

Running with the Demon Study Guide

Running with the Demon by Terry Brooks

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

Running with the Demon Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Prologue; Part 1, Friday, July 1: Chapter 1, and Chapter 2.....	4
Chapter 3, Chapter 4, and Chapter 5.....	6
Chapter 6, Chapter 7, and Chapter 8.....	8
Part 2: Saturday, July 2, Chapter 9, Chapter 10, and Chapter 11.....	10
Chapter 12, Chapter 13, and Chapter 14.....	12
Chapter 15, Chapter 16, and Part 3: Sunday, July 3, Chapter 17.....	14
Chapter 18, Chapter 19, and Chapter 20.....	16
Chapter 21, Chapter 22, Chapter 23 and Chapter 24.....	18
Chapter 25, Part 4: Monday, July 4, Chapter 26, Chapter 27, and Chapter 28.....	20
Chapter 29, Chapter 30, Chapter 31, and Part 5: Tuesday, July 5, Chapter 32.....	22
Characters.....	24
Objects/Places.....	29
Themes.....	31
Style.....	33
Quotes.....	35
Topics for Discussion.....	39



Plot Summary

John Ross dreams of a town called Hopewell, Illinois, which has been devastated by an unspecified disaster. Something horrible has happened to the town and the people he knew there. Nest Freemark is in bed, sleeping, when she is awoken by Pick, a sylvan or woodland creature that resembles a piece of wood. He tells her that Bennett Scott, the sister of Nest's friend Jared Scott, is trapped by the feeders in Sinnissippi Park. Nest goes to save the girl. She tells her grandmother, Evelyn, about this the next day. Like her mother, Caitlin, and grandmother, Nest has magic she uses to protect the park. She does not know who her father is. Her grandfather, Old Bob, used to work at Midwest Continental Steel, until a strike happened. Many workers have not worked in some time, and the town is becoming depressed. The demon follows Derry Howe and Junior Elway, influencing them. The demon suggests if an accident happened at the factory, the company officials would change their mind and work with the union. Nest leaves her home, thinking about how she has been able to see the feeders from birth.

Her grandmother, Evelyn, is wary of Wraith, until she connects with him and realizes he is there to protect Nest. She meets an Indian, Two Bears, who helps her see a vision of Evelyn dancing with the feeders. Evelyn says she once fell in love with the demon, but escaped his evilness. Nest meets John Ross, who says he will help her. He has tried to protect humanity for ten years now. Pick tells Nest about the maentwrog, an evil being trapped in an oak tree. Nest Freemark wonders if John Ross is her father. John says he does not have magic to heal the tree, and realizes the demon is trying to create a distraction. During a picnic, Nest is kidnapped by Danny Abbott, a boy she spurned, while John is attacked. Old Bob goes to find Nest, leaving the demon a chance to kill Evelyn. Before she dies, Evelyn leaves a note for Nest, telling her to use her magic and trust Wraith. John tells Nest that the demon is her father, and he has come to turn Nest into a demon as well. Nest meets the demon but denies him, using her magic against him so Wraith attacks him. Derry and Junior are killed by the bombs they planted. Pick tells her that Gran must have used all her magic to change Wraith to protect Nest when she used her magic. John Ross awakes, and tells her she will not become what he saw in his dream. He tells her he would have done whatever he had to to change the future.



Prologue; Part 1, Friday, July 1: Chapter 1, and Chapter 2

Prologue; Part 1, Friday, July 1: Chapter 1, and Chapter 2 Summary

Prologue

John Ross dreams of a town called Hopewell, Illinois, which has been devastated by an unspecified disaster. Something horrible has happened to the town and the people he knew there. The town is mostly empty, and the few residents are highly wary of him, including a few children scavenging along the main street. Ross wakes up. He is riding on a bus, but no one wants to sit near him.

Part 1, Friday, July 1: Chapter 1

Nest Freemark is in bed, sleeping, when she is awoken by Pick, a sylvan or woodland creature that resembles a piece of wood. He tells her that Bennett Scott, the sister of Nest's friend Jared Scott, is trapped by the feeders in Sinnissippi Park. Enid Scott, their mother, left Jared in charge, but his epilepsy makes him blackout for minutes at a time. Daniel, an owl that helps Pick, is tracking Bennett through the park. Nest gets up, careful not to wake her grandparents, and runs to find Bennett. She is a champion runner and has bested high school records, even though she is only fourteen. Nest finds Bennett surrounded by the feeders at the edge of a cliff. She tries to convince Bennett to come to her, but Bennett is afraid and does not want to go back to her home, because her mother's boyfriend, George Paulsen, does not like her.

Bennett Scott decides to come to Nest Freemark. When a feeder tries to attack, Nest is able to kill it after she makes eye contact with it. She runs with Bennett, but the feeders give chase and she trips in the park. Wraith, an otherworldly dog that serves as her protector, materializes next to her and scares off the feeders. Nest carries Bennett home.

Chapter 2

Robert Roosevelt Freemark, also known as Old Bob, is Nest's grandfather. He used to work at Midwest Continental Steel until the contract negotiations between the company and union officials broke down. He wakes up and comes downstairs, where his wife, Evelyn, is sitting at the kitchen table, smoking and drinking. He tells her Nest has been out again at night, and he is going to forbid it. Evelyn, who understands what Nest was doing, tells him to let her go. Bob decides to go downtown and see if there is anything new with the strike. Nest wakes up and tells her gran about what happened with Bennett. Evelyn believes her, but says her grandfather, Bob, never will because he cannot bring himself to understand. She tells Nest that her father believed, but will not



answer when Nest asks if her father was a woodland creature. Nest goes to get ready for the day.

Prologue; Part 1, Friday, July 1: Chapter 1, and Chapter 2 Analysis

John Ross is traveling to Hopewell, Illinois. His dream on the bus indicates he is drawn there for some reason, perhaps to prevent the disaster he sees. Those traveling with him seem to be wary of him, indicating that his mission, whether for good or for evil, is something beyond the bounds of normal, everyday life. Nest Freemark, a girl living in Hopewell, also straddles two worlds, the everyday, mundane one and the mystical one that exists in the park. Nest is empowered with a strange magic, and one of her primary activities seems to be protecting children from the feeders in the park. The feeders are evil beings, who want to hurt humans like Bennett Scott. Nest is not alone in her fight, however, since she has her magical friends Pick, his owl, Daniel, and her wolf protector, Wraith, to help her combat the feeders. Nest is able to use her magic by making eye contact, and her power knocks over the feeder that she is attacking. The next morning, her grandfather, Old Bob, tells her grandmother, Evelyn, about her late-night trip, and says he wants to put a stop to it. Evelyn tells him to leave Nest alone, showing she understands something about what her granddaughter is doing at night. Indeed, Nest tells her grandmother about the events of the night before. Nest seems annoyed by the fact her grandfather would not understand her role in protecting the forest. Evelyn confirms that Nest's father would have understood, but will not elaborate, leaving Nest to wonder about her father's identity.



