

# **The Raven Boys Study Guide**

**The Raven Boys by Maggie Stiefvater**

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## Plot Summary

The Raven Boys is a novel by author Maggie Stiefvater. In this novel, Blue Sargent is the daughter of a clairvoyant. She is the only one in her family that is not a clairvoyant. While Blue is not clairvoyant, she does possess so much energy that her energy magnifies the psychic abilities of her mother, Maura Sargent, her mother's best friends, Calla and Persephone, and Blue's cousin, Orla, that also live in the house. Maura and the other psychics have told Blue all her life that she is destined to kill her one true love when she kisses him. With this in mind, Blue, at sixteen, still has never kissed a boy.

When Blue's half-aunt, a psychic with books and a television show, Neeve, comes to Henrietta, Virginia, Blue questions her mother as to why Neeve is there. It turns out that Neeve is there to help Maura locate Blue's father that left right after she was born. In the meantime, Neeve accompanies Blue to the churchyard on St. Mark's Eve, so that Blue can magnify the spirits that walk through the churchyard for Neeve. Neeve collects the names of the spirits because these are the spirits of those that are to die in the next twelve months.

This time, however, Blue sees the spirit of a boy. It is a boy who identifies himself as Gansey and who wears clothing with the Aglionby Academy raven on it, identifying him as one of the raven boys.

Blue ends up becoming involved with Gansey and some of the other raven boys who are trying to identify the energy lines they believe run through Henrietta. They believe the lines lead to a Welsh king, Glendower, who can grant his finder a favor when he is awakened.



# Prologue and Chapter 1

## Prologue and Chapter 1 Summary

Blue Sargent grows up in a house of clairvoyants. Her mother, other relatives and her mother's friends are all clairvoyants. Blue's whole life, she is told that she will kill her one true love by kissing him. By the time Blue is sixteen, she doesn't believe she will ever fall in love, so she doesn't believe she will ever have the opportunity to kill him. Blue changes her mind when her half-aunt Neeve, another clairvoyant that has her own TV show and website, shows up. As soon as Blue answers the door, Neeve tells Blue she will fall in love this year.

It is St. Mark's Eve and Blue is with Neeve in the churchyard. For the past ten years, Blue has accompanied her mother on this night. This year, however, Maura insists that Blue accompany Neeve in Maura's place.

Blue is not clairvoyant, like the rest of the women in her family, so she cannot see the dead, like Neeve and Maura can. As Neeve and Blue talk as they wait, Neeve points out that Maura is trying to hone Blue's skills like Maura has been able to do for so many other clairvoyants. Neeve also mentions a school she passed on her way into town and asks if that's where Blue goes to school.

Blue explains that it's the Aglionby Academy, where all of the kids of the rich families go to school. Because of the raven emblem on the school uniforms that the boys wear, the people in Henrietta call the boys the Raven Boys. As they continue to wait, Neeve draws a symbol in the dirt. Blue recognizes it as the same one her mom drew on the shower door from the steam. When Blue asks what it is, Neeve says she dreamed it.

The women are in the churchyard on St. Mark's Eve because this is when the spirits walk through the yard. The spirits are of those that are going to die in the next twelve months. Neeve can see the spirits so she asks for their names as they walk by. Blue cannot see the spirits so she writes down their names as Neeve tells them to her. While Blue is not able to see the spirits, it is Blue's energy that draws the spirits in the first place. This is why Blue has to be present in the churchyard.

Blue is able to see the flimsy shadow of one spirit boy, however. She notices that he is wearing an Aglionby sweater. His features are not discernible, but when Neeve calls out to him, he doesn't respond. When Blue asks his name, he says Gansey. She asks if that's all and Gansey doesn't say anything else.

Blue asks Neeve why she can see the boy. Neeve responds saying that either it is Blue's one true love or Blue killed the boy.



## Prologue and Chapter 1 Analysis

Since Blue has such contempt for the Raven Boys, there is some foreshadowing that a Raven Boy is precisely who Blue falls in love with. Additionally, since Maura has a premonition that Blue kills her one true love, this Raven Boy is the same boy that winds up dead after Blue kisses him.

The symbol that Maura and Neeve draw is symbolic of some supernatural power or force. It is a premonition of something that is about to happen. Neither woman knows what it is yet.

The fact that Blue cannot see the other spirits, but she can see the spirit of the Raven Boy suggests that he is Blue's one true love. This is why she can see him. Since Blue cannot see the boy's features, she doesn't know who he is, so it foreshadows Blue having to determine who the spirit belongs to in real life.



# Chapters 2 and 3

## Chapters 2 and 3 Summary

Gansey calls his friend Ronan to tell him to bring some cash and some food because Pig stopped. Pig is what Gansey calls his bright orange Camaro. Ronan asks where Gansey has been because Ronan thought Gansey was dead in a ditch somewhere when Gansey missed class. Gansey tells Ronan to come and to bring Adam with him.

While Gansey waits for Ronan and Adam, he rummages through his glove compartment to see if he has any food. He has an EpiPen and an expired stick of beef jerky. In the back seat of the car, Ronan observes the supplies he's collected in the eighteen months he's been in Henrietta.

Gansey thinks about sitting outside of the churchyard on St. Mark's Eve. He was hoping to see or find something, but he doesn't know quite what it is he is looking to find. Gansey draws the ley symbol, which is the arcing shape of the supernatural energy line.

When Ronan and Adam arrive, they hand over the gas can and food to Gansey. Gansey plays the tape recording he made while he was outside of the churchyard. All of the boys clearly hear Gansey's voice say his name and then a female voice respond with is that all. Gansey says he never said anything that night so he doesn't know how his voice got on the recording.

Ronan sees that Gansey has a phone number for a psychic. Gansey asks what he should talk to the psychic about. Ronan says they should find out who Gansey is talking to on the tape.

Blue wakes up the next afternoon instead of the next morning. She's never felt as drained as she does after staying up all night on St. Mark's Eve. Her mother says she told the school she had the flu after trying to wake Blue up twice. Neeve and Maura tell Blue she feels so tired because she allowed so many spirits to walk through her and while Blue has a lot of energy, she doesn't have that much energy. When Blue asks if she can warn the boy about his death, Maura says she can but that it won't change the outcome. Maura says she only tells clients so they can get their personal affairs in order. Maura says that it's fate that the boy and Blue will meet.

Neeve says she can see how the boy dies. She pours cran-grape juice all the way to the rim of a bowl and looks into it. She says the boy is there and then he's gone. Maura likens Neeve's vision to that of a television that has a blank screen but you know that the TV is still on.

Blue says she has to go to work. Maura tells her not to kiss anyone.



## Chapters 2 and 3 Analysis

Ronan saying he thought Gansey was dead in a ditch somewhere foreshadows Gansey's death. The EpiPen in Gansey's glove compartment suggests that he has an allergy or asthma—something that can cause his airways to close up and for Gansey to die. This foreshadows Gansey dying from an allergic reaction to something. Since the premonition suggests Blue kills her one true love with a kiss, it can be that Gansey is allergic to Blue after kissing her when she has consumed what he is allergic to, such as peanuts.

The fact that Gansey has supplies and has only been in Henrietta for eighteen months suggests he is there to investigate something. Gansey might be an undercover policeman, a reporter, or a curious high school student there to observe the supernatural occurrences that supposedly take place in the town.

The feeling of finding something suggests that Gansey is going to find Blue. While his spirit made contact with Blue in the churchyard, this is a premonition that he and Blue are going to meet in real life.

The ley symbol that Gansey draws is the same symbol that Maura and Neeve drew. It is the symbol that represents the supernatural energy line. This must be the line that the spirits cross during the night on St. Mark's Eve.

Gansey's voice on the recording, but Gansey not recalling that he spoke, suggests that it is Gansey's spirit that was walking through the churchyard on St. Mark's Eve. As is the case with this holiday, Gansey's spirit is walking through the churchyard because he is supposed to die in the next twelve months. Additionally, since Blue is the only one that can see Gansey's spirit, she is responsible for killing him or he is her one true love. If Maura's premonition is correct, the fact that Blue sees the spirit makes Gansey both her one true love and the boy she kills.

The implication is that the psychic's phone number is Maura's phone number. Additionally, Gansey's contact with Maura is what leads him to Blue.





