

Into the Cold Fire Study Guide

Into the Cold Fire by Lynne Ewing

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Plot Summary

"Into the Cold Fire" is the second novel in the Daughters of the Moon series by author Lynne Ewing. In this novel, Serena Killingsworth is one of the Daughters of the Moon. Serena possesses the power to read people's minds and is even learning how to use her power to hide and erase people's memories. Serena takes readers into the lives of the Daughters of the Moon as they try to stop the Followers, the powers of the dark side.

As the story unfolds, the readers learn about the many secrets that the Daughters of the Moon have. Vanessa can make herself invisible. Catty time travels and Jimena has premonitions. It starts when Serena runs across a ceremony taking place at the beach. As the teenagers around a fire chant, a young blonde girl steps into the fire, but she doesn't burn. Serena realizes that the flames from the fire are not hot, but are cold instead.

Stanton, the leader of the followers, runs after Serena. When she wakes up, she doesn't remember how she got on the sand below the cliff where she saw the ceremony, and her brother says she's been missing for two hours. When a transfer student from France, Zahi, starts school, he and Serena have an instant attraction. It's not until Zahi tries to force Serena, as the chosen one, into the cold fire that Serena realizes Zahi has been stealing her memories and toying with her emotions. Serena and her friends plan to trick Zahi, but Serena goes into the cold fire, becomes a witch goddess and starts to enjoy the feeling of immortality.

By the end of the novel, Serena is back to being a Daughter of the Moon, thanks to her fellow sisters. Zahi is back from the dark side as well, but another fellow student, Morgan seems to be part of a new group of Followers.



Prologue and Chapter 1

Prologue and Chapter 1 Summary

In Greek mythology, Hades kidnaps Persephone and forces her to live in the underworld three months out of the year. Hekate is the goddess that guarded and escorted Persephone in her journey. Over time, Hekate became known as the evil goddess that patrols for innocent people to corrupt.

Serena Killingsworth and her brother Collin are on the beach surfing. Her brother is asking about Serena's problems at school. Serena knows that Morgan, a girl that likes her brother, is calling Collin and telling him stuff about her just so she has an excuse to talk to Collin.

When Serena thinks about how when she found out her destiny, she realized she can speak Latin and Greek. She also thinks about the moon amulet that she wears. Her brother notices it is changing colors, but Serena says it's probably just the sun hitting it. Serena also mentions her three best friends, Jimena, Catty and Vanessa, and how they have the same powers that Serena does.

Serena has the ability to read people's minds. She didn't know what she was, however, until she met her mentor, Maggie. Maggie told Serena that Serena is the goddess of the moon. Maggie has been mentoring her ever since on how to organize her mind reading powers so that they don't overwhelm Serena.

As Serena climbs the bluffs from the beach, she comes across a group of about 30 kids standing around a fire. The kids are dressed more like they are going to prom than for a night on the beach. A blonde girl wearing a long flowing black dress suddenly steps into the fire.

Prologue and Chapter 1 Analysis

The inference is that the main woman character of the novel is Hekate reborn into a modern body during modern times. Serena is learning her powers one by one so that she can stop the evil going on in the world. For example, the boys that were harassing Morgan are evil doers. The kids around the campfire that Serena bumps into are not normal kids. They too must possess some kind of special powers, just like Serena and her friends do. Serena will need to determine if they are evil doers or good doers.



Chapters 2 and 3

Chapters 2 and 3 Summary

Serena steps closer to the group when she realizes that nobody is doing anything to help the girl. As she does this, she also realizes that the fire is giving off a cold breeze instead of a hot one, and that the girl that stepped into the fire is not burning. This is when Serena realizes that these are Followers—which are the evil doers. She sees the leader of the followers Stanton step out into the crowd. Stanton greets her. Serena feels her amulet glow now, but wonders why it didn't warn her of the danger earlier. As Stanton starts to talk with Serena, Serena runs away with Stanton calling her name behind her.

When Serena wakes up, she is laying in the sand. Collin comes looking for her and she realizes two hours have passed since she left Collin. He asks how she broke her sunglasses, got the scrapes on her hands and the cut on her forehead. Serena doesn't remember anything. He suggests they go to the hospital. Serena declines. As they drive away in Collin's van, she looks at the bluffs but doesn't see any evidence of the fire.

It's Saturday morning and Serena is telling Vanessa what happened the night before. Vanessa has premonitions and she says that she didn't have one about Serena meeting up with a group of Followers. When Collin comes in from the beach, he and Vanessa get into a minor argument. Vanessa talks about having a boyfriend before that died.

