

# **Marked: A House of Night Novel Study Guide**

**Marked: A House of Night Novel by P. C. Cast**

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# Contents

<a href="#">Marked: A House of Night Novel Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 1-4.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 5-9.....</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 10-14.....</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 15-20.....</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 21-24.....</a>	<a href="#">15</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 25-29.....</a>	<a href="#">17</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">21</a>
<a href="#">Objects/Places.....</a>	<a href="#">24</a>
<a href="#">Themes.....</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
<a href="#">Style.....</a>	<a href="#">28</a>
<a href="#">Quotes.....</a>	<a href="#">31</a>
<a href="#">Topics for Discussion.....</a>	<a href="#">33</a>



# Plot Summary

Zoey Montgomery is a 16 year old girl that attends Broken Arrow's South Intermediate High School. Zoey has an almost-relationship with football star Heath and is best friends with the fast talking and rarely silent Kayla. Things change for Zoey when she is Marked by a Vampyre Tracker at school. This means that Zoey is going to become a vampyre. Suddenly, Zoey's entire world changes.

Zoey is rejected by her ultra conservative religious mother and step-father (Step-Loser). Zoey runs away to her Grandmother Redbird's lavender farm. Zoey is much more like her grandmother than her mother. Zoey's grandmother is Cherokee. Zoey embodies the Cherokee culture and their beliefs. Zoey is powerful and wise beyond her years.

Although Zoey is a unique girl that rapidly develops vampyre powers and cravings, Zoey is also a teenage girl with all of the usual issues including hatred of tests, fear of being rejected, uncertainty about herself, and the desire to have a nice group of friends as well as a hot boyfriend.

When Zoey enters the House of Night, she changes her name to Zoey Redbird. Zoey must immediately come to terms with the fact that she is different from the other fledgling students and must learn to embrace her emerging powers.

Zoey learns that there are many levels of "fledgling" vampyres. Since she has just been Marked, she is a First Former. The House of Night has six levels of fledglings, ending with Sixth Formers. Each year has their own level of education and skill. Vampyre behaviors do not appear until the fifth or sixth year. However, Zoey feels the cravings almost immediately.

Upon arriving at House of Night, Zoey meets her new mentor, Neferet, the High Priestess at the House of Night. Neferet is a beautiful, tall woman with a commanding presence. Like all adult vamps, Neferet bears her mark as well as an elaborate tattoo on her face that only serves to increase her beauty. Shortly after, Zoey meets Aphrodite, the Leader of a group known as the Dark Daughters and Sons and the High Priestess in training. Zoey and Aphrodite dislike each other immediately. Aphrodite proves to be a mean girl who bullies the others and uses her power to intimidate.

Zoey goes to a ritual of the Dark Daughters and Sons. She knows that she must take over as Aphrodite abuses her power and does not honor the goddess Nyx. Neferet is unaware of Aphrodite's lies and deceit as well as the abuse of power. Zoey enlists the aid of her new friends as well as the aid of Erik Night, the hot boy in school who is also Aphrodite's ex-boyfriend. After a disastrous ritual, Zoey is gifted with great power which allows her to take over the Dark Daughters and Sons and becomes the new High Priestess in training.



# Chapters 1-4

## Chapters 1-4 Summary

Chapter 1:

The story begins with the main character, Zoey, walking toward her locker with her friend Kayla. Zoey feels like she is coming down with a cold or some other ailment. Her best friend, Kayla, is babbling non-stop as usual, something that Zoey refers to as K-babble. Kayla talks incessantly about how Zoey's almost-boyfriend, Heath, got drunk after the game Friday night. Kayla insists that Heath wasn't that drunk and probably would not have been drinking if Zoey had been with him and had not been forced to go home right after the game.

"We shared a long-suffering look, in total agreement about the latest injustice committed against me by my mom and the Step-Loser she'd married three really long years ago." Chap. 1, p. 1

Zoey ignores that statement. Zoey has no intention of becoming serious about a boy that is well on his way to becoming an alcoholic.

Zoey stops cold when she sees a Tracker at her locker. The Tracker is a vampyre, and he is looking for Zoey.

"There was no mistaking what he was and even if I hadn't felt the power and darkness that radiated from him, there was no frickin' way I could miss his Mark, the sapphire-blue crescent moon on his forehead and the additional tattooing of entwining knot work that framed his equally blue eyes." Chap. 1, pp. 2-3

Before Zoey could do anything, the Tracker spoke the ancient ceremonial words and marks Zoey. Zoey's head explodes in pain and Kayla screams.

Kayla is borderline hysterical over the fact that Zoey has been marked. Kayla cringes and steps back from Zoey. She asks what Zoey intends to do because she can't go to "that place." Zoey tries to convince Kayla that she hasn't changed - she is still the same person she was seconds before. Kayla's phone rings. Zoey tells Kayla to ride home with her boyfriend.

Zoey realizes that she has two options. One is to become a vampyre. The second is to die. On the bright side, there would be no geometry test the next day. Zoey sees Heath outside, surrounded by flirtatious girls. Zoey knows she cannot go outside. Zoey thinks about the last kid that had been marked by a Tracker and how everyone - including Zoey - had shrunk back in horror when he ran out of the school.



Zoey goes to the bathroom and looks in the mirror. Her looks are already changing. Zoey thinks she already looks more like her grandmother, a Cherokee. Zoey feels the Cherokee blood dance inside her.

#### Chapter 2:

Zoey goes out into the parking lot, hoping to escape notice. Just as she is throwing her things into the back seat of her 1966 VW Beetle, Heath calls out to her. Zoey notices that Heath is drinking a beer. Zoey is stunned that Heath would do something so stupid. Heath begins to talk about the game's after party and how he didn't cheat on her.

Suddenly Heath notices Zoey's mark. Heath calls out to his two friends that Zoey is a vampyre. Zoey is upset but not surprised at Heath's inability to be discreet. The brothers drive away in their truck after Zoey gives them an evil stare. Heath seems to be entranced by Zoey. He tells Zoey they should get back together, that he loves her. The brothers come back around and physically pull Heath into the truck. Heath objects. Zoey gets into her car and drives home.

