

# **The Lunatic Cafe Study Guide**

**The Lunatic Cafe by Laurell K. Hamilton**

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# Plot Summary

Anita Blake is a vampire slayer and animator, raising the dead for a living. The holiday season is slow, and Anita is drawn into an investigation of missing lycanthropes or shapechangers, and a battle between two alpha males for control of the local werewolf pack.

Anita Blake is a busy woman. Working for Animators Inc, and dating a werewolf take up quite a bit of her time. Anita is at the early stages of her relationship with Richard, and though he is not quite human, she is still willing to see where things will lead. That changes when they meet up with Jean-Claude, the master vampire of St. Louis, who plants the seeds of doubt when he reveals a battle for control of the local pack between Richard and Marcus. Anita is angry that Richard had not been forthcoming with her, a fact the Jean-Claude was more than willing to exploit.

The pack summons Anita to help her locate eight missing lycanthropes in the area. Lycanthropes change form, from human to animal and human. Werewolves, wererats, werepanthers and were tigers, are examples of lycanthropes. Though she is not an investigator, Anita agrees to help them, if only to be closer to the source of Richard's struggles. The investigation leads in several directions, one of which is tied to a murdered hunter found at a nature center. The man had been killed by a lycanthrope, a fact that Anita discovered after a dispute with the local police regarding jurisdiction. When a Hindu immortal figure is found skinned in an area river, witches become another possibility.

Throughout the novel, Anita's personal relationships constantly intrude, as she is unsure if she can love Richard enough, and the jealous master vampire Jean-Claude does his best to interfere with their future. Even with the distractions that constantly tug at Anita, she is focused on her job, that of finding the missing shapeshifters. A dark plot is revealed when Anita and Richard are baited into rescuing a new member of the pack. Kaspar Gunderson, a bitter, shapeshifting swan has decided to profit from his affliction. Cursed by a witch because of his prideful manner, Gunderson has been selling members of his pack to hunters, providing the excitement for which the law breakers yearn. With the help of the local county law, Gunderson has been providing lycanthropes as needed. His jealousy over the predators of his pack has made him more than willing to use them for his own good.

Anita and Richard, as well as Edward, a bounty hunter are captured by Kaspar and the sheriff, and things reach a climax when the trio is able to escape from their cages and the hunters are vanquished. Anita's relationship with Richard may be permanently damaged, not due to his being a werewolf, but because of Anita's sense of justice. By killing the deputy that had ultimately released her, Anita had demonstrated her unwillingness to yield in her beliefs, and Richard is unsure if that is a surmountable obstacle. The couple still dates, and Anita dates the master vampire as well, but one can not be sure if vanquishing evil is the right path, or even what evil truly is.



# Chapters 1-5

## Chapters 1-5 Summary

Anita Blake is a vampire slayer and raises the dead. Dating the second in line for the position of leader of the local pack of werewolves has complicated her life more than she would have thought, and the master of the city, Jean-Claude is still trying to win her heart. Anita might be tempted, but the fact that he is dead keeps her away. Anita meets with her last client of the night before a date with Richard, her boyfriend who also happens to be a werewolf. George Smitz is looking for his wife Peggy, who has been missing for two days. Smitz is unwilling to go to the police because his wife is a lycanthrope, and she might lose her job if her disease was discovered. Anita can not help Smitz but connects him with Veronica Sims, her best friend, who is a private investigator.

At The Fox, a downtown St. Louis theater, Anita meets her boyfriend Richard Zeeman. Six-foot-one and darkly handsome, Richard is a werewolf. He had contracted the disease after being vaccinated against it. The pair watches the musical *Guys and Dolls*, thoroughly enjoying themselves. Anita discovers that Richard has a Rodgers and Hammerstein collection, and Anita is concerned that Richard is a romantic, believing in the possibility of happily ever after. Blake has not believed in happy endings since her mother's death when she was eight. Richard promises that he will not die on Anita, and the two are interrupted by Jean-Claude, the master or head vampire in the city. The vampire brings up an issue Richard is having with his pack leader and mentions that Marcus wishes to involve Anita. Blake is angry that Richard had not told her, unsure if he wished to protect her, or because of another underlying reason. Either way the pair will discuss it, or they will not date again. Anita's pager goes off signaling that the police need her. Angry, Anita leaves the Jean-Claude and Richard to find a phone. Anita calls Detective Sergeant Rudolf Storr. There has been a murder, and the police have requested her expertise. It will take Anita at least 45 minutes to get to the crime scene, but Dolf tells her they will be waiting. Blake leaves the theater without seeing Richard or Jean-Claude. As far as she is concerned they can deal with each other and leave her out of it.

## Chapters 1-5 Analysis

Anita Blake is a strong-willed young woman, 5'3, and 24 years old. She might be small in size, but her job does not allow her to be faint of heart or weak willed. As a licensed vampire slayer and animator, Anita deals with monsters of all kinds on a daily basis. While at work Anita runs into what appears to be another case of her boss assigning her work that is not in her field in order to make money. Anita helps the man as much as she can but is angry that Burt had promised George Smitz something she could not deliver. The conflicts between Burt and Anita seem to be an ongoing issue and one that will crop up again.



At the theater Anita meets her new boyfriend Richard Zeeman, who also happens to be a werewolf. It is clear that even though Anita is out to enjoy the evening, she is always on guard, carrying her gun and making sure to position herself in such a way that it is easily accessible. When the show is over, Anita's personality becomes a bit clearer while the couple discuss musicals. Richard, though a werewolf by accident, is able to look on the lighter side of things. Anita has been hurt too much and too often to be anything but cautious. Richard hopes that this is a façade that Anita simply shows the world. Anita hopes that Richard is not an eternal optimist. Reality for her is monsters and slaying them. Romance has no place in her world.

The appearance of Jean-Claude at the theater is another issue with which Anita has to deal. The master of the city is not happy that Blake is dating Richard and goads the werewolf by revealing the battle of succession in the wolf pack. Anita is angry at Richard for not telling her what is going on. Anita is angry because she believes Richard is trying to protect her, and she is capable of taking care of herself. This is a persistent theme with Blake, perhaps because of her small size, or possibly because she feels a need to prove herself in some way.

The police call Anita for help at a crime scene. Blake does work for the police when a murder takes place that obviously has some sort of ties to the supernatural. Anita leaves the theater without returning to her date, still angry, and showing that for the most part she works alone.



# Chapters 6-10

## Chapters 6-10 Summary

As Anita leaves the theater she notices a woman standing in the middle of the sidewalk. Small, blond and beautiful, the woman stares at Blake, obviously trying to intimidate her. Blake realizes that the woman is a vampire, and when the woman tries to control her thinking, Blake realizes that the vampire is approximately 200 years old. Anita pulls out her Browning, her favored gun, but is seen by a police officer and ordered to lower her weapon. The vampire who says her name is Gretchen uses her powers to control the officer's mind. Gretchen wants Anita to leave Jean-Claude alone. The vampire is in love with the master vampire and does not like the competition of the Executioner. Anita is known in the vampire community as the executioner because she is a sanctioned vampire slayer. Anita assures Gretchen that she is not interested in Jean-Claude, but the vampire does not believe her. Jean-Claude arrives and is angry at Gretchen for approaching Anita. Gretchen is contrite and begs forgiveness, but the master is livid. Jean-Claude orders her away and apologizes to Anita. Blake continues on her way to meet the police at the scene of the murder.

Arriving at the scene, Anita meets St Gerard County Deputy Aikensen. Aikensen surprises Blake by being unwilling to listen to her and simply ordering her from the scene. Though Anita tells the deputy that she had been called, Aikensen becomes more agitated and draws his weapon when she yells for Dolph. The deputy will not allow the orders of his sheriff to be ignored, and the sheriff had said no civilians were allowed on scene. Sheriff Titus finally arrives to diffuse the situation, though Aikensen is still visibly angry.

Meeting with Dolph and Perry, Anita learns that there is a jurisdictional fight going on. Sheriff Titus does not believe the victim has been murdered, that all they have is simple bear attack. At the time the call had come in, there were no deputies in the area, and a city officer had responded to the scene. That officer had made the call to the Regional Preternatural Investigation Team, which was standard procedure when a death might involve some sort of preternatural creature. Anita examines the body and comes to the conclusion that the man was killed by a shapeshifter. Calling Titus down to the body Anita explains her reasoning, and Titus reluctantly agrees. Preternatural investigations take place when there is a possibility a crime involved something or someone not entirely human, such as a lycanthrope.

Arriving home at 2AM, Anita is not happy to find Irving Griswold waiting for her. A reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and a werewolf, Irving has come to tell Anita that Marcus, the local pack leader, wants to meet her. Anita had learned from Jean-Claude about the internal battle for the pack leader position, but was not aware that Richard had fought Marcus and won. The only reason that Richard was not pack leader is that he had refused to kill Marcus. Anita does not want to meet with Marcus that night, but Irving will be hurt if she does not go to the meeting. Blake agrees but only if Marcus



will allow Irving to be present. Irving and Anita drive separate cars to The Lunatic Café to meet with Marcus. The pair is met by Raina Wallis, the proprietor of the Café. Anita can tell that the woman is a lycanthrope and realizes that most of the patrons at the café are lycanthropes as well. Raina comments to Irving that she won't bite him, at least not yet. Irving explains to Anita that Raina is the alpha female of the pack, and if his punishment for not obeying Marcus is going to be severe, Raina will administer it. Raina leads Anita and Irving to a room at the end of a narrow hallway. Within the room two men were standing on a raised platform. Alfred, approximately 6'1, and dark, apparently a bodyguard, and Marcus, the pack leader. Marcus orders Alfred to search Anita for weapons and surprises her when he asks for her help. Marcus is not willing to discuss matter in front of Irving, and the parties negotiate so that Irving is able to leave with no further threats of harm to him. Alfred searches Anita and removes her Browning, but fails to find her Firestar, a smaller, lighter gun. Blake has eight silver bullets and feels a little better because of them.

