

Memnoch the Devil Study Guide

Memnoch the Devil by Anne Rice

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Plot Summary

Memnoch the Devil is a novel by Anne Rice in which the concepts of good and evil are questioned. Through Memnoch's interactions with God and Lestat, all of the characters question their motives, and they search their souls to try to determine whether they are truly good people or not. Memnoch the Devil is a very interesting addition to Anne Rice's Vampire Chronicles.

Lestat is a vampire who is tracking a victim that he has taken a special interest in, a drug lord, murderer and art smuggler named Roger. During his hunt he has become aware of another presence following him as well and has become frightened of what may be tracking him. For some reason he believes that this may be the Devil that is tracking him and he calls upon his close friend and fledgling, David, for comfort and advice. David advises that perhaps the events taking place may have something to do with the victim of choice, or with the victim's daughter, Dora, a religious leader. David actually feels more as though Lestat may be losing his mind.

When Lestat takes his victim, something unusual occurs that shakes Lestat. The victim first talks to Lestat, which is something that no other victim has been able to do. Also, Roger comes back to Lestat to tell him his life's story, make corrections to the gaps that Lestat has been made aware of and to ask that Lestat watch over his daughter. Lestat accepts the responsibility, but must also deal with his own personal feelings for Dora, as well as the past. Lestat's past with women causes him trouble in this area in keeping his promise. Lestat's stalker turns out to confront him in the middle of his living up to this new responsibility and he must attempt to fulfill his promise to Roger and take on the challenge that has been placed at his feet.

Memnoch, the Devil has come to ask for Lestat's assistance as his first lieutenant. Lestat must now decide if he will accept the Devil's proposal and keep his soul. Furthermore, Lestat has to reconcile his religious ideas with the true history of the beginning of the world and the parts that both God and the Devil play in the world that exists and the afterlife. He is given the opportunity to find out the answer to the very question that has plagued mankind since the beginning, but once he does have the answers, will he be able to choose a side, and if so, will it be the right one?

Lestat is taken to Heaven and to Hell, as well as to the beginning of time and even to the crucifixion of Christ to witness the events as they truly happened and made his decision based on what he witnesses.



Section 1: Prologue and Chapter 1

Section 1: Prologue and Chapter 1 Summary

In introducing himself to readers that have not already read the Vampire Chronicles, Lestat tells that he was created in 1789 and catalogs his strengths and physical characteristics in an effort to entice the reader to continue reading his tales. He claims that the events in his story do not result from the fact that he is a vampire as they could have just as easily happened to a human. David meets Lestat in an opulent hotel across from St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York because Lestat has urgently summoned him. After reminiscing briefly, Lestat explains that he has summoned David because he thinks he is being stalked by the Devil and he is afraid. Specifically, Lestat recalls a story David had told him when he was human, a story of feeling like he had witnessed a tear in the fabric of the beyond while sitting in a Parisian cafe. Because this occurred while David was human, this memory is beginning to fade, but he slightly recalls it. Lestat tells David that he has been hunting a drug dealer and art smuggler who he refers to as the victim. Lestat chooses this hotel for dinner because the victim is also dining here with Dora, his daughter. Lestat describes the phenomenon that has occurred during this hunt. At first, he thinks that the voices he hears belongs to elementals, but he comes to believe that the Devil is stalking him. Lestat tells David that Dora is a religious figure on television and also describes her tumultuous relationship with her father. While conversing with David, Lestat also eavesdrops on the victim's conversation with his daughter, during which the victim attempts to present Dora with a gift that she refuses to accept.

Section 1: Prologue and Chapter 1 Analysis

In Lestat's introduction of himself, he lists his attributes in an attempt to win the reader's interest, not just in his story but in himself as well. Lestat states in this introduction that he is looking for the readers that do not know him to experience love at first sight. In his conclusion, he makes a comment that he is frightened and asks that the reader not leave him alone. The beginning of the tale, taking place in an opulent setting of a hotel with St Patrick's Cathedral across the street, is a perfect foreshadowing of this story, as there are many oppositions set in place dealing with good versus evil. Although there is not an in-depth description given of St. Patrick's Cathedral, its appearance is a strong presence for setting the stage of the story. For example, Dora and her father are having dinner together at this opulent restaurant where he offers her a present that she refuses to accept and her father makes a comment that he may have sold his soul for places such as this.

Simultaneously, David and Lestat meet, and even they are at perfect odds of each other. Lestat's paleness and expensive clothing contrast with David's darker complexion and more common clothing, and David's high intellect contrasts with Lestat's ego. So when Lestat reveals to David that he believes he is being stalked by an unknown entity,

which he fears is the Devil coming for him, the stage is set for the coming comparisons and contrasts.



Section 2: Chapter 2

Section 2: Chapter 2 Summary

David suggests that stalker's appearance may be related to Lestat's current victim, especially as Dora is a religious figure, but Lestat maintains that the two events are separated since the presence first appeared before he began this hunt. In order to comfort his friend, David promises to stay in New York and procure suitable accommodations. David worries when Lestat requests that the accommodations contain a view of St. Patrick's Cathedral. Lestat pursues the victim to his secret house filled with his stolen treasures, and in reading the man's mind, Lestat finds that the man laments Dora's refusal of his gift, a sacred religious artifact, as are most of the victim's relics.

Lestat arrives at the house before the victim and is startled by a huge, black, granite statue which resembles Lestat's image of his stalker. He avoids the statue when the victim arrives. The victim seems aware that someone has been in his home as he passes the rooms Lestat had not entered and lingers in the ones that Lestat thoroughly inspected. After drinking from the victim, Lestat empties the victim's pockets, cuts off his head and hands and places the pieces in three separate bags as he saw the victim do to Dora's mother when reading his mind. Lestat disposes of the body by burying it in separate places around New York City amongst rubbish. He finds the act deplorable but appropriate since he was the man's killer. Also, Lestat feels the need to do it for Dora's sake, though he refuses to admit any feelings of love for the young woman. He decides to forget about Dora since his last attempt at loving a woman ended badly. He finds it amusing that, though he has never before disposed of a body, he does so now to save a mortal woman, who he will not allow himself to care for, from pain.

Happening across a small church, Lestat notices the absence of the stalker's presence. He is now sure that the stalker is not related to the victim, at least not as a protector, but he knows that the stalker will return, which he sees as another reason to avoid Dora. After entering a bar and washing his hands, Lestat notices a man sitting at the end of the bar, laughing at him. When the man addresses him, Lestat recognizes the victim, Roger.

Section 2: Chapter 2 Analysis

David's immediate conclusion that the Stalker may have something to do with the victim and that the daughter being a religious figure is well thought-out and certainly telling, but not in the way that he may think. Lestat's comment that the Stalker has a sleepless mind in his heart and insatiable personality is a thought that repeats itself throughout the book, and at each time, Lestat cannot begin to understand how that wording may have come to his mind. When Lestat requests that David procure lodgings at the Olympic Tower, his request that they overlook St. Patrick's Cathedral brings its solid and silent presence back to the reader's mind.



Lestat pursues the victim to the flat where the victim's treasures are kept, his personal palace of religious icons and relics which is a contradiction to the cathedral. Also, when Lestat tracks the victim to the flat filled with the priceless treasures that he has procured through illegal means, he finds the victim lamenting that Dora did not accept the gifts for her church. In essence, the victim has created a secret treasure chapel in which he collects religious relics through illegal means to provide them to a new church lead by a woman who truly loves her God. Furthermore, Lestat's attraction to the victim is based on his greed and taste for the complexities that dwell within his mind, yet it is these very complexities that allow the victim to talk to Lestat when he is in the process of killing the victim and in turn discovering the strength of will that allows the victim to affect him further. In addition, the image of the statue is the last thing that the victim shows to Lestat, driving him to flee in fear.



