

A Knight of the Word Study Guide

A Knight of the Word by Terry Brooks

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Plot Summary

A Knight of the Word by Terry Brooks is the story of John Ross's decision to stop being a Knight of the Word and the danger that it puts him and the rest of the world in. Ross refuses to believe that he is capable of falling into service of the Void even though he has stopped acting as Knight. Nest Freemark goes to Seattle to find John and try to warn him of the danger he is. Nest and John soon discover that the demon that is trying to subvert John is much closer than he could have ever realized and it will take Nest and John working together to save both their lives.

Nest Freemark is a nineteen-year-old college student who has the secret of magic that was passed down to her from her demon father. Nest comes home on the weekends and finds that the Lady of the Word, the force that fights for good, has sent a spirit to ask her to go and help John Ross, a fallen Knight of the Word, who helped to save Nest from her father. Nest agrees to go, feeling that she can't let John be hurt if she has the power to help him.

In the city of Seattle, John is trying to live a new life, although he has been warned that he was changed when the magic of the Word touched him. Nest arrives to tell John that he is in danger, although John doesn't think so. Before Nest leaves to go home, she is attacked by a demon and the office building where John works is set on fire. It becomes obvious that the demon is working to try and sway John to work for the Void, the darkness that wants the world destroyed. John and Nest try to figure out what is going on when John's dream changes so that he is accused of killing Nest. John tells Nest to go home and that he is going to leave the town so that none of the dream can come true. Nest goes to the airport, when she suddenly realizes that the demon is John's girlfriend. John is at his apartment when he is confronted by a reporter who was given an anonymous tip with documents that accuse John of stealing from the company he works for that helps homeless people. John is outraged, and when he gets to his apartment, he finds that he has been fired. John goes to confront his boss. The demon is in the form of John's boss and convinces John that it was his boss who is the demon. John almost kills his boss when Nest intervenes and tells him it is his girlfriend.

John goes back to his apartment and confronts the woman he loves, and ultimately she flees. Nest is outside when the demon lands on the ground and the two begin to fight. A powerful magic in Nest reacts to the demon and is able to hold her off until John gets downstairs. John kills the demon and resumes his battle as a Knight of the Word. Nest goes home, trying to find a way to deal with her new power, and John resumes his duties.



Chapter 1-4

Chapter 1-4 Summary

A Knight of the Word by Terry Brooks is the story of John Ross's decision to stop being a Knight of the Word and the danger that it puts him and the rest of the world in. Ross refuses to believe that he is capable of falling into service of the Void even though he has stopped acting as Knight. Nest Freemark goes to Seattle to find John and try to warn him of the danger he is. Nest and John soon discover that the demon that is trying to subvert John is much closer than he could have ever realized, and it will take Nest and John working together to save both their lives.

Chapter one begins on Sunday October 28th. Nest Freemark wakes up in her old house and is thinking about her grandparents and her mother. They have all died long ago, leaving Nest alone in the house. Nest is nineteen and attending college and comes home on the weekends to help Pick, a sylvan forest creature, look after the park where she lives. Nest's father had been a demon and Nest had grown up knowing that she was different from other children. Nest is thinking of selling the house and is looking over real estate offers when her friend Robert comes over. Robert advises her not to sell the house for some time since she just recently lost her grandfather. They get ready to go to the cemetery to put flowers on the graves of her mother and grandparents.

In chapter two, Nest and Robert are heading to the grave. When they were children, Nest had told Robert the truth about her ability to use magic but he hadn't really understood. Nest knows that she has to keep her magic secret from anyone in her life because of the danger that it would put that person and herself in. They walk back to the house and Nest's thoughts turn to John Ross, a Knight of the Word. Nest tells Robert goodbye and thanks him for going with her, but she knows as they say goodbye that things are going to change drastically before she sees him again.

In chapter three, Robert is gone and Pick appears, teasing Nest about how sweet Robert is on her. Pick begins to tell Nest about how unfair it is that he has to look over the park all by himself and says that she should be there to help him. Nest admits that she has been busy with school and should come home more. Pick suddenly tells Nest that there is someone there to see her. She is frightened for a moment, wondering if it is someone somehow connected to her father, but Pick assures her it is not. Pick won't tell her who it is as they head through the park's forest. While they walk, she asks Pick if he has seen anything of Wraith, the ghost wolf created by her demon father to protect her until he was ready to come for her. Wraith had been changed by Nest's grandmother and when Nest's father came for her Wraith destroyed him. When Nest turned eighteen, she had been walking beside Wraith and he came close to her and then suddenly was gone. Nest knows that any magic doesn't disappear, although it can change into something else, but she doesn't know what happened to Wraith. Finally, they reach where Pick is leading them and there is a tatterdemalion waiting for Nest. The



tatterdemalion is named Ariel and has been sent by the Lady who is the Voice of the Word. Ariel says she is there to explain that John Ross has fallen from grace.

In chapter four, Ariel explains about a dream that John Ross had about a school where children were going to be killed in a place called San Sobel. John Ross went there with enough information that he believed he could stop the men who were being influenced by a demon. John Ross was able to sneak into the school and hide where he would be able to protect the children. When the skirmish starts, John Ross steps out of a closet holding his staff of power and quickly subdues the men that are holding the guns. At the same time police barge in. One of the police is panicked, and John attributes this to the demon having whispered in this man's thoughts as well. The police open fire and kill fourteen of the children. John is able to escape but decides that those children's lives are on his conscious. He decides that he will no longer be a Knight of the Word because he is a failure.

Chapter 1-4 Analysis

This book is the second in the series and there is a lot of background information given regarding what happened in the first book. Nest's grandmother and mother died while trying to keep Nest's demon father away from her. Nest had thought for a short period of time that John Ross might actually be her father and had hoped for this. The truth is that John was sent to be sure that Nest wouldn't turn to serve the Void. John had orders to kill Nest rather than let her and her magic fall into the wrong hands. Nest will soon see that John has fallen into this same problem. The Word cannot take the chance that John will serve the Void and so someone will be sent to deal with him just as he was sent to deal with her, should it become apparent that he is going to fall under the Void's power.

The Void and the Word are opposing forces. There is a lot of talk about the Lady. She is called the Voice of the Word but there is never any indication that she is the master of the Word, although she seems to have a great deal of power. She is described later in the story in almost an angelic like way. There is never any explanation as to who is in charge of the Word or the master of it and there is never anyone said to be in charge of the Void. It seems that the Void may be a title that indicates the sheer darkness that could envelop the world rather than an actual group of organized entities. Although there are demons and feeders talked of often, it doesn't appear that they hold any power over others in this group.

Robert is very interested in Nest. She seems to be interested in him to some extent, but the power that she holds inside of herself appears to be something that separates her from people on an emotional level. This may be part of the reason that she is so close to Pick and why she feels a closeness to Two Bears and John Ross. Robert will be mentioned again in the coming chapters but will not be seen again in any large way and will have a very minor role.

There will be more explanation about the Word and John's role as a Knight of the Word. Nest has many unresolved feelings about John, since she thought of him as her father



and then discovered that he was sent there to end her life if need be. Nest seems to understand what is at stake to some degree but she will admit that part of what is irritating about the Word is that there is never a clear truth stated and that there are hints given so that people can figure out what is the truth.