## Chapters 6-10 Analysis

Anita's life becomes more complex when Gretchen, a vampire is waiting outside the theater to meet her. Gretchen is obviously in love with Jean-Claude and does not believe Anita is not interested in pursuing a relationship with the master vampire. The vampire demonstrates her power to cloud the mind of humans when a police officer arrives on the scene. Gretchen is confused that she does not have the same control over Anita. All animators have some natural immunity to vampires; however, Anita has more than most. Jean-Claude is very angry at Gretchen for approaching Anita, and the female vampire realizes her error at having angered the master of the city. Though Gretchen is devastated by Jean-Claude's anger, she is determined to keep Anita away from him.

At the scene of the murder, Anita is confronted by the aggressive deputy Aikensen, and the situation quickly escalates. While speaking with Rolph and Detective Perry, it becomes clear the sheriff is unbending in his belief that the dead man was not murdered. Anita examines the remains of the hunter and determines that a shapeshifter had laid in wait, had in reality been hunting the hunter. Though Sheriff Titus is more reasonable than his deputy, there is a great deal of animosity at the scene. Anita believes that it is due to the jurisdictional issues, but the attitude of the county officers foreshadows future problems for Anita.

Finding Irving the werewolf waiting for her is yet another problem in the long night for Anita. Because Anita is friends with Irving, she is willing to go with him to a meeting with Marcus. Blake also is willing to attend the meeting so she might find out why Richard has not told her what is going on in the pack. Anita is shocked to find out that Richard has already fought Marcus. When Irving explains that the fight for the position of pack leader is a fight to the death, Anita is not sure whether to be impressed with Richard or angrier with him. The fact that Richard believed he could negotiate with Marcus proves that he is a romantic, and unrealistic.



At the Lunatic Café, Anita has her first run in with Raina Wallis, the alpha female of the pack. Raina intimates that she has had sex with Richard, but Blake does not react to her goading. A battle of wills takes place regarding Irving's safety, and Marcus is impressed with Anita's unwillingness to back down. It is decided that Irving is under Anita's protection. No one can hurt Irving without challenging Anita, and they can not challenge her because if she is hurt she will be unable to help them. Anita does not want Irving hurt, so she tells him to go, and she allows Alfred, Marcus' bodyguard to search her for weapons. Though Blake is left with one gun, it is important to notice that even in a room filled with shapeshifters, she does not show any fear.





# Chapters 11-15

## Chapters 11-15 Summary

More people arrive for the meeting that Marcus has called. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce the shapeshifters to Anita. Marcus believes Anita can help them. An argument takes place when Marcus states that he speaks for Anita. Blake objects, stating that she is not a pack member and speaks for herself. Alfred comes forward and grabs her by the throat. Goaded by another pack member, Marcus orders Alfred to release Anita. Blake pulls her Firestar and stands with her back against the wall. Raina suggests that Alfred be the one to disarm Anita, as he failed to find the Firestar when he searched her, and Marcus orders him to do so. Anita warns Marcus that she will kill Alfred, promising that she is not bluffing. Anita tells Alfred to leave her alone, that she will shoot him if he does not stop. The werewolf is not afraid of being shot as he can heal from terrible wounds. Anita warns him that she has silver plated bullets in the gun and will kill him with a shot to the heart. Alfred leaps for her and Blake fires, shooting Alfred in the chest. Marcus is stunned, but Anita reminds him that she does not bluff. Marcus responds that he is as responsible for Alfred's death as she is, and that he believes her now.

The lycanthropes in the room begin to move toward the body. Gabriel, a man dressed in leather dips his hand in the blood and licks his fingers. Another woman laps the blood from the floor. Marcus argues, but the pack descends on Alfred's body. Anita inches toward the door, but when she opens it finds the long hallway filled with the lycanthropes from the café. The only shapeshifter in the room that appears not to be affected by the scent of blood approaches and asks if Anita needs help. Kaspar Gunderson tells Blake the reason he is not bothered by the body is that he is not a predator. A young man approaches from the hall and holds onto Anita, mouthing her neck. Though she is uncomfortable, Anita does not harm the man, as he does not appear aggressive. Rafael cuts his own arm in order to draw the man, Jason, away from Anita. Jason tosses Anita aside, nearly knocking her unconscious. His strength reminds her to be very cautious. Marcus hands her a folder containing information about why they need her help. Anita and Kaspar leave the hall and enter the café, where people are still eating, unaware of the carnage that is taking place two doors away. As she is leaving the restaurant, Anita sees Edward, a hired killer. Edward is known as 'death' to the vampire community. Edward does not acknowledge Anita, and she pretends that she does not see him. Returning home Anita calls Edward and leaves a message to call her. In the folder Marcus had given her, Anita finds information about eight missing lycanthropes. The werewolf community would like Anita's help in finding out what happened to them. They are unwilling to go to the police, as they still have trouble with authority outside of the pack. Barely asleep, Edward returns her call. Edward tells Anita that he is hunting someone, but does not know who. He has a video with the intended targets and would like Anita to see it. They make arrangements to meet the following evening so she may do so.



The following morning Anita and Ronnie go shopping for Christmas. Ronnie asks Anita about her date, and Anita tells her about her anger at Richard lying to her. Ronnie is patient but reminds Anita that Richard did not lie; he just didn't tell her everything. Anita can be guilty of the same thing. Talk moves to the missing lycanthropes and George Smitz. Smitz had given Ronnie pictures of his missing wife, and the man is unaware that his wife is part of a larger group of missing shapeshifters. Ronnie recommends that Anita get photos of the others that are missing. Anita will try to get the pictures from Kaspar, as she is still upset with Richard.

Anita meets her 1PM appointment, Elvira Drew. Elvira states that she is writing a book about shapeshifters, and Burt Vaughn, Anita's boss had told her that Anita would be able to connect her with a wererat. Anita excuses herself to go speak with Burt. Blake has spoken to Burt several times about assigning her clients that did not need her specific skills, but he continually ignores her request. The secretary tried to stop Anita, stating that Burt was with a client, but Blake knocked and entered the office anyway. Kaspar Gunderson sat in Burt's office, acting like he had never met Anita before. Blake plays along, and Kaspar waits outside while she argues with Burt. Though technically Elvira Drew's request is outside of Anita's job description, Burt sees no reason that Anita can not ask any of the wererats she might be acquainted with if they would like to take part in the book project. Anita is shocked that Burt seems agreeable to her request that clients be cleared by her before assigning them to her, and she asks him why. Burt tells her that Gunderson had just paid twice the normal fee for Anita to raise a zombie for him. To Burt, anything is fine as long as there is money to be made.

## Chapters 11-15 Analysis

Though Marcus and Raina sit together touching, Anita does not sense they are a couple; it is more a show of solidarity. Anita is offended when Marcus says he speaks for her, and the unrest in the pack becomes more evident. Arguing over her right to speak for herself angers Alfred, who goes after Anita. The pack members question why Alfred is fighting for Marcus, questioning who is pack leader. Marcus calls Alfred off, but when Anita draws her weapon, Raina goads Marcus into having Alfred take Anita's gun. It is unclear why Raina would intentionally put a member of the pack at risk; however, upcoming events will provide an explanation.

Anita is forced to kill Alfred, and Marcus is shocked, almost contrite. He seems to understand that though he is pack leader, he does not control Anita. It is evident that Marcus does not have as much control of the pack as he would like when the other members present begin to circle the body, and a few taunt the pack leader with Alfred's blood. Anita is shocked by what she sees. The lycanthropes may be in human form, but they have animal qualities. Some present seem to exhibit control over such tendencies, but others do not seem to have the ability. When Anita opens the door and finds the hall filled with shapeshifters from the restaurant it is even more obvious. Jason is in a daze, unaware that he is touching and tasting Blake and does not even notice the gun that she waves in front of his eyes. Rafael, the rat king, draws his own blood in order to distract the werewolf from Anita and give her the opportunity to escape. The strength



that Jason shows by simply tossing Blake aside reminds her once again that though the lycanthropes may look human, they are not.

Kaspar Gunderson helps Anita to flee the pack's feast on Alfred's body. Gunderson is not affected by the scent of blood as the pack members are, explaining that he is not a predator. His almost feathery hair leads Anita to think that he is some type of bird. Why Gunderson was at the meeting is a mystery that will later become clear. At the bar Anita sees Edward. Anita is known as the Executioner in the vampire world. Edward is known as Death. Edward does not acknowledge Anita though she is certain he has seen her. Aware that he does not want to be exposed, Anita leaves without looking at him again.

The file of information that Marcus has provided her intrigues Anita. Marcus seems to think that Anita can help the shapeshifters because other members of the community would be more willing to speak to her than to the authorities. Edward returns her call and is very guarded with the information he provides Anita. Edward normally works alone but is willing to share his information with Anita, as he needs her help in determining who is on the tape he possesses.

Meeting with Ronnie to Christmas shop is a normal activity in a normal world, yet Anita has trouble with even this. Her life as an animator and slayer has seeped into every aspect of her life. Though the pair discusses some mundane things, talk turns to the missing lycanthropes and Anita's relationship with Richard. Ronnie gives Anita some sage advice, and the women part so Anita can go to work.