The girls also discuss how when they turn 17, there is a transformation in their lives. They either have to lose their power and the memory of what they had, or they disappear. Nobody knows what happens to the ones that disappear, but they think it is to become a guardian to the spirits.

The girls leave to meet their other friends to go to garage sales. When they meet with Vanessa and Catty, Serena thinks about how Vanessa's power is to become invisible. Catty's power is time travel. Catty tries to get Serena to go back in time with her to see what happened the night before on the beach. After Catty returns from her time travel, the girls go to Serena's house.

Using the tarot cards, the same three cards keep turning up. It suggests that something is going to happen.

Chapters 2 and 3 Analysis

The group of kids don't do anything to help the girl because they know the fire will not harm her. Ironically, it is a cold fire instead of a hot fire. Serena's amulet doesn't warn her of the danger because it seems as if the Followers might not be as evil as she thinks they are—even though they are mean to her and have gone to battle with Serena before.



It seems as if some sort of magical power touched Serena. It might be something Stanton did, or it could be something Serena did without being aware of her ability. The "fall" from the bluffs and the loss of time suggests that Serena underwent some kind of transformation. This change will reveal itself as the novel unfolds.

Vanessa not having a premonition about Serena running into the Followers suggests that something is different about the "Followers" Serena bumped into. Vanessa and Collin have a crush on each other, which is why they squabble.



Chapters 4 and 5

Chapters 4 and 5 Summary

Zahi, a boy that just moved from France a few weeks before, meets Serena at her locker. He says he's been trying to get her to invite him to her house all week. Serena invites him over. When her friends meet up with Serena, they say she's glowing because of Zahi. They start talking about how to kiss when Morgan walks up and overhears. Morgan asks if Serena will be home this afternoon. When she walks away, the girls talk about how Morgan tried to steal Michael away from Vanessa.

After school, Serena is baking cookies for Zahi's visit. Her friends are over too. When the doorbell rings, Serena finds Morgan there asking for Serena to read her tarot cards for her. Serena reads Morgan's thoughts about how much she likes Collin. She also discovers how jealous Morgan is of her and Serena's talent and how she dresses. When Morgan is mean to Serena in front of Collin, Serena uses her power to "zap" memories to erase a speech Morgan has to give in front of the school at the pep rally.

Serena is practicing her cello when Zahi arrives. He says that he feels Serena's spirit when she plays. He gets her to keep playing for him.

When Morgan gives her speech at the pep rally, she rambles on about stuffing her bra in the sixth grade. This is the memory Serena pushed her real speech behind during the "zapping" process. Morgan approaches Serena after the pep rally and accuses Serena of being a witch and putting a spell on her.

The girls meet Maggie for tea at Chado's. Serena tells Maggie about the girl they called Lecta stepping into the fire. Maggie explains that Lecta is not a name, but rather the word for the chosen one. Maggie explains what Serena saw is a very old ceremony of the Atox. When the Atox chooses someone to step into the cold fire, it gives them immortality, or eternal life.

Serena and the girls ponder whether or not Serena is the chosen one because the Atox allowed her to witness the ceremony, but not Catty when Catty went back in time. They discuss that the Atox might be seducing Serena as a Daughter of the Moon to steal her powers. They also discuss how Hekate must be evil since she is the goddess of the dark moon. Maggie says that someone has to reign over the dark, but it doesn't make Hekate evil.

Serena leaves for cello practice. Zahi comes after her and tries to get her to have coffee with him. Serena wants to go, but the girls catch up with them and Zahi leaves because Serena has plans with her friends.



Chapters 4 and 5 Analysis

Zahi has a sun tattoo around his belly button. Since Serena is the goddess of the moon, this suggests that Zahi has powers too and they are the opposite of Serena's powers. Zahi might be trying to get Serena to like him so that he can undermine her and harm her in some way. The girls suggest that Morgan has undergone some transformation as well. This will emerge as the novel unfolds.

It seems as if Serena is the chosen one. The Atrax is trying to lure Serena into the dark side so that he can steal her powers. Right now, Serena is a Daughter of the Moon for the light or good side. It could be that the Atrax is trying to turn Serena into the goddess of the moon that reigns over the dark, evil side, which essentially turns Serena into Hekate.



Chapters 6 and 7

Chapters 6 and 7 Summary

Jimena and Serena go to a nightclub. Serena is scanning the club for Zahi. When he finally comes up to her, they start to dance closely as if they are going to kiss. Collin taps Serena on the shoulder to interrupt. Morgan accuses Serena of putting a spell on her again.