Zoey hopes that she will be able to speak to her mother alone. Zoey finds her mother reading on the couch and tells her that she needs help. Zoey's mother does not react well to the news and immediately wants to call her husband. Zoey wants only her mother for a while, for her mother to act like a mother. Zoey knows she has to go to the House of Night and is scared. Zoey's mother ignores her daughter's pleas and calls her husband. As Zoey packs some clothes in a backpack, her step-father (step-loser) knocks on the door and says they need to talk.

#### Chapter 3:

Zoey talks about her Step-Loser, John Heffner. Heffner looks like an ordinary man and some call him charming and handsome. Zoey has never liked him.

"I'm not just saying that because I can't stand him now. From the first day I met him I saw only one thing - a fake. He fakes being a nice guy. He fakes being a good husband. He even fakes being a good father." Chap. 3, p. 21

Zoey is lectured by her step-loser about being a problem and how she deserved to be marked. Zoey is stunned that he believes she could bring this on herself. Meanwhile, Zoe's mother goes into her Hurt Hysterical Mother routine, sobbing. Heffner thinks only about how this will reflect on him as an Elder of the People of Faith. Heffner goes on about science. Zoey debates his arguments with logic but her words fall on deaf ears. Heffner tells his wife to call the family psychiatrist and to start the church prayer chain. Heffner also tells Zoey that she should use makeup to cover that awful mark.

"I'm going to remember this, I told myself sternly. I'm going to remember how awful they made me feel today. So when I'm scared and alone and whatever else is going to happen to me starts to happen, I'm going to remember that nothing could be as bad as being stuck here. Nothing." Chap. 3, p. 26



#### Chapter 4:

Zoey is still coughing. She notices that the coughing is worse and wonders how it is tied into the Mark. Zoey goes to her room while her mother makes phone calls. Zoey forces herself not to cry and to take things one step at a time. She packs a bag and escapes through the window, using the extra key to her car that is hidden under a flower pot. The only thing Zoey can think about is getting to her Grandma Redbird.

## Chapters 1-4 Analysis

The reader gets to know Zoey Montgomery very quickly through the narrative as well as her own thoughts. Zoey starts out as a high school student worried about typical things such as a geometry test and the fact that her boyfriend has been drinking too much. Zoey has a best friend, Kayla, who talks too much and seems to be self-serving and submissive. Zoey is a relatively no nonsense kind of girl and cerebral. Zoey does what needs to be done and takes the most logical course her 16 year old brain can muster.

Zoey did not ask to be marked, and is horrified when it happens. Zoey does know what she must do and knows that it must be done no matter what. Zoey's mother has become submissive to the point of being weak, giving her power to her husband and ignoring her children in the process. Even when Zoey cries out for help, her mother defers to her husband, a man who cares only about himself and his position in the community and in the church. Zoey is mortally wounded by her mother's betrayal. The only person Zoey can turn to is her Grandma Redbird, a Cherokee woman who is wise and loving to her granddaughter. Zoey knows that through her grandmother she will find strength and answers.



# Chapters 5-9

## Chapters 5-9 Summary

### Chapter 5:

Zoey arrives at her grandmother's lavender farm. Her grandmother had known Zoey was coming and had left a note on the door, saying she was picking wildflowers up on the bluffs. Zoey does not want to wait for her grandmother's return and decides to go to the bluffs to find her. Zoey is becoming sicker. She thinks that Grandma Redbird will be able to help. Somehow the wisdom and magic of the Cherokee skipped a generation, leaving Zoey's mother without the gifts of her ancestors. On the way up to the bluffs, Zoey thinks about her childhood and the stories told by her grandmother. There were many stories of the Cherokee people. Zoey begins to see ghosts on the path and begins to run. Zoey falls, hits her head and blacks out.

Zoey has an out of body experience. She realizes that she is no longer coughing. Soon she can see her own body but she is not afraid even though her lips are blue and she is panting. Zoey enters a cave-like room. A voice tells Zoey to follow it to her destiny. Zoey goes into a room and finds the goddess Nyx waiting for her. Zoey asks the goddess if she is dead. Nyx says she is not dead. Nyx tells Zoey that she is a blend of the Old and New Worlds. Nyx tells Zoey that she is special and must believe in herself. Zoey must be Nyx's eyes and ears in a world where good and evil struggle to find balance. Nyx tells Zoey to be aware that darkness does not always mean evil and light does not always mean good. Nyx kisses Zoey's forehead. For the third time in one day, Zoey passes out.

### Chapter 6:

Zoey hears Grandma's song and wakes up. Grandma has taken Zoey to the House of Night, where all fledgling vampires must go. Grandma says she is not surprised that Zoey has been marked. The Redbirds have a long history of magic and it was only a matter of time.

Zoey notices that her mark is entirely filled in instead of just an outline. Zoey looks at her grandmother and sees her in a different light. Zoey is introduced to Neferet, a High Priestess of Nyx and her new mentor.

"Her touch was warm and firm. Her smile blazed with welcome. She was amazing and awe-inspiring. Actually, she was what all vampyres are, more than human - stronger, smarter, more talented." Chap. 6, p. 47

Grandma Redbird leaves. Neferet asks Zoey about her Mark and how it occurred. As Zoey begins to tell the story, an internal voice tells her to shut up. Neferet tells Zoey that she is well enough to leave the infirmary. Vampyres heal fast and Zoey seems to heal even faster. Neferet promises Zoey she will be fine and she will be safe.



#### Chapter 7:

Zoey gets her school schedule. Neferet shows her around the campus. Zoey notices that there are a lot of cats running around. Neferet explains that vampyres and cats are often bonded to each other. The cats choose their counterparts. Neferet talks about healing gifts. Neferet leaves Zoey on her own.

Zoey follows Neferet's instructions and begins to walk down a long hall. Zoey thinks it is too quiet and creepy. Zoey hears a noise in a nearby hallway. She sees a girl giving oral sex to a boy. The boy objects, saying that he no longer wants the girl. The couple spots Zoey. Zoey makes a hasty retreat and waits for Neferet to return.

Neferet describes each building to Zoey including its history. Zoey notes that vampyres tend to be more attractive than the ordinary person and also more artistic. The uniforms worn by the students are more like street clothes, individualized and informal.

#### Chapter 8:

Zoey feels normal again, now that she is healed and the coughing has stopped. Neferet introduces Zoey to Aphrodite. Immediately, Zoey can tell that Aphrodite is not a nice person. Moreover, she is the girl from the hallway. Aphrodite takes Zoey to her room. Zoey desperately wants to go home. Zoey meets her new roommate, Stevie Rae. The girls talk about Aphrodite. Apparently, Aphrodite is powerful but not well liked.