At the office Anita meets with Elvira Drew. The beautiful woman explains her need to meet with a wererat, at times trying to come across as the stereotypical dumb blond. When she sees Anita does not fall for the act, she states what she wants simply and persuasively. Anita's meeting with her boss also seems typical. Burt is all about money and making more of it. The holiday season is a slow one for raising zombies, and Burt is willing to take money from anyone, whether Anita can provide the help they require or not. Anita is puzzled when Burt tells Anita that Kaspar is in the office to hire her. Gunderson has told Burt that he would like to raise an ancestor, someone from his family that might be able to provide information on a curse. There are two possible animations required; however, if the first zombie can provide the information, Burt keeps the fees from both.



# Chapters 16-20

## Chapters 16-20 Summary

Meeting with Kaspar, Anita does not get much more information that the file contained. Kaspar is only able to answer the questions that Marcus wants him to. The list of suspects to question are all rivals for Marcus' authority. Marcus believes that all shapeshifters should answer to one person, one united pack. Marcus wants to be that person. Richard calls during the meeting and Anita makes arrangements to meet him for dinner at her apartment. Anita is still angry that Richard had not told her about his issues in the pack, and Richard has heard about her night at the Lunatic Café. Before Gunderson leaves Anita asks him if his affliction is really a family curse. He responds that it is a curse, though not a family one. Kaspar recommends that she read the *Swan and the Princess* in its original form.

At her apartment building, Anita finds Richard waiting for her in the apartment of Mrs. Pringle across the hall. The two discuss things over Chinese food, each of them growing angrier. Richard is stunned when Anita states that she would shoot him to protect Irving. Anita is angry with Richard for not sharing the danger he is facing with her and shocked when he tells her that Alfred was his friend. Richard is concerned that since Anita witnessed the pack at its worst she might be having second thoughts about continuing to see him. Richard is saddened to point out that Anita has not even touched him, so she goes to him and holds him. The two kiss and things soon start to get out of control. Anita stops them and explains to Richard that she is unwilling to give herself to anyone and risk being hurt as she had been when she was younger. To her surprise Richard proposes marriage. Shocking even herself, Anita says yes.

Anita meets Edward at his hotel. While she cleans the chicken blood from her night's work raising zombies from her face, he orders them room service. After the meal arrives they sit down to watch the movie. Anita is shocked to discover it is pornography. A naked woman is having sex with a masked man, when another man enters the scene. The second man is Alfred. The first man is draped over the woman from behind when a startling change occurs. The man changes into a panther, though the woman is not surprised. In fact she is pleased. Alfred enters the scene again and quickly changes into werewolf. The woman welcomes Alfred as she had the panther and the pair quickly climax. Sated the woman is smiling when Alfred still in werewolf form slashes her with his claws and tears out her throat. The lycanthropes begin to feed on the dead woman. Anita is disgusted and tells Edward to turn off the movie. Edward explains that the dead woman's father has hired him to kill the two shapeshifters. Anita tells him that Alfred is already dead but will not give him details. With Edward's permission she calls the Lunatic Café looking for Richard, threatening a waitress who is not as helpful as she could be. Richard agrees to come to Anita, and then makes her apologize to the waitress. The pack now looks on Anita as a rogue dominant lycanthrope, and threats are not taken lightly.



While waiting for Richard, Edward and Anita talk. Anita wants to know how long Edward has been in town. It occurs to her that he would be more than capable of killing eight lycanthropes. Edward seems to challenge Anita but does not carry it out. He would like to know which of them is better at killing but will not harm her tonight. Richard arrives and wants to know what is going on. Edward wants to finish his dinner, but Anita can not watch him eat steak and see the movie without getting sick. She waits in the bathroom and Richard joins her. Anita tells him about the beginning of the movie and is stunned to learn that Raina had convinced Marcus that pornography with humans and shapeshifters would be very lucrative. Many pack members had been ordered to participate, including Richard, but he had refused. Richard is shocked when Anita tells him that the film contains the murder of a human. He can not believe that Marcus would allow such a thing. They watch the movie, Richard falling forward off the bed onto the floor at the murder scene. He rushes to the bathroom and is violently ill. Anita enters but Richard does not want her to touch him. Even though he is disgusted by what he has seen on the movie, he is also aroused and can feel the pressure to mate with Anita. Richard tells her that he will meet with Marcus if he can get him alone and leaves. Edward is calm, merely drawing to Anita's attention that she is dating a monster.

The following day Anita goes to Washington University to meet with Louie, a scientist and friend of Richard's. The others in Louie's department all agree that the tracks from the murder scene were that of a wolf. The police had found nothing else at the scene but more tracks and shotgun slugs in a nearby tree. The two discuss the possibilities of a shapeshifter killing someone and why. Louie tells Anita that a lycanthrope with good control would not normally hunt. Louie asks Anita about her relationship with Richard. She is not willing to give Louie information that he did not get from Richard. Louie is Richard's best friend and does not want to see him hurt but tells Anita if she is going to change her mind about him, now is the time. Anita tells Louie about Elvira Drew, and he promises to ask around and see if anyone would be interested in taking part in the woman's book.

## Chapters 16-20 Analysis

Though Anita is not happy about it, she promises Elvira Drew that she will try and find a wererat interested in participating in her book. It is Anita's experience that most lycanthropes go out of their way to hide their affliction from the "normal" people because of discrimination. The woman agrees and leaves, but Anita senses something is not right about Drew's story. Meeting with Kaspar is frustrating and does not yield anything new. Kaspar is willing to help but must obey Marcus' orders. Because he is not a predator, Kaspar can be badly injured by the other pack members. Anita is curious about the list of people that Marcus has provided for her to question. There is a question of whether Marcus actually believes that they can help, or if he just wants to know what his rivals are up to.

Dinner with Richard that evening fills Anita with anxiety. Though she is aware that Richard is a werewolf, she had been able to separate that from their life until last night. Meeting with the pack and seeing them devour Alfred had made her wonder about



Richard and what he would do if presented with the same situation. Richard, for his part, is upset with Anita's actions the night before. Alfred was his friend and his to protect within the pack. The two discuss their differences, but what it all comes down to is whether they can get past the seemingly insurmountable differences between them. Richard had not wanted to tell Anita about his problems with Marcus, afraid that she would feel used as Jean-Claude had used her in the past. Anita is not sure where Richard can fit into her life if he can not trust her. Anita has lived her life taking care of herself and is not willing to change for anyone. Though the evening had started off in a confrontational manner, Richard is able to calm Anita and the two come together again. Richard proposes marriage and Anita is stunned when she accepts. Almost immediately she regrets the decision, not because she does not love Richard, but because she might not love him enough. Anita's heart had been broken in her past by a man whose family did not believe her good enough for him. Her concern is that she might do the same to Richard.

Meeting with Edward, Anita is stunned and sickened by the movie he shows her. Though the woman had seemed more than willing to take part in pornography with the two lycanthropes, she had obviously not planned on being murdered or becoming a meal. Edward is looking for help from Anita, and she calls Richard, not just because he might know who the other man is, but also because she needs comfort. Richard is as disgusted by the movie as Anita but is also aroused by the sight of blood and pack members feeding. Anita realizes that though Richard tries to be human, he is not and does not know if by showing him the movie she might have driven them farther apart.

Meeting with Louie the next day, Anita tries to gather some information to help her get past her confusion. Louie explains that though Richard is a predator, he is also kind and sometimes forgets that others do not possess the values he wishes they did. Louie agrees that Richard should have killed Marcus when they battled, because Marcus would never show Richard the same mercy. He also warns that the alpha female, Raina, is someone of whom to be very careful. Anita has already sensed this, and the movie she had seen the night before had convinced her more than ever.

Anita asks Louie if he knows of any wererats that would like to take part in the interview that Elvira Drew has proposed. Though Louie can not do so without risking his job, he agrees to check around.





# Chapters 21-25

## Chapters 21-25 Summary

Anita leaves the university and walks in the dark, thinking about the missing lycanthes and Richard. Caught off guard, she is slammed to the ground by Gretchen, pinning her gun beneath her. The vampire bears down on her, fangs visible, trying to reach Anita's throat. Civilians scream on the street, and Anita is suddenly free, a wererat knocking Gretchen off Anita. The vampire whirls on the wererat, who Anita assumes is Louie. The two struggle, and the vampire sinks her teeth into the rat. The rat screeches and the vampire feeds, while Anita tries to get a clear shot at Gretchen. Unable to do so without risking Louie, Anita tells her that she has accepted Richard's proposal of marriage, knowing that the vampire could smell it if she were lying. Gretchen stops feeding on the wererat and demands that Anita drop her gun. She does so, though there is no way to see if Louie is alive or dead. Gretchen asks again about Richard and if Anita loves him. Anita says that she does, and the vampire believes her, but demands that Anita go to Guilty Pleasures and tell Jean-Claude. Anita agrees to meet her there before dawn, after tending to Louie's injuries and her own.

