

# **Midnight Predator Study Guide**

## **Midnight Predator by Amelia Atwater-Rhodes**

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## Plot Summary

Midnight Predator by Amelia Atwater-Rhodes is a vampire novel about a young woman whose family was killed by a vampire so he could force her to become his slave. After escaping from Lord Daryl, Turquoise becomes a hunter, willing to kill any vampire for the right price. When she is hired to kill Jeshickah, she must enter Midnight as a human slave in order to gain access to the cruel vampire, but her experiences in Midnight and after her escape make her question her future as a hunter. Midnight Predator is an engaging story of a woman learning who she is, who she was, and who she wants to become.

When Turquoise and Ravyn tie in their fight to become the leader of Crimson, a rematch is scheduled in a month. They are both hired by Jillian Red for an anonymous employer to kill the vampire Jeshickah before she resumes control of Midnight where the focus is on the trade of human slaves. Nathaniel sells Turquoise and Ravyn into Midnight as slaves. Turquoise is surprised when she discovers the kindness of Jaguar, the current master of Midnight, and Ravyn makes a deal with Gabriel which allows her to acquire two knives. Meanwhile, Daryl, Turquoise's first owner who killed her family in order to enslave her, tries to fight Jaguar for ownership of Turquoise.

Jaguar prevents Jeshickah's death because he does not want to see Turquoise tortured to death by Jeshickah's friends in retribution for the powerful vampire's demise. When Ravyn and Turquoise are revealed to be hunters after they attempt to kill Jeshickah, Jaguar sells Ravyn to Gabriel and helps Turquoise escape with Eric so Jeshickah cannot use the boy to hurt Jaguar. Nathaniel hides Turquoise and Eric in one of his houses, but when Turquoise runs into Greg, a boyfriend from her past as Catherine before her introduction into the world of vampires, she begins questioning her old dreams and her future as a hunter. Jaguar helps Turquoise train for the Challenge because Gabriel purchased her as well and struck a deal with Ravyn to grant freeblood status to the winner of the Challenge; this status will allow Turquoise to kill Daryl without facing consequences. Turquoise wins the Challenge, but she relinquishes her title as the leader of Crimson to Ravyn. She returns to Nathaniel's home to find it was burned down. After ensuring that Eric is safe, she returns to Midnight where she confronts and kills Daryl. Turquoise begins looking forward to her future where she now has the option of living in the vampire world or the human world. She is happy that her future now holds choices and freedom to make her own decisions.



# Section 1: Chapter 1

## Section 1: Chapter 1 Summary

Midnight Predator by Amelia Atwater-Rhodes is a vampire novel about a young woman whose family was killed by a vampire so he could force her to become his slave. After escaping from Lord Daryl, Turquoise becomes a hunter, willing to kill any vampire for the right price. When she is hired to kill Jeshickah, she must enter Midnight as a human slave in order to gain access to the cruel vampire, but her experiences in Midnight and after her escape make her question her future as a hunter. Midnight Predator is an engaging story of a woman learning who she is, who she was, and who she wants to become.

Recalling how her father used to tell her she is a creator, not a destroyer, distracts Turquoise, causing her to miss a block and allow a knife to cut into her arm. Throwing the woman, Ravyn Aniketos, to the ground, she thinks that her father's words could not be farther from the truth now. Ravyn springs to her feet, and she and Turquoise continue their fight since they are the last two standing in this competition of stealth and hunting ability. The next to land a blow will win and become the leader of Crimson, the most elite unit of the Bruja guilds, but after hours of fighting, both women are tired. Sarta, Bruja's leader, tells the girls to sheathe their weapons since law dictates a limit. Sarta orders a rematch in a month, allowing Ravyn to choose the weapon for the rematch. Ravyn chooses the whip, the only weapon Turquoise truly hates, yet Turquoise accepts the challenge. Slipping outside, Turquoise finds a young woman waiting for her and Ravyn. Though they are often enemies and always rivals, Turquoise and Ravyn are smart enough to ignore their differences when they are threatened, so this woman will not have a chance if her intentions are less than friendly. The woman introduces herself as Jillian Red, claiming she has followed their careers for years and they both show an impressive rancor against a breed of which she is not particularly fond. Turquoise and Ravyn grow bored since it seems Jillian is pitching a job, but when she mentions that they both show a promising history, "namely, some unpleasant experiences with the trade" (page 10), Ravyn asks what Jillian knows of their history. After Jillian summarizes Ravyn's past with the vampire mercenary, Jared, Ravyn and Turquoise agree to find a private location to discuss the job's particulars.

## Section 1: Chapter 1 Analysis

The novel opens as Turquoise battles Ravyn for the right to become leader of Crimson. As she fights, Turquoise recollects things that her father used to say to her, an event that recurs repeatedly throughout the novel as she learns to reconcile her past, present and future. Eventually, Sarta instructs both girls to cease fighting because it is obvious that they are evenly matched. Turquoise would rather continue fighting than quit now since winning the title would allow her to fulfill her promise never to be mistaken as prey again since the leader of Crimson is second only to Sarta who controls all three guilds.



Sarta announces that they will hold a rematch in a month, foreshadowing the rematch and its importance in the novel. The clarification that Turquoise hates the whip, the weapon Ravyn chooses for their rematch, foreshadows the revelation of why she is so opposed to this particular weapon. Leaving the fighting floor, Turquoise stops to look at the assignment board, forcing herself to stay when Ravyn joins her, though she does not trust Ravyn at her back. Though Turquoise is a mercenary, she has standards so she ignores most of the posts. She refuses to kill humans, despite the fact that most of the members of Bruja consider it cowardly that she will not hunt her own kind. Outside, Turquoise and Ravyn are accosted by a young woman, Jillian Red, who seems to be offering them a job. The girls become bored until Jillian mentions their experiences with the trade, foreshadowing the discovery of exactly what this means. Jillian explains that she knows Ravyn came to the attention of the vampire mercenary, Jared, at the age of 15 and no matter how much other vampires disapproved of how Jared treated her, they respected his ownership too much to help her. She also knows that Jared was found dead shortly after he acquired Ravyn, and about a week later, Ravyn entered Crimson. Jillian suggesting finding someplace else to discuss the particulars of the job, and Turquoise agrees because it will not hurt to learn what Jillian wants because she is inconvenient, if not dangerous, if she knows as much about Turquoise's history as she knows about Ravyn's. This foreshadows the girls' decision to learn more about the job Jillian offers.



## Section 2: Chapter 2

### Section 2: Chapter 2 Summary

Fifteen minutes later, Turquoise and Ravyn sit at a table in Jillian's hotel room as she shows them a copy of a painting made in 1690 which focuses on an intimidating building. Jillian explains that in the early 1600s, two vampire sisters founded an empire, Midnight, and this building was the heart of their power. The determination of the ruthless sisters allowed them to take control quickly, and Jeshickah was the absolute ruler of Midnight, controlling all vampires, shapeshifters and witches for several centuries and treating humans like cattle. Midnight was destroyed in the early 1800s, and the slave trade was banned; however, laws have slackened over time, and some of the original vampires of Midnight have been able to pick up the trade again. Midnight has been rebuilt and the trade pulled together by a new master, one of the trainers from the original Midnight. Jillian's anonymous employer was not interested in this revival until he learned that Jeshickah has begun expressing interest in taking charge again so, wanting that threat eliminated, Jillian's employer is offering half a million dollars to both Turquoise and Ravyn and the same amount to split after Jeshickah's death. He wanted to hire two hunters to ensure success. The job requires the girls entering Midnight on their own, and knowing what Jillian is implying, Turquoise excuses herself to make a phone call. An hour later, Turquoise meets Nathaniel, an attractive vampire assassin and mercenary who is several centuries old and who saved Turquoise's life and sanity when he taught her about being a mercenary, in another hotel room. More interested in money than blood, Nathaniel assumes this is a job, and debating how much to tell him since he can sell any information she gives him, Turquoise explains that she needs to get inside Midnight with another woman. Though Nathaniel is unlikely to object to anything someone else is doing, especially if he gets paid, he asks if Turquoise is trying to get herself killed. He says he can sell her in but asks if she is really so anxious to sell herself back into slavery. While Turquoise has no desire to return to the slave trade, she is returning as an experienced hunter instead of the innocent she once was. Nathaniel says the scars on Turquoise's arms will lessen her value unless he sells her to Daryl, but Turquoise recoils at the mention of her former master, deciding she will definitely go if Daryl is involved with Midnight. Nathaniel comments that Turquoise takes on stunts that make him question whether she has a death wish and she accepts jobs that should be suicide missions. Turquoise argues that she has never lost, so Nathaniel names his price as \$40,000 plus whatever he can acquire from selling the two of them. He has not dealt in flesh since the old Midnight, but he has been pressured to return to the trade. After they strike a deal, Turquoise leads Nathaniel to the room where Ravyn and Jillian wait.

### Section 2: Chapter 2 Analysis

Fulfilling the previous foreshadowing, Turquoise and Ravyn accompany Jillian Red to her hotel room to learn more about the job she is offering. They learn about the original



Midnight as well as the fact that it has recently reopened under new leadership. Moreover, they learn about Jeshickah, the former ruler of the original Midnight, and her desire to restore her empire. The references to the trade are also clarified in this chapter to refer to the slave trade and vampires owning humans. Most importantly, it is made clear that both Turquoise and Ravyn were slaves at one point in their lives. Jillian details the fee that her anonymous employer is willing to pay, explaining that he wanted to hire two hunters to ensure his success in killing Jeshickah. When Jillian specifies that the girls will be responsible for entering Midnight on their own, Turquoise calls Nathaniel, a vampire mercenary she knows who helped her escape from her first master. Though Nathaniel is a businessman, focused solely on his own gain, he expresses concern for Turquoise's safety when she mentions the need to get into Midnight; this shows that Nathaniel genuinely cares about Turquoise and foreshadows the story of their friendship. Nathaniel was the one who renamed her Turquoise Draka to replace the identity that Lord Daryl destroyed, and he also gave her contacts to Bruja and taught her to fight back instead of cowering, though he never told her why and she never asked. Agreeing to the job, Nathaniel agrees to sell Turquoise and Ravyn into Midnight, but when he mentions that Turquoise's scars will lessen her value unless he sells her to Lord Daryl, she shrinks at the mention of her former master. Still, her desire to stop the travesties at Midnight is increased by the realization that Lord Daryl is involved, and this foreshadows Turquoise encountering her former master and the animosity between them. Finally, Nathaniel and Turquoise strike a deal, foreshadowing Turquoise and Ravyn being sold into Midnight. A few steps from the room where Ravyn and Jillian wait for them, Turquoise asks why Midnight scares Nathaniel, but she does not expect him to answer. He admits that he was once part of Midnight so he knows it and the woman who ran it better than Turquoise can imagine, and he also has an unprofessional desire not to see Turquoise kill herself. Turquoise is unable to decide if that is an insult or a compliment as Nathaniel knocks on Jillian's door. This conversation reinforces the foreshadowing that Nathaniel is more of a friend to Turquoise than she realizes.



## Section 3: Chapters 3 & 4

### Section 3: Chapters 3 & 4 Summary

In Chapter 3, Ravyn is thoroughly amused by the charade at first, but she becomes less excited as they discuss the finer details of slavery. Nathaniel advises them that "a slave isn't supposed to think; she just obeys" (page 23). When Ravyn asks about Jeshickah, Nathaniel tells her that Jaguar was Jeshickah's favorite, but Jeshickah does not seem to be involved with this new project so far. Turquoise refrains from asking more for fear of revealing their target. Nathaniel warns them not to raise a hand against their trainer without being certain they can kill him and warns them they must enter without weaponry. Nathaniel also advises Turquoise to use her birth name because her current alias is too easy to track, plus it will be easier to convince people she's been bounced around in the slave trade for the past few years. Nathaniel tells the girls to pray they do not run into Jeshickah or Gabriel, and though Ravyn's head snaps up at the mention of Gabriel, she denies anything is wrong. Nathaniel drugs the girls for the ride, claiming there is no reason for them to know the way and they need their sleep.