#### Chapter 9:

Stevie Rae takes Zoey to the dining hall. Zoey is excited to see that they are serving spaghetti with garlic. Stevie Rae says the whole vampyre garlic thing is a myth. Stevie Rae introduces Zoey to her friends, Erin, Damien and Shaunee. Everyone refers to Erin and Shaunee as twins because they are so much alike although they are of different ethnic backgrounds.

Zoey learns Aphrodite is one of the Dark Daughters. Damien explains.

"Yeah, they're supposed to be this great, pro-school, pro-vamp organization. Also, it is assumed that their leader is being groomed to be a High Priestess, so she's supposed to be the hear, mind, and spirit of the school - as well as a future leader in vamp society, et cetera, et cetera, blah, blah." Chap. 9, p. 86

Aphrodite approaches the table and invites Zoey to a ritual. Neferet had recommended that Zoey attend. The group warns Zoey not to go.

## Chapters 5-9 Analysis

Zoey is thrown into the House of Night culture. Zoey thinks it must be okay since Grandma had brought her to the house and Neferet, a High Priestess, promises protection. The school is foreign. Zoey finds positive things about it right away, but is





aware that the culture is very different from her old high school. The scene in the hallway upsets and disgusts Zoey. Zoey cannot stand the idea of a girl giving away sex for popularity or some skewed sense of self worth or power.

Zoey is confused by the changes in her body but knows she will figure out what is happening to her with Neferet's help. Zoey trusts Neferet and plans to lean on her whenever possible. Zoey is confused however by the voice that warns her not to tell Neferet everything about the changing.

Zoey immediately dislikes Aphrodite. Like her Step-Loser, Aphrodite is clearly a fake and not a nice person. Stevie Rae confirms this assessment and admits that she is afraid of Aphrodite. There is some history between Stevie Rae and Aphrodite that remains to be told.

Stevie Rae's friends are welcoming to Zoey and sympathize with her discomfort at being new at the school.

It is a telling move when Zoey changes her name to Zoey Redbird. Zoey feels as if she is going to come into her own. It is also a way to honor her grandmother and her Cherokee heritage.



# Chapters 10-14

## Chapters 10-14 Summary

Chapter 10:

Zoey decides that she must go to the Dark Daughters' ritual because Neferet asked her to go, and she does not want to disappoint her new mentor and start off on the wrong foot.

The symbols of each year's students are explained to Zoey. Damien talks about homophobes and how he is the only open gay male. Zoey worries that Damien must be lonely.

Stevie Rae talks about the healthy food at the school.

"They want us to eat healthy for the same reason they make us exercise every day - so that our bodies are as strong as possible, because if you start getting weak or fat or sick, that's the first sign that your body is rejecting the Change." Chap. 10, p. 87

Chapter 11:

Zoey has a strange dream about cats. She wakes at 6:30 PM and gets ready for the first day of classes. Zoey looks in the mirror and notices that she looks more ethnic than before.

Zoey makes it through her first day of classes. She talks with Stevie Rae about her day. Stevie Rae talks about her dream of becoming a country music star.

Aphrodite gives Zoey directions to the ritual.

Chapter 12:

Neferet is Zoey's teacher for Vampyre Sociology 101. The topic being studied in class relates to the Amazons. Neferet comments that the Amazons were matriarchal, just like vampyres, and that they were not truly man-haters as they also had consorts.

Neferet checks in with Zoey.

Zoey goes to drama class. She sees the boy from the hallway - Erik Night. Erik is a famous orator at the school. Zoey thinks he is the hottest boy she has ever seen. Zoey is surprised to see Erik staring at her during his monologue.

Chapter 13:



Zoey goes to Lit class where she sees Stevie Rae and Damien. The group discusses the Titanic. Zoey makes note of a boy sleeping in the class. The red-headed boy, Elliott, seems to be a real slug and does not care about school.

Chapter 14:

Zoey goes to fencing class. She meets Dragon, the fencing teacher. Damien is Dragon's prize student. Damien is chosen to teach Zoey the basic steps.

At lunch Zoey talks about Erik.

Zoey goes to her equestrian class where she sees Elliott again. Zoey spends the period mucking stalls, a task she does not mind as it reminds her of Grandma Redbird's horse, Bunny. Zoey is also introduced to a horse named Persephone.

Zoey runs late and just makes it to the Full Moon Ritual in time. Stevie Rae gives Zoey basic instructions before going into the hall.

## Chapters 10-14 Analysis

Zoey begins to find her way at House of Night. The first day is filled with new people and new experiences. Zoey wants to do well and tries to fit in. However, Zoey makes it clear that she will not compromise in order to be a part of any group.

Zoey's new friends are concerned about the Dark Daughters ritual. They want Zoey to refuse the invitation, even if it is unwise. Zoey is nervous about attending the ritual as well as the Full Moon Ritual. However, she is determined to go, only if it means seeing what Aphrodite's group is about before she declines membership.

Elliott is a strange character that remains on the periphery. Elliott represents the slacker at every school and it is clear that something will happen to Elliott.



# Chapters 15-20

## Chapters 15-20 Summary

Chapter 15:

Zoey learns that a girl has died. It is Elizabeth, a girl that Zoey had met in one of her classes. Zoey liked Elizabeth. Stevie Rae explains that when someone's body rejects the Change, they cannot be saved.

The group attends the Full Moon Ritual. The pentagram is also discussed as well as the fact that some groups want everyone to think that the pentagram is evil.

"The People of Faith want to control everything, and part of that control is that everyone has to always believe exactly the same. That's why they want people to think the pentagram is bad." Chap. 15, p. 140

Zoey sees Loren Blake, the poet laureate.

The four corners are called. Zoey begins to feel much better as she feels the elements.

Neferet delivers a speech as well as a type of sermon. There is dancing and blessings are given. The circle breaks. Zoey prepares to leave for the Dark Daughters' ritual.

Chapter 16:

Zoey meets Erik. The two talk briefly before Aphrodite takes Zoey away to change into appropriate attire. It is discussed that Zoey is Neferet's favorite and new pet. Zoey insists that Neferet is just being nice.

