

Last Sacrifice: A Vampire Academy Novel Study Guide

**Last Sacrifice: A Vampire Academy Novel by Richelle
Mead**

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Plot Summary

Last Sacrifice is part of the novel series A Vampire Academy by number one best-selling author Richell Mead. In this novel, the author describes a world of vampires that live among the human race. One of the vampire races is the Moroi or vampires in the conventional sense. The other race of vampires is the Strigoi, which are evil vampires that formed when a a Moroi brings them back from death. Dhampirs are another race in the novel, which are the guardians of Morois. Finally, the Alchemists are liaisons between the vampire and human worlds. In other words, the Alchemists protect the human race from the vampire races.

Rose Hathaway is the main character. She is a dhampir that has wrongfully been imprisoned for the murder of the Moroi queen, Tatiana. Rose's former boyfriend, Dimitri, and her friends create a plot to break Rose out of jail, so they can work to find the real murderer while Rose is safely tucked away in a small town in West Virginia. When Dimitri, who is Moroi turned Strigoi, turned back into a Moroi and Rose arrive in West Virginia, they meet up with an Alchemist, Sydney Sage. Rose's father, Abe Mazur, is blackmailing Sydney to go against the Alchemist laws to help hide Rose, while helping to find who the real murderer of the queen is. Last Sacrifice is a story of coming of age and of the journey of a group of young adults who struggle to find out who they are and to live in a world of Moroi, dhampirs, Alchemists, and humans.

While Rose is on the run, her best friend, Lissa is trying to buy some time in the investigation by running for the royal Moroi court to replace the queen in the monarchy. Because of the law, Lissa cannot become queen because she no longer has any living relatives, which is a requirement to become queen. Lissa and Rose also possess a spirit bond, which allows Rose to see through Lissa's eyes what is happening at court, even when Rose and Lissa are not together. During the investigation Rose takes on with Dimitri, Sydney and some vampires they pick up along their journey, Rose uncovers that Lissa has an illegitimate sister, which allows Lissa to really run in the election for queen.

While encountering some obstacles along the way, Rose and Dimitri ultimately solve the mystery of who really killed Queen Tatiana. The duo also finds Lissa's illegitimate sibling and Rose and Dimitri also find love between each other once again.



Chapters 1 and 2

Chapters 1 and 2 Summary

When the novel opens, Rose, who is a type of vampire from the Moroi race is in prison. She is in prison because she is accused of killing Queen Tatiana, which is one of the members of The Royal Court of the Moroi race. Rose's father, Abe Mazur, visits her in prison to tell her that her trial has moved up, and is now only two weeks away. Abe also brings her some magazines and the book, *The Count of Monte Crisco*.

In Chapter 2, when Lissa brought Rose back to life, Rose still had a connection with the ghost or spirit world. As Rose stands in her prison cell now, Rose connects to the ghost world. Rose calls to connect with Queen Tatiana, and after a few minutes, Tatiana is there. Rose then uses her spirit bond with Lissa to see what Lissa is doing. While Lissa is dress shopping for the funeral, her boyfriend and his aunt come into the dress store to say the court has decided not to take action against Dimitri for defending Rose from the guardians when they arrested her. Rose foreshadows that her fate is not as good as Dimitri's, suggesting Rose's sentence may be death. Rose wonders why Dimitri came to her rescue that day when she was ending their relationship. She now wonders if it is because he still has feelings for her, which foreshadows that Dimitri may come to Rose's rescue again to break her out of prison, and that they may resume their romantic relationship.

Chapters 1 and 2 Analysis

The fact that Rose's trial has been postponed two weeks away foreshadows that she will not have enough time to gather new evidence to prove her innocence. This also foreshadows her execution for killing a queen. It's ironic that one of the books Abe brings Rose is *The Count of Monte Crisco*. This foreshadows that Rose might try to escape her prison, so she can find the new evidence she needs to prove she is innocent. It might also indicate that someone may help her escape, such as her father.

Rose trying to connect with the ghost world is her attempt to find new evidence or information to help her prove that she is not guilty of murdering Queen Tatiana. Rose asks if Tatiana wrote the note suggesting that Vasilisa has a secret sibling, which would also mean, by Moroi law, that Lissa could take her place as queen on the Royal Court. Tatiana nods her head yes to let Rose know that she is the one that wrote the note.



Chapters 3 and 4

Chapters 3 and 4 Summary

In Chapter 3, Rose loses the spirit connection with Lissa, but not totally. Rose can still feel that Lissa is alive and well, but Rose cannot see what is happening with Lissa. The spirit bond only works one way, so Rose can see into Lissa's life, but Lissa cannot see into Rose's life. The following morning, the spirit bond is back and Rose can once again see into the mind of Lissa. Rose observes as Lissa gets ready for the funeral and heads for the procession. The funeral traditional procession begins. As the procession reaches the cathedral, two of the statues in the garden explode.

In Chapter 4, the explosion causes everyone at the funeral to run in different directions. Even the pallbearers put down the body of the queen to escape the two statues that are aflame. Rose hears a commotion at the end of the hall from her cell. Two of her friends, Eddie Castile and Mikhail Tanner appear at her cell entrance. Rose then realizes they are responsible for blowing up the statues, causing all of the guardians to run to the cathedral, so they could stage a prison break for Rose. When Rose steps out of her cell, Dimitri is waiting for her at the end of the hall. Rose sees that Adrian is there as well to help her escape. When the group reaches the garage, Rose's father is waiting by his car for her to say goodbye. Abe tells Rose that he is opening up a new gate, which means he is blowing up a new opening so Rose and Dimitri can escape together.

Chapters 3 and 4 Analysis

Rose predicts that Lissa is intentionally blocking her spirit bond because Rose is talking about Dimitri's fate. Because it requires so much magic power on Lissa's part to block Rose out, Rose also believes that Lissa may know something about Rose's fate that Lissa doesn't want Rose to know. The look that passes between Lissa and her boyfriend, Christian, as they part at the funeral foreshadows that something is going to happen or something will be revealed, which is also the reason Lissa blocked out Rose the night before. Ironically, Rose wonders whether the people gathering to watch the procession are there to see the queen or to see Lissa, after hearing she brought Dimitri back to life. Lissa seems to be more anxious than she should be, which foreshadows something happening or a big announcement being made as they reach the cathedral for the final part of the ceremony.

Rose realizes that Lissa is in on the planning of the statues exploding and now Lissa is allowing Rose to see her thoughts more, allowing Rose to see the plan Lissa has. Ironically, Rose finds herself fighting with guardians that she trained with at the academy as the group continues her escape to the parking garage.



Chapters 5 and 6

Chapters 5 and 6 Summary

In Chapter 5, Rose and Dimitri drive for about an hour before they make it to an interstate. Dimitri notices that someone is following them. Dimitri tries to lose the tail, but they follow Dimitri and Rose off the exit and continue to mimic everything Dimitri does driving. Dimitri and Rose plan to ditch the car they have, separate and meet again when Dimitri has a new car. In the meantime, Dimitri manages to lose the tail as he pulls into the mall parking lot. Rose ducks into an accessories' store and buys a few items from the clearance bin to create a disguise. Rose exits the mall with a group of teenage girls and heads toward the movie theater, where she is to meet Dimitri. A guardian spots and starts a fight with Rose in the parking lot. Rose renders the guardian unconscious and then goes to find Dimitri at the theater. Dimitri pulls up in a different Honda Accord and they drive off. In Roanoke, VA, Dimitri exits the highway and pulls into a McDonald's parking lot. He pulls the car into a space next to a girl leaning up against a tax SUV. Rose recognizes the girl as Sydney.

In Chapter 6, Rose indicates she met Sydney in Russia, when Rose was there hunting Dimitri. Dimitri and Rose get into Sydney's car and start to drive to West Virginia. Rose asks Sydney why she is aiding in her escape and Sydney admits it is because Abe is blackmailing her for getting Sydney out of Russia. Rose checks in on Lissa and the plan is working. Everyone they question has alibis, so the court doesn't know who is involved in helping Rose escape. The trio arrives in a small town in West Virginia and checks into a hotel under false names. After going into their room, Rose tries to escape by fighting her way through Dimitri. After two failed attempts, she tries to get him off guard by kissing him. This works and Rose runs out of the hotel and into the woods with Dimitri running after her.

Chapters 5 and 6 Analysis

The ironic part is that Rose is usually the one that comes up with the crazy plans in the group. This time, the group kept Rose completely out of the plans, and Dimitri still won't reveal to Rose where they are running to hide. Ironically, the guardian is carrying a gun, which is usually not their weapon of choice since it is ineffective in killing dhampirs. It is, however, effective in killing Rose. Rose says that Sydney is a human and she is going to help them, presumably in trading cars with them. Since Sydney is a human helping vampires, it foreshadows that Sydney might be an Alchemist.

Ironically, even though Sydney is an Alchemist, she assists Rose in her and Dimitri's escape. Rose and Lissa have a role reversal, where now Lissa is taking care of Rose instead of the other way around. Even though Sydney is helping Rose and Dimitri, Sydney gets a separate room for herself so they don't get caught together. In another twist of irony, Rose is typically the problem solver. In this situation, Dimitri and Sydney



simply expect Rose to wait in West Virginia while everyone at court figures out who really killed the queen. When Rose kisses Dimitri, she feels the sparks she felt for him when they were in love, which indicates they may just fall in love again.



