

No Humans Involved Study Guide

No Humans Involved by Kelley Armstrong

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Plot Summary

"No Humans Involved" unveils the world of spiritualist Jamie Vegas who has to save the ghosts of murdered children while starring in a television show called "Death of Innocence", where she is to raise the ghost of Marilyn Monroe.

At the same time, we follow an occult group who tries to uncover the secrets of dark magic through killing mostly children.

Jamie realizes that she hears voices and is being touched by ghosts. Something like that never happened to her before. She needs to investigate it along with her friend Jeremy Danvers who is a werewolf and her friend Eve, who is a ghost. She can speak to ghosts and she can also see them.

Through contacts and inquiries she makes, such as through Interracial Council, she manages to find out about other groups that trace scams in paranormal events or report on them. Eventually they discover an occult group that uses hard core sex to uncover magic.

Jaime who is love with Jeremy Danvers manages to escape various dangerous situations, such as when escaping from the shop owned by Botnick, who also knows about the group who researches a truly powerful magic.

She decides to find the dead bodies of the children buried in the garden, near the location where her show is recorded. She suspects someone is using dark magic that drains them off their energy. The ghosts of these children are unable to cross over, being endlessly trapped on earth. Her performance is publicized and some bodies of dead children are discovered.

May Donovan, a lawyer who is part of Weiss Society, deals with scams involving paranormal events turns out right after the event. Jaime and others began suspecting that she may be involved in the group that deals with dark magic.

They decide to investigate it. Jeremy and another werewolf, Karl go to meet a journalist, Zack Flynn who belongs to Erich Weiss Society as well. Jamie and Hope, a half-demon remain in the hotel, guarding against the meeting of the members of the occult group.

Hope is lured into the garden sensing that someone has been murdered there and Jaime follows her despite the warnings of her ghost friend, Eve. Suspecting that Hope may be part of the set up, Jaime hits her in the head, and she falls unconscious. Soon after also Jaime falls unconscious, waking up in a concrete box inside the room. There are two other ghosts with her as well and Hope, who remains unconscious.

She finds that the ghosts that are nearby belong to those murdered by the occult group. She also learns that they burn the bodies after casting a binding spell that weakens bodies, making a person unable to move.



The group with May Donovan as a leader walks inside the room. They prepare Hope and Jaime for burning. Jaime tries to distract them first revealing that May lied about the necessity to kill one of their members. She then raises the bodies of the dead animals inside the room who attack the group members. Jaime manages to escape. Her friends, Jeremy, Karl and Eve finally show up, dealing with the clean up of the dead bodies that remain in the killing room.

Jaime releases the spirits of the children buried in the garden. She decides to quit her TV career while dealing with her new relationship she commenced with Jeremy.



Chapters 1-4, Part I, Jaime Vegas, Center Stage, The Angel of the South, Tansy Lane

Chapters 1-4, Part I, Jaime Vegas, Center Stage, The Angel of the South, Tansy Lane Summary

"No Humans Involved" unveils the world of spiritualist Jamie Vegas who has to save the ghosts of murdered children while starring in a television show called "Death of Innocence", where she is to raise the ghost of Marilyn Monroe.

In part I we follow Brendan who is a seventeen year old teenager, aspiring to be an actor in Hollywood. He left his family home, and instead of going to college, he tries to get work in a movie. After failing to get anywhere, he finds himself stranded with no money. He manages to team up with other kids from shelters. One day a couple approaches him, inviting him to their place in Brentwood, explaining that they are helping street kids.

He accepts their invitation thinking that they are interested in sex with him. When they reach their home they offer him one of their rooms to rest. Brendan tries not to fall asleep, listening to their voices in the living room. There are other people there as well, drinking wine. Their conversation revolves around texts, rituals while he can hear someone speaking Latin as well. When their conversation turns to crucifixion, death by burning, and suffering he becomes concerned. The lady he met earlier, along with a few other people enter his room. She blows some white powder out of her mouth, making him feel faintish. They take him to another room, spill with gasoline, and set him on fire.

Jaime Vegas, Center Stage introduces Jaime Vegas, a necromancer who stars in various television programs. Her supernatural abilities run in her family. She is on set of her new show called "Death of Innocence", filmed in Brentwood, Los Angeles, where the ghost of Marilyn Monroe is to be resurrected. She is in love with Jeremy, who is a werewolf. He has his own family, and right now his children have a cold that is rare for werewolves who don't catch colds because of their higher immunity. He promises to fly to LA and spend a week with Jamie. She is happy with any form of relationship they may have. When she finishes her work for the day she tries to get some rest but strange experiences of ghosts happen, such as touching her and trying to talk to her. It is strange because ghosts should not be able to contact the living through touching.

In The angel of the South Jaime gets ready for the party for her show, "Death of Innocence". The party is at the basement next to the setting of the show. Jaime herself lives in Chicago. She still hasn't met her new producer Todd Simon, who is in Amsterdam filming a new reality show "Red Light District". At a party she meets two other spiritualists, Bradford Grady and Angelique, also called Angel of the South.



Someone suggests to do a test seance to contact Tansy Lane, a young actress murdered next door.

In Tansy Lane Jamie Vegas and Angelique summon Tansy's spirit. Jamie observes that Angelique finds it difficult to communicate with the ghost, having also no prior knowledge of her. Jamie can sense Tansy's presence, who lets her know that Angelique is unable to contact her. Tansy exchanges information and various anecdotes with Jamie, but doesn't want to comment on how she died. The actress wants Jamie to pass a message. Jaime decides she will talk to her later on her own.

Chapters 1-4, Part I, Jaime Vegas, Center Stage, The Angel of the South, Tansy Lane Analysis

The book begins with a mysterious kidnapping of a teenager, who is killed. It is not just an ordinary death. Brendan is set on fire. The group of people who kill him speak various languages, including Latin, talk about various texts, and seem nice as well as educated. Brendan is lured by them to their house because they tell him that they want to look after him. He is also desperate for food and has no money after spending some time in LA trying to get a break in Hollywood as an actor. He is also unaware that it an occult group practicing black magic.

This murder coincides with the filming of a TV show called "Death of Innocence", in the same area, in Brentwood, LA. Jaime Vegas who is the star of the show is a necromancer. The show aims to present contacting the ghost of Marilyn Monroe. From the three spiritualists on the show, Bradford Grady, Angelique and Jaime only Jaime is able to talk to ghosts. During a test seance to contact Tansy Lane, an actress murdered next door, only Jaime is able to talk to her. Jaime is concerned about filming in this location due to the presence she feels there of other ghosts. She is even able to get in a physical contact with Natasha, a vampire that otherwise would not happen. She has to investigate these events to find out what is going on.



Chapters 5-8. Sick Puppies, Reprieve for Eve, Zombie Slaves, Be Prepared

Chapters 5-8. Sick Puppies, Reprieve for Eve, Zombie Slaves, Be Prepared Summary

In Sick Puppies Jamie goes to the garden at night with herbs and artifacts. She tries to guard against the vampires, but feels touching and poking in her body. Despite all her efforts she is unable to get any responses, even through her spirit contact Eve Levine, a witch that is now dead. She contacts her through the ring Eve received from Kristof Nast with whom she has a daughter Savannah. Eve is often difficult to contact, and she passes messages to Jamie through Kristof. Jamie invites Jeremy to spend a week with her in LA. He is going to see her despite his sick children.

In Reprieve for Eve Jamie has breakfast with Angelique, Claudia and Grady. Becky, her director turns up and puts them all on speaker phone to talk to their producer Todd Simon. He is happy with Jamie's work, as researchers confirmed everything she found from Tansy last night. He is not so happy with Angelique and thinks Grady's remuneration is too high. Jamie rushes to make it for her magazine interview at nine. During the show she feels poking and prodding from the ghosts around her but pretends that nothing happens. She has to find out what is going on. She tries to contact Eve, her spiritual guide, but Kristof materializes in front of her instead. He has to be in court and cannot to get in touch with Eve as well. Jamie thinks that contacting Eve may be not urgent as yet.

She needs to ask for help from others. Jeremy suggests she contacts Paige and Lucas. They run a legal/detective firm that is to protect supernaturals from the corporate Cabal. Paige is the member of the interracial council helping supernaturals. Jamie decides to see them, using her mother, who lives in a retirement village as an excuse for her departure. Her mother often threatens that she is going to tell the tabloids about Jamie's abortion as a teenager unless she pays for services such as spa.

In Zombie slaves Jamie flies to Portland to meet Paige and Lucas. She tells Jeremy about it. He decides to go there as well and meet her for dinner. She wants to prove to herself that she can resolve necromancy issues. While searching for their company she encounters a ghost unhappy with necromancers who don't want to pass her messages. Jamie finds the office and meets Adam Vasic, a council member and Savannah, Eve's daughter. Savannah destroyed her house when trying to contact her dead mother, Eve Levine, killing also her father Kristof in the accident. She is working in the office while deciding whether to take a graphic design course. Adam looks like a nice Californian man, but his father was a demon.