In Chapter 4, Cathy bandages Tommy's skinned shin, and her father tells her Tommy is lucky to have her since most fifteen-year-olds do not have time to take care of their younger brothers. He also tells her she is a creator, not a destroyer, and not to let anyone change her. As they approach the menacing building after Turquoise and Ravyn awake, Nathaniel swears as he avoids an oncoming Lamborghini, wary and displeased as he instructs Turquoise and Ravyn to remain in the car. He exits and greets the driver of the Lamborghini whose tone is neither friendly nor openly threatening. When Nathaniel comments that he heard she was not involved with Jaguar's project, Jeshickah informs him that "Jaguar's games here have recently ceased to amuse me" (page 37). She notes that Turquoise looks familiar, and Turquoise recognizes Jeshickah as a frequent visitor to Lord Daryl's house, though she did not know the vampire's name at the time. Nathaniel claims he does not recall anyone quite like Turquoise, informing Jeshickah that she is not broken but suggesting Jaguar might enjoy that, and he claims Jaguar is better qualified than he ever was when Jeshickah insinuates that Nathaniel once would have enjoyed breaking Turquoise himself. Jeshickah decides to accompany them to see Jaguar, announcing that he will deal with the girls' pride or she will rip out the bleeding heart he has developed and make him eat it. Nathaniel follows Jeshickah, ordering Turquoise and Ravyn to follow him, and they obey.

### Section 3: Chapters 3 & 4 Analysis

In Chapter 3, Nathaniel trains Turquoise and Ravyn on how to properly act like a slave so their cover will not be blown and they will not be killed. The present master of Midnight is Jaguar who was a trainer in the original Midnight, and Nathaniel advises the girls to avoid him because he will see through their act; the mention of Jaguar foreshadows his role in the novel. Nathaniel also warns them that they will be on their





own once he sells them in because no one will go against a claim of ownership. The girls do not learn much about Jeshickah for fear of alerting Nathaniel to their target by asking too many questions, and this demonstrates that Turquoise does not thoroughly trust Nathaniel. Neither girl is particularly happy that they must enter Midnight without weapons, but they know it is necessary to avoid being recognized as hunters. Learning that Jaguar prefers to use a whip, Turquoise is unnerved though she knows from Lord Daryl that a whip is more practical since a knife is likely to scar. Nathaniel's advice that the girls use their birth names foreshadows the fact that no one at Midnight will know Turquoise by her current name. When he asks how likely Ravyn is to be recognized, Ravyn informs him that all the vampires she has ever known are dead, subtly threatening him and foreshadowing the fact that she will not hide her identity. Ravyn's reaction to the mention of Gabriel foreshadows her business arrangement with the ruthless vampire.

In Chapter 4, Turquoise's drug-induced dreams are filled with memories of her father and brother, demonstrating her continued grief at losing them. Waking from her dream, Turquoise knows she is no longer that innocent girl; she is a member of Crimson and one of the best vampire hunters, so there is no place for memories while she is on a job. While Nathaniel feeds from the gas station attendant, Turquoise worries that Nathaniel does not know about Jeshickah being back, finding it troublesome when her primary source of information is wrong. She feels it when they enter Midnight's territory since witches shield Midnight with magic. Jeshickah is finally introduced when they reach Midnight, and she confesses to Nathaniel that she is unhappy with how Jaguar is ruling Midnight. After Nathaniel presents his sales pitch for the girls to Jeshickah, she decides to accompany him to see Jaguar, threatening to rip out Jaguar's heart if he does not properly break his two new slaves. This indicates Jeshickah's unhappiness with Jaguar results from the fact that he is not as ruthless as she would like him to be, foreshadowing Jaguar's friendship with Turquoise as well as the animosity between Jaguar and Jeshickah.



## Section 4: Chapters 5 & 6

### Section 4: Chapters 5 & 6 Summary

In Chapter 5, a young boy of around fourteen years exits through the door, freezing and falling to his knees when he sees Jeshickah who tells him to get out of her way. Jeshickah leads the group to Jaguar's room where Turquoise is amazed by Jaguar's beauty as he lies sprawled on a black leather couch with a whip curled across his chest. His expression changes to wary aggression as he notices Jeshickah, but he ignores her to ask Nathaniel if these are the girls he called about. Nathaniel explains they are not perfectly broken, but they are smart enough not to give him trouble. When Jeshickah asks to see the scars on Turquoise's arms, Jaguar notes they were made by a whip before Jeshickah and Nathaniel exit to negotiate a price to let Jaguar get acquainted with her new acquisitions. Jaguar offers them a chance to ask questions, so Turquoise asks if there are any rules they should know about. Jaguar announces that Eric will find them work and they are free to roam around the building as long as their work gets done, but they should avoid the west wing unless they plan on bloodletting and locked doors indicate they are unwelcome. He also tells them that they are free to talk to him since he does not mind intelligent conversation, but they should hold their tongue around other vampires. Also, Jaguar does not insist on the use of titles when addressing him. He assures them they will do fine if they obey the few orders he gives; if not, they will discuss their choice to disobey when that occurs. Turquoise is shocked by the lack of threat in his voice. Jaguar summons Eric and instructs him to find something to keep the new girls busy because he has work to do, and changing back to the arrogant master of Midnight, he dismisses them.

In Chapter 6, Eric chatters about the house as he shows Turquoise and Ravyn to the bedroom they will share. Eric explains that Jaguar found him with the vampires that killed his parents and saved his life by buying him, so he considers himself lucky compared to some of the other 18 humans residing at Midnight. He asks if either of the girls can cook, learning Ravyn can, and accounts for nine of the humans' occupations, explaining the other nine serve as food for the vampires. After Eric leaves them to rest, Ravyn says they need to kill Jaguar and Jeshickah, but Turquoise reminds her that they are not being paid to kill Jaguar, and though Ravyn points out that he will probably object if they kill Jeshickah, Turquoise wants to wait to find out what is going on. Turquoise allows Ravyn to claim the top bunk bed since she will not sleep well in this place.

### Section 4: Chapters 5 & 6 Analysis

Turquoise first meets Eric in Chapter 5 when he appears in front of them as Jeshickah leads them to Jaguar's office. As they pass, she objects to the boy because Jaguar treats him like a spoiled son, and this shows Jaguar's kindness, contrasted with Jeshickah's cruelty. Turquoise is amazed by Jaguar's beauty when she first sees him,



foreshadowing her relationship with him. His expression of wary aggression reveals his opinion of Jeshickah. Nathaniel proceeds to attempt to sell the girls, but Jeshickah leads him away to negotiate so that Jaguar can become acquainted with Turquoise and Ravyn. Jaguar circles Turquoise and Ravyn, inspecting them silently, before asking their names. Ignoring Nathaniel's advice, Ravyn uses her real name, but Turquoise claims her name is Audra, unwilling to use her birth name since Catherine was defenseless prey. This shows Ravyn's bravery and foolishness as well as Turquoise's desire not to be associated with the person she used to be. Jaguar proceeds to explain the rules of Midnight to his new slaves, and his rules demonstrate his leniency even as he directs them to behave differently around other vampires, showing that he is aware that his leniency could get his slaves killed if they are confronted with another of his kind. Dismissing the girls, Jaguar resumes the aura of arrogance necessary for the master of Midnight.

In Chapter 6, Eric shows Turquoise and Ravyn around Midnight. Learning Eric has been at Midnight for three years, since he was 11, Turquoise is reminded of what Tommy might have become if he had lived. Eric tells them how lucky he is that Jaguar found and saved him from the vampires that killed his parents. He assigns Ravyn to kitchen duty. He also tells the girls to be careful because the other vampires complain that Jaguar will not let them treat the humans how they want, and they should be especially careful with Jeshickah who does not care what Jaguar says. Eric also tells them meals are served at sunrise, sunset and midnight; so few people are awake during the middle of the day that a meal is not prepared then, and this foreshadows Turquoise's decision to wander around more freely during this time. Once Eric leaves, Ravyn and Turquoise discuss their plans, Turquoise stressing their need to wait to find out the situation at Midnight before rushing in and killing both Jeshickah and Jaguar as Ravyn would like to do. Turquoise asks how Ravyn got involved in the slave trade, but Ravyn only vaguely tells her she stumbled across a vampire who had a taste for exotics. Ravyn also explains that she escaped by making deals with vampires who hated Jared and did not stop her from killing her former master. There is no place for condolences since Turquoise and Ravyn are not friends.



## Section 5: Chapter 7

### Section 5: Chapter 7 Summary

As Cathy remembers how, when she cried about being stupid, her father assured her she was proud and no one could take that unless she let them so she should not let that creep hurt her. Cathy still could not believe she let a stranger get so close to her, and her father had been still close to panic though the danger was over. Wrenching her mind from the past, Turquoise does push-ups until Eric arrives to take them on a tour of the kitchen and the south wing. He also shows them the weight room, but when Turquoise asks where the other door leads, Eric tells her that the door to the courtyard is locked. He suggests that Turquoise should ask Jaguar if he is allowed to take her outside since that is where he needs the most help; if not, she will clean or bloodlet, leaving it as her choice but making it obvious that he will have no respect for her if she chooses bloodletting. Left alone, Turquoise searches for Jaguar, hoping to find him quickly so she will have time to explore. In the northern wing, she does not find Jaguar, but she overhears Jeshickah arguing with another vampire about Jaguar being too valuable to kill and how she plans to give him a few more days before taking Midnight from him if he does not come to heel. Hearing Turquoise breathing, Jeshickah summons her, and the other vampire, Gabriel, knocks her legs out from under her, forcing her to bow to Jeshickah. When Turquoise explains she was searching for Jaguar, Gabriel directs her to the west wing where the guard will direct her to her master, reminding her to refer to Jaguar as such in the future. At the west wing, the guard directs Turquoise to Jaguar's study where she can wait if he is not there. Turquoise asks about working outside, but Jaguar refuses; since she is not broken, Jeshickah will feel the need to correct that error more quickly if she works outside. Discussing her other options, Turquoise professes that she is willing to donate blood if it is necessary, thinking that it will permit her to get closer to the vampires than any other human. He permits her to leave if she wants, and Turquoise is surprised to find that Jaguar does not command her to leave. Recognizing the hungry look that says he has not yet fed, Turquoise offers to leave him to his work, standing reluctantly, but Jaguar orders her to come to him. She feels almost guilty for manipulating him since a feed vampire makes an easy target. Jaguar does not even try to catch her mind as his lips fall to her throat, causing Turquoise to think it would be revoltingly easy to kill him if only she had been armed.

### Section 5: Chapter 7 Analysis

Turquoise is assaulted with memories of her life as Cathy as she paces in the small room. The mention of a stranger hurting her foreshadows the discovery that this stranger was Lord Daryl, her former vampire master who killed her family so that he could acquire her after his attempt to feed from her was thwarted. Claustrophobic and uncomfortable in the small room, Turquoise paces as she is assaulted with memories of Lord Daryl's manor where she spent a year without hearing any voice other than Lord Daryl's since the other human slaves were forbidden to talk to her. Lord Daryl was



possessive and paranoid so he kept her away from his kind and locked her up in the sitting room, which became her sanctuary, next to his ballroom when he had parties. Turquoise works out until Eric retrieves her and Ravyn to continue their tour. Eric tells Turquoise that he needs her help outside, but if Jaguar forbids her to work outside, she will be able to choose between cleaning and bloodletting; he makes it obvious that he will not respect her if she chooses to be food for the vampires. When Turquoise goes in search of Jaguar to learn what her work at Midnight will be, she encounters Jeshickah and Gabriel who are discussing Jeshickah's displeasure with Jaguar, foreshadowing the animosity between them. Gabriel also gives Turquoise a brief lesson on how to properly show respect to her vampire betters. After being directed to Jaguar's office, Turquoise is disappointed to find Jaguar in his office, but when she apologizes for interrupting, he tells her that submissiveness does not suit her. When she asks about working outside, Jaguar refuses, not because he does not trust her but because it will hasten Jeshickah's need to make sure Turquoise is properly broken. Again, Jaguar shows an unusual sympathy toward his slaves. When they discuss her other options, Jaguar is surprised at the idea of Turquoise giving blood in the past, so she explains that her past master taught her not to fight his orders. Agreeing that she can join the bleeders, Jaguar instructs her to tread lightly around Daryl since he has a short temper and to avoid Gabriel unless she is fond of pain. Jaguar permits Turquoise to leave after this conversation, but she is surprised that he does not actually order her to leave. She notices the hunger in his eyes and manipulates him into feeding from her, knowing that a feeding vampire makes an easier target since they are distracted. She is shocked at how easy it would be to kill Jaguar if she were armed.



