

Sanctum Study Guide

Sanctum by Madeleine Roux

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Plot Summary

“Sanctum” is a young adult horror novel by Madeleine Roux, and comprises the second installment in her “Asylum” series. When the novel begins, high school seniors Dan, Abby, and Jordan are still reeling from their terrifying summer spent at New Hampshire College Preparatory School where their dorm was formerly the Brookline Insane Asylum. Dan, Abby, and Jordan still experience nightmares from the place, and Abby in particular is hearing voices. They have received old carnival photographs as well, with the words “You’re not finished” on them. Dan goes to visit his friend Felix, who has been committed to a psychiatric hospital since the summer experience. Felix urges Dan to “follow them,” a list of numbers. Jordan discovers the numbers are GPS coordinates for addresses around the campus where the college and Brookline stand.

The three friends decide to go to New Hampshire College for a prospective students’ weekend as a cover to investigate things further. Dan in particular has a hunch he is a descendant of the asylum’s terrible warden, Daniel Crawford. Dan hopes to shed more light on this possibility during the visit, as well as to find out who is sending them photos. At New Hampshire College, Micah will be hosting Dan, Lara will be hosting Abby, and Cal will be hosting Jordan. The three friends plan to slip away from their college hosts whenever they get the chance. They also plan to visit Abby’s Aunt Lucy, who lives in town. Aunt Lucy is warm and friendly, but seems more excited than usual.

As Dan, Abby, and Jordan begin to explore, they find it unnerving that Micah always seems to be around. They also find it creepy that Cal and other students believe Warden Crawford to have been a misunderstood genius, based on the information given to them by their psychology professor, Caroline Reyes. Dan, Abby, and Jordan track down the addresses given to them by Felix. They are all abandoned houses, all associated with Warden Crawford in some way. In these houses, they find old journals, records, photographs, and other documents attesting to Crawford’s horrifying experiments on patients. These reveal that Crawford was involved in CIA experiments for mind control using LSD, but that he exceeded parameters and was fired.

Crawford then went on to do his own work, Dan and the others discover, by tracking down one of the former LSD test subjects to the area round Brookline. Over the years, Crawford perfected a three-pronged approach to total mind control: LSD, brain surgery, and hypnosis. As a child, Crawford was bullied and harassed, and wanted to control others as a result. He killed a hypnotist named Maudire who traveled with a carnival to steal Maudire’s gemstone pocketwatch emblazoned with a bright, shining star for use in hypnosis.

As these facts are uncovered, a secret society donning skull masks and red capes known as the Scarlets hone in on Dan, Abby, and Jordan. The three friends must outwit the Scarlets, who they come to realize include Micah, Cal, and Lara. All of them have been brainwashed, but Micah and Lara have been fighting it. They try to help Dan, Abby, and Jordan, and are both killed by the leader of the Scarlets, Professor Reyes. Dan, Abby, and Jordan are taken prisoner in Brookline by Reyes, who reveals that she



too was brainwashed by Crawford, and is his adoptive heir. The entire town has been brainwashed. She also reveals that Dan is indeed a direct descendent of Warden Crawford. Seeking the safe word which will release people from brainwashing, she has created a trail of clues for Dan and his friends to follow and uncover old documents. She hypnotizes Dan to cut his own throat, but Abby shouts out the safe word, "Sanctum." Crawford had chosen the word because a sanctum is a sacred or holy place, and in the human body, such a place is the mind.

Dan stabs Reyes as she tries to kill him. She sets herself on fire by falling into some candles, thereby setting Brookline Asylum on fire as well. Dan, Abby, and Jordan escape. As they wait for their rides to head home, Abby announces she is going to stay a few more days to make sure her aunt is alright. As Dan leaves in a taxi, he sees Micah's ghost and whispers, "Sanctum."



Prologue – Chapter 7

Summary

Prologue – A little boy wanders a carnival, seeking out the last tent. There, a man promises the little boy the thing he wants most of all, which is control.

Chapter 1 – Dan Crawford attempts to contact his friends Abby and Jordan about a memory manipulation expert. They do not respond. In the hall after class, he sees his friends Missy, Tariq, and Beckett. They invite him to see the student production of “Macbeth,” but he declines. He decides to try to find Abby and Jordan. He has shared a lot with them, including having stayed in the old haunted Brookline Asylum-turned-student dormitories for the New Hampshire College Preparatory School (NHCPS) the previous summer. Dan believes Daniel Crawford, the twisted warden of the asylum, was his ancestor. It is a mystery yet to be solved. At home, Dan’s mom urges him to remain focused on college applications, jobs, and extracurricular activities since Dan is a senior. Dan receives a letter from Lydia and Newton Sheridan, parents of Felix Sheridan. Felix was Dan’s former roommate who tried to commit suicide over the summer after going crazy from possession, believing himself to be the Sculptor. In the letter, Lydia asks Dan for a call.

Chapter 2 – Dan reluctantly calls Lydia. Lydia explains her son keeps asking for Daniel Crawford all the time. Lydia wants Dan to go and see Felix at Morthwaite. Dan hesitatingly agrees, reflecting on how he dragged Abby and Jordan into things, and how Professor Reyes brought Felix into the basement where Felix lost his mind. Dan still has nightmares about it all.

Chapter 3 - Dan finally receives replies from Abby and Jordan, both trying to move on from the Brookline experience. Both admit to someone sending them creepy photos of a strange carnival. Abby feels as if they are being targeted because together, the photos have words that read “You’re Finished.” On Saturday, Dan catches a ride with Lydia to Morthwaite Clinic. There, all of Dan’s personal possessions are taken upon entry, including his phone and medication. A nurse named Grace leads them to Felix. Felix is no longer the jock he was, but is now thin and weary looking. He tells Dan he has been waiting for him.

Chapter 4 – Felix notes that Dan does not look well. Dan admits to nightmares. Felix has them, too. Felix says he nearly always sees a bright star in his vision. Felix begins to break down into hysterics, giving Dan a piece of a photo which completes the ones given to Abby and Jordan. The finished image contains a man, two small boys, and an acrobat at a carnival. Felix tells Dan to “follow them.” The words on the photo now spell out “You’re not finished.” There are also a handful of numbers written down as well.

Chapter 5 – Dan, Abby, and Jordan meet up on Skype. They talk about Dan’s visit with Felix, with Dan explaining it was like Felix was possessed. Abby admits to sometimes



hearing whispered voices, such as her Aunt Lucy. Jordan points out that Brookline can be seen behind the carnival in the picture, and that the carnival photo was taken in front of Wilfurd Commons. Jordan, a math expert, discovers the numbers are actually map coordinates that lead to addresses within walking distance of the college: 1020 Ellis, 1311 Virgil, 922 Blake, and 39 Concord. They decide to investigate. Dan has a nightmare about heading through a carnival.

Chapter 6 – Dan arrives at NHCPS with Abby and Jordan under the guise of a college visit. They all feel dread approaching the campus. None of them have told their parents where they are going. Their sense of dread gets worse when they see a carnival on campus, exactly like the photo. They head past an old cemetery where a wreath shaped like a skull rests on one of the headstones. It unnerves them. They also see a frat guy passed out drunk nearby.

Chapter 7 – Dan, Abby, and Jordan meet their weekend hosts. Dan's host is Micah, a friendly Southerner. Jordan's host is Cal, handsome and rich. Jordan hopes Cal is gay. Dan alerts Micah to the frat boy. Micah is annoyed, saying the kid is probably from Sig Tau, a fraternity notorious for drunken parties. Abby's host will be Lara, who like Abby is an artist. Seeing Brookline draw closer causes Dan to get chills and feel overwhelmed.

Analysis

“Sanctum” is a young adult horror novel by Madeleine Roux and comprises the second installment in her “Asylum” series. As the novel begins, Dan, Abby, and Jordan are still reeling from their previous encounter at Brookline. Immediately, the theme of Horror is subtly known to the reader, both through the events of the past novel, and the events of the present. Dan and his friends are having chilling nightmares, while Abby is hearing voices. These are not normal things, and are elements of horror.