Wraith has been mentioned briefly in the story and the fact that he just disappeared. This will be very important later in the story.



Chapter 5-7

Chapter 5-7 Summary

In chapter five, Ariel has finished telling her story and explains that John no longer thinks of himself as a Knight of the Word but that he cannot stop being a Knight of the Word because it is not his decision to quit. Since John no longer thinks of himself as Knight, he is in danger because he is not protecting himself from those that would want to bend his magic to the uses of the Void. Nest is thinking of John and the fact that she once that he was her father and then she discovered he was sent to kill her if he couldn't save her. Ariel says that the Lady won't let John serve the Void and that someone has been sent to ensure that doesn't happen. John has received several dreams warning him of what will happen but has ignored them all. John only has until Halloween in three days. Ariel says that Nest is the last hope for John. Nest isn't happy about going, but she realizes that she cannot live with herself if something happens to John and she had been able to prevent it. Nest knows that John is working for a man named Simon Lawrence in Seattle. Simon is also called the Wiz, since Seattle is referred to as the Emerald City. Nest says she is going to see the Wiz.

As chapter six begins, it is Monday, October 29th and John is finishing up a speech he is writing for Simon's Art Museum appearance. John was physically injured when he agreed to become a Knight of the Word and accepted the staff that held the power. John now uses the same staff for a walking stick, although he wonders what would happen if he through the staff away since it is the last tie to his life as a Knight. John thinks about the magic and knows that he can no longer feel its presence in him. John was the speech writer for Simon Lawrence at Fresh Start and Pass/Go, which housed homeless people. John knows that he cannot possibly be capable of killing Simon Lawrence and decides that this time the dreams must be wrong. Stephanie Winslow stops to talk to John and tells him that Simon is talking to an investigative reporter, Andrew Wren, although she doesn't know about what. John is in love with Stephanie and says that he will meet her for dinner that night.

In chapter seven, Andrew Wren is in Simon's office. Simon begins to talk about the war on the homeless situation and how hopeless it feels at times. Simon says it doesn't really matter that the war can't be won but what matters is that he tries. Wren explains to Simon that there has recently been anonymous calls claiming that there are financial improprieties at Fresh Start. Simon says that he knows that Wren is going to do his job to the fullest extent possible but he also asks that Wren not write anything until he has done all of his research. Simon knows that all it will take to ruin the charity he has started for the homeless is a rumor of something disreputable in the company. Simon leaves Wren alone and Wren admits that maybe there was nothing going on at Fresh Start but his instincts tell him that there is something going on. Wren is sitting in his office with Fresh Start's financial reports when the demon comes in behind him. Wren doesn't know that anyone is there and the demon whispers in his ear that Simon is too smart and Wren will have to wait for the source to contact him with more information.



The demon is so deceptive that Wren doesn't realize the small voice is anything other than his own inner thoughts. The demon smiles as it leaves, knowing that in just two days John Ross will be turned.

Chapter 5-7 Analysis

Andrew Wren hasn't been looked at very closely yet in the story. Later it will be seen that Wren is a very capable journalist but that he is also very honest and capable of understanding. Wren will eventually realize that to some extent he is being used, although Wren won't understand the plot that he was a part of.

The demon has been briefly seen in the story. Later it will be shown that the demon is someone that John Ross knows. The identity will be hinted at but will remain unstated until the last few chapters. In the next few chapters there will be much more about the demon seen and explained. The demon is heartless and thrives on murder, but that part of the creature hasn't been seen yet. When it is shown, it will be while the demon is killing homeless children. The death of the children will be important to explain the true nature of the demon since the demon has everyone fooled who has seen it in human form.

Nest has not been talked about in the last few chapters. Nest has some issues regarding John Ross that have been briefly mentioned. When Nest and John come face to face, it will be seen that he also has some deep emotional ties to Nest despite the fact that they haven't seen each other for many years. The Lady's message to Nest explains that the reason that Nest is sent to John is because she holds a very special place in his heart. There is no information to indicate that Nest doesn't hold a special place in John's heart, but it will also be shown that Nest has very possibly been sent there for other reasons. This story is the second in the series and the full extent of Nest's powers and the things that she will learn in this book will not be expanded on any further in this book.

Simon Lawrence is very much like John Ross. Both of these men have dedicated themselves to something, but at the same time know that what they are fighting for is a quest that most likely cannot be won. It is very important to note that the man that John Ross has aligned himself with after leaving his service as a Knight of the Word is a man that says that it isn't the winning that is important, but the trying. John has temporarily lost faith with himself and is not looking at the larger picture. He will realize later in the story that Simon is right and that it isn't winning the war that it is important but fighting the battles.



Chapter 8-10

Chapter 8-10 Summary

Chapter eight begins with John thinking back to the events that took place after he failed at San Sobel. John went back to the Fairy Glen to see the Lady. It was at the Fairy Glen that John was given the staff and made a Knight of the Word. John believes he can go back and ask that the burden be lifted from him. When John arrives at the Fairy Glen in Wales, he waits for the Lady. The ghost of a Knight of the Word and John's ancestor, Owain Glyndwr, appears and John tells him that something terrible has happened. Owain says that terrible things always happen to a Knight of the Word because a Knight of the Word has to be at the center of terrible things. Owain says that it is not John's choice to give up his station as a Knight. Owain tells John not to come again because the Lady won't speak to him. John says he cannot feel any magic there as he could before and Owain explains that you have to believe in magic and John has stopped believing. Owain says that John was transformed when he became a Knight of the Word and he cannot be as he was before even if he did give up the staff. Owain disappears and John leaves. For many nights after John goes back and stands and waits for the Lady but she refuses to come to him and finally John is forced to go back home. When John went home he had thought about Nest and how she had asked if he was her father and how badly he had wanted to be her father. John wonders if he can ever have a normal life again.

In chapter nine, John and Stephanie leave the offices of Fresh Start to go to dinner. They had come to Seattle together more than a year ago. John looks at Stephanie as they walk and thinks about all the things about her that makes him love her. They get to the restaurant and Stephanie has reserved them a private room where they have wine. When John had first met Stephanie, he had gone back to the college to work and had seen Stephanie eating alone everyday. She was very beautiful, and finally John got the nerve up to go and talk to her. She told him the reason she was eating alone was because she was waiting for him to come and sit with her. Stephanie smiles at John and reminds him that it was one year ago exactly that he was hired to work at Fresh Start. Stephanie asks if Ross knows what Wren is up to at the offices and Ross says it sounds like Wren is looking for financial improprieties but that Wren will have to look for a long time. Stephanie says that she doesn't like the way that Simon is acting lately and that he just isn't himself. The night before, John had dreamed again. It is the same dream he has been having where he is watching the people of Seattle being killed by demons. This dream is different from the others and is a little darker. In this dream, John is no longer trying to help the people that are being attacked and he has no sympathy for them. The people look at him with fear and John knows that he has become one of creatures that works for the Void. An old man approaches John and tells him that he saw John kill the Wiz. John knocks the old man down. As John and Stephanie walk back to their apartment from dinner, John is wondering why he keeps having this dream. He knows he would never let any of these events happen and will have no reason to kill Simon.