Be Prepared finds Jamie talking to Paige about the problems she encounters with ghosts. Paige knows that ritual sacrifice is to protect life for the life that is sacrificed. The



soul needs to pass over, and even Cabal society ensure that passing is in accordance with their legal code. Druidic sacrifice is also rare now. Lucas thinks that the damaged souls are fragmented through improper sacrifice. He promises to deliver her a disc with council records, warning that she should be careful about expressing interest in dark magic.

Savannah suggests she contacts Molly Crane, who lives in Washington Vancouver at 53 Hawthorne St. Her boyfriend, half-demon died a year ago, and if Jamie promises to put her in touch with him, she may share with her information on dark magic. Jamie drives there in a cab. When approaching her house, Molly steps out. Jamie introduces herself but Molly knows her from her shows.

Chapters 5-8. Sick Puppies, Reprieve for Eve, Zombie Slaves, Be Prepared Analysis

Jaime again tries to contact the ghosts in the garden, but feels only touching and poking instead. Also, a vampire tries to contact her. Even when trying to contact her spirit contact Eve Levine, she has no results. It intrigues her even more. Jaime has to juggle many things. On one hand, there are strange things going on in the garden while she has to remain reserved in projecting her ability to see things so that she herself is not suspected of manipulating things by those who know little about spiritualism. She is constantly puzzled by what is going on and unable to concentrate. She suspects that phenomena that take place have something to do with black magic. She doesn't think black magic is bad although it produces negative results, but is also used mostly in self-defense. The darkest magic she knows is ritual sacrifice. She doesn't seem to be getting help from no one and finally decides to see Paige and Lucas in Portland, who are on the interracial council while running a legal firm that is to help supernaturals. The only suggestion she has is from Savannah who thinks she should contact Molly and ask her for help in exchange for contacting her dead partner Mike.



Chapters 9-12, Comedy of Errors, Captive Audience, Human Magic, Part II

Chapters 9-12, Comedy of Errors, Captive Audience, Human Magic, Part II Summary

In Comedy of Errors Molly inquires about the reason for Jamie's visit. Jamie explains that she was recommended, and offers to contact her deceased boyfriend. Molly suddenly attacks her during the conversation by casting a spell. Jamie is tossed around while the lifted coffee table slams into her. She faints. Molly takes her into the booth of her car. She drives away, calling her daughters on the way. Jamie tries to get attention through the car window but realizes she is in a car. She tries to get Molly casts another spell that. Jamie faints again.

In Captive Audience Jamie wakes up when Molly slaps her face. She is in a forest, lying on the ground. Molly grabs her by the hair and demands that she tells who sent her, threatening to make blind her. Molly thinks that her partner Mike who sent her. Jamie realizes Mike was murdered and tells her that she came there with her partner because of a council investigation. Molly confesses that her partner wanted to leave her demanding money from her daughters' college fund. She wanted to teach him a lesson when things went wrong. Molly wants to dump Jamie in a swamp when Savannah turns up and rescues Jamie.

In Human Magic, Jamie and Savannah bargain with Molly to answer their questions in return for not doing anything about her killing Mike. When Jamie reveals her problems, Molly explains that it must be human magic practiced by someone who doesn't know much about magic. Ritual sacrifice gives no powers, but humans would go to any extent to use magic. There is nothing more they can find. They leave Molly tied in the woods and drive back. Jamie and Savannah agree that they will both not reveal too much about their actions. When they return to Molly's house Jeremy is waiting for Jamie. He offers to contact Robert in San Francisco to find out more about what is going on. Jamie has to fly back to LA.

In Part II Brendan becomes dismembered. His internal organs are taken out, while his body is burnt in an oven. His body ends up at a disposal site.

Chapters 9-12, Comedy of Errors, Captive Audience, Human Magic, Part II Analysis

Jaime's encounter with Molly is unfortunate, as Molly killed her partner Mike, and suspects Jaime's visit is connected with his death. She attacks Jaime, taking her to the forest with intention to kill her there. Savannah manages to rescue Jaime.



Threatening Molly to expose that they know that she killed Mike helps them to extract some information from her. Molly thinks that what is happening to Jaime is to do with human black magic performed by people who have little knowledge of magic. Molly gives them some clues but doesn't provide all the answers. She thinks that it sounds a bit like human folk magic where people who are killed are drained from their energy. Such power can be then adopted and used by the killers. The only problem is that human magic doesn't work. Necromancer should be able to detect tricks, if this is the case. Jaime decides that the only thing she can do is to investigate human magic. Neither Savannah nor Molly can help her with it. She knows these ghosts aren't playing the tricks because they breached the physical barrier. Jeremy promises to do more research himself.

In the meantime we find that the group that killed Brendan uses ovens to burn bodies. They use their victims' organs and dispose of the bodies. They have a problem with Murray who seems quite stressed.



Chapters 12-15, Penalty Box, Dowsing Rod for Evil, Nature and Science, Learning Curve

Chapters 12-15, Penalty Box, Dowsing Rod for Evil, Nature and Science, Learning Curve Summary

In Penalty Box, Jaime decides to banish the ghost that seem to be trying to get in touch with her, but she needs help to do that. She realizes that she is dealing with child ghosts trapped between various dimensions. When trying to contact Eve Kristof turns up, confirming that the ghosts should not be able to touch. Becky interrupts her session conveying the demand from Grady that he wants a private seance just for himself. When she meets Grady he confesses that he senses some great evil in this place that is also frequently found in places such as castles or ancestral homes. It is also synonymous with the trappings of power that comes through wealth and fame.

Dowsing Rod for Evil shows Grady admitting that he feels the presence of evil spirits in the place where their party took place. He thinks spiritualists should not be brought there. He receives help from his guiding spirit Black Robert McGee who used to be a Caribbean pirate now seeking redemption. Grady, a famous TV medium in UK claims there was a satanic altar under the steps of the house. He accepts Jamie's corrections when he makes mistakes mentioning Amityville that turned out to be a hoax. A book based on the events there was shown to have lies. Grady claims that horror events in this house happened in the shed that used to be outside. Just when he experiences convulsions and evil possession, Kristof appears. He lets Jamie know that the spirits don't let Eve come back or communicate with him or Jamie.

In Nature and Science Jamie needs to find out more about rituals involving children. She goes to the garden, talks to Paige, and then finds from Will that Grady wants to relocate to the US. He also knows what Angelique told about her, but Jamie doesn't want to know. She wants to concentrate on getting her show and the ghosts. When heading back home she encounters Aratron in Grady's body. He reveals that he knows that her real name, Jamie O'Casey. Aratron is a eudemon who, unlike cacodemons or chaos demons able to father children, are indifferent and neutral. Eudemons don't feel pain while their interest in humans is only academic. He tells her that he is prepared to help her in exchange for knowledge. He thinks that human magic is not impossible if it is connected with science. It is the same as with evolution, where traits that evolve become unique and then disappear when they are no longer necessary. What is unique ceases to exist when it is mutated. Such replication annihilates what is unique as a result. The only way that human magic is possible when nature and science collides.

In Learning Curve Jaime meets Jeremy, relating her encounter with Aratron who thinks that a barrier has been broken through scientific experimentation with human killing.



They end up in a park. They talk about their first meeting and confidence Jeremy exerts as a werewolf. He enjoys his ability to lead. Such responsibility means that he can't go anywhere and do anything he would like. Killing him can improve the status of the killer. Werewolves are free from romantic entanglements. Jaime is afraid to get involved with Jeremy that could pose danger for her as well.

Chapters 12-15, Penalty Box, Dowsing Rod for Evil, Nature and Science, Learning Curve Analysis

Jaime discovers more about the dark magic after she helps Bradford Grady with his seance. Grady seems to have visions but Kristof who appears in front of Jaime doesn't confirm this. Jaime seems to be helpless without Eve and even Kristof is unable to contact her.

Only the appearance of Aratron in Grady's body sheds some light on what is happening. Aratron confirms that human magic is possible. He explains that he himself is a eudemon who can't be summoned and is indifferent. They collect knowledge and can share it. He is intrigued by what Jaime is investigating and he wants to help her, explaining that human magic is possible if nature and science are combined. In this way, there human magic may work if the barrier is broken through scientific experimentation along with some lucky breakthroughs. Even Jeremy has doubts if he can help with this although he would like to. They don't even know who could help and shed some more knowledge about this. The only way to do such investigation is if they themselves experiment, trying to find out who or what is behind it.

As Jaime discusses these issues with Jeremy, she tries to be cautious about getting involved with Jeremy despite her crush on him. She wouldn't like to be part of one-night stands that Jeremy is used to and he may never accept a longterm relationship.



Chapters 16-19. Spiritualist Big Brother, Demon and Debts, Helpless, Part III

Chapters 16-19. Spiritualist Big Brother, Demon and Debts, Helpless, Part III Summary

In Spiritualist Big Brother Jamie finds pinhole cameras in the kitchen and shared rooms where spiritualists spend time. She checks her contract to see if she can dispute such usage, but realizes she would create difficulties for herself. She makes sure there are no cameras in her bedroom. Next day, she meets Becky who wants necromancers to contact also other dead stars that lived in Brentwood. This solution is designed for Grady by Todd Simon to accommodate his specific abilities.