Additionally, the visit that Dan has with Felix also resonates with horror as Felix appears to have completely lost his mind but is still making a modicum of sense. He urges Dan to “follow them,” numbers which later turn out to be coordinates for addresses. It is chilling when someone who has apparently lost their mind makes sense, something which the reader should remember for later chapters. (This pertains to both the coordinates for addresses and the fact that Felix is making sense. The reader should also bear in mind the bright shining star that Felix claims to see everywhere.)

Dan's decision to go and see Felix also speaks to the theme of Friendship. Dan is reluctant to go and see Felix after everything that happened to them at Brookline, but the appeal from Felix's mother, as well as Dan's sense of loyalty through friendship, compel him to go. Felix has definitely gone insane following the encounter at Brookline, and Dan begins to wonder if he, Abby, and Jordan will also be permanently affected by the summer. It is something they have all been trying to forget, but they have been unable to do so. Going to see Felix does not help in this respect.



Likewise, Dan's initial concern that he cannot get in touch with Abby and Jordan, and his later videochat with them underscore the friendship that exists between them. They are bound to one another not only as friends, but based on the horrors they encountered at Brookline the previous summer. As a result, their connection is much deeper than the friendship of most people. The decision to return to Brookline together is likewise evidence of this friendship.

The first few chapters of the novel also see the rise of the other three major themes that were perforate the plot. The past bears an important influence on the present, as the reader will note. The past here includes not only the summer experience at Brookline, but the actual history of Brookline itself. This includes the horrific Warden Daniel Crawford and his twisted experiments, and lays the groundwork for the theme of Mind Control. This also brings to fore the theme of Mystery, specifically the mystery of whether or not Dan is related to Crawford as is believed. Additionally, the individual responsible for mailing the photos is a mystery that Dan and his friends want to solve. They can only solve these mysteries by returning to the town of Camford, where both Brookline and New Hampshire College stand side by side.

Discussion Question 1

Despite their horrifying experiences at Brookline over the summer, Dan, Abby, and Jordan decide to go back. Why? Do they believe this is a safe thing to do? Why or why not?

Discussion Question 2

What are the mysteries that Dan, Abby, and Jordan hope to solve? Do they have any clues as to who could be behind the causation of these mysteries? Why?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Dan agree to go and see Felix despite Felix's condition? What happens as a result of this visit? What does it encourage Dan, Abby, and Jordan to do? Why?

Vocabulary

manipulation, extracurricular, maniacal, prompted, pleasantries, abstract, docile, inefficient, elusive, conjunction, blurry, critique, contrary



Chapters 8 – 14

Summary

Chapter 8 – Newly renovated Erickson Dormitory is where Dan, Abby, and Jordan will be staying with their hosts. Jordan says Cal is not very bright, but Abby tells him to give Cal a break. Safety protocols are gone over by their hosts, including emergency numbers. He invites everyone to the carnival. Abby points out a host kid who has been staring at Dan. Jordan thinks the kid is wasted. He begins saying “Daniel Crawford” over and over again, says “You’re not finished” over and over again, and then launches himself through a window.

Chapter 9 – Dan and the others catch the kid, Doug, before he can go all the way through the window. Dan, Abby, and Jordan immediately know something is wrong. Still, Abby wants to see Lucy while Jordan wants to see about the addresses. They also want to learn about Brookline’s ongoing excavation. Lara comes to check on Dan to make sure he is okay. Lara writes off Doug’s behavior as exam stress.

Chapter 10 – Word comes there will be a house party that night. Abby points out to Dan and Jordan that it will give them perfect opportunity to sneak away. Micah explains the carnival is an old tradition that hasn’t happened since the 1920s. He shows them old photographs found in the library, including one of the ringmaster sitting on the Fat Lady’s lap, and a man on a horse whose tail is being tugged by a clown. Cal asks if there is a relation between Dan and the old Brookline warden, but Dan says there is not. It is revealed that Professor Reyes is teaching the students the warden was a misunderstood genius. Cal has come to agree with this, annoying Dan. Micah writes Cal off as a jerkbag, but notes he used to be a good guy. Micah reveals to Dan that he is originally from a small town in Louisiana called Catahoula, and spent some time in juvenile hall for theft. He also sees that Micah has a skull-shaped red candle in his room. Dan lets Micah know he wants to sit in on one of Reyes’s classes.

Chapter 11 – While waiting for Jordan at dinner, Dan hears and sees a small boy telling him to come and play. The little boy looks like the one in the photo. Abby tells Dan there is no one there, but Dan knows what he has seen. Jordan arrives, having dug up information and old photos on the town of Camford.

Chapter 12 – As the party gets underway, Micah explains to Dan that Cal’s father died some years before. Cal’s father was a well-respected alumnus. Micah also thinks Dan has feelings for Abby and thinks that he should pursue them. Dan, Abby, and Jordan have some drinks and then sneak away from their hosts. Outside, Dan sees the little boy again, telling Dan to come and play. Dan ignores this. He, Abby, and Jordan head to the closest address on their list, 1020 Ellis. It appears abandoned. Jordan picks the lock. Inside, they see the house is being well-taken care of. They also find mailbags from the 1960s, full of mail and newspapers. Dan finds a stack of photos of sad college-



aged girls. They then hear someone entering the house. Then Dan hears a girl's voice telling him to come and play.

Chapter 13 – Abby and Jordan both confirm that they, too, hear the voice. They all grab papers and letters, and rush out. Micah comes across them, telling them they should head back to campus. In a private moment, Micah warns Dan about Jordan and Cal getting too close, since Cal's been on the verge of a downward spiral. Dan does so. That night, Dan dreams of meeting a man named Harry, responsible for the delivery of the mail. Dan dreams of the man telling Harry that he is there to set Harry free, not cure Harry. Dan wakes up, realizing he is seeing someone else's memory. It scares him because he remembers Felix saying the same thing, that he could see things he wasn't supposed to be able to see.

Chapter 14 – Dan and Abby get coffee. Abby insists that once the weekend is over, they put distance between themselves and Brookline. Jordan catches up with them. He explains that when he woke up, Cal was standing over him just watching him. Jordan reveals nothing he did would snap Cal out of it. They decide to go see Abby's Aunt Lucy, who hasn't responded to any of Abby's attempts to contact her. Aunt Lucy invites them all inside. She appears to be very excited, and has installed numerous locks on the door. One of Lucy's pictures on the wall is of a man balancing a wheelbarrow on his chin.

Lucy explains she has been better since she found the bright burning star, and shows them a photo of a necklace with a red geode. Suddenly, Dan, Abby, and Jordan see a skull face with a red cloak glaring at them through the window. They rush out to catch the individual, but fail. They find a photo on the lawn of a tent advertising the hypnotist Old Maudire. Abby suggests checking the papers they have taken from 1020 Ellis for mentions of burning stars. They believe they are being stalked. Dan, upon consideration of his dreams, thinks he is dreaming as if he was Warden Crawford.

Analysis

The theme of Horror continues as Dan, Jordan, and Abby return to the New Hampshire College campus. They can see the Brookline Asylum building everywhere they go, and it hovers over them like a cloud. They experience dread and chills whenever they look at the building. In this respect, the building itself becomes symbolic not only of the horror they experienced a few short months ago, but becomes an omen of the horror they are yet to experience.

Horror comes quickly. Doug, a student among the college hosts, begins shouting Dan's name over and over again before trying to throw himself through a window. Whenever Dan, Abby, and Jordan try to take a few moments to themselves, Micah or Cal always seem to be around. Likewise, the color red and the shape of skulls continue to be seen throughout the campus, from the red skull candle in Micah's room to the red skull flower arrangement in the cemetery to the red skull figure looking in through Aunt Lucy's window. The skulls here become symbolic not only of death, but of the mind, as the



skull is the house for the brain. The color red itself is normally associated with danger and warnings. Taken together, red skulls are a warning of danger for the mind.