In chapter ten, the demon goes hunting. It is in human form, but the need to kill is overpowering. The demon doesn't need to kill to eat but to remind itself of what it is and to banish any hint of humanity left in it. The demon goes into the underground labyrinth that is under the city and transforms into a monstrous looking dog-like animal. What normally takes demons several minutes or longer to do, this one does in moments. This creature had worked at turning and killing many servants of the word and was now going to turn John Ross. The creature wants to keep Ross's magic and knowledge and is highly attracted to those qualities. Once it is hunting it knows that it will be able to find the homeless in the underground tunnels. Above the tunnels, Nest is walking through the city. She had arrived late and checked into her hotel room but then couldn't sleep. Nest had decided to go for a walk, and once outside, Ariel had appeared. Ariel says that it isn't safe in the city after dark and talks about the bad things that happen to you in the city. Ariel, being a tatterdemalion, is made up of the memories of dead children, and it is these memories that Ariel is talking about. Nest reassures her that it will be alright and that they won't go far. They don't go far when Ariel and Nest hear the screams coming. Ariel says that something is hunting. The demon had found three children in the underground tunnels, two boys and a girl. The demon easily corners them and kills the boys first. The girl lays in the corner sobbing, begging to be spared as the massive jaws crush her neck into pulp. Above ground the cries suddenly stop and Ariel says it was a creature of the Void. Nest wonders if she knew better how to work her magic, would she have been able to help. Ariel warns Nest that they must leave. As they go, Nest wonders if it is safe anywhere.

Chapter 8-10 Analysis

The death of the children who were killed by the demon shows how intent the demon is on killing and how much pleasure it derives from it. The fact that it is "evil" isn't enough explanation. Seeing this side of the demon shows a very important side of the demon and later on will help to better convey the convictions that John has when he is disgusted with himself for being taken in by the demon. The person that the demon is taking the form of is a person that John, and others, like very much. Without having seen this side of the demon, it would have been very easy to have missed the evil side that John and Nest know that the demons have. This will be the only time in the story that the demon is actually seen killing anyone but these children will not be the last ones murdered.

Wren has let everyone know that Fresh Start is being looked at in regards to the financial records but it is also known that the demon has some part in this. The plot will continue to thicken as more pieces of the puzzle are laid into place. Wren will continue to play a part in the story related to this research. Although Wren is used in some small way on the demon's behalf, Wren will actually help Fresh Start out rather than hurt it when he has an opportunity.

San Sobel weighs heavily on John. He cannot think of what happened there without thinking of what he did wrong and how it is his fault that the children died. This thinking shows flaws in John's thinking since it obviously was not his own actions that started or



ended the situation and he did everything he could to prevent it. However, his immense guilt also shows what it is that makes John a person that is capable of taking on the responsibilities of a Knight of the Word. It obviously would take a person with a lot of passion. In many ways, Nest has shown this same passion, such as when she realizes that the demon is killing the children under the streets. One of Nest's first thoughts is whether or not there was anything she could have done in order to have helped the children if she had had access to her power. There is no way to know if there was anything that Nest could have done for them.



Chapter 11-13

Chapter 11-13 Summary

Chapter eleven begins with the start of Tuesday, October 30th. Nest wakes up at nine o'clock in the morning and gets ready to head to go to the Fresh Start building to look for John. Ariel had told Nest that Nest wouldn't be able to see her but that she would be close. This does little to comfort Nest. After she is ready, she heads to the Fresh Start offices and enters the large building. As soon as Nest is in the building, she begins to have an odd feeling that she can't place. The receptionist is very kind and has one of the other workers take Nest down the elevator to where the other workers are having coffee. The odd feeling in Nest continues to grow. She feels almost sick and doesn't understand the feelings she is experiencing. Nest talks to Stephanie and several other workers, and on her way out she speaks with Simon Lawrence, who recognizes Stephanie because she is a track runner who is expected to go to the Olympics. Nest explains that her deceased mother was a friend of John's and that she is only in town for a couple of days. Suddenly, Nest can't stand to being in the building any longer and goes outside making her apologies. Once outside, Nest almost instantly feels better. She is standing outside of the Fresh Start building when a cab drives up and John gets out.

In chapter twelve, Nest recognizes John immediately, feeling that he hasn't aged since she last saw him. He looks at her and she realizes that he doesn't recognize her at all. After a moment, John slowly stops and realizes who Nest is. After a moment they hug. Nest is surprised to find that she had wanted to see John as much as she now realizes she did. John asks if she is there about the local university and Nest says that the Lady sent her. John takes her out to eat a lunch where they can talk. Once they are at the eatery, Nest explains about what she was told by Ariel. John says that he has been warned but doesn't feel it is necessary. John tells Nest his version of the events that happened at San Sobel and that he was close to suicide after the incident. Nest and John continue to argue about what the Lady sent Ariel to tell Nest until Nest informs John that the Lady has taken steps to ensure he doesn't become a servant of the Void. Nest accuses John of not being cautious. He tells her that he has given up everything that has to do with the Word and Nest looks over at his staff. John immediately says it doesn't work any longer. Nest then tells John that there is a demon and that she and Ariel heard it killing the night before. John is shocked but says that maybe Ariel was mistaken about what it was. Nest says that she has done what she came to do but agrees to have dinner with John again before she leaves for home. As Nest walks away, she feels she has not done enough even though John is now warned of the danger.

Chapter thirteen begins with Ariel reappearing to Nest. Ariel warns Nest to stay clear of John. She says that John is already lost and that he stinks of demon. Nest doesn't believe this, but Ariel says someone is waiting for her. Nest follows where Ariel is pointing and comes to a place in the market where someone calls her name. Ariel sees it is her friend Two Bears who had helped her before when her demon father tried to



claim her. Two Bears sits and talks with her. He says that he chose long ago where to stand and that she must also choose. He begins to tell her a story. In the story, a man agreed to carry a talisman and use it to fight evil that would destroy everything. After fighting many battles for many years, the champion lost faith in his cause and he ran away to find a place to start over. The lady who had chosen the champion was disappointed. Two Bears asks Nest what she would do if her talisman was in the hands of someone who would not use it but cannot give it back because the magic doesn't allow it. The lady chooses a young woman to go and help the champion. If the young woman doesn't help the champion, he will be lost forever. If the young woman, fails the lady has arranged so that the champion cannot serve another cause that would be harmful to hers. Two Bears then asks Nest what she would do if the story was hers. Nest is scared and asks Two Bears if he can help her. He says maybe it is for her to help him. Two Bears explains that the lady in the story would have chosen a man that was not afraid of death to take the talisman back from the warrior, and Two Bears explains that it is a man like him. Nest realizes Two Bears was sent to kill John if he was lost to the Void. Two Bears shows Nest a mountain and tells her to look at it and it will remind her of home. While she is looking at the mountain, Two Bears disappears.

