

The Rose Bride: A Retelling of 'the White Bride and the Black Bride' (Once... Study Guide

The Rose Bride: A Retelling of 'the White Bride and the Black Bride' (Once... by Nancy Holder

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



Contents

The Rose Bride: A Retelling of 'the White Bride and the Black Bride' (Once... Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	4
Prologue and Chapter 1.....	5
Chapter One.....	6
Chapter Two.....	8
Chapter Three.....	10
Chapter Four.....	12
Chapter Five.....	14
Chapter Six.....	16
Chapter Seven.....	18
Chapter Eight.....	20
Chapter Nine.....	22
Chapter Ten.....	24
Chapter Eleven.....	25
Chapter Twelve.....	27
Chapter Thirteen.....	29
Chapter Fourteen.....	31
Chapter Fifteen.....	34
Characters.....	36
Objects/Places.....	44
Themes.....	47
Style.....	49
Quotes.....	51
Topics for Discussion.....	54



Plot Summary

"The Rose Bride" by Nancy Holder tells the story of two unrelated young people, sent on a journey to find true love by the goddess Artemis as the result of wishes made by their mothers. These two not only learn the meaning of true love but also find this love in one another. The fairy tale incorporates aspects such as black magic, gods and goddess, and an enchanted rose garden in a story that teaches the importance of rising above one's failures and ill fortune to be the best person they can. Themes include the maturation of true love and the struggle of good versus evil.

At the beginning of the novel, Jean-Marc and his new wife Lucienne have just learned they will have a son who will heal two broken hearts. The action then switches to the Marchands. Rose's mother, Celestine, plants a magical rose garden for her daughter in which she later makes her wish that Rose always know that she is loved. Celestine dies soon after that wish is made. Meanwhile, Rose's father has fallen into the hands of Ombrine and Desiree Severine. He dies of suspicious causes just before they reach the Marchand home, and the Severine women take over the house and treat Rose as a servant. As times become harder, Ombrine destroys the rose garden planted by Celestine, an act that breaks Rose's heart. Ombrine plans to use the plot to grow vegetables, a move that allows Rose to visit Elise's grave in the village. The purple roses, created by Rose's mother, are growing on Elise's grave. As she is tending the roses one day a man, who turns out to be her half-brother, offers to buy flowers from Rose. He paints a portrait of Rose which is later seen by the king who recognizes Rose because she looks just like his late wife Lucienne.

War is breaking out in the country as a man claiming to be Jean-Marc's half-brother tries to usurp him. It is in these conditions that Jean-Marc sends his adviser out to find the woman who looks so much like Lucienne. On the way back to the palace, the royal - is attacked. Rose is washed into a river and turned into a doe by Artemis. Ombrine and Desiree use a spell provided by the God of Shadows to make Desiree look like Rose. Jean-Marc marries Desiree at first sight. She and her mother, along with the God of Shadows and Mother Hecate, plan to kill Reigner, Rose's half-brother, and his wife. They also poison Jean-Marc to make him do what they want him to do. Jean-Marc, however, makes friends with Rose, the doe. When his wife and step-mother accuse the doe of betraying Jean-Marc, he hesitates to kill her because he does not believe she would hurt him. The statue of Artemis shoots Desiree in the chest. Blackbirds come and carry the mother and daughter away. Rose transforms from the doe back into her true form.

Although Jean-Marc wants to marry Rose because of her resemblance to his first wife, Rose will not agree to do so because she knows that he is unable of loving her as she deserves. It is at the point that Jean-Marc finally stops trying to make Rose love him and decides to be the man that she could love that she is able to disclose the love that she has had for him for so long. The two are married and celebrated as a couple who brings true love and prosperity to their land.



Prologue and Chapter 1

Prologue and Chapter 1 Summary

"The Rose Bride" by Nancy Holder tells the story of two unrelated young people, sent on a journey to find true love by the goddess Artemis as the result of wishes made by their mothers. These two not only learn the meaning of true love but also find this love in one another. The fairy tale incorporates aspects such as black magic, gods and goddess, and an enchanted rose garden in a story that teaches the importance of rising above one's failures and ill fortune to be the best person they can. Themes include the maturation of true love and the struggle of good versus evil.

The Prologue of "Rose Bride" tells the story of a ceremony in which Jean-Marc and his new wife Lucienne learn they will have a son. The priest of Zeus who tells their fortune says that the child will heal two hearts. Lucienne and Jean-Marc try briefly to determine what this saying might mean. She suggests this might refer to their own hearts while Jean-Marc believes the fortune may refer to his and his mother's hearts. The story ends with the assumption the family will live happily ever after.

Prologue and Chapter 1 Analysis

This story is a fairy tale, a classification that can be determined right away by the language used in the Prologue. In the tradition of all fairy tales, this section of the novel begins with the words "Once upon a time." The tale told in the Prologue also assumes that the family will live happily ever after. The final question of this section indicates, however, that this fairy tale may not turn out to be a happy story for everyone involved. It suggests there may be trouble ahead for Jean-Marc, Lucienne and their son. That the family in this section is royalty also follows the general characteristics of a fairy tale. Magic, as is seen in the casting of the runes, is another aspect of this Prologue that leads to its classification as a fairy tale.

Note also in this section that much information is given about Jean-Marc. He is an only child. His mother died four days after he was born. Since that time, his father has had seven other wives, all of whom died. In the course of things, King Henri basically left his son to fend for himself. Lucienne has been Jean-Marc's first real companion.

Much emphasis in this section is also placed on the god Zeus and goddess Artemis. These people believe it was necessary for them to please the gods in order for them to have a good life. Because they have been granted a son, those around the couple assume they have been pleasing to the deities. When Jean-Marc forgets to first thank Zeus for the promise of a son Lucienne is afraid the god will be angry with them and punish them for Jean-Marc's thoughtlessness.



Chapter One

Chapter One Summary

In Chapter One, Laurent Marchand works tirelessly to provide wealth for his wife, Celestine, and their daughter, Rose. Laurent has a dark, secret wound caused by his son, Reginer, by his first wife. His wife had died giving birth to the boy and Laurent looked to the child to fulfill his dreams. Disappointed that the boy wanted to be a painter, Laurent throws the boy out of his home. Celestine encouraged Laurent to mend the rift, but he refused to forgive his son.

Although they had everything they could want materially, Rose and Celestine missed Laurent because he was so busy working. Celestine knew her husband loved them, but she often felt alone. Celestine's constant companion is Elise Lune, an older lady who is Celestine's servant and nurse to Rose. She is a staff member, but Elise is loved and treated like family.

When Rose turns seven, Celestine creates a rose garden for the child to enjoy. A central feature in the garden is a life-sized marble statue of the goddess Artemis. A fountain and stream invite deer to drink and rest in the garden. The evening before Rose's thirteenth birthday, she has already received gifts from her father including a formal gown of deep rose embroidered with silver stars. Celestine knows that it is not the gifts Rose wants, but to have her father with her. In fact, Rose has been working on a gift to give to her father, a purple cloak embroidered with a rose for each year of life he has given to her.

On that night, Celestine asks the goddess Artemis to let Rose know always that she is loved. As Artemis grants Celestine's wish, Celestine feels a pain in her heart. The god Eros appears and tells Celestine to bring Rose to the garden before dawn or the wish will not come true. When she returns to the garden with Rose, all of the rose bushes are in full bloom even though it is still winter. Celestine notices there are tears in the eyes of the statue that spill over, turning the roses at the base blue. Rose picks one of the blue flowers and holds it out to her mother. Celestine's heart seizes causing her to jerk and prick her finger on the thorns of the rose. That rose, along with the others, turns purple when Celestine's blood touches it. Celestine knows she is dying. As she dies, she tells Rose that the purple flowers are a sign that she is always loved. At her death, the roses, with the exception of the purple ones, wither and die. They whisper to Rose that she is loved.

Chapter One Analysis

On her daughter's thirteenth birthday, Rose's mother requests from the goddess Artemis that her daughter be given the gift of the knowledge that she is loved. Celestine believes that this gift of enduring love is the best one that she can give her daughter. She does



not realize when she makes the wish, however, that she will make her own death come soon. Rose is heartbroken when her mother dies on the morning of her birthday.

The fairy tale feeling of the story continues as magic is incorporated into this chapter. For instance, the stone statue of Artemis cries when Celestine's gift to her daughter is granted. Also, as Celestine asks the gift from the goddess, a doe with eyes the same color as Rose's comes into the garden. The fawn turns white as Artemis promises Celestine her wish will be fulfilled. The rosebushes also are infused with magic as they bloom in the winter. In the end, the roses that have mysteriously turned from white to blue then to purple at the touch of Celestine's blood, tell Rose in audible voices that she is loved.

While the life of Celestine and Rose as introduced in the first parts of Chapter one, seem to be ideal, there are a few dark spots. They live in a fine home filled with everything they could ever want. The people who work for them love them and are happy to have jobs there. One servant, Elise, is considered more as a family member than a servant. Laurent's absence and his estranged son are the only things that cast any shadows over the family.

Notice also in this section the dedication that Celestine shows to the goddess to whom she prays. She prays to this deity to keep her husband safe as well as to let her daughter know that she is loved. The interaction between Celestine and Artemis is important as Artemis tries to be certain that this knowledge that she is loved is all that Celestine wants for her daughter. Celestine stresses to the goddess that she believes that the woman who knows that she is loved has everything she needs.



Chapter Two

Chapter Two Summary

News of Celestine's death is sent to Laurent. Elise lays her friend out for burial in her wedding gown. Rose's fancy birthday dress is put away. After three weeks, Laurent still has not come and no one is able to find him. After a wise priest explains to Rose that her mother is being held hostage by Rose, she agrees to allow her mother to be buried. Meanwhile, the servants mutter about Laurent. Each night, Rose goes to the garden to cry beside the purple roses. Although the roses whisper to her that she is loved, Rose cannot hear the words. Five months pass and Rose's father still does not come. She embroiders another rose on the cloak she has made for him. Monsieur Valmont has been selling Celestine's dishes to pay the estate's bills. Although the roses continue to tell her she is loved, Rose tells them it doesn't matter because she is afraid. She believes she hears the statue of Artemis telling her that she must learn the lesson so they can be done.

Finally, one day Elise tells Rose that her father is coming. Rose and Elise run to the watchtower where they can see the parade of horses in the distance. Rose blows her father a kiss, but as soon as she does so, it becomes cold and she breaks into a sweat. Rose knows there is something wrong. The group doesn't arrive that night and Rose begs those in the house to ride out to meet them. They will not do so. As soon as Elise is asleep, Rose gets her horse and rides out. She gets lost in the fog. As Rose sits against a rock and sleeps, she has a vision of the God Eros. He tells her that Artemis had sent him to tell her about the journey on which her mother has sent her. Rose can quit the journey if she wants, but if she carries it through to completion, she will know that she is loved. He tells her that she must carry her wound into the light. Rose accepts the journey.