Section 3: Chapter 3 and Chapter 4

Section 3: Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 Summary

Since Lestat is so terrified to talk to the ghost of his victim, Roger realizes that he is the first to come back and haunt the vampire. After confirming that Lestat has no intentions of killing Dora, Roger asks his killer to watch over her and her treasures because he worries what will happen when people realize that the religious leader is the daughter of a smuggler and killer. Talking of Roger's life and who he was before Lestat killed him, Roger accepts his fate, but asks Lestat to help Dora since it is not fair to her to have had him for a father, and Lestat agrees to watch after Dora. Roger tells Lestat about his interactions with the Old Captain, whose two books by Wynken de Wilde inspired his fascination with art and medieval scriptures. He admits that he and the Old Captain had loved each other, though they were never intimate, and the Old Captain bequeathed these books to Roger, who sought out their further translation. Deciding New York to be the place for his cult, Roger resumes selling dope to higher priced clientele and also works as a contracted killer since he feels no guilt in taking the lives of others. When his mother grows ill, he travels to New Orleans to see her. Here, he meets Terry, a trashy young nurse searching for a rich husband, and he gets her pregnant. He promises to pay her \$100,000 to marry her and another \$100,000 when the child is born, but then she must divorce him and let him keep the child; however, Terry changes her mind, and Roger visits his daughter weekly, buying everything she needs and wants. When Terry decides to run away with her lover, Roger catches and kills them, taking Dora.

Section 3: Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 Analysis

Roger's ghost coming back to haunt Lestat is a new experience for Lestat, which normally would thrill him; however, this experience makes him afraid. In another contradiction to the experience, Roger has a full understanding that Lestat loved him and that this is why Lestat killed him and he carries no grudge. In fact, on the contrary, he chooses to tell Lestat his life's story and request that he look over his daughter. Roger almost seems amused that his killer has depth, which is the exact reaction that the reader would have expected from Lestat.

As Roger tells Lestat about his life, he tells him of the books that obsessed his life, written by Wynken de Wilde. He also explains how he had once thought of creating a religion of his own based on the books and how his life had turned from that course due to a friend's error. This change leads Roger into the life of a killer, smuggler, and drug dealer but also leads to having Dora for a daughter. Dora, who takes her faith so much to heart and who will not accept stolen artifacts for her church, rejects the de Wilde books, which were obtained legally and were the beginnings of her own father's only faith. Roger's acceptance of his place in the scheme of things, that he is a killer, is almost as though he accepts the evils so that his daughter may only had the faithful and good, much like he accepts that Terry, Dora's mother, may have been a young cheating

woman seeking to marry for money, yet her genetics were exactly what was required to make Dora the perfection that he sees her to be.



Section 4: Chapter 5 and Chapter 6

Section 4: Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 Summary

Roger believes that Terry's genetics were necessary to make Dora as perfect as she is. He explains that Dora will not want the books he collected during his lifetime and asks Lestat to make her care for his treasures, though he insists Lestat keep them if Dora refuses. Roger asks Lestat to tell Dora that the books are cleansed by his blood as she has refused his gifts as unclean since an article revealed his criminal activity to Dora. Roger's hopes lie on Dora's ambition rather than love for her father. Lestat laments that it is too late to make Roger a vampire and wonders if Roger can stay with him as a ghost, but Roger says they are coming for him and Lestat hears the footsteps of the stalker. Hearing roaring voices and seeing the face of the statue, Lestat begs them to leave Roger alone as he wonders if the stalker has been pursuing him because of Roger. Lestat grieves when he loses Roger and drifts into mortal sleep to escape the pain. When he wakes, he wants to find Dora and tell her what he has done, but it is nearly sunrise and he must take his immortal sleep. Just as he is about to rest, an ordinary man in the corner of the room tells him it is not so simple. Lestat jumps up, flips the bed and is burned by the sunlight before fading into sleep.

Section 4: Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 Analysis

Roger tries to explain Dora's thoughts on the books that he loved and how she will feel that they are unclean, and in doing so, he prepares Lestat for the battle of wills he will endure at the hands of Dora. The remarkable thing regarding this request, strategy, and tactical planning is that the ghost of a human is doing the planning for Lestat, who has far more powerful charms at his disposal.

Roger's comment that he is looking for a miracle is a profound one as Lestat is so full of self-loathing that he has previously tried to walk into the sun and die, but he is now asked to walk in faith and create faith by doing so. He automatically thinks of the nun that he loved and revealed himself to who was driven so mad that she bled from her hands and feet. Lestat's feelings of insecurity become apparent. In his encounter with the Ordinary man in his room Lestat is frightened, though as Lestat was so close to the immortal sleep, the man could have injured Lestat while he slept if that had been his intention.



Section 5: Chapter 7 and Chapter 8

Section 5: Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 Summary

As Lestat and David discuss the events of the previous evening, Lestat paces the floor of the Olympic Tower, stopping occasionally to peer at St. Patrick's Cathedral. He is eager to help Dora secure her fortune and convinces David to go to the treasure house with him because he is terrified of facing the statue though he is eager to complete his task. Fear overwhelms Lestat as he enters Roger's flat, and he is convinced that he is going to Hell when David tells him there is no black, granite statue. He acknowledges to himself that statue must have been the Devil. Admiring David, Lestat believes that it is due to the amount of blood he gave him rather than its strength. David invites Lestat to watch him hunt for the first time, and after drinking from a crazed drug addict, David feels that he will not survive, but Lestat assures him that it is just a residual feeling from the young man. When Lestat notes David's despair, the two vampires focus their attention on Dora and what they should tell her as they travel to New Orleans. David believes that Lestat is imagining the stalker because punishing himself is the only way he knows to have fun.

When they arrive at the townhouse Lestat once shared with Louis and Claudia, he is relieved that Louis is not there. He visits Dora with the intent only to watch her, but he enters her convent and ascends the stairs to the chapel. As Lestat admires the cross, the ordinary man enters with a proposition which he is unsure whether he should make before or after Lestat gets mixed up with Dora. Lestat has an epiphany that the stalker, the ordinary man and the statue are the same person. The ordinary man states that he will allow Lestat to finish with Dora, but soon they will discuss Lestat's soul. He advises Lestat that Dora will be a distraction that he should leave alone. When the ordinary man leaves, Dora enters and heads toward her room, but then she stops and enters the chapel. Lestat and Dora look at each other for a moment before he disappears, bolting for the attic. Dora follows and finds him. She knows that her father is dead but asks why Lestat has come to tell her. She also acknowledges that Lestat is not human, though she is unsure whether he is good or evil.

Section 5: Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 Analysis

David and Lestat's conversation depicts that David is fearful for his friend's sanity and that he does not believe Lestat as much as he would like to. This brings to the surface the connection that Lestat thought he might have had with Roger had he not killed him. The regret that this displays is about as much as one gets into the true emotions of Lestat. Lestat's thought that he had inherited a daughter as well is also telling in that Lestat has been looking for some reason to not love Dora, but if he were to focus that into a duty and family love then it would not burden him so much.



After David's feeding, he says that he does not believe he will survive long, but he too now has Dora to look after and that will help him endure. This situation shows how both men feel devoid of something profound in their lives and will cling to what they have to survive, but that they both seek fulfillment. This also hints that what is to come may take David away from Lestat.

In Lestat's New Orleans encounter with Dora, the reader may expect Lestat to present himself as self-assured and commanding in presence, but instead he runs and cowers from the young woman. He says that it is the situation that frightens him and it is, though not as Dora may believe. It appears that Lestat's memory of the nun and the opportunity to love this young woman, on top of the spiritual endeavors that he is undertaking, may very well be the fear of rejection rather than acceptance, thus his internal reference to Beauty and the Beast.