## Section 6: Chapters 8 & 9

### Section 6: Chapters 8 & 9 Summary

In Chapter 8, Jaguar releases Turquoise reluctantly, and she regains her senses when a throat clearing in the doorway reveals Lord Daryl, causing her to panic. It is obvious that Jaguar dislikes Daryl as he asks what the other vampire wants, holding Turquoise against him protectively which Turquoise knows could be dangerous since Daryl has always been jealous. Daryl recognizes Catherine immediately, and after a brief conversation about Jeshickah staying at Midnight, Jaguar dismisses Daryl. Turquoise plans to explore the courtyard, but she encounters Ravyn seeming in near trouble with Gabriel yet she lets Ravyn handle it since Ravyn shakes her off. When Ravyn returns to their room, she tells Turquoise that she has a plan, but she refuses to discuss it until she sleeps. Since it is midday and few people are awake, Turquoise takes the opportunity to attempt the courtyard. Using a pen cap and a safety pin, she unlocks the courtyard door within three minutes.

Entering the courtyard carefully in Chapter 9, Turquoise comes upon two jaguars and apologizes to the female for invading the courtyard. She edges away, intending to leave, but the other jaguar blocks her exit so she sits in the sunlight near the pool where the female feline gives her a bath. Since the male does not move, Turquoise attempts the other door, but he pounces on her, Jaguar pushing himself to his feet as he tells Turquoise that he did not invite her here. He introduces her to Shayla, the most beautiful creature living in the building, saying Shayla is naturally distrustful of most people but is an excellent judge of character so he will allow Turquoise to remain in the courtyard since Shayla deems her worthy. Turquoise cannot help laughing as Jaguar and Shayla wrestle. Noting that older cultures in Central and South America thought jaguars were gods, Jaguar admits that was his mother's culture, but his father was Spanish. Returning to jaguar form, he invites Turquoise to stay as long as she wants mentally, and Turquoise fights the impulse to keep him out of her mind since few humans have such a skill. With little to do, Turquoise stretches out next to Shayla and spends the afternoon alternating between napping and playing with the jaguar.

### Section 6: Chapters 8 & 9 Analysis

The appearance of Lord Daryl in Chapter 8 fulfills earlier foreshadowing, and Turquoise fights not to panic. Though she knows that both vampires can hear her pounding heart, she cannot focus enough to slow it. This demonstrates just how badly she is afraid of Lord Daryl because of the fact that he killed her family and imprisoned her for a year. Jaguar's dislike is apparent, but his protective attitude toward Turquoise puts her in greater danger since Daryl has always been jealous. Daryl recognizes Catherine, but he does not address her just yet. His appearance foreshadows more problems for Turquoise as a result, though. Jaguar tells Turquoise to entertain herself while he talks to Jeshickah before Daryl whines to her. Turquoise is nervous about Daryl's presence



because she knows he will offer no leniency if he catches her alone, but she must cope with the unexpected danger since she has her own agenda to accomplish. Turquoise finds Ravyn with Gabriel, foreshadowing the business agreement between the hunter and the vampire, but since Ravyn signals that she can handle her situation, Turquoise leaves her and waits in their room, thinking that Jeshickah does not seem a difficult target but knowing she may have to kill Jaguar also if he interferes. Once Ravyn rejoins Turquoise, she admits she has a plan but refuses to discuss it until she gets some sleep. Left alone, Turquoise decides to use the fact that it is midday and few people are awake to explore the locked courtyard. This fulfills the foreshadowing that Turquoise would use this information to her advantage, and it also foreshadows that the courtyard will offer a major turn of events in Turquoise's plan.

In Chapter 9, the courtyard is a stunning garden, and though Turquoise understands why someone would want to protect such a place, she cannot imagine Jaguar caring about the flowers. Turquoise comes upon a female and a male jaguar which do not allow her to leave the courtyard. The female seems to befriend her, but when she tries to leave, the male pounces on her before reverting to Jaguar who introduces Turquoise to Shayla and explains that he will permit her to spend time in the courtyard since Shayla trusts her. Turquoise is astounded by Jaguar playing with Shayla and even more so when he explains why he cares about Shayla: Jaguar explains that he has known Shayla's family since her great-grandfather was a kitten, and he brought Shayla to Midnight after a hunter injured her several years ago since she would have never survived in the jungle. This serves as further evidence of Jaguar's nature which is so opposed to Jeshickah's. After reverting to jaguar form, Jaguar extends the invitation for Turquoise to remain in the courtyard, foreshadowing their developing friendship. Turquoise knows she needs to understand Jaguar better so she can predict him, but she also wants to understand him because he confuses her and she is not used to being confused. This also foreshadows their relationship while showing how Turquoise justifies her own desires.



## Section 7: Chapters 10 & 11

### Section 7: Chapters 10 & 11 Summary

In Chapter 10, Turquoise dreams of Daryl beating her after she refused to call him Lord Daryl, and waking next to Shayla, she moves away. Jaguar wakes and asks if she is okay. When she admits to having bad memories, Jaguar startles her by standing and joining her, his mind offering sympathy as he stretches out on one side of Turquoise while Shayla lays on the other as if Turquoise is a frightened kitten that needs to be guarded.

In Chapter 11, Turquoise wakes to find Jaguar curled against her in human form, but her admiration of his beauty lasts only a moment since he has no heartbeat. She is surprised to find that the sun has already set, yet when she apologizes, Jaguar argues that it is not an unpleasant way to wake. Turquoise rises hastily, and as she steps out of the grove, Jaguar grabs her arm. Turquoise tries to deal with the present as her mind flashes memories of waking in Lord Daryl's arms. Jaguar tells her there is no need to be frightened, and realizing she is afraid, Turquoise reminds herself that Daryl and Jaguar are nothing alike. Asking why she is so afraid, Jaguar tells Turquoise that he is her only master and will not hurt her for anything she says. He asks if she is afraid he will realize she is only pretending to be a slave when she has as much free will as he does or that he will recognize whose weapon made the scars on her wrists and what he heard about Catherine being pretty but disobedient. Jaguar kisses her, causing Turquoise to jump as she recognizes the same possessive undertone that Daryl had when he kissed her. Ordering him to let her go, Turquoise notices Jeshickah before Jaguar does, and Jeshickah comments on Jaguar enjoying his new pet. Jaguar mentally orders Turquoise to kneel unless she wants to be hurt, and while she obeys, Turquoise does not enjoy the moment of subservience. Jeshickah comments on Turquoise's lack of training, mocking the touching scene she witnessed. When Jeshickah says she is disappointed in what he has become, Jaguar tells her to leave then since he has no desire to restore the original Midnight. Jeshickah insists that Jaguar belongs to her and will do as she does, including breaking Audra. Jaguar insists all of his humans are exactly as he wants them. As they argue, Jeshickah says she gave Jaguar power and will take it away if he displeases her, and after agreeing, Jaguar orders Jeshickah and Turquoise to leave the courtyard. Turquoise is surprised to find that she is worried about her new vampire friend.

### Section 7: Chapters 10 & 11 Analysis

In Chapter 10, Catherine's recalls that her first lesson had been to address her master as Lord Daryl, and he had backhanded her when she ordered him to take his hands off her, slamming her to the ground when she tried to kick him and beating her severely until she finally called him Lord Daryl. Turquoise had awakened, aching from her first beating from Lord Daryl which was the most terrifying since Catherine was a modern American teen who had never been hit before meeting the vampire. Turquoise moves





away from Shayla, and still in jaguar form, Jaguar asks if Audra is alright. Jaguar reveals his comforting nature by sympathizing with Turquoise for having bad dreams and offering her the comfort of his protection as he lies next to her. The protective felines on either side of Turquoise chase the memories from her dreams, allowing her to understand why older cultures worshipped these proud, savage and protective creatures.

When Turquoise wakes with Jaguar curled against her in Chapter 11, she is uncomfortable to wake so close to a vampire, and her mind floods with memories of waking with Lord Daryl. Though she is not scared of Jaguar, she is terrified that she finds him so likeable because she cannot think of how human he seems since she may need to kill him. Jaguar shocks Turquoise when he asks if she is afraid because he will realize she has free will and that she is the disobedient slave that Daryl still complains about losing. Turquoise pulls away when Jaguar kisses her, but they are caught by Jeshickah who mocks Jaguar's affection for his new pet. Jaguar tries to protect Turquoise by mentally instructing her about how to behave around Jeshickah to prevent her from being beaten. Jeshickah expresses her discontent in Jaguar's way of running Midnight, but he insists that he is happy with how things are, causing Jeshickah to threaten him. Turquoise is worried about Jaguar when he dismisses both her and Jeshickah, showing that she is developing feelings for the vampire.



## Section 8: Chapter 12

### Section 8: Chapter 12 Summary

Returning to her room, Turquoise learns that Ravyn has acquired knives from Gabriel who is willing to help their cause. Because of this, Ravyn suggests they race to kill Jeshickah with the winner receiving the bonus money; however, Turquoise ups the stakes by suggesting the loser forfeits the title of leader of Crimson. Before Ravyn answers, Lord Daryl enters the kitchen and dismisses Ravyn. He orders Turquoise to come to him, hitting her when she refuses and demanding that she leave Midnight with him. Luckily, Jaguar arrives and refuses to let Turquoise go, denying Daryl's offer to buy her and mocking Daryl when he announces he has blood claim which allows him to do whatever he wants with Catherine since she drew his blood. After Daryl finally leaves, Jaguar offers to help Turquoise, but she cannot accept help from any vampire again because she must convince herself that Daryl can no longer turn her into weak prey.

### Section 8: Chapter 12 Analysis

Back in the room, Ravyn is worried about Turquoise, and when Turquoise notices a bruise on Ravyn's face, Ravyn admits it came from Jeshickah who is lucky she had been with two other vampires or she would be dead. Ravyn is armed because Gabriel had guessed why the girls are at Midnight and donated a pair of knives to the cause. When Turquoise questions Ravyn's association with Gabriel, Ravyn says she has worked with him before and he will not be a threat. Turquoise's knife is under her pillow, so Ravyn suggests making it a race with the winner receiving the bonus, but Turquoise suggests the loser should forfeit the title to become leader of Crimson. Ravyn hesitates, not wanting to doubt her skills or risk the title, but she is saved from a response by Eric's entrance which is quickly followed by Lord Daryl who orders Eric and Ravyn to leave. Lord Daryl orders Catherine to him, and though Turquoise refuses to kneel to the beast from her past, she cannot fight back and reveal she is a hunter. She slaps him, but he hits her harder and orders her to leave Midnight with him. Luckily, Jaguar appears and asks if Daryl should discuss that with him first. When Jaguar refuses to sell Turquoise because he has grown fond of her, Lord Daryl beats her, demanding to know what she has done to gain Jaguar's favor. Jaguar pulls Daryl away, and when Daryl announces he has blood claim, a high vampire law that states Daryl can do as he wishes with Turquoise since she drew his blood, Turquoise expects Jaguar to relinquish his claim of ownership; however, Jaguar laughs and mocks Daryl, telling him to serve the rulers in Mayhem and beg forgiveness for his involvement in the trade if he wants to cower behind their laws. Daryl nods, warning "just watch that she doesn't put a knife in you before I can do it" (page 120) before leaving in a huff. Helping Turquoise to her feet, Jaguar warns that one warning may not be enough because Daryl thinks he has power since Jeshickah has favored him lately. Jaguar would have intercepted him if he had realized how smug Daryl has become. When Turquoise cautions that Daryl will try to kill Jaguar if he does not relinquish her, Jaguar says that though he dislikes murdering his



own kind, he would gladly make an exception for Daryl. Turquoise avoids Jaguar's proffered hand, unable to accept help from his kind because she cannot let her injuries be a weakness; she refuses to allow Daryl to turn her into weak prey again.



## Section 9: Chapter 13

### Section 9: Chapter 13 Summary

While Jaguar tends to Turquoise's injuries, he tells her about Pyrige, the town bordering Midnight, and Turquoise is surprised to realize she does not want to kill him, though she will be forced to do so if he tries to protect Jeshickah. Instead, Turquoise focuses on working out. Telling her how Jeshickah kept an albino leopard to sharpen its claws on those who displeased her, Jaguar notes that "only humans have it in their nature to torture" (page 126), insisting that vampires' desire to cause pain comes only when their human mind is in control. Turquoise notes that Jaguar does not seem like the type who would enjoy manipulation, but he argues that he learned the skill of manipulation very early and works hard to let his morals control that instinct. He tells Turquoise about the horrors of the old Midnight and the awful things that Jeshickah used to do as part of her methods of training slaves. He also explains that he only reopened Midnight to prevent Daryl from doing so. Suddenly, Jaguar rushes out of the courtyard, and despite his orders for her to stay put, Turquoise follows, finding Ravyn backed against a wall after trying to kill Jeshickah. Reacting, Turquoise dives for the knife Ravyn dropped and, ignoring Jaguar's shout, knocks Jeshickah off balance and raises the knife. A whip cracks in the back of Turquoise's mind before she falls into blackness.

