

A Quick Bite Study Guide

A Quick Bite by Lynsay Sands

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Plot Summary

The story begins with Dr. Gregory Hewitt willingly climbing into the trunk of Marguerite Argeneau's sports car and closing the lid. Greg, a psychologist, is going to be a birthday present for Marguerite's daughter, Lissianna.

Lissianna Argeneau is a 200-year-old vampire and the main character of the story. Chapter one begins with Lissi trying to find a willing blood donor from which to feed. Although Lissi is a vampire, she cannot stand the sight of blood. Lissi is out with friends and family for her birthday before going to her mother's house for a birthday party. Lissi hates the club scene and prefers to be with her family. Lissi's mother has arranged a special present for Lissi because she has hemophobia. She faints at the sight of blood.

Lissi appears to be about 26 years old. She has long blond hair and silvery blue eyes. Lissi, like the rest of the family as well as vampires in general, is very attractive.

Lissi had lived at home until her father's untimely death. After Lissi no longer has to live at home and waits to marry, she decided to go back to school to be a social worker while taking a job at a homeless shelter. Lissi thinks that it is important to help people. She also sees the shelter as a way to feed off the residents whenever possible.

There is a misunderstanding when Lissi believes that Greg is meant to be her dinner instead of a psychologist who may be able to help cure her hemophobia. Despite Marguerite's good intentions, Lissi feels bad about Greg's captivity and the fact that he is going to miss his well-deserved vacation. Greg is held captive until Lissi decides to set him free. Marguerite is furious. Both Lissi and Marguerite go to visit Greg. Martine is the only one who can successfully control Greg long enough to take him back to the Argeneau house. Greg ends up being held captive again until his memory can be wiped. Meanwhile, Lissi and Greg become close and fall in love. When Lissi learns that her Uncle Lucian has arrived at the house, Lissi assumes the worst that Greg is going to have to suffer a brainwashing session with a council of three vampires. Greg says that he does not want to lose his mind. Once again, Lissi sets Greg free and they run from the house.

Greg decides that he wants to be Lissi's life mate. After Greg decides to be turned into a vampire, Lissi and Greg have a narrow escape from execution. Father Joseph, a priest at the shelter where Lissi works, has uncovered the fact that she is a vampire. Lissi's family figures out that Lissi is in trouble and does some undercover work to find her and Greg before it is too late. Lissi and Greg are saved and no one is harmed in the end. When all is settled, Greg is welcomed into the family with open arms.



Prologue, Chapters 1-2

Prologue, Chapters 1-2 Summary

The story begins in November 2000. Dr. Greg Hewitt stands in his office, talking to his younger sister, Anne on the phone. Anne invites Greg to a dinner party. Greg knows it is Anne's way of trying to set him up with another single female friend. Greg tells Anne that he is leaving for Mexico in the morning. This will be his first vacation in eight years.

Greg begins to relax as he leaves the office. An attractive woman gets on the elevator. Greg thinks the woman is very attractive although everything but her silver-blue eyes is vague.

Greg gets off the elevator and goes to a small red sports car. As Greg puts his briefcase in the trunk he realizes briefly that this is not his car. The thought fades and Greg closes the trunk.

In Chapter 1, Lissianna Argeneau goes out into the parking lot with a man named Dwayne. Dwayne is attempting to fondle Lissi. Lissi has no interest in Dwayne except to get a quick bite. Lissi is hungry and her cousins and friend suggested that she nibble on Dwayne rather than wait for her birthday party at her mother's house. Lissi learns that Dwayne does not have a car. Lissi says she came with her cousin Thomas. Dwayne says they will have to enjoy the outdoors. Lissi is grateful that it is early winter. It is cold however,

Lissi and Dwayne go behind metal garbage bins. Lissi takes over and bites Dwayne on the neck. Dwayne enjoys it. It is too late when Lissi notices that Dwayne tastes strange. Dwayne is anemic. His tan had come from a bottle and his clothing had been padded to make him appear robust. Lissi stops drinking Dwayne's blood. She takes his pulse, relieved that he will be okay. Lissi wipes Dwayne's memory and leaves.

Just as Lissi is preparing to go inside the bar, she runs into a man from the shelter. The man had heard about a new kid on the street and hopes to convince him to spend the night indoors.

Lissi returns to the bar where her friend Mirabeau and cousins Thomas and Jeanne wait. Lissi relays her tale regarding Dwayne. It is not long before Lissi convinces everyone to leave the place she refers to as a meat market. Thomas says they are not allowed to take her to the party until 10 PM. Lissi's mother, Marguerite, had to drive into Toronto and would not be home until close to that time. Lissi wonders aloud if her mother was going to get her a Sweet Tooth as a present. A Sweet Tooth is a person that is an undiagnosed diabetic with high sugar levels. The person's blood made for a sweet treat.

The group jokes around as Thomas drives to Marguerite's house. Marguerite's red sports car is in the driveway, as is the Mercedes belonging to Lissi's brother, Bastien.



Lissi's older brothers, one 400 and one 600 years old, look at Lissi and Thomas as children even though they are 200 years old. Thomas takes advantage of their behavior and acts childish, calling Bastien "dude." Thomas' behavior causes the older Argeneaus to underestimate Thomas on a regular basis.

The group goes to the games room to wait for Marguerite. Lissi goes up to her old room to change her ruined pantyhose. When Lissi enters the room, she sees a man tied to her bed. He has a bow wrapped around his neck. Lissi smells the man and knows he is the Sweet Tooth. Lissi decides not to spoil the surprise and sets off to find new pantyhose.

In Chapter 2, Greg watches as the woman leaves the room. He thinks about how he arrived at this strange house: "It had come to his attention tonight that he was a complete idiot. Greg had never thought of himself as an idiot. In fact, he'd always considered himself somewhat intelligent, but that was before he'd climbed into the trunk of a strange car and locked himself inside for no good purpose that he could think of" (Chapter 2, p. 14).