Section 6: Chapter 9

Section 6: Chapter 9 Summary

Lestat explains that he has come to watch over Dora, and when she compares him to a frightened elf, he says that the circumstances frighten him, not her. Lestat admits that he killed Dora's father and was asked to watch over her. When she asks why, Lestat tells Dora that he is a vampire. Dora cries for her father, though she claims that she knew she would never see him again. Lestat carries her to her room and watches as she cries. He is distracted by the smell of her blood, but Dora is unafraid of Lestat. Marveling at her lack of panic, Lestat reminds himself that he cannot fall in love with her. When Dora begins to pray, Lestat prays with her. He tells her how he became a vampire and that he thought that being a vampire made him evil, but she claims he must have a place in the scheme of things. They share stories, and Dora confides that she once wished her mother dead and it was the same day that her mother disappeared from her life. When Lestat hears the stalker's approach, he leaves Dora, telling her to call upon him if she ever needs him. He flees for the townhouse where he finds the ordinary man laughing at his bravado.

The ordinary man introduces himself as Memnoch the Devil and states that he has come to make a bargain. Though Memnoch is winning his war with God, he is tired and needs Lestat's help. He wants to tell Lestat the entire story and show him Heaven and Hell. He is confident that Lestat will be willing to join him when he knows the entire story. Memnoch grants Lestat two uninterrupted days to consider the proposition. He also directs Lestat to ask Dora about Uncle Mickey's eye, a story that Roger did not know.

Section 6: Chapter 9 Analysis

Lestat is marveled that Dora accepts him, and it eases his worries far more than is explicitly stated in the book. One hint of this is that Lestat again thinks of Beauty and the Beast, but the idea does not mock him this time; his arrogant nature begins to come back to the surface as he comments on what a handsome beast he is. Also, Lestat is distracted by Dora's blood which, as he has recently fed, could have been far more easily overlooked than it was, showing his attraction for the young woman. As he had watched David recently feed, if this craving were to arise out of instinct or necessity, that would have been a more obvious choice. This indicates that Lestat's distraction for Dora's blood is one of want, not need.

Dora also reassures him by telling him that she believes that he must have a place in the scheme of things. If you think about the fact that both David and Lestat have been feeling that they are only surviving and not moving toward an outcome, then this is a profound statement that will affect them both later on as, even though they now have Dora, she will not need their protection forever, and they would need to find a new

distraction. Lestat's encounter with the Devil, Memnoch, is one that throws off his newly reacquired self-assurance.



Section 7: Chapter 10

Section 7: Chapter 10 Summary

Lestat sends out a call for David and finds him with Armand, and Lestat tells the others everything, opening his mind to Armand. As they discuss the matter, Lestat reveals that he intends to seek Dora's advise. David becomes very angry over this revelation. Meanwhile, Lestat claims protection for Dora from all vampires. The following night, after Dora finishes her television program, Lestat grabs her in New Orleans and takes her to New York and the Olympic Tower. Once they are inside, Dora is more concerned about Lestat's shivering than she is about the fact that she has just been flown halfway across the continent.

Lestat asks her about the story of Uncle Mickey's eye. Dora explains that her mother's family had told her that her Uncle Mickey had been a runner for a bookie and he failed to place a bet on a horse that won. When the collectors came, they beat Uncle Mickey and kicked out his eye. The eye could have been saved, but the men stepped on it and popped it to prevent this. Dora explained her father had always been told that his uncle had been playing with fireworks and that was how he had lost his eye.

Lestat explains how Memnoch was the one to tell him to ask about the eye to prove that he was who he said he was. Dora asks for something to eat and drink and Lestat immediately runs out to see to her request. On his return, he finds it amusing that he is a powerful immortal who has just run an errand at the request of a mortal girl. Dora thinks that the Devil could force Lestat at his will at any time to do his bidding, but she doubts he would need to trick him to Hell. Also, she tells Lestat she does not believe that God would allow anyone to be tricked into Hell: he would have to choose that path; therefore, Lestat should take Memnoch up on his bargain to learn the truth and visit both Heaven and Hell since no one said that Lestat had to choose to help Memnoch, just hear out what he has to say and then make his own decision. Dora asks Lestat that should he need her, to call her and she will send up prayers for him. Lestat tells Dora that it is not that God is dead, it is that people hate God. With that, Lestat leaves Dora at the Olympic Tower to spend more time looking over her inheritance and goes to the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral and calls to Memnoch, who arrives and begins the journey with Lestat.

Section 7: Chapter 10 Analysis

Lestat's need to be believed is evident in his asking the others and Dora for their perspectives on the proposal put to him by Memnoch. What is also clear is that Lestat cares for Dora more than he is willing to admit. It is clear that Lestat is jealous of David and Armand's friendship, but what is not clear is if David is jealous of Lestat's friendship with Dora, though there is a hint of implication in this area as David has already stated that he does not think that he will survive and that Lestat has provided him with purpose



thus far. This leaves the reader wondering what would happen if that purpose were taken away from him.

Dora's conversation with Lestat regarding her take on the Devil and God and the opportunity put to Lestat is based far more on logic than it is on faith, which demonstrates her cleverness as well as her beliefs. Her request that Lestat call upon her should he need her help foreshadows that this decision that Lestat must make may rely more on Dora than one may think.



Section 8: Chapter 11

Section 8: Chapter 11 Summary

The journey begins in a whirlwind, which Lestat describes as being as though the whirlwind were made of souls that surrounded them. Darkness drains from Memnoch's form, and he becomes light. Finally he sees a man in front of the balustrade, and even Memnoch bows his head. The man is God. God greets Lestat by saying, "You would not be my adversary would you Lestat." Then, Memnoch takes Lestat back to earth.

Lestat is heartbroken. He wants to back to Heaven, and he cannot believe God would know his name. Lestat weeps and accuses Memnoch of thinking him a coward. Memnoch explains that he does not find him to be a fool, nor a coward, and should Lestat join him by being his lieutenant, he can visit Heaven anytime he chooses. Memnoch also explains the reason that Lestat feels the way he does at the moment is because when he met God, he was God incarnate and God incarnate is a suffering God. Lestat becomes ashamed of his weeping and tells Memnoch that he has to know the whole of the story. Memnoch states that this is exactly what he was waiting for, and now they can begin.

The two take a walk and Memnoch remains in the lighter form he had shown when in Heaven. Memnoch explains God commanded he use the dark cloven hoofed persona when he is on earth. God cannot stand to see it in his gates, so there Memnoch is allowed to walk in his true light form, but he admits he prefers the image of the ordinary man when he is dealing on earth. When Lestat questions him as to why he is being allowed to maintain his true form, Memnoch explains that at this moment they are not in time so no one around them would be able to see or hear them, and that is why he is able to wear his lightened form.

Memnoch explains to Lestat the argument between God and himself is that God was created of energy, much like his own lighted form; however, once God created matter, time came into existence and since God was not created of matter, the evolution on matter would not come back to create God.

Section 8: Chapter 11 Analysis

At this point in the plot, the reader is lead into the true meaning and reason of why Memnoch wants Lestat on his side. Up to this point in the tale, the reader has been introduced to the characters, the twists and turns in the plot as they stand on the earthly realm, but now the reader will begin the journey behind the veil. The reader is provided with a visual of Heaven that has been provided to the imagination before with many stories, but what is refreshing is that, in this tale, this is the waiting gardens outside of Heaven and not actually within the gates. The imagery of souls interconnecting and then yet being totally separate, the order of the chaos, is more of an emotional portrait



of Heaven rather than a physical one which connects well with several varying religious beliefs of the afterlife, including the Pagan religions in addition to the Christian ones. The balustrade that Lestat attempts to view is symbolic in itself as a line that cannot be crossed as it moves to a further point to which it cannot be reached, and in doing so foreshadows the continued evolutionary scale. It demonstrates that there is always something to reach for.