Chapter Two Analysis

It is in this chapter that Rose first learns there is a lesson for her to learn. As she mourns the loss of her mother and wonders what has happened to her father, she believes that she hears the goddess Artemis whisper something to her about a lesson to be learned. Although Rose asks what the lesson is, she gets no response. Later, after she has set out looking for her father, she is visited by the god Eros who has been sent as a messenger from Artemis. He explains to her that her mother has made a wish that has sent her on a journey. He doesn't, however, explain to her what this journey is or what wish her mother made. Regardless, Rose accepts the journey. It is one of many times she will be given the opportunity to reject her journey or go on.

Rose has already begun learning the lesson of true love through the wise priest who explains to her why she must bury her mother. When Rose tells him that she wants to keep her mother there because she loves her, he explain that in reality, she is holding



her mother captive. While true love wants, it does not need. While Rose is keeping her mother's body with her, she is also keeping her from her eternal rest. He explains that true love wants what is best for the other person.

It is in this chapter that Rose experiences fear despite the fact the roses tell her she is loved. She asks the roses if love will bring back the estate that she is afraid will be lost. She admits to the flowers that she is afraid. Remember that when the goddess Artemis granted Celestine's wish, she first asked the lady if she'd not rather Rose have something like safety. Celestine insists that the knowledge that she is loved is better for her daughter than safety or riches. Now that Rose is in a position where she does not feel safe and is in danger of losing her riches, Rose seems to be already doubting that love is the best gift.



Chapter Three

Chapter Three Summary

In Chapter Three, Rose wakes to find Elise crying over her. She sees a woman's face beyond Elise's. The woman introduces herself as Ombrine, Rose's stepmother. She tells her that Laurent is dead and that his death is Rose's fault. Ombrine explains that Laurent was on his way home for Rose's birthday but collapsed on the road when he learned of Celestine's death. Ombrine claims she nursed Laurent back to health but that he had wanted to return before he was ready. She goes on to explain that when they found Rose on the mountain, his heart failed. Meanwhile, Ombrine's daughter, Desiree comforts her. Elise challenges the woman telling her that they story she heard was that Laurent died on the road earlier in the day. Rose clings to Elise and Ombrine insists the wine be given to Rose to calm her down. She adds a few drops of something to the wine. Rose can tell Elsie is afraid of what has been put in the wine. She takes the glass but accidentally drops it. The liquid spills on her rose colored gown. Ombrine takes the dress.

When Rose sees her father's body at the funeral, she becomes so upset that she runs to the rose garden. Although the roses insist that she is loved, Rose believes that she is not. Elsie finds Rose in the garden. Elise raises her skirt and shows Rose that she has stolen the birthday gown back from Ombrine. At the funeral banquet, Elise encourages Rose to try to keep peace with Desiree, but Desiree tells Rose that everything now belongs to Ombrine. Elise comes a pulls Rose away from Desiree. She takes her to the music room where she tells her that Monsieur Valmont has been arrested for stealing. The two ladies believe that since the dishes were sold to pay debts, they can arrange to have the man set free.

Chapter Three Analysis

Much happens to disturb Rose's world and cause her to question her status. Her father has died. Her new stepmother, whom she didn't even know existed, has told Rose that his death was her fault. Although Elise tells Rose she has heard a different story of Laurent's death, the woman is insistent that Rose is at fault. Meanwhile, Rose's stepmother and stepsister take over the home as if they are the new owners. They do not intend to let Rose have any say in what might happen to her parent's possessions. To make matters worse, Ombrine has had Monsieur Valmont arrested because she has discovered that he had sold some plates to pay the estate's bills. Rose and Elise feel they can free the man.

Also in this section, Rose's formal gown that her father bought for her begins the first of its journey. Rose had thought she would wear the gown when she went to meet her father, but decided not to because it was cold. Therefore, the dress lies near her bed when she is brought back to the house after she is found in the mountains. Her



stepmother fixes a drink that will calm her down, but Rose feels she should not drink the beverage so she accidently drops it. The drink spills on the gown. The accident draws Ombrine attention to the dress and she takes it. Elise later steals the dress back from Ombrine and tells Rose that they will hide it.



Chapter Four

Chapter Four Summary

In Chapter Four, Valmont is found guilty of theft and sentenced to hard labor in the colonies. Ombrine and Desiree believe that it was Valmont who stole the dress also. Meanwhile, Rose has been able to piece together her stepfamily's past. Ombrine's first husband was rich and the family loved to entertain. One night a jealous gypsy led a group that burned the Severine's chateau. Severine drank himself to the grave while Ombrine and Desiree lived in the ruins of the chateau.

The night before her fourteenth birthday Rose cries in her mother's rose garden. She and Elsie had burned incense before her parents' graves. On the way back to their rooms, they had heard strange chanting coming from Ombrine's room. Rose sleeps in the garden that night. She wakes to the sound of the roses and begs Artemis to protect her from her stepmother's anger. Desiree catches Rose on her way back from the garden. Ombrine warns Rose of evil in the area, telling her that Lucienne and her baby had died, some thought magic had been involved.

Elise tells Ombrine she will take Rose to get her cleaned up but Ombrine fires Elise. Both she and Rose beg Ombrine to reconsider but she orders Elise to go and pack. Rose is afraid for Elise because she is old and has no one to take care of her. Elise tells Rose that someone will take her in. Elise challenges Rose to remember this wrong and not to treat people in the same way when she is grown. Before she leaves, Elise warns Rose that there are strange herbs growing in the garden. She asks Rose to be careful around her stepmother.

After Elise is fired, the other members of the staff are fired one by one. Rose hears Ombrine and Desiree chanting and whispering secrets to one another. She also sees dangerous herbs growing in the garden. Although the roses continue to tell her she is loved, Rose insists that she is not because if she was, everything that she loved would not have been taken from her. She hears Desiree calling for her, saying there has been a disaster. When Rose finds the girl she says that Laurent's ships, filled with his wealth had sunk. Although Rose tries to comfort her stepmother, Ombrine screams at her to get away, blaming her once more of killing Laurent.

Chapter Four Analysis

Rose's world gets worse when Elise is fired. Elise is the last person alive whom Rose believed loved her. In addition, Ombrine has fired all of the familiar servants. Although Elise and Rose had been able to free Valmont, he is sentenced because of the greed of others. The men lie and say their debts were not paid because they know that by doing so they will be able to get paid a second time. Only one man is willing to stand up and tell the truth. It is because of him that Valmont is not killed.



Rose's belief that she is loved gets weaker and weaker even though the roses continue to tell her so. Fear deepens as she and Elise begin to suspect that that Ombrine and Desiree might be involved in black magic. They hear chanting coming from their rooms and find strange herbs growing in the garden. Elise expresses the concern that the two might try to poison Rose.



Chapter Five

Chapter Five Summary

In Chapter Five, the Marchands are in trouble since the loss of their fortune. No one comes to court Ombrine and both girls are too young to married. The estate was never intended to turn a profit so there is no money coming in. The only way to stay alive is to sell off the valuables from the estate. Knowing the sad state of their affairs, Rose decides to make her formal gown "appear" hoping Ombrine and Desiree will not know from where it came. When she finds it, though, Ombrine automatically knows it was Rose who left the dress for her to find. She orders Rose to tell her what else is hidden back but Rose has nothing to say.

One night, Rose feels an urge to go into the garden. There is a letter at the feet of Artemis' statue. It is from Elise who sends her a bit of money. Rose hides the letter, then picks a purple rose which she puts at the feet of the statue. The next night, the rose is gone.

A month later, Rose happens to see Ombrine and Desiree cloaked and veiled walking with what appears to be a third shadowy figure. When Rose looks again, though, the third figure is gone but a large bird flies across the moon. Ombrine and Desiree believe they glimpsed Rose but she gets away and slips into bed before they catch her. As they stand outside her room, Rose hears the two mention that they need more money to pay for more power from The Circle.

As the servants are fired from the estate, duties are given to Rose. Ombrine keeps asking for more money. Their fortune gets even worse as diseases strike their livestock. Ombrine finally accuses Rose of being the cause of all of their troubles. Not wanting to hear any more, Rose asks to be excused. Ombrine reminds her that she has mending to do. After her stepfamily finishes eating, Rose cleans up the kitchen. As she feeds the pigs, Rose takes a side trip to the rose garden where there is another letter from Elise. Elise thanks Rose for the rose and sends two coins. She tells of a man known as the Pretender who is masquerading as King Henri's son. Rose buries this letter and places another rose at the feet of the statue.

Back in the kitchen, Rose is confronted by her stepmother. She has watched Rose and knows how long the girl was gone. She grabs Rose's arm and hears the coins clink. When Rose tells her she found the coins, her stepmother calls her a liar and slaps her. She drags her upstairs where Desiree meets them, wearing the cloak that Rose had been making for her father. Rose' world shifts on its axis again.

Chapter Five Analysis

Rose's gown reappears in this section of the novel. It is an act of love and concern for their well being that Rose sacrifices this last of her possessions. Instead of being



grateful, Ombrine is angry with Rose and accuses her of hoarding valuables. Even the money earned from the dress does not last the family long.

Rose becomes even more certain in this section of the novel that her family members have been dabbling in black magic as she sees them one night meeting with a shadowy figure. She also hears the two of them whisper about needing more money to get more power from the Circle.

It is in this chapter that Rose touches her stepmother for the first time. She is shocked by how physically cold the woman is. Meanwhile, Desiree has found the purple cloak that Rose had been embroidering for her father. Although it is worth nothing monetarily, Ombrine demands that it be given to her. Note here, as in other times in the book, there is a foreshadowing of evil as it is indicated that the "world had shifted on its axis again." This shift seems to indicate either good or bad fortune is on its way. This time, Rose believes things are about to get even worse for her.



Chapter Six

Chapter Six Summary

In Chapter Six, Rose turns sixteen. The only thing that continues to flourish on the Marchand estate is the rose garden. Rose fears her stepmother and Desiree are practicing witchcraft as they whisper often about "him" and "the circle," and grow poisonous herbs. There is also a sulfurous smell coming from Ombrine's room one night. Rose starts carrying a knife in her apron. Because the family is so desperate for food, Rose is allowed to wander where she wants as long as she returns with food. As Rose continues to take solace in the rose garden, she wonders why it was so important to her mother that she know that she is loved.

As time passes the same dark times that the Marchands have been facing are spreading to the rest of the countryside. There has been no rain for a month and food is scarce. One day Rose returns from searching for food to find that Ombrine has destroyed her rose garden. She wails in pain. Ombrine explains they needed the space to grow vegetables to sell. In the ruins of the garden, Rose falls asleep. The broken statue of Artemis cries because of the promise she had made to Celestine. She is afraid that Rose will not be able to go on from this point. From the woods, a doe creeps up to the sleeping girl. The doe touches Rose's hand and turns into a luminous being holding a purple rose. The being tells Rose that it is her choice to go on, or to stop here, but that if she follows the journey through, she will be transformed. The being turns back into a doe and drops the rose near the girl.