As Anita watches, Louie transforms back into his human form. Naked and bleeding, the man is unconscious. Though she is injured herself, Anita can hear the police growing closer, and is not willing to let Louie be discovered. Anita covers Louie with her coat and struggles to lift him. Carrying him to her Jeep is a struggle, not just because of her head injury, but because she is growing weaker as she walks. Reaching her car, Anita puts Louie in the back seat and carefully leaves the area, driving to a gas station and calling Richard from a payphone. While waiting for Richard, Anita thinks about their relationship and having to tell Jean-Claude. Louie is still unconscious, but it is common when lycanthes change back to their human form to sleep for hours. Richard arrives and seems unsure of where he stands with Anita but is very concerned about her injuries. Another pack member, Stephen is startled when Anita draws a knife on him. Richard had forgotten to mention that someone else was there. Richard is impressed with Anita having carried Louie to her Jeep to prevent the police from discovering his true form. Anita tries to convince Richard to take care of Louie, but he realizes she is trying to get rid of him. Anita explains that she was going to tell Jean-Claude about their engagement. Stephen is surprised and pleased but knows that Jean-Claude is not going to be happy. Richard wants to go with her, but Anita tells him Jean-Claude would kill him if he were there. Stephen agrees to drive her to Guilty Pleasures, as he has to work that evening. Stephen is a stripper at the vampire club.

After stopping to be checked out by the lycanthe medic, Anita heads to Guilty Pleasures, after making Richard promise not to turn up there. Richard tells Anita to tell Jean-Claude the truth, that she is unsure if he is human enough for her.

At Guilty Pleasures, Jean-Claude's nightclub, Anita refuses to give up her cross, though holy items are not allowed in the club. Gretchen comes out to find her and tells Robert,



the manager, that Anita can pass, and if Jean-Claude gives him trouble, he should tell the master that she had threatened to rip his throat out.

In the office, Anita tells Jean-Claude that she has agreed to marry Richard. Gretchen is perplexed by the vampire's lack of emotion until he asks Anita if she loves him as well. Because a vampire can tell if a person is lying, Anita admits that she does love him in a way, but that she also likes Richard. She also admits that because of the last few days, she is unsure if she will marry Richard at all. Gretchen is angry and goads Jean-Claude who calmly asks if she is the one that hurt Anita after he forbade her to go near her. Anita tells him it was Gretchen, and Jean-Claude reveals a coffin hidden within the office. Jean-Claude draws the life from Gretchen, and forces her to crawl to the coffin. After she is locked away, Jean-Claude tells Anita that he could kill Richard. Anita tells the vampire that he is not to harm Richard or she will kill him. Jean-Claude surprises her again but offering a bargain. If Anita is willing to date him for a few months as she had dated Richard, then Jean-Claude will not harm the werewolf. Anita agrees, though she is unsure how Richard will feel about it.

## Chapters 21-25 Analysis

Anita is attacked by the vampire Gretchen, who catches her unaware while Anita walks to her car. The head injury that Anita receives slows her response time and the vampire is very close to striking when Louie arrives in wererat form to help her. Anita is unwilling to fire her gun because of the possibility she might strike Louie. All life is precious to Anita, even if the life is not purely human. The only option she has to distract the vampire is to announce her engagement to Richard. Gretchen is attacking only because of her jealousy of Anita. The vampire allows Louie to live but only if Anita tells Jean-Claude of the engagement. Anita agrees, even though she knows that the master vampire will be angry.

In saving Louie from the police, Anita demonstrates her friendship. Anita is unwilling for the wererat to lose his job at the university because of her. It takes all her strength to get Louie to her Jeep because of her own injuries, but it seems that Anita sometimes values others more than herself.

Richard's arrival presents more problems. Anita does not want Richard involved when she meets with Jean-Claude, afraid the vampire will kill him. Richard is still a romantic and wants to protect the one he loves. Anita does not need protection; in fact, she seems to resent it. The main obstacle in the pair's relationship does not seem to be Richard's lycanthropy; it seems to be his unwillingness to let her be the person she is.

Meeting with Jean-Claude turns out to be easier than Anita had thought. Though Gretchen goads the master vampire, Jean-Claude does not appear angry at Anita announcing her engagement. In fact, it is Gretchen who becomes angry when Anita admits that she does love Jean-Claude in some dark place in her soul. Jean-Claude is angry with Gretchen and punishes her. The female vampire is unwilling to accept the punishment, and Jean-Claude reveals his power over her by draining her life force. The





vampire becomes so weak she is forced to crawl to the coffin. Anita is angry at Jean-Claude for making Gretchen suffer, and he is surprised by her reaction. Even though Gretchen had tried to kill her earlier, Anita still shows pity on her. Once locked away, Gretchen is ordered to sleep by the master, another demonstration of his powers.

Jean-Claude wanting to date Anita shows he is willing to act more human in order to win her heart. He believes that it is only fair to allow him the opportunity. Anita agrees to his proposal, and though she says it is only to save Richard, one is left to wonder if this is truly the case.



# Chapters 26-30

## Chapters 26-30 Summary

The office door opens to reveal Raina and Gabriel. Robert, the club manager follows, begging Jean-Claude's forgiveness for letting them pass. Kaspar follows behind them, obviously unhappy about being with them. Anita tells Jean-Claude to leave Robert alone, even though she does not like him. Jean-Claude expresses surprise but lets the matter drop for the moment. Raina kisses the master vampire and drapes herself across his shoulders. Jean-Claude seems stiff and formal at first but then relaxes into her. Raina goads Anita, expressing surprise that Blake would care who Jean-Claude would allow near him. The shapeshifter accuses Anita of being jealous, but Anita denies it. All those in the room can smell her lies. Gabriel approaches Anita, and she asks if his silver ear rings hurt. He responds that they burn, but that he likes pain. He tosses his jacket onto Anita and pins her to the floor. Her guns are inaccessible, but she slides one of her silver knives into his stomach slicing upward. Gabriel groans and asks for more. Disgusted, Anita pushes him off of her and gets up. Raina lowers herself to the ground and licks his blood. Anita sarcastically thanks Jean-Claude for his help, and he responds that as she is dominant he could not interfere, it was against pack law.

When asked by Anita, Raina explains that they are there because Jean-Claude had promised them vampires to take part in their films. The master vampire gives Robert the choice of going with Raina or going into a coffin. He chooses Raina. Raina mocks Kaspar, telling Anita that Kaspar is there as a sample. Kaspar refuses to take part in the films but auditions others to see how they react when someone changes shape during sex. Raina tells Kaspar to strip, and he does so with obvious anger.

At her apartment, she is met at the door by Richard, who has cooked a meal while waiting for her. Anita is uncomfortable; she sees it as an act of intimacy. She has coffee while he eats and tells him of Jean-Claude's plan to woo her. Richard is worried. If there is a small part of Anita that loves Jean-Claude, the vampire may be able to win her. Anita does not think that it is possible.

The phone rings during the night and Richard wakes her for a call from Dolph. A skin has been found in the river, and the police are not sure if it is tied to the murdered hunter. Richard is not happy that Anita is going out but understands that she needs to help the police. Officer Zerbrowski arrives to take Anita to the scene, teasing her about her relationship with Richard. Anita is uncomfortable with the teasing, but kisses Richard goodbye, happy that she is going out, as she is unsure where they are headed.

At the river, Anita sees the skin spread out over a rock. Before the divers can retrieve it, Anita wants to make sure that no spell has been cast. Aikensen is on scene, and while hassling Anita, he falls into the water. Since nothing attacks him, Anita tells the divers that they can retrieve the skin. She takes to the rocks in order to help them unhook the skin; as she sticks her arm into the water, it is grabbed from below. A man reaches out to



her for help, and she is pulled into the icy water. The man is a naga, an immortal Hindu creature. The paramedics on scene wrap the man in a saline drenched blanket and take him to the hospital.

Anita arrives at home, and Anita kisses Richard before he tells her they have company. Jean-Claude walks up behind Richard. Richard explains that Jean-Claude had entered the apartment while he was sleeping. The vampire tells them that he is there to see both of them. Anita does not have the patience to deal with Jean-Claude's games and tells him so. Jean-Claude continues to provoke Richard, bringing up his past relationship with Raina. The topic of the movies comes up again, and Richard tells Anita that Marcus was not aware of the alternate endings to the films. Richard and the vampire grow angrier, circling each other as tempers escalate. Anita steps between them and pushes them apart. As she touches them power from each of them rushes through her, and she winds up on the floor. Both men kneel beside her worried. Jean-Claude insists that he did not do anything to Anita, but Richard does not believe him. Jean-Claude points out that if Richard were able to harness such power, Marcus would surely bow to him.

## Chapters 26-30 Analysis

The arrival of Raina and Gabriel is a shock to Anita. Raina explains that Jean-Claude is supplying vampires to the pack for the movies that Raina has developed. Marcus is backing Jean-Claude in order to help him retain his position as Master of the City. Raina kissing the vampire and draping herself across him stirs feelings of jealousy within Anita that she was not aware she had. The vampire finds this fact amusing, as well as Blake trying to protect the manager, Robert. At first Jean-Claude had seemed almost frightened of Raina, but it seems that Anita's reaction to her being near the vampire relaxes him.

Gabriel stuns Anita by his love of pain, coming within inches of death as he cherishes the feel of the silver knife sliding through his body. Only Raina stopping her keeps Anita from the death blow. Kaspar's presence is explained to Anita, and she is horrified for him. Blake feels sympathy for the man, at the beck and call of Raina because he is not a predator. Raina badgers him into stripping, bringing up the curse that has made him a swan. Kaspar was cursed because of his callous attitude and pride. The witch that had cursed him had tried to make him into something kind and gentle, but instead all he had become was a pride-filled, angry swan. Though he is obviously angry and embarrassed, Kaspar does begin to strip, but Anita leaves before he does, sad for him. Kaspar's anger will be revisited later in the novel, and Anita's belief that he is angry at Raina proves to be the least of his issues.