# Chapters 4 and 5

## Chapters 4 and 5 Summary

Adam suspects that someone is looking into what he and Gansey are searching for in Henrietta. Adam doesn't have any proof of it, but he thinks it's Ronan's older brother, Declan, that is researching it. Adam arrives at Gansey's apartment with Declan and Declan's girlfriend for the moment, Ashley. The apartment is a converted manufacturing plant.

Gansey is sitting at this desk wearing ear buds and therefore, he doesn't hear them knock or say anything upon entering. Adam looks at the Henrietta replica Gansey built during his insomniac nights. There are stacks of books everywhere. Nearby, on his desk, is Gansey's journal. When Adam pulls out Gansey's ear buds, Gansey greets them.

Declan tells Gansey to explain to Ashley why he's here. Gansey tells her about a Welsh king, Glendower and how one day he disappeared. Gansey says that he believes Gwendolyn is buried in Henrietta and that the person who wakes Gwendolyn receives a royal favor. Gansey leaves out the ley line and magical portions of the story.

Noah, the other roommate comes out of his room to say hi to everyone. When Ronan comes out of his room, he and Declan exchange not so nice words with each other. Declan and Ashley leave. The rest of the boys decide to go for pizza, but Noah stays behind. Gansey mentions calling the psychic while they're at the pizza place.

Barrington Whelk, one of the teachers at Aglionby, is in the admin building when he runs into another teacher, Jonah Milo. Milo points out that he thought Whelk was off today because he was sick. Whelk thinks about how he gets drunk every St. Mark's Eve, but that this year he thought to take the following day off to deal with his hangover at home.

Milo and Whelk end up talking about Ronan and Gansey. This is when Milo mentions Gansey's interest in St. Mark's Eve and ley lines. This forces Whelk to think about him and his roommate Czerny, and about Czerny dying in front of Whelk.

## Chapters 4 and 5 Analysis

Adam has a bad feeling that someone is taking an extra interest in his work with Gansey to find the tomb. He suspects it is Declan, but this foreshadows them determining who it is as the novel unfolds. Once Adam discovers who it is, then he will tell Gansey. It seems as if Noah might be the one that is checking into it because he stays in the apartment when the other boys leave, and Noah appears to be socially awkward when compared to the other boys.



Since Declan mentions Ronan finding their father to Ashley as they leave, the reader is left with the suggestion that Ronan and Declan's father killed himself, and that Ronan is the one who found his body. Adam suspecting that Ashley's interest in Gansey's journal is more than normal suggests that Declan might have told her why he's researching the tomb that the boys are seeking.

The inference is that the pizza place the boys go to is where Blue works. This might be how Blue and Gansey meet for the first time. They'll likely run into each other again after Gansey makes an appointment with Maura.

Gansey and Whelk seem to live parallel lives, at least when Whelk was Gansey's age, they did. Whelk and his roommate Czerny were hunting ley lines for the tomb of Glendower too. Now, Gansey and his roommate Adam seem to be the ones searching for the ley lines and Glendower's tomb.

This could propel Whelk to be nicer to Gansey and partner with the boys. More likely, however, it forces Whelk to spy on the boys so that they will lead Whelk to the tomb. Whelk is who Adam feels is observing them. Since Whelk resents the boys for being what he once was, rich, Whelk is looking to get back at the boys for all that he has lost in his life such as money and Czerny.



# Chapters 6 and 7

## Chapters 6 and 7 Summary

Blue is working at Nino's when four Aglionby Boys come into the pizza place. The boss tells Blue her mother is on the phone. Maura tells Blue that Gansey called to schedule an appointment for the following afternoon. Blue agrees to switch shifts so she can be home when Gansey comes for his appointment.

One of the four boys approaches Blue and says that his friend thinks she's cute. She tells him she's working so she can't go over to talk to his friend. The boy offers to pay her hourly wage and talk to her manager if she goes to talk to his friend. Blue says she isn't a prostitute.

As the boys are getting ready to leave Nino's, Noah points out to Gansey that Declan and Ronan are in the parking lot. When Gansey arrives, Ronan is throwing what appears to be the first punch. Declan baits Ronan by saying that he's failing out of school. Gansey thinks about what has put the two brothers at odds while he tries to break them up.

Their father, Niall Lynch, was pulled out of his Volvo and beaten to death with a tire iron. From this day on, their mother never spoke again. Niall Lynch left his fortune to his three sons, with Declan in charge of it until the other two boys turn eighteen. This is when Ronan and Declan stopped getting along.

Gansey also notices that during the altercation, Ashley, who is sitting inside the Volvo, lowers her window to listen to the argument and the conversation. When Gansey breaks up the fight and everyone starts to disperse, Adam asks Gansey if he feels observed, Gansey says if someone is watching them then they must be on the right track.

Gansey thinks about how the ley lines and electricity are connected. Adam says that this is the reason they should meet with a psychic because they work off energy.

## Chapters 6 and 7 Analysis

From Blue's observation of the boys, it is Gansey that is talking to Blue and Adam that thinks Blue is cute. Unbeknownst to Blue and to Gansey, they've met. They will recognize each other when Gansey shows up for his appointment. Blue will then know that she and Gansey are supposed to fall in love and then she'll kill him with her kiss or she'll just kill him, explaining why she could see Gansey in the churchyard.

Adam implies that Ashley is acting dumb, but that she is really smart. Instead of Declan using her, Adam thinks that Ashley is using him. Adam suggests to Gansey that Ashley is using Declan to get more information about Glendower.



# Chapters 8 and 9

## Chapters 8 and 9 Summary

Blue is unchaining her bike when Adam approaches her on his bike. Blue recognizes up close that Adam is different from the other Aglionby boys. Adam apologizes for his friend, but does admit that he wanted to talk to Blue. Blue writes her address and phone number on a napkin and gives it to Adam. After Adam leaves, Donny, Blue's boss emerges with the leather journal that Blue recognizes belongs to Adam's friend.

Blue looks through the journal. She sees there are notes about energy and various other things. She also sees multiple sketches of the same symbol that Neeve and Maura drew. She reads that the drawing is a symbol of invisible lines of energy that connect spiritual places. She also finds information about the Raven king, and legends of sleeping kings.

Dr. Roger Malory calls Gansey on his cell phone, waking Gansey up in the middle of the night. Dr. Malory tells Gansey that he's found a text that suggests ley lines can be dormant, such as the sleeping King Glendower, Gansey seeks. Dr. Malory explains how the text talks about following a line and then the energy line simply disappears.

Gansey goes to Ronan's room to tell him the news, but Ronan's room is empty and his bed is not slept in. Gansey tells Noah and then calls Adam. Gansey thinks about how Noah is exempt from searching for Ronan because six months ago, Noah found Ronan in a puddle of his own blood. Adam hesitates because there are physical consequences for getting caught sneaking out in the Parrish house.

Gansey ends up finding Ronan drunk and passed out in a church pew at St. Agnes. Ronan has a baby raven in his hand, which he says he found. Gansey thinks about how he doesn't believe in coincidences.

## Chapters 8 and 9 Analysis

Even though Blue is attracted to Adam, she avoids connecting with boys because of Maura's premonition. When Blue goes through Gansey's journal, she realizes that there is more depth to him than she first gave him credit for. When Dr. Malory explains how the text talks about following a line and then the energy line simply disappears, it is similar to how Neeve sees Gansey's death—how Gansey is there and then suddenly he is gone.

Gansey's urge to find the tomb of King Glendower is about Gansey earning something for the first time in his life. Gansey wants to be known for more than the money in his trust fund.



Noah finding Ronan in his own pool of blood six months ago suggests that Ronan has a tendency to get drunk and do stupid things that end up injuring Ronan. Gansey and the other boys fear they might find Ronan dead someday. The physical consequences and mention of Adam wearing long sleeves to cover the evidence suggests that Mr. Parrish is physically abusive to Adam.

Gansey thinks that Ronan finding the raven is a sign. Gansey believes it is a sign that they are on the right track to find Glendower.



# Chapters 10 and 11

## Chapters 10 and 11 Summary

Whelk is having trouble sleeping, which is normal for him. Whelk looks at the maps he has on his walls. They are maps that he and Czerny drew on, where they thought the ley lines were. There is even a circle in the area where Czerny died, although Whelk drew the circle prior to Czerny's death.

Whelk was an Aglionby boy and heir to the Whelk family fortune until his father was arrested for unethical business practices. The family lost everything and Whelk is even kicked out of his dorm. The same night he finds out about his father, Czerny pulls up in his mustang and Whelk says they're performing the ritual that night.