Chapters 7 and 8

Chapters 7 and 8 Summary

In Chapter 7, Rose is lost wandering in the unfamiliar woods of West Virginia. Rose checks in on Lissa and the group is discussing being questioned and how the guardians will discover the explosion is not from magic, but from C-4. As Abe comes out of the interrogation room with the guardians, he smirks at the waiting group, letting them know everything is fine. During the questioning, Lissa acts surprised at Rose's escape and defends Dimitri's reason for helping Rose is because they were involved, not because he is Strigoi again. As Lissa leaves the interrogation, Eddie is waiting in the lobby for his interrogation. Abe appears near Lissa and Christina to find out how her interrogation went. As Abe, Lissa and Christian focus on how to find new evidence to clear Rose, Lissa reveals that Ambrose and Tatiana were romantically involved, which gave Ambrose access to Tatiana's rooms, where Tatiana was attacked. Abe mentions Ambrose showed interest in Rose at the trial. In the middle of Rose listening to Abe and Lissa talk about how the queen will be buried and then the elections will begin.

In Chapter 8, when Rose and Dimitri try to re-enter the hotel, the parking lot is full of cops and Sydney's car is gone. Rose and Dimitri walk toward the highway and eventually spot Sydney's car pulled off on the side of the road waiting for them. Sydney chooses another town for them to hide out in that's an hour and a half away. While they are driving to their new destination, Rose reveals that Lissa has an illegitimate sister that they need to find. This news shocks both Sydney and Dimitri. Rose checks in on Lissa again to see Lissa and Christian are at Adrian's house. A janitor, Joe, who is the alibi witness for where Adrian was when his Aunt Tatiana was killed shows up. Lissa suspects something and forces Joe to admit that Adrian's mother paid him to confirm the time he saw Adrian that night, and another Moroi guy he doesn't know paid him to say when Joe saw Rose Hathaway in the area. Sydney finally pulls off the road onto a gravel road and into the woods. She tells Rose and Dimitri they have to make the rest of the journey on foot.

Chapters 7 and 8 Analysis

Ironically, everyone involved in the escape plot, so far has been able to convince the guardians they were not involved. So far, this includes Abe and Lissa. Lissa predicts that the interrogation is the easy part of the problem. Finding out who really killed the queen she predicts is what will cause them trouble. Abe doesn't realize that the attention Ambrose was giving Rose was when he passed the note to Rose from Tatiana revealing that Lissa has an illegitimate sister, which gives Lissa the right to become queen. Dimitri tackles Rose. Rose agrees to stay with Dimitri and Sydney, but only if they help her to find the illegitimate sibling for Lissa, so that Lissa can earn her vote in the Royal elections for the new queen.



When Sydney lectures Rose about her attempted escape, Dimitri puts his hand on Sydney's arm to try to calm her down. Rose flinches with a bit of jealousy, again foreshadowing another relationship starting between Rose and Dimitri. While Lissa, Christina, Abe and Eddie are dealing with their own case at court, Rose is creating a parallel case to find Lissa's sibling. Sydney confirms that some hard copy documents were stolen from the Alchemists about some payments Lissa's father was making to an anonymous woman, which seems to back up Rose's theory and Tatiana's note that another Dragomir exists. Sydney indicates that she is leading them to the only people that will keep them safe and then Rose sees vampire faces emerge out of the forest lights.



Chapters 9 and 10

Chapters 9 and 10 Summary

In Chapter 9, Rose realizes the vampire faces that step out from the woods are mostly Moroi and some dhampir. The leader realizes Sydney is an Alchemist from the lily tattoo on her cheek. Sydney tells the leader they need shelter because Rose is accused of murdering the Tainted Queen of the Morois. The trio follows the group down the path until they reach a bonfire surrounded by a small village. When they reach the village, Rose notices more Moroi, dhampirs and even humans are part of this group, which the leaders says are The Keepers, a group of Moroi that live in the traditional ways. Sydney, Dimitri and Rose take food and shelter in Raymond and Sarah's home. Rose and Dimitri take shifts sleeping while Sydney sleeps. When Rose falls asleep, Adrian pulls her into a spirit dream, which is one of Adrian's powers, talking to people in dreams. When Rose looks around the room in the dream, she realizes Adrian is not there, but Robert Doru and Victor Dashkov are.

In Chapter 10, Robert throws Rose against a wall in the dream. Victor and Robert tell Rose they want to talk to her, for one to tell her that they do not believe she is responsible for Tatiana's murder. Rose reveals to the two men that Tatiana left her a note indicating that her murder may have been a result of Tatiana not having harsh enough laws against the dhampirs. Rose also tells the brothers the note reveals Lissa has a sibling, which by Moroi law, gives her the right to vote in court. Victor surprises Rose by telling her that they plan to get Lissa to run as a candidate for queen because there is a loophole in the law. While the loophole allows Lissa to run, it does not allow her to receive the vote, so it is a plan to delay the elections long enough to find Tatiana's murderer. When Rose returns from her spirit dream, she starts to fall back to sleep and feels herself being called into another spirit dream.

Chapters 9 and 10 Analysis

The Morois that live in the woods seem to be against the traditional ways of the Moroi. Their disagreement with the election of a new queen instead of battle indicates they are a sect of Moroi that have broken off from the traditional Moroi. This sect lives in the woods and lives by their own set of rules. Sarah, the human wife of the Moroi leader, Raymond, asks if Sydney brought them anything, inferring that the Alchemists have some sort of arrangement with The Keepers. Ironically, the trio plans to stay among a group of people that stand against all of their beliefs because The Keepers have intimate relations mixing vampires, dhampirs and humans, which is no longer the modern way. In another twist of irony, Sydney admits that the Alchemists prefer The Keepers over the Moroi because they do not live among the humans like the Moroi do, but the Alchemists still do not agree with the mixing of the races.



The conversation that ensues between Rose, Robert and Victor infers that Robert and Victor are rogue Morois. Ironically, even though Robert and Victor are enemies to Rose, the two Morois want to help Rose find out who is responsible really for killing the queen. Even though Rose and the brothers are enemies, ironically, the brothers agree to help Rose find the illegitimate sibling of Lissa, so Lissa can earn her voting right. The brothers believe that Lissa's liberal way of think might positively change the ways of the Moroi politically.



Chapters 11 and 12

Chapters 11 and 12 Summary

In Chapter 11, the spirit dream Rose enters into this time is with Adrian. Rose and Adrian talk about the interrogations and the information Joe revealed when Rose was spying through Lissa. Rose tells Adrian how they can buy some more time before Dimitri wakes her up for her shift of watching over Dimitri and Sydney while they sleep. When Raymond and his family learn of Rose's killing of Strigoi, they ask about her mar. Rose lifts her hair to reveal the mark of someone who has killed an uncountable amount of Strigoi. After breakfast, Sydney asks Raymond to trade cars with her so she can drive to the nearest coffee shop an hour away so Sydney can use her laptop. The three drive to the café and Sydney starts her research to find the illegitimate Dragomir. In the meantime, Rose and Dimitri wander through the town and find the public library. They spend time flipping through the top 100 places to live book and imagining living in those places if Rose remains a fugitive. When Rose and Dimitri return to the café, Sydney tells them she found a next of kin on the bank account Lissa's father is depositing money into and the name is Sonya Karp.

In Chapter 12, the trio knows Sonya Karp because she is a Moroi that turned Strigoi. Her ex-boyfriend, Mikhail Tanner, spent a year trying to track Sonya down. Sydney says Sonya is too young to be the mistress, but that the mistress must be a relation of Sonya's. Dimitri asks to borrow Sydney's cell phone to call a guy by the name of Boris. The conversation is in Russian, but Rose can see that Dimitri is acting as if he is Strigoi to get help in tracking down Sonya. Sydney, however, understands Russian, so she translates the conversation for Rose. The three return to The Keepers and Sarah invites them to join the community by the bonfire. Sydney and Dimitri go, while Rose goes with Raymond's son, Joshua, to see the cave that will become his home. After Rose tours Joshua's cave home, they join Sydney and Dimitri by the bonfire. As Rose joins Sydney by the fire, Angeline, Joshua's sister, punches Rose. Rose tries to diffuse the fight, but ends up defending herself against Angeline.

Chapters 11 and 12 Analysis

Ironically, when Rose sees what she is wearing in the dream it is a dress she wore in real life when Victor put a lust charm on Rose and Dimitri. This indicates that Rose still subconsciously has feelings for Dimitri even though she is in a relationship with Adrian. The closeness and time Rose and Dimitri share in the library is another indication of a romantic relationship deepening between the two.

Dimitri is using his Strigoi connections to locate Sonya so they can find out who the illegitimate sibling of Lissa is. Joshua takes Rose by surprise when he shows her his cave by asking her to marry him. He also gives Rose a bracelet he made to remember him by when she leaves. Even though Rose turns down his proposal, it foreshadows

that Joshua may turn up in Rose's life at some point later. Angeline assumes Rose is going to marry her brother, Joshua, which is why she starts the fight with Rose.