Zoey recognizes the strange smell as pot smoke mixed with spices. Aphrodite attempts to handle the circle in the same way as Neferet but it comes off as classless and cheap. Each person drinks wine as it is passed around. Zoey thinks it is the most delicious wine she has ever tasted. Zoey is stunned to see Elliott in the circle. Zoey learns that Elliott is the group's "refrigerator" meaning a source for blood. No one had told Zoey she would be drinking blood. Zoey runs away and vomits outside.

Chapter 17:

After Zoey is finished being sick, she follows the sound of a mewing kitten. The kitten has a strange meow. It is clear that this kitten, named Nala, is going to be Zoey's cat. Zoey looks up and sees Elizabeth's ghost and is shaken.

Kayla and Heath show up. They say they are going to break Zoey out of school. It is immediately clear to Zoey that Kayla has moved in on Heath. Zoey is disgusted that her best friend would betray her that way. Heath only has eyes for Zoey, and begs her to



come home. Zoey becomes angry with both when she learns that they both drink and smoke pot. Zoey is unaware that she is attracted to Heath's blood and begins to lick at a wound. Zoey sends her friends away.

Erik arrives shortly after Kayla and Heath leave. Erik witnessed the whole episode. Erik offers a tissue to Zoey.

Chapter 18:

Zoey tells Erik that she was the one who saw him in the hall with Aphrodite. Erik says he knows. Zoey also says that Aphrodite lied about the wine. Erik comments that only 6th Formers crave blood. Zoey is clearly different from the ordinary student. Erik suggests that Zoey talk to Neferet.

Erik shares the story of his first rite. Zoey wants to know what made Heath change and act differently. Erik thinks that Heath may be entranced by Zoey; he may be imprinted by her vamp powers. Erik walks Zoey home. Erik tells Zoey that no matter what she needs, he's the guy.

Chapter 19:

Zoey takes Nala into the kitchen and makes a sandwich. She and Nala go to the room Zoey shares with Stevie Rae. Stevie had been worried about Zoey. Zoey tells Stevie Rae about her evening including seeing Elizabeth's ghost, finding Nala, the incidents with Heath and Kayla, and talking with Erik. Zoey also tells Stevie Rae about the Dark Daughters' ritual. Zoey talks about Neferet's class act as High Priestess and Aphrodite's pale comparison. Zoey says Aphrodite came off as a cheap ho. Zoey also tells Stevie Rae about seeing Aphrodite and Erik in the hall. Stevie Rae says many people think that Aphrodite is going to be the next High Priestess. She has the gift of visions. However, Aphrodite does not impart the information about her visions - even if it involves a catastrophic accident - unless it will benefit her in some way. When Neferet confronted Aphrodite, she was forced to tell the truth about the plane crash.

"Vamps are almost impossible to lie to, especially when they ask you a direct question. And, remember, Aphrodite wants to be a High Priestess more than anything. If Neferet believed she was as twisted as she is, it would seriously hurt her future plans." Chap. 1, p. 201

Zoey wonders if things would be different if the Dark Daughters had a different High Priestess.

Zoey discusses being able to feel the five elements during the ritual. Stevie Rae is stunned because this is unheard of, particularly by a fledgling. Stevie Rae says Zoey should talk to Neferet. Zoey wants to wait and makes Stevie Rae promise not to tell anyone yet.

Stevie Rae tells Zoey that she was once invited to be a part of the Dark Daughters' ritual but as a refrigerator. Zoey says she will join out of spite.



Stevie Rae gives Zoey a bunch of items for Nala, including a collar with Nala's name on it. Neferet's cat, Skylar, had told Neferet that Nala was coming.

Chapter 20:

Nala follows Zoey to class. Zoey tells Aphrodite that she has accepted the invitation to the Dark Daughters. Aphrodite is angry. The Samhain ritual is the following evening. Zoey tells Stevie Rae that she is joining to perform recon.

Zoey goes to see Neferet. She tells Neferet about her family. Neferet wants Zoey to take advanced Vamp Soc on her own. Zoey agrees. Zoey also tells Neferet about Heath and Kayla. Neferet says it is immoral to drink blood from humans. She will also speak to Aphrodite about lying to Zoey.

Neferet hugs Zoey, which makes Zoey want to cry. Neferet tells Zoey to call her grandmother.

## Chapters 15-20 Analysis

Zoey is thrown headfirst into the school's culture. In many ways it is much like the culture of her old school. The Dark Daughters are the mean girls, the Dark Sons are the somewhat clueless jocks, and there are many other stereotypes, such as Elliott the slacker and Elizabeth as the nice but tragic girl.

Zoey is determined to do what is right even though it will surely cause her trouble with Aphrodite and others. Zoey knows that Aphrodite must do as Neferet suggests or blow her cover. The reader is led to believe that Zoey is going to take over as High Priestess of the Dark Daughters or at least unseat the wicked Aphrodite. There will also be a conflict between Zoey and Aphrodite regarding Erik. Zoey's friends are likely targets for fall out from the blossoming feud.

Neferet will be a good ally to Zoey as the story moves along. Zoey will have to learn to trust Neferet if she wants to remain safe.



# Chapters 21-24

## Chapters 21-24 Summary

Chapter 21:

Zoey calls Grandma Redbird. Grandma tells Zoey that she can tell her anything and nothing will change - she will always love Zoey. Grandma says Zoey's spirit is always her spirit.

Zoey tells her grandmother that she can feel the elements while she is in a circle.

Grandma Redbird replies: "If that is the truth, you have been given great power, Zoey. And you know that with great power comes great responsibility. Our family has a rich history of Tribal Elders, Medicine Men, and Wise Women. Have a care, Little Bird, to think before you act. The Goddess would not have granted you special powers on a whim." Chap. 21, p. 221

Grandma suggests using the purification prayer to help. Zoey feels much better.

Zoey meets her friends for lunch. They discuss the Dark Sons and their role as ornamental fixtures for the Dark Daughters.

Erik invites Zoey to watch movies. Zoey declines because she has plans.

Chapter 22:

Zoey tells her friends about joining the Dark Daughters. They are against it even though Zoey plans to take Aphrodite down. Zoey also talks about the purification ritual. Soon, everyone is on board. Zoey plans to ask Nyx for help. The group offers to collect the necessary supplies.