Becky asks Jamie to sign a release form relating to the life and death of Gabrielle Langdon. When she meets with Jeremy later he tells her that he thinks that apart from tantraism, where human sacrifice is practiced only occult underworld can be involved in such practices. Hope Adams who covers paranormal events for the True News is the only person that can give them more information.

In Demon and Debts we see Jamie tells Jeremy on the way to see Hope that she got her job on a TV show by making a pact with the devil. He would get her a job in exchange for contacting a soul in a hell dimension. In the end, Jamie contacted a ghost who used to be a serial killer while her competitor left the business. His crimes were then reenacted. Since then Jamie tried to succeed on her own without asking for favors.

They find Hope Adam's office that has no listing due to the nature of the business. Hope turns up in sneakers and jeans. She has the royal blood in her veins on her mother's side while she is half-demon through her father. She suggests that since the group that broke the magic barrier live locally they should contact society that chases paranormal scams, called Ehrich Weiss Society,

In Helpless, there are no further news. Jaime needs to do a seance contacting Gabrielle Langdon that takes place not where she was murdered, but where she had community barbecues. Such place offers little chance of success. Before the show an argument erupts about the order in which necromancers should appear. Angelique wants Jamie to go first but Becky doesn't agree to do this.

During the show Angelique makes mistakes about the circumstances of Gabrielle's death. Grady finds that an evil pagan cult blocked Gabrielle. Jaime explains the difficulties with the seance due to the location that makes it difficult to contact her. Becky is unhappy with her performance. Jaime explains again the difficulties that this site poses, informs her that she forgot to sign her release and leaves. She meets the ghost of Gabrielle on the way. She doesn't remember who killed and would like to get



answers. Jaime explains that she can't provide her with these type of answers because she has no one to ask.

In Part III a group of people tries to unlock the mysteries of the occult, making a pact to research spells and rituals of all civilizations. They want to find out about true magic to control inanimate objects, elements, and human behavior. When they don't achieve what they want they decide to sacrifice a child. They want to protect themselves, ensuring that everybody participates. They find out that Murray wants to move, suspecting that he may leave the group, and kill him.

Chapters 16-19. Spiritualist Big Brother, Demon and Debts, Helpless, Part III Analysis

Jeremy's research also confirms that Jaime is dealing with human sacrifice that can also be child sacrifice with its roots in southern Africa. They should concentrate on the underworld occult world in Los Angeles. He is also suggesting they get help from Hope Adams who is the reporter for the True News. She is also in contact with another journalist and Karl Marsten who is part of Jeremy's pack. She recommends them the group that deals with paranormal scams, called Ehrich Weiss Society. They still have no link to children even when they receive the name of the Disciples of Asmodai who practice occult sex sacrifice.

Jaime's situation on the set complicates as Becky tries to make the show more competitive, where spiritualists compete against each other. She wants more seances with ghosts, such as Gabrielle Langdon. Becky lets Jaime know that Gabrielle is going to be the subject of the next show. Others find out about it just before the show.

During the seance no one is able to contact Gabrielle because of the location that has nothing to do with her murder. Jaime is pessimistic about contacting her at all also because her death was very traumatic. She ends the show explaining that the location is not right while Gabrielle is not ready to be contacted. She leaks the information about Gabrielle to others although Angelique thinks that the information Jaime provided her with was not true. Jaime is quite confused especially when Gabrielle appears near her as she walks by herself along the street.



Chapters 20-23. The Ehrich Weiss Society, Disciples of Asmodai, Hard Core, Hangman

Chapters 20-23. The Ehrich Weiss Society, Disciples of Asmodai, Hard Core, Hangman Summary

In Ehrich Weiss Society Hope takes Jaime and Jeremy to the law office of Donovan, Murdoch and Rodriguez. She introduces them to May, who admits that she has been to Jaime's show with her mother, when her father died. Her firm chases paranormal scams. Ehrich Weiss Society has been created based on experiences she had with ghosts when hunting paranormal phenomena. Ehrich Weiss was Harry Houdini who discovered various paranormal scams.

She asks them to enter the back of her office where they find shrunken heads and other artifacts connected with uncovered scams. May introduces them to Rona Grant who is a medical researcher, and the founding member of the group. She is one of the proponents of false-memory syndrome dealing with satanic cult victims. They also meet Zack Flynn, a journalist who uncovered fortune tellers involved in identity thefts.

May explains to others that Hope, Jaime, and Jeremy want to make a documentary about paranormal abuses, including ritual human and animal sacrifice. She gives them a list of persons who practice "darker arts". Hope receives from Zack the name of Eric Botnick, who runs an occult shop called Atrium Arcana and a group, the Disciples of Asmodai. They practice hard-core sex magic that uses submission and dominance to release magical energies. Botnick promises the group some major breakthrough with powerful magic. It could also be just a ploy to keep the disciples from leaving.

In Disciples of Asmodai Jaime researches cults at Hope's office. Her staff mostly works outside. They locate Botnick's shop and his residence. Jeremy makes sure that Botnick stays at home for the night while Jaime arrives at his shop late in the evening. Jeremy is waiting there for her. They break into Botnick's shop finding magazines with hardcore sex scenes such as gagged women

In Hard Core, Jaime and Jeremy discover various fetishes, toys, books on occult mysteries and rituals as well as candles, and amulets in Botnick's shop. In the room for employees they find a preserved fetus, body parts in bottles, and organs. There is a trap door under the rug and Jaime finds another storeroom with bondage gear. Dried and pickled parts are mostly animal. Jaime finds a trap door. Jeremy goes inside when a group of people enters the shop. Jaime and Jeremy hide behind the trap door. A ghost appears in front of Jaime encouraging her to stay inside. They try to find the way out of the room.



In Hangman Jaime and Jeremy hide from the people who enter the shop. Botnick and his companions pledge their allegiance to Asmodai, whom they call the demon of lust, king of hell, and prince of revenge. They dedicate him the blood that drips into a censer as they chant. Then they mix this blood with wine and drink. Botnick chooses a woman who is chained, gagged, and then whipped.

Jeremy whispers in Jaime's ear, covering her other ear. He then starts to play a tic-tac-toe board game and then hangman puzzle. The voices fade. Jaime resumes searching when Botnick appears searching for something. Jaime tries to hide, but makes noise.

Chapters 20-23. The Ehrich Weiss Society, Disciples of Asmodai, Hard Core, Hangman Analysis

Jaime, Jeremy and Hope meet May Donovan, Zack Flynn and Ronda Grant when visiting Ehrich Weiss Society. Although they are treated with cold reserve by May, Zack Flynn who fancies Hope gives her Botnick's name. His group is called the Disciples of Asmodai and is part of the occult underground in LA.

After thorough research, Jaime manages to track down the Disciples of Asmodai run by Botnick. Along with Jeremy they break into the shop, finding magazines showing women in terror and gagged. Hardcore fetishes, paraphernalia, and amulets are all around.

Although the group practices incantations that are dedicated to Asmodai, the demon of lust, they practice hardcore sex involving torture. This practice starts with drinking wine. Then a woman is picked, chained, and whipped until she bleeds. In this way magical energies are released. There are promises of further breakthrough so that the disciples would not leave the cult. In this way they ensure their grip on power over others.

Jaime witnesses this torture although Jeremy is protective, trying to distract her with games and puzzles.



Chapters 24-27. Escape Hatch, Chivalry, Played, Better Later than Never

Chapters 24-27. Escape Hatch, Chivalry, Played, Better Later than Never Summary

In Escape Hatch Botnick finds Jaime, but Jeremy attacks him, disabling his movements when putting his arm around his neck. His grip makes Botnick full of awe. He thinks Jeremy belongs to the group that found the key to true magic. Jeremy confirms his suspicions to find out more about this group. Botnick reveals that a shared lover disclosed that the group breached the barrier to true magic. This magic has been found through sacrifice. Their conversation is interrupted by a woman looking for Botnick followed by another man. Botnick tells Jeremy that he is going to get rid of her. When he leaves Jeremy and Jaime move away through the tunnel. Botnick and others consider whether they should follow them but give up. Jaime and Jeremy move on.

In Chivalry Jaime and Jeremy proceed along the tunnel, hearing rats around them. Jeremy is cautious because of his previous experience with rats that were infected. The darkness makes it hard to see whether there are other creatures around, such as the mixture of wolves and humans that can make Jeremy run. Jeremy decides to scare the rats off by making a growling noise and then a snarl. They reach the end of the tunnel, stepping into the rain. Jeremy is concerned about Jaime's cut cheek. His interest in her is obvious, and she is tempted to respond, but at the last minute moves away from him, not wanting to get involved in something she may regret later. She considers that his wife Elena would take a different approach inside the tunnel and protect him from the rats herself.

In Played Jaime arrives in Brentwood overhearing Grady's conversation with a female confessing that he was possessed by the evil power. He sensed Jaime's presence there as well. He thinks Jaime may know something about it, and that Becky wants them to think that Jaime is conniving. Jaime realizes they have been played against each other by Becky.