Blue gets awakened before her alarm goes off by Neeve returning to the house. She overhears a conversation between Maura and Neeve that suggests that they are talking about Blue's father, who Blue doesn't know. Blue touches the journal and feels a sense of power, but doesn't know yet what that power represents.

Blue falls back to sleep, but the thought that Gansey is coming to her house today wakes her up again before her alarm goes off. She reads a passage from the journal about the sleeping king and his granting a favor. She ponders what favor she would ask for as Orla starts yelling up to her that she has to get ready for school. Before going downstairs, Blue takes the journal to Persephone's room. She asks Persephone to keep it a secret and shows her the journal. Persephone says she knows it isn't Blue's because it's obviously a boy's handwriting and if Blue was looking for what the boy is looking for, Blue would have found it already.

Persephone tells Blue she should find the rightful owner. She also says she should find out what the hunt is all about.

## Chapters 10 and 11 Analysis

Whelk and Gansey live parallel lives in that they share the problem of insomnia, and the insomnia has to do with the ley lines. It seems as if Whelk and Czerny performed the ritual that Gansey speaks of performing when he finds the tomb. The inference is that this is what killed Czerny. This too implies that performing the ritual is what might cause Gansey's death as well.

Gansey and Whelk even both have maps where they route the ley lines and draw circles in areas where they think the tomb might be. Whelk thinks that Czerny's death is his fault because he pushed up the date of performing the ritual because of his family's financial situation.



# Chapters 12 and 13

## Chapters 12 and 13 Summary

When Gansey goes to pick Adam up for school, he's not waiting in his usual spot at the end of the driveway near the mailboxes. Gansey calls Adam's house but nobody answers. Gansey calls home and Noah answers. Noah says he doesn't remember Adam saying he wasn't going to school today. Gansey calls Adam's house again and tries to convince himself that death isn't as close as he thinks it is.

At school, Ronan says Adam wasn't in his second period class. Another student says something to Ronan that makes Gansey believe Ronan is racing his BMW again. Then, Gansey realizes that Ronan has the baby raven inside his bag. When the boys get to Latin class, which is Mr. Whelk's class, they notice that he stops what he's doing to watch and possibly listen to what they are saying.

When Blue asks Maura why Neeve is there, Maura eventually admits she's there to help Maura find someone. A strange man walks into the kitchen without an appointment. Maura, Calla and Persephone perform a three way reading. They say he has lost something. He says he's lost everything. During his reading, all three women pull the same card. Earlier, Persephone told Blue something about things happening in threes. The next set of cards is three more of the same—the card of cups.

## Chapters 12 and 13 Analysis

Gansey thinks that Adam isn't showing up because he's dead. Gansey is afraid that Adam's father has beaten Adam to death. Ronan purposely does things that he knows is going to get him trouble.

Neeve is visiting to help Maura find Blue's biological father. The strange man saying he's lost everything and describing his father's indictment suggests that the stranger is Whelk. All three women get a bad sense of the strange man, so they warn Blue if she ever sees him to kick him in the nuts and run.



# Chapters 14 and 15

## Chapters 14 and 15 Summary

Helen, Gansey's sister, calls as he is returning to Adam's house after school. Adam's mother answers the door and tells Gansey that Adam is out back. Gansey finds Adam under a car changing the oil. Gansey and Adam start talking and Gansey tries to get Adam to leave.

The boys continue to argue back and forth about Adam leaving or staying as Gansey looks at the bruise and the cuts on Adam's face. As Gansey is about to leave, Adam tries to mend the relationship by saying he wants to go to the psychic appointment. The two boys pass Mr. Parrish trying in when they are driving out.

The three boys, Adam, Gansey, and Ronan arrive late to the psychic appointment. It takes Blue back when she realizes the obnoxious boy from Nino's is Gansey. When Blue sees Adam, she asks what happened to his face, but he just asks her if it makes him look tough. Maura is yelling that the three boys are too loud. The three clairvoyants offer to allow each boy to pull one card.

Blue notices how Adam and Gansey exchange a look, which is the same way that Persephone and Maura do this—talking with their eyes. Adam pulls his card and they tell him about having a fight with his father and making a decision about his life. Ronan wants them to tell him something before he pulls his card so Persephone says that his father was killed because of a secret and Ronan knows what it is. This sends Ronan fleeing from the house.

Gansey has Blue pull his card, which is the page of cups. Maura tells Gansey to pull his own card and he pulls a black knight astride a black horse. Gansey says he wants to talk to them about energy rather than know his future. Gansey asks Maura about ley lines. She pretends not to know what he's talking about. Gansey says he knows she's lying. She admits that she knows but that she doesn't want to help him. After the three boys leave, Persephone warns Blue to stay away from those three boys.

## Chapters 14 and 15 Analysis

Gansey is implying that Adam's father is going to end up beating Adam to death. The boys showing up together at the psychic appointment is another set of three showing up. Maura saying the three boys are too loud is in reference to the amount of energy the boys bring to the room. Persephone warns Blue the three boys are dangerous because they are planning to perform a ritual that can leave them dead, especially Gansey.





# Chapters 16 and 17

## Chapters 16 and 17 Summary

An odd screeching noise wakes up Gansey and Noah. Gansey goes into Ronan's room. He looks at Ronan's tattoo that covers the back of his neck and some of his back. This is when Gansey realizes that the noise is coming from the Raven, which Ronan is feeding. The boys have a discussion about the raven and about what happened at the psychic reading.

When Gansey returns to his room, he hears what sounds like a wasp or bee buzzing at his window. He thinks about his EpiPen, but realizes it is in his car. Gansey gets out of bed and is standing over the insect when Ronan comes into Gansey's room and kills the wasp.

Ronan asks about Gansey and Adam leaving. Ronan also says that something is happening, that something feels bigger than what they know or can handle. Noah and Gansey exchange looks and Gansey has the same feeling—that something big is about to happen in their lives.

Blue dreams and thinks about the reading constantly. When Blue goes out into the backyard, she finds Neeve performing a ritual with candles and a pool of water. Neeve seems as if she is in a trance and when she talks to Blue, her voice does not sound like her own. When Neeve comes out of the trance, Neeve says Henrietta is on a ley line.

Blue realizes she saw Gansey walking on the ley line a few days ago in the churchyard. When Blue asks what was in the pool of water that Neeve saw, Neeve says she has no idea what it was.

## Chapters 16 and 17 Analysis

The EpiPen, Gansey's reaction and Ronan's reaction to the wasp all verify that Gansey is allergic to bee stings. Neeve's ritual suggests that she is having premonitions about what the raven boys are looking for and trying to find. Neeve doesn't, however, understand what she sees because she doesn't know the history of Glendower.



# Chapters 18 and 19

## Chapters 18 and 19 Summary

Gansey thinks about how alike he and Gansey are as Whelk searches Gansey's locker. Whelk finds numerous spiral bound notebooks full of notes. Whelk puts a note in the locker saying the contents were removed while spraying for roaches. Then, Whelk takes the notebooks into the bathroom.

He sees a lot of information about Glendower and the ley lines. Whelk realizes that Gansey is even more obsessed with the ley lines than Whelk was at Gansey's age. Whelk goes to photocopy the notebook pages, while thinking that if he is the one to find Glendower that he'll ask to control the ley lines, which is what he's wanted all along.

Blue waits on the curb for Calla to come home. Blue questions Calla about why Neeve is here. When Blue says she's there to look for her father, Calla doesn't confirm or deny. Blue wants Calla to use her power of touch to go through Neeve's things. Blue says she'll stand beside Calla to help intensify the feelings Calla gets from Handling Neeve's things.

As Blue helps Calla carry in her bags a flower delivery arrives for Blue. It's one carnation surround by baby's breath and a card from Adam. Blue asks Calla if she should tell the boys about the ley line. Call says she thinks Blue has already made up her mind.

## Chapters 18 and 19 Analysis

Blue is starting to make her own decisions. She decides she wants to start living life today rather than always being concerned about what the future holds. This though process is what is propelling Blue to tell Gansey the truth about the ley lines. Adam sending Blue the flower and her blushing at its delivery suggests that the two start a romantic relationship.

If this is the case, then Blue can be responsible for Adam's death. If Neeve comment is true about why Blue could see Gansey at the churchyard, then it suggests that Gansey is not her true love, but instead that Blue is responsible for killing Gansey. Since it doesn't mean that Blue is directly responsible for killing Gansey, it can be that the information she provides Gansey is what is ultimately responsible for killing him—so Blue is indirectly responsible for Gansey's death.