Chapter 11-13 Analysis

The point of view that the story is told in will change as the story continues. Since there are so many different characters that are shadowed, the time of day is often looked at. This will give a general time line and a better understanding of the general plot.

Nest has been faced with a decision. She must decide if she will stay and help John or if she will go home and remain apart from the events that are unfolding. The reason that Nest came to see John initially was largely based on the fact that she didn't want to feel that there was something she could have done to have helped him. It was seen that when those homeless children were being killed, Nest was very affected. It is easily seen at this interval that Nest will voluntarily take an active role, although she doesn't want to be involved with the war that is going on between the Void and the Word. This mainly is stemmed from the fact that she knows that the Word is willing to use people while they are in service. Later, Nest will discover that she has been used by the Word for more than she realized.

Two Bears was very important in the story. He lead Nest to the discovery that she must stay and help John and also let it be known that he is the one that is there to make sure John doesn't turn to the Void. Two Bears will be mentioned again in the story but he won't make another appearance, although John will explain to Nest about an encounter that he had with Two Bears earlier before he came to Seattle.

Ariel has helped Nest a lot, and although Nest is unsure of Ariel in many respects, in the next few chapters Ariel will prove her loyalty and will be killed while trying to save Nest. This will add to Nest's determination to stay and help John. More information about Simon Lawrence will be looked at as well in the coming chapters, although most of it will be left to speculation.



Chapter 14-17

Chapter 14-17 Summary

In chapter fourteen, John is remembering the fact that his first warning from the Lady had come from Two Bears. John had just recently started working at the college when Two Bears arrived. John at first was panicked. Two Bears tells John that when he became a Knight of the Word it was forever and that John cannot turn away from that. Two Bears says that many have worked as Knights of the Word and John is not the only one who has ever made a mistake or has had innocents die. Two Bears says it is not John's place to accept responsibility for the death of the children, but John says he cannot separate himself from the feeling that he should have done more. John says there is no way that he would ever be willing to serve the Void and that he doubts that the Void will want him since he is no longer a Knight. Two Bears says that it will take time but that the Void will work to turn John and that they will succeed. John remembers this meeting and wonders if the Word would really want him dead. John didn't understand why Nest was sent to warn him since Two Bears had already been sent. John thinks that there is something more going on since he would not have taken Nest's warning more seriously than Two Bears. While John is lost in thought, Stephanie walks in. She talks about Nest for a moment, and John briefly thinks that maybe he should just take Stephanie and leave town that night. John tries to dismiss the matter but deep down he knows that Nest, the demon and the dream are connected.

In chapter fifteen, Nest is sitting on the bench where Two Bears had been talking to her. Nest knows that there is a connection between her and Two Bears but she doesn't know what it is. Nest has already decided to meet with John again and tell him that Two Bears had met with her and that it was Two Bears who was sent by the Lady to make sure that John doesn't become a servant of the Void. While Nest is thinking things over, she hears Ariel calling to her. Ariel says that she has talked to a sylvan that works in Lincoln Park and he says he has seen the demon. Meanwhile, back at the Fresh Start offices, Simon Lawrence and Andrew Wren are talking. Wren notices that Simon seems distracted. Simon confides in Wren that he feels like the general who keeps winning battles but is losing the war. Wren tries to change the subject and asks Simon to tell him something of his past. Simon says his past isn't important. Wren disagrees and says that how he was raised is important to how Simon acts now. Simon says that he asked a very influential friend about his past one time that the man had kept secret. The man told him everything. Simon says that the man's family fell on hard times and the father lost his job and began drinking and eventually disappeared. The family was soon on the streets and the mother went out every night. She didn't tell her children where she was going but they knew. Soon the mother disappeared also and the children, a boy and a girl, stayed hidden from the authorities, believing foster homes would be worse than staying on the streets. Soon the girl was running with a bad group and the brother lost track of her. The boy worked his way through school. Simon explains that letting people know the true story would get in the way of what the man had accomplished. Simon doesn't want to tell people his past because he doesn't want



to become more important than the homeless people he works to help. Simon leaves, and as he walks away Wren wonders if Simon just told him his life story. Meanwhile, across town, Nest finds a pay phone and calls Fresh Start to leave a message for John saying that she is meeting a friend at the park. Stephanie takes the message, explaining that John isn't in. The demon walks down a hallway and slips a manila envelope under Wren's door. This envelope holds the evidence that Wren will need to prove foul play in Fresh Start and Simon will have no explanation for the papers. The only thing that is threatening the demon's plans is Nest Freemark. The demon felt the power in Nest when they had met at Fresh Start earlier that day. The demon gets in its car.

In chapter sixteen Nest, is heading to Lincoln Park to meet the sylvan that has seen the demon. Nest and Ariel arrive and a sylvan, Boot, and his owl, Audrey, arrive. Boot begins relating what he has seen. The demon changed quickly into a dog beast in the park and killed another demon, explaining that John Ross was claimed already. Then the demon changed again. Before Boot can explain what the demon changed into, there is a burst of movement and the demon kills Boots and Audrey in one quick movement. Meanwhile, Wren has arrived back at his hotel room and has found the manila envelope. He wonders about who his secret source is and knows that there will be more digging to be done but that someone doesn't like Simon, or from the look of the papers, John Ross.

As chapter seventeen continues, Nest and Ariel are running from the demon that has just killed Boot and Audrey. Nest is running but knows that the demon is gaining on her. Nest feels something trying to get out of her and Nest thinks for a moment that it is her magic, but her fear of the monster keeps her from being able to do anything. The demon is almost on Nest when Ariel throws herself between them, saving Nest. The demon rips Ariel to shreds, but this attack gives Nest a few moments longer. Nest continues to run in the dark and rain and falls off a cliff. Nest quickly is up and running again. She makes it to a house and is able to get inside, but the demon begins knocking the door off the hinges to get into Nest. Nest runs and eventually finds a bus and is able to get on. The demon smashes against the door but the driver knows better than to stop. The demon is eventually lost and Nest goes back to her hotel room. She climbs into bed thinking about Boot, Audrey and Ariel and the loss of life that has occurred. Nest promises herself that she will stay and finish this now regardless of the danger.

Chapter 14-17 Analysis

Nest might have been unsure about staying to help but she finds a new determination when the demon kills Boot, Audrey and Ariel. There is no indication as to what happens to Ariel once she is destroyed by the demon. Tatterdemalions are made up of the memories of dead children and they don't live long. Nest wonders what will happen when Ariel dies but that question is never answered. There is nothing more said about Ariel in the story other than the mention of her sacrifice. Nest was unsure about Ariel and wished that Pick was with her. It is clear that Ariel was willing to make a great sacrifice for Nest and did care for her.



It has been explained at this point that the demon has met Nest and that the demon has been with John for an extended period of time. Since John has been working at the Fresh Start building for a year it is possible that it is virtually any person there that he is working with. John and Simon don't yet know of the information that Wren has gathered. Wren will confront Simon with the information later on and Simon will be unable to explain what Wren has the evidence for.