After getting back to her room she calls Jeremy who is unable to find Botnick. He is waiting outside his shop wondering whether Botnick tries to contact the group suspected of magic. Jeremy confesses he is used to other werewolves protecting him as a leader and not in the way it happened with Jaime when they were going through the tunnel, but he doesn't mind it. Jeremy waits in front of Botnick's shop all night. Hope investigates Bigfoot story until dawn.

Jamie talks to the guards about stories published on the Internet about her when Angelique turns up. When talking to her she lets her know that they have been played against each other. Angelique knows from Will that Jamie got hold of potential subjects. Jamie explains that she found out about it because Becky wanted her to look at the



memo on Gabrielle Langdon. She tells her that they are taped so that it can be aired later on.

Jamie apologizes to Becky for her poor performance the night before. She tries contacting the ghosts again. She meets Jeremy and they both leave.

In *Better Late than Never* Jamie works with Jeremy in the garden. He draws a picture of her in the same way that he does with his children and his wife. At last, Eve turns up, telling Jaime that she knows that some people gained access to magic. She thinks the ghosts of children are damaged in some way. The children buried in the garden need to be raised. She thinks that they died when African folk magic was practiced, where body parts are used to gain power.

Jamie conducts a televised seance show with Grady and Angelique, where contact the ghost of Mickey Cohen, who found Las Vegas. She passes the tips about him to other necromancers. She worries that has made Becky her enemy.

Chapters 24-27. Escape Hatch, Chivalry, Played, Better Later than Never Analysis

Botnick finds Jaime inside the shop but Jeremy saves her from his attack. Botnick recognizes that Jeremy's strength is not human. He thinks he is part of the group that experiments with powerful magic and wants to know more about them. Jeremy doesn't deny it also wanting to know what Botnick knows. He only finds out that a shared lover told Botnick that the group had some major breakthrough.

Jaime is more and more dissatisfied with the show, realizing that all necromancers are made to compete. This is the reason why cameras are installed in common room so that their conversations can be later used as part of the program as well. The purpose of this show seems to be not to raise ghosts, but to show how they compete with one another. She confirms that with Angelique who think that Jaime found out about the potential subjects on her own. Jaime explains that it was Becky who wanted her to find out about it accidentally when looking for her release. Jaime wants others to have the same advantage as she has. This is the reason why she didn't want to contact the ghost later herself. She doesn't want to appear too good so that she doesn't annoy other stars. Jaime realizes that she is making Becky her enemy in this way. Yet she still keeps passing on tips about seances to others, such as during the seance that is to track Mickey Cohen.

She is left with no further clues what to do as Botnick is nowhere to be seen. Jeremy waits for him near the shop in vain. Only when Eve finally shows up she garden with confirms that the African folk magic used as part of human sacrifice is responsible for releasing secret energies. Jaime needs to raise the bodies of the dead children in the garden.



Chapters 28-31. Runes, Supernatural CSI, Part IV, Death Bodies

Chapters 28-31. Runes, Supernatural CSI, Part IV, Death Bodies Summary

In Runes Jeremy finds that Botnick's shop is still closed. He waits there until Jaime appears. They walk into the tattoo shop next to it, where a woman in her late twenties with black hair tells her she also doesn't know anything that happened to Botnick. After a short conversation they meet Hope. Her research indicates that children who are missing are not reported. They consider how to raise the dead bodies.

They break into Botnick's shop again, searching bags and body parts of people who died mostly accidentally. There is one victim that died in a helmet not accidentally.

In Supernatural CSI Hope can see the events that led to the murder of a person in a helmet. They find that this person had a binding spell or has been weakened to the point of not being able to fight. They find Botnick in another room suspended from the ceiling by the chain. He has no pants and they suspect at first an act of autoerotic asphyxiation. They do a professional investigation. Jaime encounters the ghost she met before. His name is Stan. He tells them that Botnick was murdered by three men dressed in black clothes and balaclava, who first blew a white powder into his face and then recited some spells in a foreign language. They also wanted to know everything about Jaime and Jeremy, where they went, what they wanted and what they looked like. Botnick was eager to answer, thinking this is some kind of test, but then he was killed. The men then staged Botnick's bondage.

In Part IV the group needs to be reminded why they have to perform human sacrifices. They keep animal corpses to pretend that all they do is animal sacrifice. All members are present there despite their perturbations with Murray's murder. They are now testing a new powerful spell. The woman prepares everything for the spell, using ash and human remains. As she casts the spell, Brian jolts sideways, and then falls to the floor unconscious. The group is truly impressed, thinking they found a powerful way to protect themselves against other criminals.

In Death Bodies Jaime, Jeremy, and Hope make sure they leave no traces in Botnick's shop. They realize that he was killed by the members of the group they are trying to trace. They all go to Botnick's apartment. Jaime finds there three ghosts who try to get her attention. They follow Jaime and tease her until Eve chases them away.



Chapters 28-31. Runes, Supernatural CSI, Part IV, Death Bodies Analysis

Jaime and Jeremy are puzzled by Botnick's disappearance. His shop is also closed. Jeremy tries to find out something about the his shop talking to a woman in a tattoo shop nearby, drawing symbols relating to occult. She thinks Botnick is serious about his business because he never is late with opening and closing.

Jeremy shows his interest in runes she has displayed around the shop. He also has runes in his apartment in the bedroom of his children and his wife. He can't explain why he uses them, whether they are somehow connected to his senses, but he's impressed by them. Maybe he doesn't want Jaime to know all his secrets although he shares with her something that is quite personal. When Jaime wants to know more about the runes he interrupts her saying that they need to see Hope.

Jaime, Jeremy, and Hope break into Botnick's shop again and find his body inside. They realize he was killed by the members of the group using dark magic. They know that the group uses ash in their spells and can weaken bodies to such a point that this person doesn't resist.

The occult group using black magic continues with their practices, experimenting on the way to disarm someone. They justify these findings as useful against their criminals. It may also be used against their enemies.



Chapters 32-35. Ungrateful, Cadaver Dog, Runaway, Cause and Effect

Chapters 32-35. Ungrateful, Cadaver Dog, Runaway, Cause and Effect Summary

In Ungrateful Jaime has a coffee in Starbucks witnessing parents talking about their difficulties with a child refusing to go to ballet classes. She remembers the way she was raised. Her mother was not a loving parent who understands a child. As a supernatural child she posed challenges, but other parents, such as Paige or Talia coped well. When the women leave, Eve appears complaining that Jaime acts on her own. She also thinks that Jaime does not need to be too helpful to ghosts' requests.

Jeremy comes with from Botnick's shop with a book with Botnick's lovers that may include a person that killed him, but their names are coded. Jeremy shares his experiences of being raised by his violent father Malcolm, who also taught Clay how to fight. Jeremy had to hide his father's murders from the pack, although these are the responsibilities he likes, just like he likes helping Jaime.

Back in the garden, Jaime can see other ghosts. Eve turns up as well telling her that the ghosts are ready for her. Jeremy turns into a black wolf, to guide Jaime

In Cadaver Dog Jeremy sniffs in the garden while Gabrielle and Tansy appear, asking whether they are searching for the trapped children. In the meantime, Peter Feeney appears who used to work as a chauffeur, gardener, and a butler nearby. He died of his bad habits but tries to find his missing son. Jaime takes notes about him to find him. Peter disappears thinking there is a beast nearby. Jaime finds the corpses of a cat and a bird. Grady appearance in the window and Jeremy changes back into a human form. He kisses Jaime. She resists him and returns to her room, regretting her resolve. Jeremy appears on her balcony, asking her to let him inside. Jaime refuses, but takes her clothes off and leaves to have a shower.

In Runaway, Jaime avoids Becky in the morning hoping to make contact with children to reassure them that she is trying to help them. She calls Tansy to help her as she promised but Tansy responds that she knows who was her killer. It was when she got drunk and was showing a gun to her friend when it fired. She just wanted to talk to someone, promising to help Jaime if she needed it.

Jaime tries to contact the children again when Jeremy, guard, Grady and Claudia appear. When Grady, Claudia and the guard walk away Jeremy kisses Jamie.

She makes the contact with the children buried in the garden and reassures them that she is going to help them. She talks with Jeremy about his adopted son Clay who never wanted to go back to his own family, only wanting to know his medical history. They



suspect the dead children also left their families and got killed. They are distracted by the guard telling them that their cell phones were ringing. Elena relates her research on folk magic. They think Botnick would know how to refine his research on African folk magic. He also couldn't have direct links to the group they are trying to find.

In Cause and effect Jaime and Jeremy go to see Hope. Jaime is interested in the way she does her research when she gets a phone call from Becky to come and see her. She also gets a phone call from Angelique that, according to Will, she should make a reservation for her plane ticket back home. When Jaime comes back, Becky lets them know that the filming has been finalized. Todd Simon wants them all to leave today. Jaime decides to raise the dead right away.