### Section 9: Chapter 13 Analysis

Jaguar tends to Turquoise's injuries in the courtyard, inhibiting her from retrieving the knife Ravyn promised. He tells her how Midnight owns most of the town it borders, and thinking how difficult it must be to run a town full of free-willed people, Turquoise realizes she does not want to kill him. She doubts he will protect Jeshickah, foreshadowing that he does not care about Jeshickah's demise, but most vampires would want to destroy two hunters in his territory which means she may have to kill him. Instead, she focuses on restoring her mind and body to fighting condition because she cannot afford to face Daryl or Jeshickah as she currently is. As she works out, Turquoise is surprised to hear Jaguar breathing regularly, and she finds the trait endearing since she has never met a vampire who retained the human habit. When she asks if he is being productive, he says he rarely gets work done because someone always appears to threaten him or sell him something. Seeing Jaguar's desire to be innocent like Shayla, Turquoise wonders how he has survived so long since sentimentality is a deadly flaw in a predator. When she notes she cannot imagine him as a trainer because he does not seem like the type to enjoy manipulating another living creature, Jaguar claims he learned the skill of manipulation very early, and though morals can control that instinct, they never destroy it. He does not want to break Turquoise, but if Jeshickah assumes control of Midnight, she will have Turquoise killed or tamed. Turquoise argues that Daryl did not manage to break her, but Jaguar says Daryl has no idea how to control people and she cannot stand against a trainer who knows what he is doing. When he projects images of training into her head, Turquoise



wants to leave, but she has a job to do. Apologizing for hurting her but wanting to show her what she has to fear, Jaguar explains that Jeshickah is upset about how he is running things because she wants him to rule Midnight like she used to. He tells her about the horrors of the old Midnight, Jeshickah's methods making him seem like a humanitarian. Jaguar rebuilt Midnight to prevent Daryl from doing so because he was the only one with enough power and followers to challenge Daryl. Daryl's methods depend on brute force, but pain is easy to give, and Jaguar is better at observing people's weaknesses to use against them. As Turquoise wonders if Jaguar plans to tame her when she no longer pleases him, he curses and jumps to his feet, ordering her to stay there. Ignoring him, Turquoise follows him into the south wing to find Ravyn backed against a wall with Jeshickah asking Jaguar if he allows such dangerous pets to run around or if he is not in control of his property. Mentally, Jaguar orders Turquoise to leave, and a second voice asking if she will obey her master reminds of of Jeshickah chiding Daryl for his lack of control over his pet. Turquoise attempts to grab the knife that Ravyn dropped, but a whip cracking is the last thing she hears before she falls into unconsciousness, foreshadowing that Jeshickah and Jaguar have learned that Turquoise and Ravyn are hunters and thus, their lives are in danger.



## Section 10: Chapters 14 & 15

### Section 10: Chapters 14 & 15 Summary

In Chapter 14, Catherine is bleeding and shaking as Lord Daryl shoves her to Nathaniel and tells him to get her out of here. Nathaniel is willing to help her because of how many people have wanted to do what she tried. Turquoise wakes, chained to a wall with Ravyn a few feet away. Jeshickah yells at Jaguar for buying hunters, telling him to deal with it or she will. Daryl demands they give him Catherine to deal with, but Jaguar refuses because she belongs to him. Jeshickah claims he has had long enough with the girls but agrees to give him another week to break Turquoise and insists he gives Ravyn to Gabriel. She warns, "I want her licking your boots, or I'll take her from you, train her myself, and have you slit her throat" (page 144). Jeshickah leaves, but the lock that Turquoise is working on slides back into place. Jaguar unlocks Ravyn and sends her to Gabriel before facing off with Daryl over who owns Turquoise. Jaguar crushes Daryl's throat and orders him to leave, and when he obeys without hesitation, Turquoise no longer sees Daryl as anyone's master.

In Chapter 15, Jaguar frees Turquoise and explains he could not allow her to kill Jeshickah because she has powerful friends who would have killed Turquoise in return and he has grown fond of her and would be distressed to see her tortured to death. Jaguar hired Jillian Red to find hunters because Jeshickah's desire to restore Midnight to its original form left him with two options: allow her to turn his haven into her own empire again or get rid of her. He has a few other ideas about how to get rid of Jeshickah. Turquoise plans to leave if she is left alone today because the job has become too dangerous. When Jaguar asks how Daryl acquired her, Turquoise answers without meaning to do so. He killed her family. Though she misses Catherine's sense of safety, she cannot go back. She asks if Jaguar missed his past after Jeshickah changed him, and he answers that since shifters cannot be traded unless first sold by their own kind, his father sold him. He asks why Daryl wanted Catherine, and she explains that Daryl accosted her when she was celebrating her eighteenth birthday in New York City with her father. He had bitten her but had not caught her mind, so she fought back; since he had had to release her, Daryl had become more determined to claim her because he does not like to lose his prey. She eventually had escaped when she fought him and joined Bruja. Jaguar does not suffer a moral void because of the centuries he spent free from Jeshickah. One of his slaves had survived the burning of the original Midnight, and though he never struck her, she had been obedient and trusted him. The trust had been new and earned because he had never treated her as a slave. Though it is challenging not to demand submission, Jaguar prefers having an equal to a slave. Jaguar takes Turquoise to the courtyard and kisses her head because he knows she will disappear as soon as he leaves her alone, but he asks her to take Eric with her because Jeshickah will try to hurt Jaguar through Eric. While she knows Eric will be a liability, Turquoise cannot leave him to die so she agrees. Jaguar advises Turquoise to lie low for a while and asks if she would mind if he visits her after he gets rid of Jeshickah. Uncertain about continuing her association with Jaguar, Turquoise tells him



"if I don't want you to find me, you won't" (page 163), allowing herself a chance to think about it. Wishing her luck, Jaguar disappears.

## Section 10: Chapters 14 & 15 Analysis

In Chapter 14, Turquoise recalls Daryl shoving her toward Nathaniel and allowing Nathaniel to take her away. Fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing, she wakes chained to a wall as Jeshickah chides Jaguar for allowing hunters into Midnight. Daryl continues to demand Turquoise but is ignored as Jeshickah insists Ravyn be given to Gabriel and that Jaguar must break Turquoise or else watch Jeshickah kill her. After Jeshickah leaves, Daryl and Jaguar get into a disagreement over who owns Turquoise, but Jaguar wins when he crushes Daryl's throat, allowing Turquoise to see Daryl for the weak, pathetic vampire he is instead of anyone's master.

In Chapter 15, Jaguar explains that he did not allow Turquoise to kill Jeshickah because Jeshickah had powerful friends who would have retaliated. Furthermore, he admits that he hired Jillian to find hunters to kill Jeshickah for him. He had been suspicious of Turquoise and Ravyn when Nathaniel sold them but was not certain until Turquoise dove for the knife. When he had asked around and learned their histories, it seemed more likely they were both exactly what they pretended to be because he could not imagine that anyone lucky enough to escape the trade would be crazy enough to return. He has several ideas about how to get rid of Jeshickah, foreshadowing his continuing plans to kill the vampire who created him. Turquoise and Jaguar then spend some time explaining how they each first came to the attentions of the vampires who stole them from the human world. Jaguar also explains why he rules Midnight the way he does; he has come to value trust after receiving the trust of one of his slaves. Before leaving Turquoise to attend to business matters, Jaguar acknowledges that she will leave as soon as he turns his back, but rather than try to prevent her from escaping, he asks her to take Eric with her so that Jeshickah cannot harm the boy in order to hurt Jaguar. Turquoise agrees because she cannot leave Eric to die, but when Jaguar asks to see her after she leaves, she tells him he will not be able to find her if she does not want him to, giving herself time to make a decision since she is uncertain. Jaguar leaves, foreshadowing Turquoise and Eric's escape from Midnight.



## Section 11: Chapters 16 & 17

### Section 11: Chapters 16 & 17 Summary

In Chapter 16, after boosting Eric over the wall and following, Turquoise pushes him aside when she sees a cougar, ordering him over the fence as she battles the feline which tries to delay her until its master arrives. Feeling a familiar aura, Turquoise notices Daryl, and though she has no weapon, she prefers fighting to submission. A brief fight ends when Turquoise shoves Daryl to the ground and snaps his neck, paralyzing him temporarily, and though retreat irritates her, she cannot kill him without a weapon. Joining Eric on the other side of the fence, Turquoise leads him into the forest behind Midnight, refusing to stop until they escape Jaguar's land. When they reach town around noon, Turquoise finds a payphone and calls Nathaniel who offers her a place to stay and to loan her money so she will not be traced. He agrees to pick her up but tells her to go to the inn down the street since he is a few hours away.

In Chapter 17, Daryl orders Catherine to put Tommy down, so she complies, telling Tommy to run, but Daryl grabs Tommy when he hesitates. Catherine hits Daryl in the throat and runs, but Daryl grabs her, tells her to never hit him and knocks her out. Waking in a sweat, Turquoise checks on Eric in the house that Nathaniel loaned them when he picked them up. He also had provided her with a new identity. Later, when Turquoise and Eric go to the hardware store and the grocery store, Turquoise is accosted by a young man around her age who looks vaguely familiar and recognizes Catherine. At first she cannot remember his name, but eventually, Turquoise recognizes Greg, Cathy's boyfriend. She learns that Greg lives in town, but when he suggests catching up, she does not understand her strong desire to run from him. After Greg leaves, Eric questions her about the guy she seemed close to, and Turquoise explains that he was close to Cathy, but she is no longer Cathy because Cathy was stupid and defenseless. Eric argues that Cathy was innocent, but he points out that Turquoise does not want to think of herself as Catherine since she had weaknesses, and as a predator, Turquoise does not want to admit the possibility of being prey. She could not save herself from being Daryl's pet for a year, and during that year, Catherine died along with her innocence, her illusions and her dreams. Eric asks about Turquoise's dreams, besides being a hunter. Turquoise is lost; she has nothing but the hunt, and since most hunters do not live past their mid-thirties, she only has about ten to fifteen years left of life. Eric asks what Catherine had wanted to do, and though Turquoise refuses to answer, she thinks about how Catherine had wanted to help people by being a doctor or a teacher because "she had cared about everything. And everything had been able to hurt her" (page 188). Despite how wrong it now is, the memory of Dad telling her she is a creator comes to mind often, but now, Turquoise is a killer and that is all.





## Section 11: Chapters 16 & 17 Analysis

Chapter 16 shows how badly Daryl affects Turquoise as she fears Eric will get hurt by going with her, recalling Daryl killing her brother. Turquoise asks if Eric wants to come with her as she examines the wall, and when he answers affirmatively, she warns him it will be rough because she is not good at taking care of people, pleading that she will not let him get hurt as she imagines Daryl striking Tommy down. Her protective instincts kick in as soon as she notices a cougar on the other side of the wall, so she hurries Eric over the fence while she fights the large cat. When Daryl appears, Turquoise fights with him also, finally snapping his neck which temporarily paralyzes him since she does not have a weapon to finish him off. Turquoise and Eric rush away from Jaguar's land and calls Nathaniel for help because she needs to hide herself and Eric. Turquoise is sure it will cost her, but it is worth it; however, Nathaniel agrees to help without naming a price, meaning he cannot renegotiate the terms later, foreshadowing his admission to caring for Turquoise and not wanting to see her die. Deciding to figure it out later, Turquoise leads Eric toward the inn as Nathaniel instructed, telling him they can soon get some sleep, and despite his exhaustion, Eric smiles in relief.