Aphrodite makes threats toward Zoey regarding Erik, saying that Erik will always belong to her. Aphrodite also uninvites Zoey to join the Dark Daughters. Zoey says she may have to go and talk to Neferet and pretend to be distraught about Aphrodite's "uninvitation." Stevie Rae shows up and tells Zoey that it is clear Aphrodite hates her.

Chapter 23:

The group arrives for the purification ritual and circle. Each person takes a role with Zoey as High Priestess. Zoey becomes exhilarated as she manifests the elements. The group is amazed at her power.

Chapter 24: Zoey stays behind after the ritual to think. Erik "finds" her. Zoey tells Erik about her confrontation with Aphrodite. Erik walks Zoey home. Erik asks Zoey to go out



again. Erik kisses Zoey. Erik tells Zoey that what he feels for her is much different from what he felt for Aphrodite.

## Chapters 21-24 Analysis

Zoey really starts to come into her own in this section. She accepts that she is not only different from her old friends but that she is also different from the fledgling vamps. Zoey clearly has some special powers that have yet to be fully developed. The fact that she can manifest and feel the elements is shocking to her friends and surprises the unflappable Grandma Redbird. Zoey will surely tell Neferet at some point if Neferet doesn't figure it out first.

Aphrodite is becoming increasingly volatile to the point of being threatening to Zoey. This does not surprise anyone. Only Neferet seems to be unaware of Aphrodite's true personality. Aphrodite plans to hold onto Erik, even if it is against his will. Zoey is drawn to Erik and does not see Aphrodite as a threat.

Zoey's plan to infiltrate the Dark Daughters could go in several different directions from mayhem to success. The reader cannot help but wonder what will happen to Aphrodite if Zoey takes over as HP. Clearly Zoey has the power but Aphrodite has many friends. The question is, are they true friends?





# Chapters 25-29

## Chapters 25-29 Summary

Chapter 25:

Zoey is distracted in class. Elliott keeps coughing, and it seems to be getting worse. Soon, Elliott coughs up blood. Blood begins to flow out of his eyes. The teacher asks someone to fetch Dragon, Elliott's mentor, and Neferet. The teachers come running. One has a vial of milky white liquid. Neferet attempts to soothe Elliott. A student explains to Zoey that Elliott is dying. The white liquid will help to take away the pain. Neferet will stay with Elliott until the end. Zoey still has a hard time accepting that nothing can be done once someone's body rejects the Change. Everyone in the room becomes solemn. Although death is not uncommon, there have been two deaths in two days and it is hard to take.

Zoey decides that she will go through with the Samhain ritual.

Zoey receives many texts from Heath. Zoey wonders if she had somehow Imprinted Heath without meaning to do it. It is clear that Heath is obsessed with her now. Zoey will have to speak to Neferet about the issue.

Chapter 26:

Zoey goes to see Neferet. Skylar greets Zoey. Before Zoey can get to Neferet's office, she sees Aphrodite slumped in the hall, her eyes rolled back in her head. Zoey runs to Aphrodite. Aphrodite is in the middle of a vision. She rambles about people dying in tunnels. Zoey cannot understand what she is talking about. Zoey takes Aphrodite to Neferet. Neferet cannot understand Aphrodite's visions because they are too abstract.

Zoey's friends want to go to the Samhain ritual. Zoey says no. Zoey goes to the ritual. On the way she sees Elliott's ghost. Nala growls at Elliott. Elliott bares fangs at Zoey and says, "I will have you!" Chap. 26, p. 273

Nala attacks and Elliott flees.

Chapter 27:

Zoey arrives at the ritual site. Aphrodite is snotty toward Zoey. It is also clear that Aphrodite hates that Zoey saw her at a vulnerable point.

Samhain is explained. It is the night when the veil is thinnest between the worlds of life and death. It is the best night to connect with the spirit world. Aphrodite announces that the group is going to another location. Erik arrives and Zoey walks with him. In the hallway, there is a trap door. It looks as if people can walk through the wall. Erik explains that the administration knows about the trap door and that they sometimes



leave campus. The people in charge do not seem to object because the group stays out of trouble.

The group walks through the back yards of neighboring houses. Zoey feels as if they move like shadows. They go to the Philbrook Museum. Zoey is stunned and does not like that they are going to trespass. Erik explains that Aphrodite has drugged the guards. No one will be hurt. In the morning the guards simply will not remember anything unusual.

Zoey describes the gazebo in the garden. It is throne-like beautiful, like something from ancient Greece. When Aphrodite takes her place in the center, some of the beauty is diminished. Zoey sees some of Aphrodite's people, including Warlike, Terrible, and Wasp.

The ritual begins. Zoey is concerned that Aphrodite had started the ritual without cleansing the area first as it could attract evil spirits. Zoey begins to feel the elements and becomes entranced with the ritual. Soon spirits begin to appear. From the darkness, Heath yells out to Zoey.

Chapter 28:

Heath continues to yell out to Zoey, saying he knew he would find her. Several people yell to make Heath go away. He will not leave. Heath spots Erik and thinks that Zoey is cheating on him. Zoey tries to reason with Heath but he will not listen. Aphrodite smiles wickedly at Heath and tells him to come to her. Aphrodite caresses her body to entice Heath. Zoey's friends come out from behind shrubs to try to keep Heath from entering the circle. Aphrodite wills the spirits to attack Heath. Heath begins to panic and scream as the spirits attack. Aphrodite plans to let them kill Heath and then drink his blood.

Zoey's friends mobilize into place and Zoey pushes Aphrodite aside to take over the circle. Each friend takes an element, as before. With each element Zoey feels increasing power. Zoey asks the ghosts to retreat. They say they want to kill Heath. Zoey says they have been called for celebration of Nyx, not to cause death. Still, the ghosts refuse to obey. Zoey commands them to obey, saving Heath. Aphrodite challenges Zoey. The friends tell Zoey that something is happening to her mark. Zoey looks into a mirror and sees that her mark is beautiful and that she has been tattooed on her face and shoulder with delicate scrollwork.

Aphrodite continues to challenge Zoey, saying she can't just take over. Zoey insults Aphrodite, saying that she is a horrible, mean person and a bully and is no longer High Priestess. Zoey goes on to tell Aphrodite what she did wrong with the circle. She also tells Aphrodite that she has dishonored Nyx for her own selfish ends. Zoey's friends and other members of the circle back Zoey after seeing what Aphrodite had intended to do. Aphrodite says that only the High Priestess can change the leadership of the Dark Daughters. Neferet appears.