Greg thinks that locking himself in the trunk by accident would be stupid. Clearly, he had lost his mind although he cannot figure out when or how. Greg makes a mental note to ask his mother if insanity runs in the family. He thinks about how trusting and gullible he was when the woman who had taken him told him to lie down on the bed so she could tie him up. The woman had said that he was going to be her daughter's best birthday present ever.

Greg suddenly wonders if he is meant to be a sex slave. Then he thinks that the woman who had taken him looked no more than thirty years old. The second woman that came into the room, the attractive blond, must be a relative of the first woman. Her eyes lacked the brunette's wisdom but they are definitely related.

Just as Lissi starts to leave, Greg asks to be untied. Lissi wonders aloud why her mother hadn't calmed this man. Greg thinks he wouldn't mind being the blonde's sex slave. Still, he was being kept from his vacation plans...and the vacation had already been paid for. He wouldn't mind dating this woman when he got back to Toronto.

Lissi is puzzled because she cannot read Greg's mind. Greg wonders if everyone has gone mad: "It seemed madness was running rampant tonight. The first example had been his behavior, then the brunette's, and now the blonde thought she could read minds. It made him wonder if there wasn't some sort of citywide madness occurring. Perhaps men all around Toronto were climbing into trunks and letting themselves be tied to beds. Perhaps it was some sort of drug released into the city's water reservoir; a terrorist plot to incapacitate the men in Canada" (Chapter 2, p. 17).

Lissi continues to try to read Greg but cannot. Greg tries to demand to be untied. Lissi thinks that perhaps if she could seduce Greg she might be able to read him. Lissi begins the seduction and finds herself getting carried away. It is also clear that Greg



likes it. Lissi begins to feed off Greg. Suddenly Thomas and Marguerite enter the room. Marguerite barks out Lissi's name.

Prologue, Chapters 1-2 Analysis

"A Quick Bite" is one of the books in Lynsay Sands' Argeneau series. The Argeneaus have a long and illustrious history in the vampire and business worlds. They come from old money and are pillars of society.

The first character introduced in the story is Dr. Gregory Hewitt. Hewitt, a psychologist, is a workaholic attempting to avoid yet another one of his sister's attempts to fix him up with a single woman. Anne means well but Greg believes his family members see him as a pathetic bachelor despite the fact that he is a successful doctor. The woman in the elevator easily entrances Greg although he seems to have no interest in her. Still, Greg climbs into the woman's trunk and closes the lid, surely not something he would do if sane and/or unaffected.

The reader is introduced to Lissianna Argeneau, the youngest of Marguerite Argeneau's children. Lissi is two hundred years old. Lissi's companions, her cousins Jeanne and Thomas and friend Mirabeau, have been ordered to keep her busy until it is time for her birthday party. The group is only mildly intrigued to learn of Lissi's encounter with the anemic. While it is clear that many people know Lissi is a vampire, Father is not one of them. Lissi works at a shelter and must remain undercover.

Lissi's family still sees her as a child, despite her advanced age. Lissi's brothers are much older and much more reserved. Although Lissi knows better than to cross her mother, she cannot resist feeding on Greg. It is clear that Lissi is going to be in big trouble for ruining her mother's surprise.



Chapters 3-6

Chapters 3-6 Summary

In Chapter 3, Marguerite chastises Lissianna for unwrapping her birthday present. Lissi objects that she didn't actually unwrap him and that she was feeding on him only to soothe him. Marguerite says she put the full whammy on him but that he must have a strong mind. Lissi tells her mother and Thomas that she is unable to read his thoughts: "Lissianna hadn't really tried to read or control his thoughts as intended, she'd been too busy enjoying the moment, but from the brief connection, she'd got an imprint of his mind. It was a mixture of confusion, desire, intelligence, and an honesty and character that appealed to her" (Chapter 3, p. 22).

Lissi does not mention that she got carried away. Suddenly Lissi wonders who was doing the seducing.

Marguerite tells Lissi that Greg is not her birthday dinner. Marguerite had arranged for a Chinese delivery man. Lissianna likes Chinese but it never stays with her. Greg, on the other hand, was yummy.

The group discusses the situation. Lissi is disappointed that Greg is not her birthday dinner. Greg finds himself disappointed as well and then is shocked at his disappointment. Greg tells himself that he wouldn't mind letting the blonde feed on him in any way she wanted. Marguerite announces that while Greg isn't Lissi's dinner, he is her present. Marguerite explains that Greg may be able to cure Lissi's phobia so that she may lead a normal life and not have to stumble home drunk a couple of nights a week. Greg is confused, then annoyed. Greg says he is going to leave for vacation in the morning and has things to do. Most people just make appointments to see him. Lissi, Marguerite and Thomas largely ignore Greg and leave to enjoy the party.

Greg thinks about Lissi and becomes sexually frustrated. Greg realizes that he cannot go to the police or he would be laughed out of the station. Suddenly Greg begins to focus on getting loose from the ropes that bind him to the bed.

In Chapter 4, Thomas enters the living room and compliments the women on their pajamas. Thomas had decided to spend the night because he had been drinking, so Lissianna, Mirabeau and Jeanne Louise stayed as well. The women were wearing baby doll pajamas lent to them by Lissi and Jeanne's cousins Elspeth, Victoria, and Julianna, who were visiting from England. Thomas sported Spiderman pajamas. Bastien had lent the pajamas to Thomas with the hopes of embarrassing him. As usual, the attempt had failed.

Thomas asks what girls do at pajama parties. None of the older vampires have a clue. Mirabeau says she is over 400 years old. She doesn't think pajamas even existed when she was a girl. Victoria and Juliana are only 17 and know what goes on. They talk about



eating bad food and having fun which includes telling scary stories and talking about boys. Thomas says he is full to the gills and would he was the subject. The subject changes to Lissi's birthday gift which is asleep upstairs. Everyone coaxes Lissi until she agrees to show them the gift from her mother. Lissi explains that Greg may be able to help cure her phobia. Lissi is doubtful.