After waking from a memory of Daryl killing Tommy in Chapter 17, Turquoise immediately checks on Eric to make sure he is safe, again drawing that parallel between both of the young men for whom she has felt responsible during her life. They stay in a house that belongs to Nathaniel. Leaving a message to thank Nathaniel for helping her, Turquoise wonders why he has now helped her twice without asking for payment since he claims that everything he does is solely for his own gain, and this also foreshadows Nathaniel's confession that he considers Turquoise a friend. When Eric wakes, Turquoise offers to go shopping later for necessities, but Eric offers to go, and though Turquoise remembers he was Jaguar's human liaison to the town, she offers to drive him because she does not want to split up. Eric is hurt that she treats him like a child, and though he may not think or act like a child, that does not mean she feels any less protective. When Turquoise runs into Greg, a friend from her past as Cathy, she does not understand why he makes her so uncomfortable, but after Greg leaves, Eric's questions cause Turquoise to realize that she does not want to associate herself with Cathy because Cathy was prey, and a predator like Turquoise does not want to admit that she was ever so weak and helpless. When Turquoise insists Cathy was weak and Daryl destroyed her, Eric disagrees, insisting Daryl only made Cathy harder and more scared; "Cathy didn't need to hunt because she wasn't afraid of life" (page 186). Admitting she is scared, Turquoise claims she cannot go back because she knows what is out there and it will not just disappear if she turns her back on it. When Eric notes that she would rather admit Daryl won than admit she was prey, Turquoise insists Daryl won that battle since she could not save her family. Turquoise confesses that Catherine lost her dreams during the year she lived with Daryl, but Eric reminds her that she is still alive and can always return to her dreams. Though Turquoise refuses to discuss her dreams aloud, she recalls that Catherine had wanted to become a teacher or a doctor in order to help people, but now, she is only a hunter. This conversation leads to Turquoise's emotional turmoil which foreshadows her questioning what she wants to do with her future as well as her decision to cease being a hunter.



## Section 12: Chapters 18 & 19

### Section 12: Chapters 18 & 19 Summary

In Chapter 18, Nathaniel is waiting in the living room when Turquoise returns, and after Eric excuses himself to put their purchases away, Nathaniel notes that the boy has spent too much time around vampires but is no worse off than Turquoise. He tells her that Jeshickah's sister belongs to Siete who created all vampires so Siete would seek vengeance against Turquoise for Jeshickah's death, and he would have prevented her if he had known who her target at Midnight had been. Nathaniel also admits that he has helped Turquoise for free because he considers her a friend. He continues to tell Turquoise about his time spent in Midnight as a human and how Jeshickah trained him. When he asks about Turquoise's plan, she tells him about the Challenge she must fight at Bruja, but she realizes hunting has consumed her, though she never meant for it to become her entire life. Nathaniel also delivers a letter from Jaguar, warning Turquoise that Jaguar will be able to find her through his ties to Eric. Jaguar asks Turquoise to meet him at her chosen time and place, and because she is curious about what is going on at Midnight and because she misses Jaguar, she invites him to meet her at a café in town.

In Chapter 19, Jaguar arrives on time, looking normal enough to pass for human though he still attracts attention because he is so attractive. Jaguar explains that Jeshickah will soon be out of the way, within a month, because a Triste named Jesse believes he has enough allies to risk offending Jeshickah's. After that, Eric will be able to safely return to Midnight, and Jaguar invites Turquoise to return also as a guest or she can move to Pyrige, the town bordering Midnight, to work if she gets bored with Bruja. Ravyn had mentioned that she hopes Turquoise still plans to show up for the Challenge, so Turquoise is forced to explain the Challenge to Jaguar, and she also asks him to help her practice with the whip. Jaguar informs her that Gabriel bought Turquoise from Jeshickah and has agreed to make the winner of the Challenge a freeblood which will make her an equal with the vampires. If Turquoise wins, no one will stop her from killing Daryl. The idea of becoming a vampire should be sickening, but Turquoise actually considers it. Jaguar advises her to decide after winning the Challenge because she will then be strong if she decides to become one of them. When Greg greets Cathy, Jaguar is unfriendly, and after Greg leaves, he asks if that is the reason Turquoise is thinking of leaving Bruja. Turquoise insists Greg is not the reason she is thinking of leaving Bruja, but he reminds her of her dreams, and it hurts to know that she threw them away. Jaguar insists the Greg's life is too innocent for Turquoise, but he also encourages her that the human world might be worth fighting for if that is what she wants.

### Section 12: Chapters 18 & 19 Analysis

In Chapter 18, Turquoise returns to find Nathaniel waiting for her, and she questions him about the mission. Turquoise asks if she was set up for a suicide mission, and Nathaniel



tells her yes, if Jeshickah was her target. Though plenty of vampires hate Jeshickah, they know better than to kill her because her sister is one of Siete's fledglings, and Siete is the creature who created vampires. She would demand the death of anyone who killed Jeshickah. Nathaniel would have stopped Turquoise if he had known that Jeshickah was her target. When Turquoise questions why he would watch out for her when she is not paying him, he explains that he had a soul before he was changed, and he does not want Turquoise to die since he considers her a friend, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing. He further explains that he was one of Jeshickah's early experiments, her third fledgling, and she intended for him to be a trainer. Nathaniel was the first to refuse Jeshickah and survive which caused her to start looking for those who already showed the tendencies she wanted. Gabriel was her favorite, but she was too fond of him so she never managed to own him the way she did the others. Nathaniel suggests that he saved Turquoise from Lord Daryl because she reminded him of himself when he was a human in Jeshickah's Midnight. Jeshickah changed him after she lost her temper and hurt him too badly for him to survive as a human. Noting that Jaguar and Turquoise share a sense of familiarity, Nathaniel notes that Jaguar is trying to break free from Jeshickah like Turquoise is trying to break away from Daryl. Nathaniel asks Turquoise's plan, and she confesses that she is returning to Bruja to fight the challenge, but recalling Eric's questions about Catherine's dreams, Turquoise realizes that she never meant for hunting to become her whole life, yet it has consumed her. Turquoise agrees to meet Jaguar at a café in town after reading the letter he sent through Nathaniel. Nathaniel tells Turquoise she is mad, as he has told her many times before, but it never seems to change her mind.

Turquoise meets Jaguar in Chapter 19, foreshadowing the growth of their friendship. When Turquoise questions him, he admits that he can track Eric, noting that Turquoise has walls to keep everyone out, and while she has dropped them around him, he tries not to take advantage of people who trust him because it is so rare. Turquoise is surprised at the fact that she does trust Jaguar. Jaguar tells Turquoise about his new plan to get rid of Jeshickah, inviting her and Eric to return to Midnight once it is safe again. He also notes that Ravyn enjoys abusing Gabriel's power because Gabriel has a fondness for women who are willing to kill him. Part of Turquoise hopes she will lose the Challenge and have a reason to quit Bruja, and she admits that she does not want to lose to Ravyn, but she is unsure if she still wants the title. This reiterates Turquoise's consideration of her future and foreshadows her decision to forgo the title of Crimson's leader. Showing his loyalty to Turquoise, Jaguar insists that she should focus on winning the Challenge in order to acquire the status of freeblood which Gabriel has promised to bestow upon the winner, again foreshadowing Turquoise's victory. This status is important for Turquoise as it will allow her to kill Daryl without repercussions. Thinking of what would happen if she left Bruja, Turquoise asks if Jaguar would open a vein for her, but he tells her to ask Nathaniel instead, though he recommends killing Daryl first so he cannot argue his ownership for the next millennium. Jaguar shows his possessive and jealous tendencies when Greg greets Turquoise, but Turquoise assures him that Greg is not the reason she is thinking of changing her life; he just reminds her of when she was innocent and had different dreams than she does now. Jaguar points out that Greg's life is too innocent for Turquoise, noting that he has never known anyone to return to the human world from his world. He insists that Turquoise would thrive in

Jaguar's world because the darkness suits her; however, if she wants Greg's world, the one Cathy came from, it might still be worth fighting for.



## Section 13: Chapters 20 & 21

### Section 13: Chapters 20 & 21 Summary

In Chapter 20, over the next month, Turquoise spends her mornings with Eric and sometimes Greg whom she tells that she is dating Jaguar since they cannot get too close because there is so much of her life that she cannot share. In the afternoons, Jaguar visits to help her practice until midnight. With the Challenge only a few days away, Turquoise does not doubt her skills, but she is not sure she wants to beat Ravyn because she enjoys the companionship to which she has grown accustomed with Eric, Greg and Jaguar. She likes seeing them, but she cannot juggle two lives forever, and a human life will never completely suit her. Cathy may not be dead, but she has grown, and Turquoise cannot stand boredom for long since she craves the challenge.

In Chapter 21, Bruja is not imposing from the outside, and Turquoise enters the unlocked door to find Ravyn with Gabriel, confirming what Jaguar had told her about Ravyn's deal — that the winner receives freeblood status. When Sarta arrives, she announces that the fight will continue to third blood. Ravyn taunts Turquoise as they circle one another, playing with their whips but not drawing blood. Avoiding Ravyn's whip, Turquoise draws first blood, quickly followed by Ravyn drawing first blood. When Ravyn's whip encircles hers, Turquoise pulls Ravyn off balance and cracks her whip, drawing second blood. Ravyn mentions getting some pointers from Daryl and that Turquoise could be quite good at this with a little more practice; however, Turquoise refuses to banter or allow Ravyn to distract her. Ravyn's whip hits Turquoise's wrist, drawing second blood so that the next hit will dictate the winner. Falling to the ground to dodge Ravyn's strike, Turquoise cracks her whip around Ravyn's ankle, pulling her to the floor and drawing third blood. Sarta congratulates Turquoise while Ravyn expresses the hope that Daryl snaps Turquoise's neck. Laughing, Gabriel leads Ravyn away before she can attack her opponent, licking her wounds and telling Turquoise she is now freeblood so "Go put a knife in Daryl for me" (page 223). As Ravyn glares at her, Turquoise tells Ravyn to take the title because she does not want it, ignoring Ravyn's shock and not bothering to explain her decision since she does not want to be the leader of Crimson. She ignores Ravyn's punch and threat, walking out of Bruja perhaps for the last time.

### Section 13: Chapters 20 & 21 Analysis

Chapter 20 encompasses the next month during which Turquoise spends her mornings with Eric and Greg and her afternoons practicing with Jaguar for the Challenge. They gossip about Midnight and Pyrige, and Jaguar encourages Turquoise to move to Pyrige; however, Turquoise remains focused on the Challenge and then killing Daryl before thinking of the future. Jaguar helps Turquoise improve her skills with the whip, and they duel, but she rarely hits him. When he cracks his whip twice to create an X in Turquoise's shirt, he notes she is being careless and asks if she needs a break, but



Turquoise uses the opportunity to land a blow on Jaguar. They engage in a duel, not breaking until after midnight. Though Turquoise feels comfortable with her newly acquired skills with the whip, she is not sure that she wants to become the leader of Crimson, foreshadowing her decision to refuse the position; however, she still is uncertain whether she will be happy with a typical human life. She reminds herself, "Save tomorrow for tomorrow. Deal with now first" (page 215).

Turquoise returns to Bruja in Chapter 21 and faces off with Ravyn for the rematch of the Challenge. Gabriel confirms his arrangement with Ravyn: that the winner will receive freeblood status. Though Turquoise does not want to lead the hunters, she will earn freedom to kill Daryl if she wins. This foreshadows both her decision to refuse the position and the death of Daryl. The Challenge is very close as the girls alternate between drawing blood, but while Ravyn tries to distract Turquoise with banter, some of which is painful such as her references to Daryl. Finally, Turquoise defeats Ravyn when she is the first to draw third blood. Gabriel's comment about putting a knife in Daryl demonstrates that he knows Turquoise's motives better than he should, but Turquoise refusing the position of Crimson's leader and deferring to Ravyn fulfills the earlier foreshadowing. Ravyn is furious to win by default, and she threatens Turquoise as she leaves the Bruja Hall for what may be the last time, indicating the potential for Turquoise to change her mind or perhaps work with Bruja in the future. Regardless, Turquoise has made the decision that she does not want hunting to be her entire life.