Chapters 13 and 14

Chapters 13 and 14 Summary

In Chapter 13, Sydney, Rose, and Dimitri are back in the room they are sharing at Raymond's house. They are discussing The Keeper ritual that the closest relative to The Keeper getting married has to fight the fiancé, which is why Angeline started the fight with Sydney. If the engagement was real, then Dimitri would have to fight Joshua. Sydney goes with Dimitri to get a cell phone signal outside of the village, so Dimitri can check on locating Sonya. While they are gone, Rose bonds with Lissa and sees that Lissa is with Christina and Adrian. They knock on Ambrose's door and ask to speak to him, but he says he is busy with one of his massage clients. They find out from Ambrose that Tatiana passed the age law for the dhampirs to fight as a way to protect them. They also find out from Ambrose that Tatiana was secretly training Moroi to learn how to defend themselves. Ambrose also tells them that Tatiana and he had an open relationship so they were both sleeping with other people. When Sydney and Dimitri return, they tell Rose they have information on a Strigoi that may know where Sonya is, but they have to see him in person, which means they have to go to Lexington, Kentucky. Dimitri says they might also have to fight Strigoi.

In Chapter 14, when Rose, Sydney and Dimitri are saying goodbye to The Keepers, Angeline begs them to take her with them, but Rose tells her no. As Sydney drives to Lexington, Rose and Dimitri sleep to rest up for the expected fights with Strigoi. Rose drifts into the mind of Lissa and watches as the election process of the new monarch is taking place. In the absence of the queen, Adrian's father, Nathan, moderates the elections. As the nominations are ending, someone nominates Lissa, Adrian seconds the nominations and Christian thirds the nomination. Adrian's father says her nomination is not legal, but then Abe speaks up about what the law says. Finally, Lissa accepts the nomination.

Chapters 13 and 14 Analysis

Ambrose mistakes the questioning as an accusation that he is responsible for murdering the queen, who he was romantically involved with. In reality, however, Lissa assures him that they are just trying to find out who is responsible for killing Tatiana since none of them, including Ambrose, believe it was Rose. The fact that Tatiana was sleeping with more than one person means those people had access to her bedroom and access to kill her. Most of the Morois believe the reason behind Tatiana's murder was political, but the information on her love life now makes it seem possible that the motive could be her love life. As Sydney, Dimitri and Rose head to Lexington, it foreshadows some hurdles, specifically Strigoi getting in their way to get to Sonya Karp and the secret identity of Lissa's possible sibling.



Rose relates to Angeline. Like Angeline, Rose too wants to see the world and experience new things. In a way, they live lives in a parallel world because they are both vampires, but live in very different ways—Angeline in the traditional way and Rose in the modern way of life. Ironically, Moroi from all over are attending the election because it is a rare event and something most of them never expected to see in their lifetimes. Lissa accepting the nomination foreshadows a great upheaval in the legal system of the monarch elections.



Chapters 15 and 16

Chapters 15 and 16 Summary

In Chapter 15, chaos breaks out in the room when Lissa accepts the nomination. When Lissa leaves the Council room and is in private with everyone involved in his nomination, Lissa expresses her anger with them. Lissa asks who idea this was and Adrian tells her it was Rose's idea from when Adrian pulled Rose into his dream. A jolting move in Sydney's driving pulls Rose out of her spirit bond. They pull off into a gas station on the outskirts of Lexington to put the Strigoi's address, Donovan, into the GPS. The plan is to send Sydney into the shop, after covering her lily tattoo with makeup and her hair, to draw Donovan out to meet Dimitri. When Donovan comes out, he has two Strigoi with him and they smell dhampirs, which causes Rose and Dimitri to fight with Donovan and his men, while Sydney runs to the car. Dimitri beats the answer out of Donovan, finding out Sonya lives in a town called Paris an hour from Lexington. Then, Dimitri drives the stake in Donovan's heart several times.

In Chapter 16, Dimitri and Rose fetch Sydney to help them dispose of the dead bodies and then get in the car to drive away. Dimitri says they will go to Paris to find Sonya in the daylight. They check into a hotel room for the night. When Rose falls asleep, the Dashkov brothers pull her into a spirit dream again. Rose reveals the information she has on where Sonya is, so the brothers say they are joining her. Adrian then pulls Rose into a spirit dream but the alarm clock in the hotel wakes Rose before Adrian and her finish talking. As the trio drives to Paris, Rose tells them about the spirit dreams with the brothers and that they may be joining them soon. When they arrive at Sonya's house, Dimitri and Rose assess the house from front to back. They break in the back patio and into the house, fight with Sonya until they restrain her and then call in Sydney with the chain Dimitri bought at the hardware store to chain Sonya to a chair for questioning.

Chapters 15 and 16 Analysis

The non-royal Morois in the room start to see Lissa as a symbol of change—a symbol of the people that can speak for the people—rather than a court full of royals. Even though Lissa and Rose have separate problems, their lives seem very similar. Neither one of them enjoys playing an inactive role in resolving their problems and both girls were kept out of the plan their friends were hatching—Rose from her escape and Lissa from her nomination to run as queen. Dimitri fighting the Strigoi symbolizes his revenge for being turned Strigoi and his redemption for turning back into a dhampir. Even though Donovan attacks Dimitri, ironically, Rose saves Dimitri from killing Donovan because they need to find out if he knows where Sonya is.

Sydney obtaining one hotel room this time suggests that she wants to be close to Rose and Dimitri after her run-in with the Strigois earlier. Rose tells the Dashkov brothers where Sonya is in hopes of recapturing Victor, who escaped from prison. Sonya is the

link to the information Rose and Dimitri need to prove that Lissa has a sibling, so rather than kill a Strigoi, as their instincts tell them to do, they have to restrain Sonya for questioning instead. Sonya is only good to the alive for the moment.



Chapters 17 and 18

Chapters 17 and 18 Summary

In Chapter 17, Rose and Dimitri interrogate Sonya. Dimitri points out that Rose has an injury to her head from Sonya throwing Rose into the table, so Rose cleans up the wound and lies down. Rose tells Sydney that she has to go to Lissa while resting in Sonya's bed. When Rose sees Lissa, she is riding in a van with the other nominees, which are traveling to different points to complete their first test. Lissa learns that the test is to use a map and compass to find clues that lead to various locations, which is to test the endurance and reasoning skills of the nominees. Each candidate also receives a cell phone, in case they want to opt out of the test at any point. Lissa starts the hunt for clues after her arrival at the edge of the forest outside of town. Each clue provides a reward as Lissa continues to follow the map and solve the clues. By the end, Lissa has the supplies she needs to live out the weather conditions the magic is creating—sun, rain and cold all at the same time. Lissa uses her magic to keep the rain off her, the tarp to build shelter, the bundle of sticks and the flints to make a fire. The, Sydney calls Rose out of her spirit bond to tell Rose the Dashkov brothers are at Sonya's house.

In Chapter 18, Rose gets up from Rose's bed and goes into the living room. She finds Dimitri still guarding Sonya with the steel stake and the Dashkov brothers assessing the situation. Sonya threatens to kill them all but she is still chained to the chair. Sonya conjures up enough strength to break some of the chains and Robert manages to drive a steel stake through Sonya's heart before Rose or Dimitri can stop him. Sonya begins to wail and Dimitri unwraps the chains to free her. Rather than allow Sonya to endure more interrogating, Dimitri takes Sonya to her bed to rest. Dimitri stays with Sonya so he is there when she awakes and Rose watches over the brothers. Rose uses her spirit bond to check in with Lissa, who is returning to court with all of the other nominees. Only one of the nominees used the cell phone. The others passed the first test.

Chapters 17 and 18 Analysis

Even though Dimitri and Rose are using a steel stake to threaten Sonya into answering their questions, Sonya knows just as much as they do that they aren't going to kill her. Sonya knows killing her will not produce the answers the two are seeking. Because Rose, Sydney and Dimitri all view Strigoi as evil, it is ironic to find Sonya living in such a normal home and environment. In another twist of irony, Sydney starts to think of Moroi as less scary now that she has more exposure to Strigoi. Lissa and Rose both realize that this is the first time that Lissa is alone and without a guardian, such as Rose, or a friend, such as Adrian. The arrival of the Dashkov brothers insinuates the interrogation level is going to increase in intensity.

Ironically, when Robert drives the stake into Sonya's heart, it doesn't kill her. Instead, it brings her back to life, which should enable them to get the answers from Sonya they



need to find out about Lissa's illegitimate sibling. Sonya crying when she comes back to life is a symbol of rebirth. Even though Victor has the reputation of being a criminal, he shows compassion for his brother Robert when Robert gets ill from bringing Sonya back to life. Dimitri witnessing Sonya coming back to life now realizes what it was like when he went through the same transformation. Rose sees that his witnessing the event has removed some of his fear of being turned Strigoi away.



Chapters 19 and 20

Chapters 19 and 20 Summary

In Chapter 19, when the vans of monarch candidates arrive back at court, there is a crowd waiting to see who passed the test and who did not. For the first time, Lissa admits that she plans to continue to find out who framed Rose for the queen's murder, but that she also intends on taking the tests for queen seriously. While Lissa and Christian are kissing on her bed, back in her apartment, Adrian comes to the door to let them know he found his aunt's other lover, Blake Lazar and he needs Lissa to question him. Lissa, Christian and Adrian head over to the bar where Blake is waiting for Adrian to return. Lissa tells Blake that Ambrose thinks Blake killed the queen instead of Rose. Blake reveals that one of Ambrose's other girlfriends is Adrian's mom, Daniella. Adrian leaves angry and Lissa and Christian follow him out. Christian and Lissa return to her room to sleep and another knock at the door interrupts them. This time, it is Rose's mom, Janine Hathaway, who is there to guard Lissa.