# Chapters 20 and 21

## Chapters 20 and 21 Summary

Adam arrives outside the apartment building while Noah and Ronan are building a ramp. Adam asks when Gansey is supposed to be back and when he should call Blue. Adam thinks about the time when he decided to go to Aglionby. His mother's debit card had been declined while Adam was trying to make a purchase at the grocery store. He saw an Aglionby boy in the next lane easily swipe his card and leave the store with his purchases. The boy got into a shiny black car with two other boys wearing Aglionby sweaters.

Adam uses Ronan's cell phone to call Blue. He asks Blue if she wants to go exploring with him today. Gansey just bought a helicopter because it is easier to see the lines from above. Adam says he has no idea what is.

Adam arrives at Blue's house. Blue feels satisfaction in knowing that she is defying her mother's instructions to stay away from Adam and the other raven boys. Blue asks why he asked for her number and Adam says because he wanted it. Blue says she's not pretty, like the other girls Aglionby boys date. Adam says he thinks Blue is pretty.

Blue says she wants to help them even though he mother won't. she hands Adam a crude map she drew of the churchyard. Blue explains to Adam that the church is on the ley line. She also hands Adam Gansey's journal.

They arrive back at Gansey's house, where the helicopter sits in the driveway. Gansey seems to welcome Blue to come along, but loses a bit of confidence when Adam hands Gansey his journal. They all climb into the helicopter: Blue, Adam, Ronan and Gansey. Gansey introduces the pilot to Blue as his sister, Helen

## Chapters 20 and 21 Analysis

The ramp presumably is for racing Ronan's BMW against the other guys at school. Adam is asking Blue to go on an exploration looking for the energy lines, the ley lines. Blue is asking Adam if this is a date or not, but Adam is saying that he doesn't know what it is. Since both Blue and Adam are inexperienced with dating, they aren't really sure how to interact with one another.

Adam is telling Blue that they are opposites, but indirectly that opposites attract. Blue is starting to worry about getting too close to Adam because if he is her one true love and he kisses her, then he can also die. it's ironic that Blue recognizes the two sides, or two personalities, that Gansey has. It's as if Gansey has an interior persona and one that he portrays to everyone else.



# Chapters 22 and 23

## Chapters 22 and 23 Summary

As Helen and Gansey banter back and forth with each other, Gansey thinks about how he has an infatuation with Blue. Gansey tells Adam through their headsets that he thinks they should go back to the churchyard where he recorded the voice. Adam hands Gansey Blue's map.

When Blue talks about the church when they approach it, Gansey realizes that he recognizes Blue's voice from his recording. Blue points out where the line starts and where it ends. Gansey questions what it means if it is Blue's voice on the recording. Ronan pipes up asking Blue how she knew Gansey's name. She says she'll tell him if Gansey tells her what the drawing is in his journal.

When Blue points out the doodle, Gansey tells her they are the ley lines. Blue says her mother and one of the other women drew it but they didn't know what it was. Then, Blue tells them how she knows Gansey's name. They all agree to be honest with other from now on.

Gansey says sometimes the ley lines are marked, but you can only see the markings from the air. In the UK, there are horse shapes in the chalk hillsides. In Nazca, Peru the markings are of other animals. Ronan suddenly points out a raven marked in the foliage below them. Gansey tells Helen to land and she says they have two seconds or she's leaving without them.

When they land, they see the raven shape is made of oyster shells. Ronan points out that Glendower would have come from the coasts, so it makes sense that someone brought all of these oyster shells to mark the ley lines. Gansey pulls out a device that he tells Blue detects energy sources.

Gansey locates some water bubbling out of the ground. They follow it to a larger stream. This is when they notice that the meter isn't working and neither are Adam's watch and the clock on Gansey's phone. Gansey thinks he hears Noah's voice, even though Noah isn't there. They also notice there are fish in the pool of water, even though the source of the water seems to be rain—and fish don't come from the sky.

Gansey says he thinks it's about intention because he wants the fish to be that they are there. He proves this by changing the color of the fish before Blue's eyes. They find a tree with a huge crater in it. One by one, as they step inside of the crater, each has their own vision. Blue sees a version of herself crying and of Gansey comforting her. She realizes that the spiritual version of Blue is crying because the spiritual version of Gansey knows he can't kiss her because she'll kill him.



When Adam emerges from the crater of the tree, he says he would never do that to him—as if he has done something bad to Gansey. When Gansey emerges from the crater, they ask him what he saw. He says he saw Glendower.

## Chapters 22 and 23 Analysis

If Gansey does fall for Blue, this can put his friendship with Adam in jeopardy. Ronan realizes that he recognizes Blue's voice from the recording as well. Gansey wants Blue to know the real him, which is why he wants to know how much of his journal she read. Blue's vision or premonition suggests that she and Gansey do start a relationship, but it is a relationship that they know they cannot carry out because of Gansey's fate.



# Chapters 24 and 25

## Chapters 24 and 25 Summary

They look at their watch and clock again and realize that time stopped while they were in the woods. Of course, time didn't stop for Helen who is in the helicopter, so she and Gansey get into a big fight when they fly away. Gansey also realizes that Blue is the piece that he has been missing all of his years of searching.

When they leave the woods, they decide they have to create a strategy as to what they are going to do next. They go as a group to share gelato as a form of celebration because they all know that it is starting.

For the next few weeks, they conduct research, scour records and look up information about the wooded area. They do this together, but sneak around to meet Blue anywhere but her house. While he wasn't with them on that first day, Noah is always with them now. Noah and Blue get along well, which pleases Adam.

In their downtime, Ronan is teaching Adam how to drive the BMW. At the end of the second week, Gansey announces that they are going back to the woods. This time, they go in Ronan's car. When they arrive, Blue says she feels watched. As they walk through the woods, they notice the trees are changing.

Noah calls them over to a rock that has writing on it. Ronan recognizes the Latin on the rock and that it is in Ronan's handwriting. Ronan says it is Cabeswater.

## Chapters 24 and 25 Analysis

The trees changing are symbolic of the change in seasons. In a little over an hour, the group has walked through all four seasons of the year. The fact that the rock has Latin written in Ronan's handwriting suggests that Ronan has been here before. It can be that Ronan was there in a different life, or that he was there when he was drunk and alone, without the rest of the boys.



# Chapters 26 and 27

## Chapters 26 and 27 Summary

As they continue walking through the woods, Ronan and Noah realize the trees are speaking Latin to them. The trees say they are happy to see the psychic's daughter and to see Ronan Lynch again. When asked, the trees provide them with directions to Glendower.

As they reach a clearing, they find an abandoned mustang with a mummified hamburger inside. They also find a dowsing rod in the trunk.

On Sunday, Blue is getting her dog walking on when Gansey calls. She says it's lucky she answered or he could have blown her cover. He asks if she wants to go exploring with him. She agrees to meet him when she's done. On her way out, Maura confronts Blue with Calla and Persephone. Maura says she knows that Blue disobeyed her and has been hanging out with Gansey.

Right before Blue leaves, Call says Blue shouldn't forget their movie night on Friday. Blue realizes she is referring to going through Neeve's room. Maura confirms that she and Neeve are out that night anyway.

## Chapters 26 and 27 Analysis

They have found the car belonging to Czerny. Whelk must have left the car abandoned there after Czerny was killed while they performing the ritual. Things are starting to heat up because now Gansey and Blue are going to be alone together for the first time. Blue has mixed emotions about Gansey.

She likes him sometimes, but other times she finds him condescending. Since Blue and Gansey are going to be alone today, she might get to know the true Gansey—the one without his entourage with him.



# Chapters 28 and 29

## Chapters 28 and 29 Summary

Gansey and Blue arrive at the church. The glove compartment in Gansey's car pops open and the contents spill out onto Blue's lap. Blue sees the EpiPen as she puts everything back into the glove compartment. They walk through the churchyard with Gansey's meter blinking green as they walk on the line. She tells him about killing her one true love if she kisses him and asks Gansey not to tell Adam.

Gansey tells Blue he is badly allergic to bees. Tells her a story about when he was a kid. He stepped on a hornets' nest and was stung to death. He heard a voice say that he will live to search for Glendower because someone is dying on the line right now. As they walk into the woods, Gansey's detection machine stops working. Suddenly, Blue steps on a human arm bone.

When Gansey clears the leaves, there is a second arm bone in the woods too. Gansey uncovers the rest of the skeleton and notices the emblem from Aglionby on what's left of the clothing. When Gansey removes the wallet from the back pocket of the skeleton, the face on the driver's license is Noah's.