Chapter 3, Chapter 4, and Chapter 5

Chapter 3, Chapter 4, and Chapter 5 Summary

Chapter 3

Old Bob Freemark drives downtown, thinking about the years of strikes, fighting, strikebreaking and stalled negotiations that have marked years of tension at Midwest Continental Steel. Many workers have not worked in some time due to the issues, and the town is becoming depressed. He meets the other union workers, including Al Garcia, Mel Riorden, Derry Howe, Richie Stoudt, Penny Williamson, Mike Michaelson, and Junior Elway. They talk about the strike, and Derry Howe warns them about other workers who are going to start getting other jobs. Old Bob thinks they need the government to do more to help them, but Derry angrily dismisses it. He is angry they will not take real action, and storms out. Junior Elway leaves soon after. Old Bob notices another man that Derry Howe has also been sitting with has already left. However, he forgets about the man when they start talking about the strike again.

Chapter 4

The demon follows Derry Howe and Junior Elway out of Josie's. The demon gets into Junior's Jeep with the two men. The demon had once been human, but has forgotten most of what it feels like. The demon has been in town a week, and hopes he has finally given John Ross the slip. The demon killed a boy on the way into town by making his dog attack him.

At Derry Howe's home, the demon sits with the two men, reflecting on how easy it was to become Derry's shadow and influence him. The demon suggests if an accident happened at the factory, the company officials would change their mind and work with the union. The demon is happy because his schemes will hide his interest in Nest, the true reason he came to Hopewell.

Chapter 5

Nest leaves her home, thinking about how she has been able to see the feeders from birth. Her grandmother, Evelyn, was wary of Wraith, until she connected with him and realized he was there to protect Nest. Nest knows the park is old, and has only been a park since the days before the town was there. She heads to her friend Cass Minter's house, to see her other friends, Jared Scott, Brianna Brown, and Robert Heppler. Jared catches up with her on the way and thanks Nest for finding Bennett Scott the night before. Nest tells him to call her the next time he has to baby-sit and he agrees, but she knows he will not do it.



Chapter 3, Chapter 4, and Chapter 5 Analysis

The situation between the company officials at Midwest Continental Steel and the employees is extremely volatile. The employees have been getting the run around from the management for some time, and it is clear that they are not happy with the way they have been treated. It seems the company officials are primarily interested in their profits, not the welfare of the workers. Those who had been employed there find themselves at a loss for what to do. The situation is a perfect one for the demon, who hopes to cause trouble in the small town of Hopewell. While his final goal is not clear, it can be inferred that the demon enjoys stirring up trouble wherever he goes. The demon works by finding a person who has a tendency to fly off the handle, like Derry Howe, and pushes him to do his bidding. The demon and John Ross are clearly adversaries, and this indicates that John Ross is coming to Hopewell to square off with the demon. At this point, it is not clear why the demon is so interested in Nest. The author, Terry Brooks, uses a lot of flashbacks in the novel, and the first ones are seen here. Nest has been able to see the feeders since birth, since the women in her family have been imbued with a magical guardianship of the park. Nest's maternal qualities also extend to her friends, as she tries to get Jared Scott to call her in case he is left to baby-sit again.



Chapter 6, Chapter 7, and Chapter 8

Chapter 6, Chapter 7, and Chapter 8 Summary

Chapter 6

Nest Freemark goes fishing with her friends, Jared Scott, Cass Minter, Brianna Brown and Robert Heppler. The union workers sit on the picket line at Midwest Continental Steel, and Derry Howe sits in Scrubby's Bar, drinking with the demon. Robert and Brianna start to bicker, and Jared falls into a trance. Jared comes back to himself, and they walk home past the ball fields bordering the park. Danny Abbott, a boy playing baseball, sees them and comes over to harass Nest. He wants Nest to go out with him, but will not take no for an answer when she refuses. Robert tries to step in, but Danny threatens to fight him. Nest uses her magic to knock Danny down. Nest discovered her magic, that she could knock someone down by making eye contact, when she was in grade school. A girl kept bullying her, so Nest used her magic for the first time. Nest talks to Gran about it, who cautions her not to use her magic against other people.

Chapter 7

Nest goes for a run before dinner. She tries to make herself feel better about what happened to Danny Abbott. When she returns home and eats dinner, Old Bob talks about two news stories about violent crimes.

Nest thinks back to when Pick told her about the feeders, and how they are a force, made by the Word, and the only thing they do is devour people. She goes to see Pick, who tells her there is an Indian sitting in the picnic area and she should find out what she is doing.

Chapter 8

She goes and watches the Indian, but Pick urges her closer. The man comes over to talk to her, and she introduces herself to him. The man knows she was called little bird's Nest by Old Bob when she was little. He introduces himself as Two Bears. He tells her about himself and the park. He is a Sinnissippi Indian, the only one left. He tells her about the tribe. He tells her the people of the world ignore each other and feed into the evilness. He tells her that the humans' war against themselves will bring the end of the world if something is not done to stop it. He invites her to come to a summoning tomorrow, so they can summon the spirits of the dead to give them insight.

Chapter 6, Chapter 7, and Chapter 8 Analysis

Although she is entrusted with the guardianship of the park, Nest Freemark still does her best to live a normal life. She likes to hang out with her best friends, although they know nothing of her family's experiences with magic. Pick has been able to do magic



since she was born, and needs her Gran to help her learn how to control it. She learns that having this power over others is not necessarily a good thing, since it makes Nest feel as though she has taken advantage of the person. When Danny Abbott attacks her, Nest is forced to use her power to protect herself and her friends. She feels bad that she hurts him; however, she knows she could not have let him hurt her friends. This shows that Nest is a very maternal, caring person who not only cares for the park, but also cares for the people of her town. This incident is probably not a one-time event, and foreshadows that Danny and Nest will again cross paths. She also meets Two Bears, an Sinnissippi Indian who is also in service to the Word. Two Bears plans to help her see the future through the summoning ritual.



Part 2: Saturday, July 2, Chapter 9, Chapter 10, and Chapter 11

Part 2: Saturday, July 2, Chapter 9, Chapter 10, and Chapter 11 Summary

Part 2: Saturday, July 2, Chapter 9

John Ross, the Knight of the Word, comes to Hopewell, Illinois, on a Greyhound bus. He has tried to protect humanity for ten years now, and faces his biggest challenge. He checks into a room at a local motel. John lives in the present while awake, but when asleep he lives in the future. This makes it hard to keep his memories straight. Ross goes out and comes to Josie's Restaurant. He is still hunting a demon who has slipped through his fingers before. John finds himself attracted to Josie Jackson. He sees Old Bob in the restaurant, and introduces himself as a friend of Caitlin from college. He says he has come back to see them while he is traveling around. Old Bob invites John to come to their house for dinner. The demon watches John leave the restaurant.

Chapter 10

John dreams that night of a future in an unknown city. The feeders follow him in their dreams, as he carries the staff the Lady gave him. The future is war torn and John knows if he had not failed with Nest Freemark, it would not be like this. The Void is succeeding over the Word. He wakes up.