There has been a lot more information given to explaining how being a Knight of the Word works. Much of it appears to be legends more than anything else, and even Two Bears can't seem to explain some of it fully. There is a standing question of why the Lady is willing to have John killed rather than let him retract his vow to be a Knight. Two Bears explains that the magic won't allow it but then says that that is according to legend. There is not a more concrete explanation given.

The story that Simon tells Wren might very well be the story of his own childhood. It would explain some of the passion behind Simon's quest to fight homelessness and why he takes it so seriously. His background is never mentioned again in the story and there will be nothing to solidify the story or discredit it.



Chapter 18-20

Chapter 18-20 Summary

Chapter eighteen starts with Wednesday, October 31. Stephanie wakes John at midnight to tell him that the Fresh Start building is on fire and she runs out to start getting people out. John is very groggy, and by the time he gets there Stephanie is getting people out. John slowly remembers that Nest had left him a message. He had started after her but was stopped by Stephanie for a moment. John suddenly was so sleepy he couldn't move and then he woke to the fire. Fire and police show up quickly, and just as John is beginning to get worried, Stephanie walks out. Fresh Start burns an hour longer and they find the body of the night manager in the basement. It had been Ray Hapgood, a friend of John and Stephanie's. Once back in their apartment, John is saddened to learn of his friend's death. Ray had worked the night shift for John since John had plans. Stephanie says she is glad it was Ray rather than John and they embrace. John says he had been scared he would lose Stephanie in the fire and she assures him he won't ever lose her. John has the dream again when he gets back to sleep. This time the dream is different. When the old man accuses John of killing the wizard, the old man asks why John had to kill the young woman too. The old man says that the woman had only been trying to help. When John wakes up, he is worried for the first time since the dream began.

In chapter nineteen, Nest's phone rings and it is John. It is nearly noon, but John says they need to talk and that he is downstairs in her hotel. Nest quickly showers and finds while in the shower that she looks bloodied and bruised all over. When Nest gets downstairs, John tells her about his friend and Fresh Start being set on fire, although the police say it was likely bad wiring. John decides to tell Nest about the entire dream. He tells her that since the dream has added her death to it he thinks that they both need to leave town so there is no way that Simon will be killed or Nest hurt. Nest agrees to go, but tells John about the meeting in the forest and the demon. John knows the demon has to be someone he knows. Nest suggests that it is Stephanie, but John says that he might be fooled but not that completely and he becomes angry when Nest pushes the subject. They decide to just disrupt things and keep Simon from being killed. Nest agrees that she will get on a plane that day and John and Stephanie are going to get out of town as well. Nest says it won't end until he finds out who the demon is, but John knows that it won't end until he either decides to become a Knight again or the Lady takes her staff back.

Chapter twenty begins with Andrew Wren waking early and going over the papers that he has received again. Wren heads to the Fresh Start building to see Simon. Stephanie is there and explains that everything was insured but that it will take a long time to rebuild. Wren and Simon sit down and Wren shows Simon the papers. Simon and Wren both admit that whoever has been stealing the money isn't very smart and the amounts are oddly small. Wren says he is working on having the signatures verified. Simon says he lost a good friend and his building that it took them five years to put together and he



wonders what is next. Simon says that this will end Fresh Start because the organization will be remembered for the scandal and nothing else. Simon thanks Wren and as Wren leaves he asks where he can find John Ross.

Chapter 18-20 Analysis

Ray Hapgood had been a good friend of John's. While his death is significant to John, there will never be a clear explanation as to what happened to him. The fire also will remain a mystery. The reason for the fire isn't clear either at this point. In the next several chapters it will be Nest who is able to put these clues together.

Nest has agreed to leave but she is also beginning to understand some other things about the Word and the way that it works. Nest will ultimately refuse to leave because she will have figured out a lot of the situation. Nest has never actually said she is a servant of the Word, but it is obvious that her ties to those that do serve the Word has bound her in ways that are just as deep as the vows that John took. Neither one of them can walk away permanently from the battle that is being fought.

The scandal that is being looked into at Fresh Start will soon be explained as will the reason for the papers. In the next chapters the main points of the plot are explained, although the identity of the demon is not revealed for some time. There are several people that could be looked at as suspects, although John and Nest have not yet figured out which one is the culprit.



Chapter 21-23

Chapter 21-23 Summary

In chapter twenty-one, Nest has packed her bags and is going to the airport but still is not sure about the situation or leaving. Nest realizes that the reason that John's dream had changed was partly due to the fact that Nest had only recently come to Seattle. Nest decides that the Word has been using her as bait. Meanwhile, John is at his apartment when Wren stops him and introduces himself. Wren shows his papers and asks John if he knows anything about the money that has been taken from Fresh Start. John is very angry and says he has no explanation but that he didn't have anything to do with the money that was taken. John knows that the demon is responsible but doesn't know why. John excuses himself from Wren. Meanwhile, Nest is still thinking about the fact that she has been used as bait. She continues to go over everything she knows about what the demon is doing. Suddenly Nest thinks of her mother and the relationship that her father had with her grandmother. Nest suddenly has all the pieces in place and knows who the demon is. She leaves to find John.

In chapter twenty-two, John is going to his home to pack his bags. Stephanie is already there packing and says that Simon has fired them both. Stephanie says that Simon is frightened and that he is cutting his losses in the hopes that he will be able to save the company's reputation. Stephanie says that Simon is acting odd, as if he isn't himself. Suddenly John begins to think that Simon probably isn't himself. John asks Stephanie if Simon could have overheard when Nest called and gave the message that she was going to the park. Stephanie isn't sure but says it is possible. John decides he has to know and he tells Stephanie to pack her bags and wait for him, that when he gets back in an hour they will leave. Meanwhile, Nest is heading back into the city. Nest goes to Fresh Start and asks if John or Simon are there. The receptionist says that John isn't there and that Simon is at the art museum for his speech. The receptionist comments on the fact that Nest looks awful, like she has been in a fight with Stephanie since Stephanie looks so much the same from running into the burning building. Andrew Wren had spent all afternoon hunting down leads about the bank accounts that supposedly were owned by John and Simon. Wren gets a call from his handwriting analysis man who says that the signatures are good forgeries and that they are not John's or Simon's but belong to a third party who also works at Fresh Start.

Chapter twenty-three begins with John arriving at the art museum to talk to Simon. John is able to talk to Simon in private and Simon admits that he fired John and that it was him that stole the money. He also says that he killed Ray Hapgood and that he did it all to ruin the homeless charities. Simon knocks John down and says that he was going to offer John service in the Void but says that John is too pathetic for that and leaves John lying in the floor. He tells him to get out and not to come back. John lies a long time and grows more and more angry at the way he has been used and that Ray was killed for no reason. John calls on the magic that has been given to him as a Knight to kill Simon. He feels it come back to him. Nest arrives at the museum and quickly is able to find John



and warns him that the dream was a lie. John is too busy being angry at being used to destroy what he has believed in, and when Simon comes into view John gets ready to kill him. Nest uses her magic to drop Simon to the floor, and while he is unconscious she turns to face John. John has stopped moving and is watching Nest. He has seen something in her. She goes to him and tells him that they have all been tricked. She tells John that Simon isn't the demon and then tells him who is.