Michael's band goes on while Vanessa and Catty come up to Serena and Jimena and Zahi. When they finish playing, a bunch of girls rush the stage for Michael's autograph. Vanessa gets so upset that she starts to disappear. Jimena, Catty and Serena try to hide Vanessa so that nobody sees. Jimena tells Serena to get into Vanessa head and try to zap her emotions so she'll stop disappearing. When Serena does, she can't believe what Vanessa thinks of her.

When Serena read Vanessa's mind, she found out that Vanessa thinks Serena is going to betray the Daughters of the Moon. This makes Serena sick so she asks Jimena to drive her home. Serena tries to read Jimena's mind on the way to the car but Jimena is blocking her out. Jimena admits to Serena that she had a premonition and that's why they think she is going to betray them. Jimena assures Serena that they won't let it happen. Serena says Jimena has never been able to change a premonition before and Jimena says she knows.

Chapters 6 and 7 Analysis

The thought that Serena sees in Vanessa's mind suggests that Vanessa thinks Serena is going to become a follower. Since the girls only have two years to decide what to do about their powers, the thoughts are weighing heavily on each of their minds. It could also indicate that Vanessa thinks Serena has feelings for Michael as well.

Jimena's premonition that Serena is going to betray the Daughters of the Moon is going to come true. While the girls plan on trying to stop what is inevitable, it is something that they have never been able to control before.



Chapters 8 and 9

Chapters 8 and 9 Summary

Serena is home alone. She snuggles into her bed with her pet raccoon, Wally. She drifts off to sleep, but something wakes her up. She hears Mozart playing downstairs and thinks her brother might be home. Her father is in San Francisco for the weekend. When Serena glances into the den where the music is playing, she gets frightened and runs away.

It's Stanton, the leader of the Followers, that Serena sees that scares her off. Stanton goes up the stairs after Serena. She tries to push into his mind, but he is already inside of her head first. He's trying to soothe her, however, not battle with her. Stanton tells Serena that every time he tries to warn her that Zahi pushes it away. Stanton goes on to explain that Zahi is one of the most powerful Followers and that if he delivers Serena to the Atrax that Zahi wins a position above Stanton. She thinks Stanton can deliver her to the Atrax, too. Stanton reads her thoughts and says that he won't. Collin comes home and Serena tries to get Stanton to leave.

Chapters 8 and 9 Analysis

Ironically, the man Serena most fears is on her side. In another twist of irony, the man she trusts and likes, is the one that wants to turn her over to the Atrax. Stanton hints to the fact that Zahi is stealing Serena's memories and her emotions. If Serena believes and trusts Stanton, she is siding with one of her arch enemies. If she doesn't, however, it might put her in more imminent danger because of Zahi's powers.



Chapters 10 and 11

Chapters 10 and 11 Summary

As Collin enters Serna's room, Serena is trying to explain Stanton's presence. Collin expresses his concern for Serena when he doesn't see what boy Serena is talking about. After Collin leaves, Stanton steps out of the shadows and they continue to talk. Stanton shows Serena some of her memories that Zahi has stolen, which are of times Serena and Stanton spent together. He even says that the night they spent on the beach where he saved her from falling over the cliff that she promised to defy everyone to be with him.

At school on Monday, Serena tells Jimena what Stanton said about Zahi being a follower. Jimena tells Serena to give Zahi her amulet necklace. If it leaves a mark on him then she will know that he's a Follower. Zahi comes up to Serena at school. He tries to convince her to skip school to meet him at Borders. Serena agrees.

When Serena meets Zahi at Borders, she hands him her necklace. He holds it under the table in his hand and gives it back to her right before leaving. He convinces Serena to sneak out of her house with him to go to a rave in the desert. He also says that he wants to be with her alone so that she shouldn't invite her friends.

Chapters 10 and 11 Analysis

Serena and Stanton are enemies. It seems, however, they have been spending loving times together that Serena just doesn't remember. She thinks of the time they did battle each other and how Stanton seemed to be playing with her rather than fierce and trying to take her down.

Zahi is trying to isolate Serena by taking her into the desert. It foreshadows the rave being a cover for turning Serena over to the Atox. The other rave goers will most likely be Followers.



Chapters 12 and 13

Chapters 12 and 13 Summary

The night of the rave, Jimena brings Chinese to Serena's house. Serena convinces Jimena she is sick and gets Jimena to leave. Collin heads out to surf so Serena gets ready for the rave. She has a bad feeling right before the doorbell rings and Zahi is standing there to pick her up.