Chapter 29:



Neferet approaches Heath and Erik. Neferet congratulates Erik for his bravery when he attempted to remove the ghosts from Heath. Neferet tells Erik that they will take him to the infirmary to treat the wounds and that he will heal. Neferet also tells Erik that she and Nyx are proud of him. Neferet moves to Heath and examines the wounds on his legs. After a few moments Heath begins to relax and become peaceful. Neferet tells Zoey that Heath will recover and remember nothing of the attack. The only thing he will remember is that he got drunk and tried to find his ex-almost-girlfriend. Zoey thanks Neferet.

People from the circle gather around the gazebo to watch the action. Neferet addresses Aphrodite. "I am as responsible for what happened here tonight as you are. I have known for years of your selfishness, but I chose to overlook it, hoping that age and the touch of the Goddess would mature you. I was wrong." Chap. 29, p. 302

Neferet goes on to say that Aphrodite is released from her position as the leader of the Dark Daughters and Sons. Neferet also says that Aphrodite is no longer in training as High Priestess. She is now no more than an ordinary fledgling. Neferet grabs Aphrodite's amulet and pulls it off. Aphrodite goes pale but does not speak.

Neferet approaches Zoey. She tells Zoey that it was clear from the start that Zoey is special and that Nyx had told her that Zoey would be Marked. Neferet examines the tattoos on Zoey's face, neck, shoulders and back. Neferet remarks that they are extraordinary.

"Tonight you showed the wisdom of the Goddess' choice in gifting you with special powers. You have earned the position of Leader of the Dark Daughters and Sons and High Priestess in training, through your Goddess-given gifts as well as through your compassion and wisdom." Chap. 29, pp. 302-303

Neferet tells Zoey and the others to go back to the school. Stevie Rae, Damien, Shaunee and Erin walk with Zoey. Zoey tells Stevie Rae she shouldn't have volunteered to be the refrigerator for the ritual. Stevie Rae says it was the only way to inform the others and to be there to help Zoey. Erik approaches the group and asks if he can join. Everyone forms into a group hug. Erik hugs Zoey and kisses her.

As the group walks, Zoey stops to pick up Nala. Aphrodite blocks Zoey's path. She says that Zoey has no idea what she has done, that this is only the beginning. Zoey understands that something is about to happen. Aphrodite knows something about the deaths of Elizabeth and Elliott and that it has something to do with her vision. Aphrodite won't tell Zoey and storms off. Stevie Rae says that no matter what happens, they're in it together.

## Chapters 25-29 Analysis

Zoey's power grows. Something is happening with the deaths of the students that is unclear to Zoey. The vision had by Aphrodite could shed light on it. It is unclear if Aphrodite understands the vision and is withholding information or if the vision becomes



clearer over time. Since she cannot like to Neferet, it would seem that Aphrodite is beginning to have realizations that scare even her. Still, in true Aphrodite form, she will not tell Zoey or anyone about the terrible things that are about to happen.

Zoey goes against her better judgment a number of times. At first she upsets her friends by refusing to let them attend the Samhain ritual. Zoey feels like this is something she must handle on her own. Besides, if the group was spotted at the ritual, it could mean trouble for all of them. Zoey also chooses to ignore the fact that Aphrodite does not properly cleanse the circle before starting the ritual. In essence, Aphrodite invites all spirits to the circle, even evil or malevolent spirits. If Zoey had not known what to do to reclaim the circle, Heath certainly would have died.

Aphrodite shows a sociopathic personality many times throughout the story. She is mean and self-serving and disregards the ways of Nyx to please herself. She also disregards the creed not to harm others. Aphrodite is drunk with power. While the people in the circle abandon Aphrodite when things begin to go astray, Zoey is smart enough to know that this does not mean they will be loyal to her. Zoey is well aware of who her friends are and on whom she can rely.

Zoey is honored that she will be the new leader of the Dark Daughters and Sons and also become a High Priestess in training. Zoey has a good heart and the wisdom to lead and to honor Nyx.

The end of the book clearly indicates that there will be a sequel.



# Characters

## Zoey Redbird

Zoey Montgomery is a 16 year old girl that attends Broken Arrow's South Intermediate High School. Zoey has an almost relationship with football star Heath and is best friends with the fast talking and rarely silent Kayla. Things change for Zoey when she is Marked by a Vampyre Tracker at school. This means that Zoey is going to become a vampyre. Suddenly, Zoey's entire world changes.

Zoey is rejected by her ultra conservative religious mother and step-father (Step-Loser). Zoey runs away to her Grandmother Redbird's lavender farm. Zoey is much more like her grandmother than her mother. Zoey's grandmother is Cherokee. Zoey embodies the Cherokee culture and their beliefs. Zoey is powerful and wise beyond her years.

Although Zoey is a unique girl that rapidly develops vampyre powers and cravings, Zoey is also a teenage girl with all of the usual issues including hatred of tests, fear of being rejected, uncertainty about herself, and the desire to have a nice group of friends as well as a hot boyfriend.

When Zoey enters the House of Night, she changes her name to Zoey Redbird. Zoey must immediately come to terms with the fact that she is different from the other fledgling students and must learn to embrace her emerging powers.

## Neferet

Neferet is the High Priestess at the House of Night. This means that Neferet is in charge of everything, much like a principal but with much more power. Neferet is a beautiful, tall woman with a commanding presence. Like all adult vamps, Neferet bears her mark as well as an elaborate tattoo on her face that only serves to increase her beauty.

Neferet becomes Zoey's mentor, and realizes that Zoey has special powers even beyond her filled-in Mark. Adult vamps know many things and even though Zoey does not confide in Neferet in the beginning, she learns that Neferet can be trusted.

Like all adult vamps, Neferet has additional special powers. Among Neferet's powers is the power to heal. She is also good at soothing the sick and dying, particularly those whose bodies have rejected the change.

It is Neferet that comes to Zoey's side after the Samhain ritual debacle. Neferet commends Zoey and Erik on their bravery and installs Zoey as the new Leader of the Dark Daughters and Sons as well as High Priestess in training. It is clear that Neferet will play a very large part in Zoey's continuing saga.



## **Heath**

Heath is the boy that Zoey refers to as her ex-almost-boyfriend. Heath is a star football player with a drinking problem.