Meanwhile, in the Land Beyond, Jean-Marc kneels next to his wife's sarcophagus. He feels tricked and betrayed by the death of his wife and son. His heart is broken. He tells his dead wife that he will be forced to marry again, but that he will never love again. Although he doesn't want to, Jean-Marc has promised to go out on a hunt that day. During the course of the hunt, Jean-Marc gallops away from the others. When he finally stops his horse, he sees a doe in a clearing. As he watches, the doe turns white, then transforms into a human. He feels awe and anger as he realizes it is Artemis. She tells him that he will love again. As he kneels, he is attacked from behind. His chief bodyguard kills the attacker. He hears something whisper "you will love."

Chapter Six Analysis

In this chapter, the doe appears to Rose for a second time. The first time was in a dream that she had while searching for her father in the mountains. The doe again approaches Rose but this time, it is a real doe, not one in her dreams, that walks up to her. Again, Rose sleeps through her encounter with the deer but it tells her of the wish that her mother had for her and asks Rose again if she wants to continue on the journey. A similar doe appears to Jean-Marc in the forest. He is not dreaming though. He watches as the doe, like those that have appeared to Rose, glows white and then its



eyes turn blue. Jean-Marc recognizes the doe as a messenger from a god but is not sure which god or goddess might have sent it. It is important to remember Jean-Marc promise to his dead wife that even though he is forced to marry, he will not love again. This doe brings Jean-Marc the promise that he will love again. After Jean-Marc is attacked because he has been distracted by the doe, he wonders if the doe was sent by a friend or an enemy.

It is interesting in this chapter that Jean-Marc chooses to symbolize his son as a rose instead of allowing the boy's image to be placed on the sarcophagus along with his wife's. This symbol of the rose indicates love and dedication. It is a recurring symbol in the novel.

Jean-Marc's visit by the doe indicates that he, like Rose, has a journey to make. His journey is not specific by the messenger of the god who comes to visit him. He is only told that he will love again, despite his promise to Lucienne that he will never love anyone but her. Jean-Marc's journey will be made more difficult by the fact that he doesn't quite trust the gods the way that Rose does. He already feels that Zeus has betrayed him by telling him that his son would heal two broken heart, then allowing this son to die. Jean-Marc's distrust in the gods are only doubled when he is attacked after his encounter with the doe. He wonders if the messenger was sent to distract him from the enemy that was creeping up behind him.



Chapter Seven

Chapter Seven Summary

When Rose wakes, she sees a luminous being who raises a bow and aims the arrow at Rose asking if she wishes her to shoot. Rose tells her she will go on. At this moment, Rose hears Ombrine calling her telling her they must go to town. She believes this is a reward for not dying. She expects to find Elise in town. Once in town, Ombrine sends Rose to search for people to help in the garden. She finds an old lady in a tavern who tells her that Elise is out back. When Rose goes where the lady directs her, she finds herself in a cemetery. A purple rosebush grows on her gravesite where the two flowers sent by Rose must have taken root. The knowledge of the death of Elise is the final crack in Rose's broken heart. But even through this pain, Rose knows that she is loved. It is at this point that Rose grows up.

Rose promises Ombrine she will plant and tend the garden herself if she can be allowed to go to the village to sell the vegetables. Each trip that she is allowed to make to the village, Rose tends the roses on Elise's grave. They have spread and flourished to cover all of the graves in the plot. Rose knows that it is love that has made the roses grow. One day, a man asks to buy one of the roses. Although Rose names an outrageous price, the man agrees. On the way home that day, Rose becomes ill. She hides the money and is in bed all week despite Ombrine's threats. After a trip to the village, Ombrine seems different when she returns to Rose's room. She offers the girl a drink but Rose "accidentally" knocks the glass over. She mops up the mess with her bedsheet and intends to rinse it in the kitchen sink but discovers that her stepmother has locked her in her room. When she looks for her hidden money bag, it is gone.

One day, Rose discovers the door is unlocked and goes downstairs to find Ombrine and Desiree eating. Ombrine then tells her to go out and search for food. Rose is afraid she will meet her death in the woods. Rose goes to the place where the statue of Artemis once stood and begs protection from the goddess. At first she hears nothing, but a voice from a tiny purple rosebud whispers to her that she is loved. The doe she has seen before appears, pulls up the rosebud and places it at her feet. Rose agrees to follow her. The doe leads her to the forest.

Chapter Seven Analysis

It is noted in this chapter that Rose grows up. This happens when Rose knows that she can go on despite the loss of Elise. Although her heart is broken when she learns that her friend is dead, she does not suffer despair. Notice how the purple roses that grow on Elise's grave have come to represent love and the way love grows and spreads from one area to another. It can be guessed that the letters that Rose received did not really come from Elise but instead some other mysterious source as Elise has been dead for



more than a year when Rose discovers her grave. It could be that Artemis really did shoot the roses to Elise as is suggested earlier in the book.

While she is in bed sick, Rose believes that she begins to notice changes in her stepmother. She notes that one day when she comes in to see her, the woman's teeth appear sharper while her shadow shows the evidence of two horns on top of her head. When Rose looks again, she sees none of these things. While her suspicion is still strong, Rose continues to hope that she was only imagining the changes because she was sick.

After she is well, Rose cannot help but think that her stepmother is sending her out in the forest with a plan already set out for someone or something to kill her while she is there. She begs Artemis, the only being she can think of who is on her side, to protect her from whatever her stepmother has planned. For the third time a luminous doe appears to Rose.

The doe appears to be a messenger sent from Artemis to show Rose the direction in which she should travel. The purple roses, which the deer picks and then takes with her, seem to be a sign to Rose that she can trust the direction of the deer. Even though she is afraid of what will happen to her, Rose follows the animal into the woods.



Chapter Eight

Chapter Eight Summary

In the Land Beyond, the king visits the court painter and his wife to thank them for their hospitality while he recuperated at their home from his injuries. When he arrives, Claire tells the king there is a lady whom he must see. They escort him to an art studio where Jean-Marc is shown a painting of a woman who looks just like Lucienne. At first, Jean-Marc believes Reginer painted the lady this way because he knew what the queen looked like but Claire reminds him that Reginer had never seen Lucienne. Reginer tells the king he had seen the girl tending roses in a graveyard near his father's chateau. The king orders to be taken to her but Sabot, his adviser, will not allow it. He suggests this may be a trick to lure the king out so he can be attacked by the Pretender and his army. Sabot offers to go himself and the king agrees.

Meanwhile, Rose continues to follow the doe. She realizes the sounds she hears are the sounds of drums from the soldiers. When they get within sight distance of the Pretender's army, other deer join the doe to protect Rose from being seen. They begin to run, taking Rose back to the chateau. Rose screams when she sees that the house is on fire. She also sees a coach sitting in front of the chateau. The coachman stand to his feet when he sees Rose and calls for both her and Sabot. Ombrine and Desiree come out of the house carrying cloaks and hats, followed by a man who freezes when he sees Rose. One of the soldiers picks Rose up and carries her to the coach.

As the coach moves forward, it is attacked by the Pretender's forces. Sabot is just about to tell Rose that the court painter is her brother when the coach is overturned and Rose is knocked out. When Rose awakes, the doe has returned. Rose tries to wake Sabot but the doe tells her to leave him. It says that their god will protect them. The deer drags Rose toward the river. A flock of blackbirds begins attacking the Pretender's men. One of the men comes after her and she falls into the river. Rose believes she will die as she is swept along in the water but a voice tells her that she will not.

Chapter Eight Analysis

At this point in the novel, it is important to remember how little Rose knows about what is going on. She was out of the house at the time that Sabot approached her stepmother and stepsister. The doe takes her back to the chateau just before the king's coach leaves the house. Had she not arrived at this time, it is uncertain that she would ever have known what happened to her stepfamily. They would have been free to go about their plan to trick Jean-Marc into believing that Desiree was Rose without having to worry about the real Rose.

Rose knows only that she looks like Jean-Marc's first wife and that he is interested in meeting her because of her unusual appearance. She knows also that it was the man



whom she met at the graveyard who showed the king her portrait but still does not know that he is her brother.

Note that when the doe lures Rose away from the coach and those whom she believes are injured, the doe tells her that these people have their own gods who will watch over them. As the doe pulls Rose toward the river blackbirds come from the sky and begin attacking the Pretender's men. It seems these birds are distracting the soldiers from the ruined coach. Meanwhile, one man does attack Rose and causes her to fall into the river.



Chapter Nine

Chapter Nine Summary

In Chapter Nine, the royal coach is heard coming and the king goes to see. He sees the woods on fire and a dozen men chasing the coach. Blackbirds swoop down from the clouds and attack the men following the coach. Jean-Marc believes it is a miracle. He rides out to meet the coach. Jean-Marc escorts the carriage into the castle courtyard. When Jean-Marc opens the door of the coach, a girl who looks exactly like the late Lucienne is standing in the doorway. He believes the gods have brought Lucienne back to life for him. She is crying because her stepsister is missing. Sabot steps down from the driver's seat and makes introductions. He explains what has happened to Desiree. Rose and Ombrine are taken to the temple so they can enjoy the protection of Zeus.

As he looks at Rose before going back to the battle, a voice whispers to him to marry her. Although Jean-Marc cannot pinpoint the source, he follows the orders and proposes marriage to the girl. After their wedding, Jean-Marc returns to battle. When he and the Pretender stand face to face in battle, Jean-Marc is surprised when the stone arrow of Artemis flies past him and kills his enemy.

Chapter Nine Analysis

In this section of the novel, it can be certain that the blackbirds have been sent by the gods of Ombrine and Desiree to protect them as they fly over the carriage as it makes its way back to the palace. Jean-Marc believes it is a miracle that he is able to go out to meet the coach, then escort it back into the palace courtyard through the flying arrows and fighting men without being hit.

Notice, however, at one point in the scene, even Jean-Marc notices that he acts differently than he would under usual circumstances. As they ride out to the carriage, Jean-Marc's chief bodyguard is hit with an arrow. Even though Jean-Marc sees him fall, he does not go back to check on him because he is too intent on finding out if the girl in the carriage looks like Lucienne or not. This is a sign that Jean-Marc's fascination with this unknown girl is causing him to be distracted and act in a different, uncaring manner than he usually would.

Notice also the strangeness of the order to marry Rose right away. Jean-Marc cannot find a source to which he can attribute the strange voice that he hears commanding him to marry so he decides that it must be his god, Zeus. The priests are taken aback that Jean-Marc believes that Zeus has commanded him to marry since Zeus does not usually speak directly to people other than clergy.