Chapter 21-23 Analysis

The main characters in the story now know who the demon is and who is in charge of the forgeries and stealing money from Fresh Start. In this next chapters all of this and the events used to try and snare John will be explained. John also will be given an explanation as to why the demon changed into Simon and admitted to everything in the museum.

John saw something in Nest. It will be explained later on what it was that he saw. This will be one of the plots in the story that was foreshadowed earlier but has potential to be a much larger part of the story in the next book in the series. John seems almost sad when Nest arrives and stops him. It may be that he is sad because he was almost subverted, but it could be that he is sad because of who the demon must be. Two Bears is never seen, although it was indicated that he was the one put into place in case John was subverted. It may be that Two Bears has enough power of his own that he can appear whenever he chooses, but it also is possible that the Word has enough information to know that Nest was going to intervene.

Simon and Wren will wrap up the remaining questions surrounding Fresh Start in the next chapter. Simon will also give an speculation on what happened to him at the art museum when he collapsed in front of everyone. John will never speak to Simon or Wren again.



Chapter 24-25

Chapter 24-25 Summary

As chapter twenty-four begins, John Ross is once again, and forever, a Knight of the Word. He is heading to face the demon, and Nest offers to go with him to make what happened to Boot, Audrey and Ariel finished. John tells her no. John saw something in her and he knows she doesn't realize the power that she holds. He tells Nest to wait for him outside his apartment building. John goes inside and finds Stephanie sitting, reading a book. He tells her that Simon isn't dead, but Stephanie says she doesn't know why Simon would be dead and asks him to explain himself. John says he would have killed Simon if not for Nest. Nest told John that she remembered the way her demon father had looked at her grandmother, who had power. Demons confuse the desire to control humans and their power with love. John says that she killed the demon in Lincoln Park so that she could have John to herself. Stephanie is still and tells him that she loves him and nothing he has said has changed that. John asks if she loves him enough to teach him to eat children. Stephanie says the homeless are of no use and John asks about Ariel, Audrey and Boots and why she tried to kill Nest, if they were of no use. John then says it was Nest who figured out that the fire at Fresh Start was just so Stephanie could cover up her wounds that she got while chasing Nest through the park. John tells her he hates her, but she corrects him and says he loves her and always will. John admits to himself that even now he loves her. She offers to still be what John wants and she won't try to stop him from what he does if he will let her do what she wants. John says he can't. Stephanie moves quickly and jumps out of the apartment window. Nest is on the sidewalk when Stephanie, now in demon form appears. Instead of running, the demon turns for a confrontation with Nest. Nest tries to call on her magic but something else happens and Nest is suddenly inside Wraith, her ghost wolf, and she realizes that they are one now. Wraith and the demon fight, but John shows up and takes over. The demon is badly hurt and tries to change its appearance, maybe back into what John loves, but John destroys the demon before it can change its appearance.

In chapter twenty-five, Andrew Wren and Simon are talking about the financial records and the fact that Stephanie was behind them. Simon says that Stephanie and John are both gone but that John left a note explaining that it was Stephanie that took the money but that he has returned it all and has left to not complicate matters. Wren says there is no point in running a story because the public cares little for scandal stories in which little money is taken then all returned and the bad guy is caught. Meanwhile, Nest Freemark has traveled back home. She remembers how she and Wraith had fought the demon and John had explained that he had seen a glimmer of this at the museum. The thought of Wraith being inside her scared Nest. She realized now the eerie feeling she had gotten while at the Fresh Start building was Wraith's magic reacting to the demon's magic and trying to protect her. Nest goes out into the night to find Pick. John Ross awakes from a dream. John is again a Knight of the Word and realizes that he cannot measure himself by successes or failures and that it is the trying that matters.



Chapter 24-25 Analysis

John realizes that the Lady most likely put Nest in the situation she did because she knew this would be a way for Nest to find out about her powers. Nest knows that to some extent she has been used by the Word, but John never discusses it with her. John says that the one real difference between his service and Nest's service is that he has chosen his. It appears in many ways that Nest was born into the war rather than being recruited for it. The full story behind her birth and her parents is only told in some small part, but it is clear that she has never had much say in what is going on with her. The thought of Wraith being inside her is obviously more than she wants to think about but is possibly something that could be a plot in the next book in the series.

John loved Stephanie, and although she wanted his magic, she claimed that she loved him. There were many hints throughout the story that she was not what he thought she was. One of the most glaring clues was when Stephanie says that she is glad that it was Ray Hapgood rather than John that died. This becomes more morbid when it is considered that it was Stephanie that killed Ray.

Pick and Nest are best friends and it is possible that Nest tells everything to Pick when she arrives home, but there is no indication that they speak of anything. Nest seems to be a great deal like John and it would be easy to see that she keeps much of what happens to herself. The fact that Pick is able to share with her in her magic may be largely the reason that Pick is her best friend. Nest knows that she must keep a lot of information secret in order to keep herself and others safe.

Two Bears seems to have known more than he was telling Nest. It would be a fair indication to say that he knew that she was connected to Wraith and the manner in which the Word was using her. Two Bears is never seen again and never did speak of this with Nest, but John himself seems very certain that the Lady knew what would happen when Nest arrived. Two Bears may have been in place to spur Nest into action more than to actually kill John.



Characters

Nest Freemark

Nest Freemark is one of the main characters in the story. Nest is only nineteen when the story begins, and although she lost her grandparents and mother a long period of time earlier, she seems to still be dealing with the fact that she feels alone. Nest's best friend is a sylvan named Pick, and Nest helps him watch over the forest. When Nest first thinks of John Ross, she remembers how several years earlier John had been sent with the mission of killing Nest if she was going to become a servant of the Void. At the time Nest had hoped that John was her father, but found out later that her father was a demon. Nest is now faced with the question of whether or not she will go to find John and help him now that John is in danger of becoming a servant of the Void.

Nest seems at first unsure if she will even go to try and help John. When she does decide to go to Seattle, she tells herself that she will speak to John and then go home. After warning John, Nest becomes sure that he hasn't taken the warning seriously and Nest stays to find the demon that she believes is in the city for John. Nest is frightened but is unable to walk away knowing that there may be something that she could do for John. Nest's fears often seem to overwhelm her but she refuses to walk away if there is a possibility that she can help John.

John Ross

John Ross is another one of the main characters in the story. John had been a Knight of the Word but decides that it is too much responsibility to bear. He tries to quit but finds that that isn't his choice to make. John decides to stop acting as a Knight of the Word after he fails to save several children from a hostage situation. John stopped the men that took the school from killing the children but the police open fire in a panic and fourteen small children are killed. John feels that it is his own faults that caused the deaths and decides he will work somewhere he can make a difference and where the consequences to his actions won't be death.

John finds for a short period of time that he is happy working at Fresh Start and that he feels he is doing more good there than he had as a Knight. By the end of the book, John realizes how important it was being a Knight. John had desperately wanted to give back the staff of power but was unable.