## **Kayla**

Kayla is Zoey's best friend at SIHS.

## **Stevie Rae**

Stevie Rae is Zoey's roommate and best friend at House of Night.

## **Erik Night**

Erik is the school's award winning orator. He is also seeking to start a relationship with Zoey.

## **Aphrodite**

Aphrodite is the Leader of the Dark Daughters and Sons and High Priestess in training until Zoey unseats her at the Samhain ritual.

## **Damien**

Damien is a gay boy at House of Night and Zoey's friend.

## **Erin and Shaunee**

These friends of Zoey's are often referred to as the Twins.

## **Warlike, Terrible and Wasp**

These are three members of the Dark Daughters and cohorts of Aphrodite.

## **Nyx**

Nyx is the Goddess of all and the one worshiped by vamps and other cultures.

## **Sylvia Redbird**

Sylvia Redbird is Zoey's maternal grandmother.



# Objects/Places

## House of Night

The House of Night is the main setting in the book. It is the place where vampyres go to school and to live. As a newly marked person, Zoey must go to the House of Night to learn how to deal with her new status as a fledgling vampyre. Zoey's grandmother, Sylvia Redbird takes Zoey to the House of Night after she is marked and injured in a fall. Zoey's grandmother leaves Zoey in the care of Neferet, the High Priestess of the school.

The House of Night is described much like a college campus. Located in the suburbs of Tulsa, OK, the school has a touch of the Old South as well as hints of old Europe with its Gothic and Grecian elements. Neferet explains that the school once belonged to the People of Faith but it was sold to the House of Night. Zoey thinks that the place looks like something out of a creepy dream. Large old oaks shade everything. There are freestanding copper gaslights that light the walkways. The main building had a round tower on top that reminds Zoey of a castle that should have a moat. Neferet explains that the buildings are in neo-French-Norman style. It was built in the 1920s as an Augustine monastery.

One thing that dismays Zoey about the school is its marked lack of junk food. Zoey's roommate, Stevie Rae explains: "They want us to eat healthy for the same reason they make us exercise every day - so that our bodies are as strong as possible, because if you start getting weak or fat or sick, that's the first sign that your body is rejecting the Change." Chap. 10, p. 87

## Ritual

There are several rituals that take place in the book. The first is the Full Moon Ritual held in the Rec Hall. The ritual is overseen by Neferet, the school's High Priestess. The ritual celebrates the full moon and also blesses those who attend. It also honors the five elements and the Goddess Nyx.

The second ritual that takes place is the first Dark Daughters and Sons' ritual. Zoey is invited by the group's High Priestess, Aphrodite. During the ritual, Zoey drinks blood mixed with wine for the first time. It is also the first time Zoey realizes that she can feel the elements.

The third ritual that takes place involves Zoey as High Priestess. In attendance are Stevie Rae, Erin, Shaunee, and Damien. The group performs a purification.

The final ritual that takes place is the Samhain ritual. This ritual takes place on Samhain or Halloween. It is the night when the veil is thinnest between the living world and the spirit world. Aphrodite is in charge of this ritual. The ritual goes awry when Aphrodite





neglects to properly cleanse the circle and malevolent spirits appear, almost killing bystander Heath. It is also the ritual that Zoey takes over and casts out evil spirits, showing her real power for the first time.

## **South Intermediate High School**

Zoey's school before going to the House of Night is the South Intermediate High School located in Broken Arrow, OK. The school has approximately 1300 students.

## **1966 VW Beetle**

This is Zoey's car.

## **Football**

This is the sport most coveted at South Intermediate High School, especially since they won the recent championship.

## **Dining Hall**

This is where Zoey often gathers with her friends to talk.

## **Gazebo**

This is where Aphrodite holds the Samhain ritual.

## **Rec Hall**

This is where Neferet holds the Full Moon Ritual.

## **Zoey's Dorm Room**

This is the place that Zoey shares with Stevie Rae.

## **Grandma Redbird's Lavendar Farm**

This is where Zoey runs to after being Marked by the Vampyre Tracker.



# Themes

## House of Night

The House of Night is the main setting in the book. It is the place where vampyres go to school and to live. As a newly marked person, Zoey must go to the House of Night to learn how to deal with her new status as a fledgling vampyre. Zoey's grandmother, Sylvia Redbird takes Zoey to the House of Night after she is marked and injured in a fall. Zoey's grandmother leaves Zoey in the care of Neferet, the High Priestess of the school.

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One thing that dismays Zoey about the school is its marked lack of junk food. Zoey's roommate, Stevie Rae explains: "They want us to eat healthy for the same reason they make us exercise every day - so that our bodies are as strong as possible, because if you start getting weak or fat or sick, that's the first sign that your body is rejecting the Change." Chap. 10, p. 87

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neglects to properly cleanse the circle and malevolent spirits appear, almost killing bystander Heath. It is also the ritual that Zoey takes over and casts out evil spirits, showing her real power for the first time.

## Vampyres

Vampyres are a main theme in the story. All of the students at SIHS know about vampyres, as there is a local school dedicated to their education and to assist them while they go through the change. It is this knowledge plus some special understanding that allows Zoey to spot the Vampyre Tracker at her locker at school. Zoey stops cold when she sees a Tracker at her locker. The Tracker is a vampyre and he is looking for Zoey.

"There was no mistaking what he was and even if I hadn't felt the power and darkness that radiated from him, there was no frickin' way I could miss his Mark, the sapphire-blue crescent moon on his forehead and the additional tattooing of entwining knot work that framed his equally blue eyes." Chap. 1, pp. 2-3

Before Zoey could do anything, the Tracker spoke the ancient ceremonial words and marks Zoey. Zoey's head explodes in pain and Kayla screams. Zoey has been Marked.

Zoey learns that there are many levels of "fledgling" vampyres. Since she has just been Marked, she is a First Former. The House of Night has six levels of fledglings, ending with Sixth Formers. Each year has their own level of education and skill. Vampyre behaviors do not appear until the fifth or sixth year. However, Zoey feels the cravings almost immediately.

As the book is the first in a series, readers will continue to learn about vampyre culture and behavior and how the House of Night plays an integral role in teaching the fledglings about their new lives.