Lestat's encounter with God is one that holds the hope for Lestat as he sees it as a sign that he may not be lost since God knew his name. This is odd in a way, since Memnoch had already disclosed that he had spoken to God of Lestat. Also, the fact that God's words to Lestat are "you would not be my adversary" and were not fully stated as a question can be misleading as well. Lestat's joy at entering and his sorrow at departing Heaven are only a temporary moment as if placed for the reader to reacclimate to being in another realm. Memnoch's list of the first of the Thirteen Revelations of Evolution are each presented within context and follow the evolutionary chain as well as the emotional chain of Memnoch. The tale of how life began foreshadows the coming point in the argument that shows Memnoch separating from God's side. The emotion that develops with Memnoch, the angels, Lestat and the reader can be linked to all basics in emotion, but in this case, they also link to the evolutionary steps themselves, from the human reader to the vampire or evolved human to the angels and then to what would be presumed Memnoch, thus placing himself higher than the angels on the evolutionary chain.



Section 9: Chapter 12

Section 9: Chapter 12 Summary

Memnoch tells the tale of how he came to the gates of Heaven, and God tells Memnoch to go back to earth and behold all there is to know about humans and then to come back once he has learned that they are part of Nature. Then, and only then would God call convocation. Memnoch knew he was being tested and that he needed to learn all he could about mankind. Memnoch explains that the watchers or Guardian Angels that fell to earth are there to keep watch over it and know what it is that God wished them to see. He states that with the angels that descended, they went their separate ways and often convened, but he could not yet see as to how they were a part of nature. The angels discovered that mankind was believing in God and making sacrifices to him, thinking that he was easy to please or displease. Memnoch continues describing the spiritual organization of things. Lestat is caught up on the tale, but he has one particular point of interest, which is Dora and Roger. For some reason, Lestat is unable to let go of the idea that Memnoch had something to do with Roger and Dora's appearance in his life.

Section 9: Chapter 12 Analysis

Memnoch's attachment to the creations that thrive on earth and the fear of replacement are both present in the tale, which relate back to Lestat in his jealousy over the friendship blooming between Armand and David, his appreciation for beauty in the way that he chooses his victims and his deep level of feeling that he denies for Dora. So the connection that Memnoch feels for Lestat is revealed as well as the shadowed description of Lestat. The discovery of souls is a profound thought that God was unaware, as in that he was informed by the angels regarding them, and that they were not originally destined to be entered into Heaven. Also, God's assignment to Memnoch to learn that humans are part of nature is again a cross religious one that depicts contradiction to the Christian faith.



Section 10: Chapter 13

Section 10: Chapter 13 Summary

Memnoch tells the tale of how he covered himself in matter to walk among the humans and follow their activities to see how they were a part of nature. On the third day, he spied a woman and decided to experience sexual union so as to fully understand man. He experienced profound joy at the union and claimed love for the woman. God called to Memnoch with wrath and told him to stay among the humans that he loved so much. God's anger came from Memnoch's joining of the son of God with the daughter of man. The woman took Memnoch back to the encampment and told the tribe of all she had seen in Memnoch's being cast from the light, of his wings, his size, and his fall that would have crushed any man. Memnoch prayed that God tell him what to do as he was not God, but he also could not call the woman a liar as she told the truth. Memnoch decided the best course of action was to tell the truth as well, to tell men that he came from the heavens, that he was not God, but worshipped him as they did, and he meant them no harm. He discovered that the woman, Lilia, was cast out to die, but she was embraced back into the fold of her kindred as she returned with Memnoch.

In Memnoch's pleas to God for mercy and forgiveness, the souls that surrounded the earth had heard more than they were intended to, and they are the ones who replied to Memnoch's cries. Memnoch, having no other means of convincing man that he was an angel, taught them of all the many things he could think of in order to please God. He taught them of language, writing symbols, tool making, clothing, and so forth. He tells Lestat how many women came to him so that they may be filled with the seed of the angel and how Lilia stepped back for this.

Memnoch tells how he accepted his fate as a mortal to die and become part of the Sheol, the souls that surrounded the earth. He says that his only hope was that when he died, he would strengthen these souls until they rang so loudly in Heaven that God had to let the forgotten in. After three months as a mortal, Michael and Raphael came for Memnoch and took him to God, who proposed Hell to Memnoch. Several other angels came close to Memnoch in the hopes that he make his case before God as they had followed his lead and became matter and taken mortal wives as he had done, but when the time came to make the argument, the others stated that they had seen him do it. God does acknowledge that what Memnoch did, he did out of love. Memnoch's case was no longer based on anything further than the love that mankind had evolved into and the idea that they imagined God on their own, creating it out of love. Memnoch was sentenced to the Sheol to find ten souls that would be worthy of God's love and a place within his home. He was to take as long as he needed, and if there were not ten, then he was not to return.



Section 10: Chapter 13 Analysis

Memnoch's story of the woman, Lilia, relates to the tale of Adam and Eve and adds to the tale of Lilith, making the tale about the condemned woman returning to her tribe with a God and two who went against God's plan. The addition of other angels that decided to follow Memnoch's lead, but did not have another reason as to why they did it, brings back the point that these are God's children and that they behave as such. When Memnoch is given the chance to go to Sheol and bring back ten souls that are worthy of entering Heaven, this foreshadows that this may be a place overrun with souls of the dead. Fortunately, they were souls that had heard the cries of an angel to a God that could hear him. This brings into question what the argument is about and why this is becoming a difficult task. Also, there is the acknowledgment that God knows what Memnoch has done has been done out of love for God and, in doing so, it sets the scenery as to why Memnoch may be allowed into Heaven and is not looked down upon by God.



Section 11: Chapter 14, Chapter 15 and Chapter 16

Section 11: Chapter 14, Chapter 15 and Chapter 16 Summary

Memnoch departed for the Sheol immediately and began to search for the ten souls that he could bring into God's kingdom. He was not given any criteria as to what he was to look for within these souls. He travels about the Sheol and asked many questions of those who were there. He discovered that the best that they had chose to be at peace in their own way, that they no longer held hope, but rather sorrow for the living and only hoped for peace. He came to a smaller group and happened upon a woman who was happy. When he asked her as to why, she said that she no longer hated God, that these were the souls that no longer resented him. These souls gathered around him and all basically told Memnoch that they would suffer life again even if God cared no more for them that he would a pebble on the beach. Memnoch decided these were the to be brought to Heaven and took them there.

As soon as they arrived, the angles sang and the souls replied in kind and the souls projected all they had ever thought beautiful and created the gardens and the rains in Heaven. God appeared and declared that Memnoch had found the souls worthy of Heaven. God takes Memnoch aside and tells him he has done well and that he may return to Heaven, but Memnoch wishes to prepare all for Heaven and begs God's mercy upon them. God does not understand this and answers that there are so many, why would he need them all? Memnoch disagrees and claims that all the souls could reach such a place if given guidance and mercy. He says that if God were to go to earth in flesh and blood he would know the difference, and even through he knows all, he cannot know every tiny thing or he would not be so ambivalent about it.

God became angry with Memnoch and cast him from Heaven and Memnoch raged that mankind was right to hate him as they do since he cares nothing for them. Memnoch walked the earth invisible to mankind and avoiding all influence of it for fear of angering God.

Eventually he came to Jerusalem where he heard something calling out to him, not with a voice, someone he had to search for. As he walked, he came across a man and knew that this was God, sheathed in flesh as he had done. God was sunburned, hungry, thirsty, and in pain. God tells him that he was born of a woman and that he has lived as a man for over thirty years. He even says that there are times that he forgot that he was God. Memnoch tried to serve God's needs, but God would not hear of it and so he invited him to sit so that they may talk. God tells Memnoch that he has come to learn love and that he will leave mankind with the lessons that will gain them access to Heaven and that there are more souls in the Sheol that he will take to Heaven himself.



God proclaims to Memnoch that he still sees mankind as part of nature and that he plans to walk the earth for three years and then he will die.

Section 11: Chapter 14, Chapter 15 and Chapter 16 Analysis

Memnoch's discovery that there are far more souls in Heaven that not only believe in God, or care and love mankind, but that have forgiven God is an interesting concept. In religions, people are often taught to seek forgiveness for their sins, but in this tale, the challenge that was laid before Memnoch was that he find worthy souls to enter Heaven. The souls that he found to be the most worthy are the ones that have forgiven God, not the other way around. The statements made by those souls are the ones that change the context in which one may see Memnoch, because he has not forgiven God for what has been done to mankind in the story.