The group traverses the stairs and enters Lissi's room. They all gather around Greg and ooh and aah. Thomas makes jokes about cucumbers. Greg wakes to find himself surrounded by six beautiful women...and Spider-man. All the women begin to talk and tell Greg that they are Lissi's cousins, all except Mirabeau. Aunt Martine comes in to check out the noise. Marguerite is close behind and shoos everyone off to bed. Greg stares at the scene and then realizes that Spider-man is still there, staring at him.

In Chapter 5, Greg says, "I know you're probably mad as hell about being here, but this isn't Lissianna's fault and she really needs your help" (Chapter 5, p. 33).

Thomas explains that Lissianna is his cousin. Thomas and Jeanne Louise's mother died when they were young. Their father didn't know what to do with the children, so Marguerite took them in and raised them. Greg understands that Lissianna is like Thomas' sister. Although Thomas seems to be one that is always smiling, there is a plea in his eyes as he tries to explain the situation: "So, I do understand why Aunt Marguerite brought you here. I know she's been terribly worried about Lissianna. Her phobia..." He shook his head unhappily. "It's bad. It would be like you fainting at the sight of food and unable to eat. It affects her whole life and has for ages" (Chapter 5, p. 33).

Thomas continues to say that he really wants Greg to try to help Lissianna. Thomas says he must leave before his aunts find him. He promises to talk to Greg more later.

Everyone else has the same idea as Thomas. In ones and twos, each person in the house comes in to talk to Greg. Each pleads with him to help Lissi. It is clear that Lissi is well loved by all. At the end of it all, Greg realizes that he still does not know anything about Lissi's phobia and that he hadn't tried - even once - to try to get someone to untie him.

In Chapter 6, Lissianna wakes about noon. She had slept only for about five hours. She thinks about Dr. Gregory Hewitt and her phobia. It seems terribly stupid to Lissi that a vampire could have a phobia about blood: "Lissianna had been afflicted with hemaphobia since her teens. She'd tried reasoning her way out of it, but a mere peek at the red stuff was enough to send her into a dead faint" (Chapter 6, p. 40).

This had only occurred after the council had issued an edict that vampires should use blood banks to prevent discovery. Lissi's first experience with feeding had not been pleasant. Marguerite used to feed Lissi intravenously but then her father, Jean Claude, had died. Lissi feared becoming totally dependent on her mother and dying if there was no one to feed her.



Lissi decides to go upstairs to see Greg. He is awake. Greg explains to Lissi that he has missed his flight to Cancun. Greg promises that Lissi will be treated but he has worked very hard to take this vacation. Greg also says he would like to be untied because he has to go to the bathroom. Lissi decides to comply. One by one the cousins and Mirabeau come into the room. Lissi tells them about his plans and that she is going to untie him and take him home. She has had the phobia her entire life. Waiting one or two more weeks won't hurt her. The family agrees to help and to take some of the heat off of Lissi when Marguerite finds out. Everyone but Lissi leaves. Greg asks Lissi about her phobia. Lissi tells him she is hemaphobic. Greg becomes furious over being held because of such an unimportant phobia. Greg reminds himself to calm down and just get out of the madhouse.

Chapters 3-6 Analysis

The reader gets insight into Lissianna's background. She thinks about her hemaphobia and how it has affected her. While it is not plainly stated, the reader can surmise that Lissi's father also fed off of intoxicated people and that is how he died. Lissi is terrified of ending up the same way. Her job at the shelter fails to provide her with an adequate food supply and leaves her without much of a choice. Lissi also thinks about being a vampire and what it means to most people.

She says, "Vampires were thought to be soulless creatures with an aversion to garlic, holy water, and sunlight. As far as she knew, her people were no more soulless than the average person. As for the three supposed weapons used to fight off vampires, neither garlic nor holy water would hurt them. Sunlight was another matter, they wouldn't burst into flames if they stepped out into it, but it did make life easier to avoid it. Really, the only thing society had right about vampires was their longevity, strength, and the ability to read and control minds...oh, and they did need to feed off blood" (Chapter 4, p. 28).

The entire family is there to protect Lissi and to try to persuade Greg to help. Greg is baffled by the extreme measures Marguerite has taken to treat a daughter with such a small and seemingly meaningless phobia. Of course, Greg does not yet know that Lissi is a vampire.

Greg is deeply affected by Lissi in a number of ways, mostly physical and sexual. He is so captivated by her and the situation that he forgets to ask to be untied. The fact that Lissi cannot read his mind is also meaningful to the story and foreshadows upcoming realizations.

Marguerite is clearly the matriarch. It is humorous that even at several hundred years of age, each of the family members still respects and fears Marguerite's wrath.

Although Greg is convinced that the entire Argeneau family is crazy, it is obvious that he will return.



Chapters 7-11

Chapters 7-11 Summary

In Chapter 7, Greg is quiet as the group sneaks through the house. Bastien had brought a large blue van for Marguerite to use while she had company. Thomas gets behind the wheel and drives away. During the trip Thomas can feel waves of anger radiating from Greg. Thomas lets Greg out at his apartment. Although Greg's keys, briefcase and coat were left at Marguerite's, Greg knows that he can get the super to let him into his apartment.

On the way back to the Argeneau house, Thomas tells Lissi and the others why Greg is so angry. Hemophobia to a mortal is no big deal. They will have to tell Greg that Lissi is a vamp. When the van pulls into the driveway, they see Marguerite waiting for them. Each tries to believe that she won't be as angry as they feared. They were wrong.

Marguerite says Greg would have missed nothing. She would have put memories into his head of a great vacation. It would be better than a real vacation she said because he wouldn't have to deal with flight delays or food poisoning. Marguerite asks what memories Lissi gave to him. Lissi says she didn't give Greg any memories. Marguerite is incredulous: "She'd been raised from childhood having it drummed into her head that mortals always had to have their memories wiped. Mortals could not be left with any knowledge at all of their people's existence. It was a threat to all of them. After two hundred years, that was a lot of drumming" (Chapter 7, p. 52).