Zahi and Serena drive out to the desert. Zahi parks the car and they walk the rest of the way. When they arrive at the rave, Zahi convinces Serena to go to a smaller group of kids to dance. When Serena sees the phosphorescent eyes that indicate the kids are Followers, she tells Zahi that they have to leave. This is when Serena sees that her amulet left a mark on Zahi's hand from when he was holding it and Zahi tells Serena that she wouldn't be the first goddess to join the dark moon—that it was valuable to Hekate and could scared to Serena too.

Zahi tries to get Serena to walk into the fire. When she refuses, he tries to drag her into it.

Chapters 12 and 13 Analysis

It seems as if Jimena senses something is wrong or has a premonition that Serena is lying to her about being sick and getting Jimena to leave. The bad feeling Serena has is intuition that Zahi is evil.

Chapters 14 and 15

Chapters 14 and 15 Summary

Zahi notices that Serena is looking toward the moon. He assures her that her moon won't help her tonight because there is an eclipse. During this two-hour period, the moon will not help Serena. The Followers start chanting, "Lecta." Serena feels the coldness coming from the fire and when she starts to cry, her tears turn to ice. Serena feels her powers wane.

Stanton suddenly grabs Serena. As they break free and are on the run, Stanton tells Serena that he can make it look like he stole Serena to turn her over to the Atrax himself. Stanton calls Zahi names in Latin, such as a he-goat, which is an insult that means the smell of an armpit.

As they decide to split up, one of the Followers grabs her and yells to Zahi that she has Serena.

Chapters 14 and 15 Analysis

It seems as Zahi has put Serena in an impossible position. While she can normally defend herself, Zahi has anticipated Serena's actions and plans, so that he can overcome each of them and turn Serena over to the Atrax. Now that the Followers have Serena, Stanton is going to have to fight his own people to save Serena.



Chapters 18 and 19

Chapters 18 and 19 Summary

It's Jimena that knocks Serena to the ground and releases Zahi's control over Serena's mind. The girls' moon amulets glow white and shoot purple light beams to allow them to break away from Zahi. Serena tries to save Morgan, but she is in a trance-like state dancing with Zahi to music only Morgan can hear.

Jimena says she got a premonition when she touched Serena's forehead back at the house. That's how she knew Serena was in trouble and needed her help. Serena tells Jimena she saw the Atrox. Serena also says she wonders if it is easier for them to give in to the Atrox so they wouldn't spend so much time fighting the Followers. Serena says that being on the dark side is not that bad.

Jimena tells Serena about what her life was like when she was in the gang, before she became a Daughter of the Moon. The girls come to a house in the middle of the desert and three big snarling dogs try to attack them. An old woman emerges from the house and calls the dogs off. The old woman says she needs to talk to Serena and Serena tells Jimena to go get the car and come back for her.

The old woman's house is dark, only lit with candles. Serena thinks the woman is Hekate, but she says she isn't. The old woman tells Serena that in life you have to work hard to achieve your dreams. She talks about how women have the power of wind inside of them, but that most allow the wind to die down when they really need to whip the wind up. The wind suddenly blows the door open and blows all of the candles out.

Jimena comes back for Serena. As Serena is leaving, the old woman tells her that she has the power to change things and hands her one of the keys the old woman was wearing on a necklace around her neck. As the girls drive away, Serena knows how to stop Zahi.

Serena calls Zahi the next day to meet her. When they meet, she tells him she changed her mind and that she'll become the goddess. He says he'll pick her tonight. Serena meets the girls around the corner and they tell her that the plan is dangerous. Serena insists that they have to get rid of the new group of Followers and Zahi since he is their leader.

That night, Serena dresses for the ceremony. Vanessa goes invisible and follows Serena out into the car and on the ride to where the ceremony will take place. Once they arrive, Vanessa runs off to get Jimena and Catty to help. Serena tries to stall the ceremony, but Zahi is able to read her thoughts. He rips her amulet necklace from her neck, pushes her and Serena stumbles into the cold fire.



Chapters 18 and 19 Analysis

The old woman is part of the tarot cards Serena kept reading. The old woman says she isn't Hekate, but she is symbolic of Hekate because both Hekate and the old woman protect people from going the wrong way at the crossroads. The old woman's house is the crossroads the tarot cards predicted the girls would reach. The key the old woman gives Serena when she leaves is symbolic of the answer that Serena needs to change the outcome to be the one that Serena wants, rather than the unexpected outcome.

Jimena's premonition is coming true. Now that Serena is standing in the cold fire, the transformation from Daughter of the Moon to witch goddess is starting. Since the girls do not know what they are doing, it foreshadows that Catty, Jimena and Vanessa will turn to Maggie for help on how to save Serena from Zahi and the new Followers.