At the apartment Anita is worried about how to deal with Richard. She understands that by cooking he was trying to make himself feel better and to do something kind for her. Having lived alone for so long, she is unsure if living with someone would ever work. Anita also admits to herself that she is not sure if she can marry a monster. Though she has always claimed not to be prejudiced, it is clear that on some level, she is. Lycanthropes are good enough to be her friends, but not good enough with whom to



have a loving relationship. She does love Richard but is not sure if she can love him enough. Ironically, the man that she had been engaged to in her past was guilty of the same thing. He had not loved Anita enough to stand up to her family.

The scene at the river is business-like, and though Titus and Aikensen are there, they do not try to stop the preternatural team from investigating. This is significant, since at the last scene they had tried to keep the squad from seeing the crime scene at all. Aikensen does continue to provoke Anita, but she refuses to be baited. Her satisfaction comes when he falls in the river and when she discovers his fear of snakes. The naga in the water is a puzzle. The man has been skinned alive, and only his immortality has saved him. Anita is his rescuer, and the man's hands have to be pried from her in order to take him to the hospital. Blake's relationship with Rolph and Zerbrowski becomes more evident when they tease her about her relationship with Richard. Zerbrowski had told her that when someone with a dangerous career finds someone that will love them despite the constant worries, they should hold onto them. Anita is not sure if her life is more dangerous than Richard's with the battle for the position of pack leader ongoing.

Jean-Claude's arrival at her apartment late at night does not please Anita. Jean-Claude had arrived while Richard was sleeping, and Anita is afraid that the vampire would have hurt him if Richard had not woken up when he heard the door. As the men continue to argue, Anita can feel the energy around them growing and tries to stop them. By touching both of them, the energy pulses through her like a lightning rod, causing her to pass out. Neither man can claim the power as his own, though Richard believes that Jean-Claude has caused it. The vampire recognizes that Anita was the catalyst, and insinuates that Richard is going to use Anita to help defeat Marcus.



# Chapters 31-36

## Chapters 31-36 Summary

Anita sits in her apartment with Jean-Claude and Richard. The vampire refuses to leave unless Richard does, knowing that for Anita, sex is a commitment. He is unwilling to give them time together until he has had the chance to date her as well. Anita is still shaken from finding the vampire in her apartment, having forgotten that she had invited him earlier. The fact that Richard could have been hurt worries her. The two men tell her that they have agreed not to kill each other and to explore each other's mutual powers. Anita questions that, but they are unable to explain it. Anita tells Richard to leave, and though he is hurt he agrees. Jean-Claude refuses to leave without a kiss goodbye. After some argument, Anita agrees, if only to get both men to leave. Walking up and touching him, Anita can feel his power through her. Richard grows angrier, and growls, a glimpse of the wolf that he is. Anita refused to kiss Jean-Claude after all, and the vampire laughs. Richard had shown Anita what anger can do to him, and that was enough for the vampire for now. In response to his gloating, Anita revokes her invitation, and the vampire leaves the apartment, as if pushed by an invisible hand. Richard apologizes to Anita, claiming that the full moon that approaches makes it more difficult for him to keep the wolf within him under control.

Ronnie calls Anita the next day. The investigator had pictures of George Smitz with another woman. Further investigation had led to a local gun store where Smitz had purchased silver bullets. Ronnie wants to question Smitz before going to the police with the evidence that he might have killed his wife of fifteen years. Before Anita can more than hang up the phone it rings again. Richard is calling to tell her that Jason, the shapeshifter from Lunatic Café is missing. Anita is not sure what to make of it but tells Richard about Smitz and his wife. There is a small possibility that Smitz is responsible for all the disappearances. Richard agrees to send some pack members to help her question Smitz about his wife's disappearance and to see if he has any knowledge of the missing eight.

Richard sends Raina to assist, and she brings Gabriel. When Anita tells Raina why they are at the Smitz home, the rage is evident. Gabriel is not a wolf, and Anita asks him why he is willing to help. His answer is that it is not a bad thing to have Marcus and Richard owe him a favor. Anita makes Raina agree not to harm George unless necessary, but knows that Raina will ultimately do what Raina wants. While looking at Gabriel, Anita realizes his eyes are familiar. Gabriel was the panther in the film with Alfred. The shapeshifter notices her change in attitude toward him, but Anita bluffs. She is not willing to put Ronnie in danger.

George Smitz greets them at the door, covered in blood. He has been doing some butcher work to help his father-in-law. Anita asks him if he will inherit the shop if his wife is not found. The man says he supposes he will. Ronnie shows him the pictures capturing him with another woman. Smitz grows outraged and tells the two women to



leave his house. Raina and Gabriel enter the room and the wolf threatens George with the disease of lycanthropy, though in human form Anita knows that she is not contagious. The threat of Raina and Gabriel is too much for Smitz and he breaks, admitting he killed his wife and buried her. Raina asks him about Jason, but the man seems truly confused by her questions. Anita is still struggling with the missing lycanthrope issue when something clicks. If the naga had been a lycanthrope, a witch could have used the skin. She needs to get to the hospital to meet with the naga. Raina and Gabriel do not want to meet with the police so they call a cab. Anita is stuck, as Ronnie drove, but as she looks out the window she spots Edward. He had been following Raina. Edward agrees to take her to the hospital. Anita does not tell Edward about Gabriel, as he would immediately go into the house and kill him and the police are on the way.

At the hospital Officer Kirlin tells Anita she has to wait for Dolph in order to question the naga. Anita is not happy about the delay, but waits. Dolph arrives and is not happy that Anita may be holding information about missing persons from him. She promises to give him information when she can and they question the naga, Mr. Javad. Though he is in pain, he manages to communicate that witches are responsible for his injuries, and that there are other victims. The only description Javad is able to provide is that one of the women had eyes like an ocean. Richard calls and tells Anita that Louie never showed up for class. With the full moon that night, he would not skip work as it would raise suspicion. Louie had told Richard that he had an appointment with Elvira Drew that morning. Anita makes the connection and asks Richard if she can tell the police about the missing shapeshifters. He agrees to take responsibility if Marcus gets angry. Anita tells Dolph and Zerbrowski of her suspicions. If Drew is a witch she and her coven might be taking the shapeshifter's skins. The witches can use the skins to shapeshift without being tied to the cycle of the moon. Calling the office, Anita gets Drew's address and they head to her house.

At the house, Dolph tells Drew that they are looking for Louie Fane. Elvira plays ignorance, stating that Louie never showed up for their meeting. Anita gets angry and threatens her, but Drew refuses entry without a warrant. Dolph tells Anita to calm down and take a walk but insinuates that she should look for an alternate entrance while she keeps the witch busy. Anita is able to get through a door despite the spell of protection that had been placed on it and enters the house. Drew hears her and comes running, but Anita screams for help which allows the police to enter. Anita does not find Louie, but enters the living room to find Dolph and Zerbrowski cornered by a wolf and a panther. The panther leaps on Zerbrowski and the wolf leaps at Anita. Blake kills the wolf and then tries with Dolph to help the other officer. Finally sticking her arm between the two officers and the panther, Anita shoots the panther and kills it. Zerbrowski is gravely wounded, and Anita helps him while Officer Kirlin and her partner handcuff Elvira Drew. Anita asks for assistance but the others are hesitant, afraid they will catch lycanthropy. Anita releases a catch on the panther and strips off the skin. The naked body of a man is revealed. He was a shapeshifter with a stolen skin, but not a lycanthrope.



## Chapters 31-36 Analysis

Anita is shaken about Jean-Claude having access to her apartment. She had forgotten that her inviting the vampire in on a previous occasion, which made it possible for him to enter at will. Jean-Claude demands that Richard leave if Jean-Claude is leaving because he has seen the closeness that the couple has. It would not be fair for Richard to stay and have the opportunity to make the relationship more solid. Anita is tired and unwilling to argue so she asks both men to leave. Jean-Claude demands a kiss, stating that Richard had gotten one. Anita balks, but the vampire threatens to call off the agreement if she does not comply. Richard's reaction is that of a jealous suitor, but as a lycanthrope, the growling stuns Anita. She is reminded once again that her boyfriend is a werewolf. Jean-Claude has accomplished what he wanted; to divide the couple. Anita revokes her invitation to the vampire, and he is literally forced from the apartment.

The disappearance of Peggy Smitz is solved when Ronnie discovers George's infidelity and his purchase of silver bullets. The news that Jason is missing makes Anita think that Smitz might be responsible for all the missing shapeshifters. Though Anita had asked Richard to supply some back up, she had not known that he would send Raina and Gabriel. When Smitz grows angry at Ronnie and Anita's accusations, Blake is happy that the pair is there, as no one can lie to a lycanthrope. Anita knows that Raina would kill Smitz if she could, but the police must be called. The sudden realization that Gabriel is the panther from the porno movie stuns Anita, and she has the opportunity to alert Edward, but must wait in order to find out what happened to the other missing shapeshifters.

At the hospital, the naga is recovering from his ordeal, though Anita is not sure being immortal is worth the pain he is in. The description that Javad gives her rings a bell, and when Richard calls to tell her that Louie is missing, the connection is finally made. Elvira Drew is not an author as she claims, but a witch. Explaining to Dolph and Zerrowski on the way to Drew's house, Anita tells them that witches will steal the skins of lycanthropes so that they can become shapeshifters.