# Style

## Point of View

"Marked" by P.C. Cast and Kristin Cast is written in the first person point of view, through the eyes of the main character, Zoey Redbird. The use of first person in the story works well in that the reader is able to understand the modern world of vampyres through the eyes of one of its fledgling practitioners. The reader is taken on a journey along with Zoey as she becomes Marked as a vampyre and enters the House of Night, the school that teaches fledglings about their new lives, powers, cravings, and gifts.

The use of first person makes the story seem slightly less fantastic to the point that the reader can grasp what life might be like for a high school student cast into a strange world if vampyres were real. It also allows the reader to understand how it might feel to be cast into an unknown world away from everything and everyone familiar.

While third person omniscient may have enabled the reader to get a broader view of the life of a vampyre as well as the inner workings of the vampyre hierarchy, the use of first person lends an air of authenticity to the story and allows the character of Zoey Redbird to become real.

## Setting

The House of Night is the main setting in the book. It is the place where vampyres go to school and to live. As a newly marked person, Zoey must go to the House of Night to learn how to deal with her new status as a fledgling vampyre. Zoey's grandmother, Sylvia Redbird takes Zoey to the House of Night after she is marked and injured in a fall. Zoey's grandmother leaves Zoey in the care of Neferet, the High Priestess of the school.

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## Language and Meaning

The language used in "Marked" tends to be relatively informal and relies a great deal on dialogue between the characters. Although Zoey is familiar with vampyres to a degree, there are some unfamiliar terms that must be learned; however the jargon used is not difficult or something that requires much explanation. Much of the new vernacular is familiar to Zoey because of her heritage and information that has been gleaned from her grandmother. The tools used in the story to cast circles and conduct rituals are fairly common and there is little need for explanation of unfamiliar terms. Certain parts of the ritual, such as the calling of the four corner and elements, are explained by the students.

Although several of the vampyres in the story are very old if not ancient, there seems to be little reference to outdated languages.

The language used by Zoey is very descriptive and is used in such a way that the person she is speaking to can fully understand the meaning and context of what is being said.

## Structure

"Marked" by P.C. Cast and Kristin Cast is a work of fiction. The book is 306 pages in length and is comprised of 29 chapters. The shortest chapter is 5 pages in length; the longest chapter is 12 pages in length. The average length of a chapter is 11 pages.

The story is chronological in order. Zoey Montgomery is a 16 year old girl that attends Broken Arrow's South Intermediate High School. Zoey has an almost relationship with football star Heath and is best friends with the fast talking and rarely silent Kayla. Things change for Zoey when she is Marked by a Vampyre Tracker at school. This means that Zoey is going to become a vampyre. Suddenly, Zoey's entire world changes.

Zoey is rejected by her ultra conservative religious mother and step-father (Step-Loser). Zoey runs away to her Grandmother Redbird's lavender farm. Zoey is much more like her grandmother than her mother. Zoey's grandmother is Cherokee. Zoey embodies the Cherokee culture and their beliefs. Zoey is powerful and wise beyond her years.

Although Zoey is a unique girl that rapidly develops vampyre powers and cravings, Zoey is also a teenage girl with all of the usual issues including hatred of tests, fear of being rejected, uncertainty about herself, and the desire to have a nice group of friends as well as a hot boyfriend.

When Zoey enters the House of Night, she changes her name to Zoey Redbird. Zoey must immediately come to terms with the fact that she is different from the other fledgling students and must learn to embrace her emerging powers.



Zoey goes up against the powerful (but not as powerful as she thinks) Aphrodite to take over as Leader of the Dark Daughters and Sons and to become the new High Priestess in training. The book ends with a cliffhanger, propelling the reader to move on to the next book in the series.



## Quotes

"We shared a long-suffering look, in total agreement about the latest injustice committed against me by my mom and the Step-Loser she'd married three really long years ago." Chap. 1, p. 1

"There was one person I really wanted to talk to. She was the one person in the world who I was positive wouldn't look at my Mark and think I was a monster or a freak or a really awful person." Chap. 4, p. 29

"I took a deep breath. 'Am I dead?'" Chap. 5, p. 39

"Her touch was warm and firm. Her smile blazed with welcome. She was amazing and awe-inspiring. Actually, she was what all vampyres are, more than human - stronger, smarter, more talented." Chap. 6, p. 47

"Every High Priestess is given an affinity - what you would probably think of as special powers - by the Goddess." Chap. 7, p. 53

"I squeezed my eyes shut tightly and hoped desperately that whatever we were eating for dinner (oh, please let there not be any blood-drinking involved) wouldn't disagree with my already screwed-up, nervous stomach." Chap. 8, p. 77

"They want us to eat healthy for the same reason they make us exercise every day - so our bodies are as strong as possible, because if you start getting weak or fat or sick, that's the first sign that your body is rejecting the Change." Chap. 10, p. 97

"The People of Faith want to control everything, and part of that control is that everyone has to always believe exactly the same. That's why they want people to think the pentagram is bad." Chap. 15, p. 140

"I drank blood - that horrid Elliott kid's blood - and I'd liked it!" Chap. 16, p. 167

"I wouldn't let myself think. Not yet." Chap. 17, p. 180

"Vamps are almost impossible to lie to, especially when they ask you a direct question." Chap. 19, p. 201

"Maybe if I repeated it over and over enough to myself, I'd actually believe it." Chap. 24,  
p. 251



## Topics for Discussion

How might you feel in Zoey's place when she saw the Tracker for the first time? Would you try to run or face him?

Examine Zoey's relationship with her Grandmother. What is special about Zoey's grandmother? How do you think Zoey would have handled things if she didn't have her grandmother to rely on for support and advice?

Discuss the out of body experience during which Zoey meets Nyx for the first time. Do you think it was truly an out of body experience or just a dream? Do you think Nyx is real? How might you react in Zoey's place? Explain.

Zoey's parents treat Zoey as if she is a product of the devil. Zoey's Step-Loser blames her for being marked. What is your opinion on this scene? Do you think it was Zoey's fault? Why did Grandma think it was only a matter of time until one of them received the Mark?

Discuss Aphrodite's character. What are Aphrodite's motives? Why is she so nasty? What is Zoey's opinion? What happens to Aphrodite?

Examine the relationship between Zoey and Erik. Why is Zoey intent on avoiding Erik and a possible relationship? How does Aphrodite react to the possibility? Why does Aphrodite think that Erik belongs to her?

Discuss the things Zoey learns about herself during the first two rituals.