In Chapter 20, Sydney convinces Rose to get some sleep so Rose will have the energy required to fight any Strigoi that might show up at Sonya's house. Rose falls asleep for a few hours and wakes up to a door closing. When she goes to the living room, she finds Sydney and Robert, but Victor is missing. Robert is in the bathroom. Rose steals the brothers' car keys and tells Sydney to disable their car on Sydney's way to the grocery store for some food. Rose steps in Sonya's room to check on Sonya and Dimitri. Sonya recognizes Rose. Sonya asks to see her garden, so they all go outside and it is as if Sonya is experiencing the world for the first time. Eventually, Dimitri goes in to sleep while Sonya continues to recover from her transformation. Sydney returns from the grocery store and Sonya eats food for the first time after turning Strigoi and turning back again. Rose starts to question Sonya about Lissa's sibling, but Sonya denies knowing anything about it. When Rose doesn't get the answers she needs being nice, Robert uses his power of compulsion to try to get the answer out of Sonya. Sonya breaks the spell an enraged uses her powers to make the vines grow and topple over Robert's chair. Robert uses his telekinetic powers to throw Sonya up against the fence. The two spirit users continue to battle with each other until Dimitri comes out and drags Robert back into the house to separate Sonya and Robert.

Chapters 19 and 20 Analysis

While Lissa has gone along with the election process to stall time while finding the queen's real murderer, she realizes when the crowds are cheering upon her return to court from the test how important the elections truly are for the people. Ironically, it seems as if Daniella, Adrian's mother, may be the one with the motive to kill Tatiana because Daniella and Tatiana were both having an affair with Ambrose.



Sonya is having an inner struggle over choosing to turn Strigoi. Since she was a spirit user, she can use this power to turn Strigoi, which is what she did. Now that Sonya has gone through a restoration, she feels remorse for choosing to turn Strigoi and for all of the terrible things she did while she was Strigoi. Because Dimitri has experienced the same thing, he helps to reassure and comfort Sonya. Sonya indicates that Lissa is also in a similar situation because she is a spirit user. Rose reassures Sonya that Lissa is safe, but chooses not to tell Sonya that the thing that was hunting Lissa when they were students at St. Vladimir's is ironically sitting in Sonya's living room right now. Ironically, it is Sydney that convinces Sonya to lead them to the mistress and the illegitimate child and she does it in a way that reassures Sonya she is not breaking her promise to keep the child a secret.



Chapters 21 and 22

Chapters 21 and 22 Summary

In Chapter 21, the group prepares to make the journey to find Lissa's sibling, with Dimitri at the wheel and seating arrangements to minimize problems while driving. Rose tells Dimitri that they have to find a way to get the brothers back to the guardians. When Rose checks in on Lissa, she finds two guardians at Lissa's door beckoning her for the second test, which is in a room with an old Moroi woman in her early 100s. The Moroi woman pours water into a goblet or chalice. When Lissa drinks from it, it takes her into a spirit dream, where she is standing by a grave with a priest and some other people. The funeral is for Rose, who died protecting Lissa from a Strigoi attack. Christian appears and tells Rose that he is leaving Court and leaving her. Then, Lissa finds herself sitting in a council meeting, representing the Dragomir family. When the council dismisses her response and tries to remove her family symbol from the wall, Lissa defends herself and then finds she is in an examining room at St. Vladimir's, where she finds she has been cutting. The doctor is telling her the medication is no longer able to help Lissa's mental state now that she has hurt someone else. The doctor and therapist threaten to send Lissa to Tarasov, which is the mental ward for spirit users. Rose, in the dream, offers to pull the spirit out of Lissa and go to Tarasov in Lissa's place. As Lissa screams no and blocks Rose from pulling the spirit from her, Lissa awakes from the spirit dream and she is back in the room with the old woman, who tells her the dream was all of Lissa's fears in a row. Lissa passes the test and leaves out the back door to a cheering crowd.

In Chapter 22, Rose is out of the bond with Lissa and back in the car. She tells Sonya that Lissa passed her second monarch test. Rose dozes off for a nap and Adrian pulls her into a spirit dream. Rose tells Adrian Lissa passed her second test and accidentally tells Adrian Rose is with Sonya Karp and the brothers, which angers Adrian. Adrian fades away because someone is waking him up. Sonya tells Dimitri to exit into Ann Arbor, Michigan and points out the house they are seeking. Rose, Sydney and Sonya go to the front door of the house, while the men stay in the car.

Chapters 21 and 22 Analysis

The car full of vampires that do not have a feeder, which is a supply of blood, foreshadows there may be an attempted attack on the only human in the group, which is Sydney. Lissa finds out that her grandfather ran for King, which is something she did not know, but had withdrawn at the last minute, which is how Tatiana earned her rule. Ironically, when the council asks Lissa her opinion on the age decree, Lissa feels tongue tied. For the first time, Lissa knows what it feels like to be alone and be the only representative left for her lineage. The inference is that Lissa is the one that killed Rose, not the Strigoi, but the doctor and therapist at St. Vladimir's will not tell her who she hurt. Lissa passing the spirit dream test of her fears symbolizes her strength and ability to face her fears, which are perfect traits for a queen.



When Rose wakes up, Sonya guesses Rose was in a spirit dream from viewing Rose's aura. When Sonya finds out Rose was in the dream with her boyfriend instead of Lissa, Sonya seems surprised because she can see the aura that exists between Rose and Dimitri. Ironically, Rose sees a girl she knows come up behind the Moroi man who answers the door. The girl is Jill Mastrano, which infers that Jill is the illegitimate child of Eric Dragomir and the sister of Lissa.



Chapters 23 and 24

Chapters 23 and 24 Summary

In Chapter 23, a woman, Emily Mastrano, which is Sonya's cousin comes up behind her husband and Jill. Jill is a fifteen year-old friend of Rose's and Lissa's that went to St. Valdimir's with them. Rose and Sydney explain why they are there and why they need Jill to announce her real identity to help Lissa. Emily explains how she met Eric Dragomir and confirms that he is Jill's father. She relents to allow Jill to return to court, but Emily and her husband are going with her. Emily invites the group to stay overnight and to leave the next day.

In Chapter 24, Sonya and Robert use their magical powers to create an illusion of who the brothers are, so they can stay in the house without the Mastrano family recognizing who they really are. Emily arranges for a feeder to come to her home, so the Moroi can get the blood they need. While the Moroi are feeding, Rose and Dimitri shower and change. While Dimitri is in the shower, Rose checks in on Lissa. Lissa is with Christian and Eddie, telling Adrian that Ambrose sent her a message that he has more information and Lissa wants Adrian to come with her. When the trio arrives in Ambrose's room, he confesses that he stole Tatiana's secret papers that she kept locked in her safe. One of the papers is a typed and unsigned letter to Tatiana that mentions the person's disapproval of Tatiana's training experiment and the want to pass the new law. The letter also mentions the end of the Dragomir lineage. As the trio leaves Ambrose's room. A Moroi man with a knife tries to attack Lissa, but Eddie fights him off and kills him with a stake. Dimitri wakes Rose from her spirit bond and Rose tells him about the attack on Rose. Rose tells Dimitri she accidentally told Adrian they weren't in West Virginia anymore, but that Adrian has kept it a secret. Dimitri asks if Rose loves Adrian and Rose admits she does. Sydney interrupts them before anything happens between Rose and Dimitri. While the three are planning how to get Jill back to Court, guardians raid the Mastrano house.

Chapters 23 and 24 Analysis

Jill has the same eyes as Eric Dragomir and Lissa, which confirms for Rose that Jill is Lissa's sister and ironically, something she did not notice before. In another twist of irony, Jill knows that she has a biological father that is not the man that raised her, but she doesn't know she is an heiress and a royal. Emily's husband, John, thinks Rose is a murderer, so it makes Rose nervous to stay overnight. She feels as if he may call the guardians and the police in an attempt to turn Rose in and save Jill from the danger she may be in by announcing her lineage. Emily foreshadows an attack on Jill because she is the one thing that allows Lissa to become queen and take her spot on the council.

Ironically, when Lissa tells Adrian she passed her second test, Adrian doesn't let on that he already knows because Rose told him. He asks Lissa how it went. Lissa finds it



unusual the letter mentions what she saw in her spirit dream that was part of her second monarch test. None of the three trust that Ambrose is sharing all of the secret documents with them or that Ambrose isn't the author of the letter, but the letter is proof that someone had a reason to kill Tatiana, other than Rose. When the guardians at Court come in response to Lissa's screams, they assume Eddie is the problem when they see him standing there with a bloody weapon over a dead Moroi. At the same time Rose admits her love for Adrian, she feels her old feelings coming back for Dimitri.



Chapters 25 and 26

Chapters 25 and 26 Summary

In Chapter 25, Sydney offers to distract the guardians while Rose and Dimitri escape. When Rose jumps out of the upstairs window after Dimitri, she twists her ankle. When they land in the yard, Dimitri and Rose fight off guardians until they make their way through the backyard gate and onto the street. Dimitri helps Rose run with her ankle injury. The guardians shoot at Rose and Dimitri as they run along the street. Dimitri uses his stake to cut a slit in the screen door of a home on the street so he and Rose can slip inside. They walk into the garage to find a red Mustang. Rose finds the keys inside, they back out of the garage and head for the freeway. Rose and Dimitri believe it is Robert and Victor that turned them in to the guardians, using the feeder as distraction. Dimitri stops at a store to buy supplies and then they rent a campground site. Dimitri stays awake while Rose rests and is pulled into a spirit dream by Sonya. Sonya says she got away from the guardians but tells Rose the brothers took Jill.