Lissi says she could not get into his mind. Martine and Marguerite exchange a knowing glance.

Marguerite says not to worry that she will take care of everything. Martine offers to help. Marguerite insists that everyone stay at the house for the week while Martine and her daughters visit.

In Chapter 8, Greg waits for the super to unlock the apartment. Greg learns that his flight had been delayed and another one could not be booked until Wednesday. There was no point flying to Cancun for 2 days. The trip had been doomed from the start.

The super arrives with Greg's keys and makes a joke about a vampire bite. Greg ignores the comment, not in the mood for humor. Greg goes inside the apartment and reminds himself that the things left behind could be replaced.

Greg examines his neck in the mirror. Suddenly, several remarks come back to him regarding Lissi's dinner and the bagged blood. Greg begins to wonder if Lissi is a vampire. He makes a list and is startled to find that he thinks she is a vampire.

There is a knock at the door. It is Martine and Marguerite. Marguerite pushes her way in, saying that they have come to return his things. Marguerite tries to put the whammy



on Greg and fails. Martine takes over. Soon, Greg is docile and sitting on the couch. Martine finds Greg's list.

Lissianna is at work at the shelter. Her co-worker, Debbie, tells Lissi that she should have some lunch. Father Joseph brings in some soup that he made. Lissi tries it and must gulp several glasses of water to stop the burning in her mouth. Lissi thinks she will have to feed later as she has no opportunity at work.

Lissi arrives at Marguerite's to find Thomas waiting for her. Thomas says Greg is back. Neither Marguerite nor Martine could wipe his memories. Furthermore, Greg knows they are vampires. Greg is boiling mad. Thomas notices that Lissi is pale and feeds her. Lissi says she will go up to see Greg before she goes to bed.

In Chapter 9, Lissianna walks into her old bedroom. Greg wakes up and sees her. Lissi says Greg is probably mad at her. Greg says she is not the one that keeps dragging him back there. Greg recalls the scene at his apartment when Marguerite and Martine realize he knows the truth about them and that his memory could not be wiped. Even after Martine stopped touching him. Greg had the compulsion to do as he had been told. Half of him wanted to flee. The other half had a million questions to ask.

Lissi and Greg discuss her predicament. Greg asks about being dead. Lissi tries to explain that she is not dead, nor cursed or soulless. Greg says the movies portray vampires as being all of those things. Lissi points out that movies also portray psychiatrists and psychologists as being serial killers.

Lissi explains how vampires came to be. Her father, his brother and their parents were from Atlantis. Atlantis was a highly sophisticated, technologically advanced society. They developed nanotechnology. The nanos were injected into their people. The nanos' purpose was to heal any damage to the body. When the nanos' job was complete, they were supposed to self-destruct. However, the body was always under attack from one thing or another. The nanos required a healthy blood supply to operate. As a person's body received constant damage from elements and other sources, the nanos continued to thrive. This explains the body's youth. Lissi also says that their bodies react to sunlight the same way as a mortal's body but it requires more blood to recover. It means that the vampires must feed more. Lissi also warns that Marguerite and the older members dislike being referred to as vampires because of the negative connotations.

Greg begins to consider what Lissi is saying. He says, "Greg could hardly believe he was thinking these things. He was a psychologist, for God's sake" (Chapter 9, p. 64).

Lissi says that she is tired. Greg asks her to stay a while. Lissi sits down on the bed and is soon fast asleep.

In Chapter 10, Lissi wakes up with her cousins staring at her. She realizes that she had fallen asleep with Greg. The cousins grin at her. The twins had woken up early because they are hungry. Marguerite had forgotten to buy food. After a discussion it is decided that they would all go out to a restaurant and then stop for groceries. One of the cousins fetches some of Bastien's clothes for Thomas to wear.



Greg and Lissi have a discussion while they get ready to go. Greg asks more questions. Lissi stops him after a while and says it is her turn to ask questions. Greg reveals why his engagement broke up and why he chose to become a psychologist. Greg also tells Lissi that he is not mad any more. He was furious but now he realizes that her family, save for the vampirism, is not much different than his own. Greg jokes that it is also hard to be angry or scared when faced with a man in Spider-man PJs.

In Chapter 11, Vicki screeches as Thomas pulls into the driveway. Once again, Marguerite is waiting for them and she does not look pleased. The group decides to play it cool. Lissi has a talk with her mother. Marguerite says they cannot control Greg so she has Bastien trying to locate Uncle Lucian who is by far the oldest and most powerful. This concerns Lissi. Lissi asks that Greg not be tied up again, saying it is unfair and certainly does not help her case for treatment.

Everyone but Greg, Marguerite and Lissi put away groceries. Marguerite takes Greg upstairs for a chat. Greg is surprised that he is not tied up again. Lissi stands outside in the hallway while Marguerite and Greg talk. Marguerite asks Greg if he will treat Lissi and stay as a guest.

Chapters 7-11 Analysis

The reader learns more about Greg's and Lissi's families. Greg learns that he likes Lissi's family and that there really is not much difference between them. In some ways, Greg and Lissi are also alike, bowing to the will of their families and also not acting on certain desires and impulses because of familial beliefs.

The most interesting part in this section is the alternative explanation of how vampirism came to be. Lissianna says that books have turned vampires into demons and ghouls when it is not true. Vampires are not dead, curse, soulless or evil. They simply must consume blood to replace the blood used up by the nanos. Almost none of the legends are true, save for the strength and longevity of the people; that and the fact that they must consume blood. In Lissi's case, consuming blood is not a pleasure but a necessity that causes her a great deal of discomfort and fear. Lissi has a great deal of fear about ending up like her father when she is forced to feed "off the hoof" in order to get sustenance. Most of the people are somewhat clinical about their needs. It is interesting that except for certain cases, vampires are required to use bagged blood from blood banks to protect themselves and to prevent discovery.