Gansey picks Adam up from work and drives them to Monmouth Manufacturing. Gansey starts yelling for Noah, which draws Ronan out of his room. Gansey asks what Noah's last name is and when Adam and Ronan say they don't know, Gansey says his name is Noah Czerny.

Gansey opens the door to Noah's room. Gansey remarks on how pristine the room always is, that none of them have classes with Noah and how they never see him eat. Gansey tells them that he and Blue went out to the churchyard and that he spent the afternoon with the police because of a rotting body. Noah speaks from behind the boys saying it is his body.

Noah says he's been telling them all along that he's dead. Ronan asks Noah how he died, but Gansey says the real question is who killed him. Noah says he doesn't want to talk about it and then disappears. Adam tells the boys that they're being haunted.

## Chapters 28 and 29 Analysis

Nick and Blue have just uncovered the skeleton of Czerny, Whelk's former roommate and partner in searching for the ley lines. The smashed in cheek of the skull suggests that the boy was murdered. If it is Czerny, it suggests that Whelk is responsible for Czerny's demise. The skeleton is either a premonition of Noah's death, or Czerny is somehow related to Noah, which explains why the skeleton's picture looks like Noah.



Gansey is suggesting that Noah is a spirit or a ghost. He's trying to tell Adam and Ronan that Noah is dead and who they know as Noah is an apparition.



# Chapters 30 and 31

## Chapters 30 and 31 Summary

Noah starts acting more like a ghost now. He shows up as a shadow across a doorway or Ronan wakes up with scratches on his arm. Blue pulls a post-it note from Calla off the fridge reminding Blue of Friday movie night. Neeve comes up behind Blue. She asks Blue if she wants a reading.

Neeve warns Blue that they are searching for a god so she should have expected there was a devil. Additionally, Neeve says Noah's been dead for a long time and that there will be more.

It's a teacher planning day, so Gansey is at his parents' house, Adam is studying at Monmouth Manufacturing and Ronan is in his room. Adam smells Noah and sense he's in the room. Gansey's potted mint plant crashes to the floor. Declan shows up at the front door asking for Gansey. Declan produces an envelope from Aglionby saying that Ronan is getting kicked out of school and to let Gansey know. Adam calls Gansey.

Gansey wanders out to sit in one of his father's cars. He calls the principal of Aglionby. Gansey convinces the principal to allow Ronan to stay through finals, as long as he gets all Bs, in exchange for Gansey Sr. donating thirty thousand dollars toward the nautical library collection at Aglionby.

Gansey Sr. joins Jr. in the car. They talk about Gansey Jr.'s Camaro. While his father is calling it a jalopy, Jr. thinks about how he wants to be like the Camaro, like Adam, is on the inside, even if Gansey looks like his father on the outside.

## Chapters 30 and 31 Analysis

Neeve predicts that more people will die before they find Glendower. Neeve is stating that there is balance between good and evil. Each side serves the purpose of counteracting the other side. She is warning Blue that while she and the raven boys think they are searching for a god that there is a lot of evil lurking out there to prevent them from finding Glendower.

Again, Gansey is struggling with his two personalities. While he comes from a very wealthy family, Gansey also understands the importance of being a good person. Gansey learns a lot about how to be a "normal" person from his friendship and interaction with Adam.



# Chapters 32 and 33

## Chapters 32 and 33 Summary

Blue steps inside of Monmouth Manufacturing for the first time. She looks around at the disarray that is Gansey. Adam shows her Gansey's Virginia box of trinkets he's picked up along the way. Adam tells Blue she's beautiful. Blue admits she likes it when he says things like that but she's scared he'll kiss her. Adam says that's sensible.

Ronan comes out of his room and offers to allow Blue to hold the baby raven. Noah appears. Ronan demands to know who killed Noah. Blue asks if he's been dead the seven years the police knew he was missing. Noah says he's not sure. He also tells the same story about the voice speaking to him at the same time he was dying, Gansey died from the bee stings.

Ronan keeps demanding Noah tell them who killed him. Noah says they already know.

Gansey is driving back to Henrietta. He's angry about Ronan pushing Gansey to bribe the principal of the school. It makes Gansey sick to think that's how it has to be. His car engine sputters out and Gansey pulls to the side of the road. A car pulls up behind him and it's Barrington Whelk. Whelk pulls a gun on Gansey and demands to know where Gansey's been going this week along with demanding Gansey to give him the journal.

Whelk says he was safe for seven years and now the police are calling the school and they'll find out everything. Gansey hands over the journal and tells Whelk where they went while Whelk points the gun at Gansey's head. Gansey uses the knowledge Ronan taught him about throwing a punch to strike Whelk and knock the gun from his hand.

They struggle over the gun. Gansey hides while Whelk gets in his car and drives away. Gansey gets into the Pig, the engine turns over and he drives toward Henrietta.

## Chapters 32 and 33 Analysis

Noah and Gansey are connected souls. They were both dying at the same time seven years ago. When the voice speaks to them, it is telling them that Noah's life is sacrifice for Gansey to continue living. Noah is telling them that Gansey is responsible for killing him because Gansey was allowed to live in exchange for Noah dying.

Now Gansey knows who is responsible for Noah's death. Gansey thinks Whelk is going to try to kill the others so he drives toward Henrietta to try to stop it.



# Chapters 34 and 35

## Chapters 34 and 35 Summary

Blue gets home from Monmouth Manufacturing and figuring out with Adam, Ronan and Noah on how they can implicate Whelk in Noah's murder. Blue and Calla start going through Neeve's room, which is in the attic. Persephone comes up after them to tell them they have until midnight and Maura knows what they are doing.

Blue asks about her father and Calla and Persephone tell her what they know. they say Neeve received a phone call from a man in Henrietta that wanted to pay her way to investigate the ley lines. Neeve declined, but decided to investigate on her own. Neeve called Maura to offer her help in locating Blue's father. Call finds Neeve's day planner. The man who contacted Neeve was Barrington Whelk.

Persephone leaves and returns. She tells Blue the boys are downstairs and one of them has a broken thumb. The other news Persephone has is Neeve and Maura are home, while Neeve walks up into the attic.

Everyone is in the kitchen. Maura is discussing Barrington Whelk and his involvement in everything everyone just told her. While Gansey was getting his thumb fixed at the hospital, he tells the police about Whelk, so both the state and local police are searching for him. Maura asks Gansey what he wants to do.

Gansey says he wants to find Glendower and learn more about Cabeswater. Gansey says he wants to fix Noah and Maura offers to help.

## Chapters 34 and 35 Analysis

One piece at a time, the puzzle is starting to come together. Now that Whelk has Gansey's information, he can start looking for Glendower once again. In addition to the boys looking for Glendower, Whelk is looking for Glendower also. Whoever finds Glendower first is the one that will control the ley line and the corpse road.

These two parties searching for Glendower represent the side of good and evil. Whelk represents the evil side. He is power hungry, which is why he wants to cash in his favor with Glendower to control the ley lines. The raven boys, on the side, represent the good side. They have a genuine interest in finding Glendower, and too want to cash in the favor, but to use for good rather than a power-hungry reason.



## Chapters 36 and 37

### Chapters 36 and 37 Summary

Ronan drives Adam to the double-wide trailer Adam lives in with his family. When Adam goes inside the house, his father accuses Adam of lying to them about how much money he's been making working. Adam's father starts to punch Adam. When Mr. Parrish strikes Adam on the side of his head, Adam can no longer hear out of the ear on that side of his head.

Ronan comes inside to defend Adam. Ronan and Mr. Parrish fight until the police arrive. Adam tells the police his father did this to him and asked if he can press charges.

Whelk is eating fast food. He's forming a plan to sleep in his car and then go to ley line to perform the ritual. The pay phone in the parking starts to ring. It stops and then starts to ring again. Whelk answers it and Neeve greets him by name. She says numbers are easy for her and that she has some of his hair so was able to trace him.

She says she's changed her mind about helping him.

### Chapters 36 and 37 Analysis

Adam stands up to his father for the first time in his life. Ronan also stands up to Mr. Parrish on Adam's behalf. This is something new for Ronan, who usually only does things for himself. Neeve is setting Barrington Whelk up so that the police can catch him.