Oddly, another point is that once the souls are brought to Heaven, they change the scenery immediately and bring God's creations with them, but God did not. In doing so, these souls demonstrate creative power in Heaven, which therefore demonstrates that perhaps God's plan that the matter existing or not may bring them back to God. In issuing his challenge to God that he visit earth in the form of flesh, Memnoch has put into play a series of events that is the most refuted religious event and has therefore changed the course of progression in a natural chain of events. Would mankind have evolved this far without divine intervention? At this point in the tale, there has already been intervention.



Section 12: Chapter 17 and Chapter 18

Section 12: Chapter 17 and Chapter 18 Summary

Memnoch's immediate worry is that God will die and what will happen to his soul and if he has one, and God smiles at him over this worry. God tells Memnoch his plan to die by crucifixion and that he plans to be the sacrifice for the love of his creation. He knows he will cause offense to mankind and be killed, and Memnoch again argues that this is wrong, that God should not be made to suffer so by the hand of mankind. Memnoch says that as God knows he is God that he knows he will return to Heaven to rule, but that the man lying in death does not know where he is going and is unsure that there is a Heaven; therefore, it is God who does not really know the suffering of the flesh. Memnoch argues that mankind has learned love through the love for a child, protection, security, and the creation of families. God laughs, saying that all Memnoch learned about mankind, he learned in bed. Memnoch agrees and asks that if God is to go ahead with his plan, then he do it as a man, not as a man that knows once he dies, he will be God again.

Lestat is aware that God died knowing that he is God and that he would return to Heaven as such. Then a man appeared in the distance and it was God. He looked sad for Memnoch and Lestat and begs Lestat closer. Memnoch advises that no matter what mood God is in, always do as he asks. God asks Lestat to watch his death, and Lestat is afraid. God tells Memnoch to guide Lestat through it. Lestat and Memnoch watch as God carried his cross through the procession. Time stops for a moment and God asks Lestat if he wants the blood that has run from him. Lestat refuses and God asks why his blood would be unworthy. Lestat drinks his blood and time begins again. Veronica steps before God and wipes his face with her veil. She tells him that for twelve years she bled until she touched the hem of his robe and was healed. God then took the veil from Veronica and gave it to Lestat.

Lestat is transported to the fall of Constantinople and the slaughter that lies there. Lestat is horrified, and Memnoch suggests several other options of brutal destruction of life in the name of God, which originated from the book. Lestat begs Memnoch to tell him of the battle between himself and God. Memnoch seems indifferent to the whole idea and only comments he would not have started this if the souls could have done it on their own. Memnoch grants Lestat a rest, and he sees God and Memnoch arguing that God's dying on the cross only made things worse than it was before, because they now fight for what they think will please God. Memnoch's argument is there are too many lost without God's help or mercy. God proclaims Memnoch to be his adversary in so that Memnoch must prepare all the souls in Sheol, of what may be called Hell, for Heaven and that Memnoch may rule over it. He must serve one third on earth and one third in Sheol, but he is not to appear as an angel on earth so as not to sway those he would wish to tutor, but as that of the God of all the indulgences that he loves. Memnoch accepts the challenge. He is not to return to Heaven permanently until there are no souls left in Sheol. Memnoch tells God that he will bring more souls to Heaven by



teaching than God did by his suffering. God kisses Memnoch and says that he loves him and he is as great a creation as that of lightning.

Section 12: Chapter 17 and Chapter 18 Analysis

Memnoch is concerned for God as a man and the punishment that he will endure, the suffering, but not his soul. Memnoch originally addresses the issue as though God were a human with a human soul but then reverts to the idea that if God knows he is God and will return to being God once he is dead, then his is not truly suffering the death as a man, as a man would have no certainty. Lestat's being taken to the event of the crucifixion is one that brings the tale back to a prior plot of Veronica's veil and reinforces the Christian theme in that Christ offers Lestat his blood. Then the conversation in which Memnoch and God decide to make a rivalry of how best to have the souls reach Heaven is a mild reference to the rivalry of Cain and Able in that they love each other and yet fight among themselves. It is the only time that God shows true love, and yet it is not unconditional. Nonetheless, God shows his love and patience with Memnoch and his other creations for the first time in this tale in contradiction to Christian teaching.



Section 13: Chapter 19 and Chapter 20

Section 13: Chapter 19 and Chapter 20 Summary

Memnoch asks Lestat what he thinks Hell is. Lestat and Memnoch recount several things that they both believe that, although true, would not bring a soul peace in a way that they would be able to forgive themselves, others and God for what they suffered on earth. Oddly, Memnoch asks Lestat what it would take for his soul to forgive Magnus for taking him from who he was to the blood-drinking monster that he sees himself to be. Lestat comments that he has forgiven Magnus, but that he would need forgiveness from his victims, to know what would have happened had he not interfered as he did, what life he had denied them. They travel together to Hell and there is such wind that they cannot hear, and there are souls in human form fighting and others heralding others to enter. Lestat describes it as a medieval Chinese castle. Everywhere there are men and woman screaming, "I didn't know!" Lestat sees Roger with Terry hanging onto him. Some souls are happy to see him and beg him to stay, while others argue among themselves, too taken up with what they are doing to notice him. Lestat panics in all the chaos and savagery. He declines Memnoch's offer and says he cannot stay there, he cannot take it. Memnoch chases him to the doorway to earth and commands the other souls to give chase as Lestat carries the Veronica's veil. Memnoch tries to stop Lestat's escape, calling him a coward and tears out his left eye. As the other souls cry for Memnoch to squash the eye, Lestat escapes back to the earth.

Section 13: Chapter 19 and Chapter 20 Analysis

The description of Hell is much like that of the tales that are heard in Christian and ancient Pagan religions describing Hades, yet the goal is different. The main focus of this part in the tale is that most of the souls cry out that they did not know, that they had no confirmation in their life that there really was a God and that the pain that they inflicted on others was not thought out or the outcome was unknown to them. This oddly points out the opposite of what Memnoch's main argument is, in that with the state of the world, supposedly in present time, there are many religions, but all can agree that murder, rape and theft are not acceptable in any faith, yet these souls claim they did not know. If this is true, then are they truly instinctual animals that God claims that they are?



Section 14: Chapter 21, Chapter 22 and Chapter 23

Section 14: Chapter 21, Chapter 22 and Chapter 23 Summary

Lestat finds himself in New York. He runs through the streets screaming for Dora and finally sees St. Patrick's with the Olympic tower rising behind it. He rushes through the doors and finds Dora, Armand, and David there all staring at him. He falls to his knees in front of Dora and takes what blood he can from her that will not cause her wounds. He insists that no one come near him and that he be left to sleep. When Dora asks if she may sleep next to him, he denies her, as he is afraid of what he may do. Meanwhile, Lestat learns he has been gone from earth for three days, and in that time, Roger's death has been discovered, Dora's television program has been canceled and David and Armand have assisted Dora in removing the relics to an orphanage in New Orleans.

The next day, Lestat awakens to find fresh clothes laid out for him. He undressed carefully so as not to lose any bit of the travels left on the clothes. After bathing, he forces himself to stare at the ruin of his face with the missing eye. Finally, Lestat joins the others in the living room. Armand asks what happened to his eye and Lestat tells Dora the gangsters popped it, it could have been saved. He tells Dora that he has seen her mother and that it will not be long before both her parents are in Heaven. He tells the other of the entire events as they played out from the beginning up to the point where he burst through the door to the Olympic Tower suite. Armand asks Lestat if he believes that this was the truth. Lestat finds himself irritated that Armand would go back to the argument if vampires serve the Devil or God. David knows that Lestat has collected the clothes for scientific proof, if there can be any. Lestat begins ranting as to if he believed any of it, or was it all a trick. He states that he loves Memnoch, but that they are madmen running a game by their own rules and he is not sure that any of it was real. He reached into his vest and withdrew the veil and all three confirmed that they too saw the face of God. Dora took the veil, shouting in triumph that she had the veil and took it straight to St Patrick's. Those who gathered around her assisted in her demand that they open the church. Dawn was coming and Armand decided to die for his sins, as he believed was just and so when the morning light came, Armand walked into the procession and exclaimed for them to behold as a sinner dies for God. As Lestat sinks into sleep he hears the words of God echo in his mind, "you would not be my adversary."