For a moment in this chapter, there may be confusion on the part of the reader as to how Rose came to be in the carriage and Desiree came to be missing. The reader soon understands that Ombrine and Desiree have concocted some sort of spell that has

made Desiree look like Rose so that they can take the pleasure of her chance at being a queen away from her just as they have taken the rest of her possessions from her.



Chapter Ten

Chapter Ten Summary

In Chapter Ten, Jean-Marc has the river dredged for the body of Desiree, but nothing is found. There is, however, a large feast held to celebrate his victory in war as well as the king's marriage. Meanwhile, Rose, who has been transformed into a doe, is awakened by the sounds of the men dredging the river for her. Rose's calls alert a herd which comes and surrounds her. She picks up a purple rose that she dropped from her mouth and follows the herd. They take her to her brother's chateau where she sees the painting of herself. Desiree enters the room but Rose notices that she wears Rose's face above her own, like a mask. Rose watches as Reginer enters the room and Desiree embraces him. When she realizes she does have family, Rose begs for Artemis to change her back to her real self.

Jean-Marc waits seven days before he begins wooing his wife. On the eighth night she sends a note to meet her in her room. That night Jean-Marc stands outside her balcony and strums his lute. When he goes inside the palace, a blackbird flies across the moon and the candles on the balcony go out. Meanwhile, Rose wonders why she cares so much about what is happening with Jean-Marc. As she prepares to sleep, her purple rosebud tells her she is loved. Rose replies that she is not loved by Jean-Marc.

Chapter Ten Analysis

One of the points made in this chapter is that at this point, Jean-Marc is very selfish. He showed this selfishness when he did not go back to get his fallen servant. He shows the selfishness again when he considers what part he is to be of Artemis' beloved's journey. He wonders not so much about what he might have to do as he wonders why the journey does not focus on him. Since he is the king, he believes that he should be the center of everyone's attention. In this case, however, it appears that the person to whom Artemis refers to as her beloved is the center of attention.

As Jean-Marc goes inside the palace to spend his first night in Desiree's room, there are a couple of signs of evil that occur, giving what was once a romantic scene an evil air. When Jean-Marc leaves, a large bird flies across the face of the moon. All of the candles on the balcony where Desiree was just standing also go out. The writer chooses to use the term "gutted" to explain how the candles go out, indicating some damaging or destructive way of going out, not just being blown out by a breeze.



Chapter Eleven

Chapter Eleven Summary

In Chapter Eleven, Rose runs directly to a pool of water in one of the palace gardens where Jean-Marc is sitting. She smells Desiree on him. He asks Rose to thank Artemis for returning his bride to him. When she smells other deer nearby, Rose runs again.

On day as Desiree is being fitted for new clothes, Jean-Marc watches as she calls for a bolt of yellow fabric. Claire suggests the color will make her look sallow and Rose asks Claire if she is being disobedient. She again orders the yellow satin. Claire feels as if she has been slapped. When she notices that Jean-Marc has observed the scene, she blushes and excuses herself by blaming her attitude on nerves caused by her sister's disappearance. They ask if he believes the queen should dress in mourning clothes for her sister. Jean-Marc tells her not to do so yet.

Rose finds herself intoxicated with Jean-Marc's scent. She goes in search of her herd but instead comes upon a little boy being arrested and taken from his mother for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his hungry family. The woman tells them she has no husband but they show her no mercy. When she retorts that this is no way for a king to treat his subjects, they retaliate by threatening to take her horse and cart. Rose runs out, knocking one of the men over. When she runs for the other guard, he lets go of the boy. She notices her fur has turned white and is glowing. As she searches for her herd, Rose wonders if Jean-Marc is aware of the terrible things that are happening in his country.

Chapter Eleven Analysis

It seems that Rose being made a deer might be another chance for her to call her journey to an end. She notices that the longer she is with the deer, the more she thinks as a deer might and not so much as a human might. Despite this confusion, Rose finds herself obsessed with Jean-Marc. She wonders about him, is intoxicated by him, and want to be close to him. When she does accidentally run into the area of the palace grounds where he is sitting, he believes that she is a messenger from Artemis. When he tells her to thank Artemis for sending his beloved back to him, she realizes he only loves Desiree because she looks like his first wife.

A bit of Desiree's true personality comes out when she barks at her sister-in-law as clothes are being made for her. Since she is not accustomed to her blonde hair, Desiree wants a yellow fabric that would have looked good with her dark hair. In addition to appearing hateful, Desiree gives a hint that she has not adjusted to her new role and appearance yet.

As Rose moves about the country as a deer, she begins noticing what bad shape Jean-Marc's land is in. She attacks two men who try to arrest a child for stealing a loaf of



bread to feed himself and his widow mother. She sees nothing that denotes that Jean-Marc loves his people or encourages fair dealings among the people. She wonders how he can allow his country to be this way. After Rose attacks the men who have tried to arrest the boy, she remembers Elise's challenge to her to not allow people to be treated wrongly if she had the ability. She feels that she has just fulfilled her friend's challenge.

While Jean-Marc observes his new wife and mother-in-law in the fitting room, he not only gets some insight on Desiree's true personality but on her mother's as well. As Desiree is getting fitted for her clothes, Ombrine is making an inventory of the items in the palace. While Jean-Marc believes she is doing this just to have something to do to keep her mind busy, she is actually keeping track of things so she can decide what they can steal to sell so more power can be purchased from the Circle. When Jean-Marc touches his mother-in-law, he is surprised by how cold her skin is.



Chapter Twelve

Chapter Twelve Summary

In Chapter Twelve, Rose reaches Reginer's chateau in time to see the king and queen arrive for their visit. Desiree has brought the couple a drink which she claims to be a family-recipe. Rose knows the concoction is poisonous. Doing what she can to protect her family, Rose runs into the stable, disturbing a small dog. She worries the dog to a frenzy, causing those in the house to come out to see what the matter is. Desiree follows Reginer to the stables. She stays outside while he goes inside. When her mother joins her, she jokes about killing the dog as well. Although they realize Jean-Marc is gullible, Ombrine has noticed Reginer looking at them strangely as if they suspect something. Claire walks out to meet the two women at the stable. She tells them the dog got loose and knocked over the wine. Ombrine tells her they will make more.

For Jean-Marc, life returns to the way it was before Lucienne died. He walks by the reflecting pond often to think about his new life and love. One day he meets Rose again. She runs from him but he sets his mind on winning her trust. As he becomes more accustomed to her company, Jean-Marc begins to talk to her about issues of his court, and the way that he had not provided for his people. He also tells her that Claire is pregnant. As he continues to talk, he accidentally refers to his wife by the name of his dead wife. Rose feels pain when she realizes the only reason Jean-Marc was interested in her was because she looked like his late wife.

When he tells her to come, Rose follows him into a crowd of revelers celebrating Claire's coming baby. He takes the doe down to the tomb where his wife is buried. He explains to her that it is because of Desiree's look that he is asking Artemis if she has returned Lucienne to him. Rose feels as if she is looking at a mirror image of herself. She believes now Artemis saved her from a marriage based only on appearance by allowing Desiree to steal her look. At this moment she knows Jean-Marc doesn't want love from his marriage, but comfort.

Rose runs out of the tomb back through the crowd. Her blood chills as she sees a shadowy man with a bird on his shoulder standing on the outskirts of the group. She runs back to join her herd where the head buck offers to make her his queen. Rose wonders if it is this life Artemis wanted for her.

Chapter Twelve Analysis

Despite that fact that it has put her family and Jean-Marc into such danger, Rose realizes in this section that Artemis may have been protecting her from an unhappy life by turning her into the doe. It is when Jean-Marc takes her into the tomb and she realizes that she and Lucienne did not just look similar, but were the same woman, that



she knows Jean-Marc does not love Desiree. Once while speaking of his wife, Jean-Marc refers to her by the name of his first wife. She wonders what this sort of love would be like. Rose can't help but wonder if Artemis intends for her to remain a deer or if there is more in store for her. She is wooed by the king buck of the herd and wonders if this is the love she is supposed to desire. She can't believe that this is all that Artemis might have had in mind for her through the long, difficult, painful journey that she has traveled.



Chapter Thirteen

Chapter Thirteen Summary

In Chapter Thirteen, Reginer and Claire move into the palace to be closer to the court physician when the time comes close for her to have her baby. Rose stops meeting Jean-Marc at the reflecting pool; she feels it would be safer if she stayed away. As time passes, Rose thinks more and more like a deer. She wonders if she is becoming more and more like a deer because she is having no contact with Jean-Marc. Rose realizes she must choose to remain a deer or become a human again. When Rose makes her decision, the herd leaves her. She returns to the reflecting pool. Jean-Marc seems happy to see her. For the first time, she allows him to touch her. As they walk beside the pool, Jean-Marc admits he might have been wrong about the Rose Bride. She has been out of sorts and snappy recently.

When he returns to the palace, Jean-Marc is met by Claire. Claire voices her husband's concern that there is something strange going on with his new bride. She says that when he compares her face with the one in his painting, the two seem different. She makes the point to him that the Pretender was said to look like King Henri when he was the same age. When the man was killed in the war, however, he looked nothing like King Henri. The two hear a bird above them and Claire takes the sound as her cue to leave.

When he returns to his private rooms, Desiree is waiting for him. Jean-Marc studies her and finds nothing different in her appearance as Reginer might have noticed. As she cuddles up with him, she tells him that they are going to have a baby. His first concern is how she feels. When she realizes to what he is referring, Desiree tells him that she will have the baby and survive to raise it. She does confide to Jean-Marc that she has been sleeping badly and having dreams that someone is trying to hurt her baby. She asks permission to consult with one of the wise women of Artemis about the dreams that she has been having. After she falls asleep, Jean-Marc goes to the statue of the goddess Artemis. He begins to address her but is overcome with fear and goes to Lucienne's tomb. As he sits there, he admits to Lucienne that he is afraid. As he prepares to leave, Jean-Marc believes that he hears the flapping of a bird's wings.

Chapter Thirteen Analysis

In this section of the novel, Rose makes her decision not to stay with the herd and live her life as a deer. As soon as she makes this decision, the herd leaves her alone. Meanwhile, Jean-Marc's attention is brought to the fact that his wife's appearance seems to be changing. Reginer has noticed that to him, her face no longer looks like the face of the girl in the portrait that he painted. Claire suggests to Jean-Marc that the Pretender also looked different from the way he had been described after he died.



Although she does not exactly say that she believes some sort of witchcraft of black magic is being used, she does give Jean-Marc this distinct impression.

Note also that twice in this section, the sounds of a bird's wings are heard flapping. The first time this happens is when Claire is talking to Jean-Marc. The second is when Jean-Marc visits his wife's tomb. Since it is birds that are sent to watch over Desiree and Ombrine, these birds could be eavesdropping on Jean-Marc and carrying the information back to them.