# Chapters 38 and 39

## Chapters 38 and 39 Summary

Gansey picks Adam up from the hospital. Gansey tells Adam he took care of the hospital bill. Gansey also thinks about how they told him Adam will never hear out of his ear again. Adam doesn't argue with Gansey about the money, as he usually does. Instead, he asks Gansey to take him to get his stuff.

As the two boys continue to talk, the discussion gets heated. Adam tries to walk away but Gansey goes after him. Gansey can see that Adam is trying not to cry. Adam tells Gansey that now he can have it his way—that Gansey can have all of the things he owns under one roof.

Blue arrives at Gansey's house. She calls out for Noah and Noah appears and speaks behind Blue. Noah tells her what happened with Adam, Mr. Parrish and Ronan. The phone starts ringing and Noah tells Blue she should answer that. Blue transfers some of her energy to Noah to unlock the door to the house so she can get inside.

Malory is on the phone. He tells Blue to tell Gansey that he and his colleague performed the ritual on the ley line and it made his colleagues skin come off of his body. When Adam, Gansey and Ronan arrive, she passes the message along to Gansey and tries to find out what he and Adam argued about.

## Chapters 38 and 39 Analysis

Adam feels as if he is a possession to Gansey. Adam takes Gansey trying to pay for things as Gansey's way of trying to buy or own Adam. Gansey, however, is just trying to help Adam. Since Gansey has the money to help Adam, it is not a big deal to Adam. Adam, however, is making a big deal out of accepting Gansey's help.



# Chapters 40 and 41

## Chapters 40 and 41 Summary

Neeve and Whelk are in his car. After Whelk picked Neeve up, she used her Taser on Whelk, tied him up and put him in the back seat. The gloves Neeve is wearing and the gloves in one of the bowls in the backseat with him, along with the candles and scissors, suggest to Whelk that Neeve is going to perform a ritual where he is the sacrifice. He thinks also that Neeve hasn't tied him tight enough.

Blue goes home and Adam shows up there. He says he wants to kiss Blue. They hug each other and Blue tells Adam to continue to be brave. That night, Adam has a dream. There is blood everywhere and Gansey is convulsing on the ground. Ronan is asking Adam if he's happy now. Adam wakes up and puts his father's gun in his messenger bag.

Adam walks past Gansey asleep in his bed. He thinks about how he has to do this, how he's not betraying Gansey and that when Adam returns he and Gansey will be equals.

## Chapters 40 and 41 Analysis

Neeve intends to draw the power from the ley lines, find Glendower and take the favor as her own. Since Neeve hasn't tied Whelk's hands enough, so he intends on attacking Neeve.

Adam is going to the ley line. He plans to perform the ritual so he can find Glendower. Adam thinks that when he asks Glendower for his favor that Adam can finally be an equal to Gansey.



# Chapters 42 and 43

## Chapters 42 and 43 Summary

Gansey wakes in the middle of the night. He hears Noah's voice far off in the distance. Noah says Adam. Gansey goes to Noah's old room and sees that Adam and some of Adam's things are gone. Gansey looks outside to see the Camaro is gone. Gansey wakes Ronan up to tell him Adam's gone to wake the ley line.

Maura comes to Blue's room. She apologizes for not being straight with Blue about her father. Maura tells Blue his name was Artemus. Maura says that she, Calla and Persephone were messing around with rituals, and Maura thinks they released Artemus from Cakeswater. Maura says she thinks when Blue was born that another ritual was performed that trapped Artemus back in Cakeswater.

Persephone comes into say that the boys are going to pull up outside in a few minutes to try to figure out how to get Blue to sneak out with them. Maura and Persephone admit to Blue that their predictions are more specific than they've admitted in the past.

## Chapters 42 and 43 Analysis

Maura has been telling Blue half-truths all of the Blue's life. While Maura thought this was protecting Blue, now she realizes that she should have told Blue the truth sooner. It seems as if Neeve knows more than she is letting on as well, so there are a bunch of secrets in place that are doing more harm than good.





# Chapters 44 and 45

## Chapters 44 and 45 Summary

It's dark when Adam arrives at Cabeswater with a flashlight. Near the stream, Adam comes across some bowls that are set up in conspicuous places.

Neeve parks off the road and walks with Whelk into Cabeswater. She sets everything up for the ritual. Whelk grabs a branch and hits Neeve in the head with it twice. He ties her up with the rope she used to tie him. When he looks up, he sees Adam Parrish.

Blue, Ronan and Gansey arrive. They find where Adam has parked the Pig. They go into Cabeswater with their flashlights. When they reach Noah's abandoned car, a finger is writing murdered over and over again on the window. Blue remembers how Persephone told Ronan that his father was killed because of a secret and that Ronan knows what it is as they walk deeper into the woods.

Adam sees that Whelk has Neeve in the pentagram she has built for the sacrifice. Adam points the gun at Whelk, but Whelk threatens to cut Neeve as he puts a knife to her face. Adam throws the gun down as Neeve tells Whelk using her as a sacrifice won't work because she means nothing to him and he can't give up the innocence of never killing anyone because he has already killed someone.

Gansey comes up to tell Whelk that the cops are on their way. Whelk lunges for the gun, but struggles with Ronan as Adam throws himself into the center of the pentagram and says he sacrifices himself.

## Chapters 44 and 45 Analysis

It appears as if Neeve and Whelk are already at Cabeswater. This is a turning point in the novel because all of the characters are about to come face-to-face with each other at Cabeswater. Secrets will be revealed.



## Chapters 46, 47 and 48

### Chapters 46, 47 and 48 Summary

Gansey yells it is an earthquake as the ground starts to shake and rumble. Whelk's shot misses Adam. When Whelk drops the gun, Adam demands it back. They can hear something coming toward them from the woods. Blue pulls Ronan and Gansey into the crater of the tree as a herd of white-horned beasts trample by them.

They are in a vision in the tree. Gansey and Blue are in Gansey's car. Gansey says maybe it's not true if he kisses her instead of her kissing him. The real Gansey pushes past Blue and out of the tree. While Adam still stands in the center of the pentagram, Whelk lays on the ground trampled, broken and bloody.

Adam says he didn't kill Whelk but he didn't save him either. Adam says Whelk's death is justice for what Whelk did to Noah. As Blue, Ronan and Gansey decide to leave, the trees say that they know what he's looking for and that he may have found it.

Several weeks later, there is a funeral for Noah. Noah makes Blue approach his parents to tell his mother something that only Noah would know. Adam is living in a room in the St. Agnes church. Gansey has his journal back and quit the rowing team. Ronan successfully finished his finals. Later, the group digs up Noah's bones and reburies him on the ley line in the churchyard. Noah's figure reappears in the church door and he says he wants to leave because this place creeps him out.

### Chapters 46, 47 and 48 Analysis

The trees are talking to Gansey. This time they are telling him that he has located the tomb of Glendower. They all believe that the ley line is awake and that Glendower is out there. They also believe that this is just the start of something bigger.



# Characters

## Blue Sargent

Blue Sargent is a sixteen-year-old girl living in Henrietta, Virginia. Her mother, aunts, cousin and everyone that lives in her house are clairvoyants. While Blue is not a clairvoyant, she has such a high energy level that she amplifies the premonitions and psychic abilities of those in the room with her.

Throughout her entire life, Blue has been told that she is going to kill her one true love when she kisses him. This has kept Blue from dating or getting involved with a boy up until this point in her life. Blue doesn't know who her biological father is, and her mother never married or got into another relationship, so she doesn't have a step-father either.

Blue is on the eccentric side. She's decided that since she is different from her classmates that she should dress differently too. She often turns normal clothing into her own creations by sewing on embellishments. Additionally, Blue doesn't have any friends besides her mother and the other women that live in Blue's house.

## Maura Sargent

Maura Sargent is Blue's mother. She is a single mother and has never been married. Additionally, Maura is a clairvoyant. She is the one that initially told Blue that Blue will kill her one true love when she kisses him.

Maura goes to the churchyard on an annual basis on St. Mark's Eve. Maura collects the names of the spirits she comes across there to try to sell the information to the living about their impending death in the next twelve months. In addition to psychic readings, Maura also acts as a mentor to other clairvoyants to help them develop their talents.

As a mother, Maura takes a very hands-off approach to raising Blue. Maura doesn't tell Blue what to do or forbid Blue from doing anything. Instead, Maura allows Blue to make her own decisions and Maura offers advice to help guide Blue in her decision-making process.

## Neeve

Neeve is Maura's half-sister and Blue's half-aunt. Neeve is also a clairvoyant and psychic. In addition to psychic readings, Neeve has her own TV show and a set of four published books.