In Chapter 26, Sonya tells Rose that it was likely John, Jill's stepfather that called the guardians. Sonya says she is trying to reach Jill by spirit dream, but the brothers are probably keeping her awake so Sonya can't find out where Jill is. Rose asks Sonya why she was surprised that Rose was in a spirit dream with Adrian when they were in the car. Sonya explains that Rose's aura did not reveal she was talking to a boyfriend, but that Rose's and Dimitri's auras glow like boyfriend and girlfriend when they are together. Rose also tells Sonya where they are camping so Sonya can join them. When Rose wakes from sleep, she tells Dimitri about her spirit dream with Sonya and then Dimitri sleeps. While Rose is on guard, she checks in with Lissa at court. Rose sees her friends being questioned about Eddie killing the Moroi trying to attack Lissa. Hans, the man questioning them, also reveals there was a sighting of Rose in Detroit when she tried to kidnap Jill Mastrano. Then Rose sees Sydney escorted in by the guardian.

Chapters 25 and 26 Analysis

From one moment to the next, everything has fallen apart. While the group was on their way back to court the next day, guardians interrupt the plan and also put everyone in the house at risk. The guardians will question everyone about their involvement with Rose and Dimitri, and when the Alchemists find out Sydney was helping them, she will likely get in trouble too. The brothers taking Jill could foreshadow them using her as collateral to bargain their way out of trouble. They might also kill Jill to keep Lissa from realizing any power.

Sonya's reading of Rose and Dimitri's auras foreshadow that Dimitri and Rose will fall back in love with each other and rekindle their relationship. This will also require Rose to break up with Adrian, most likely leaving Adrian broken hearted and leading him to drink even more than he already does. Sonya also predicts that the darkness Rose is



taking from Lissa through their spirit bond might cause Rose to do evil things, get depressed or some other dark behavior. The guardians must have captured Sydney when stayed behind to distract them while Rose and Dimitri escaped. Sydney will now face questioning from the Morois, as well as her own people, the Alchemists. It foreshadows that Sydney will get in trouble for helping fugitive Moroi people - Rose and Dimitri.



Chapters 27 and 28

Chapters 27 and 28 Summary

In Chapter 27, Sydney, along with two other Alchemists, a man and a woman, enter the Moroi Court, where Eddie, Lissa, Adrian and Christian are already undergoing questioning. Lissa asks who these people are and what they have to do with the attack on her. Hans says it may or may not have anything to do with her attack, but that something strange is going on and he doesn't believe that Lissa and her friends don't know anything about it. The Alchemists argue with Hans that they have already questioned Sydney about her involvement with Rose, but Hans insists on questioning Sydney as well. Sydney says she met Rose in Siberia and when Rose called to ask Sydney to drive her to a house in Detroit, where Sydney was captured, Sydney drove her there believing Rose is innocent of the murder. The Alchemists and Moroi argue until they finally agree to hold Sydney on house arrest in a town that is 45 minutes away from Court. Nobody understands what Jill Mastrano has to do with anything, but Sydney tells the Court that Rose took Jill rather than that the brothers kidnapped Jill. Lissa goes to her third and final test before the same old Moroi woman, who asks her what characteristic a queen must possess to rule her people. The old woman gives Lissa 24 hours to come up with the answer.

In Chapter 28, when Rose returns from her spirit bond with Lissa, Dimitri is snuggled up next to her in the tent. When Rose touches Dimitri's hair, he wakes up and almost kisses Rose. At the last minute, Dimitri pulls away, telling Rose that it is wrong. They hear a scratching at their tent door and find Sonya there. Sonya tells them she knows the brothers are with Jill in West Michigan. Sonya heals Rose of her sprained ankle, scrapes and bruises so Rose is in peak condition for their journey and any fighting they might encounter along the way. Sonya leads Dimitri and Rose to the hotel where the brothers are holding Jill. They find Sydney's CR-V in the parking lot so they know Victor stole Sydney's car to get away from the Mastrano house. They stay in the parking lot and plan to recapture Jill and the brothers when they exit the hotel. In the middle of discussing the "almost kiss," Dimitri and Rose see the brothers leaving the hotel with Jill. Rose attacks Victor, while Dimitri attacks Robert. During the fight, Rose reveals that Dimitri stalked Lissa, turned his own daughter Strigoï and has now kidnapped a 15-year-old girl. Victor uses his magic to create a ripple effect in the asphalt, which holds Rose back from bringing Victor down completely. Suddenly, Rose uses all of the pent up blackness she has pulled from Lissa to rush Victor and she kills him. They hide his body in the back of the CR-V before his brother can use his powers to bring Victor back. Dimitri leaves Robert unconscious in the bushes of the hotel.

Chapters 27 and 28 Analysis

Lissa and Adrian predict that the male Alchemist with Sydney has a crush on her, which is one of the reasons he seems to defend her to the Moroi while in Court. Ironically, Ian,



the male Alchemist escorting Sydney, also appears to know the Moroi who attacked Lissa, which Lissa questions him about. In another twist of irony, Abe comes to beckon Lissa to her third and final test before going through to the vote. Abe is mad because he is typically the mastermind of underhanded things and this time Rose and her friends have left him out of the loop. Abe mentions it is too bad he could not question Sydney, implying that it is true that Abe is blackmailing Sydney, which is why she is helping Rose and Dimitri.

Rose provides a preview as to why Victor is a criminal. For one, he was Lissa's stalker when the girls were studying and training at St. Vladimir's. Ironically, while Dimitri and Rose went south, the brothers went in the opposite direction, north. North is also further away from Court, which foreshadows they brothers are not attempting to bring Jill to Court to reveal her true identity and help Lissa. Victor insinuates that Jill is more valuable than Rose realizes—suggesting that Victor is going to use Jill for other purposes, such as blackmailing Lissa to get what he wants, which is her, while giving Lissa what she needs to become queen.



Chapters 29 and 30

Chapters 29 and 30 Summary

In Chapter 29, as Dimitri, Sonya, Jill, and Rose drive toward Court, Sonya tries to keep the shock of killing Victor away from Rose. Dimitri and Sonya dispose of Victor's body along the way. Back at Court, the janitor, Joe, has been dragged in for questioning. He admits seeing the same Moroï that tried to attack Lissa in the building the night the queen was murdered, which helps to take some of the suspicion off Rose. Lissa also shares the anonymous letter that shows there was political motivation to kill the queen. Lissa returns to her room with Janine and Christian. Adrian enters to tell them that he found Serena, who was one of the guardians on duty when St. Vladimir's was attacked by Strigoi and Grant, the one secretly training Moroï to defend themselves under the queen's direction, was killed. Serena unwillingly admits that Grant told her about the secret training and agrees to provide a list of the Moroï who were being trained. When Rose returns from checking in with Lissa, they are checking into a hotel so she can rest. Jill and Sonya check into one room and Dimitri and Rose into another. Dimitri talks to Rose about how she feels about killing Victor. Rose admits to Dimitri what Sonya said about their souls being in sync and Dimitri admits he still loves Rose. He also refuses to interfere with Rose and Drian's relationship. Rose realizes that she doesn't complement Adrian and Adrian doesn't complement her, but rather they are at two different points in their lives. Rose realizes that she and Dimitri do complement each other and she admits she never stopped loving him. Rose and Dimitri have sex and then she tells him they can only be together if Dimitri forgives himself for all his wrongdoings when he was Strigoi and after she admits to Adrian that she still loves Dimitri. As they fall asleep in each other's arms, Rose gets pulled into a spirit dream with Adrian.

In Chapter 30, Rose decides he cannot break up with Adrian in a spirit dream and that she may need his help, but decides to tell him later and in person. Adrian tells Rose her aura is glowing brightly, which must be her post-sex glow, but Adrian mistakes for something else. Rose decides that the answer is solving the queen's murder lies with getting to Ian, the Alchemist who recognized the Moroï that tried to kill Lissa. Rose tells Adrian to tell Mikhail to meet them at the hotel where the Alchemists are staying because Rose recognizes it from when they drove through the same town when she was escaping Court. Rose wakes to find Dimitri still asleep so she checks in with Lissa, who is heading to her final test without an answer to the riddle. Serena interrupts Lissa on her way with a list of the training Moroï she can remember. They find that the list contains only royals, but that there are a range of genders and ages. As Rose's mom escorts Lissa to her test, she tells Lissa the old woman administering the tests is the ex-queen, prior to Tatiana. Lissa passes the third test and she finds out Ariana, who Lissa thought would be the next queen did not pass this test and that Lissa has to prepare a speech to give the council the next day. Dimitri wakes Rose telling her they have to leave. On the way out of town, Rose tells them they have to stop in Greenston where the Alchemists are staying to get the last bit of proof from Mikhail and the Alchemists that Daniella, Adrian's mom, is the one that killed Tatiana.



Chapters 29 and 30 Analysis

As the tests continue for monarch candidacy, fewer individuals are in the running. This also means that some of those Moroi who were supporting one of these candidates have now switched their support to Lissa. Lissa running started as a way to buy time to figure out who the real queen's murderer is and to clear Rose. Now, it has turned into something that Lissa is taking very seriously. Serena may be able to provide the group with more information about who may have been resisting the queen wanting to change the age law. Serena indicates the Moroi the queen chose for training seemed to be the most unwilling to learn how to defend themselves, which provides another motive for wanting the queen dead. Dimitri talks about how he and Rose parallel one another, in that he killed a lot of innocent people when he was Strigoi and Rose killed Victor. He also talks about the guilt that both of them have to work through.