At the house, Elvira is cagey and will not admit the police without a warrant. Anita is angry, worried about Louie and wondering if Jason is there, too. Dolph reprimands Anita, but she knows that he wants her to walk and see if she can get access to the house. The police can not enter without a warrant, but if Anita gets inside and calls for help they are allowed entry. There is a strong spell cast on a rear door and Anita summons the powers she uses to raise zombies to help her break through. A flash of power knocks her backward, but then she gets in the house. Drew rushes to the location and curses her, but Anita is not afraid. She knows that the witch must perform a ritual for a curse to work and she has not had time. The officers calling for her aid is more important to her. Anita easily handles the wolf, her instincts taking over, but the panther attacks Zerrowski. The officer struggles, and Dolph helps all he can but Anita can not get a clean shot. Finally killing the beast she finds Zerrowski almost eviscerated and uses her coat to try and stop the bleeding. The other officers on scene stand back, afraid that they will contract the disease of lycanthropy if they come in

contact with the wounds. Anita shows them that the panther is just a witch in skin, but they are still shaken. Anita cries, showing emotion, which is rare for her. It is clear that the policemen are very important to her, may be closer than family.





# Chapters 37-40

## Chapters 37-40 Summary

Zerbrowski is taken to the hospital and will recover. Richard drives Anita home, thanking her for helping Louie, who was found, drugged in the witches' basement. At her apartment the phone rings. Williams, the man who had found the body at the nature center is calling to tell her of strange sounds on his owl recording. The sound is evidently a hyena. Anita remembers that a werehyena is one of the missing Lycanthropes. Williams tells her that he has called Sheriff Titus and then excuses himself to answer the door. Anita tries to warn him, but hears a noise, then the receiver being lifted. Anita threatens Aikensen, who laughs and hangs up. Anita calls the Willoton police department and gets Chief Garroway on the line. The chief is skeptical but agrees to send a car to investigate. Richard tells Anita he will drive her to the scene in order to help Williams and see if Jason is there. Anita tries to dissuade him, as it is a full moon and he will change soon. Richard insists. Edward is outside and wants to go with them. He teases Richard by asking if he might be able to kill a lycanthrope. Richard does not take offense; in fact, Richard states that only one of their own would be able to kidnap seven lycanthropes.

At the scene, the three find the bodies of Samuel Williams, Officer Holmes and her partner. Anita knows that Aikensen is responsible and vows to kill him. Anita's pager goes off with an unknown number. She uses the phone in the kitchen to call the police chief and alert him then calls the number. Kaspar Gunderson tells Anita that he has found Jason but needs Richard to help control him. As a swan he has no defense against a new wolf. Richard is acting weird, but Anita realizes he is fighting the change that the moon is bringing, as well as the smell of blood. Williams might have been his friend, but the blood is drawing him.

At Kaspar's house, they find the swan and two strange men. Richard knows that they are not lycanthropes and questions Gunderson. Titus and Aikensen step out with weapons raised. Another man steps in from behind and orders Anita and Edward to drop their weapons. Kaspar looks pleased. The three men are hunters. They pay him to supply lycanthropes, and Titus and Aikensen are paid to make sure the law stays away. The murder victim had been a hunter that had wound up hunted. Richard reminds Kaspar that he is one of them, but the man scoffs. He did not inherit the condition; he had been cursed. Kaspar had supplied the other lycanthropes because he was jealous of them. They were strong, and he had been cursed as a swan.

The trio is lead to the basement where Jason is huddled in a cage. Richard and Edward are put into one cage, and Anita is put in with Jason. Richard begs Kaspar to release her, volunteering to change and be hunted instead. Anita is angry, but Kaspar thinks that Richard would wind up killing the hunters and refuses. Jason begins to respond to Anita, feeding off her fear. Anita grows more frightened, remembering the way the man had behaved at the café.



## Chapters 37-40 Analysis

Louie is safe and Dolph and Zerbrowski will recover, but the mysterious disappearance of the other shapeshifters still haunts Anita. A phone call from Williams brings her to the realization that Aikensen had something to do with it. Though he had not spoken, Anita had recognized his laugh. Anita calls Garroway who is skeptical but agrees to send a car to the nature center to check on Williams.

Richard and Anita leave to head there and find Edward waiting. Edward follows Anita because there is never a shortage of people that deserve to be killed, at least in his opinion, when she is around. Anita worries for Richard, as the moon is rising, that he might not be able to control himself if he needs to change. Richard assures her that as an alpha male, he is in complete control.

At the nature center he more or less proves this. Finding the dead officers and Williams is horrifying, but the scent of blood does not force Richard to change. He feels some disgust for himself that he would want to feed on someone he knew, but controls himself.

The call from Gunderson takes the trio to the swan's house. Arriving, they find Gunderson in the company of three hunters, Sheriff Titus and Aikensen. The mystery of the missing lycanthropes is solved, though they might not live to tell Marcus what the truth is. Anita can barely control her anger, breaking the deputy's nose when he checks her for weapons. Titus tells the deputy that he will shoot him himself if he draws his gun. It seems that Aikensen is the weak link of the group.

Kaspar's anger at being a swan is the reason he helps the hunters. Though the witch had changed him to make him kinder, the only thing he felt was anger. He would not have minded being changed into a wolf at all; he was just angry for being a swan. People were being killed simply because he was a bird. By placing Anita in Jason's cage, the men are trying to force the new wolf to change faster. Lycanthropes respond to sex and fear, and Anita supplies both. Richard is distressed. He knows Jason will have to feed when he changes and will not have control when he does. He offers himself to the hunters, anything to save Anita. Anita is angry, but amazed. She had told Richard she did not want or need a white knight, but he offers his own life to save hers.



# Chapters 41-43

## Chapters 41-43 Summary

Richard warns Anita to stay calm. Jason fights the change, and Richard talks to him calmly. Edward takes a lock picking kit from his pocket and tries to open the cage. Carmichael, one of the hunters returns and demands Edward drop the tools. Carmichael provokes Jason, trying to force him to change. At first Jason begs for the hunter to kill him, but the change is too close and he stalks Anita. She is frightened but listens to Richard when he tells her to remain calm. As Jason gropes her, Richard starts to change and tells Jason that Anita is his. Jason growls but backs away, listening to the alpha male.

Titus returns with Kaspar who suggests blood would make Jason change. Titus calls Anita to the bars, and Aikensen cuts the stitches from her earlier wound. Anita sees Edward in the other cage, and realizes he wants her to create a diversion. She drops and screams, writhing in agony. One of the hunters comes too close and Anita is able to reach the gun in his holster. She pulls the trigger without removing it, shooting him in the stomach. Edward also has a weapon, and a hunter lies dead in front of his cage. Titus threatens to shoot Anita, but Edward pulls the trigger and kills him. Aikensen is ordered by Edward to release Anita. Jason is licking the blood on her arm, but in his last moment of control tells her to run. She does and as the deputy slams the cage door Jason changes, lunging at Blake just out of reach. Anita takes her fallen knife and stabs Aikensen in the groin, fulfilling her threat. Richard, though part wolf at the point, still shows his displeasure in her killing the deputy. Edward and Anita leave the basement so Richard can release Jason and take him into the woods. At this point Anita realizes Kaspar is gone.

The police arrive and are amazed that Edward and Anita had survived. The holidays come and go, with Dolph and Zerbrowski recovering and leaving the hospital. In February Anita receives a box in the mail containing a swan skin. Edward had sent it with a note that Marcus had paid him. The skin was mounted and Anita hung it in her living room. Richard did not like it, but Anita thought it looked just fine.

## Chapters 41-43 Analysis

The action comes quickly as Jason struggles to maintain control of himself and not hurt Anita. Though some of the pack members she had met were more than willing to take a victim that had been offered to them, Jason seems to be one of the better ones. Richard tries to calm the man, as well as help Anita by talking to the both calmly. Anita is shocked when she sees Richard; his face has changed, becoming more canine. Though he is able to remain calm, the danger that she is in has divided his attention.



Titus allows Aikensen to use Anita's knife to cut her stitches and draw blood from Blake's arm. The deputy seems to enjoy the chance, and Edward signals to Anita to draw all attention to herself. The hunters are drawn to the action and Edward is able to get the shotgun of one, though Anita is not sure if Edward had killed the man or if it was Richard. Titus holds a gun to Anita's head and orders Edward to drop his weapon, but Blake is aware that she will die tonight if the attempt for freedom is not made. Edward shoots the sheriff and the scent of blood is more than Jason can take. He screams at Anita to run when Aikensen opens the cage, and she does, realizing how close she had come to death. Jason would not have killed her on purpose, but as a wolf he would not have been able to control himself as Richard can.

The last chapter wraps the novel up, allowing one to tie up loose ends. Kaspar is finally punished by Edward, who sends the skin to Anita as a trophy. Anita is still dating Richard and Jean-Claude. Richard can not understand why Anita had killed Aikensen when there had seemed no need, thinking it was simply pride. Anita can not make him understand that she had killed him as an act of vengeance, for all the lives that had been lost in the scheme with the others.



# Characters

## Anita Blake

Anita Blake is the main character in *Lunatic Cafe*. Blake is a necromancer as well as a vampire executioner. Working for Animators Inc, Blake's job is to raise people from the dead, zombies, for various purposes. An example would be a person who died without a will being raised in order to clarify issues of the estate. Dating Richard Zeeman, Anita is unsure about how things will go with the relationship. Richard is a werewolf, and Anita had not been aware of that at the beginning of their relationship. As an alpha male, Richard can disguise his lycanthropy, appearing human even to the most experienced.

Anita also works with the police department on the "spook squad," the preternatural division, helping the police when a case involves something outside the norm. Anita is proud of the work she does with the police, and thinks of Sergeant Storr and Detective Zerbrowski as friends, almost family.