At the same time, the carnival showing up on campus for the first time since the 1920s is also disconcerting for Dan, since he has been having dreams and visions of the carnival and since he has been seeing a dead boy. Horror continues to build as strange occurrences continue to stack up, from Cal's watching Jordan while Jordan slept to the voice of the little girl in the abandoned house on Ellis Street to Cal and the other students believing that Warden Crawford was a misunderstood genius. Equally unnerving is that Aunt Lucy has a photo of a shining star gemstone in her house, one that is red. The reader will recall how the color red has in this novel served as a color of danger. The shining star is thus seen as a symbol of danger and evil.

The Past also serves to be an important theme in this section of the novel as Dan, Abby, and Jordan come to realize just how much Reyes has been praising Warden Crawford. At the same time, Dan begins to see the memories of Warden Crawford, which prove to be important and vital glimpses into the past. Of especial note is the memory with the postmaster, Harry. Harry is responsible for collecting sacks of mail and other documents, including old photographs. Many of the photographs include unhappy college-age girls. Who these girls were, and what connection Harry and the house have to Crawford, have all yet to be revealed. The form another component in the theme of Mystery.

Discussion Question 1

What is so terrifying about the experience with Doug? How do Micah and the other college kids write it off? Why do Dan, Abby, and Jordan not believe their story?

Discussion Question 2

What is chilling about Dan seeing someone else's memory, as seeing memories relates to Felix? How does Dan handle this thought? Why?

Discussion Question 3

Why do Dan, Abby, and Jordan come to believe there is some sort of importance to the symbol of a burning star? Where has the symbol appeared before?

Vocabulary

vague, coiffed, elaborated, jest, archetypal, monologue, erratic, oblong



Chapters 15 – 21

Summary

Chapter 15 – Professor Reyes welcomes Dan, Abby, and Jordan to her class, and back to campus. It creeps them all out. Reyes tells Dan she hopes he'll be attending the carnival. She also reveals she is still digging around in Brookline. Later, Dan shows Abby and Jordan a letter from the last year Brookline was open, a letter which never left town. It is addressed to Anna Surridge, and is from Caroline Martin. The letter reveals that Caroline believes she has made a mistake. The letter reveals she was approached by a man with a red cloak and was given a letter with a red wax skull seal. The letter also reveals that Caroline has met a man named Harry who says he knows all about the Scarlets and their secrets.

Dan reveals his dream involved someone stealing Caroline's mail. Jordan thinks there is a connection between the face in the window. He also thinks the Scarlets might be some sort of fraternity. Dan wonders if Warden Crawford, who used Brookline for his own twisted experiments, was involved with the Scarlets somehow. At the library, every search Dan, Abby, and Jordan run for Crawford and Scarlets causes the computer to freeze. They decide to search by hand in the old archives. In one of the aisles, Dan sees the little boy again, his head bloodied. Dan follows but runs into Jordan instead. There, they discover the boy has led them to Brookline records, with the years Crawford was the warden missing from the shelves except for Autumn 1964. It includes a picture of a dead bird in a cage.

Chapter 16 – Dan, Abby, and Jordan confirm to Micah and Lara that they will be at the carnival that evening. They decide to go to the maze tent. A red cloak brushes by, which Dan chases. He comes face-to-face with the skull mask from the window. Dan is shoved to the ground. Three others surround him. They all laugh at him. Dan recognizes Cal's shoes before the four figures rush away. He suddenly has a vision of a child named Daniel being urged to come out and play at the carnival by his brothers. He arrives at the end of the carnival to a tent where the man tells Daniel to follow the star with his eyes. Dan then regains consciousness and tells Abby and Jordan about what happened. Dan then sets out and finds the same tent as in his vision. He buys seemingly aged tickets from a cigarette-smoking clown, and goes into the tent of Maudire the hypnotist.

Chapter 17 – Maudire the hypnotist tells Dan he looks just like Daniel Crawford. He also confirms that Dan is hallucinating, but that the hallucination is real. He tells Dan that what is done cannot be redone, but can be undone. He says Dan is trapped inside his own head, that it is a tricky prison to escape from, but that there is a way out. Dan will know it when he finds it.

Chapter 18 – Dan catches up with Abby and Jordan, who have been worriedly looking for him. He explains what happened, though the tent he entered is now a tree. Meeting



up with Cal and the others, they pretend as if nothing unusual has happened. Abby spills cider on Cal's backpack, causing him to drop his backpack and spill its contents: one of the missing binders from the library. They then go on a ghost tour of the campus.

Chapter 19 – Jordan finds it strange that the tour doesn't mention the old Brookline asylum at all. The ghost tour visits the home of President Amos Van der Holt, who died young under mysterious circumstances. Another stop is 1020 Ellis, which the tour guide explains was the home of the Cartwrights, including Harry, who served as the town's postmaster until 1971, when he was forced to resign as a suspect in the disappearance of several local women. Dan, Abby, and Jordan try to ditch the tour group, but are found by Micah. Dan improvises, saying they want to look at real haunted houses. Micah agrees to show them the way to 1311 Virgil Street, but says he is worried about breaking in. Still, he goes in. No one has lived in the house for years, but everything has been packed up. Dan finds a hidden box beneath a trapdoor in the floor. Included inside is a childhood journal belonging to Daniel Crawford.

Chapter 20 – An entry in the journal reveals Danny had visited Maudire who showed him how to do hypnosis with a pocket watch upon which was emblazoned a bright burning star. Dan tells Micah he has found nothing. Micah reveals he has been smoking weed and decides to bring Dan and his friends wherever they want to go.

Chapter 21 – They next head to 922 Blake Street. The house there not only looks abandoned, but condemned. It appears to be an old fraternity house. In the basement is an old mechanical, medical chair, and a chair covered in papers and photos. One photo includes a man with his face scratched out. There is also a blackboard on which the words "TURN AROUND" are written. The back is covered in photos and papers, with lines drawn between them noting connections. Some are patient charts. He takes photos of it. He also finds and takes a handful of yellowed pages clipped together. The house is suddenly surrounded by Scarlets, all chanting Dan's name.

Analysis

Dan, Jordan, and Abby find it strange that Reyes is still rooting around in Brookline, especially after the events of the previous summer. Reyes seems very personable with Dan to the point of unnerving him. She strongly suggests that Dan specifically attend the carnival, which Dan confirms he'll be doing. Though this exchange may seem harmless if not creepy, the reader should bear this in mind for the end of the novel. As it will turn out, Dan, Abby, and Jordan all have had some level of hypnosis emplaced upon them. Reyes's suggestion about the carnival is much less a suggestion than a command which Dan obeys without realizing it until later. Here, the themes of Mind Control and Horror merge.

Horror and The Past merge as themes as Dan, Abby, and Jordan continue to seek out clues in the abandoned houses listed by Felix. Among them is Crawford's childhood home, and what appears to be an old fraternity house. As Dan and his friends explore the past, they are stalked by the Scarlets. It is clear the Scarlets are not merely a



recreational campus organization, but have a sinister motive in mind. This motive moves from merely stalking Dan and his friends, to actually targeting them and trying to harm them. When Dan discovers that one of the Scarlets is Cal, the level of horror in the novel ratchets up a notch. Cal is as dangerous to Dan now in person as well as in disguise.

At the same time, Dan experiences a hallucination in which he meets Maudire, the hypnotist. Maudire speaks vaguely, but provides vital clues to the mystery of everything going on. Maudire's presence brings to the fore the theme of Mind Control through hypnosis, and mind control in general. Maudire speaks to the mind being like a lock, but that a key will set it free. This is in concert with Maudire's assertion that what is done can be undone, but not redone.

Likewise, Maudire contends that Dan is trapped inside his own head and needs the key to be set free. Dan can't understand this, but for the reader, things make sense when understood at the end of the novel. Dan is trapped inside his own head because he is under a form of hypnosis. His decision to attend the carnival at all, as the reader will remember, was influenced by Reyes –as was his hallucination of Maudire.

Dan delves into the past through Crawford's childhood journal. Two very important things become clear to the reader based on the prologue and based on Crawford's childhood entries. First, the origin of the bright shining star becomes clear. It is the symbol in the red gemstone in the pocket watch of Maudire, which Maudire shows to the child-version of Crawford. Second, Crawford's desire to learn hypnosis has to do with the desire to control others, as noted in the prologue. Control is key for Crawford. The star is critical to his method. It is clear that Felix and Aunt Lucy were both hypnotized with the star gem, but how this all occurred, and how this will all play out are among the mysteries that have yet to be solved.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Dan decide to sit in on one of Reyes's classes? What does he hope will be gained? What actually occurs? How does Dan respond? Why?