Greg finds himself believing everything that Lissi and the others say. Some of the things he has seen for himself; the others simply seem to be logical. Still, Greg struggles with the improbabilities of vampirism and the fact that he is a psychologist and the whole ordeal seems to be just a little crazy.



Chapters 12-18

Chapters 12-18 Summary

In Chapter 12, Greg sees a portrait of Marguerite when she was fifteen. Greg asks to see more portraits. Lissi takes Greg to the ballroom where the portraits are displayed. There are portraits from the late 1200s to present. Greg seems to be fascinated with each handsome face. Greg asks Lissi to tell him what life was like when she was young. Lissi tells Greg that women, their children and anything that may have belonged to them became property of their husbands.

He says, "You have the romantic view they show in movies and books. I'm afraid my view is colored by my memories and the fact that I'm a woman. It's easier to be a woman now. We needn't marry if we don't wish, and can't be forced to have children. We can get an education, have a career, own property, and possess wealth. When I was born, all we were expected or even allowed to do was be dutiful daughters, marry, and become dutiful wives and mothers" (Chapter 12, p. 92).

Greg asks Lissianna why she has never married. Lissi says she wants an equal, not a puppet.

The family sits down to watch a movie.

Greg asks many questions about the vampire life. Lissi explains that there is a council that makes and enforces laws. Uncle Lucian is head of the council. None of the Argeneaus are old enough, even though Marguerite is over 700 years old. Lissi explains that only one child can be born each hundred years. A vampire can only sire or turn one other person. Lissi sees no problems answering all of Greg's questions since Uncle Lucian will wipe his memory after she is cured.

Greg offers to make chili for dinner.

In Chapter 13, after dinner, Greg and Lissi have their first therapy session. Greg says they will try systematic desensitization. Greg asks Lissi to describe the first time she had a problem with feeding. Lissi talks about her first hunt with her father. He had been drunk and did not tell Lissi when to stop feeding. She almost killed a boy. Luckily Marguerite had followed them to Hyde Park and saved the boy: "The tortured expression on her face was hard to handle. He'd seen it before on the faces of his patients, but this was different" (Chapter 13, p. 102).

Thomas and the others sneak in to find out what is going on in the library and find Greg kissing Lissi. Lissi goes to get ready for work.

Lissi arrives at work. Debbie says it's nice to have her there on a Sunday rather than the whiny worker, particularly since the natives are restless. Lissi goes into her office and finds it filled with crosses. She nearly sits on one. Father Joseph explains that he



had been sorting crosses. Debbie and Lissi decide that Father Joseph is acting very strange and his insomnia must stop.

Lissi arrives home to find Uncle Lucian in the house. Greg is tied to the bed again.

In Chapter 14, Lissi tells Greg not to think so that Lucian and Marguerite cannot read his mind from the other room. It is explained that Greg might be the target of a council of three; three members of the council targeting his mind at once, effectively turning him into a Renfield: "Greg supposed 'a Renfield' was their way to refer to someone driven mad by their messing with the mind" (Chapter 14, p. 111).

Greg begins to recite 100 bottles of beer on the wall. Reminding Greg to recite silently as they sneak through the house, Lissi leads Greg to a shed where a bicycle is stored. They just make it to the road when Marguerite's car zooms down the driveway. A car swerves to miss the bike. Greg and Lissi jump into the car, convincing the driver and his friend that they are helping them to escape bad guys.

Greg and Lissi go to an underground plaza. They end up going to a vampire movie to help hide their anxiety. Lissi decides they only place they can go is to Debbie's house.

In Chapter 15, Greg and Lissi are walking through the area when Anne approaches. Greg introduces Lissi to his sister. Anne insists that they have coffee together. Greg tells Lissi to go to the bathroom to feed. Unfortunately, Anne tags along. Greg asks to borrow money from Anne. Anne says they should come to dinner with her, their mother and her husband. Greg cannot refuse. The group goes to dinner. Anne says she will take Greg and Lissi home so he doesn't have to borrow money. Lissi feeds off a man in the bathroom. When it comes time to leave Lissi gives Debbie's address to Anne.

In Chapter 16, Greg and Lissi arrive at Debbie's house. Debbie says she understand how it is to be young. Debbie goes to her mother's house leaving Greg and Lissi alone. Greg tells Lissi to feed on him. Lissi refuses. The two kiss and make love for the first time. During it, Lissi feeds.

Greg says he does not want to be a Renfield. Lissi says she will try to protect him. One way she can do that is to turn him. Lissi says Greg has a lot to think about. She goes to sleep on the couch.

Lissi wakes, noticing it is cold in the room. She sees a figure looming over her. Someone drives a stake into Lissi's chest.

In Chapter 17, Greg wakes at the sound of breaking glass. He goes into the living room and finds Lissi: "His first sight of the jagged hole in her chest and the slow, thick blood oozing from it made Greg gag" (Chapter 17, p. 144).

Greg tries to figure out what to do. He decides to dress Lissi and take a cab to his apartment where he can get the names and phone numbers of some medical professionals that can help. Thomas meets them and they all go to Mirabeau's penthouse. Once at Mirabeau's, Thomas sets out to get blood and Mirabeau fetches



some items from next door, including a neighbor who can act as a donor. Greg has made his decision and drinks Lissi's blood, turning into a vampire.

In Chapter 18, Thomas says there is no point in avoiding Marguerite and Lucian now. They go to Marguerite's house. Greg is tied up during the painful turning so he does not injure himself. Lissi remains unconscious for several hours while being fed blood in bags and through an IV. When Lissi wakes, she goes to see Greg. Lissi insists that Greg be given drugs. Lissi stands up to Uncle Lucian.