Chapters 20 and 21

Chapters 20 and 21 Summary

Serena pulls Zahi into the fire with her. She starts chanting in Latin, turning Zahi back into a mortal. Serena sees her friends, firefighters and policeman running toward them. Serena remains in the flames, drawing from its power. Her friends stare at her in shock and amazement. Serena starts to wonder what it will be like to live forever.

Serena picks up her moon amulet necklace, but it burns her hand. She stares at her friends as they stare back at her. Serena prepares to fight the goddesses that were once her friends. Jimena convinces the other girls that they have to get Serena back into the fire to burn the immortality off of her.

A firefighter comes up at the time and tries to stop the girls. This is when he realizes the fire is cold. The firemen switch from using water to foam to try to put the fire out. Serena scolds the Followers for their performance tonight. She also yells back to her former friends to thank Maggie for teaching her about her powers that she can use now, as Serena walks away.

Chapters 20 and 21 Analysis

Serena has allowed evil to take her over. The trance of the Atrax and the promise of immortality has turned Serena over to the dark side. Serena has been totally drawn to the evil side by the Atrax. Now that she has the knowledge of the Daughters of the Moon and the powers of the witch goddess, she is unstoppable by any of the new Followers or her former friends.



Chapters 22, 23 and 24

Chapters 22, 23 and 24 Summary

Vanessa turns herself invisible in front of the new cameras covering the fire. Vanessa appears and disappears. Serena is trying to figure out what Vanessa is doing when Jimena tackles her. Jimena forces the moon amulet onto Serena, which burns Serena's skin. Jimena pulls Serena into the cold fire. The cold fire burns away Serena's immortality but it also burns Jimena. When they step out of the fire, Jimena is dying.

Serena pulls the key from the old woman from her pocket and places it on Jimena. Jimena comes back to life and the girls escape to Jimena's car before the officials can get to them. Jimena tells the girls that Hekate led her back to the door of life but that Serena's key is what allowed her to unlock it and come back.

At school the following Monday, Zahi thanks Serena. Morgan is a Follower now and challenges Serena. After school, Serena slips off to meet Stanton and he asks if she's ready.

Chapters 22, 23 and 24 Analysis

Jimena sacrifices her own life to save Serena. Jimena recognizes that she would rather sacrifice her own life than to sacrifice all of the lives that would be lost if Serena reigns as the witch goddess. It seems as if Serena and Stanton are either planning to run off together or work together to stop the new Followers. Additionally, there is foreshadowing that a future battle will wage between Serena and Morgan now that Morgan is one of the Followers.



Characters

Serena Killingsworth

Serena Killingsworth is a 15-year-old girl that lives in California with her older brother and father. Serena recently found out that she is one of the Daughters of the Moon. As one of the Daughters of the Moon, Serena has the power to read minds and to bury memories people have.

Serena's three best friends, Jimena, Catty and Vanessa, are also daughters of the moon. Serena's mentor is a retired school teacher, Maggie. Serena is learning how to manage her powers throughout the novel. Additionally, it seems as if Serena might be the Lecta, the chosen one.

The Atrox, who is the leader of the dark side and of the Followers, is summoning Serena to immortality. He wants her to step into the cold fire so she will live forever and be a witch goddess. Serena is also struggling with a decision that all of the Daughters of the Moon have to make when they turn 17. They either have to give up their powers and lose their memory, or disappear forever presumably to guard the spirits.

Collin Killingsworth

Collin Killingsworth is Serena's older brother. Collin lives with Serena and their father. While their father is away on business and working strange hours, Collin is in charge of helping to take care of Serena. As brother and sister, Serena and Collin are relatively close and do things together, such as surf.

Collin is a big surfer. He is constantly going to the beach to surf throughout the novel. Collin also shows concern for Serena and her strange behavior throughout the novel. Collin is not aware that Serena is a Daughter of the Moon or that she has any special powers.

Collin is constantly arguing with Serena's best friend, Jimena. It seems as if the two might have a crush on each other. Collin seems to have a crush on Morgan, another girl at school, that also has a major crush on Collin.

Jimena

Jimena is Serena's best friend. Jimena is also a Daughter of the Moon. She has premonitions, which is her power, for telling what the future holds. Prior to becoming a Daughter of the Moon, Jimena was in a gang and always getting into trouble with the law.



Jimena is Mexican and she has tattoos all over her body. She is also very sassy, so she is always arguing with Collin and standing up for herself or her friends when they get into tough situations. Jimena has a premonition about Serena stepping into the cold fire.