Chapters 32-35. Ungrateful, Cadaver Dog, Runaway, Cause and Effect Analysis

Jaime is preoccupied with the children that died. Her own upbringing wasn't easy because she was a supernatural child. Jeremy also had problems with his father Malcolm, who was violent and he had hide his crimes, but he likes responsibilities as well as copes well with them. Botnick's contact list that Jeremy finds is coded and offers little help with their search for the occult group.

Jaime has only one option left that is also what Eve wants her to do that is raising the bodies of the children. She starts pressuring her to do that also chastising her for acting on her own. When Jaime gets to the garden Eve appears right away telling her that the ghosts are ready. Jaime tries to search the garden for bones with Jeremy's help who changes into a wolf. They find only find the bones of birds and a cat.

Jaime finds herself even under more pressure when her show is to be terminated. Todd Simon decides that there is enough footage for the entire show and he wants everybody to leave. There is no other option for Jaime left but to raise the dead bodies of the children right away.



Chapters 36-39. The Darkest Power, Bluff and Bluster, Cover Story, Risks and Rewards

Chapters 36-39. The Darkest Power, Bluff and Bluster, Cover Story, Risks and Rewards Summary

In the Darkest Power, Jaime, Jeremy and Eve try to find buried children but discover only a dead bird and pets at first. Finally, they see a hand of the body trying to dig itself out. Eve knows that this is Rachel Sky and asks Jamie to stop her from doing it. Jamie uses her darkest power that is the ability to command the dead and Rachel stops. They find that she died on her way from school. She was drugged before it happened. The two people who were present during her death are a woman with British accent and a man called Don.

In Bluff and Bluster Jamie releases Rachel's soul and then comes up with a plan to get Grady to discover the bodies in the garden so that the whole attention is directed more at him rather than her, but Grady doesn't want to be near the haunted place. She walks back to the garden, knowing that she has to finish what she started. Aratron appears again taking possession of Grady's body while Grady himself is taking bath. Jeremy and Eve also turn up. Aratron points to the location where one of the children is buried. He then leaves Grady's body who now becomes aware that he has just discovered a dead body. He confirms to others who appear that this was the case.

In Cover Story the police arrives, questioning Jaime about the way she found the dead body. She is interviewed by Zack for the Los Angeles Times and Hope who shares with Jaime her peculiar abilities to have visions or read important thoughts. Jaime gives interviews to TV crews, and rescues Angelique from a bad interview with one of them. She tries to promote their show, but mostly wants exposure to lure the killers. She also makes sure she receives protection from Jeremy, Hope, and Eve. They all party.

In Risks and Rewards Todd Simon announces that he is going to renegotiate the contracts for the show and continue filming. Jamie and Jeremy stay on the location. Jamie tries to find privacy with Jeremy and they manage to be alone. Finally Jamie lets Jeremy inside her bedroom to her bedroom and they have sex.

Chapters 36-39. The Darkest Power, Bluff and Bluster, Cover Story, Risks and Rewards Analysis

Jaime is trying to raise the body of Rachel Sky, although she needs to stop her when she is trying to dig herself out of her grave on the advice of Eve. They find out the



circumstances of her death that are caused by a woman with British accent and a man called Don. She manages to free her spirit.

Jaime knows that she has to raise the bodies of all children by herself. She wants someone else to find the bodies of the dead children at first so that media attention is not directed towards her. Jaime hopes to ask Grady to help her, but Grady will never be able to participate in this because he thinks the garden is possessed by evil forces that are also trying to reach him. He thinks the entire place needs to be avoided, asking her to do the same.

Jaime is desperate to rescue the children, and she heads to the garden. She is saved by Aratron, who also appears in the garden taking possession of Grady's body. Aratron comes up with a plan, where he shows where the dead body is and digs it up. He then calls Claudia and others informing them about his finding. He quickly leaves Grady's body, returning him to his senses. Such finding needs to be reported immediately to the police. Grady decides to take advantage of this situation to make the name for himself, claiming that he discovered the body. The entire media attention needs to be directed at Grady to lure the occult group to them. They should then keep safe while trying to identify the members of the group. Somehow media also devote a considerable amount of space to Jaime who now may be in danger.

Jaime and Jeremy become even closer when they finally have sex. After finding the body, her producer Todd Simon wants to keep filming, taking advantage of the growing fame of their show.



Chapters 40-43. Part V, Morning After, The Lesson of the Nymphs, Division of Duties

Chapters 40-43. Part V, Morning After, The Lesson of the Nymphs, Division of Duties Summary

In Part V we see a woman that is part of the dark magic occult group, kneeling in front of a spell book practicing her spells amidst candle lights, and various symbols on the floor. She reminisces how her nanny practiced magic using dried body parts, and what led to her success. She now doesn't need to use ash any more. She tests the spells, igniting the air. In order to keep her group involved in experimentation with magic she needs to keep killing its members.

In Morning After When Jaime wakes up, her bed is empty. She thinks Jeremy probably left to spare her embarrassment of walking out of her room together. While she enjoys the memories of her last night's love making, Jeremy walks into her room, explaining that he just called his wife Elena, as he does every morning. When they step outside she is concerned about the extend to which the children will be affected by the filming in the garden. They receive a message that a woman called May Donovan demanded to see her urgently, and asks her to call her back.

In The Lesson of the Nymphs Jaime is concerned about May Donovan's visit. Jaime notices May's British accent on her answering machine when calling her back. Eve confirms that the woman with a British accent who killed Rachel could belong to May's voice. Her work as a lawyer would be a good cover for her real activities. Jeremy thinks Rachel's accent is South African and not British, in the same way that the magic that killed the children is also South African. In the same, way a poltergeist school teacher attracted Nymphs, who look for power in the afterlife, but among other ghosts they lose it. Hope rings Jeremy about the interview Zack wants to have with them. They meet Karl Marsten, a werewolf who watches Hope, but also stays near Jeremy in case he is in trouble.

In Division of Duties they end up in Hope's apartment where they have dinner. They decide that Jeremy and Karl would go and meet Zack Flynn, who may be part of the group that practices black magic. Jaime and Hope will stay in Brentwood house. Jaime asks Jeremy to write her some runes for protection while Karl talks to Hope on the balcony. After Jeremy and Karl leave for the meeting, Hope goes around the house to check safe places and entry points.

Jaime is concerned about Jeremy's safety because she doesn't trust Karl who was part the rebel group that kidnapped and tortured his son Clay. Karl wasn't involved in the torture, and later switched sides. Later, Jeremy forgave Karl and accepted him into the



pack. Eve condemns Karl, thinking he is an opportunist and a career criminal. She doesn't trust him and she doesn't trust Hope who should have suspected May Donovan's involvement in dark magic.

Chapters 40-43. Part V, Morning After, The Lesson of the Nymphs, Division of Duties Analysis

A woman practices spell casting. It is yet to be revealed that this woman is May Donovan. She is confident of her success with magic and her powers. She knows how to use it, and how to practice it. The only obstacle on her way is that she also needs to keep killing the members of her group to keep them together.

In the meantime, Jaime receives a message from May to contact her. May visited the garden complaining about the digging of the bodies and trying to find out when the investigation will be finalized. Jaime tries to contact May, and notices that she has British accent, just like the woman who killed Rachel Sky. Jeremy thinks this accent is South African. They become suspicious of May, who may be using her work to uncover paranormal scam as a way to safeguard herself from any investigation that may be directed at her group. May is also in contact with Hope who knows everything about supernatural stories.

Zack calls Jeremy to meet him because of some news he has. Jeremy and Jaime go to see Hope, meeting Karl on the way who is watching her because of his concern about her. They ask to him join them since Elena wanted him near Jeremy if he was in trouble as well.



Chapters 44-47. Trust Issues, The Killing Room, The Demon Within, Demons and Werewolves

Chapters 44-47. Trust Issues, The Killing Room, The Demon Within, Demons and Werewolves Summary

In Trust Issues Jaime and Hope wait in the hotel while Jeremy and Karl go to meet Zack. Hope is nervous, pacing around the room. Eve is suspicious of her and warns Jaime not to trust her. Suddenly Hope tells Jaime that she needs to investigate something in the garden. Jaime asks Hope to leave her her gun when she goes away. When Hope agrees Jaime thinks that this must be a setup as Hope would not give her her gun otherwise. Jaime decides to follow Hope to the garden. Hope tries to show her Angelique murdered in the corner of the garden. Jaime hits Hope and then becomes attacked herself, falling down unconscious.

In The Killing Room Jaime wakes up in darkness with two ghosts and Hope unconscious on the floor. One of the ghosts is Brendan, and the other Murray. Jaime realizes that she has been knocked out with a spell. She feels fuzzy and without energy. Her throat is dry and eyes are burning. The ghosts tell her that they are in an eight-by-eight concrete box with soundproof walls that is inside their room. The only way out is through the wall of the box that is six inch thick. Jaime tries to call Eve for help. The ghosts admit that they don't feel like ghosts because they are fading and are unable to pass through the concrete walls.