Lucian visits Lissi in her room. They talk about her father. Lucian apologizes for being so cold and realizes that Lissi no longer fears him. Lucian explains that none of those people staked her and that calling the council was a ruse to get Lissi to admit that she loves Greg. Lissi promises to keep their talk a secret.

Chapters 12-18 Analysis

Lissi's family has her best interests at heart. Marguerite had tricked Lissi by saying she was going to call Lucian. Lucian had simply dropped by to visit because Martine and the girls were in town. Lucian played along to get Lissi to realize that she loves Greg. Lucian was calling the council but only to inform them that Lissi intended to turn Greg. The truth is that all of the Argeneaus like Greg. Lissi is stunned by their elaborate matchmaking efforts.

Although Lucian and Lissi have not been close, this incident brings them much closer. Lucian realizes how Lissi has been affected by Jean Claude and how he has probably made the situation worse. The new bond will surely serve both well.

Greg takes a huge risk by allowing himself to be turned. He loves Lissi but there is no guarantee he will become her life mate.

The person who staked Lissi is unknown yet Lucian and the others believe it must have been a mortal. Father Joseph's recent strange behavior points to the notion that he could be responsible.



Chapters 19-22, Epilogue

Chapters 19-22, Epilogue Summary

In Chapter 19, Greg is plagued by nightmares. Lissi sits with him and he wakes up. Lissi tells Greg to go back to sleep that the turning is over. When Greg wakes again, Lissi is asleep beside him.

Greg and Lissi make love. Thomas interrupts and an embarrassing scene follows. Thomas says he will tell everyone to leave Greg alone that he is recuperating.

Greg tells Lissi about his dreams. They discuss the turning. Greg takes Lissi into the kitchen and feeds her blood as well as sherry trifle. Greg says he feels great.

In Chapter 20, Lissi returns to work. Debbie asks what happened. Lucian had cleaned the apartment as promised but Debbie was curious if Marguerite had accepted Greg and made up with Lissi.

The cousins and Mirabeau hover over Lissi's bed. Thomas teases them about being noisy.

Lissi goes to work. At the end of the night, Greg comes to pick her up. Greg's car won't start. Father Joseph offers to give them a ride to Marguerite's house but wants to make a stop on the way. Something makes Lissi uneasy. When they arrive at the supplier's house, Lissi and Greg quickly realize it is a ruse. Father Joseph and another man point guns at Lissi and Greg.

In Chapter 21, the second man with a gun is Dwayne from the shelter. Father Joseph had found him behind the Dumpsters that night at the bar. Father figured out that Dwayne had been bitten. Father had figured out that Lissi was a vampire. He stayed awake at night to do some investigating. This also explains the horrible garlic soup, holy water cooler and office filled with crosses. Dwayne also mentions that they have silver bullets. Lissi says those are for werewolves.

There is a long discussion about how to kill a vampire, as well as myths. Dwayne is baffled when sunlight does not cause them to burst into flames. Dwayne tells how he went to Debbie's house and staked Lissi. Lissi says he hit her collarbone and she had to go to the emergency room. Greg invents a tale about treating Lissi because she thinks she is a vampire. A gun goes off and Lissi faints at the sight of Greg's blood.

In Chapter 22, Lissi wakes up to find herself chained to the wall. Greg says Father Joseph and Dwayne had a long discussion about what to do. Father decided to chain them up and deal with them later. Greg says Dwayne stood guard for a while until Greg threatened to rip his heart out and eat it. Currently, Dwayne is fashioning a second stake although they are still unsure if Lissi is a vampire.



Lissi worries about Greg as he grows paler in the sunlight. Lissi works hard and manages to free them from the wall. As they walk through the house a car arrives. They find out that it is not Father Joseph but the Argeneau clan. Thomas and Marguerite tell how they learned of Father Joseph's part and where Lissi and Greg were being held. Martine deals with Dwayne. Lissi learns that Lucian is working on wiping Father Joseph's memory.

In the Epilogue, the group piles into the van. Greg takes more blood and is feeling better. Greg is asked when the wedding will take place. Greg realizes that Marguerite has known all along. Thomas welcomes Greg to the family.

Chapters 19-22, Epilogue Analysis

It does not take Lissi long to understand Father Joseph. She is worried because he is religious zealot and will be very difficult to control. There is no way Lissi can convince the Father that she is not evil. Lissi keeps information from Greg about how pale he is becoming or that they will be in very serious trouble if he does not get blood soon. The Argeneaus concoct a brilliant plan to find Lissi and Greg. It shows once again how committed the family is to each other.

In the van, Greg finally realizes that Marguerite has known since they met that he would be the right man for Lissi. Greg feels good to be accepted by the family and knows that he made the right choice.



Characters

Lissianna Argeneau

Lissianna Argeneau is a 200-year-old vampire and the main character of the story. The book begins with Lissi trying to find a willing blood donor from which to feed. Although Lissi is a vampire, she cannot stand the sight of blood. Lissi is out with friends and family for her birthday before going to her mother's house for a birthday party. Lissi hates the club scene and prefers to be with her family. Lissi's mother has arranged a special present for Lissi because she has hemophobia where she faints at the sight of blood.

Lissi appears to be about 26 years old. She has long blond hair and silvery blue eyes. Lissi, like the rest of the family as well as vampires in general, is very attractive.

Lissi had lived at home until her father's untimely death. After Lissi no longer had to live at home and wait to marry, she decided to go back to school to be a social worker while taking a job at a homeless shelter. Lissi thinks it is important to help people. She also sees the shelter as a way to feed from the residents whenever possible. It is that last assumption that almost gets Lissi killed when the Father at the shelter figures out Lissi's true identity.

Lissi has three older brothers but is closest to two cousins, Thomas and Jeanne Louise, who were also raised at Marguerite's house. Although Lissi has a close family she has been afraid to allow herself to love anyone for fear of pain and disappointment. Greg Hewitt changes all of that for Lissi and opens a new world to her.