Jimena is the one that goes out to the desert to save Serena from Zahi and the followers. Serena is with Jimena when they run into the old woman at her house in the desert. In the end, Jimena steps into the cold fire with Serena to burn the immortality off of Serena. Jimena puts her own life at risk to save Serena's life. In the end, Serena saves Jimena's life, too.

Catty

Catty is another one of Serena's friends. Catty is also a Daughter of the Moon. Catty's power is time travel. She hasn't perfected her power, however, so when she lands in the past or the present, she sometimes lands in strange places.

Catty and her mother are retro. Catty likes to dress in '70s style clothing. She is also an environmentalist. When Catty finds out that Serena has a pet raccoon, she insists that Serena turn it over to the proper authorities. Catty changes her mind when she finds out that Serena saved the raccoon's life.

Vanessa

Vanessa is another of Serena's friends. She is also a Daughter of the Moon. Vanessa's power is to become invisible. Vanessa is the only one of the girls to have a boyfriend, Michael. Vanessa uses her power to find out where Zahi is taking Serena to place her in the cold fire. Vanessa also uses her power to distract the news crew at the museum, so that Serena can be turned back into a Daughter of the Moon, and then Serena can save Jimena's life.

Stanton

Stanton is the leader of the Followers. It is Stanton that chases after Serena when she witnesses the cold fire ceremony on the cliff at the beach. Serena believes that Stanton is her arch enemy. Later in the novel, however, Stanton says that they have shared many moments and times together.

Stanton warns Serena that Zahi is stealing her memories. By the end of the novel, Stanton save Serena from the Followers in the desert, and it seems as if Serena and Stanton might be together as boyfriend and girlfriend.



Zahi

Zahi is a transfer student at Serena's high school. He came to California from France. He is half Arabic and half French, so he speaks both languages. When Serena tries to read his mind, she can't because she doesn't understand either language. Zahi seems to be romantically interested in Serena, and Serena is interested in him.

It turns out that the Followers have turned Zahi into one of them. He is trying to turn Serena over to the Atrax. By the end of the novel, however, Serena returns Zahi to his normal self.

Morgan

Morgan is a girl at school. She has a crush on Collin. Morgan is always calling Collin to tell him what is going on with Serena at school. Morgan also believes that Serena is a witch and that Serena has put a hex on her. By the end of the novel, it appears as if Morgan has become a Follower.

Maggie

Maggie is a retired school teacher. She is also Serena's mentor. The Daughters of the Moon turn to her for advice on their powers and the situations they find themselves in. Maggie is the one that told Serena she had powers to begin with. She is also the one that has been working with Serena so she can perfect her powers.

The Old Woman

The old woman is the lady Serena and Jimena run into when running from the Followers in the desert. The old woman appears to be Hekate, but denies that she is. The woman counsels Serena and gives Serena a key. The old woman tells Serena she will know what to do with the key when the time comes.



Objects/Places

California

The primary setting of the novel is in various parts of California. From the beach to the La Brea tar pits, the characters of the novel go to different parts of California as the novel unfolds.

Chido's

Chido's is a tearoom where the Daughters of the Moon meet Maggie to tell her what's going on and to get her advice. While at Chido's, Serena and the other Daughters of the Moon learn that Lecta is the chosen one. and that Serena might be the one Atrax has chosen for immortality.

Moon Amulet Necklace

Each of the Daughters of the Moon wears a moon amulet necklace. The moon amulet necklace helps the daughters detect when they are in danger. When the necklace is put onto a Follower, it burns the Follower, which helps the girls determine who is their enemy.

Beach

When the novel opens, Serena and Collin are surfing at the beach. Serena wanders off at the beach and this is when she sees the cold fire ceremony. Serena wakes up on the beach after running away from the ceremony and losing a couple hours of time and memories.

Cold Fire

The cold fire is part of a ceremony of the Atrax. Instead of the flames of the fire being hot, the flames are cold. When the chosen one steps into the cold fire, they earn immortality and eternal life. Serena witnesses a cold fire ceremony on the beach.

Zahi tries to push Serena into a cold fire when they are at the rave in the desert. Additionally, at the museum, Serena steps into the cold fire and goes through the transformation. Jimena pushes



Key

The old woman in the desert wears keys around her neck on a necklace. She gives Serena one of the keys before Serena and Jimena leave. The old woman tells Serena she will know what to do with the key when the time comes. Serena uses the key to save Jimena's life. Hekate shows Jimena the door back to life after Jimena almost dies from being in the cold fire. The key allows Serena to open the door and return to life.