## Section 14: Chapter 22

### Section 14: Chapter 22 Summary

The bus ride back to Nathaniel's house is long and stifling as Turquoise thinks about how she needs to kill Daryl now since his pride will not allow him to ignore her forever. She knows a tame life will never suit her, plus she does not want to ditch Jaguar and Eric now. Maybe Midnight will prove interesting for a while with Jeshickah gone, but she does not know about forever. Getting off the bus in the middle of town, Turquoise buys donuts and a soda, realizing she forgot her jacket on the bus so her wounds are visible. When Greg joins her, she does not have the patience to deal with him so when he questions her about her injuries, she tells him she is a mercenary who hunts vampires, rushing away. Greg follows, asking if she means vampires like criminals. Deciding not to destroy his innocence, Turquoise agrees that she is involved with the government and cannot talk about it. Greg walks her home, but when a fire truck passes them, Turquoise chokes on fear, rushing to the house to find it in flames. She asks a fireman about Eric, ready to kill someone if Eric is hurt because she knows the fire is a result of arson. When a policeman brings Eric, Turquoise cannot stop herself from hugging him, but when she asks what caused this, he tells her it was her favorite vampire. The police want Turquoise to answer questions at the station, but with Greg's help, she convinces them she will stop by later. Greg offers to let Turquoise stay with him, but she has to deal with something first because staying with Greg will put him in danger until Daryl is dead. Knowing she is returning to Midnight, Eric asks how she will get there, and Greg loans Turquoise his car. Promising to be back in a day or less, Turquoise heads out, still armed from the Challenge and planning to grab more weapons from her Bruja house. It is hilariously easy for Turquoise to enter Midnight since the guards, shocked to find a human willing to fight to enter Midnight, do not challenge her. As Turquoise approaches Daryl's door, Jeshickah announces that Turquoise no longer annoys her. Gripping her knife and waiting for Jeshickah to decide whether to push the fight or back off, Turquoise announces that Gabriel made her freeblood. This is why Jeshickah is speaking to her instead of torturing her; Jeshickah detests Turquoise because she is too much like her own pets, but the traits she finds attractive in a man she owns are less so in a human girl. Turquoise is uneasy at the thought of fitting Jeshickah's preferences since Jeshickah claims she is good at lying, killing and manipulating for money, power or strength. She tells Turquoise to go ahead and kill Daryl because he is too stupid to live, but then to go home and be human because Jeshickah will control Turquoise if she takes vampire blood from Jeshickah's brood which includes both Jaguar and Nathaniel. The conversation ceases as Jaguar approaches cautiously and tells Jeshickah that the Triste requests a meeting. Telling Turquoise not to make too much of a mess, Jeshickah leaves. Turquoise asks how long until Jeshickah is dead, and Jaguar tells her not long if Jesse does his job. Confirming that Turquoise is after Daryl, Jaguar tells her that he will hate himself for not stopping her if she gets killed, but Turquoise does not plan to die. Jaguar walks away; he will not hinder or help her, but Turquoise does not want help because this is her fight. Knife in hand, Turquoise enters Daryl's room, ready to wait if he is not present.



## Section 14: Chapter 22 Analysis

Turquoise's thoughts about killing Daryl on her way home from the Challenge foreshadow her imminent need to react. She continues to consider her options for her future. Turquoise runs into Greg in town, and in frustration, she tells him that she hunts vampires for a living; however, she quickly realizes that it is unfair to destroy Greg's innocence, so going along with his assumption, she clarifies that she works in law enforcement. As she nears Nathaniel's house where she is staying, a passing fire truck foreshadows what she will find when she reaches her current abode. Turquoise's fear for Eric demonstrates their friendship, and after she learns he is safe, Eric tells Turquoise that her favorite vampire caused the fire, indicating Daryl which foreshadows Daryl's hastening death. After arranging to talk to the police later, Turquoise is ready to leave for Midnight. Greg offers her the use of his car, and Turquoise speeds away, foreshadowing Daryl's demise. Turquoise is amused by how easy it is to enter Midnight since no one can understand why a human would fight to return to Midnight. As she nears Daryl's room, Jeshickah appears and compares Turquoise to her preference for trainers, noting that Turquoise fulfills the traits that Jeshickah prefers; however, Jeshickah finds the traits much less attractive in a human girl that she cannot control. Jeshickah also warns Turquoise to leave the vampire world after killing Daryl unless she wants Jeshickah to control her since Jeshickah can control both Jaguar and Nathaniel, the obvious choices for Turquoise's sire. Jeshickah's warning is interrupted by Jaguar who quickly dispatches Jeshickah to deal with Jesse, the Triste he hired to kill her. Jaguar realizes that Turquoise has arrived to kill Daryl, and he warns her to be cautious since he will be upset if she dies. Still, he will not help her which is for the best since Turquoise wants to avenge herself against Daryl for everything he took from her. She enters his room, foreshadowing Daryl's imminent demise.





## Section 15: Chapter 23

### Section 15: Chapter 23 Summary

Nathaniel is there to conduct business, so he is surprised when Cathy speaks to him but still willing to talk. Grateful for his companionship, Cathy asks him to help her kill Daryl since she has no choice besides dying here. Nathaniel points out that she could have asked for help escaping, but Cathy argues, "He killed my parents and my brother. I want to see him dead" (page 240). Though Daryl is absent, his room elicits unpleasant memories as Turquoise paces restlessly and rifles through his desk, but she palms her knife before he opens the door. Hesitating, Daryl notes he thought she would find a way back because a slave without a master is lost. Recalling how Daryl had told her he owned her and she did not want to make him mad, Turquoise had been introduced to the concept that humans could be property, and that concept had been beaten into her, forcing her to realize how powerless she was. Turquoise smiles as she tells Daryl that he is not her master and she is no longer a powerless slave, but Daryl argues that vampires are a higher race, and as a human, all Catherine will ever be is a slave. When Turquoise attacks, Daryl dodges and draws a knife. She recalls how Nathaniel had told her that revenge does not make for a good life, but Catherine would not mind it in this case, so he had handed her a knife and told her it would be easiest to kill Daryl while he was feeding. Though the thought of violence sickens Catherine, her decision is made. Daryl knocks Turquoise's knife away, hissing in pain when her next knife rakes his chest, but he blocks it from entering his rib cage as Turquoise remembers how Daryl had returned home and pulled her against him to feed. Catherine had stabbed him but missed the heart, so he had thrown her into the wall and wrapped his whip around her wrist, pulling to dislocate her shoulder. She had grabbed the knife and stabbed in his stomach next, so Daryl had shoved her at Nathaniel and ordered Nathaniel to get her out of there. She had been lucky to have Nathaniel save her then, but now she only has her training and her wits to help her. Though Turquoise still holds the knife, Daryl stands over her, saying he is her master and asking, "Did you honestly think you were better than I am" (page 245)? Recalling her father telling her she is proud and has the right to be and that no one can take that from her unless she lets them, Turquoise tells Daryl yes as she starts fighting again, stabbing his hand and causing him to drop his weapon. Recalling her father telling her that she is a creator and a healer, not a user, she realizes that some creatures need to abuse others to thrive, but Daryl picked the wrong life to try to steal. As she attacks, Turquoise tells Daryl she may have never come back, but he had been stupid when he threatened Eric and tried to ruin the life she had just barely recreated. Swinging the knife, Turquoise finally finds her mark, and Daryl collapses. Turquoise recalls Dad saying she will do something amazing with her life because she has so much passion and talent. He had not been talking about hunting vampires, and that is not what Turquoise is thinking about either. She has two worlds from which to choose her future: the human world, the vampire world, or both. First, she needs to see a doctor, but after that, maybe she can try to find the part of herself that was a creator before, or she could take Jaguar up on his job offer, or she could ask Nathaniel to change her into a vampire. Maybe she will realize she is content with her human life.



Either way, she has choices and freedom now as she wryly thinks that her father had been right in the end.

## Section 15: Chapter 23 Analysis

The final chapter alternates between the past and present as Turquoise investigates Daryl's room while recalling how Nathaniel helped her escape from Daryl. Catherine is innocent, but she is willing to seek vengeance for the deaths of her family. When Daryl returns to his room, his arrogance dictates that he treat Turquoise as a rogue slave still, but this only angers her as she insists he is not her master and she is no longer a powerless slave. She recalls Nathaniel providing her with a knife to kill Daryl and instructing her that it would be easiest to kill him while he is distracted by feeding. Unfortunately, Catherine's knife had missed its mark, causing Daryl to beat her. When she had made another attempt, Daryl ordered Nathaniel to get her out of his house. Contrasting her two attempts to kill Daryl, Turquoise realizes she has no one to save her now; she must rely on herself. When Daryl mocks her for thinking she is better than him, the memory of her father telling her she has the right to be proud gives Turquoise the strength to resume her fight, and memories of her father urge her forward as she continues battling Daryl and finally kills him. Turquoise realizes that her father did not intend for her to hunt vampires when he told her she would do something amazing with her life, but that is no longer what she wants. She considers her options, and though she does not decide what she wants for her future, the important factor is that she now has options and the freedom to choose for herself.



# Characters

## Turquoise Draka

Turquoise Draka is a hunter for Bruja. Years earlier, she was Catherine Miriam Minate before Daryl killed her family and took her as his slave. When Turquoise and Ravyn tie in their fight to become the leader of Crimson, a rematch is scheduled in a month. They are both hired by Jillian Red for an anonymous employer to kill the vampire Jeshickah before she resumes control of Midnight where the focus is on the trade of human slaves. Nathaniel sells Turquoise and Ravyn into Midnight as slaves. Turquoise is surprised when she discovers the kindness of Jaguar, the current master of Midnight, and Ravyn makes a deal with Gabriel which allows her to acquire two knives. Meanwhile, Daryl, Turquoise's first owner who killed her family in order to enslave her, tries to fight Jaguar for ownership of Turquoise.

Jaguar prevents Jeshickah's death because he does not want to see Turquoise tortured to death by Jeshickah's friends in retribution for the powerful vampire's demise. When Ravyn and Turquoise are revealed to be hunters after they attempt to kill Jeshickah, Jaguar sells Ravyn to Gabriel and helps Turquoise escape with Eric so Jeshickah cannot use the boy to hurt Jaguar. Nathaniel hides Turquoise and Eric in one of his houses, but when Turquoise runs into Greg, a boyfriend from her past as Catherine before her introduction into the world of vampires, she begins questioning her old dreams and her future as a hunter. Jaguar helps Turquoise train for the Challenge because Gabriel purchased her as well and struck a deal with Ravyn to grant freeblood status to the winner of the Challenge; this status will allow Turquoise to kill Daryl without facing consequences. Turquoise wins the Challenge, but she relinquishes her title as the leader of Crimson to Ravyn. She returns to Nathaniel's home to find it was burned down. After ensuring that Eric is safe, she returns to Midnight where she confronts and kills Daryl. Turquoise begins looking forward to her future where she now has the option of living in the vampire world or the human world. She is happy that her future now holds choices and freedom to make her own decisions.

## Jaguar

Jaguar is a vampire and shapeshifter who was a trainer in the original Midnight and now rules the facility. Jaguar is unusually kind to humans, a fact that causes tension between him and Jeshickah, the former ruler of Midnight. Jaguar anonymously hires Turquoise and Ravyn through Jillian Red to kill the vampire Jeshickah before she resumes control of Midnight where the focus is on the trade of human slaves. He purchases Turquoise and Ravyn as slaves from Nathaniel. Turquoise is surprised when she discovers the kindness of Jaguar, the current master of Midnight, and Ravyn makes a deal with Gabriel which allows her to acquire two knives. Meanwhile, Daryl, Turquoise's first owner who killed her family in order to enslave her, tries to fight Jaguar for ownership of Turquoise.



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## Ravyn Aniketos

Ravyn Aniketos is a member of Crimson who fights Turquoise in the Challenge to become the leader of Crimson, but a rematch is scheduled when the Challenge ends in a tie. Jillian Red hires Turquoise and Ravyn to infiltrate Midnight and kill Jeshickah. In Midnight, Ravyn acquires knives from Gabriel, but when she is caught trying to kill Jeshickah, she is sold to Gabriel who offers the status of freeblood to the winner of the Challenge. Ravyn loses the Challenge, but Turquoise relinquishes the title of Crimson's leader to Ravyn because she no longer wants to be a hunter.

## Jeshickah

Jeshickah is the powerful vampire who ruled the original Midnight and now wants to reassume control since she is unhappy with Jaguar's kinder methods. She frequently threatens Jaguar, and he hires Jillian Red to find two hunters, Turquoise and Ravyn, to kill Jeshickah. Jaguar prevents the hunters from killing Jeshickah, though, because her powerful friends will seek revenge and he cares too much about Turquoise to watch her being tortured to death. Instead, he hires a Triste named Jesse to kill Jeshickah, though she is still alive at the end of the novel.