Dr. Gregory Hewitt

Dr. Gregory Hewitt is a 36-year-old man. He is the only male in a family filled with women, save for a couple of male cousins. Greg is a psychologist by trade and an admitted workaholic. Greg has worked for eight years without a vacation to get his practice off the ground. He is a renowned doctor in the Toronto area, known for his success with curing phobias. It is that success that leads Marguerite Argeneau to "kidnap" Greg to help her daughter, Lissianna.

Greg was once engaged to a woman named Meredith. Shortly before their wedding, Greg realized that he could not marry a woman who was dependent on him for everything. Like Lissi, he wanted to wait until he found a partner in life.

Greg is intrigued with Argeneaus almost immediately. This includes being attracted to Lissi. Even after Greg is no longer held prisoner, he agrees to stay at the Argeneau house. Greg is fascinated by the family's history as well as the vampire culture. It is Greg's love for Lissi that prompts Greg to be turned into a vampire and to become one of the Argeneau clan.



Thomas Argeneau

Thomas Argeneau is Lissi's friend and cousin. He is the older brother to Jeanne Louise.

Jeanne Louise Argeneau

Jeanne Louise Argeneau is Lissi's friend and cousin. She is the younger sister to Thomas.

Elsbeth

Elsbeth is Lissianna's cousin from England.

Victoria and Juliana

Victoria and Juliana are Lissi's 17-year-old twin cousins from England.

Marguerite Argeneau

Marguerite Argeneau is Lissianna's mother. She is the matriarch of the Argeneau clan.

Martine Argeneau

Martine is Marguerite's sister who lives in England.

Jean Claude Argeneau

Jean Claude Argeneau was Lissianna's father. Jean Claude died in a fire after feeding off of an intoxicated man and lighting a cigarette.

Bastien Argeneau

Bastien Argeneau is Lissianna's older brother. Bastien is wealthy, conservative, and reeks of old money.



Objects/Places

Argeneau House

The main setting in Lynsay Sands' "A Quick Bite" is the Argeneau house. It is located on the outskirts of Toronto, Canada. The large house has been in the Argeneau family for many years and is the gathering place for friends and family on special occasions, such as Lissianna's birthday. To celebrate, Marguerite's sister, Martine, and her children Elspeth, Victoria and Juliana have come from England. Local family visits as does Lissi's Uncle Lucian, head of the vampire council.

The house is run by Marguerite Argeneau, a matriarch. The only vamps in the story older and stronger than Marguerite are her sister-in-law, Martine and brother-in-law, Lucian.

The house is very elegant and ornate. It features a formal parlor, many guest rooms, a library, kitchens, games room, and a ballroom that is no longer in use for formal balls but now houses the family's portraits dating from the 1200s. There are also two servants on staff - Maria the housekeeper and her husband, Vittorio, the gardener. The house also has a very large watchdog named Julius.

It is the Argeneau house where Greg is brought and held captive until he can help Lissi with her phobia.

Vampirism

The center theme of "A Quick Bite" by Lynsay Sands is vampirism. The entire Argeneau family is comprised of old and new vampires. The youngest are the twins, Juliana and Victoria, who are only 17 years old. The age of the eldest vampire is not given but the eldest sibling and cousin are over 600 years old, so clearly the mothers are even older.

Lissianna thinks about vampirism and how it is viewed by the unfamiliar and uninitiated: "Vampires were thought to be soulless creatures with an aversion to garlic, holy water, and sunlight. As far as she knew, her people were no more soulless than the average person. As for the three supposed weapons used to fight off vampires, neither garlic nor holy water would hurt them. Sunlight was another matter, they wouldn't burst into flames if they stepped out into it, but it did make life easier to avoid it. Really, the only thing society had right about vampires was their longevity, strength, and the ability to read and control minds... oh, and they did need to feed off blood" (Chapter 4, p. 28).

The topic and explanations of vampirism are modernized for the reader and show how a relationship between humans and the undead could be possible in modern society. The story also reveals to readers how vampires are made, that vampire bites do not always ensure that one will turn into a vampire, and how it is possible for a human to develop a relationship with a vampire.



Toronto, Canada

The story takes place in Toronto, Canada and is the home to the Argeneau family and their business, Argeneau Enterprises.

Marguerite's Sports Car

Greg is compelled to climb into the trunk of Marguerite's red sports car to be transported to the Argeneau house.

Cancun, Mexico

Cancun is the dream vacation spot for Dr. Greg Hewitt.

Dr. Hewitt's Office

Dr. Hewitt leaves his office for the day and meets Marguerite in the elevator. Hewitt has worked for eight long years to build a successful practice.

Lissi's Bedroom

This is where Greg is held during and after Lissianna's birthday party.

Homeless Shelter

This is where Lissianna works.

Argeneau Enterprises

This is the name of the Argeneau family business.

Atlantis

This is where vampires were created.



Themes

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Greg is brought and held captive at the Argeneau house until he can help Lissi with her phobia.



Attraction

Attraction is one of the themes of "A Quick Bite." At first sight Greg feels a very strong attraction to Lissianna. The attraction is physical at first, pointing to some type of chemistry. Quickly the attraction turns sexual in nature. However, when Greg and Lissi sit and talk in her bedroom, Greg finds that he is generally captivated by Lissi. When Lissi's family pleads with Greg to help with Lissi's phobia, Greg sees that there is a great deal to Lissi beyond the physical. At first it is unclear if these are Greg's thoughts or if they are somehow induced through the use of vampire powers.

Lissi also finds herself attracted to Greg. Her first reaction to Greg is that he is handsome and "yummy." This causes Lissi to lose control and feed on Greg even though she knows it will anger Marguerite. Lissi continues to lose control when she seduces Greg. Lissi suddenly wonders who is doing the seducing.

It is clear that the attraction was always means to lead to more. The first sign is that Lissi cannot read or control Greg, which is a sign that the person may be a life mate. As the story continues, the attraction turns to a much deeper emotion of love.