Discussion Question 2

What does Dan learn about the root of the shining star symbol? Where has this symbol appeared in the novel before? Why do you believe this is?

Discussion Question 3

What important information does Warden Crawford's childhood journal reveal? What is Dan's reaction to this information? Why?

Vocabulary

apparition, rousing, queued, outlier, anomaly, inexplicable, indecipherable, incredulous, skulking



Chapters 22 – 28

Summary

Chapter 22 – Micah tells Dan, Jordan, and Abby to run while he distracts the Scarlets. They chase him. Dan, Abby, and Jordan then take off in the other direction. They stop and quickly scan the papers they have taken, including one with a CIA seal on it. They cannot imagine why Crawford would be meeting with the CIA.

Chapter 23 – Dan, Abby, and Jordan go to the computer lab in the dorm to go over the evidence they have accumulated. Some are Crawford's handwritten records of the dosing of patients with LSD as a way to expose secrets or to manipulate the mind. The records are dated from 1953 in Kentucky and are only a signal for the horrors Crawford will commit years later. The entries become shorter as the time passes, with Crawford noting he was fired for operating outside the parameters of the experiment but that he has found the key to mind control, to locks and keys of the mind. 1960 marks the next date, with Crawford experimenting on a homeless alcoholic, including surgery, LSD, and hypnosis using Maudire's watch stone, believed to have special powers. Crawford writes that he strangled Maudire for the gemstone. Among the entries in the childhood journal is one where Crawford hypnotized his brother Bernard to walk off the roof in suicide.

Chapter 24 – Dan, Abby, and Jordan theorize that Harry Crawford, one of the test subjects from the CIA, was tracked down by Crawford years later and put under. They believe Harry then cozied up to the girls, leading to their disappearances. Jordan decides to go to the snack machines. Abby points out that Crawford's writings contain notes about inducing agents to do his bidding. Abby and Dan wonder if some of Crawford's agents are drugging them now, causing them to hallucinate and hear things. They wonder if Crawford didn't just control Brookline, but the college and the whole town. Dan begins referring to himself as though he were Crawford, which scares Abby. Dan insists he is himself. They decide to only drink and eat things from the vending machines or are prepackaged. They fill Jordan in on this when he gets back. Jordan then gets a text message from Micah saying "they" know the three are in Erickson. Another text from an unknown number arrives saying "We see you." Dan, Abby, and Jordan know they need to run.

Chapter 25 – Hiding in the bushes, Dan, Abby, and Jordan see six red-cloaked individuals in masks headed toward the building. Three of the six burst back outside a moment later. They can hear Cal's voice accusing Micah, also in a cloak and mask, of tipping off Dan, Abby and Jordan. Micah denies this. They begin to argue about a female working hard to arrange things for years. They also argue about what actually got Micah sent to juvie – drunk driving and manslaughter. As the three Scarlets leave, Dan, Abby, and Jordan follow them to a rich part of town and a large mansion. Red skull candles glow in the windows. Dan vows to take apart whatever Crawford has put into place. They look through the window where they hear chanting in a gathering. Reyes is



among those assembled, as is Kelly Lang, a candidate for State Senate. Reyes has the gemstone. Micah is hauled into the room, and is declared a traitor. He is held down and a spike is driven into his eye.

Chapter 26 – Dan turns to find Lara, Micah’s ex-girlfriend and an unwilling Scarlett, confronting him. She tells him to follow her. She reveals the house was left to Reyes in Crawford’s will. Lara says she is helping them because a Scarlet is not who she wants to be. She says she’ll answer their questions tomorrow. Dan, Abby, and Jordan hide out in a food delivery bay at the back of the student union building. They discuss what they know. They believe that the Scarlets must be a family thing, with Cal’s father being a member as well. Abby texts Lara Dan’s number.

They look at some old photos they have with them, including one of an unhappy, younger Professor Reyes in a sorority photo, though the label given to her is “Caroline Martin.” Dan and the others suspect that she was either brainwashed into taking the name Reyes, or was given the name. They realize Reyes is doing what she was programmed to do by Crawford. They also think that Reyes doesn’t have something Crawford had, which is why mind-control has failed on Laura, Micah, and Felix. Abby thinks anything that has been done can be reversed. Dan agrees, and says he needs his mind back to do it.

Chapter 27 – Dan dreams of Daniel Crawford as a child going to see Maudire the hypnotist, smashing his head with a candlestick, strangling him, and stealing his pocket watch gemstone.

Chapter 28 – Going over more notes, Dan, Abby, and Jordan focus in on the idea that the mind is a sanctum, one’s most holy or sacred place. Abby finds it strange that Crawford, so obsessed with reason and logic, would speak of something holy or sacred. Lara calls. She sounds frightened, and only wants to meet Abby. Dan and Jordan worry it is a trap. But Abby says she has an idea.

Analysis

As the novel continues, Mystery, The Past, and Mind Control become dominant themes as Dan, Abby, and Jordan learn more about Crawford, Brookline, and the town of Camford. As it is learned, Crawford’s desire for control against others—especially his bullying brothers—led him to find ways to implement hypnosis. Chillingly, Crawford as a child killed Maudire to steal Maudire’s star stone. The stone thus comes to factor centrally into Crawford’s operations. Likewise, the reader should note that Crawford was fired from CIA LSD experiments for operating outside the mission’s scope through use of surgery and hypnosis. The star stone is what those who have been deeply brainwashed come to see before them all the time, such as Felix.

The mystery of Crawford’s past continues to fill in as many of the surrounding mysteries are solved. Crawford first came to Camford in pursuit of one of his former guinea pigs, Harry Cartwright. Through Harry, Crawford slowly gained control of Brookline, the



school, and the town. There are generations of people now hypnotized into what Crawford started. But as Abby points out, Reyes—the successor of Crawford—doesn't have his skill or thoroughness, because her victims are not so easily controlled. Such is the case with Micah, who is killed for the limited help he gives Dan and the others.

The reader should herein also note the red skull candles in the mansion, all of which symbol danger to the mind, as well as death regarding Micah's murder. Lara's rebelliousness also indicates that Reyes is not as strong or as powerful as Crawford was. Here, a case can be made that Reyes is not doing what she does out of passion, but merely out of necessity through programming of the mind. Crawford did everything he did out of a twisted love of controlling others. Crawford's work was voluntary; Reyes's work is not. In many ways, Reyes has all the trappings of Crawford—from cloaks, skulls, and candles to the equipment needed to carry out the mind control surgeries—but not the motive and drive of Crawford.

Horror also comes into play thematically as the depth of what Crawford has begun comes to be known. This includes how the entire town has apparently come under the control of Reyes. Perhaps even more horrific is the method for the implementation of mind control, including LSD and surgery, both used against the will of the victim. Dan's continued hallucinations, the voices that he hears, and the manner of Micah's death all play into the theme of horror. The reader will here recall Maudire saying that what is done can be undone with the right key. What this key is remains a mystery, but it figures directly into mind control.

At the same time, the theme of Friendship retains a strong undercurrent. No matter how bad things get, Dan, Abby, and Jordan stick together. As noted earlier, this is not just due to the bizarre experiences they have encountered, and the abnormal events which have given them a connection, but to the fact that they actually like each other. Even Micah and Lara, in addition to their desire to do good for the sake of good, view Dan, Abby, and Jordan in friendly terms. Their friendship with the three high schoolers, and their desire to break the curse of mind control, lead them to defy the Scarlets and Reyes. Micah pays for it with his life.

Discussion Question 1

Why do Micah and Lara decide to help Dan, Abby, and Jordan? If you were in Micah or Lara's place, would you have bothered to help? Why or why not?

Discussion Question 2

What is the root cause of Felix's seeing a bright, burning star before his eyes all the time?