Section 14: Chapter 21, Chapter 22 and Chapter 23 Analysis

Lestat's escape has left him maimed, without an eye, and thus marked in his beauty that he holds so dear. In returning to the tower, he finds his friends and Dora awaiting him. Dora goes to him and offers herself to the monster that he thinks he is, and she calls him angel. Yet, once the veil is revealed by Lestat, Dora grabs it and runs off for the church, singing the praises of the veil and that her father had in fact provided it to her as he said he would do, when it was Lestat who provided it and not for recognition, but as proof that he was not insane. Armand's reaction to the veil is overwhelming as he was one to suggest that the Devil was not evil and that he take the Devil up on this journey. As a result of his actions and guilt, he walks into the sun in the name of God and is destroyed as Lestat hears God's words come back to haunt him.



Section 15: Chapter 24, Chapter 25 and Chapter 26

Section 15: Chapter 24, Chapter 25 and Chapter 26 Summary

Lestat and David sat watching the crowds before the church for three days, and for this time he had not seen Dora. The day following Armand's death, a vagabond had walked into the morning light and gone up in flames and there was a Druid priest, Mael, waiting to do so today. Dora, however, was so busy with the veil that she did not see Lestat any more. Lestat rages at the crowds that sit outside and sing praises, saying that Christianity is the most bloody of all faiths and that he could bear witness to that. David seems to have to stop him from these acts every so often over the last three days. Even as Lestat walks toward the church, he overhears many talking and interrupts many to tell them that God and the Devil are idiots. Suddenly Lestat is more concerned with the books of Rogers that had started the entire event. David tells Lestat that Dora left them for him. Dora had also left Lestat the deed to the orphanage. As she was no the custodian of the veil, she cut all ties to her former life. Dora is calling Lestat the messenger of God that has brought this relic to her. Lestat, on the other hand, is risking too much and is overwrought that he has been to one to breathe new life into the religion that Memnoch hated so much. He fears for what he has done. Lestat is so distraught that he brought back the veil so that David and Dora would believe him, instead causing such madness that people are flocking from all over the world to see it. David is so concerned for Lestat that he has packed all their belongings and asked the Lestat leave with him immediately. Dora has told the world of the dark angels that came to her and brought her the veil and how they are the ones who completed the miracle.

Lestat is both torn between whether he was a fool, but for whom? Memnoch? God? And in all the chaos, did he anger the other vampires by drawing this attention? David and Lestat leave for New Orleans and Lestat finds the chapel of the orphanage set up with the relics that Dora had received from her father. He wonders who had done this for him and Louis steps out into the light. He asks that Lestat come home to be among his own belongings for comfort. Louis feels uncomfortable in the chapel as there are ghosts about, those of children singing. As they begin to leave, Lestat feels an ancient and sees that Maharet has come to see him. He tells her that he will not take an eye, that he will not take a life, and as he raves back and forth, Maharet tells him that she is having him chained up for a while until he quiets down. She presents him with a package that was given to her for him. It contains his missing eye and a note from Memnoch thanking him for a job well done. Lestat is enraged and is locked away to keep himself from harm and he accepts that he has lost Dora forever. David and Louis visit him and eventually he is released to walk the earth again.



Section 15: Chapter 24, Chapter 25 and Chapter 26 Analysis

Lestat's mental break, due to all that he endured and his reconciling it with what his mind is willing to accept, is causing him to rage out at the crowds standing outside St. Patrick's Cathedral. So the sanity that David had thought Lestat had lost before was now proved, though Lestat was telling the truth. He contemplates trying to speak to Dora again, but David prevents him from trying. Dora's taking the veil was a renewal to the church and Memnoch's letter pushes Lestat over the edge as he thanks Lestat for a job well done in the completion of his request. Lestat's feeling of betrayal is what has put him in chains until he can come to grips with the way things played out, much like the souls of mankind must go to Sheol in order to forgive God before they can be freed in Heaven.



Characters

Lestat

Created as a vampire in 1789, Lestat describes himself a perfect imitation of an Anglo-Saxon male who can fly, can hear to the other side of the globe and is incredibly strong, as he reveals immodestly. His arrogance is a quality that he considers an attribute rather than a detriment. In fact, he enjoys looking beautiful and comments frequently throughout the book on his superior strength, powerful blood and superb skills. However, at several points, he also refers to himself as a monster. Lestat is a contradiction of words and actions that are often at odds with each other. He seeks knowledge and adores beauty. He also is burdened with a great deal of guilt that he only acknowledges in emotional moments.

Lestat has been chosen by the Devil to be his lieutenant if he so wishes. He is also to be the protector of the daughter of one of his best-loved victims. Lestat is often caught in a paradox of whether he is a beautiful creation or a monster meant to destroy beauty. This question has plagued him for centuries and is again brought to light. Within this story, Lestat displays other characteristics, but he also reveals regret for that which he has destroyed.

Memnoch

Memnoch is also depicted as the Stalker, the Ordinary man, and the Black statue with goat's legs and cloven feet, as well as the stern-faced angel. Memnoch admits to being the adversary of God, but he denies being evil. He has come to Lestat to make a bargain for his soul and requests that Lestat be his first lieutenant. Memnoch arrives to persuade Lestat that he is not evil and to join his rivalry with God. Memnoch proposes that Lestat see Heaven and Hell and at least hear Memnoch's tale in order to decide for himself if he thinks Memnoch is evil.

The battle over souls is not one where Memnoch is evil, but one where his compassion for the human souls that God created and then ignored drove Memnoch, an archangel, to challenge God to become flesh and blood and see for himself the suffering of his own creation. Memnoch resents God's callousness toward his creations and fights for the souls of man to enter Heaven's gates as the rest of God's children. Eventually, Memnoch the Devil, known as the liar and the trickster of men, sends Lestat a note thanking him for his efforts in bringing about the masses to see the veil of Veronica and thus revealing God to the people, making his job all the easier to accomplish.

Roger

Roger is a vain drug dealer and art smuggler who catches the attention of Lestat as a victim. His main passion seems to be in collecting religious artifacts, which is odd, as he



comments that he had sold his soul in order to obtain fine things. He is the father of Dora, a religious figure in New Orleans, where Lestat first spies the man. He has a sixth sense that seems to intrigue Lestat as well. When Lestat first enters Roger's secret hiding place, he leaves the door ajar, and when Roger searches the property, he seems to instinctively and immediately know what rooms Lestat had been in. Once Lestat reveals himself to Roger, Roger knows that he is not human and does not fight him. Instead, he talks to Lestat as Lestat drinks from him, and finally the last thought he has is of a black granite statue that Lestat is oddly afraid of.

Roger then returns to Lestat as a ghost to ask him to watch over Dora and her inheritance now that he is gone. In his ghost form, Roger reveals that he has always known that he was an evil man and accepts his fate. In fact, he acknowledges with gratitude that he was chosen by Lestat. He exudes a complexity in his understanding that Lestat loved him and this was the reason he was chosen.

David

David is a tall, solidly built man who has dark brown hair, eyes and dark skin, as these are the physical attributes of the man whose body Lestat has stolen and placed David's soul into. David is a fledgling of Lestat's, which makes him immune to Lestat being able to read his mind. Prior to Lestat making him a vampire, David was an elderly man, though he now walks in the body of a young man. In his new body, David is able to pass as human. Lestat considers David to be one of his dearest friends.