Stephanie Winslow

Stephanie is John Ross's girlfriend and John is deeply in love with Stephanie. They have been together for a year and John is adamant that Stephanie cannot be the demon. It isn't until Nest is able to put together Stephanie's motives and actions that John realizes that Stephanie is the demon. John is forced to kill Stephanie but he does



it while she is in her demon form. Stephanie tries to get John to stay with her, saying he can just ignore what she is.

Ariel

Ariel is the tatterdemalion that is with Nest when she goes to Seattle. Ariel warns Nest to stay away from John saying he has demon stink on him. Ariel dies trying to save Nest from a demon.

Simon Lawrence

Simon is the creator of Fresh Start. In John's dreams he is always accused of killing Simon. The demon changes into the form of Simon and tries to convince John that he is the one that is the demon. When John tries to kill Simon, saying he is the demon, Nest is able to stop John.

Andrew Wren

Andrew Wren is a newspaper reporter who has gotten anonymous information about financial impropriety at Fresh Start. Upon researching, Wren can find nothing in the books but soon finds that funds are being siphoned out of accounts under John and Simon's names. Further research shows that the money is actually being taken by Stephanie and that she was setting both Simon and John up.

Two Bears

Two Bears is an Indian, also called O'lish Amaneh. He appears to Nest and tells her a story that spurs her into deciding to help John Ross. Two Bears tells Nest that he cannot help her because it is her place to help him. Two Bears is sent to kill John if it becomes obvious that he is going to turn to the Void.

Ray Hapgood

Ray is a black man who works with John at Fresh Start. Ray is killed by Stephanie when she starts Fresh Start on fire. John learns later that Ray was working his shift for him since John went home feeling sick.

Pick

Pick is a sylvan who watches over the forest where Nest lives. Pick is Nest's best friend. Pick warns Nest to be careful since the Word doesn't tell people the truth of what is going on.

Boot

Boot is a sylvan that tells Nest of seeing the demon kill another demon. Boot is much younger than Pick. While he is talking to Nest, the demon appears out of the woods and kills Boot.



Objects/Places

Seattle

Seattle is where John Ross is living and where the Fresh Start building is located. This city is often referred to as the Emerald City and is the reason that Simon Lawrence is called the Wizard of Oz. Much of the story takes place here. The new Seattle was built on top of the old city after it was destroyed.

Knight of the Word

John Ross had been a Knight of the Word before he began working at Fresh Start. John had several children die that he felt he could have prevented. John decides to quit his work as Knight of the Word although he finds later that he cannot. There have been many Knights of the Word, although John Ross is the only one that is focused on in the story.

Fresh Start

Fresh Start is a non-profit organization that helps homeless people. It was started by Simon Lawrence and it is here where John Ross is working. The Fresh Start building is where Nest is when she first gets the feeling that there is something wrong with someone that John works with. This building is burned down by the demon to cover up the fact that the demon was in a fight with Nest.

Staff

When John Ross first accepted the calling to become a Knight of the Word, he was given a black staff. The magic that came with the staff caused John to become lame and walk with a limp. John tries to give the staff back but is ignored by the Lady. John uses the staff as a walking cane even after he has professed his decision to give up being a knight of the word.

Sylvan

A sylvan is a creature that lives in the forest and helps to keep the balance of magic. They are good creatures that work for the Word against the Void. They are small and made of wood and moss. Nest watches one of these creatures die at the hands of a demon.



Dreams

John Ross gets his information about what the future will hold through dreams. The dreams don't give him all the information there is but give him enough information for him to know where to be. When John gives up being a Knight of the Word, John begins dreaming about what will happen to him if he is swayed by the Void.

Homeless

The homeless are those that Fresh Start focuses on helping. John Ross feels that helping the homeless is much more fulfilling for a time. It is the homeless in Seattle who the demon is feeding on.

Seattle Art Museum

It is at the Seattle Art Museum where John is supposed to kill Simon Lawrence. John had written the speech that Simon was going to read while at the Art Museum. Nest is able to reach John here. It is at the Art Museum where John first realizes that the magic of Wraith is living inside of Nest.

Alexis

Alexis is the name of the hotel in which Nest is staying. It is here that Nest stays while in Seattle. John comes here to meet Nest after he dreams she will be killed by him.

Tatterdemalion

A Tatterdemalion is a ghost like entity that is made up of the memories of dead children. It is a tatterdemalion that leads Nest to John Ross and helps to protect her while in Seattle. Tatterdemalions can sense demons, and the one with Nest is considered a threat because it could expose the demon.



Themes

Good Versus Evil

Good versus evil is easily seen in the story as central theme. The main way that this theme emerges is seen in the conflict that is described between the two opposing forces, the Word and the Void. The ones that are ultimately controlling these two groups are never explained, but it is seen that those working for the Void want the ultimate destruction of humanity and are called demons. There is never a mention of angels working for the Word, but it seems that the tatterdemalion creatures seem to be almost angelic. The feeders are another force that work for the Void and they are described as frightening creatures that live for the emotions that are given off when humans are being killed.

Another way in which the theme of good versus evil is shown is within John Ross. He is struggling with what he wants to be. He used to be a servant of the Word but decides that he cannot handle the stress that comes with what happens when he fails in some way. While he doesn't want to go on serving the Word, he doesn't turn to the Void and claims that he would rather die than serve the Void. It is quickly seen that John Ross cannot remain neutral in the battle that is ongoing. He has to pick a side to serve, and when he dreams, he can see himself both ways, as a person that is fighting against the Void, and later, as a servant of the Void.

The Quest for Truth

The quest for truth becomes evident early on in the story. John Ross spends much of the story trying to figure out the truth behind the dream that he continues to have. He knows that in his dream he has killed his employer but Ross also knows that he wouldn't do that, or at least cannot comprehend why he would do such a thing. It isn't until Nest arrives and Ross realizes that there is in fact a demon involved that Ross begins to dig deeper to find out what is going on. The plot that has been laid for Ross is a very intricate plot that cannot be understood without first understanding the desires and motives behind the Void and its workers. Nest is also on a quest for truth about some things in her own life. She is unsure about her own role in regards to the Word. Pick warns Nest that the Word won't lie but will tell things that lead to only half truths. Nest searches for the truth of why she is the one chosen to come to Seattle to help John Ross.

There is another minor quest that is seen in the story. This is the quest that the news paper reporter, Andrew Wren, undertakes in order to try and find out what is going on with the finances at Fresh Start. This quest is not a main plot in the story but these events are pivotal for the plot that the demon has set underway to try and trap John Ross. Wren himself appears to be a good man and his quest is easily forgotten after the truth of the story is discovered.



The Struggle for Power

The struggle for power is shown most obviously in regard to the demon that is trying to sway John Ross to become a servant of the Void. Demons aren't explained as being creatures that work together in groups, but the main demon in the story, Stephanie, is willing to kill another demon in order to keep John Ross to herself. The desire that Stephanie has for John stems from John's power. The Lady sends Two Bears and Nest to go to John and warn him of the danger that he is in because of the power that he possesses. John is busy trying to rid himself of the power that he has within himself feeling that he should be able to abandon the cause. It is quickly seen that the Lady cannot take the power from John and would be forced to have John killed rather than let his power work for the Void.