The way out of the box is the drain made to remove the blood. Jaime realizes this is a killing room, and tries to revive Hope. When Hope regains consciousness, she is doopey and overwhelmed with visions of dying people. Brendan and Murray's ghosts lack amnesia that is common after death. She learns from Brendan that May is the leader of the group that has five members. They only know a weakening spell. Hope discovers through her visions that Murray used to be part of that group.

In The Demon Within Murray tells Jaime that the group he was part of exists now for fifteen years. It was started by May Donovan and Don Rice. They were both also part of Ehrich Weiss Society, but May tried to keep these two groups separate. The society was used to research any new occult groups and any other matters involved such as investigations. Zack Flynn is not part of their group because he is too young. Three years ago the group managed to find out about the mysteries of the magical world through human sacrifice. They used victims' ashes in spell casting. They gained energy from the spirits that were bound to the earth. They killed six children.

They hear voices in the room. Hope, who doesn't experience horror is sweaty from the visions she has inside the room. She tells Jaime to use trickery when confronting the



group. She needs to target May if she wants to be rescued. Hope wants Jaime to knock her out again, making her unconscious, so that she doesn't turn against her. Jaime pushes her against the wall and Hope falls down on the floor.

In *Demon and Werewolves* the box is opened. Hope and Jaime are released by three men and May. Jaime notices a panel inset around the room with stuffed animals. They lay down Hope on the floor. One of the men gets a gas can, putting it on Hope's hair. The woman holds the matches in her hands. May is curious about Jaime's ability to talk to the dead. Jaime tries to save Hope, telling May that she could show her how to contact the dead but that she should also see the powers that Hope has. She can demonstrate them only if they tie Hope, leaving her outside, while she can show them how to communicate with Brendan's ghost. After that Hope can demonstrate her powers. They agree to do that.

Chapters 44-47. Trust Issues, The Killing Room, The Demon Within, Demons and Werewolves Analysis

They decide that Karl and Jeremy are going to meet Zack while Hope and Jaime would stay inside the hotel. Jaime contacts Eve who is suspicious about Hope especially that she leaves the hotel to investigate something that is happening in the garden.

Jaime now suspecting that Hope may be involved in the group as well doesn't want to stay on her own and tries to find her. As she ventures into the garden, she finds out that Angeliqne has been killed. She hits Hope, and then she herself is attacked.

She wakes up in the killing room inside the concrete box. There are two ghosts there as well along with Hope still unconscious. One of the ghosts is Brendan who doesn't yet realize that the other ghost, Murray used to be part of the group that killed him. Jaime tries to find out as much as she can about the group, trying to revive Hope. When Hope regains her consciousness, she is overwhelmed with images of torture still present in the box. She manages to tell Jaime how to defend herself from the group that is only possible using May. Jaime also learns that Zack is not part of the group responsible for killing six children. In this way the group tried to learn about powerful magic, using ashes in spell casting. May used an encircling ritual to protect the killing room from evil spirits. She herself become powerful through supernatural blood. Hope is afraid of her powers in the presence of the occult group and pleads with Jaime to knock her out again.

After the group takes Jaime and Hope out of the box, Jaime tries to remember lessons she received from Eve and what Hope told her. May and the rest of the group want to sacrifice them, burning their bodies and then dismembering them. Jaime manages to plead with May only when May shows interest in her magical abilities. Jaime uses her skill as a bargain to save Hope and the end herself. May agrees to take Hope out of the room so that Jaime can show them her skills.



Chapters 48-52

Chapters 48-52 Summary

In *Miraculous* the men carry Hope outside, leaving the door slightly opened. Jaime reveals that May lied about the necessity to kill Murray. She tries to escape as the group turns against May, but is caught. Jaime raises the bodies of the dead animals inside. When a bat, crow, and the terrier start moving, the group demands that she stop it. They are unable to kill the animals that are already dead while attacking everyone in the room. Jaime manages to escape.

In *Judgement* Jaime tries to find Hope outside the killing room when Jeremy appears. He is relieved she is still alive. Karl asks for Hope, but Jaime has no idea where she is. Finally Karl senses her in the closet. They move to another room still unconscious. Jaime casts the spell for the creatures to return to their previous form. . It turns out that May managed to escape from the room as well. She appears in front of Jaime, trying to cast a spell on her. Jaime receives help from Eve who kills her with the sword of judgment. Eve grabs May's spirit and disappears with it. In the meantime Jeremy and Karl kill everybody in the killing room. They dispose of the bodies. Eve turns up and takes Brendan and Murray's ghosts to see the Fates. Hopes prepares meals for them and Jaime queries Jeremy how he managed to find her. He assures her it wasn't through the runes he gave her.

In *The Road Home* the main task for Jaime now is to free the children's spirits. The children have their spirits drained by magic. They find a way to get to the garden without the attention of the police nearby. Jeremy changes into a black wolf. There are also other ghosts waiting. Jaime calls the children. Eve and Kristof kneel on the path to conduct a ritual that the Fates asked them to perform. Once Eve finishes her incantation the children appear in front of her. Eve passes them over to the other side of the veil.

In the *Wrap-up* Jaime Vegas decides to end her TV career. The *Death of Innocence* show ends but newspapers keep publishing stories murders that occurred. A new show is to be aired called *Death of Innocence: Satanism in Brentwood*. Paige calls a council meeting to decide the fate of the remaining members of the group. Jeremy was to stay longer in LA, but his wife calls him, telling him that Logan started to walk. Jaime convinces him to see them. Jaime tries to help other ghosts such as Gabrielle, Peter when she gets a phone call from Jeremy asking if she is alright.

Chapters 48-52 Analysis

Jaime discloses to the group that May lied about Murray, who had no intention to leave. She did this to consolidate the group, because in this way they all shared the responsibility for his death. They would also be afraid to leave themselves, knowing what awaits them. She also tell the ghosts to get through the opened door and bring



Eve. The group turns against May and wants to sacrifice her as well. Jaime thinks that maybe it was a mistake after all as May was the only person willing to deal with her. She remembers what Eve told her and searches for anything that can be done to save herself. She comes up with the idea of raising the bodies. The group doesn't believe that she can do this, thinking it is only a trick to distract them again from what they need to do. They are not going to bring any bodies so that she can accomplish that. Jaime doesn't need bodies because there are many dead animals already in the room. She is only afraid that without her equipment, her spells may not work. She hopes that if she convinces herself that she can do this, it may work. She starts chanting and keeps doing it until she notices a movement. The animals one by one start moving, attacking everybody inside. Jaime uses their distraction to escape from the room, locking it when she leaves.

When she goes outside, Jeremy, Karl, and Eve turn up. They find Hope in the closet and want to clean up the killing room when they realize that May also managed to escape from the killing room. Jaime wants to fight with her, but Eve kills her with her sword.

Jaime can finally free the children's spirits that are too drained to be able to cross on their own. They conduct the ritual while Jeremy guards the site changing into black wolf. With Eve's incantation ritual the children appear and Eve passes them through the veil.

Jaime doesn't want to appear on television any more despite the fame she is still gaining through the events that occurred in the garden. Stories about dead children, ritual sacrifice, and ghosts are published, leading to other shows. She gets even closer to Jeremy, who cares about her despite his obligations and feelings about his own family.



Characters

Jaime Vegas

Jaime Vegas is a necromancer who has a prime spot on the Keni Bales Show, and she is also a guest on Knight at Night. Her dream is have her own show. Keni's show has great ratings, and is the second most popular show in America. She lives in Chicago.

Her career on stage makes acting also part of her real life. She acts on stage as well as in real life. She has been acting since she was three years old, when she appeared on a beauty pageant show. She doesn't remember in fact when she was not on the stage. In some way, she feels stage is her refuge. She is now forty years old, still wearing four-inch heels, and she is still excited when she walks to present her show. She likes when people recognize her on street that boosts her ego. Her career spans for so long that even old people in nursing room remember her.

Jaime can see dead people, talks to ghosts, and raises dead bodies. Her experience with ghosts spans thirty years, and she acquired all the skills that are necessary to deal with them.

Jaime inherits her supernatural abilities from her family. She also has a glow around her that ghosts recognize. All members of her family can hear the dead. She would prefer not to have this ability and would rather be a con artist rather than having to experience appearances that drive her mad at times. Her mother is at the retirement village paid by Jaime, but still has demands. Jaime thinks that her mother didn't love her and didn't understand her. She still threatens her with exposing that she had abortion when she was sixteen.

Jaime is in love with Jeremy, a werewolf, who is married to Elena, a female werewolf. Jeremy considers his babies with Elena and family his priority, but Jaime is happy with the relationship with him in any form as long as he is with her.

Jeremy Danvers

Jeremy is a werewolf married to Elena. He is fifty eight years old. They have Katherine, a foster son Clayton, and Logan. As a werewolf, Jeremy has supernatural strength and doesn't experience colds because werewolves have a higher immunity. Werewolves also can't go to hospital. He is also the leader of the pack and its medical expert.

His face has high cheekbones and his eyes are black and slightly slanted. He has dark hair. He can trail someone, sniffing its smell. His emotional signs can be difficult to detect. He is more than six foot tall, lean, and athletic.