Style

Point of View

The point of view used in "A Quick Bite" by Lynsay Sands is third-person and omniscient. This point of view works well throughout the book as there are several components and underlying factors that would not be revealed otherwise. This is particularly important regarding the initial interaction between Greg and Lissianna. Greg sees things one way while the conversations and actions of the family make perfect sense to them. It will all make sense to Greg as well once he learns that the Argeneaus are vampires.

Using the third person point of view also allows for the reader to follow and understand actions and thoughts of other characters in the book as well as those events of which one single character has no knowledge. It also allows the reader to better understand the family dynamic which might otherwise be very confusing.

While the first-person point of view might have been interesting when coming from the characters in their time of confusion, such as Greg and/or Lissi's growing attraction, the third person conveys the entire story and not just the subjective opinions of the characters. It also permits the reader to take part in the journey and development of each character in the story.

Setting

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Language and Meaning

The language used in "A Quick Bite" tends to be relatively informal and relies a great deal on dialogue between the characters. Although readers tend to be familiar with vampires to a degree, there are some unfamiliar terms that must be learned; however the jargon used is not difficult or something that requires much explanation. Some of the vernacular is unfamiliar to Greg as he had not been previously exposed to vampires and their ways. There are many old family stories and inside jokes that make the reading funny and delightful.

Although several of the vampires in the story are very old if not ancient, there seems to be little reference to outdated languages. The old ways are often referenced, but usually contain hints or explanations so they can be understood. For example, Lissianna explains to Greg how things were in the old days regarding women and how they have changed. In that explanation there are hints of another time and place. The author is able to give that time and place a sense of reality through dialogue.

Greg Hewitt is a psychologist that has been asked to help cure Lissianna of her hemaphobia. Greg does talk about various clinical techniques, using vernacular common in his field. The words and terms are either explained or are demonstrated by the characters.

The language used by the author is very descriptive and is used in such a way that the reader can fully understand the meaning and context of what is being said.

Structure

"A Quick Bite" by Lynsay Sands is a work of fiction. The book is 204 pages in length and is comprised of 22 chapters plus a Prologue and an Epilogue. The shortest chapter is 1 page in length; the longest chapter is 12 pages in length. The average length of a chapter is 8.5 pages.

The work is chronological in order. It begins with the "kidnapping" of Dr. Gregory Hewitt who is taken to Marguerite Argeneau's house for her daughter Lissianna's birthday. There is a misunderstanding when Lissi believes that Greg is meant to be her dinner instead of a psychologist that may be able to help cure her hemaphobia, which is ironic that as a vampire, she faints at the sight of blood.

Greg is held captive until Lissi decides to set him free. Marguerite is furious and Greg ends up being held captive again until his memory can be wiped. Meanwhile, Lissi and Greg become close and fall in love. Greg decides that he wants to be Lissi's life mate. After Greg decides to be turned into a vampire, Lissi and Greg have a narrow escape from execution. When all is settled, Greg is welcomed to the family with open arms.



Quotes

"It had come to his attention tonight that he was a complete idiot. Greg had never thought of himself as an idiot. In fact, he'd always considered himself somewhat intelligent, but that was before he'd climbed into the trunk of a strange car and locked himself inside for no good purpose that he could think of" (Chapter 2, p. 14).

"Lissianna hadn't really tried to read or control his thoughts as intended, she'd been too busy enjoying the moment, but from the brief connection, she'd got an imprint of his mind. It was a mixture of confusion, desire, intelligence, and an honesty and character that appealed to her. Aware of the silence that had fallen over the room, Lissianna glanced about" (Chapter 3, p. 22).

"Birthdays could be such a bummer when you were older than the country you lived in" (Chapter 4, p. 28).

"I know you're probably mad as hell about being here, but this isn't Lissianna's fault and she really needs your help" (Chapter 5, p. 33).

"Perhaps psychic abilities run in the family, he supposed. How fascinating" (Chapter 5, p. 35).

"Lissianna had been afflicted with hemaphobia since her teens. She'd tried reasoning her way out of it, but a mere peek at the red stuff was enough to send her into a dead faint" (Chapter 6, p. 40).

"She'd been raised from childhood having it drummed into her head that mortals always had to have their memories wiped. Mortals could not be left with any knowledge at all of their people's existence. It was a threat to all of them. After two hundred years, that was a lot of drumming" (Chapter 7, p. 52).

"Greg could hardly believe he was thinking these things. He was a psychologist, for God's sake" (Chapter 9, p. 64).

"You have the romantic view they show in movies and books. I'm afraid my view is colored by my memories and the fact that I'm a woman. It's easier to be a woman now. We needn't marry if we don't wish, and can't be forced to have children. We can get an education, have a career, own property, and possess wealth. When I was born, all we were expected or even allowed to do was be dutiful daughters, marry, and become dutiful wives and mothers" (Chapter 12, p. 92).

"The tortured expression on her face was hard to handle. He'd seen it before on the faces of his patients, but this was different" (Chapter 13, p. 102).

"Greg supposed "a Renfield" was their way to refer to someone driven mad by their messing with the mind" (Chapter 14, p. 111).



"His first sight of the jagged hole in her chest and the slow, thick blood oozing from it made Greg gag" (Chapter 17, p. 144).



Topics for Discussion

Examine Marguerite's purpose for kidnapping Greg. What might you have done in that same predicament as the victim? Did Marguerite mean to cause harm? What was Greg's initial reaction?

Examine the relationship between Lissi and her family members, including Marguerite, Thomas, Bastien, and the others.

Examine Greg's feelings for Lissi. How can Greg be sure that the feelings are his own and not a product of Lissi's powers?

Discuss phobias. Is there such a thing as hemaphobia? Do you think phobias can be cured? How?

Why is it important to know that Lissi cannot read Greg's mind? How is it that Greg was not completely affected by "the full whammy?"