Nest is seen struggling with power to some extent. She talks early on in the story of her background. Her father had been a demon, and Nest knows that there is some form of magic inside her, but she doesn't understand it and isn't even sure she can use it. She also mentions Wraith, her protector when she was younger. It is seen at the end of the story that this magic power is still inside Nest and that Wraith is also inside her. This power is only seen at one point but it seems that it could be pivotal for other books in this series if the author chose.



Style

Point of View

The point of view in the story is told in third person and is in the past tense. The point of view in the story is not limited to one character. The two characters that the point of view is told from the most will be Nest Freemark and John Ross. The main plot in the story heavily involves these two characters. There will be other characters that will be focused on. At times, the author will explain who these characters are, but other times this will be left unexplained. The point of view will be limited to the character that the point of view is coming from. Many of these characters are very intuitive and so their explanations of other peoples' emotions are explained in detail, but whatever these characters are unsure about or are unaware of will also be looked at. There are times in the story when the character that the point of view is coming from will talk about things that are left unexplained to the reader. The reason that this is left so limited and unexplained to the reader is because the identity of the demon is not known to the main characters. There is only enough revealed to give the reader hints and clues as to this character's identity.

Setting

The story takes place in a fictional world in which there are demons and fairy type creatures. These beings fight in a war between the Void and the Word. The world that the story takes place in is much like the real world and the majority of the people in the world don't realize that there is this epic battle being waged around them. Seattle is where much of the story takes place, but Seattle is different from what is known in the real world. The Seattle in the story has been rebuilt after massive destruction. The new city has been built over the old city. The city that was built over has the homeless living in it but is seen only one time when the demon goes to hunt for people to kill.

Another setting that is seen periodically in the story is the setting of the city in John's dream. Each time in John's dream there is a little more information given about what the city will look like after John kills Simon. The setting gives an indication as to the vast changes that will take place. There is enough familiar with the setting that the reader will be able to fully grasp the landscape but also enough has changed to make it new and a different world.

Language and Meaning

The language in the story is easily understood and very informal. The slang terms and phrases used by the vast majority of the characters in the story are ones that are familiar. The terms and words that are used to describe the unique objects and creatures in the story are quickly understood. The two groups warring in the story are referred to as the Void and the Word. The Void seems to be indicative of the darkness



that lives within each human. John Ross and others that work for the Word explain that they are struggling to stop humanity from destroying itself. The Void also has demons that work for it, although the demons are never linked to hell or demons such as might be talked about in a biblical sense. The Word is not expressly linked to the bible or to God but the bible is often called the word. The similarities between heaven and hell and the Void and the Word are clear, although the author never makes that statement.

This book is the second in the series and much of the background regarding the tale that is going on and the creatures involved would be known to the reader if the previous book has been read. The author will spend a large amount of time giving background information about the list of main characters as well, as explaining more about the creatures and powers that are involved in the Word and the Void. There will be a lot of attention given to what a Knight of the Word is and why it is that John Ross cannot walk away from his duty as a Knight of the Word.

Structure

A Knight of the Word is the second book in the Word and the Void series by Terry Brooks. Despite the fact that this is the second book in the series, the author will give enough information that the reader will be able to understand what is going on and have a basic idea of what happened in the first book leading up to these events. The book consists of 386 pages. There is a prologue at the front of the book that begins by explaining about the dream that John Ross is having about what the future will hold if John kills Simon. From there the book is divided into twenty-five chapters that will vary in length. The chapters will typically begin with an explanation as to which character the point of view is coming from since the author will switch between a vast array of characters.

The story begins on October 28 and John Ross's dream should come true on Halloween night. The chapters are further divided in the book, with the date being given before a group of chapters. Often in the chapters, the story will tell what time it is when a character is doing something. This will give a time frame for the reader. There is also a short piece in the back with a look at what the next book in the series will be about.



Quotes

"Pick, her best friend, was a six-inch-high sylvan, a forest creature who looked for the most part like something a child had made of the discards of bird's nest, with body and limbs of twigs and hair and beard of moss." Chap. 1, p. 13

"His dreams were always of the future, a future grim and horrific, one where the balance of magic had shifted so dramatically that civilization was on the verge of extinction." Chap. 4, p. 45

"He no longer thinks of himself as a Knight of the Word, so he has stopped acting like one. But he can never quit." Chap. 5, p. 60

"He stood with his hand gripping the polished walnut staff that served as his crutch, wondering again what would happen if he simply cast it away, if he defied the warning that had accompanied its bestowal and cut loose his final tie to the Word." Chap. 6, p. 76

"Terrible things always happen when you are a Knight of the Word, John. A Knight of the Word is drawn to terrible things." Chap. 8, p. 113

"Your talisman is in the hands of a man who will not use it, but cannot give it back." Chap. 13, p. 198

"If I were the lady in the story, in the event all else failed, I would send someone to take back the talisman from my fallen champion, someone strong enough to do so, someone who knew much about death and did not fear it, because he had embraced it many times before." Chap. 13, p. 201

"When Wren returned, he would find all the evidence he needed to confront the Wiz with the threat of exposure and a demand for an explanation that the latter would be unable to provide." Chap. 15, p. 229

"Something wild and fierce blossomed inside her in response, and for just an instant she thought it was her magic, trying to break free." Chap. 17, p. 248

"There, in the warm enfolding dark, just before she fell asleep, with the images of Ariel and Boot and Audrey spinning in a wash of streetlight shining brightly through her bedroom window, she made herself a promise that she would see this matter through to the end." Chap. 17, p. 260

"If Ross accepted he was in danger, that there was a demon out there working to subvert him, he would be on his guard. That ought to be enough." Chap. 19, p. 291

"So while there isn't a match there either, there is a singular characteristic in one other person's writing style that suggests you might have a new suspect." Chap. 22, p. 330



"He was a Knight of the Word once more, now and forever, bound by the pledge he had given in persuading the magic to return to him." Chap. 24, p. 352

"But demons need to possess humans, to take control of them in order to make the magic their own, and sometimes they mistake this need to possess for love." Chap. 24, p. 359

"It was trying to change again, to become something else- perhaps the thing Ross had loved so much. But Ross would not allow it." Chap. 24, p. 368

"It was odd, but he still thought of her as human, maybe because it made thinking of her at all more bearable." Chap. 25, pp. 383-384

"All men and women experienced successes and failures, and their tally at death was not necessarily determinative of one's worth in life." Chap. 25, p. 384



Topics for Discussion

Discuss love. What is the difference between John's love for Stephanie and Stephanie's love for John?

What is the difference between the service that John does for the Word and how Nest is involved? Give examples to support your answer.

What role does Two Bears have in the story? How would the story have been different without him?

Was it necessary to have seen that Stephanie/the demon killed the homeless children? How did it affect the reader's view of the demon? How would the demon appeared differently without this scene?

Describe Andrew Wren. What was his role in the story?

What point or event is it that makes John decide to act as a Knight of the Word once again?

Speculate on the reasons that the Lady wouldn't talk to John but was willing to send someone to kill him.

Given what is seen in the story is it accurate to say that the Word uses people regardless of their feelings or desires? Explain.