Discussion Question 3

Why is Micah put to death as a traitor by the Scarlets? What does this mean for the safety of Dan, Abby, Lara, and Jordan?

Vocabulary

sterile, espionage, myopic, insurmountable, programmed, bedazzled



Chapters 29 - 35

Summary

Chapter 29 – They go to meet Lara at the art building. Abby says she will call Lara to come open up the door, allowing them to grab her and run away. That way, if it is a trap, they will avoid it. Lara does not pick up her phone, however. They go inside and discover a trail of mannequin parts, from Lara's art installation, strewn about. They find Lara's dead body with blood coming out of her mouth. They rush away.

Chapter 30 – Abby wants to go to the police. Dan and Jordan worry the police are in on things, too. Jordan decides to join Abby while Dan continues on alone, believing he can undo all the mind control.

Chapter 31 – Dan feels a growing pain in his neck. As he walks he finds the old cemetery with the skull-shaped flowers again. They are on the grave of Roger L. Erickson, for whom Erickson Dorm is named. Cal suddenly appears, and calls Erickson a bastard. He says his father initiated him into everything. Cal then speaks on the phone with the police, letting them know Abby and Jordan are coming. Reyes then arrives and congratulates Cal on doing so well. Dan tries to run, but Cal grabs him. Reyes says Dan's part is just beginning as she knocks him out using an injection.

Chapter 32 – Dan dreams of Crawford performing surgery on Caroline and the procedure being a success. He tells her she will be a worthy student.

Chapter 33 – Dan wakes up in the warden's office in Brookline. He is stunned to learn he has already been hypnotized. The surgery is still to come. Reyes contends that she first needs important information before Dan's brain is turned to goo. He tries to reason with Reyes, but to no avail. Abby and Jordan are then wheeled in on gurneys. Reyes explains she set up a trail of breadcrumbs for Dan to follow, from Felix to the abandoned houses to the notes. She knows that there is a password which undoes all of Crawford's work. She intends to use it on herself.

She orders Dan to put a scalpel to his neck, which he is forced to do under hypnosis. She forces him to start cutting until Abby realizes the password is "sanctum", and screams it out. Reyes now wants to kill Dan to stamp out the Crawford bloodline. Dan stabs her in the back with the scalpel, causing her to reel into candles, knocking them over and setting herself and the house on fire. Cal, now himself again, tells Dan and the others to leave while he makes sure Reyes dies. Brookline begins to collapse as the fire spreads.

Chapter 34 – Dan, Abby, and Jordan watch Brookline burn as a crowd gathers and the fire department arrives. Abby puts pressure on Dan's neck to slow the bleeding. Dan wonders what he will tell his step-parents about his neck. They see Cal taken out of



Brookline alive. Jordan asks what they need to do next. He wonders if they need to go around shouting “sanctum” at everyone.

Chapter 35 – As Dan and Jordan wait for rides home, Abby announces she is staying one more day with Aunt Lucy to make sure she is okay. Dan worries that their nightmares may not end. Abby says they’ll just have to move on. Jordan then hops on the bus, and Dan gets into a taxi. He has Crawford’s old papers with him, as well as the stone. As the taxi pulls away, Dan sees Micah’s ghost. Dan whispers “sanctum” over and over again. When he looks back, Micah is gone.

Analysis

As the novel comes to a close, the few remaining mysteries are solved. It is revealed that Dan is indeed a descendent of Daniel Crawford, and it is revealed that Reyes does indeed head everything up in Camford. Reyes reveals she is the heir of Crawford, chosen by Crawford himself. Despite this, she is doing all she can to break free of his curse. She intentionally lured Dan and his friends to Camford to trace their movements to see what they would uncover. She knows there is a password which could set her, and everyone else free—Maudire’s described key to undo everything that has been done.

Reyes is willing to kill to do this, having been forced against her will into Crawford’s evil. The password is “sanctum,” which is in and of itself important. A sanctum is a person’s most sacred or holy place. In the human body, that is the mind. Crawford has violated the sanctums of thousands, and speaking the word “sanctum” to them will restore their minds. Reyes uses what control she has over Dan to force him to begin cutting his own throat in pursuit of the password.

Here, the theme of Horror again comes to the fore as the true depth of what Reyes is able to make some people do becomes apparent. Her instruction that Dan attend the carnival pales in comparison to her ordering Dan to slice his own throat. It is just a portion of the horror committed by Crawford’s protégé and his agents. The reader should also recall that Lara has become a victim of the horror of Crawford’s program as well. Cal, ironically, has also been trying to fight the mind control placed on him through his father. Only at the end is Cal able to fully rebel against what has been done to him by saying he wants to make sure Reyes is dead. However, the reader here is suspicious as to whether or not Reyes is truly dead, or if Cal’s decision to stay behind was one borne of the need to save her, or make sure she did indeed die. It is a mystery which is left unsolved at the end of the novel.

To the very end, Abby and Jordan remain loyal friends to Dan. Only Abby’s recognition of “sanctum” being the password saves Dan. Dan himself comes to save Abby and Jordan by stabbing Reyes, who then sets herself on fire unintentionally. With the spell broken, Dan, Abby, and Jordan can try to move on with their lives. Friendship thus proves to be an incredibly important and incredibly strong theme in the novel.



Discussion Question 1

Why do you believe that Reye's control over her victims is weaker than Crawford's control over his? How does this affect the very end of the novel?

Discussion Question 2

What is the password to save people from their state of mental slavery? Why do you believe this is the password?

Discussion Question 3

What does Reyes reveal to be her true motive for bringing Dan, Jordan, and Abby back to Brookline? Why does she rely on such horrible methods to achieve her ends?

Vocabulary

conspicuously, brusquely, incompetence, corruption, serene, manse



Characters

Dan

Daniel “Dan” Crawford is the 17-year-old primary protagonist in the novel “Sanctum” by Madeleine Roux. Dan is good friends with Jordan and Abby, having met them at New Hampshire College Preparatory School the previous summer. They bonded not only out of friendship with one another but also through their experiences at Brookline Asylum.

Dan is haunted by nightmares of Brookline, and is dismayed to learn that Jordan and Abby are receiving scary carnival photos. He is likewise unhappy to visit Felix, who appears to have gone completely insane. Felix gives Dan coordinates for addresses, which Dan then relates to Abby and Jordan. The three of them decide to go back to Brookline under the guise of a college trip.

There, Dan comes to learn that he is the direct descendant of Warden Crawford, and that he has been lured to campus by Reyes and the Scarlets to undo everything that Crawford did. Under hypnosis, Reyes has Dan begin to cut his own throat until Abby shouts out “Sanctum,” the password to free people from mind control. Dan and his friends escape Brookline as it burns to the ground. Dan, who has feared that he would discover he was related to Crawford, takes comfort in the fact that he has the power to undo the evil Crawford began.

Abby

Abby Valdez is a 17-year-old secondary protagonist in the novel “Sanctum” by Madeleine Roux. Abby is good friends with Jordan and Dan, having met them at New Hampshire College Preparatory School the previous summer. They bonded not only out of friendship with one another, but through their experiences at Brookline Asylum.

Incredibly artistic and gentle, Abby tends to act more out of feeling rather than thinking. She begins hearing voices at home, and decides these must be investigated. This is among the reasons why she decides to go back to Brookline with Dan and Jordan. While in town, she visits her Aunt Lucy, and later discovers the safe word to undo mind control is “sanctum.” By shouting “sanctum,” she is able to save Dan’s life. When Dan and Jordan leave for home, Abby decides to stay on a few more days to see how her Aunt Lucy is doing.

Jordan

Jordan Lipcott is a 17-year-old secondary protagonist in the novel “Sanctum” by Madeleine Roux. Jordan is good friends with Dan and Abby, having met them at New Hampshire College Preparatory School the previous summer. They bonded not only out of friendship with one another, but through their experiences at Brookline Asylum.



Jordan is openly gay, and is brilliant at mathematics. He helps determine the numbers given to Dan by Felix are coordinates for addresses near Brookline and agrees to go with Dan and Abby to the town for the weekend under the guise of a college visit. He helps Dan and Abby to go through old pages to find the truth about Crawford, and later escapes with Dan and Abby when Brookline burns to the ground.