Ironically, Rose talks about how killing Victor was dishonorable, but her not telling Adrian she cheated on him with Dimitri and not breaking up with Adrian is dishonorable. In surprise, they find Adrian's mother on the list, which adds fuel to the motive she would have to kill Tatiana.



Chapters 31 and 32

Chapters 31 and 32 Summary

In Chapter 31, back at Court, Lissa is coming to the same conclusion as Rose—that Daniella is the one who killed Tatiana. Lissa is doing her hair and getting dressed to give her speech to the Council. When Lissa arrives in the Council room, Tasha confirms that Daniella was there the night Tatiana was murdered, but the official logs do not reflect her visit. Lissa is the last of the three candidates left to give her speech, in which she captivates the audience. When Lissa's speech ends and she is told that she cannot go on as a candidate for queen because she does not have at least one more living relative, the crowd goes wild, arguing that Lissa should be allowed to run. Rose has Sonya work on a spell that hides her identity so she can get into the hotel to talk to the Alchemists. When Mikhail meets Rose in the parking lot of the hotel, Adrian is with him. Mikhail is Sonya's former boyfriend, from before she was turned Strigoi, so they reunite in the hotel parking lot. Mikhail and Rose with the spell enter the hotel, find Sydney in her room and convince her to help get Ian to identify the Moroi in the picture. Ian admits the Moroi came to their St. Louis location with a woman but he doesn't know the woman's name.

In Chapter 32, Sydney is not happy to learn Rose is not taking Sydney with her. Rose reassures Sydney that once she reveals the information she has to Court, Sydney's name will also be cleared. Mikhail and Rose return to the others waiting in the parking lot and tell them what they found out from Ian. Everyone except Sonya piles into Mikhail's car to return to Court. Sonya stays behind because the car only fits five people and she is not needed in what they have to present to court. The car enters the gate and the guardians allow them through because spirit is in use to provide an illusion of a different identity to Jill, Dimitri and Rose. Mikhail and Adrian get the rest of the group admitted to the ballroom where the Council is meeting. Just as Rose is saying they need someone to get the room's attention, Abe, her father appears. Abe can see that something isn't right and while he doesn't recognize Rose's spirit-illusion face, he recognizes her remarks. Lissa, however, can see through the illusion and tell it is Rose. Abe makes his way to the front of the room, grabs the microphone and whistles into it to quiet the room. Rose then announces that Lissa has a living family member. Jill goes to the front and announces she is Lissa's sister. Adrian's mother, Daniella, stands and confirms that she helped Eric keep his secret and Rose realizes Daniella is the one that broke into the Alchemists' records. When Daniella asks whom Rose is, Rose removes the charmed bracelet hiding her identity and reveals herself to the room as Rose Hathaway.

Chapters 31 and 32 Analysis

Ironically, when Ian describes the woman the Moroi man was with, it is not the woman Rose expected. Rose infers Abe is blackmailing Sydney for another reason than helping



Sydney to get a job transfer out of Siberia. Ironically, while what Ian says clears Adrian's mother, Adrian is denying that the woman Ian implicates is guilty of the murder either. While a lot of the pieces fall into place for the woman Ian implicates as the murderess, Rose is struggling with how she was set up for the murder. As Rose, Mikhail and Dimitri analyze the data they have, they infer that the murderess must have had help because she could not do everything the murder required on her own. This suggests it was an inside job—someone in the queen's ranks helped the murderer carry out the act. Ironically, the group is walking into peril instead of fleeing it as they were when they broke Rose out of jail. In a way, it is as if Rose and Dimitri have come full circle, returning from where they came.



Chapters 33 and 34

Chapters 33 and 34 Summary

In Chapter 33, Adrian drops Dimitri's illusion disguise at the same time Rose drops her disguise. The guardians rush forward, but Rose's mom and Mikhail block the guardians from reaching Rose and Dimitri. Rose announces they know who killed the queen. Lissa and Hans both step forward to say Rose should finish, but they must restrain Rose and Dimitri before they reveal their evidence. Mikhail and Janine step aside to allow the guardians to reach Rose and Dimitri. Rose says she didn't like Tatiana but she didn't kill her and that Joe the janitor took money from the Moroi man who tried to attack Lissa to lie about Rose's whereabouts during the murder—thus implicating Rose in the murder. Before Rose speaks, she looks at Christian, implying that the announcement of the murderer is going to hurt Christian, so it must be someone in his family. Rose reveals to the reader that Tasha offered Dimitri a chance to marry and have children with her a year before, but when Dimitri said no, Rose thought Tasha had accepted just being Dimitri's friend. When Tasha found out about the relationship between Rose and Dimitri, however, Tasha set Rose up for the murder of the queen. Hans indicates the guardians should take Tasha and her guardian in for questioning. Tasha struggles with the guardians and manages to get one of their guns and take a Moroi woman hostage. Lissa tries to help stop Tasha from leaving the room at the same time the hostage breaks free and Tasha fires off a couple of shots. In the meantime, Rose has thrown herself in front of Lissa, taking the shots in the chest.

In Chapter 34, Rose wakes up in pain, but in a fancy bedroom instead of a hospital or a prison. She beckons Dimitri to get in the bed with her. Rose finds out that Tasha is in prison and all charges for the murder against Rose have been dropped. Dimitri says he realized when Rose was shot that she really does love and forgive him, from the look on her face as she looked at him while she was on the floor. Rose also finds out that both her and Dimitri's guardian status was reinstated and that Rose is now Lissa's guardian and Dimitri is Christian's guardian. Lissa interrupts and Dimitri leaves. Lissa tells Rose that they lost their spirit bond. When Rose asks where they are, Lissa tells her in the palace, and tells Rose she was elected queen.

Chapters 33 and 34 Analysis

Ironically, Abe, Lissa and Hans stand up for Rose and Dimitri even though none of them know what the evidence is the two have on who murdered Tatiana. Rose infers it was Tasha and her bodyguard that are involved with the murder, which is one of Ozeras, Christian's aunt. Rose also infers Tasha did it to put Lissa into power because Tasha and Lissa have similar beliefs, and Tasha thinks she can use Lissa's position as her nephew's girlfriend to convince Lissa of Tasha's other political views. When Dimitri speaks against Tasha, Rose notices a crushed look on Tasha's face, similar to the one Rose saw on Adrian's face when Adrian saw a look and moment pass between Rose



and Dimitri—suggesting something happened between Dimitri and Tasha or at least that Tasha has a crush on Dimitri. Tasha chooses her hostage poorly because the hostage has the power of compulsion, which if she can look into Tasha's eyes, the hostage can compel Tasha to do as she wishes. It seems as if Lissa's spirit dream that was part of her monarch tests is coming true.

Rose is astonished to find out that Adrian, Lissa, nor Sonya healed her, but instead Rose made it through surgery and survived on her own. The loss of Rose and Lissa's spirit bond worries Rose because Rose pulled the dark spirit from Lissa when they were bonded. Rose infers that if she is not capable of it that the spirit may lead to Lissa harming herself—again something Lissa saw in her spirit dream during the monarch test.



Chapters 35 and 36

Chapters 35 and 36 Summary

In Chapter 35, Lissa asks Rose to accompany her to meet with Jill about the coronation. Rose realizes that she is the glue that helps bridge Lissa and Jill together when she enters the meeting room where Jill is with Lissa. Rose asks Jill to participate in the coronation ceremony on behalf of Lissa. When Rose returns to her room, Adrian is waiting there. Lissa leaves so Adrian and Rose can discuss their relationship—the end of it. Rose confirms that she did not cheat on Adrian when she was at court, that it was later.

In Chapter 36, Rose and Dimitri wake up in each other's arms the next morning. Just as Rose is mentioning how their situation is perfect, she thinks back to Adrian's words about how others are not so lucky. Later is the coronation ceremony. Rose runs into her parents and she asks Abe what will happen to Jill now. Abe confirms without Jill Lissa cannot be queen so Lissa has to keep Jill safe.

Chapters 35 and 36 Analysis

Ironically, even though Lissa and Jill have the same father, they do not relate to each other and are having a hard time adjusting to being siblings. Lissa and Rose reverse roles, where Rose has to take a diplomatic stance to smooth the tension in the room between Lissa and Jill. Adrian points out that he is not the only one that Rose took down in her clearing her name - Jill, Eddie, Victor, and Sydney are all suffering one way or the other too.

Lissa telling Jill she wants Jill to be part of the coronation ceremony, which is not necessary, is a symbol that Lissa wants Jill to be part of her life. Lissa seems to be hiding something in her response on Jill staying at court so Lissa and her can get to know each other. This and Victor's warning to Rose that Lissa should send Jill away, foreshadows an attack on Jill, which would take Lissa out of her place as queen. As Adrian professes his love for Rose, he wrongly thinks Rose used him. Rose sees that his spirit already has Adrian on the edge of insanity, and what is happening with her may just push him over the edge.

The coronation ceremony is similar to the funeral of the late queen. It has some similar elements, as if leading the new queen into power may eventual lead to her premature death as well. Abe confirms what Rose was thinking about Jill and worried that someone may try to harm her to take the throne from Lissa. The merest hesitation that shows on Lissa's part during the ceremony also indicates that she now has Jill's life as another burden on her shoulders, but Rose cannot exactly tell what Lissa is feeling because the bond is broken. Rose predicts this is a new beginning for all of them.