Chapter 11

Nest Freemark spends the day cleaning the house with Gran. She thinks about meeting Two Bears the night before. Pick wonders how Two Bears knew he was there. Pick does not seem to believe the man has special powers, but Nest is intrigued. Nest thinks back to when she met Pick, when she was six years old. He tells her he is a sylvan, a forest creature with important responsibilities to the park. Pick is about 150 years old. Pick and Daniel take Nest flying over the park. Daniel is Pick's assistant, and always helps Pick out. Nest is drawn to Pick because she can talk to him about things she cannot talk about to anyone else. Pick eventually tells her that her Gran and her mother were once caretakers of the park. Pick also tells her about the maentwrog, an evil being trapped in an oak tree. The maentwrog will wreak havoc in Hopewell if it is freed, Pick says, stressing the devastation that will follow. She goes to the tree and sees the being is breaking through the trunk, and runs to get help.



Part 2: Saturday, July 2, Chapter 9, Chapter 10, and Chapter 11 Analysis

John Ross finally arrives in Hopewell. Since most of the novel has focused on Nest and the problems in the town, it seems that John Ross's arrival heralds a solution. However, that is not so. John Ross must first get close to Nest and her family to protect them. He does this by finding Old Bob Freemark and pretending to be a friend of his daughter, Caitlin. John seems to have an infatuation with Josie, foreshadowing that they will have a relationship in the future. The demon is present in the restaurant, but John Ross is unable to see through his disguise. John's dreams tell him that Nest is somehow connected to the end of the world. It seems that it is very important he gets close to her, because she may be the catalyst of the apocalypse. He knows that the balance between good and evil is at a tipping point, and it is up to him to swing it either way. The evil is continuing to grow in the park. Pick shows Nest the tree that is damaged, and tells her about the maentwrog, the evil being that will break out if it is not fixed. It seems that the demon has done something to the tree to release the evil.



Chapter 12, Chapter 13, and Chapter 14

Chapter 12, Chapter 13, and Chapter 14 Summary

Chapter 12

Nest Freemark goes to Robert Heppler's house and asks him for some compost and softener salt to help seal up the tree. Robert is baffled that she is so frantic about getting these items. She tells him it is important. She calls Cass Minter from his house to see if she has any pitch to repair the tree. Cass and Brianna Brown both come over, then they all go to repair the tree. Nest tells them that the tree is sick after they insist on coming with her. Robert and her other friends are impressed by the size of the tree. They can also tell that the tree is sick and something bad has gotten into it. Nest goes around the other side of the tree to get tips from Pick on how to fix the tree. They do the repair, and Nest's friends leave. Pick says they may have helped slow it down, but the maentwrog is going to break out sooner or later. Nest wonders why she has to have to magic and be burdened with the responsibility of the park. She walks around the park, until she comes across a mysterious man. She mentions her mother's grave in the cemetery, who says it is too bad she does not have her father around. The man unnerves her, so she leaves.

The man, who is the demon, goes to see Richie Stout, who he asked to meet him there. The demon has told Richie he may have a job for him in the park. The demon makes Richie put his face up against the trunk, then drives a stick through his throat. The blood opens the tree up more, and it sucks in Richie.

Chapter 13

Nest goes home to have dinner, and is surprised to find John Ross there. Old Bob tells Nest that John knew her mother in college. Gran clearly does not trust John, Nest realizes as dinner goes on. John says he never met Nest's father. He asks Nest to walk with him to Caitlin's grave. John tells Nest about her mother. He tells her he is there in service to the Word, and his staff is his magic weapon.

Chapter 14

John tells her his life story and how he came into the service of the Word. In Wales, he finds a place called the Fairy Glen, where he meets the Lady and comes into the service of the Word. A man named Owain Glyndwr, another Knight of the Word, summons him to the Lady.

Chapter 12, Chapter 13, and Chapter 14 Analysis

Nest Freemark knows that she has to repair the tree as quickly as possible to prevent the maentwrog from getting out and wreaking havoc in Hopewell, Illinois. She goes to



her friends, and convinces them to help without asking too many questions. It seems that Robert is the only one who really tries to question Nest about what she is doing. It seems that Nest's other friends are more understanding of her secrets; however, this does not seem very realistic. It is more likely that they would badger her during this period of odd events. When they do see the tree, it is clear they understand just how badly the tree is damaged and are willing to fix it, if only out of love for nature. Nest feels that she is sometimes burdened with the care of the park, and can never be completely honest. The friends leave after repairing the tree, but the demon reveals that he is indeed the one responsible for the damage. He lures Richie Stout out to the park and kills him, using Richie's blood and body to feed the maentwrog and weaken the tree. John Ross finally makes contact with Nest and tells her that he is also in service to the word. Nest seems relieved that she has someone who will understand her struggles.



Chapter 15, Chapter 16, and Part 3: Sunday, July 3, Chapter 17

Chapter 15, Chapter 16, and Part 3: Sunday, July 3, Chapter 17 Summary

Chapter 15

John Ross walks Nest Freemark home again. Pick joins them to listen to John's tale, and is proud that he was right about the shift in power between the Word and the Void. John tells her they have until the Fourth of July to stop the demon, who has disguised himself and will do something that makes it impossible to bring the balance back. Nest talks to Pick about John, and Pick is very excited that John is there to help them. Pick realizes he forgot to tell John about the maentwrog. Nest wonders if her father is actually John Ross. Robert Heppler talks to Cass Minter and Brianna Brown about how Nest has been acting lately. Jared goes downstairs for an apple at his house, and George badgers him and yells at him. He accuses Jared of trying to sneak a beer, and while Enid halfheartedly tries to make George leave Jared alone, she does not try hard to break up the argument. At Scrubby's Bar, Derry Howe talks to Junior about his plan to hurt or kill someone at the factory. Junior thinks it is crazy, but Derry says it is a sacrifice in a war, not murder. Nest overhears her grandparents talking about John Ross. Gran does not trust the man.

Chapter 16

Nest Freemark lies in bed, wondering if John Ross is her father. When it is almost midnight, she slips out of the house to go meet Two Bears. Pick goes with her, but he refuses to talk about her father. Two Bears gives her a peace pipe to smoke, and they hope to see a vision of the future. Two Bears begin to chant, and the spirits begin to rise. She sees a vision of a woman dancing with the feeders and a shadowy figure. At first, she thinks the woman could be her mother, but realizes that it is her Gran.

Part 3: Sunday, July 3, Chapter 17

Nest wakes up the next morning, unsure how to take what she learned about her Gran. Nest goes to church with Old Bob, and during the mass the feeders appear in the church. Nest is stunned to see them there, and catches the eye of John Ross, who also sees them. Wraith appears, and Nest walks toward him until he disappears. She goes out to talk to John Ross, who tells her the demon must be there. She goes to go to the bathroom before returning to her seat, but meets the demon. He tells her the destruction of the world will be borne of a tiny, seemingly insignificant event. He kills Nest's former teacher, who is setting up for the fellowship after church.



Chapter 15, Chapter 16, and Part 3: Sunday, July 3, Chapter 17 Analysis

John Ross is quickly becoming a confidant for Nest Freemark. He knows that he must save her to save the world, so he is very clear about his loyalties and that they must stop the demon. Pick also gives John a vote of confidence, and seems very pleased that he is here to help them. It seems that there is no question about who John Ross is working for at this point; it is highly unlikely that he is going to turn out to be an agent of the Void. Nest, who has always wanted to know about her father, takes the evidence of John, who seems to have known her mother, and believes that it could mean John is her father. Since Nest lost her mother at a young age, she is hungry for a father she can be close to and talk to about her struggles. The incident at church shows how close to John she has become in such a short time. The demon exposes himself to Nest during church, killing her teacher; however, it is unclear how he hopes Nest to react to this. Wraith, her protector, also appears in church to stop the feeders, although Nest seems excessively worried about his presence since none of the other parishioners can see the magical beings. Derry Howe has also looped Junior Elway into his plot to cause an accident at the factory. It seems that when the demon is discussing the end of the world as a insignificant event, he is not referring to this.