Museum

The museum is where Zahi takes Serena to step into the cold fire. While at the museum, Serena steps into the cold fire. When word spreads that there is a fire at the museum, it attracts news attention. When the firemen arrive at the museum they realize the fire is cold instead of hot, so it attracts additional attention.

Desert

Zahi invites Serena to attend a rave with him in the desert. When they arrive, Serena realizes there are Followers there and tries to get Zahi to leave. This is when Zahi tries to push Serena into the cold fire for the first time. Stanton and then Jimena help Serena to escape Zahi and his Followers in the desert.

Old Woman's House

Serena and Jimena come across the old woman's house in the middle of the desert when they are trying to escape. When Serena enters the house, it is dark, except for the candles the old woman has lit. It is while Serena is in the house that the old woman gives her advice that later saves Zahi and Jimena.

Cliff at the Beach

After surfing with her brother, Serena climbs up the cliff at the beach. It is here that Serena runs into Stanton and the other Followers standing around the cold fire. The last thing Serena remembers before waking up on the beach below is running from Stanton near the edge of the cliff at the beach.



Themes

Relationships

One of the primary themes running through "Into the Cold Fire" is relationships. The novel reveals that even the individuals that make up a family have different relationships among the family members. For example, Collin and Serena have a very close relationship with each other. Collin and Serena, however, don't seem to have a close relationship with their father.

Friendship is another type of relationship the novel tackles. It seems as if Serena, Jimena, Catty and Vanessa are best friends. Rather than form friendships on their mutual like for each other, it is their status as Daughters of the Moon that joins the girls together in friendship. It also seems as if Morgan tries to form a superficial friendship with Serena. Primarily, Morgan does this because she likes Serena's brother, Collin.

Romantic relationships are also tackled in the novel. The only one of the Daughters of the Moon that has a committed relationship is Vanessa and her boyfriend Michael. Zahi and Serena start to form a romantic relationship. It turns out, however, that Zahi is just using this bond to lure Serena into the cold fire. Finally, it is revealed that Stanton and Serena have been having a romantic relationship. It is a relationship that they secretly resume at the end of the novel when Serena's memories return to her.

Coming of Age

One of the primary themes that run throughout the novel is growing up and coming of age, even against adversity, such as having to balance special powers with a normal teenage life. Additionally, Serena and the other Daughters of the Moon, struggle with the fact that their coming of age forces them to make a choice when they turn 17. Serena deals with the responsibilities in life of having to use her good powers to fight off evil powers.

Serena also faces the rite of passage of having her first boyfriend. Along with having her first boyfriend, Serena experiences her first kiss. Serena faces the possibility that Zahi might be involved with the Followers, which also means that he might be putting Serena in danger. She especially struggles as to whether she possesses the dark powers, such as those of Hekate, and how to channel the powers that she does have for good deeds.

Good versus Evil

Another primary plot throughout the entire novel is that of good versus evil. The separating line between good and evil is the dark and light side of powers. The Daughters of the Moon possess powers that they use for good deeds. The Followers



seem to possess powers that are on the darker side, so they use the powers more for evil.

Finally, Serena has an inner struggle with her powers, which might be a combination of good and evil. Serena starts to assess how it might benefit her to be immortal as she becomes a witch goddess as the chosen one, Lecta. For a short time, Serena does know what it feels like to be the witch goddess. The powers compel her to turn to the evil and darker side, but later her friends bring Serena back to her senses.

Style

Point of View

"Into the Cold Fire" is written in the third person point of view. The narrator of the novel is also the author, Lynne Ewing. The narrator is telling the story as it unfolds, but she also switches back to some past events in order to provide the reader with some perspective.

The point of view of this novel is an intimate point of view that allows a reader to connect closely with the main character, Serena Killingsworth. The point of view also allows the author to inject her own opinions into the narration and to expand on the events taking place to her, the characters in the novel, and the people with special powers without having to move out of character or interrupt the flow of the narration. For these reasons, the point of view works well with this novel and the author's writing style.

Setting

The novel is set primarily in California. The author never states the specific year or time period. The setting of this novel is important because it is about the mysterious occurrences in this particular town—supernatural occurrences—that sets the scene for the entire plot of the novel. The main characters of the novel are teenagers that work to use their special powers for good or for evil purposes.

The setting of this novel works well with the plot. At first, the reader is not aware of all of the characters have special powers. However, as events unfold, one secret after the next is either explained or inferred.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is modern. The language of the novel is not formal and appears to be set in modern times, such as the 1990s or 2000s. The language is educated, strong and descriptive enough that it creates a flow that leaves the reader impressed with the words as much as the plot when the novel ends. The author also injects some Latin words into the novel to provide some authenticity of the ancient roots of the powers that the characters possess. Additionally, to stay in line with Jimena's Mexican roots, the novel also includes some Spanish language.