Characters

Rose Hathaway

Rose Hathaway is the main character of the novel. Rose is a dhampir, which is a race of guardians responsible for protecting the Moroi race, which is a race of vampires. Rose's best friend is Lissa. Lissa and Rose share a spirit bond, so Rose can see into Lissa's mind because Lissa brought Rose back to life a few years ago. When the novel opens, Rose is in prison, accused of murdering Queen Tatiana, queen of the Moroi.

Abe Mazur

Abe Mazur is Rose's father. Abe is also a Moroi. Abe has a reputation for being a serpent, doing underhanded things. Rose, however, believes that it is simply her father's ability to work out situations as necessary.

Adrian

Adrian is Rose's current boyfriend. Adrian is a Moroi and he is also the great-nephew of Queen Tatiana, who Rose is accused of murdering at the opening of the novel.

Dimitri

Dimitri is an instructor that taught Rose how to fight. When he was an instructor, Dimitri was a dhampir, which is someone who is half-human and half vampire. Dimitri was bit by a Strigoi, which turned him into a Strigoi, which is someone that has had died and been brought back from the dead by another Strigoi. Lissa used her spirit power to turn Dimitri back into a dhampir. Rose fell in love with Dimitri when he was her instructor, which is against Moroi law.

Sydney Sage

Sydney Sage is an Alchemist, which is a group that helps to protect the human race from the vampire race. Rose's father is blackmailing Sydney, so Sydney helps to hide Rose while she is on the run after breaking out of prison. Sydney helps Rose and Dimitri find Lissa's illegitimate sibling and solve the murder of Queen Tatiana. At the end of the novel, it infers that Sydney is in trouble with the Alchemists for betraying them and helping Rose.



Vasilisa

Vasilisa Dragomir is a royal in the Moroi court. She goes by the name of Lissa. Lissa is also Rose's best friend. While Rose is on the run, Lissa is working back at Court to prove that Rose is not responsible for killing the queen. One of the distractions Lissa uses is to run for court, which is technically against the law because Lissa does not have any living relatives. This changes, however, when Rose discovers that Lissa has an illegitimate sister.

Jill Mastrano

Jill Mastrano is the 15-year-old illegitimate sister of Lissa. Jill is someone that Lissa and Jill know from their training at St. Vladimir's Academy, which is the vampire and dhampir school. Once Jill returns to court and proves her lineage, Lissa not only runs for the monarchy, but wins the throne.

Mikhail

Mikhail is a guardian of the Moroi court. He is also the ex-boyfriend of Sonya Karp. Mikhail helps Rose to get in to the Sydney while she is on house arrest and question one of Sydney's fellow Alchemists, Ian.

Ian

Ian is an Alchemist who accompanies Sydney to the Moroi Court when Sydney is under question for helping Rose. When Ian sees a photo of a Moroi that tried to attack Lissa and which Lissa's guardian, Eddie, kills, recognition washes over his face. Ian is the Alchemist that Rose and Mikhail question to find out who the Moroi is and who the woman the Moroi was with when Ian met him, which also ends up being the murderess of Queen Tatiana.

Queen Tatiana

Queen Tatiana is the late queen. She was having an affair with several men at court and was also involved in trying to change some of the laws. Her controversial personal and professional life provides several motives for people to kill her, but for some reason Rose has been framed for her murder. Queen Tatiana is also the aunt of Rose's boyfriend, Adrian.

Daniella Ishakov

Daniella Ishakov is Adrian's mother. At first, all evidence points to her as the murderer of the queen. Ultimately, however, it is Daniella who stands up at Court, seconding Rose



and Dimitri that Jill is in fact Lissa's sister. Daniella is responsible for breaking into the Alchemist's records to help hide Jill.

Tasha

Tasha is the royal aunt of Lissa's boyfriend, Christian. In the end, Tasha is identified as the murderer of the queen. The reason Tasha set Rose up for the murder is Tasha is in love with Dimitri, who was Rose's boyfriend and who Dimitri still loves.

James

James is the Moroi that tries to attack Lissa at court. He is the Moroi that Ian identifies in the photograph as being with Tasha. This is what ultimately leads to Rose and Dimitri solving the queen's murder.

Christian Ozera

Christian Ozera is part of the royal Ozera family. He is also Lissa's boyfriend. It is Christian's aunt that is responsible for murdering the queen.

Sonya Karp

Sonya Karp is a Moroi that is turned into a Strigoi. Sonya is a relative of Lissa's illegitimate sibling. One of the Drashkov brothers, Robert, turns Sonya from a Strigoi back to a Moroi. Sonya then leads the group to the Mastrano residence and helps to keep Rose safe along the way.



Objects/Places

Alchemists

The Alchemists are a secret society. The purpose of the Alchemists is to protect dhamphirs and humans from vampires.

Dot Tattoo

The dot tattoo Lissa and the other nominees wear is a mixture of blood, earth, and compulsion. The tattoo keeps the nominees from revealing the tests and processes of electing a new monarch to the court.

Stake

A steel stake is the weapon the guardians use to kill Strigoi. They drive the stake into the hearts of the Strigoi to kill them. Moroi with special powers can also use the steel stake to bring Strigoi back to life and return them Moroi.

West Virginia

A small town in West Virginia is where Abe arranges for Rose and Dimitri to hide until they solve the queen's murder. After Rose breaks free of Dimitri and tries to get away, it attracts police attention and the three—Rose, Sydney and Dimitri—have to move to another town to hide out.

Michigan

While Rose, Sydney and Dimitri are on the run from West Virginia, they head to Michigan to find Sonya Karp. Sonya, after returning to a Moroi, leads the trio to another part of Michigan

St. Vladimir's Academy

St. Vladimir's Academy is the school where Lissa and Rose were students. Dimitri was their fighting instructor. The Academy is also a facade for the Moroi Court, because the humans think the community behind the gates is the school rather than a race of vampires.



Dhampirs

Dhampirs are the guardians of the Morois. They train at St. Vladimir's to learn how to fight and protect the Moroi race in hand-to-hand combat.

Moroi

The Moroi is a race of vampires. The Morois live under a monarchy that is run by a king or a queen. Since their late queen is murdered, the Moroi are in the process of electing another leader.

Strigoi

Strigoi is a race of walking dead vampires. Strigoi are individuals that are dead but then brought back to life. Strigoi have an evil side that Moroi do not have.

Feeder

A feeder is a human that gives blood to the vampires. Moroi use feeders to get the blood they need to survive. When the group is staying at the Mastrano residence, Emily Mastrano, Jill's mother, brings in a feeder for the vampires to feed on and regain their strength.



Themes

Friendship

Rose and Lissa are best friends. Adrian and Eddie are very close friends of Lissa's as well. The bond of friendship between Lissa and Rose is real and a spiritual one. Spiritually, Rose can link into Lissa's mind to see what Lissa sees and feel what Lissa feels. When Rose is charged with the murder of the queen, Lissa and her friends plot to break Rose out of prison and buy some time while they investigate to find the real killer of the queen. An unlikely friendship also forms between Rose, Dimitri and Sydney. Alchemists do not tend to take the sides of vampires, but Sydney believes that Rose is innocent, so she puts herself on the line to help Rose.

There are few true friendships in this book. In this book, there are more acquaintances and the appearance of friendship. However, friendship plays an important role in the novel because it is the friendship between Lissa and Rose that ultimately leads to Rose's innocence and Lissa becoming queen.

Coming of Age

One of the primary themes that runs throughout the novel is growing up and coming of age. In some way, each of the characters learns lessons about growing up and dealing with responsibilities in life. Primarily, Rose's sentencing for murdering the queen is the spark that forces Rose to come of age and deal with some very adult situations. First, Rose has to find out who the real murderer of the queen is while she is on the run with her ex-boyfriend and lover, Dimitri.

Dimitri is struggling with his own type of coming of age. While Dimitri is seven years older than Rose, Dimitri is a Moroi turned Strigoi and returned to a Moroi. Dimitri is dealing with the guilt and shame of all of the evil acts he was involved with when he was Strigoi. Not only does Dimitri learn how to forgive himself for his behaviors, but he also learns that other people such as Rose, have forgiven him too.

Lissa deals with coming of age as one of the youngest princesses to run for queen in the Moroi Court. Not only is Lissa dealing with her race for queen, but she is also trying to prove Rose's innocence. In the end, Lissa becomes one of the only two queens that have ever ruled at the youngest age of eighteen. In addition to dealing with the pressures of being a young queen, Lissa also learns that she has a stepsister. While this upsets Lissa because it means that her father cheated on her mother, having a sibling also means that Lissa is not the last of the Dragomirs. Lissa has to learn how to deal with these very adult situations, even though she has only been of majority age for about a year.



Competition

Competition exists between the five primary races in the book: Moroi, Strigoi, dhampirs, Alchemists and humans. Moroi and Strigoi are in constant competition with each other. The Strigoi try to attack and kill the Moroi and the Moroi have to protect themselves against the attacks. The dhampirs are guardians for the Moroi. While the dhampirs are not in competition with the Moroi, they are in competition with the Strigoi. In fact, it is a life or death competition.