In this section, Desiree tells Jean-Marc that she is pregnant. Although he does not let on to her, Jean-Marc admits at his first wife's tomb that he is afraid. Desiree stokes Jean-Marc's fear by telling him that she has been having dreams that someone is trying to hurt her baby.



Chapter Fourteen

Chapter Fourteen Summary

In Chapter Fourteen, Desiree is not feeling well the next morning. When she finally wakes, she invites him in to have some wine with her. He stops after a sip but she encourages him to drink it all. That night Rose notices a change in Jean-Marc right away. He looks old. He admits to Rose that he has been forgetting many things. Rose lies beside him and allows him to put his hand on her back. She realizes that she loves him. He tells her that all of his life he had waited for someone to love him. Now, Rose gives him the gift of love.

Later, Rose happens to be awake when Ombrine and Desiree creep through the woods. They meet with a man and an old lady. Ombrine tells the two the spell is weakening. They also voice the concern that Rose has been transformed into a deer by Artemis in order to keep her safe. Because they have noticed changes in Desiree, Mother Hecate gives Ombrine some false papers showing that Reigner and Claire are associated with the Pretender so they will be killed. Desiree is also given something to add to the king's drinks that will make him more open to suggestion. Just in case the deer is Rose, decide to mention that the deer is in on conspiracy plot with Claire and Reginer. Rose also overhears Desiree mention that she has lied to the king about being pregnant.

The following morning, the king has Reginer and Claire's rooms searched as he has had a vision that they are treacherous. Desiree also has had a vision of a deer killing her baby. Jean-Marc wonders if this deer is the same one he meets at the pool. At this moment, Sabot comes with the fake documents that he has found in the Marchands' room. The old woman tells Jean-Marc that there is another traitor whom she cannot identify but can give Jean-Marc a mirror that will allow him to see who it is.

Rose has been trying all day to get some sort of message to the people inside the palace about the treachery of Desiree and Ombrine. Men swarm around the palace and Rose learns that Jean-Marc has signed Reginer and Claire's death warrants. As she runs through the forest looking for her brother, Rose attracts the attention of predators who follow her. At the same time, Jean Marc is looking at the faces of Claire, Reginer and the doe in the mirror. The knowledge of the doe's betrayal hurts him the worst. He believes that Artemis herself has betrayed him. Jean-Marc leads a posse to hunt down and kill the doe. Rose finally finds her brother and Claire beneath a bridge that spans the river Vue. Claire is in labor. A wolf is about to kill Rose when her fur turns white and she begins to glow. Reginer kills the boars and wolves chasing Rose. As they hear the men beating the bushes looking for them, Reginer begs Rose to protect them. She turns and runs directly for the hunters, hoping to distract them from Reginer and Claire. She finally knows what true love is.

Meanwhile, Jean-Marc is on the scent of the deer. He realizes that something is wrong as his head pounds and stomach clenches. He pulls out the mirror and looks at the doe



as she runs and pants, he begs her to continue to run and not be caught but then the thought is gone. Rose hopes only to get the men as far away from her brother and his wife before she is killed. Rose injures an ankle and has to drag herself to the feet of the statue of Artemis. While the men encircle her, Jean-Marc yells out that the kill is his.

As he approaches the deer under the statue of Artemis, he remembers when Artemis killed the Pretender for him. He knows the goddess could choose to strike him down as well. He raises his sword above the deer. Jean-Marc hesitates as he asks the deer who she is. He stabs the sword into the ground declaring that the doe could not hurt him or his baby. The king begins to be sick. The two women grab the sword together even though Jean-Marc tries to stop them. As the sword reaches Rose, Artemis pulls back her bow and shoots Desiree. As she dies, Rose's face disappears and is replaced by her own. Now Jean-Marc points his sword at the two women. A shadowy figure inspects the two women, then a large blackbird on his shoulder caws and a flock of birds appear. The birds pick up Desiree and Ombrine and fly away with them.

For a moment, Rose realizes that she is finally safe. The goddess commends Rose for finally learning what love is and to expect nothing less than that sort of love from her lifelong companion. She releases Rose from her spell. Jean-Marc moves forward to hold her but Rose instead kneels before the statue of Artemis.

Rose guides the hunters to the place where Reginer and Claire are hidden. Claire has already given birth to a son, whom they name Laurent. On the way back to the castle, Rose tells Reginer what has happened. Jean-Marc listens with an ashen face. When she is alone with Jean-Marc, he tries to straighten out what has happened. Rose corrects his story by telling him that he did not love Desiree because he did not know how to love, only how to need. As Rose warms her hands in front of the fire, she finally hears her mother's wish in its entirety. She tells him that since his love is not true love, she cannot accept it.

Chapter Fourteen Analysis

This chapter is the climax of the novel. With the help of Mother Hecate and the God of the Shadows, Desiree and Ombrine concoct a plan to have Reginer and Claire killed. They also decide to turn Jean-Marc against the deer just in case this is Rose in disguise. Because Jean-Marc's trust in his animal friend is stronger than the potions that are concocted that supposedly leave him open to suggestion, Desiree and Ombrine's plans are foiled. As Jean-Marc hesitates Artemis has the opportunity to kill Desiree. Just as the Pretender did, Desiree returns to her own appearance when she dies. The hunters are equally stunned when the doe that had been trying to kill transforms into the real Rose. In what must have been a stirring scene, these men who were of the god Zeus, kneel down in honor of the god of women.

As she helps Jean-Marc try to straighten out what has actually happened, she helps him to realize that she does not want to be loved just because she looks like someone else. While sitting in his room she has finally heard and has understood her mother's wish for

her. She has learned that true love means putting another's needs first and giving love even if it is not returned. Now that she knows what true love is, she will accept nothing less from her husband.



Chapter Fifteen

Chapter Fifteen Summary

In Chapter Fifteen, Jean-Marc sets out to prove to Rose that his love is genuine. One day, Claire mentions an old dress she has that seems as if it were made for Rose. It turns out to be the birthday gown that Rose's father had bought for her years before. For Rose, seeing the dress is like seeing her parents again. She explains the story of the gown to Claire. Jean-Marc continues to woo Rose, but realizing he is still too hurt from his past to love her, Rose is kind, but does not return his love. It is not until one day when Jean-Marc sees Rose with baby Laurent that he realizes how much the loss of his son hurt him and defined him. That night, he dreams of his mother. She explains to him as she holds him in her arms that she will not be there to teach him to love. She prays to the goddess Artemis to teach her son to love just before she dies. He then sees himself begging forgiveness of his wife and infant son and realizes that he once knew how to love, but he had forgotten.

The next morning Jean-Marc kneels at the statue of Artemis and tells her he is finished trying to make Rose love him. He plans instead to become the kind of man that she could love. He calls his councilors to battle against poverty and injustice in their land. He causes those who abuse their power to be struck down. He finds the boy who was almost arrested for stealing the bread and makes the boy his royal ward. He provides the mother and son with a house and money, and teaches the boy to ride and joust. As Rose watches the changes in Jean-Marc she loves him more than ever.

On her eighteenth birthday, Monsieur Valmont is brought to her door. She learns that the king pardoned him for his crimes and brought him back to Rose. The old man tells Rose the king has said he will live there with them. He comments that the king reminds him of Rose's mother. She is surprised that he has no bitterness for Ombrine and Desiree, but knows that his is the right attitude to have. They talk almost all night and as Rose finally prepares for bed, Reginer comes knocking on her door. He is so emotional he can't speak at first, but then tells her that the king has gone mad. He tells her that Jean-Marc has been planting purple roses all around the statue of Artemis and says that the roses are speaking to him.

Although a council has been called to determine what should happen to the king, Rose immediately knows what is happening. Rose requests to meet with the king alone. As Rose approaches the king, he tells her that he now knows how to love. Rose replies that she now wants him to know her. At night, just as it was when she was a doe, Rose and Jean-Marc walk around the pool together each night. They become such good friends that some say they could never be lovers. On her nineteenth birthday, Rose is happy because she finally feels at peace in her life. During their walk that night Jean-Marc tells her he plans to give Laurent a puppy in honor of her birthday while Clarisse will get a kitten. She says these will be her best gifts, but then Jean-Marc pulls a purple rose from behind his back. He proposes to her.



The two are married on the next full moon. Rose's wedding gown features insets of fabric from her birthday gown. As they are married, the statue of Artemis speaks aloud for those gathered. She says the two have been on journeys set forth by their mothers. It has been these journeys that have turned them into the people they are on that day. Artemis says they are the purple roses of the world, representatives of true love. A tiny fawn, the baby of the king buck wanders up to the couple. After the wedding, everyone is able to hear the words of the purple roses.

The couple has a daughter named Marie-Cieline who wears a gown made from the scraps of Rose's birthday gown when she is presented to Artemis.

Chapter Fifteen Analysis

In this final chapter of the story, Jean-Marc finally becomes a man whom Rose believes can love her as she should be loved. It is only after he stops trying to impress Rose and focuses on changing his own thoughts and patterns of behavior that he is able to make the change. Meanwhile, Rose is delighted with the changes that she sees in Jean-Marc. His growth makes her love him all the more. It is noted that like Rose's mother made a wish to the goddess Artemis for Rose, Jean-Marc's mother also made a wish to Artemis for him. She wanted Artemis to teach her son how to love. In this way, these two wishes bound Rose and Jean-Marc together from the beginning. Had it not been for the death of Espere, the two would never have had the reason to meet and their two broken hearts would have never been mended by one another.



Characters

Rose Christine Marchand

Rose Christine Marchand is the heroine of the novel. She is the daughter of Celestine and Laurent Marchand and the half-sister of Reginer. She is also the stepdaughter of Ombrine and stepsister of Desiree. When Rose is only thirteen, her mother makes a wish to the goddess Artemis that her daughter will know always that she is loved. After the goddess grants this wish she cries for the girl because she knows the journey will be hard. Celestine dies as a result of her wish, which is the first blow to Rose. Her father does not come home as expected. When he does finally come, he dies along the way and it is a stepmother and stepsister who become Rose's new family. Through her relationship with these women, Rose is treated as a servant, mocked, hit, accused of lying and accused of killing her father by both Ombrine and Desiree. Even though the roses in her mother's rose garden assure her that she is loved, Rose does not believe what they say. Rose's worst blow comes when Ombrine destroys the garden which had been Rose's one solace.

Throughout this time, Rose has been given the vague idea by the goddess Artemis that she has been sent on some type of journey by her mother. Several times throughout the novel Artemis asks Rose if she wants to continue on the journey or if she wants to give up, each time, Rose chooses to continue on. Meanwhile, the king has learned that Rose looks like his former wife. He sends for her but instead gets her stepsister, who has used black magic to appear as Rose. Rose has been turned into a doe by the goddess Artemis. Although she believes she cannot do anything to help save her family or Jean-Marc from the magic that Desiree and Ombrine hold over them, she winds up doing just that.