Chapter 18, Chapter 19, and Chapter 20

Chapter 18, Chapter 19, and Chapter 20 Summary

Chapter 18

Nest Freemark gets herself together and leaves the church. She finds John Ross and tells him what happened with the demon, and asks why the demon wants her. John says he does not know, but she can tell he is lying. Nest goes back to her grandfather, but hopes to talk to John again. However, she is unable to get him alone during the fellowship after service. She believes that John is probably her father. She and Old Bob return home, and Nest tells her grandmother about her vision. Mel Riorden calls Old Bob and tells him he is worry about what Derry might be planning. He asks Old Bob to talk to Derry. Gran tells Nest that her vision is true, that she was young and proud and loved the power of having magic. At first, Gran refuses to tell her about the shadowy figure she also saw in the vision. However, she does tell her it was another magic person, who loved her, but she realized that he was evil and a demon. She managed to send the demon away, and returned to a life of good and protecting the park.

Chapter 19

Gran leaves the room, and Nest goes to meet Cass Minter and her other friends.

Pick comes to her on the way there. He says he knew about Gran, but it was not right for him to be the one to tell her about that. He tells her that Gran had to figure out what to do about the magic herself, since there was no one to guide her in its use. He said the demon underestimated Gran, who was able to drive him away. She meets up with her friends, and tells them there is someone poisoning trees in the park. She says her grandfather wants them to watch out for him. Jared walks home with Nest and asks her to go to a dance with him.

Chapter 20

John Ross goes to visit Caitlin's grave. He then goes to the Freemarks to walk with them to the picnic in the park. They sit down to eat. Nest takes John to see the tree where the maentwrog is trapped. She shows him how the creature is breaking through, and they see the tree is damaged more after the demon killed Richie Stout there. She also tells him that the demon would know Gran. John says he does not have magic to heal the tree, and realizes the demon is trying to create a distraction. John knows they have to find the demon.

Chapter 18, Chapter 19, and Chapter 20 Analysis

Nest Freemark knows that the appearance of the feeders in church means that things are definitely getting worse. She wishes John would answer her questions about the



demon, but John claims he does not know why the demon is bothering her. However, she gets a clue when she learns that Gran was in love with a demon, and gave into the evil power of the Void for a time. Nest is angry that Pick knew this and did not tell her, but Pick knows that it was not his place to tell her. He explains some of the reasons that Gran might have been tempted by the demon. It seems that Gran exhibited the same headstrong attitude when she was younger as she does in her older years. Nest is still trying to reconcile her regular life with her magical one. She goes to visit her other friends, and recruits them under false pretenses to watch out for the demon. Nest is excited when Jared asks her to the dance, knowing it is her chance at a more normal life. Nest shows John the maentwrog tree, but his magic is unable to heal it.



Chapter 21, Chapter 22, Chapter 23 and Chapter 24

Chapter 21, Chapter 22, Chapter 23 and Chapter 24 Summary

Chapter 21

Old Bob wishes that he and his wife, Evelyn, were closer. He says he is going to take a walk, and is surprised she agrees to come. Old Bob learns that Richie Stout is missing. He goes to talk to Derry Howe, and tells him he heard a rumor that he is planning something. He tells Old Bob to stay out of it, and that he is not planning anything. He finally tells Old Bob to stay away from the factory on the Fourth of July. Evelyn goes up to Enid Scott, and tells her she needs to stop running around and take care of her children. George Paulsen tries to butt in, but Evelyn shuts him down. Enid Scott looks like she is in shock after Evelyn talks to her.

Chapter 22

John Ross has met Two Bears before, since Two Bears is the one who gave him his staff. He meets up with Josie Jackson at the picnic, and they sit and talk. They kiss, right before men come out of the shadows and attack John, calling him a company spy.

Chapter 23

Nest sits with her friends at the picnic, and dances with Jared. She is happy to be there but is still distracted by what she needs to do to protect the park.

Nest sees the demon while she is dancing, and tells her friends to go get John Ross. She tails the demon, but Danny Abbott grabs her and sticks her in a sack, carrying her down to the caves. He tells her it is payback because she hurt him, and leaves her there. She realizes the demon is there, and has urged Danny to do that to her. He tells her he does not want to hurt her, he wants to teach her.

Chapter 24

Old Bob is at home, when Nest's friends come to get him. They tell her they cannot find Nest anywhere, and they are looking for John Ross at her request. When John can stand, Josie helps him up and to her car, then takes him to her home and they have sex. Old Bob goes to confront Danny Abbott, and finds out where he left Nest. He saves her and takes her out of the sack. Jared Scott goes home and accidentally walks in on his mother having sex with George Paulsen. Paulsen beats Jared badly, and Jared blacks out. Nest and her grandfather are walking back to their house when they hear shotgun blasts. Old Bob calls out Gran's name and races for the house.



Chapter 21, Chapter 22, Chapter 23 and Chapter 24 Analysis

Old Bob Freemark seems to realize that his wife, Evelyn, has had a previous relationship that prevents her from now fully being herself. Gran's time with the demon as a young girl has made her harsh and protective of her feelings. Evelyn also exhibits her protective, maternal urges when she berates Enid Scott over neglecting her children for her boyfriend, George Paulsen. Enid seems like she has taken something that Evelyn has said to heart, but before she can do anything about it, George Paulsen beats Jared for walking in on him and Enid. Jared is so badly hurt that he blacks out, showing that Evelyn was right about how Enid's relationship was going to hurt her children. The demon's plans are also beginning to ramp up. He convinces Danny Abbott to kidnap Nest, as well as arranging for men to beat up John Ross to keep him away. At this point, it is not clear why he has arranged for these things to happen; however, the shotgun blasts coming from Gran's direction do not bode well.



Chapter 25, Part 4: Monday, July 4, Chapter 26, Chapter 27, and Chapter 28

Chapter 25, Part 4: Monday, July 4, Chapter 26, Chapter 27, and Chapter 28 Summary

Chapter 25

Evelyn Freemark is standing on the porch, watching Old Bob leave to go find Nest, when she knows the demon is coming to her. The feeders are outside her house. She looks around the yard, reminiscing on her life with her husband. She goes into the house and gets the shotgun, loading it. She thinks of Nest. The demon comes, and tells her she looks old. He says she knew he would come back to finish her someday. She threatens him with the gun; although she cannot kill him, she can ruin his disguise. He realizes that Evelyn has lost her magic. She tries to shoot at him, but he is too quick for her. The feeders come for her and devour her before she can do anything else but shoot wildly. George Paulsen runs from the home after beating up Jared Scott, and is attacked by the feeders. John Ross dreams about Nest Freemark, the woman who will lead the destruction of the future.