## Lord Daryl

Lord Daryl is the vampire who killed Catherine's family so he could make Catherine his slave until she stabs him and Nathaniel helps her escape. At Midnight, Daryl tries to insist that Turquoise still belongs to him, but Jaguar fights him over his claim of ownership. Daryl sets fire to Nathaniel's house, causing Turquoise to fear for Eric's life, so having won freeblood status by defeating Ravyn at the Challenge, Turquoise returns to Midnight and kills Daryl.

## Nathaniel

Nathaniel is the vampire mercenary who had helped Catherine escape from Daryl. He also helps Turquoise and Ravyn enter Midnight by selling them to Jaguar as slaves.



When Turquoise and Eric escape Midnight, Nathaniel helps them hide without charging them because he considers Turquoise a friend and would be upset if she died.

## **Eric**

Eric is a fourteen-year-old slave at Midnight that Jaguar is fond of. Jaguar asks Turquoise to take Eric with her when she escapes so that Jeshickah cannot harm Eric if she acts against Jaguar. Turquoise becomes fond of Eric, who reminds her of her younger brother whom Daryl killed, and Daryl's decision to burn Nathaniel's house and endanger Eric hastens her reaction which is to return to Midnight and kill Daryl.

## **Jillian Red**

Jillian Red is the woman who hires Turquoise and Ravyn to kill Jeshickah for an anonymous employer who turns out to be Jaguar.

## **Tommy**

Tommy was Catherine's younger brother whom Daryl killed. Eric reminds Turquoise of Tommy which is why she is so protective of the boy.

## **Mr. Minate**

Mr. Minate was Catherine's father who told her she was a creator, not a user, and that she had every reason to be proud and no one could take that unless she let them. Daryl killed Mr. Minate so he could enslave Catherine.

## **Gabriel**

Gabriel is one of Jeshickah's favorite vampires. He strikes a deal with Ravyn to provide her knives so she can kill Jeshickah, but when she is caught, he buys Ravyn and Turquoise and agrees to grant freeblood status to the winner of the Challenge.

## **Shayla**

Shayla is the jaguar that Jaguar rescued who lives in the courtyard. Jaguar allows Turquoise to spend time in the courtyard because Shayla is an excellent judge of character and she likes Turquoise.



## **Greg**

Greg was Catherine's boyfriend, and when Turquoise runs into him in town, he reminds her of Catherine's dreams and makes her question her future as a hunter.

## **Sarta**

Sarta is the leader of Bruja.

## **Jesse**

Jesse is the Triste that Jaguar hires to kill Jeshickah after acquiring feelings for Turquoise that cause him to prevent her from killing Jeshickah because he does not want her to be tortured to death in retaliation for Jeshickah's murder. Jesse is supposed to be very skilled at restraining vampires.



# Objects/Places

## Crimson

Crimson is the most elite unit of the Bruja guilds. Turquoise and Ravyn fight to become their leader, but at their rematch, Turquoise decides to relinquish the title, though she wins.

## Bruja

Bruja is a group of vampire hunters that Turquoise joins after Nathaniel helps her escape from Lord Daryl.

## Midnight

Midnight is the main setting of this novel. It is a large building where vampires rule over humans. It was founded in the early 1600s by Jeshickah and her sister, but the building was destroyed in the early 1800s. Recently, Jaguar reopened Midnight to prevent Lord Daryl from doing so. When Turquoise and Ravyn are hired to kill Jeshickah before she resumes control of Midnight, Nathaniel sells them to Jaguar as slaves.

## Courtyard

Since the door to the courtyard is locked, Turquoise picks the lock to investigate. She finds two jaguars inside, one of them being Jaguar. Turquoise spends some time in the courtyard with Shayla and Jaguar, befriending them.

## Pyrige

Pyrige is the name of the town bordering Midnight which Jaguar largely owns.

## Nathaniel's House

Nathaniel allows Turquoise and Eric to stay in his small, one-story house after they escape Midnight. When Lord Daryl endangers Eric by setting fire to Nathaniel's house, Turquoise decides to kill him.

## Daryl's House

Turquoise spent a year at Daryl's house as his slave after he killed her family and claimed her. Nathaniel helped Turquoise escape after she stabbed Daryl. Throughout



the novel, Turquoise has terrible dreams and memories of the year she spent in Daryl's house.

## **Grocery Store**

Turquoise runs into Greg, her boyfriend when she was Catherine, when she and Eric go grocery shopping. Greg reminds her of her past dreams and makes her question her future as a hunter.

## **Cafe**

Turquoise agrees to meet Jaguar at a cafe in the town near Nathaniel's house, and she asks him to help her practice using a whip for the Challenge.

## **Bruja Hall**

Turquoise and Ravyn fight the rematched Challenge at Bruja Hall. Turquoise wins but relinquishes the title of leader of Crimson to Ravyn before leaving Bruja Hall for perhaps the last time.

## **Challenge**

The Challenge is a fight between Turquoise and Ravyn to determine who will become the leader of Crimson. Since they tie, the rematch is scheduled a month later. Since Ravyn chooses whips as the weapons they will use, Turquoise convinces Jaguar to train her with whips. Turquoise wins the Challenge and acquires freeblood status through Gabriel per an arrangement he had made with Ravyn regarding the winner; however, Turquoise relinquishes the title of Crimson's leader to Ravyn because she no longer wants to spend her life as a hunter.





# Themes

## Slavery

A major theme in *Midnight Predator* is the theme of slavery. When Jillian Red first approaches Turquoise and Ravyn about the job, she mentions their experiences in the trade and proves her knowledge by detailing Ravyn's experiences as a slave. In order to infiltrate Midnight, the girls are forced to convince Nathaniel to sell them into Midnight as slaves, and before taking them to Midnight, Nathaniel explains how a slave should behave to them. Nathaniel warns them not to raise a hand against their trainer without being certain they can kill him and warns them they must enter without weaponry. Unlike Turquoise and Ravyn who hated their masters, Eric is loyal to Jaguar who bought him from the vampires that killed his family. Jaguar is kinder to his slaves than other vampires, and Jeshickah resents his bleeding heart, often threatening him if he does not yield to her wishes to rule with an iron fist. Jaguar defends his right to Turquoise against Daryl who insists that she rightfully belongs to him, and when Ravyn and Turquoise try to kill Jeshickah, Jaguar protects them from Jeshickah and explains to Turquoise that he did not allow her to kill Jeshickah because Jeshickah's friends would retaliate by torturing Turquoise to death and that would bother him. After that fiasco, Jaguar allows Turquoise to escape and encourages her to win the Challenge against Ravyn since the winner is awarded freeblood status which means Turquoise will no longer be considered a slave, and she will be allowed to kill Lord Daryl.

A major and recurring example that demonstrates the importance of this theme throughout the narrative is the frequent flashbacks Turquoise has to the time she spent as Daryl's slave. That experience is what led her to become a hunter since Daryl killed her entire family in order to enslave her. Lord Daryl was possessive and paranoid so he kept her away from his kind and locked her up in the sitting room, which became her sanctuary, next to his ballroom, when he had parties. Catherine's first lesson was to address her master as Lord Daryl, and he backhanded her when she ordered him to take his hands off her, slamming her to the ground when she tried to kick him and beating her severely until she finally called him Lord Daryl. Turquoise had awakened, aching from her first beating from Lord Daryl which was the most terrifying since Catherine was a modern American teen who had never been hit before meeting the vampire. After Turquoise fights with Daryl for the first time at Midnight, she decides that she will never again allow him to turn her into prey. Nathaniel had helped Turquoise attempt to kill Daryl, but Daryl beat her when her knife missed the mark until he sent her away with Nathaniel. When Turquoise faces Daryl at Midnight for the final time, she relives her escape and her desire to kill him, knowing she has only herself to rely on to defeat her nightmare. She manages to kill him and begins to look forward to a future in which she has the freedom to make her own decisions.



## Past, Present and Future

The concepts of the past, present and future play a large role in *Midnight Predator* as a large focus in the narrative is who Turquoise was, who she has become and who she wants to be. As Catherine, Turquoise was enslaved by Lord Daryl who killed her entire family and trained her as a slave, beating her when she disobeyed. After nearly a year, Nathaniel helped Catherine escape, renamed her Turquoise Draka and sent her to Bruja to become a hunter. In the novel's present time period, Turquoise has excelled at Bruja and is fighting Ravyn to become the leader of Crimson. After they tie, both girls are hired to kill Jeshickah at Midnight. Upon their arrival at Midnight, Turquoise battles her former feelings of helplessness every time she encounters Daryl, her personal tormenter, and when she fights him, she forgets all the skills she has acquired in the initial rush of panic.

When Ravyn and Turquoise are revealed to be hunters after failing in their attempts to kill Jeshickah, Jaguar helps Turquoise escape, and Nathaniel provides a house where she can hide. While in that town, Turquoise runs into Greg, a boyfriend from her past as Catherine, who reminds her of who Catherine was. Eric questions Catherine's dreams, noting that Turquoise does not want to think of herself as Catherine because Catherine was prey. As Turquoise recalls what Catherine wanted out of life, to help people, she begins to question her future as a hunter. Turquoise begins to consider the various possibilities for her future, and though she no longer wants to be a hunter, she battles and defeats Ravyn in the rematch of the Challenge so that she can earn freeblood status as offered by Gabriel to the winner. This allows her to kill Daryl. After Daryl's death, Turquoise is ecstatic as she realizes she now has the freedom to make her own decisions for her future, and though she does not know what she will do just yet, she has plenty of time to decide for herself.

## Thwarting Expectations

A common theme that occurs throughout *Midnight Predator* is the concept of thwarting expectations. At some point or another, all of the main characters either surprise someone else by their actions or are surprised by another character. When Turquoise enters Midnight, she is surprised by the lack of threat in Jaguar's voice when he discusses what will happen if his slaves disobey him. She is also shocked by his general kindness and humanitarianism, at least in comparison to the other vampires with slaves. He does not order her around as she expects but frequently gives her options. When Turquoise mentions giving blood in the past, Jaguar is shocked at the notion, and after she seduces him into feeding from her, she realizes it would be revoltingly easy to kill him. After she breaks into the courtyard, Turquoise gets to know Jaguar a little better, and she is repeatedly astonished by his habits since he seems almost human. She worries about becoming too friendly with him, though, because that could affect her willingness to do her job should her job require killing Jaguar. When Turquoise and Ravyn are caught trying to kill Jeshickah, Turquoise is astonished to learn that Jaguar hired them but stopped them because he has come to care about



Turquoise and does not want her to be tortured to death in retaliation for Jeshickah's demise. Moreover, he allows her to escape, asking only that she take Eric with her so that Jeshickah cannot harm Eric as a means of hurting Jaguar.

After Turquoise and Eric escape from Midnight, she turns to Nathaniel for help hiding her, and she is confused when Nathaniel does not dictate a price for his help. She is shocked beyond belief when he explains that he helped her for free because he considers her a friend and would be upset if she died. Turquoise shocks herself when she realizes that she is uncertain whether she wants to continue hunting vampires. She still competes against Ravyn in the Challenge, winning the status of freeblood per one of Ravyn's deals with Gabriel; however, Turquoise relinquishes the title as leader of Crimson because she has decided that she no longer wants to be a hunter. This decision shocks Ravyn. Ravyn makes the surprising move to strike two separate deals with Gabriel, a decision that is strange since she passionately hates vampires. Though Turquoise's decision to kill Daryl is expected, it is unexpected that she does so with the possibility of becoming a vampire in the future. Regardless, the novel ends with Turquoise realizing she now has the freedom to make her own decisions, many of which will likely thwart any expectations that readers or her fellow characters may have.



# Style

## Point of View

The point of view used in *Midnight Predator* is third person and limited, as well as reliable. This is proven by the fact that the narrator reports on the events and dialogue that transpire as well as Turquoise's thoughts, emotions and memories; however, the narrator does not have access to the thoughts and emotions of the other characters in this novel. The use of this specific point of view is important to the novel as it allows the focus to remain on Turquoise and her feelings, opinions and decisions. This is especially significant as it allows readers to see the process that causes her to reconsider her future as a hunter in Bruja.

The novel contains a fairly equal amount of exposition and dialogue, and this is helpful as it demonstrates the interactions between the characters as well as Turquoise's personal dilemma. The dialogue also aids in helping readers comprehend the reasons behind Turquoise's actions and decisions, such as her decision to relinquish the title as leader of Crimson and her decision to kill Daryl. The viewpoint of the novel remains solely on Turquoise throughout the entirety of the narrative.