Jeremy serves on the interracial council and is a volunteer from his race, working to solve problems that affects all supernatural race. He helps Jaime, offers her advice, and suggests contacts if it is needed.

He worked for a number of years as a translator while painting until he started to have success with selling them. He is an artist and knows his craft. When he meets Jaime the first time he only says hello. He is not technologically savvy and may even need instructions to use a mobile.

Paige claims he has Asian blood from his mother, although he doesn't know much about her because she left just after his birth. In his world mothers and sisters play little role in the upbringing of their children. Female wives are also rare. His world is the world of men.

Jeremy finds it difficult to initiate contact although he doesn't avoid it. He is physical with other werewolves, but behaves differently with non werewolves. They rarely even shake hands.

Eve Levine

Eve Levine is Jaime's spirit contact. She is also Jaime's spirit guide. She contacts Eve through the ring Eve received from Kristof, the father of their daughter Savannah. She had a bad reputation of a witch that no one wanted to anger. Eve was already dead when Jaime met her daughter. Eve maintains her relationship with Jaime even as a ghost. She once needed Jaime's help and now Jaime can ask her for help. Eve is sometimes absent for months, but she maintains contact through Kristof.

Eve is never cruel, only practical and cold. She is capable of killing her enemies, and well acquainted with dark forces, including pirates.

Bradford Grady

Bradford Grady explores haunted European sites. He participates in television shows. He is only slightly older than Jaime. He has dark hair with streaks of silver. His face is tanned. He looks like a distinguished gentleman. He is Jaime's fan and has DVD's of her show. His assistant, Claudia is often brushed off if Grady meets someone interesting.

Grady's specialty are satanic rites, and he finds evidence of them everywhere. His assistant makes sure that he receives good deals when working, including enough preparation time, or the right spot when appearing with other spiritualists.

He feels dark presence in the house where they are. He claims to have experience with these sort of things. In fact, Grady feels the presence of satanic rites in all castles he visited. He thinks that basements are rife with evil spirits. His spirit guide among others is Black Robert McGee, who was a pirate terrorizing Carriibbean.



Hope Adams

Hope Adams is half-demon. Eve has been suspicious of Hope that she could be part of the group that uses forbidden magic. Hope has demon's attraction to chaos. She doesn't endure horrors. Her demonic powers are choice and not blood destiny. Although she has impulses, she never caused chaos to her friends. She wants to help compensating for her impulses. She used to see Karl Marsten and now they are friends.

May Donovan

May Donovan works as a commercial lawyer while also helping clients with paranormal scams that is mostly pro bono work. She is passionate about the free work she does. She is the head of The Ehrich Weiss Society and started the occult group practicing dark magic. She knows Jaime from her TV shows as well as that she has a show in Brentwood. She has also taken her mother to one of her shows. The society she runs makes sure that paranormal phenomena is not misused. She claims to be fascinated by paranormal and is disappointed that she is unable to prove its existence. She likes reading stories about witches, vampires, werewolves, and ghosts as a child. As a teenager she experimented with ghost hunting. She named her society after Harry Houdini whose real name was Ehrich Weiss.

Brendan

Brendan is a seventeen year old teenager with pale hair. He is rather small. He was set on fire before being dowsed with gas. He is tricked into a car.

Angelique

Angelique or Angel of the South is a tiny, girl with blond hair, perfect porcelain skin and blue saucer eyes. She a necromancer and a fan of Jaime who is her idol. She followed Jaime's career since she was little. Her friends call her the Angel of the South. Her father is a minister. She is the third spiritualist in the show Death of Innocence where the ghost of Marilyn Monroe is to be raised. Angelique thinks Marilyn was murdered, but she has no theory who could it be. Jaime considers her to be a threat to her because of her age. She is not used to being on camera.

Tansy Lane

Tansy Lane is ghost. She used to be an actress. She has pale skin, long black hair, and copper eyes. She got the role in Lily White because of the way she looked. Producers thought she looked exotic. Her mother used to say that her dad was Italian although he was black. He died in Vietnam and his parents spread the story that about his Italian background. She is a natural comedic performer and can entertain the crowd with



anecdotes until everybody listens to her. Tansy doesn't seem to know who killed her, although she later admits to Jaime that it was her friend who shot her while they were drunk playing with a gun.

Karl Marsten

Karl Marsten is a werewolf. As such, he doesn't need magic and he would not be interested in a group that is searching for magical phenomena. He is afraid to betray Jeremy because the Fates would put him through hell. He has middle age delusions.

Savannah

Savannah has little taste in clothing. She is six feet tall and slender with long dark hair and perfect bone structure. She also looks like Eve, except for her eyes that she inherited from her father Kristof. She wears ripped jeans, sneakers, and a tight T-shirt. She is elegant and graceful. Only her speech is not always graceful. She is the daughter of a sorcerer and a half-demon witch, Kristof Nast, and Eve Levine. When she was thirteen she panicked when trying to contact her dead mother and destroyed her house, killing also her father although he pretended he died in a different way. She is working for Paige and Lucas while she decides about her career. She is going to pursue her art in her spare time. Savannah knows that some witches want to be friends with her to win her mother Eve as an ally.



Objects/Places

BRENTWOOD

Brentwood is location where a TV show called "Death of Innocence" is filmed where the ghost of Marilyn Monroe is to be raised.

AMSTERDAM

Todd Simon films "Red Light District", a new reality show in Amsterdam.

CHICAGO

Jaime Vegas has her condo in Chicago where she also lives.

VIETNAM

Tansy Lane father died in Vietnam

PORTLAND

Portland is the town where Paige and Lucas have their firm. This is also the place where Jaime has her near death experience when contacting Molly.

SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco is the place where Jeremy goes to meet Robert.

VANCOUVER WASHINGTON

Molly Crane lives in Vancouver, Washington which is near Portland.

AMITYVILLE

The house in Amityville was a place where a man killed his parents and four siblings. When another family bought the house it claimed that there were various paranormal events there and wrote a book based on these events. The man who committed the crimes claimed that it was a demon who made him do it while the family admitted to lies in the book.



NEW YORK

Jeremy and his wife Elena live in New York.

ATRUM ARCANA

Atrum Arcana is a shop owned by Ehrick Botnick.



Themes

Spiritualism

Kelley Armstrong introduces us to the world of spiritualism from an entirely different perspective. While characters lead their lives that appear to be ordinary, even though engaging in television work or being artist or a lawyer may be perceived as selective, they are also involved in contacting spirits, magic, or occult. They are all interested in something that is beyond their everyday lives that may not be that ordinary. They all try to tap into something that either inspires them or allows them to gain power.

For them the notion of spiritualism differs. Those that crave for power use it to their advantage, seeking control, the ability to do more than they can. They become ruthless in their pursuits, and they lose themselves as a result. They are also unable to deal with the power they gain. Occult members seek spiritualism as well, but on a different level. As much as they seek redemption and liberation, they become trapped in the end. May Donovan has to keep killing the members of her own group because she fears they will betray her. Their betrayal may lead to her own death, so her only option is to kill first. She is fascinated by the unknown and the power of her spells and incantations. She devotes all her time to practicing spells and devising means to reaffirm her grip on what she already has. She also becomes insensitive to any suffering her actions cause or any negative consequences it may have, including those concerning her.

On the other hand, Jaime, although capable of dealing with spirits and magic, would rather abandon it and leave life that is free from unusual events or worries. She understands that with her abilities and skills come responsibility. She has to return the trapped spirits to where they belong, or it will have negative consequences for the entire universe. For her, the suffering of unknown spirits is extremely important, and something she has to deal with immediately. She is unable to help all spirits as much as she would like.

Although she is free with her sexuality, she treats her abilities seriously. Even with her talents she would like to use them in such a way that would not hurt those that don't have such talents. When she appears on shows, she helps other spiritualists so that she doesn't appear too good, and they also have the chance to do their work.

At times, she also finds herself without answers and may be trapped, as despite her efforts she still makes enemies, and is unable to help all ghosts. She has gained devoted friends, although most of them are not human. One is Eve, her spirit guide, and the other, Jeremy, a werewolf. She knows that she can rely on them, and seems to be closer to them than her own mother. She receives help from half-demons and eudemons to tackle problems caused by humans trying to gain unwarranted power.

Jaime knows what is her job and what she has to do. She receives advice from her guiding spirit Eve telling her "Bluff, damn it. He's human. What the hell does he know



about our world? Bury the bastard in bullshit" (p.310). Jaime is also more afraid of human actions than the actions of spirits. For her spiritualism is not something she can control, but something she needs to respect.

Humanity and redemption

The main characters in the book are those that possess supernatural abilities. They also appear more frequently, as their personal lives are displayed more than that of humans. We are more familiar with the tribulations of ghosts and other supernatural beings and not so familiar with other characters who appear to be at the background. Humans that are murdered as a result of dark magic practices turn into ghosts as well. We delve into the life of ghosts, such as Eve Levine, and become acquainted with various types of demons. As we get to know them, we also learn about their problems and particular qualities. Some ghosts, such as Eve or Stan have their own peculiarities and personalities. Stan is attracted to sexual practices. Eve has a sense of humor.