Warden Daniel Crawford

Dr. Daniel Crawford is the former warden of Brookline Asylum. Crawford has long been dead, and is known as a terrible man who performed sick and twisted experiments on patients. As a child faced with bullying, Crawford sought ways to control others. He found a way through hypnosis, taught to him by Maudire. Strangling Maudire for his star stone, Crawford went on to study psychology, and to participate in the CIA's LSD program. Crawford was fired for exceeding the scope of the mission. After this, he tracked down former mission patient Harry Cartwright, using him and working through him to begin brainwashing all of Brookline, New Hampshire College, and the town of Camford. He molded and manipulated Caroline Martin to become Caroline Reyes, his protégé and successor. Crawford's fate is not discussed in the novel, but it is presumed he is long dead.

Caroline Martin

Caroline Martin is a sorority girl at New Hampshire College several decades before the beginning of the novel. She attends school there during the mid-1960s, ultimately falling under the spell of Warden Crawford. Her investigations into the Scarlets and Crawford's activities backfire, causing her to be abducted by them and later brainwashed by them. As a result, she becomes Caroline Reyes.

Maudire

Maudire is a hypnotist with a traveling circus who uses a pocket watch set with a red gemstone emblazoned with a shining star symbol. He shows the younger Warden Crawford how to hypnotize people, and is killed by Crawford for the star stone.

Professor Reyes

Professor Reyes, formerly known as Caroline Martine, is a psychology professor at New Hampshire College and the heir to Crawford's mind control operation. Reyes is cruel, sadistic, and detests that she herself is under lingering mind control. She lures Dan and his friends to campus to root out the password which will break the spell of mind control. Her plans backfire, however, and she is presumably killed when Brookline burns to the ground.



Micah

Micah is a student attending New Hampshire College, and becomes the host of Dan. Micah is originally from a small town in Louisiana, which he fled following his having caused a crash and death while drunk. In the present, Micah is also the ex-boyfriend of Lara. It is also learned that Micah was brought into the mind control program of Reyes against his will. He has been fighting his mind control, and is largely successful in becoming a help to Dan and his friends. For his actions, Micah is put to death.

Cal

Cal Erickson is a student attending New Hampshire College and becomes the host of Jordan. He is rich, elitist, and unkind. He is one of the leaders of the Scarlets, having been brought in against his will by his father. Cal claims to be opposed to the entire mind control program. When Brookline burns, he stays behind under the supposition that he is going to make sure Reyes is dead. He later escapes the fire. However, whether he stayed behind to make sure Reyes is dead or to make sure she survived is unknown.

Lara

Lara is a student attending New Hampshire College, and becomes the host of Abby. She is very artistic, and is the ex-girlfriend of Micah. Like Micah, she has been an unwilling participant in Reye's program, brought in by an older sister. She helps Dan and the others to escape from the mansion and is later killed by the Scarlets for helping them.



Symbols and Symbolism

Bright shining star

The bright shining star is a symbol of hypnosis found throughout the novel. It has its origins as a blazon on the red gemstone of the pocket watch Maudire uses to hypnotize people. Stolen later by Crawford, the shining star symbol becomes an image which helps to keep people hypnotized, and which induces them to hypnotism in the first place. Aunt Lucy has an image of the star in her home, while Felix sees the star when his eyes are opened or closed.

Pocket watch

The pocket watch with a red gemstone is owned and used by Maudire in his traveling carnival sideshow for hypnotism. The pocket watch is never out of Maudire's sight. Maudire uses the pocket watch to teach Crawford the basics of hypnotism. Maudire is later killed by Crawford for the pocket watch.

LSD

LSD is a very powerful, very dangerous, very addictive drug which warps reality and perception of the user. LSD is used by the CIA in experiments during the 1950s in the attempt to form a truth serum. However, Crawford uses LSD as part of a three-pronged approach to bring people under mind control.

Red

The color red is viewed as the symbolic representation of danger, warnings, and evil in the novel. Red is the color of the roses arranged in the shape of a skull in the cemetery. Red is the color of the skull candles that Scarlets burn. Red is also the color of the cloaks that Scarlets wear. Taken together with skulls, red skulls are a warning of danger for the mind, and a sign of evil through the cloaks and candles of the Scarlets.

Red cloaks

Red cloaks are ceremonial identifying garments worn by members of the Scarlets, a college society overtaken by Crawford to be his primary agency of extending his control and manipulation. The red cloaks come to represent not only members of the Scarlets, but danger, evil, and fear as well. Among those who wear red cloaks against their will are Micah and Lara.



Skulls

Skulls are seen in the novel as symbols of death and the mind. In the human body, the skull is the house for the brain. The masks worn by the Scarlets take the shape of skulls. The skull masks become representative of the masking of the true selves of the Scarlets, for their true selves are masked by mind control. The candles burned by the Scarlets, and the roses left on the graves of deceased Scarlets, all take the shape of skulls. Taken together with the color red, red skulls are a warning of danger for the mind.

Red skulls

Red skulls are seen in various places and in various ways throughout the novel. Among them are red roses arranged into the shape of a skull, and red wax candles in the shapes of skulls that are burned by members of the Scarlets. In conjunction with the symbology of the color red, and the symbolic nature of skulls, red skulls are a warning of danger for the mind.

Childhood journal of Warden Crawford

The childhood journal of Warden Daniel Crawford is written by Crawford as a child, and hidden in a box beneath the floorboards of his childhood bedroom. The journal recounts Crawford's being bullied as a child, especially by an older brother. It also reveals Crawford's desire for control, his encounter with, and murder of Maudire for the gem stone, and his perfection of hypnosis on his brother, causing his brother commit suicide by walking off the roof. The journal is found by Dan, and helps to solve many mysteries about Crawford and his operations, including his motive.

Written records of Crawford

The written records of Warden Daniel Crawford consist of his account of his life and his work from the early 1950s through the early 1960s. These records recount his experience and work with the CIA's LSD program in the early 1950s, and how he transcended the scope of his mission by seeking not just a truth serum, but a way to control the minds of people. Crawford was successful, but was fired for exceeding his parameters. The records then recount Crawford's arrival at Brookline, setting up shop, and discussion of the word "sanctum". These written records are discovered and studied by Dan, Abby, and Jordan, and help them to learn about how Crawford set up shop in Camford.



The safe word

The safe word is a password or key that undoes the mind control emplaced on someone through Crawford's methods. The password is "sanctum." A sanctum is a place that is holy, sacred, and very personal. In the human body, the sanctum is the mind. Crawford's mind control work exploits and violates the human sanctum, but the uttering of the word "sanctum" restores it.



Settings

Camford

Camford is a small college town in New Hampshire where New Hampshire College and Brookline Asylum are located. The town is home to Abby's Aunt Lucy, and its entire population in college and in town is under the control of Reyes through Crawford's mind control operations. Dan, Abby, and Jordan come to stay in Camford at the college in order to investigate local addresses. There, they find clues which reveal Crawford's past, and how he set up shop in the town, the college, and the asylum. The clues also reveal why Crawford came to begin a mind control operation.

Brookline Asylum

Brookline Asylum is an old insane asylum formerly managed by Warden Daniel Crawford. It was the site of horrific and cruel experiments carried out by Crawford. The asylum was temporarily turned into dorm rooms for the preparatory school that Dan and the others attended over the summer. It is now closed down and being investigated by Reyes. When Reyes takes Dan, Abby, and Jordan captive, she brings them to the warden's office in Brookline. There, she solicits the secret word from Abby. In the ensuing struggle between Reyes and Dan, Reyes accidentally catches her cloak on fire, igniting the office, and leading to the near-destruction of Brookline.

The carnival

The carnival is an attraction that had annually visited Camford until the 1920s, and has only this year been returned through the efforts of Reyes. At the carnival decades before, Crawford in childhood met Maudire, the hypnotist, coming to murder him for his star stone. In the present, Dan hallucinates at the carnival, having a conversation with Maudire in which Maudire describes the mind as a lock needing a key to be free, and how Dan himself is hypnotized.