Neeve comes to Henrietta to help Maura find Blue's father. It turns out, however, that Neeve is really in Henrietta looking for the ley lines that Barrington Whelk tried to hire



her to locate. Neeve ends up kidnapping Whelk, but Whelk tries to use Neeve as a sacrifice for a ritual to awaken the ley lines.

## **Persephone**

Persephone is one of Maura's best friends. Persephone is also a clairvoyant. She lives in the house with Blue, Maura, Calla and Orla. Persephone has long blonde hair that goes down to her waste. Blue says she has such an eccentric look that everyone is taken aback by Persephone when they first meet her.

## **Calla**

Calla is one of Maura's best friends. Calla is also a clairvoyant. She lives in the house with Blue, Maura, Persephone and Orla. Calla also has a psychic power of being able to see things when she touches objects. It is Calla who agrees to go through Neeve's room with Blue to find out what Neeve is doing in Henrietta. Calla is the one that finds the day planner with Barrington Whelk's information in it.

## **Richard Dick Campbell Gansey III**

Richard Dick Campbell Gansey III goes by Gansey. He is the son of a very wealthy man. Additionally, Gansey is a student at Aglionby Academy. He drives bright orange Camaro.

It seems as if Gansey is really two people. One of the Gansey's is the persona he is expected to have as a rich boy. The other side of Gansey is a normal everyday guy, similar to someone that is not rich, such as Adam.

## **Ronan Lynch**

Ronan Lynch is one of Gansey's best friends. He drives a BMW. Even though he also comes from a very rich family, he always has a disheveled look to him. Ronan has dark brown hair and a sharp nose. Ronan is the one that found Mr. Lynch, his father, dead.

Ronan also has a tendency to get drunk. He also has a bad temper and is constantly fighting with his brother, Declan, Ronan often skips class, but he is highly proficient in Latin.

## **Adam Parrish**

Adam Parrish is another of Gansey's best friends. Adam has a southern accent and a pristine look even though his uniform is secondhand. He comes from a very poor family but attends Aglionby Academy as well. Adam works at the local trailer manufacturing



plant to help pay for his tuition and to help his parents pay the bills. Adam's father is physically abusive, so Adam often has bruises, cuts and scrapes on his face and body. Gansey always offers to pay for things for Adam, but Adam always refuses.

## **Barrington Whelk**

Barrington Whelk is the Latin teacher of Aglionby Academy. He is also a former student of Aglionby. He was raised in a very wealthy family until his father was indicted, which is when his family lost all of their money. Czerny was his best friend and partner in searching for the ley lines and Glendower when they were students at Aglionby Academy. It is Barrington Whelk that is responsible for Czerny's death.

## **Orla**

Orla is Blue's cousin. She also lives in the house with Maura, Blue, Persephone and Call. Orla is the one responsible for putting in the psychic hotline into the house.

## **Declan Lynch**

Declan Lynch is Ronan's older brother. All of Declan's girlfriends are blondes. When Declan dresses up in a suit, he looks like he is thirty years old. He is a senior in high school. Declan is doing a political internship that requires him to wear a suit. He has dark brown hair and a sharp nose. When Declan's father dies, and Mrs. Lynch stops talking, Declan is put in charge of the estate and doling out money to his two younger brothers.

## **Noah**

Noah is a roommate to Ronan and Gansey in Monmouth Manufacturing. Noah's room is always clean and orderly. In the end, Ronan, Adam and Blue figure out that Noah is Noah Czerny, the boy that Whelk went to Aglionby with and killed trying to find the ley lines.



# Objects/Places

## 300 Fox Way

300 Fox Way is the address of Blue's house. This is the house is where Maura and the other psychics run their tarot card reading business. The house is also where Neeve is staying while she is in Henrietta.

## Henrietta, Virginia

Henrietta, Virginia is the primary location where the novel Takes place. It is where Gansey moves because he believes that the ley lines will lead him to Glendower. Henrietta, Virginia has a lot of energy, which seems to enhance psychic abilities.

## Aglionby Academy

Aglionby Academy is a private school in Henrietta. Aglionby Academy is where all of the wealthy children go to school. it is also where Whelk teaches Latin.

## 1136 Monmouth—Monmouth Manufacturing Building

1136 Monmouth, the Monmouth Manufacturing Building is a former manufacturing plant in Henrietta. Gansey has turned it into his apartment. It is where Gansey, Ronan and Noah live.

## Cabeswater

Cabeswater is the area in the woods that the group finds. Cabeswater is thought to be a magical place where the energy of the ley lines creates the magic. Cabeswater is where Maura believes Blue's father came from and returned to during their relationship.

## The Pig

The Pig is the nickname Gansey has for his Camaro. The Pig often breaks down because it is an older Camaro. When the Pig breaks down on the way back to Henrietta after Gansey visits his parents, Whelk attacks Gansey and steals Gansey's journal.

## Journal

Gansey has a big leather bound journal. Gansey writes all of his thoughts and findings about the ley lines and Glendower inside of the journal. Gansey leaves the journal at



Nino's, which allows Blue to read what the journal contains. When Whelk finds out about the journal, he steals it from Gansey, hoping to discover Glendower before Gansey and his friends can find the sleeping king.

## Day Planner

Neeve keeps a paper day planner. Calla and Blue find the day planner in Neeve's room. It is in the day planner where Calla and Blue discover that the man that tried to hire Neeve to find the ley lines in Henrietta is Barrington Whelk.

## Scrying Bowl

The scrying bowl is one of Neeve's magical tools. She pours liquid into the bowl to try to conjure up magical visions. Blue catches Neeve using the scrying bowl in the backyard of the house.

## Churchyard

The churchyard is where the ley line runs through Henrietta. This is where Maura and Neeve see the spirits walk on St. Mark's Eve. The churchyard is where Blue sees Gansey's spirit walking on the ley line.



# Themes

## Relationships

One of the primary themes running through the novel is relationships. The novel reveals that even the individuals that make up a family have different relationships among the family members. For example, Blue and her mother only have each other because Blue doesn't know who her father is.

In spite of this, Blue has conjured up a vision of who she believes her father is as a person and the relationship they would have together. Additionally, the mother-daughter relationship Blue and Maura have is unconventional. Maura doesn't tell Blue what to do, but rather allows Blue to make her own decisions. Additionally, Persephone, Calla and Orla are often part of the discussion when it comes to making decisions about the family, household and Blue.

Friendship is another type of relationship the novel tackles. Maura, Persephone and Calla are such close friends that they live together and do everything together. It is as if they are a family rather than just best friends. On the contrary, Blue feels so different from her peers that she doesn't have any friends at school. Blue interacts with some of her peers while she works at Nino's, but for the most part, the only friends Blue has is her mother and her mother's friends.

This changes for Blue when she meets the raven boys. Blue learns what it is like to share secrets with friends and common interest with friends when she starts hanging around with the raven boys. While the raven boys have formed a friendship circle that is similar to what most think of as a family, they also allow Blue to come into their circle. The experiences Blue and the raven boys have together bring them even closer together as the novel unfolds.

## Coming of Age

One of the primary themes that run throughout the novel is growing up and coming of age, even against adversity, such as having to balance special powers with a normal teenage life. Additionally, Blue struggles with the fact that her coming of age forces her not to form a normal boyfriend-girlfriend relationship with a boy because her kiss is supposed to kill her one true love. Blue also deals with the responsibilities in life of having to use her good powers to fight off evil powers.

Blue also faces the rite of passage of having her first boyfriend. Along with having her first boyfriend, Blue has to admit that she cannot experience her first kiss. Because Blue doesn't know if Adam or Gansey is her one true love, she has to keep stopping the relationship from going any further than friendship, holding hands and hugging.





## Good versus Evil

Another primary plot throughout the entire novel is that of good versus evil. The separating line between good and evil is what people are using their powers to do and the reason why each character wants Glendower to grant them the favor.

For example, Neeve appears to use her powers for good—to help people that call into her TV show and through the books she writes. When she comes to Henrietta, however, she starts to use her powers for evil. She is selfishly looking for the ley lines and Glendower so that she can cash in on his favor, even though she only knows about the concept because Whelk tried to hire her to locate this information for him.

Gansey seems to have an inner struggle between good and evil. He feels as if his life is defined by his father's money. Therefore, he sometimes views the money he has as evil. The reason he wants to locate Glendower is so that he can do something good with his life—do something that gives meaning to the world.