Anita becomes involved in the disappearance of eight lycanthropes when she is summoned to a meeting with Marcus, the pack leader. In dealing with the pack, Anita becomes more aware of the differences between them and humans than she wishes. This causes problems in her relationship with Richard. Another complication in their relationship is Jean-Claude, the Master of the City, or the head vampire. Jean-Claude is jealous of the relationship as he wants Anita for himself.

Throughout the novel Anita shows her strength, not only physically, but her strength of character as well. Though at some times her choices are outside the law, they are morally right, at least by her guidelines. Blake has a strong sense of right and wrong and has no problem dealing justice when the need arises.

## Richard Zeeman

Richard is Anita Blake's boyfriend, a junior high school science teacher, and a werewolf. Richard suffers from lycanthropy, after getting a bad vaccine to prevent the disease. Because there is still discrimination against lycanthropes, Richard does not want anyone to know he is a werewolf because he would lose his job.

Richard is second in line for the position of pack leader. His dealings with Marcus, the pack leader are the beginning of a rift between Anita and himself, brought to a head when Jean-Claude brings the matter to Anita's attention. Though Richard tries to explain the situation to her, Anita is angry that he had tried to protect her. Richard had been trying not to use her as Jean-Claude had done in the past, but the point is lost on Blake.

Richard is a peacemaker, trying to take control of the pack without having to use violence. He keeps a watchful eye on the new members of the pack, trying to guide them in the right direction. He resents the image that some of the pack presents,



making all lycanthropes look like deranged killers. By trying to maintain order without bloodshed, Richard had created a bad situation. He had defeated Marcus, but as he did not delivered the killing blow, Marcus is still the pack leader and had the opportunity to strike back.

Throughout the novel Richard struggles to maintain loyalty to the pack and not lose Anita. He loves her and wants to marry her, but each time she sees a glimpse of what he is capable of, she shrinks a bit further away from him. Though by the end of the novel they are still a couple, the reader is left wondering if they will survive all that they have been through.

## **Jean-Claude**

The master of the city, Jean-Claude is the vampire in charge of St. Louis. Jean-Claude is infatuated with Anita and wants her to be his human servant. Anita has been able to avoid the vampire for months, but her dating Richard give the vampire the opportunity for which he has waited. When his vampire Gretchen forces Anita to announce her engagement, Jean-Claude forces Anita to date him in order to save Richard. The vampire wants a chance to woo her, as he might have been able to do if he were alive.

Jean-Claude is the strongest vampire in the city, but needs the help of the pack to maintain things at times. Working with Marcus, the two trade underlings, Jean-Claude providing vampires for the porno movies that Raina is making, and Marcus providing shapeshifters for the club that Jean-Claude owns, Guilty Pleasures. Though the vampire is dead, he sometimes exhibits emotions that only a living person would seem to have, confusing Anita when it comes to her feelings for him.

## **Detective Sergeant Rudolf Storr**

Dolph is the commander of the preternatural squad of the police department. Though being assigned to the spook squad is usually a punishment within the department, Dolph is a good detective, working to solve his cases. The detective does not care whether the victim is human or not, he simply applies himself and solves the case.

Anita looks up to Dolph, and respects him, and Dolph respects her in return. The two make a good team, working together so well that they seem to read each other's minds. Dolph must follow the letter of the law, and Anita respects him for that, but the detective also knows when someone has to step outside the lines and allows Anita to do so.

## **Marcus**

The leader of the pack, Marcus is the Alpha Male. A surgeon in "real life" Marcus leads the pack with an iron fist, commanding all to follow his laws, yet it is evident that there are some members that do not respect him and shirk his commands. Marcus has lost a



fight with Richard, but as the position of pack leader can only be obtained after a fight to the death, Marcus retains control.

## **Irving Griswold**

A reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Irving is a friend of Anita Blake's, as well as a werewolf. Irving is sent by the pack leader, Marcus, to arrange a meeting with Anita, despite Richard's direct orders for Blake to be left alone. Irving requests Anita's protection from Richard, knowing she would not allow a friend to be hurt.

## **Sheriff Titus**

The county sheriff in whose jurisdiction the murdered hunter is found. Titus is unwilling to allow the preternatural squad to examine the body but finally relents. The hunter had paid for the ability to hunt lycnathropes, and Titus did not want the scheme exposed.

## **Deputy Aikensen**

A hot headed deputy, Aikensen draws attention to himself with his unreasonable behavior. By acting like a hot head, he makes Anita wonder what is really going on at the scene of the murdered hunter. It is clear throughout the novel that Aikensen is the weak link in the department and ultimately in the hunting scheme.

## **Gretchen**

A 200-year-old vampire, Gretchen is jealous of Anita and Jean-Claude's relationship. Though Anita tells her that she wants nothing to do with the master vampire, Gretchen is unable to believe her. After attacking Anita, Gretchen is punished by Jean-Claude and put into a coffin after having her life force drained.

## **Veronica Sims**

Ronnie is Anita's best friend, and an investigator for Animators, Inc. Ronnie discovers that George Smitz had cheated on his wife and purchased silver bullets with which to kill her.

## **Burt Vaughn**

The owner of Animators Inc and Anita's boss, Burt is willing to do anything for money. His actions result in the kidnapping of Louie when a group of witches want the skin of a wererat in order to become shapeshifters.



## **Louie Fane**

A teacher and member of the science department at Washington University, Louie is Richard's best friend as well as a wererat. Louie is kidnapped when a group of witches need the skin of a wererat in order to shapeshift. Anita and the spook squad rescue him from their basement.

## **Kaspar Gunderson**

A shapeshifter, Gunderson turns into a swan. Though Gunderson appears to be helping the pack by acting as a go between for them with Anita, it is actually Gunderson that is responsible for the missing lycanthropes. Hunters pay Kaspar to arrange lycanthrope hunts. Angry that he is a mere swan, the man seeks revenge against those he envies.

## **Raina Wallis**

The alpha female of the pack, Raina has convinced Marcus that porno movies will bring income to the pack. Anita is shown a video by Edward that ends in the murder of the woman in the film. Though Raina claims she was unaware that was going to happen, she distributes the film anyway, not willing to waste the chance to make more films and money.

Raina incites jealousy in Anita, with Raina's relationship with Jean-Claude and Raina's past relationship with Richard. The woman is beautiful but does not seem to care what the rules of the pack are. She follows her own.

## **Gabriel**

A werepanther, Gabriel acted in the video where a woman was killed. Though he did not deliver the killing blow, he did feast on the dead woman.

## **Alfred**

Marcus' body guard, Alfred is killed by Anita when he refused to back down from her at the meeting. Though Anita feels badly for killing one of Richard's friends, that changes when she sees him in the porno film, killing the woman who had been in the movie with him.

## **Jason**

A young wolf, Anita meets him first at the meeting of the pack and again when he is being held captive for one of Kaspar's illegal hunts. Jason manages to control his urges, though Anita was used as bait to try and make him change forms.





## **Elvira Drew**

A witch who has been kidnapping lycanthropes in order to steal their skins and use them to shapeshift.

## **Edward**

A bounty hunter, Edward is being paid to kill the two lycanthropes that killed a woman during a porno movie made by Raina, Alfred and Gabriel.

## **Samuel Williams**

The naturalist that discovers the hunter who had been killed by a lycanthrope. Williams is murdered by Aikensen when he calls the sheriff about a recording he had made the night of the murder.



## **Objects/Places**

### **Animators, Inc.**

The firm for which Anita Blake works. Anita raises the dead and is a vampire slayer.

### **The Fox**

A downtown St. Louis theater. Anita and Richard attend the musical *Guys and Dolls* at The Fox, where they run into Jean Claude.

### **The Lunatic Cafe**

Owned by Raina Wallis, The Lunatic Cafe is the site of pack meetings.

### **Guilty Pleasures**

The club owned by vampire and Master of the City, Jean-Claude.

### **Willoton**

The county where the nature preserve is located.

### **St. Louis**

The city in Missouri where the novel takes place.

### **Washington University**

The location of the lab where Louis Fane works. Anita has the casts from the murder scene sent to the university for examination.

### **Jefferson County**

The location of the skinned naga in the river. Though far from the murder scene, it is within Sheriff Titus' jurisdiction.



## **Naga**

A Hindu immortal entity, the Naga is the guardian of pearls.

## **Lycanthropy**

A disease that causes people to become shapeshifters, such as werewolves, though most any animal can be the result, such as wererats, or werepanthers.



# Themes

## Good Versus Evil

Throughout the *Lunatic Cafe* by Laurell K. Hamilton, the theme of good vs. evil arises quite often. Anita deals in many dark areas in life, raising people from the dead, being the sanctioned vampire killer in the area, and working with the police on the preternatural investigation squad. Anita has a very clear view of good vs. evil, though there are times when her personal views differ from the letter of the law.

In dealing with Marcus and the pack, Anita is willing to help them as much as she is able when it comes to finding the missing lycanthropes. Anita meets many different characters when she meets with the pack, some good, and some not. Raina, the alpha female is decidedly evil in Anita's view, as the wolf is willing to do whatever is needed to achieve what she wants. Marcus operates in the same way, but Anita has trouble classifying him in the same category as Raina.

Jean-Claude is a vampire, and as such should be considered evil, but Anita is unable to believe that is all that he is. Their relationship is complicated, and though she is aware of his bad side and has seen some things that would be considered evil by others, she has a better understanding of him than some.