The language of the novel is appropriate to the plot because it is accurate to the characters in the novel and the education level of the writer. The novel is not in love with its own words, but it is descriptive enough that the reader finds enjoyment in the words as well as the plot. The language is not difficult to understand, however, and everything is clear in its context. For this reason the language of the novel fits well with the plot of the novel.

Structure

The novel consists of 24 chapters. Each chapter is anywhere from three to 12 pages long. The chapters tell the story both in exposition and dialogue. The author is the narrator of the book, so it seems as if she is injecting her own voice throughout the novel—as if she has become Serena. This allows the author to provide her own opinions of the events surrounding the setting of the novel, as well as the actions taking place within the plot.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows the various relationships between the characters in the novel. The subplots involve coming of age and good versus evil.



Quotes

"Today few know the great goddess Hekate."
Prologue, p. 2

"Morgan says kids at school call you Queen of Bizarre."
Chap. 1, p. 12

"I've been looking for you for almost an hour."
Chap. 2, p. 33

"We're at a crossroads and the outcome will be different than what we expect."
Chap. 3, p. 67

"Serena likes 'em brooding and tortured."
Chap. 4, p. 77

"The Atroux gives immortality to favored followers who prove themselves, and to Daughters of the Moon who turn to the Atroux and become Followers. The chosen ones step into the cold fire and the flames burn away their mortality and bestow eternal life."
Chap. 5, p. 107

"Hexed? Is she calling you a witch?"
Chap. 6, p. 125

"I saw you standing in the cold fire."
Chap. 7, p. 139

"She couldn't imagine becoming a Follower."
Chap. 8, p. 142

"Every time I warn you, Zahi erases my warnings from your memory."
Chap. 9, p. 146

"He also stole the memories of all the times we spent together."
Chap. 10, p. 156

"Will you go out with me, Serena, alone?"
Chap. 11, p. 167

"Check on your sister, okay?"
Chap. 12, p. 171

"You would not be the first goddess to join the Atroux."
Chap. 13, p. 183



"Do you think the moon will protect you? Look again."
Chap. 14, p. 187

"Haven't you figured out that I was telling you the truth?"
Chap. 15, p. 190

"Zahi gave me this charm. He said it could ward off the evil eye and protect me from your black magic."
Chap. 16, p. 202

"Look at what I offer you."
Chap. 17, p. 206

"What has been done can be undone."
Chap. 18, p. 227

"I'll step into the fire and become the witch goddess."
Chap. 19, p. 229

"What has been done can be undone!"
Chap. 20, p. 241

"Goddesses, not tonight but soon—I'll have the pleasure of destroying you."
Chap. 21, p. 250

"Jimena was dying."
Chap. 22, p. 254

"Hejate, she led me back."
Chap. 23, p. 259

"Ready?"
Chap. 24, p. 264



Topics for Discussion

Who is Serena Killingsworth? Why does she feel like she is an outsider? What does Serena struggle with throughout the novel? What is Serena's biggest demon that haunts her throughout the novel? Why is this important? How does it change her life?

Discuss the relationship between Serena and Zahi. Do they have a crush on each other or are they really in love? Is there love, guilt or a sense of obligation in their relationship? How does Serena feel about Zahi? How does Zahi feel about Serena?

Discuss the relationship between Serena and Stanton. Do they have a crush on each other or are they really in love? Is there love, guilt or a sense of obligation in their relationship? How does Serena feel about Stanton? How does Stanton feel about Serena?

Who is Zahi? Why does he keep trying to get Serena alone and keep trying to get Serena to go out with him? Why does there seem to be a strain in the relationship between Serena and Zahi at times? Why does Serena hesitate when she finds out that Zahi might be stealing her memories?

Who is the old woman in the desert? Do you think she is Hekate? Why does she help Serena? Why do you think she gives Serena the key? What happens when Serena uses the key? Why does Serena think Morgan is a Follower?

Who is Morgan? Why does she feel like Serena is putting spells on her? What do you think happened to Morgan before that Serena alludes to in the novel, but never fully explains? Do you think that Morgan is a Follower by the end of the novel? Why is this important? How does it change her life?

Discuss the powers the Daughters of the Moon have. What impact do the powers have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them or hold them back? Why is an issue to the characters? Do the powers have anything to do with way that the relationships develop and evolve? What impact does it have on the overall desire to expose the truth or to keep the happenings around town a secret?