New Hampshire College

New Hampshire College is a small college in the town of Camford, New Hampshire. It is the site of a summer preparatory school program and is home to the Scarlet society. The college is visited by Dan and his friends under the guise of a prospective students' visit. In reality, they want to get into Brookline, which is on the NHC campus. Dan, Abby, and Jordan must consistently hide and flee to different places on the campus in order to avoid the Scarlets. The entire college population is under mind control.

Sanctum

A sanctum is a religious, holy, or sacred place that is very personal to an individual. In the human body, the sanctum is the mind. Crawford has found a way to exploit the mind to control thought, word, deed, and action. In other words, Crawford has managed to violate the sanctum by stealing away a person's free will. Ironically, the restoration of the sanctum and the undoing of Crawford's mind control comes through the safe word "sanctum."



Themes and Motifs

Friendship

Friendship is an important theme in the novel “Sanctum” by Madeline Roux. Friendship occurs in the novel primarily between Dan, Abby, and Jordan, and has important consequences for them as they attempt to unravel the mysteries of Brookline. Additionally, friendship also proves to be crucial for Dan, Abby, and Jordan as they struggle for survival against Reyes and the Scarlets.

When the novel begins, Dan, Abby, and Jordan have remained in touch following their ordeal at Brookline over the summer. They not only became friends because they liked one another but also because they were bound together by the abnormal experiences of Brookline. When Abby and Jordan begin receiving photographs, and when Dan receives map coordinates from Felix, they all realize that something is not quite right. As friends together, they decide to return to Brookline to solve the mystery.

While in Camford, at the college, and in and around Brookline, the three are inseparable. They do everything they can together, from exploring abandoned houses to trying to get to the bottom of Crawford’s brainwashing experiments. They provide comfort, encouragement, and support to one another, which proves especially important as they all begin to hallucinate and hear things. This matters even more when the Scarlets begin to pursue them.

When Dan, Abby, and Jordan are captured, they are brought before Reyes in Brookline. Only Abby’s quick thinking about the password saves Dan from committing suicide under hypnosis. Abby is terrified that her friend might die, so she is especially determined to make sure Dan lives. Here, friendship is critical for survival. Likewise, friendship can be seen as it is extended from Micah, Lara, and Cal, all of whom were forced into the Scarlets against their will, and all of whom try to fight it and defy Reyes by helping Dan, Jordan, and Abby escape. Micah and Lara pay for these acts of friendship with their lives.

Mystery

Mystery is an important theme in the novel “Sanctum” by Madeleine Roux. In the novel, mystery involves that which is unknown, and that which is never truly revealed. There are multiple instances of mystery in the novel, with each one of them adding to, or fueling the plot in some way.

The novel begins with several mysteries. Dan wonders if he is truly related to Daniel Crawford, warden of Brookline. Dan also wonders whether the things at Brookline can truly ever be explained. When Dan, Abby, and Jordan begin receiving photos and cryptic messages, the reason why, and who is behind them form a mystery that the three seek to solve by returning to Brookline. As it is later revealed, Reyes is behind the



entire affair, drawing Dan, Abby, and Jordan back to Brookline to learn the secret keyword to undo Crawford's mind control method. It is also revealed that Dan is indeed related to Crawford, and that Brookline's horrific past is directly the result of Crawford's control.

Other mysteries in the novel also abound. Reyes's motives prove to be a mystery, as to why Crawford first chose Camford and Brookline to carry out his experiments. Who Harry and Maudire are in all of this also prove to be elusive at first, as does Reyes's own past with Crawford. The search for answers propels Dan, Abby, and Jordan forward. They learn that Reyes was an unwilling victim of Crawford, and now seeks freedom. They learn that Harry is a past patient of Crawford's, and Crawford tracked Harry down to Camford where he set up shop in Brookline since Harry was his most successful patient.

Other mysteries abound, but not all of these other mysteries are answered. The identity and purpose of the Scarlets is revealed. Dan and the others learn the Scarlets are an age-old organization at the college exploited and corrupted by Crawford, which helped him to expand into the college. However, two such mysteries never truly examined in this novel are Crawford's ultimate fate, and whether Cal went back into Brookline to make sure Reyes actually died, or lived.

The Past

The Past is an important theme in the novel "Sanctum" by Madeleine Roux. Thematically, the past—incidents, events, situations, and circumstances in a person's history—can largely affect the present. The past has tremendous bearing on the novel in various ways.

The past matters from the very start of the novel. As the novel begins, Dan, Abby, and Jordan are still reeling from the effects of their experiences at Brookline over the summer. These effects include nightmares and hearing voices. For Felix, the past means having gone insane. The past proves to be full of mysteries, all surrounding Brookline, and all leading Dan, Abby, and Jordan to decide to return to solve them.

Brookline has its own past, one of cruel and twisted psychiatric experiments carried out by Warden Crawford. Brookline's torturous past has given it a haunted present, both figuratively and literally speaking. Not only do ghosts wander the halls of Brookline, but Reyes and the Scarlets do as well. They themselves are reeling from the mind control operation put into motion by Crawford, and Reyes especially is seeking a way to undo it all. For her, the past is so traumatic that she is willing to kill to be free.

The past also comes to be incredibly important for Micah, Lara, and Cal. All three are unwilling and unwitting members of the Scarlets, forced in against their will. All have done terrible things while under hypnosis, but do their best to find being controlled. Their decision to help Dan, Abby, and Jordan in the novel comes as a direct result of



seeking to atone for the past. In their seeking of redemption, Micah and Lara are themselves killed.

Mind Control

Mind Control is an important theme in the novel “Sanctum” by Madeleine Roux. Mind control is essentially the brainwashing of one individual by another, where the one individual essentially becomes a slave to the other, unable to exercise total freedom over his or her own body, and subject to the commands of the other. In the novel, every single character has received some form of mind control. This mind control can only be broken with a safe word.

Mind control in the novel has a seemingly innocent start, as a carnival sideshow attraction through Maudire. Maudire is approached by Crawford as a child, who seeks to learn about hypnosis. Maudire teaches Crawford, who has an untold desire to control others around him. This proves to be a mistake, for Crawford later murders Maudire to steal the star stone. Crawford hypnotizes his brother to commit suicide by walking off the roof.

As Crawford grows into adulthood, he comes to work for the CIA's LSD program. Although Crawford's appointed mission is to develop a truth serum, he exceeds the parameters of his mission by trying to brainwash and control people. He learns that he can do this through a three-pronged approach with a combination of brain surgery, LSD, and the star stone. Crawford is fired for his excesses, and tracks down an old patient, Harry, to Camford where Crawford settles in and takes over the town.

Reyes, the Scarlets, Dan, Abby, Felix, and Jordan are all under some form of mind control. Felix has it worse than most, for his appears to be insanity on the surface. Reyes has enough independence to want to seek the safe word, while Micah and Lara have enough freedom to willingly defy Reyes. Reyes, brainwashing people because she has been programmed to, is not as effective at it as Crawford because she is being forced to do this, whereas Crawford delighted in doing it. Reyes forces Dan to begin cutting his own throat until Abby screams out the password, "sanctum." With the safe word in hand, Dan, Abby, and Jordan can liberate the people of Camford.

Horror

Horror is an important theme and motif in the novel “Sanctum” by Madeleine Roux. Horror—that which is scary—appears in many forms. These include outright horror, such as the appearance of ghosts, visions, or voices; there is psychological horror, where visions, dreams and disturbing images are seen; and there is human horror, in which cruel actions, deeds, and their consequences are terrifying. All three kinds of horror appear in the novel.

Horror in and of itself appears by way of the supernatural voices that Abby hears, and the ghost boy that Dan sees several times throughout the novel. The female voice that



Dan and the others hear later in the novel is also a horrifying experience. The darkened child form that Dan sees in the library is also terrifying. At the end of the novel, Dan sees Micah's ghost, though this particular appearance is more tragic than actually horrifying.