At the climax of the novel, Jean-Marc is on the verge of killing Rose when Artemis shoots Desiree with her arrow, causing the girl to lose the appearance of Rose. Artemis also transforms Rose from a deer back into her human form. Although this is what she has wanted all along, Rose refuses to be a replacement for Jean-Marc's dead wife and tells him that she will not love him until he has learned how to love. Through the journey that Artemis has sent her on, Rose has learned what it is to really love and to expect nothing but this type of love in return. It is one day when Rose realizes that Jean-Marc can hear the chant of the flowers that she realizes he is ready to love her the way she should be loved.

Crown Prince Jean-Marc

Jean-Marc is the hero of the story. When the story begins, he is married to Lucienne, who is carrying Jean-Marc's son. After his wife dies in childbirth, he swears to her that he will never love again. He feels tricked by the gods because they had told him that the



son born by Lucienne would mend two broken hearts. He does not understand how this can be done if the boy is dead.

When Jean-Marc secedes his father and inherits the throne, a person who pretends to be a son of King Henri by his first wife leads a rebellion against Jean-Marc. It is in the middle of this battle that Jean-Marc is told there is another girl in the kingdom who looks just like his dead wife, Lucienne. Despite the hazardous conditions, Jean-Marc sends out a coach to fetch the girl. Believing she is Rose Marchand, Jean-Marc marries her at first sight.

Jean-Marc is not aware that he has been tricked into marrying Rose's stepsister and that she and her mother are working in conjunction with a Sorcerer's Circle to overtake his rule. Jean-Marc is poisoned to the point that he believes the lies that Desiree and her mother tell him until the point he is ordered to kill the doe with whom he has made friends. Artemis shoots an arrow and kills Desiree which causes her face to change from the one that looks like Rose back to her own. Rose, meanwhile, transforms from the doe into herself.

Although Jean-Marc wants to continue his relationship with a person whom he considers to be a perfect replacement of Lucienne, Rose will not allow it. She tells him that before she will love him, he must be worthy and able to love her in the way she deserves to be loved. Jean-Marc at first tries to woo Rose by giving her things, but gives up on this attempt after about a year. He instead decides to become the kind of man whom Rose could love. It is at this point that Rose agrees to marry him.

Ombrine Marchand

Ombrine Marchand is the second wife of Laurent Marchand and first wife of Louis Severine. She is the mother of Desiree and stepmother of Rose. It is unsure how Ombrine came to be married to Rose's father but with her history in the book, it was probably not by honest means. When she first meets Rose, Ombrine accuses Rose of killing her father. She also accuses her several times of being the cause of all of the problems that the family is facing. Also on the first night that she meets Rose, Ombrine tries to give her a potion that Rose suspects is poisonous. She offers Rose a drink another time, also. Both times, Rose accidently spills the drink in order to keep from having to ingest it.

As soon as Ombrine takes over the Marchand residence she begins selling the family's possessions not only to feed the family but also to buy power from the Sorcerer's Circle. The day of Laurent's funeral she had Monsieur Valmont thrown into jail for selling plates from the estate to pay the bills. She fires servants in order to save money but forces Rose to do the labor of these servants. She also fires the lady who has served as Rose's nanny since she was born, taking away the last person whom Rose believed loved her. Ombrine even destroys Rose's garden so they can put in a vegetable garden. Ombrine assists her daughter in pretending to be Rose and pretending that Desiree is missing. When she learns the king is interested in Rose, she feigns love for her



stepdaughter. All the while, she is plotting to help the Circle take over power from Jean-Marc. At the conclusion of the novel, Ombrine is taken off by blackbirds after Desiree is shot with Artemis' stone arrow.

Reginer Marchand

Reginer Marchand is Laurent's son from his first marriage. Father and son have a disagreement because Reginer wants to be a painter, but his father does not approve of this as an appropriate career choice. When Reginer leaves home, his father commands him to never return, so Reginer never does.

It is Reginer who discovers Rose at Elise's gravesite and buys the purple roses from her. He does not realize that she is his half-sister at the time, but is so moved by her appearance that he paints her portrait when he returns home. Reginer's wife recognizes the girl in the painting as looking like Lucienne, Jean-Marc's first wife. Claire knew Lucienne because she served as her lady-in-waiting before marrying court painter, Reginer.

It is Reginer who notices that Desiree's appearance has begun to change over time. Because he is aware of the change, Mother Hecate has false papers drawn up against him connecting him to the Pretender. When these papers are found, Jean-Marc orders that Reginer and his wife be killed. Reginer tries to run away with his wife but they get only as far as the river Vue when Claire goes into labor. Rose finds the two and Reginer kills the multitude of predators who are chasing her. He begs her to help them, and she does so by drawing the hunters away from the man and his wife.

Artemis

Artemis is the goddess of women, goddess of the hunt and goddess of the moon. Celestine and Rose are considered as two of Artemis' best beloved, indicating that these two women have a special place in the goddess' heart. When Celestine creates her rose garden for Rose, she places a statue of Artemis as a central feature. She prays often to this statue, as does Rose.

It is to Artemis that Celestine makes her wish that Rose always know that she is loved. Artemis cries for Rose because she knows how hard the journey will be for the child. Jean-Marc's mother, Marie, also makes a wish for him to the goddess Artemis. She prays that the goddess teach him how to love. It is on these journeys that Artemis brings Jean-Marc and Rose together.

Throughout the novel, Artemis sends messengers to Rose in the form of deer. She also reminds Rose that she is loved through the enchanted purple roses that tell Rose audibly that she is loved. Although Artemis is the goddess of women, Artemis saves Jean-Marc's life when she shoots him with an arrow during the battle. For this reason, Jean-Marc and his forces are victorious. Artemis saves Jean-Marc again when she



shoots Desiree with her stone arrow. This shot allows Jean-Marc to see Desiree as herself. Artemis also reveals to Jean-Marc who the real Rose is.

Desiree Marchand

Desiree Marchand is the daughter of Ombrine and Louis Severine. She is the stepsister of Rose. During their early years together, Desiree seems to do everything that she can to get Rose in trouble or catch her doing something that she isn't supposed to be doing. Desiree seems to enjoy watching her stepsister get punished. After she and her mother realize Jean-Marc's interest in Rose, Desiree agrees to be put under a spell so that she looks like Rose and tricks the king into thinking she is Rose. She is married to the king immediately but cannot keep up her disguise as her hatefulness and ugly personality soon shine through when dealing with her sister-in-law and when dealing with servants. Desiree poisons Jean-Marc with various herbs and concoctions to make him more gullible and more open to her suggestion. She also lies to him and tells him that she is pregnant. As Desiree and her mother are trying to kill Rose, which she is still disguised as a deer, the statue of Artemis shoots Desiree with her stone arrow. The girl is carried off by blackbirds.

Elise Lune

Elise Lune is the servant who travels with Celestine when she marries Laurent. Even though Elise is a servant, she is treated as a friend and member of the Marchand family. Elise is the only family member who Rose feels she has left after the death of her parents. Because Elise has the habit of standing up for Rose, however, Ombrine soon decides she wants to get rid of the woman. Elise tells Rose she will be able to find someone in town who will take her in. During the next several years, Rose receives two letters which she believes are from Elise. When Rose is next able to travel to the village, however, she finds that Elise is dead. Her grave is covered with purple roses from the two roses that Rose left for her at the feet of Artemis' statue to response to the letters.

Monsieur Valmont

Monsieur Valmont is one of the servants in the Marchand household. After Celestine dies and Laurent cannot be located, Valmont takes the liberty of selling Celestine's plates so that the estate's bills can be paid. When Ombrine arrives at the chateau and takes inventory of the possessions she finds the plates are gone. She has Valmont thrown in jail on the charge of theft. Even though Rose and Elise believe they can set Valmont free, only one of their creditors is honest and tells the court that Valmont paid the bills. As a result, Valmont is not sentenced to death, only a life of forced labor. In the final chapter of the story, Jean-Marc has Valmont pardoned and returns him to the palace where he is to live as Rose's guest and friend.



A Doe

The goddess Artemis turns Rose into a doe while Jean-Marc is learning a lesson from being married to Desiree. As this doe, Desiree has the opportunity to remain a deer, as the buck of the herd has taken a fancy to her. She also has the choice to cling to her humanity and return to Jean-Marc. Rose chooses to fight to become a human again and is eventually turned back into herself.

Another doe in the story is the messenger of Artemis. This doe approaches Rose often with messages from the goddess. This doe can be identified because it generally turns white with midnight blue eyes. In some cases, the doe even transforms into a human-like form.

Laurent Marchand

Laurent Marchand is father to Rose and mother to Celestine. Although he is alive at the beginning of the novel, he never appears in direct action. He is often gone away from home working, and is away from home at the time that Celestine dies. Details are uncertain concerning how Laurent and Ombrine came to meet. She tells Rose that Laurent collapsed when he heard about Celestine's death and she nursed him back to health. Ombrine also tells Rose that he died of a heart attack when they found Rose because he believed she was dead. Elise, however, heard that Laurent had died earlier that afternoon on the road on the way home.

The Pretender

The Pretender is a man who has assembled an army to try to overthrow Jean-Marc as king of the Land Beyond. Some say that the Pretender has a claim to the throne because he is Henri III's eldest son by his first wife. Some substantiate this claim by saying that the Pretender looks just like Henri when he was that age. During battle, just as Jean-Marc and the Pretender are about to face off against each other, the statue of Artemis shoots her stone arrow and kills the Pretender. Once he is dead, it is clear that he looked nothing like Henri or his first wife. This leads Claire to later believe that the Pretender might have summoned some sort of magic while he was alive to make him look like Henri.

Claire

Claire is the wife of Reginer, Rose's half-brother. She served as a lady-in-waiting to Lucienne before her death. It was after Lucienne died that Claire married Reginer. Claire is the one who recognizes her husband's painting as looking like Lucienne. After Jean-Marc marries Desiree, Claire assists the seamstress in making her clothes. Claire tries to tell Desiree that yellow is not a good color for her but Desiree argues with her as Jean-Marc listens. When Claire becomes pregnant, she and Reginer move into the



palace so that Claire will be closer to the court physician. It is Claire who tells Jean-Marc that Reginer has noticed that Rose does not look as she did when the two were first married.

Zeus

Zeus is considered to be the king of the gods and is the god of Jean-Marc's family. Jean-Marc is said to be a favored one of Zeus. Lucienne is afraid that her husband has offended Zeus because he does not remember to thank the god for the good fortune of having a son until the priest reminds him to do so. When he hears the order to marry Desiree, Jean-Marc wonders if it is Zeus who has made this command. The priests are surprised when they hear Jean-Marc mention that he has heard Zeus speak to him because the god does not make a habit of speaking to those other than priests.

His Royal Highness Henri III

His Royal Highness Henri III is Jean-Marc's father. He has a total of nine wives during his reign and generally leaves his son to his own causes. The only time that Henri is mentioned directly in the novel is when it is noted in the Prologue why he is present at the ceremony for Jean-Marc and Lucienne. It is said that he is away on matters of the state.