Chapter 26

Nest wakes up, upset over her grandmother's death. She finds a note, telling her to use her magic and trust Wraith when the demon comes. She goes to her grandfather, and they talk about Evelyn. Pick comes, and confirms the demon killed her, but he does not know why she did not fight back.

Cass, Brianna and Robert come to see her, and tell her Jared is in a coma. After her friends leave, the demon arrives.

Chapter 27

He smiles at her and blows her a kiss, then disappears. John Ryan comes, and Nest asks if he is her father. He tells her he wishes he was, but he is not. Old Bob comes out, and says that too many odd things have happened since John arrived. John says he has been tracking a bad man who is a threat to the town. He tells Nest the demon is actually her father. In the future he sees, the demon has also turned his daughter into a demon. Old Bob tells John Ross to leave.

Chapter 28

Nest Freemark runs into the park, upset at the news that the demon is her father. Pick catches up with her, and tells her her mom killed herself shortly after they found out her father was a demon. Pick says maybe Gran had no more magic because she created



Wraith. Derry Howe gives the bomb to Junior Elway, who is to take it into the factory. They plan to set the timer for five minutes, but the demon sets it for five seconds. Derry has a second bomb in a picnic cooler, and the demon resets that too. Nest returns home.

Chapter 25, Part 4: Monday, July 4, Chapter 26, Chapter 27, and Chapter 28 Analysis

Evelyn Freemark has a showdown with the demon, her former lover. When she was young, she let the demon convince her to run with the feeders and rejoice in the darkness, but she was able to fight it. The demon believes that she still has her magic, until he realizes her only weapon is a shotgun. As a demon, he knows she cannot truly hurt him. Evelyn seems to know this, but still tries to shoot him and take away his disguise. The demon's reason for coming to town is also revealed. He is the father of Nest, and he seduced her mother, Caitlin, to get revenge on Evelyn. Now, he wants to take Nest with him and turn her into a demon as well. Nest is the architect of the destruction of the world in John Ross's dreams, so it is clear that his reason for coming to Hopewell is to stop this from happening. The demon hopes that Nest will want to come with him. However, it seems that as strong as Nest's desire for a father is, from what we know about her it seems highly unlikely the demon will be able to sway her to his side. The demon also shows his evil, lying nature in the plan to plant bombs at Midwest Continental Steel. He shows that he has been manipulating Derry Howe when he resets the timers on the bombs to five seconds, so both men are killed when the explosives go off



Chapter 29, Chapter 30, Chapter 31, and Part 5: Tuesday, July 5, Chapter 32

Chapter 29, Chapter 30, Chapter 31, and Part 5: Tuesday, July 5, Chapter 32 Summary

Chapter 29

Nest Freemark stays in her room most of the day. Old Bob walks around the house, feeling lost without Evelyn. He thinks about what Derry Howe might be planning today. He sees a flyer advertising fireworks tonight, sponsored by Midwest Continental. He goes to find Nest, who has gone out with her friends, and may be in danger because of a possible explosion. Nest sits in a chair, contemplating the complicated events of the past few days. John Ross watches her from a distance. Nest hears Pick scream that the maentwrog is breaking out, and Nest takes off running.

Chapter 30

Robert Hepler tries to come with her, and she is forced to use her magic to stop him. She gets to the tree, and the demon is there. The demon has Pick in a cage, and has killed Daniel. He talks about her being his daughter. John Ross arrives, and the tree explodes as the maentwrog is free. Old Bob finds Mel, who says Derry took some drinks down to the men setting off the fireworks. Derry pulls a gun, and makes Old Bob wait while he hides the cooler. He turns to leave when the bomb goes off. Old Bob is thrown to the ground, Derry on top of him, and he passes out.

Chapter 31

The maentwrog breaks out of the tree, a monster free again. John Ross must use his magic to stop the monster, and he knows this was the demon's goal. He buries the staff in the monster's throat, striking it several times until it dies. John faints with the stress of it. The demon says he wants her, but Nest tells him she hates him and will never join him. She says she will never be the same as him. She calls for Wraith, who appears. However, the demon is proud to see him, since he is the one who created Wraith. Nest is indecisive, since her grandmother told her to trust Wraith. Finally, Nest meets the demon's gaze and uses her magic. On seeing this, Wraith leaps at the demon and tears him apart. The demon calls out Evelyn's name as he dies. Wraith disappears, and Nest frees Pick, who tells her that Gran must have used all her magic to change Wraith to protect Nest when she used her magic. John Ross awakes, and tells her she will not become what he saw in his dream. He tells her he would have done whatever he had to to change the future.

Chapter 32



The news reports indicate Derry Howe and Junior Elway were killed in the explosions, while Old Bob was injured. Nest visits Old Bob in the hospital, then sneaks into to visit Jared. She uses her magic to heal him.

Chapter 29, Chapter 30, Chapter 31, and Part 5: Tuesday, July 5, Chapter 32 Analysis

After the death of Evelyn Freemark, Old Bob and Nest Freemark find themselves at a loss over what to do next. Nest knows more than Old Bob does about what happened to her grandmother, but she knows that her grandfather cannot truly understand. He demonstrates this when he sends away John Ross from their house. However, events start happening quickly as Pick alerts Nest that the maentwrog is breaking out. All the demon's plans become known. He has freed the maentwrog, hoping it will use up all of John Ross's magic to banish it. Old Bob goes to try and stop the explosion at the plant, and while he is unsuccessful, it is clear that Derry Howe and Junior Elway are responsible for the bombing. Nest is able to overcome the demon in the end, however, partly through her own goodness, through John Ross's influence, and Gran's magic. Wraith is an agent of the demon until Gran uses all of her remaining magic to change him into a protector; that explains why Gran had no magic left to fight the demon. It seems that John Ross may have prevented Nest from turning evil just by being a good influence in her life. In the end, the demon is destroyed and Nest returns to her life of service to the Word.



Characters

Nest Freemark

Nest Freemark is a teenage girl who lives in Hopewell, Illinois, with her grandmother, Evelyn, and her grandfather, Old Bob. She is the custodian of the Sinnissippi park, located near her home. The women of her family have been guardians of the park for many years, in service to the Word, the force of good in the world. Nest's main adversaries in the park are the feeders, strange beings that devour people and try to lure kids into the park. Nest has noticed they have become more active and she has saved more and more children lately. Her grandmother, who she calls Gran, knows about Nest's magic, but her grandfather does not. Nest's mother, Caitlin, killed herself shortly after Nest was born. In the course of the novel, it becomes clear that Gran, as a young girl, had a love affair with a demon, but when she determined how evil he was, she was able to drive him off. To get revenge on Gran, the demon seduced Caitlin, and consequently is Nest's father. The demon comes back to Hopewell in order to try and sway Nest to his side. If he had done so, she would become a demon herself and would be the chief force bringing about the end of the world. However, with the help of John Ross, a Knight of the Word, she is able to destroy the demon.