As a prior member of the Talamasca, David is drawn to all knowledge regarding the supernatural, and that includes religious knowledge as well. David is also incredibly strong for a fledgling due to the fact that he was made with such a great amount of Lestat's blood that it almost drained Lestat. He is the wisest man that Lestat has ever known and a trustworthy companion. Although he suffers from the knowledge that he may not survive, he maintains his loyalty to Lestat and cares for him, and David protects both Lestat and Dora, per Lestat's wishes, though the duration of this tale. It is David who watches over Lestat when Lestat has returned and is beginning to lose his wits. He takes Lestat back to New Orleans to rest and returns with Maharet to bind Lestat in chains while he recovers from his ordeal, but remains with him and writes down Lestat's tale for him.

Dora

Dora's full name is Theodora. She lives in an old convent in New Orleans and is a religious leader who preaches on television about values and nourishing the soul. It is for her sake that several measures are taken by Lestat regarding the death of Roger, her father, with whom she has an estranged relationship. Dora is a truly faithful woman whom Lestat loves but is afraid to love based on his past. Dora introduces the Veronica's veil to the world and cuts all ties to her past, including those to Lestat, David



and Armand, who assists her in Lestat's absence. She deeds the orphanage to Lestat to leave him with all the treasures that her father had provided for her.

Armand

Armand is a prior friend of Lestat's as well as David's. Armand is the leader of a group of vampires near Notre Dame that lived beneath the graveyard. Lestat had once lived among them, but he broke the beliefs of Armand's group by entering the halls of Notre Dame and returning unharmed, contrary to the vampires' beliefs. Armand tends to keep tabs on Lestat in order to live vicariously through his adventures. Armand remains faithful, and as he is caught up in the presence of the veil, he walks into the dawn as a sacrifice to God.

God

God is presented as an ambiguous creator who put into place the creation of the world, but then he watches and does nothing more. God is portrayed as having faith that all will evolve as Nature intended and fights with Memnoch over whether there is anything of man that is worthy of Heaven. He is proven wrong when Memnoch walks into the gates of Heaven with evolved souls of the Sheol.

Maharet

Maharet is the queen and mother to all the vampires. She had her eyes torn out in a prior event and tends to take the eyes of her victims in order to see, and in doing so, she is said to prefer blue eyes. Maharet was housing David when Lestat's call came for him, and she returns to David in the end with a package for Lestat. The package is his missing eye and a letter from Memnoch. Maharet decides to have Lestat chained until he calms enough to walk in the world again.

Mael

A druid priest of the dark ages and a vampire, Mael meets with Lestat and David before they depart for New Orleans. He intends to walk into the dawn as a sacrifice in following with Armand's example of the first day that the veil of Veronica was revealed to the world.

Terry

Terry is the young woman who was a nurse to Roger's failing mother. Terry seduces Roger in order to marry a rich man and eventually becomes pregnant. She makes a deal with Roger to marry him, give birth to Dora, and then divorce him, but she changes



her mind and keeps Dora. Terry plans to run away with her lover, but Roger kills her and her lover and takes Dora.

Archangel Michael

Michael, the archangel, follows Memnoch on several adventures in order to discover the nature of mankind, but although he sympathizes with Memnoch and his humans, he chooses to trust that there is a purpose to the nature of things and that it is God's will that suffering bear down on men.

Lilia

Lilia is a young woman that is thrown out of her tribe to exile in the wilderness, but she sees Memnoch in his human form and offers herself to him. When Memnoch is taken by God's light, she does not run away but stays and watches. When Memnoch is cast down from the heavens, she takes him to the tribe and is readmitted within them. She becomes Memnoch's mate, though she steps aside so that he may lay with others and spread the seed of the angels.



Objects/Places

New York

New York is where Lestat begins his adventure and where he begins his hunt for his victim and sets up a base to keep close to the victim as well as his promise to the victim.

St. Patrick's Cathedral

St. Patrick's Cathedral is the one place that Lestat sees as beautiful and hopeful in the tale in the area of New York and later on uses as a place to find his way home.

New Orleans

New Orleans is where Lestat has a townhome residence. It is also where Dora has a convent that she is residing within. Lestat finds his time in this tale traveling between New York and New Orleans when on the earthy realm.

The de Wilde Books

The de Wilde books are twelve books that inspired Roger and began his life in crime. They were a prized possession that his daughter has no interest in and so he leaves them to Lestat. They were once written by Wynken de Wilde, who had written them to his sister-in-law, with whom he was practicing the Pagan arts.

Hell

Hell is also known as Sheol, named by the angels and ruled over by Memnoch as a place of teaching for the lost souls that are not yet ready to forgive enough to be let into Heaven.

Veronica's Veil

Veronica's veil is the artifact from the woman at the crucifixion of Christ that has imprinted upon it the image of Christ. The veil becomes a token that Lestat is granted by Christ as a souvenir of his quest and in turn it becomes the reason that Lestat is denied the woman that he loves.



Heaven

Heaven is where God and the angels reside and observe God's creations on Earth. No souls of mankind reside there until Memnoch brings the souls from the Sheol. Memnoch takes Lestat to Heaven to meet God.

Lestat's Townhouse

Lestat stays at his townhouse in New Orleans where he once lived with Louis and Claudia.

Angel Statue

The Angel Statue was one of Roger's treasures that Lestat imagines in Dora's chapel and eventually is placed there by David for Lestat's comfort. Lestat knew David would love the piece and thought of him when he first saw it, but it was David who placed it for Lestat, showing their understanding of each other.

Convent

The convent is the residence of Dora, where she plans to train her followers. Lestat is reminded of his home in its chapel, and he imagines Dora and himself living there but is eventually left in the convent alone.

The Balustrade

The Balustrade is a point in Heaven that if one looked over the edge, one could see any place in any time. Lestat tries to reach this point, but he is unable to reach it.



Themes

Self conflict

There are several points in which the characters in the story contradict their statements of themselves, much in the way that Lestat is the self proclaimed monster, though his actions are far more generous. God throws the challenge to Memnoch that he is to rule Sheol, or Hell, in order to prepare the souls for Heaven and, yet, embraces him as a loved adversary. God shows a great deal of patience for Memnoch, yet he disagrees with everything that Memnoch says. In contradiction to the biblical God, God in this tale shows mercy only in that he indulges Memnoch's wishes and that may be because Memnoch loves God and takes the challenge in order to bring creator and creation together, much as the suspected plan in which God had started the process. Several of the other characters that consider themselves to be the monsters, created by demons, are the ones to show compassion, forgiveness, and mercy in this tale.

Lestat states that he is a monster and compares himself to the Beast in a "Beauty and the Beast" tale, yet he is the one to protect Dora and renounce Memnoch. He is also the one to bring faith back to the world through the veil, while Dora, the faithful and religious damsel, cuts all ties with Lestat and David as soon as she has the veil in her possession. Maharet is the mother to all the vampires and yet she imprisons Lestat, but then sits by his side in his prison in order to assist David in recounting the events. This is a less than motherly way of being, and yet, she shows mercy and love to her child as if she were truly his mother. David is the scholarly character in the tale, the one who in life had seen the tear in the fabric and overheard God and Memnoch talking, yet he is doubtful of Lestat's sanity. He also was the one that was made by Lestat that did not choose the fate of being a vampire and still he is the one to take care of Lestat in his moments of need.

Religion

The idea that Hell is a place to learn of God and prepare a soul to be worthy of God's presence and that the Devil would take on the challenge of doing this for the sake of the lost souls and the glory of God is a new twist to many religious tales combined. In this book, there are many takes on religion that originated in many regions all tied into this one tale. Memnoch's black form is drawn from Greek mythology for Pan and the comment that God makes to him that he should resemble this on earth as it is the symbol of all that he loved, and yet the reason for Memnoch's love of these things is that he sees them as symbols of the good that God has created. In this he is also symbolic of Bacchus, God of Wine and song. Whereas, when God decides to descend to earth, he chooses to die in a form that was taken from the wood king of Pagan religions found in Celtic mythology, where he will die and resurrect. He compares this to the winter death and the coming spring which brings life, like the tale of the Yule king and the Oak King.