## Setting

This novel is set in an imaginary world, based on the real world, in which vampires, witches and shapeshifters exist. The geography of the land is not specified, though the narrator does mention that Catherine was an ordinary American teenager before meeting Daryl. The world in this novel consists of vampires who enslave humans, and the majority of the human characters are either slaves or hunters, such as Ravyn and Turquoise. Greg is a normal human who is unaware of the existence of vampires which is why Turquoise worries about his presence in her life. Turquoise and Ravyn are members of Bruja, a group of vampire hunters and mercenaries. They enlist the aid of Nathaniel, a vampire mercenary, to enter Midnight. Jaguar is the current ruler of Midnight, and he hires hunters to kill Jeshickah, the former master of Midnight, to prevent her from reassuming control.

Midnight is the main setting of this novel. It is a large building where vampires rule over humans. It was founded in the early 1600s by Jeshickah and her sister, but the building was destroyed in the early 1800s. Recently, Jaguar reopened Midnight to prevent Lord Daryl from doing so. When Turquoise and Ravyn are hired to kill Jeshickah before she resumes control of Midnight, Nathaniel sells them to Jaguar as slaves. Crimson is the most elite unit of the Bruja guilds. Turquoise and Ravyn fight to become their leader, but at their rematch, Turquoise decides to relinquish the title, though she wins. Bruja is a group of vampire hunters that Turquoise joins after Nathaniel helps her escape from Lord Daryl. Since the door to the courtyard is locked, Turquoise picks the lock to investigate. She finds two jaguars inside, one of them being Jaguar. Turquoise spends



some time in the courtyard with Shayla and Jaguar, befriending them. Pyrige is the name of the town bordering Midnight which Jaguar largely owns. Nathaniel allows Turquoise and Eric to stay in his small, one-story house after they escape Midnight. When Lord Daryl endangers Eric by setting fire to Nathaniel's house, Turquoise decides to kill him. Turquoise spent a year at Daryl's house as his slave after he killed her family and claimed her. Nathaniel helped Turquoise escape after she stabbed Daryl. Throughout the novel, Turquoise has terrible dreams and memories of the year she spent in Daryl's house. Turquoise runs into Greg, her boyfriend when she was Catherine, when she and Eric go grocery shopping. Greg reminds her of her past dreams and makes her question her future as a hunter. Turquoise agrees to meet Jaguar at a cafe in the town near Nathaniel's house, and she asks him to help her practice using a whip for the Challenge. Turquoise and Ravyn fight the rematch of the Challenge at Bruja Hall. Turquoise wins but relinquishes the title of leader of Crimson to Ravyn before leaving Bruja Hall for perhaps the last time.

## Language and Meaning

The language used in this novel is fairly casual and informal which is appropriate for the target audience of young adults. The language aids comprehension since it makes the narrative easy for readers to understand. Even more important, the more fantastical concepts, such as the existence of vampires, are explained well so that readers can be transported into the alternate reality offered by the novel. The language used in *Midnight Predator* tends to characterize the world in which the novel takes place where vampires dominate humans.

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## Structure

This novel consists of 23 chapters and 248 pages, with the chapters averaging around ten pages in length. The chapters are numbered rather than titled. They are generally fairly short, and though most are detailed, some chapters are quite vague. The novel occurs in just over a month, and while most of the chapters span very short periods of time, others summarize longer time frames, such as Chapter 20 which summarizes the month after Turquoise escapes from Midnight, before she returns to Bruja to battle Ravyn in the rematch of the Challenge.



Midnight Predator by Amelia Atwater-Rhodes is a vampire novel about a young woman whose family was killed by a vampire so he could force her to become his slave. After escaping from Lord Daryl, Turquoise becomes a hunter, willing to kill any vampire for the right price. When she is hired to kill Jeshickah, she must enter Midnight as a human slave in order to gain access to the cruel vampire, but her experiences in Midnight and after her escape make her question her future as a hunter. Midnight Predator is an engaging story of a woman learning who she is, who she was, and who she wants to become. The novel's pace is generally slow, but the pace of some of the fight scenes is much quicker. The novel is easy to read, and it is generally linear, with the exception of Turquoise's frequent flashbacks to the time she spent as Catherine before escaping from Daryl. This serves to explain her hatred of her former master. Overall, the novel is very entertaining and enjoyable, if somewhat sedate given its genre.



## Quotes

"Some people use things; they destroy. You're a creator, a builder'... Once [those words] might have been right, but now, they could not have been further from the truth."

Chapter 1, page 1

"To be recognized as the guild's leader would fulfill the promise Turquoise had once made. She had sworn that no one would ever mistake her for prey again."

Chapter 1, pages 4-5

"In the early sixteen hundreds two sisters, vampires both, founded an empire they called Midnight. This building was the heart, the symbol so to speak, of their power. They were less than five hundred years old, young compared to most of their kind, but they both were ruthless, and more organized than their elders; their determination allowed them to take control swiftly."

Jillian Red, Chapter 2, page 13

"I could sell you in. You would fetch a high number, I'm sure. Attractive, healthy, strong, intelligent... or I thought you were. Are you really so anxious to sell yourself back into slavery, Turquoise?"

Nathaniel, Chapter 2, page 18

"If you don't want to be bound and thrown into a cell, you're going to need to pass for a tamed slave. No trainer will believe you are broken, but if you're careful, he might be satisfied that you're smart enough to be obedient. I've heard that Midnight isn't as brutal to its slaves as it once was, so a bit of servility should buy you enough time for your job. Your master is more than your owner- he is your life, the only thing that matters. Nothing comes before his wishes. What he says, you do, without hesitation. Until you're sold, that master is me. When we get to Midnight, keep your eyes on me. If someone tells you to do something, look to me. If someone asks you a question, look to me. Once you're sold, the same applies to whoever your new owner is. A slave isn't supposed to think; she just obeys."

Nathaniel, Chapter 3, pages 22-23

"Some people only care about themselves. They use things; they destroy. You're... you're a creator, a builder. A healer; not a user... Don't let anyone change you, Cathy."

Mr. Minate, Chapter 4, page 32

"Eric will find you something to do. So long as you get your work done, you may go almost anywhere in the building. I suggest you avoid the west wing unless you plan on a little bloodletting. Beyond that, if a door is locked, you aren't welcome. I don't mind intelligent conversation, so feel free to speak as you wish to me. If you bother me, I will tell you to shut up; I don't feel the need to hit people for talking. Around others of my kind, hold your tongue. Most aren't as lenient as I am."

Jaguar, Chapter 5, pages 46-47



"Fourteen. I think. Yeah, fourteen. I've been here since I was eleven... It's not that bad. And honestly, I've got nowhere else to go... Jaguar found me with the vamps that had killed my parents. He bought me; saved my life. He trusts me. And I can run this place cold. I'm actually one of the lucky ones. Some of the people here with different owners, they don't even know their own names anymore."

Eric, Chapter 6, pages 51-52

"You're Catherine Miriam Minate. You're proud, and you have every right to be. And no one- no one- can take that away from you unless you let them. You're safe now. You can't let this creep have the satisfaction of hurting you. No one can make you a victim but yourself."

Mr. Minate, Chapter 7, pages 57-58

"Shayla is naturally distrustful of most people. And since every enemy I have, she has as well, there is ample reason for her to be wary. You're lucky she took to you so quickly... Shayla is an excellent judge of character. Since she deems you worthy, I'll allow you to be here."

Jaguar, Chapter 9, page 87

"Trust. That was a word she had long ago learned to avoid. The only thing anyone could trust was that everyone else would look out for himself first."

Chapter 9, page 92

"Another couple of those love-taps would probably kill her. But why should he care? He had already killed her family."

Chapter 10, page 95

"What are you afraid of? Are you afraid I'll recognize that you're pretending to be a slave when you have as much free will as I do? Or are you afraid I'll recognize these...? And that I'll know whose weapon made this mark?... Afraid I'll remember stories I've heard, the ranting complaints of one of my associates? Pretty, but very disobedient,' he said. 'And strong'- but of course he would call her strong, since he couldn't seem to tame her. She had a natural resistance; he couldn't get into her thoughts, and didn't know any other way to break her. He called her Catherine."

Jaguar, Chapter 11, pages 101-102

"She isn't for sale to you... To anyone, but you especially. I happen to be fond of her, and it doesn't appear that she wants to go with you."

Jaguar, Chapter 12, page 116

"Humans had no natural predators, and so, like smell, they mostly ignored their latent sixth sense. Strong vampires put off an aura that made even dull-witted humans edgy; a more sensitive human would avoid the leech instinctively."

Chapter 13, page 124

"Shayla is very gentle. She'll hunt the prey I bring into this place- rabbits mostly, or birds if they land here- and she'll attack if she's frightened, but if given the chance, she would rather retreat than give pain. Only humans have it in their nature to torture... You think





vampire blood gives one the desire to hurt another? A feeding vampire is as natural and simple as a wolf or a lion. It's only when the human mind is in control that any creature has the desire to give pain."

Chapter 13, pages 126-127

"They are yours, little cat, but you are mine. Blood and body, mind and soul, you belong to me and always will. You've had long enough with them. You aren't the girl's nursemaid. Daryl's incompetent, but at least he isn't a softhearted baby-sitter."

Jeshickah, Chapter 14, pages 142-143

"As for you... I could not let you kill Jeshickah. The woman has very powerful friends who would have killed you shortly after. I didn't expect that to be a problem when I hired Jillian Red to find me some hunters, but unfortunately I seem to have become quite fond of you, and it would distress me to see you tortured to death."

Jaguar, Chapter 15, page 150

"I miss Catherine's old life, sometimes. Her friends, her family. Mostly, the sense of safety she lived with. But I can't go back, no matter how much I would like to."

Turquoise, Chapter 15, page 155

"No barter, no price. Nathaniel was as proper a mercenary as there came, and when he made a deal, he kept it. He never forgot to include a price, but he had agreed to give his help without stating one, and couldn't change the terms later. She would puzzle it out later."

Chapter 16, pages 173-174

"It's the same thing the vampires do, and I've spent a lot of time around them. You don't want to think of Cathy as you because she had weaknesses. You're a hunter, so you're not allowed to have weaknesses. A predator doesn't like to admit it's ever possible it can be prey. And maybe you don't want to think that the girl Greg dated was capable of killing."

Eric, Chapter 17, pages 185-186

"Daryl did win- that battle. He murdered my father and my ten-year-old brother in front of me, and I couldn't save them. I couldn't fight him. I couldn't do anything. I spent one year in his house, little better than a pet, and I couldn't do anything about it. Cathy died in there- her innocence, her illusions, her dreams-"

Turquoise, Chapter 17, page 187

"This might surprise you, but I was human for twenty years before I was changed, and unlike some of Jeshickah's fledglings, I actually had a soul. I consider you a friend, Turquoise. Is it so shocking that I wouldn't want you to die?"

Nathaniel, Chapter 18, page 191

"She had entered the guild as a chance to get strong, and to learn to defend herself. She had not intended for it to be her whole life, but hunting had consumed her...

Chatting with Greg had given her a good idea of how distant her life was now from the



one she had once planned."

Chapter 18, page 194

"You can't go back to what you were before Daryl. You're still human by blood, but in your mind and in your soul you're no more human than most of the vampires I know."

Jaguar, Chapter 19, pages 204-205

"Maybe Cathy wasn't dead, but she had grown. Turquoise couldn't fit into that old life. Besides, as fond as she was of having companions, sitting around in suburbs was making her gray matter go stagnant. She needed a challenge; a break was nice now and then, but boredom was not a state she would tolerate for long."

Chapter 20, page 215

"In this world, there are predators and there are prey; only the former survive."

Chapter 21, page 217

"Take the title, Ravyn. I don't want it."

Turquoise, Chapter 21, page 223

"You're willing to sell yourself, your principles, for power, strength. You'll lie, manipulate, or kill for money. And may I say you're very good at it; you have my Jaguar eating out of your hand."

Jeshickah, Chapter 22, page 236

"She had choices, and if she didn't have all of eternity, she had some time. She also had freedom."

Chapter 23, page 248



## Topics for Discussion

Compare and contrast Turquoise and Catherine.

Why does Turquoise enter Midnight?

Who is Jaguar, and how does he surprise Turquoise?

How does Turquoise feel about encountering Daryl?

Why does Jaguar prevent Turquoise from killing Jeshickah?

What does Daryl do that causes Turquoise to confront him?

Describe the rematch of the Challenge to lead Crimson between Turquoise and Ravyn.