John Ross

John Ross is a Knight of the Word. Before he entered that service, he was a perpetual student, never sure what he wanted to do with his life. Instead, he traveled around the world, and in Wales, had an encounter with the Lady. The Lady told John about the struggle between the Word and the Void and asked him to join her service. After agreeing, John received a magic staff, and the ability to travel through time in his dreams. While John is awake, he lives in the present, and while he is asleep, he lives in the future. He does have the power to change the future, however, as evidenced by the apocalypse he averts in Hopewell. However, he can only use the magic of the staff about once per day; therefore, if he uses it in the present, he does not have its protection at night, in the future. John Ross comes to Hopewell with the goal of stopping the event that will lead to the end of the world: Nest Freemark turning into a demon. John Ross tries to do this by working with Nest and helping her to overcome the demon. However, he does say he would have chosen to kill her if necessary. In the end, Nest and John manage to stop the demon, and John leaves to discover what his next mission might be. Having used his magic to stop the maentwrog, he knows he goes into it defenseless.

The Demon

The demon is a servant of the Void. John Ross has been tracking him for quite sometime. His purpose in Hopewell is to jumpstart the devastation of the world. In



Hopewell, he manages to convince Derry Howe to set a bomb at the Midwest Continental Steel Factory. He also convinces Danny Abbott to kidnap Nest, giving him a chance to kill Evelyn Freemark, his one time love. The demon had sex with Caitlin Freemark, Evelyn's daughter, to get back at Evelyn, resulting in their daughter, Nest. He tries to get Nest to come with him, but she refuses and the demon is destroyed.

Pick

Pick is a sylvan, a woodland creature that resembles a piece of wood. He works with Nest Freemark to protect the forest.

Robert Roosevelt Freemark

Robert Roosevelt Freemark, also known as Old Bob, is Nest's grandfather, and is married to Evelyn. He is the father of Caitlin Freemark. He is not familiar with the magic of the forest, and chooses not to believe there is magic in the world. He used to work at Midwest Continental Steel until the contract negotiations between the company and union officials broke down.

Evelyn Freemark

Evelyn Freemark, or Gran, is Nest's grandmother, and is married to Old Bob. She is the mother of Caitlin Freemark. She is familiar with the magic in the park, as the women in their family have all served as guardians of it. She is a former lover of the demon, and she is eventually killed by it.

Wraith

Wraith is Nest's protector. A mysterious being, he often appears as an otherworldly dog to her and wards off the feeders.

Daniel

Daniel is an owl that lives in the park in Hopewell, Illinois, and assists Pick.

The feeders

The feeders are strange beings with piercing eyes that live in Sinnissippi Park in Hopewell, Illinois. They are sort of humanoid, with flat, featureless faces. Nest uses her magic to ward them off.



Two Bears

Two Bears is an Indian that Nest meets in the park. He helps her have a vision that shows her a piece of the past.

Caitlin Freemark

Caitlin Freemark is the daughter of Robert and Evelyn Freemark and the mother of Nest Freemark. She is killed after falling from a cliff soon after Nest is born. The demon tricks her into having sex with him to get revenge on Evelyn Freemark.

Cass Minter

Cass Minter is one of Nest Freemark's best friends. She is always there for Nest and helps her without question.

Jared Scott

Jared Scott is Nest Freemark's friend, son of Enid Scott, and Bennett Scott's brother. He has epilepsy and sometimes blacks out, returning to consciousness a few minutes later.

Brianna Brown

Brianna Brown is a friend of Nest Freemark. She is vain and concerned with her appearance, and frequently bickers with Robert Heppler.

Robert Heppler

Robert Heppler is a friend of Nest Freemark. He likes to joke and cause trouble, and frequently bickers with Brianna Brown.

Bennett Scott

Bennett Scott is the daughter of Enid Scott and sister of Jared Scott, Nest Freemark's friend. Nest rescues Bennett from the feeders at the beginning of the novel.

Enid Scott

Enid Scott is the mother of Bennett and Jared Scott. She cares more about dating men, including her current beau, George Paulsen, than properly taking care of her children.



George Paulsen

George Paulsen is the boyfriend of Enid Scott. He is a mean, controlling man who is rude to her children.

Derry Howe

Derry Howe is a worker on strike from Midwest Continental Steel. He befriends a demon, who convinces him to plant explosives at the factory to hurt a worker and convince the management to hire back the workers.

Danny Abbott

Danny Abbott is a boy who harasses Nest Freemark. He tries to force her to go out with him, but she does not and uses her magic to get him away from her. He later kidnaps her and hides her in a sack in some caves, at the prompting of the demon.

Josie Jackson

Josie Jackson is the owner of Josie's, a restaurant in Hopewell, Illinois.

The Lady

The Lady is a force of goodness who supports the Word. She gives John Ross his staff.

Richie Stoudt

Richie Stoudt is a worker on strike from Midwest Continental Steel. The demon sacrifices him to the maentwrog.

Owain Glyndwr

Owain Glyndwr, another Knight of the Word, summons John Ross to the service of the Lady.

Junior Elway

Junior Elway is a worker on strike from Midwest Continental Steel. He helps Derry Howe plant a bomb at the MidCon factory.



Al Garcia

Al Garcia is a worker on strike from Midwest Continental Steel.

Mel Riorden

Mel Riorden is a worker on strike from Midwest Continental Steel.

Penny Williamson

Penny Williamson is a worker on strike from Midwest Continental Steel.

Mike Michaelson

Mike Michaelson is a worker on strike from Midwest Continental Steel.



Objects/Places

Hopewell, Illinois

Hopewell, Illinois, is the hometown of Nest Freemark and her family. A small town depressed by union struggles with the local factory, the town is the center of the conflict between the Word and the Void.

Sinnissippi Park

Sinnissippi Park is the park that Nest Freemark protects near her home in Hopewell, Illinois. It is the home of Pick, Daniel, and Wraith, and is named for the Sinnissippi Indians.

The Word

The Word is the good force in the world; it is in a constant struggle with the Void. Nest Freemark and John Ross are agents of the Word.

The Void

The Void is the bad force in the world; it is in a constant struggle with the Word. The demon and the feeders are some of its agents.

Midwest Continental Steel

Midwest Continental Steel is a company with a factory in Hopewell, Illinois. Many of the townspeople used to work there, until contract negotiations between the company officials and the union workers broke down.

The maentwrog

The maentwrog is an evil being trapped in an oak tree in Sinnissippi Park.

Josie's

Josie's is a restaurant in Hopewell, Illinois, owned by Josie Jackson. Many of the workers from Midwest Continental Steel eat there.



Scrubby's Bar

Scrubby's Bar is a bar in Hopewell, Illinois.

The Fairy Glen

The Fairy Glen is a place in Wales where John Ross meets the Lady and begins to serve the Word.

Wales

Wales is a country in Britain, in Europe.



Themes

The Word vs. The Void

The major external struggle in the novel *Running with Demons* by Terry Brooks is between the forces of good and evil in the world. The Word is the force of good, which John Ross and Nest Freemark serve, while the Void is the force of evil, which the demon serves. Each side uses magic to assist themselves in the struggle. John Ross has a magical staff he uses, while Nest can knock down people if she makes eye contact with them. The demon has the power of persuasion and can convince people and animals to bend to his will. The central fight in the novel is between these two sides. John Ross comes to Hopewell specifically because the balance of power is shifting towards the Void, and that means that the end of the world is imminent. Nest Freemark is in a unique position because she is a servant of the Word; however, if her demon father manages to convince her to come with him, she will become a demon herself, giving all the power to the Void. John Ross comes to prevent this from happening by any means possible. He has seen firsthand the destruction that will visit the earth if the Void gets control. Overall, the novel's main plot encompasses the age-old, and much overused, struggle between good and evil.