Then there is the relationship of Memnoch and Lilia, which relates to the biblical relationship of Adam and Eve in that she took him in and this brought forth God's wrath. In addition, it entwined the tale of Lilith, Adams first wife in other versions of the tale. The fact that both God and Memnoch take a human form is ordinary and symmetrical; they are both described as plain, unnoticeable. This is a nice reference the to ministry readings that God can be found everywhere, or in this case, anywhere.

Relationships

Although Lestat frequently describes himself to be a monster, many of his actions throughout the tale are based on love in one form or another. He even experiences jealousy over the friendship that David and Armand have developed, stating that this was "his" David and "his" Armand. Earlier in the book, Armand was said to be keeping tabs on Lestat out of his own form of jealousy. Lestat and David have a more free-flowing friendship, wherein the love of knowledge is the common bond. Lestat, being a highly curious creature and an arrogant one, enjoys imparting more knowledge to David, but respects David's opinions and enjoys his trust. For this, it is uncharacteristic that David should so adamantly protest that Lestat reveal himself to Dora. This hints that Lestat may not be the only one who is jealous, but that David too has a bond to Lestat that he does not wish to have threatened. Lestat's relationship with Dora is far different than the ones he has with the vampires in that he has love for her that he tries to deny. In this relationship, Dora is the one to lay the foundations for Lestat's trust, and in the end breaks his heart by cutting her ties to her past, and therefore Lestat. This is an unexpected twist as Lestat retreats from her many times based on the horror of a prior woman he had loved, and in this case Dora accepts him with open arms, only to turn her back on him later on.

Dora's relationship with her father is far more complicated, but it lends to the building of the foundations for Lestat's love for her in that she declines her father's gifts as they are unclean, yet when murder of her father presents her with something that has been lost for ages, she accepts it immediately when that was not his intent at all. God and Memnoch have the most loving and hateful of all the relationships as Memnoch is the Son of God, yet defies him in his own name and, in doing so, has gained rule of his own kingdom in which he prepares the souls to be sent to Heaven to please God. On the other hand, Memnoch resents God for having him do all the work, when he is so hated and feared by mankind when all he intends to do is teach them about and prepare them for God. Lestat compares them to madmen playing a game that they do not share the rules on.

Style

Point of View

The point of view of *Memnoch the Devil* is first person. This point of view is limited but mostly reliable, at least to the extent of Lestat's knowledge. This is proven by the fact that Lestat is able to report upon the actions he sees and the things that he is told, but he can only reveal his own thoughts and feelings. This is important because this novel is written as though it is Lestat's journal which reveals the things that he has witnessed and how he feels about them.

The story is told using a fairly equal distribution of exposition and dialogue. This method is likely used because of the journalistic format of the novel. In the novel, Lestat reports not only on events but also on the conversations that he has with the other characters. The novel is seen from Lestat's viewpoint. The Prologue is addressed directly to the reader, allowing Lestat to introduce himself as the protagonist and to provide the reader with personal information from the preceding *Vampire Chronicles*.

Setting

Memnoch the Devil is set in modern times in the real world. As such, it includes many different physical locations and types of people, including preternatural beings such as Memnoch, the Devil, and Lestat, a vampire. The language used is English. The novel alternates time periods between the past and the present; it even visits historical events, such as the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, God in human form.

The novel begins in modern New York as Lestat begins his tale, but his journey takes him to many other places as well. A large portion of the plot occurs in New Orleans where Lestat watches over Dora at Roger's request. Lestat also travels to Heaven with Memnoch to meet God, and Memnoch takes him to Hell to see the tortured souls of humans. Additionally, Lestat travels to many places in between these major settings of the novel. The events of the novel take him to locations all over the world where his experiences are beyond anything that the common man can possibly comprehend; however, Lestat does his best to make these experiences understandable. Also, the novel is written in the form of a journal, thereby causing the journal to act as the main setting of the novel.

Language and Meaning

The language of *Memnoch the Devil* tends to be casual and informal, though Lestat sometimes speaks more formally depending on who he is talking to as some of the novel's characters are immortal and have been alive since the world began. These characters, such as God and Memnoch, require more respect in the form of a certain



level of formality when they are addressed. Despite these variances, the language does not hinder comprehension of the novel.

The language tends to characterize the individuals within the text. Since the tale is told using a fairly equal distribution of exposition and dialogue, the conversations are especially useful in distinguishing between characters. Mostly, Lestat is characterized since the story is told from his point of view. Overall, the language is easy to understand and allows the reader to comprehend the characters clearly.

Structure

Memnoch the Devil is comprised of twenty-six chapters and 354 pages. The chapters are numbered rather than titled and range from three to thirty pages each. Most of the chapters are quite short, but all of the chapters are very descriptive.

This novel is written as a recounting of a madman's journal, and as such, some of the settings and experiences in the novel seem to be unrealistic. The plot is fairly complex as the vampire Lestat is charged with watching over Dora, a high priestess. He is also stalked by Memnoch the Devil who conveys him to Heaven and Hell. Throughout the text, Lestat ponders his morality and sanity repeatedly.

The pace of the novel is quick as much action occurs within the text of Memnoch the Devil. It is easy to read and the plot is engrossing as Lestat travels to locations beyond the norm. The story is told as a flashback, with Lestat recounting previous events. The novel is very easy to read and extremely entertaining.



Quotes

"He has a sleeping mind in his heart and an insatiable personality." Chap. 2, p. 31

"I sold my soul for places like this." Chap. 2, p. 37

"Oh, you don't think so? Try me. You may find me
"as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal."" Chap. 3, p. 50

"You have to make her realize the potency of the statues and paintings, that they are expressions of the human quest for truth, the very quest that obsesses her. She just doesn't know it yet." Chap. 4, p. 86

"religion doesn't come from relics or texts. They are an expression of it." Chap. 4, p. 88

"I will say in retrospect that labor is an antidote for angst and general misery." Chap. 5, p. 103

"The atheism and nihilism of my earlier years no seems shallow and even a bit cocky." Chap. 6, p. 107

"That's our damnation, '...'Our mortal improvement has reached its finish, and our intellect grows by leaps and bounds." Chap. 6, 107

"You must have a place in the scheme of things." Chap. 7, p. 125

"You would never be my adversary, would you Lestat? You wouldn't would you? Not you, Lestat, no, not you!" Chap. 9, p. 169

"Matter and Time eclipsed the time before time." Chap. 9, 177

"Stay with the mortals you love so much! Let them minister to you, for I will not listen until my anger is cooled." Chap. 16, p. 225



Topics for Discussion

In the opening prologue of the book, Lestat addresses the reader directly and states that he has set the task of being the hero of the book. Explain how you think he failed or succeeded in this task through his actions or words.

At one point in his description of Dora, Roger says that sexual prohibition destroyed Christianity. What do you think of this statement? Do you agree or disagree and why?

Describe your theories as to what it was about Roger that attracted Lestat to love him.

After hearing Memnoch's description of the Creation, what are variations and similarities from the version that you may have been told?

Why do you think that Memnoch was so drawn to the humans and their actions, in comparison to the other angels?

Compare and contrast Lestat and Memnoch.

In the moment when Memnoch and God Incarnate speak before the crucifixion, do you believe that the event would have changed the events that followed if God had buried his Divinity as Memnoch suggested or not, and why?

In Memnoch's version of Hell, there are more souls entering Hell than there are in Heaven. Memnoch is told that he may not return to Heaven until either the Earth is destroyed or Hell is empty. Which do you think will happen and why?

In the end, do you think that Lestat accomplished assisting Memnoch in placing fewer souls in Hell, or God in bringing further faith to the Christian religion?

Why do you think that Lestat was chosen for the task that was set before him?