Werewolves display habits, such as propensity to eat well and often. They have a strong sense of responsibility that may pertain to their families or duties. They are also prone to mistakes.

Even Jaime, who seems to be clever, resourceful, with sense of humor has problems she has to deal with, such as maintaining her balance. She also makes mistakes. Despite her knowledge, she still needs to work on some aspects of her personality. She is unsure of Jeremy's devotion to her. Although she knows he is attracted to her, she wants to make sure that this is not going to be just a one night stand. There is nothing she can do about his family. She knows that he is going to look after his family regardless of what is going to happen in his own personal life. She still doesn't know herself and what she should do with her life. She finds out in the end that television is not what she wants because she is not suitable for it, perhaps because she is too idealistic despite of her practicality.

Other spirits also appear to be human. They are engaged in human life and concern about other humans. They are also concerned about those that create problems and those that need to be saved. In this way, they also save themselves. Saving and redemption appears to be human, where what is humane in the end prevails.

Balance

One of the themes that seems to shape many events in the book is the balancing force. This balance is maintained through various types of forces that coexist. There are various types of demons, those that thrive on chaos and those that are indifferent, interested in humans only academically.

Other forces that coexist include the Fates that belong to the higher power. Only some individuals such as Jaime have the knowledge of their existence through her spiritual guide, Eve.



Certain actions destroy this balance. They include dark magic that unleashes energies that are not known even to some ghosts and spirits. They only realize that something is not right. Dark magic and unwarranted deaths seem to put things out of balance, where even demons become concerned and participate in rectifying this situation. In this way, even demonic actions can have positive consequences, as much as they can be conniving and deceptive. When Aratron takes possession of Grady's body, pretending to uncover dead bodies in the garden, it unleashes a series of events where some people are killed, such as Angelique while Hope and Jaime are kidnapped. In the end, it needed to happen so that the trapped spirits are freed.

At the same time, Jaime also admits to herself that she struggles to maintain her own balance. Her own skills drive her mad. In some way, maintaining that balance leads her to other issues that start preoccupying her. She becomes involved in something that may be beyond her. Her actions also begin to concern the world around her. As she goes about containing her own balance, she also restores it in the world beyond her.

Style

Point of View

The narration in the book is mainly through Jaime's point of view, although the book starts as if it was narrated by Brendan at the beginning. The short description of his encounter with an occult group provides an interlude to what is going to happen next, and it marks the significance of this event. We are aware that this incident will have the bearing on the rest of the story that seems to unravel mysteries and delusions.

When Armstrong switches to Jaime as a narrator, we are introduced into the world of television, the world of Hollywood and celebrity. Only later we realize that we also gain access to the world of a spiritualist, who perceives such world from a different perspective than other humans who don't have supernatural abilities.

This type of narration introduces us in the end into another world. We also get to know as well how werewolves live, what are their likes and dislikes, and how they relate to other humans. We get a glimpse of what other entities, such as the Fates as well as what is the role of various types of demons.

Later in the book the author switches to May Donovan's perspective that is the most chilling perspective in the entire book. Her cold calculative thinking process unravels her own motives and interests. Such access to her own perspective allows us to see that behind her evil actions there is also certain delusion that may be the delusion of grandeur. She is deluding herself that she has to do certain things, such as killing other members of the group or that the victims have to suffer. Despite the fact that spirits and werewolves may seem to be delusory, they tend to be practical, while the most deluded person of all remains May Donovan herself.

Setting

The primary setting in the book is Brentwood, a suburb in Los Angeles where various celebrities died. The first setting involves a house in Brentwood, where occult members practice black magic. It is also where Brendan dies.

Settings play also specific roles in the book. These settings involve places such as houses where celebrities died, including the place of death of Marilyn Monroe.

Despite the supernatural character of the book where there are frequent ghost and supernatural appearances, most settings involve locations such as houses, parks, offices, and gardens. Even the raising of the dead bodies occurs in a garden and not in a cemetery. These settings convey the practical nature of the story and even purport realism. Although contacts with spirits are to occur in basements and locations where victims died, most of such appearances occur on streets, in cafes, and other locations. There are settings that appear to be isolated and dangerous, such as when Molly tries



to question Jaime in the forest. She also may kill her there if not for the appearance of Savannah. Another setting that creates a sense of isolation and powerlessness, apart from May Donovan's house, is Etric Botnick's shop and the tunnel that leads from his shop onto the street. It may also provide a certain metaphor as Jaime and Jeremy struggle through obstacles and venture on their own into the unknown. They don't know where they are and where they are going. It is the discovery for them as well as for the readers.

Other parts of the book that contain many locations and settings, convey a sense of travel and journeying that may involve discovery while it is at the same time part of self-discovery.

Language and Meaning

Armstrong uses language that is descriptive and quite strong at times as the book is narrated from Jaime's point of view. It conveys Jaime's feelings, fears, and thoughts.

She unveils the meaning of the story through a series of events. The story is full of personal tribulations, crises, and uncertainties. Her language conveys these aspects through direct yet provocative style. It seems to be used to resolve issues, make conclusions while uncover deeper thoughts that some may never dare to confront, such as admitting by Jaime to being attracted to those that are not entirely humans that may also expose her to danger. She doesn't back from her lover just because it may pose more risks for her. In this way, language is quite daring at times, although it needs to deal with subtleties of feelings and mysteries. While there are explicit sex scenes, they are not hard core as such, but contain sensual elements driven by strong feelings.

Armstrong deals with aspects of life that are shallow and artificial, such as deceptive games used by certain people that work in television. Becky, who is very keen to fulfill her obligations to her producer becomes deceptive, engaging in turning costars against each other. There is a certain shallow aspect of interactions that can be encountered in areas such as television production. This shallow aspect although engaging invites conversations that are not very sophisticated.

Armstrong's language also often reflects shallow aspects of showbiz life, but makes up for it when making various rhetorical questions that provoke thoughts. Armstrong also skillfully uses language during various reexaminations and retrospective self-talk, such as when Jaime talks to herself. Her talking to herself is quite similar to talking to other ghosts, as it provokes conclusions and answers questions.

Structure

The structure of the book contributes to its meaning. The book is divided into five parts with fifty two short chapters. It resembles the way television films are divided into small segments with commercial breaks. These divisions contribute to the fast pace of the book.



Such small sections are also resemble film shots, where there are different locations or settings are used. Each part begins with an event that occurs at the beginning concerning May Donovan's occult group activities. Each part starts with such an event, as if to suggest that this event prompts other events in the book. Dark magic practices distort the balance in the world, causing phenomena that Jaime then has to deal with and fight to regain this balance.

Chapters at the beginning of the book are longer. Towards the end of the books they become shorter. In this way, pace of the book accelerates towards the end.

Each chapter, apart from the events contained in the book also contains certain lessons that need to be learned, such as Comedy of Errors, where mistakes in Molly's impressions of Jaime lead to an unnecessary conflict, and even death. Only Savannah rescues Jaime when Molly thinks that Jaime contacts her because she killed her own partner. Her error of judgement may have negative consequences for both of them. In Penalty Box, Jaime learns that certain spirits, such as that of Kristof experience penalty as a consequence of their actions. She herself thinks that she is rewarded when she accomplishes her mission when dealing appropriately with ghosts. When she breaks the rules, she has no results. She knows that she is rewarded by patting if she does what the child spirit wants, but when she wants to try another way of communicating the spirits go silent.



Quotes

The drawback to being onstage for most of your life is that eventually you forget how to act when you're off it. p. 6

In such a life you're never offstage p.6

After thirty years of seeing ghosts, you learn all the tricks p. 8

Like most supernatural powers, necromancy runs in the blood p. 11

There was nothing more unprofessional than derailing a colleague's seance p. 22

With ghosts, even the staunchest paranormal skeptics wouldn't mind being proven wrong. p. 23

There's nothing worse than finding a fabulous new style in the fashion mags and rushing out to track it down, only to realize it made you look like a frumpy middle-aged suburbanite or, worse yet, a frumpy middle-aged suburbanite who still thinks she's a smoking twenty-year-old. p. 34

But ghosts ask for more than an autograph and a handshake. p. 217

Like miracle worker, we return the ghost - the soul- to the body, conscious and aware. p. 242

Raising the dead. If you're a religious person, you call it resurrection and it's a miracle. If you're a horror buff, it's Armageddon at the hands of a flesh-munching mob of shambling corpses. In truth, it's some of both. p. 242

Here was the other side of that darkest power. Not only could a necromancer raise corpses, we could control them. p. 248

One of the necromancer's jobs is to ease the passing of spirits. p. 310

Topics for Discussion

What is the role of journey and self-discovery through spiritualism?

How spiritualism stimulates different perspectives?

To what extent spiritualism redefines ethics and morals?

Why and how questioning assists Jaime in her endeavors to save children?

Does Armstrong questions humanity?

What drives Jaime's motivation?

Are good and evil redefined by Armstrong?