Her relationship with Richard is more complicated. Richard believes that all life is sacred, as does Anita. The problems arise when Anita is able to decide for herself who is good or evil. If Blake sees someone as inherently evil, she has no trouble delivering justice, as she demonstrated by killing Deputy Aikensen. Oddly, though Richard is the werewolf, there are times when he sees Anita as the monster.

## Love

Love is a central theme in *The Lunatic Cafe*. Anita Blake is in love with Richard Zeeman, her boyfriend of a few months. Despite her love for him, Anita has second thoughts about taking the relationship to the next level because Richard is a werewolf. Though he is a kind man, a teacher, and a romantic, Anita is unsure if the love she feels is enough to overcome Richard's less-than-human side. Ironically, Anita had been engaged once before, to a man whose family did not believe her good enough. Anita had been shattered when he had refused to stand up to his family and had ended the relationship. Anita now finds herself in the same position, unsure if Richard is good enough for her. Richard had contracted lycanthropy due to a bad batch of the vaccine, but that does not change the fact that he is now less than human.

Anita also loves Jean-Claude the vampire. Though she will admit there is some love there, Anita believes that the love resides in a dark twisted part of her heart. She is undoubtedly drawn to him, but he is a vampire, dead, with no soul. Torn between both



men, Anita loves both of them in different ways, but is unsure if she can love either of them enough.

## Faith

Faith is an important element within *The Lunatic Cafe*. Anita Blake is an animator, as well as a sanctioned vampire slayer. Anita's faith in God allows her to deal with things of a darker nature. Anita wears a cross made of silver at all times in order to protect her from vampires and also attends church almost every week. Anita is disgusted with herself when weapons are her first instinct when in danger rather than faith. When attacked by the vampire Gretchen, Anita is injured and almost killed, her gun inaccessible and her knife ineffectual. Blake realizes that her silver cross had been under her sweater, and that it could have been used to ward off the female vampire.

Faith also plays a part when an animator raises a zombie. Anita must wait until a person has been dead for three days before attempting to bring them to life, so the person's soul has a chance to rise. Though some animators will attempt to raise a zombie earlier, Anita will not, unwilling to take a chance that a person will lose their soul.

Though Anita's job requires her to deal with dark forces, she believes her faith helps keep her safe and also guards her soul. The fact that Richard is an Episcopalian is one of the reasons Blake is drawn to him. Though Richard had contracted the disease lycanthropy from a bad dose of the vaccine, he had maintained his faith despite this. Though the two have many obstacles to overcome, their faith in God is not one of them.

# Style

## Point of View

The Lunatic Cafe, by Laurel K. Hamilton is written in the first person. The narrator is the protagonist, Anita Blake. Blake is an animator, able to raise people from the dead, and a sanctioned vampire slayer. By writing the novel in the first person, the author allows the reader to experience things as they happen to Blake and to have a better understanding of the emotions and feelings she is experiencing.

The story contains long sections of dialogue, with equally long sections of description. Though some of the descriptive passages are used to allow the reader to visualize the setting of the novel, most are to explain the different events that take place. The Lunatic Cafe contains many fantastical or mythical creatures, and the descriptive passages allow one to understand their relationships with humans.

## Setting

The novel takes place in St Louis, Missouri, during the month of December. Though several locations are visited, very few are outside of the immediate area. The Lunatic Cafe is the scene of Anita's meeting with Marcus, the pack leader. A back room in the restaurant is evidently where the pack holds meetings. It is in this room that Anita kills Alfred, Marcus' body guard and a werewolf, and the pack consumes him.

Blake's apartments is also a key location. Anita looks upon her apartment as her refuge, yet it becomes the scene of many confrontations within the novel. The first is between Anita and Richard as they try to work out their relationship. Another is between Richard and Jean-Claude, which results in Anita channeling the power of both men through her.

The nature center is also central to the novel, as the murdered hunter is found on the grounds. Very close to the home of Kaspar Gunderson, the nature center becomes the hunting ground of the men paying to hunt kidnapped lycanthropes.

## Language and Meaning

The language in The Lunatic Cafe is modern, as the novel is based in current day in St Louis, Missouri. The main character, Anita Blake speaks bluntly, often sarcastically. This allows the reader to better gauge Anita's thoughts and feelings about whatever situation in which she might find herself. It becomes clear as the novel progresses that the more threatened Blake becomes, the more her sarcasm surfaces.

The language of other characters in the novel is similar to that of the main character. The vampires are an exception. The older the vampire is, the more formal their



language tends to be. The dialogue is much more formal, almost stilted, as the characters are much older, in some cases two hundred years or more.

The novel is written in a free-flowing, fast-paced manner. The reader is quickly caught up in the story and hurried along to the conclusion. Due to the rapid way events unfold throughout, one is better able to grasp the danger that the characters face, as well as the emotions involved.

## Structure

The Lunatic Cafe by Laurell K. Hamilton is novel of fiction, broken down into forty-three chapters of various lengths. The chapters are untitled, but each contains one major plot point in the story. For this reason the chapters can be anywhere from three pages to seventeen pages.

The plot of The Lunatic Cafe revolves around missing lycanthropes, or shapeshifters. It becomes clear near the end of the novel that there are two different causes for the disappearances. Anita Blake investigates the disappearances for the lycanthrope community, as they are more likely to trust her than an authority figure.

The subplot of the novel is the love life of the main character, Anita Blake and her boyfriend Richard Zeeman. Zeeman is a shapeshifter, specifically a werewolf, and Blake struggles to overcome the differences in their lives. Anita is unsure if she can allow herself to become more deeply involved with Richard. To add to the already troubling situation, the master vampire, Jean-Claude, is also romantically interested in Blake, and she agrees to date him so he will not harm Richard.



## Quotes

"A lycanthrope that was a butcher. It was too perfect. But I could see why she'd lose her job. Food preparation with a potentially fatal disease. I don't think so. I knew, and the health department knew, that lycanthropy can only be transmitted by an attack in the animal form. Most people don't believe that. Can't say I blame them entirely. I don't want to be fuzzy, either."

Chapter 1, pg 3

"Jean-Claude laughed again. This time the sound wrapped me around like flannel, warm and comforting, thick and soft next to naked skin. I shook my head. Just Jean-Claude's laughter was an invasion of privacy."

Chapter 4, pg. 23

"I turned away so Titus wouldn't see me smile. Dolph doesn't suffer fools gladly. He'll put up with them a little longer than I will, but once you've reached his limit, run for cover. No bureaucratic ass will be spared."

Chapter 8, pg. 57

"When i shut my car door, there was an echo. A second car door slammed shut. I was tired, but it was automatic to search the small parking lot for that second car. Irving Griswold stood four cars down, bundled in a Day-Glo orange parka with a stripped muffler trailing around his neck. His brown hair formed a frizzy halo to his bald spot. Tiny round glasses perched on a button nose. He looked jolly and harmless, and was a werewolf too."

Chapter 9, pg 69

"Edward and I stood in the doorway and watch him vanish around the corner.

'You're dating that.'

Minutes ago I would have been insulted, but my skin was vibrating with the backlash of Richard's power. I couldn't pretend anymore. He'd asked me to marry him, and I'd said yes. But I hadn't understood, not really. He wasn't human. He really, truly wasn't."

Chapter 19, pg 167

"Stephen was leaning on the back of the seat, chin resting on his forearms. He seemed to have forgotten that I'd nearly stabbed him, or maybe he was used to being threatened. "

Chapter 22, pg 194

"He stayed with his head bent, hair falling like a curtain between us. I ran my hand through that wavy hair, grabbing a handful close to the warmth of his skull. I used the hair like a handle and turned his face to me. His eyes were dark with more than just their color. Something was home in his eyes that I's seen only last night. The beast was rising through his eyes like a sea monster swimming upward through the dark water."

Chapter 23, pg 201





"I don't believe in casual sex. I haven't slept with Richard either.'  
'I am not blackmailing you into sex ma petite. I am trying to get equal time.'  
'If I agree, then what?'  
'Why, I pick you up on Friday night.'  
'Like a date-date?'"  
Chapter 25, pg 221

"I stood. I wanted to say I didn't have to explain myself to anyone, but if I meant this marriage thing, it wasn't true anymore. I didn't like that much. His being a werewolf was not the only hurdle to domestic bliss."  
Chapter 28, pg. 247

"Jean-Claude sat on my couch. The black shirt was spread around his naked torso. His arms were straight out along the back of the couch, raising the shirt, revealing nipples that were only two shades darker than his white skin. A slight smile curved his lips. He was dramatic and perfect on the white couch. He matched the decor. Shit. I was going to have to buy new furniture, something now white, not black. "  
Chapter 30, pg 273

"I appreciated the naga still being 'our' witness. 'Yeah, let's go.'"  
Chapter 35, pg 309

"Aikensen came off the floor, blood covering the lower half of his face. He fumbled for his gun.  
'If that gun clears your holster, I will shoot you myself.' Titus said."  
Chapter 40, pg 343



## Topics for Discussion

Why is Anita questioning her relationship with Richard? Does she truly love him?

What does Jean-Claude want from Anita? How is he different from Richard? How is he the same?

Why is Kaspar Gunderson arranging the use of lycanthropes for hunters?

Why does Elvira Drew claim she wants to interview a wererat? What is her actual mission?

How is Richard able to control Jason when they are being held captive? Is the fact that Jason is not willing to cooperate with the hunters helpful?

Why is Edward hunting lycanthropes? Do you believe that he would do so even if not being paid for it? Explain.

What role does Raina play within the pack? As Alpha Female does she have as much power as Marcus?