The Alchemists are responsible from protecting the human race from all of the other races. When there is a Strigoi, Moroi or dhampir killing or incident, it is the Alchemists that are responsible for covering it up. While the Alchemists are not in direct competition with any of the groups, the Alchemists have a disdain for what the vampire races stand for and their beliefs.

Adrian and Dimitri are also in an indirect competition for Rose's love. When the novel opens, Rose is in a relationship with Adrian. Rose, however, has always been in love with Dimitri. Dimitri's love wins out in the end, leaving Adrian upset and hurt.

The eligible royal Moroi are in competition with each other when running for court. This pits Lissa against the other Moroi royals who want to be king or queen. Initially, Lissa only runs in the competition for queen to buy some time to solve the previous queen's murder. Ultimately, Lissa proves her worthiness and wins the monarchy.

Style

Point of View

The novel is in the first-person point of view. The novel unfolds through Rose telling the story as it occurs. In addition to telling the story in the present tense, Rose also provides background information on events that have occurred in the past.

The point of view of this novel is an intimate point of view that allows a reader to connect closely with the main character. The reader cares what happens to the narrator even though she is an accused murderer. The point of view also allows the author to inject her own opinions into the narration and to expand on the events taking place around the main character 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 at the Royal Court of the Moroi. The setting of this novel is important because it paints a picture of the culture and lifestyle of the Moroi and dhampirs. The main characters of the novel are vampires, Strigoi, humans and Alchemists. For this reason, the setting of the novel has a strong impact on the characters because they live constantly in a world that is stuck between the old Moroi traditions and the modern world. Additional locations in the novel include West Virginia and Michigan, which is two of the states some of the main characters travel to in search of proof that Rose did not commit murder and to find the illegitimate sister of Lissa.

The setting of this novel works well with the plot. At first, the reader is not aware that the threat of proving Rose's innocence is a major motivator to the characters. However, as events unfold, the way of life of the Moroi continuously leaks into the consciousness of the characters. Even though the primary plot of the novel focuses on proving Rose's innocence, the reader soon realizes that it is fear of the imprisonment or death war that motivated most of the characters in the novel.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is informal and modern. 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 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 contains thirty-six chapters. Each chapter is ten to twenty pages long. The chapters tell the story in exposition and dialogue. The author also injects her own voice throughout the novel, giving her opinion 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 Rose's friendships and relationships as she searches for evidence to prove her innocence. One subplot follows the competition among the races, including fighting to find the illegitimate sister of Lissa, so Lissa has a chance to become queen. Another subplot follows the coming of age of each of the characters as the events in the novel unfold. All these plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

"I saw the movie. Your subtle symbolism isn't really all that subtle. Unless you've hidden a file in it" (Chapter 1, p. 21).

"I have to know. If there is another Dragomir, I'll find them. But you have to tell me. Did you write this letter? Is it true?" (Chapter 2, p. 26).

"It's going to be okay. This'll work. We can do this" (Chapter 3, p. 40).

"Rose, if you escape...you're more or less confirming your guilt. You'll be a fugitive. If the guardians find you, they aren't going to need a trial or sentence to kill you on sight" (Chapter 4, p. 55).

"This is where we catch our next ride" (Chapter 5, p. 82).

"We told you earlier: You can hardly go looking for clues at Court. You need to stay away. you need to stay safe" (Chapter 6, p. 91).

"Not that it matters who I want seeing as I can't vote" (Chapter 7, p. 116).

"No one! Lady Ivashkov just wanted to make sure her son was clear. I fudged the details for her. It was the guy...the other guy who came later...who wanted to know when Hathaway was around" (Chapter 8, p. 132).

"Strigoi are The Lost. You're Tainted because you joined the modern world and left behind their backward ways for your own messed up customs" (Chapter 9, p. 148).

"Actually, the law says she can. According to the way the nomination policy is written, one person from each royal line may run for the monarch position. That's all it says. One person from each line may run. There is no mention of how many people need to be in her family, as there is for her to vote on the Council. She simply needs three nominations—and the law doesn't specify which family they come from" (Chapter 10, p. 164).

"I said we need more time. And I know how we can get it...but...well there's something you have to do for me. And, you, uh, probably shouldn't mention it to Lissa yet" (Chapter 11, p. 173).



"I've sent someone to ask about her. It might work out. Strigoi are hardly the type to keep a database. But they do occasionally keep an eye on one another, if only for their own self-preservation. We'll find out soon if there are any hits" (Chapter 12, p. 195).

"Believe me, I'd love it if you could find out who did that to her. I want you to and will help if I can. But I'm telling you, look for someone with political motives. Not Romantic ones" (Chapter 13, p. 220).

"Nominees have no requirements concerning how many people are in her family. They only need three royal nominations to be confirmed" (Chapter 14, p. 233).

"The point is everything crazy you just saw in the Council room. For every argument, for every time someone drags out the law books again, we have more time to save Rose and find out who killed Tatiana" (Chapter 15, p. 239).

"Time for questioning" (Chapter 16, p. 275).

"Can we use our magic?" (Chapter 17, p. 280).

"Life like that...you don't—no, you can't waste it" (Chapter 18, p. 305).

"This goes beyond tradition, Christian. The elections are a core part of society. Ingrained. We can talk about changing age laws or fighting or whatever, but this is ancient. And far-reaching. Those people out there? They're not all Americans. They've come from other countries. I forget sometimes that even though the Court is here, it rules Moroi everywhere. What happens here affects the world" (Chapter 19, p. 311).

"I'll lead you there" (Chapter 20, p. 342).

"No. That's for those that fail. You go out this door" (Chapter 21, p. 364).

"Still...that keeps buying us time to clear you and get you home" (Chapter 22, p. 367).

"Rose didn't do it! It was a setup!" (Chapter 23, p. 387).

"We did it. Against all reason...somehow, we found Lissa's lost sister. Do you realize what this means? Lissa can have everything she's entitled to now. They can't deny her



anything. Hell, she could be queen if she wanted. And Jill...Well, she's part of an ancient royal family. That's got to be a good thing, right?" (Chap. 24, p. 401).

"They didn't get me. You were their priority, and a little compulsion made sure they didn't see me. I took off...I hated to leave Emily, though" (Chapter 25, p. 418).

"You carry darkness too, but it's not fading" (Chapter 26, p. 424).

"Here it is then: What must a queen possess in order to truly rule her people?" (Chapter 27, p. 444).

"Spirit. She's pulled and pulled for so long...and managed to hold it back. It's been waiting, though. Always waiting" (Chapter 28, p. 463).

"You aren't invincible. No one expects you to be" (Chap. 29, p. 476).

"And it's where we're going to find proof that Daniella Ivashkov murdered Tatiana" (Chapter 30, p. 501).

"Then I'm afraid your part in this game is over, Princess Dragomir. You may sit down now" (Chapter 31, p. 512).

"Because if the Dragomirs faded, spirit might too. And Adrian would be safe. Spirit was getting too much attention too fast, and you needed to get rid of any evidence about Jill to kill Vasilisa's credibility. Then why admit it now?" (Chapter 32, p. 537).

"James was probably going to fake an attack and run...enough to generate sympathy and more support for Vasilisa. Which it did—just a little more severely" (Chapter 33, p. 546).

"Rose! Running for queen was supposed to be a diversion. I'm only eighteen!" (Chapter 34, p. 563).

"Not just me little dhampir. There's been a lot of collateral damage along the way while you battled against the world. I was a victim, obviously. But what about Jill? What happens to her now that you've abandoned her to the royal wolves? And Eddie? Have you thought about him? And where's your Alchemist?" (Chapter 35, p. 579).

"Until Lissa can get the laws changed—and hopefully, she will—Jill is all that allows her to keep her throne. If something happens to Jill, Lissa will no longer be queen. So. What would you do?" (Chapter 36, p. 589).



Topics for Discussion

Who is Rose Hathaway? Why is she in prison? What does she do when her friends break her out of prison? Why? What does Rose recall about her childhood? What is the most important moment in Rose's life as later described in a later chapter? Why is this important? How does it change Rose's life?

Who is Dimitri? Why is he involved in the plot to break Rose out of prison? What does he do to free Rose? Why? What does Dimitri recall about his life when he was Strigoi? What is the most important moment in Dimitri's life as later described in a later chapter? Why is this important? How does it change Dimitri's life?

Discuss the relationship between Rose and Dimitri. Are they friends? Is their competition in their relationship? How does Rose feel about Dimitri? How does Dimitri feel about Rose? Why does Rose think she is not in love with Dimitri? What does he do about it? What happens? Does Rose tell Dimitri the truth? Explain.

Who is Sydney Sage? Why is she involved in the plot to help hide Rose? What role does she play in helping Rose? How does Sydney feel about vampires? Why does Sydney's feelings about vampires not relate to her helping Rose? Why is this important? How do Sydney's feelings change as the novel unfolds?

How does Lissa become queen? What does this mean for her future? How does Lissa react emotionally to this change in her life? Why does Jill agree to help Lissa? Why does Lissa ask Jill to participate in her coronation? What causes the spirit bond between Lissa and Rose to break? What does the reader later learn was the cause of the break? How might this affect Lissa's future battle with darkness and depression?

Discuss the culture of the Moroi. What impact does the monarchy have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them? Why is the election an issue to these characters? How does each character learn to deal with Lissa becoming queen?

Who is the queen's murderer? What is the motive for murder? Is it political? Is it person? Is it both? What happens when the murderer is identified? How does it affect each of the characters?