Celestine Marchand

Celestine Marchand is the mother of Rose and wife of Laurent. She is often lonely because her husband works long hours away from home. Celestine creates a beautiful rose garden for her daughter to enjoy when the child turns seven. When Rose is thirteen, Celestine trades her life for her daughter to learn the lesson from Artemis that she is truly loved.

Louis Severine

Louis Severine was Ombrine's first husband and Desiree's father. He apparently enjoyed the company of different ladies and at one point had angered a gypsy concerning a woman. This jealous gypsy led a posse against Louis and burned down their magnificent chateau. Rose understands the Louis drank himself to death after the loss of his material possessions.

Monsieur Edouard Sabot

Monsieur Edouard Sabot is Jean-Marc's chief adviser. Sabot is with Jean-Marc when Claire and Reginer show him the painting of Rose. Because the country is at war, Sabot suggests to Jean-Marc that he not go after Lucienne's twin personally but that he allow



Sabot to find her. It is Sabot who suggests to the Severine women that they burn what is left of the chateau so the Pretender will not take it.

Mother Hecate

Mother Hecate is one of the main people in *The Circle*. It is with Mother Hecate that Ombrine discusses whether or not the doe could be Rose in disguise. It is also Mother Hecate who provides the fake documents that incriminate Reginer and Claire. At one point, Mother Hecate pretends to be a priestess of Artemis so that Desiree can talk about the dream that she has had where the deer kills her baby.

Le Noir

Le Noir is the bird that rides on the shoulder of the man who is the leader of *The Circle*. Le Noir also spies on meetings between Claire and Jean-Marc as well as Jean-Marc's visit to Lucienne's tomb to keep track of Ombrine and Desiree's progress on their goal. It is Le Noir who calls the flock of blackbirds that carries away Ombrine and Desiree after the true natures are discovered.

The Rose Bride

"The Rose Bride", the title of the book, is also the name by which both Desiree and Rose are referred. Jean-Marc calls them this as he is given the gift of a new bride who looks just like Lucienne. Jean-Marc believes that Desiree is the Rose Bride, but it is actually just Desiree in disguise. Rose, the true Rose Bride has had her identity stolen and is not given back to Jean-Marc until he learns how to truly and properly love her.

Lucienne

Lucienne is Jean-Marc's first wife. Though the two are married for political reasons, they fall madly in love. In the beginning of the novel, Lucienne has just learned that she will be having a son. Unfortunately, Lucienne dies in childbirth and the infant dies shortly thereafter. It is said that Rose looks exactly like Lucienne.

Marie

Marie is Jean-Marc's mother. Marie died shortly after she gave birth to Jean-Marc. In a dream Jean-Marc sees his mother walking with him as an infant in a rose garden. In the dream, she makes the goddess Artemis promise to teach Jean-Marc how to love. Rose and Jean-Marc name their first baby after Marie.



One Honest Graybeard

It is because of this one honest man that Monsieur Valmont is not killed for the crime of stealing dishes from the Marchand estate, but only sentenced to a life of hard labor. This one man tells the court that Valmont did use the money from the dishes to pay money that the estate owed the man.

Espere

Espere is the infant son of Jean-Marc and Lucienne. He dies soon after he is born. When his parents learn that they will have a son, they are told that he will mend two broken hearts. The hearts that he is to mend are apparently Rose and Jean-Marc's.

Clarisse

Clarisse is the name that Reginer and Claire give to their daughter. King Jean-Marc gives the girl a kitten when Rose turns 19. When Claire attends Rose at her wedding, baby Clarisse is laughing in her arms.

God of the Shadows

The God of the Shadows, along with Mother Hecate, is fighting against Artemis because this goddess stole the moonlight from this god who appears only as a shadowy form in different areas of the story.

Laurent (baby)

Laurent is the first child of Reginer and Claire. He is born near the River Vue when Jean-Marc is having them pursued because he believes they have betrayed him.



Objects/Places

The Forested Land

The Forested Land is where the Marchand's chateau is located.

The Land Beyond

The Land Beyond is where Jean-Marc's castle is located.

The Silver Hills

The Silver Hills is from where Lucienne came.

White Roses

White roses are a symbol of innocence and purity. Celestine plants this color rose around the base of Artemis' statue in her rose garden.

A Pink Formal Gown

One of Laurent's birthday gifts to his daughter is a pink formal gown. After changing hands many times, this gown is returned to Rose just before she marries Jean-Marc. Parts of it are used in her wedding gown.

A Fine Purple Cloak

Rose makes this purple cloak for her father with the intention of sewing a rose on it for each year of life that he gives to her. It is later found and taken by Desiree.

Purple Roses

The white roses around the base of Artemis' statue turn first blue when they are touched by Artemis' tears, then purple when Celestine's blood touches them. It is these roses that whisper to Rose that she is loved. The roses later take root on Elise's grave where her brother buys some from her and is motivated to paint her picture, which leads to the king learning his late wife has a twin.



Chateau Severine

This home of the Severines' was set on fire by gypsies. All of their possessions were lost.

Stone Statue of Artemis

It is to this stone statue in the rose garden that Celestine prays that her daughter will always know she is loved.

The Circle

The circle appears to be some sort of witchcraft group in which Ombrine and Desiree have become involved.

A Knife

Rose starts carrying this knife in her apron when she first suspects that her stepfamily has started dabbling in witchcraft. At one point, she considers using the knife to kill herself.

Strange Herbs

Before Elise leaves the estate, she tells Rose to be ware of the strange herbs that Ombrine and Desiree are growing in the garden.

Celestine's Rose Garden

Celestine plants this garden when her daughter is seven with the intent of showing the child how much she is loved.

Rose's Money Bag

Rose hides the money that she makes from the sale of her roses in this money bag. This bag is stolen from under her mattress while she is sick.

A Stone Arrow

It is this stone arrow of Artemis that kills the Pretender. Artemis' arrow also kills Desiree at the conclusion of the novel.



The Reflecting Pool

The reflecting pool is where Jean-Marc and Rose, disguised as the doe, meet and enjoy each other's companionship.

Jean-Marc's Lute

Jean-Marc sometimes plays his lute when he goes to spend time with his deer friend.

Blackbirds

The blackbirds appear to be sent from the gods to help Jean-Marc and his forces overcome their enemies. At the conclusion of the novel, it is these same blackbirds that carry Desiree and Ombrine away.

The River Vue

The River Vue is where Reginer and Claire Marchand try to hide from Jean-Marc as Claire is in labor.



Themes

True Love

The main theme of this novel is the idea of learning how to love completely, as well as the importance of knowing that one is loved. During their lives, the mothers of both Rose and Jean-Marc voices wishes that their children know particular aspects of love during their lives. For Rose, Celestine wishes that her daughter will always know that she is loved. This may be because her absent husband often left her and her daughter feeling alone and unloved by his frequent absences. Through all of her experiences, the roses remind Rose that she is loved. It is when she realizes that she has the power to keep those she loves safe by sacrificing herself that Rose learns what true love is. It is this knowledge of love that also helps Rose to understand that Jean-Marc does not understand how to completely love. It is also the knowledge that she is loved that keeps Rose from marrying Jean-Marc when he does not love her as she deserves to be loved.

Jean-Marc's mother, meanwhile, asks the goddess Artemis to teach his son how to love. Though Jean-Marc once knew how to love, it is made clear in the novel that his heartbreak from the death of his first wife and infant son cause him to harden his heart so that he forgets how to love. The story indicates that Jean-Marc wants comfort and needs someone to replace Lucienne in his life, but at the point that he meets the real Rose still does not have the knowledge of true love that he needs to truly appreciate her. It is only when Jean-Marc stops trying to make Rose love him and decides to become a person that she could love that he realizes what love really is.

In the story, love is represented by the purple roses. These flowers are created when the tears of Artemis touch white roses of purity, causing them to turn blue. The roses take on their purple hue when the blue roses are touched by Celestine's blood as she dies. It is these roses that whisper to Rose over and over again during her ordeal with her stepfamily that she is loved. Later, after Jean-Marc learns the true meaning of love, he also hears the whisper of the roses.

Roses

Roses are a recurring symbol in this story. The author chooses to use the purple rose as the symbol of true love. The rose, particularly the red rose, has been used for centuries as a symbol of love and devotion. Red roses are generally associated with romantic love which was not exactly what the author wanted to portray in the story, so the purple rose is the symbol of love in this tale. The purple rose is created by white roses, the symbol of purity and innocence, that are touched by the tears of Artemis. The tears cause these roses to turn blue, a symbol of the pain which a person must travel through in order to realize what real love is. Finally, the roses are touched by Celestine's blood, which she gives in order to give her daughter the gift of the knowledge of love. It is this blood that gives the flowers their purple hue.



The purple roses are first seen in the garden below the statue of Artemis just as Celestine dies. Rose leaves these flowers as gifts for Elise when she gets the letters from her old nanny. The novel indicates that these roses may have been shot by Artemis to Elise's location. It appears the roses were taken to Elise's grave. When Rose discovers Elise's grave, the roses have taken root and grown into new bushes to replace those who were killed by Ombrine. Even after Rose plants her vegetable garden on the site of the old rose garden, she notices purple rosebuds poking out between these plants.

While the purple roses are the most obvious roses in the novel, roses appear in various different aspects of the novel. For instance, on the cloak the Rose is making for her father she is embroidering a rose for each year of life they have had together. When Ombrine's wine is spilled on Rose's formal gown, Elise embroiders a golden rose over the stain to make it appear as part of the dress. On Lucienne's sarcophagus, a rose symbolizes the infant son of Lucienne and Jean-Marc.

Good versus Evil

Good versus evil is a common theme found in fairy tales. This is no exception in "The Rose Bride" as Rose battles against Ombrine and Desiree to save the Land Beyond. Ombrine and Desiree want riches and nice things, no matter who they have to kill or what they have to do to get them. Rose believes it was when their first home was burnt and all their possessions lost that Ombrine and Desiree allowed their hearts to become hard so that they could not love again. By the time Ombrine has wooed Laurent only to have him die and his valuables lost at sea, she is truly at a low point. She and her daughter turn to evil and black magic to try to get their way. It is when Rose learns that the two are trying to kill her family and those that she loves through the use of their black magic that she steps in to do what she can to protect her family. Even though she is disguised as a deer at the time, Rose manages to keep the hunters from killing her brother and his wife by putting her own life in danger. She also risks discovery when she runs through the Marchant stables to keep her brother from drinking the poisoned wine that Ombrine and Desiree offers him.

The final battle of good versus evil takes place in Jean-Marc's mind. Although Ombrine and Desiree have poisoned him and are trying to make him act according to their suggestion and wishes, Jean-Marc still struggles with his own knowledge of good and evil. At the moment he is able to kill the doe, who is actually Rose, he hesitates because he does not really believe that this creature could intend to hurt him or his child as Desiree and Ombrine are suggesting. It is this hesitation that saves Rose's life. Good prevails when Artemis shoots her arrow at Desiree, killing the impostor and exposing her true identity.