Family Ties

Nest Freemark is raised by her grandmother, Evelyn Freemark, and grandfather, Old Bob Freemark, after her mother, Caitlin, kills herself. The women of the family have always been in service to the Word as guardians of the Sinnissippi park. Nest is continuing the family tradition of guarding the people of Hopewell from the feeders in the parks. Nest is close to her grandparents, but she has no idea who her father is. Her grandmother refuses to talk about it, so Nest is left to dream about the kind of man her father might be. She hopes that John Ross, a Knight of the Word, could be her father; however, she is devastated to learn the demon is her actual father. Nest has always hoped to meet her father and she never envisioned him as an evil being. Nest, however, is able to overcome this and, although her father wants her to become like him, with the help of a surrogate father figure, John Ross, she does not give into the temptation. Nest's ties with her grandmother and grandfather and the well-rounded upbringing they provided for her enable her to step away from a possible life as a demon, no matter how badly she has wanted to know and love her father.

Nature

The primary force of good in the world, the Word, is closely intertwined with nature and the natural order of things. Nest Freemark is the guardian of Sinnissippi Park, a sprawling forest area in Hopewell, Illinois. The park is a powerful place, one that has never been used for human habitation. The park is named for the Sinnissippi, a Native



American tribe. Nest meets an member of the tribe, Two Bears, who helps Nest get in tune with nature and have a spiritual vision that will help her in her quest. In contrast, the evil force in the world, the Void, is one of destruction. Agents of the Void will do whatever they can to destroy not only humanity, but also the world. The Void is the enemy of nature and its agents will do anything they can to ruin the magical uniqueness of a place like the park. In the novel, *Running with Demons* by Terry Brooks, the demon demonstrates how he plans to work against the park by freeing a maentwrog, a malevolent spiritual being. Nest, on the other hand, tries to protect the park, and because her mother and grandmother were guardians before her, she feels a special kinship with the park and its inhabitants. She works closely with a sylvan named Pick, a small, tree-like creature, and their relationship gives evidence to the partnership between the Word and the natural world.



Style

Point of View

The novel, *Running with Demons*, by Terry Brooks, is primarily told from the third person omniscient point of view. This means that the narration follows several characters, primarily Nest Freemark and John Ross, but can also see into their minds to describe what they are feeling or thinking. The technique is important as it lets the reader determine the nature of the two main characters and form a strong opinion about them. The two main characters are the catalysts of most of the events that follow in the novel, and much that has happened to them in the past is also crucial for the reader to know. Therefore, by using the third person point of view, the narration can delve into flashbacks to describe their past. The narration also follows several secondary characters, such as the demon, Evelyn Freemark, Old Bob Freemark, Jared Scott and Derry Howe. This style of narration allows the reader to follow and connect with the motivations and actions of several characters at once. Since the novel involves a small town with many important characters, this technique best allows the reader to understand all of the events. At times, the narration can be too revealing, for it is easy to determine the direction of the plot with so much information available. The narrator is objective, meaning the thoughts and actions of each character are presented in a straightforward manner, without the narrator's judgment.

Setting

The novel, *Running With Demons*, by Terry Brooks, primarily takes place in the small town of Hopewell, Illinois. It is this small town where the Apocalypse will begin if John Ross, a Knight of the Word, is unable to stop it. The town is a small place, where everyone knows everyone else. Many of the townspeople used to work at the Midwest Continental Steel company until they went on strike. Therefore, the town itself is struggling in a depression since many people are not making money. The workers frequently gather at the local restaurant to talk over their plans to take get the company to bend. By setting the main events of the novel in a small town, Brooks is promoting the idea that the beginning of the end of the world is going to take place in small increments, not with a huge disaster as most people expect. Much of the novel also takes place in Sinnissippi Park, the place that is the center of the magic and that Nest Freemark works to protect. John Ross does dream about the future when he is asleep, and finds himself in large cities after the world has already fallen. This is a contrast to show that the events that begin in the tiny town of Hopewell will have far-reaching and devastating consequences for the rest of the planet and its inhabitants.



Language and Meaning

The language used in the novel, *Running with Demons*, is reflective of the world that the author Terry Brooks is creating. While the novel is told using what would be considered primarily typical, present-day English, Brooks uses certain phrases and very descriptive passages to create a fantasy world similar to our own. He focuses the novel on the small town of Hopewell, Illinois, a typical American town. However, the town lies near a park where a struggle between good and evil is ongoing. Instead of using the words good and evil, Brooks refers to these forces as the Word and the Void, respectively. The main character, Nest Freemark, has a very unique name, which signifies her connection with the magic that surrounds her home. He also uses imaginative, descriptive names for many of the beings in the book, including the evil feeders, and the good sylvan, Pick. Nest's protector, a mystical wolf-type creature, is known as Wraith. In contrast, the demon, the primary evil force in the novel, is never named, highlighting the disconnect between his present form and his once-human life. By using these names, he is imbuing the entire novel with a fantasy quality, showing how magic can be found in the normal, every day world.

Structure

The novel, *Running with Demons*, by Terry Brooks, follows a simple structure, taking the reader over a period of five days in the town of Hopewell, Illinois. The novel covers the five days primarily chronologically, moving forward through time, but sometimes delving into the past through flashbacks focusing on Nest Freemark and John Ross, the central characters. The flashbacks are used to highlight the reasons why both Nest and John are in service to the Word, as well as describing how each of them came by or learned about their magical powers. The five days that are covered in the novel range from July 1 to July 5, covering the events leading up to the possible end of the world, which Ross foretells will happen on the Fourth of July. The last part of the novel, July 5, details the events that happen after the day that is meant to be the beginning of the end for humanity. The entire novel is divided into five parts, one for each day, and each separate day is also divided into chapters. There are thirty-two chapters in the novel in total. This overall structure allows to reader to follow along with the events leading up to the possible apocalypse; however, it also creates a sense of tension and suspense as the day of reckoning draws nearer.



Quotes

"The streets of the intersection in which he finds himself stretch away in windswept concrete ribbons that dwindle and fade into the horizon—south to the bridge that spans the river, north to the parched flat of what were once cornfields, east towards the remains of Reagan's hometown, and west to the Mississippi and the Great Plains." Prologue, p. 1.

"The man looks the town over as he would a corpse, remembering it when it was still vital." Prologue, p. 2.

"You leave as many empty seats as possible between yourself and death." Prologue, p. 5.

"There were all different kinds of forest creatures, Pick had told her once. Even if he hadn't told her exactly what they were. So, did that mean there were some made of flesh and blood? Did it mean some were human, like her?" Ch. 2, pp. 29-30.

"The park had seemed much bigger then, a vast, sprawling, mysterious world of secrets waiting to be discovered and adventures begging to be lived. At night, sometimes, when she was abroad with Pick, she still felt as she had when she was five, and the park, with its dark woods and gloomy ravines, with its murky sloughs and massive cliffs, seemed as large and unfathomable as it had then." Ch. 5, p. 62.

