. I didn't have the stomach while I was doing it, while I was hearing myself hammer at her, twist her up when she was suffering. But I did it, because that's my job, and going for the jugular when the prey's wounded is exactly what I'm supposed to do." Chap. 19, p. 263

"It's a promise. It's not so hard to promise to do something you really want, anyway. And if I'm lousy at being a wife, you'll just have to live with it. I don't break my promises. And there's this one other thing. I love you. Sometimes it makes my stomach hurt, but I kind of like it." Chap. 20, p. 294



## Topics for Discussion

Describe Eve's relationship with Mavis. Does the relationship change throughout the story? Is this friendship good for her? Why or why not?

Discuss Eve's past and how it affects her ability to keep perspective while on the job.

Is justice a matter of opinion? Who deserves justice? Boomer? Mavis? Pandora? Jerry? Define the types of justice that each of these characters deserve.

How would you define Eve's relationship with Roarke? Do you feel that being involved with him causes Eve to lose her identity and independence? Why or why not? Give examples from the text.

Describe Eve's reasoning for using illegal means to solve a case. Is it justified? Why or why not?

Discuss Eve's recurring dream about her childhood, the symbolism of the red sign, and how the absence of adult intervention in her childhood shaped the woman she has become today.

Talk about Eve's interaction with her coworkers, Peabody and Feeney. Does it change throughout the book? If so, how?

Describe the effect Roarke has had on Eve's life.

Explain Eve's motivation for working so hard to clear Mavis's name of the murder charge.

Immortal in Death is set in a futuristic society. In what ways do you see the future as a better place? Why? What is still wrong with society in the future? Explain your position.

Discuss how Eve uses any tool or device at hand to get the results she desires. Do you feel that she is completely ethical in this or not? Why?

Do you feel that the author played fair with you as the reader? Did she give you enough information to solve the case or did she withhold evidence? Support your answer.

Eve and Summerset have an unusual relationship. Describe it, define it, and discuss how it changes throughout the book and why.