On the contrary, Adam appears to be a humble and good person in his daily life. His sole reason for locating Glendower is so that Adam can cash in the favor to have just as much money and power as his friends do, so that he will be an equal. Finally, Whelk wants to cash in the favor so that he can selfishly control the ley lines and everyone else. Whelk does whatever it takes to accomplish this, including killing his former best friend, covering up the murder, stealing and attempting to kill others, such as Neeve.

# Style

## Point of View

The novel is written in the third-person point of view. The narrator of the novel is also the author, Maggie Stiefvater. The narrator is telling the story as it unfolds, but she also switches back to some past events in order to provide the reader with some perspective.

The point of view of this novel is an intimate point of view that allows a reader to connect closely with the main character, Blue Sargent. The point of view also allows the author to inject her own opinions into the narration and to expand on the events taking place to the characters in the novel without having to deviate from the plot line or interrupt the flow of the narration. For these reasons, the point of view works well with this novel and the author's writing style.

## Setting

The novel is set primarily in Henrietta, Virginia. The author never states the specific year or time period, but it seems to be set in the twenty-first century. The setting of this novel is important because it is about the mysterious and supernatural occurrences in this particular town that set the scene for the entire plot of the novel. The main characters of the novel are teenagers that are looking for the energy lines that give off magical powers so they can find the sleeping Welsh king, Glendower, which can grant his finder a favor.

The setting of this novel works well with the plot. At first, the reader is not aware of which characters have special powers and which ones are trying to acquire special powers. However, as events unfold, one secret after the next is either explained or inferred.

## Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is modern. The language of the novel is not formal and appears to be set in modern times, such as 2000s. The language is educated, strong and descriptive enough that it creates a flow that leaves the reader impressed with the words as much as the plot when the novel ends. The author also injects some Latin words into the novel to provide some authenticity of the ancient roots of the magical powers.

The language of the novel is appropriate to the plot because it is accurate to the characters in the novel and the education level of the writer. The novel is not in love with its own words, but it is descriptive enough that the reader finds enjoyment in the words as well as the plot. The language is not difficult to understand, however, and everything

is clear in its context. For this reason the language of the novel fits well with the plot of the novel.

## **Structure**

The novel consists of a prologue and 48 chapters. Each chapter is anywhere from three to 12 pages long. The chapters tell the story both in exposition and dialogue. The author is the narrator of the book, so it seems as if she is injecting her own voice throughout the novel. This allows the author to provide her own opinions of the events surrounding the setting of the novel, as well as the actions taking place within the plot.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows the various relationships between the characters in the novel. The subplots involve coming of age and good versus evil.

## Quotes

"I should tell you that this reading will be accurate, but not specific" (Prologue, p. 7).

"There are only two reasons a non-seer would see a spirit on St. Mark's Eve, Blue. Either you're his true love, or you killed him" (Chapter 1, p. 18).

"That seems obvious. We find out who you were talking to" (Chapter 2, p. 27).

"You did let them draw energy from you" (Chapter 3, p. 29).

"I've been dead for seven years. That's as warm as I get" (Chapter 4, p. 39).

"Oh, that's probably because of that St. Mark's hoopla he was talking about" (Chapter 5, p. 46).

"He called. To schedule a reading" (Chapter 6, p. 51).

"Do you think there would be any point to someone spying on us if we weren't on the right track" (Chapter 7, p. 54).

"But then I saw that it was - well, your stuff" (Chapter 8, p. 68).

"I found a very interesting textual source who suggested that the ley lines are dormant. Sleeping. Sound familiar" (Chapter 9, p. 71).

"We're doing the ritual" (Chapter 10, p. 82).

"Then I think you'd better find out if it's true, don't you" (Chapter 11, p. 88).

"Where's Parrish" (Chapter 12, p. 92).

"Mom, why is Neeve here" (Chapter 13 p. 95).



"He'll kill you" (Chapter 14, p 106).

"I know you deal with energy work, and I've been trying to find a ley line I think is near Henrietta. Do you know anything about that" (Chapter 15, p. 119).

"Things feel bigger. I don't know what I'm saying" (Chapter 16, p. 127).

"That's because I have no idea" (Chapter 17, p. 132).

"If Whelk found him, he'd ask for what he'd wanted all along: to control the ley line" (Chapter 18, p. 136).

"You'd better guard your heart. Don't forget that he's going to die" (Chapter 19, p. 141).

"What is this" (Chapter 20, p. 142).

"She said she wouldn't help you. But I didn't" (Chapter 21, p. 148).

"Not just a bird. It's a raven" (Chapter 22, p. 161).

"I saw Glendower" (Chapter 23, p. 173).

"We're going to strategize and decide what the next move is and we're going to pick Blue's brain about energy" (Chapter 24, p. 176).

"The trees speak Latin" (Chapter 25, p. 185).

"But that means that someone else was looking for the ley line" (Chapter 26, p. 192).

"Not hanging out with Gansey" (Chapter 27, p. 197).

"You will live because of Glendower. Someone else on the ley line is dying when they should not, and so you will live when you should not" (Chapter 28, p. 204).



"We're being haunted" (Chapter 29, p. 211).

"Watch for the devil. When there's a god, there's always a legion of devils" (Chapter 30, p. 214).

"I'm surprised your jalopy got you here" (Chapter 31, p. 221).

"But you already know" (Chapter 32, p. 232).

"Seven years and I thought I was — I'm screwed. You've screwed me" (Chapter 33, p. 236).

"Eleven months ago, a man called Neeve on the phone to ask her if he could bring her to Henrietta, Virginia, for an all-expenses paid trip. While she was there, she was supposed to use any means at her disposal to pinpoint a ley line and 'a place of power' that he knew was close by but couldn't find" (Chapter 34, p. 245).

"What I'd like is to neither send the police to Cabeswater nor wake the ley line. I would like to find out more about Cabeswater, and then I'd like to find Glendower" (Chapter 35, p. 251).

"Can I...can I press charges" (Chapter 36, p. 257).

"Yes, about helping you. I've changed my mind" (Chapter 37, p. 260).

"All your things in one place, all under your roof. Everything you own right where you can see" (Chapter 38, p.263).

"My colleague stepped quite easily out of his skin" (Chapter 39, p. 267).

"Also, Neeve hadn't tied him tightly enough" (Chapter 40, p. 274).

"I'll find a way to get rid of it" (Chapter 41, p. 279).



"Adam's gone to wake the ley line" (Chapter 42, p. 281).

"Sometimes Persephone, Calla, and I are very good with specifics" (Chapter 43, p. 285).

"Sometimes the process is the most interesting part" (Chapter 44, p. 290).

"I sacrifice myself" (Chapter 45, p. 296).

"Something's coming" (Chapter 46, p. 299).

"They think he may be yours" (Chapter 47, p. 302).

"Can we go home" (Chapter 48, p. 311).

## Topics for Discussion

Who is Blue Sargent? Why does she feel like she is an outsider? What does Blue struggle with throughout the novel? What is Blue's biggest demon that haunts her throughout the novel? Why is this important? How does it change her life?

Discuss the relationship between Blue and Adam. Do they have a crush on each other or are they really in love? Is there love, guilt or a sense of obligation in their relationship? How does Blue feel about Adam? How does Adam feel about Blue?

Discuss the relationship between Blue and Gansey. Do they have a crush on each other or are they friends? Is there love, guilt or a sense of obligation in their relationship? How does Blue feel about Gansey? How does Gansey feel about Blue?

Who is Gansey? Why does he keep trying to get Adam to move in with him? Why does there seem to be a strain in the relationship between Gansey and Adam at times? Why do Gansey and Blue have visions about loving each other but nothing ever happens between them?

Compare and contrast Barrington Whelk's life when he was an Aglionby student with Gansey's life. Did they live similar lives or different lives? Do you think Whelk sees himself in Gansey? Why does Whelk want to control the ley lines? Do you think Whelk murdered Czerny or was Czerny the sacrifice Whelk put up for the ritual?

Who is Noah? Why does he tell Declan's girlfriend he has been dead for seven years when he first meets her? What do you think happens to Noah? Do you think that Noah has knowledge about the ley lines that can help Gansey find Glendower? Why is this important?

Discuss the powers of the ley lines. What impact do the powers have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them or hold them back? Why is an issue to the characters? Do the powers have anything to do with way that the relationships develop and evolve? What impact does it have on the overall desire to expose the truth or to keep the happenings around town a secret?