"Nest, who alone could see them, was reminded of the increased boldness of the feeders and was troubled anew by what it meant." Ch. 6, p. 69.

"Everyone had gone completely still. They stood knotted into two groups, Nest's friends on one side, Danny's on the other, frozen in the swelter of heat and excitement, stunned by what they were witnessing, mesmerized by the spectacle of Danny Abbott's collapse. The park had become a vast arena, carpeted with grass, walled by trees, empty of sound. Magic raced through the air with savage grace and reckless need, but no one except Nest could sense its presence." Ch. 6, p. 77.

"She was the one who didn't belong, she knew, tears running down her cheeks, and she wanted desperately not to feel that way," Ch. 6, p. 82.

"Nest's grandparents couldn't stomach the idea of shutting out the world. You can deal better with the heat if you live with it, they liked to say." Ch. 7, p. 85.



"Nest stared into the empty gloom and shivered. The feeders were like vultures, waiting to dispose of whatever leavings they could scavenge. Except that feeders were only interested in the living." Ch. 7, p. 87.

"Nothing remains of us but a name, Sinnissippi. We are a park, a street, an apartment building. Our name is there, preserved after we were gone, and yet our name means nothing, says nothing, tells nothing of us." Ch. 8, p. 97.

"Once it was accepted that all men were created equal, but that is no longer so. Humanity has evolved into two separate and distinct life-forms, strong and weak, hunter and hunted. The Void holds sway; the Word lies dormant." Ch. 10, p. 121.

"The demon waited for a time, watching as the tree began to ooze what it didn't want of Richie, the bark splitting further and deeper as the blood offering did its work. Within its prison, the maentwrog was feasting, gaining the strength it needed to break free, readying itself for the demon's summon." Ch. 12, p. 159.

"Her mother's headstone was gray with black lettering and bore the words BELOVED DAUGHTER & MOTHER just beneath her name, Caitlin Anne Freemark. Nest stared at the grave without speaking, immutable and remote, borne to other times and places on the wings of her thoughts." Ch. 13, p. 168.

"It will be a clear night for viewing, a clear night for seeing truths and making choices." Ch. 14, p. 181.

"He turned then, and he saw her standing at the water's edge across from him, not quite in the stream and not quite out of it, either. She seemed to be balanced between water and earth, on the brink of falling either way. She was young and beautiful and so ethereal in the bright starlight that she was almost not there. He stared at her, at her long hair, at her gown, at her slender arms raised toward him. 'John Ross, I have need of you,' she said." Ch. 14, p. 182.

"There was more, scene after scene of destruction, of its aftermath, of the madness that had consumed everything. Ross felt something shift inside him, a lurching recognition, and even before she spoke the words that came next, he knew what they would be. 'It is the future,' she said softly, her words as delicate as flower petals. 'It approaches.'" Ch. 14, p. 185.



"She closed her eyes and breathed the night air. Then she opened them again and let the thought complete itself. Could John Ross be her father?" Ch. 15, p. 194.

"Then up from the darkness rose the Sinnissippi, their spirit taking form, coming back into a shadowy semblance of their lost bodies. They lifted free of the earth to hang upon the air, twisting and turning in small arcs. They were dancing, Nest could see, but not in the fashion she had expected, not as Indians did in the television shows and movies she had seen, rising and falling in that familiar choppy motion, but in another way altogether. Their movements were more balletic, more sinuous, and they danced free of one another, as if each had a story to tell, each a different tale." Ch. 16, p. 215.

"The destruction of the world isn't going to happen in the way people think. Nope. It isn't going to happen in a flood or a fire. It isn't going to happen all at once, brought about by some unexpected catastrophe. It won't be any one thing you can point to. That's not how it works. The Bible had it wrong. It will happen because of a lot of little things, an accumulation of seemingly insignificant events. Like dominos tipped over, one against the other—that's how it will happen. One thing here, another there, next thing you know it all comes tumbling down." Ch. 17, p. 235.

"I'm going to give MidCon a Fourth of July to remember, and when it's over they won't be able to get to the bargaining table quick enough. That's the way it's going to be, and there ain't nothing they can do about it." Ch. 21, p. 278.

"Maybe it would be wise if you were to use your time among the feeders to consider what's important to you. Because your life is about to change, Nest. it is going to change in a way you would never have dreamed possible. I'm going to see to it. It's what I've come here to do." Ch. 23, p. 308.

"Even from where he hides he can see the emptiness in her eyes. She is devoid of emotion, as dead inside as the creatures she has crushed in her passing. She is a pivotal figure in the Void's implacable war against the Word. She is John Ross's greatest failure. He knew her when she was different, many years ago, when there was still time to save her. He knew her as Nest Freemark." Ch. 25, p. 337.

"'He's come for you. Your grandmother knew. That made her a threat to him, so he got rid of her.' His gaze was steady. 'He's your father, Nest.'" Ch. 26, p. 359.

"'You are my flesh and blood, Nest. We are the same.' 'We are not the same. We will never be the same.'" Ch. 31, p. 410.



"If the demon came after you and you summoned up even the littlest part of your magic to save yourself, Wraith would have to help!" Ch. 31, p. 417.

"My purpose in coming here, Nest, was to stop you from becoming the creature I saw in my dreams.' He paused, letting the full import of his words sink in. 'I would have done whatever was needed to accomplish that.'" Ch. 31, p. 419.

"Already his memory of Hopewell and her people was beginning to fade, the larger picture shrinking to small, bright moments that he could tuck away and carry with him. Old Bob, greeting him that first day at Josie's, believing him Caitlin's friend. Gran, her sharp old eyes raking across him as she sought to see through the facade he had created. Josie Jackson, sleepy-eyed and warm, lying next to him on their last day. Pick, the sylvan, the keeper of Sinnissippi Park. Daniel. Wraith. The demon. But mostly there was Nest Freemark, a fourteen-year-old girl who could work magic and by doing so come to terms with the truth about her family, when anything less would have destroyed her." Ch. 32, p. 433.

Topics for Discussion

Nest and the women in her family are appointed the guardians of the forest. Why do you think they were chosen? Do you think the fact that they are female has anything to do with the choice? Why or why not?

The main struggle in the novel is between those in service to the Word and those in service to the Void. Describe each of their servants. What characteristics do they share, and how are they different? Why are the servants mostly invisible to people?

How much do we learn about Caitlin Freemark throughout the novel? Nest and her grandmother both manage to withstand the temptations of the demon. How do they differ from Caitlin and this regard?

Old Bob Freemark appears to realize his wife and granddaughter have a strange connection, but Evelyn does not believe he will ever come to understand the magic. Why is this? Does the fact that he is a man make a difference? Why or why not?

The demon says that the end of the world will be brought about through little events. What is the first event he hopes will accomplish this? How is his plan thwarted?

John Ross is a Knight of the Word who lives in the future during his dreams. How does this affect his waking life? Is it possible that he changes the future through his actions in the present? If so, how does he do this?

The tensions between the Midwest Continental workers and the company officials are coming to a head. How does the demon use Derry Howe to exacerbate the situation? Is Derry Howe completely blameless for what happens because he is under the influence of the demon, or does he bear some responsibility? Why or why not?

How is the struggle between the Word and the Void an epic struggle? Can balance ever be maintained? Why or why not?