Psychological terror occurs in great frequency throughout the novel. From the start, Dan is suffering from nightmares based on his previous experiences in Brookline. Likewise, he begins to experience memories that are not his own, but that belong to Warden Crawford. These are horrifying memories in which Crawford uses mental control to influence and harm others. Dan also experiences hallucinations, in which he converses with Maudire in a tent that does not exist in reality. Felix suffers from psychological horror by seeing the image of a bright shining star with his eyes closed or open.

Human horror can also be found in many places through the novel. This horror ranges from the experiments that Crawford performs on inmates at Brookline to the mind control experiments he carried on through the 1950s and 1960s, and in his takeover of the entire town of Camford. This was done against the will of all, including Crawford's own protégé and successor, Caroline Reyes. Reyes herself commits unspeakable atrocities in the pursuit of gaining freedom. She has her followers abuse, stalk, and murder others as Dan, Abby, and Jordan discover the safe word. Indeed, Reyes prepares to force Dan to commit suicide under hypnosis until Abby learns the password.



Styles

Point of View

Madeleine Roux tells her novel “Sanctum” from the third-person limited-omniscient point of view. While the novel primarily follows the actions and movements of Dan, the third-person point of view allows the reader to follow the actions and movements of others, including Warden Crawford. This is done through memories of Crawford, all told in the third-person point of view. The third-person narrator thus becomes the common unifying thread between the past and the present, and allows the reader to shift back and forth as needed with ease. The limited-omniscient aspect of the novel allows the reader to know only as much as the characters of the novel do, or as much as Roux is willing to reveal. This limited knowledge creates a sense of suspense and realism, essential to the novel’s genre.

Language and Meaning

Madeleine Roux tells her novel “Sanctum” in language that is simple and straightforward. This is done for at least three reasons. First, because the novel follows the adventures of three 17-year-old kids in the 2010s, it is only natural that the language is reflective of their age, level of education, and era in which they live. It provides a sense of realism and timeliness to the novel. Second, the novel itself is aimed at a target audience of young adults in the 2010s, so it is only normal the language employed be reflective of that age group’s level of education as well. Third, the novel is definitively in the horror category, and the simple and straightforward language helps to add a sense of brevity and urgency to the novel, reinforcing suspense and mystery.

Structure

Madeleine Roux divides her novel “Sanctum” into 35 numbered, linear, and chronological chapters preceded by a prologue. The chapters themselves are numbered from 1 through 35, and most are only a few pages long. The pages of the novel are interspersed with disturbing black-and-white photographs, with many of them being several decades old, and all with the appearance of being aged and corroded. Most of these photographs are directly described in the text as well, with the majority of them being old carnival photos. Other images in the novel include pages of handwritten notes or accounts, all scrawled by Warden Crawford. These provide a visual stimulus for the written portions of the novel, helping the reader to obtain an accurate illustrative image in his or her mind.



Quotes

So why were his friends ignoring him?

-- Narrator (Chapter 1 paragraph 22)

Importance: After spending a terrifying summer in Brookline Asylum and after learning that a carnival is coming to campus, Dan attempts to contact his closest friends, Abby and Jordan. Abby and Jordan do not respond, leaving Dan to wonder why they are not responding. He even imagines that they might be ignoring him. It is one of the first mysteries in the novel.

You're not finished.

-- Warning on photos (Chapter 4 paragraph 40)

Importance: Abby, Jordan, and Felix, all of whom went through traumatic experiences at Brookline over the summer, are trying to move on and get back to normal life. However, they all experience nightmares and flashbacks. Felix has even had to be institutionalized. Things get worse when the trio begins receiving dark photos of a scary carnival. The first photo they receive is torn into three pieces, and has the words "You're not finished" written on them. These photos terrify everyone, and lead Felix to urge Dan to "follow them." This refers to map coordinates written on the photo as well.

Don't think about that place. It's harmless now.

-- Abby (Chapter 9 paragraph 47)

Importance: After Doug tries to launch himself through the window following repeating the words "Daniel Crawford, you're not finished" over and over again, Abby tries to get Dan to relax. She assures him that their past experience with Brookline is over, and that Brookline is now a harmless old place. But Dan knows otherwise, and he knows that Abby knows it too. He knows she is just trying to calm him down, but it underlies the tension she, Dan, and Jordan now feel that they are back on campus.

DANIEL CRAWFORD, you're not finished.

-- Doug (Chapter 8 paragraph 44)

Importance: While settling in on their first night, a student named Doug begins shouting the name of Daniel Crawford, and the words "you're not finished" over and over again before trying to throw himself through a window. The experience is startling and terrifying for Dan, Abby, and Jordan, especially given the words on the photo and Felix's state of mind. It alerts Dan and the others to the idea that there is truly something wrong going on.

I'm not sure coming back was such a good idea. Maybe we should have left all of this alone.

-- Abby (Chapter 11 paragraph 31)



Importance: After Abby continues hearing things and Dan begins seeing things, Abby voices the ominous opinion that they should not have come. Dan and Jordan feel that way as well, but also feel that since they are now in Camford at the college, they should see their plans through. Dan is especially determined to figure out what is going on, but Abby's warning will reverberate throughout the rest of the novel.

That was a girl's voice. Is there more than one ghost?
-- Abby (Chapter 13 paragraph 4)

Importance: After breaking into 1020 Ellis Street, Dan, Jordan, and Abby hear someone else in the house. Dan hears a girl calling his name, telling him to come out and play. Jordan and Abby can both hear the voice as well. She knows Dan has been seeing a ghost boy, but now she wonders aloud if there is more than one ghost. Until now, there has not been more than one.

This had to be some kind of joke. Or someone wants you here.
-- Narrator (Chapter 16 paragraph 102)

Importance: Here, Dan had decided to enter the tent of Maudire, a hypnotist. Having seen clues and visions about the place, Dan can only imagine he is being drawn to the place for a reason. He believes it is no accident he has come to visit Maudire. Unfolding events will come to prove that Dan is correct.

You can't do over what's already been done, but you sure can undo it. Not easy, but you can undo it... It'll all make sense when the time comes.
-- Maudire (Chapter 17 paragraph 14)

Importance: Going into Maudire's tent, Dan is stunned to learn that Maudire considers him to be the spitting image of Daniel Crawford. This unnerves Dan. Maudire's words that what has happened cannot be redone, but can be undone, prove to be cryptic and disconcerting to Dan. It becomes a principal mystery that drives Dan forward in his search for answers, and marks a key moment in Dan's understanding that there are mysteries and problems which exist in the mind –including control and hypnosis.

To control the now is a simple thing, but to control the future? That is worth striving for.
-- Warden Daniel Crawford (Chapter 23 paragraph 18)

Importance: As one of the doctors experimenting with LSD as a mind control serum, Crawford writes about his endeavors. He is much less interested in finding a way to expose secrets or inventing a truth serum. His primary goal is control—to control others. It is a sick beginning to the research he would continue years later at Brookline.

The drug, the operation, the stone.
-- Warden Daniel Crawford (Chapter 23 paragraph 33)

Importance: In his written records, Crawford speaks about his ultimate goal, to control others. He also speaks about how this is accomplished. It is done using surgery, LSD,



and hypnosis through the stone emblazoned with a bright shining star. He is not quite sure why the stone itself has such power, but believes it does have some sort of special quality to it.

Professor Reyes is just doing what the warden programmed her to do.
-- Dan (Chapter 26 paragraph 62)

Importance: Dan and the others come to learn that Professor Reyes is also a victim of Crawford, and that she is carrying out his will as she was programmed to do. Reyes was formerly known as Caroline Martin, the girl that Dan and the others were hoping to learn more about. This also helps to explain why Reyes is not as effective at brainwashing as Crawford. Crawford has passion for it, and did it voluntarily, whereas Reyes is being compelled to do so through having been brainwashed herself.

We're so close to figuring it out.
-- Dan (Chapter 30 paragraph 20)

Importance: When Abby and Jordan decide to go to the police, Dan begs them not to because they are so close to unraveling nearly all of the mysteries at Brookline. Dan pleads with them not only based on their research, but because of the likelihood that all the police have been brainwashed as well. Abby and Jordan do not listen to Dan, and the three of them all end up being taken captive by the Scarlets.