Style

Point of View

This story is told from the point of view of an omniscient narrator. In the narration of the story, all characters are referred to as "he" or "she." There is no reference to an "I," meaning that none of the characters are telling the story from their own viewpoint. Another aspect that proves that the narrator is omniscient is that he knows the thoughts, emotions, backgrounds and motivations of all the characters in the novel. If the narrator were not omniscient, he would not have access to all of this information, he would only be able to see things from one person's viewpoint, or from his viewpoint as he reported on the actions of the characters.

The majority of this story is told through exposition with only small patches of dialogue. The exposition tells important background information and describes the mindsets, emotions and motivations of the characters. This is done because the novel focuses more on the growth of characters Rose and Jean-Marc than it does on the relationships between the characters.

Setting

This story is told in a fictional, fairy tale world. The two main lands in which the action of the story takes place are the Land Beyond and the Forested Land. The Land Beyond is where the prologue of the story begins. It is where the Crown Prince Jean-Marc and his new wife Lucienne live. The first scene of the novel is in the temple of the palace where the couple has just learned that they will have a baby boy. Other important settings in this land include the garden and its Reflecting Pool where Jean-Marc and Rose, disguised as the doe, spend time together. The tomb where Lucienne and Espere are buried is also a setting that Jean-Marc visits often.

The Forested Land is where Rose lived with her parents until their deaths. The family lives in a large chateau in the country. One of the most frequently visited settings is on this property is the rose garden that Celestine creates for Rose when she is still a young child. It is in this garden, in front of the statue of Artemis that Celestine makes her agreement with the goddess so that Rose will always know that she is loved. It is in this same spot that Celestine dies. During the years that Rose lives with her stepfamily, it is in this garden that she finds solace from her lonely, pain-filled life. It is also in this garden that Rose finds the letters from Elise.

Language and Meaning

Since this story is a fairy tale, it uses the language of the fairy tale. It starts out with the traditional fairy tale phrase "once upon a time." It also toys with the idea that fairy tale couples, in this case Lucienne and Jean-Marc, are supposed to live happily ever after.



In this case, of course, this fairy tale must avert from tradition as this couple does not live happily ever after so that Jean-Marc can learn the meaning of true love.

Throughout the novel, fairy tale language continues to permeate the story. There are enchanted gardens, the shadowy figures of evil characters, black magic and witchcraft. People are transformed into animals while one person is allowed to take on the appearance of another person.

Another aspect of the language of the story that is unique is the way the use of the French language is spattered in with the English text. The characters speak French, but French is not the main language of the novel. It is only here are there that words are included in this language. These words are generally those whose meanings would be readily understood by the common reader or whose meanings could be determined through the use of context clues.

Structure

This novel is divided into fifteen chapters plus a prologue. The prologue tells the story of Jean-Marc and Lucienne's marriage and the impending birth of their son plus the promise that the boy will heal two broken hearts. It is this promise that the remainder of the novel is built upon.

The following chapters of the book tell the story of the Marchand family and the tragedy that falls upon them. Their story is told in a linear fashion. The first several years of their story is told quickly with the writer only touching on the dispute between Laurent and his son by his first marriage, and Rose's early years. It is when Rose is seven that her mother plants the rose garden for her. Time then skips forward to the night before Rose's thirteenth birthday when the real story begins.

The story continues to focus on Rose until Chapter Six when Jean-Marc enters the story again as he is shown the portrait that Reginer has painted of Rose. At this point, the stories of his maturation as well as that of Rose's maturation are intermingled as they occur with the narrative of the story switching back and forth between the two main characters.



Quotes

"You will have a son in the spring and he will mend two broken hearts." Prologue, pg. 4

"When little Rose turned seven, Celestine decided to create a rose garden for her daughter's pleasure. Once the dozens of bushes were planted, Celestine tended them with nearly as much love and devotion as she showered on la belle Rose." Chapter One, pgs. 11-12

"He counted his worth in the things he could give them, and not in himself, their beloved husband and father." Chapter One, pg. 13

"'My heart is guaranteed,' she pledged. 'Let her know my heart. Let her know that she is loved with a love that is true and will never fade as the rose petal fades.'" Chapter One, pg. 14

"'He is dead,' Ombrine said flatly. 'Laurent Marchand is dead.' Her features hardened; her brows drew across her forehead. 'And you killed him.'" Chapter Three, pg. 37

"Listen to me, my darling. You did not kill him. No matter what happens next, it was not your fault." Chapter 3, pg. 43

"Tragedy will turn to triumph. Your dress will be even more lovely than before. And the tide of all this misfortune will turn as well. You'll see." Chapter Three, pg. 45

"Then he died— some say he drank himself into the grave. His widow and daughter lived in the ruins of the château like wraiths and no one came to call. Not one friend stuck by Desirée and all Ombrine's wealthy acquaintances deserted her." Chapter Four, pg 51

"After Elise fell asleep, Rose crept to the garden. Ombrine had ordered her to stay out of it— especially at night— and promised severe punishment if she disobeyed." Chapter Four, pg. 54

"With the deaths of Celestine and Laurent and the loss of the Marchand fortune, the shadow across the château lengthened, darkened." Chapter Five, pg. 65

"The world had shifted on its axis again and something even more wicked was on its way." Chapter Five, pg. 81

"And so, Laurent Marchand's beautiful home was gone. His lands were in a shambles. The topiary garden and hedge maze died. If anyone in the Forested Land ever spoke of him, it was to say that his life had been a waste." Chapter Six, pg. 82

"Although Rose was in more danger of dying than she had ever been, the disastrous change in circumstances yielded a benefit: freedom. Ombrine didn't care



where her stepdaughter roamed— as long as she returned with something for the family to eat." Chapter Six, pgs. 83-84

"Desolation. Utter ruin. Her one sanctuary, demolished." Chapter Six, pg. 86

"Along with the others, the purple rosebush was dead." Chapter Six, pg. 86

"The absence of the water splashing in the fountain was a sound in itself: She was not loved and Rose believed she never would be again. She would die and no one would miss her, except at mealtimes." Chapter Six, pgs. 88-89

"Although the journey Artemis had sent Rose on was not the journey she might have chosen for her had she the power, she knew it was a good one— if Rose had the heart to complete it." Chapter Six, pg. 90

"Those who love feel deeply, and Rose felt great, great grief. But grief was not the same as utter despair. Not at all. Grief was power and it filled her with resolve." Chapter Seven, pg. 103

"They were still up to something, still in league with shadows. She remembered Ombrine's talk of sorcerers in the land, and an icy finger of dread tapped against her backbone." Chapter Seven, pgs. 104-105

"The garden was magnificent and Rose knew that love made it grow. Seeing the glorious evidence that love could not die, she dared to hope that someday, another living person would love her." Chapter Seven, pg. 105

"His grief was deep purple, and his love, a deep shade of pink. Rose-colored. The colors danced and shifted like the pieces of glass inside a kaleidoscope and it was dizzying. He thought he might faint." Chapter 8, pg. 117

"A tall, gray-headed man carrying a large black velvet hat and an ornate walking stick came after them. As he caught sight of Rose, he froze. He gaped at her, then gestured with his stick at the coach." Chapter Eight, pg. 121.

"And who could say if the breeze spoke of Desirée or the missing daughter of Laurent and Celestine? Who could know if it was the messenger of Artemis who urged Jean-Marc to marry the imposter? Or was it an ally of the shadows who spoke for Desirée? Could it possibly have been both? Do journeys sometimes weave between the darkness and the light?" Chapter Nine, pg. 138

"She understood at once that the men in the boats had been dredging the river for her. And that Desirée and her mother had woven magic, or sought a god to do it, so that Desirée could masquerade as her." Chapter Ten, pg. 154

"All that money she had squirreled away, rotten girl. It paid for our full acceptance into the Sorcerer's Circle. And now we can make men see us as we wish them to." Chapter Twelve, pg. 177



"What would it be like to wed a man who saw you only as the most perfect of replacements?" Chapter Twelve, pg. 186

"In the fleeing moments when she still thought like a person, she remembered that because of a wish, Artemis had sent her on a journey. She couldn't imagine that the Fates had woven a tapestry designed to turn her into a deer." Chapter Thirteen, pg. 190-191

"The Rose Bride had been a gift, and if he was honest with himself, tonight he had been finding fault with her." Chapter Thirteen, pg. 200

"Perhaps that was the lesson she was supposed to learn: that to be loved, one had to love first." Chapter Fourteen, pg. 227

"She loved what he could have become if he had learned how to love and not only to need. To give and not just to want." Chapter Fourteen, pg. 227

"And of course it was the magnificent pink birthday gown. The layers were tattered here and there, and in places, the golden embroidery had dulled. But of a piece, it made the other seamstresses gasp, and Roses heart swelled with gratitude that her gown had been returned to her at last. It was like seeing her parents one more time." Chapter Fifteen, pg. 234-235

"He didn't realize that he had just brought the deeper wound into the light. The death of his wife was a tragedy, the loss of his mother a terrible blow, but the loss of his child had defined him." Chapter Fifteen, pg. 236

"Artemis, goddess of women, teach him how to love. Let that be his journey." Chapter 15, pg. 237

"I cannot force the Rose Bride to love me. And so, I will become a man she could love." Chapter Fifteen, pg. 237

"Loving them in my imperfect, wounded way was the seed that has blossomed into the love I bear for you. For my people. For the world." Chapter Fifteen, pg. 243

"These two, who truly know what love is, are the purple roses of the world." Chapter Fifteen, Pg. 244

"All were home now, and the world shifted on its axis most perfectly, more beautifully, the star in the diadem of the Goddess of the Hunt and of the Moon as she beamed down on the Rose Bride, her emissary of love." Chapter Fifteen, pg. 245



Topics for Discussion

What is significant about the does and fawns that appear in the novel? Who or what do these different animals represent?

Why does Celestine believe it is so important that her daughter know that she is loved?

What is the significance of Rose stopping to light the candle in the shrine to Lucienne?

Compare and contrast Jean-Marc's grief with Rose's grief. What makes the difference between sadness and despair?

Discuss reasons why Rose was turned into a deer by Artemis just as she was on the verge of meeting Jean-Marc.

Discuss the symbolism and role of the rose in this story.

Discuss the role of the gods and goddesses in the novel.

Choose any of the questions at the beginning of Chapter Fifteen and answer. Give reasons for your answer.

What does Rose do that indicates that she has finally learned the real meaning of true love?

Why is genuine true love the only thing that can mend a broken heart?

How are the wishes of Jean-Marc's mother and Rose's mother alike? How are they different? How do they affect the lives of their children?

What do the purple roses in the novel represent?